

# James R. Sutherland

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Results oriented Crop Production Team Leader with over 10 years of experience managing large scale wheat and barley operations. Proven track record of improving harvest yield by 15% through precision irrigation and soil nutrient management. Skilled at leading crews of 20+ workers while maintaining an excellent safety record over five consecutive seasons.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Senior Crop Production Team Leader | East Anglian Harvest Ltd | Norwich, UK

Mar 2018 - Present

- Lead a team of 25 full time and 50 seasonal workers managing 3,200 hectares of high yield wheat and oilseed rape.
- Increased overall farm productivity by 18% through the implementation of precision drilling technology and automated soil sampling.
- Manage an annual operational budget of £1.2M for seed, chemical inputs, and specialised labour.
- Developed a safety training programme that resulted in 1,400+ consecutive days without a reportable workplace injury.
- Orchestrated harvest logistics to ensure 100% of grain reached storage facilities before peak moisture levels changed.
- Negotiated vendor contracts for fertiliser supplies, saving the organisation £85,000 annually.

### Crop Growing Team Leader | Green Fen Agriculture | Ely, UK

May 2013 - Feb 2018

- Supervised daily operations for a 1,600 hectare diversified crop farm specialising in sugar beet and potatoes.
- Improved irrigation efficiency by 22% by installing and monitoring moisture sensors across varied soil types.
- Reduced chemical waste by 15% through the precise calibration of spraying equipment and nozzle replacement schedules.
- Acted as the primary trainer for all new crew members on the operation of GPS guided tractors and harvesters.
- Collaborated with agronomists to conduct on farm research trials for drought resistant seed varieties.

### Lead Field Technician | Wessex Heritage Farms | Salisbury, UK

Jun 2009 - Apr 2013

- Coordinated work assignments for a team of 15 during the intensive planting and harvesting seasons.
- Maintained detailed digital records for Defra compliance regarding application of restricted use pesticides.
- Performed over 100 on site repairs on mechanical and electrical systems, reducing downtime by 30%.
- Facilitated weekly team meetings to discuss weather forecasts and adjust production timelines accordingly.

## EDUCATION

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### University of Reading | Master of Science | Agricultural Science

Aug 2007 - May 2009

### Harper Adams University | Bachelor of Science (Hons) | Agriculture

Aug 2003 - May 2007

## SKILLS

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Soil Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Irrigation System Control, Crop Rotation Planning, Herbicide & Pesticide Application, Crew Supervision, Daily Labour Scheduling, Resource Planning, Health & Safety Compliance, Inventory Management, Precision Ag Software (John Deere Operations Centre), GPS Guidance Systems, Drone Crop Imaging, Data Analysis & Yield Reporting, Variable Rate Technology (VRT)

## CERTIFICATIONS

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FACTS Qualified Adviser | BASIS (Registration) Ltd (Oct 2011)  
PA1 & PA2 Safe Use of Pesticides | City & Guilds NPTC (Mar 2010)

## LANGUAGES

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English (Native)  
Polish (Professional Working Proficiency)

## ACTIVITIES

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### NFU Arable Conference

Regular attendee and contributor on the topic of utilising drone technology for early disease detection.

### LEAF Education Mentor

Volunteering as a technical advisor for school visits interested in sustainable farming careers.