



SCOTTISH QUALITY CROPS

SQC NEWS UPDATES

Introduction

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new SQC Managing Director and say how much I look forward to working on your behalf. I would also like to pass on my thanks to your outgoing SQC Executive Director, Alistair Ewan, for all the support he has given me over the past few months – since accepting the position and working alongside him, before taking over the helm at the start of May.

To ensure you are kept up to date with what is happening within SQC, I will be providing news updates through the year – ensuring you are kept fully informed of any changes, important news or work we are undertaking behind the scenes at SQC.

Kindest regards, Teresa Dougall, SQC Managing Director

Reminder to changes on Annual Sprayer Testing

We would like to remind all SQC members that sprayer testing timescales are changing from 1 August 2022. Currently minimum legal requirements are followed, which is testing sprayers with boom widths over 3 metres every three years, with the additional need of SQC members to carry out a self-assessment for the interim 2 years. From the new Scheme year 2022/23 members are required to have their main crop sprayer tested annually.

National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) data shows that of all sprayers presented for test, 54% have no faults. This means that the rest, 46%, have one or more faults that are required to be repaired before the machine can pass the test. The majority of these sprayers are tested annually but NSTS data shows that the number of sprayers needing some form of repair is much higher when testing is carried out less frequently.

Leaks and drips are the most common faults. Safe and accurate application of pesticides must be achieved from all sprayers and more regular testing helps ensure this, but will also save downtime for the operator with faults being rectified during the test.

An operator check sheet, available from the NSTS website, is similar to the self-assessment sheet currently in use and as best practice should be used at intervals during the season to keep the machine running in good condition. There is also space to record a calibration, already a requirement for SQC members.

NSTS have over 46 Test Centres in Scotland and the North of England, and more than 100 qualified machine Examiners to test sprayers. Your nearest or preferred company can be found by clicking [here](#).

For more information, go to the NSTS website – www.nsts.org.uk or contact them direct on 01733 207608.

Professional Pesticide Users Required To Register With DEFRA by 22 June

The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 have now come into force, requiring all farm businesses using pesticides to register their details. The regulations cover Plant Protection Product (PPP - more commonly known as pesticide) use in Great Britain). If you use pesticides and adjuvants on your farm, you are legally obliged to register your business name, all addresses where pesticides are stored, and an estimated volume of pesticides you use. The registration deadline is 22 June 2022.

Register by clicking [here](#).

Update on booking in SQC audits

We previously emailed all SQC growers regarding the option to pre-book your audit. For clarification, there are 2 options available:

1. You await your auditor contacting you to book in your audit
2. You contact LRQA on 0131 619 2100 or email sqc-ca@lr.org to pre book your audit – possibly helping to find a date that suits

It appears that some thought there was a change to the SQC process. However, there is no change – we are just offering another option to try and make things easier for our growers when organising their audit.

Reminder on SQC Passport Completion

With harvest approaching, please see below reminder regarding individuals (grower / storekeeper) obligations when completing passports. We appreciate that the majority of passports are already correctly completed. However, to avoid any unnecessary delays at the other end, we ask that you double check your passports once filled in to ensure that all the sections are correctly and fully filled in.

- Section 1 – Grower / Storekeeper declaration
 - Please ensure all relevant boxes filled in / ticked. If ticking box for RED Complaint, please all ensure you sign and print your name under Section 8 (Renewable Energy Directive). Also remember to write in the Crop Harvest Year in this section. Despite the fact that the passport does state the harvest year, you are still required to write this in.
- Section 4 – Post Harvest Treatment
 - Please ensure you circle the relevant point (A, B or C) as appropriate – including the date and product in bottom two boxes of this section.
- Section 5 – Fusarium Mycotoxins
 - Remember to include the Mycotoxin Risk Assessment Score and complete the remainder of boxes in this section as appropriate.
- Section 6 – Confirmation
 - Do not forget to sign this section – printing your name and position in other boxes.
- Section 8 – Renewable Energy Directive
 - As per note above in relation to Section 1 – remember to sign and print your name in this section.

SQC on the road

Your SQC Chairman, Andrew Moir, and I recently attended Fife Show – having been invited to spend time on the NFUS stand meeting with their members and taking questions. We also made the most of this opportunity sitting down with NFUS President, Martin Kennedy, and QMS Chair, Kate Rowell to discuss farm assurance.

We will next be on the road on Thursday 23 June at Royal Highland Show and again on Tuesday 5 July at Arable Scotland – with space in the SRUC stand. We would be more than happy to meet up for a chat – just email me on Teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk