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BASISnews

Promoting Professional Standards

Winter 2011

Storekeepers: Are you ready for SUD?

BASIS is urging pesticide storekeepers to check that they are prepared for the impact of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD).

Currently any pesticide store involved in the sale and supply of pesticides and storing 200 litres or more must have at least one member of staff who holds the BASIS Nominated Storekeepers (NSK) Certificate.

Under the SUD it is highly likely that the requirement for BASIS Certificate renewal will apply to pesticide storekeepers as well as advisers. This will mean that all qualified storekeepers will have to attend refresher training every three years.

"We know that all letters of exemption will be invalid under the new regulations, whether they were issued for advisers or

storekeepers," explains BASIS Managing Director Rob Simpson. "This means that if you are running a store under letters of exemption you will need to attend the refresher training as a matter of urgency."

To help storekeepers make sure they are ready for the new requirements BASIS is currently running a series of courses leading to the full Nominated Storekeeper (NSK) qualification. Refresher NSK courses are also being run as well as training on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods and Manual Handling.

A list of the upcoming dates is provided on

page 2, but keep an eye on the BASIS website for more dates and venues. The full NSK training is worth 15 CPD points and the refresher training comes with a total of eight points.

BASIS would also like to remind readers that in-house courses can be set up for companies with eight or more candidates. To find out more please contact amanda@basis-reg.co.uk

Many of these training courses are held at BASIS member company premises. BASIS would like to thank all companies who have offered their facilities. ▶▶▶

Past Chairman, Professor John MacLeod, dies

Professor John MacLeod, immediate past Chairman of BASIS, passed away in June after a long illness. John was probably best known as the former director of NIAB, a role he filled for nine years from 1990 until his retirement. He became Chairman of BASIS in February 2005 stepping down after five years in March 2009.

John had a distinguished career in UK agriculture, working for 26 years with ADAS and MAFF, holding various senior posts, including director of all the experimental farms. Latterly, John was Professor of Plant Science and Vice Chairman of the Royal Horticultural Society, Chairman of the NIAB Trust and a member of the British Crop Production Council (BCPC).

"Everyone at BASIS was saddened at the loss of such an outstanding man. John's contribution to agriculture not just as a distinguished plant








scientist but also as a motivational leader was immense," said Ian Smith, the current Chairman of BASIS.

John MacLeod was born on August 16 1939 and educated at the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway and Glasgow University, where he read agriculture. He completed an MSc at Michigan State University in 1964.



Professor John MacLeod (right) pictured with Professor David Bellamy and the winner of the Barrie Orme shield David Hoyles and his wife Sally in 2007

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News in brief

Amenity update

The new BASIS Amenity Register has attracted plenty of interest with around 300 already on the Register. Membership is open to people in the sector who are involved with decision making, contract management and in the provision of professional advice. It sits alongside the NASOR register for amenity operators run by City & Guilds and Landbased Services. Meanwhile, back in October at the Amenity Forum Conference, BASIS consultant Paul Singleton gave a comprehensive review of BASIS activities in the amenity sector, whilst Managing Director Rob Simpson spoke on pesticide storage and handling. Both papers were well received by delegates to this flagship amenity event.

BASIS Professional Register survey

A big thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our e-survey on the Professional Register. Your views were generally very constructive and helpful and have been incorporated into the new rules and guidelines.

New ADR Instructions

From 1 January 2011 a new set of ADR *Instructions in Writing* is in force. An up-to-date copy of these can be downloaded as a pdf from www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr_linguistic_e.htm

Professional Matters election results

The following people have been elected to the BASIS Professional Matters Committee:

- Terry C Bane (Amenity Horticulture)
- Bill Jones (Forestry)
- Michael Warner (Independent Advisers)
- Richard Stow (Amenity – non-Horticulture)
- Kevin Workman (Commercial Horticulture)

Bob bows out

Last but by no means least, BASIS Assessor Bob Measures has retired. Bob has been a valuable and experienced member of the Assessment Team and everyone at BASIS wishes him a long and happy retirement.

BASIS takes key role in RAMPS UK

BASIS is playing a pivotal role in the newly launched Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Schemes of the United Kingdom, RAMPS (UK).

Introduced as a means of meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive, RAMPS UK has been established by the three supplying companies, Certis Europe BV, Santia (formerly Connaught Compliance Pest Prevention Ltd) and Rentokil-Initial plc.

Its aim is to ensure a future for these useful, but potentially dangerous fumigants, which are widely used in agriculture and the public health pest control sector for rabbit, rat and mole control and to fumigate grain stores to control grain store pests.

A key element within RAMPS will be the register of stockists accredited for sale and supply and this is where BASIS comes in. One of the key requirements is that the stores where these products are kept are

audited. This means that in future all companies that stock metallic phosphides will need to be fully BASIS registered or members of the BASIS Small Stores Scheme.

