

A grayscale photograph showing the silhouettes of two people standing in a field. One person is pointing towards the horizon. The background features rolling hills under a light sky.

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The Tried & Tested newsletter is written by the Tried & Tested Team and is published every other month.

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### **Tried & Tested at the Dairy Event and Livestock Show**

Come and visit the Tried & Tested stand at the [Dairy Event and Livestock Show](#) on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. Members of the Tried & Tested Team will be on hand to advise you about nutrient management planning on your farm. Here you will be able to pick up hard copies of the [Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan](#) and a **free** memory stick containing the electronic record sheets so you are able to easily review and continually improve your nutrient use efficiencies. The Tried & Tested Team is also sharing a stand with [Farming Futures](#) so you will be able to find out how managing nutrients on your farm can help reduce agriculture's contribution to climate change as well as a wealth of other information on how you can be part of the climate change solution.

### **Coming soon - nutrient management planning workshops**

From September onwards England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI) officers will be organising workshops in [50 priority catchments](#) across England on nutrient management planning. Here you will be able to ask any questions about Tried & Tested and gain advice and guidance on how to use this nutrient management plan on your farm. Keep an eye out [here](#) for events that will be happening in the autumn. If you live outside the priority catchments email the [Tried & Tested team](#) as we may be able to signpost you to another event that will support you in the use of Tried & Tested.

### **Dairy farmer's verdict on Tried & Tested**

Take a look at the [Tried & Tested case studies](#) and see how a dairy farmer from York got on with completing his first nutrient management plan by himself. The farmer reviews the Plan and provides a glowing recommendation for other farmers to use Tried & Tested.

If you are using the Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan on your farm the Tried & Tested Team would be happy to hear from you as we would like to build on the existing case studies and reflect the different sectors and the ways in which you manage nutrients efficiently. Please email [nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk) or call 024 76858 896 to discuss this further.

### **Fertiliser survey points to continued decline in P and K usage**

The newly published Annual Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2008 highlights a continuing decline in the use of phosphate and potash. Across British farmland, phosphate use is now just 31kg/ha – almost half what it was in 1983 when the survey began in its current form. The balance of soil phosphate, potash, and sulphur availability all have an effect on nitrogen use efficiencies. Hence the survey's findings of a continued downward trend in P and K use are a cause for concern, although for some fields, lowering the P status from previous high levels may have been good practice from an environmental perspective. Half of UK soils are estimated to have K indices below target level, while up to a third of soils have P indices below target. If indices have been allowed to drift down too far, the ability to optimise nitrogen use in growing crops or grass will be limited. The [Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan](#) can help identify and remedy any nutrient imbalances. The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice for the 2008 cropping season and previous copies, can be found [here](#)

### **We need your views**

The Tried & Tested Team would value your feedback on the Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan. The form won't take long to complete and your comments will be greatly appreciated. We would like to know how the Plan has worked for you and ways in which it can be improved. Please fax the completed [feedback form](#) to 024 7685 8897 or email it to the [Tried & Tested Team](#)

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