

coming up

**Lamma 2006**

The Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground.  
Weds 18th and Thurs 19th January

**Essex Young Farmers' Country Show**

Montpeliers Farm, Margeretting Road, Writtle, Chelmsford.  
Sun 21st May

**Cereals Event 2006**

Nocton, Lincolnshire.  
Weds 14th and Thurs 15th June

**Royal Norfolk Show**

The Norfolk Showground.  
Weds 28th and Thurs 29th June

fact file



**Ed Cooper Fact File**

**Home**

Louth, Lincolnshire

**Age**

33

**Job Title**

Farm Sales Advisor, Lincolnshire

**Qualifications**

BSc (Hons) Agriculture from Harper Adams, FACTS and BASIS Qualified

**Work Experience**

Managed his family farm between leaving university and working for Anglian Water. His experiences range from dairy and stock management to all aspects of arable farming enterprises.

**Interests**

- Ed loves:
- Off Piste skiing
  - Socialising and eating out locally
  - Clay pigeon shooting
  - Dog training and breeding Labradors
  - Motor Sports

Ed is due to get married this year to his fiancé Louise.

If you would like further information or advice on any of the services or products available please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

**Thank you.**

**Local Area Offices**

**Biosolids Recycling Team (North)**  
Anglian Water Services Ltd.  
Littlecoates, Chelmsford Avenue,  
Grimsby, North East Lincs,  
DN34 4SB

Tel. 01472 627562 Fax. 01472 627531  
E-mail. nutri-bio@anglianwater.co.uk

**Biosolids Recycling Team (East)**  
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Norfolk, NR14 8TZ

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**Main Office**

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**Biosolids Recycling Team (West)**

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**Biosolids Recycling Team (South)**

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Basildon STW,  
Courtauld Road, Basildon,  
Essex, SS13 1DB

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E-mail. nutri-bio@anglianwater.co.uk



**LAMMA 2006  
Biosolids Service to Agriculture**

Come and Visit our Stand for refreshments and to enter our

**Competition**

- 1st Prize 1000 t nutri-bio**
- 2nd Prize Deep N Soil Testing**
- 3rd Prize nutri-bio Jacket**

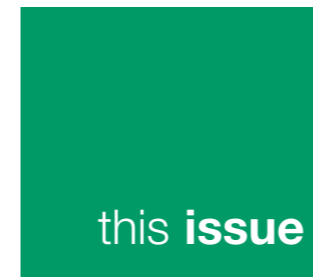
Come and talk to our Farm Sales Advisors for more information or advice on how to use nutri-bio in your rotation

**Closing date: 31st January 2006**

(Postal applications accepted)

If you would like further information from one of our Farm Sales Advisors, please call **01223 542889**, or log onto **www.nutri-bio.co.uk** for further information and contact details. (Subject to Location, availability and no monetary exchange value)

# nutri-bio news



**Nutrient Management Plans and Cross Compliance**



**Fertiliser Prices**

**Sweet smell of success**

**Biosolids and The Single Farm Payment**

**Coming Up**

**Fact File**



## Fertiliser Prices



Farmers are focusing all their efforts into making cost savings, the boom in fertiliser prices means that the profit margins are shrinking unlike our waistlines after Christmas.

The optimum nitrogen curve is lowering due to increasing nitrogen costs; therefore yields are also likely to be reduced. Many farmers have now realised the large savings that can be made from organic fertilisers and biosolids in particular as shown in the table below. The example shows that the farmer can make a saving over two years of £85.76 per hectare by using nutri-bio, on top of this saving the farmer does not have to spread the fertiliser himself therefore also saving on labour and fuel. One farmer Phil Hart from Elm Farm, Stilton, Cambridgeshire says "We love nutri-bio as it not only improves the lands' workability, but also gives us the chance to actually make some money, by saving on fertiliser costs."

By using a product like nutri-bio, it allows farmers to not only save on nitrogen costs but also on compound fertilisers. A typical application of 21 tonnes per hectare provided 137kg available phosphate and 82 kg available sulphur in year 1. This amount of phosphate will help built phosphate levels in soils with low p indices and maintain phosphate levels in soils with adequate levels of phosphate. The available sulphur is also very valuable especially if you grow OSR in your rotation, now that national levels of sulphur are dropping due to the decline in heavy industry.

	Available Nutrients - Year 1 (Kg/ha)	Available Nutrients - Year 2 (Kg/ha)	Bagged Fertiliser (£/ha)	nutri-bio (£/ha)	Savings per ha
Nitrogen (£0.52/kg)	47	25	£37.44		
Phosphate (£0.32/kg)	137	69	£65.92		
Sulphur (£0.10/kg)	82	57	£13.90		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£117.26</b>	<b>£31.50</b>	<b>£85.76</b>

(Bagged Fertiliser prices taken from the farmers weekly website dated 29/12/2005)  
The nutri-bio application is based on 21 tonnes per hectare at £1.50 per tonne of Pyewipe digested cake. The saving is based over a two-year period, on nutrients applied in one application of nutri-bio.



# Biosolids and The Single Farm Payment

## Nutrient Management Plans and Cross Compliance

It has always been the priority of farmers to look after the health and well-being of the soil on the farm. It is after all their main asset.

Now legislation is coming into force whereby they not only have to conform to this principle they also have to be able to demonstrate this compliance. Maintaining and improving soil organic matter is key to a healthy soil, and a regular application of organic manure such as Nutri-Bio is a good way of doing this.

To comply with the statutory requirements of cross compliance if you are farming within an NVZ you must:

- Prepare and implement a fertiliser and manure plan.
- Ensure that adequate records are kept for land within NVZs relating to livestock numbers, use of inorganic fertiliser and use of organic manures.

