



Tomorrow's Hybrid Wheat varieties on show

New Hybrid Wheat varieties with UK market potential were one of the attractions at the Hybrid Wheat Open Day, held at Saaten Union's Rosalie Field Station, Cowlinge near Newmarket.

A range of new, French-bred varieties are now being trialed to see how they perform on this side of the channel.



Variety specialist Richard Fenwick commented:

"There are a number of interesting new Hybrid Wheats under test including Hylux which has good disease resistance and might replace Hystar - now in its sixth season - in a few years time. Hybrid

Wheat is proving a consistent performer on the farm and really comes into its own under challenging, stressful conditions such as in drought years, which makes it attractive for marginal land or possibly as a second wheat. Hybery is generating interest as a high yielding, potential bread making variety and is currently in NL2 trials while Hyteck is in NL1 and is demonstrating its excellent disease resistance this season. It should yield well."



Seed rate trials

A series of seed rate trials are in their second year at the field station.

Rates range from 150 s/m² to 270 s/m² and all three commercially available Hybrid Wheat varieties have been included in the trial. At present seed rates from 150 s/m² to

210 s/m² are recommended, depending on the variety and drilling date or soil conditions. All Hybrid Wheat varieties exhibit excellent tillering but also benefit from a good seed bed and even establishment if lower seed rates are used.



Predicting yields is a serious business! Open day visitors try their skills at predicting which seed rate will produce the highest yield (prizes to be announced after harvest).

More N needed?

Can Hybrid Wheat - and other modern varieties - reach their full potential under existing nutrient guidelines? In trials at the Rosalie field station selected varieties have received from 0 to 400 kg N/ha in 60 kg N/ha increments at three growth stages. All treatments have received sulphur and micronutrients as standard farm practice.

Yield and quality data will be available after harvest.

Growers speak out

Throughout 2013/14 we have been preparing a film on Hybrid Wheat production across the UK. Below are some of the comments by farmers who have taken part:

"This is the third year we have grown Hystar on our drought prone land. I'm growing it as a second wheat and see it as an insurance policy against the extreme weather we seem to have had in recent years." William Procter, Dengie Peninsular, Essex.

"I was attracted to Hybrid Wheat initially because of its early harvest date which enables me to establish OSR in August, as September is too late on my land. I am growing it after potatoes and it establishes very well, despite variable conditions." Simon Ulyott, Driffield.



Thriving Hystar in April on the Yorkshire Wolds

Come and meet the growers at LAMMA 2015