

Louth Monitor Farm

Soil compaction and surface drainage

18 November 2016

Rosville Farm, Swaby, Lincs, LN13 0BJ

Speakers:

- Simon King, Monitor Farmer
- Philip Wright, Wright Resolutions
- Harry Henderson, AHDB

For more information, visit:
cereals.ahdb.org.uk/louth



Mike Daniells & Simon King, Louth Monitor Farmers

Meeting summary – key messages

1. Cultivations start with the crop quality from your combine. If baling the straw, is bale removal well organised? Spread pattern on the combine will have a positive effect, if straw raking or not
2. Adopting Strip-Till drilling at Swaby has saved £100/ha on establishment cost.
3. Total fuel consumption from stubble to stubble is 38lt/ha.
4. If conditions are too wet - stop. Costs keeping a poorly established crop going through the winter and beyond will erode the profitability of the rest of the harvest.

Cultivation & crop establishment theory

- Don't go too deep. Using the leading tine too deep can cause sub-surface compaction, higher fuel consumption, high tine wear all for no effect on yield.
- Keep the speed to 10 to 12kph. Faster drilling speeds lead to ridging making rolling and soil acting herbicide less effective.
- If you need to plough, driven by blackgrass control aim for once in 4 years. Plough well, poor ploughing is worse than not ploughing at all.



In the field

- Watch out the tine wear. Leading tine could cut a slot rather than life soil structure if left to wear too thin
- As already well known the first cultivation starts with the combine. As header widths increase so must straw and chaff spreading technology.
- Resist setting the leading tine too deep. It is liable to create too much surface disturbance bringing clods up, require too much power/weight to pull and provide habitat for slugs.



All winter herbicides applied by large sprayer down these tramlines. No tramlining done & firm seedbed.

Further information on AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds soil research is available [here](#)

Next meetings

20 December 2016

Introducing cover crops & livestock

Royal Oak Inn (The Splash), Watery Lane, Little Cawthorpe, Louth, LN11 8LZ

To attend meeting, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Knowledge Exchange Manager:

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To find out more about AHDBs benchmarking tool, please contact:

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