

Growing Break Crops

60 years of supporting farmers



United Oilseeds
THE LEADING BREAK CROP SPECIALIST



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The United Oilseeds Difference

At United Oilseeds, our direction has always been set by the people who use it – farmers. That practical, on-the-ground experience shapes every decision, keeping the focus firmly on what works in the field, not just on paper. It's a structure that keeps us closely aligned with members' needs, ensuring the business evolves in step with the realities of modern farming.

Meet the farmer directors behind that approach – bringing experience from across the country, a range of cropping systems, and a shared commitment to delivering for members.



60 Years of Member Value

-  Established 1966
-  4,500 members
-  400,000 tonnes marketed annually
-  £4 million redistributed to members in 10 years
-  National storage network
-  UK wide presence

“My father helped found United Oilseeds as a farmer solution, and that principle still guides everything we do.”

Dick Hall, Vice Chairman & Shareholder No. 1



Meet our farmer board of directors



Chairman

Ben Jackson • LINCOLNSHIRE • Family/FBT/Contract Arable Farm

Crops: OSR, Winter Wheat, Spring Barley, Linseed, Maize, Environmental Schemes

A fourth-generation farmer, Ben brings a soil-first, detail-focused approach across diverse soil types. His experience spans large-scale arable production, marginal gains & practical risk management utilising environmental schemes.

Dick Hall • HAMPSHIRE • Family/FBT/Contract Arable Farm
Crops: OSR, Winter Wheat & Beans, Spring Barley, Ryegrass, Cover & Catch, Sunflowers

Farming without insecticides, Dick has been direct drilling for over 10 years, producing many crops for seed, processed on site.

An early adopter of SFI, he blends practical innovation with resilient, sustainable systems.



Vice Chairman



Director

Andy Barr • KENT • Mixed Farm

Crops/Livestock: OSR, Milling Wheat, Malting Barley, Beans, Herbal Leys, Lamb

A progressive farmer & regular Farmers Weekly contributor, Andy brings practical, first-hand experience of diverse soils, direct drilling & stewardship-led systems, with a clear focus on resilient, lower-cost farming that supports productivity & healthy ecosystems.

Colin McGregor • BERWICKSHIRE • Family/Contract Arable Farm

Crops: Winter Cropping Rotation, Spring Break Crops

Colin has managed the family farm in the Borders since his early 20s. An early adopter of precision farming in the mid-1990s, McGregor Farms runs extensive contract agreements, driven by practical farming and attention to detail at scale.



Director



Director

Andrew Cragg • KENT • Arable Farm

Crops: OSR, Winter & Spring Wheat, Peas

With 40 years on the family farm in Romney Marsh, using low-tillage, controlled traffic systems, Andrew brings strong statistical insight from both a degree in applied computing & long service on both the AHDB Recommended List (9 years) & R&D committees (11 years).

Robert Sullivan • COUNTY DURHAM • Farm Business Consultant

Crops: OSR, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Peas, Beans, SFI & Countryside Stewardship

A farm business consultant & qualified agronomist, Robert brings practical farm management, agronomy & grain marketing expertise to the Board, alongside experience in enviro schemes & national policy through close work with government & industry bodies.



Director



Chairman's Welcome

Sixty years ago, a group of farmers came together with a simple but powerful idea: that by working collectively, they could achieve more than any one of them could alone. That founding principle – farmer ownership, farmer leadership – remains as relevant today as it did in 1966, and it is the thread running through every page of this publication.

The economic headwinds of the past few years have been significant – nobody needs reminding of what nitrogen costs do to input budgets, or how quickly geopolitical events can unsettle a market. But this cooperative was built precisely for moments like these, and those leading it are not removed from the pressures you face – they share them. As you'll see from the first few pages of this booklet, we are above all else, farmers, like you.

Moving on to the performance of oilseed rape this season, thankfully it's a welcome bit of positivity. OSR has proven once again that it belongs at the heart of crop rotations – agronomically sound, economically compelling, and an increasingly important hedge as markets remain unpredictable. Helping our growers make the most of that opportunity is exactly what this cooperative exists to do.

But our role does not stop there. Alongside OSR, we continue to offer strength across the broader commodity range, supporting your whole rotation, and I would encourage you to explore what United Oilseeds can do for your business outside of traditional OSR marketing and pools.

Whether it's rebuilding confidence in oilseed rape or strengthening the wider rotation, progress will only come from farmers working together and backing shared approaches. At the end of the day, this cooperative is only as strong as the farmers behind it – thank you for your continued support.

Here's to the next sixty years – still farmer owned, still farmer led.



Ben Jackson
Chairman

Welcome from the Managing Director

Welcome to the 2026 edition of Growing Break Crops. This year marks a quiet but significant milestone – 60 years of supporting farm profitability, innovation and resilience. From the outset, our purpose has remained clear: by farmers, for farmers. That principle continues to guide everything we do.

It's been another busy year, with strong momentum behind the OSR Reboot campaign. The latest national stem larvae survey has provided valuable insight, reinforcing what many growers are already seeing in the field: while pressure from cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) remains a challenge, results are increasingly variable – and, crucially, manageable where the right approaches are adopted. That variability underlines the opportunity. With the right strategy, OSR can still perform.

Maintaining this momentum is now critical. At the heart of the campaign are the 10 shared strategies for managing CSFB in oilseed rape (see page 11). These are not new ideas, but proven, practical principles that must be applied consistently and collectively. As the OSR area begins to recover, it is vital we learn from the past. Attention to detail, and pragmatic activities like post-harvest cultivation and spatial separation from previous OSR crops – has never been more important.

