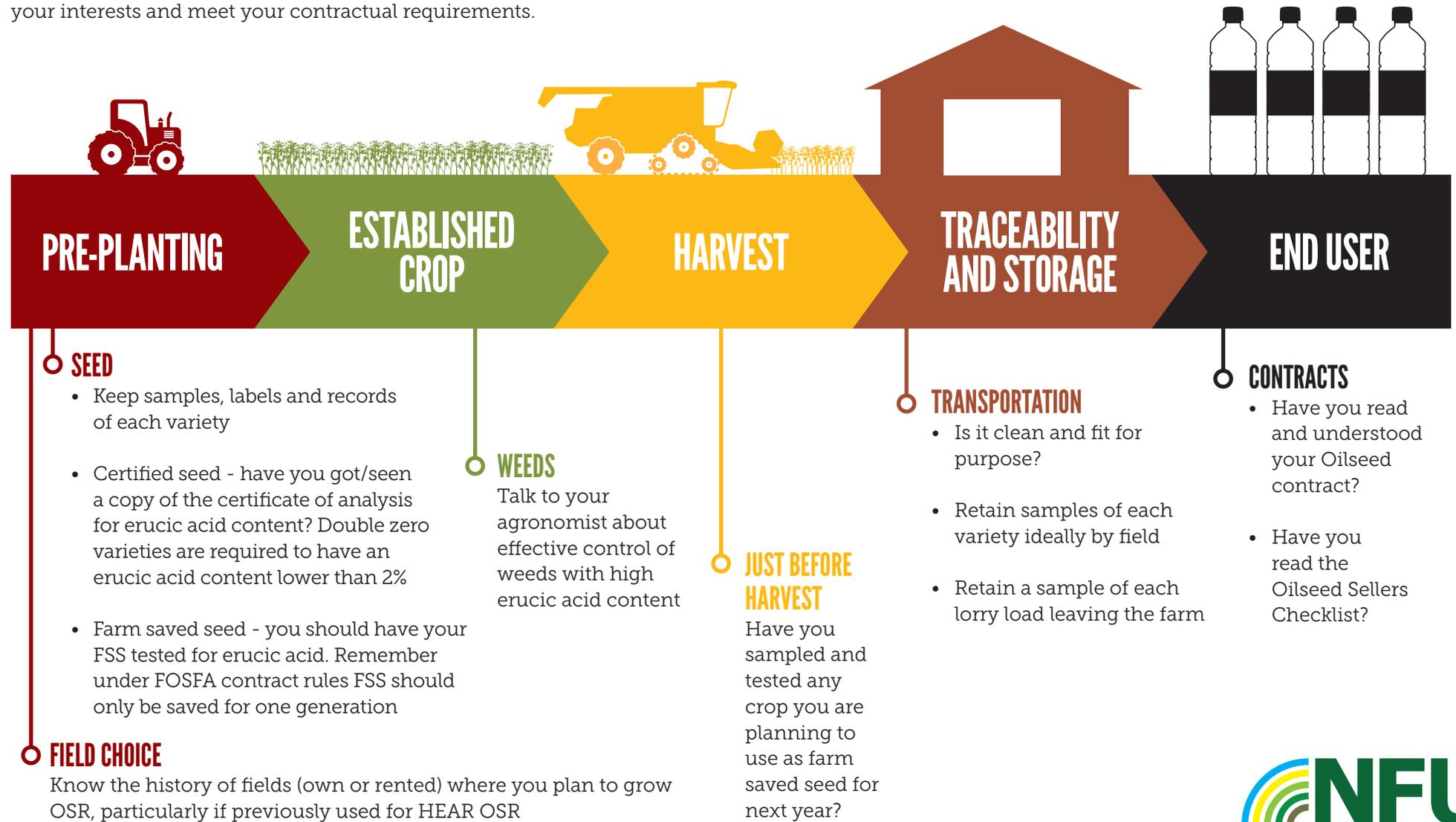


ERUCIC ACID – KEY CONTROL POINTS

There have been a number of incidents where contractual limits for erucic acid have been breached, resulting in claims and, in some cases, rejection. There are points in the crop cycle where contamination can be identified early enough to do something about it. The pathway below has been designed by the NFU in consultation with the supply chain to help protect your interests and meet your contractual requirements.



ERUCIC ACID CONTAMINATION IN OSR

Higher than expected levels of erucic acid have been found in deliveries of double zero OSR. In order for rapeseed oil to be used in food products, erucic acid levels must by law not exceed 5% and therefore, the contractual maximum in most contracts is set at 2%. The majority of OSR is traded on the FOSFA 26A contract (blank copies are available for NFU members on NFU Online) but you are encouraged to check your own contract.

The below table shows the acid profile of commonly found weeds:

WEED	PALMITIC (%)	STEARIC (%)	OLEIC (%)	LINOLENIC (%)	ERUCIC (%)
Wild radish (Raphanus raphanistrum)	5.2	1.9	27.3	11.7	26.7
Cleavers (Galium aparine)	7.2	1.9	44.3	17.8	-
Charlock (Sinapis arvensis)	3.3	1.1	15.3	13.0	31.7
Cranes-bill (Geranium dissectum)	14.4	2.0	19.6	3.4	9.9
Common poppy (Papaver rhoeas)	9.5	2.5	10.4	0.5	-
Shepherds purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris)	7.6	4.5	14.1	35.2	-
Hedge mustard (Sisymbrium officianate)	8.7	1.5	6.7	35.4	20.9

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ERUCIC ACID:

- Log the issue with NFU Call First (0370 845 8458)
- Confirm you have a problem – consider an independent retest using gas chromatography
- Consider challenging a penalty if you believe it was wrongly applied
- If you have not already, initiate mitigation steps as laid out on the timeline overleaf

WANT FURTHER INFORMATION?

The full NFU briefing is available on our website and includes guidance on:

- Independent re-testing
- Advice on challenging a penalty
- Mitigation measures and further information on the control points
- NFU activity

Data courtesy of Monsanto Technical Development research