

Hereford Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting 3: Small margins; muck and pollution

Speakers: Martin Williams (Hereford Monitor Farm), Kate Speke-Adams (The Wye and Usk Foundation), Dougal Ziegler (The Environment Agency), Mel Holloway (ADAS)

Date: 13 December 2017

Location: The Green Man, Fownhope, Herefordshire, HR1 4PE

For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/hereford



Meeting summary – key messages

- Organic matter in arable fields in Herefordshire is on average 32% lower than pasture fields on the same farm
- Agriculture contributes to 40% of phosphate in River Wye; Welsh water are planning investment to reduce their contribution proportionately. Farming is expected to reduce its contributions too
- Based on a yield of 5t/ha the cost of production for lesser yielding areas at Tump Farm is £866/ha or £173/t
- New farming rules for water will come in to force on 2 April 2018 for all farmers in England

Trump Farm – setting the scene

- Under Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) agreement until May 2018
- Looking at mid-tier options for 2019
- Capital grant applied for 2018 (covered spray area)
- Strengths at Tump Farm: buffer strips to save waterfall effect, grass margins and 6m margin against River Wye
- Weaknesses at Tump Farm: spray area requires updating (capital grant applied for covered spray area) and FYM store has been on same site for 40 years with no stone base or cover – it runs the risk of running toward a watercourse



Stewardship scheme options for Martin Williams

Land options/capital items	Value	Possible value for Tump Farm
Resource protection		
SW3: In field grass strips	£557/ha	
SW6: Cover crops	£114/ha	
SW1: 4–6m arable margin SW4: 12–24m arable margin	£353/ha £512/ha	£490
SW7: Arable reversion	£311	
Enhancing biodiversity		
AB9: Winter bird food	£640	10ha = £6,400
AB1: Nectar flower mix	£511	
AB8: Flower rich margins	£539	1ha = £550
AB12: Supplementary winter bird feed	£632/t	2.3t = £1,453
BE2: Protect trees in intensive grass	£190	13 = £2,470
Grassland options		
SW8: Intensive grassland against w/c	£202/ha	£4,023
GS2: Very low input grassland	£95/ha	£633
GS6: Species rich grassland (new)	£182/ha	
GS3: Legume & herb rich swards	£331	
Fencing (2 strands of barb)	£4/m	320m in Cusmore = £1,280
Water pipe	£2.65	150m = £1192
Troughs & hard base	£220	£220
Farm yard		
RP15: Concrete yard renewal	£27.14/m ²	360m ² = £9,770
RP27: Sprayer handling area	£40/m ²	45m ² = £1,800
RP28: Roof spraying area	£62/m ⁿ	40m ² = £2,790
RP26: Biofiler	£990	£990

Total scheme value	Value
Capital items	£18,042
Land options (annually)	£16,020
Total value for duration of scheme	£98,142

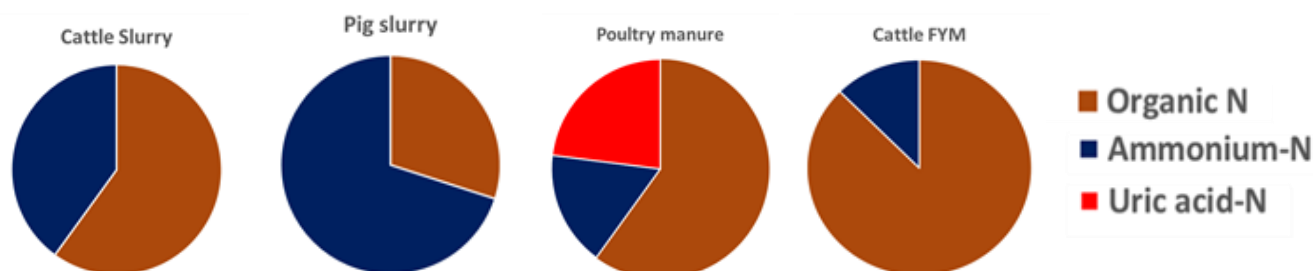
For more information on stewardship, visit cereals.ahdb.org.uk/stewardship

New farming rules for water

- Will come in to force on 2 April 2018 for all farmers in England
- These are statutory and not linked to Basic Payments
- Introduced through an advice-led approach by the Environment Agency
- Non compliances most likely to be identified during EA farm visits
- Changes required and timescale will be agreed with farm
- Follow up visit or evidence, such as photographs, may be needed to verify compliance
- If there is a high risk of pollution or if pollution is already occurring then the Environment Agency may immediately initiate enforcement action

For more information, visit www.gov.uk

Manure – readily available nitrogen



- Apply manures to fields with low soil P and K
- Regular applications will tend to supply more P & K than crops need
- Target applications to low P & K status soils to build soil fertility
- Reduce application rates / frequency to high P status soils

Manure type	Total nitrogen (kg/t)	Crop available nitrogen*(%)
Cattle FYM (25%)	6.0	5–15%
Pig FYM (25%)	7.0	5–15%
Horse FYM (30%)	5.0	5–15%
Poultry Manure (60%)	28.0	15–35%
Digested Cake (25%)	11.0	10–20%
Green Compost (60%)	7.5	5%
Digestate Fibre (24%)	5.6	10–15%

Find out more

Nutrient management

[Nutrient management guide \(RB209\): Section 2 Organic materials](#)
[Improvement of soil structure and crop yield by adding organic matter to soil](#)
[How to sample slurry](#)
[How to sample farmyard manure](#)

Stewardship

[PR508: Managing uncropped land in order to enhance biodiversity benefits of the arable farmed landscape](#)
[Field margins – guidelines for entry level stewardship in England](#)
[Farming rules for water – overview](#)

For more information on stewardship, visit cereals.ahdb.org.uk/stewardship



Next meeting

Date: 10 January 2018

Topic: Benchmarking (closed group meeting)

Time: 13.00–16.00

Location: Bishops Frome Village Hall, Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, WR6 5AR

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To find out more about Farmbench, AHDB's benchmarking tool, contact: Megan Loynes

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