

Suffolk company hosts future farmers of France

Suffolk-based agricultural machinery manufacturer Claydon hosted a visit by 40 students from the CFA Le Robillard College in Lieury, Normandy France.

The students – who are studying for their BTS (higher education diploma) in agricultural machinery and agronomy – were taking part in a week-long study tour which also included visits to JCB and Perkins Engines.

The French youngsters were able to see how combinable crops can be established using the Claydon Opti-Till System, which combines state-of-the-art stubble management and strip seeding techniques that enable farming businesses to operate much more efficiently and profitably.

After learning about the importance of managing stubbles correctly prior to drilling, the students toured the factory to see Claydon's range of hybrid drills, straw harrows, TerraStar light cultivators, TerraBlade inter-row hoes and Cambridge rolls being manufactured.

They were then taken around ET Claydon & Sons' 320ha farm to view a range of arable crops established using the Opti-Till System, where the Claydon family has farmed since the early 1900s.

Claydon pioneered strip seeding in 2002 to significantly reduce the cost of establishing arable crops on the family farm, whilst also improving timeliness and improving yields. Its products are now sold in more than 30 countries across all climatic conditions,



soil types and crops.

Claydon founder and chief executive Jeff Claydon described the company's Opti-Till System as a solution to the economic and environmental challenges faced by farmers. It greatly reduced establishment costs and minimised the time and energy needed to produce crops.

It also enabled weed and pest issues to be targeted in a more environmentally sensitive and sustainable way – reducing reliance on agro-chemical products, as well as improving yields and profitability, said Mr Claydon.

Above: Claydon chief executive Jeff Claydon (front second left) and Manufacturing Director Oliver Claydon (front left), with students and tutors. **Below:** A Claydon 3m Hybrid drilling oilseed rape



Students toured the farm to see crops established using the Opti-Till System