



McCreath
Simpson &
Prentice

Your partners in farming

2026

**WINTER WHEAT
VARIETY TRIALS**



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

For a third year running, the trials have been drilled on different dates and from this we have gained valuable visual growth habit and disease pressure findings. Eight plots were drilled on September 5 at 175kgs/ha, followed by 21 plots on September 26 at 200kgs/ha. There are 18 varieties in total, five of which are new. The plots were drilled using a 3m combination drill into good seedbed conditions after Oilseed Rape.

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 visual improvements in fibrous roots from the added treatments over an SPD.

The T0 was 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.

This year, yellow rust has been most prevalent, first appearing in autumn in several of the early drilled plots, before being seen in the later drilled plots in spring. Aside from a small amount of mildew, disease in the treated plots has largely remained on leaves four and five, with minimal septoria higher up the plant.



CROP PROTECTION REPORT

WHEAT VARIETY TRIALS

W Wheat

1.00 ha

Projected Harvest Date: 31/08/2026

EHD: No Restriction

Activity Date / Timing	Operation	Product	Rate	Total	Reason	Water	Area
01/04/2026 (plan date) 30:Ear 1 cm	Spray Plan #50	Tesoro (20476)	0.750 lts/ha	0.750 lts	T0 Disease Control	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Tebuconazole (250 g/l)					
		Stabilan 750 (09303)	1.000 lts/ha	1.000 lts	Plant Growth Regulator		
		Chlormequat (750 g/l)					
		Sonis (16891)	0.125 lts/ha	0.125 lts	Growth Regulator		
24/04/2026 (plan date) 31:1st node detectable	Spray Plan #51	Trinexapac-ethyl (250 g/l)				200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		NutriTek MnCuZn (MBS1990)	0.750 lts/ha	0.750 lts	Manganese		
		Cu (1 %); Zn (1 %); Mn (7 %)					
		Univoq (19930)	1.000 lts/ha	1.000 lts	T1 Disease Control		
		Fenpicoxamid (50 g/l); Prothioconazole (100 g/l)					
20/05/2026 (plan date) 37:Flag leaf visible	Spray Plan #52	Jadex Plus (20385)	1.000 lts/ha	1.000 lts	Growth Regulator	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Chlormequat (720 g/l)					
		Sonis (16891)	0.150 lts/ha	0.150 lts	Growth Regulator		
		Trinexapac-ethyl (250 g/l)					
		Intracrop Uplift (MBS425)	2.000 lts/ha	2.000 lts	Trace element		
05/06/2026 (plan date) 59:Ears fully emerged	Spray Plan #53	Cu; MgO; Zn; Mn; P2O5; Mo; B; N; K2O				200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Miravis Plus (20847)	1.500 lts/ha	1.500 lts	T2 Disease Control		
		Pydiflumetofen (62.5 g/l)					
		ERA 300 (21088)	0.500 lts/ha	0.500 lts	T2 Disease Control		
		Prothioconazole (300 g/l)					
		Vertaza (19795)	0.500 lts/ha	0.500 lts	Disease Control	200.00 lts/ha	1.00 ha
		Azoxystrobin (250 g/l)					
		Trinity 250 (19732)	0.500 lts/ha	0.500 lts	Disease Control		
		Prothioconazole (250 g/l)					
		NutriTek Mg (MBS1995)	1.500 lts/ha	1.500 lts	Magnesium		
		MgO (8.8 %); SO3 (17.49 %)					

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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 12.5% / Sco 26.5%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 8.6% / Sco 21.0%

Positives

Joint highest untreated yield of all soft wheats on the RL (89) and very good treated yield (105)

Good Septoria resistance (6.4)

Suitable for biscuit and distilling market with the joint highest specific weight (78.5kg/hl) of any soft wheat

Performs in all soil types

Negatives

Very vigorous growth habit reduces its suitability for early sowing

Average mildew and fusarium resistance and has become more susceptible to yellow rust

Does not have resistance to orange wheat blossom midge

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 105

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 107

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 89



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 2.0% / Sco 4.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 2.6% / Sco 2.2%

Positives

High yielding Group 3 soft (106) with very good untreated yield (87)

Good Septoria resistance (6.4)

Suitable for biscuit and distilling market with very good specific weight (76.8kg/hl)

Early maturing and offers flexibility in terms of soil type and sowing date

Negatives

Tall and relatively weak strawed but responds well to PGR

Average mildew and fusarium resistance and has become more susceptible to yellow rust

Does not have resistance to orange wheat blossom midge

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 106

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 106

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 87



ISLA

Breeder: Angus Wheat Consultants

Pedigree: LG Skyscraper x (Leeds x Stigg)

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

Certified Seed Sales 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco 0.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco 0.0%

Positives

Combines the flexibility and consistency of LG Skyscraper with the disease resistance of Stigg

Excellent grain quality

Specifically bred to suit northern growers

Does not contain YR15 and looks to be holding up well against yellow rust

Negatives

Slightly later maturing than LG Skyscraper

Susceptible to mildew

Does not have orange wheat blossom midge resistance



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.0% / Sco 4.1%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco 6.0%

Positives

Excellent northern yield making it the top performing Group 3 variety for the north (108)

Performs well across all soil types and rotational positions

Short and stiff strawed

Very good specific weight (78.kg/hl)

Well suited to early sowing

Negatives

Poor mildew and brown rust resistance

Lower Hagberg than other comparable varieties

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 105

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 108

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 81



SPARKLER

Breeder: Elsoms Seeds

Pedigree: Graham x LG Skyscraper

Market: Soft Group 4

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2026

Certified Seed Sales 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco 0.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 2.6% / Sco 6.3%

Positives

Excellent combined northern ([108]) and untreated yield (87)

Strongest Septoria resistance of any soft wheat (7.2)

Above average yellow rust resistance (7)

Looks to have slow speed of development in the autumn making it suitable for early sowing

Negatives

Relatively tall with below average straw strength but responds well to PGR

Does not have resistance to orange wheat blossom midge

Poor combined brown rust and eyespot resistance

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 106

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): [108]

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 87



LG SKYSCRAPER

Breeder: Limagrain Europe

Pedigree: (Cassius x NAWW 29) x KWS Santiago

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

Status: Removed from AHDB RL in 2025

Certified Seed Sales 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco 4.6%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco 0.0%

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

Outclassed in terms of yield and agronomic performance

Very poor Septoria resistance

Tall, relatively weak strawed but responds well to PGR

Indicative Treated Yield (UK): 101

Indicative Treated Yield (North Region): 100

Indicative Untreated Yield (UK): 80



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 1.6% / Sco 6.8%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 3.1% / Sco 21.4%

Positives

Joint highest yielding variety on the RL for the north (109)

Very good combined yellow rust (8) and Septoria resistance score (6.6)

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 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 103
AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 109
AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 82



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.3% / Sco 9.8%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 0.3% / Sco 9.5%

Positives

Performed well against yellow rust in 2025 and is now one of the highest rated on the RL (8)

Particularly well suited to early sowing

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

Negatives

+2 for maturity

Average untreated yield (81)

Moderately susceptible to brown rust

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 102
AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 103
AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 81



LG CHALLENGER

Breeder: Limagrain Europe

Pedigree: (SY Gravity x SY Insitor) x LG Skyscraper

Market: Hard Group 4, Feed

Status: AHDB RL Variety for UK since 2026

Certified Seed Sales 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.1% / Sco 0.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 1.9% / Sco 1.1%

Positives

Joint highest northern yield ([109])

Excellent untreated yield (93)

Looks to offer excellent flexibility across all soil types and rotational positioning

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

Negatives

Average Septoria resistance (6.1)

Slightly taller strawed but straw strength is not an issue

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 107

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): [109]

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 93



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 10.0% / Sco 5.1%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 6.2% / Sco 2.6%

Positives

- Very good combined northern yield (107) and untreated yield (83)
- 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 (5) and brown rust (5) resistance
- Has lost resistance to yellow rust and is now rated a 4

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 104
AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 107
AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 83



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 6.5% / Sco 2.1%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 3.6% / Sco 2.1%

Positives

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

Above average Septoria resistance (6.5)

Good combined yellow rust and mildew resistance

Early to mature with stiff straw and very good autumn vigour

Superb grain quality - high specific weight (79.1kg/hl) and Hagberg (293)

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 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 102

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 102

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 90



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 0.6% / Sco 8.7%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 0.2% / Sco 8.1%

Positives

Popular hard feed wheat for the north

Excels on lighter ground

Good grain quality with high Hagberg (279) and specific weight (78.6kg/hl)

Negatives

One of the worst untreated yields on the RL (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 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 104

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 107

AHDB RL 2026 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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 8.3% / Sco 8.0%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 3.6% / Sco 7.4%

Positives

Reasonable untreated yield (86) & northern yield (105)

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

Good combined disease resistance

Superb grain quality (*inherited from Costello parentage*) with very high Hagberg (312) & specific weight (79.6kg/hl)

Negatives

Starting to become outclassed by newer alternatives

Average resistance to Septoria (6.2) and poor resistance to yellow rust (5)

Susceptible to orange wheat blossom midge

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 102

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 105

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 86



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 5.8% / Sco 1.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 4.6% / Sco 0.0%

Positives

Joint highest Septoria resistance on RL (7.2)

Exceptional yield potential as both a first and second wheat

Early to mature (0)

Negatives

Not suitable for early drilling due to very vigorous growth habit

Has lost resistance to yellow rust and is now rated a 4

Low specific weight (75.3kg/hl) so consideration needed around positioning on farm

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 106

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 105

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 82



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 3.3% / Sco 4.5%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 2.3% / Sco 3.2%

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

Excellent Septoria resistance (7)

Negatives

Average northern yield (102) compared to other hard feed varieties

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

Yellow rust resistance slipped significantly in 2025 and is now a 5

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 100

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 102

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 83



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 2025 %: Eng/Wal 3.3% / Sco 1.4%

Provisional Seed Area 2026 %: Eng/Wal 2.4% / Sco 0.8%

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 and remains strong against yellow rust (8)

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 2026 Treated Yield (UK): 102

AHDB RL 2026 Treated Yield (North Region): 104

AHDB RL 2026 Untreated Yield (UK): 86



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Website: mspagriculture.co.uk

Phone: 01289 330022

Email: seed-grain@mspagriculture.co.uk