



The world of farm management software is changing: Hutchinsons launches ground-breaking EasyPlan upgrade to Omnia

Hutchinsons have launched a major upgrade to its Omnia Digital Farming system creating the next generation in farm management software for British agronomists and farmers.

"This announcement represents a major digital leap forward in crop production which confirms Omnia as the most advanced and easy-to-use farm management system," according to Head of Omnia, Oliver Wood.

"The EasyPlan upgrade offers a set of exciting developments within Omnia allowing for complete paperless record keeping and work management, setting a new

standard for farm management technology in the UK."

"It's a British system for British farmers and one not currently offered by any other precision software provider."

"Since its launch as a precision mapping system eight years ago, the platform has evolved into a broader digital farming system offering a range of valuable and user-friendly business modules, such as cost of production, yield mapping, rotational planning and carbon mapping tools," he explains.

"With its user-friendly interface and unparalleled functionality, the



Oliver Wood (Hutchinsons head of Omnia)

EasyPlan upgrade takes this one step further and underlines Hutchinsons' focus on innovation and excellence and unwavering commitment and vision for Omnia. ➤

➤ What more does Omnia with the EasyPlan upgrade offer?

1. Field Diary module:

A significant extension of current Field Diary into a fully comprehensive farm management system. Previously farm records such as field inspections could be held in the Omnia Field Diary, but it was not possible to record live operations or manage work orders as they happened. It is now possible to digitally plan and record all live field operations from rolling through to spraying with the new task management functionality. With a calendar view for task planning, multiple plans can be combined into a single task which can be logged in a specific area for operators to access.

As with previous Omnia functionality, this is compatible with the most popular machines and platforms, and it can be accessed online from any device (although for those that want to run a paper-based system this is still possible). These field records are then automatically shown within the existing Production module, to allow complete gross margin analysis.

2. Stock management

The addition of real-time stock management. The upgraded module allows for a real-time, feature rich, stock management system for keeping track of orders and physical inventory based on what is actually being used.



Gordon McKechnie (Hutchinsons Managing Director)

3. Spray Plan module

A completely new module which allows users to create spray plans which are then audited by Hutchinsons bespoke HALO crop protection database. Users now have the ability to write their own spray recommendations. The new HALO database on which the Spray Plan module is based, uses the industry standard regulatory data as its core which is checked and enhanced daily by Hutchinsons in-house technical experts to ensure regulatory compliance.

The Omnia Scout app will be upgraded this summer to bring some of this new functionality into farmers' pockets.

The update will allow operators to view and complete tasks in the field, along with providing an interactive tank mix tool for spray plans to help operators with product and water requirements. The Omnia Scout app is available for both Android and iOS devices.

Data security key to upgrade

Data security and governance has also been a major focus for the upgrade, Gordon McKechnie, Hutchinsons managing director explains.

Significantly, Omnia is now the first system ever with both ISO 27001 'Information Security Management' and Farm Data Principles certifications – the belt and braces of data security.

These two schemes are evidence of the robust policies and procedures followed by Hutchinsons to govern and protect data and gives farmers full control over the access to their data and account security. Additional new functionality provides the ability to manage access and permissions for others on the account, such as farm staff.

Omnia with the EasyPlan upgrade will be available within the current Field Manager and Business Manager subscription levels, with Business Manager being required for the HALO auditing functionality.

For those that are new to Omnia, the Omnia free Access account allows farmers to experience some limited functionality, including annual cropping plans, farm maps and visualising yield data.

To find out more about how the Omnia with the EasyPlan upgrade can improve the profitability and long-term sustainability of your farm business, visit Hutchinsons, stand No: 258, at the Cereals event on 11-12 June at Newnham Farm.

Hutchinsons Helix and Regional Trial Centres - Summer Open Days

Here is a preview of our activities at the forthcoming **Helix and Regional Trial Centre summer open days** taking place around the country.



Our Regional Trial Centres

At nine combinable crop trial centres around the country, there will be demonstrations and presentations from our specialists focusing on "knowing your numbers" - working with and managing your farm data, to help you understand what you put in and what you get out.

- Which cereal variety is right for your situation?
- Understanding your farm business with **Omnia**, the next generation farm management system



- ▶ Implementing the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)
- How healthy is your soil and how can you measure/monitor and manage it?

