

Louth Monitor Farm Meeting

Topic: Machinery costs

Meeting held: Swaby Village Hall, 22 December 2014

Speaker: Philip Dunn of Brown & Co, Brigg, Lincolnshire

Summary of Monitor Farm meeting

- The fight against black-grass has led to a review of current min-till practice
- 8 meter Vaderstad used currently
- A 4 meter Sumo DTS Strip-Till drill has been purchased, as a 'try out'
- Rotation now includes spring crop
- Rotational ploughing important
- Results from using DTS for autumn 2014 drilling are encouraging



Task:

- Review option to change establishment technique to "no till"
- Current and possible future crop establishment system evaluated
- Current establishment costs (£/ha):

Winter Barley	Spring Barley	Oilseed Rape	Winter Wheat	Vining Peas	Spring Beans
161.11	219.31	83.80	145.60	101.38	184.98

'Potential' establishment costs:

It must be understood that the figures below are the best case scenario.

Ploughing and soil restructuring will still feature in the rotation

CROP ESTABLISHMENT

Machine	Implement	Workrate (Ha per hr)	Fuel Use (lts per Hr)	Fuel Cost per Hr	Machine Cost per Hr	Implement Cost per Hr	Operation Cost per Hr	Total Labour	Total Cost Per Hr	Total Cost Per Ha	Establishment Cost per Ha
JD 7530	Stubble Rake 6m	6.0	15	9.75	33.39	10.23	43.62	14.34	57.96	9.66	
JD 6210R	Sumo DTS 4m	3.5	40	26.00	65.13	26.73	91.87	14.34	106.21	30.35	
JD 7530 - 1	Rolls x2	10.0	15	9.75	33.39	25.48	58.87	14.34	73.22	7.32	47.33
JD 7530	Stubble Rake 12m	12.0	20	13.00	36.64	46.53	83.17	14.34	97.51	8.13	
Quad Trac	Sumo DTS 9m	8.0	70	45.50	89.88	131.53	221.42	14.34	235.76	29.47	
JD 7530 - 1	Rolls x2	10.0	15	9.75	33.39	25.48	58.87	14.34	73.22	7.32	44.92

Other comments and points raised at the meeting

- 9 Meter Sumo DTS being considered
 - Will a Case 475 Quadtrac pull it? 50hp/m requirement. Yes
- The drill is part of an overall plan to lengthen rotation to enable black-grass control and cut establishment costs to counter perceived lower returns from the rotation
- Importantly, the DTS can be used on a plough based system too and used in field where straw is to be incorporated
- Now surplus cultivation kit should be sold to lower depreciation costs within the business
- Will crop yields be affected by the move to one-pass drilling? This harvest (2015) will tell
- Straw for muck arrangement will help push up organic matter content on wolds land
- Care should be taken around the currently low fuel prices that could give a false impression of increased cost savings
- High horsepower tractor numbers could be cut and make more use of hire in peak times
- Cover crops to be reviewed

Next monitor farm meeting: 20 January 2015

Review of Precision Farming with Ian Beecher-Jones
Please contact Harry Henderson north@hgca.ahdb.org.uk

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.



Spring drilling straight into overwintered stubble with strip-till drill

