

## Vale of Belvoir Monitor Farm meeting report

### Launch meeting

20 June 2019

Sherwood Farms, Hickling

For more information, visit: [cereals.ahdb.org.uk/belvoir](https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/belvoir)



### Vale of Belvoir Monitor Farm details

- Mixed farm
- 630 ha total
- 560 ha arable
- Laying hens
- Composting business

### Cropping

Crop	Area (ha)	Varieties
Winter wheat	195	Siskin, Sundance, Skyscraper, Gleam
Winter oilseed rape	140	Picto, Expediant, Experian, Exclaim
Winter barley	40	Funky
Winter triticale	55	Agostini, Kasyno
Winter beans	55	Tundra
Spring barley	50	Planet
Spring linseed	30	Empress

### Rotation

- No fixed rotation- flexible to suit weed pressure and land type
- Ideal rotation - OSR, wheat, beans, wheat, barley

### Cultivations

- Minimum tillage basis
- Working towards semi-controlled traffic



## What are the main challenges the Monitor Farm business faces?

Ideas/suggestions from the monitor farm group to be discussed at winter meetings

Challenges	Possible solutions
<b>Rotation, cultivations and soil</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotation</li> <li>• Black-grass</li> <li>• Cultivation strategy</li> <li>• Drill date</li> <li>• Resilience of establishment system to later drilling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotational plough</li> <li>• Drilling dates – later</li> <li>• Seed rates – wheat?</li> <li>• Cleaning break crops – fallow/cover crops/stewardship</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flea beetle</li> <li>• Profitable break crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maize for AD or nearby dairy farmer</li> <li>• AD rye</li> <li>• Grass leys</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil type</li> <li>• Nutrient lock-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Export more muck and compost</li> </ul>
<b>Policy change</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of actives and resistance build-up</li> <li>• Policy changes e.g. ergot</li> <li>• Area payment loss</li> </ul>	
<b>Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics/change within the business</li> <li>• Long-term planning</li> <li>• Linking all sides of business</li> </ul>	

## Winter meeting programme (formed by the Monitor Farm steering group based on ideas listed above)

Outline plan for the monitor farm programme based on ideas from the monitor farm group

14 Nov	<b>Black-grass – how to tackle the problem</b> To include: (a) Understanding black-grass and why it presents such a problem (b) Finding solutions (c) Drilling into detail – looking at the effect of drilling date and cultivations using farm-scale try-outs
12 Dec	<b>Soil nutrition</b> To include: Analysis of results of soil testing Soil health and black-grass
16 Jan	tbc*
27 Feb	tbc*

\*January or February meeting to cover soils and cultivations – getting soil structure in the right place

## Find out more... AHDB Information and Research Links

[Nutrient research](#)

[Nutrient management guide \(RB209\)](#)

[GREATsoils](#)

[Farmbench](#)

## Further Information

For details about the Vale of Belvoir Monitor Farm and past meeting information, please visit:

[ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence/](http://ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence/)

### Contact Details

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