Variety demonstrations

Most locations will feature treated and untreated comparisons of a wide range of new and established winter wheat and winter barley varieties, providing a great opportunity to evaluate agronomic performance under local conditions and soil type. Variety selection to meet market demands and to perform well on your own farm is a major decision and there is an increasing focus on using genetics to ease crop management.

Omnia Digital Farming

Specialists will be able to practically demonstrate our next generation farm management system, Omnia, including the forthcoming Omnia with EasyPlan upgrade, which focusses on farm management records, gross margin analysis, recommendations, and stock levels.

HUTCHINSONS

Crop Production Specialists

Helix Demonstration Farms and Regional Trial Centres

Locations & Events Summer 2024

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Carlisle
Tuesday 11th June | 10 Helix National Technology Farm
Tuesday 2nd July |
| 2 Alnwick
Wednesday 12th June | 11 Helix Yorkshire
Thursday 13th June |
| 3 Grayingham
Tuesday 2nd July | 12 Helix Oxfordshire
Wednesday 19th June |
| 4 Harleston
Thursday 4th July | 13 Helix Northumberland
Tuesday 25th June |
| 5 Stowbridge
Friday 28th June | 14 Helix Cornwall
17th/18th June evenings |
| 6 Brockhampton
Wednesday 10th July | 15 Helix Wiltshire
Thursday 20th June |
| 7 Castle Donington
Tuesday 25th June | 16 Helix Fife
Thursday 18th July |
| 8 Bourne
Thursday 13th June | 17 Potato Demonstration Event
Tuesday 9th July |
| 9 DKB
Tuesday 25th June | |

Maximising the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

Our environmental team will explore ways growers can boost environmental benefits from unproductive areas of land and successfully integrate the latest SFI options on farm, to maximise income by applying the right option in the right place.

Our Helix Technology Farms

Our Helix farms will also feature many of the above topics under a core message of **"measure to manage"** - using technology and innovation to analyse your farm business, to maximise output.

The demonstrations at seven Helix farms around the country show how the hosts are practically and successfully collaborating with new technology and specialists to improve their business decision making. At these sites we are continuing to evaluate new technologies, to develop beneficial business tools, for the wider farming community, that have been tried and tested.

This summer's programme of events at Hutchinsons Helix and Regional Trial Centres promises an exciting insight into the ways farm income can be improved.

(Please see table of dates below and map locations).



Please look out for an invitation to your local event, which will be sent out during May.

Check our website

www.hutchinsons.co.uk/event
for more information and to reserve your place.



Choosing Oilseed Rape for Autumn 2024

David Bouch (Hutchinsons National Seed Manager) says that despite recent challenges, oilseed rape still offers a really viable option in the rotation.

With oilseed rape planting decisions for this autumn likely to be a delayed and potentially a spontaneous decision for many, there will still be circa 300,000 ha as a projected area at time of writing. This may vary significantly nearer drilling time, depending upon commodity prices, SFI decisions made in the spring and most importantly, the soil conditions in July, August, and September.

Oilseed rape still works for many growers albeit in much reduced numbers. I have detailed some thoughts below on options that will enable the best returns.

Hybrid varieties

My belief that hybrid varieties offer the best case for establishment and indeed the key traits for the growing season has not wavered - in fact I would suggest the case has hardened in their favour. **Aurelia** will remain very popular and is currently the market leader in terms of area planted, but newcomer **LG Academic** perhaps now offers a little more across the board and is a better option for the north, whilst sitting very well placed on the Recommended List.

LG Aviron with its traits and its excellent vigour in both autumn and spring make it a key variety for later drilling opportunities. **Attica** also should still be considered, as its gross output supersedes **Aurelia**, with the now familiar LG traits.

Other hybrid variety options include **Maverick** from LSPB, newly added to the candidate list, which has excellent disease resistance on offer with 7 for LLS and 9 for Phoma. It also possesses TuYV resistance and RLMS Phoma genetics, therefore offering a different option for crop management. Pioneer have **PT312** offering TuYV resistance and Sclerotinia tolerance. **PT312** also has very good oils (47.6%). It also has very strong scores for standing ability.

Sclerotinia tolerance has also been shown to have as much as a 15% advantage in yield in untreated trials.

