

John Lycett's blog – November, 2024

Where do I start?

Weather? Farmers demonstrating? Budget?

I'm normally non-political but there is great disquiet in the shires after Rachel Reeves' budget. This was demonstrated by the massive turnout of farmers and others who descended on Westminster last month to show their frustration. You have all heard of 'what three words', well here are a few more that seem to be trending at the moment – no farmers, no food, no environment, cash poor, no innovation, no investment, no technology, spiteful and vindictive.

I'll leave it at that and back to the thing that I love and that's farming.

After the comments I received on my road trip last month, the next trip may have to be by bus to accommodate those who want to join me.

Drilling

Sam, Steven and Mark have been drilling winter wheat and winter beans. They found a fortnight of reasonable weather and managed to get back on target. Thanks to Steve, who did some double shifting with the drill, they have been able to catch up.

They have hauled a quantity of chicken muck and Roberts' the contractors have lifted more energy beet. They have also been loading feed wheat, sold forward. Commodity prices globally are on the floor.



We have some **energy beet** available ex-farm, some of which is ready pulped for dairy farm.

"Fodder beets are like apples to livestock" says George.

Grain Maize



In between times, Steve has been harvesting grain maize.

It is available in various forms: -

rolled or split grain for pheasants (in bags) and

whole grain maize (in bags or bulk) together with

ground grain for cattle

Hedge cutting

Luke is hedge cutting the road sides leaving some of the insides uncut providing more food for the birds.

It goes without saying that farming is a whole lot easier when the weather is good so, my answer to my friend Sheila in Somerset, who was waiting for pictures of drills, "During September and most of October, it rained every other day"!

Breakfast meeting

Three of us who used to work together at Wykey Farm some years ago, now meet up from time to time at local restaurants for breakfast, each of us, in turn, bringing a guest. If I could go back in time to my younger days, I would have liked to invite, as my guests, these well-known farmers and writers of their time, John Cherrington, A G Street and Frank Arden, but more locally, it would have been fun to have John Crow from Cherrington, Mac Walker from Atcham, J C Suckley from Hopton, Richard Mayall from Pimhill or R D Park from Walford. I wonder what they would make of today's farming.

The website welcomes your comments on anything and would love to hear from you.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.