

# **CROPS & SPRAYING**

# 2015

# **Teagasc & Irish Farmers Journal**

# Oak Park, Carlow Wednesday 24th June 2015

www.teagasc.ie

## Foreword

#### Teagasc Oak Park Crops and Spraying 2015

Welcome to the Teagasc Oak Park Crops Open Day, on display we have the latest technical innovations on a range of crops including; winter and spring barley, winter wheat, oats, oilseed rape and beans. The focus on these crops, presented over a number of stands, will include: optimising growth and development; disease control strategies and efficient fertiliser use. Whilst 2015 presents price and disease challenges, improved knowledge of crop growth in our climate gives us the best chance of using our high yielding potential to our advantage. Up and coming new varieties to include sugar beet will also be demonstrated on the day.

The Teagasc crops research programme will be the main focus; however, there will be many other areas of relevance to tillage farmers and the farming industry in general, including:

In the main entrance area

- Farm safety for farmers and families highlighting important issues not to be ignored.
- In addition to the focus on profitability of crops there will be information on the wider aspects of farm finances from Teagasc farm management specialists under the heading of 'Get Farm Financially Fit'.

In the machinery area

- Sprayers and spraying will be the focus of an 'event within an event' supported by the Irish Farmers Journal. Preparing your sprayer ready for the Sustainable Use Directive test, GPS and nozzle technology will feature alongside a demonstration of new sprayers in a parade ring. The DAFM will also be on hand to explain what you need to do to comply with the SUD and outline the STRIPE initiative. There will also be a wide range of other machinery on display from manufacturers and dealers, something for everyone, not just the specialised tillage farmer.
- Incorrect combine setting can threaten the ability to attain quality standards for premium markets such as malting barley, risking considerable income. The main combine manufacturers will be on hand to demonstrate how to optimise settings to ensure the crop is fully threshed whilst minimising losses and damage to grain.

On the main demonstration route

Revision of the CAP has brought greening issues to the forefront of everyone's minds, there will be a
number of stands covering topics such as; cover crop options, biodiversity and forestry.

This year's route enables you to pick out areas of interest so you can start and stop your tour wherever you wish. May I wish you an enjoyable day, one which will enhance your knowledge and will be beneficial to your business.

John Spink Head of Crop Science Teagasc, Oak Park



# **Get Farm Financially Fit**

#### **Smart Budgeting**

Managing short term cash flow is the first step to improving your finances

- Plan your spending in advance
- Check actual spend v planned spend
- Monitor monthly income and expenses



€	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Income												
Expenses												
Balance												

Smart Spending	Smart Use of Resources and Skills
<ul> <li>How much do you need to run the house on a monthly basis?</li> <li>Insurance and utilities – switch or save by paying online</li> <li>Could you reduce "non productive" farm costs?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Check eligibility for Farm Assist, Family Income Supplement</li> <li>&gt; Over 1/3 of those eligible do not claim!</li> <li>Avail of free training courses - re-train and develop new skills</li> <li>Bundle your debt</li> </ul>

#### "Major increase in Grants to Households for Energy Efficiency" - SEAI













# **Potato Virus Symptoms & Control**





# Using clean seed and avoiding sources of infection is critical to reducing virus incidence

Virus	Transmission	Symptoms	Control Measures
PVX	Mechanical	Mosaic, chlorosis, decreased leaf size, rough leaves	Roguing, equipment hygiene
PVS	Aphid & Mechanical	Symptoms can be inconspicuous, can show mild mosaic	Roguing, equipment hygiene, insecticide
PVY	Aphid	Severe mosaic, chlorosis, necrosis on veins/leaves, plant stunting	Roguing, insecticide
PVA	Aphid	Mild mosaic	Roguing, insecticide
PLRV	Aphid	Rolling or curling of the leaves, leathery feel	Insecticide, roguing



## Virus Incidence In Seed Crops Entered For Certification





Virus present in a high % of crops but at **very low levels** 

Virus levels will increase quickly in successive generations

Virus risks of key varieties British Queen - PVY Golden Wonder - PVA Kerr's Pink - PVX Lady Claire - PVY Rooster - PVY

