



Discus shaped lentils.....fly through the air.

A winner of several countryside conservation awards, Ian Waller has a proven track record in sustainable farming. A LEAF demonstration Farm since 2006, Hampden Bottom Farm is a 486 ha arable holding in the Chilton Hills, Buckinghamshire.

Ian and his wife Fiona grow milling wheat, oilseed rape and spring field beans in a strict rotation. They also run a small flock of Herdwicks, largely for habitat management.



Slug pellets of any sort are a last resort but are essential for growing oilseed rape and for first wheats following the OSR. As Ian points out, losing a crop is not only uneconomical but also wasteful in environmental terms.

Ferric phosphate slug bait has been used for the past three years and Ian was keen to find a product that fitted his farming philosophy:

“The bait needs to flow well and not create dust, it should spread well to give uniform coverage and then it should have good longevity. Not all the products I’ve tried have met these criteria but Ferrex seems well made and the discus shaped lentils seem to have the right surface area to fly through the air. It also lasts longer on the ground.”

Ian likes to maintain sufficient stocks to apply the bait as soon as it’s needed. He traps slugs or carries out a visual inspection to ensure it is only used when required. Application is via a Stocks Fan Jet Twin, mounted on a small 4x4.

Ian is pleased that he has found a product that meets his strict standards and has proved effective against one of farming’s many challenges.

Photo and information provided courtesy of Cropco