‘Protecting Water’

Phil Jarvis
Voluntary Initiative Chair

BCPC 9th Nov 2022

An industry led programme. promoting the responsible use of pesticides through an IPM-based approach
History

Set up in response to the threat of a pesticide tax, the VI started with a five year term, running from 2001 to 2006.

- Planning
- Sprayer Testing
- Operator Training
- Adviser training & qualification
- Adoption of best practice

Heightened level of professionalism has produced a clear level of accountability from the farming industry.
The Voluntary Initiative
Championing IPM (2001 - 2022)

The VI at 21

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE

The National Register of Sprayer Operations has been included in the scheme over the years since it began in 2003. Active membership has exceeded 800,000 since January 2019, and currently stands at 20,399.

Water
An overall reduction of around 30% in levels of key indicator pesticides was observed from 2006/07 to 2010/11 in six water catchments where VI advice has been actively promoted.

NSTS
2011 saw the most number of sprayers ever tested under the NSTS at over 14,700 machines. They represented 16% of the UK sprayed area and with over 62% of these machines requiring repair or rectification, the importance of tests is clear.
Wider Strategy Group

Community Interest Company

Agricultural Engineers Association
Agricultural Industries Confederation
Country Land and Business Association
CropLife UK
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
National Farmers Union of England and Wales
National Farmers Union of Scotland
Ulster Farmers Union
VI: facilitation across the sector
Holistic Picture

- Nutrients
- Other water contaminants
- Integrated water plans

- National Action Plan PPP, ELMS
- Defra engagement – Pesticide Forum and consultations
Key VI Aims

1. Integrated Pest Management
2. Minimising the risks of pesticides to surface and ground water
3. Minimising risks and impacts of pesticides to wildlife
4. Training and Education

- National Register of Spray Operators (NRoSO)
- National Sprayer Testing Scheme
  - IPM Plans
Websites & Webinars

Advice

Everything you need to help keep pesticides out of water.

- Farming and Water Scotland Advice Page on Pesticides
  Pesticides such as herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides can all cause problems for wildlife and water quality. Check out the advice here.

- OSR Herbicides? Think Water!
  A VI (Various Information) on how to protect water and avoid restrictions in these areas.

- Check It Out
  A VI tool to help farmers and spray operators review and improve spraying practices and reduce the risk of pesticides reaching water.

- H20K? Best Practice Advice
  A summary of best practice advice for keeping pesticides out of water.

- Responsible Use
  Responsible use means getting the basics right all the time.

- WPAS
  Water Protection Advice Sheets

Propyzamide, Product and Pest Management
18 November 2021
FARM Webinar - Propyzamide Product and Pest Management.

What’s going on in my Farmyard
01 September 2021
Top Tips for Raking, Aiming, and Maintenance.

Let’s talk Oilseed Rape IPM Seed, Site and Sprays
26 July 2021
This webinar outlined those challenges and discussed how an IPM-based approach can help mitigate some of those challenges.

IFM Pests, Predators & Pollinators
16 June 2021
The second in our series of webinars was attended by ~70 attendees and resulted in some lively discussions. Copies of the presentations can be downloaded.

Protecting Water
24 May 2021
Protecting Water attracted 80 attendees and produced a lively session. This was held on Zoom on Wednesday 26th May from 10:00-17:00.

The Voluntary Initiative
Websites & Webinars

The Environment Agency's resources for farmer's page

Protecting Water

- Jim Orson (NIAB and the VI Board) — How to stop water running downhill.
- Sarah Jones (Dyfed Cymru/Welsh Water) — PostSmart and weed wipping for rush control in grassland.
- Donny Coffey (Affinity Water) — Reducing OSR herbicides in water.
- Mark Buckingham (Bayer Crop Science) — Using Glyphosate successfully and responsibly for harvest management.
- Jim Egan (Kings Crops) — Buffers and the Environment.

For NRoSO/BASIS points, email info@voluntaryinitiative.org.uk
VI Champions - a resource for the Ag and Water industry

VI Champion speaking about IPM at Yorkshire Water Selby and Doncaster Catchment Event

13 October 2023

Featuring speakers from the Farming Advice Service, Catchment Sensitive Farming and Yorkshire Water, as well as Richard Bramley of the Voluntary Initiative and Angus Godthorpe of Approach Farm, Yorkshire.

With an introduction to the free one-to-one advice on offer from Yorkshire Water and other partners, hear how soil health, nutrient management and pesticide stewardship can benefit your farm business whilst protecting water quality in your catchment.

The event will include a number of short indoor presentations followed by a hot buffet and opportunity to discuss the project and how you can benefit from getting involved.

Doncaster, Thurs 20th Oct, 10.30-16.00. To book in detail and find out more, see here:
http://www.freshair4uk.com
Knowledge and CPD
On the Farm

Greenway Training’s NRoSO workshop welcomes VI Director of Operations
KPI’s

New IPM Plans

- Based on research of Henry Creissen et al., 2019
- Based on Agronomic and Social Science
- IPM Score 0-100
- Arable (broad acre) IPM Plan launched Dec 2020
- Grassland IPM Plan launched Jan 2021
- Horticulture plan launched in April 2022
- Scottish version developed
### KPI's

#### Sprayer Tests

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#### NRoSO Active Members

- **January**: 21,500 (2020), 21,000 (2021), 20,500 (2022)
- **February**: 22,000 (2020), 21,500 (2021), 21,000 (2022)
- **March**: 19,500 (2020), 19,000 (2021), 18,500 (2022)
- **April**: 20,000 (2020), 19,500 (2021), 19,000 (2022)
- **May**: 20,500 (2020), 20,000 (2021), 19,500 (2022)
- **June**: 21,000 (2020), 20,500 (2021), 20,000 (2022)
- **July**: 21,500 (2020), 21,000 (2021), 20,500 (2022)
- **August**: 22,000 (2020), 21,500 (2021), 21,000 (2022)
- **September**: 22,500 (2020), 22,000 (2021), 21,500 (2022)
- **October**: 23,000 (2020), 22,500 (2021), 22,000 (2022)
- **November**: 23,500 (2020), 23,000 (2021), 22,500 (2022)
- **December**: 24,000 (2020), 23,500 (2021), 23,000 (2022)

- **Legend**: 2020, 2021, 2022
Summary

Protecting Water

Stakeholders & Strategy

Holistic Picture

Dedicated Water Group

Website & Webinars

VI Champions

On the Farm

Knowledge and CPD

KPI’s
NRoSO
NSTS
IPM Plans

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