

John Lycett's blog - March 2024

I am sitting in my conservatory looking out over the river. It's been full to its banks this winter more times than not.

The old adage 'a peck of dust in March' being 'worth a king's ransom' rings as true as ever, but it seems very unlikely this spring.



Jobs on the farm this month:

More liquid and solid digestate has been spread, mostly on ground after cover crops that the sheep have grazed, and some on this year's winter wheat.

More energy beet has been lifted and washed, a lot of which is sold to livestock farmers.

A block of 65 acres of OSR is looking well but is in small fields.

The ground is so wet, we are behind with drilling, planting and sowing. It's a struggle to 'rise and shine' in this dull, damp weather.



Before

After

Dave Edwards (Little Dave) the builder has been refurbishing one of the refrigerated potato stores which has now been re-purposed for general use. Dave has built many sheds and undertaken many projects on the farm over many decades and is the best around!

Gene-edited crops will be grown in England this year. There are 24 farmers, across the country, taking part in the trials. I believe that this could safely result in major benefits e.g. developing crops that are more resistant to the weather and pests, such as flea beetle, and maybe help to reduce methane emissions from livestock, perhaps produce a larger wheat grain and many more possible benefits.

I shall be away at the beginning of next month so Sam Dutton, Renewables Manager at Wykey, will fill this space.

I hope you all had a fun Easter with lots of Easter Eggs.