



GatePost

FROM THE BREEDER | Limagrain Field Seeds

Our Commitment to Pulses



HEATHER OLDFIELD
Cereals & Pulses Product
Manager UK & IRE

The addition of the joint highest yielding spring bean variety **LG Eagle** and combining pea **LG Corvet**, to the 2024/25 PGRO Descriptive List, demonstrates our continuing commitment to pulses.

Heather Oldfield talks through the characteristics of these exciting varieties.

LG Eagle joins the 24/25 PGRO DL as the joint highest yielding spring bean at 110% yield (as % control).

During both Limagrain and DL trials, this extremely high yield potential has been delivered consistently over the last few, very different and challenging seasons, which is an important and valuable attribute for a spring bean - and one that growers look for on farm.

However, it's not just about high yields, this need to be backed up by solid agronomics and traits, and we are delighted that **LG Eagle** offers all of these.

It is one of the earliest varieties on the DL to mature, is not too tall, stands well and offers a good disease package, including rust.

LG Eagle is suitable for human consumption, fish feed and animal protein markets, offering a range of marketing opportunities.

Its consistent yields and disease resistance package means it will be taking a big bite into the spring bean acreage by 2026.

Combining Pea **LG Corvet** joins the DL as a high yielding, (111% of control), early maturing, relatively short variety.

Alongside these attributes, **LG Corvet** also has very good standing ability, which is an important trait for ease of combining and protecting precious yield.

“It's not just about high yields, these need to be backed up by solid agronomics and traits, and we are delighted that **LG Eagle** offers all of these.”



Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Breeder's Perspective | 2 |
| Barley Yield is All About Tiller Retention | 3 |
| The Vital Break Crop | 4 |
| Launching this Year! | 4 |
| Growing Oilseed Remains a Crucial Part of Rotation | 5 |
| Crops to Enhance Farmland Wildlife | 6-7 |
| Gema Unlocks Benefits | 7 |
| Summer Demo Days | 8 |
| New Talent | 8 |
| BASIS/NRoSO Points Claim | 8 |

Poor standing ability can often be a barrier to growing peas.

LG Corvet offers an exceptional downy mildew resistance rating of 8 - the result of a concerted focus from Limagrain on breeding for resistance against this devastating disease in peas.

The variety holds one of the highest dry protein content percentages at 22.2%.



@LGSeedsUK
lgseeds.co.uk



BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE Q&A

We ask Limagrains' pulse breeder, Pauline Lafage, what are the challenges and opportunities for pulse breeding?

Q As a breeder, what's your focus for the future?

We continually screen for disease, better standing ability, and test where varieties fit best in different on-farm rotations. We have a large range of varieties and traits, from across the globe, to ensure new introductions are robust, stable, offer maximum yield, are fit for market, and deliver the best economical return. We focus on different sources of resistance and due to the evolving nature of disease, and climatic challenges, we aim to evolve the breeding programmes just as quickly. By having close links to farmers and the onwards supply chain, we are confident LG varieties are fit for future challenges. As pulse breeders, we know the positive attributes of the inclusion of pulses in both human and livestock diets and we look to achieve varieties that also offer a strong nutritional profile.

Q What do you see as being the biggest threats to UK pulses?

Difficulties with weather and competition for land now falling under SFI, has meant the true potential benefits of pulses have not always been realised in recent years. The unintended consequence of this has put extra pressure on the inclusion of pulses within the rotation, with many mixtures containing legumes. The mixture with pulses (intermediate crops used between two main crops) used by the farmer is an interesting topic. We are not 100% that one pathogen is specific to one pulse or to all the pulses. Changes to cultivation practices have also caused difficulties with establishment, particularly of high yielding pea crops.

“ The UK is well suited to the production of pulse crops, with some unique market opportunities, particularly in the blue pea sector. ”

Q How important is the UK to LG's breeding programme?

We have a commitment to UK pulses, with extensive trial and multiplication work underway in England and Scotland. The UK is our main target for faba bean breeding, with commercial production in 22/23 of 795,000 tonnes, compared to France, at 158,000 tonnes.

Due to the maritime climate, the British Isles are well suited to the production of pulse crops, with some unique market opportunities, particularly in the blue pea sector. A lot of the exploratory supply chain work conducted in the UK is leading the European breeding programme, with Low Vicine/Convicine bean varieties at the forefront of this.



