

Louth Monitor Farm Meeting

Meeting held: Swaby Village Hall, Tuesday 20 January

Speakers: Ian Beecher-Jones

Review of precision farming “only useful if profitable!”

- RTK already used for drilling
- P & K VRT spreading already used
- All the group present using precision farming at some level
- Not all the group use precision farming software.
- Some of the group thinking about using ‘icloud’ technology
- Many questions around return on investment



Ian Beecher-Jones took the group through the objectives of precision farming and explained “it is nothing new!”

Where to get your information

- Your own knowledge
- Google Maps give good clues to problem areas
- Yield maps tend to confirm what you knew already
- Soil texture zone maps, how many zones can you work with?
- Soil reflectance maps, quick and easy but not as accurate as soil sampling

Managing your information

- Consider your attitude to office work and entering data, do you pay someone else?
- Agronomy companies can handle all your data for you.
- Do you save your A-B lines in desktop software?
- Ensure data is ‘backed up’ off farm, using icloud, Onedrive, Drop Box, idrive etc.

Before you start

- Precision farming will not turn your farm around
- Operator attitude; must want it to work
- Ensure soil health is good and compaction and is low
- Make sure drainage work is up to date
- Carefully research your machinery choice
- Speak with other users for their opinion.

What are you aiming to achieve?

- Aiming for an even stand of crop
- Go for seed per meeting squared rather than kg/ha.
- On thinner soils do you put more or less on?
- Thinner soils every seed will grow so may not be able to sustain the crop?
- Highest accuracy may not be necessary for cereal growing applications.

Next Monitor Farm meeting: 17 February 2015

Royal Oak Inn, Little Cawthorpe, Louth,
Lincolnshire LN11 8LZ

Milling Wheat Breakfast

7.45	Registration and breakfast
8.20	Chairperson's welcome <i>Richard Whitlock, HGCA Board Member</i>
8.30	Grain Market Outlook 2015 <i>Amandeep Kaur Purewal, and Arthur Marshall, AHDB Market Intelligence</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current global and UK outlook• Key drivers and events driving wheat prices• UK milling wheat plantings and premiums• New crop prospects
9.00	Attention to agronomic detail: meeting milling wheat targets <i>Neil Watson, NIAB TAG</i>
9.30	A miller's view <i>Julius Deane, CMI</i>
10:00	Networking and Close of Milling Wheat Breakfast and Coffee
10.30	Monitor Farm Meeting; A Review of black-grass control strategies.
12.30	Lunch

Farm summary

- 1990ha total with 1600ha arable cropping
- Two blocks of land 50 miles apart
- Main block Typical Wolds land with very low lying land Nr Scunthorpe.
- Rotation; W Wheat, W & S Barley, OSR, Vining Peas, Spring Beans & Fallow.
- Rainfall between 550 and 600 mm
- Small suckler herd of South Devon Cattle.

