

2024 edition

www.grainco.co.uk

GrainCo seed special

The North of England & Scotland's leading farmer-owned grain and seed marketing business

Introducing...

Bamford & LG Beowulf Winter Wheat

Weather issues lead to concerns for certified seed availability

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the GrainCo Seeds Special



Dave Young, GrainCo Seed Specialist

trouble in the Middle East is adding to market volatility.

Most of us will have accepted some time back that the coming harvest 2024 isn't going to break any records, with most fields suffering from bare patches where water has stood and poorly established headlands. Total crop failures are also common, regardless of variety, seed treatment or establishment method, some just never grew due to the incessant rain. Of course the long wet winter months have given us all time to look at Sustainable Farming Initiative options, and decide where we go with it. Some of options where funding is available you may already be doing, rotational soil sampling including soil organic matter is a requirement for farm assurance. The payments for using variable rate fertiliser application technology more than pays for the service we offer, OrbitCo.

Keeping up with variety changes is an on-going challenge, and Peter Collins and the GrainCo seed team ensure we have the best available varieties on offer for the North of England and Scotland, with good disease resistances, stiff straw and good bushel weights essential for us all as we strive to control costs and meet marketing standards. With margins tight growers will be trying to keep a lid on agchem spend, which is difficult especially as most products protect against disease but do not cure it. No one can predict what the weather will do so we can all understand the logic of putting a belt and braces program on the crops. However if you take a close look at the RL you will see that that cutting your spend on fungicides is possible if you select a variety with a high untreated yield. Unfortunately most agronomists are programmed to put the same high level of fungicide on the crop regardless of variety disease rating.

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the GrainCo Seed Special, with so many of us hoping for better weather for the coming autumn, enabling good establishment and crops to be proud of.

Over the past few months we have seen grain and oilseed prices drop significantly from the highs we saw when the war in Ukraine kicked off. A percentage of grain from the 2023 harvest has been sold at below cost of production, which is a major concern. As always, inputs are slow to come down in price after rising as they did, but the fertiliser and agchem suppliers will be under severe pressure from growers to correct this. Of course the Ukraine war still continues, and the

Winter Barley

Not much change in variety choice for barley this coming autumn. **Caravelle** from Limagrain and **Tardis** from KWS look to have the 2 row market covered, both performing well in both light and heavy soil situations. **Caravelle** and **Tardis** also have good straw length and strength. **Caravelle** also produces the highest untreated yield on the RL as well as the best specific weight. **Syngenta** now have 8 hybrid barley varieties on the RL, which does not help. However in our eyes **Thunderbolt** and **Kingsbarn** remain the best on offer.

Winter Wheat

The recommended list for wheat has had a much needed trim back in the number of varieties available, with 10 varieties being removed and 5 added. **KWS Dawsum** and **KWS Extase** were the top sellers last year and are likely to retain a big acreage this coming season. However, the new varieties listed look like a step up, with group 3 **Bamford** from **Elsoms** looking like a



KWS Tardis, Market Weighton, June 2023.



KWS Dawsum, Tadcaster, June 2023.

major player, and a welcome addition as the group 3 types have been lagging behind in yield over the past few years. Soft group 4 **Blackstone** also from **Elsoms** is a useful addition in the early drilling slot and is likely to take some acreage from **Bairstow** and **Skyscraper**. **Beowulf** from Limagrain a hard group 4 and the highest yielding variety on the RL.

Beowulf will compete with top seller **Dawsum** and **Champion** for acreage this coming autumn. **Beowulf**, **Dawsum** and **Champion** all have very high untreated yields, and perform well in both the 1st and 2nd wheat slots.

Following on from the poor weather and drilling conditions of autumn 2023, we would expect growers will want to drill wheat early this coming season. The out and out early drillers are **Graham**, **Typhoon** and **Costello**, all of which can be drilled from late August. You can add **Blackstone** to this list as it is a slow developer as well. However **Blackstone** is a tall variety so give it a try on a smaller acreage as a trial on your farm and system.

The quality varieties are dominated by **KWS Extase**, a group 2 which has



KWS Extase, Ripon, April 2024.

good disease ratings and performs well as both a 1st or 2nd wheat. **Palladium** is another sound group 2 which can also be drilled early, and has attracted a decent premium. Group 1 **Skyfall** has fallen away in popularity, with its poor disease resistances making it a high input variety.

Most of the cereal seed supplied by GrainCo is grown locally by a collection of seed growers with a long association with us. The local aspect is a massive bonus, with the cost and availability of reliable haulage a major issue at the busiest time of the year. We can offer **Vibrance Duo** and **Kick Off**, both of which are growing in popularity. **Vibrance Duo** combats seed borne diseases, maintains a healthy root system and gets the crops away to a faster start. **Kick Off** is a mixture of 8 key nutrients including Phosphites, Zinc and Manganese which boosts healthy growth, improves root biomass for stronger winter hardiness and drought tolerance.

