

Truro Monitor Farm

Meeting 6: Summer meeting

Date: 21 June 2017

Location: Tregairewoon Farm, Portscatho, TR2 5EP

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



Howard Emmett, Truro monitor farmer

Meeting summary – key messages

Farmbench costings giving budgeted costs of production for 2017 harvest to aid marketing decisions

	2017 budget	2016	2015
W Wheat			
Yield t/ha	9.0	6.5	9.9
Costs of Production Incl family labour and depreciation, excl. R & F £/t	119	175	117
W Barley			
Yield t/ha	6.5	6.9	7.0
COP £/t	155	161	157
S OSR			
Yield t/ha	2.8		
COP £/t	299		

P & K holidays widely distort annual COP figures so need to look at rolling averages and whole rotation margins

There is no right or wrong answer on plough vs min-till. Year by year, field by field decision. Assessment tool – spade.

Sludge on bean stubble ploughed in before wheat may be wasting nutrient and ground could then be min-tilled.

Sludge better ahead of spring crops

In quest for more wheat crops in rotation, spring beans and rape still considered advantageous to fallow, contributing margin and organic matter

Evidence of betting rooting structure on beans with biostimulant, inconclusive in spring barley.

2018 YEN crop planning

Homer Gew field selected growing winter wheat after 2017 spring OSR. The variety Graham was chosen, which is the farm's current preferred variety. The group decided they wanted to see what they could do with this rather than add in the variable of a new variety.

Field soil test to be carried out.

Rape hulk to be chopped. If dry conditions, 1.5t/ha lime and min till only. If wetter, 1 tonne lime, sludge application and plough. Potash applied above RB209 recommended levels.

Aim for drilling in the first week of October with Deter dressed seed and liberal slug pelleting. Field seed rate to be split half and half, 10%+ and 10% - farm's normal seed rate.

Arable Business Group - Benchmarking

If you are interested in benchmarking your figures against Howard and other members from the Monitor Farm group, please contact:

David Pett, Regional Officer:

Mobile 07813 45453 David.pett@ahdb.org.uk



Next meeting

Winter meeting programme:

- 2 November 2017 Topic tbc
- 7 December 2017 Julian Gold – Machinery investment
- 1 February 2018 Mark Wood - Precision Farming
- 1 March 2018 Topic tbc

Other dates in the Region:

- 26 November 2017 Dorset College of Agriculture – “Agriculture in the Supply Chain”
- 21 February 2018 Westpoint Centre, Exeter – AHDB Regional Agronomy Conference
- 23 February 2018 RAU, Cirencester - Regional YEN Conference

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

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