

FARMING DIARY FOR JULY 2013

This time last year we were asking when was the rain going to stop? This year it's when is the rain going to come?! Our weather seems to be one extreme to the other. Last year the fields were too wet and muddy to get on, and this year the grass is burning and turning brown and crispy!



Next load of wholecrop coming in from the field



Tipping up into the clamp

Due to the shortage of grass which has led to a drop in milk yields we have taken the decision to only milk the cows once a day (in the mornings) from now until we start calving in September.



Using the buckrake to take the wholecrop up over the clamp



Tidying up the face of the clamp ready to sheet down

A lot of our cows have already been dried off to give them a rest before calving, and as the remainder are also coming towards the end of their lactations their milk is naturally lessening as well, so this seemed a sensible thing to do (and it also gives me a bit more time to spend with our children during their school summer holiday).



Wholecrop peas, barley and vetch



Lucy found a new way of holding the sheets down before the tyres were brought up!

Both our first and second cut silage yields were down on usual quantities but we were lucky to get a good harvest of wholecrop peas, barley and vetch. We also purchased some wholecrop oats from two local organic farms to help make up our shortfall in grass silage. We're hoping to make a third cut of silage in September.



Lovely view down the valley from the top of the clamp

We were lucky the sky looked like this while we were covering the clamps, half an hour later the thunder was rumbling and the rain and lightning soon followed, good timing for once!

Dairy Co

Popular farming presenter Adam Henson has helped Dairy Co re-launch their website to encourage consumers to 'Discover Dairy'. Have a look at thisisdairyfarming.com there are some very funny clips including a 90-second documentary filmed from a cow's perspective!