

# April Newsletter



Spring has most definitely sprung us all into a hive of activity here at the farm. The splendid weather over the last few weeks has finally dried the ground up enough to allow for some serious fieldwork to commence, together with prompting a steady but constant flow of new born calves.

On the vegetable front, our grower Matt and his team have been busy planting garlic, broad beans, calabrese and cauliflowers. The picture on the right is the planter undergoing some adjustments whilst planting the garlic. The machine sets the plants down at regular spacings in beds containing three rows, within the width of tractor wheelings down the field. Each bed can then be carefully mechanically or hand weeded as and when required. Everything planted then requires covering using white covers known as wondermesh, to keep the pests at bay. This is a white fine netted cover 13 metres wide and up to 200 meters in length. This task proves a challenge in high winds, when the covers become more like ship sails, but helps to guarantee the quality of vegetables grown here at Luddesdown.

On the crops side, we have completed nearly 100 acres of spring drilling with Paragon variety of spring wheat. The picture above on the left shows our tractor driver Denis ploughing with our 180 horsepower John Deere tractor. This is the big tractor of the farm and just the job to eat up those acres! Once the soil has been turned over with the plough, we then follow on with a power harrow and seed drill. This machine breaks down the clumps of soil, leaving a firm level seedbed and sows the wheat seed all in one pass. A gentle squash down with the roller then completes the drilling process.

Our stockman Tim has around thirty new calves scampering around the sheds to keep him company and with several more on the way there is never a dull moment on the livestock unit. You are welcome to visit the unit but would ask you to refrain from bringing dogs, and to make sure that hands are washed after coming into contact with any of the animals.

**Luddesdown Organic Farms Ltd.**

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