

Step 4: Evaluation

This particular step is very important in terms of an overall IPM strategy. Throughout all the steps accurate records should be maintained as this will provide a greater bank of information which will act to inform future decisions.

At this stage particular decisions have been made and those decisions should be evaluated for whether they went right or wrong or how they may be improved in the future. Evaluation should be continuous throughout the process but when actions are taken it becomes even more important.

Evaluating your pest management strategy can be carried out by individual growers or in collaboration with an independent agronomist who may have been involved during the season.

The following is an example of some questions that should be considered but are not exclusive to individual growers/agronomists when evaluating:

- What approaches did I take in terms of pest management?
- Were those approaches successful or did problems arise?
- How might risks be further reduced in to the future?
- What challenges lie ahead in terms of pest management?
- Is my current approach working and is it viable going forward?
- What can I do differently next time or in the future to avoid further problems arising?
- Are there any new developments available which can be applied to my system?

Evaluation is important given the continuous development of IPM based approaches. IPM practices can improve and develop over time and as a result growers need to be informed and in the know with regard to pest management. The ability to record data accurately on farm is key to informing future management strategies.