

Suggested FACTS background reading

The preparatory reading material outlined below will cover the main issues in every module of the syllabus.

A key document is the AHDB nutrient management Guide (RB209 9th edition.) This can be downloaded at [here](#).

It is available in PDF or as an app. **You will need hard copies (FOC from AHDB) of sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the exam** and for personal notation during training.

Although developed for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, this document covers the principles of crop nutrition

PLEASE NOTE: The inclusion of company based website links does not infer preference for these companies, most manufacturers/suppliers include useful product and safety information on their websites and those listed are good examples. Because companies are continuously adjusting their websites the actual link pages may not link and you may need to search a little – best efforts have been made to give current links.

Module 1 - The soil in relation to plant nutrients

1. AHDB nutrient management guide (RB209) Section 1 (VERY IMPORTANT -- READ)
2. A Guide to Better Soil Structure (from National Soil Research Institute, Cranfield. [Link](#))
3. Thinksoils from Environment Agency (£8.50 from [EA web site](#) enter 'thinksoils' in search box or now as downloadable pdf -- free)

Module 2 - Organic nutrient sources

1. AHDB nutrient management guide (RB209) Section 2 or, in Scotland, Prevention of Environmental
2. Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) Section 4 [Link](#)
3. Managing Livestock Manures (series of four booklets by ADAS/IGER/SRI. [Link](#))
4. The new biosolids and phosphate matrix [Link](#)

Module 3 - The nature and properties of fertilizers

1. Mineral Fertiliser Manufacture (from the [AIC web site](#), in the Fertiliser section, select Publications for farmers and advisers)
2. Yara guide to mineral fertilisers [Link](#)
3. Yara fertiliser properties pages [Link](#)

Module 4 - Crop nutrients in plants and the factors influencing nutrient management planning

1. AHDB nutrient management guide (RB 209) Section 1 or, in Scotland, SAC Technical Notes
2. Managing Livestock Manures, a series of four booklets by ADAS/IGER/SRI. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Understanding Nitrogen and its Use in Agriculture, Understanding Phosphorus and its Use in Agriculture and Understanding Potassium and its Role in Agriculture, a series of three booklets [\[Link\]](#)

Module 5 - Use of fertilisers on the main crop groups in the UK

1. AHDB Nutrient management guide (RB209) Sections 3, 4 and 5 (IMPORTANT)
2. Various fertiliser company booklets.
 - a. Yara arable crops leaflets [\[Link\]](#)
 - b. Yara Grassland leaflets [\[Link\]](#)
 - c. Yara Forage Crops Leaflets [\[Link\]](#)
 - d. CF Fertilisers [\[Link\]](#)

Module 6 - The transport, handling and storage of fertilisers

1. Farm Storage and Transport Requirements for AN-based Fertilisers (from the [AIC web site](#), in the Fertiliser section, select Publications, Health and Safety)
1. Five Points for Secure Storage on Farm (the 'Five Point Plan') (from the [AIC web site](#), in the Fertiliser section, select Publications, Health and Safety)
2. Yara fertiliser safety [\[Link\]](#)
3. CF Fertiliser safety pages [\[Link\]](#)
4. Fertiliser product data safety sheets (from company or AIC websites) in particular examples for Ammonium nitrate products -- safety and precautions required

Module 7 - Application of fertilisers

1. Fertiliser Spreaders Manual (from the [AIC web site](#), in the Fertiliser section, select Publications for farmers and advisers)
2. *See also Yara or CF Fertiliser links*

Module 8 - Code of Good Agricultural Practice and legal and other requirements to protect the environment

England/Wales

1. Protecting our Water, Soil and Air (from the [Defra web site](#) or available as hardcopy from The Stationery Office, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN (ISBN 9780112432845))
2. Guidance for Farmers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (from [Defra web site](#). (VERY IMPORTANT))
3. Catchment sensitive farming website
4. Environment Agency website --- water framework directive

Books

1. The Agricultural Notebook
2. The Australian book of soil fertility (available from Amazon at around £30) -- really useful background information if you miss out the Australian slant

Other resources

- There are many videos on YouTube covering the areas listed in the syllabus