

## CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION ON THE USE OF PESTICIDES



*What is changing, why and how will it affect you*

From **1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** techniques will need to be adopted as part of the **Sustainable Use Directive** throughout Europe. The Directive 2009/128/EC establishes a framework to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by promoting the use of **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** including alternative approaches, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. The Directive is to encourage the safe and responsible storage, use and disposal of pesticides, practices that were largely the responsibility of member states previously. Most of the key measures are covered, or are similar to statutory, voluntary or other arrangements that have been in place in the UK (but not across the whole EU) for many years.

Specifically the directive requires each member state to produce a **National Action Plan (NAP)** to demonstrate the mechanisms and measures used to implement the SUD (Stanley, 2013) including how IPM will be adopted by **1<sup>st</sup> January 2014**. The UK Plan covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and is managed by the Chemical Regulations Directive (CRD) part of the Health and Safety Executive on behalf of the UK pesticides regulator – the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the devolved administrations.

In the UK, there is increasing recognition given to the effectiveness of voluntary measures, such as the Voluntary Initiative (VI) and LEAF. Therefore the UK NAP looks primarily for non-regulatory approaches to be adopted as much as possible and CRD is working with stakeholder partners in the agriculture and food industries to deliver the requirements of the directive.

### **How does the UK NAP compare to others?**

The professionalism of the industry in the UK over the last 20 years has increasingly been demonstrated through the success of the VI, the adoption of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) through LEAF's work, management tools, Demonstration Farms and LEAF Marque as well as other farm assurance schemes and also the increasingly effective industry and government partnerships. Consequently the UK Government has been clear from the outset that they would seek to implement objectives, measures and timetables in the NAP in collaboration with the industry, as opposed to regulatory action. Only if this fails to achieve the targets set for it, Ministers would consider changes to the legislation.

Other European countries are taking different approaches. The German NAP promises a reduction in risk to the environment by 30% by 2023, with a target of 20% organic area production. They envisage crop specific guidelines by 2018, alongside strengthened advisory services; forecasting and decision support and limiting pesticide usage to the necessary minimum (Stanley, 2013).

France promises a 50% reduction in pesticide use between 2008-2018, *if possible*. They aim to do this through accelerating the dissemination of alternative methods whilst Denmark is targeting a 40% reduction in the harmful effects of pesticides.

For LEAF members, where IFM has been a critical focus for production, the approach that the UK is taking demonstrates the value and recognition that has been given to a fully integrated approach to crop health and the responsible use of pesticides. It is recognised that this is based on science alongside the need for approaches to be technical, practical and realistic.

### How will this affect you and what can LEAF do to help?

To ensure the requirements of the SUD are met there are three main actions to be aware of:

**1. From 2014 you must demonstrate that IPM is followed on your farm.**

Farmers practicing IFM (such as those who have completed the LEAF Audit or are LEAF Marque certified) will already be compliant with what is envisaged in the SUD. The LEAF Audit will also help you gain a fuller understanding of how pest management strategies fit together, as well as the ability to benchmark this against previous years and other farmers.



LEAF is also working with the NFU and the VI in a basic self-assessment IPM plan for farmers to compete. Further information can be found:

<http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/content/bio.aspx> Tools such as these will help formalise measures taken by farmers to ensure recognition for actions.

2. By 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015, **all sprayer operators must hold a recognised certificate** e.g. National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO).
3. By 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, **all working application equipment must have an NSTS certificate** (National Sprayer Testing Scheme).

For further information see:

[http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/\\_Attachments/Resources/1605\\_S4.pdf](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/_Attachments/Resources/1605_S4.pdf)



LEAF Marque growers will be fully compliant with these requirements and have the added benefit of being able to prove prior and current activity due to the external verification against the LEAF Marque standard.

By being, or becoming a LEAF member you will be able to keep up to date with progress and technologies for developing an IPM strategy within the context of the whole farm. In particular focusing on the effective use of resources, staying ahead of the legislation and being prepared for future issues. LEAF has a range of resources for our members - take a look at our Video Library to find out about what other farmers are doing and how this works on their farm.

<http://www.leafuk.org/leaf/mediacentre/video.eb>

***“Being a LEAF member encourages me to question how I manage every aspect of the farm and how each area relates to the other. It’s a whole farm approach, for example, I have a targeted approach to my agrochemical applications and a real appreciation of thresholds”***

David Felce LEAF Demonstration Farmer.

Further information

[www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

[www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk)

Defra. (2013) UK National Action Plan for the sustainable use of pesticides (plant protection products).

Defra. (2013) Summary of responses to the consultation on the UK National Action Plan for Pesticides.

Stanley R. (2013) Sustainable use of pesticides: The response of the EU Member States. Campden BRI

Stark G. (2013) UK National Action Plan for Pesticides. Health and Safety Executive