

BASiS



BASIS Information Booklet / 2017

BASIS Training and Certification has been an industry standard for almost 40 years. In that time the BASIS certificate became a statutory requirement for sellers, suppliers and advisers and has been retained in the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

More recently we have added a number of courses and training programmes which allow practising agronomists to build their knowledge and skills whilst working towards a recognised (level 6) qualification

BASIS courses are accredited through Harper Adams University and build towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy and ultimately the Harper Adams Diploma with Environmental Management at Honours degree level. This is quite an achievement for many agronomists and represents a lifetime academic achievement.

Successful candidates can graduate at a Harper Adams University Graduation Ceremony. Currently over 200 agronomists have achieved the BASIS Diploma and are eligible to go on to gain the Harper Adams University Diploma if they take a further Advanced Module/Certificate.

New courses are being developed in line with industry innovation, to enable a wider range of skills and agronomy expertise to be recognised and contribute towards this higher level qualification.

Good luck to all those embarking on new course(s) of study.



Stephen Jacob
Chief Executive Officer

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Start your career in Agronomy

The role of the agronomist is growing and changing as agriculture faces the challenges of the 21st century. The industry is actively seeking people to join the profession, making it an exciting career choice with huge opportunities.

The agronomist

An agronomist advises farmers on crop production requiring a pragmatic approach with a combination of practical and academic knowledge. Traditionally, this has involved advice on crop protection, varieties, rotations and soil management. But in recent years agronomy has evolved into a much more scientific process and increasingly agronomists are assisting with issues such as agri-environment schemes, nutrient management plans, precision farming techniques and cross compliance. Every farm business is different and this involves working closely with farmers and tailoring plans to their individual requirements and monitoring the financial impact of the changes that they propose. Agronomists can work as individuals, for independent companies or for manufacturing or distributor companies linked to agro-chemicals, seeds or fertiliser. There are also opportunities to specialise in areas other than cereals, such as vegetables, soft fruit or the amenity sector.

How can I become an agronomist?

There are no specific entry requirements into the sector although an A Level in biology and/or a strong interest in science is advantageous. An agricultural degree is preferred by some employers and some universities offer agronomy / crop management at degree level. General agricultural knowledge and work experience within the industry is considered most important and a number of companies offer training schemes and bursaries.

BASIS and FACTS qualifications are essential, but are usually taken as part of 'on the job' training.

New entrants to the industry can study the BASIS Foundation Award in Agronomy. The foundation level courses are a sound introduction to agronomy, integrated crop protection and crop nutrition.

For some people at the start of their career with limited crop experience and knowledge, it serves as a preliminary course for the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture or Vegetables).

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection is a legal requirement for anyone advising on or selling pesticides in the UK. The FACTS certificate looks at crop nutrition and teaches candidates to write recommendations for fertiliser use, which are both economically and environmentally sound. Many agronomists continue to improve their knowledge studying advanced courses and go on to achieve the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

Personal skills

Excellent inter-personal and communication skills are important, as is enthusiasm, self-motivation and computer literacy. The job can entail long hours, in all weathers, but there can also be quiet periods. It does, however, offer a varied working environment, mainly in the open air.

BASIS Foundation Awards in Agronomy

The courses are a sound introduction to agronomy, integrated crop protection and crop nutrition. For some delegates with limited crop experience and knowledge it serves as a preliminary course for the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection. For others such as farm staff, who have a role which will not involve giving agronomy and crop protection advice, it is a standalone course providing them with a level of understanding and knowledge appropriate for their work. This is a diverse group including some farm staff, quality assurance officers, machinery manufacturer personnel and others. The qualification, awarded to those successful in the examination, would be of particular value to those for whom this may be an end point in agronomy training. It would also serve to encourage those considering progression to other courses such as the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection and FACTS.

Certificates available:

- Agriculture
- Grassland and Forage Crops
- Vegetables

Who is this course for

This course is for new entrants to the plant protection industry whose job requires an understanding of professional pesticides. It is also suitable for candidates who wish to attain full FSTS qualification and need this course as a “stepping stone” towards it, or those who work in agriculture with a job content requiring knowledge of professional pesticides, but who do not themselves sell, advise, supply or store them.

BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection

This course is designed for field, sales and technical staff, professional consultants, advisers and representatives working in the crop protection industry. It will also be of value to managers of crop protection products and farmers of a large arable acreage. This Certificate of Competence is recognised in current regulations and is, therefore effectively a 'licence to operate'.

