

**Preparing for the 2013 'spraying season'**

The wet start to 2013 has provided little or no opportunity to catch up on spraying activity. However, this time can profitably be used in servicing the sprayer (including calibration), and carrying out an inventory of the products in-store, identifying the current status of each, i.e. is the product still registered, is it in 'use-up', is it approved for use on crops intended for growing this year, i.e. will it still be legal to use in 2013? Refer to the PRCD website at [www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie) or contact your local advisor, merchant or PRCD directly for information on answering these questions.

**Products**

In an ideal world, when opening the door of the pesticide store in early January, you would be looking at empty shelves, where there has been no carry-over of any PPP from previous years. However, for many individuals, the pesticide store will contain varying amounts of products purchased in previous years. Once the current legal status of these products is established, the next question to consider is, can they be legally applied to the crops it is intended to grow in the coming year? If yes, the planned spray program should ensure (if possible), that all existing stocks of these pesticides that can be used are used at the earliest opportunity. The use on farm of products in 'use-up' needs to be closely monitored to ensure that the use complies with the 12 month window allowed in the legislation. Where the answer is no, and the product(s) is past its 'use-by' date, it should be segregated within the store and must be disposed of in a safe manner by an authorised waste disposal contractor.

**Spraying equipment**

Time invested in sprayer maintenance will save money in the longer term, and helps minimise or even eliminate down time during a busy spraying season (Pay particular attention to pipes and hoses, pressure gauges, pumps, agitator and filters). By calibrating the sprayer, you are ensuring that expensive pesticides are applied at the correct rate and uniformly across the boom width, i.e. that you are not applying 1.5L/ha when the intention is to apply 1.0L/ha. Failure to carry out such a fundamental check could add significantly to your costs of production and leave you with unacceptable levels of residues in your crops, and subject to a cross-compliance penalty if you were selected for Inspection.

Given the water-logged state of much of the arable land, consideration should be given to some or all of the following;

- Do not apply sprays to waterlogged ground as this is ineffective (to the target crop), potentially environmentally damaging, and a waste of money;
- Consider the use of wider tyres/low ground pressure tyres to reduce soil compacting effects;
- Remember that many herbicides and fungicides are temperature sensitive (check label) and refrain from wasting money by ineffective spraying when temperature is too low or too high;
- Get advice on the latest developments in nozzle technology e.g. spraying with nozzles producing a relatively large drop size can reduce spray drift problems.

## Records

After checking the sprayer, and the legal status of any products remaining in the store, it is also worth considering the requirements of SMR9, i.e. the pesticide component of the Cross Compliance Inspection. From previous year's inspection reports, there are several recurring issues which have led to penalties, but which can be sorted relatively easily.

- Is the store securely locked?
- Is there an appropriate warning sign on the door?
- Is the store adequately banded (if not consider standing product in plastic drums/boxes)?
- Use a notebook to record purchases (including the PCS No.). [Do not rely on invoices, or the PRCD website (which cannot be taken as definitive, as this is updated and revised on a daily basis, and may refer to a new registration), when it comes to completing pesticide worksheets].
- Only use approved products, registered for the use intended – READ THE LABEL
- Complete records of use on the day of use – retrospective record keeping can be a major source of error in the records presented to PRCD.

## Product update

A comprehensive list of recently withdrawn products and their use-by dates can be found at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/Docs/>

Details for some high profile products for use-up in 2013 are listed below (all products will have to be used on this spring's crops).

Product Name	PCS No	Comment
<b>Cereals</b>		
Cajole Ultra	04199	Use by <u>15/03/2013</u>
Croplink IPU	04217	Use by <u>15/03/2013</u>
Tolkan Liquid	02500	Use by <u>30/06/2013</u>
Croplink Reaper	03073	Use by <u>28/09/2013</u>
<b>Maize</b>		
Theta	04285	Use by <u>25/09/2013</u>
Croplink Maize	03373	Use by <u>10/10/2013</u>
Prop	04296	Use by <u>06/11/2013</u>
<b>Potatoes</b>		
Metrifar WG	03845	Use by <u>14/05/2013</u>
GloFlo	04133	Use by <u>22/10/2013</u>
Unichem Linuron	04379	Use by <u>29/10/2013</u>
Rapture	04353	Use by <u>29/10/2013</u>
Whelehan Linuron	04406	Use by <u>04/11/2013</u>

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**Others**

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Whelehan Oxyflurofen 03845 Use by 11/11/2013

Whelehan Shield 04178 Use by 19/11/2013

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Final thoughts –

- Triple rinse empty containers and dispose of all containers safely – see leaflet in previous edition of IFJ or access the following link - [http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/Docs/Good\\_Practice\\_Guide\\_for\\_empty\\_pesticide\\_containers.pdf](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/Docs/Good_Practice_Guide_for_empty_pesticide_containers.pdf)

The need to leave appropriate buffer zones adjacent to water courses and water abstraction points is a legal requirement for all plant protection products. Do not allow pesticides to contaminate water courses, and avoid use if rain is imminent.

**READ THE LABEL**