

# Single application of Calcifert Sulphur boosts straw yields

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Lancashire arable farmer, James Tomlinson applied 185 kg/ha (1.5 bags/ac) of Calcifert Sulphur to his winter barley and wheat crops as one dose, supplying 72 kg CaO/ha and 104 kg SO<sub>3</sub>/ha. This was supplemented later in the year with Nitrogen fertiliser, applied at a rate of 86 kg N/ha.



### No lodging or brackling

Having applied Calcifert Sulphur James found his wheat and barley crops did not suffer from lodging or brackling, despite not being treated with a growth regulator. This benefit is attributable to improvements in plant cell strength caused by the increased uptake and provision of calcium in the soil due to Calcifert Sulphur application.

### Bumper harvest

When it came to harvest, James found the quantity of straw he obtained from treated crops was far greater than previous harvests. A local livestock farmer usually buys 30-40 acres of straw from James every year, but because of the sheer quantity of straw each acre produced, he was only able to fit 20 acres of straw in his stores. As such, James found himself with surplus straw to sell to other buyers.

### Why?

The benefits to plant strength and health gained from the application of calcium and sulphur dramatically reduced the level of lodging crops suffered. This helped to ensure optimal levels of wheat and barley were collected at harvest time, as well as limiting crop damage.

The boost in plant vigour (even without applying a growth regulator) also enabled crops to grow taller without falling over and resulted in significantly higher straw yields compared to the previous year.

Both the final height of plants and lack of lodging suggest plants were healthier than in previous years and required less fungicide application in order to fight off disease, resulting in a significant financial saving.

### Financial benefits

The increase in straw yield added an extra 20 acres of straw for James to sell. At a conservative rate of 2.5 ton of straw per acre, with a value of £50/t, this increase in straw yield resulted in an extra £2,500 worth of income from the straw alone. Even without taking into consideration the reduction in costs from not using a growth regulator and reduced levels of fungicide application, the income generated by the extra straw would more than cover the cost of the 3 tons of Calcifert Sulphur applied to the 40 acres (16.2 ha).

### Summary

With fluctuating arable crop prices, the need to produce high volumes of crops,

as efficiently as possible, has never been more important. By using Calcifert Sulphur, James was able to ensure all his targeted crops received optimum levels of sulphur provision, with just one application of fertiliser. James said: "I am convinced old fertiliser practice was not putting enough sulphur on. It is much easier to put all the sulphur on in March with Calcifert Sulphur and know I have applied the right amount before using straight nitrogen."

### About Calcifert Sulphur

Applying Calcifert Sulphur is a quick and easy way to supply both calcium and sulphur to soil.

With a typical analysis of calcium as CaO: 39% and sulphur expressed as SO<sub>3</sub>: 56%, Calcifert Sulphur is one of the purest calcium sulphate products available on the market. Calcifert Sulphur has a neutralising value of zero, meaning it won't affect the pH of your soil.

It can be easily applied using a tractor-mounted fertiliser spreader, providing flexibility to farmers and growers.

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