

# Brigg Monitor Farm – Summer Meeting and Farm Walk

## Agenda

26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Gander Farm, Hibaldstow, Brigg, North Lincolnshire DN20 9PJ

### Programme\*

- 10.00           **Registration/refreshments**
- 10.15           **Welcome and introduction**  
Judith Stafford – AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Knowledge Exchange  
Manager  
Include AHDB update and outline winter meeting programme
- 10.25           **Monitor Farm update**  
Colin Chappell – Monitor Farmer
- How are the crops looking
  - What could have been done differently
  - Management going forward
  - Autumn cropping plans
  - Any updates on marketing
- 10.35           **Oilseed rape – should you be growing it?**  
Colin Chappell
- Background to the challenges of growing OSR in this area
  - Crop losses, cost
  - Difficulty of finding alternative crops that do the same job in the rotation
- Using home-saved seed**  
David Robinson (Monitor Farm agronomist, steering group)
- Problem of high glucosinolate levels and reduced thresholds
  - Should you be using home-saved seed?
  - Risk management options
  - Seed testing
  - Trials results
- Achieving consistent yields in OSR**  
Stephen Tuer
- Strategies used
  - What works and what doesn't

- Drilling date, seed rate, varieties
- Effects of soil type
- Pests and diseases - strategies

11.30

### **Farm walk**

Discussion to be led by Colin Chappell and David Robinson

- View problems areas, including any compacted headlands
- Discuss field scale drilling protocol including when to drill the headland
- Effect of cultivations and why drill type makes a difference
- Discuss thoughts on changes to drilling strategy
- View and discuss winter wheat in drilling trial area viewed in last November's meeting
- Role of cover crops – five different seed mixtures
- How the cover crops grew, method of destruction
- Any differences in following crops
- Dig soil pits to assess soil health
- Discuss which soils look most “healthy” and how we assess it
- Potential yields, expected and actual yields
- Direct drilling into cover crops
- Comments on drill type, seed placement and establishment
- Use of precision farming and use of data
- Changing the rotation – the current situation
- Dealing with weed burdens, pests and diseases – any that have been particularly challenging this year

### **Discuss options for alternative crops in the rotation**

- Recap on reasons for changing/extending the rotation
- Possible options available, including maize, grass
- Contracts
- What might work well in this area?
- How could grass fit in – previous cultivations, sowing method, length of grass ley, what will happen to it afterwards
- What could the grass be used for?
- Arrangement with other farmer(s) for use of grass
- Any other possible alternative crops for this region

13.00

### **Review of pesticide handling**

View current arrangements and discuss any progress with upgrading facilities

Where to obtain advice

Overcoming obstacles to upgrading

Working with industry organisations such as Anglian Water and Catchment Sensitive Farming

13.10            **Return to farm buildings**

13.20            **Meeting close and lunch**

**Meeting reports are available at:** <https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/get-involved/monitor-farms/brigg.aspx>

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