



30th Anniversary of BASIS

I don't suppose that many of you will remember that it was a major river pollution incident involving a pesticide store that triggered the Government to introduce self-regulation in the agrochemical industry. Consequently all the major players in the industry got together and BASIS was born on 27th April 1978!

BASIS has come a long way in the last 30 years from solely inspecting distributors' stores to being involved in other areas of the industry. Listed below are some of our achievements / milestones:

- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection - 1981 (Statutory 1986)
- Statutory Certificate of Competence for Storekeepers - 1986
- BASIS Advanced Certificate / Modules

- Professional Register (now over 4,000 members) - 1992
- Involvement with the fertiliser industry - FACTS 1993
- BASIS became a Charity - 1999
- FACTS Annual Scheme - 2000
- PROMPT Register - 2000
- BACCS Scheme - 1999
- Amenity Assured Scheme - 2007

The BASIS (Registration) Board still includes representatives from all the industry sectors plus HSE and PSD and the current Chairman of BASIS is Professor John MacLeod.

Chairman's Report 2007

A copy of the Chairman's report for 2007 can be found at <http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/BASISChairmansReport2007.pdf>

New Look to the BASIS Newsletter!

To mark the 30th anniversary of BASIS, we thought it was about time we made a few changes. Instead of having two publications – 'Focus' for distributors and 'Spotlight' for the BASIS Professional Register and BASIS PROMPT – we have decided to amalgamate them into 'BASIS News'

We are aware that past publications have been rather wordy, so in order to cut down, the bulk of the articles can be found on our website. Please let us know what you think about this new publication or any other ideas for improvement.

Email: jill@basis-reg.co.uk

Training Record Cards On-Line

We have received very positive feedback to our new website – everyone loves the new modern look and, after a few 'teething problems', most people are able to access their training records. Event organisers are also benefiting from a quicker turnaround of CPD points allocation and references for their events if they apply on line.

Common Problems - Members' Training Records

1. When trying to access your Training Records, always enter the qualification no. as shown on your ID card (including R/ /). If you have any problems email: jemma@basis-reg.co.uk
2. Illegible signatures on the Attendance Lists which means that we are unable to enter the event against the correct person. PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!
PLEASE NOTE: There is no need to print off and send your training record cards to us, as we now have this information on our database.

BASIS NI Steering Group Highlights

Health and Safety

CAFRE's Greenmount Campus was the venue earlier this year for a seminar hosted by the BASIS NI Steering Committee on Health and Safety which was attended by members of PPANI (Plant Protection Association of Northern Ireland). The event was organised to provide advice to duty-of-care holders regarding the storage and sale of pesticides.

In his opening comments the Committee's independent chairman Dr Chris Gibson, said that the agro-chemical sector in Northern Ireland had consistently demonstrated the highest standards regarding pesticide storage, transport and the competence of its staff involved in the field of crop protection.

During his presentation to the meeting, the Fire and Rescue Service's Mike Brown stressed the need for all merchants to make their local station aware of the chemicals they have in store. Malcolm Downey, from the Health and Safety Executive (HSENI) told those in attendance that his primary role was to encourage the proper storage and use of agro-chemicals on farms.

John Slane, Deputy Group Chief Environmental Health Officer with the Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee, told the meeting that environmental health departments are part of the services based at local councils. Officers enforce a wide range of legislation relating to food, pollution control, consumer safety, public health issues and health and safety at work.

Event Organisers Applying for Points

PHASING OUT OF TRAINING EVENTS SENT BY EMAIL/POST

- All training providers who enter their events on line have priority over events sent by email or through the post – the process is much faster.
- There are approximately 8,500 training events per year for Michele and Gemma to process and the BASIS Board have advocated that email/paper applications should be phased out this year.

The website now boasts a NOTICEBOARD on which any items of interest will be posted. Please check regularly.

NEW ASSESSORS

Mick Hempstead has recently joined our team of assessors. His area incorporates Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Norfolk and Suffolk. Mick was the Sales Director of CWG between 1996 and 2000 and more recently was the proprietor of a farm shop.

Marc Poingdestre and Sarah le Boutillier have recently taken over from Linda Powell as the BASIS assessors in Jersey and Guernsey.

Pest Controller Fined £1000 for Offences Resulting in the Death of Honey Bees

At Sheffield Magistrates Court on 12th March 2008 Mr John Allison pleaded guilty to four offences of not taking all reasonable precautions in using an insecticide containing bendiocarb. He was fined £200 for each offence and a further £200 towards costs.