Encouragingly, we are seeing more growers adapt their approach in line with these principles. This year's publication includes a couple of farmer case studies highlighting how

changes in strategy are delivering improved outcomes. These real-world examples demonstrate what is possible when the industry pulls together and shares knowledge.

Beyond OSR, we continue to represent and support our members across a range of issues. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent glyphosate survey, your input has been shared with policymakers and strengthens our ability to advocate on behalf of the wider farming community.

Behind the scenes, our small but dedicated team continues to work hard to maintain the high level of service you expect, while we also invest in the future with new additions to the business. As always, our strength lies in being farmer-led, and this year we are proud to feature our farmer board members, reinforcing that commitment.

Thank you for your continued support – we hope you enjoy this issue.



James Warner
Managing Director

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← Fold out the front cover to meet our farmer directors



Cereals

10-11 JUNE 2026

DIDDLY SQUAT FARM

STAND

1018

JOIN US @ 10:15 EACH DAY FOR A BACON ROLL

& A SHORT TALK ON GROWING OSR IN 2026



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This publication has been registered for:



BASIS number: 428203708645
2 Crop Protection points



Market Perspective: OSR continues to deliver

Oilseed rape continues to prove its worth where it matters most – on the balance sheet. In a year when many combinable crops have struggled to generate consistency, OSR has quietly delivered strong, reliable returns. For many growers, it ranked as the best paying crop on farm last season, underlining its value not just as a break crop, but as a core contributor to farm profitability.

That performance is reflected in the numbers. Over the past 12 months, OSR has consistently traded at a premium, typically sitting £50–£100 above two times feed wheat – a benchmark many farmers still use when assessing cropping decisions. This sustained advantage reinforces OSR's position as a key margin driver, while also helping to spread financial risk across the rotation. It's no surprise then that interest in OSR is returning. We're seeing a growing number of enquiries from farmers who previously stepped away from the crop, now looking to reintroduce it or increase their area. The reasoning is clear: in a market where many crops remain closely tied to wheat, OSR offers diversification through its own distinct set of drivers and a more liquid market structure.

From a market perspective, the past year has been anything but static. Prices softened around harvest 2025 due to comfortable global supplies, with strong production in Europe, Canada and Australia, alongside large South American soybean crops. However, the market regained momentum into the new year, initially supported by reduced Ukrainian exports into Europe due to ongoing logistical challenges.

More recently, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have introduced additional volatility, with a “war premium” underpinning prices and discouraging selling. This uncertainty is likely to persist in the short term, creating choppy conditions across both agricultural and energy markets. The link between vegetable oils and biofuels remains a key factor here, particularly as global energy dynamics shift.

Elsewhere, policy and planting decisions are adding further support. Increased biofuel blending rates in Southeast Asia and the US are tightening global vegetable oil supplies, while US growers are expected to favour soybeans over corn, influencing broader oilseed balances. At the same time, concerns around fertiliser availability could yet impact cropping decisions and yields globally.

Closer to home, the UK market remains structurally supportive, with strong and consistent domestic demand continuing to underpin values.

In short, OSR is doing exactly what growers need it to do: delivering margin, providing resilience, and strengthening the overall farm portfolio. In uncertain times, that's a story worth telling.



By Nick Hobson
Trading Manager,
United Oilseeds

Looking at OSR for 2026

There has certainly been a different feeling around oilseed rape this season. After several difficult years dominated by conversations around poor establishment and cabbage stem flea beetle pressure, it has been refreshing to talk positively once again about the crop and, more importantly, how to maximise its potential rather than simply keep it alive.

Maverick at Silbury Hill, Wiltshire



Liam Wilkinson
Limagrain Head
of Technical



Travelling across the country, many crops have looked well, with strong rooting, good biomass and generally even establishment. While there have still been reports of cabbage stem flea beetle activity, pressure has felt significantly lower and less prolonged than in previous seasons. Combined with stronger commodity prices, OSR is firmly back in the conversation as one of the more profitable break crops available to growers.

However, it is important that we understand why crops have performed as well as they have this year and avoid complacency creeping back in. As is so often the case with OSR, establishment remains the foundation of success. Conditions at drilling were near perfect in many areas, with warmth and moisture in the seed bed helping crops emerge rapidly and grow away strongly. Lower cereal yields last harvest also left higher levels of residual nitrogen in some soils, giving crops an additional boost early on.

The progress made by the industry since the loss of neonicotinoid seed treatments has been remarkable. Many of the management steps we now almost take for

granted are vital if OSR is to remain a profitable crop moving forward.

Variety selection remains one of the most important decisions growers make. Traits such as TuYV resistance and pod shatter resistance help reduce risk and secure final yield without compromising performance. LG's breeding strategy has long focused on building these traits into varieties before they ever reach the market, ensuring growers have as much built-in protection as possible from the outset.

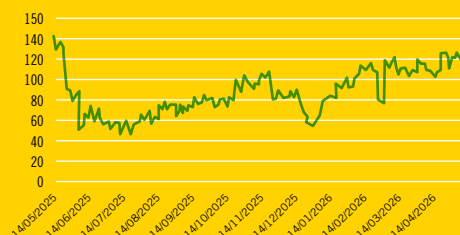
Moisture at drilling remains critical, and no amount of genetics can compensate for a poor start. This season has again highlighted the importance of attention to detail around establishment: fine seed beds, good seed-to-soil contact and moisture conservation through rolling all played a huge part in helping crops emerge rapidly and grow away strongly.

Ultimately, successful OSR still comes down to stacking marginal gains together and consistently getting the basics right.

OSR price as multiple of wheat



Difference between OSR price
& LIFFE wheat x 2





Real Benefits. Real Returns. Real Ownership.

