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Remember, Remember, the....key application dates this autumn. Matt Londesborough, Masstock agronomist reminds us...



With so many different things to remember at this time of year, this quick reference guide provides you with a key checklist for your farm notice board this autumn:

Propyzamide: Latest application **OSR***- 31st Jan. **Winter Beans***- Pre-em only. *1 treatment per crop.

Metazachlor: Latest application **OSR** - 31st Jan. **Max** dose of 1000gm a.i./ha every **3rd year** to the same field.

Carbetamide: Latest application **OSR*** & **Winter Beans***- End of Feb. * 1 treatment per crop.

Chlorotoluron (CTU): Latest application **Winter Wheat** & **Winter Barley**- End of Feb. **Max legal** dose 3500gm a.i./ha. **Best practice in catchment areas is 2000gm a.i./ha per crop and other actives.**

Avoid applying all of the above near water, if heavy rain is forecast within 48 hours or soils are waterlogged or cracked.



Get Pelletwise!

Metaldehyde Stewardship- Best Practice for 2011

- **1st Aug-31st Dec: Max total** dose **210gm** (a.i.) metaldehyde/ha.
- **Max single dose- 210gm** metaldehyde/ha (BASIS Advisors can reduce Max single dose to **160gm/ha**).
- **1st Jan-31st Dec: Max total** metaldehyde dose rate **700gm** (A.I)/ha per calendar year. **Statutory condition of use.**
- **Do not** apply pellets if heavy rain forecast, if field drains are flowing or within 6m of a watercourse or drain.
- Fill applicator in the field, **NOT** in gateways or headlands.
- Use minimum a.i. (1.5%) metaldehyde products /ha to avoid drainage and run-off losses **OR** use pellets with different a.i. (Methiocarb/Ferric Phosphate).

The following **free advisory visits** are available to you from mid October:

- **Pesticide Filling Area/Biobed Visits** – Thinking of improving your farm infrastructure and protecting your water resources? Take advantage of a no-obligation advisory visit from a professional advisor.
- **Spreader and Sprayer Calibrations** – Is your spreading pattern as even as it could be? Or are you losing valuable chemicals? Free calibration available.



- **Nutrient Management Plan and Soil Analysis** - an advisory visit to help you develop or review management plans for your farm to help you stay compliant with NVZ regulations and improve efficiency of nutrient usage.
- **ELS/HLS Advice** – is your ELS coming up to be renewed or are you still debating joining? We are happy to come and talk through the scheme, points and application form with you.
- **Farm Health Check** - see overleaf.

Don't forget to sign up for the free PA1 (Pesticide Foundation), PA2 (Ground Crop Sprayer) or PA4S (Slug Pellet Applicator) training sessions too!

Call (01268 664403/07792 169545) or e-mail Teresa (teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk) to book your visit or training session place.

What has been found in the rivers of the catchment this summer?

- Weekly river sampling along the Can, Wid and Roxwell Brook between May and September has indicated consistently high levels of both mecoprop-p (CMPP-p) and metaldehyde. These levels could be attributed to slug pellet use on potatoes, but it remains an unlikely time of year to be seeing levels reaching 0.59ug/l (the EU drinking water standard is 0.1ug/l). Therefore, three additional sampling points have now been added upstream of the current points, in order to further monitor the levels being found.
- Pesticide levels in the Pant at Little Sampford and Bocking, Blackwater at Kelvedon and Sandon Brook at Hanningfield have all remained **below the EU drinking water standard** over the summer – *great news for the catchment!*



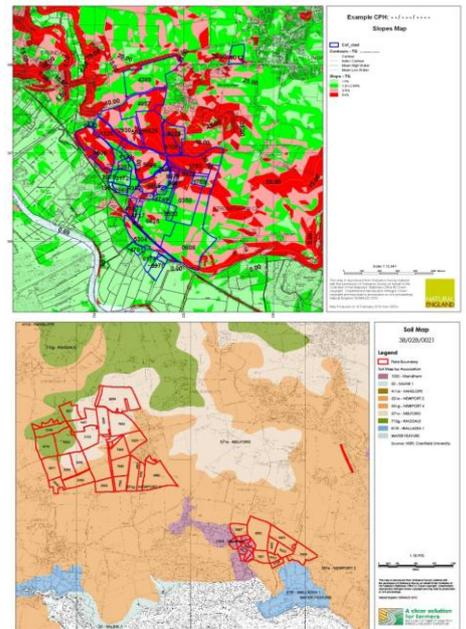
River Wid at Margaretting Sample Point

Free Farm Maps

We can provide you with a FREE set of farm maps, along with an explanatory visit, including:

- Farm outline with field boundaries
- Soil types on the farm (with a written description of characteristics)
- Slopes
- Connectivity to water (SSSI's rivers, boreholes & abstractions)
- Groundwater source protection zones
- Field risk matrix (identifies the potential risk of runoff and erosion occurring and reaching a watercourse)
- Farmyard Infrastructure

Call Teresa with your CPH number and farm address and let us know whether you would prefer printed A3 and/or electronic maps.



Are you worried about an Environment Officer coming onto your farm and finding something isn't quite up to scratch?

Teresa caught up with Fleur Howell, Environment Officer for the Environment Agency to find out what a free **FARM HEALTH CHECK** through the Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership would involve...

What areas do you cover when on farm? We cover the topics you would like relating to: NVZ's, Groundwater Regulations, Irrigation Abstractions, Sludge, Waste Exemptions, Land Spreading Permits, Manures, Slurries, Chemical/Pesticide Handling and Storage Facilities, SSAFO and Farm Yard advice.

Do I need to have all of my paperwork up-to-date? No – this is purely an advisory visit. However, if you do want us to check whether your records would pass an inspection then please have all your records available and as complete as possible.

How long will a visit take? The time depends on what you wish to discuss with us as well as the size of your business, a visit would take between 1 to 4 hours.

Do you look into all of the different enterprises I run? We can cover all or a selection of the agricultural enterprises you are running. Please let us know the extent of your enterprises in advance.

What happens if you find a practice that is being done wrong or needs improving? The remit of our visit offers voluntary advice only – this includes how to remedy any environmental offences. Indeed, all findings will remain strictly confidential. Should a pollution incident occur whilst we are on the farm, we will undertake all that is necessary to stop this pollution spreading further, giving you the opportunity to put things right. Only in very serious cases of negligence will we have to step outside the non-regulatory remit of this project.

What do farmers get out of a FARM HEALTH CHECK visit? We aim to help farmers identify particular areas on the farm that pose a risk to water pollution. We offer practical advice on how to protect your business against pollution incidents and how to minimise the potential for diffuse pollution to water. As well as the opportunity for an in-depth discussion, every farmer will receive a follow-up advisory letter detailing any feasible voluntary improvements that may benefit the environment on the farm.

To take up this unique opportunity for advice and guidance, give Teresa a ring or send an e-mail.

Upcoming Events

- Latest events will be published on our website: www.chelmerandblackwater.org.uk, via event flyers or phone Teresa on 01268 664403 or 07792 169545.
- Capital Grant Scheme – March 2012...keep your eye out for more information!

Look out for the next catchment newsletter: Winter 2011

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership is supported by: