

BOOKING

Please complete the separate booking form and return with payment to:
Julie Phillips, NIAB, Morley Business Centre, Morley, Wymondham, NR18 9DF.

If you require further information go online to www.niab.com and click on Training, email training@niab.com or phone Julie Phillips at the NIAB Morley office - 01953 713200.

COURSE VENUES & DATES - 2014

All courses start at 9.45am, with lunch included.

10 February	Mechanisation	NIAB Head Office, Cambridge, CB3 0LE
13 February	Seeds	NIAB Head Office, Cambridge, CB3 0LE
26 February	Seeds	Norton Lodge, Norton Disney, LN6 9JR
20 March	Mechanisation	Norton Lodge, Norton Disney, LN6 9JR
7 March	Mechanisation	Morley Business Centre, Morley, NR18 9DF
13 March	Seeds	Organic Research Centre, Newbury, RG20 0HR
26 March	Mechanisation	Council Offices, Cirencester, GL7 1PX

PRICES

	Price per day (inc VAT)	Early Bird Discount (inc VAT)
NIAB TAG Network members & NAC Supporters	£198.00	£188.10
Non members	£264.00	£250.80

PAYMENT

- Cheques:** Make payable to NIAB and return with booking form
- Card:** Call 01223 342344 with credit/debit card details (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm)
- On account:** Please quote NIAB TAG Network account or membership number
- BACS:** Sort code 30-91-56 (Lloyds); A/c no.: 03918970; A/c name: NIAB

Please return the booking form to Julie Phillips at NIAB Morley.



National Agronomy Training Courses - 2014

Seed management workshop

Featuring seed treatments, managing sowing seed, seed germination & vigour, seed & soil-borne diseases and seed certification

Mechanisation & soils workshop

Featuring spray applications, rotations & system performance and value of cover crops in soil & system management, value of soil management and tyres, traction & compaction



Both these full day courses are open to all, including non-members
Discounts available for NIAB TAG members and NAC supporters

Improve your agronomy, knowledge and crop management skills with our classroom-based training courses available at locations across England. The events are suitable for agriculture students, farmers, agronomists and advisors.



12 CPD points available on each workshop

We deliver over 500 farmer training places each year. Over the past three years 95% of our attendees rated our training as very good to excellent and would recommend NIAB.



3-6 CPD points available on the workshops

www.niab.com

WHAT ON EARTH CAN WE DO FOR YOU?



SEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

CPD points: BASIS 12 (2 per course), NROSo 6 (1 per course)

Germination & vigour

Course leader: Jane Taylor

The wet weather in 2012 followed by the long cool spring in 2013 had a big impact on agriculture not just on the cereal crops that were planted but also on the amount of seed that was not sown. Testing of over-year-old cereal seed to confirm its suitability for sowing had seen a 75% increase in advisory testing during the 2013 July–August period. Typical tests on cereal seed are germination, viability testing by tetrazolium, sometimes coupled with a vigour assessment. We will highlight the importance of knowing the quality of your seed and aim to provide an overview of how these quality assessments are carried out and assessed.

Seed & soil-borne diseases in cereals

Course leader: Jane Thomas

We will review the significance of the major seed-borne diseases of wheat, barley and oats, and how these are managed through the seed production process and seed treatment usage. Consideration will be given to the advantages and disadvantages of using untreated farm processed seed, and the essential requirements for sampling and testing seed. The principle soil-borne diseases of cereals will also be reviewed, with special consideration of how seed treatments can be used to manage their effects and promote plant health.

Managing your sowing seed

Course leader: Neil Watson/Nick Watson /Phil Humphrey

We will examine how management of the parent crop can influence the quality of the seed. Ear diseases, ear pests, weed contamination and pre-harvest management will all be discussed in relation to seed quality and subsequent crop establishment and vigour.

Seed certification

Course leader: Jennifer Wyatt

Do you know what legislation is in place to ensure the UK seeds industry has enough seed of the right quality and variety? Do you know how certification can help the grower? If you would like to know more then the seed management work shop will cover how new varieties are tested and how 'The Seeds Marketing Regulations' support seed certification and standards.

Seed & soil-borne diseases in other combinable crops

Course leader: Jane Thomas

This section will consider the major seed-borne diseases of oilseed rape, beans, peas and a short introduction to seed-borne diseases of linseed. We will review the importance of seed treatments and seed health, and give a brief overview of seed testing methods. We will also consider in depth the significance of soil-borne pathogens in close oilseed rape rotations, and look at recent research on the identification of key organisms which may be contributing to declining yields in close rotation. In addition, we will review management approaches for clubroot and *Verticillium* in oilseed rape.

Seed treatments

Course leader: Neil Watson/Nick Watson /Phil Humphrey

The choice of seed treatments available for combinable crops can be bewildering. Let alone making a rational decision to use one or not in the first place. This section will review the range of seed treatments available and discuss which, if any is appropriate for differing circumstances. We will identify the yield responses from and disease control with seed treatments as well as discuss potential interactions with other factors such as foliar insecticides, nutrients, seed rates and row spacing.

MECHANISATION & SOILS WORKSHOP

CPD points: BASIS 12 (2 per course), NROSo 3 (1 each for Spray Applications 1 & 2, Rotation & Systems)

Spray applications 1: nozzles, timeliness & drift

Course leader: Clare Butler Ellis

A look at the main nozzle choices for applications to field crops, particularly with the aim of maximising work rate to ensure good timeliness of applications without increasing the risk of drift.

The value of soil management

Course leader: Neil Watson

This course sets the foundations for a better understanding of soil management by studying good and poor soil textures and structures and how to quantify them. The session looks at factors that impact structure; such as the soil itself, the influence of organic matter and the implications of management. We look at the influence of structure on crop performance, before asking what approaches we might take to manage structure in the field; ranging from cultivation techniques through to cover crops and controlled trafficking.

Rotations & system performance

Course leader: Ron Stobart

This session will consider how rotation and cultivation systems differ in their performance, suitability and sustainability for a range of arable cropping scenarios. Topics will include rotational options and approaches to cultivation, with particular reference to impacts on soil structure, agronomic risks / benefits, yield, stability and margins for combinable crops. In addition some wider approaches to fertility building within farming systems will be considered; this will include aspects of compost, amendments and straw use. This session will also provide opportunity to discuss how these might be implemented in a range of farm scenarios.

Spray applications 2: optimising spray deposits

Course leader: Clare Butler Ellis

How does nozzle choice influence the deposit on the target, and what characteristics of deposit are important to maximising the performance of the product? We will also look at some of the myths about application, and help you decide how to get the best out of each application.

Tyres, traction & compaction

Course leader: Neil Watson

This course covers soil trafficking, tyres, traction and compaction. In the course of a typical year we can run on a significant proportion of a field with a tyre of some sort so we cover how we can minimise the impact on soil structure. We study how tyre technology has developed over time and then look at the implications of tyre choice and inflation pressure as well as the impact that correct ballasting has on compaction and traction. Finally we look at tyres versus tracks and links into controlled traffic farming.

The role of cover crops in soil and system management

Course leader: Ron Stobart

Examining how cover crops, companion crops and bi-crops can be used in conventional cropping systems - improving soil structure, reducing erosion risk, raising fertility, acting as a mulch and resulting in benefits to yields. We will consider work undertaken by NIAB TAG as well as a range of other researchers and will discuss how approaches to covering cropping differ, how your objective will influence the choice of cover crop species and provide guidance on the adoption and management of cover crops within farming systems. The costs and returns associated with cover cropping and how they can complement wider environmental schemes will be considered.