

# Brigg Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting 1: Launch Meeting

Speaker: Colin Chappell (AHDB Brigg Monitor Farmer)

Date: 23 June 2017

Location: Gander Farm, Hibaldstow, Brigg

For more information, visit: [cereals.ahdb.org.uk/brigg](http://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/brigg)



## Meeting summary – Launch meeting

**Introduction to Monitor Farm Programme:** Harry Henderson – AHDB Knowledge Exchange Manager East Midlands

**Introduction to Brigg Monitor Farm:** Colin Chappell, Brigg monitor farmer

### Farm and field tour

- Winter wheat, oilseed rape and beans: crop, treatments expectations.
- Machinery: size, cost and options
- Farmyard, grain storage, spray bay development

### Discussions around upcoming programme

## Farm introduction

### Farm details

- 900ac owned
- 300ac rented
- 400ac contract farmed
- 200ac ad-hoc contracting

### Principle Machinery

- New Holland combine on 3yr hire
- Househam SP 3000lt 24m sprayer
- 4m drill. Interchangeable between tines, discs and power-harrow

### Rotation

- Oilseed rape
- Winter wheat
- Spring wheat
- Combining peas
- Winter wheat
- Spring wheat

## Farm challenges & SWOT analysis



Much of the land borders the river Ancholme and is just 2 metres above sea level. Drainage and flooding are a challenge

Heavy soils well suited to black-grass. Could no-till

technology be the answer?

The farm is capable of high plant populations, so YEN is on the cards.



### Brigg Launch meeting SWOT Analysis

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good management</li> <li>• River Ancholme water management</li> <li>• Livestock enterprise, use of labour &amp; use of FYM</li> <li>• Labour. Bringing young people into the industry</li> <li>• Use of technology – SOYL &amp; variable seed rate</li> <li>• Good land type</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Yield Potential</li> <li>• Water table</li> <li>• Enthusiasm</li> <li>• Local markets AD Plant and straw burning power station</li> <li>• Open minded – asks questions</li> <li>• Mixed farming</li> <li>• Spreading risk crops &amp; livestock</li> <li>• Fertile soils</li> <li>• Economy of scale</li> <li>• Change – prepared to entertain</li> <li>• Fully costed</li> </ul> | <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straw plant</li> <li>• Anaerobic Digestion plant growing maize and/or rye?</li> <li>• Review of rotations</li> <li>• Stewardship</li> <li>• CSF capital grant for pesticide handling improvement</li> <li>• Stewardship grants/funding</li> <li>• Brexit</li> <li>• Livestock</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machinery costs</li> <li>• No straw return – soil health and compaction risk.</li> <li>• Labour costs too high?</li> <li>• Non incorporation of straw</li> <li>• Attention to detail (?)</li> <li>• Housekeeping (Field Margins)</li> <li>• Current cropping/rotation – black-grass</li> <li>• Straw removal</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Ancholme water management</li> <li>• Black-grass (times 4)</li> <li>• Brexit</li> <li>• Flood risk (times 2)</li> <li>• Brexit (times 2)</li> <li>• Grass weeds (times 3)</li> <li>• Declining ag chemicals</li> <li>• Legislation (times)</li> </ul>                                    |

## Find out more – Links to AHDB information sheets or research

[AHDB Drainage Guide](#)

[AHDB Benchmarking](#)

[Managing weeds in arable rotations – a guide](#)

[AHDB Black-grass information](#)

[Information Sheet 05 Assessing the nutrient content of cereal straw](#)

[Improvement of soil structure and yield by means of soil organic matter](#)

## Next meeting

**Date: Thursday 23 November 2018**

**Time: 10am**

**Location: Gander Farm, Ings Lane, Hibaldstow, Brigg DN20 9PJ**

**For more information contact: Harry Henderson; [harry.henderson@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:harry.henderson@ahdb.org.uk) or 07964 974 465**

**To find out more about Farmbench, AHDB's benchmarking tool, contact: Holly Howsam  
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