

John Lycett's blog – March 2026

I hope you've had a Happy Easter and some time off and all your Easter Eggs were free from palm oil as we have plenty of UK milk to put into them.

Apparently, at the moment, there is a woman on the dark side of the moon, and we can see and hear her mending a toilet on the NASA moon mission Artemis II. I am on the Moss Meadow, Wykey and cannot even get a phone signal! It's a funny old world!

We, as farmers, cannot get away from Donald Trump's Middle Eastern war because it affects us so much – fuel, fertiliser prices etc. but we are going to have to ride this out and make the most of fluctuating markets. Our farms don't survive because conditions get easier. They survive because someone gets creative when conditions get hard.

On the farm today, they are busy lifting the last of the energy beet. Steven is spraying and I must say the winter crops, the winter wheat, rape and forage rye, are looking as well as ever.



Steven and the Agrifax making light work of it on this bank holiday.

The drill man, the sprayer driver and the agronomist are all very pleased with this field of rape.



I mentioned machinery a while back and the team now have a John Deere 8RX 410.

Simon has hosted two farm walks in March. The first was pupils from Oswestry School and the second, the Powys Grassland Society, who were particularly interested in the lucerne, herbal leys, forage crops and the beet. The class from Oswestry were very keen to find out about renewable energy, ground heat sourcing and solar panels. They also touched on carbon capture and the uses of solid and liquid digestate.

Simon has also had some owl boxes put up at Wykey under the instruction of an owl expert, who says the owls will eventually find them. Fingers crossed!