

Stowmarket Monitor Farm

Meeting 9: Micro-nutrition & Costs of production

8 January 2016

Wyverstone Village Hall, Stowmarket

Brian Barker & Ian Robertson (Soil Advice)

For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/Stowmarket



Brian Barker

Meeting summary

- Key micronutrients in crop growth
- Summary of on-farm trials
- Importance of measurement
- Yield responses
- Soil interactions
- Identifying constraints on yield
- Root and tiller growth
- Cost benefit analysis
- Costs of production
- Value of benchmarking



Soil interactions

Nutrients get locked up in soils which are:

- High pH
- Low pH
- Anaerobic
- Very Dry
- Cold

Availability of nutrients determined by:

- Water
- Air
- Cations
- Anions
- Bulk density

Key findings from on-farm trials

- ✓ Use soil tests to find the limiting factors and address them
- ✓ Don't start late: chances are that you can feed a crop via the leaf, but you don't have the root to feed it water
- ✓ If increasing one nutrient, consider increasing others, e.g. N, K & S
- ✓ Measure biomass
- ✓ Measure roots and tillers and then manage accordingly
- ✓ Analyse and feed to deal with identified deficiencies

Key AHDB Publications

1. Sulphur for cereals and oilseed rape
2. Micronutrients for cereals and oilseed rape
3. Estimating Soil Nitrogen Supply
4. Improved analysis of solid manures and slurries
5. Nitrogen for winter wheat - management guidelines
6. Assessing the nutrient content of cereal straw

All these can be downloaded from cereals.ahdb.org.uk

For hard copies, call 0845 2450009 or email cereals.publications@ahdb.org.uk

Why benchmark costs of production?

1. How do you know how good you are?
2. How have you done compared with last year?
3. How have you done compared to other similar farms?
4. Which is your most profitable crop/rotation?
5. Where could cost savings be made?
6. Is every pound you spend reflected by higher yields?
7. At what selling price do you make a profit?

Benchmarking gives you the answers **

“the search for best practice that leads to superior performance”

Next meetings

Date	Agronomy Group 11.30 to 1.30	Market Reports	Business Group 2.00 to 3.30
Friday 5 February 2016	Harvest management	Malting Barley	Marketing practice
Friday 10 June 2016	Farm Walk / Open Day		

All winter meetings start at 11am at Wyverstone Village Hall, Rectory Road, Wyverstone, Stowmarket, IP14 4SH and include lunch, unless otherwise advised.

- To attend the meetings, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Regional Manager: Tim Isaac tim.isaac@ahdb.org.uk 07964 975078

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

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