



AGRONOMY

A lot of OSR has thick canopies this year with the mild autumn. It will be worth waiting until these crops "open up" before applying residual herbicides, in order to hit the intended target. This is especially true with Astrokerb, aimed at mayweeds and poppies, as contact on these weeds is necessary. Cut off date for Astrokerb and Propyzamide is 31st Jan and for Carbetamide the end of Feb, so there is plenty of time. These can be applied on frosted ground but do not apply to waterlogged fields or before very heavy rain. If considering an application of bifenox ensure crops are well waxed and also that you can hit the target. It may be worth waiting until the New Year. Frosty conditions around the time of application improve effectiveness. Apart from some isolated instances there are few cases of pigeon damage probably due to the good canopies, but keep watch if the weather turns colder and other food sources dry up.

Apply any outstanding aphicides for the prevention of BYDV at the earliest opportunity, even if there is a cold spell. Some forward crops may require a second application if it remains mild and ground conditions allow. Continue to apply grass weed herbicides on wheat before the blackgrass gets too big and while there is still active growth. Flufenacet based products should not now be applied pre-emergence on any late drilled crops. Post-emergence applications of these products can be made until the end of the year. There is a bit of mildew in some forward crops but it is unlikely that it will need to be treated. A spell of cold frosty weather will be more effective than a fungicide. There is still some slug activity in places, keep monitoring and if necessary then use SluXX, which is the preferred option when soils are wet.

Giving the Gift of Opportunity

We all know the challenges we face in farming but imagine farming in Africa with no access to the resources we have – knowledge, expertise, tools, decent inputs.

This winter we are supporting Opportunity International's Roots of Change appeal which is supporting farming communities in some of the poorest countries of the world to work their way out of poverty.

All donations before 1st March 2018 are being matched by the UK government – doubling your impact!

Join us in supporting them
www.opportunity.org.uk/double



FERTILISER

We have new terms for January delivery for CF Nitram and compound grades. The Ammonium Nitrogen market continues to firm with prices up 40% since May.

The UK prices are still discounted against the prices in mainland Europe, and we are expecting further increases into the Spring.

Phosphate

Both TSP & DAP prices have jumped up close to £40 over the past few weeks, with higher prices expected for December. This is mainly due to the sulphuric acid market firming, and has a knock on effect for such grades as 00-24-24 and 05-24-24.

NPKs

The spiralling costs of raw materials will push up both NPK blends and CF compounds into the Spring.

We advise all customers to purchase early, to lock into the best values currently on offer.

FEED

Proteins -

Soya prices continue to show little movement with little fresh news. US harvest is now all but complete and yields known, causing a flat market. Further forward, looking at South America, rains in Brazil have put a little pressure on the market but it appears that funds are still happy with their positions as this has prompted little trade.

Transport around the Christmas period is filling up, please ensure that you book your delivery slots ASAP

Rapemeal -

Continues to look extremely technical going into the winter months. ADM are currently sold out of December, meaning we are in a re sale market which in previous years has meant prices can become artificially high because of tight supply and high demand. The Feb/Apr has seen little movement in comparison but in a market like this, it could be that the tightness of Dec/Jan will begin to roll over into Feb onwards so taking cover would protect against that.

Energy/Fibres -

Soya Hull prices are looking extremely expensive as is wheatfeed with some lesser known users increasing their reliance on fibres this winter, causing a general shortage in the market. If you can switch into sugarbeet, imported pellets do still look good value for the winter. Home produced is now withdrawn and as it stands, we are unsure if there will be a second offer. Alternative Feeds- Sugarich and Bread products are available spot and forward. We also have a limited supply of Brewers Grains.

Fats and Minerals -

Bartholomews has been working closely with Feed Supplements to develop a bespoke mineral range, as well as being able to offer the traditional straight supplements.

Forfarmer Delivery Cut Offs -

Order by;
Tuesday 12/12/17 for deliveries w/c 18/12/17
Friday 15/12/17 for deliveries w/c 25/12/17
Monday 18/12/17 for deliveries w/c 01/01/18

AGROCHEMICALS

We are anticipating the supply of many agrochemical actives to be tight next Spring due to production issues in China.

New deliveries should be arriving early next Spring with above inflation price rises attached. China controls a large percentage of global actives and time lines can easily face delay. Secure product early to guarantee supply of product.

SEED

Early order discount is still in place for Spring Barley orders.

The maize portfolio is coming along, and our offered varieties will be available soon. With the uncertainty of Mesurool use after the 2018 season, merchants will not be holding stock with this treatment on.

To ensure treatment of seed, order early to avoid disappointment, our cut off point will be in January. Sonido will be available on selected varieties, and orders will need to be in early to secure this.



Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve Closed

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day Closed

Wed 27th Dec 8.30am - 5.30pm

Thurs 28th Dec 8.30am - 5.30pm

Fri 29th Dec 8.30am - 5.30pm

Sat 30th Dec 8.30am - 12noon

New Years Eve Closed

New Years Day Closed

Tues 2nd Jan 8.30am - 5.30pm

"Live as though you'll die tomorrow, but farm as though you will live forever." – John Marsden

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