Contents

ABOUT US
1 Foreword
4 BASIS History
6 The Agronomist
8 BASIS Awards

COURSE AREAS
14 Foundation
16 Crop Protection IPM
18 FACTS & NMP
20 Environmental
22 Wildlife Aware & Pest Control
24 Precision Farming
26 Storekeeper & Related
28 Advanced modules

SUPPORT
30 Learning Differences
31 Assessment

CPD SCHEME
32 BASIS Professional Register
33 Benefits
34 Re-joining the Register

FAQS
35 Regular FAQ's

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At a time of great change, BASIS is evolving to ensure it serves the land-based industries by setting professional standards as well as helping members improve their knowledge for their current roles and future careers.

Effective and regular training will be increasingly important to meet the changing needs in technology, regulation and policy.

Today, we’re offering over 60 continually updated training courses to suit different sectors and topics needed by the land-based industries, including agriculture and amenity, as well as wildlife and environmental management.

All our qualifications are accredited by Harper Adams University. Courses build from foundation level through to Honours degree level. Achieving our highest qualifications is a significant lifetime achievement to which many aspire, and which over 300 agronomists have accomplished.

Every training session is delivered by one of our 60 Approved Trainers - are experts in their field – who stay abreast of industry updates and share the latest information with candidates.

We continually refresh our courses and develop new offerings. In 2020 we have branched out into the gamekeeping sector, with a new Certificate in Game Management which began in March.

We have also addressed the increasingly complex and integrated nature of on-farm advice with the introduction of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CPD category. This will help our members take a more holistic approach to the advice they provide as well as demonstrating the industry’s commitment to this new approach.

Please take time to look through this prospectus and be inspired to broaden your horizons with us in 2020.

We look forward to continuing to support our existing members who maintain their qualifications and we wish those embarking on new courses the best of luck.

Stephen Jacob
Chief executive officer

Stephen Jacob, CEO
As I head into my first year of tenure as the BASIS chairman, I feel fortunate to join the organisation in such a good position and at a time when I feel there is a huge scope, not only to help shape BASIS for the future, but also to influence government policy for the better in our industries.

Going forward there are several areas in which I hope I can support Stephen and the BASIS Board to continue to help the organisation and its members to prosper.

For some years, BASIS has been developing its syllabuses to become more environmentally focused, and I hope that together we can continue to work on and review a formal environmental strategy for our organisation that is fit for the future.

The vision for this would not only be to find the right balance of productivity and environmental protection for farmers, but also to ensure that the strategy fits with retailer, and ultimately, consumer demand.

This would mean working closer with retailers and possibly developing new, or adding to existing, BASIS qualifications to align with their goals and help bridge the gap between farm and fork.

Another growth area where I see there's great scope for BASIS is with upcoming technology and the use of 'big data'. It would be fantastic to include more and more of this side of agriculture into the array of training already on offer.

The final area in which I hope the team and I can deliver more progress is working in ever closer partnership with Defra. This is something that has already been started, but we hope to be able to play a larger part in influencing policy for the future benefit of our members and associated industries.

I feel honoured to have the chance to make a real difference and hope that our members can feel the benefits of this work for years to come.

William Burges
Chairman
BASIS Registration Ltd. (BASIS) was started by the trade organisations in the crop protection industry with Government encouragement and was incorporated in 1978. Initially BASIS was an independent registration scheme for distributors of plant protection products ensuring high industry standards of safety in the storage, distribution and application of plant protection products.

In 1981 the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM was developed to provide training and certification for sellers and distributors of agrochemicals and those giving advice on their use. For the first few years after it was introduced, the Crop Protection training and Certification was a voluntary action embraced by the major pesticide manufacturers and distributors in the UK.

In 1985 the Government passed the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA). This act covered all aspects of pesticides from manufacturers to users and consumers. As BASIS had several years of experience in training and certification for advisers, the Government looked at BASIS as the blueprint for some aspects of the new legislation.

In 1986 all BASIS certificates became a legal requirement under The Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) – a statutory instrument designed to give guidance in the FEPA implementing.

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 came into force in July 2012 to transpose the European Sustainable Use Directive, 2009/128/EC relating to the use of plant protection products. This new legislation reinforced the importance of training and certification for all pesticide distributors and advisers with new provisions for internet sales and requirements for the availability of advice at the time of sale.

Today BASIS:

- Offers a range of recognised qualifications for people working in the land-based and related sectors
- Operates an annual inspection scheme for more than 800 UK pesticide stores and 500 Rodenticide outlets to ensure storekeeping and point of sale operations present minimal risk to people and the environment
- Manages the professional registers of more than 12,000 qualified advisers in the plant protection, plant nutrition and public health pest management sectors
- Operates the Amenity and Lawn Assured standards to raise and maintain good practice in the amenity and industrial pesticide sectors
- Provides a forum for industry bodies and other stakeholders to ensure how professional standards are maintained, improved and promoted
- Works closely with industry, the regulatory authorities and governments to promote and develop professional standards

BASIS is a registered charity (No. 1077006) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England.
Our Industry

BASIS provides independent world leading professional development for UK agricultural, sports turf and amenity sectors, to ensure a robust and scientific approach to produce safe food and a sustainable environment.

6,000 MEMBERS on the BASIS Professional Register, providing agronomic advice over 7 MILLION HECTARES

60,000 HOURS spent on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Training annually

£9 MILLION invested annually in continued professional development

44,000 knowledge transfer conversations led by BASIS qualified advisers every week
Crop production is moving through a time of change; tackling new challenges and employing innovative technology. There are huge opportunities for individuals seeking a new career in this exciting sector.

Agronomy is defined as the science of crop production; it therefore encompasses a huge range of topics such as crop protection, variety choice, crop rotations and soil management. Most growers in the UK receive advice on crop production from BASIS qualified agronomists, however studying agronomy is beneficial for many other roles within the industry such as farm managers, manufacturer representatives and environmental advisers.

