



BOOTS ON THE GROUND: A YEAR IN THE LIFE ON FARM

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Preparing for spring

Will Haupt manages Woburn Farms in Woburn, Bedfordshire and operates on 4,500 acres of arable land growing mainly cereals, beans, peas, pulses and oilseed. They also manage a small herd of cattle, which they oversee using Cattle Manager.

Over the last couple of months we've been very busy. Following an extremely wet autumn and winter, we've got no shortage of work ahead of us. We're now mainly focused on getting ready for the spring.

I've just finished mapping out an extensive ditching programme for the whole farm. A function in Gatekeeper lets you mark and colour-code these on a map, so you can see which year a particular ditch was dug in an instant. The same process has been used to map footpaths as well.



We take part in countryside stewardship schemes, which are also integrated within our mapping by constructing different layers and allocating our spaces accordingly. So, for example, making sure a field that was previously 100% arable is now recorded as having a 10% wild bird mix. We can then resync our machines for the latest boundaries and guidance lines.

Last month we focused on our nutrient management plans, using Gatekeeper to update all our cropping. Essentially it's been a process of focusing on what wasn't possible in winter and shifting to our "plan B" which, thankfully, is a straightforward process in the software. We can make adjustments and tweak fertiliser orders based on the guidance provided by Gatekeeper, which makes a huge difference when planning your agronomic strategy.

As this is a time of preparation and planning, we need to adapt and stay reactive to what's happening on the ground. I can alter the data to fit whatever the latest plan is in a heartbeat. It's that simple. Staff can then be kept in the loop when we switch crop types and varieties. You can rely on Gatekeeper to keep everything on track. It stores everything and lets you make changes with a quick click, turning what could be a chaotic process into something efficient and organised.

- ✓ Boundary integration
- ✓ Agronomic strategy
- ✓ Efficient and organised process

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Woburn Farms





I have been using Gatekeeper on or off for a decade. About three years ago I joined Woburn Farms, which was my first chance to use it "from scratch". Everything works really well. Even our John Deere machines are kept up to date with the latest information via wireless data transfer through Gatekeeper. It's extremely powerful. Once you adopt a hands-on mindset, you're able to make significant and effective changes effortlessly.



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Will Haupt
Woburn Farms

Right now, it's a time for preparation. The next couple of months will be the time for action. Gatekeeper has helped us fully prepare for spring, so that we can hit the ground running with precise and profitable farming. Despite the difficult circumstances over the last few months, we're in a really good place thanks to Gatekeeper.

Find out more at www.farmplan.co.uk/bootsontheground

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