

## **Magnetizing fluids should lead to 25% less usage**

The Irish ambassador John Neary visited the farm of the family Schuiling in Minnertsga last Thursday. There, the Irish company Agricultural Magnetics (AML) kicked off with a trial for a new spraying technique that is supposed to lead to a reduction of 25% of used chemicals. AML is represented in The Netherlands.

### **1. Which technique is used?**

AML has developed a method to magnetize chemicals for crop protection. The name for this technique / method is MaGgrow. By applying MaGgrow droplets are better attached to the plants. Less drift will occur and the droplets are smaller resulting in less usage of the product. Magnetizing results in better attachment, which means at least 25% less product can be used.

### **2. How is this proven?**

Last year reliable trials have been executed by PPO Lelystad and Proeftuin Zwaagdijk. The researchers had all the freedom to determine the layout of the trial. AML did not interfere in this. The trials showed a reduction of 25%, maintaining yields. At an earlier stage the results of trials with the University of Florida were even better. Those results even showed higher yields.

### **3. How does it work?**

A box is attached to the spraying boom. At the same time attaching elements and magnets are installed for the nozzles. The liquid runs through the boom and is altered during its way. When the product is ready for commercial sales, the technical work will be done by Wiersma Agriworks.

### **4. Which trials are done at the farm of Schuiling?**

At the farm of Schuiling the technique will be tested on seed potatoes. Besides that, AML will also test the system on the farms of Klaas Rienks in Waaxens and Wiersma in Brantgum. Besides seed potatoes, wheat, onions and sugar beets will be treated with this technique. Also the scientific trials at PPO and Zwaagdijk will continue. One year of research is not enough. Also the University of Dublin and the English scientific institute Harper Adams have started trials in 2014.

### **5. When will the technique be ready for commercial sales and what will be the costs?**

AML hopes and expects to sell the product on the market next year, the growing season of 2016. AML is already talking to different producers of spraying booms. They are interested in the product. The actual costs are not yet known, but if you take into consideration that a tillage farmer spends around 30.000 euro on chemicals every year, a 25% reduction is definitely worthwhile.