BARLEY YIELD IS ALL ABOUT TILLER RETENTION



RON GRANGER
Arable Technical
Manager

Spring barley was a get-out-of-jail card for some growers last season, after wet weather prevented autumn drilling, yet many crops went on to deliver above average yields. Why they performed so well owes much to the age-old issue of tiller retention, Ron Granger says.

Maximising spring barley yield is all about retaining maximum tillers through to harvest. In some seasons, prolonged dry periods can cause crops to drop tillers and reduce this potential, yet last year, plentiful

moisture availability throughout the growing season benefitted many spring crops, especially on lighter land.

We cannot control the weather, but there are five actions that will help barley produce and retain as many tillers as possible this spring. Such foundation work is essential, whatever the weather.

1. Select The Right Variety

Choosing a variety with greater tillering ability drives yield, and having more tillers helps crops compensate for tiller loss, should stressful conditions arise.

2. Wait For Optimal Conditions

While earlier drilling can increase yield potential, this may only be possible on lighter, free-draining land that dries and warms faster than heavier soil. Barley must go into a good seedbed with warming soils and temperatures to germinate and establish quickly, so be patient.

3. Optimise Seed Rate

For high yield potential, aim for a final tiller count of 775-800/m², and work back from this to calculate seed rate, varying according to soil type, drilling date, seedbed conditions and weather. LG trials indicate 350 seeds/m² is optimal for more vigorous, higher tillering varieties drilled in ideal conditions around mid-March, although 300-325 seeds/m² might suffice if drilling into an "onion bed". Later drilling dates reduce tillering potential, so once into April, closer to 400 seeds/m² may be more appropriate. Higher seed rates should also be considered for black-grass control.

4. Tailor Nutrition

Balanced macro and micro nutrition improves rooting and canopy development, which benefits tiller survival. Apply most nutrition early, to the seedbed or soon after drilling. Don't be afraid to push new, higher tillering varieties with more nitrogen. In continued LG trials, an extra 30 kg N/ha applied in the second split generated 0.5-1 t/ha extra yield in some varieties, with crops still achieving low grain N.

“ Maximising spring barley is all about retaining maximum tillers through to harvest. ”

5. Minimise Weed Competition

Weeds compromise crop establishment and tillering capacity, so drill into good conditions, and control early weed growth with effective chemistry sets that do not "knock" early plant development.



Scan the QR Code

For more information, see our spring barley agronomy videos:

lgseeds.co.uk/spring-barley-agronomy-series/



THE VITAL BREAK CROP



FLORENTINA PETRESCU
OSR Product Manager
UK & IRE

Oilseeds hectareage is at an all-time low, and already the question I am coming up against is **“what is the future for British OSR?”**.

It has become apparent that oilseed is an increasingly technical crop

to grow. However it remains a vital break crop on farm in terms of profitability, and also environment.

The environmental benefit of keeping oilseeds in your crop rotation is multi-fold. The taproot has a positive impact on soil structure and biological soil activity. It helps loosen the deep soil layers which leads to better soil aeration and easier soil preparation for the following crop in the rotation.

From an environmental perspective, the oilseed crop has a high nitrogen uptake in autumn which limits the risk of mineral nitrogen losses in the winter. The high amount of plant residue left after harvest increases organic matter accumulation, whilst the resulting organic nitrogen can be used by future crops, after mineralisation.

Rapeseed oil remains one of the key consumable oil crops worldwide, and the only one grown commercially in the UK. The drop in planted area and subsequent move from exporter to importer is a bad omen for British farming, food security and the wider UK economy.

On farm, genetics offer a solution towards mitigating increased risk from disease, pestilence and reduced inputs. Farmers are increasingly seeking

varieties that are adapted to the UK environment and are trait stacked with consistently high yields. Traits like pod shatter and strong spring and autumn vigour are increasingly necessary to protect your investment from establishment through to harvest. As the plant breeder, with the largest UK based winter oilseeds breeding programme, Limagrain Field Seeds is uniquely placed to assist farmers who still see the benefit of growing oilseeds.

So, to answer the question “what is the future for British OSR?”

- continued investment and innovation in UK breeding for securing yield potential on farm, are key to the future of this vital break crop.



Launching this Year!

LG Adapt

The highest yielding variety on this year's Recommended List, with pod shatter resistance. **LG Adapt** is notable for its strong winter hardiness and slow stem elongation, meaning this variety is particularly well adapted for harsher winters. High oil content and a good all-round agronomy package means this variety is well placed to protect your investment through to harvest.