Certificates available:

Agriculture

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection – Agriculture includes cereals, oilseeds, legumes (peas and beans) potatoes, sugar beet, maize, grassland and is intended to cover (in principle) all other arable and non-arable situations.

Particular emphasis should be placed on crops which are locally grown but candidates may be examined on all other arable crops. The crops will be used as a vehicle on which to put across the basic principles of crop protection. Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

Commercial Horticulture

The commercial horticulture industry is seen as including glasshouse edible crops, flowers and bedding plants, fruit crops, vegetable crops and nursery stock. The above crops will be used as a vehicle on which to put across the basic principles of crop protection.

Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates. Courses are run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

Field Vegetables

The field vegetable industry is seen as including carrots and parsnips, brassicas, onions, legumes, potatoes and other similar crops. Course duration is up to 35 days but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates. Courses are again run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details.

These three courses are considered to be 'Full' Certificates in Crop Protection and holders of these certificates do not require further certification to cover activities in other crops.

Grassland & Forage Crops

Grassland and Forage includes short, medium and long term leys, permanent pasture and various crops grown for forage, including maize, peas, vetches, forage brassicas and cereals grown for silage. The above crops will be used as examples with which to put across the basic principles of crop protection. Course duration is up to 15 days and may be run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details. Vertebrate pest control is covered in the Grassland & Forage Crops Syllabus and therefore anyone holding the FSTS Grassland & Forage Crops Certificate does not require further certification in Aluminium Phosphide.

Floriculture

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection – Floriculture is seen as including cut flowers, flowering pot plants and bedding plants. Growing situations include under glass, under plastic, other forms of protected cropping, as well as outdoor flower production. The following crops will be used to illustrate the basic principles of crop protection in flower production: roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, lilies, alstroemeria, flowering pot plants (poinsettia, chrysanthemum) narcissus (including bulbs) and tulip. There are a number of other flower types which may be grown and the syllabus does not exclude any which are not specifically listed. Courses may be run as either day release or in blocks of a week at a time; you will need to contact the trainer of your choice for details. Course duration is up to 15 days, but will depend on the knowledge and experience of the candidates.

Seed Sellers

The BASIS Seed Sellers Certificate is designed for those who sell treated seed. The course covers the knowledge required for those who interface with farmers and / or seed buying contracts, to be competent and confident in advising seed treatments for different crops and seed varieties.

The course will suit those already selling seed and those who intend to sell seed providing they have prior knowledge of farming practices. The course, and the ensuing certificate, do not qualify the candidate to give the full in-field crop protection advice needed once treated seed is sown. The syllabus does however cover knowledge of the principles of other parts of a full crop protection programme. Course duration is 3 days including the examination. The seed sellers certification also covers sellers of treated seed.

Aluminium Phosphide

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate control) is intended for those who will only sell, and/or give advice, on the use of Aluminium Phosphide (for the control of vertebrate pests).

It does not cover sales of, or advice regarding, pesticides used in growing crops. Anyone who will sell or advise on pesticides used on growing crops must obtain the broader BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture or Vegetables). Vertebrate pest control is covered in the Grassland & Forage Crops Syllabus and therefore anyone holding the FSTS Grassland & Forage Crops Certificate does not require further certification in Aluminium Phosphide.

Stored Combinable Crops

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Stored Combinable Crops) is intended for those who will only sell, and/or give advice, on the use of pesticides that are used in stored combinable crops, or used for the treatment of the fabric of combinable crops storage buildings. It does not cover sales of, or advice regarding, pesticides used in growing crops. Anyone who will sell or advise on pesticides used in the field must obtain the broader BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture or Vegetables).

Mushrooms

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Mushrooms) is intended for those who will only sell, and / or give advice, on the use of pesticides that are used in the production of Mushroom crops. It does not cover sales of, or advice regarding, pesticides used in other crops. Anyone who will sell or advise on pesticides used in other crops must obtain the broader BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture or Vegetables).

Stored Potatoes

A similar course to that for Stored Combinable Crops is available for those involved with stored potatoes. This will cover all aspects of potato storage including climate control, fogging and storage diseases.

Who are these courses for?

Individuals who are involved in the sale, supply and provision of advice on plant protection products (pesticides). This is a requirement of the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

People holding the full Certificate in Crop Protection in either agriculture, commercial horticulture or field vegetables do not require further certification to cover activities in **Grassland & Forage Crops, Potatoes, Seed sellers, Aluminium Phosphide or Floriculture**. However, those who hold certificates relating to these activities are qualified only in that specific area and not in general agriculture or commercial horticulture.