#### Key points

- Certified seed guarantees low virus levels
- Pay attention to susceptible varieties, particularly in highest risk regions e.g.
  - PVX Donegal
  - PVY North East
- · PVY is the most common and economically important potato virus



# National PCN Survey 2002







Globodera rostochiensis

#### Globodera pallida

# 2010 to 2013 PCN Survey

	V	Vare Potato	
Year	Area Sampled (ha)	Total Infested Area (ha)	% Infested
2010	172	31	18
2011	63	19	30
2012	114	9	8
2013	72	7	10
		Seed Potato	

Year	Area Sampled (ha)	Total Infested Area (ha)	% Infested
2010	1869	55	3
2011	1203	116	10
2012	682	37	5
2013	568	48	8



· Up to 15% land sampled in the Republic of Ireland is positive for PCN

Globodera rostochiensis is currently the dominant species
 Acknowledgements: The work described in the 2002 survey was conducted at AFBI in Northern Ireland with a collaboration with Teagasc



# Modelling the impact of PCN infestation



# **Best Management Practices for PCN**



#### Minimise soil movement

- Avoid sharing farm equipment
- Only return tare soil to field of origin
- Never re-use boxes unless soil fre
- · Be sure commercial vehicles are soil free



#### Best practice for potatoes

- · Plant certified seed material
- Practice long crop rotations (7+ years)
- · Care should be taken with discard soil, wash water, and tubers
- Segregate potatoes in storage by fie
- Rotate with a resistant variety



#### Keep farm equipment clean

- Clean and disinfect farm machinery before going between field
- Collect waste water, to minimise spread of PCN to clean land



easasc

#### Best Practice when PCN preser

- Grass over land positive for PCN
- Test after 6 year
- Maintain good rotation records

# Developing new varieties with natural resistance to PCN

#### Globodera rostochiensis

Resistance conferred by a single gene (H1) H1 gene present in majority of new varieties

#### Globodera pallida

No single gene confers complete resistance Only partially resistant varieties available



T5233/7



T5343/5

#### Marker assisted breeding (MAB)



# Comparisons of late blight fungicides in 2014

During 2014 the efficacy of the main late blight fungicides were compared at Teagasc Oak Park as part of a season long programme





# **Give Safety Top Priority**

### Irish farm accident record

- 30 Deaths in 2014
- 2,500 accidents per year

#### Accidents cause the following:

- Tragedy, pain and suffering
- Disability
- Farm income loss

# Complete a Risk Assessment for your Farm

#### Safety Management is Missing on this Farm



SAFETY FIRST + TEAGASC



# **Tractor and Vehicle Safety**

#### Vehicles are associated with 27% of farm deaths

- Being struck or crushed is the major cause
- Pedestrians and passengers are most at risk
- Stop any dangerous activity immediately



# ENSURE OPERATORS ARE COMPETENT





# **Machinery Safety**

#### Machinery accidents are associated with 17% of deaths

- Main causes include:
- Being crushed or struck by machine part
- Being entangled in PTO or machine part
- Being struck by machinery

#### MAINTAIN MACHINE GUARDING







# Maintain your Health

#### Farmers overall have poor health

- Farmers have a 5 times higher death level (to 65 years)
- · Principal causes include: cardiovascular, cancer & respiratory issues

#### **Key Prevention approaches**

- Be informed about health issues
- Obtain a regular 'health check'
- Exercise and diet are crucial for health
- Avoid Lung disease (e.g. smoking and dust)

#### **OBTAIN A HEALTH CHECK**





# Winter Wheat Varieties and Septoria Resistance

#### **Disease Resistance**

- Varieties differ in Septoria resistance but mechanisms not fully understood
- Latent period one mechanism
- The latent period is the time between initial infection and visible disease symptoms
- Extended latent period delays the progression of disease epidemics





Septoria on Croft



#### **Conclusion:**

- Stigg has a substantially longer latent period (~ 15 days) compared to, for example Gator (~7 days)
- · Further work focussed on studying the molecular interaction between Stigg and Septoria