The case was investigated under the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) following the discovery of thousands of dead bees by a beekeeper. Analysis of the dead bees showed they had died from exposure to bendiocarb. Mr Allison had used a bendiocarb containing insecticide 'Ficam D' to kill feral bees nesting in a tree.

It is the legal duty of anyone using pesticides in the course of their business to be trained in the safe use, including preventing risks to non-target creatures, and preventing exposure to humans. Training in the use of pest control products can be obtained from [British Pest Control Association](http://www.britishpestcontrol.org) (BPCA) on 01332 294288.

Training in the use of agricultural pesticides is provided by NPTC on 0247 6857300.

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/approvals.asp?id=2399>
Email: information@psd.defra.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 01904 455775

PPA Certificate 100%

A group of Yorkshire Farmers (Malton and District Training Group) recently had a 100% success rate in the BASIS Plant Protection Award (PPA) Certificate. The course was organised by Linda Bower Landbased Training, and delivered by tutor James Christian-Ilett.

The group were pioneers of BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection training for farmers in the mid 1990's, and many of the delegates have enjoyed meeting up again each winter for a new agronomy training challenge. These have included the Fertiliser Advisors Certificate (FACTS), biodiversity training (BETA) and Advanced BASIS Crop Modules (Cereals, Sugar Beet, Potatoes and Pulses & Oilseeds). The completion of the Plant Protection Award has resulted in four of the group receiving the prestigious BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

The Plant Protection Award was established through the merger of the Advanced BASIS Pesticide Technology Module, and a qualification required by the Crop Protection Association (formerly the BAA) for Agrochemical Manufacturer Personnel. It covers a wide range of subjects such as pesticide formulation, modes of action, adjuvants and legislation. There is a strong emphasis on responsible use of plant protection products within an integrated approach.

Plant Protection Award candidates are required to complete a series of exams including a "discourse panel" where they have to talk to examiners on a crop protection or agronomy subject.

John Gatenby was one of those to attain the full BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed the training and had been particularly interested in the pesticide formulation and adjuvant technology aspects of the PPA course.



A photograph of the group is attached. From the left they are Richard Hardy (Diploma), John Gatenby (Diploma), Ralph Nunn (Diploma), Neal Evison, Keith Wells, Michael Taylor and Charles Lamb. Will Terry also attained the PPA and the Diploma but he is not pictured.

Professional Register Membership Fees 2008 – 2009

Annual membership fees for 2008-2009 are as listed below:

Direct Debit & BACS £36.17 + VAT = £42.50
Cheque and Paypal £40.00 + VAT = £47.00
New members
£40 + £15 registration fee + VAT = £64.63

The increase is essentially inflation plus £5.00 per member to contribute towards the increased cost of the computer system which has been developed to enable/facilitate the new on-line CPD system. The on-line training record system will also ensure that individual members are recognised through inclusion on the Combined List sent to all Crop Assurance Schemes annually.

As you know we are a none profit making organisation and all our costs must be covered by fees and charges. As the bulk of the recent IT cost was for modifications for the benefit of Professional Register members it seemed sensible to increase Professional Register fees to pay for it, rather than across the board fee increases in other areas.

Advanced Cereals Module



All candidates passed the Advanced Cereals Module which took place at Bardwell Village Hall on 29th February 2008.

The candidates: Roger Bell, Andrew Cook, David Hopkinson, Stewart March, Joseph Martin, Christopher Papworth, Allen Ringer, Ian Robertson and Andrew Watling are pictured with Jane Parsey. Jane Parsey was the training organiser with DJL Agronomics tutoring the course.

Good Progress with Amenity Assured

Leading amenity contractors can see the way that the wind of change is blowing and have acted with BASIS, the NAAC (National Association of Agricultural Amenity Contractors) and NPTC to demonstrate Best Practice Standards in amenity contracting operations.

Through the BACCS Scheme (BASIS Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme) operated by BASIS, three independent, unannounced audits are conducted each year to assess on-site, records and storage and client performance for each contractor. More than 100 local authorities and some very significant national companies are – right now – using Amenity Assured contractors for their weed control work this year. This is a major achievement in the first few months of the scheme's operation. The success had come from hard work and extensive planning and preparation in 2007, prior to the formal launch.

The Amenity Assured Scheme is recognised and endorsed by the Amenity Forum, the Crop Protection Association, the Environment Agency and the Pesticide Safety Directorate.

For more information please contact: lindsay@basis-reg.co.uk

THE CONSERVATION OF RARE ARABLE PLANTS – *Kate Still*

The development of arable farming over the last 50 years has resulted in great changes to the flora of arable farmland with many species unable to adapt or survive the evolution in farming methods. Improved seed cleaning, increased use of fertiliser inputs, new high yielding crop varieties and introduction of herbicides, have all resulted in a more efficient control of arable 'weeds'.