Barrie Orme Shield

Following the retirement of our founding Chief Executive, Barrie Orme, an award was inaugurated for outstanding candidates in examinations for the BASIS Certificates in Crop Protection. Examiners are asked to choose one candidate from each examination to be entered into a final selection process for the Barrie Orme Shield each year.

The awards take place following the BASIS Board Meeting at the Farmers Club in London every year.



Paul Singleton Award

The Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award was introduced in 2015 to recognise the outstanding input that many candidates apply to their project, which is a fundamental element of the Certificate in Crop Protection. The project requires significant crop protection content, personal practical involvement and original **research**.

The top 10 highest scoring projects are chosen to be entered into a final selection process for the Paul Singleton project award each year.

Advanced Crop Modules

The Advanced Crop Modules are awarded after the successful completion of an examination, following a short training programme, to holders of the BASIS Crop Protection Certificate. All candidates can either use these modules for updating or as part of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. Individual modules attract 30 CPD points for the training content, for members of the BASIS Professional Register. This course aims to identify candidates who have sound practical experience in crop protection, who are sufficiently skilled and have a desire to progress within the industry. The individual modules may be used for updating purposes or for staff moving into a new area who are faced with crops not previously experienced.

BASIS offers advanced training in the following disciplines:

Cereals

Optimising cereal yields and achieving market requirements for grain quality increasingly demands close attention to the detail of crop management.

The Cereals module will develop a detailed understanding of the requirements for improving crop management and profitable grain production. Decision-making will be stressed in the participative training for improving, in particular, cereal crop protection. To allow crop study at different times during the growing season, the module will be split into three 2-day sessions taking place in autumn, spring and summer.

Field Vegetable Crops

This module deals with the production of what are potentially high output crops, grown in rotation with the more widespread arable crops of Britain. Demand for the produce is volatile and the quality standards imposed by the market, and by statutory bodies, are very stringent.

Crop protection of vegetable crops is beset by many problems. Complicated cropping patterns require close integration of crop protection measures with all other agronomic production techniques. The total area of each crop is small, relative to other arable crops, so that there are comparatively few agrochemicals registered solely for each one. Residue levels have to conform to very tight limits and the need to store a high proportion of output adds another dimension to producers' problems.

The module deals with the problems and possibilities of growing a range of vegetable crops and integrating into a mixed crop rotation. It will give participants a good grounding in the growing, harvesting and storage programmes involved in this complicated, continually changing business.

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Advanced Crop Courses

Nursery Stock

Quality plant material is the hallmark of a successful nursery stock industry. The recognition of factors affecting quality in both containerised and field grown nursery stock is essential in this rapidly expanding industry. Knowledge of production cycles, domestic and European trends in the industry and marketing strategies are key areas of knowledge needed by advisers to be effective in this specialised crop production system. Comprehensive, up-to-date information on all aspects of nursery stock production will ensure the industry continues to develop, expand and compete successfully with our European competitors.

Potatoes

This module is aimed to give a detailed insight into the husbandry and marketing of potato crops grown in the UK. The potato crop market will be discussed in the context of seed, ware, earlies and processing, within a UK, EU and world context. The growth, crop protection, fertiliser requirements, selection of seed, establishment, harvest and storage methods will be discussed and reviewed in detail. The module will be of particular benefit to those advisers and representatives who wish to improve their in-depth knowledge of the potato crop.

Protected Crops

Participants will be updated in modern Protected Crop production techniques, with particular emphasis on crop nutrition, environmental control and integrated pest management.

Through individual project work, specifically selected visits and varied teaching techniques, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures for protected crop problems.

Sugar Beet

Over the past few years there have been major advances in sugar beet production and yields continue to increase. Not only do we see changes in the armoury of chemicals available to assist in crop protection but we also see new techniques develop for growing the crop. This module aims not only to offer a chemical update for those giving advice and making recommendations for sugar beet growers but it also aims to give a clear picture of the techniques involved in the production of a modern sugar beet crop. As a result of studying this module it is intended that the participant will have developed a detailed understanding of all aspects of the sugar beet crop including financial details and marketing.

Advanced Crop Modules

Soft Fruit

Participants will be updated in modern production techniques for soft fruit with particular emphasis on soft fruit culture, effects of the environment on growth and development, the causal agents of crop damage and crop protection. Through specifically selected visits and varied teaching techniques, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures in soft fruit.