Originally, agronomists just provided advice on crop protection, however the role has evolved over time and now encompasses a diverse range of topics such as precision farming, agri-environmental schemes and cross compliance.

Being an agronomist involves providing advice on all these topics to a wide range of different farming businesses, all of which provide their own challenges. It is also a relatively seasonal job with some periods of the year being busier than others. This results in a varied working environment. It is also a great role for anyone with excellent inter-personal and communication skills, as developing relationships with growers is one of the most important aspects of the job. The majority of the time agronomists are out working on-farm, walking fields and meeting clients. However, some office work is also required, and strong computer skills are essential.

Agronomists can work as individuals, for independent companies or for distributors of plant protection products, seed and fertiliser. Most agronomists advise on combinable crops, however there are lots of opportunities to specialise in areas such as field vegetables, soft fruit and the amenity sector.

There are also opportunities to specialise in areas other than cereals, such as vegetables, soft fruit or the amenity sector.
Becoming an Agronomist

There are no specific entry requirements for a career in agronomy sector, however good general agricultural knowledge and some industry experience is considered most important. A-level qualifications, or equivalent, in the sciences is also advantageous. Certain employers may prefer individuals who are educated to degree level, and some universities do offer courses in agronomy/crop management.

For individuals who are joining the industry with limited agricultural experience, BASIS Foundation courses provide a great knowledge base and initial insight into all aspects of crop production.

All agronomists who are involved in the advice and supply of plant protection products are required to take the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection. This course covers all aspects of crop production and agronomy, with a specific focus on integrated pest management.

The FACTS certificate provides training for agronomists who are involved in crop nutrition and fertiliser recommendations. This qualification is widely recognized by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and farm assurance schemes.

After completing the Certificate in Crop Protection and FACTS qualifications, many agronomists continue to develop their knowledge through the BASIS advanced courses. These cover a wide range of topics such as IPM, soil science, environmental management and specialist crop courses.

Many agronomists aim to achieve the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy, as it demonstrates an in-depth knowledge on all aspects of crop production and that you are best placed to provide advice on farm. This ‘gold standard’ qualification is achieved by successfully completing a range of BASIS accredited courses including the Certificate in Crop Protection, FACTS and other advanced modules.

“Go for it. It’s a fantastic career with great opportunity for progression. It can be high stress, but the benefits of getting out on-farm, meeting new people and seeing your work make a difference, certainly outweigh that.”

Ed Brown
BASIS Awards

At BASIS we recognise achievement and there are a variety of awards which we present to the most outstanding, highest achieving candidates each year.

Barrie Orme Shield
The Barrie Orme Shield was set up following the retirement of our founding Chief Executive, Barrie Orme. The BASIS Board (made up of representatives from the industry; including AIC, AICC, CPA, and the NFU) decided to honour Barrie by awarding the Shield, annually, to the most outstanding candidate passing the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM exam.

Brian Chambers Trophy
The Brian Chambers Trophy was set up as a tribute to the late Professor Brian Chambers – a pioneering soil scientist - who passed away in 2014, aged 53. It is presented to the highest achieving FACTS candidate annually.

Paul Singleton Award
The Paul Singleton Project Award was introduced in autumn 2014. It is presented to the candidate who achieves the highest mark for their Certificate in Crop Protection project. This is a fundamental element of the qualification and we wanted to recognize the hard work many candidates apply to their project.

Louise Labuschagne Award
The Louise Labuschagne Award recognises the best overall student in a BASIS certificate examination held in Kenya. The best student award is made each year and is named after the course founder Louise Labuschagne of Real IPM.

The Oxford Farming Conference
A number of farmers and farm managers complete the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection every year. We wanted to recognise this achievement by inviting the best farmer/farm manager candidate each year to the Oxford Farming Conference, one of the most prestigious events in the agricultural calendar.
Be part of recognising excellence

How to become a sponsor

The BASIS awards are highly regarded within the crop production industry, and a significant amount of recognition is provided to the winners each year. The presentation of these awards is also widely covered in the agricultural press, on social media and through all BASIS’s channels of communication with members. There are a range of sponsorship options available and this will allow BASIS to continue to recognise outstanding achievement and maintain this great tradition.

We hope to raise enough funds through sponsorship to cover the cost of next year’s recipients cash prize and the Award to be keep in perpetuity. We believe these awards demonstrate BASIS’s commitment to continuous development and outstanding academic achievement, as well as endorsing the profile of the next generation of agronomists who will continue to serve our industry for years to come.

If you would like to enquire about sponsorship opportunities for 2021, please contact us.

awards@basis-reg.co.uk
Trainers and Examiners

Becoming a Trainer

The BASIS Approved Trainer Scheme membership is targeted at individuals and organisations wishing to provide training for all BASIS courses. Membership of this scheme is designated to individuals; it is therefore transferable if a person changes location or job. Becoming a BASIS approved trainer allows you to influence the future of your industry, improve professional standards and share your expert knowledge with the next generation of advisers.

Benefits of membership

• Listing of Approved Trainers/Training Providers on the BASIS website
• Listing of Approved Trainers/Training Providers in BASIS literature and relevant syllabus booklets
• Coverage of Approved Trainers/Training Providers’ events/courses in the BASIS Newsletters and online
• Recommendation by BASIS staff of Approved Trainers/Training Providers in response to enquiries from prospective candidates
• Regular updates from BASIS regarding new courses and any changes to existing courses and literature.
• Additional meetings/seminars when required for significant updates.
• BASIS Approved Trainer/Training Provider certificate listing courses for which approval has been obtained
• Access to a dedicated, secure area of the BASIS website

BASIS Examiners

Thorough and in-depth candidate assessment is an integral part of the BASIS examination process. It allows us to ensure only candidates with the required skills and knowledge achieve our qualifications, helping to maintain exceptional standards within the industry. BASIS examiners therefore play a crucial role in the process for all of our exams and courses. Examiners must possess significant industry experience and be current in-field practitioners in crop protection and/or plant nutrition. If you are interested in contributing to the development of future advisers and putting something back into the industry then we would welcome your application to become an examiner for BASIS Crop Protection, FACTS, NMP, PPA or Soil & Water.

