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INTRODUCTION

BASIS was established in 1978, with government approval, to develop standards for pesticide storage, transport and the advice given to farmers and growers.

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection was enshrined in the law when the Food & Environment Protection Act (FEPA) was drafted in 1985. The Control of Pesticide Regulations (COPR) 1986 made it compulsory for all those involved in the sale and supply of Professional pesticides to be appropriately qualified with a qualification recognised by ministers (BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection). These are all laid down clearly in the Approved Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry (Yellow Code).

In 1992 BASIS began to set standards for examination and certification for the Fertiliser Industry with the advent of FACTS and this is now recognised as the industry standard for those giving advice on the use of fertilisers and crop nutritional requirements.

More recently the emphasis has changed and farmers are now encouraged to consider the environment, biodiversity in the countryside and an integrated approach to farming.

The BETA (Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers) qualification includes elements of all these things and has also now been recognised as an industry standard for advisers who need to help farmers and growers comply with ELS and cross compliance requirements.

The interest by government, environmentalists and NGO's in soil erosion management and water pollution issues has widened the training requirement for advisers once again. The BASIS Soil & Water Management Certificate can give advisers the knowledge required to enable them to help farmers with the plethora of information about soils and the development of soil management planning.

The BASIS Diploma in Agronomy is an aspirational qualification for advisers who have continued to broaden their expertise and have gained a number of BASIS qualifications in recent years. The BASIS Diploma is designed to give recognition to those people without the need for any additional examinations or training.

Finally, there is a need for farm managers and supervisors in agriculture; contract applicators, supervisors and managers of contract spraying operations in the amenity sector, to have a formal qualification and to show a degree of competence in pesticide operations.

The BASIS POWER (Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations) Certificate is designed to help those who have responsibility for spraying operations in both agriculture and amenity, but do not actually apply pesticides themselves.

BASIS CERTIFICATE IN CROP PROTECTION SYLLABUS & INFORMATION

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection has been established since 1978 to provide training and certification for sellers and suppliers of agrochemicals and those giving advice on their use.

In 1985 the Food & Environment Protection Act (FEPA) made certification a statutory obligation for pesticide sellers and suppliers.

"No person shall sell, supply or otherwise market to the end-user a pesticide approved for agricultural use unless he has obtained a certificate of competence recognised by the Ministers, or he sells or supplies that pesticide under the direct supervision of a person who holds such a certificate"

The BASIS certificate in Crop Protection has been approved by Ministers to meet the requirements of Schedule 2 of FEPA for certification for those involved in sale and supply of pesticides.

The syllabus and information booklet is designed to help those involved with training people to meet this standard and provide guidelines to the subject areas which need to be covered to enable them to achieve a satisfactory level of competence.

It is essential that candidates understand the need for a practical approach to training because in order to be successful, individuals must be able to give sound technical advice in the field. Obviously some of the training will be of a theoretical nature but both the syllabus and training programme should be interpreted to provide practical instruction wherever possible.

All staff employed in the field sales of agrochemicals and/or giving advice on their use must, under the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, have obtained a Certificate of Competence or exemption from it within three years of entering the Crop Protection industry. New staff to the industry will be allowed a period of three years in which to qualify, during which they will be working under the supervision of a qualified member of staff.

People holding the full Certificate in Crop Protection in either agriculture, commercial horticulture or field vegetables do not require further certification to cover activities in amenity horticulture, grassland &

forage crops, potatoes, aquatics, seed treatment, floriculture or forestry. However, those who hold certificates relating to these activities are qualified only in that specific area and not in general agriculture or commercial horticulture. The seed treatment certification also covers sellers of treated seed.

Candidates must have had satisfactory training and supervised field experience before entering for the BASIS examinations. If in doubt as to this requirement, please contact the BASIS office. Candidates who are ill-prepared for the examination obviously represent a waste of time and money to their employer and a waste of time to the examination panel, who give freely of their services. Remember, new entrants to the industry are given up to three years working under supervision before being required to hold the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection.

Courses are offered for the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection by the BASIS Approved Trainers listed in this booklet. Courses are run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; please contact the trainer of your choice for details.

Validated Certificate

In order to qualify for a BASIS Validated Certificate applicants must have achieved one of the following:

