

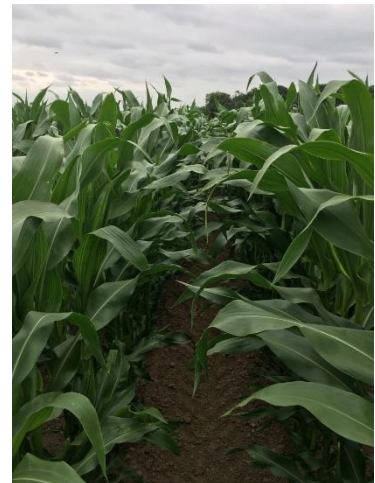
John Lycett's blog – June 2025



June has been a very busy month. This morning, I am sitting on a header trailer in Cockshutt watching Steve Smith going round the field for the first time with the combine harvester, harvesting winter barley. Actually, this could be the third field he has done this year.

The effects of the extreme weather that we have had recently has been well documented in the press and the news.

The energy beet seems to have flopped. There has been very little second growth on some of the grass that has been cut so some of the team have been spreading liquid digestate on the grass ground and they have also done a field for a neighbour in Baschurch.



On the other hand, the one crop that is loving the heat is the maize.

I spoke to Sam, the AD Manager, and he was quite pleased with the weights that had been achieved from the hybrid rye.

The high winds and the heat have proved troublesome on times for Steven, the sprayer driver.

They have started clearing the Mill Dam Wood but more about that another time.

At the beginning of the month, I joined a trip to Lincolnshire where, on the way, we visited a green compost farm, a large combinable crop farm, which also had a gas-to-grid AD plant, and which also had some very large, and very expensive, machinery.



The next day we visited a large farm which extracted chlorophyll from lucerne.

These are some of the everyday products in which it is used.

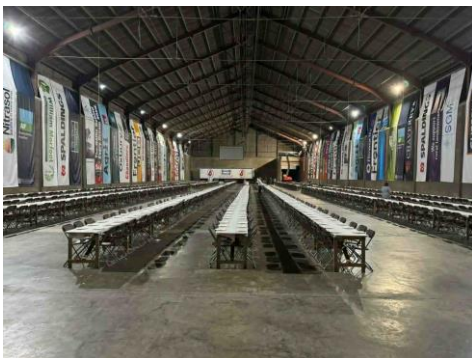
Our trip also included Dyson's out season strawberry greenhouse and a 1700 sow outdoor pig unit.

On these trips, the timing seems to overrun owing to the curiosity and questions we all want to ask.



Sam and Steven have visited Cereals and the Royal Highland Show. It's good to get away from the farm occasionally.

Last week, I attended an Open Day in Cambridge when James Peck opened his farm. In the morning, 2000 people attended a conference. Speakers were a machinery manufacturer, a large crop farmer from New South Wales, the head of Oxbury Bank and a representative from Frontier. The thing that came over was a feeling of positivity for the future and ways would be found to do things differently to get through this.



After the morning session, we moved to the grain store where 2000 people sat down for lunch!

A 40,000 tonnes grain store turned into a Hogwarts style dining hall!

ALL PLEASE KEEP SAFE DURING HARVEST

