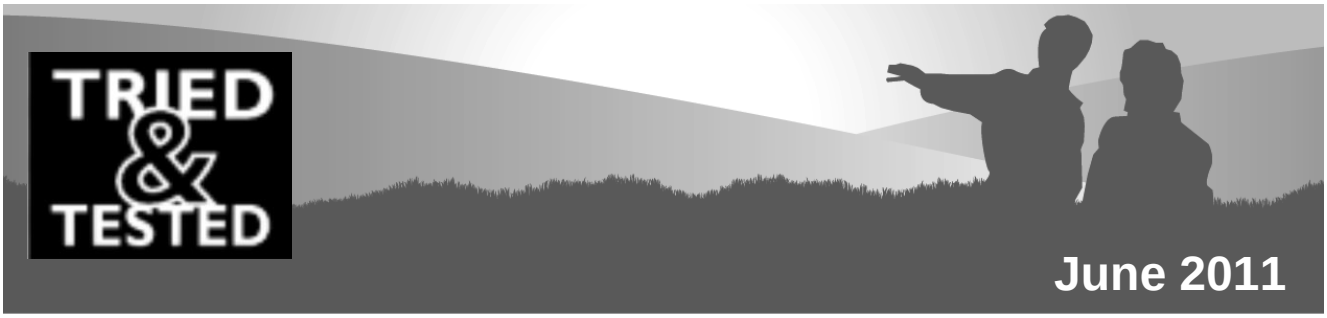

The Tried & Tested newsletter is written by the Tried & Tested Team and is published bi-monthly.

News from Grassland & Muck

Tried & Tested were at Grassland & Muck last month where we met with several of you to give advice on nutrient management and a NVZ record keeping requirements.

Nutrient management essential in drought

While at Grassland & Muck last month we learnt that nutrient management is more important than ever in the current dry conditions. Low yielding silage and poor grass re-growth due to the weather can be further compromised by failure to address the crops nutrient needs.

NIRS technology for manure analysis

This new technology was showcased at the event, with farmers being given the opportunity to bring along a sample for analysis. Faster and more cost effective than traditional methods the NIRS could allow farmers to more accurately predict and manage what is being applied on to land; while also helping to save money.

PLANET v3.1 includes grassland recommendations

PLANET v3.1 was also on show. The new version generates grassland recommendations from RB209 The Fertiliser Manual.

Soil nutrient balances stats. From Defra

Soil nutrient balances provide a method for estimating the nutrient loadings of nitrogen and phosphorus to agricultural soils. In 2009 the nitrogen balance was a surplus of 83.2 kg/ha, representing an overall fall in the surplus of 28.0 kg/ha (25%) from the 2000 value of 111.1 kg/ha due to a steady decline over that period. In 2009 the phosphorus balance was a surplus of 4.4 kg/ha, representing an overall fall in the surplus of 5.6 kg/ha from 10.0 kg/ha in 2000 due to a sharp fall in the surplus between 2007 and 2009.

For more information and to read the full report click here to go to the Defra website.

Distribution of British soil bacteria mapped for the first time

Britain's soil bacteria have been mapped for the first time in an effort to better understand the potential for agriculture across the country. The study concluded that bacterial diversity was strongly related to soil pH, with acidic soils dominated by few taxa (groups of organisms). Below ground bacterial and above ground plant communities were closely related, suggesting that soil bacteria are driven by the same ecological processes that govern higher organisms such as plants.

The information is helping scientists to work out what makes good agricultural land and to map out the best places to plant different crops in the future.

Events

Tried & Tested will be at the following events, please drop in to collect your free resources and for advice on nutrient management.

- Cereals 15th-16th June, Lincoln

For more details of these and other events go to the Tried & Tested events page.

Tell us what you think!

Your feedback on the Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan is extremely valuable and will help us evaluate the plan in the future. Please help us by taking a few minutes to complete our online survey here.

Blog your views on nutrient management

Would you like to share your views and experiences on nutrient management? We are looking for a farmer to contribute to a regular column for the new Tried & Tested website. A small remuneration is on offer. Please contact Rebecca Wells on rebecca.wells@nfu.org.uk for details.

The nutrient management website

Please visit www.nutrientmanagement.org for your one-stop-shop for nutrient management advice, events, news and much more. You can contact us contact us if you have any feedback or ideas for publications, events etc. that we should feature on the site. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Tried & Tested is part of a project to provide advice on nutrient management to farmers and advisers through a strategic partnership between the Professional Nutrient Management Group (NFU, FWAG, LEAF, AIC and CLA) and the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI)