### ‘Best Bet’ IPM strategy

#### Winter cereal pests – Northern region

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<th>Pre-season</th>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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| **Aphids**    | Remove green bridge (weed and volunteer hosts) | High risk:  
• wet summer/autumn  
• history of virus  
If high risk, consider seed dressings.  
Targeted early control along crop edges or infested patches may delay build-up in the crop. | High risk: Warm conditions favour aphids.  
Monitor and record aphids and beneficials. Review to determine if populations increase/decrease or are stable.  
Rainfall >20 mm will reduce aphid populations. Consider delaying insecticide application if rain is forecast. If spray required, use a selective insecticide. | A warm, dry spring encourages population growth. No yield loss will occur if infestations occur later than milky grain.  
Monitor/record aphids and beneficials. Use suggested thresholds.  
If spray required, use a selective insecticide. Use of broad spectrum pesticides will kill beneficial insects and increase likelihood of aphid population resurgence. |
| **Common Armyworm** | • Control host weeds (especially ryegrass)  
• Ensure correct ID (armyworm vs *Helicoverpa*.) | Use traps to indicate moth activity (lures of 10% port, 15% raw sugar and 75% water) | High risk: good local rain following a dry period encourages egg laying.  
**Monitoring:**  
• Use traps to monitor for moth activity.  
• Monitor for larvae at dusk with a sweep net.  
• Ground search for larvae and droppings.  
• Look for scalloped leaf margins.  
Control larvae when small. | Increase monitoring as crop starts to dry down.  
Small larvae take 8-10 days to reach size capable of head lopping. Determine if crop will be susceptible (dry, except for green nodes) when larvae reach damaging size.  
Control late in the day when larvae are actively feeding. Use of SPs to control armyworm early can increase likelihood of helicoverpa survival and damage by killing beneficials that would control them. |
| **Helicoverpa armigera** | If large numbers of *Helicoverpa* present in previous crop, pupae busting may reduce pest incidence. | • Monitor for larvae with sweep net (can be done when checking for armyworm), or with a beat sheet.  
• Control small larvae (<7 mm) with NPV | Monitor for larvae using a sweep net or beat sheet.  
• Large larvae are most damaging to developing grain. (Small larvae (<7 mm) can be controlled with NPV).  
• Be aware that *H. armigera* have resistance to SPs in all regions. |