

Sam's Blog

Is this becoming an annual tradition to summarise the year without me knowing JL?

JL has again asked me to do the blog, and things couldn't be different to last year. Whilst we are not desperate for rain yet, a few millimeters wouldn't go amiss.

As I write this, all of our sugar beet is planted and spring digestate application is also done as the fields travelled incredibly well. Moisture is still there, although land preparation was kept tight by Steve, with the power harrows following the subsoilers to ensure minimal moisture loss.



The spring triticale has also been drilled earlier this year. We used the Horsch Pronto and direct drilled it without any of the working discs in the ground to minimise soil disturbance. This stops the ground becoming too loose for rolling and enables good seed to soil contact.

Forage rye will be the next crop to tackle, which we will mow and chop. This will be clamped back at the farm to be fed to the AD. Last years crop gave us an extra 1.8t of dry matter per acre, which otherwise may not have been cropped. Sacrificing some early drilling of maize will also have to happen, however, that extra 1.8t DM/acre equates to trying to go from 18t/acre (at 33%DM), to around 24t/acre at the same dry matter. Not impossible, but sometimes it is very weather dependent. The compromise and the added bonus of no bare stubbles over winter works well for us.

The lucerne is starting to grow well after laying dormant in the winter months, although the cold mornings will be hindering the potential growth. I imagine we will be cutting this at the end of April or the start of May as usual but could expect a slightly heavier first cut than last year.