

YEO VALLEY FARMS

CASE STUDY.



How to use Foamstream to make direct time savings of 93% on treatment of weeds in organic environments along with increasing opportunity-cost savings.

Client: Yeo Valley Farms, North Somerset

Sector: Organic farming

Background: 1200 acre award-winning, organic dairy farm, garden and cafe

No of machines: 1 MW-Series

Areas treated: Gravel car park, paving, around buildings and garden beds

Previous methods used: Hand weeding, strimming, mowing

Website: www.yeovalley.co.uk

BACKGROUND

Yeo Valley farms work to develop an organic, sustainable way of farming and strive to provide customers with healthy, organic milk and associated products. When Yeo Valley committed to becoming an organic site in 2007, they needed an innovative solution to control weeds around their sites, farms and buildings.

TESTIMONIAL

"Weedingtech's Foamstream is a perfect fit with our ethos and we were keen to get involved in the challenge to find out what it could do to help us. From the results we've seen so far, we haven't been disappointed – Foamstream is an extremely effective product for controlling weeds in a variety of different situations."

Gareth Clark – MD Holt Farms Ltd, Yeo Valley Farms.

PROBLEM

1. Controlling weeds via hand weeding is costly on time and labour.
2. Weed regrowth was fast due to not being able to treat seeds and spores.
3. Difficult to plan labour due to weather.
4. Essential to have a solution suitable for organic use.

ACTION

Yeo Valley decided to test various methods of weed control, knowing they would need an innovative solution if they were to remain organic. After a trial period they decided to choose Foamstream, due to the benefits that could be realised from using the system.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Foamstream was used across the Yeo Valley site with only one operator needed in the process compared to the seven needed when hand weeding. As a result, workers could be distributed to different areas of the site which helped improve efficiency.

Being suitable for use in all weather, it allowed for effective resource organisation – managers could dedicate certain days to weeding regardless of variable weather conditions.

Using Foamstream meant weeding became a less frequent task due to effective sterilisation of seeds and spores. What previously took seven people five to six hours to complete, now took one person a maximum of three hours. Foamstream meant that time originally spent on weed control activities was reduced by 93% and also meant there were huge opportunity-cost savings where the labour which traditionally had been used for weed control could be allocated else where.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION (CONT.)



BEFORE APPLICATION



DURING APPLICATION



DURING APPLICATION



AFTER APPLICATION