

SIMON SCOTT

“Financial incentives really help growers to reduce metaldehyde levels on their farms”

Simon Scott farms at Harnage Estate near Shrewsbury. The mixed arable and livestock family farm is managed within HLS scheme guidelines and has the Cound Brook running through it, feeding into the River Severn.

Simon uses slug pellets on his wheat, barley, oilseed rape and potato crops, spanning 788ha.

“Maris Piper potatoes are very susceptible to slug damage, but the variety is in high demand from processors and consumers. Slug control is crucial to our business.

“Being part of the HLS scheme means we can't use metaldehyde slug pellets within defined margins near water. However this

is where slug pressure can be high, as there's increased moisture in the soil. So using an alternative product is important to us.



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SEVERN
TRENT

“I wanted to make the switch to ferric phosphate but we needed to apply more of it compared to metaldehyde to ensure successful slug control on our farm, which can come at quite an expense.



“I applied for the Farm to Tap scheme in my catchment area, where I now earn £8/ha for reducing metaldehyde levels in the water. I also receive a £100 bonus for reducing levels below the recommended 0.1ppb.

“Since joining the scheme, I now apply ferric phosphate pellets across all my cereal and potato crops, only using metaldehyde when crucially recommended by my agronomist.”

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

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