For 60 years, we've built a cooperative that works differently – because it's built by farmers, for farmers. Without external shareholders, the focus stays where it should be: delivering real value to members. From the way your crop is moved and marketed to how profits are returned, every part of the model is designed to strengthen your bottom line, year after year.

These decisions are shaped by farmers who understand the realities of running a farm, balancing cost, risk and return. That's why the model looks different, and why the outcomes do too.

Produce of area contracts

Our flexible produce of area contracts allow members to commit expected tonnage with confidence. If yields fall short, there is no financial risk to you. If you produce more, we'll still move it, quickly and reliably, keeping your harvest on track.

Flexible Contracts = Protected Margins

Annual profit redistribution on traded tonnes

Over the 10 years from 2015 to 2024, our average annual profit redistribution was £409,444 – more than £4 million returned directly to members. In the 2022–23 financial year, this equated to an estimated £2.12 added to every traded tonne of commodities.

Real value, paid back to the farmers who produced it.

Shared Success = More Value Per Tonne

No cap load charges on part loads of OSR

If we saved you £3.40 per tonne on a 70 tonne OSR contract, compared to anyone else in the market how would you feel?

Example: 70 tonnes OSR contract – Haulage rate £14/t

Loads	Our haulage cost	Member haulage cost
Load 1 29 tonnes	£406	£406
Load 2 29 tonnes	£406	£406
Load 3 12 tonnes	£406	£168
TOTALS	£1218	£980

£238 total saving = £3.40/t for the full contract

Fairer Haulage = Better Margins

A choice of high performing marketing pools...

Reliable performance, managed by experts. Our marketing pools outperform the rest of the market – delivering strong returns while removing the stress of selling.



Marketing pool options

Harvest	Long	Carte Blanche
Movement at harvest, typically within 5 days	Movement between October & March	Movement at buyers call, typically between April & June
Part payment within 28 days	Part payment agreed depending on storage option	
Final payment in December	Final payment in June	Final payment end of season

Stronger Pools = Better Returns

Additional benefits of membership include:

- Advance payments and flexible finance at exclusive rates – just 1.75% over base
- Prompt crop movement – We aim to move your crop within 3 to 5 days
- Local storage throughout the United Kingdom
- Access to leading varieties in our seed portfolio

Not yet a member? Get in touch to start maximising our unique member benefits





Break Crop Update: Your true break crop specialist

DID YOU KNOW?... 25% of United Oilseeds total traded tonnage comes from non OSR break crops!



By Charles Newton
Junior Commodity Trader,
United Oilseeds

Beans

Prior to harvest beans struggled to compete against other mid proteins for inclusion in ruminant feed rations on the grounds of cost and consequently were largely excluded. Whilst demand from the poultry sector remained relatively inelastic, export activity faltered this year, as alternative origin beans undercut UK grown produce. As a result, beans have traded sideways for much of the year, although recent improvements in wheat prices have lent some support in the closing months of the season.

- Next season's prospects will hinge on to what extent dry weather around Easter hinders the spring crop, and whether protein meal prices remain supported.

Oats

Oats have continued their downwards price trajectory this season, with values now falling steadily for nearly two years as demand seems to falter. Overall quality this season has been good but slightly back on last season. Prices have now reached a level relative to alternatives, at which oats are beginning to feature quite widely within the feed ration, which has helped absorb poorer quality samples.

- Looking ahead, plantings are reported to be down for this harvest, and with the weighting now in favour of spring crops, production prospects will be determined by weather in the coming months.

Linseed

Linseed prices have been well supported this season, with prices consolidating at recent highs. Demand for UK origin linseed remains robust despite increasing competition from imported product. However, the linseed market can be fickle and if UK origin material moves to a sufficient premium over imported, the calculation may be subject to change. United Oilseeds' 50/50 contract remains an invaluable tool for growers to manage this risk.

- Harvest can present challenges with linseed, especially when weather windows are brief, however United Oilseeds' storage network is well equipped to condition any samples that need cleaning or drying.

Peas

Pea contracts filled quickly prior to harvest, and growers were rewarded for their early commitment as open market peas have struggled for demand, with prices for human consumption samples stalling and movement windows shifting backwards in a market which has not rewarded prolonged "rumination". Feed peas meanwhile have suffered similar problems to the feed bean market.

- In a concerning development, this year saw (potentially the first) confirmed incidences of pea bruchid in the UK. The PGRO are working to track and respond to further incidents, and growers shouldn't hesitate to contact them or United Oilseeds for further information.

"The team at United Oilseeds understand my land and conditions and consistently recommend maize varieties that suit the farm. They keep on top of what's new, but always keep it practical, which makes the whole process straightforward and lets me focus on the rest of the business."

**James Attwood,
SW Attwood Farms Ltd**



Maize

Maize delivered a variable performance in 2025, with yields reflecting local conditions. Demand from the livestock and anaerobic digestion (AD) sectors has remained firm, underpinning values, although the market has been more balanced following fluctuations in supply and feed grain competition. Earlier harvest progress in some areas has also supported rotation planning and autumn establishment opportunities.

- Looking ahead, attention will turn to rebuilding stocks after a tighter season, with production prospects heavily influenced by weather through the growing period. Advances in early maturing varieties continue to improve consistency, although variety choice and achieving target harvest maturity will remain key to maintaining feed quality and market competitiveness.

For tailored advice & access to specific contract pricing & options, speak to your United Oilseeds Area Manager.



OSR Reboot: Turning momentum into long-term success

#OSRReboot

United Oilseeds has invested £250,000 into the OSR Reboot, working on behalf of members to help safeguard the future of oilseed rape in the UK.

From hosting events and supporting research, to raising the crop's profile and collaborating across the industry, a huge amount of groundwork has gone into rebuilding confidence. Central to this has been the development of the 10 strategies for managing CSFB in OSR, a practical, shared framework designed to help growers regain control.