Importantly RAMPS will also hold a register of accredited users. By 2015 users wishing to purchase product will have to produce photo ID and evidence of training /competence. In the interim they must 'be known to the supplier'.



Launching RAMPS UK to pest controllers at the PestTech event in November. L-R: Rob Simpson, BASIS, Santia's David Cross and Paul Butt of Natural England.

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Full NSK		NSK Refresher	
Sherborne	25 & 26 Jan	Sherborne	27 Jan
Newark	1 & 2 Feb	Newark	3 Feb
Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds	15 & 16 Feb	Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds	17 Feb
Greenmount NI	22 & 23 Feb	Greenmount NI	24 Feb
Shrewsbury	22 & 23 Feb	Shrewsbury	24 Feb
Lincoln	1 & 2 Mar	Lincoln	3 Mar
Perth	8 & 9 Mar	Perth	10 Mar
East Harling, Norfolk	15 & 16 Mar	East Harling, Norfolk	17 Mar
Ashbourne	15 & 16 Mar	Ashbourne	17 Mar
Morpeth	22 & 23 Mar	Morpeth	21 Mar
Manual Handling		Dangerous Goods Awareness	
Ashbourne	26 Jan	Ashbourne	17 Feb
Ashbourne	16 Feb	Shrewsbury	21 Feb
Ashbourne	23 Mar	East Harling, Norfolk	14 Mar
Ashbourne	13 Apr	Ashbourne	12 Apr
Ashbourne	17 May		

CFE – Ignore at your peril

If you are an agronomist and haven't yet spoken to your farmers about the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE), or if you are a farmer and are not yet engaged with CFE, please consider the consequences of CFE failure. So writes AIC's Hazel Doonan.

She continues: one year on from the launch of the CFE and there still seems to be some confusion about how farmers can 'do their bit'. The simple answer is to rejoin or join Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and at the same time try to ensure that the ELS options, or other voluntary measures, are chosen and placed to give the maximum environmental outcome; be it for farmland birds, resource protection or the provision of biodiversity.

There is also the idea that CFE can be ignored and that the coalition Government will not regulate in the face of food security issues and the demands of feeding the increasing global population – don't believe it!, she warns.

Yes, the Government does support CFE (and other voluntary schemes, such as the VI for pesticides) as its first and preferred option. However, there is no doubt that if Campaign targets are not met and the CFE judged to have failed, regulation will be introduced. Agriculture Minister, James Paice, has already indicated that: "Farmers need to demonstrate that they can take responsibility for the environment."

With grain prices at current high levels, asking farmers to commit land to environmental measures is a hard sell, but you have to consider the alternative. Voluntary action through the CFE is a much better option than the regulatory route.

Let's compare the two....

It is estimated that the voluntary option (CFE) will take approximately 3% of land out of production and if farmers are in ELS they will be compensated, to some extent, for this. In addition there is flexibility within CFE to place the most suitable measures in the best location on the farm.

On the other hand, the regulatory option will mean that up to 7% of land will be pulled out of production – it is set at a higher level as it is meant to be punitive. The land will have to be managed to pre-set prescriptions and there will be no opportunity to grow industrial crops, as with former set aside. What's more, land managed as environmental set aside will not be eligible for management payments under ELS.

In addition if the CFE fails, doubt will be cast on the ability of the agricultural industry to self regulate. Farming's responsibility for the environment will not go away. Under the forthcoming CAP reform agriculture will have to be 'greener' if Pillar I payments are to be received. CFE may be the best route to achieve this without having additional European measures enforced upon the UK. CFE is not stand alone – by addressing

CAMPAIGN FOR THE FARMED ENVIRONMENT.



water protection on the farm for example, farmers will also help to avoid further regulation under the Water Framework Directive. So, remember even if you are not in a target county, taking part will contribute to the Campaign's success.

For more information on CFE and how you can be involved please speak to your local CFE co-ordinator to go to the CFE website at www.cfeonline.org.uk

Pesticides Forum publishes container report

The Pesticides Forum has produced a report with a number of important recommendations for all those involved in the manufacture, sale, disposal and recycling of pesticide containers. Some of the key recommendations are that the industry should:

- Move away from foil seals to self sealing caps;
- Move towards containers with a pouring point which when inverted drains to a single point and to wider openings to make packs easier to rinse and drain;
- Seek to adopt waterproof, washable labels, which can be removed and recycled when the container is recycled;
- Continue to promote triple rinsing.

Download the full report from www.pesticides.gov.uk/pesticides_forum_home.asp

BASIS diplomas for Bayer staff

Congratulations go to Bayer CropScience's development team with three members having already achieved the highest of all BASIS qualifications, the BASIS diploma, and four more in the final stages.