Research completed as part of the DAFM-RSF [] [] funded 'CIVYL' project
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# **Fungicide Resistance**

## What is fungicide resistance?

A fungal strain adapts to survive and reproduce in the presence of a fungicide





## Impacts of resistance

- Increased cost of production
- Poor disease control
- Loss of active ingredient

You don't need perfect disease control to maximise profit



# **Fungicide Resistance**

## **Disease management**

- Adopt good agronomic practices
- Monitor disease and resistance development
- Proper choice of application timing and fungicides



## The 1, 2, 3 of Fungicide Resistance Management

- 1. Limit Number of Applications
- 2. Use Effective Rates
- 3. Mix Modes of Action





# Wheat Disease Control

Know the target - Know the timing - Know the fungicide



			12	13
Low Disease Pressure		Azole (Mix) & Multi-site	SDHI / Azole & Multi-site	Azole (mix) +/- Multi-site
High Disease Pressure	Multisite & (Strob)	SDHI / Azole & Multisite	SDHI / Azole & Multisite	Azole (mix) +/- Multisite



# **Ecological Focus Areas**

#### **Potential Benefits of EFAs**

#### For the Farmer







- Enhanced crop pest control (natural predators)
- Increased pollination
- Decreased soil erosion
- Prevention of soil nutrient leaching

#### For Biodiversity







- Increased species diversity
- Increased habitat and landscape diversity
- Maintenance of 'wildlife corridors'

#### Social & Tourism







- Public goods (Ecosystem Products and Services)
- Maintenance of historical features and heritage
- Clean, green image

#### Some Current and Potential EFAs



**Fig 1:** Hedgerows are currently <u>eligible</u> as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 2: Drains are currently <u>eligible</u> as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 3: Buffer strips are currently <u>eligible</u> as EFAs in Ireland



**Fig 4:** Fallow land is currently <u>eligible</u> as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 5: Field Margins are eligible as EFAs under EU prescriptions but are currently <u>not eligible</u> under Irish regulations

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# The Spring Barley Guide

#### Crop growth and yield formation

- Certain periods of crop growth are more important for yield formation
- Inputs should be targeted at the most critical growth periods to maximise return on investment
- Inputs should be adjusted if a crop is significantly ahead of or behind average





#### **Key Points**

- · Barley yield is strongly related to grain number
- Grain number is mainly influenced by ear number
- · Getting the crop off to as good start is critical
- · Maximise crop growth during tillering and stem extension
- · Late season input less important for barley




## STAND LIST

1 Marquee – First Aid and Defibillator Potatoes, Farm Finances, Pig on Spit and Refreshments

#### Outside Marquee Farm Safety Met Eireann

- 2. Winter Wheat Varieties Disease Control
- 3. Cover Crops EFAs GLAS
- 4. Spring Barley Varieties Disease Control Nitrogen

#### 5. Oats Varieties

Agronomy

- 6. Beans Varieties Agronomy
- Winter Barley
   Disease Control and Management
   Aphid Control
- 8. Crop Nutrition and Manures
- 9. Forestry
- 10. Machinery and Spraying
- 11. GM Potatoes, Beet Varieties, Soils, Oilseed Rape Cultivations and Management

#### Stand 10 – Machinery & Spraying

Spraying Demos in this area at 12 noon, 2pm and 4pm

#### Exhibitors:

IAM Agricultural Machinery Ltd. Farmec Ireland Ltd. Farmhand Ltd. Kelly's of Borris Agrigear Tyre and Wheel Specialists Kverneland WR Shaw John Deere Lemkin Farmtech Solutions Precision Ag Ireland Agco/Massey Ferguson F. Jenkinson Ltd. Murphy Machinery Suir Sprayers John Atkins & Co. Ltd. Kuhn Centre Ireland Gordon Hegarty & Sons Spraytek Agri Ltd. Samco Agriculture Manufacturing Moore Unidrill Chafer Machinery Ltd./Agricare Cross Agricultural Engineering Ltd. Cooney Furlong Machinery Co. Case IH Dealers



