



## Farm Snapshot

- 4,500 Acres
- 2 Dairy Herds
- Conservation
- Parkland
- Mixed Cereals:  
WB, WOSR,  
Milling Wheat,  
2nd Wheat,  
Spring Peas,  
Spring Oats, MZ,  
2 Year Leys



## Case Study Rotherfield Farms, Hampshire

This is a traditional, mixed estate (4,500 acres) in Hampshire with both arable and dairy (two herds) and a lot of conservation areas on quite heavy soils. Joe Edwards came here in September 2015 and through a friend was introduced to Paul Cobb. The ethos was to look at long term improvements rather than quick fixes and for sustainable methods that encourage wildlife and insect numbers. There is a lot of grassland, much in permanent pasture that was hardly growing. Whilst there are some limitations from the varieties in the traditional parkland in front of the house, it was felt by Joe and Paul that it could perform better.

Following soil sampling, Cobb Agri have been advising on how to increase pH, potassium and sodium levels. On the more traditional parkland and pastures for grazing we introduced Sodium and Fibrophos which has helped the palatability and clover rejuvenation. More recent sampling has demonstrated that the indices are moving in the right direction and more grass is available with grass and forage quality improved.

The introduction of assessing Sulphur levels of both grazing and mowing ground led to a move away from straight Nitrogen to AXAN 27-9. The arable land was mostly on a traditional system with some recent GPS soil sampling but the results hadn't been given any interpretation so no changes had been implemented. Cobb Agri worked on these results first to find ways to save on costs or improve yields and crop quality. Shooting is key to Rotherfield so treating the game cover like an arable crop has improved wild bird mix performance.

The timing of PK purchase and applications were reviewed. Planning ahead has enabled savings on these inputs. Looking carefully at better use of FYM has helped reduce inorganic applications. Whilst phosphate levels were good, the soil type was inhibiting uptake so a vari-rate application system was started with the addition of AVAIL to TSP which enhanced uptake. All of these changes were monitored through tissue testing. More recently added poultry litter from a neighbour has also helped improve P levels.

We introduced the use of Polysulphate on OSR for additional Sulphur. On the rape and maize ground, EfficiNt28 for late application has enhanced and extended the nitrogen available to the growing crop with application timings monitored. The spread quality of Yara products coupled with the new GPS spreader has meant an even spread across the sward.