But the real challenge now is turning this momentum into consistent, long-term success.

This is where you come in

One of the biggest barriers in any industry is ensuring the right information reaches enough people to make a meaningful impact. The 10 strategies outlined opposite bring together the latest thinking from researchers, agronomists and farmers. They represent a genuine opportunity to grow profitable, sustainable OSR, but only if they are widely adopted.

That's why knowledge sharing is critical. Talk to neighbours, raise it in discussion groups, and share what's working on your farm. These strategies have been built collaboratively, even across competing businesses, because this is bigger than any one company. It's about securing the future of a crop that plays a vital role in UK rotations.

Encouragingly, OSR is on the up. Crop performance looks strong across much of the country, and plantings have recovered significantly, by as much as 30% compared to recent lows. But maintaining that progress will require a collective effort. Whether it's considering field proximity, adjusting sowing dates, integrating companion crops, or adopting post-harvest cultivations, the more growers who engage with these principles, the better chance we have of staying ahead of CSFB.

Continued Investment

Alongside this, the industry continues to invest heavily in OSR's future. The CSFB Research+ programme is developing practical IPM strategies, while wider projects are advancing genetic resistance, companion cropping systems and climate resilience. From precision breeding for disease resistance to improving yield stability and tackling emerging threats like Phoma, the pipeline of innovation is strong.

The direction is clear: by combining farmer action with ongoing research and collaboration, we can build a more resilient, sustainable future for OSR. The foundations are in place, now it's about making them work, together.

The AHDB and United Oilseeds OSR conference in York, 2026.



10 Ways to Take Back Control

Share them. Use them. Make them Work.

Compiled by the whole industry these strategies represent a unique project that has brought together multiple organisations with a single clear voice. Please help to share these at every opportunity.

Top 10 strategies for managing cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) in Oilseed Rape

1 Ditch the date

Sow early or late to avoid peak beetle migration – do not stick to traditional calendar dates.

2 Chase perfection at establishment

Always wait for adequate moisture before sowing, use the best seed, promote good seed-to-soil contact, ensure adequate nutrition and select varieties with appropriate vigour for the chosen sowing date.

3 Keep your distance

Any distance (space and time) between previous and current crops will improve the chance of success – every metre helps.

4 Improve larval tolerance

Fewer, bigger plants will stand up better to larval attack and reduce long-term pest pressures.

5 Make use of muck

Organic materials can disrupt beetle attack and support crop growth.

6 Park the pyrethroids

Resistance is real – and sprays may do more harm than good.

7 Create companions

Companion cropping and intercropping can shield crops from CSFB.

8 Build brassica buddies

Use sacrificial strips of brassica (e.g. turnip rape) or OSR volunteer trap crops to lure beetles away. **Make sure you destroy them before larvae drop to the soil.**

9 Stir it up after the harvest

Lightly cultivating OSR stubble soon after harvest may reduce emerging CSFB by disrupting their life cycle.

10 Unlock hidden gems

From stubbles to priming to predators – stack as many tactics as possible.



The full version of these strategies are available both on the AHDB and the United Oilseeds websites. **SCAN THE QR CODE TO HAVE A LOOK.**





Stirring Up Success: Tackling CSFB before they emerge

One of the most practical and cost-effective developments in cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) management in recent years has come from the work of Niab's Break Crop Specialist Colin Peters, focusing on what happens after harvest, not just after drilling.

His trials have shown that shallow post-harvest cultivation can reduce emerging CSFB adults by 50–90%, by targeting the pest while it is still in the soil. With most beetles sitting in the top few centimetres after pupation, this approach aligns directly with Strategy 9 of the industry's 10 CSFB management strategies: "stir it up after harvest."

It's a simple idea, but one that has quickly gained traction, not least because it offers growers a low-cost, non-chemical way to reduce local pest pressure before the next crop even goes in.

Now, as part of the CSFB Research+ project jointly funded by United Oilseeds, further trials are underway to build on these findings and better understand how the technique performs across different soil types and systems.

In Northwest Essex, the Cargill family have been working closely with Colin to put the theory into practice. Farming 143 hectares on chalky boulder clay, they recently reintroduced oilseed rape after a five-year break,



prompted by both rotational needs and the opportunity to bring a different mode of chemistry back into the system.

"We took the decision to plant OSR again following advice that CSFB numbers had been declining," they explain. "Peter Collier from United Oilseeds then put us in touch with Colin Peters, who was trialling whether cultivations could reduce adult beetles before they emerge."

Their role in the study involved cultivating two plots immediately post-harvest at depths of 2 inches and 3–4 inches, alongside an uncultivated control. Achieving consistent shallow soil movement proved challenging, but with support from a cultivations specialist, the desired result was achieved.

"The results mirrored Colin's previous work, showing a dramatic reduction in beetle numbers on the cultivated plots compared with the control," they report.

Encouraged by the outcome, the Cargills plan to roll the approach out across their OSR area this season.

"This could be a really valuable piece of work if it continues to prove the reduction in CSFB numbers before they migrate into a cotyledon crop. It certainly gives us encouragement to continue with oilseed rape as a valuable break crop."

As part of a wider, stacked approach to CSFB management, this is a strategy that is simple, scalable and increasingly hard to ignore.



Returning to OSR with a Fresh Perspective

At Walcott in North Norfolk, a 2,000-acre arable business is bringing oilseed rape back into the rotation after a 12-year break, reflecting a wider trend as confidence in the crop begins to rebuild.

At Walcott in North Norfolk, a 2,000-acre arable business is bringing oilseed rape back into the rotation after a 12-year break, reflecting a wider trend as confidence in the crop begins to rebuild.