6

Transport Route

8

7

Transport Route

## Transport Route

#### Precision Village / Marquee

McHugh Components Progressive Agriculture Solutions Farm Navigator Wextech Farmflo AlB Quinns of Baltinglass Fossland Services Ltd. Topcon Ireland Department of Agriculture Irish Farmers Journal IFJ Admin Office / First Aid & Defibillator







	T1 Mid-Late tillering	T2 Booting
Target diseases	GS 25-30 Rhynchosporium Net blotch Rust	GS 39-49 Rhynchosporium Net blotch Rust Ramularia Fusarium
Fungicide choice	Minimum of two active fungicides (Azoles, Strobilurins, SDHI's, multisite)	Minimum of two active fungicides (Azoles, Strobilurins, SDHI's, multisite)
	Mildewicide where required	Mildewicide where required
Take home messages		
<ul> <li>All available control metho</li> </ul>	ds should be used as part of ar	n IPM strategy
<ul> <li>Always use a minimum of control and to reduce the r</li> </ul>	2 actives at each application to isk of resistance development	achieve optimum disease
<ul> <li>The choice actives should l susceptibility), disease pres</li> </ul>	be based on, yield potential, va sent and weather pattern	riety sown (disease







Ceasasc	Beans: Agronomy		
Sowing Date	Early Feb. to Mid March, as soon as soil conditions allow		
Seed Rate	Sow $35 - 40$ seeds/m <sup>2</sup> to achieve optimum plant density of $30 - 35/m^2$		
T.G.W.	Can vary by up to 30%: adjust seed rates (150- 250 kg/ha) based on TGW and germination %		
Nutrition	Apply P, K as per soil index. Watch Mg, Zn, Mn		
Weed control	Pre-emerge Nirvana or Lingo. Basgran only post emergence BLW option. Graminicides suitable for grass weed control		
		· IFA	





# CROPQUEST

## Aims

- Review broad acre break-crop options
- Identify Market / Crop options including high-value possibilities
- Determine economics value of break crops
- Disseminate to growers, industry

## How

- Desk Study:
  - Rotation crops (OSR, Beans, etc.)
     High Value crop options
- Economic analysis
- Dissemination
  - > Crop Reports, research paper etc.
  - ➤ Website
  - ➤ Workshop





Website Launching soon:

http://www.teagasc.ie/CROPQUEST





# Sample Crop: Oilseed Rape

## **Quick Facts:**

- Good break crop in cereal rotation
- Generally suited to Irish climate
- Produces oil and protein
- Mostly exported currently low value
- Potential for higher value markets

#### **Potential outputs**

- Vegetable oil
- Biodiesel
- Protein for animal and human use
- Industrial: Lubrication, surface coating, slip agent, biodegradable plastics
- Other: Medicinal, Cosmetic, Polymers etc.

### Food Grade OSR: Cold pressed, Healthy options Greatest potential?











## **OSR Food Grade Potential – Why?**





# **Aphid Identification**

## Aphid Identification is essential for monitoring spray efficacy and resistance – IPM TOOL

Quick guide to recognising Aphids of concern regarding BYDV & Resistance

#### Step 1:

- Does the Aphid have long black Siphunculi?
- No (Go to Step 2)

#### Step 2:

Is the Aphid green with pale or clear coloured Siphunculi?

- No (Go to Step 3)

#### Step 3:

Is the Aphid brownish to olive green and round in shape (ovate) with short Siphunculi?









# **BYDV Control**

#### Barley yellow Dwarfing Virus is spread by Aphids

#### **Risk Factors:**

- Early sown autumn crops / late sown spring crops
- Mild winters (Aphids overwintering)
- Mild Autumns (Aphid migration period lengthened)

#### **Control Guidelines:**

#### (1) Autumn crops

Early sown:

Insecticide seed treatment and 1 aphicide in November Or 1 aphicide mid-October & 1 aphicide early November

 Late sown: Insecticide seed treatment <u>Or</u> 1 aphicide in early November

If poor aphid control or BYDV have been an issue it may indicate resistance – use a seed treatment

#### (2) Spring crops

- Early sown: Usually do not require aphicide
- Late sown (After mid-April): 1 aphicide at 4 leaf stage

