



NUTRIFOCUS LIMITED

May 2009

KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON CROP NUTRITION

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MARKET UPDATE

We now have prices available for "After Cut" products which range from £280 to £310 per tonne depending on the analysis.

The thing to consider when comparing price is the cost per % of nutrient. For example 1% N is £7.10 per tonne, 1% P₂O₅ is £9.50, K₂O £8.80 and SO₃ £2.77. This means that to be better value a 24-0-14 should be at least £23.00 per tonne less than a 26-00-15 (2 x AN @£7.10 plus 1 x K₂O @£8.80).

The Nitram price has eased a little over the last month but the market is quiet and we now expect the price to stabilise prior to the announcement of the "new season" price. We are not sure when that will be, some are suggesting there may not be an announcement until Cereals (mid June) but with Granular Urea currently on offer at around 50p/kg and a degree of buyer bitterness carrying over from last season it is clear Growhow need to get the detail right.

Potash pricing is still firm. The Potash producers are suggesting that internationally they can sell all they produce and have an air of confidence that the price will not be eroded. There is a major international conference in a months time and historically deals done at the conference have set the pricing level for the following season so we will wait and see.

NEW NVZ RULES Last week we received an update from the FACTS technical service identifying some areas of misunderstanding within the new NVZ rules. We had already identified those issues and referred to them in our January newsletter but it is obvious they are causing confusion.

The key is to accept that the new

NMAX FIGURES ARE ADDITIONAL TO THE CALCULATIONS NEEDED TO COMPLY WITH RB209.

For example, where we are providing Nutrient Management Plans we will run two calculations on any field receiving manure. The 1st, for RB209 compliance, is a practical calculation based on many years of trial data and would be based on the farm's own manure analysis (if available) soil type, date of manure application, method of incorporation and farm rainfall to calculate an expected N release from the applied manure.

The second calculation which is for Nmax compliance only applies to specific livestock manures (i.e. not sewage sludges or compost) and specific crops. For this calculation we will only use the book values specified in the DEFRA guidance notes to calculate the "crop available N from organic manures". The reason we only use book values is that the sampling protocol for manure and slurry is complex and if your figures were ever challenged it would be impossible to prove that you had sampled to the expected procedure so best not run the risk.

Be aware the two "available N" figures can be quite different.

OILSEED EXTRA We have a limited number of Stand Down tankers available for delivering Oilseed Extra. Trial results (independent & manufacturer run) are suggesting that the largest yield benefit is seen in lower yielding crops and with the variation in crops across the South we feel this is an ideal year to include Oilseed Extra as part of your Nitrogen programme.

For information on any of the above items or for any fertiliser or lime requirement or to opt out from receiving further copies of this newsletter please call 01243 261342