LG Avenger

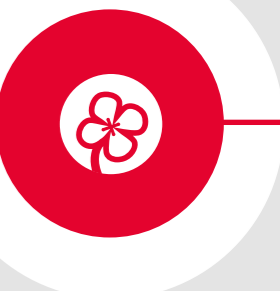
The highest yielding hybrid with an RL recommendation for the North. **LG Avenger** has a robust disease resistance package and yield protecting pod shatter resistance. Exceptional autumn vigour offers increased security against insect damage in early establishment, making this variety a solid addition to your rotation.

Magelan

Magelan received its recommendation for the East and West regions, this year. A good agronomic package, which includes pod shatter and TuYV resistance as well as verticillium tolerance alongside oil content of 46.3%, make this variety a sensible choice on farm.



GROWING OILSEED REMAINS A CRUCIAL PART OF ROTATION FOR INVERURIE FARMER



FLORENTINA PETRESCU
OSR Product Manager
UK & IRE

Murray Forsyth is a mixed arable-beef farmer with a total area of 1000 acres at Smiddyburn Farm in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. He grows around 170-180 acres of oilseed, dependant on year and rotation, with the current rotation consisting of winter barley, oilseed, winter wheat and spring barley.

When clubroot first appeared on farm, he adopted a wider 5 year rotation, as well as choosing a clubroot resistant variety for afflicted fields.

To keep his crops yielding and profitable, Mr Forsyth takes a technical approach to his oilseeds. He has good average/medium type soil and a scheduled soil testing programme on his farm. He aims to keep the pH value around 6.2, by applying lime to the fields that have a lower pH; he also applies FYM to his fields to keep fertility high.

In terms of cultivation, Mr Forsyth typically ploughs the field before drilling his oilseed, using a Horsch Express combination drill with DAP as fertiliser (down the spout - around 150 kg/ha). This is followed by a Cambridge roll and the addition of slug pellets as a precautionary tactic, since slugs are a bigger problem than flea beetle in his area.

Mr Forsyth's average oilseed yields are between 1.7 and 2 tonnes/acre. In fields affected by clubroot, he is growing **LG Anarion**. He mentions the average yield is in line with the rest of the farm, which is currently **LG Armada**. He is convinced that varietal choice is keeping his yields at the same levels as the fields unaffected by clubroot.

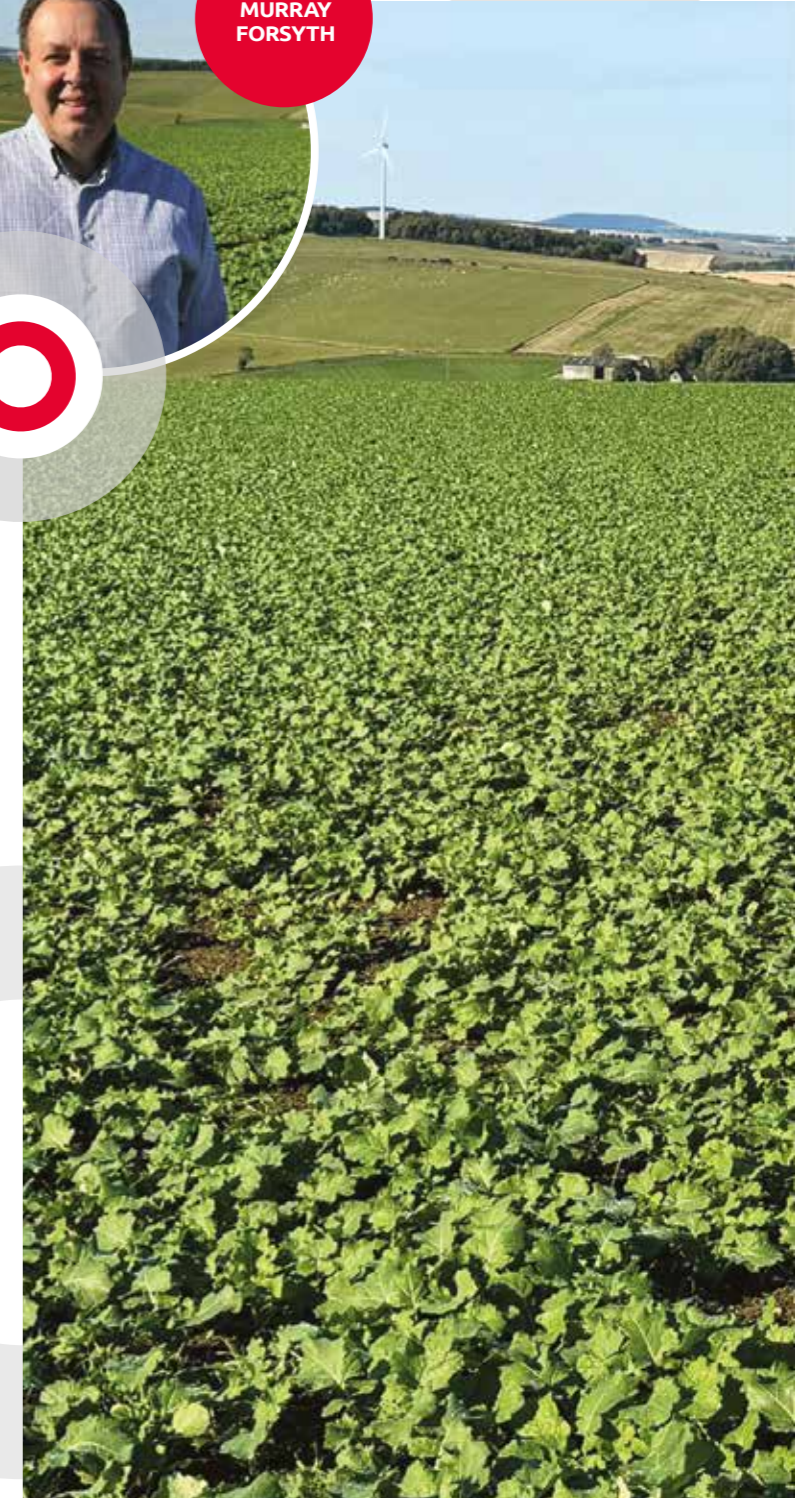
Mr Forsyth is considering going back to a shorter 4-year rotation, as oilseed remains one of the most profitable crops on farm. He records his yields and profit margins across the years and notes that oilseed