For more information about becoming a BASIS Approved Trainer or Examiner, please contact Sue Mason.

Sue Mason, Examinations & Training Manager sue@basis-reg.co.uk
Exams & Training Locations

Find BASIS Approved Trainer in your area, as well as upcoming training dates and exam dates for all courses offered by BASIS using our Exams & Training search page.

basis-reg.co.uk/course-trainer-search
Courses

Foundation Courses
Our foundation courses provide you with an insight into all aspects of agronomy, integrated pest management and crop nutrition which will provide you with a great knowledge base, especially for individuals starting their career in agronomy and crop production with limited experience or knowledge. Having successfully completed a foundation course, many people go on to take more in-depth courses such as the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection.

Crop Protection Courses
The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection provides you with the in-depth knowledge on agronomy and crop production which is required for a successful career in the crop protection industry. Previous candidates have gone on to have successful careers as agronomists, advisers, farm managers, as well as many other roles within the sector. Completing this course also provides you with a certificate of competence which is recognized within current regulations, and therefore allows you to legally advise on the use of Plant Protection Products.

FACTS and Nutrient Management Courses
The requirement for providing crops with the correct nutrition is becoming increasingly important, from both an agronomic and environmental viewpoint. The FACTS course will provide you with the knowledge required to provide up-to-date advice on how to optimise crop production whilst minimising environmental impacts. FACTS certification is well recognized throughout the industry and is beneficial for all professionals involved in crop nutrition, including advisers, agronomists and farmers.

Environmental Courses
Knowledge of the environment and biodiversity is now an integral part of agronomic advice on-farm. The BETA Conservation Management qualification provides you with the current information on government-led environmental schemes, as well as a deeper understanding of how agronomic decisions can have an impact on the environment and how these impacts can be mitigated. This course is ideally suited to anyone involved with farm management, either directly or as an adviser.

Wildlife Aware & Pest Control Courses
BASIS provide a range of courses aimed at all professionals involved in pest control and gamekeeping. These courses provide you with the knowledge required for a successful career in these industries, with a balanced syllabus covering both technical knowledge alongside environmental awareness.

Precision Farming Course
This course is a good introduction into agricultural crop production 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 you with a level of understanding and knowledge which is required for working in this sector of the agricultural industry.

Storekeeper and Related Courses
The BASIS Nominated Storekeeper course enables individuals to demonstrate that they meet the required standards of pesticide storage laid down in the ‘Code of Practice for Suppliers of plant protection products to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry’. A requirement for companies storing professional pesticides. The course covers all the legislation associated with pesticide storage, as well as further information on safety, transportation and other responsibilities of storekeepers.

Advanced Courses & Diploma Courses
BASIS provides a wide range of advanced courses which can be taken as you develop during your career. These courses cover specific topics at a more detailed level, allowing you to further develop your understanding of agronomy, crop production and sustainable farming. Completing a range of these more advanced courses, as well as a Certificate in Crop Protection and FACTS, results in candidates achieving the BASIS Diploma and subsequently the Harper Adams Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management. These are the gold standard qualifications for the crop production industry in the UK.
Your Journey

BASIS Diploma

105 credits
The BASIS Diploma in Agronomy

To achieve the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy you must successfully complete six different modules, which combine together to give you 105 credits. Following on from this, if you gain a further 15 credits through one of our advanced modules you become eligible for the Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management from Harper Adams University. This qualification equates to an Honours Degree and is a fantastic achievement which gives you the recognition you deserve for the vast knowledge you have gained through BASIS approved courses.

The framework for those involved in on-farm advice and sales
The BASIS Foundation courses are a comprehensive introduction to agronomy, integrated pest management and crop nutrition. The new Foundation Award in Soils provides a similar level of understanding on soil science, which is a fast-developing topic area in UK agriculture.

Our Foundation courses are ideally suited for individuals who are starting their career in agronomy and crop production, especially those with limited previous experience. For many they act as a ‘stepping-stone’ towards more in-depth BASIS courses.

The BASIS Foundation courses provide you with a broad understanding of all aspects of crop production and agronomy. This includes crop nutrition, pest identification, environmental awareness, integrated pest management and pesticide legislation. If your role on farm doesn’t require you to directly provide crop protection and agronomy advice, then these stand-alone courses often provide you with a sufficient level of knowledge and understanding which is appropriate for your work.

However, after successfully completing a Foundation course, many candidates progress to take other courses such as the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM and FACTS. The Foundation courses provides an ideal first step for a career in agronomy and crop production, providing an appropriate level of understanding and knowledge which will help candidates successfully complete these more in-depth courses. This is especially true for those who are joining the industry with little previous experience in, or knowledge of, crop production.

The recently developed Foundation Award in Soils covers the fundamentals of soil science and provides individuals with a good understanding of this fast-developing subject. Topics covered include soil structure and soil health, as well as the biological and chemical properties of soil. For some, this level of understanding will be appropriate for their role, however many may want to further their knowledge by taking FACTS, Soil & Water and BASIS Quality of Soils.

Each course has a duration of between four and six days which are ideally spread over the calendar year so that a range of crops can be seen at different stages. Participatory training techniques are used throughout.

Available Certificates

- BASIS Foundation Award (Agriculture & Vegetables)
- BASIS Foundation Award (Amenity Horticulture)
- BASIS Foundation Award (Grassland & Forage Crops)
- BASIS Foundation Award (Soils)
Ollie Harness

Field Specialist

I took the training course and exam for the BASIS Foundation Award in Agronomy (Agriculture) with my local BASIS Approved Trainer, James Christian-Ilett, in Lincolnshire.

The combination of theory sessions and practical field-based learning made the course interesting and enjoyable.