DK Excentric can offer the same traits as the suggested Limagrain varieties, with yield not dissimilar to Ambassador, so whilst not the highest gross output, Dekalb is closing the gap, supporting all their variety sales with an establishment scheme which may prove the decider to some as to whether they venture into the challenging oilseed rape sector.

Clearfield® is a simple choice for me, as **Matrix CL** most definitely remains the current standout performer and tops the ADHB listing for this category.

Clubroot is likely to remain a widespread challenge and **LG Scorpion** ticks all the boxes here with excellent vigour and establishment, decent disease scores and TuYV resistance. Although not on the Recommended List, it has attributes that current recommended varieties cannot match.

Conventional varieties

Conventional varieties will remain in favour for the home-saved seed market. Here, newly recommended **Pi Pinnacle** steps into the frame, whilst my other picks are **Acacia**, **KWS Campus** and **Annika** for those who want the TuYV trait in a conventional variety (although I believe the trait is better served by the hybrid offer).

Key recommendations

Hybrid	Conventional	Clearfield®	Clubroot
Attica	Pi Pinnacle	Matrix CL	LG Scorpion
Academic	KWS Campus		
Aurelia	Annika		
Aviron	Acacia		
Maverick			
DK Excentric			



David Bouch (Hutchinsons National Seed Manager)

The 'Hutchinsons Dozen' varieties in the chart below tick all the boxes for the various market sectors and should help keep decision making simple. Oilseed rape lends itself to multiple variety choices, without the complications of storage experienced in crops such as wheat. The biggest consideration remains the conditions at time of planting, if soils are warm and more importantly there is sufficient moisture, then oilseed rape still provides a very viable option in the crop rotation. This will be enhanced further by any increase we might see in prices, which at time of writing are suppressed at circa £370 per tonne.

Speak to your agronomist about growing oilseed rape and appropriate variety choice, or contact us: information@hlhlt.co.uk

Learn more at Groundswell

Visit the Hutchinsons stand DFF37 at Groundswell on 26 & 27 June to see the Johnson-Su extraction demonstration and learn how to boost your soil's biology.



Jade Prince (Hutchinsons Soils Specialist)

Building on last year's popular demonstration, visitors will be able to see the extraction process in action, turning composted material into a valuable solution that can be applied with seed at drilling, or as a foliar spray.

The technique is already being used to good effect on many farms, including our Agroecology demonstration site in Shropshire, run by Harry Heath. In 2022/23 Mr Heath and Hutchinsons agronomist Ed Brown began a long-term split-field trial examining the impact of home-made Johnson-Su compost extracts, and manufactured products, on soil biology.

Half a 15 ha field, in winter wheat last year, received added biology, applied in three ways; as a seed treatment, in-furrow at drilling, and as a foliar spray, while the remaining half was left untreated.

Results were encouraging, as crop assessments in March revealed a 75% increase in root biomass where the Johnson-Su treatments were used, which translated into a 0.7 t/ha yield uplift over the untreated half of the field last harvest. The team is continuing the work in this year's crop of winter barley to see if similar results can be repeated and continue building the bank of data covering multiple seasons and crops.

Super-charging soil biology

Johnson-Su composting has attracted considerable interest from farmers wanting to boost soil biology, so will once again be a highlight of the Hutchinsons stand at June's Groundswell event.

Create conditions for biology

Before attempting to improve soil biology, whether through Johnson-Su compost extracts, or off-the-shelf treatments, growers must ensure no physical or chemical soil issues will restrict biology, soils specialist, Jade Prince, advises.

Poor structure due to compaction, for example, can limit soil biology, as can factors such as anaerobic conditions caused by surface capping, or high/low pH.

"It's worth getting a Healthy Soils test done to identify any issues that need rectifying and to fully understand what soils need. Once you're comfortable the physics and chemistry are up to scratch, improving biology is the cherry on the cake."

Understanding soil properties, notably buffer pH, is key to optimising the raw materials going into the Johnson-Su, and the properties of the finished product, she adds.

"The raw materials determine whether you produce a bacterial or fungal dominant compost tea. If your soil pH doesn't match the conditions those species want, biology is not going to survive very long.

"Fungi, for example, prefer acidic conditions, so if you're on an alkaline soil, there's no point creating a fungal-dominant compost by using lots of woody materials."

