



McCreath
Simpson &
Prentice

Your partners in farming

2025

**WINTER WHEAT
VARIETY TRIALS**



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MOUNTFAIR FARMING

Mountfair Farming is an agri-business specialising in contract farming and farm management services.

Managed by Jorin and Aidan Grimsdale, the brothers operate out of Mountfair Farm and Hilton Farm, managing more than 2,100 ha in the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland.

As a progressive and dynamic business, their aim is to maximise income and increase long-term productivity for the landowners while using a sustainable and environmental approach.

On the technical side, Jorin is responsible for the farm's management, while Aidan – a qualified mechanical engineer – is Operations Director.



Mountfair
FARMING

He is responsible for the daily operations, workshop and machinery maintenance. The workshop also undertakes fabrication projects.

Both Jorin and Aidan have key interests in soil health and understand how important it is. Operating a 12m/36M controlled traffic farming system, less than 20% of the fields are driven which is helping to improve soil structure across the business.

Mountfair operates a non-inversion cultivation system to enhance soil organisms which, coupled with importing compost, cattle manure and hen manure, aims to increase organic matter levels.

TRIALS OVERVIEW

Similar to the previous couple of years, the varieties were drilled on two separate dates: nine plots on September 13 at 175kgs/ha, followed by 20 plots on September 28 at 200kgs/ha. There are 17 different varieties in total, four of which are new. The plots were drilled using a 3m combi drill after Spring Oats.

There are four different seed treatment plots of KWS Zealum: Beret Gold, Vibrance Duo, Ympact and Nuello. Ympact is a biological product to aid establishment and crop vigour and Nuello is a biological product that contains nitrogen fixing endophyte bacteria. We have seen improvements in rooting from the added treatments over an SPD.

The season allowed a T0 to be applied to control the juvenile yellow rust at the start of April, with T1 applied

in the second last week of April at GS 31. The effects of PGR can be seen between

the treated and untreated plots of certain varieties. The T2 was applied mid-May at GS 39 and a T3 will be applied at flowering.

Yellow rust has been seen in most varieties this year, with untreated Bamford, LG Skyscraper, Champion, KWS Dawsum, LG Beowulf, Typhoon and Blackstone the worst affected. Eyespot was seen in the untreated plot of KWS Extase, although disease in the treated plots has mainly stayed on leaves 5 and 6 with Septoria being minimal further up the plant.



CROP PROTECTION REPORT

WHEAT VARIETY TRIALS
EHD: **No Restriction**

W Wheat

Champion

1.00 ha

Projected Harvest Date: 31/08/2025

Activity Date / Timing	Operation	Product	Rate	Total	Water	Area
06/04/2025 (plan date)	Spray Plan #46	Tesoro (20476) Tebuconazole (250 g/l)	0.750 lts/ha	0.750 lts	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Stabilan 750 (09303) Chlomequat (750 g/l)	1.000 lts/ha	1.000 lts		
		Sonis (16891) Trinexapac-ethyl (250 g/l)	0.100 lts/ha	0.100 lts		
		ManCoMax (MBS712) Cu (2 %); Mn (36 %)	0.750 lts/ha	0.750 lts		
22/04/2025 (plan date)	Spray Plan #47	Vimoy (20727) Isoflucypram (50 g/l)	1.000 lts/ha	1.000 lts	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Titania (20775) Prothioconazole (175 g/l); Trifloxystrobin (88 g/l)	0.830 lts/ha	0.830 lts		
		Belcozel 750 (19125) Chlomequat (750 g/l)	0.750 lts/ha	0.750 lts		
		Intracrop Uplift (MBS425) Cu; MgO; Zn; Mn; P2O5; Mo; B; N; K2O	2.000 lts/ha	2.000 lts		
19/05/2025 (plan date)	Spray Plan #48	Miravis Plus (20847) Pydiflumetofen (62.5 g/l)	1.400 lts/ha	1.400 lts	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		ERA 300 (21088) Prothioconazole (300 g/l)	0.460 lts/ha	0.460 lts		
		Intracrop Uplift (MBS425) Cu; MgO; Zn; Mn; P2O5; Mo; B; N; K2O	2.000 lts/ha	2.000 lts		
03/06/2025 (plan date)	Spray Plan #49	Trinity 250 (19732) Prothioconazole (250 g/l)	0.400 lts/ha	0.400 lts	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Vertaza (19795) Azoxystrobin (250 g/l)	0.400 lts/ha	0.400 lts		

KWS EXTASE

Breeder: KWS UK Ltd

Pedigree: Boisseau x Solheio

Market: UKFM Group 2, UK Bread Making, [Export]

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2019

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 11.0% / Sco 4.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 6.4% / Sco 2.0%

Positives

Continues to have one of the highest untreated yields on the RL

Very strong Septoria tritici resistance (7)

Good combined yellow rust and mildew resistance

Early to mature with stiff straw

Superb grain quality - high specific weight (79.2kg/hl) and Hagberg (287)

Negatives

Northern yield becoming outclassed

Unsuitable for early drilling due to vigorous growth habit

May be a risk with sterility in some areas and situations - not suitable for exposed sites or the northern half of Scotland