Top Fruit & Hops

Participants will be updated in modern production techniques for top fruit and hops, with particular emphasis on tree culture, effects of the environment on growth and development and the control of weeds, pests and diseases, including IPM techniques.

Through individual project work, specifically selected visits and varied teaching methods, the successful participants will be better equipped to effectively advise growers on appropriate and cost effective control measures for problems in top fruit and hops.

Who is this course for

These modules are aimed at those candidates who have several years of practical experience and who are motivated to progress within the industry, or who are moving into a new area and facing crops not previously experienced.

Entry Requirements

- Min. two years of experience in on-farm practical agronomy is required
- The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection

Plant Protection Award

This course is an Advanced Training Module covering Pesticide Technology. In 1997 the BAA Certificate in Crop Protection (for crop protection product manufacturer field staff) was merged with the Pesticide Technology Module of the Advanced BASIS Certificate to create the Plant Protection Award.

Who is this course for?

The PPA is the qualification required by CPA of its members' staff who regularly give advice; it is also the next step for any agronomist who wishes to demonstrate an advanced level of Pesticide knowledge. The Plant Protection Award covers the Technology of Crop Protection at a more advanced level than the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection which itself is a pre-requisite for candidates wishing to achieve the Plant Protection Award (PPA).



Today, farmers and their advisers must combine the best possible economic performance with care for the wider environment. The requirements of, and opportunities presented by, changing legislation and regulations must be identified and acted upon. FACTS certification plays a leading role in ensuring best management of crop nutrients. The FACTS Certificate is suitable for crop advisers, representatives, farmers and farm managers involved in arable crop production and management.

FACTS is an independent non-statutory Certification Scheme for advisers and sellers within the fertiliser industry. It was established in 1993 following discussions with the trade associations connected with the industry and BASIS® (Registration) Ltd. At the present time there is no legal requirement for advisers and sellers to be certificated; however it was considered that setting up such a scheme was the responsible action to take in light of the environmental pressures on the industry and increasing technical requirements. The Scheme and initiative are fully supported by Defra, the EA and other agencies. FACTS Qualified Advisers (FQAs) are officially recognised in literature such as the Fertiliser Handbook (RB209) and in crop assurance protocols.

FACTS Agriculture

Advisers and those selling fertilisers and other plant nutrients to farmers and growers for use on the main (Broad Acre) crops in the UK. This will include Cereals, Potatoes, Sugar Beet, Pulses, Oilseed Rape and Managed Grassland for Conservation and Grazing.

FACTS Horticulture

Advisers and those selling fertiliser into the Commercial Horticulture industry may be more concerned with hydroponics and supply of nutrients to protected crops than solid fertiliser on a field scale but nevertheless the basic principles of nutrient management are key requirements for on farm advisers.

FACTS Vegetables

Advisers and those selling fertiliser to vegetable growers either on a field scale or under protection are also subject to similar considerations.

This course uses specific vegetable crop examples to illustrate the basic principles of nutrient management.

FACTS Golf and Sports Turf

Advisers and those giving fertiliser and plant nutritional advice to people managing turfgrass, having due regard for the protection of the environment, including what the law requires of them in these matters.

FACTS Grassland & Forage Crops

Advisers and those giving fertiliser and plant nutrient advice to farmers and growers in mainly livestock areas, growing grass for silage, hay and for grazing. The course will include crops grown for forage such as stubble turnips, fodder beet, forage rape and whole crop cereals.

Course contents to include:

- The soil in relation to plant nutrition
- Organic nutrient sources
- The nature and properties of fertilisers
- Crop nutrients in plants and the factors influencing nutrient management planning
- Use of fertilisers on the main crop groups in the UK
- The transport, storage and handling of fertilisers
- Application of fertilisers
- Code of Good Agricultural Practice and legal and other requirements to protect the environment

Nutrient Management Planning

This nutrient management planning course, comprising six modules is designed to offer FQAs a training programme which will enable them to have the right type of competency in nutrient management planning and associated practices.

All FACTS Advisers who have qualified since 2014 will have 2 years from the date of the exam to complete their NMP training modules and online assessment. FQAs who have qualified between 2012 –2014 will have until December 2016 to complete the NMP training modules and online assessment.

Waste to Land

The BASIS Certificate in Plant Nutrition - Waste to Land, is aimed at advisers who are involved in recycling of organic materials to agricultural land (e.g. producers of compost and anaerobic digestate).

Food wastes, effluent treatment sludge and other liquids are recycled to agricultural land which provides agricultural benefit through the addition of treatments. This module will examine the different types of non-livestock organic manures and wastes, their nutrient value and their practical application to land. As with all materials applied in an agricultural or horticultural setting, candidates will be expected to have an awareness of environmental issues and quality standards and protocols.

