

Stowmarket Monitor Farm Update

Meeting: Seed/crop establishment
Date: 6 February 2015
Venue: Lodge Farm, Westhorpe, Stowmarket
Speakers: Nigel Day – Seed dressings
 Ian Robertson – Soil nutrients
 Alan Gray – Fertiliser market

Brian Barker
 Monitor Farmer



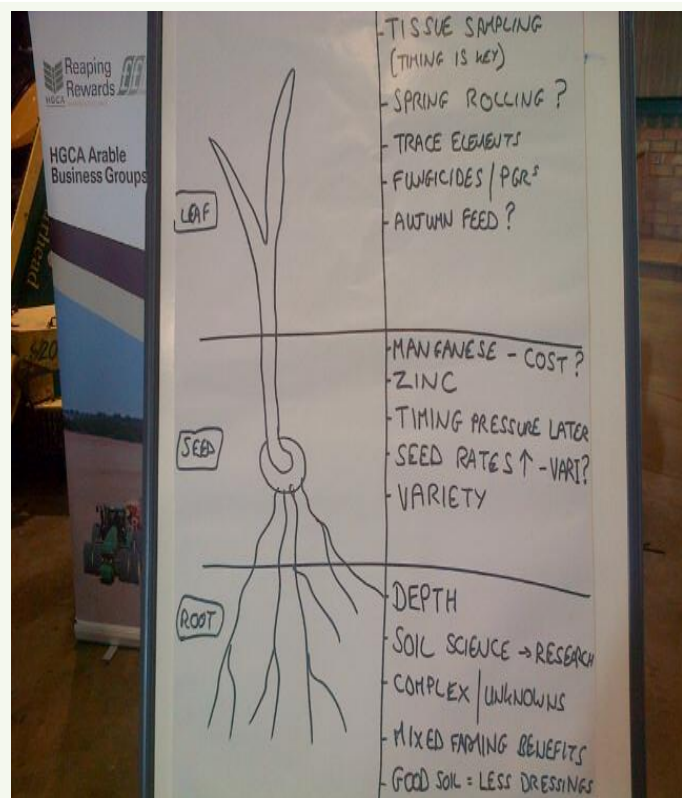
Summary of meeting

- Pros, cons and costs of different seed treatments:

Manganese and zinc important for seedling establishment

- Variety choice and parentage more important than yield figure
- Consider drill choice with emphasis on consistent seed depth
- Nutrient placement and availability (on farm trials needed)
- Methods for stimulating early leaf growth discussed
- Fertiliser market update - low oil price; no immediate effect on price, but haulage to farm could be a problem
- How to treat overhead costs in benchmarking - consistency is key

Group sessions identified the key issues at the first three stages of crop establishment:



Growing and storing seed - Key Points

- Seed is a living product – how it is grown, harvested and stored has a huge bearing on how it will grow in the field
- Take care with pre-harvest glyphosate
- Take care with moisture contents (Cereals 15%, OSR 9%)
- Drying temperatures 30 Degrees Celsius max
- Take care with mechanical damage
- Is the crop ripe and not just dry enough to combine
- Seed size matters – bigger is generally better = big sieves
- Keep enough raw material to allow for up to 50% screenings in a bad year
- Seed density matters: denser = better = gravity separation

Next Monitor Farm meeting

- Friday 6 March 2015
- Malting Barley Breakfast:
Open event from 7.45 to 10am at The Bell Inn, Rickinghall, IP22 1BN
- Monitor Farm meeting on herbicides afterwards at Lodge Farm, IP14 4TA at 10.30am

**To find out more about
HGCA's CropBench+
Benchmarking tool,
Contact:**

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Farm Summary

- 628ha of combinable crops – mixture of owned, rented and contract farmed
- Cropping includes wheat, barley, OSR, linseed, herbage grass & beans
- Family partnership
- Range of farm diversification enterprises
- Conservation work balanced with pushing arable yields
- Labour consists of Brian Barker, two full-time employees and various family when required