

Importance of nutrient management

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 Region: **Cornwall**
 Farm: **Cereals**
 Size: **n/a**



Background

Cornwall Farmers FQA Agronomists have analysed grain sample data from their farmers and interpreted it alongside their total fertiliser applications. In particular, the agronomists were interested in nitrogen and sulphur levels, so they could give advice on sulphur fertilisation.

What are the benefits of nutrient planning?

The RB209 Manual gives the target %N for a winter wheat crop with the amounts of nitrogen required to add to the recommendation arrived at through the standard tables.

In this case study the results revealed 10% of samples indicating over fertilisation, whilst 90% indicated under fertilisation. According to the calculation, a further 90 kgN/ha (approx.) was required to satisfy the crops demand. The data also showed that 60% of samples were expressing sulphur deficiency which enables the agronomists to make further adjustments to the crop nutrition programme that will improve the overall nitrogen use efficiency.

This case study therefore shows the importance of implementing nutrient management into your farm practice, as the examples show, you could easily be literally throwing money away with over fertilisation, whilst increasing the risk of harm to the environment or risking yield and quality by under fertilising your crop.

Created by the industry – for the industry

www.nutrientmanagement.org

Material adapted from Environment Agency document: *Nutrient management planning – case studies*
www.environment-agency.gov.uk