

# Chelmsford Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting 4: Maximising your yield potential

Speakers: Roger Sylvester-Bradley (ADAS), Edward Vipond (Troston Farms), Rebecca Inman (FWAG East) and James Stacey (Tinsley Farm)

Date: 12 January 2018

Location: Galleywood Heritage Centre, Chelmsford CM2 8T

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



## Meeting summary – key messages

- Ensure efficient light and water capture to allow crops to achieve full yield potential – aim for maximum rooting and good tiller production, hence high biomass and grain numbers
- Use YEN to innovate on your farm to push yields – try new ideas on a plot and learn from the analysis through the report
- Work with nature to improve your yields, eg through pollination – use Countryside Stewardship to maximise potential in unproductive areas

## Yield Enhancement Network (YEN)

### What is YEN?

The YEN exists to help growers to innovate and close the gap between current yields and potential yields.

### What are the benefits of being a part of YEN?

#### Benchmarking your yields

- Comparison with potential yield
- Ranking against all other entrants for **tonnes/ha** and **% potential**
- Awards for both and wheat grain quality
- Full report on your resources, crop growth and yield constraints

Think about light and water capture, both above and below ground. High yielding crops have many tillers and grains, and maintain a green canopy for longer



Visit the ADAS YEN website to find out more: [www.yen.adas.co.uk](http://www.yen.adas.co.uk)

### Edward Vipond, Troston Farms, Suffolk and Bronze YEN Yield Winner, 2017 – Top Tips:

- Timing is as important as product choice – protecting the leaves as they emerge is vital
- Use technology such as NDVI mapping to highlight the limiting factors
- Use the YEN report to improve future crop strategy
- Use micronutrients to boost plant health, eg Mg, Mn, Zn
- Aim to produce 650 – 700 ears/m<sup>2</sup> for harvest 2018

## Countryside Stewardship

**Benefits:** Enhanced pollination and pest control; benefits to water quality and biodiversity; making the most from unproductive land.

### Requirements:

- Not a whole farm scheme – but must include SSSIs, Scheduled Monuments (SMs)
- No more than 50% of hedges in the agreement to be cut yearly
- Relevant invoices and field records to be kept
- Photographs for capital works
- Consents and permissions to be obtained before application
- Option areas used for EFAs have reduced payments
- Increases score: water quality, facilitation fund, packages



### James Stacey

**Farm:** Flemings Farm

**Size:** 200ha

**Issues:** High population of resistant Italian ryegrass; drainage problems; low yields

### Countryside Stewardship Options chosen:

#### AB9 Winter bird food (gross margin: £847/ha)

Rotational option, variety of plants included, used home saved seed, drilled late and thick to prevent ryegrass germination, established quickly. Gross margin includes the option AB12 Supplementary Winter Feeding for farmland birds.

#### AB15 Two year legume fallow (gross margin: £592/ha)

Two year fallow ley, payment for heavily infested fields to be taken out of production, simple seed mix.

#### SW1 4m Buffer strip on cultivated land (gross margin: £353/ha)

4m grass margin established around all fields, payment for least productive areas of the field, greened up naturally, regular mowing required (first 3m) to prevent seed return.

## Chelmsford Monitor Farm YEN plot

- Brookfield
- Crusoe
- Previous crop: Spring beans
- Soil type: Clay loam

To be part of the Whatsapp group and feed into the management through the season – contact Teresa or Hew to join

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

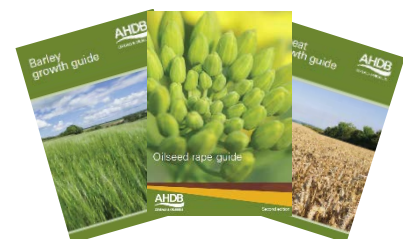
[Yield Enhancement Network \(YEN\)](#)

[Wheat growth guide](#)

[Barley growth guide](#)

[Oilseed rape growth guide](#)

[Countryside Stewardship](#)



## Next meeting

**Date:** 9 February 2018

**Topic:** Profitable break crops

**Time:** 09.00

**Location:** Galleywood Heritage Centre, Chelmsford CM2 8TR

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