

Bedfordshire Monitor Farm Network

Cover Crop Connections Cross sector event with Cereals & Oisleeds, and Beef & Lamb

Kingshill Farm, Shuttleworth College, Old Warden, Biggleswade, SG18 9DS

Wednesday 10th December 2025, 10am – 3pm

Programme

- 10am Registration and refreshments**
- 10.30am Welcome**
Katrina Thompson, AHDB B&L KEM Southeast
- Introduction to Farm Excellence and the Monitor and Strategic Farm programme
 - Relevant AHDB update to include R&KE research ideas, other events taking place.
- 10.40am Water Quality & Grant Funding Update**
Kim Hemmings, Anglian Water Catchment Advisor
- 10.50am Environmental Schemes Management & Funding Update**
Harry Moffat, Oakbank
- 11am AHDB Cover Crop Trial Data & Findings**
Molly Bampton, AHDB C&O KEM East Midlands
- Outline of the trial:
 - Field history
 - Cover crop mixtures chosen (2-way vs broad mix)
 - Aims and objectives

 - Presentation of results so far:
 - Baseline soil measurements
 - Drilling, establishment, observations
 - Comparative with an additional field
 - Lab analysis of cover crop biomass
 - Store lamb daily liveweight gains of each mixture
 - Future measurements for cash crop performance

11.30am Cover Cropping & Integrating Livestock in Arable Systems

James Bucher, Suffolk Mixed Farmer

- Transitioning from high-input arable production to a regenerative system focused on soil health and reduced synthetic inputs.
- Establishing diverse cover and companion crop mixes to protect soil, fix nitrogen, and enhance biodiversity.
- Integrating cattle and sheep grazing within arable rotations to recycle nutrients and stimulate soil biology.
- Adopting reduced tillage and minimal chemical use to improve soil structure and water retention.
- Combining crop and livestock enterprises to build a resilient, productive, and environmentally sustainable farming system.
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12.10pm Integrating a flying flock within the arable rotation

William Beattie, WMB Livestock

- Introduction to the business
- Practicalities of grazing cover crops and forming a grazing agreement
- Financial benefits for both the sheep and arable farmer (reducing termination costs)
- Nutritional benefits (maintenance and DLWG) for ewes and fattening lambs on cover crops
- Nutritional benefits to the soil and long term investment of grazing cover crops
- Case study examples
- Plans for the business in the future

12.50pm Refreshment break**1pm Farmer Panel Session**

James Bucher, William Beattie, Harry Moffat, Shane Durham (Kingshill Farm Manager), Robert Law (local farmer)

- In field discussion on establishment and grazing methods

1.30pm Lunch**2pm Farm Walk****3pm Close**

More information: email molly.bampton@ahdb.org.uk or call 07514 947869

