



Workshop Report: *Farming Methods and Machinery* 15 November 2017 - Salle Village Hall: 10am-3pm

Summary

- The free event attracted 46 attendees from Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire including 20 farmers (over 7000 ha) along with agronomists, other farm advisers and academics
- 'Informative', 'interesting', 'educational' and 'thought-provoking' and were the most common words used to describe participants experience from 26 completed evaluation forms (19 farmers)
- Most respondents strongly agreed that they had learned something new and that they would like to attend future events
- Most respondents strongly agreed that the information presented seemed fair and balanced and the variety and quality of speakers was noted
- Most respondents at least tended to agree that they would do something new as a result of taking part and were able to contribute their views and have their say
- Farmers commented on how they would reduce the amount of traffic on their fields to reduce soil compaction and adopt inter-row cultivation to reduce capping and benefit plant health in row crops
- One farmers requested a free trials of the Earthwake to disrupt tramlines to prevent water, soil and nutrients leaving the field

Format

- Presentations from local farmers, agricultural engineers, and academics focussed on traditional and novel cost-effective techniques for improving soil and water
- Presentations drew on evidence from the Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment, UEA, Harper Adams University, Cranfield University and ADAS trials related to cultivations and cover crops
- Farmers and advisers had the opportunity to discuss controlled traffic farming, inter-row and tramline management, and the practical benefits and cost savings they can deliver
- Lland-Ho's Earthwake for tramline disruption was on display (a demonstration was unable to take place given recent wet conditions)
- Attendees walked to a nearby oil seed rape field to discuss soil structure and were taken by tractor and trailer to a field of cover crops to discuss their establishment and destruction
- Tramline layout and direction of sprayer travel around the field was also discussed as a simple cost-effective way to improve water resource protection



Background

The knowledge exchange event was a requirement of WWF-UK & Coca-Cola Freshwater Partnership 'Water Sensitive Farming' project 2016-2018.

This is being delivered by Norfolk Rivers Trust via the Broadland Catchment Partnership that it co-hosts with the Broads Authority and the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership hosted by Anglian Water.

The partnerships aim to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature.

Objectives

1. To introduce the catchment partnerships and collaborative approach to protecting waterbodies
2. To raise awareness of Water Sensitive Farming and free advice and grant funding available
3. To share knowledge of novel cost-effective techniques and encourage wider dissemination

