

Report for the Farming Working Party for July

The weather has improved but still very catchy for harvesting and silage crops. We need a longer period of dry sunny weather now as crops of Winter Barley are ready to combine and bale the straw and Winter Wheat will soon follow on. There was very little Spring Barley sown this year due to the very wet spring and ground conditions too wet.

Maize crops are looking good as nearly all seed germinated but that also needs hot, sunny weather as it does not like its roots too wet and generally needs to have its roots deep into the soil to find moisture. Some crops are not very even showing the wetter parts of fields and gateways where plants do not tend to be so strong.

Milk prices have risen slightly but at not the pace of costs with labour and straw prices rising faster. Lamb prices have dropped considerably but that is usual for this time of year as last winter's early lambs come to the market. Beef prices have remained stable but 10p per kilo less than last autumn, so a 400 kilo animal would be £40.00 down in price to the farmer.

We have a new Government to contend with, will they change all the ELM and SFI rules? They say not but where will all the money come from? What new rules will we have to contend with, we are overloaded at present? It is disappointing that apparently the agriculture and fisheries industries did not get a mention in the King's Speech. This shows what the Government thinks of farmers, food production, safety of food and our fishing industry. I spoke to Tom Bradshaw from the NFU at the Yorkshire Show recently and he said he thinks the new Minister Steve Reid is someone who he can relate to, but time will tell.

Holiday bookings this year have been sporadic for self-catering cottages and with many empty weeks in the peak months of June, July and August the season is not looking good for overall numbers of bookings and money taken for costs and investment. Due to our inclement weather many people are going overseas again and ditching the home market, although there is so much choice with camping, glamping, pods, self-catering cottages and barn conversions, bed and breakfast, guest houses and hotels. The letting agencies have found that they put prices up 10 – 15% during covid and have been overpricing now that the options are open for all sorts of holidays. All depends on the weather again !!!.

Sue Johnson