The farm grows 700 acres of potatoes alongside 1,300 acres of combinable and break crops, including wheat, spring barley, sugar beet, maize and peas, with a small area of organic salads and diversified enterprises. A strong focus on rotation, margin and long-term soil performance underpins all decisions.

"OSR didn't disappear just because of CSFB," explains, farm owner William Love. "It was more about rotational fit. At the time, potatoes, sugar beet and salad crops took priority, and OSR simply didn't stack up."

Now, with salad production reduced and weaker returns from sugar beet and spring barley, OSR has re-emerged as a viable option. Crucially, much of the land going back into rape hasn't grown the crop for many years, effectively "clean" ground with lower pest pressure. Combined with consistent and comparatively strong pricing, the crop is once again earning its place.

This return aligns closely with several of the 10 shared strategies for managing CSFB. Rotation and field

selection have been key. Placing OSR on the right land, in the right position, to reduce risk. Increasing overall crop diversity has also been central, with peas reintroduced on a longer rotation and maize expanding significantly in recent years.

"Our approach now is more strategic," says William. "We're not forcing OSR into the system, we're using it where it fits."

Establishment remains a priority, with drilling timed for good conditions and supported by appropriate nutrition, including organic inputs where available, reflecting the importance of strong early crop growth in managing CSFB pressure.

Looking ahead, the business remains open to adopting further practical measures from the 10 strategies where they add value. But the core principle is clear: flexibility.

"OSR still has a place, where it genuinely works. It's about being prepared to step out when it doesn't – and bring it back when it does."

With improved rotation, careful field choice and a more favourable market backdrop, this Norfolk farm is showing how OSR can once again play a valuable role in a resilient arable system.



LG Adapt, Norfolk



Refusing to Be Beaten by CSFB

For United Oilseeds member Bob Chapman, oilseed rape remains a vital part of the rotation on his 1,200-acre farm near Peterborough. Growing milling wheat, milling oats, malting barley and OSR, Bob has adapted his approach in recent years to better manage cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) pressure, and the results are encouraging.



Bob Chapman

Central to his strategy is a willingness to move away from traditional drilling dates, aligning closely with the “ditch the date” principle from the industry compiled 10 strategies for managing CSFB in oilseed rape. Rather than chasing late August conditions, Bob now waits until peak migration has passed before drilling into September.

“I’m not prepared to be beaten by cabbage stem flea beetle – OSR is too important in the rotation,” he says.

This shift in timing paid off in the current crop of 180 acres of Maverick, which established evenly and built strong autumn biomass. Combined with impressive spring vigour, the variety has reinforced Bob’s confidence in both his approach and his varietal choice.

Establishment is another key focus, reflecting the importance of “chasing perfection.” (Strategy number 2), Bob prioritises moisture retention and seedbed quality, lightly cultivating ahead of drilling and following immediately with his Pronto drill to avoid losing valuable moisture. A single, well-timed roll ensured strong seed-to-soil contact.

“The seedbed was right, so we only needed to roll once. It’s about getting those fundamentals spot on,” he explains.

This attention to detail has helped ensure the crop gets away evenly and strongly, building the kind of robust plants better able to tolerate CSFB pressure without relying on pyrethroid insecticides (strategy 6). While pressure has appeared relatively low this season, Bob is clear that strong establishment is about resilience rather than reduced pest levels.

Bob’s evolving strategy reflects a broader principle within the 10 CSFB management strategies: flexibility and stacking multiple tactics to improve the odds of success.

“It’s not one big change – it’s doing a lot of little things right that gives the crop the best chance,” he says.

With plans to increase his OSR area to 200 acres this autumn, Bob’s approach demonstrates how careful timing, attention to establishment and a willingness to adapt can keep oilseed rape firmly in the rotation.

“I’m not prepared to be beaten by cabbage stem flea beetle – OSR is too important in the rotation”

Maverick, Cambridgeshire

Unlocking the Power of Pollination in OSR

New ADOPT-funded project set to transform how growers measure and manage yield potential.

United Oilseeds, alongside leading farm, research and technology partners, has secured funding through the government-backed ADOPT programme for an ambitious new two-year project focused on oilseed rape.

The initiative, automated pollinator monitoring to inform pollination management in OSR, brings together A&A Barr Farms, The Trinley Estate, AgriSound and the University of Reading to tackle one of the crop’s most important – but least understood – drivers of performance: pollination.

From unseen benefit to measurable input

Pollination has long been recognised as critical to OSR yield, yet in-field activity has remained largely invisible to growers. This project changes that.

Using cutting-edge bioacoustic sensors, pollinator activity

will be monitored in real time throughout flowering, generating high-resolution data across commercial crops. By linking this data to yield maps and environmental conditions, the project will quantify how pollination directly influences crop performance.

More than 100 sensors have already been deployed across trial sites in Kent and Hampshire this spring, marking one of the most advanced pollination monitoring programmes in UK arable farming.

Turning insight into action

The ultimate aim is simple: give growers the tools to actively manage pollination as part of their agronomy. This could include:

- **Optimising hive placement**
- **Fine-tuning input timing**
- **Enhancing habitats where they deliver the greatest benefit**

Research suggests improved pollination could increase OSR yields by up to 46% under the right conditions – offering a powerful route to higher output without additional inputs.

A smarter, more resilient future for OSR

By turning pollination into a measurable and manageable input, this project represents a step-change for the crop – combining productivity gains with environmental delivery.

It’s exactly the kind of innovation needed to support a confident, resilient future for oilseed rape in the UK.



United Oilseeds project lead Becky Beesley with Mike Farrell from The Trinley Estate.



