

Building soil fertility through better rotations in combinable crops



Improve yield, and reduce costs • Improve farm profitability
Reduce crop risk and build long term resilience

Designed for:

Individuals who wish to build soil fertility to optimise crop yields, cost and margins through better rotation planning

Entry requirement:

An advanced course best suited to **accomplished** practitioners who want to implement the latest agri-tech research and knowledge on farm

Duration:

A one day classroom and field-based course

CPD points:

13 BASIS points; 2 NRoSO points

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the benefit of improved soil fertility and function
- Match cultivation and establishment methods to the farm system
- Account for practical, agronomic and economic aspects of rotations
- Build fertility and soil organic matter (including different soil amendments, straw incorporation and cover crops)
- Use key indicators such as worms as a measure of system performance and soil fertility
- Take decisions on the use of cover crops and soil amendments based on their effect on soils, yield and margins

Content:

Classroom module 1 (half day) – Building rotational systems:

- An overview of soil function including the maintenance of soil structure, the need for fertility and the value organic matter/types of organic matter
- The advantages and disadvantages of different methods of cultivation and establishment in arable systems
- Matching establishment systems to crops and specific farm scenarios
- Building arable rotations – the structure of crop rotations and how rotational intensity can impact on performance, e.g. in oilseed rape
- Rotational performance – using long term data sets from large scale arable rotation studies to consider agronomic constraints and practical considerations as well as yield, cost and margin

Classroom/field module 2 (half day) – Building system fertility:

- Why we need fertility and the approaches that can be used to build fertility and organic matter in arable systems
- The use of different soil amendments (similarities, differences and impacts)
- The value and benefits of straw incorporation in arable systems
- Cover crops – the process for choosing the right option and other aspects that need to be considered
- Key soil indicators – structure, worms and assessment
- Case studies of the performance of cover crops and soil amendments in long term projects – quantifying impacts on soils, yields and margins

Trainer:

Nathan Morris, Farming Systems and Soils Specialist, NIAB TAG

For more information or to book online go to www.artistraining.com

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Soil and Water