

# Hale Village Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Summer Farm Walk Launch Meeting

Date: 20 June 2019



## About the farm

Bill Webb farms with his son at Manor Farm in Hale Village, on the Mersey estuary. They grow potatoes, spring barley, winter barley, oilseed rape and wheat at the 417 ha farm, on a range of light to medium-heavy land. All but the barley is sold to customers within 20 miles of the farm – localism and strong links with the supply chain are key philosophies of the business. Rye-grass is the primary weed challenge at Manor Farm. Bill wants to keep learning and improving his farm, as well as bringing more locally-relevant research and knowledge to the North West.

### Farm Facts

- 417 ha farmed
- Current cropping includes potatoes, spring barley, winter barley and winter oilseed rape
- 50% light soil and 50% medium-heavy soil
- Currently trialling direct drilling into cover crop after digestate
- Main weed problem is rye-grass
- Wildflower margins
- Growing fodder radish as cover crop before potatoes as biofumigant.



## Farmbench

We reviewed Bill's harvest 2018 Farmbench figures and how that they can be used to make informed business decisions.

If you would like more information about Farmbench or the Hale Village Arable Business Group please get in contact with Tabitha Allen:

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### Further information

- [Farmbench](#)
- [Horizon - Preparing for change: The characteristics of top performing farms](#)

## Keep, Improve, Stop, Start?

### Keep

- Wildflowers
- Potatoes

### Improve

- Grass weed control
- Potato gross margin
- Wheat cost of production £100
- Biofumigants

### Stop

- Worrying

### Start

- Diversification
- Asking questions?
- Grass?

## Winter Meetings 2019/20

All of the meetings will take place from 10:30-14:30 (including lunch) at Hale Village Hall, High St, Hale, Liverpool L24 4AE (parking available at Manor Farm, Within Way, Hale Village, L24 4BZ)

- 7 Nov 2019 – Soil
- 12 Dec 2019 – How to make an extra 30K
- 16 Jan 2020 – IPM
- 6 Feb 2020 – Machinery Review
- 5 Mar 2020 – Seed Quality



### AHDB resources


- Understand your business costs with AHDB's benchmarking tool Farmbench at [ahdb.org.uk/farmbench](https://ahdb.org.uk/farmbench)
- Monitoring tools are available at [ahdb.org.uk/tools](https://ahdb.org.uk/tools)
- Sign up to market information and research newsletters at [ahdb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch](https://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](https://ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence)
- All AHDB events can be found at [ahdb.org.uk/events](https://ahdb.org.uk/events)
- For guidance on how Brexit will impact your business, see [ahdb.org.uk/brexit](https://ahdb.org.uk/brexit)

### Contact details

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