



FWAG South East and Wild Oxfordshire are working in partnership in an exciting new initiative with Thames Water to help farmers to deliver improvements in water quality in the River Ock catchment. Together, we are offering free advice, free spreader calibration and cash incentives for using an alternative to metaldehyde.

Contact Tim Clarke on 07713 333196 to find out more.



The problem....

Metaldehyde (from slug pellets) is regularly detected in river water at concentrations greater than the standard of 0.1µg/l demanded by the Drinking Water Inspectorate. Unfortunately metaldehyde is not easily removed using existing water treatment processes. Only very small quantities of metaldehyde reaching watercourses can cause exceedances. Often when concentrations are high, abstractions from the river have to be shut down.

The solutions....

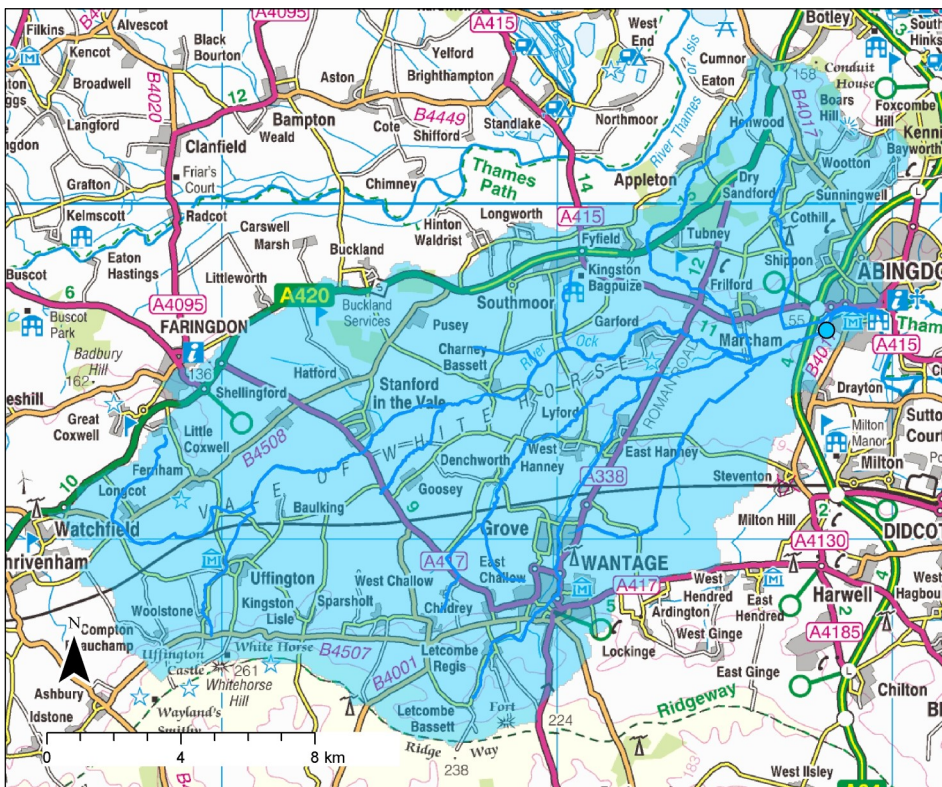
Ferric phosphate slug pellets do not carry with them any risk of water pollution and are equally as effective as a molluscicide. Previous work in the Ock catchment has identified fields which are at high risk, if metaldehyde is used, of losing metaldehyde into the watercourses. This could be because they are close to the water, but it could also be due to drainage, soil type and/or slope. It is in these fields where product substitution would significantly reduce the problem.

£1/kg product substitution payment

Ferric phosphate slug pellets can be more expensive than some metaldehyde pellets, so in order to help substitute one for the other in those high-risk fields, we will pay you £1.00 per kilogram used as an incentive to change. All you have to do is keep the receipts for the ferric phosphate slug pellets that you have used, a list of the fields where you have used them and when they were applied. We will then organise the payment.

Phone Tim Clarke (FWAG SE) on 07713 333196 or email timothyclarke55@gmail.com

Or Karen Davies (FWAG SE) on 07884 476145 or email karen.davies@fwagadvice.co.uk



River Ock catchment



NOVEMBER 2016							
Week No.	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
45			1	2	3	4	5
46	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
47	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
48	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
49	27	28	29	30			



The solutions (continued)

Spreader calibration and PA4S training

Using a spreader that has been calibrated correctly can not only save you money, but also reduces the risk of slug pellets ending up in the wrong place. As part of the UK regulations under the Sustainable Use Directive, all pesticide application equipment requires calibration by November 26th 2016. Let us know if you want to have your slug pellet applicator calibrated, or you need PA4S training; we will organise it for you for free.

Free agronomic advice

When to apply slug pellets and when not to are decisions that are important both for your farm business and for the environment. Using slug traps and taking account of slug thresholds can tell you when to spread for an economic return. Listening to the forecast and not spreading slug pellets when heavy rain is imminent can help to prevent metaldehyde reaching watercourses. We can offer you advice on all aspects of using slug pellets.

Free farm conservation advice

We can also offer wider resource protection and conservation advice, including advice on soil health, cultivations and compaction, sprayer filling areas and biobeds and also the new Countryside Stewardship scheme including Mid-Tier. Just contact us and we will fix a time that suits you for an adviser to come out to your farm.