

Hereford Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting 2: Crop establishment

Speakers: Russell Price (Hereford Monitor Farm), Martin Williams (Hereford Monitor Farm), Harry Henderson (AHDB)

Date: 9 November 2017

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

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

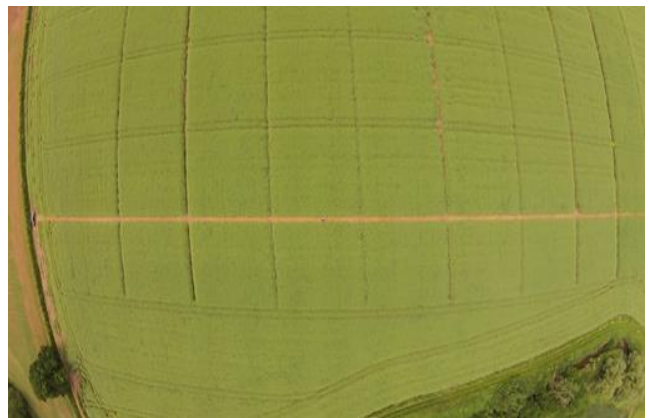


Meeting summary – key messages

- Over the coming year at the Hereford Monitor Farm the below topics will be investigated or demonstrated at the Monitor Farms:
 - Diversification
 - Foliar feeding wheat
 - Farm safety
 - Business improvement
 - Manure use
 - Cover crops
 - Fertiliser placement
 - Staff management
 - Water quality
 - Crop establishment
- Crop establishment trials in 2016 looked to see if establishment costs can be cut without compromising overall output or profitability of commercial oilseed rape growing
- Look at your own field and business to work out what size drill is needed – don't believe the myths

A review of 2016 crop establishment trials

- The aim was to see if establishment costs can be cut without compromising the overall output or profitability of commercial rape growing
- Field scale comparison of 7 different establishment methods side by side
- 24 metre wide blocks across the full width of the field, 2 metre gaps in between each plot
- Conventional variety Elgar, all drilled at 5kg ha
- Farm standard agronomy applied equally to all plots
- Contractor charges applied to each of the establishment methods
- Results taken to yield



Machinery

Tractor sales myths

- Adding optional extras will raise its trade in value
- Buying a bigger tractor will reduce proportional fuel consumption
- Finding more work will reduce cost per hour
- Using a contractor is unreliable and expensive
- Fuel savings alone pay for the replacement
- Regularly changing the tractor keep equity within the business
- Regular investment in machinery keep the tax bill low

Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Tonnes/ha
Subsoil	Power Harrow Combination	Roll	5.164
Single Pass Min Till	Power Harrow Combination	Roll	5.041
Single Pass Min Till	Min Till Cultivator Drill	Roll	5.016
Subsoil	Min Till Cultivator Drill	Roll	5.164
Subsoil	Sumo DTS	Roll	5.090
None	Sumo DTS	Roll	5.683
None	Mzuri (narrow leg spacing)	Roll	5.213
None	Mzuri (wide leg spacing)	Roll	4.649

What size drill do you need?

Expected work rate per 10 hour day

10kph @ 70% field efficiency, grain only
@ 60% field efficiency, grain and fertiliser

3 meter 51 acres	21 ha/d Grain	18 ha/d grain and fertiliser 44 acres
4 meter 69 acres	28 ha/d Grain	24 ha/d grain and fertiliser 59 acres
6 meter 104 acres	42 ha/d Grain	35 ha/d grain and fertiliser 86 acres
9 meter 155 acres	63 ha/d Grain	54 ha/d grain and fertiliser 133 acres

Find out more

[Webinar: machinery for farming](#)
[Getting the most from your machinery](#)
[Machinery cost calculator](#)
[Oilseed rape guide](#)

Next meeting


Date: 13 December 2017

Topic: Water quality and using waste products to improve productivity ([register to attend](#))

Time: 10.00–13.00

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

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