

# The Raynham Estate

BCPC Annual Weed Review 2022

Tom Pearson



# An Overview Of The Estate And Different Farming Businesses

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- 2000 ha – Total area
- 1300 ha - Farmed in hand as part of a min-till system
- 700 ha – Grassland and woodland managed in hand
- 600 head Aberdeen Angus beef herd
- Feedstock providers for an on site 3.5 MW AD plant
- 100 ha of solar on a dis-used airfield. Providing energy to 14,000 homes annually
- 2 Broiler hen units. No longer in hand, let on a long-term rental agreement
- Property managed in house; glamping site added two years ago. Exploring further diversification projects





# The Farming System

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- Raynham is steeped in agricultural history. The 2<sup>nd</sup> viscount was a very influential figure in the British Agricultural Revolution
- The business has moved away from what was once a plough only based system, to now ploughing once in the 9 year rotation
- The system has been streamlined significantly over recent years:

8 cultivators → 3 cultivators

3 ploughs → 1 plough

9 tractors → 5 tractors



# Rotation And Soil Management Strategy



Planted Crop	W Wheat	AD Rye	W OSR	W Wheat	Spring Beans	W Wheat	Sugar Beet	S Barley	Forage Maize
<b>Organic Manure</b>	Digestate second wheats	Digestate on crop	Digestate pre-drilling				Digestate pre cover crop		Digestate pre-drilling
<b>Cover Crop</b>					Radish, vetch, phacelia, linseed, buckwheat		Radish, vetch, phacelia, linseed, buckwheat		Radish, vetch, phacelia, linseed, buckwheat
<b>Cover Crop Control</b>					Glyphosate/24D		Glyphosate/24D		Glyphosate/24D
<b>First cultivation</b>	Deep tine	Shallow tine	Shallow disc	Shallow disc	Tine cultivator/ cover crop drill	shallow tine	Tine cultivator/ cover crop drill	Plough	Tine cultivator/ cover crop drill
<b>Weed control</b>		Glyphosate		Glyphosate					
<b>Secondary cultivation</b>		Deep tine	Tine cultivator/ bio-drill	Shallow tine	Shallow tine		Shallow disc + Shallow tine	Shallow Tine	Shallow disc





Weed Control Advantages  
& Disadvantages Within  
The Rotation





# Oilseed Rape

- Establishment Risk. To pre em or not to pre em.....
- Belkar has been a very useful tool. Particularly in the fight against Cranesbill.
- Spotlight on Astrokerb...







# Forage Maize

- Useful later drilling window
- Historically consistent post emergence herbicide control
- Blackgrass challenges on rented land



# Whole Crop Rye

- Excellent competitiveness
- Ability to harvest prior to problem weed seeds setting
- Viability of weed seeds as a result of the AD process
- Early harvest window





# Sugar beet

- Weed beet is an issue in areas.  
Conviso technology adopted
- Use of the FAR system
- Capacity of the sprayer
- No Clethodim resistance







# Spring Beans

- Limited post emergence herbicide options
- A lot of reliance on pre emergence application, very weather dependent
- Spring germinating black grass
- Cover Crop Volunteers



# Positives & Negatives of Cover Crops

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For:

- ✓ Increased Organic Matter
- ✓ Improved Soil Structure
- ✓ Nutrient Recycling
- ✓ **Weed Control**

Against:

- X **Weed Control**
- X Nutrient Lock Up
- X Residue Management
- X Poaching







## Challenges of Grazing

- Canopy Management
- Grazing Management
- Soil Management



# CATALYST FARMING BETTER TOGETHER

We are five farm businesses collaborating together. With research & commercial partners we test, discuss, choose & use best practice. This is enhancing the productive, financial & ecological results of our farming.







# Closing Remarks

- A diverse rotation
- Timing
- Attention to detail
- Education