



**TRIED
&
TESTED**

February 2011

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

Win a professional barium soil pH testing kit with Tried & Tested!

Tried & Tested is nearing its 2nd birthday so we need your help to find out exactly what we can do to improve it and also see how farmers are using the tools. Please help us by taking a few minutes to complete our online survey [here](#) and you will be entered into a prize draw to win a professional barium soil pH testing kit. You need to complete the survey by the end of February 2011 to be in with a chance of winning. Good luck!

Ian's Blog

Ian Richard lends his words of wisdom once again – this time it's all about ensuring your crops are getting enough of the nutrients they really need, without applying too much, wasting money and putting the environment at risk. Click [here](#) to read Ian's Blog.

Arden Award offers opportunity to study Life After Manufactured Fertilisers

The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust (NFST) has announced a special award offering leading industry individuals the chance to explore 'Life after manufactured fertiliser'. Sponsored by the Frank Arden Memorial Fund, the travel study aims to identify opportunities to reduce our reliance on manufactured fertiliser and find alternatives to these increasingly scarce and costly inputs. Click [here](#) to read the Arden Award leaflet or go to the Nuffield Scholar [website](#). Applications close on 18th March 2011.

Tried & Tested at LAMMA

Tried & Tested resources were available at the NFU stand at this years' LAMMA event. Despite the welcomed sunshine lots of you came inside to get your free nutrient management resources. Don't worry if you missed us, the team will be at more events over the next few months.

Watch this space

The Tried & Tested team are currently working on a new Manure & Slurry publication with help from the Environment Agency and Levy Bodies. Keep an eye out for further details on our [news page](#).

Grants available for farms in Yorkshire and the Humber

The Farm Resource Efficiency Programme is available to improve the economic performance of agricultural and horticultural holdings through the introduction of new technology to promote the efficient use of energy, manure and water resources. Grants of 50-60% are now available for slurry storage including floating slurry store covers, roofs, application kits and separators. Applications must be received by 7th March. For more information go to the Yorkshire Forward [website](#).

International News

- Nutrient Management on your phone.
A new programme from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) offers rice farmers in the Philippines advice on fertilizer use via their cell phones. Starting last month, farmers can dial a toll-free number on their cell phones, answer a list of questions about their fields, and then get tips on the best fertilizer use. The Philippines is currently the world's biggest net

importer of rice and it is hoped that this technology will increase yields at home. IRRI scientists are working with Indonesian colleagues to adapt the system there, and over the next few years they plan to take the technology to Vietnam, India and Bangladesh.

- Potty training pigs.
Taiwan's environmental authorities are planning to promote potty training for pigs to help curb water and waste pollution. The pledge follows the success of a pig farm in southern Taiwan, where the breeder started to potty-train his 10,000 pigs in late 2009 and has since reduced waste water by up to 80%. As well as making the farm cleaner and less smelly, it also helped reduce illness among the pigs and boosted their fertility by 20%.

Events

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

- The NFU Annual Conference. The Hilton Birmingham Metropole, 15th-16th February.
- South West Climate Change Trade Fair. Exeter, 24th February.
- Muck North West. Reaseheath College, 15th March.

For more details of these and other events go to the Tried & Tested [website](#).

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 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 [here](#) 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)