

Early 2023

# FORAGE & COVER CROP FOCUS

— AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS —



## WELCOME TO OUR FORAGE & COVER CROP NEWSLETTER

With input costs at an all-time high, but clear potential for profitable farming, it has never been more important to make well-informed decisions about your product choices and agronomy.

ProCam, with its team of local agronomists, is well-placed to provide farmers with products and services linked to unrivalled support and advice.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Soil agronomy | Sustainable rotations | Forage crops



PROCAM



# NEW Soil agronomy service



Benefit of using Mz Excelerator nutrition treatment (left) in maize

Using our new ProCam Soilsense service, we can analyse soils for a comprehensive range of nutrients and parameters and interpret your results.

These results are presented in a format to produce Nutrient Management Plans which will advise on optimum fertiliser amounts and choice, to correct any deficiencies.

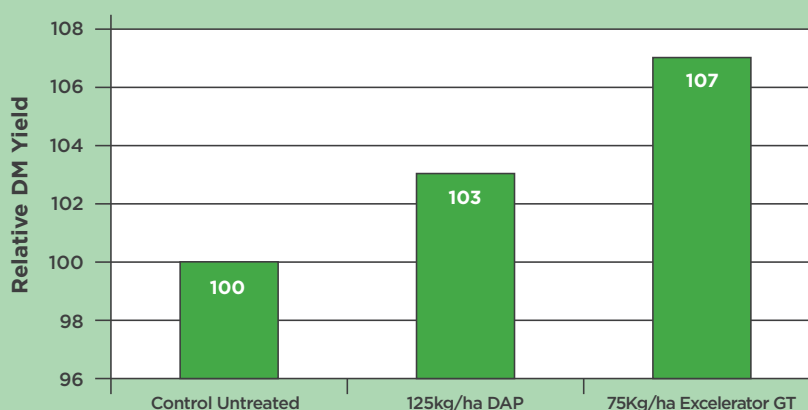
ProCam has a range of specialist crop nutrition products to optimise crop performance whilst correcting nutrient deficiencies, for example **Mz Excelerator** and **Umotart** maize starter fertilisers, and foliar-applied nitrogen **Pro+N-Viron28** to help you use nitrogen efficiently. We can also supply Omex treatments.

Nutrient plans are supported with plant tissue analysis in the growing season to enable fine-tuning of macro and micronutrients with our **Pro+** foliar-applied products. Our Nutrient Management Plans are also compatible with precision farming systems for variable rate applications.

## Example of a Soilsense soil analysis report



## CERC maize trials maize starter fertiliser Chester site





# Sustainable rotations

We are available to discuss with you the most sustainable rotations for your farm – for minimising risk and inputs and optimising output and profitability through crop selection, variety and seed treatment choice, weed and disease control strategies and soil management.

Our cover crop options, for example **Soil Buster** and **Brassica Break**, can also be an important, integral part of a sustainable rotation.

ProCam's benchmarking service, **4Cast**, has collated information over a large area over many years in the UK and is an excellent indicator of which rotations are the most successful in individual situations. Please enquire for more information.



Soil Buster cover crop

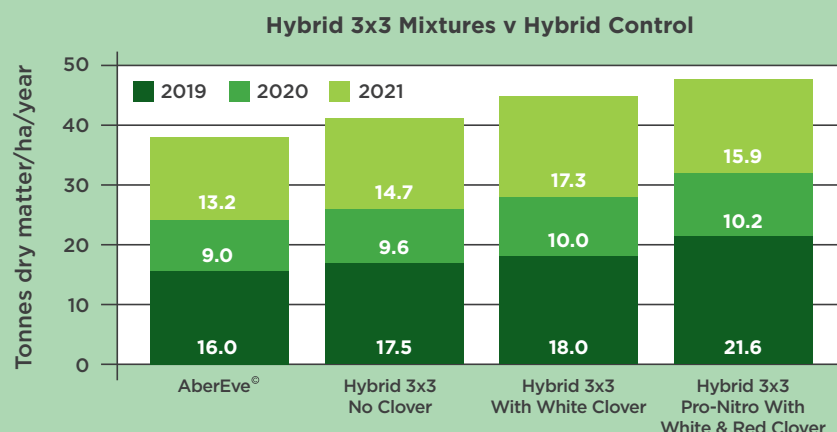
**Ask for a copy of our cover crop leaflet for more information:**

## Forage crops

ProCam's forage and cover crops seeds business, Field Options, has conducted its own trials at Harper Adams since 2006, which have provided unique data on grass variety persistence.

