

Cardiff Monitor Farm



22 April 2015

Disease strategy and variety choices

Simon Oxley (AHDB) & Stephen Harrison (South West Agronomy)

For more information, visit cereals.ahdb.org.uk/Cardiff

Meeting summary

- Farm tour incorporating review and discussion of the agronomic strategy used at Penmark Place Farm.
- Joined by Dr Simon Oxley who is a Senior Research & Knowledge Transfer Manager at AHDB. Simon manages the HGCA Recommended List of cereals and oilseeds varieties. He is also involved with AHDB research involved in varieties, agronomy, pathology and monitoring activities.



Farm Summary

Monitor farmer Julian Radcliffe farms around 600ha, of which 400ha are arable, over a 7-mile area in the shadow of Cardiff Airport. The farm has very shallow medium loam soils, around 20-28cm and even less in some places. Julian grows wheat, OSR, barley, oats and grass, and has started growing a small area of maize. He recently invested in a beef unit to finish 250 cattle and also has a flock of 200 breeding ewes. Julian's aim is to farm profitably and sustainably into the future, and to do this his focus for the Monitor Farm programme will be on yields, cultivation, grass weed control and a marketing strategy to address price volatility.



Meeting Summary

- The final yield depends so much on the May and June rainfalls. Thin soils at Penmark Place Farm can result in summer drought and have a drastic effect on yields. The yield potential is looking positive for harvest 2015.
- Wet and windy climate in South Wales increases the threat of septoria tritici. The group discussed the importance of using eyespot-effective materials where there is eyespot at stem extension, and plan to use modern SDHIs at flagleaf.
- Use AHDB resistance ratings for varieties to help monitor disease risk.
- The varieties are selected by Julian and Stephen to grow at Penmark Place to have a predominantly good spectrum of overall disease resistance, whilst also having high yield potential, maturing relatively early and without a high yellow rust susceptibility. The group discussed the responsibility to manage inputs so as to reduce the risk of resistance.
- The threat of sclerotinia (a common disease in oilseed rape) is relatively high in the Vale of Glamorgan, and for this reason Julian is participating in leaf monitoring through the Monitor Farm programme. So far he has found that 7.5% of his petals are infected with sclerotinia.



Next meeting

30 June 2015 5.00pm

Ty Draw Farm, Picketston, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 4QL

Summer Meeting – Soils management and Crop Nutrition

Speakers: Simon Draper, Soils Specialist & Neil Fuller, Crop Nutritionist

For more information or to attend a monitor farm meeting contact Richard Meredith on Richard.meredith@ahdb.org.uk or 07717 493015