

Sponsor's message

Getting the right return on investment

★ To take advantage of higher grain prices, using the most appropriate cereal fungicides to deliver the highest yields will be key this season.

Apply the latest research and thinking to plan what you do when in relation to disease pressure, available chemistry and varietal susceptibilities.

This Masterclass initiative is intended to integrate agronomic advice and practical ideas from industry experts on how to get timings, performance and ultimately return on investment right. We hope you find it practical and valuable.

As a research and development company, BASF's industry contribution does not stop with new innovative products to drive and sustain agriculture looking ahead to the future. As part of BASF's commitment to supporting growers, agronomists and agriculture, we have developed online agronomic tools in *Farmers Weekly's* Disease Watch initiative to support disease monitoring, and two apps for the iPhone to assess canopy size in oilseed rape and cereals.

Peter Hughes

Cereal fungicide product manager

Introduction

Make the most of high grain prices

★ Rarely has as much value weighed on the decisions you make this spring. High cereal prices promise rich rewards for every tonne you can wring from your crops. New chemistry to add to an armoury already well stocked with trusted tools means you're equipped with fungicides to make the most of the opportunity. All you have to do is make the right choices and spray at the right time.

This is where *Farmers Weekly* Academies come in – they summarise the essential background technical issues behind a particular topic so that you can make a more informed choice to take your business forward.

Together with BASF, we have identified four key areas of fungicide management to focus on this spring. Knowing the strength and weaknesses of your varieties is the first crucial step. It will help you prioritise your spray programme, as well as guide you in seed choice for next season. The next two academies focus on building fungicide programmes in both wheat and barley, while the last academy looks at the role strobilurins play in modern fungicide programmes. Finally we went to a couple of growers to find out how they put fungicide management into practice.

To make the most of this supplement, read the Academies, then go online to www.fwi.co.uk/springfungicides and test your knowledge through a series of quick, multi-choice questions. This is well worth doing to earn the BASIS and NRoSO points available.

But more than that, it should help supplement your existing knowledge with the latest thinking to allow you to design a fungicide strategy to help you take advantage of high grain prices. Any extra grain you can harvest as a result of better disease control this spring is certainly going to be well worth having.

Mike Abram

Deputy arable editor, Farmers Weekly



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