With the new era of high nitrogen fertiliser costs, clover has become more interesting. In Field Options' trials it has been shown that the addition of White Clover to a grass mixture has increased overall dry matter (DM) yield over three years by more than 3 t/ha and the addition of White and Red Clover by nearly 6 t/ha, with the added benefit of fixing nitrogen.

### Extra yield from clover inclusion in Field Options Harper Adams trial



The inclusion of Plantain and Chicory has also seen DM yield increases, and the **Eco-Pasture** stewardship mix is often outperforming the standard long-term mixtures without any significant drop in feed quality.

The use of **Bio-Root** mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobacteria has also been shown to produce an extra 0.75 t/ha of DM in the establishment period.

For more information, please contact your ProCam agronomist or download the Grass, Clover and Forage guide at:

[www.field-options.co.uk](http://www.field-options.co.uk)



Eco-Pasture stewardship mix

## Grass and clover mixture selector

	What will the field be used for?				
Duration?	Cutting	Cutting + Legumes	Dual Purpose	Cattle Grazing	Sheep Grazing
<b>&lt; 9 months</b> (pages 31, 32, 35 + 38)	Forage Rye	N-Rich	Forage Rye	Forage Rye Clampsaver II Summer Grazer Plus Whirlwind	Forage Rye Clampsaver II Summer Grazer Plus Whirlwind
<b>9–18 months</b> (pages 6 + 10)	Hurricane III	Hurricane Pro-Nitro	Hurricane III	Easy-Graze Easy-Graze Herbal	Easy-Graze Easy-Graze Herbal
<b>1–2 years</b> (pages 7, 8, 10 + 4)	Tomahawk Spitfire	Tomahawk Pro-Nitro Spitfire Pro-Nitro	Spitfire Eco-Pasture	Easy-Graze Easy-Graze Herbal Hybrid 3x3	Easy-Graze Herbal Ultra-Lamb Ultra-Lamb Herbal
<b>2–3 years</b> (pages 8–11 + 14)	Hybrid 3x3	Hybrid 3x3 Hybrid 3x3 Pro-Nitro	Hybrid 3x3 Eco-Pasture Grassmaster HS	Easy-Graze Ultra-Bite II	Ultra-Lamb Ultra-Lamb Herbal
<b>4–6 years</b> (pages 9–12, 14 + 17)	Grassmaster HS	Grassmaster Pro-Nitro Preference Pro-Nitro	Grassmaster HS Preference Eco-Meadow Clover Overseeding	Ultra-Bite II Preference Eco-Meadow Clover Overseeding	Ultra-Lamb Preference Eco-Meadow Clover Overseeding
<b>&gt; 6 years</b> (pages 12–14)	Preference Invincible	Preference Pro-Nitro	Preference Endurance II Invincible Eco-Meadow	Preference Endurance II Highlander Invincible	Preference Endurance II Highlander Invincible
<b>Herbal</b> (pages 10–13 + 16)			Preference Herbal Endurance II Herbal Eco-Pasture	Ultra-Bite Herbal Preference Herbal Endurance II Herbal White Herbal	Ultra-Lamb Herbal Preference Herbal Endurance II Herbal Red or White Herbal
	Cutting		Dual Purpose	Equine Grazing	
<b>Equine</b> (page 15)	Tomahawk + Timothy, Derby Haylage, Hay Paddock (for Hay and Haylage)		Hay Paddock Top Paddock	Top Paddock Herbal Boost	



# Maize

**Working with Field Options, ProCam has a high level of expertise in maize.**

As well as analysing data from UK and European national list trials, we have our own replicated and strip trials across the country in both

favourable and challenging sites. Our priorities are stability of earliness and yield, plus high energy density with no agronomic weaknesses.

Maize seed sales are offered with a full agronomic package for best results.

