

# Hendred Farm Partnership Monitor Farm Update

**Meeting held:** East Hendred Farm, 9.30am on 21 October 2014

**Speakers:** Julian Gold, Farm Manager; Ian Beecher - Jones

## Summary of Monitor Farm meeting

### Julian Gold:

Oilseed establishment and some crop failure discussed. More slug damage than flea beetle problems. Pelleting and rolling evaluated. Identified need to pellet with the seed and roll each side of the coulters rather than 'broad rolling'. Lively debate over hybrid vs conventional vs home saved seed.

On farm 'try-out' planned for next year of ultra-low cost rape establishment. 75% cost savings?

2015 crop marketing strategy now a challenge based on high establishment costs, anticipated total costs assuming rolling five-year average yield.



### Ian Beecher - Jones:

Groups explored the elements of precision farming, the opportunities and benefits, the barriers and problems and where investment for return should be prioritised.

The cheapest and most cost effective elements of precision farming were identified as a spade and a tape measure!

Key opportunities identified as being

1. The ability to target more or less inputs related to crop potential
2. To save fixed costs notably from less machinery 'over-lapping'

The main barriers and problems were:

1. Cost
2. Signal reliability
3. Equipment compatibility
4. Training for effective use of technology

Over the course of the three-year Monitor Farm programme at Hendred Farm, specific examples will now be followed through, costed and evaluated.

## Next monitor farm meetings:

### East Hendred Farm, East Hendred, Wantage, OX12 8LG

- **9am, 11 November 2014 – Crop Nutrition**
- **9am, 16 December 2014 – Pulses**

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## Farm summary

- 800ha owned, rented and stubble to stubble contract farmed with a further 200ha contract combined and other work
- Other enterprises include 450 head May lambing flock and 2400 bird commercial shoot run as farm enterprise
- Labour consists of Julian Gold plus 2 FT employees with additional short term contract employee
- Farm soils are silty clay loams over chalk and are highly alkaline
- Average rainfall 679mm/yr
- Crop rotation is OSR – Wheat – Beans – Wheat – 2nd Cereal (Wheat, W or S Barley)
- The farm has 5000t of crop storage

