

Ian Cammack and Andy Bason - Newhouse Farm Monitor Farm Update

Meeting held: Newhouse Farm, 10.30am on 6 November 2014

Speakers: Ian Cammack, Owner; Andy Bason, Farm Manager;
Philip Dolbear, HGCA Regional Manager, South

Summary of Monitor Farm launch meeting

- Overview of the Monitor Farm concept
- Introduction of key individuals at Newhouse Farm and HGCA
- Farm walk incorporating programme discussion topics:-
 - *Reasons for disappointing yields relative to inputs*
 - *Managing the fixed cost structure on the farm – notably labour and machinery compliments*
 - *Using existing technology and data available and whether to invest in more*



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

Business strengths:

- Ownership and capital base
- Openness and willingness to embrace change
- Farm resources including Hampshire Grain Storage
- Freedom from black-grass

Business weaknesses:

- Machinery structure
- Labour compliment
- Rotation
- Lack of independent advice

Business opportunities:

- Under-utilised labour and machinery
- Potential to increase yields
- Use of technology
- Soil management
- Rotation and introduction of more livestock with stubble turnips
- Use external advice eg agronomy

Business threats:

- Soil organic matter
- Black-grass
- Loss of chemistry
- Outside factors – legislation, CAP Reform
- Succession

**Next Monitor Farm meeting:
Newhouse Farm, Northington Down,
Alresford, SO24 9UB
10.30am 11 February 2015**

‘What are the constraining factors to yields?’

- **How do you separate out and quantify the effect of different factors?**
- **Costs of production**
- **Benchmarking your business**

Farm summary

- 700ha owned of which 524 are cropped
- Other enterprises include contracting work, 80 lambing ewes, family shoot and diversification enterprises
- Labour consists of Andy Bason, Farm Manager and two staff all of whom spend approximately 50% of their time on arable operations
- Farm soils are shallow calcareous over chalk with clay caps.
- Average rainfall 850 mm/yr
- Crop rotation is W Wheat – W Beans – WW – S Barley – W OSR
- All grain stored and marketed at Hampshire Grain.

