

DOUG MCCOWAN

“A responsible approach is the way forward for the industry”

Woodlands Farm is in a sensitive water catchment as water from the farm flows into a nature reserve. With support from his Severn Trent agricultural advisor, Doug has successfully applied for the Farm To Tap scheme – which supports farmers with the cost of reducing metaldehyde levels in water.

“In terms of performance, there’s been no real difference between metaldehyde and ferric phosphate. We can see that from the crop. Some farmers

don’t like that you can’t see dead slugs as evidence, but if we’ve got a strong crop with no damage then it’s obviously working.



WONDERFUL ON TAP



“I like that you can use ferric phosphate right up to boundaries of fields as hedge lands can be the worst for slug pressure. Ben from Severn Trent has also been part of the team, advising on cultural controls we can put in place to reduce slug pressure.



“Last year metaldehyde levels were down to less than 0.1ppb, which meant we got a £100 bonus on top of £8 p/ha.

“All in all, it was just over £1,000, which pays for 1.5 applications of ferric phosphate on my wheat, oilseed rape and potato crops. We wouldn't be getting that money if we were using metaldehyde and everyone in the catchment contributes to this success.”

Visit www.stwater.co.uk/farmtotap to find out more

WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN
TRENT