

# Hale Village Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Using home-saved seed

Date: 5 March 2020

Speakers: Mark Taylor and Jim Carswell (Agrii)



## *Using home-saved seed*

- 45% of the market is home-saved seed which has grown steadily before plateauing out
- Opportunity to save £100/t
- Best practice:
  - Have a planned approach – agronomy led
  - Use your cleanest fields
  - Try and ensure the fields are weed and disease free, treat like certified seed
  - If you are getting it cleaned use reputable company (NAAC verified seed scheme member)
- FSS royalties make up about 50% of certified seed prices
- If seed is not drilled FSS royalties do not need to be paid, if a crop fails they still need to be paid
- If you are using home saved seed have it tested for:
  - Germination
  - TGW
  - HLW
  - Moisture
  - Fusarium
  - Tetrazolium
- If you over year seed, retest germination.

## Take-home messages

- Have a programme approach to seed saving – think about where it has come from, and make sure it is as clean as possible
- Check germination (easy enough to do yourself)
- Be cautious after 3 generations

## Further information

- [Farm saved seed – gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/farm-saved-seed)
- [BSPB Farm saved seed](https://www.bspb.co.uk/farm-saved-seed)

## Seed Treatments

- Well sown, half grown
  - Seed treatments can protect you against seed borne diseases
- | <u>Barley</u>  | <u>Wheat</u>   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Smut</li><li>○ Leaf Stripe</li><li>○ Seedling net blotch</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bunt</li><li>○ Loose Smut</li><li>○ Microdochium</li></ul> |
- It is worth testing for microdochium after a wet harvest
  - Seed health testing is useful in spring barley
  - Bear in mind that there may be additional costs if seed requires treatment

### Take-home messages

- Carry out soil analysis, and use the results to target nutrients
- Not all seed dressings are the same, chose carefully
- Seed treatments can give you piece of mind

## 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)

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