

Bath Monitor Farm

Meeting 4: Open Day & Farm Tour

16 June 2015

Manor Farm, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Bath

Rob Addicott (Monitor Farmer) & Philip Dolbear (AHDB)

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



Rob Addicott

Meeting summary

- Update on Monitor Farm project
- Background to Manor Farm
- Farm tour:
 - Hybrid vs conventional Barley
 - Blackgrass management
 - The YEN project
 - Wheat Cropping
- Future strategy



Hybrid vs Conventional Barley

- Important to reduce seed rate
- Important to protect with PGRs
- Additional yield achieved covers higher seed cost

Blackgrass management

- Cultural control essential
- Use inversion tillage strategically, spring crops, chemical mixes, seed rates and a diverse rotation as an integrated approach
- Grass or maize break cropping preferential
- Additional information available on AHDB's Fact Sheet
<http://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/media/433525/is30-black-grass-solutions-to-the-problem.pdf>

Wheat management

- Rob described management of his 'YEN wheat crop'
- Identified that second wheats need as much attention as firsts, more nitrogen than currently being applied and careful varietal selection in conjunction with first wheat variety selected. The RL Supplementary Data provides second wheat performance and the Variety Selection Tool can also be used as an aid



<http://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/monitoring/variety-selection-tool-winter-wheat.aspx>

- Debate over introducing milling varieties. Premium may reduce. Less wheat to local Mill outlet which already provides a premium
- Discussion over wheat after rape to reduce establishment costs (moving soil) and controlling black-grass. Four different cultivation and drill strategies planned this autumn for field scale trial – Claydon, Horsch, Vaderstad and Lemken

CropBench+ benchmarking

- To find out more about AHDB's CropBench + benchmarking tool, please contact:

David Pett david.pett@ahdb.org.uk 07813 454537

Next meetings

- Tuesday 10 November 2015 – Cover Crops – Jake Freestone
- Tuesday 19 January 2016 – Labour power and machinery cost analysis
- Thursday 25 February 2016 – Grain storage
- Thursday 7 April 2016 – Tackling the Yield Plateau

Meeting times and locations will vary so please ensure you have registered your contact details to receive notification of details throughout the year

To attend the meetings, please email Philip.dolbear@ahdb.org.uk or call 07964 255614