Working on exercises with other trainees from a range of different backgrounds and job roles enhanced my learning. Knowing some familiar faces when some of us went on to do the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection the following year, was also a confidence boost.

The course gives a broad introduction the agronomy, crop protection and nutrition of major agricultural crops. Practical exercises included the identification of weeds, pests and diseases. For me, it provided a great stepping stone to the full BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection.
Crop Protection IPM

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM (Integrated Pest Management) has been established since 1978 to provide training and certification for individuals involved in the advice and supply of Plant Protection Products. The Certificate of Competence is recognized in current UK regulations and allows you to legally operate within the industry.

For the past 30 years the Certificate in Crop Protection IPM has been the industry benchmark for training and accreditation. These courses are fully accredited by Harper Adams, and is widely recognised throughout the industry and in current regulations.

These courses cover a wide range of topics including all aspects of agronomy and crop production, with a focus on IPM. They have been designed for agronomists, advisers, technical staff and other roles which involve the advice and supply of plant protection products. They are also extremely beneficial for managers of arable farms who are directly involved with agronomic decision making.

There are several versions of the Certificate in Crop Protection. This allows the course to be tailored to suit the sector(s) which the candidate works in.

The Agriculture, Field Vegetables and Commercial Horticulture courses are ‘full’ Certificates in Crop Protection. Holders of these certificates do not need further certification to cover activities in other crops. Other courses only qualify candidates to advise in a specific area and not in general agriculture/horticulture.

Courses are offered by BASIS approved trainers throughout the UK. Training is generally a mixture of classroom and practical sessions spread throughout the calendar year so a range of crops can be seen at different stages. Successful candidates receive a Certificate in Crop Protection and can apply to be on the BASIS Professional Register.

Availabe Certificates

- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Agriculture)*
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Field Vegetables)*
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Commercial Horticulture)*
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Grassland and Forage Crops)*
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Floriculture)*
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Seed Sellers)
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Mushrooms)
- BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Stored Potatoes)
Richard Harris

Agronomist

Since passing my BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection in 2018 and being awarded the Barrie Orme Shield in 2019, my appreciation for the level of depth and detail I underwent during the training process has grown and grown. Practically out on farm, there is such a wide range of cultural, chemical and biological knowledge required to meet the demands of our ever changing agricultural industry. The broad range of syllabus topics has enabled me to understand and advise on the range of integrated pest management obstacles we face during every working day. Within the advisory industry, the BASIS accreditation is highly regarded and so it should be, as the course stretches your ability to ensure we have elite advisers entering the industry year on year.

For the problems I can’t solve on the spot, the BASIS certificate has given me the tools and direction to enable me to problem solve efficiently and effectively. Moving forward, I would like to build on my existing knowledge by undertaking the Diploma in Agronomy. The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection has been a fantastic foundation on which to build my advisory career. But as we know, everyday’s a school day!
Providing crops with the correct nutrition is a fundamentally important part of crop production, from both an agronomic and environmental viewpoint. FACTS is the industry standard qualification for demonstrating you have the required knowledge to advise growers on manure and fertiliser applications.

**FACTS covers all aspects of crop nutrition including fertiliser choice, regulation, soil science and organic manures. It ensures you can provide up to date advice to maximize crop production whilst minimizing the environmental impact.**

At the present time there is no legal requirement for advisers and sellers of fertilizer to be certificated. However, FACTS certification is specifically recognized by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and farm assurance schemes, as well as in literature such as RB209 and the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

The course covers all aspects of crop nutrition, including developing key skills such as producing nutrient and manure management plans which are required by all farmers applying fertilizer and organic manures in NVZ’s. There are different FACTS courses available which are tailored to specific sectors. The FACTS course is ideally suited for anyone involved in nutrient management planning (NMP) and fertilizer recommendations. This includes advisers, farm managers and representatives within the industry. After completing a FACTS course, many candidates go on to complete an advanced nutrient management module to further their knowledge. These are focused in key areas of interest such as Quality of Soils and Nutrient Management Planning.

FACTS courses are offered throughout the UK by BASIS Approved Trainers who are listed on our website.

**Available Certificates**

- FACTS (Agriculture)
- FACTS (Vegetables)
- FACTS (Golf & Sports Turf)
- FACTS (Grassland and Forage Crops)
- Nutrient Management Planning (NMP)
- Waste to Land
- Quality of Soils
Ian Richards
FACTS Nutrition Consultant

Advising on nutrient management is not the job it was. Once it was just a matter of finding the best way to use fertilisers to improve crop or grass yields. Today, things are quite different and definitely more complicated. Nutrient supplies from fertilisers and organic manures must be matched to crop requirements so that use of resources is minimized without damaging margins and having minimum impact on the wider environment. Longer-term issues like soil organic matter and soil phosphate and potash build-up or run-down, are now recognized as important for the sustainability of farming. Cross compliance and NVZ regulations and, in England, Farming rules for water must be complied with. Today’s farmers expect their advisers to be familiar with, and competent in, all of these issues and advisers must show that they are.

FACTS was launched in 1992 as a way to identify advisers who had good experience in nutrient management. Entry to the scheme has been by examination (two written papers and a viva following 4-5 days of formal training) since 2001. Since 2001, all FACTS Qualified Advisers must now collect CPD points and pass an online assessment annually. Today, gaining and maintaining FQA status is a challenging process and successful advisers have a recognized standing in the industry. For example, assurance schemes, like Red Tractor, require advisers on fertiliser use to provide a FACTS Professional Register number. NVZ regulations and guidance in England describe a special role for FQAs who can advise on use of manufactured fertiliser N in closed periods and on high N rates in grass grown for protein.

Looking to the future there seems little doubt that the demands for up-to-date high-level expertise will intensify throughout farming. FACTS will need to adapt to a world where minimizing the environmental impact of farming is critical but where farmers must make a living. By adapting,
Understanding impacts on the environment and biodiversity are now an integral part of providing agronomic advice. The focus on how agriculture impacts on water quality, carbon emissions and public health is constantly increasing, both from the government and from the general public.

