

Notes for Judges – Conventional Ploughing

Opening

Well cut out scratches, with no grass or stubble showing in the centre. Neat and tidy. Uniform throughout the length. Straightness. The scratch in the centre of the opening need not be central. Opening may be shallow or deep.

Start

The start if the first eleven or twelve furrows. All furrows are uniform and straight throughout their length. First furrows should be close together for good weed control.

All furrows should be uniform and matching with each other and level. No high or narrow furrows.

Seed Bed

Weed control and soil made available. Grass or stubble should be well buried – skimmers used. Furrow should be turned far enough to leave no holes and sealed up for good weed control and leave enough soil for a good seed bed.

Furrows should not stand on their end to leave them open – this is bad weed control. Nor too flat to leave no soil available.

Firmness

Firm, well packed furrows, no holes.

All furrows must be closely packed with no holes between the furrows. The firmer the furrows, the better it carries your weight.

Uniformity

Clearly defined uniform furrows, straightness; no pairing. The furrows should be of equal size and shape throughout their length. Straightness.

Judges should be looking throughout the length of furrows when assessing straightness.

Finish

The finish is the last eight furrows.

Last 8 furrows should be uniform, straight, but gradually come shallower to make a shallow and narrow finish.

The tractor wheel mark should be level with other furrows – deep wheel mark is a fault and should be penalised.

The furrows should all correspond throughout their length (no butt at side of wheel mark – a butt should be penalised).

Ins & Outs

Neat, accurate and regular. These should be accurate throughout the width of plot.

If rolled with tractor or turned back – should be judged as they had been ploughed.

General Appearance

Workmanship and general appearance of whole plot; good work, attention to detail; regular, clean, firm furrows that are uniform and straight.

All round workmanship on the plot – good points for all aspects.

Good general appearance – well turned, firm, accurate furrows with good ins and outs.