

John Lycett's blog – April 2026

Well, what have we missed this April? No, no, no ... not the cuckoo because I've the heard the cuckoo. Yes, April showers! This April must have been one of the driest on record.

Up at Wykey, the team have had a very, very busy month. They have been drilling sugar beet, which has been slow to emerge, probably due to lack of moisture. They have been moving liquid and solid digestate around the fields that are going into maize. Every time I go there, Luke is on his JCB, either in a grain store loading wheat, in a silage pit loading feedstock into the digester, or on the concrete washing energy beet.



Sam has been out with his triple mower and on 20th April, his forage box was lugging fodder onto the drying floors.

Mark, Steve and two others have been working down maize ground and James and his GPS are keeping the drills straight behind.

Mark doing the primary cultivations.



Some of the team took time out to chop forage rye and grass and ensile it.

Other things going on -

The weighbridge office is being refurbished, Steven and his sprayer are very busy.

Last week I attended a meeting at Winston Farm held by Shropshire Rural Support. This could have been the first one they have held in North Shropshire. It was called a Butty Van Meeting. It was a free event where one could have a bacon and sausage bap (very tasty), mug of tea and a chat with others from the rural community. There was a cross section of visitors there. I spoke with a dairy farmer, a sheep farmer, a relief milker and an estate agent.

In the middle of the month, I went on a trip to the East Midlands visiting Melton Mowbray, Belvoir Castle, Rutland Water and Lincoln. One of the things that surprised me was that the current Mrs Lycett started commenting on the size and number of fields of rape. I don't think she saw a poor crop anywhere on the journey.

Just outside Newark, there was a field of potatoes being planted. In my mind, I calculated that the amount of machinery being used in that field, would have been between three and a half and four million pounds. Farming today is certainly an expensive and high-risk business.

Make of this what you will but information globally is that Australian farmers are not seeding all their ground. Italian farmers are harvesting their durum wheat (pasta wheat) and using it as stock feed. 48% of farmers in the mid-west of America are unable to afford all needed fertiliser. Scary times!

On a positive note, our village has just had a very nice write up in the Shropshire Star, "The thriving Shropshire village with an unusual name that's full of friendly residents and local businesses" citing its shop, café, pub and its wealth of local history. Nice to read!