Tall variety, though responds well to PGR

Susceptible to orange wheat blossom midge and eyespot

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 102

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 101

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 91



BAMFORD

Breeder: Elsoms Seeds

Pedigree: Moulton x EW129

Market: UKFM Group 3, UK Biscuit, Distilling (Medium), [Export]

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2024

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 9.3% / Sco 13.2%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 9.9% / Sco 19.8%

Positives

Highest untreated yield of all soft wheats on the RL (90) and very good treated yield (107)

Good Septoria tritici resistance (6.6)

Suitable for biscuit and distilling market with the highest specific weight (78.7kg/hl) of any soft wheat

Suitable for all soil types

Negatives

Very vigorous growth habit may reduce its suitability for early sowing

Average mildew and fusarium resistance

Susceptible to orange wheat blossom midge

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 106
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 107
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 90



KWS SOLITAIRE

Breeder: KWS UK Ltd

Pedigree: LG Sundance x Shabras

Market: UKFM Group 3, UK Biscuit, Cake Making, Distilling (High), [Export]

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2025

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco 0.6%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 2.2% / Sco 24.1%

Positives

Excellent northern yield and joint top yielding Group 3 variety for the north

Very good Septoria resistance (6.7)

Well suited to early sowing

Yields well across all soil types and can be grown as either first or second cereal

Rated 'Good' for distilling

Negatives

Looks to have weaker straw strength, but this should be manageable with PGR

Brown rust and eyespot resistance are below average

Lower Hagberg than other comparable varieties

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 107
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): [108]
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 88



KWS FLUTE

Breeder: KWS UK Ltd

Pedigree: Shabras x Elicit

Market: UKFM Group 3, UK Biscuit, Cake Making, Distilling (Medium), [Export]

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2025

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco 0.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco 3.5%

Positives

Excellent northern yield and joint top yielding Group 3 variety for the north

Performs well across all soil types and rotational positions

Short and stiff strawed

Very good specific weight (78.4kg/hl)

Negatives

Very vigorous growth habit may mean it is not so well suited to early sowing

Brown rust resistance is below average

Lower Hagberg than other comparable varieties

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 106
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): [108]
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 80



LG SKYSCRAPER

Breeder: Limagrain Europe

Pedigree: (Cassius x NAWW 29) x KWS Santiago

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (Medium), Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2019

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.5% / Sco 16.9%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.5% / Sco 7.4%

Positives

Reliable all-rounder which performs across all rotational positions

Very good resistance to mildew

Remains the benchmark for early maturity compared to most other soft wheats in the market

Negatives

Resistance to Septoria continues to decline year-on-year and is now poor

Poor brown rust and eyespot resistance

Tall, relatively weak strawed but responds well to PGR

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 101

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 100

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 80



RGT BAIRSTOW

Breeder: RAGT Seeds Ltd

Pedigree: (Revelation x KWS Santiago) x Cougar

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (High)

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2022

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco 5.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco N/A

Positives

Consistent performer, very good as a first and second wheat and on light and heavy soils

High tillering variety with good autumn vigour, quick to get away in spring with early ear emergence

Rated 'Good' for distilling

Negatives

Not suited to very early drilling

Tall, relatively weak strawed, the same as LG Skyscraper - will need a PGR programme

Poor eyespot resistance

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 101

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 102

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 80



RGT STOKES

Breeder: RAGT Seeds Ltd

Pedigree: (Cougar x KWS Santiago) x Revelation

Market: Distilling

Status: Removed from AHDB RL in 2024

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco 1.7%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal N/A / Sco 0.7%

Positives

Has always performed best in the north

Suitable for early drilling

Rated 'Good' for distilling with one of the best alcohol yields of all varieties

Negatives

Tall with average straw strength, although with PGR it is stiffer than LG Skyscraper

Poor combined disease resistance

Specific weight on the low side (76.2kg/hl)

+2 for maturity so later than most other soft wheats

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): N/A

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): N/A

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): N/A



KWS ZEALUM

Breeder: KWS UK Ltd

Pedigree: KWS Basset x Reflection

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (Medium)

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2023

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.3% / Sco 10.5%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.5% / Sco 5.0%

Positives

Decent untreated yield with good combined disease resistance - no major weaknesses

Particularly well suited to early sowing

Performs best on heavy land and a good option as a second wheat

Negatives

+2 for maturity

Moderately susceptible to brown rust

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 102
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 103
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 81



BLACKSTONE

Breeder: Elsoms Seeds

Pedigree: Panacea x KWS Tempo

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (Medium)

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2024

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 1.0% / Sco 3.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.9% / Sco 8.3%

Positives

Offers excellent flexibility in sowing dates and can be sown right up until the end of February

Relatively tall but very stiff strawed

Very good grain quality, high specific weight (78.6kg/hl) combined with Hagberg of 295

Negatives

Below average Septoria resistance (5.9)

Slightly later maturing (+2)

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 102
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 104
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 83



