

Malmesbury Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Technology for the future

Date: 2 March 2020

Speakers: Nick Strelczuk (Hutchinsons)



Precision farming and technology

Technology

- Does not need to be employed in every field every year. Be selective.
- Question yourself – if it does what it says, will it be useful?
- How will it be useful? Financially beneficial? Reduced stress / tiredness?
- Some old technology still works well and best.
- Some is free
- Sometimes updates or retro fits are more cost effective than ‘new’
- Be prepared to move kit between machines when exchange, don’t have to buy new
- Beware unlock codes
- Negotiate when you buy machine, not after
- May be cheaper to buy an ipad!
- Train the user

Data

- On line and cloud based systems make it easier to move around
- There are lots of different systems. They can be collated
- ‘You’ own the data but it is most valuable when combined, benchmarked and matched with advice
- If you are using paper records, maps etc, try and digitalise them, even if it’s just taking a picture. Can preserve information easier for the next generation
- Ask the family – the older generation can be walking data banks
- Maps – care – date?
- Maps – match /check recording accuracy with ability to act upon data with machinery
- Maps – A lot of information is free. Old maps – National Library for Scotland shows UK maps <https://maps.nls.uk/> ; British Geological Survey <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/>
- Train the user

To come

- Driverless tractors and robotics. 1 person, 4 slave robots?
- Swarm farming – one for the major manufacturers
- Drones –buy one and get a licence
- Single screen control for multiple implements / technologies

Take-home messages

- Know what you already have
- Collate all of your data into one place
- Can your equipment already deal with Precision Farming?
- Utilise all free data available
- Don't be afraid to share data
- Analyse everything you have. Make it useful
- Experiment with new technology – get free demos!
- Is smaller better?

Further information

- Farmbench
- Research Review: Weed control options and future opportunities for UK crops
- PhD project: Variable rate application of plant protection products - investigations to establish the feasibility and potential cost benefits (2140012101)

AHDB resources

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

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