It is impossible to know exactly what the level of nitrogen nutrient applications of organic manures will be contributing to crop nutrient needs because availability happens over time and is dependent upon a number of factors, such as soil moisture and temperature, the following crop, as well as the weather. Soil sampling in the spring prior to top-dressing is the obvious way to fill this void in knowledge. This should be done to a depth of 90 cms in order to get an accurate picture of the soil nitrogen reserves, and to also take samples representatively from many points across a field. Having this information not only ticks the right boxes for cross compliance, it also means that the correct amounts of inorganic fertilizer can be applied in the spring. With nitrogen fertiliser prices at around £160.00 per tonne soil sampling can lead to substantial savings on the fertiliser bills.

Envirofield operate Geonor soil sampling equipment mounted on Polaris Ranger 6 wheel drive ATV's, which can quickly and effectively soil sample fields to a depth of 90 cms.

With low ground pressure tyres and 6 wheel drive these machines can obtain a representative sample

from fields to the required depth leaving little trace across crops under most soil conditions. Careful selection of fields on a farm means results can be extrapolated from sampled fields to give field specific nutrient recommendations across the farm for a minimal cost. This not only means that crops get the exact nutrient inputs that they need but also gives documentation for compliance. When done in the early spring it also means that historic factors such as autumn rainfall are irrelevant.

The Environment Agency is charged by DEFRA to monitor nutrient inputs on farm to ensure compliance with NVZ rules and they base all their nutrient values on RB209. Envirofield can take field soil samples to 90 cms to provide the documentary evidence for compliance with NVZ rules. If there is a deviation from the inputs recommended in RB209, without documented information to back the calculations, then there is a high risk of being deemed non compliant and this can mean area payments being withheld.

**Envirofield can be contacted by Telephone on 01284 850473 or 0777 555 8920, By Fax on 01284 851028 or by e-mail to [lain@envirofield.co.uk](mailto:lain@envirofield.co.uk)**



**The introduction of the Single Farm Payment (SFP) and the recent high increases in fertiliser prices will further enhance the need to produce high yielding quality crops as cheaply as possible.**

The use of nutri-bio can allow you to achieve tangible cost savings and will need to be integrated, as part of a nutrient management plan, and the proposed 'Soil Management Plans' needed to comply with under the SFP.

Issue	Standard
<b>Soil Erosion:</b> Protect soil through appropriate measures.	Minimum soil cover. Land management to reflect site-specific constraints. Retain soil terraces.
<b>Soil Structure:</b> Maintain soil structure through appropriate machinery use.	Appropriate machinery use.
<b>Soil Organic Matter:</b> Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate uses.	Standards for crop rotations. Arable stubble management.
<b>Minimum Level of Maintenance:</b> Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats.	Minimum/maximum stocking density. Protection of permanent pastures. Retain landscape features. Avoid scrub encroachment.

## nutri-bio and Cross Compliance

### GAEC 1 - General Requirements

- Farmers must take account of the new guidance for soil management
- In 2006 must draw up a simple risk-based soil management plan

Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Council Framework

### GAEC 2006/7

- Soil Management Plans
- Draw up a simple risk-based soil management plan - 2006
  - This will mean planning measures that will help avoid any problems you have observed on your holding
  - For future years the actions you will take to remedy the problems if your measures do not work
  - The guidance will help in drawing up your plan

The soil management plan must be followed on your farm - 2007

### What about the level of detail needed for nutrient management plans in the Entry Level Scheme of Environmental Stewardship?

For England, the requirements are set out in the ELS Handbook (page 84) can be summarised as:

- Analyse soils every three to five years, maintain records and use the results to plan fertiliser applications;
- Use a recognised fertiliser recommendation system (RB209 is an example and other systems that take account of site-specific factors are acceptable)
- Assess the nutrient contribution from any organic manures applied and ensure this is taken into account;
- Ensure spreading equipment is properly maintained and calibrated so that fertiliser and manures are applied as accurately as possible
- Keep records of cropping, fertiliser and manure applications, soil analysis results, dates of spreader calibration so that compliance can be demonstrated easily.

Nutrient and manure management plans should be produced in conjunction with a FACTS qualified adviser and should be updated at the start of every crop year. Many farmers will meet these requirements already though record keeping may need to be more consistent. Nutrient management plans prepared using the LEAF Audit for example should meet ELS requirements. The Whole Farm Nutrient Management Plan guidance produced by the AIC will serve as a checklist for preparing a plan but will not meet all ELS requirements. It is a guide to requirements only.

**The field record sheets available with the AIC guidance at [www.fma.org.uk](http://www.fma.org.uk) (sub-site of [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk)) are good templates to use.**



## Sweet Smell of Success

For one Lincolnshire grower, Robert Pask, the inclusion of biosolids prior to drilling sugar beet has seen dramatic yield increases as well as significant input savings.

Robert, who farms at Heydour Lodge Farm, Grantham, on approximately 1000 acres, has mixed soil types ranging from a limestone brash to heavy clay. His rotation consists of OSR, Wheat, Sugar Beet, Spring Beans and Set-aside. For a number of years now, Robert has used Biosolids to reduce growing costs.

Whilst biosolids are phosphate rich, it also contains significant amounts of nitrogen. Robert says "we are not only benefiting from the nitrogen, but as with any organic fertiliser, biosolids can help prevent drought in the summer growing season, all increasing the chance of a yield increase". Robert also stated that "Sugar beet fields that had an application of biosolids

prior to drilling, showed a significant yield increase of at least 5% in comparison to fields that did not have an application", "there have been yield increases of over 4 tonnes per hectare, which in real terms means you have scope to reduce your beet acreage to meet quota, and greater crop profitability" furthermore Robert said "with recent events in Brussels seeing a 36% price reduction, a yield increase seems the only feasible way of continuing to grow sugar beet."