

Bridgnorth Monitor Farm

Topic: Weed control - attention to detail

Date: 15 February 2017

Venue: Norton Village

Speakers: Philip Wright

**For more information, visit
cereals.ahdb.org.uk/Bridgnorth**



Adrian Joynt, Bridgnorth Monitor Farm

Meeting summary – key messages

1. The generally very good levels of organic matter are helping to give the soils resilience which is evident in the generally good structures seen to depth
2. Attention to detail on tyres, pressures and the use of medium sized tractors and equipment is limiting structure damage to levels where they can easily be managed by the kit available
3. This Autumn, question if it is possible to work slightly shallower with the Sumo tines, provided circumstances and conditions at harvest allow
4. The tine based current drill does limit, to an extent, how cover crop surface residues, and the choice of crop itself, are managed. This is an area where some demonstrations of alternative (disc based or disc/tine based) drills could provide an insight into how best to manage such crop covers when establishing Spring crops following
5. Grass weed control is greatly assisted by spring cropping on these soils.

Cover crops at Goulburn Farms

Analysis of whether the system that Adrian has adopted is the correct system for his soil types in order to;

- Maximise yield potential
- Weed control
- Maintain/improve soil health

At the meeting the group visited the five different cover crop mixes in the field, evaluated how they have established and grown since planting and look at their effect on weed control and the soil to date.

We will return to the cover crops in the summer to see how the spring crops have established

Use these links to find out more information on cover crops:

- [Opportunities for cover crops in conventional arable rotations](#)
- AHDB [website](#) on cover crops, where you can read farmer experiences
- [Research review](#): a review of the benefits, optimal crop management practices and knowledge gaps associated with different cover crop species
- Agronomy 2017 [presentation](#). Cover crops: benefits, management and knowledge gaps (pages 49 – 58) and Brian Barker (pages 59 – 65)
- Agronomists Conference 2016 [video](#)



Cover crop mixes at Goulburn Farms

DSV Mixes

Drilled 8th September

Maizepro DT 30kg per ha – *peas, rye, clover, phacelia, buckwheat, sunflower, linseed, vetch, radish*
£1.67 per kg

Betamax DT 40 kg per ha – *clover, deeptill radish, peas, phacelia, niger, oats & vetch*
£1.84 per kg



Green Farm Seeds Mixes

Drilled 8th September

DFS Grabber – *rye, tillage Radish & vetch*
£1.49 per kg

DFS Sprinter Extra - *black oats, slovenian vetch & berseem clover*
£1.80 per kg

Home Saved mix

Drilled 8th October

60kg/ha - Naked Oats, Spring Beans

Slug pellets applied where required:
Gusto 3, 8 ha @ 3 Kg/ha

Next meeting

8 March 2017

Variable Rate Farming

At this meeting Bridgnorth Monitor Farmer, Adrian Joynt is aiming to answer a number of questions to help direct his business decisions going forward, such as;

- **Having applied lime and potash variably for 4 years should Adrian take the next step by adopting variable rate seed and nitrogen application?**
- **If so, what technology would be suitable for Goulburn Farms?**
- **Is it possible to draw any cost benefits from the technology?**

We will be joined by local Nuffield Scholar, Andrew Williamson who help investigate how precision agriculture can increase production and efficiency on farm. Andrew will demonstrate his experiences with the technology involved and lessons learnt along the way.

We will also welcome Hereford Monitor Farmer, Mark Wood of JPF Clay Farms who will evaluate his work investigating whether variable rate application has either reduced variability or increased margins on his farm. This will include a detailed cost analysis.

To attend meeting, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Knowledge Exchange Manager:

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