

Malmesbury Monitor Farm

Meeting 1: Launch meeting

Date: 26 June 2017

Location: Lower Odd Farm, Crudwell, SN16 9SN

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




Roger Wilson - Monitor Farmer

Farm details

- 441 acres, 416 owned with average field size 21 acres
- 310 acres arable with beef finishing unit (approx. 65 per annum)
- Variable rotations including winter wheat and barley, winter OSR, spring barley and beans along with leys
- Labour: Roger and his brother with contractors for high clearance spraying and combining
- 1300 tonnes grain storage
- Grain marketing through United Oilseeds, Openfield and Frontier
- Mostly non plough and straw baled



Farmbench figures

 FARBENCH	
Lower Odd Farm Feed Wheat £/ha	Harvest 2016
Total area grown (Hectares)	47.8
Total tonnage produced (Tonnes)	432.0
Average yield per hectare (Tonnes)	9.03
Average price per tonne	129.4
Total Gross Output	1169
Variable Costs	
Seeds (£)	88
Fertilizer, manures and composts (£)	154
Sprays and chemicals (£)	214
Sundries (£)	13
Total Variable Costs (£)	469
Fixed Costs	
Labour (£)	0
Machinery and power (£)	215
Property costs (excluding all rent and finance costs) (£)	9
Overheads (£)	67
Total Cash Only Fixed Costs (£)	291
Total Cash Only Cost of Production (£)	761
Net Cash only Margin (excl rent & finance costs) (£/Ha)	408
Net Cash only Margin (excl rent & finance costs) (£/tonne)	45
Non Cash Costs	
Family Labour (£)	312
Total Depreciation	232
Total Cost of Production (excl Rent and Finance) (£/ha)	1305

SWOT analysis

<p><u>STRENGTHS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed farm • Beef enterprise – outlet for cereals, grass in rotation and FYM • Diverse cropping • Family labour and succession • Competent farmer, attention to detail, and flexible • Big fields and tidy farm • Variable soil types • Good machinery compliment • Good grain storage • Monitor Farm input 	<p><u>WEAKNESSES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arable unit too small • Too many crops • Not alert enough to black-grass • Grass margins, no sterile strips • Not utilising manure across farm • Heavy soils/drainage • Marketing strategy • Too much machinery • Ageing machinery compliment • Firm succession plan
<p><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rotational ploughing • More manure especially on heavy ground • Learn more about soil biology • Temporary grass on further fields • Simplify variety choices • Simplify rotation • Utilise field margins – farm, environmental scheme, equestrian? • Marketing strategy • Beef expansion • More contracting • Machinery share with neighbours • Diversification, business units • Grain storage - contract storage • Next generation • Brexit – marketing opportunities 	<p><u>THREATS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit, farming without subsidy • Volatility • Grass weeds • High fixed costs • Succession plan - family requirements

2018 YEN competition entry

After discussion, the group elected to enter a spring barley crop being grown after spring barley in 2017. The following initial management strategy was proposed:

- Bale straw from 2017 crop
- Autumn soil test
- Apply only well-rotted manure over winter, better still if possible poultry manure
- Variety: Planet
- Seed rate 400

More discussion will take place over the winter

Next meeting

- 7 November 2017 Precision Farming – does it pay?
- 4 December 2017 Topic tbc
- 6 February 2018 Topic tbc
- 6 March 2018 Topic tbc
- 26 June 2018 Summer meeting

Other dates in the Region:

- 26 November 2017 Dorset College of Agriculture – “Agriculture in the Supply Chain”
- 21 February 2018 Westpoint Centre, Exeter – AHDB Regional Agronomy Conference
- 23 February 2018 RAU, Cirencester - Regional YEN Conference

All winter meetings to be held at Oaksey Golf Club, SN16 9SB, starting at 11am

To attend a meeting, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Knowledge Exchange Manager:

Philip Dolbear philip.dolbear@ahdb.org.uk 07964 255614

If you are interested in benchmarking your figures against Roger and other members from the Monitor Farm Group, please contact:

David Pett, Regional Officer: Mobile 07813 45453 David.pett@ahdb.org.uk:

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