

One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture



Hof ten Bosch – Belgium



Bayer
Forward 
Farming

Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

High-quality potatoes grown for the crisps industry are the main crop cultivated at Hof ten Bosch. The Peeters family also grows wheat, corn, sugar beet, oilseed rape and pears. The farm, located in Huldenberg in the countryside near Brussels, has been managed by the family since 1890. Using innovative technologies, respecting safety, preserving the environment and sharing agricultural practices with others is important to them. On Bayer ForwardFarms like Hof ten Bosch, Bayer joins hands with farmers and partners to demonstrate sustainable agriculture in practice.



Introducing Hof ten Bosch

Owned by Jan and Josse Peeters



Location:

Huldenberg, near Brussels, Belgium



History:

Farmed by the Peeters family since 1890, owned by Jan and Josse Peeters since 1980



Farming Land:

100 hectares of own land + 40 hectares leased. Hilly area with a well drained and fertile sandy loam soil



Crops:

Potatoes, wheat, sugar beet, corn, oilseed rape and pears



Partners:

Fruitful collaborations with both public institutions (University of Ghent, Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen) and private companies (PepsiCo, Beutech)

Hof ten Bosch

Farm Profile



- Tailored Solutions
- Proactive Stewardship
- Partnerships

Key Elements

- Seeds**
High-quality, certified seeds are the basis for healthy and productive crops and support Integrated Pest Management practices.
- Crop protection**
Chemical and biological crop protection products, as well as mechanical measures, are combined for sustainable production of healthy food.
- Bayer SeedGrowth®**
The fully integrated and comprehensive system for on-seed applications helps seeds to thrive and boosts yields.
- Precision farming**
Precise application using GPS and Variable Rate Application (VRA) ensures sustainable and efficient use of crop protection products.
- Decision support tools**
Information regarding weather and soil conditions, as well as pest and disease warnings, are used to optimize the timing of crop protection product application.
- Soil erosion**
Buffer strips and micro dams in potatoes prevent soil erosion and washing off of fertilizers and crop protection products to the surface water.
- Functional biodiversity**
Biodiversity is stimulated with flower strips at the field margins. The creation of a bee friendly garden and nesting places for wild bees and birds enhances pollination and natural pest control.
- easyFlow**
Thanks to the development of the closed filling system easyFlow the exposure of users and the environment is limited to an absolute minimum.
- Phytobac®**
An adapted farmyard infrastructure with a special filling and rinsing place and a Phytobac® prevents run-off into the environment.
- Personal protection equipment**
Operator safety can be ensured by using correct personal protective clothing (dresscode.bayer.com).
- Bee care**
Supporting bee health through pest and varroa control, pollen and nectar offerings as well as the correct use of crop protection products.
- Partnerships**
Bayer ForwardFarming brings together the competencies of mutually beneficial partnerships into a single holistic system.



Bayer ForwardFarming provides an up-close look at how farmers are practicing sustainable agriculture around the world. Unique in its global reach the Bayer ForwardFarming network serves as platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue. Forward-Farmers deploy technologies and best practices that reduce agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions, decrease the environmental impact of crop protection, promote biodiversity and conserve natural resources.

On the ForwardFarms, progress towards the Crop Science sustainability commitments truly comes to life.

Bayer ForwardFarming demonstrates solutions that support sustainability in agriculture across the following three components:

// **Care for Crops** – Every farm is different, and every field within a successful farming operation is unique. **Tailored Solutions** are needed to meet the needs of the individual farmer and their specific field – from the right seeds and traits to the correct type and amount of crop protection, to the digital tools and services that allow for good decision making and precision.

// **Care for the Planet and People** – ForwardFarming promotes and demonstrates **Proactive Stewardship** to protect human health and preserve the environment. Examples include addressing the safe and responsible use of crop protection products; soil health, biodiversity, and water conservation; and offering training in all of these areas.

// **Care for Partnerships** – Bayer ForwardFarming fosters **Partnerships** with agricultural value chain actors, research centers, universities, and other institutions to strengthen sustainable farming development.



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SBS-19-1048