LG Adapt

Consistent High Performance Hybrid OSR

LG Adapt is a consistently top-performing hybrid, combining high yield potential with built-in pod shatter resistance. Developed through Limagrain's UK-focused breeding programme, it is well suited to the demands of British growing conditions, delivering reliable results across a range of environments. Strong oil content and dependable field performance make LG Adapt a robust choice for growers looking for resilience and consistency from their OSR.

Key Strengths

- High oil content with pod shatter
- Good resistance to stem based diseases, in particular LLS
- Consistent performance across all regions of the UK

BREEDER: LIMAGRAIN



GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	106
East/West Region	106
North Region	105

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	47%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	7.9
Earliness of Flowering	6
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	162

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	5
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

LG Adapt, Norfolk
(Picture courtesy of Sands Agricultural Machinery)

LG Adapt, Norfolk



LG Avenger

World Record Yield with CSFB Resilience

LG Avenger is a next-generation hybrid delivering excellent performance with proven resilience to cabbage stem flea beetle. Combining strong autumn and spring vigour, high oil content and pod shatter resistance, it offers a robust, trait-loaded package for consistent, reliable UK establishment.

Key Strengths

- Flea beetle resilience characteristics
- Exceptional autumn and spring vigour
- Fully loaded with traits and high oil content

BREEDER: LIMAGRAIN



GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	102
East/West Region	102
North Region	103

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.5%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	7.9
Earliness of Flowering	6
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	166

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	5
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

LG Avenger, Wiltshire



Aurelia

Trusted Hybrid with Proven Performance

There's a reason Aurelia remains a cornerstone of the portfolio – proven performance over many years. The UK's most popular fully loaded hybrid, it delivers consistently high yields, strong vigour and wide regional adaptability, with TuYV resistance, pod shatter protection and outstanding light leaf spot resistance.

Key Strengths

- Fantastic yield stability across seasons
- Remarkably consistent over many years
- Strong early vigour and growth habit which offer a wide sowing window

BREEDER: LIMAGRAIN



GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	98
East/West Region	98
North Region	100

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	45.5%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	7.9
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	151

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	4
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R





Hinsta

High Oil Hybrid with Broad Resilience

KWS Hinsta delivers strong East/ West performance with high gross output and elevated oil content for bonus potential. A medium-maturing variety with good vigour, it combines solid disease resistance, Verticillium tolerance, and key resilience traits.

Key Strengths

- High oil content supporting premium returns
- Strong disease package including TuYV resistance
- Pod Shatter built in

BREEDER: KWS



GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	102
East/West Region	103
North Region	100

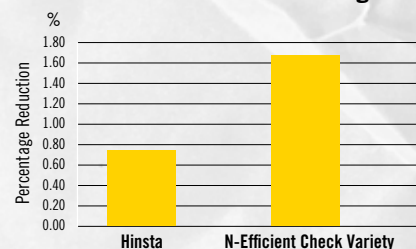
AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.6%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	6
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	160

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	5
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

Reduction in Yield when reducing Total Nitrogen Rate from 100% to 75%



Flexibility to reduce nitrogen and overall input costs with minimal impact on yield. Multi-season European trial data showed Hinsta maintained performance better than a leading N-efficient check variety when nitrogen rates were reduced from 100% to 75%.

Hinsta, Cambs/Beds border



"I've been encouraged by Hinsta so far. Drilled in early August with reasonable moisture, it established quickly and strong autumn and spring vigour has kept it ahead. Compared with other farm varieties, Hinsta is performing strongly and justifying its place. Crucially, its built-in pod shatter resistance becomes increasingly important as harvest approaches."

Russell McKenzie, DJ Tebbit, Huntingdon.

Maverick

Vigorous Hybrid with Strong Disease Package

Maverick combines excellent yield potential with strong East/West performance, backed by outstanding autumn and spring vigour. A taller, stiff-stemmed type suited to mid-late drilling, it delivers high oil content alongside robust disease resistance, including Rlm7, RlmS and TuYV.

Key Strengths

- High seed yield with high gross output
- Exceptional RlmS & Rlm7 stem canker resistance
- Outstanding Light Leaf Spot resistance

BREEDER: NPZ

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	104
East/West Region	105
North Region	99

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.5%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	160

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	9
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	–

DK Excentric

Powerfully Bred, Proven to Perform

The leading newcomer from DEKALB, DK Excentric brings together strong yields, robust disease resistance, & reliable agronomics. With rapid autumn growth, pod shatter resistance, & solid standing power, it's built to thrive in UK conditions.

Key Strengths

- Vigorous establishment
- Rapid autumn development
- Strong standing power

BREEDER: BAYER

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

Four Year Average UK	5.11t/ha.
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	9
Earliness of Flowering	–
Earliness of Maturity	mid-late
Plant Height (cm)	?

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	7
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

Duplo

Triple Protection, Total Confidence

Duplo combines exceptional autumn vigour with DSV's triple-layer trait package – TuYV resistance, pod shatter protection, and RLM7+ stem canker resistance – for robust, reliable performance in all conditions.

Key Strengths

- Outstanding autumn vigour
- Sale or return
- Triple layered variety – RLM7, Pod Shatter, TuYV

BREEDER: DSV

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

East/West Region	109
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.8%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	5.4
Earliness of Maturity	6
Plant Height (cm)	146

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	5.2
Stem Canker	9
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R





Pi Pinnacle

Proven Performance, Bred for UK Conditions

Fully recommended for the UK and proven over recent seasons, Pi Pinnacle delivers consistent performance. Bred in the Cotswolds by Mike Pickford, the UK's last independent oilseed rape breeder, it reflects a practical approach.

Pi Pinnacle maintains green leaf area longer to maximise yield, with selection focused on increased pod numbers, higher seed counts and larger seed size – delivering a reliable, high-yielding variety.

