



## News from the Farm Advisory Service:

### CROPCAST



#### CropCast podcast - Time to talk about IPM

In our latest episode of our CropCast podcast, Tiffany Stephenson is joined by Phil Jarvis & Amy Geddes from the Voluntary Initiative to discuss Integrated Pest Management (IPM). What is it? And how do farmers go about getting started?

Find our podcast episodes by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting [www.fas.scot/sounds](http://www.fas.scot/sounds)

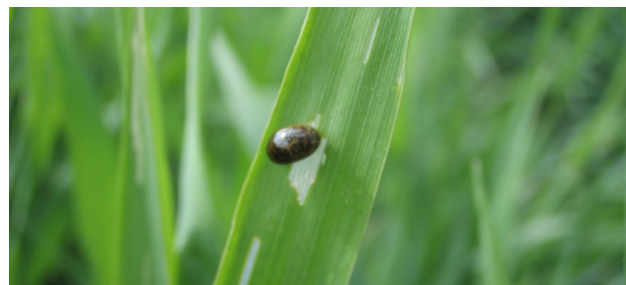


#### Subscribe to the FAS Newsletter!

Subscribe for a selection of advice from the Farm Advisory Service to land in your mailbox each month! Visit [www.fas.scot/newsletters/](http://www.fas.scot/newsletters/) for more info

### Getting started with Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM plans look at the farming practices which are currently being used and new practices which could be integrated into the system to help reduce the pressure of pests in an economical way. These changes could result in a reduction in Plant Protection Products (PPPs), but these products still remain a part of the plan.



#### Where to Start

If you are looking to start an IPM plan, the Plant Health Centre has a Scottish IPM Plan Assessment.

If you have already been carrying out IPM plans for a few years and would like to develop it further, the IPM Planning Tool offers the next stage.

#### Things to Consider

Every farm has different challenges when thinking about IPM so a range of practices need to be considered to allow identification of improvements which can easily be made. Some are free to do like winter stubble, whilst green manures or cover crops can have a cost but have an impact on pests and increase soil fertility.

- Hygiene is an important part of IPM and many farmers are already thoroughly cleaning machinery between fields and jobs. Ensuring contaminants are not carried across the farm on machinery is part of an IPM plan and is good practice.
- Consider your crop rotation - think about the length of the rotation, break crops and the green bridge.
- Consider sowing dates, an early or a delayed sowing date could be considered. Early sowing can result in increased pest tolerance, whilst delayed sowing may result in emergence after aphids have migrated.
- Cultivations methods have an impact. Mechanical cultivations can reduce soils pests like slugs and leatherjackets but will have an impact on carbon footprint and soil health. Depending on the types of weeds on the farm, mechanical cultivations will have an impact on their prevalence.

#### Remaining Adaptable

There is clearly no one size fits all answer to IPM. The decision is on what is best for the farm, landscape, challenges, practices and being adaptable to what is happening.

We have come through a wet winter where some winter crops may not have gone in (some were pulled out) and there was a delay in sowing of spring crops. Having an IPM plan can help your strategy on farm, but it does need to remain adaptable as each year brings different conditions and challenges.

If you would like to find out more, listen to the May Cropcast Episode, 'Time to talk about IPM' where Amy Geddes and Phil Jarvis, both are part of the Voluntary Initiative, and talk about IPM.

*Tiffany Stephenson, SAC Consulting*

This article is part of May's Crops & Soils bulletin. To find this article and more, please visit: [www.fas.scot/crops-soils/crops-and-soils-bulletin/](http://www.fas.scot/crops-soils/crops-and-soils-bulletin/)

### Free Events

At the Farm Advisory Service we run a range of events both online and in-person.