Ms Prince advises growers to use materials from their own farm, so the biology reflects what is present naturally. Common materials include chopped maize, farmyard manure, grass cuttings, hay, and horse manure, although it is essential to strike the right carbon:nitrogen balance to optimise the composting process.

"The aim with a Johnson-Su, is to get compost up to a certain temperature (60-70C) during the first stage. If you're not getting up to that, it suggests the C:N of your feedstock was too high, whereas if it's getting too hot and not cooling down soon after, your feedstock C:N was too low."

Johnson-Su composting

- A simple composting process designed to multiply beneficial soil micro-organisms (particularly protozoa and nematodes)
- Biology can be extracted into a liquid inoculant to kick-start soil biology
- Usually applied as a seed treatment, foliar spray, or in-furrow at drilling
- Increasing biological activity improves soil food chain efficiency and nutrient cycling

Questions about Johnson-Su composting? Contact us: information@hlhlt.co.uk

New black-grass trials site tackles fresh threats

Hutchinsons has launched a new black-grass trials site at Cambourne near Cambridge, to show how changes in weed emergence patterns require a fresh approach to control

The site has been set up in response to some significant changes witnessed among black-grass populations in the field over recent seasons, explains Hutchinsons technical manager, Dick Neale.

“Stale seedbeds and delayed drilling have been very effective measures for reducing September and early October-germinating black-grass, but the weed is adapting to what we do.

“We are seeing a significant shift towards later-germinating black-grass populations in many situations, so growers and agronomists need to understand these dynamics and alter control strategies accordingly.”

Testing ground

The Cambourne site provides an ideal location for testing new management approaches, featuring predominantly heavy clay soils, and a black-grass population of around 200-300 heads/m² across the 40 ha trial area.

Control strategies are taking a whole-farm approach, covering everything from cultivations, rotation, soil health, and cover/catch cropping, to drilling dates, and herbicide options, with technology such as Omnia and TerraMap providing valuable data to inform decision making.

“The farm is already transitioning towards less soil disturbance, so we want to explore how we can make this work for crop productivity and weed control,” says Mr Neale.

Like many other farms, the wet weather last autumn and winter

posed significant challenges for establishing winter crops, with many areas left unsown. Ironically this has provided a useful insight into how black-grass reacts to management practices, he says.

“We’ve tried various things, from different cultivations and cover crops, to no cover crops, or allowing volunteers to grow or not grow. Normally, these areas would have all gone under the drill come mid-October, but this year they haven’t; many areas had to be left undrilled, so have continued through the winter.

“This has clearly demonstrated that the bulk of the black-grass population we are dealing with on this farm, is not germinating in September or early October. It is germinating from the 20 October onwards, and is doing so in combination with additional cultivations.”

Cultivation impact

Indeed, this was reinforced by work last autumn that compared the impact of an additional heavy spring tine or disc-based cultivation on black-grass numbers, compared with just using the farm’s Claydon direct drill, the main machine for sowing cover/catch crops.

Minimal soil disturbance in the ‘drill-only’ plots, resulted in a small amount of black-grass emerging, averaging 5 plants/m² by mid-October, with patches up to 25/m². In contrast, black-grass numbers were nearer 55-65 plants/m² where an extra cultivation was made.



Dick Neale (Hutchinsons Technical Manager)

After spraying-off plots on 17 October, there was another small flush of later-emerging black-grass in the drill-only plot, but subsequent emergence was noticeably greater where an additional cultivation was made.

“This observed shift towards later-emerging black-grass populations presents dilemmas for growers; do you wait longer for more black-grass to emerge, which on heavy soils is a non-starter in most years; or can we drill slightly earlier and put in appropriate measures to tackle early and later-emerging black-grass?”

“Drilling earlier may be possible, but you need to understand the dynamics of black-grass and observe what’s happening in each field on your farm to ascertain when most of the population is emerging. If it is a late-emerging population, stale seedbeds and delayed drilling may not be working for you any longer.”

Look out for details of a results meeting later this year, where there will be an opportunity to discuss findings from the first year of trials at the Cambourne site.

Questions about this article?

Contact us: information@hlhld.co.uk

For more information on any of our products or services, please contact your local Hutchinsons agronomist, or contact us at:



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