

UKGTN Spring News

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Spring Issue

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Welcome

By Vic Cameron, Technical Administrator

Welcome to the first of your 'new look' newsletters from the UK Grain Testing Network; your Network allowing you to consistently generate accurate results for your grain analysis.

Inside this issue you will find some interesting information coming out of our recent Spring Committee meeting.

Yes, even in these strange times, we held our regular committee meeting of the Network. Not face-to-face as we normally do, but over a video conferencing platform. In this newsletter we will tell you about some exciting developments within the Network and discuss arrangements around equipment servicing and standardisation in this time of lockdown due to Covid-19.

There is news about a new ring check we plan to implement this year, please contact us if you are interested in a ring check for field beans.

Also, do you know that we have just launched a new website?

[Head over to ukgrain.org and check it out now.](http://ukgrain.org)

I hope you find this newsletter of interest, and if there is anything you would like to see in your next newsletter please email me at admin@ukgrain.org

Vic Cameron

Technical Administrator, UKGTN

Spring Committee Meeting Update

Network business continues in these difficult times, so your Committee met via video link on Thursday and Friday the 2nd and 3rd of April.

We had a full agenda covering all aspects of the operation of your Network, including meetings with the equipment manufacturers.

The main business of the Spring meeting is putting in place preparations for the standardisation processes prior to harvest and for the harvest monitoring systems.

You can rest assured that we will be in the correct place as we head into harvest, with standardisation complete and updated calibrations downloaded. Please find below some headline reports that we will elaborate on in this newsletter or let you hear about via email or on the website soon.

1. Decision made to start a ring check for moisture in field beans.
2. As a Committee we recommend that servicing be completed on all equipment for full members (if at all possible) prior to standardisation, however, not to service after standardisation if not completed beforehand. [Please click here to see our website for full details.](#)
3. Change the channels used on our barley calibrations down to four - Winter, English Spring, Scottish Spring and Concerto.
4. Change our meeting arrangements, and meet face-to-face only once a year, and to use video conferencing for other meetings.
5. Implement procedures to discourage late payment of fees.

“We are about to launch a new ring check for moisture in field beans. Contact Vic on admin@ukgrain.org for more info”



Field Bean Calibration

The Committee decided, after canvassing the membership recently, to commence work that will hopefully lead to a fully supported calibration for moisture and protein on field beans.

Initially we will launch a ring check for moisture from the 2020 harvest, with 4 rounds of 3 samples held in September, October, December and March.

We will also work towards a standardisation exercise to enable full membership of a field bean calibration, supporting moisture and protein, for the 2021 harvest.

Paul Allision at Sciantec (our reference lab provider) is currently working on a pricing structure for both the ring check and full membership, and we will announce these as soon as we can.

We are 'starting small' initially with just the ring check scheme for moisture, allowing us to 'learn' how to work with beans in our cleaning and sampling systems.

Please contact Vic for more details, use <mailto:admin@ukgrain.org>

And contact your equipment supplier if you do not have a bean calibration but would like to use in the future.

Barley Channels for Harvest 2020

As part of our meeting we monitored the ongoing biases trends of the various barley channels used on our calibrations over the years.

Given the very small amounts of Concerto planted this year and that the English and Scottish Concerto variances are getting closer together, we have decided to use the following channels this year.

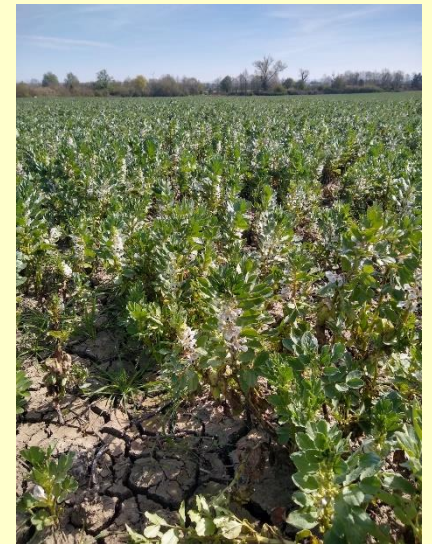
1. Winter
2. English Spring
3. Scottish Spring
4. Concerto

This means that for most members we have reduced the barley channels from five to four, as we will not be separating Concerto into English and Scottish this year.

You will notice this change put in place after the standardisation and calibration exercise prior to harvest.



Picture from Richard Denton, Openfield



Picture from Derek Pearce, L F Pearce & Son

“We will be operating with four barley channels as we move into the 2020 harvest.”