

James R. Sutherland

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

LANGUAGES

English (Native)
Polish (Professional Working Proficiency)

ACTIVITIES

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.