

Toosey Tails No. 7

The challenges our weather brings

Hello girls & boys,

Zippy Dee Doo Dah signing in to tell you about what's going down here on my farm.

I am disappointed to tell you things are not going as well as expected for this year and it is all down to the weather.



The linseed should be blooming, the wheat should be getting ready to pop and the barley should be coming on ear but alas it is not quite going to plan.



My linseed fields should be blooming like this photo taken in early June 2019

Instead my linseed crop looks like this in my photo taken yesterday:



Here I am looking for any sign of my linseed in this barren field

To explain, I am like any other farmer here in Britain who tend our land outside all year round. Our success in growing bountiful, healthy crops is therefore totally reliant on our British weather.

In the **Autumn** we need dry weather so we can drive our tractors out onto the fields, first to plough in preparation for sowing and then to sow the seeds ready to grow into next year's harvest. This past Autumn I had great difficulty doing both those tasks due to the most unusual amount of rainfall we had. The fields were flooded which we valiantly tried our best to pump away the excess water but the soil remained soaked making it impossible to do either task.



September 2019 - My Flooded Fields
Wherever I looked, water was everywhere!



September 2020 - My stuck tractor
Can you see me sitting forlornly by the wheel?

We need a cold **Winter** to kill off all the bugs and mites that would otherwise eat our crops and we also need some cold frosty mornings to break the clods in the soil making it easier to tend which in turn helps the crops to grow. However, this past winter we did not have any frosts or snow for it remained mild with lots more rainfall than normal. This caused more flooding harming the crops.



February 2019

We had typical cold and frosty winter days



February 2020

We had unusual warm and very wet days

During the **Spring** months we need some gentle, soft rainfalls and warm sunshine to encourage the crops to germinate and push up out of the soil.



May 2019

May 2020



What we actually saw this springtime was no rain at all and far too much sunshine with strong winds, which combined together dried out and cracked the land preventing some of the crops from germinating.

Summer is the time of year we harvest our crops and to do this we need lots of sunshine and preferably just a little rain when we have finished. Once harvested we safely store the grain in our huge grain stores where they stay until we sell them on the world open market.



August 2019
Helping with the bountiful harvest



2019 was a good year for Tooseyland and our grain stores were soon filled to the top

?

August 2020
We must wait & see but I know for sure it will not be a bountiful harvest this year.



2020 maybe this Autumn the weather will be kinder and I can prepare the land for sowing

This year we managed to sow some wheat into our fields during October before the heavy rain made it impossible to continue. Unfortunately, some of these fields were flooded again in the springtime which destroyed the emerging crop.

Can you think of anything I could try growing that likes a lot of rain?

We tried again at the end of February and managed to get some barley sown but it was not until towards the end of April that we were able to get back onto the land to sow the linseed and since that time there has been no rain.



Watching and waiting for the linseed to grow

Well of course girls and boys we now have to wait and see what happens this summer with my harvest but hopefully I can salvage some crops from our fields.

It is not all doom and gloom though, for low harvests, when there is not so much produce brought in from the fields, causes a great shortage and the supply cannot meet the demand.



Bread dough ready for popping in the oven

This can push the price up, meaning I would get more for the few crops I harvest. This also means that you might have to pay more for your bread, for my wheat goes to the millers who turn it into flour which is then used to make the dough for baking into the bread we eat.

Also, if you drank beer, which I know you don't, but if you did you might have to pay more, for my barley goes to the brewers who make beer and ale.

Finally, if you like linseed, the French love this on their bread, you might find it difficult to find and likely would have to pay more if there was a poor harvest.

Of course, the opposite is true, if everyone has a great harvest and crops are bountiful, the price comes down for supply far exceeds the demand.

That is the way of the world.

Can you think of any other examples of where demand might exceed supply? You might have come across this recently with the coronavirus lockdown.

Anyway, I am not too sad about my crops for I have you all as my friends.

Would you like to cheer me up?

I would love if you could design a bright colourful umbrella to keep me dry when all these rains come back again, for I am sure they will return.

You do not have to draw the umbrella, just the fabric, which could be your own paintings of pretty scenes or animals or you could even create a never seen before design!

That would surely put a smile on my face!



Love from your Zippy ❤️

Let Love be our kindness to everyone while we learn, play & grow together!