A copy of this article can be found here:
<http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/KateStillArticle.pdf>

GET RECOGNISED AS A 'CHARTERED BIOLOGIST'

The Institute of Biology is offering BASIS members the chance to join their membership scheme at a special rate. If you join before the end of July you will get two years' membership for the price of one!

Joining IoB is the only way that you can apply for 'Chartered Biologist' status (having 'CBiol' after your name), which is becoming increasingly recognised and highly valued within the industry. If you are already gaining CPD points, you will be able to use these to earn this status.

To take advantage of this special offer, call the IoB's membership team on 020 7936 5942 or email membership@iob.org

DISTRIBUTORS BEWARE!

Crop Assurance organisations are now using individuals' membership numbers from the BASIS Professional Register as their verification for sound crop protection advice when conducting audits on –farm. They are NOT simply using the BASIS Crop Protection Certificate number as before, because this may not indicate that the agronomist/adviser is up-to-date.

We are aware that some distributors do not include part-timers or agents on their Professional Register list of staff to us. Consequently, it is likely that farmers using the services of part-timers or agents may find themselves non-compliant with their assurance audit and so unable to sell their crops. We are concerned that this could reflect on companies and/or members of staff in a detrimental way. If any distributors have field staff NOT on the BASIS Professional Register, then we advise that you enrol them as soon as possible.

For more information please contact: jemma@basis-reg.co.uk

AMENITY HORTICULTURE A MODULAR APPROACH

We mentioned in Focus a while ago that we have plans to revise the Field Sales and Technical Staff (FSTS) exam for this important qualification. Accordingly we have been amending and consulting with industry experts and we now have an industry-focused syllabus and exam.

The principal changes to the syllabus have centred on the recognition of the specialisation that is part of everyday working life for many people in amenity horticulture. Previously the syllabus covered all pesticide sales and advice in the sector.

The syllabus now has 7 core modules which all candidates study. These cover product registration, weeds, pests and diseases, safety etc. There is then a trio of skill area modules of which candidates select one of their choosing to study in the tuition for the course and for which questions relate in the ensuing examination.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/AmenityHorticulture-aModularApproach.pdf>

DANGEROUS GOODS (PESTICIDES) ARE YOU TRAINED?

As a result of the harmonisation of dangerous goods regulations throughout the EU and the introduction in 2004 of the 'Carriage of Dangerous Goods and use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations' (CDGTPE) everyone involved in dangerous goods handling and transport must be trained.

On 1st January 2007 the derogation for drivers of vehicles under 3.5T GVW was removed; now all drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods loads must have received adequate training and instruction.

Those transporting 'in scope' loads must carry their own individual ADR certificate. Those who transport only loads which are not in scope must have undergone training in dangerous goods awareness.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/DangerousGoodsAwareness.pdf>

AIC REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TRIFLURALIN DATES SUCCEEDS

To ensure an orderly end to the supply of trifluralin to UK farmers, AIC has gained an additional six months for distributors to supply their farmer customers.

As a result, while approval holders must end advertisement, sale and supply of trifluralin products by 20 March 2008; those other than approval holders – i.e. distributors – can sell and supply until 20 September 2008; while farmers have until 20 March

2009 – at which point approval for storage and use ends. "The extra six months for distributors will allow a more orderly process and avoid the need for costly disposal of unsold stocks.", said Hazel Doonan, AIC's Head of Crop Protection.

For further information:

hazel.doonan@agindustries.org.uk

EXAMS & TRAINING

For all the latest exams and training could you please click onto....

<http://www.basis-reg.com/agriculture/basistraining.aspx>

<http://www.basis-reg.com/agriculture/factstraining.aspx>

POWER (Protection Of Water, Environment and Recommendations)

Do you manage or supervise amenity or farm situations where pesticides are used?

If so, click onto the BASIS website for further information:

<http://www.basis-reg.co.uk/media/documents/POWER%20SYLLABUS.pdf>

Changing Fire Extinguisher Requirements on Vehicles

On the 1st January 2008 the final transition measure of The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (CDGTPE) Regulations 2004, came into force. This final requirement concerns fire extinguisher capacity carried on vehicles of 7.5 tonnes and over.

The requirements for each group of vehicles are as follows:

Up to 3.5 tonnes – One or more dry powder extinguisher with a minimum total capacity of 4 kgs.