Who are these courses for?

This course is designed to prepare FACTS Qualified Advisers (FQAs) to manage the challenges of the Water Framework Directive (its associated initiatives and regulations), greenhouse gas mitigation strategies and soil protection, while also improving farm profitability. Industry leaders have urged the FACTS Management Committee to introduce this topic of training in Nutrient Management Planning as core CPD training. NMP Training is compulsory for all current FACTS Qualified Advisers and those who gained the qualification prior to 31st December 2009. Only those who have attended the Train the Trainer Events and taken the NMP Exam are able to offer the training. The modules and CPD points will NOT be awarded to anyone who undertakes training with a trainer who has not gained the NMP Qualification.

Entry Requirements

- Candidates must be FACTS qualified

BASIS Professional Register & FACTS Subscriber

BASIS Professional Register



Entry Qualifications

The Register is open to all qualified individuals who either provide advice on pesticide and fertiliser use or provide a support service to such use. Those providing advice to end users (practitioners) are entitled to be full members of the BASIS Professional Register. Those providing support services will normally be entitled to become Associate Members.

Individuals will be accepted for membership of the Register subject to complying with the following conditions:

All potential members will be required to complete an application for membership indicating their qualification, category and details of involvement within the industry, within 3 years of obtaining the relevant qualification. Potential members wishing to rejoin the Professional Register within 3 years following qualification or after less than 3 years absence will be admitted to the BASIS Professional Register only with the approval of the BASIS Professional Matters Committee.

All BASIS and FACTS certificates of competence and Validated Certificates relating to sales and advice are recognised for entry to the BASIS Professional Register as a full member.

The categories of entry relevant to the BASIS Professional Register are as follows. These will be indicated in brackets after the designatory letters MBPR (see point 6 overleaf).

Agriculture	(Agric.)
Commercial Horticulture	(Hort.)
Field Vegetables	(Veg.)
Grassland & Forage Crops	(GFC)
Potatoes	(Potatoes)
Amenity Horticulture	(Amenity)
Forestry	(Forestry)
Aquatic	(Aquatic)
Seed Treatment	(Seed)
Seed Sellers	(Seed)
Fertiliser	(Fert.)
Indoor Landscaping	(Ind.Land.)
Mushrooms	(Mush.)
Floriculture	(Flor.)
Farmer	(Fmr.)
Associate	(Assoc.)
Grower	(Grw.)

Those with Stored Potato Crops, Stored Combinable Crops or the BASIS Foundation Awards will be added to the BASIS Professional Register as an Associate Member, along with Farmers and Growers.

FACTS Subscriber

The FACTS Subscriber Scheme is a technical update service for anyone who holds a FACTS qualification. The Scheme is independent and non-statutory. It is recognised by the Fertiliser Industry, Defra and the Environment Agency as a successful means of setting standards, training and accrediting the continuing professional development (CPD) of those providing nutrient management advice.

FACTS Qualified Adviser (FQA) status is only given to FACTS qualifiers who are up to date members of the Professional Register and have completed, or are within the deadline to complete, the Nutrient Management Planning training course and Online Assessment. All FQAs will have a Certificate clearly displaying this status. FQAs receive the technical updates also available to FACTS Subscribers.

Environmental Courses - BETA & Conservation Management

BETA

The BETA (Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers) training syllabus aims to progress the knowledge and skills of on-farm advisers in important aspects of the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity related to Crop Protection use. The syllabus is a result of co-operation amongst a number of organisations as it has developed, with involvement from FWAG, HAU, AIC, The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and others. The BETA qualification was part of the Voluntary Initiative (VI) package of measures which were presented to, and agreed by, government through a representative group of UK industry bodies, as a practical alternative to the introduction of a pesticide tax.

Who is this course for?

To formally position the wide range of knowledge needed by modern agronomists, BASIS has structured the attainment of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy, with key components already in every-day use. The BETA modular training programme aims to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, in the context of best practice of crop protection use on farm and the sustainability of profitable farming. It combines Crop Protection Management Plans and biodiversity training to produce an Integrated Farm Management learning programme.

Conservation Management

The way that farms are managed and how future plans will improve farm incomes, are vital to the combined benefit of both the British countryside and the farmer. The focus of the Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFPS) is such that if the countryside benefits, then so can the farmer.

This course is aimed at those managing farms or involved in estate management. Modules cover care and attention on-farm to soil, air, water, wildlife and the environment and biodiversity of naturally occurring species.