It is crucial that advisers and growers understand how to mitigate their environmental impact whilst maximizing productivity. This is important both for farm profitability and long-term sustainability.

The BETA Conservation Management course has recently been created by merging two courses. This new comprehensive course covers all aspects of environmental management; including habitat creation, soil management, IPM and Water Quality.

Current and future government-led environmental schemes and legislation is also covered. It is therefore ideally suited for all farm advisers and farm managers involved in agronomy and crop production. It is also well-suited to individuals from the environmental management sector who work closely with the agricultural industry.

Knowledge of how we manage soils, both for farm profitability and to protect the environment, is becoming increasingly important. The BASIS Soil & Water and Quality of Soils courses cover this topic in detail, helping you to develop further your understanding of sustainable crop production.

BASIS environmental courses are run by our approved trainers throughout the UK, with further details available on our website.

### Details:

**Entry Requirements:**
For delegates with limited crop experience

**Level:**
- Level 6 - Honours *
- Level 5

**Credits:**
- Level 6 - 15 credits
- Level 5 - core 10 + specialisms 5

**Duration:**
Course duration is between 4 to 6 days

**Examination Procedure:**
- **Level 6**
  - 20 Multiple choice + 3 short answers
  - Farm management plan
  - In field and panel vivas
  - **Level 5**
  - Multiple choice
  - Short answer questions

### Available Certificates

- BASIS Soil & Water Management *
- BETA Conservation Management
Simon Goodger

BASIS Trainer

"BASIS Environmental courses have never been more relevant to farmers and advisers than they are today.

From an agronomic perspective the increasing importance of an IPM approach to crop management demands a greater understanding of the physical, biological and ecological processes that underpin our natural environment. Concerns regarding climate change have led to increased farmer awareness of issues such as carbon capture, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and a need for greater sustainability within our farming systems.

The recently revised BETA Conservation Management Course places great emphasis on environmental themes, covering a wide range of relevant topics such as pest-predator relationships, use of bio-pesticides, farm habitat management, energy use and understanding greenhouse gasses. All these themes are covered in detail, with the mode of delivery allowing students to share ideas within participative case studies and take part in farm walks to study real-life environmental projects.

The Soil and Water Management Course allows for in-depth study of issues relating to soil structure, soil erosion, water pollution, irrigation and efficient use of nutrients. In-field practical work including soil profile investigations and visual soil assessments are used to augment theoretical teaching.

The most recent addition to the BASIS portfolio has been the Quality of Soils Course. It has an emphasis on advanced understanding of soil health, soil biology, key physical processes within the soil and their impact on sustainable crop production. We have seen a high level of interest in this course which perfectly compliments the existing set of environmental courses.

BASIS courses have always provided a great forum for bringing farmers and advisers together to share experiences and ideas. With government support for agriculture set to be closely linked to measures enhancing the farmed environment and with an increasing need for all industries to introduce measures to tackle climate change, the BASIS environmental courses are perfectly placed to help our industry adapt for the future."

Wildlife Aware & Pest Control

Controlling pests which could potentially endanger our health, food supply, the environment and wildlife, is an extremely important service in both urban and rural environments. However, it is crucial that this work is carried out responsibly way by highly trained individuals to ensure non-target species are protected.

Over the past few years the UK Government has produced stricter requirements on the pest control sector. The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) stipulates that only qualified individuals can purchase professional rodenticide products.

Details:

Entry Requirements: No requisites

Level: Level 4 *

Credits: Level 4: 10 credits *

Duration: Course duration is between 1 to 4 days

Examination Procedure: Depends on qualification - check our website.

BASIS accredited pest control courses are one way to achieve this qualified status as CRRU’s requirements are met by both the Principles of Rodent Control and the Rat Control for Gamekeepers courses. Both these courses provide a thorough understanding of rodent control, with specific courses developed for different working environments.

Wildlife Aware is an excellent follow up course on rodent control, with a greater focus on environmental impacts and protecting wildlife. This will further your knowledge and is especially useful for those working in a rural environment. After successfully completing the exam, candidates will be able to display the Wildlife Aware logo to signify their competence in rodent control whilst minimising exposure to non-target species.

In addition to our rodent control courses, BASIS also provides the Principles of Insect Control course. This provides you with the required knowledge for the successful control of insect pests, whilst reducing your risk of harming the environment. The certificate provided after successfully completing this course is ‘proof of professional competence’ and will allow you to purchase insecticides labelled as only for use by ‘trained professionals’.

The BASIS Certificate in Game Management is a recently developed course which covers all aspects of gamekeeping. It is the first accredited qualification for game managers in the UK and provides the knowledge required to effectively manage a successful shoot, both in terms of rearing game as well as promoting biodiversity and

Available Certificates:

- Wildlife Aware
- Principles of Insect Control
- Principles of Rodent Control
- Certificate in Game Management *
Matthew Davies

Trainer

Killgerm is the training provider for the CRRU-approved ‘Principles of Rodent Control’ course with an associated exam administered by BASIS. Dr Matthew Davies, the Head of Technical Department at Killgerm Chemicals Ltd, spoke to BASIS about this course and the importance of CRRU (the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use). “Killgerm is very proud to work with BASIS in providing approved training and certification, to allow end-users to purchase and apply professional-use rodenticides, in line with the requirements of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime led by CRRU.”

Candidates sitting the Principles of Rodent Control course and taking the exam, once successful, can purchase and use professional-use rodenticides for the control of rats and mice. It is essential and legally-required for professional pest controllers. Furthermore, it is the first step on the pest control training ladder and the perfect place to start for those new to the industry. The training is also suitable for experienced pest controllers who want to make sure they have recent certification on file. Importantly the course was evaluated by CRRU and meets stewardship requirements as it contains 13 key elements while being provided in conjunction with an approved awarding organisation, BASIS themselves.

