



# SOIL FARMER OF THE YEAR



## Celebrating our UK



# SOIL FARMERS

In 2016 the Farm Carbon Cutting Toolkit and Innovation for Agriculture launched a competition kindly sponsored by Cotswold Seeds to find the first UK Soil Farmer of the Year. The aim was simple - celebrating farmers who were passionate about looking after their soils.

The competition was run again in 2017, finding more fantastic farmers who were doing great things in terms of managing soil health and resilience.

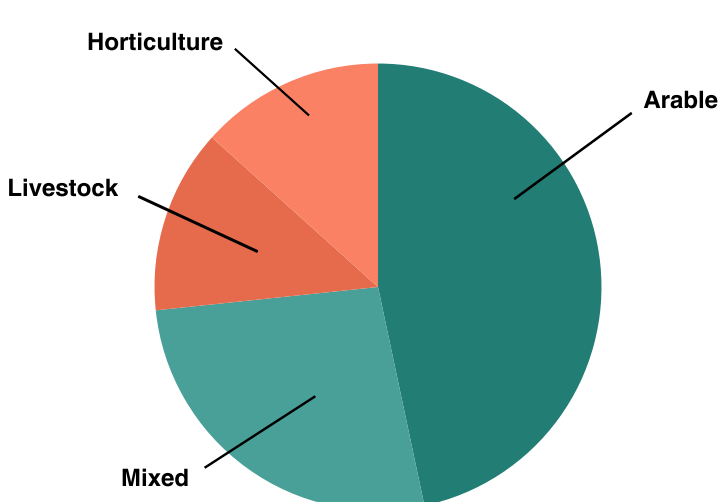
### APPLICATIONS



**Farmers managing 9429 ha collectively**

Great farmers managing farms ranging from 2 - 1600Ha, on a variety of soil types around the UK

### FARM TYPE



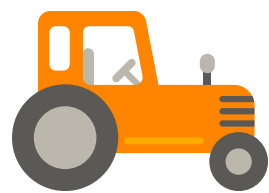
From the farmer applicants the entries were split across the major farm types

### GOOD PRACTICE



Assessing soil structure

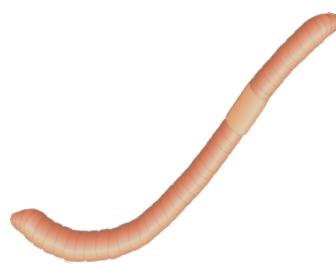
Regular analysis and testing



Evaluating tillage use

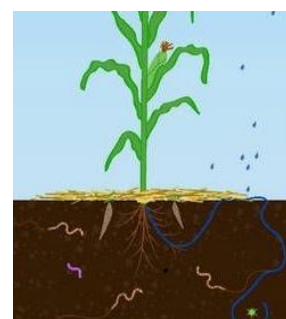
Some of the great things that our soil farmers were doing.

### GOOD PRACTICE



Looking after biology

Using cover crops and mulches to protect soil



Keeping soil in the field so that it can grow profitable crops was a common theme

### SHARING INFORMATION



Farm walks were held with the top 3 farmers which attracted over 150 farmers and growers to learn more

### DISCUSSING NEW IDEAS



Standing round soil pits was a common theme! Discussing how to go home and put into practice what they learnt.

### LEARNING NEW THINGS



We know how important soil management is, but there is so much that we are still learning. Working together facilitates the learning process!

### FANTASTIC FEEDBACK!



The 2017 farms walks received overwhelmingly positive feedback. 100% of farmers attending were going to change their management as a result of coming to the event