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RED TRACTOR ENCOURAGES NEMATICIDE STEWARDSHIP WITH A NEW STANDARD

From 1 October 2019, the best practice protocol issued from the Nematicide Stewardship Group will become an audited standard for Red Tractor's fresh produce, combinable crops and sugar beet growers.

The protocol has been an appendix in some of Red Tractor's fresh produce crop protocols for the past couple of seasons and is already widely adopted by most growers. The standard gives clear stewardship guidance for the decision to use a granular nematicide and its subsequent application. Good stewardship helps limit the risk of impacting non-target species.

Emphasis in the new standard is placed on simple, practical measures such as operator training, checking and calibrating the applicator plus an inspection of the crop following application.

In due course members will benefit from a range of easy-to-use templates to support accurate record keeping.

Patrick Mitton, Independent Chair of the Nematicide Stewardship Protocol, said: "The NSP promotes a responsible use of granular nematicides by providing clear stewardship guidance via a best practice Protocol.

"By ensuring that growers and operators follow the guidance of the Protocol, Red Tractor Assurance is encouraging safe and environmentally friendly food production whenever granular nematicides are used."