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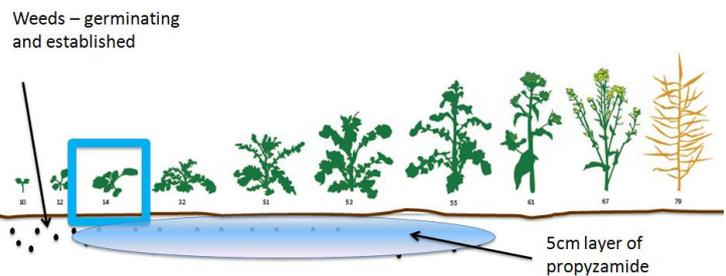
## Protecting Propyzamide

As soil temperatures and soil moisture deficit levels both start to drop this winter, attention will begin to turn towards blackgrass control in oil seed rape and applications of propyzamide (common product name: Kerb Flo 500). The river water sampling data over the winter in the Chelmer and Blackwater catchments, consistently reflects these applications, as an amount of this propyzamide is lost into watercourses.

The main route of propyzamide into ditches, streams and rivers is through land drain flow. Therefore, whilst **low drift nozzles** should be used where appropriate and **sprayer filling and washing down** should be completed in a bunded area away from watercourses, it is the weather forecast that should be given the most attention.

Andy Bailey, Principal Biologist at DowAgrosciences, recommends to “**try not to apply propyzamide when heavy rainfall is forecast in the next week**”. Trials work by DowAgrosciences suggests that where drain flow has been monitored, there is a much more intense loss of propyzamide if heavy rainfall happens in the first week after application, than if the rainfall were to occur in the second or subsequent weeks following application.

“The aim”, Andy suggests, “should be to keep propyzamide in the soil profile for as long as possible and prevent leaching, so that it can work on blackgrass control and degrade in the soil before it reaches land drains”. Furthermore, there is an agronomic need to keep the active in the top 5cm of the soil profile to ensure the most effective blackgrass control, because weeds germinating and rooting in this zone will pick up a lethal dose of propyzamide.



With only one application of Kerb allowed to be applied before 31<sup>st</sup> January, it becomes even more important for the sprayer to go across your fields at the right time. **Please take the weather forecast into account before propyzamide applications and spray according to best practice, so that we can achieve our best year of water quality in the catchment.**

## Grandfather Rights are going....

26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 spells the end of ‘Grandfather Rights’ for sprayer operators and from that point on, anyone who uses a sprayer (boom sprayer or knapsack sprayer) or slug pellet applicator will legally need to be able to show their certificate of competence.

We are providing **free PA1, 2, 4S and 6A** training for farmers to whom this applies and for new operators, who have not yet completed the training (a saving of approx. £500). The dates for this autumn are as follows:

Training Session	Date	Time	Location
<b>PA1 – Pesticide Foundation Module</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	9:30 – 15:30	Essex & Suffolk Water, Sandon Valley House, East Hanningfield, CM3 8BD
<b>PA2 – Mounted or Trailed Ground Crop Sprayer</b>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	9:30 – 12:30	Beckingham Hall, Hardys Green, Birch, CO2 0PA By kind permission of Mr Macaulay.
<b>PA4S – Slug Pellet Applicator</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9:30 – 12:30	Black Notley Hall, Black Notley, Braintree, CM7 8LF By kind permission of Mr Ratcliff.
PA6A and further PA1, 2 or 4s courses will be run in the New Year subject to demand.			



PA2 Training Session

Please book your place with Teresa on 07792 169545 or [teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk](mailto:teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk) – bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. On completion of the training sessions, you will be able to arrange your NPTC assessment with the Essex Proficiency Test Centre – further details will be provided at the training.

## Managing Metaldehyde in the River Wid Catchment Autumn Update

Maintaining water quality and crop productivity

With drilling nearly complete by the time that I write this and slug pellet applications coming to an end, we have been keeping a keen eye on the water quality in the River Wid, following our successful visits and phone calls with farmers and agronomists in the catchment.

The early results have shown that the levels of metaldehyde in the River Wid catchment have largely remained below the threshold of 0.1µg/l, with only two exceptions following heavy rainfall, which is a big improvement in comparison with the last two seasons.

We will continue to monitor the concentrations, but **thank you** for the changes that you have made to-date – it is making a difference and I will continue to keep you updated through the autumn and winter. Please take time to consider your slug pellet options once land drains start to flow. Continue to use the minimum active per hectare or a non-metaldehyde product when possible.

### Abstraction Management

Essex & Suffolk Water is currently taking daily metaldehyde samples from the Chelmer and Blackwater rivers and as a result, is making daily decisions about whether to abstract water to feed Langford Water Treatment Works and Hanningfield Reservoir. The aim is to keep metaldehyde levels in both of these systems below 0.1µg/l. The high metaldehyde concentrations in the River Chelmer following heavy rainfall in August and September has led to abstraction ceasing for 2 weeks in order to maintain compliance. Keep an eye out in the NFU bulletin for weekly river water quality updates.



## Managing Excess Water from Fields and Yards this Winter - FREE On-Farm Visit

Have you noticed surface run-off, soil erosion, water pooling, excessive ditch sedimentation or similar issues on your farm? Our free visit provides advice and guidance on how to best manage runoff on your farm. The visit includes detailed guidance on the best system to construct to deal with excess water from your farm, trap sediment and nutrients and ensure that cleaner water reaches your local river. Detailed design and construction guidelines will be included for all recommended works.



In-ditch sediment trap

## Trees for Rivers



WOODLAND TRUST

Last chance to apply for 100% funding, following good uptake, for free trees and protection guards in our area. The planting guidelines are available at: [www.chelmerandblackwater.org.uk](http://www.chelmerandblackwater.org.uk) with planting to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

To find out more about this opportunity to further enhance your farm, please contact Teresa or the Woodland Trust on 0845 293 5689 or e-mail: [woodlandcreation@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:woodlandcreation@woodlandtrust.org.uk).

## Dates For Your Diary

<b>Cover Crop Trial Open Day</b>	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	9:45am meet – 1pm Inc. Lunch	Keene Hall, Watchouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford, CM2 8PT	Look at the 12 different cover crop plots sown at Parklands Farm with the experts, to include: cover crop technical details, differing effects on soil structure and machinery to establish the following crop.
<b>Cover Crop Trial Open Day</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	9:45am meet – 1pm Inc. Lunch	The Blue Anchor, 132 Feering Hill, Feering, Colchester, CO5 9PY	Look at the 5 different cover crop plots sown at Feeringbury Manor with the experts, to include: cover crop technical details, differing effects on soil structure and machinery to establish the following crop.
<b>Sustainable Ditching Event</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9:45am meet – 1pm Inc. Lunch	Essex Young Farmers Barn, Chatham Green, Chelmsford, CM3 3LQ	See the enclosed invite for further details about this catchment event.
<b>Fitting the CAP</b>	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	10am meet	Abbotts Hall Farm, Great Wigborough, CO5 7RZ	Find out more about CAP reform, EFAs and agri-environment changes from Essex Wildlife Trust, RSPB, CFE and FWAG. Book via Hayley West on 01603 697584 or <a href="mailto:Hayley.west@rspb.org.uk">Hayley.west@rspb.org.uk</a> .

To book onto the top three events, please contact Teresa Meadows on 07792 169545 or e-mail [teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk](mailto:teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk).

Look out for the next catchment newsletter: Winter 2014

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership is supported by:

