



SOIL ORGANIC MATTER POLICY STATEMENT

Brixworth Farming aims to maintain or improve soil organic matter through use of well-timed, appropriate cultivations, the introduction of cover cropping and applications of organic manures (including FYM and sewage sludge) to targeted fields identified as low in organic matter.

Measurements In 2013 Brixworth Farming began some initial soil organic matter sampling to understand the different levels from the different soil types within each block. The average value across all the farms was 4.9%, with a minimum value of 2.7% recorded on the lightest soils and a maximum value of 6.7% on the heavier soil type with history of organic manure applications. These measurements have allowed a benchmark for 2013 and will enable the identification of the impact of management decisions on the levels of soil organic matter.

As soils are routinely tested for nutrients every 3-5 years across the farms soil organic matter measurements will also be taken to identify the impact of the management practices and to show priority fields for attention.

In spring 20120 further tests were carried out, showing a range from 3.3 to 9.1%, averaging 5.5%.

Organic Manure Applications Brixworth Farming looks to source organic manures wherever possible and practical as a source of nutrients and organic matter for fields. The lighter soils with the lowest organic matter levels have been identified and are the target for organic manure applications.

Straw Incorporation Wherever possible the aim is to incorporate crop residues after harvest, however there are occasions where straw is sold, either for financial reasons or for the benefit of the following crop, especially when looking to minimise soil disturbance through direct drilling.