

Ian Cammack and Andy Bason - Newhouse Farm Monitor Farm Update

Meeting held: Swarraton Village Hall, 10.30am on 11 February 2014

Speakers: Ian Cammack, Owner; Andy Bason, Farm Manager;

Susannah Bolton, Head of Research and Knowledge Transfer, HGCA

Summary of Monitor Farm launch meeting

Susannah Bolton introduced and summarised international work on tackling the yield plateau. She reviewed the agronomic factors, influenced by financial and management pressures, which impact on the ability to push for yields.

The meeting was then supplied with Newhouse field data including rotation history, soil samples, yield, soil and conductivity maps together with cultivation practice. Groups then discussed many reasons that may be holding back yield for on the basis of this data.



The following list was identified:

- Headland management
- Establishment techniques
- Cultivation techniques
- Soil condition - organic matter levels
- Varietal choice
- P & K nutrition and availability
- Seed rates
- Drainage
- Fertiliser spreading

Based on this list the Monitor Farm Steering Group have met with Ian and Andy to review changes that can be made in some of these areas and the results followed through subsequent Monitor Farm meetings this year .

Three topics have been identified:

- Headland management. One field will have four different headland cultivation practices
- P & K Nutrition. One field will be half treated with additional P & K.
- Variable Rate seeding. One field to be split with variable and standard rate.

**Next Monitor Farm meeting:
Swarraton Village Hall, Swarraton SO24**

10.30am 11 March 2015

‘How to analyse business costs?’

- **How to appraise an investment?**
- **The price of machine over capacity?**
- **How to weigh up ownership vs finance vs contract vs hire?**

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.