Who is this course for?

The four modules of this course will increase the knowledge of those attending and contribute to farm improvement. This short duration course is designed for those who have agricultural knowledge but may not be fully familiar with the requirements of the Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFPS), and other Conservation issues. The course is ideally suited to those managing farms, both directly and indirectly as land agents or management consultants. Anyone involved in Estate Management on a broader scale would also benefit from this course.

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Environmental Courses - IFM & Soil and Water

IFM

A new course tailored to the requirements of the new Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 will replace the current ICM training which is currently available as a 'stand alone' course or a part of the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection and BETA. Please see the BASIS website for details.

Soil & Water Management

This course focuses on the management of soil and water, two essential components for farmers and advisers in modern agriculture. The management of these two vital resources is at the centre of farming activity. Both elements are under pressure from modern living and current farming practice.

The development of roads, houses and other buildings has encroached into the countryside putting pressure on water / drainage management to reduce flooding risk. The creation of larger fields over the last 50 years has also changed drainage patterns and in some cases filling in ditches and hedge removal has taken away natural borders to areas previously contoured to minimise erosion or recognise soil profile changes. All these issues make the careful and considered use of the two vital resources of soil and water, a most important element of on-farm agronomy advice. As the agricultural industry moves to a more environmentally conscious approach, the focus of advice is changing and the "food at all costs" type of management will not be the way forward for the future.

Who is this course for?

The Soil and Water Management Certificate is positioned alongside BETA and The Plant Protection Award as part of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. The primary content of the Soil & Water Management Certificate is concentrated on: soil and air protection; cultivation techniques and systems; erosion risks; soil water, drainage and irrigation; plant nutrient and fertiliser planning; the use of bulky organic materials to enhance crop growth and their effects on diffuse pollution.

BASIS Diploma in Agronomy

The BASIS Diploma in Agronomy

In-field advisers who have kept up-to-date with all the aspects of modern farming, need to be recognised as professional practitioners. Many agronomists do not necessarily have a degree or HND qualification but their experience and knowledge acquired through regular “on the job” training has given them an equivalent knowledge base. BASIS has structured the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy to include key components of day to day farm management practice, as qualification modules, leading to the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

The Components

Crop Protection Certificate and FACTS

The BASIS Crop Protection Certificate and BASIS FACTS qualifications are the foundation stones of the Diploma and each must be attained to achieve it.

BETA / Conservation Management

Knowledge of the environment and biodiversity is essential for proper agronomic decisions. The BETA qualification or the Conservation Management certificate are ideally suited to those managing farms, both directly and indirectly as land agents or management consultants. Anyone involved in Estate Management on a broader scale would also benefit from these courses.

Plant Protection Award (PPA)

The safety, application, formulation and effects of pesticides are contained in the Plant Protection Award training. It is the “Pesticide Technology” qualification and looks at the role of pesticides in modern society, as a key component of safe food production.

Soil and Water Management Certificate

Cross Compliance, changes to the agri-environment schemes, Entry and Higher Level Schemes all place high importance on the proper management of Soil & Water. This qualification helps meet the requirements placed on farmers and many believe that water quality will be a key future issue in the agricultural environment debate.

