

Pembrokeshire Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting: Soil health
Speakers: Philip Wright (Wright Resolutions Ltd)
Date: 7 November 2018
Location: Camrose Community Hall, Pembrokeshire



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

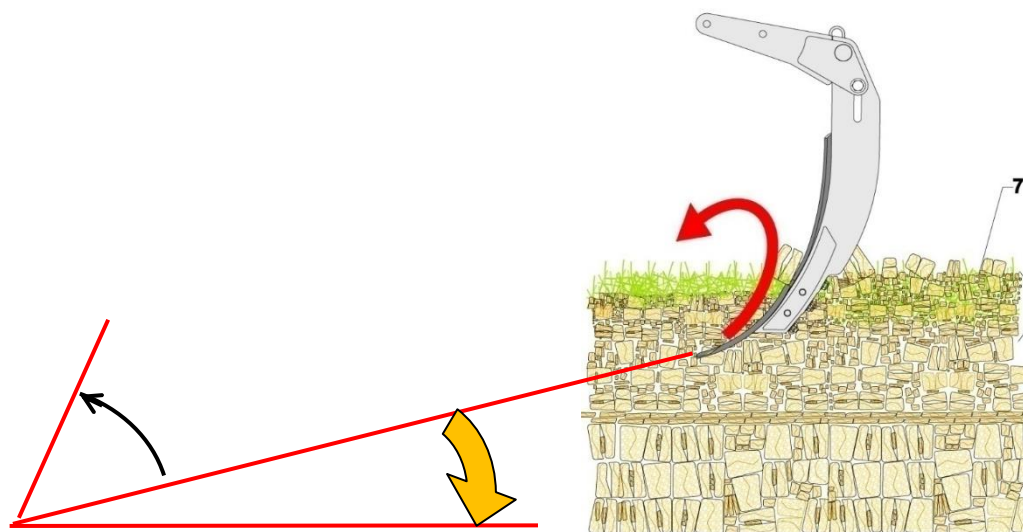
Why is soil structure important?

- Soil compaction costs us in yield of all crops
- Restricted drainage and waterlogging also has a penalty on crop yield, and can encourage certain weeds
- Poor aggregation reduces infiltration and passage of water through soil. This causes:
 - Risk of run-off, pollution and higher environmental costs;
 - Poor aeration at depth, suffocating roots, reducing their natural respiration, and anaerobic activity harms soil biology. This reduces the ability to degrade residual chemicals and increases denitrification risk.



Why is good soil biology important in Pembrokeshire?

1. Nutrient and water storage
2. Essential for coarser soils
3. Maintains healthy balance of micro-organisms and provides N through mineralisation
4. Provides resilience and stability
5. Relationship with roots (Mycorrhiza) to assimilate water and nutrients
6. Earthworms: improvers of porosity + stability + fertility



Tines – lifting and loosening:

- Mixing and structuring
- Coarser surface where needed
- Levelling after often required
- Cannot cut trash
- Beneficial in wetter conditions

Rake angle effects:

- Increasing angle reduces loosening
- Increasing angle increases compressive loads.

Find out more

[GREATsoils](#)

[Introduction to soil biology](#)

[Biological tests for soil health](#)

[Developing a soil health testing plan at Strategic Farm West](#)

[Field drainage guide](#)



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