

CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

TO REDUCE YOUR COSTS IN 2023



1

SEED

Home saving as much as possible will save you money & guarantee supply.

2

AGRONOMY

WHEN TO BUY FERTILISER

Purchase timing is critical – use info & tools available in the market to help inform when to buy.

HOW MUCH FERTILISER TO BUY

Use soil, tissue & grain tests to inform the optimum application rate. It is possible to reduce rates if you maximise utilisation by the crop. Calculating your Nitrogen Use Efficiency is the starting point & increasing the use of legumes & organic manures in the rotation will also help to reduce reliance on vulnerable supply lines.

WHEN TO SPRAY

Question every application. Many are crucial to enhancing yields, but every time the sprayer comes out, it's costing money. Use thresholds, varieties, the weather & tools available to carefully calculate the risk & return of each application.

3

MACHINERY & LABOUR

With an average range of £200/ha between the best & worst performers, this is often the area where the biggest savings can be made. An independent analysis of your labour & machinery is likely to reveal areas to scale back. Matching capacity to cropped area is the start. Experience shows there is a tendency to carry too much spare. Reducing cultivation intensity will also help, but needs to be done carefully to not impact yields & grants can help to offset the cost of low-til kit. Also constantly think about efficiency – road travel is expensive & time consuming – consider the location of farm buildings & the use of bowsers, etc.

4

PROPERTY & ENERGY

Making farm buildings as energy efficient as possible is a quick win to reduce running costs & increases their value. It doesn't take long to get a return on installing insulation for example. Increasing energy prices have also improved the economics of renewable energy & most systems will provide a good pay back by offsetting your own costs & potentially enabling you to sell any surplus.

5

ADMIN & RENT

Insurance can be a significant cost. Going out to tender at least every 3 years will attract the best premiums. Insured values also need to be reviewed every year to ensure they accurately reflect replacement costs. Rent reviews should be considered on any tenanted land. The best farmers will increasingly be in a strong position to negotiate better rents.

6

FINANCE

'Cheap money' can no longer be relied upon, so once again shopping around for the best rates & restructuring or moving any debt is important in keeping finance costs to a minimum.

SIGN UP FOR FREE BUSINESS ADVICE



01223 679 679



futurefarming@ceresrural.co.uk



[online](#)