Key Strengths

- Consistent across regions
- Good standing power and LLS scores
- UK bred for UK performance

BREEDER: GRAINSEED

PI Pinnacle, Lincolnshire



GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	97
East/West Region	97
North Region	98

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	45.1%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	5
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	158

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	4
TuYV	–
Pod Shatter	–

Ocean

TuYV-Resistant High Oil Performer

Ocean is a TuYV-resistant conventional oilseed rape combining high yield and very high oil content, with strong agronomics and reliable performance, making it a dependable choice for UK growers.

Key Strengths

- TuYV resistance
- Very high oil content
- Strong northern performance

BREEDER: ELSOMS

AHDB
CANDIDATE 26/27

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	99
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	47.1%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	5
Earliness of Maturity	6
Plant Height (cm)	158

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	5
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	–

Crusoe

Top Rated Clubroot OSR Performer

Fast autumn development and very vigorous in the spring. A step forward in disease resistance (Rlm7) in the clubroot sector combined with very good verticillium tolerance. Stiff and relatively tall.

Key Strengths

- High seed yield combined with high oil content
- High resistance to stem canker
- TuYV resistant

BREEDER: NPZ

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	99
East/West Region	100
North Region	98

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	44.9%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	7.9
Earliness of Flowering	6
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	161

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	6
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	–

LG Scorpion

Fully Loaded Clubroot Variety

A high-yielding clubroot-resistant variety with exceptional autumn growth. LG Scorpion combines TuYV & pod shatter resistance with strong disease tolerance & winter hardiness.

Key Strengths

- Very strong spring and autumn vigour
- Tried & tested variety
- Fully loaded with POSH and TuYV resistance

BREEDER: LIMAGRAIN

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

LG Internal Trials t/ha	98.5
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	45.7%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	7
Plant Height (cm)	149

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	6
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

Crown

High Oil Clubroot Progression

Fast autumn and very fast spring development. Good disease package – combining Rlm7/RlmS – and good stem health. Taller, stiff type and medium to later sowing dates. A high oil content. Crown looks to be the next step forward in the clubroot sector.

Key Strengths

- High resistance to Stem Canker
- High resistance to Light Leaf Spot
- TuYV resistant

BREEDER: NPZ

AHDB
CANDIDATE 26/27

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	104
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	47.1%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	6
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	?

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	8
Stem Canker	8
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	–



**Crome****High Oil Content Clubroot Variety**

Crome is a restored hybrid specifically recommended for land infected with common clubroot strains. It offers high gross output, strong Light Leaf Spot resistance, good stem stiffness, and excellent lodging resistance.

Key Strengths

- High seed yield combined with high oil content
- Good stem stiffness & outstanding vigour
- Resistant to lodging

BREEDER: NPZ

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	91
East/West Region	91
North Region	92

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.4%
Stem Stiffness	9
Lodging Resistance	8
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	6
Plant Height (cm)	150

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	5
Stem Canker	2
TuYV	–
Pod Shatter	–

Crombach CR**Next-Gen Clubroot Performance**

Crombach CR is a high-performing clubroot-resistant oilseed rape. It combines dual phoma resistance (RLM7 + RLMS), strong Light Leaf Spot protection, TuYV and HarvestMax technologies, plus excellent oil content and lodging resistance.

Key Strengths

- High oil content
- Dual phoma (RLM7 + RLMS)
- TuYV protection & HarvestMax resistance

BREEDER: DSV

AHDB

CANDIDATE 26/27

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	103
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AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	47.2%
Stem Stiffness	9
Lodging Resistance	9
Earliness of Flowering	–
Earliness of Maturity	5
Plant Height (cm)	160

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	7
Stem Canker	8
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	–

LG Scorpion, Perthshire

**LG Calvin CL****Top Yielding Clearfield Hybrid**

LG Calvin CL is the highest yielding Clearfield® hybrid on the 2026/27 Recommended List, combining TuYV and pod shatter resistance to deliver consistently strong, reliable performance in the field.

Key Strengths

- Highest yielding Clearfield variety
- A shorter stiff stemmed type
- The best LLS resistance in the Clearfield sector

BREEDER: LIMAGRAIN

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	94
East/West Region	94
North Region	93

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	44.6%
Stem Stiffness	8
Lodging Resistance	7.9
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	6
Plant Height (cm)	152

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	6
Stem Canker	5
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R

Matrix CL**High Oil Clearfield Pioneer**

Matrix CL is a pioneering Clearfield® variety combining four key traits, delivering high yields, elevated oil content, and exceptional agronomic strength without compromise, setting a new benchmark for UK performance.

Key Strengths

- Quad-layered trait stack: TuYV, Rlm7, pod shatter, Clearfield®
- High yield with above-leading oil content
- Exceptional vigour and strong agronomic package

BREEDER: DSV

GROSS OUTPUT (%)

United Kingdom	92
East/West Region	92
North Region	92

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

Oil Content	46.2%
Stem Stiffness	7
Lodging Resistance	7.8
Earliness of Flowering	7
Earliness of Maturity	6
Plant Height (cm)	157

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Light Leaf Spot	5
Stem Canker	6
TuYV	R
Pod Shatter	R



HEAR: Time to Reassess the Risk – Reward Balance

High Erucic Acid Oilseed Rape (HEAR) has delivered strong premiums in recent years, at times reaching £200/t and drawing more growers into the market. However, the landscape has changed, and it's important to reassess whether it still stacks up on your farm.

Over the past 12–18 months, increased production has outpaced demand. Export movement has slowed, interest in new-crop contracts has reduced, and domestic demand has softened. As a result, premiums have fallen back to around £95/t, with fewer opportunities to secure contracts.

At this level, growers need to question whether the margin still justifies the risk.

HEAR remains a niche, specialist crop with very specific requirements. With erucic acid levels typically around 35%, it must never enter the food chain and must be kept completely separate from conventional OSR. That means no shared storage, careful handling, and full traceability throughout.

The key message is simple: do not grow HEAR without a secure contract in place.

Unlike conventional OSR, there is no fallback market if demand isn't there.

Rotation is another critical consideration. Even a small

number of HEAR volunteers can push a conventional crop over the 2% erucic acid limit, leading to penalties or rejection. In practice, this means allowing a gap of at least 6–7 years before returning to conventional OSR – and being meticulous with machinery hygiene and field management.

If you are moving away from HEAR or have concerns about volunteer burden, Clearfield OSR systems are worth serious consideration. These varieties are bred to tolerate specific herbicides, allowing post-emergence control of volunteer rape and difficult weeds. This gives you a practical way to reduce contamination risk in future crops.

There is a cost and some yield trade-off with Clearfield, but it needs to be weighed against the potential loss of crop value if erucic acid levels exceed specification.

In short, HEAR still has a place – but only where the contract, rotation and management all stack up. For many growers, now is the time to take a cautious approach and plan the next steps in the rotation carefully.

Aurelia, Dorset



From Trials to Bottles: The UK Sunflower Journey

Sunflowers may traditionally be associated with continental climates, but back in 2024 United Oilseeds took the view that changing weather patterns and evolving rotations meant the crop deserved serious consideration in the UK. That led to the launch of the country's first dedicated sunflower marketing pool, giving members another potential break crop option for the future.

In many ways, the journey mirrors the early development of maize production in the UK during the 1970s – a crop once considered niche, but now firmly established within modern rotations.

The sunflower pool has not been without its challenges. Later harvesting dates and higher moisture levels have highlighted the importance of growers having access to on-farm, or very local, cleaning and drying facilities in order to successfully produce sunflowers for the pool. Alongside commercial production, United Oilseeds continues to run sunflower trials across the country, exploring new varieties that could help overcome some of the practical challenges encountered so far.

One of the most exciting developments this season is the production of bottled United Oilseeds cold pressed sunflower oil. While small quantities of UK-grown sunflower oil have previously been produced by individual growers, this is believed to be the first UK pool-grown cold pressed sunflower oil to be processed

at Phoenix Oils – the UK's largest cold press facility. This particular crush was produced using sunflower seed grown within the United Oilseeds pool by Bixley Farms.

"It's exciting to see a crop we've grown become a finished retail product produced entirely within the UK supply chain. Sunflowers still have challenges to overcome, but this shows the potential they could offer within future rotations."

Michael Balls, Bixley Farms

Visitors to this year's Cereals event will be able to see sunflower trial plots outside the United Oilseeds marquee, while members can also take away a bottle of the oil and sample what could become an exciting new rotational opportunity for UK farming.

To find out more about joining the sunflower pool, speak to your local area manager or visit United Oilseeds at Cereals this year.

Bixley Farms, Norfolk





Hubbards Seeds – Small Seed Specialists Since 1872



Hubbards Seeds have been supporting farms for many years, with the small seeds that support the whole farm rotation. With SFI now open to new entrants, we would be delighted to support your plans this year – whether you are starting a new application or building on an existing agreement.

Environmental Mixtures

Legume fallow, winter bird food, summer cover & more



Maize

Forage, grain & energy (AD) varieties



Cover Crops

Oil radish, mustard, phacelia, buckwheat, vetch & much more



Companion Crops

Mixes to support OSR, reduce inputs and improve soil health



Grass

Short, medium & long term leys, repairs & amenity options



Game Cover

Mixtures for winter holding, brood rearing & game drives



Trees & Hedging

UK-sourced whips, native species mixes, & establishment guidance



Wildflowers

Stunning mixes & straights for all soil types & situations



**Want to talk options?
Speak to your local
Area Manager or
our knowledgeable
team is just a call
away.**

Getting the Mix Right: A Tailored Approach with Hubbards Seeds

For Gloucestershire grower Chris Padfield, success with environmental schemes and small seeds comes down to one thing: getting the right mix for the right field.



Chris Padfield

Farming 400 hectares of heavy clay, Chris grows wheat, hybrid barley and oilseed rape alongside a significant area dedicated to wildflowers (AB8/IPM2) and bird mixtures. His involvement in a Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme, followed by a Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) agreement including IPM4 actions, has placed even greater emphasis on careful planning and reliable establishment.

"The (early) Mid-Tier agreement runs for five years, so you've got to get it right from the start," Chris explains. "You need confidence that what you're putting in the ground is going to establish well and deliver the full range of species."

That's where Hubbards Seeds has played a key role. Having worked with the team for many years, Chris values not just competitive pricing, but the level of advice and attention to detail that underpins every recommendation.

"It's not just about buying a mix; it's about understanding the land and matching the right product to it. That level of care is hard to find elsewhere."

Across the farm, a combination of wildflower meadows, margins and flower-rich plots support scheme options such as AB8 and IPM2. The results have been clear to see.

"There's been a big increase in pollinators and insect life. When you compare it to what was here before (30 years of monoculture) it's a huge step forward."

Beyond biodiversity, Chris has also seen benefits below ground. The inclusion of grasses, clovers and vetches within the mixes is helping to improve soil condition, contributing to a more resilient system overall.

"I really can't see any downsides for the soil – it's all positive."

Alongside wildflowers, Chris has continued to use Hubbards for a wide range of small seeds, including new grass leys, mixtures for repairs and landscaping. He has also worked with the team on tree planting and hedging projects over the years, building a long-standing relationship based on trust and results.





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