

Irish Hub: A mixture of arable farms that are reducing pesticide use thanks to IPM practices

The Farmers

Various establishment systems including plough, min-till and direct drill

Crops include: winter & spring cereals, beans, peas, oilseed rape, potatoes and cover crops

Key issues: grass weed control, Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV), disease control

Willingness to adopt & showcase IPM practices



Strategies used for pest/disease/weed management in Irish crops

- Crop rotation - to give alternative methods of control
- Cover cropping – to compete with weeds
- Aphid monitoring - to establish risk
- Delayed sowing time for winter cereals – to reduce BYDV risk and grass weed germination
- Variety mixes in wheat – to reduce Septoria pressure
- Grass margins - can help to reduce infestation of certain grass weeds
- Stale seedbeds - weed control
- Increased seed rates - increases crop competition



Pest monitoring

- Can reduce the need for pesticide use
- Reduces the risk to the environment
- Helps to protect beneficials and pollinators
- Can reduce cost to the farmer

peer-to-peer learning key to widespread IPM technique adoption



“ We’ve got on well with both cover crops and beans in recent years. They are good for sustainability but also fit very well in our rotation”.