#### (3) Direct Feeding by Aphids

- Wheat Between GS 65 -85 aphicide may be beneficial at 5 aphids/ear +
- Barley For aphicide to be beneficial, ears need to be 'infested'

#### Crops should suffer little yield loss from new BYDV infection after GS31







# 'Knock Down Resistance'

#### 'Knock Down Resistance' or 'KDR' was first identified in the UK in 2012 and in Ireland 2013

- Aphids with 'KDR' gene less susceptible to pyrethroids
- To date, 'KDR' has only been discovered in <u>Grain Aphid</u>, an important <u>BYDV vector</u>
- Two instances of 'KDR' discovered in Ireland, Cork (2013) & Tipperary (2014) - however likely to be more widespread
- If high numbers of aphids are left in a crop after pyrethroid use, identify aphid species present to inform choice of aphicide
- If you need to apply another aphicide, choose an <u>insecticide with a</u> <u>different mode of action</u>
- If you suspect that pyrethroids haven't been effective, consider using a seed treatment on following autumn sown crops
- Teagasc, UCD and Rothamsted Research have commenced a project, funded by DAFM, to ascertain how widespread the 'KDR' resistance gene is in Irish Grain Aphid populations







# Winter Barley Disease Control

#### Use fungicides to:

- 1. Increase yield potential
- 2. Control disease to achieve yield potential

#### Winter barley average yield responses to different timings



#### Take home messages

- 1. Don't delay disease control
- 2. Little justification for delaying last spray until ear emergence



# **Fungicide Choice?**



Net blotch



Ramularia



Rhynchosporium

	T1	T2	Т3
	Mid-Late tillering	Stem extension	Booting
	GS 25-30	GS 31-32	GS 39-49
Fungicide choice	Minimum of two active fungicides (Azoles, Strobilurins, SDHI's, multisite)	Minimum of two active fungicides (Azoles, Strobilurins, SDHI's, multisite)	Minimum of two active fungicides (Azoles, Strobilurins, SDHI's, multisite)
	Mildewcide where required	Mildewcide where required	Mildewcide where required

Notes:

-

# Soil Fertility Management

#### **National Tillage Soil Fertility Status**

cagasc

First D

Results of Soil Samples from Tillage Farms in 2014



Information 1) Soil Test 2) Soil pH & Line 2) Soil pH & Line 1) Soil Test 2) Soil pH & Line 2) Soil pH & Line

- Sample fields for soil fertility every 3-5 years
- Aim for target soil pH 6.5 by applying lime
- Build soil P & K to Index 3 over time
- Utilise organic manures where available as cost effective sources of P and K





# The Value of Pig Manure

#### Using pig manure on tillage soils

- improves the soil organic content
- improves the soil structure
- means a cheaper alternative to chemical fertilizer

#### **Key Points**

- Fertilizer value of pig manure, at 4.3% solids, is currently valued at €5.87 per m<sup>3</sup>
- This translates into €26.65 per 1000 gallons
- · reduces the vulnerability of farmers to fluctuations in the cost of imported fertilizers



	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
Nutrient content (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	4.2	0.8	2.2
Nutrient availability (%)	50	100	100
Fertilizer cost per kg (€)*	1.04	2.32	0.83
Value (€)	2.18	1.86	1.83

Note: 1 m<sup>3</sup> equals 220 gallons. \*Based upon Chemical Fertiliser prices in Feb 2015





# Forestry

#### **Main Points**

- Afforestation Grant Covers Costs to establish a woodland
- Can receive both Forestry premium and BPS payment on eligible land
- Annual premium €510-€635/ha for 15 yrs
- Both BPS eligible forestry and Short Rotation coppice are reckonable as Ecological Focus Areas (EFA's)
- · Forestry is a permanent change of land use





#### EXAMPLE

- 8 ha Sitka spruce
- Planted 2010
- Rotation 30 year
- YC 24
- Net profit: €182,000
- AEV/ ha: €696



Forest Service



Apriculture, Food and the Marine Tainshaiochta, Bio agus Mara





# **Precision Spraying - 1**

## Weed mapping/spot treatment

- Has not developed practically
- Has potential for Invasive weeds e.g. Sterile Brome
- Weed ID and mapping capacity needed – Will develop