Advanced Module / Advanced Nutrient Management Planning Module / Waste to Land

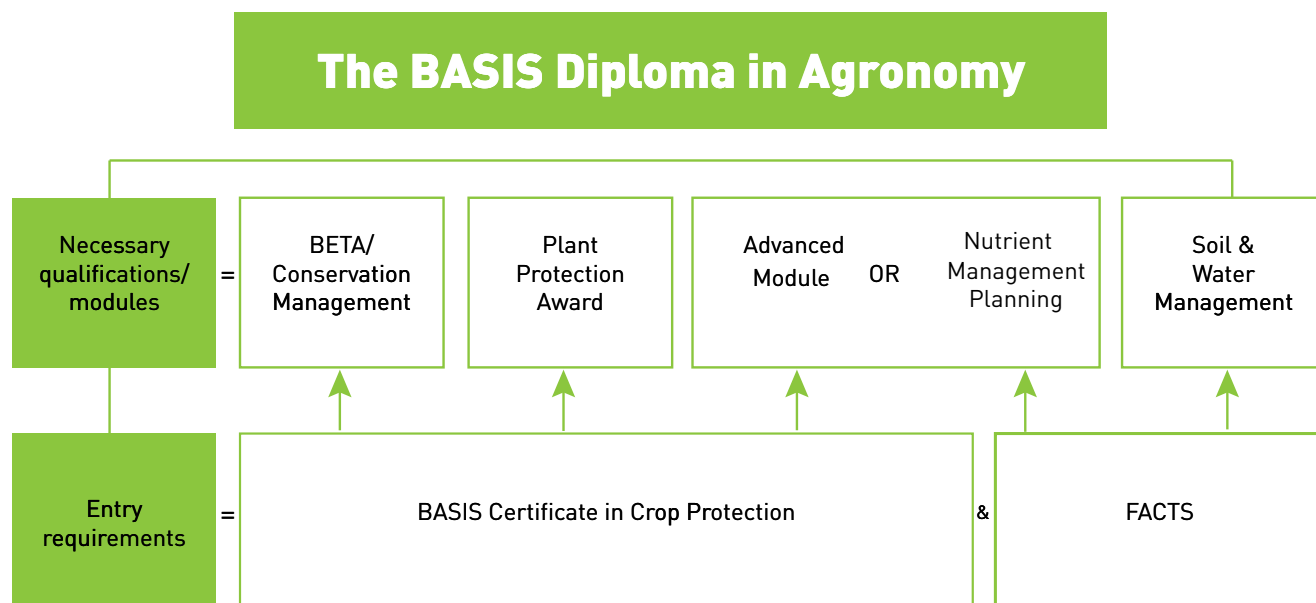
This module is based on a crop, or crops, in which the agronomist has, or develops, specialist knowledge. The weed, pest and disease control options along with marketing, food industry, environmental and crop assurance issues are the essential elements of this training. **For the Advanced Nutrient Management Planning Course and Waste to Land Course the prior achievement of the FACTS qualification is required.**

The Diploma

Once agronomists have attained all the component elements listed above then they qualify for the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy,

The first agronomists to qualify were presented with their certificates in April 2005. Many more agronomists are aiming to achieve the Diploma and are currently undergoing training to qualify in the appropriate modules.

BASIS Diploma in Agronomy



ADVANCED MODULE / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING / WASTE TO LAND

Weed, Pest & Disease Control, Crop Protection Programmes, Marketing, Food Industries, Crop Assurance, Nutrient Management

BETA / CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Environment, Biodiversity, EIS's, CPMP's, ICM, Climate Change

PLANT PROTECTION AWARD (PPA)

Systems & Society, Formulation, Mode of Action, Application, Health & Safety

SOIL & WATER

Cultivation Types and Properties, Cropping Systems, Water Quality, Drainage, Pollution/Waste, Plant Nutrition

It is strongly recommended that candidates should have had at least two years' experience of on-farm practical agronomy before attempting any of the modules which contribute towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy, but in particular before taking the Plant Protection Award.

BASIS CPD points are available for training and certification in all modules of the BASIS Diploma.

The accreditation process for our qualifications has enabled BASIS to demonstrate a high standard of training and certification for our courses. The BASIS Diploma comprises a number of modules and 6 are required to complete the qualification.

A further consequence of accreditation by Harper Adams University and the Higher Education qualifications framework has been the development by Harper Adams University of a Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management.

BASIS Diploma

This is a 120 credit graduate level qualification.

BASIS courses have all been awarded a number of credits based on the time spent on the course (Targeted Learning Hours). This is a recognised formula including face to face tuition time, research, reading and experiential learning. The credits are awarded at a level that reflects the intensity / difficulty of the learning materials, for example 1st, 2nd or final year honours degree etc.

The qualifying BASIS courses with credits and levels awarded are shown below:

FACTS

Credit Value	15
Level	Intermediate

SOIL & WATER

Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BASIS CROP PROTECTION

Credit Value	30
Level	Honours

BASIS PLANT PROTECTION AWARD

Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BASIS ADVANCED MODULES / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Credit Value	15
Level	Honours

BETA / CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Credit Value	15
Level	Intermediate

Intermediate = 2nd or 3rd year of university degree qualification.

Honours level = Final year university degree.

The six modules required for the BASIS Diploma add up to 105 credits. In order to qualify for the Harper Adams University Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management, candidates will need to accumulate 120 credits (ie one extra 15 credit module in addition to the BASIS Diploma). This can be any of the Advanced Crop Modules or the Nutrient Management Planning qualification.

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Wildlife Aware & Pest Control Courses



Wildlife Aware

The Wildlife Aware training course is provided by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) in collaboration with BASIS.