## Maize selector 2023

		Very High Energy			<u>Underlined</u> = Cool Season Performers		
Maturity Class (FAO)		Pit Fillers	High Starch	High Fibre 'D'	Grain Maize	Biogas Maize	Under Film
Ultra-Early (150-160)	12						<b><u>P7326</u></b>
	11	<u>Augustus</u>	<u>Augustus</u>			<u>Augustus</u>	
	10	<b>Kroft</b>	<u>Sergio</u>	<u>Sergio</u>		<u>Sergio</u>	<b>P7034</b>
Early (170-190)	9	<u>P7326</u> <b>Resolvo</b>	<u>Prospect</u> <b>P7179 Resolvo</b>	<u>Prospect</u> <b>P7179</b>	<u>Prospect</u>	<u>Prospect</u> <b>Resolvo</b>	<b>Isanto</b>
	8		<u>Rodriguez</u> <b>Liroyal</b>	<u>Rodriguez</u> <b>Liroyal</b>	<u>Rodriguez</u> <b>Liroyal</b>	<u>Rodriguez</u> <b>Liroyal</b>	
	7		<b>LG30.179 P7034</b>		<b>LG30.179</b>	<b>LG30.179 P7034</b>	<b>P8201</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Early (200-210)	6	<b>Isanto</b> <b>P7948</b>	<u>Agagold</u> <b>LG31.214</b>	<u>Agagold</u> <b>LG31.214</b>		<u>Agagold</u> <b>Isanto</b> <b>LG31.214 P7948</b>	
Maincrop (220-230)	5	<b>P8201</b>				<b>P8201</b>	

**Variety Notes** – Listed in order of earliness. Key Varieties in **Bold**.

Ultra-Early		SAMCO SYSTEM?
Augustus	Very early, reliable yield and very high starch. Consistent across site and season.	
Sergio	High vigour - Early - Reliable yield - Very high energy. Well-adapted to marginal areas.	
Kroft	Consistent, reliable and well -priced	
Early		
Prospect	Top performer for yield, earliness and quality. <b>Silage or grain</b>	
P7326	Excellent vigour. Impressive tall variety with rapid dry down.	<b>OK SAMCO</b>
P7179	Good vigour, high starch, high ME <b>NEW</b>	
Resolvo	Vigorous new KWS variety <b>NEW</b>	
Rodriguez	Uniform, reliable very high yield. High starch and 'D'. <b>Silage or grain</b> . Well-adapted to marginal areas.	
Liroyal	Similar genetics to Rodriguez with extra Eyespot resistance. <b>Silage or grain</b>	
LG30.179	Excellent vigour, very high starch variety. Popular across NW Europe for high quality silage and grain.	<b>OK SAMCO</b>
P7034	High yield. Dent genetics give a higher content of rumen digestible starch.	<b>OK SAMCO</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Early		
Agagold	Highest yielding variety. Good stability, very good quality. Excellent stability.	
Isanto	Big plants. Top performer variety under film.	<b>OK SAMCO</b>
LG31.214	Impressive plant with very high yield and feed quality	
Main Crop		
P8201	Good early vigour. Very big plants with excellent yield and very good standing power.	<b>OK SAMCO</b>





# Maize under film

**ProCam has over 20 years' experience of growing maize with Samco and the 'Samco System'. For this reason we are often looked upon as 'real experts' with a track record of reliable and impressive performance on-farm.**

With the continuation of use of degradable film in the UK, we can still enjoy the benefits of the system. Many of these benefits are well known – including earlier harvest for easier soil management and following crop establishment, and higher yields of dry matter and energy. Further benefits of the system were also demonstrated in an independent trial undertaken by Dublin University where an impressive milk yield increase of 7,500 litres per ha was seen in a favourable maize growing year compared to growing maize in the open.

However, in addition to an increase in heat units from using film, it appears we may have entered a pattern of dry springs



Maize under film (background) versus no film (foreground)

in recent years, and film is also helping to conserve moisture and aid the development of large root structures early on to help mitigate against the effects of drought. Indeed, large improvements have been seen from this reason alone using the system in 2022.

Overall, higher output per ha using the Samco System,

combined with improvements in the utilisation of manures, have added real value to maize crops against a backdrop of increases in fertiliser cost, land rents and output prices.

For more information on our Exclusive Samco System Package please contact your ProCam agronomist.