3.5 t – 7.5 t – One or more portable extinguishers with a minimum total capacity of 8 kg dry powder where at least one has a capacity of 6 kg

Over 7.5 t – Minimum total capacity of 12 kg dry powder of which one extinguisher must have minimum capacity of 6 kg.

The smallest size extinguisher must be a least 2 kgs in each of the above situations.

CROP YIELDS THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION COULD BE PUT AT SERIOUS RISK

If the EU has its way, most of our food in the future – what little there is left – will end up being 'organic' by default, as the progressive ban on agro-chemicals ensures that there are precious few products which farmers can use. Further information can be found on the following weblinks:

EU pesticide proposals threaten food production
<http://www.farmersguardian.com/story.asp?sectioncode=19&storycode=18488>

Pesticide restriction threatens UK arable farming
<http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/2008/05/15/110485/pesticide-restriction-threatens-uk-arable-farming.html> (requires POC registration for access to 'free' news)

Effective chemicals may be lost
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7405606>

Jane Smith

Jane Smith left BASIS at the end of January after 8 years. She was involved with the BASIS PROMPT[®] Register since its inception in 2000, produced the BASIS Newsletter and became our 'IT' expert. We wish Jane all the best in her new job.

Illegal Counterfeit Emerald Wotsit (MAPP No 12060)

In January this year PSD identified some 2880 litres of an isoproturon containing herbicide product labelled as "Emerald Wotsit". This product has been manufactured to a different formulation from the approved formulation and is materially different from it. Anyone selling, supplying or using this counterfeit product may be committing an offence.

PSD has taken steps to ensure that the 2880 litres of product already identified will not reach the UK marketplace and have alerted other relevant EU regulatory authorities to the fact. PSD believe the product to be a part of a larger batch of 600,000 litres, an unknown amount of which may have been placed on the UK market.

In the first instance PSD would strongly urge farmers or distributors in possession of any product labelled as "Emerald Wotsit" to contact PSD. They will be able to advise on the authenticity of the product and what steps farmers should take.

thinksoils – soil assessment to avoid erosion and runoff

The Environment Agency's new think**soils** manual is designed to help farmers, land managers and farm advisers to recognise problems with erosion and runoff from agricultural land.

The manual, which has been successfully piloted with farmers and advisers since 2006, looks at four factors which can act together to create erosion and runoff events in a field:

- Soil - such as texture and structure;
- Landscape - including slopes and connectivity to water courses;
- Weather - for example rainfall and wind; and
- Land use - including cropping and livestock management.

Accompanying the think**soils** manual is a pocket-sized, waterproof 'quick guide' to soil assessment, summarising key points from the manual. This also includes a useful guide to identifying soil texture.

Feedback from farmers and advisers on the pilot version of the manual has been excellent. The full version is now available to support a variety of training and advice initiatives. It will also be available direct from the Environment Agency. For more information on think**soils** please see the Environment Agency website www.environment.agency.gov.uk or contact the Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506 506.

The Pesticides Forum publishes its Annual Report 2007

Two reports from the Pesticides Forum confirm that farmers and growers are delivering reduced impacts on the environment from the use of pesticides. Commenting on the publication of the Pesticide Forum's Annual Report and the 2007 'Report of Indicators reflecting the impacts of pesticides use' James Clarke, the Chairman of the Forum said:

"It is important that the Pesticides Forum plays its part in making sure that the vision of a 'brave new world', being presented by Brussels and the UK Government on the sustainable use of pesticides, helps to meet the increasing demand for food and fuel by protecting plants, while ensuring protection of the environment and people. We have an increasingly important role in bringing together the wide range of interested people and organisations to facilitate understanding, promote best practice and monitor the impacts.

The Pesticides Forum Annual Report 2007 is available at:
<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/pesticidesforum.asp?id=1606>

CPA trains garden centre staff on use of pesticides

Garden centre staff will be better equipped to advise customers on the use, storage and disposal of pesticides, growing media and fertilisers after the Crop Protection Association (CPA) promoted the setting up of a new qualification, certificated by BASIS.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Westland, Bayer, Doff, Sinclair, Monsanto and Vitax are all part of the CPA's Garden Group, which has already trained 5,000 garden centre staff with the Garden Care Certificate of Competence. Now the group has promoted the introduction of the BASIS Guardian Advanced Certificate in Garden Care, which it said was timely because the EU draft directive on the sustainable use of pesticides calls for the creation of training and awareness-raising of distributors and better information from retailers to customers.

BASISnews

BASIS (Registration) Limited
34 St John Street, Ashbourne
Derbyshire, DE6 1GH

Tel: 01335 343945 Fax: 01335 346488
Web site: www.basis-reg.com
e-mail: jill@basis-reg.co.uk
