

Benefits of nutrient management planning, by a Mixed Farmer

Name: **Clive and Andrew Gurney**
Region: **Wigmore, Herefordshire**
Farm: **Mixed**
Size: **400 hectares**

Background

Some 12 years ago, Clive Gurney and his family moved from Austerton, Cheshire to a larger mixed farm of 400 acres at Wigmore, Herefordshire.

Have you completed a nutrient management plan before?

Four years ago, Clive and his brother Andrew in conjunction with various companies (Growhow UK, Dow AgroSciences, Monarch Seeds and Opico) helped devise the Grassright Group. The group runs joint exercises in grassland management evaluation on selected farms discussing all aspects of grass growing, seeding targets and evaluating current regimes.

What are the benefits of nutrient planning?

Clive and Andrew decided to increase dry matter production on the grass crop. New seeds were sown and drainage issues rectified. Both soil and slurry was tested. This integrated approach proved very worthwhile with grass yields rising over recent years equivalent to £405/ha.

With high potash prices over application of excess slurry or fertiliser will seriously affect profit. By using nutrient management planning, savings have been made over the past three years.

Clearly, through engaging with expert advice Clive and Andrew identified where improvements and cost savings could be made in their grassland management and are feeling the advantage of adopting nutrient management.



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Material adapted from Environment Agency document: *Nutrient management planning – case studies*
www.environment-agency.gov.uk