

What we can show you this year with



# Fieldwise

AGRONOMY NEWS FROM

**HUTCHINSONS**

Crop Production Specialists

MAY 2020

## Helix and Hutchinsons Regional Technology Centres



Linking technology, knowledge and advice to deliver sustainable farming

**HUTCHINSONS**  
Crop Production Specialists

National Technology Development Farm

By kind permission of J W Pitts & Sons



David Hutchinson - Chairman

**Stuart Hill (Hutchinsons Head of Technology and Innovation) updates us on activity at our demonstration sites and the different ways we can present the information, in the light of current social distancing.**

**The national Helix technology development farm and Regional Technology Centres are continuing this year with their important work in delivering benefits to growers.**

### National Helix farm

At the Helix farm in Northamptonshire courtesy of Andrew Pitts the objective is to develop technologies alongside our knowledge to deliver benefit to growers in efficiency, productivity and profitability. This advances the strategic relationship between the grower and agronomist and develops agronomy into a more proactive, efficient and justified approach.

Project work on technologies, such as climate systems, pest models, predictive tools, imagery, sensors, strategic rotational tools and artificial intelligence are all being developed and channelled through our Omnia system, to facilitate this revolution and the associated benefits.

The majority of this work is being carried out at farm scale to understand and deliver the tangible financial and practical benefits for growers. The 'so what?' question.

As part of our new 'Fieldwise Live' campaign, during the spring/summer season you will see videos and commentary of how these projects are developing on the **helixfarm**

## Business Continuity

– a message from **David Hutchinson**

**Recent weeks have seen dramatic changes for everyone's day to day life and not least in the way businesses can continue to operate. We are fortunate and proud that we work in an industry providing essential services for the production of British food.**

Hutchinsons has been committed to the evidence-led and common-sense approach to containing the Covid19 outbreak since the beginning and we have worked hard to mitigate the impact on customers, colleagues and our wider business operations and to maintain "business-as-usual" as much as possible.

> website, as well as plenty of interesting snippets on social media. If you have any comments or ideas, please feel free to send them in via the contact email on the site.

## New Regional Helix farm

Additionally, this year we are launching the first regional Helix farm, as the Helix East demonstration farm, courtesy of G D Jewers, Rattlesden in Suffolk. Here the regional team are implementing many aspects from the national farm. The technology projects that we are developing at the national farm are transferrable to other regions, but use will be tailored to the region, farm and situation.

## Regional Trial Sites

Hutchinsons is delivering a range of innovative work at the Regional Technology Centres (RTCs) around the country. We are looking at seed rate work and its impact on establishment, plant, tiller, ear numbers, how these crops are treated accordingly and the impact on yield.

> In the coming weeks and possibly months, there may be further disruption to daily life and service delivery, as the country continues to tackle the Coronavirus issue. However, please be reassured that we have operational continuity plans in place to minimise the risk of infection for our staff and premises and, in so doing, enable the delivery of normal services to our customers.

Many of our colleagues, including agronomists, have the appropriate technology to work from home effectively, as well as in the field, to provide service continuation remotely. We are doing, and will continue to do, everything that we can to support front-line growers and UK agriculture as a whole to provide safe and reliable food supplies to our nation, through this extremely challenging and unprecedented time.

I sincerely hope that you, your families and your businesses come safely through this current situation and we look forward to an eventual return to normality for everyone.

**If you have any questions about our service, please do get in touch with your normal Hutchinsons contact who will be happy to help.**

This work ties in much of our learnings from the cereal Yield Enhancement Network (YEN), of which we are a main sponsor. It is critical we understand this, to maximise the yield potential of any given site. The reward for the grower is greater financial output. This work also includes assessment of Hybrid wheat and benefits in comparison to conventional varieties.

Many of the sites also have winter wheat variety trials linked into a fungicide programme. The aim of this work is to deliver regional bespoke variety information according to market and response to fungicide input. This enables bespoke agronomy to those varieties the following season.

## Nutritional trials

Additionally, as an all-round approach to soil and plant health, we have included nutrition and bio-stimulant programmes linking to TerraMap - our new non-invasive soil mapping and testing technology. This is an ideal opportunity to deliver bespoke soil management programmes in parallel to foliar applied plant health, in a season that has provided significant soil and water challenges.

## Topical issues

There are some very topical issues to cover alongside the in-field work. The farm in general, its soils and the dynamic with carbon, is a rapidly developing area with many variables that will need some debate and coverage over the coming months.

With the challenge presented by Coronavirus, it is the right decision to cancel events in the near to medium term. Gatherings at events such as open days in June and July come into this bracket.

The positive from this is that we will be videoing Helix and RTC work as part of 'Fieldwise Live' for the Hutchinsons website and posting on social media. This is a great opportunity to try various methods of communicating beneficial work to growers utilising modern technology and we hope you enjoy this approach in a very different world.

**Keep up to date with progress at our demonstration sites via Fieldwise Live – view all the latest information on our websites [www.helixfarm.co.uk](http://www.helixfarm.co.uk) and [www.hlhltd.co.uk](http://www.hlhltd.co.uk)**

## Regional Technology Centres 2020

- 1 Carlisle
- 2 Alnwick
- 3 Warden Farming, Grayingham
- 4 Little Ponton
- 5 Ludlow
- 6 Harleston
- 7 Stowbridge
- 8 Fenland Potato Demonstration
- 9 Sutton Bonington
- 10 Brassica Demonstration
- 11  National Technology Farm
- 12  East Demonstration Farm (NEW)

