

Uppincott Farm Monitor Farm Update

Meeting held: Uppincott Farm, 2pm on 10 July 2014

Speakers: Nick and James Lee, Partners; Philip Dolbear, HGCA Regional Manager, South

Summary of Monitor Farm launch meeting

- Overview of the Monitor Farm concept
- Introduction of key individuals at Uppincott Farm and HGCA
- Farm walk incorporating programme discussion topics:
 - *Crop establishment and soil management*
 - *Sustainable rotations*
 - *Identifying profitability of multiple enterprises*
 - *Driving extra profit from current area, not additional hectares (farming or contracting)*



Breakout sessions identified the strengths and weaknesses of the business to be addressed over the three year programme:

Business strengths:

- Family labour, experienced, progressive
- Mixed farm with livestock
- Fixed costs spread with contracting
- Soil management and use of green manure
- Crop market outlets

Business opportunities:

- Willingness to review and change
- Mixed farming area, opportunities for expansion
- Labour and machinery 'flexibility'
- Diversification

Business weaknesses:

- Family labour overstretched
- Poorly identified individual enterprise margins to net profit level
- Does scale of enterprises justify investment?
- Farm infrastructure for arable

Business threats:

- Succession
- Outside factors – legislation, CAP Reform
- Value of subsidy support going forward; operating a business without it
- Land rent costs



Next Monitor Farm meeting: Uppincott Farm, Shobrooke, Crediton, EX17 1BE 1pm 18 November 2014

‘Harvest 2014 overview, and cashflow management’

- **Overview of harvest 2014**
- **Cost of production**
- **Benchmarking your business**
- **Financing the most profitable arable rotation**

Farm summary

- **800 acres owned, rented and grazing licence**
- **350 acres combinable crops, 70 suckler cows, 350 lambing ewes and contracting**
- **Labour consists of Nick, his two sons James and Jonathan plus part time**
- **Uppincott Farm up to 900’ with 36” rainfall**
- **Soils are generally medium loams**
- **Crop rotation is W Wheat – S Barley – Oats – OSR.**
- **Crop storage on farm with a small amount at Devon Grain.**
- **Feed wheat marketed to Crediton Milling. Barley for feed and seed.**
- **Main contracting operations – grass silaging with forage wagon, Claydon drilling**