“ Maximising acreage for this crop and maintaining a decent yield are key to its success on farm. ”

is not the cheapest crop to grow, however it remains a very profitable break crop. Maximising acreage for this crop and maintaining a decent yield are key to its success on farm. Using a clubroot resistant variety such as **LG Anarion** really helps oilseeds remain a crucial part of the farm's rotation, allowing it to be grown in fields afflicted with high clubroot pressure. **LG Anarion** will also help alleviate the pressure, as resistance does not allow clubroot spores to multiply.



MURRAY FORSYTH





CROPS TO ENHANCE FARMLAND WILDLIFE



JOHN SPENCE
Forage Crops
Product Manager

The introduction of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) in 2023 has led to a significant increase in farmland being sown, with crops designed to benefit wildlife, particularly farmland birds and pollinators.

Whilst the key SFI actions have remained unchanged in their core aims since their introduction, there are some changes to be aware of, as well as some new actions introduced as part of the SFI 24 expanded offer, which may need to be considered when looking to sow this year.



AHL1/CAHL1

Pollen and nectar flower mix

The primary aims of sowing a pollen and nectar mixture are to provide a food source for beneficial pollinators and to encourage natural pest predators. Selecting a mix that includes legumes such as red clover, birdsfoot trefoil and sainfoin will also fix atmospheric nitrogen, increasing fertility for the following crop. The inclusion of species such as phacelia, with its very fibrous root system, will help with soil conditioning.

Growers with later agreements (with code CAHL1) need to be aware that the rules around when to carry out the action have been modified, to rule out the possibility of sowing in spring and entering into an autumn sown crop in the same year. The mix must now be maintained "until the end of the second summer after sowing" to ensure the aims are met.

“The primary aims of sowing a pollen and nectar mixture are to provide a food source for beneficial pollinators and to encourage natural pest predators.”

AHL2/CAHL2

Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land

Winter bird food has proved incredibly popular with around 70,000 Ha being entered into the action so far. The aims are to provide food for birds, especially in late autumn and winter, encourage flowering plants in the summer to benefit insects and pollinators, and to support an integrated pest management approach.