At this point, it is worth covering the importance of stewardship. In short, anticoagulant rodenticide contamination of non-target species is of concern to government. CRRU implemented the UK rodenticide stewardship regime, back in 2015, to reassure government regarding training, best practice and point-of-sale controls. The main aims of stewardship are to ensure responsible use of rodenticides for effective rodent control, while at the same time minimising impacts on non-target. This course is a big step in terms of contributing to the success of rodenticide stewardship.
Precision Farming

Agricultural drone use for high resolution data capture has increased markedly over the past few years. Given the steady developments in drone, sensor, camera, data transmission and data processing technologies, new agricultural applications for these versatile aircraft are progressively emerging.

Since 2019 UK legislation around responsible drone usage has become significantly more stringent. Therefore many commercial licensed drone operators may not have limited understanding of UK agriculture.

The BASIS Agricultural Awareness for the Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) industry course is designed to give commercial drone operators a basic understanding of UK agriculture and crop production. This will allow operators to provide a much improved service to clients in this sector as they will be better able to understand the services required.

This course can also be completed by professionals who have occupations related to UAS operators. For example, agricultural machinery representatives, sensor manufacturers or any other role linked to precision farming.

Precision farming techniques are becoming increasingly important in UK agriculture. We have recognised this at BASIS and our courses such as the Plant Protection Award and Nutrient Management Planning advanced module have specific sections covering this topic.

At BASIS we are constantly reviewing our current courses and looking at what new courses will be required by the industry in the future. As technology and precision farming techniques are used more widely within crop production, we will be increasing our focus on this specific topic within our current and future courses.

Available Certificates

Agricultural Awareness for the UAS Industry
Jonathan Gill

Mechatronics and UAS Researcher

Currently I work as a Mechatronics and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) researcher at Harper Adams University, National Centre for Precision Farming, 2018 Nuffield Scholar. I was involved at the start of the commercial SUAS (otherwise known as ‘drone’) revolution and was one of the first people in the UK to have a commercial licence to fly a SUAS. This work has continued with me flying ever larger drones not just for observational work but to look for ways to make them physically interact with their surroundings. This includes spray operations and harvest sampling.

Since 2012 I have been a licensed operator of commercial drone systems. From smaller inspection multi-rotors with cameras used for inspecting farmland using multispectral cameras, to larger units that carry liquid tanks enabling the team at the university to prepare the industry for the future application of PPP’s. A drone is not limited to just carrying a camera or sensory device. With the ability to travel forwards, backwards, left, right, up or down, a drone can literally be a leapfrog technology transcending wheel-based spraying / distributing platforms.

Being a qualified SUAS operator allows me to operate a drone for commercial use and has allowed me to fly systems where a standard user could not. There have been many changes to the licence for drone operation in the past eight years and this has forced the operation of drones to be more regulated and safer.

However, when operators use this ever advancing technology, agronomists and landowners are obtaining drones as an additional tool to help them quantify their work. Remote drone agronomy is a tool to be used to complement conventional techniques and cannot currently replace them.

To ensure safety and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations are adhered to, operators are required to follow the ‘Drone Code’ (www.dronesafe-uk/drone-code) and operate responsibly.
The storage of Plant Protection Products is a highly regulated industry with guidelines stipulated in UK laws, DEFRA’s Code of Practice and assurance schemes. The requirement for professional stores to have storekeepers with a Certificate of Competence forms part of these regulations.

The BASIS Nominated Storekeeper Course equips individuals to meet the standards required in the DEFRA Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture & Forestry.

Safe storage of Plant Protection Products is crucial for the safety of workers in professional stores, as well as the general public. It is also important for preventing environmental damage and pollution. Therefore, regulations surrounding this area are understandably stringent. One key aspect of safe storage is storekeeper training.

BASIS Nominated Storekeeper courses cover all aspects of pesticide storage regulations which are stipulated in UK law such as COSHH, the Sustainable Use Directive and Health & Safety at Work Act, as well as the ‘safe transport of hazardous goods’.

Specific topics covered such as spillage procedures, safe storage, record keeping, and product handling also provides you with a skill set to become a safe and responsible storekeeper.

Courses involve both practical and classroom-based exercises. They are delivered by BASIS approved trainers throughout the UK with more details available on the BASIS website.

In response to feedback from our certificated storekeepers we now run annual NSK refresher courses. These short online courses focus on a different topic area each year, allowing you to keep up to date with current legislation and best practice. There is a multiple-choice assessment at the end of each course. After successfully completing this assessment you will receive a Certificate of Achievement to show your commitment to Continuing Professional Development.

Available Certificates

- Nominated Storekeeper Course
- Nominated Storekeeper Amenity
- Nominated Storekeeper Refresher Course
The BASIS Nominated Storekeepers Certificate (NSK) is a two-day course specifically for people who are operating in, and responsible for a commercially approved pesticide supplier’s store.

Six months experience of working in this environment would be of benefit, but is not essential. The course is run in a workshop style encouraging participation from delegates. The key topics discussed are legislation, storekeepers’ responsibilities, transport, security, dealing with spillages, records and health & safety.

On day two after completing the training room content, and as part of the overall assessment there is an opportunity to put your new or additional knowledge to test with a pesticide store exercise. In the pesticide store a range of staged issues are set up for the delegate to spot and discuss.

Delegates find this exercise very useful to embed their new knowledge and draw on specific details from the course.

The safety of transporting hazardous substances is fundamental to the handling of pesticides and the course includes a 20 minute transport and security video.

Throughout the course, revision is built in to support the delegate with the final part of the course a 70 question multi-choice paper with 30 minutes to complete.
Advanced Modules

BASIS Advanced Modules are aimed at individuals who would like to further their knowledge in specific areas after successfully completing the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection and FACTS. This may just be for continuous development but can also help towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

After completing the Certificate in Crop Protection & FACTS, many individuals are keen to develop their understanding further in a particular crop or subject area. BASIS Advanced Modules have been specifically developed for this and cover a wide range of topics.