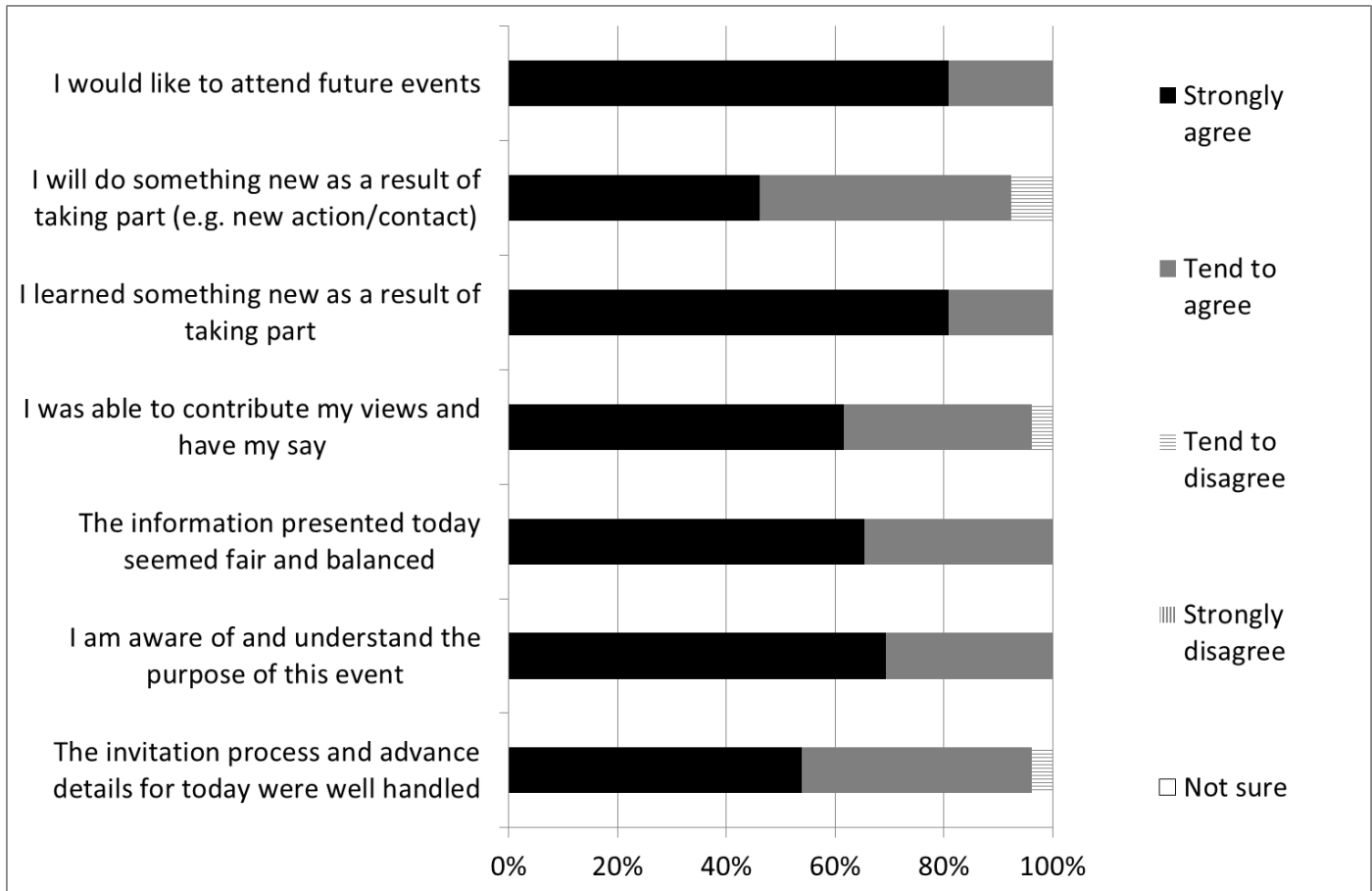
Desired outcomes

1. Improved networks with farmers, agronomists and other advisers through presentation of impartial, balanced and costed (where possible) information
2. Increase in uptake of new and traditional techniques, and trials of innovative technology to increase water infiltration and reduce both run-off and leaching from agricultural soils
3. Increase uptake of farm advice and funding for improvements to water environment

Agenda

Time	What	Who
10:00 - 10:15	Introduction	Neil Punchard, Broads Authority
10:15 - 10:55	Cultivations for cover crops and inter row cultivations for row crops	Philip Wright, Wright Resolutions
10:55 - 11:25	Practicalities of compaction: building a machinery policy for healthier soils	Dick Godwin, Harper Adams University
11:25 - 11:45	Controlled Traffic Farming – practical steps in arable and veg.	Tim Chamen, CTF Europe
11:45 - 12:00	Comfort break	All
12:00 - 12:20	Sustainable maize growing and strip tillage	Stephen Temple, Copys Green Farm and Maize Growers Association
12:20 - 12:40	Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment – reduced cultivations findings	Richard Cooper, University of East Anglia
12:40 - 13:00	Salle Farms update on reduced cultivations, cover crops and controlled traffic	Poul Hovesen, Salle Farms
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch	All
13:45 - 14:30	Soil pit and cover crops (trailer ride)	Philip Wright, Wright Resolutions
14:30 - 15:00	Tramline management	Robert Camps, Natural England

Evaluation



N = 26

Words used to describe experience of participating in this event

Informative	Catchy	Stimulating	Current	Entertaining	Innovative
Useful	More to learn	Educational	Valuable	Cold	Inspiring
Interesting	Repeatable	Undecided	Good	Thought provoking	
Varied					

Comments

Great variety of speakers

Really good speakers

Thank you

Well chaired Neil. First session a bit long

Could presentations be sent to group?



Field visit



Philip Wright discusses soil structure in a cover crop field

Partners



Funders