# Grain maize

As well as growing maize for forage and AD plants, consider the potential for growing grain maize – especially if you farm in the south of England or areas further north such as the Cotswolds or East Anglia.

In arable rotations or on livestock farms, grain maize can provide an excellent short-season break crop – for example to get land back into cereals or grass – and can stack up financially as an alternative to growing a cover crop.

For livestock, grain maize makes an excellent high energy feed that provides bypass starch – for example in beef rations or crimping for dairy diets. Alternatively, there is the potential to dry the grain for selling into compound feed.

Chopped maize straw is also a great way of returning organic matter back to the soil, helping to retain soil moisture. In 2022, clear benefits were seen with winter barley grown after grain maize, which was better able to tolerate the drought.

We have a range of varieties with potential for growing as grain maize. Speak with your ProCam or Field Options agronomist.

# Fodder beet

Potentially the highest-yielding forage crop in the UK and widely grown for outwintering sheep and young cattle, fodder beet also offers arable farmers a cash crop or a feedstock for anaerobic digesters.

Fodder beet is liked by nutritionists for its slow-release sugar and digestible fibre. It works well in dairy and beef rations, especially in diets with a high proportion of cereals or maize.

We are happy to provide guidance on fodder beet variety choice.



## Beet selector - key varieties

	Low Dry Matter		Medium Dry Matter		High Dry Matter		Very High Dry Matter			
Root dry matter	11 – 13%		14 – 16%		17 – 20%		21 – 24%			
% of root above ground	60 – 55%		45 – 36%		35 – 26%		25 – 15%			
Key Varieties	Brigadier	Lactimo	Geronimo	Fortimo	Goldimo	Summo	Enermax	Gahan		
Popular Varieties	Feldherr	Jamon	Kyros	Blaze	Robbos	Tarine	Magnum	Blizzard	Barents	Gerty
Use	Lifting or Grazing					Lifting				
Feeding	Grazing of Feed Whole		Whole or Chopped					Chopped Only		
Dry matter Yield	Lower								Higher	
Fresh Yield	Higher								Lower	
Storing	Poorer								Better	
Dirt Tare	Lower								Dirtier	

Continued on page 8



# Avoid frosted beet



Healthy (left) versus frost-damaged fodder beet

To minimise the risk of fodder beet being damaged by frost if left in the ground during winter, work with your agronomist to protect top growth.

Keep tops green by controlling foliar diseases, and consider a cost-effective late-season fertiliser – for example a foliar nitrogen with trace elements.

By keeping leaves green and healthy as long as possible, it helps to protect the crown. This is important because if frost gets into the crown it can quickly lead to root damage and large losses.

## New technical lead at Field Options

**ProCam has appointed Simon Montgomery as Technical Team Lead for its Field Options division.**

Simon joins Field Options following the retirement of Technical Director, Francis Dunne, and will be responsible for helping to bring the two operations of the business, Field Options and ProCam, closer together under one umbrella to deliver an improved service for both companies' customers and personnel.

Set up in 2004, Field Options markets a comprehensive range of forage seeds and associated products: from grass mixtures, maize, fodder beet, and wholecrop forage mixtures to seeds for environmental schemes, green manures and game cover.

The company also provides forage planning advice and supplies specialist fertilisers, silage inoculants and crop protection agrochemicals to livestock farmers throughout the UK.

Simon joins Field Options from Nickerson Seeds where he has spent the last 14 years working as a seed specialist in the South West. Prior to this he farmed in Zimbabwe, working in the dairy and beef sectors and growing a wide variety of crops including forage maize, soyabeans, groundnuts, field beans, sunflowers, tobacco, wheat, grass and seed maize.

Simon also spent three years growing cotton and maize in Tanzania and is a graduate of the Royal Agricultural University with a diploma in Farm Management and a Master of Business Administration

in Agriculture and Food Industries. Commenting on his appointment, Simon said: "I'm delighted to join Field Options and look forward to working with the wider ProCam team to build on the successes that Francis has overseen for the past eight years. We have a considerable legacy to safeguard and build on, but I'm confident that Field Options and ProCam are ideally positioned to continue to offer the best quality, value-added forage seeds to our customers throughout the UK."



Simon Montgomery has joined Field Options as Technical Team Lead following the retirement of Francis Dunne



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