

Taunton Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Using data and tools to manage crop inputs

Date: 7 November 2019

Speaker: Bastiaan Brak (AHDB)



Using data and forecasting tools for managing inputs

Take home messages:

- Identify the grain or oilseeds market you want to grow for
- Identify key parameters of concern to you in growing crop eg Septoria rating, lodging rating, 2nd wheat scenario
- Use AHDB Recommended Lists and soon to be released (2/12/19) Variety Selection Tool to select a variety for your market which meets your agronomic specifications
- Look for varieties which are consistent for East or West growing and between the different years. This may give an indication of the reliability of the variety in volatile season weather conditions which may prevail after drilling
- Based on farm five year averages, and seasonal conditions, make a prediction of yield performance
- Based on this yield, using AHDB's Farmbench, get a projection of the crop's Cost of Production per tonne
- Use this figure to plan and execute a market strategy based on current and future price contracts to achieve business profit targets
- During the growing process, use AHDB tools to adjust fertiliser and spray inputs – keep reviewing viability of these inputs with updated yield, cost of production forecasts and potential margins according to grain marketing executed
- Use AHDB WeatherHub tools to assess how robust the farm soils and crop performance has been during different weather patterns
- Consider investment in own weather station for site specific data
- Degree days data and soil moisture deficits are both useful indicators of season progression and trends compared to historic rolling averages

Further information

- [AHDB WeatherHub](#)
- [Farmbench](#)
- [Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds](#)
- Arable Tools are available at ahdb.org.uk/tools
- [AHDB Nutrient Management Guide \(RB209\)](#)
- [Wheat growth guide](#)
- [Barley growth guide](#)

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

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 @Cereals_SW