Crop production is a complex and detailed subject. Broad courses such as FACTS and the Certificate in Crop Protection cannot cover all topics in the detail that may be required. Many BASIS qualified professionals want to develop their understanding further in a specific subject area and our advanced modules enable this. Because these courses go into more detail than other BASIS courses, you are required to have achieved either the Certificate in Crop Protection or FACTS before enrolling. Further details can be found on the BASIS website.

Our advanced courses cover a wide range of subject areas and sectors, allowing you to choose courses relevant to your current role and location. These modules are also an integral part of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy. Attaining this qualification demonstrates the continuous training and development you have achieved through BASIS and is seen as the hallmark of a high-quality adviser on crop production.

Advanced modules are delivered throughout the UK as short courses by approved trainers. A list of approved trainers can be found on the BASIS website.

Details:

Entry Requirements:
You need to hold a BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection or FACTS.

Level:
Level 6 - honours

Credits:
15 credits

Duration:
Course duration is between 4 to 6 days

Examination Procedures:
Short answer questions
Viva examination
PPA *
Short answer question
Viva examination
Discourse

Available Certificates

- Cereals
- Field Vegetables
- Potatoes
- Seed Production
- Seed Technology
- Sugar Beet
- Quality of Soils
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Waste to Land
- Plant Protection Award *
Steve May

Arable Foreman

In 2012 I was looking to improve my knowledge of the job I was doing on farm as an arable operator, so I looked into BASIS and enrolled onto the ‘Foundation BASIS’ course.

The following year I progressed to ‘BASIS Crop Protection in Agriculture’, it was quite a big leap forward and at some points very challenging although very rewarding and enjoyable. It enabled me to develop new skills in identification of pests and diseases, crop protection and further my knowledge in application practice something very important to my job as a sprayer operator.

The natural progression to FACTS followed. Applying fertilisers, this gave me a really good insight into how and when fertilisers should be applied and the consequences of mis-use on the crop and the environment.

BETA widened my knowledge of environmental pressures and how to protect against pollution from agriculture as well as improve the countryside we live and work in.

Soil and Water Management allowed me a chance to get my hands dirty. Being more practical it gave me the opportunity to put into practice on-farm what had been discussed in the classroom helping to slow soil losses by managing our soils differently and enabling better water management across our catchment.

Having completed the Plant Protection Award this enabled me to achieve my BASIS Diploma in Agronomy of which I am very proud. This qualification should stand me in good stead for the future.

However, not content, I embarked on Waste to Land as an advanced module. This showed me great insight on the scope of non-agricultural materials to improve soils and save on inorganic inputs.

Having completed the relevant modules within seven years this qualified me for ‘Harper Adams Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management’.
Learning Differences

Specific learning difficulties are no barrier to obtaining the coveted qualifications in agronomy and related subjects from BASIS.

Specific learning difficulties are no barrier to obtaining the coveted qualifications in agronomy and related subjects from BASIS.

The BASIS team that oversees training and examination are well used to help candidates demonstrate their potential and qualify for a career in a range of areas related to crop production and crop nutrition.

BASIS has a specific policy that sets out our commitment to helping those with specific learning difficulties, which can be found on our website. There is even a link to a free screening test, which provides an assessment ahead of undertaking a full diagnosis.

A wide range of provisions range from extra time in the examinations or the provision of questions on specific coloured paper through to having an independent person appointed to read out the questions or act as an amanuensis, writing down the candidate’s answers.

Adjustments are made to ensure students are not penalised for issues such as poor spelling or presentation.

Jane Hill is the Learning Support Manager at Harper Adams University and works closely with BASIS on developing its key policies for those with specific learning difficulties or disabilities. “BASIS really go the extra mile to encourage students and support candidates at examination,” she says. Today, no-one should feel excluded from opportunities to gain qualifications to support a satisfying career.

By taking a positive attitude towards these issues, BASIS has enabled many aspiring agronomists to gain the qualifications that are vital to their career aspirations.

Full details of the support and provisions available from BASIS can be found on its website www.basis-reg.co.uk under the Exams & Training tab and the Student Resources section. Alternatively, call one of the training team on 01353 340856.
Assessment

BASIS allows students diagnosed with Dyslexia to request special examination arrangements.

Proof of Dyslexia

Proof of dyslexia is required a minimum of 4 weeks before the exam date so that BASIS can provide special examination arrangements if required.

Screening

If a candidate thinks that they might have dyslexia, they can take a free screening test before arranging for a full diagnostic assessment:


Assessment

Following a screening test, if a candidate thinks that they are dyslexic, they should consider arranging a full diagnostic assessment.

Full diagnostic assessment can be expensive, costing between £250 - £500, and can only be done by qualified staff, usually educational psychologists.

BASIS does not carry out dyslexia assessments. A candidate should arrange an assessment themselves by making an appointment at their local dyslexia assessment centre. To find nearest centre, follow the links below:

http://www.egs.org.uk/
http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/
BASIS Professional Register

Membership of the BASIS Professional Register identifies you as a specialist adviser with extensive knowledge of pest management in your specific sector.

Since it began in 1992, the BASIS Professional Register has established the professional standards required for advisers within the crop protection industry. It is now widely recognised within UK law as part of the Sustainable Use Directive, with all individuals providing advice on crop protection required to be a member of the BASIS Professional Register. This is also stipulated in a range of farm assurance schemes such as Red Tractor and LEAF.

To become a member of the BASIS Professional Register you must:

• Hold a recognised and accredited qualification
• Agree to a written Code of Professional Ethics
• Commit to a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to ensure that you stay up-to-date with all the latest developments within the industry.

To maintain your BASIS Professional Register membership, it is essential that you gain the required number of CPD points each year. This ensures that all members uphold the high levels of knowledge and understanding required to provide the best advice on crop protection and crop nutrition. These CPD points can be gained through a variety of events and subscriptions, further details on this can be found on the BASIS website.

