RHIZA

Case Study: Wiltshire Farm Levels Up Establishment with RHIZA Tools

Background

Hugh Bland farms Manor Farm Foxhill and Warren Farm Aldbourne in North Wiltshire, growing over 450ha of a variety of crops including wheat, spring barley and oats. Hugh works closely with Agrii agronomist Russell Frost and RHIZA CIS Lily Butters. The farm covers varying soil types including over chalk, with some areas of steep hills, bringing with it some challenges to address.

Plans

Variable rate seed

Variable rate Nitrogen

Variable rate P&K

Approach

Hugh has been working with RHIZA for a number of years, and wanted to optimise some of the more challenging areas of his farm. The whole farm was zoned and variably sampled, and gets re-tested on a 3 year cycle. Historically, the areas over chalk have seen crops struggle to establish, and Hugh wanted to use VR Seed to help.

Lily works with Hugh to produce autumn and spring VR seed maps annually, by using rulesets based on physical soil properties to address the varying soil types and topography of the farm.

In addition, satellite imagery was also used to create VR Nitrogen plans in the Contour platform, to further even crop growth in the Winter Wheat and Winter Barley fields. This year, ClearSky imagery was used and groundtruthed by Hugh to
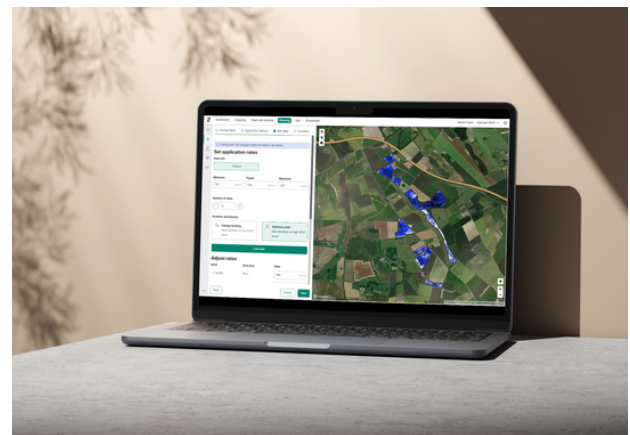
Hugh Bland

Lily Butters

ensure that the imagery displayed in the platform matched conditions on the ground - he was satisfied that the imagery was a true representation of the progress in the fields.

A standard VR approach was taken, with the first two Nitrogen applications targeted at crop levelling (applying increased levels on the poorer areas) and the final third application used to boost optimum yield (applying more on the higher GCVI areas).

VR P&K plans were also completed, created from the zonal soil sampling completed earlier in the year.

Variable rate Nitrogen map created in Contour using ClearSky imagery

> ## " ClearSky imagery was used and groundtruthed by Hugh - he was satisfied that the imagery displayed in the platform was a true representation of the progress in the fields. "
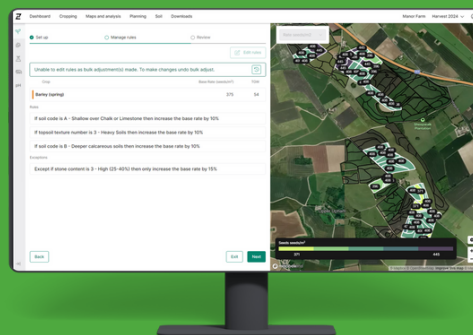
Results

- Variable rate seed plan delivered swiftly via Contour - easily accessible to Hugh
- Clear establishment improvements with poorer areas visibly levelled
- Significant reduction of inputs used, mainly P&K and more efficient use of inputs overall

Conclusion and Next Steps

Overall, Hugh is satisfied by the improvements seen across the farm and he plans to continue his use of variable rate applications to improve efficiency of input use. The data stored in the Contour platform will continue to inform how best to utilise the land on Hugh's farm.

Going forwards, Hugh intends to create a Nutrient Management Plan in Contour to support his SFI application.

Variable rate seed plan created in Contour by Lily and Hugh

To find out more contact your local Crop Input Specialist:

Lily Butters
Email: lily.butters@agrii.co.uk Mobile: 07917 460937

Dan Wood
Email: dan.wood@agrii.co.uk Mobile: 07774 710799