## **Auto-steer and Tramlines**

- Scribe tramlines:
  - > 5% overlap (150mm in 3m)
  - > 21m sprayer 2 nozzles wasted
  - > Set the scribe correctly!
- Auto-steer:
  - Can reduce overlap
  - But accurate GPS needed
  - Cost carefully







# **Precision Spraying - 2**

## Sprayer auto-section control

- For headland
- For short triangular runs
- Most beneficial for:
  - Trailed sprayers
  - ➢ Wide booms
- Careful set-up required

## Savings depend on

- Size and shape of field
- Boom size and if trailed sprayer
- Skill of operator with manual system
- Technology accuracy and if correctly set up
- Scale impact on purchase cost
- Research on overspray savings: 20 fields: 2% to 20%







# **Nozzle Developments**

## Nozzle impacts on

- Correct application rate
- Even distribution on crop
- Deposition on plant/soil
- Loss to drift and environment

## **Drift reduction**

- Greater spraying window
- Larger nozzles, lower pressures
- Low drift pre-orifice type
- Air induction nozzles
- Air blast sprayers



Mostly good + better timeliness Avoid low volumes (<120 l/ha) with contacts and grass herbicides

Nozzle	Size	Output (I/ha)	Droplet size	LERAP Drift	JKI Drift
Flat Fan	03	144	Fine	-	-
Flat Fan	05	240	Med	-	-
Low drift	03	144	Med	-	-
Air Induction	03	144	Very coarse	***	75%



# **Sprayer test – key points**

## **Pump and PTO**

- PTO guard and stand
- Pump output
- No pulsations or leaks

## Tank, hoses, boom

- No leaks
- Basket filter, level indicator emptying valve: fitted
- No kinks or hose damage
- Induction hopper working
- Boom straight: suspension, height adjustment working

### **Pressure gauge + controls**

- Accurate, readable gauge
- All spray controls functioning and accessible



## **Nozzles: Pressure drops**

- Suction and pressure filters
- All nozzles identical
- Anti-drips working
- All nozzle flow rates: <10% error</li>
- Pressure drop to boom <10%</p>
- Pressure change when sections closed <10%</li>



• www.agfood.ie for DAFM clients

Notes:

Otherwise
 <u>http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/sudreg/</u>

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#### Testing of Pesticide Application Equipment

- Boom sprayers > 3m and blast and orchard sprayers by: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- Farmer's responsibility to ensure sprayer is tested
- Test cert remains with sprayer if sold
- Tested every 5 years up to 2020
- Tested every 3 years after 2020
- Must be tested by a DAFM-registered Inspector of Pesticide Application equipment
- Knapsack sprayers are exempt



#### Surface water Tool for Reducing the Impact of Pesticides on the Environment



**KEEPING PESTICIDES OUT OF WATER** 





## **USE STRIPE** KEEP PESTICIDES OUT OF WATER

Know the buffer zones required by the products you are using.



Use drift reducing technology



Optimise boom height



Do not fill sprayer from water course or near surface drains













# **Combine Setting**

## **Grain problems**

- Broken or skinned grains
- Excess awns or screenings
- Challenges for malting

## **Combine setting**



- Start with instruction manual/default settings
- Combines differ: drum diameter, threshing elements etc.
- Start with gentle threshing; check threshing, losses, damage
- Change one setting at a time and record

Check List
Check threshing elements for excessive wear
Check basic settings; level concave etc.
Start with low cylinder speed and open concave; adjust as needed
Keep threshing elements properly loaded with crop
Avoid excess grain going through returns
Check elevators and augers
Consider 'extras' such as de-awner plates as appropriate



# **'AMIGA' GM Potato Study**

#### What is AMIGA?

- EU wide project of 22 partners across 15 countries
- AMIGA = 'Assessing and monitoring the agri-environment impact of GM 'blight resistant' potato'
- No industry involvement in Teagasc GM research

#### **Project goals?**

- Improve knowledge on specific GM crops relevant to EU
- Model response of blight to novel resistance gene i.e. GM potato is in effect a research tool
- Estimate the compatibility of specific GM crops with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles
- Impact of GM management on soil biodiversity (fungi, bacteria, etc.)



