

John Lycett's blog - January 2024

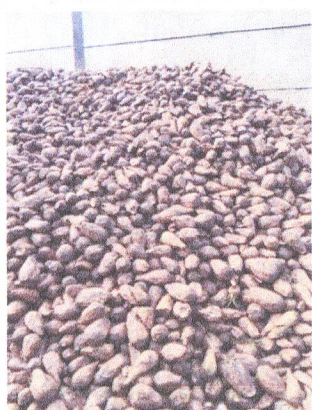
I cannot believe that it is February already! Where has January gone?

Let me tell you what they have been up to at Wykey.

A bit of a slow start but first up they lifted a big 'scoop' – is this a local word? – of energy beet at Queen's Court. Some has been washed. A lot of this is sold to dairy, beef and sheep farmers, with the balance being used in the Anaerobic Digester.

Fodder beet dry matter – 17% - 20%

Energy Beet dry matter – 23% - 24.5%



When there is very little difference in the price, the energy beet has a far higher feed value.

You can have it washed where it is stone and soil free, or you can have it straight over the cleaner, unwashed.

It's a cheaper option than buying concentrate.

Also, they have 45 plus tonnes of grain maize to sell.

Washed energy beet.

They have been hauling chicken muck to the anaerobic digester. Chicken muck is one of the main ingredients and the Nitrogen and Sulphur end up in the digestate, which helps to make it an excellent organic fertiliser.

They have also been rodding drains and ditching.

Steven, the sprayer driver, has been at Harper Adams University recently acquiring his FACTS Certificate. He and Sam have taken a trip to Holland to the Agrifax company to find out about their latest sprayer innovations. They also, allegedly, did a bit of sight-seeing!

Sam has recently had an article in the Kverneland Headland News. Apparently, his triple mower has a 'gentle touch'.

George, working with the drying floor, has been keeping the woodchip moving.

Another thing I'd like to mention is the sad loss of Simon's father-in-law. Kate's father was a champion Cumberland & Westmorland wrestler, a farmer, husband, dad, grandad and a real gentleman. In latter years, despite his failing health, I regularly enjoyed reminiscing with him, while eating cake and drinking coffee. You will be missed. John Bland RIP.



Luke has just about finished hedge cutting but the insides of some of the fields only get cut once every three years in rotation. This helps the bird population.

Spot the owl!

A few years ago, the farm acquired an electric bicycle for the farm secretary. This was followed by battery powered chain saws and a blower but now, two of the partners will be having electric cars soon. Roll on electric loaders and tractors..

Although the month has passed very quickly, the team seem to have covered a lot of ground, but an uplift in the price of wheat would be welcome.