The Wildlife Aware course will explore the conflicting requirements for rodenticides. The course is NOT intended to train candidates on basic rodent control. The course will increase understanding of current levels of wildlife contamination from rodenticides, explain the main primary and secondary routes of exposure of wildlife to rodenticides and alert competent professionals to the techniques that should be adopted to minimise wildlife exposure during rodent pest management in rural settings.

Wildlife Aware Accreditation

This accreditation is designed for professional pest controllers, local authorities, game-rearing enterprises and other businesses offering a commercial service of rodent pest management in the rural sector. This accreditation is intended to signal to prospective customers that those who hold the accreditation will work to the highest standards to achieve effective pest control with minimum adverse effects on wildlife and the wider environment. Accredited technicians will be able to use the licensed Wildlife Aware logo as a visual representation of their skill and increased competence. should be adopted to minimise wildlife exposure during rodent pest management in rural settings. **The Wildlife Aware Accreditation is offered to all those who attend the course and pass the examination.**

Rat Control for Gamekeepers

The training provided by this course gives thorough understanding of rodent pests and their management in the context of gamekeeping operations. As a subsidiary aim, the course also provides training for those who conduct rodent pest management operations in and around farmsteads.

Principles of Rodent Control

The 'Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control' certification is approved certification in line with the requirements of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime. The training provided by this course gives thorough understanding of rodent pests and their management in the context of public health pest control operations.



The successful Principles of Rodent Control candidates get added automatically to the BASIS PROMPT Register.

The BASIS PROMPT Pest Controllers register is an industry initiative which provides independent proof that a pest controller has received proper training and continues to update their expertise.

PROMPT ensures that pest control is carried out responsibly by people who are properly trained and competent.

Agri Awareness for the UAS Industry

This course is an introduction to basic aspects of the agricultural sector and is designed for professional operators of Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones).

The BASIS Agricultural Awareness for the UAS Industry module is a stand-alone course providing candidates with a level of understanding and knowledge appropriate for their work in the agricultural industry.

Who is this course for?

This course can also be completed by professionals who have occupations related to UAS operators (machinery manufacturer personnel; employees of sensors manufacturer and distributors; etc.) This qualification is essential to those who intend to join The BASIS® Professional Register for UAS Operators for the Agricultural Industry.



The BASIS® Professional Register for UAS Operators for agricultural industry is a voluntary register for Unmanned Aircraft Systems operators that work or have the intention to work within the Agricultural Industry.

This initiative will establish, develop and promote a standard of conduct within the members in order to ensure the safety, security and privacy of the operators, customers, bystanders and general public in the agro-environment and to prevent any risks of damaging crops, natural vegetation, fields, animals and structures present on farms and adjacent areas.

Nominated Storekeeper Training

Nominated Storekeeper

This course enables storekeepers to meet the standards of pesticide storage laid down in the 'Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry': a requirement for companies storing professional pesticides. The BASIS Nominated Storekeeper (NSK) Certificate has been recognised by Ministers for many years as meeting the requirements of the regulations and industry best practice.

Who is this course for?

This course is for those Storekeepers who are responsible for stores holding professional pesticides for sale or supply. It was a requirement under the Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986) that pesticide stores involved in sale and supply and holding professional pesticide products must have at least one member of staff with a Certificate of Competence in storage. This is now strongly recommended under the new Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 for all those storing Professional pesticides.

Benefits

This course will equip Storekeepers to meet the standards of pesticide storage laid down in the Defra 'Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry' by identifying:

- The basic principles of good storekeeping
- The accountabilities of Nominated Storekeepers.
- The relevant points of the Sustainable Use Directive and the subsequent Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012
- Their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) with special reference to safe lifting and First Aid

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (2002)
- Responsibilities under the 'Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004'

Entry Requirements

- As with any training situation, the more practical experience you have the better, as it helps you relate to the subject being discussed. It is recommended that you have at least six months experience in a store prior to attending the course
- The course is a valuable refresher for those with greater practical experience



The BASIS® NSK Professional Register is open to all qualified individuals who provide storage for pesticides and fertilisers or provide a support service to such use.

The objective is to provide a means of recognising, through the maintenance of a register, suitably qualified professionals in Storekeeping and related activities recognised by both the Industry and by the general public and government:

- By maintaining competence through suitable refresher training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) ;
- By ensuring professional conduct of members through recognised training and monitoring, including the Code of Ethics and disciplinary systems.

www.basis-reg.com



BASIS Registration Limited

St Monica's House
39 Windmill Lane
ASHBOURNE
Derbyshire DE6 1EY
T: 01335 343945/346138

www.basis-reg.com