

Saltash Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Managing for yield – and margin

Date: 18 December 2019

Speaker: Dr Sarah Kendall

Senior Research Scientist, Crop Physiology, RSK ADAS Ltd



Reaching yield potential

- For a given site, consider what may limit yield
 - Source limitation – crop limited by its photosynthate availability to fill grains, eg soil, water (and capture), nutrition, light, crop protection
 - Sink limitation – crop limited by the number of grains or the storage capacity of the grains
- To maximise grain filling, concentrate on prolonging canopy life with good nutrition and disease control. Consider varieties that don't mature too early but keep in mind practical factors such as combine and storage capacity
- To maximise grains/m² use higher seed rates in the first place, promote tillering (consider rolling backward crops this spring) and keeping tillers (targeting N through canopy management approach – see below)
- Seed rates for plant population – take account of 1000gw
- Nitrogen management – early, little and often. Only apply later nitrogen where there is yield potential with moisture and a well-developed rooting structure. Where high levels of nitrogen are applied, use higher levels of sulphur.
- When trialling new management strategy be sure to leave control of 'old practice' in one tramline to quantify difference/ benefit

Further information

- [AHDB Nutrient Management Guide \(RB209\)](#)
- [Wheat growth guide](#)
- [Barley growth guide](#)
- [Webinar: Crop yields and how to maximise potential](#)
- [Yield Enhancement Network](#)
- [Farmbench](#)

AHDB resources

- Understand your business costs with AHDB's benchmarking tool Farmbench at ahdb.org.uk/farmbench
- Monitoring tools are available at ahdb.org.uk/tools
- Sign up to market information and research newsletters at ahdb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch
- Find out what's going on at other Monitor Farms and Strategic Farms at ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence
- All AHDB events can be found at ahdb.org.uk/events
- For guidance on how Brexit will impact your business, see ahdb.org.uk/brexit

Contact details

For more information contact: Philip Dolbear

E: Philip.dolbear@ahdb.org.uk M: 07964 255614

 @Cereals_SW