

Farming Calendar

JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and rogue fields for diseases and off-types. • Service vehicles and equipment. • Follow-up hand weeding of Panicum and Sorghum spp. • Conduct under-canopy spraying of creeping grasses. • Plan and finalise chemical ripener programme. • Analyse individual field performance to assist in replant decisions i.e. varieties, seedcane, fallowing implications (green manure crops).
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct programme planning for coming season. • Conduct budget planning. • Plan seedcane requirements for next year. • Rogue fields and nurseries for diseases and off-types from nurseries. • Mow verges and breaks. • Estimate crop for the coming season.
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan drying-off programme for irrigated fields. • Sample replant fields for RSD. • Submit crop estimates. • Survey carry-over fields for eldana. • Maintain and repair farm roads. • Complete autumn planting.
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train cane cutters. • Focus on cane quality: Mature, Clean and Fresh. • Schedule irrigation, do not over-irrigate. • Plant green manure crops e.g. Winter Oats. • Carry out soil samples in plough-out fields. • Review field layout for plough-out fields. • Order lime. • Monitor ripener programme.

MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain waterways, drains and conservation structures. • Abide by local burning code of practice. • Place certified seedcane orders for next season. • Survey potential carry-over cane to see if spraying is needed to control eldana. • For the Midlands: Inspect fields for early frost damage.
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan evaluation of irrigation systems. • Repair irrigation system equipment. • Clear firebreaks. • Order fertiliser and plan application. • Apply lime. • Begin construction of new field layouts. • For the Midlands: Inspect fields for frost damage.
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control winter weeds. • Service and calibrate fertiliser and herbicide applicators. • Sample seedcane nurseries for RSD. • Complete new field layouts and structures.
AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff in herbicide application. • Check fallow fields for volunteers. • Complete grassing of waterways. • For the midlands: Ensure that all frost- damaged fields have been harvested.
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin fertiliser application. • Apply long-term herbicides. • Conduct spring planting. • Rogue for smut. • Plan leaf sampling programme to audit fertiliser applications.
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check effectiveness of herbicide application. • Identify fields with problem weeds and begin treatments. • Continue roguing for smut.

NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spray minimum tillage fields.• Mow verges and breaks.• Rogue smut- and mosaic-susceptible varieties.• For high mosaic risk areas: Do not plant between 1 November and 1 February.• For the Midlands: Monitor winter weeds in last season's cane.• For the Midlands: Plan long fallow to next spring for minimum tillage fields.
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check effectiveness of chemical stool eradication.• Follow-up weed control.• Rogue smut- and mosaic-susceptible varieties.• Follow up treatments on problem weeds.