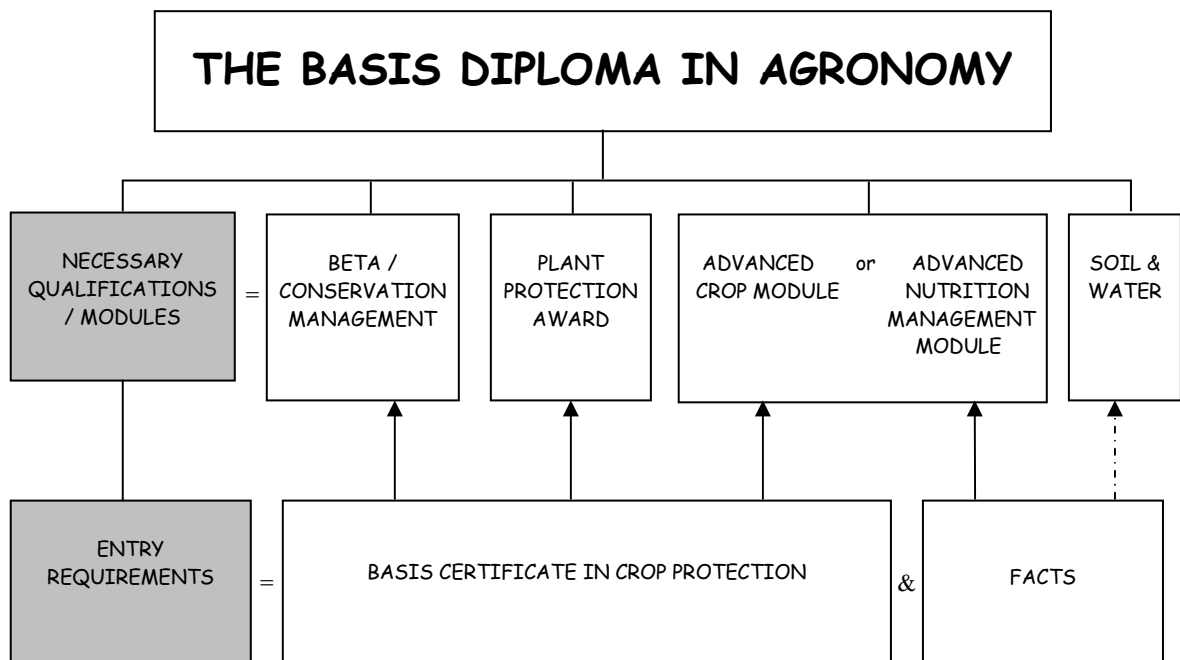
1. Successfully passed the Harper Adams (Post-Graduate) Diploma in Crop Protection*.
2. Successfully passed the Edinburgh (Post-Graduate) Diploma in Crop Protection*.

And in addition:-

3. Must pass the Field Station and Panel Viva at a BASIS Crop Protection exam in the UK.
 - *Following completion of the course all those applying for a Validated Certificate under either paragraphs 1 or 2 above, must have completed at least 12 months field experience in agrochemicals and apply within 3 years of completion of the relevant Diploma before a BASIS Certificate can be issued.*

THE BASIS DIPLOMA IN AGRONOMY

The breadth and scope of knowledge needed for crop protection sales and advice grows every year. New products, new techniques and the way that crop protection fits with other farm and crop management activities all add to the skills needed by those involved in sales and advice for Crop Protection. To cover the range of factors involved, the new BASIS Diploma in Agronomy, as set out below, gives a comprehensive training and qualification framework for those involved in on-farm advice and sales.



TOPICS COVERED

ADVANCED CROP MODULE / ADVANCED NUTRITION MANAGEMENT MODULE	Weed, Pest & Disease Control, Crop Protection Programmes, Marketing, Food Industries, Crop Assurance, Nutrient Management
BETA / CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT	Environment, Biodiversity, EIS's, CPMP's, ICM, Climate Change
PLANT PROTECTION AWARD (PPA)	Systems & Society, Formulation, Mode of Action, Application, Health & Safety
SOIL & WATER	Cultivation Types and Properties, Cropping Systems, Water Quality, Drainage, Pollution/Waste, Plant Nutrition

For the PPA and the Advanced Crop Module the prior achievement (by examination, exemption or validated certificate) of the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection is an entry requirement. For the Advanced Nutrient Management Module the prior achievement of the FACTS qualification is required.

The FACTS qualification is a requirement for successful completion of the BASIS Diploma and strongly recommended for those wishing to train for the Soil and Water Management certificate.

Prior qualification of the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (or exemption or validated certificate) or the Crop Protection Management and / or POWER Certificates are required for the BETA examination. In some circumstances, it may be possible for other types of prior qualification to be taken into account for BETA examination eligibility. BASIS Approved Trainers must be assured that in such cases, the prospective candidate is capable of assimilating the knowledge imparted during the BETA course tuition and also capable of passing the BETA examination.

It is **strongly** recommended that candidates should have had at least two years experience of on-farm practical agronomy before attempting any of the modules which contribute towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy, but in particular before taking the Plant Protection Award.

BASIS CPD points are available for training and certification in all modules of the BASIS Diploma.

Further details of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy can be obtained from the BASIS office or by e-mail to sue@basis-reg.co.uk or steph@basis-reg.co.uk or amanda@basis-reg.co.uk

The accreditation process for our qualifications has enabled BASIS to demonstrate a high standard of training and certification for our BASIS courses. The BASIS Diploma comprises a number of modules and 6 are required to complete the qualification.

A further consequence of accreditation by HAUC and the Higher Education qualifications framework has been the development by HAUC of a Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management.

BASIS courses have all been awarded a number of credits based on the time spent on the course (Targeted Learning Hours). This is a recognised

formula including face to face tuition time, research, reading and experiential learning. The credits are awarded at a level that reflects the intensity / difficulty of the learning materials, for example A level equivalent or 1st, 2nd or final year honours degree etc.

The qualifying BASIS courses with credits and levels awarded are shown below:

FACTS	
Credit Value	15
Level	Intermediate

SOIL & WATER	
Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BASIS CROP PROTECTION	
Credit Value	30
Level	Honours

BASIS PLANT PROTECTION AWARD	
Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BASIS ADVANCED MODULES / ADVANCED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT MODULE	
Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BETA / CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT	
Credit Value	15
Level	Intermediate

Intermediate = 2nd or 3rd year of university degree qualification.

Honours level - final year university degree.

Eg. FACTS 15 credits = 150 hours notional teaching time

The six modules required for the BASIS Diploma add up to 105 credits. In order to qualify for the HAUC Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management, candidates will need to accumulate 120

credits (ie one extra 15 credit module in addition to the BASIS Diploma). This can be any of the Advanced Crop Modules or the new Nutrient Management Planning qualification, available from September 2009.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- **DO I NEED TO TAKE A TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO SIT A BASIS EXAMINATION?**

Not necessarily, if you feel you already have enough technical knowledge and in-field experience. However, candidates should ensure that they have been trained satisfactorily, either in-house or externally, and have had sufficient supervised field experience prior to the examination, so that they are capable of giving clear, concise advice and recommendations to farmers and growers.

- **WHAT FORM DO THE TRAINING COURSES TAKE?**

That will depend on the trainer / training provider, the chosen course and on previous experience to date. Courses can run for up to a total of 35 days for the full Certificate in Crop Protection in Agriculture / Commercial Horticulture or Field Vegetables. This will be split up into blocks of a week at a time or perhaps day release. Other BASIS courses are of shorter duration as detailed in individual syllabus and information booklets.

- **WHERE ARE TRAINING COURSES HELD?**

Details of trainers and locality can be found in the appropriate syllabus and information booklets.

- **HOW DO I APPLY TO TAKE A TRAINING COURSE?**

Contact the Training Provider of your choice and complete a training course application form. Send your application to your chosen training provider (not to BASIS).

- **IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE QUALIFICATION THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OR EVENING CLASSES?**

A distance learning course is available for overseas candidates for some courses, though not at the moment for those in the UK.

- **WHEN AND WHERE ARE EXAMINATIONS HELD?**

Examinations are held when there are sufficient numbers to make them viable, usually following a training course and at a venue chosen by the training provider.

- **WHAT DOES THE EXAMINATION ENTAIL?**

Details of individual examinations can be found later in this booklet.

- **WHAT READING MATERIALS WILL I NEED?**

Contact the BASIS office or visit our website www.basis-reg.com for the appropriate training syllabus and information booklet. Your BASIS Approved Trainer will also be able to advise you.

- **IF I FAIL THE EXAMINATION, CAN I RE-SIT?**

Yes you can re-sit the exam; however, BASIS examinations are accredited on the Higher Education qualifications framework. One consequence of this is that we need to ensure procedures are in place to improve candidates' chances of success in subsequent examinations following a previous failure.

Where candidates have been examined unsuccessfully on two occasions, they will be required to retrain before attempting the exam for a third time.

Candidates and trainers will be required to complete a form to confirm that they have retrained, particularly covering areas that were identified as 'areas of weakness' at previous exams.

The form should be presented to the exam Chairman at the third exam attempt. Failure to confirm that retraining has taken place will result in a refusal to conduct the viva examination and subsequent 'no result' for the exam.

Please help us to help you by asking your training provider to evaluate your training needs and undertake the training required to ensure you can pass the exam.

Those candidates wishing to go forward for the 'BASIS Diploma and later the HAUC Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management should be aware that only four attempts at any examination will be permitted if that course is included as a qualification module for the diploma(s).

- **WHAT IF I FAIL ONE PART OF THE EXAMINATION BUT PASS THE OTHER?**

Requirements for individual exams are contained in the syllabus and information booklet.

- **IF I APPLY FOR A JOB WITHIN THE PESTICIDES INDUSTRY DO I HAVE TO HOLD THE BASIS CERTIFICATE OR HAVE EXEMPTION FROM IT?**

If you have not previously been employed by a distributor you have up to three years from entering the industry in which to become qualified. During that time you must work under the supervision of a certificate holder. Anyone involved in the sale or supply of pesticides must hold the BASIS Certificate of Competence.

- **WHAT IS MEANT BY "WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION"?**

All good trading companies will require their new personnel to have an initial period of training, accompanied by a qualified member of their staff. There will come a time when the company will have to allow the representative to work on his own. Until such time that he/she becomes qualified, all advice given and sales made by the new representative must be monitored by a qualified person who should countersign their sales documentation.

- **HOW DO I APPLY TO SIT THE BASIS EXAMINATION?**

You will need to contact the relevant trainer (a list can be obtained from the appropriate syllabus and information booklet) to book a place on the course / exam.

- **WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY EXAMINATION RESULTS?**

We aim to issue results and feedback within 4 weeks from the date of examination. **Please note results will not be given over the telephone.**

COURSES LEADING TO THE BASIS CERTIFICATE IN CROP PROTECTION

AGRICULTURE

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection - Agriculture includes cereals, oilseeds, legumes (peas and beans) potatoes, sugar beet, maize, grassland and is intended to cover (in principle) all other arable and non arable situations.

Particular emphasis should be placed on crops which are locally grown but candidates may be examined on all other arable crops. The crops will be used as a vehicle on which to put across the basic principles of crop protection. Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

The commercial horticulture industry is seen as including glasshouse edible crops, flowers and bedding plants, fruit crops, vegetable crops and nursery stock. The above crops will be used as a vehicle on which to put across the basic principles of crop protection.

Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates. Courses are run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

AMENITY HORTICULTURE

The amenity horticulture industry is seen as including hard surface weed control, control of weeds, pests and diseases of turf and similar crop protection issues for shrubs and glasshouse plants. Course duration is up to 17 days and will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates. Courses are run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

FIELD VEGETABLES

The field vegetable industry is seen as including carrots and parsnips, brassicas, onions, legumes, potatoes and other similar crops. Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates. Courses are again run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

GRASSLAND AND FORAGE CROPS

Grassland and Forage includes short, medium and long term leys, permanent pasture and various crops grown for forage, including maize, peas, vetches, forage brassicas and cereals grown for silage. The above crops will be used as examples with which to put across the basic principles of crop protection. Course duration is up to 15 days and may be run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

POTATOES

The course has been designed to produce Potato Advisors with a sound technical knowledge of the potato crop. They will have a competent knowledge of the use and application of crop protection chemicals on the potato crop in order to comply with SCHEDULE 2 of the Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985. A detailed understanding of crop growth, development and management to optimise yield, quality and gross margin will also be developed.

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection - Potatoes, is split into two parts. Part I is basically similar in structure and content to other BASIS courses but specifically aimed at the Potato crop. Part II is concerned with more detailed and complex issues concerned with crop management, harvesting, storage and marketing of the potato crop. Part II may also be taken as a stand alone module and as an advanced module towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. Course duration for Part I is up to 15 days, Part II is up to 5 - 6 days including the examination.

AQUATICS

The aquatics industry is seen as including application of pesticides in or near water and will be mainly concerned with aquatic weeds and their control. Courses are run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details. Course duration is up to 10 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

FORESTRY

The forestry industry is seen as including the use of crop protection materials in both mature forests / woods and nursery growth of young and developing trees. Course duration is up to 15 days.

FLORICULTURE

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection - Floriculture is seen as including cut flowers, flowering pot plants and bedding plants. Growing situations include under glass, under plastic, other forms of protected

cropping, as well as outdoor flower production. The following crops will be used to illustrate the basic principles of crop protection in flower production: roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, lilies, alstroemeria, flowering pot plants (poinsettia, chrysanthemum) narcissus (including bulbs) and tulip. There are a number of other flower types which may be grown and the syllabus does not exclude any which are not specifically listed. Courses may be run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details. Course duration is up to 15 days, but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

SEED TREATMENT

BASIS certificates have been recognised by Ministers as meeting the requirements of a Certificate of Competence for seed treatment advisers and sellers of seed treatment chemicals, as identified in the statutory "Code of Practice for suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture and forestry" (ref. PB3529).

Sellers of seed treatment chemicals require a Certificate of Competence under Schedule 2, of the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997. Ministers also consider it desirable that advisers on seed treatment should be suitably qualified. Course duration is up to 7 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

SEED SELLERS

The BASIS Seed Sellers Certificate is designed for those who sell treated seed but who do not require either the full BASIS Crop Protection Certificate or the Seed Treatment Certificate. The course covers the knowledge required for those who interface with farmers and / or seed buying contracts, to be competent and confident in advising which seed treatment should be applied to which seed variety.

The course will suit those already selling seed and those who intend to sell seed providing they have prior knowledge of farming practices. The course, and the ensuing certificate, do not qualify the candidate to give the full in-field crop protection advice needed once treated seed is sown. The syllabus does however cover knowledge of the principles of other parts of a full crop protection programme. Course duration is 3 days including the examination.

Staff who already hold a BASIS Certificate of Competence in Crop Protection are not required to hold the seed sellers' certification

separately as they are automatically exempt. Those who do not hold either the normal BASIS Certificate or exemption should be certificated to meet the requirement of the initiative within three years of entering the industry.

Details of any of the BASIS Certificates of Competence listed above can be obtained from Sue Mason at BASIS sue@basis-reg.co.uk / 01335 340856, steph@basis-reg.co.uk / 01335 301209 or amanda@basis-reg.co.uk / 01335 340857.

BASIS PLANT PROTECTION AWARD

Originally, the examination known as the BAA Certificate in Crop Protection formed the baseline for crop protection product manufacturer field staff. In 1997 the Certificate was merged with the Pesticide Technology Module of the Advanced BASIS Certificate to create the Plant Protection Award. (Note: For BAA/CPA members the exam either as the original BAA certificate and more recently as the Plant Protection Award has fulfilled the CPA's Part III training requirement for manufacturers staff who regularly give advice).

The primary content of the Plant Protection Award is concentrated on:- Plant Protection and its implementation in agricultural systems and society; Formulations; Modes of Action; Application and Health and Safety. In essence, it covers Plant Protection Technology and it is therefore a most important part of the future industry knowledge and skill requirement.

Are there any exemptions?

Yes, people who hold the Crop Protection Association Part III by examination will be exempt from the BASIS Plant Protection Award.

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING FOR ADVISERS

British agriculture has consistently demonstrated its' willingness to change and to adopt new technology. This open approach to such a fundamental and traditional industry is principally responsible for the plentiful supplies of safe, wholesome food we all enjoy.

Through change and technology, yields of crops have increased year on year and have at least kept pace with the growth in population.

However, such significant progress does not come without some related issues. Modern farming techniques not only produce superb crops but also exert pressures on the natural balance of the environment and its biodiversity.

The beauty of the British countryside is no accident. It is achieved by the care and stewardship of farmers as the custodians of their land. However, there is more to be done.

The introduction of CPMP's (Crop Protection Management Plans) and NRoSO (National Register of Spray Operators) both aim to increase awareness and to improve the management skills of farmers and spray operators respectively.

The BETA (Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers) training syllabus aims to progress the knowledge and skills of on-farm advisers in those important aspects related to Crop Protection use.

The syllabus is a result of co-operation amongst a number of organisations as it has developed, with involvement from FWAG, HAUC, AIC (formerly UKASTA), ARET and others. Their assistance is appreciated and it has enabled the Crop Protection Association and BASIS® (Registration) Ltd. To co-ordinate the four modules of this syllabus together. The BETA qualification is part of the Voluntary Initiative (VI) package of measures which were presented to, and agreed by, government through a representative group of UK industry bodies, as a practical alternative to the introduction of a pesticide tax.

The BETA modular training programme aims to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, in the context of best practice of crop protection use on farm and the sustainability of profitable farming. The combination of Integrated Crop Management with Crop Protection Management plans and biodiversity training, puts together a wider

package which leads to more holistic Integrated Farm Management support.

BETA (Amenity)

The amenity industry is coming under closer scrutiny from government and NGO's such as the Environment Agency, Health & Safety Executive etc. Local authorities have been given responsibility to care for the local environment and must find ways to show that they are doing so.

BETA (Amenity) is a variation of the BETA course designed for agriculture but tailored to the amenity sector. BASIS has developed an Amenity and Horticulture Management Plan to replace the CPMP which advisers should complete in conjunction with local authority officers to demonstrate a commitment to environmental awareness and a desire to preserve and increase the local biodiversity in their locality.

This course will enable advisers to help local authority officers and others to demonstrate the progress they are making to improve local biodiversity and environmental awareness.

For further details and to obtain the BETA syllabus and information booklet please visit our website www.basis-reg.com or contact sue@basis-reg.co.uk / steph@basis-reg.co.uk / amanda@basis-reg.co.uk

Tel: 01335 340856 / 301209 / 340857.

SOIL & WATER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

Soil and water are two essential components of agriculture. The management of these two vital resources is at the centre of farming activity. Both elements are under pressure from modern living and current farming practice.

The development of roads, houses and other buildings has encroached on the countryside putting pressure on water / drainage management to reduce flooding risk. The changes to cropping practice with more cereals, more oil seed rape and more forage maize, as just 3 examples, have exerted their own dynamics on the way that soil and water are managed on the farm. The power and capability of today's tractors and equipment means that soil can be cultivated and seedbeds produced where previously it would have been difficult or impossible to do so. That facility is of enormous help to farmers, but it can also lead us away from the best practice of soil management.

The creation of larger fields over the last 50 years has also changed drainage patterns and in some cases filling in ditches and hedge removal have taken away natural borders to areas previously contoured to minimize erosion or recognise soil type changes. All these issues make the careful and considered use of the two vital resources of soil and water, a most important element of on-farm agronomy advice. As the agricultural industry moves to a more environmentally conscious approach, the focus of advice is changing and the "food at all costs" type of management will not be, in the current way of thinking, the way for the future.

The primary content of the Soil & Water Management Certificate is concentrated on:- soil and air protection; cultivation techniques and systems; erosion risks; soil water, drainage and irrigation; plant nutrient and fertiliser planning; the use of bulky organic materials to enhance crop growth and their effects on diffuse pollution.

The syllabus contents above link together to form the composite soil and water management certificate.

For further details and to obtain the Soil & Water Management syllabus and information booklet please visit our website www.basis-reg.com or contact sue@basis-reg.co.uk / steph@basis-reg.co.uk / amanda@basis-reg.co.uk Tel: 01335 340856 / 301209 / 340857.

PROTECTION OF WATER, THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (POWER)

Background

Over recent years the management of pesticide use on-farm and in amenity horticulture has undergone a number of changes. Society is becoming even more aware of Environmental issues with particular regard to the impact of pesticides on Food, Water and Wildlife.

To improve the quality of these 3 important components of life needs action if the targeted outcomes are to be achieved. Many of these actions have been coordinated through the Voluntary Initiative (VI).

The responsible and safe use of pesticides on-farm and in amenity horticulture, ground care and sports turf situations is an essential part of achieving the desired quality improvements.

At the same time as the focus on food, water and environmental quality is increasing, there is a progressive reduction in the manpower involved in pesticide application and contract management. Managers and operators are being asked to do more which is increasing time pressure and personal responsibility.

It is, therefore, very important that those responsibilities are performed to a high standard of competence. Good progress has been made with the National Register of Spray Operators, (NroSO) which is run by NPTC to improve operator efficiency and for advisers / consultants / agronomists who make pesticide recommendations, the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (which can include horticultural subjects) and the BASIS Professional Register are both well established.

Target Audience

This new course and certificate of competence is suitable for contract specifiers, managers, foremen and supervisors of amenity or farm situations where pesticides are used. It is not designed for those specifying which products are to be used, but is for those who have responsibility for pesticide application whilst not actually applying the products used themselves.

The Qualification

The Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations (POWER) Certificate has been put together by BASIS (Registration) Ltd. And NPTC for the benefit of industry managers and supervisors. This

syllabus follows similar lines for both agriculture and amenity except that module 5 is written expressly for people in agriculture and module six is for people working in the amenity industry.

For further details and to obtain the POWER syllabus and information booklet please visit our website www.basis-reg.com or contact sue@basis-reg.co.uk / steph@basis-reg.co.uk / amanda@basis-reg.co.uk Tel: 01335 340856 / 301209 / 340857.

BASIS CERTIFICATE IN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Background

Farming in the UK is familiar with change - new crop varieties, new techniques, machinery innovation and many other aspects are taken on board as part of every day agricultural business life. Occasionally the degree of change is on a larger scale and of wider scope, so that all farmers are affected. The magnitude of the changes happening on British farms now is on a scale not seen in recent times.

The move away from production subsidy to countryside management reward is having great effect on all involved and the way that farming is practised. The Single Payment Scheme has initiated an enormous volume of booklets, papers, predictions, pamphlets and guidance literature covering all that is required of farmers to comply with Cross Compliance, Statutory Management Requirements, Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition, as well as for the Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes.

It is of no surprise that many farmers are finding it difficult to comprehend the scale of what is required and the depth of knowledge needed to achieve rewards for the Environmental Stewardship Schemes. Most farmers are excellent production managers but their expected role is now demanding a change of emphasis to build up the countryside management element of their job.

Target Audience

This short duration course is designed for those who have agricultural knowledge but may not be fully familiar with all that is required and covered by the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), relative to Conservation issues. Conservation Management needs care and attention on farm, to soil, air, water, wildlife, the environment and biodiversity of species. The course is ideally suited to those managing farms, both directly and indirectly as land agents or management consultants. Any one involved in Estate Management on a broader scale would also benefit from this course. The four modules of the course will help to increase the knowledge of those attending and contribute to farm improvement through the implementation of the knowledge gained.

The Qualification

- There are no pre-course entry requirements, although the greatest benefit will be gained by those who understand farming and who have some experience of how farms are managed. Ideally a year working on a farm or with farmers, possibly also with an agriculturally based qualification, would be the minimum pre-course background for attendees.
- It is possible to sit the Conservation Management examination without any formal training. However, this is not advised because of the wide scope of the course.
- Successful candidates will achieve the BASIS Certificate in Conservation Management.
- The course comprises four modules:
 - Soil and Air Protection
 - Protection of Surface and Ground Water
 - Biodiversity - Conservation and Improvement
 - Care of the Environment
- All modules will relate to the Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFPS) and to on-farm requirements for the management of the content of each of the four modules.
- Tuition for the course will usually be 2½ days, with the examination being on the afternoon of the third day, making 3 days duration in total. However, for more experienced practitioners it may be possible to reduce the total time involved and to recognise greater knowledge and experience prior to the course tuition.

For further details and to obtain the Conservation Management syllabus and information booklet please visit our website www.basis-reg.com or contact Sue / Steph / Amanda on 01335 340856 / 301209 / 340857.

BASIS ADVANCED CROP MODULES

The Advanced Crop Modules are awarded after the successful completion of a short training course on that crop topic.

Candidates can either use these modules for updating or as part of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

Before taking a BASIS Advanced Crop Module do I need to have any other qualification?

Yes, either the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection, exemption or validated certificate.

What are the aims of the advanced crop modules?

To identify staff who have sound practical experience in crop protection and who are sufficiently self motivated and have a desire to progress within the industry. These individual modules may be used for updating purposes or for staff moving into a new area who are faced with crops not previously experienced, and as part of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

Is it a requirement of BASIS for all salesmen/advisers to hold such a Certificate?

No, it is entirely voluntary at the present time.

How long are the course modules?

Normally five or six days, including the examination, spread over the crop year.

How much will it cost?

Candidates need to contact the Trainers / Training Providers directly for course fees.

Do I have to attend a training course before sitting the examination?

No. However, external candidates will sit exactly the same examination as those who have taken the training course and will be subject to examination in all aspects of the training syllabus.

What is the form of assessment?

Candidates will be required to sit a written examination, obtaining a minimum pass mark of 70% and meet a panel of at least two examiners drawn from the agricultural industry, eg. farmers, advisers, crop protection specialists, educationists, etc.

Will I need to submit a project?

No

What modules are available?

Amenity Horticulture
Cereals
Field Vegetable Crops
Grassland
Legumes and Oilseeds
Nursery Stock
Potatoes
Protected Crops
Seed Production and Seed Technology
Sugar Beet
Soft Fruit
Top Fruit and Hops

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF MODULES AVAILABLE FOR THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

AMENITY HORTICULTURE

This module is aimed to give an insight into the amenity horticulture area, covering the topics of turf production, maintenance and management, maintenance of road and motorway verges, gardens and parks (but not amateur properties), forest areas, dry and aquatic areas and the maintenance of industrial sites.

The growth, establishment, crop protection, fertiliser requirements, selection of seed mixtures and maintenance and management procedures will be discussed and reviewed in depth.

The module will be of particular benefit for those advisers and representatives who wish to improve their in-depth knowledge of amenity horticulture; it will prove particularly valuable to staff who are already experienced in other areas such as arable crops but wish to diversify their specialist subject within their trading or advisory areas.

CEREALS

Optimising cereal yields and achieving market requirements for grain quality increasingly demands close attention to the detail of crop management.

The Cereals module will develop a detailed understanding of the

requirements for improving crop management and profitable grain production. Decision-making will be stressed in the participative training for improving, in particular, cereal crop protection. To allow crop study at different times during the growing season, the module will be split into three 2-day sessions taking place in autumn, spring and summer.

Participants will study:

- Planning and crop preparation
- Field trials and farmer advice
- Crop growth and development
- Harvest and storage
- Crop management
- Marketing and grain quality

FIELD VEGETABLE CROPS

The module deals with the production of what are potentially high output crops, grown in rotation with the more widespread arable crops of Britain. Demand for the produce is volatile and the quality standards imposed by the market, and by statutory bodies, are very stringent.

Crop protection of vegetable crops is beset by many problems. Complicated cropping patterns require close integration of crop protection measures with all other agronomic production techniques. The total area of each crop is small, relative to other arable crops, so that there are comparatively few agrochemicals registered solely for each one. Residue levels have to conform to very tight limits and the need to store a high proportion of output adds another dimension to producers' problems.

The module deals with the problems and possibilities of adopting a range of vegetable crops and integrating them into the management of a mixed livestock / arable farm. It will give participants a good grounding in the growing, harvesting and storage programmes involved in this complicated, continually changing business.

GRASSLAND

Crop protection measures in arable crops need to be judged against many aspects of crop growth before financial efficiency can be ensured. In grassland the situation is even more complex. This crop is harvested several times a year, the level of production aimed at may, for valid reasons, be high, medium or low and the crop itself is usually valueless until it has been processed by the animal.

This module covers all aspects of producing and conserving grassland crops for animal feed and shows how to measure its success in terms of what use the animal makes of it. The place of crop protection is described, not only in controlling weeds, pests and diseases, but in ensuring that silage is of good quality.

There are still many farms where grass is a pivotal crop in ensuring the success of subsequent arable cropping. It is important to understand how the soil changes under grass before one can appreciate the effects produced.

General agronomists will gain from this module a sufficient understanding of grassland to allow them to discuss confidently with any farmer the production, conservation and feed of Britain's most important crop.

LEGUMES & OILSEEDS

This module is aimed to give a detailed insight into the husbandry, harvesting and marketing of legume and oilseed crops grown in the UK, EU and world context. The growth, crop protection, fertiliser requirements, selection of seed, establishment, harvest and storage methods will be discussed and reviewed in depth.

The module will be of particular benefit to those advisers and representatives who wish to improve their in-depth knowledge of these crops.

NURSERY STOCK

Quality plant material is the hallmark of a successful nursery stock industry. The recognition of factors affecting quality in both containerised and field grown nursery stock is essential in this rapidly expanding industry. Knowledge of production cycles, domestic and European trends in the industry and marketing strategies are key areas of knowledge needed by advisers to be effective in this specialised crop production system.

Comprehensive, up-to-date information on all aspects of nursery stock production will ensure the industry continues to develop, expand and compete successfully with our European competitors.

POTATOES

This module is aimed to give a detailed insight into the husbandry and marketing of potato crops grown in the UK. The potato crop market will

be discussed in the context of seed, ware, earlies and processing, within a UK, EU and world context.

The growth, crop protection, fertiliser requirements, selection of seed, establishment, harvest and storage methods will be discussed and reviewed in depth.

The module will be of particular benefit to those advisers and representatives who wish to improve their in-depth knowledge of the potato crop.

PROTECTED CROPS

Participants will be updated in modern Protected Crop production techniques, with particular emphasis on crop nutrition, environmental control and integrated pest management.

Through individual project work, specifically selected visits and varied teaching techniques, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures for protected crop problems.

SEED PRODUCTION & SEED TECHNOLOGY

The quality and health of seed is critical to crop production and modern seed treatment technology can protect both seed and seedling from many serious pest and disease problems. The genetic potential of new crop varieties can only be fully exploited by farmers if seed crops have previously been produced under stringent conditions and if the seed is subsequently harvested, stored and treated in an appropriate manner.

The primary aim of the Seed Production and Seed Technology module is to provide updating and to develop an improved understanding of both seed production systems and seed treatments. The programme will focus on advances in the growing of cereal, herbage, brassica, pulse and sugarbeet seed crops and seed treatment.

Participants will consider:

Seed biology	Seed storage and treatment equipment
Seed production	Seed treatments
Seed crop mechanisation	Environmental issues

SUGAR BEET

Over the past few years there have been major advances in sugar beet production and yields continue to increase. Not only do we see changes in the armoury of chemicals available to assist in crop protection but we also see new techniques develop for growing the crop.

This module aims not only to offer a chemical update for those giving advice and making recommendations for sugar beet growers but it also aims to give a clear picture of the techniques involved in the production of today's and tomorrow's sugar beet crop.

As a result of studying this module it is intended that the participant will have developed a detailed understanding of all aspects of the sugar beet crop including financial details and their interactions.

SOFT FRUIT

Participants will be updated in modern production techniques for soft fruit with particular emphasis on soft fruit culture, effects of the environment on growth and development, the causal agents of crop damage and crop protection.

Through specifically selected visits and varied teaching techniques, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures in soft fruit.

TOP FRUIT AND HOPS

Participants will be updated in modern production techniques for top fruit and hops, with particular emphasis on tree culture, effects of the environment on growth and development and the control of weeds, pests and diseases.

Through individual project work, specifically selected visits and varied teaching techniques, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures for problems in top fruit and hops.

ADVANCED NUTRITION MANAGEMENT MODULE

We are currently working on a short Nutrient Management Planning Course which will be available to Diploma candidates as an advanced module for the BASIS Diploma. Further details and a syllabus will be provided shortly.

