

John Lycett's blog – November, 2023

I've been dropped off at ambition.clinic.point (#what3words). Luckily, that's on the yard at Wykey Farm.



The team have been busy, lifting energy beet and washing it for the AD plant and livestock farmers. They have managed a little more drilling. Steve has done some spraying – Astrokerb on the rape. Sam and Steven very kindly took me with them to Croptec and Simon has been to Austria on a fact finding trip. He may have more to say on this.



All the wheat that was sown after the rape and early maize looks very very well.

We will be counting the cost of the crop, sown around the time of the 'hooligan' storm Babette, until after harvest. I don't know about tonnes per acre, maybe ducks to the acre!

They are continuing to move liquid digestate to satellite lagoons and haul in chicken manure for the AD.

The men have been around the ditches and drains to identify places that need ditching and draining.



This month, the AD Plant drying floors have been particularly busy, starting off drying grain maize, logs, two trial loads of paper pulp and woodchip for dairy bedding. Sam seems to think it's all gone very well.

Progress is being made in clearing the wood, which I mentioned last month, and the sheep are still munching their way through the lucerne fields.

I would just like to finish by mentioning the very good press that women in farming are getting at the moment but I have been with W H Gittins & Sons well over 50 years and women have progressed from beet howing, picking wild oats and calf rearing in the early days, to the 1980s and 1990s on this farm, when they were already ploughing and sowing, planting and drilling, harvesting and hauling grain and potatoes. Some were driving fork lifts and loaders, now they drive the businesses.

My observation now is that the wheat price is not moving and the ground is saturated. Who would be a farmer?