Call to complete on-line assessment

An encouraging number of FACTS Qualified Advisers (FQAs) have already undertaken the Nutrient Management Planning Training (NMP), reports BASIS Nutrient Management Planning Coordinator, Nick Smith. "However, we would like to see more people actually sitting down and completing the assessment," he adds.

To date there has been a very good pass rate. All FQAs who were FACTS qualified prior to 1st January 2010 have until 31st December 2014 to complete NMP CPD training and take and pass the NMP on-line assessment. All FQAs who are FACTS qualified after 1st January 2010 have 5 years from qualifying to complete NMP CPD Training and pass the on-line assessment.

It really makes sense to do the assessment as soon after the training as possible. Until the on-line assessment is passed the course will not be recognised in terms of retaining FQA status. However, note that the on-line assessment must be completed in one sitting and all 20 multiple choice questions must be answered within 30 minutes. "We've had a few instances of people 'timed out'," says Nick. "It's important to set time aside and not get distracted. And, don't forget to press submit once you have finished."

All FQAs must undertake the on-line assessment either before 31 December 2014 or within 5 years of becoming FACTS qualified (as above) to retain their status, even those who intend to take the optional exam to gain the BASIS diploma.



Opportunity to join the Society of Biology for less

Ever fancied joining the Society of Biology? Now's your chance.

In recognition of the standing of Members of the BASIS Professional Register, this prestigious organisation is waiving its £15 application fee and offering a 10% reduction, worth around £12, on your first year's membership.

Joining the Society signifies that you are a professional biologist and entitles you to use the designation AMSB or MSB (Associate Member or Member of the Society of Biologists). Membership also offers a range of 'third party benefits' including discounts from leading academic publishers and provides access to a diverse network of contacts via the online directory in the members' area of the website or by attending one of the local or national events. The Society also has a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme and successfully following the CPD programme can lead to the award of Chartered Biologist (CBiol) status.

The Society is frequently consulted on biological issues by government departments, funding bodies, industry and other national and international organisations. It draws on the breadth of its membership to produce a balanced response, reflecting the views of the biological profession as a whole.

The Society has grades of membership suitable for all levels of skills and qualifications.

Go to <http://www.societyofbiology.org/membership/individual-membership/membership-grades> for details.

To join, please email jonkudlick@societyofbiology.org stating that you are a member of the BASIS Professional Register.



Simon scoops Barrie Orme Award

Simon Foster from Syngenta Bioline has won the 2010 Barrie Orme trophy. Now in its tenth year, the award goes to the best candidate in the BASIS Crop Protection Certificate exam. It was presented by Dominic Dyer, Chief Executive of the Crop Protection Association, at a ceremony held at the Farmers Club in London.

Accepting the award Simon said, "I found the whole experience very worthwhile and I hope to be an ambassador for the industry, integrating cutting edge biological products with the most up-to-date chemistry into ICM programmes."

Syngenta Bioline is based in Little Clacton, Essex where the company breeds a range of beneficial insects and mites and sells these to control the insect pests that can infest protected crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes and flowers.

Strictly he did not need to take this exam. However as Simon explains: "Whilst as Quality Manager I was not expected to



L-R: BASIS Chairman Ian Smith and CPA's Dominic Dyer with 2010 winner Simon Foster

provide advice, I did find that customers often asked about which chemicals could be used with the biological products we supply so it made a lot of sense for me to get the certificate."

Runners-up were Kent farmer William Cyster, Agrovista's Ashpal Bachoo, an agronomist in Hampshire/Wiltshire and Robert Jackson, trials coordinator for the British Society of Plant Breeders in Ely.

The award is sponsored by AIC, Nufarm UK Ltd and C & J Supplies.

New pesticides & biocides amnesty

A new Biocides and Pesticides Amnesty has been launched as part of Project SOE. Project SOE (Security in the Operational Environment) is itself a new initiative which focuses on security issues within the agricultural environment. BASIS is one of the organisations that has been involved in setting it up.

The amnesty runs from 3 January to 14 March 2011 and is being administered by Killgerm Chemicals. It will make it possible to dispose of any unwanted, out of date or revoked pesticides and biocides for a one off cost of £20.00. All participants need to do is ensure they understand the rules (See the website at www.projectsoe.org), then complete the online application form. The amnesty has limited funds and will be conducted on a 'first come, first served' basis.

This is a good opportunity for farmers, gamekeepers and pest controllers to dispose of old product safely and legally. BASIS registered advisers should encourage customers to check their stores and take advantage of this offer.



Government responds to SUD consultation

News that existing voluntary measures and legal requirements governing pesticide use in the UK will be largely used to meet the EU Sustainable Use Directive legislation has been welcomed by farmers and the pesticide industry, including BASIS. Announcing the Government decision, junior Defra Minister Lord Henley said: "The consultation has failed to uncover any compelling evidence to justify further extending existing regulations and voluntary controls." A further consultation will take place in the summer to ensure everything is in place by the deadline of 25 November 2011.



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