Blight infected leaves



Blight infected tubers



Wild potato (S. venturii)

#### GM potato in use

- Developed at the Univ. Wageningen, the Netherlands
- Blight resistance gene (vnt1) taken from wild potato Solanum venturii
- Inserted into var. Desiree via biotechnology to deliver cisgenic potato
  - Wild potato to commercial potato = cisgenics
  - In contrast with for example, carrot to salmon = transgenics





## **Progress to date?**

#### 2013, 2014 & 2015

- Large scale comparative assessment of:
  - 1. Cisgenic Desiree GM
  - 2. Conventional Desiree Non-GM
  - 3. Conventional Sarpo Mira Non-GM

Single wild potato R gene present No R gene present Up to 5 wild potato R genes present

#### Output?

 Blight resistance gene (vnt1) has displayed strong performance in 2013, 2014 and will be tested again in 2015

2013

- Identification of fungal, bacterial and nematode populations extracted from GM v. non-GM soil samples near completion
- Potential of integrating R genes into IPM strategies for potato disease control quantified
- Over 80 media events/workshop/public debates completed to date

Desiree (non-GM)



**Cisgenic Desiree (GM)** 







# **Sugar Beet**

### Background

- Abolition of sugar quotas
- Farmer desire for profitable break crop
- · Expressions of interest in forming new industry
- Reports of significant yield increases over past 10 years
- World sugar prices low
- Input prices increased greatly since sugar beet last grown





#### **Current Research**

- 2014: Replicated variety trials in OP and on farms strips
  - 10 sugar and 1 fodder beet variety
- Some sugar beet varieties surpassed 'Magnum' fodder beet dry matter yields
- Average plot yields at Oak Park 2002 (dashed green line) approx. 7 t/ha lower than 2014 (dashed red line)
- Trial continued into 2015 to verify these trends
  - > 17 sugar and 1 fodder beet variety

IFA



## Winter Oilseed Rape

## Light Leaf Spot (LLS)

- Major disease with losses of 30%
- Prevent LLS infection on buds essential
- Varietal resistance essential for good control
- Reduced rate triazole sufficient for control



### Phoma

- Potential yield losses >0.5t/ha
- Treat when 10-20% plants infected

## Sclerotinia

- High risk situations
   Close rotations
  - susceptible crops (potatoes, beans)
- Control at early petal fall





## **Disease Control: Fungicide strategy**

- November (for Phoma and LLS. Use 1/2 rate triazole)
- February (for LLS. Use 1/2 rate triazole)
- +/- March PGR fungicide (@green bud stage)
- +/- April (for Sclerotinia @ early petal fall)



# Winter Oilseed Rape

## **Costs of production**

- Break even yields 3.9t/ha (1.6t/ac)
- Establishment costs €170/ha (Plough)
  - Savings of 50% possible?





## Shallow Sub-soil (600mm rows)

- Increased speed of planting <sup>1</sup>~50%
- More suited to good soil conditions
- Weed/slug control issues may arise but potential for herbicide savings

## **Preliminary Results 2014**

#### Seed establishment rates

- Plough based 75%
- Subsoil (600mm) 64%




## **Crops and Spraying 2015**



Soil Quality Assessment Research Project

SQUAR

## Soil Quality impacts on crop productivity and other soil functions

## **Objectives**

- Evaluate the status of soil structural quality in Ireland
- Assess impact of soil structural degradation on functional capacity of soil
- Develop a toolbox for farmers to assess structural quality



SQUARE How?

- Field campaign 160 grassland and tillage sites over three years
- Farmer surveys to assess ranges in soil
  management practices

## **Outputs**

- · Visual Soil Assessment for Irish soils and in-field toolkit for farmers
- Knowledge and scientific understanding to facilitate improved management practices

SQUARE supports the co-existence of environmental sustainability with increased food outputs



Banner - Lonex



This project has been funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007 -2013

Notes: