

Update

November 2015 – Issue 12

Beacon Commodities



After weeks of studying weather forecasts, our lovely English summer finally provided us with an opportunity to harvest our English coriander. Unfortunately, due to the weather, this was over a month later than planned. We have summarised the harvest itself and the seeds of our labour below!

Weather

To say that we battled the English weather this year is a slight understatement. It took over a month for the crop to establish because of perishing cold nights during April – this was also the case for the English maize crop. Having then enjoyed a decent June and July with large seed heads of coriander forming we were hit with an August/beginning of September where the 'tap was never turned off'!

Harvest

Towards the end of September the weather changed, giving us 10 days of bright blue skies and a little breeze. However, there were heavy dews in the morning meaning that we could only harvest the coriander after 2pm once the dew had burnt off. To speed up the harvest we therefore used two combines running simultaneously and managed to complete the harvest in two afternoons.



Finally harvesting!



A very shocked toad after harvest!





Tommy was still not allowed to drive, he was given a shovel though.



Late in the afternoon.



Coriander being emptied into a waiting trailer.

Cleaning

Due to the wet weather and before cleaning, the coriander was naturally dried for 10 days in a covered shed. The coriander was turned daily before being sent to the cleaners we used the previous year, W.A.Church of Bures. Church's have done another terrific job ensuring an extremely clean product and removing vast quantities of foreign matter and splits.



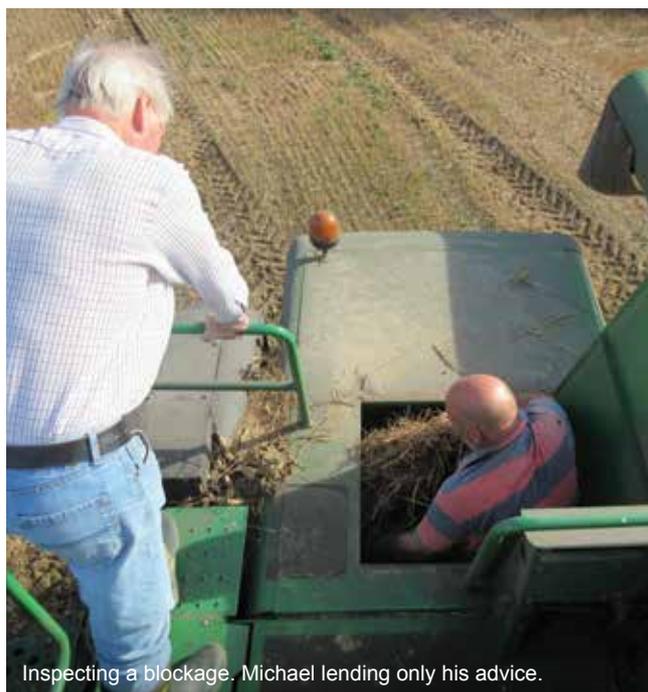
Taking a moisture reading.



Yield

Our yield this year was severely affected by the poor weather. This was most notable firstly after the harvest where large quantities of coriander seed could be found lying on the ground. This occurred because of the heavy rain during August and September which hit the seed heads knocking a large percentage to the ground. Secondly, during the cleaning of the coriander we experienced high losses with large quantities of foreign matter and split seeds which need to be removed to ensure a clean product. The yield was over 40% down on the previous year with a higher wastage as well.

Please contact Tommy on 01273 844264 or email tommy@beaconcommodities.co.uk if you would like to know more.



Inspecting a blockage. Michael lending only his advice.