RGT HEXTON

Breeder: RAGT Seeds Ltd

Pedigree: Graham x RGT Universe

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (Medium), [Export]

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2025

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco N/A

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 1.1% / Sco 3.0%

Positives

Highest yielding variety on the RL for the north

Top performing variety at our Distilling Wheat Development Site in 2024

Very good Septoria resistance score (6.7)

Great all-rounder across soil types, rotations and positioning

Very well suited to early sowing

Good straw strength

Negatives

Slightly later maturing (+2)

Below average brown rust and eyespot resistance

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 105
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): [111]
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 80



RGT REDGRAVE

Breeder: RAGT Seeds Ltd

Pedigree: N/A

Market: Soft Group 4, Distilling (Medium)

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2025

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco N/A

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco 0.4%

Positives

Good northern yield and performed well at our Distilling Wheat Development Site in 2024

Taller strawed but stiff and lodge-resistant

Above average Septoria resistance and good combined mildew and yellow rust resistance

Growth habit suggests it can suit early sowing

Negatives

Poor untreated yield with weakness in brown rust and eyespot resistance

+3 for maturity making it later than most other varieties, although would consider it to be a +2 based on our data

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): N/A
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): N/A
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): N/A



GRAHAM

Breeder: Syngenta UK Ltd

Pedigree: Premio x Expert

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2016

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 3.9% / Sco 2.5%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 2.2% / Sco 0.6%

Positives

High untreated yield (86) and respectable northern yield (104%)

Performs best as a first wheat and on lighter soils

Excellent option for early sowing and this is where it has really found its niche

Above average resistance to the major diseases

Early maturity

Negatives

Poor resistance to eyespot and brown rust

Susceptible to Orange Wheat Blossom Midge

Potential ear fertility issues in the far north, with breeder not recommending drilling of the variety north of the Forth

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 103

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 104

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 86



SY INSITOR

Breeder: Syngenta UK Ltd

Pedigree: AB111-1011 x Hereford

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2020

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 0.8% / Sco 9.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.6% / Sco 6.6%

Positives

Popular hard feed wheat for the north

Excels on lighter ground

Good grain quality with high Hagberg (272) and specific weight (78.8kg/hl)

Negatives

Very poor untreated yield (75%)

Susceptible to yellow rust (4), brown rust (5) and eyespot (4)

Very tall with average straw strength - PGR programme will be required

Poor sprouting resistance

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 105

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 107

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 75



KWS DAWSUM

Breeder: KWS UK Ltd

Pedigree: KWS Kerrin x Costello

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2022

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 13.1% / Sco 13.2%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 7.9% / Sco 5.6%

Positives

Very high untreated yield (89%) & northern yield (106%)

Excellent as both a first and second wheat and on both heavy and especially lighter land

Very good combined disease resistance

Well suited to early drilling

Superb grain quality (*inherited from Costello parentage*) with very high Hagberg (310) & specific weight (79.9kg/hl)

Negatives

Average resistance to Septoria compared to some other hard wheats (6.3)

Susceptible to Orange Wheat Blossom Midge

On farm performance has possibly not lived up to expectations

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 103
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 106
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 89



CHAMPION

Breeder: DSV Seeds

Pedigree: Reflection x DSV 20122

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2022

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 10.5% / Sco 2.5%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 6.7% / Sco 0.2%

Positives

Highest Septoria resistance on RL (7.6)

Very high treated (107%) and untreated (86%) yields

Exceptional performance as both a first and second wheat

Excellent performance on both light and especially heavier land

Early to mature (0)

Negatives

Not suitable for early drilling due to very vigorous growth habit

Relatively tall with average straw strength but responds well to PGR

Poor brown rust and eyespot resistance

Low specific weight (75.6kg/hl) so consideration needed around positioning on farm

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 107
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 105
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 86



LG BEOWULF

Breeder: Limagrain Europe

Pedigree: Costello x Gleam

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2024

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 10.9% / Sco 3.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 12.5% / Sco 3.8%

Positives

Very good combined northern yield (107%) and untreated yield (85%)

Very stiff straw

Good grain quality with a high specific weight (78.3kg/hl)

Looks to offer flexibility at sowing; can be sown early or late and suits different soil types

Negatives

Slightly later maturing (+2)

Average mildew (6) and brown rust (5) resistance

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 106

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): [107]

AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 85



LG TYPHOON

Breeder: Limagrain Europe

Pedigree: Garrus x LGW88

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2022

Certified Seed Sales 2024 %: Eng/Wal 5.3% / Sco 4.6%

Provisional Seed Area 2025 %: Eng/Wal 4.5% / Sco 3.6%

Positives

Very slow speed of development in the autumn makes it ideally suited to early sowing and it can be used as a good tool to spread workload

Performs better in the north over other areas in the UK

Good combined disease resistance gives it a strong untreated yield (87%)

Negatives

Average northern yield (103%) compared to other hard feed varieties

Very slow to get going in the spring and late maturing (+2)

AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (UK): 101
AHDB RL 2025 Treated Yield (North Region): 103
AHDB RL 2025 Untreated Yield (UK): 87



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