Visit [www.fas.scot/events](http://www.fas.scot/events) to sign up or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

**Organics in Scotland - Grazing and Forage Management**

Kinellar, 5th June, 10:30am - 1:30pm

**Simplyfying Systems - North**

Inverness, 7th June, 10:30am - 2:30pm

**Common Grazings Lochcarron - Finance & Procedures Part 2**

Lochcarron, 11th June, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

**Caithness Women in Agriculture - Are You Ready for Change? 2025 and Beyond**

Wick, 12th June, 11:00am - 2:00pm

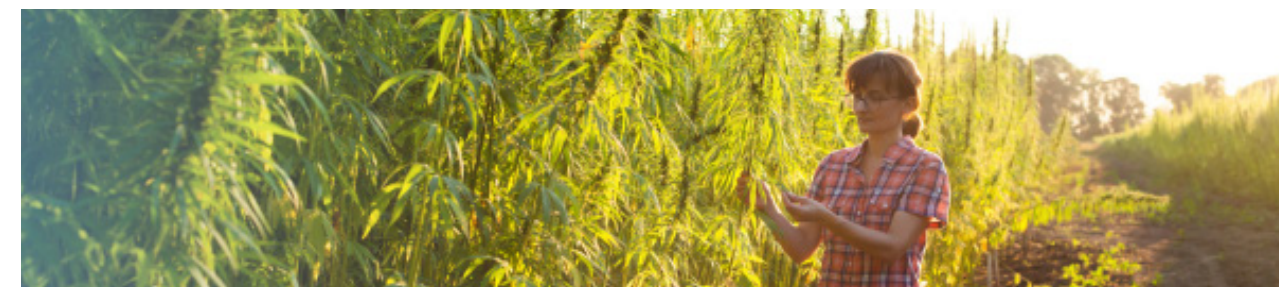
**Wigtownshire Women in Agriculture - Benefits of Biodiversity, Grasslands & Soil**

Kirkcowan, 13th June, 10:00am - 2:30pm

**Simplyfying Systems - South**

Kilmarnock, 13th June, 10:30am - 3:00pm

### Advancing a sustainable Scottish supply chain for hemp fibre



**Multiple SMEs are interested in developing a domestic supply chain for hemp and hemp derived products to increase resilience, sustainability credentials and local community impacts, yet no single SME has the resources to determine the agronomics/techno-nomics underpinning a newly created domestic Scottish supply chain. Farmers who, as an integral part of the supply chain, are interested in the opportunities that growing hemp fibre could potentially bring. If the economics were to stack up, the addition of a new break crop to current rotations could be favourable.**

Despite these benefits the supply chain is still exposed to many threats limiting its development, including the limited routes to market, unproven profitability, lack of technical support, weather limitations, lack of financial assistance and unhelpful licencing protocols. It is fair to say that currently there is a market failure in the supply chain; markets for hemp fibre are growing rapidly and manufacturers are already operating in this sphere, but production and hemp processing have yet to evolve at scale in Scotland.

Aware of this current market failure, SAC Consulting reached out to Scottish Enterprise (SE) in the latter part of 2023 for funding to support a supply chain study. The request was timely, aligning with the demand for a scalable sustainable biobased feedstock becoming more critical as the Scottish and UK government set their net zero mandates for 2050. Supported by the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBiolC), funding has been awarded and the study will run through 2024 involving variety trials, an assessment of the technical and economic aspects of crop production, crop processing requirements and market analysis. The findings will be presented in a free and publicly available 'sector' report published by SE on Evaluations Online, early in 2025.

*Mark Bowsher-Gibbs, SAC Consulting*

This article is part of May's Agribusiness News. To read the full article and more, please visit: [www.fas.scot/article/agribusiness-news-may-2024-sector-focus-scottish-hemp-fibre/](http://www.fas.scot/article/agribusiness-news-may-2024-sector-focus-scottish-hemp-fibre/)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is funded by the Scottish Government. It is delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, and Ricardo Energy and Environment.



#### National Advice Hub

T: 0300 323 0161

E: [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot)

W: [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

If you need more advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

#### Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on **0300 323 0161** or email [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot). The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

#### Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £1,200.

The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

#### Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)