Members of the Professional Register are issued with a certificate and identity card annually, enabling them to show proof of their competence and to confirm that they are a fully qualified member.
Benefits

Here are a few of the benefits available to you as a member of the BASIS Professional Register.

**BASIS Classroom**

Exclusive access to the digital learning platform, BASIS Classroom, which supports members with their Continuing Professional Development from any convenient location. This supplements other remote learning options such as magazine subscriptions and our podcast.

We recognised that not all our members can easily attend events at various locations. So the Classroom provides a way to collect CPD points that is more flexible and convenient. You access the lessons at a time and place to suit you.

**CPD Programme & Regional Events**

Receiving further training and developing your knowledge is an essential part of being a BASIS Professional Register member, and attending courses and events is one-way to keep up-to-date with any changes and innovations within the industry.

Our members can easily find a range of conferences, seminars and training events throughout the country which have been allocated CPD points via the BASIS website.

**Regular Newsletters and Podcasts**

At BASIS we like to keep our members informed about current industry developments and regular news on what is happening at BASIS is issued via our regular newsletter. As well as this, members can also access the BASIS Podcast ‘Agronomy Matters’ which supplies you with agronomic insights and updates from BASIS’ members, staff and trainers. Listen through to the end to gain a CPD point.

**Mobile App Service**

The free BASIS App acts as a Digital ID Card making it quick and easy to register CPD points and log participation in training activities and events. It is also a simple way to check your current CPD point status.
Re-joining the Register

Your Professional Register membership can be reinstated in three ways:

Re-joining Examination

The Professional Register Rejoining examination is made up of 30 multiple choice questions and a viva. Passing this examination shows that you still have the required knowledge and skillset which is required to be a member of the BASIS Professional Register. If you are interested in completing this exam then you should contact a BASIS approved trainer, and we recommend candidates attend at least 2 days of training before sitting the exam.

Candidates can also rejoin the register by successfully completing a full BASIS or FACTS exam. Please ensure that BASIS is informed prior to the examination taking place that you are using this exam as a way to rejoin the register if you have been a member before. If you wish to be solely examined in a specialist crop, e.g. onions, carrots or a narrow crop area, e.g. cereals or potatoes, you may do so, but this will be recorded on your BASIS ID card. If you wish to retain your original full qualification, e.g. Agriculture or Field Vegetables, then you will have to be examined on the full range of crops.

CPD Evidence

If you can provide evidence of maintaining the required CPD points for the past three years you will be able to rejoin, subject to BASIS’ approval of your training record.

Once this is approved you will be asked to forward payment of the past three years’ membership fees. Once payment is received you will be reinstated on the BASIS Professional Register.

Advanced Modules

The third option to gain re-entry on to the Professional Register is to pass an Advanced Module examination. Advanced Crop Modules (e.g. Cereals, Sugar Beet, Potatoes etc.) will qualify you to re-join if you were previously a member within the agriculture category. Nutrient Management Planning, Waste To Land or Quality of Soils exams can be used to re-join if you were a member within the fertiliser category. For full information on all Advanced Modules please visit the BASIS website.
FAQ’s

What Training Courses are available
BASIS plays a key role in the training and certification of people who work in the pesticide and fertiliser sectors. It sets the syllabuses and examination standards and maintains a list of Approved Trainers, Colleges and Training Providers who offer suitable training modules. Courses range from 1-2 day short courses to intensive long-term courses, such as the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM. New courses in crop protection and environmental management are being developed constantly in line with industry innovation to enable a wider range of skills and agronomic expertise to be recognised.

Where does training take place
The training for the majority of BASIS courses is undertaken by external training providers based around the country.

Are BASIS Courses Accredited and to what level
BASIS courses are accredited through Harper Adams University and build towards the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy and ultimately the Harper Adams University Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management at Honours degree level.

Will I be supported if I have learning differences
Absolutely, please refer to the Learning Differences section in this prospectus to find out more.

How do I remain up to date once qualified
Candidates attaining our Foundation, BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection IPM or FACTS Certificate become Members of the BASIS Professional Register. Members commit to a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) so that they stay up-to-date with all the latest developments. To stay on the register members must accrue a specified number of CPD points every year. These points can be gained through a huge range of different events.

How do I re-join the BASIS Professional Register
There are 3 ways to re-join the BASIS Professional Register. Either provide 3 years of CPD Evidence and payment, attend a re-join or full exam, or attain an Advanced Module Certificate (Cereals, Potatoes, etc. for Agriculture – NMP, Waste to Land, Quality of Soils for Fertilisers).

How do I become a BASIS Approved Trainer
The standards we set for BASIS Approved Trainers are robust and seen by the industry, government and individuals to be a viable auditable standard which is achievable by all. It is important to set high standards which new trainers can aspire to. It is an opportunity for BASIS and our training partners to establish a new standard for training and certification in the agricultural and horticultural industries. Our Criteria for Membership, Benefits of Membership and Code of Ethics explain in detail how the Approved Scheme works and it’s benefits to you, please see our website for further details.

I would like become an Examiner for BASIS
We are extremely grateful to the Industry experts with high level practical and theoretical knowledge in their specialisms who give their time and expertise for free. If you are interested in becoming an examiner, or would like to recommend a colleague, then please contact the BASIS Office.

How do I attain the Harper Adams Diploma
This is quite an achievement for many agronomists and represents a lifetime of academic achievement. Successful candidates can graduate at a Harper Adams University Graduation Ceremony. More than 300 agronomists have achieved the BASIS Diploma and many are eligible to go on to gain the Harper Adams University Graduate Diploma if they successfully complete an additional Advanced Module.
Enrol now

Choose and contact your preferred approved trainer at:

basis-reg.co.uk/training or call the BASIS Customer Experience team:

+44 (0)1335 301200