For newer agreements (with code CAHL2), changes have been made to the rules to further clarify when the mixture can be sown and how long it needs to be maintained for. Spring sown mixtures should be maintained until the end of February the following year. However, mixtures sown after the end of June must be maintained for two consecutive winters, effectively making it an 18-month option. Growers looking for something autumn sown may now want to look towards the Bumblebird action (see next page).

| Product Selector | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Incentive | Mixture | Value |
| AHL1/CAHL1 | Bee Mix | £739/Ha |
| AHL2/CAHL2 | Jack Russell Bird Feeder Setter | £853/Ha |
| AHW1 | Bumblebird Mix | £747/Ha |

AHW1

Bumblebird mix

Bumblebird is a new action introduced as part of the expanded SFI24 offer but is very similar to the Countryside Stewardship option of the same name. Worth £747/Ha, Bumblebird pays less than the winter bird food action, but it has a useful place in the rotation as it can be sown up until early Autumn, to be maintained until the end of summer the following year. As the name suggests, the aim of the action is to provide food for both farmland birds and beneficial insects and pollinators.

For further information about crops to meet the aims of the Sustainable Farming Incentive, please download a copy of the **LG Essential Guide to Conservation and Gamecover Crops**

Scan the QR Code to Download



GEMA UNLOCKS COVER CROP BENEFITS



TIM RICHMOND
Maize Product Manager
UK and Ireland

Early maturing maize allows Somerset farmer to improve soil health and earn an SFI payment from cover cropping.

Growing 800 acres of Gema allows Jon Bult to produce a high yielding, energy dense crop of maize to feed his 700 dairy cows. As an early maturing variety, Gema also enables him to prioritise soil health by establishing overwinter cover crops in maize stubbles.

"Minimising soil erosion and nutrient losses is the main priority. We terminate the cover crop in spring and apply manure and slurry before drilling maize. I aim to sow maize around 20th April, but recent cold, wet springs has pushed this back to 14th May. We'll be growing Gema again in 2025, as its early harvest suits our system well."

"We're on heavy ground; some of which is marginal for maize, so it makes sense to use the earliest maturing varieties," Jon says. "Gema is ideal as it delivers high starch, but its earliness does not impact yield."

"We grow Italian ryegrass after maize and can establish this even in late October. In the past, we've established grass with light cultivations but have had to work deeper due to the recent wetter conditions."

As a cover crop after maize, Italian ryegrass qualifies for the Sustainable Farming Incentive action SOH4, which is currently worth £203/ha, although Jon believes the greater value is the improvement of soil health.





A WEALTH OF NEW TALENT



Autumn 2024 saw Limagrain Field Seeds recruit new team members with a wealth of agricultural knowledge and experience. Here's what they have to say about their new roles...



Florentina Petrescu
OILSEED RAPE PRODUCT MANAGER UK & IRE
Florentina.petrescu@limagrain.co.uk

Oilseed rape remains a vital break crop for British farmers and a key crop for the UK economy. In my role as Product Manager, I am pleased to work alongside major players within the industry on initiatives such as the OSR reboot, to ensure the future of this crop. I bring a wealth of both technical and on-farm experience to the role and look forward to working with the LG team.



Dominic Spurrier
COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR UK - BA NORTHWEST EUROPE
Dominic.spurrier@limagrain.co.uk

I am really excited by my role as Commercial Director with Limagrain and the opportunity to build on the successful history of the commercial aspects of the Limagrain wholesale and Nickerson on-farm teams. I hope to be a key part of the most successful breeder, not only in the UK, but the whole of Europe.



Heather Oldfield
CEREALS & PULSES PRODUCT MANAGER UK & IRE
Heather.oldfield@limagrain.co.uk

Agriculture is going through its biggest change for decades. Building relationships with supply chain, growers, and end users will be key. Cereals and pulses are key crops in the rotation, and I'm excited to work with the breeding, technical and commercial teams to bring results on farm, ensuring environmental and economic returns throughout the value chain.



Nicole Hamilton
MARKETING DIRECTOR - BA NORTHWEST EUROPE
Nicolle.hamilton@limagrain.co.uk

I am thrilled to take on the challenge of leading the Product Management and Marketing departments. With my background outside the seed trade, I aim to bring a fresh perspective and innovative ideas, working closely with the incredibly knowledgeable and talented teams at Limagrain.

SUMMER DEMO DAYS

If you are growing or thinking about growing an LG variety and would like to see our portfolio drilled in trial plots, then come along to one of our demo days, this summer. Our LG experts will be on hand to give you a wider understanding of how LG varieties can fit within your own rotation.

BASIS and NRoSO Points

By reading this issue of LG GatePost, you can claim BASIS and/or NRoSO points. To do so, go to <https://bit.ly/3DlxzZA>



Limagrain Field Seeds
01472 371471
@enquiries@limagrain.co.uk



@LGSeedsUK
lgseeds.co.uk