



OUR STORY

IAgrM Farm Planner of the Year 2017;
Gwesyn Davies, Tim Vries, Joshua Casswell, Will Ayre,
Rhys Jones



Our Team

- Gwesyn Davies - Wales, specialising in poultry
- Josh Casswell - Lincolnshire, specialising in onion production
- Will Ayre - Devon, conversion of redundant farm buildings
- Tim Vries - Cambridgeshire, specialising in cropping
- Rhys Jones - Lincolnshire, carrot insulation and cover crops



The Competition





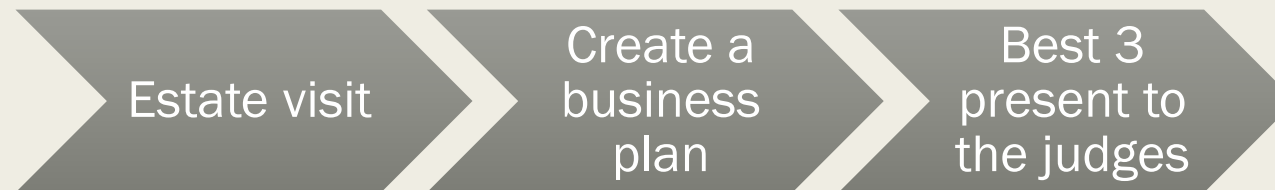
Estate Background

- Sundorne Estate, Shropshire
- 1500 acres of sandy loam soils growing cereals and root crops
- Redundant farm buildings
- Planning permission granted for poultry unit



The Challenge

- Redundant farm buildings options
- Improve organic matter and soil quality
- Minimise blackgrass and ryegrass problem
- Consider potential reductions in subsidies in business plan





Poultry

- Larger sites have better contract security with processing plants.
- Recognition that planning permission is set to become more stringent within Shropshire in the next 3-5 years.
- Expansion of existing poultry enterprise by 2 x 1950m² sheds (80,000-100,000 birds)
- Construction cost of £1million (£255/m²) to be paid off over 15 years.
- Gross margin of £1.10/m² a week resulting in a profit £128,700/pa with a net profit of £43,000.



Redundant Farm Buildings

- Options considered
- Market research
- Chosen option – Residential
- Capital required
- Return on investment



Carrots

- Carrots are traditionally covered with straw to prevent frost damage and Spring regrowth
- Covering the straw with polythene reduces straw input by 66%
- Reduced nitrogen lock-up and improved soil organic matter
- Reduced costs by £2,300 per hectare



Cover Crops/Change of Rotation

- Cover crops to increase organic matter and control PCN – Mustard
- 35 hectares of land let out to a fresh produce company at £400-425/acre



Onions

- Establishment, harvest and grading is contracted out.
- Then transported to storage and then to a packer.
- Higher gross margin than ryegrass
- More current demand for high quality onions
- Better defense against ryegrass and blackgrass
 - *Precision application (band sprayer, mechanical weeding, technology)*
 - *Rotation, Integrated Crop Management approach*



Presentation

- 3 teams selected to present:
 - *Harper Adams University*
 - *Newcastle University*
 - *Bishop Burton College*

- 6 judges

- 20 minute presentation with 10 minutes of questions



Thank you

- IFMA
- IAgM
- Bayer Crop Science
- Harper Adams University



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