FACTS

FERTILISER ADVISERS CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING SCHEME INTRODUCTION

FACTS is an independent non-statutory certification Scheme for advisers and sellers within the fertiliser industry. It was established in 1993 following discussions with the trade associations connected with the industry and BASIS® (Registration) Ltd. At the present time there is no legal requirement for advisers and sellers to be certificated; however it was considered that setting up such a scheme was the responsible action to take in light of the environmental pressures on the industry and increasing technical requirements. The Scheme and initiative are fully supported by Defra.

FACTS (Horticulture)

Advisers and those selling fertiliser into the Commercial Horticulture industry may be more concerned with hydroponics and supply of nutrients to protected crops than solid fertiliser on a field scale but nevertheless the basic principles of nutrient management are key requirements for on farm advisers.

FACTS (Vegetables)

Advisers and those selling fertiliser to vegetable growers either on a field scale or under protection are also subject to similar considerations.

This course uses specific vegetable crop examples to illustrate the basic principles of nutrient management.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- **DO I NEED TO TAKE A TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO SIT THE FACTS EXAMINATION?**

Not necessarily, if you feel you have enough technical knowledge and in-field experience already. However, candidates should ensure that they have been trained satisfactorily, either in-house or externally, and have had sufficient supervised field experience prior to entering for the examination.

- **WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF THE COURSE?**

The overall aim of the course is that at the end of training, coupled

with previous practical experience, candidates will have a basic understanding of fertilisers to enable them to give advice to farmers and growers which is both economically and environmentally sound. The emphasis will be on practical knowledge applicable when selling to, and advising, farmers and growers.

- **WHAT FORM DO THE TRAINING COURSES TAKE?**

Normally a one-week residential block (5 days) with an assessment on completion of the course. Day release or short blocks may be offered, depending on regional requirements.

- **WHERE ARE TRAINING COURSES HELD?**

At selected training centres within the United Kingdom and also at other venues, both in the UK and abroad, organised by local training groups.

- **HOW DO I APPLY TO TAKE A TRAINING COURSE?**

Contact the Approved Trainer of your choice. Complete a training course application form and send it to the trainer of your choice.

- **IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES OR EVENING CLASSES?**

Not at this stage.

- **WHEN AND WHERE ARE EXAMINATIONS HELD?**

They are currently held at each of the centres listed in the FACTS syllabus and information booklet. Examinations are held when there are sufficient numbers to make them viable.

- **HOW DO I APPLY TO SIT THE EXAMINATION?**

Complete an examination application form and return it to the trainer / training provider of your choice. You will be notified when an examination is to take place. (Those attending a training course will automatically be entered for the examination and so do not need to apply separately.

- **IF I FAIL THE EXAMINATION, CAN I RE-SIT?**

Yes you can re-sit the exam; however, BASIS examinations are accredited on the Higher Education qualifications framework. One consequence of this is that we need to ensure procedures are in place

to improve candidates' chances of success in subsequent examinations following a previous failure.

Where candidates have been examined unsuccessfully on two occasions, they will be required to retrain before attempting the exam for a third time.

Candidates and trainers will be required to complete a form to confirm that they have retrained, particularly covering areas that were identified as 'areas of weakness' at previous exams.

The form should be presented to the exam Chairman at the third exam attempt. Failure to confirm that retraining has taken place will result in a refusal to conduct the viva examination and subsequent 'no result' for the exam.

Please help us to help you by asking your training provider to evaluate your training needs and undertake the training required to ensure you can pass the exam.

Those candidates wishing to go forward for the 'BASIS Diploma and later the HAUC Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management should be aware that only four attempts at any examination will be permitted if that course is included as a qualification module for the diploma(s).

- **WHAT DOES THE EXAMINATION ENTAIL?**

Candidates will be required to sit an examination with multi-choice type questions. The questions will be based on the national syllabus. This will be followed by a viva panel, involving two people from the fertiliser industry and chaired by a representative of BASIS acting on behalf of the FACTS Management Committee. The purpose of this is to enable the panel to make a final assessment of the candidate as a competent adviser in the fertiliser industry; **the decision of the panel will be final.**

- **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYLLABUS?**

The standard and content of training which needs to be attained to enable trainees to prepare for the Certificate of Competence in Fertiliser Advice.

- **IF I APPLY FOR A JOB WITHIN THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY DO I HAVE TO HOLD THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE OR HAVE EXEMPTION FROM IT?**

At present the Scheme is non-statutory. However, if you have not previously been employed in the fertiliser industry it is recommended that you become qualified within three years of entering the industry. During that time you are strongly advised to work under the supervision of a certificate holder.

- **WHAT IS MEANT BY "WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION"?**

All good trading companies will require their new personnel to have an initial period of training, accompanied by a qualified member of their staff. There will come a time when the company will have to allow the representative to work on his own. Until such time that he/she becomes qualified, all sales and advice given by the new representative should be monitored by a qualified person.

- **IS IT A REQUIREMENT IN LAW TO HOLD A CERTIFICATE?**

The Scheme is at present non-statutory. However, the EU are looking at standards of competence relating to fertiliser sales and therefore the industry is setting a standard prior to any legislation, in order to meet public concerns that the industry is attaining the highest professional standards and to guide any legislative moves.