Oilseed Rape

Oilseed rape has been the best performing break crop for growers in Northern England for a long time, and the wheat crops after rape

are consistently good. Of course establishing and getting a rape crop through to the spring seems to be getting more difficult. Help is at hand though, with SFI payments available for sowing a companion crop into the rape crop. Companion crops in rape help against flea beetle in the early stages after drilling. They also help deter pigeons in the early spring. The payments for IPM3 is £55/ha, so the seed costs and sowing are covered. **Limagrain** still dominate the rape seed market, with newcomers fighting to replace **Aurelia** as the top seller. Of the newcomers **Aramada** seems to be best suited to the North. Club root resistant varieties are also big sellers in the GrainCo region, with **Crome** being the best on offer over recent years. What has been missing from club root resistant types has been pod shatter resistance, however can now offer **DK Pledge** from **Bayer** which carries this trait and will likely prove very popular.

Myself and the team look forward to speaking to you all in the coming days and as always thanks for the continued support.



	Group 2		Group 3 Soft		Group 4 Soft		Group 4 Hard			
	KWS EXTASE	KWS PALLADIUM	BAMFORD	BLACKSTONE	LG BEOWULF	CHAMPION	KWS DAWSUM	GRAHAM	LG TYPHOON	
UK Yield %	101	100	106	103	106	106	103	102	100	
East	101	99	105	103	106	106	103	101	100	
North	99	99	105	103	107	103	105	102	101	
Untreated Yield %	93	90	92	87	91	90	91	89	89	
Spt Wt	79.1	77.6	78.5	78.2	78.3	74.5	79.9	77.7	77.1	
Ripening	-1	-1	1	2	2	0	1	-1	2	
Straw Length with without PGR (cm)	92	85	90	92	90	89	85	91	88	
Straw Length with PGR (cm)	86	78	83	85	81	82	77	81	79	
Lodging without Pgr (1-9)	7	8	7	8	8	6	7	7	7	
Lodging with Pgr (1-9)	8	8	7	7	8	6	7	8	7	
Resistance to Spouting	6	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	6	6	5	
Mildew	7	8	6	7	6	7	8	6	7	
Yellow Rust	7	9	7	9	9	8	9	7	9	
Yellow Rust Seedling Resistance	5	R	n/a	n/a	n/a	R	R	5	R	
Brown Rust	6	5	6	6	5	5	7	5	6	
Septoria Tritici	7.4	7.3	6.7	6.2	6.7	7.9	6.3	6.6	7.2	
Eyespot	4	6	6	5	6	4	5	4	5	
OWBM	No	No	No	R	R	R	No	No	R	
First Wheat	101	100	105	103	106	105	104	102	100	
Second Wheat	101	99	106	102	106	106	104	101	102	
Light Land	101	99	105	102	105	105	105	102	101	
Heavy Land	101	99	106	102	106	106	103	102	100	
Early Drilling Potential	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	



PIERCEBRIDGE PLANT HVS CERTIFIED SEED AVAILABILITY LIST AUTUMN 2024

WINTER WHEAT

GROUP 2 KWS EXTASE, KWS PALLADIUM

GROUP 3 SOFT *BAMFORD

GROUP 4 HARD CHAMPION, COSTELLO, LG TYPHOON, *LG BEOWULF, KWS DAWSUM, GRAHAM

**Newly Recommended and the Joint Highest Yielding Varieties for 2024*

WINTER BARLEY

TWO-ROW FEED KWS TARDIS, LG CARAVELLE

Please look to order your Barley seed requirements before we switch production over the wheats on or around the 12th August 2024

BASE SEED DRESSINGS (applied as standard)

WHEAT REDIGO PRO

BARLEY RANCONA I-MIX

ADDITIONAL SEED DRESSINGS KICK OFF, MANGANESE, LATITUDE VIBRANCE DUO

In addition to the varieties listed above, we are also able to supply most of the current RL varieties which include amongst others...

HYBRID BARLEY SY KINGSBARN

WINTER OILSEED RAPE

CONVENTIONAL ACACIA

HYBRID LG ARMADA, AURELIA

CLUB ROOT DK PLEDGE



DIRECT ORDER LINES:
Seed Office, Tyne Dock
 Tom Carmichael: 0191 428 7700
Piercebridge Plant
 Peter Collins: 01325 728913

Just speak to your GrainCo contact or our seed office at Tyne Dock and we will do our best to help.

LG Beowulf offers the highest UK treated yield potential for 2024/5



Rob Grainger, Arable Technician Manager, Limagrain UK

LG Beowulf reflects this approach as a cross between two very successful commercial varieties (Costello x Gleam).

In the last couple of years, we have seen several very high yielding wheats added to the AHDB Recommended List but unfortunately although gaining commercial market share, they have not offered the all-round desirable agronomic package that many growers wish for in a perfect world.

LG Beowulf bucks the trend offering the highest UK treated yield potential sitting at 106.2% and one of the best agronomic packages available, combined with great flexibility within the rotation – it's a fantastic package.

High yields are important for maximising profit, but more than this, a grower needs to know that these yields will be delivered season in and out; and this is exactly what LG Beowulf does – consistently producing high yields across regions and seasons.

The variety performs extremely well both as a first wheat and in the more testing second wheat situation and is suitable for all soil types.

LG Beowulf offers a very good disease resistance profile, especially for the key disease challenges of yellow rust (9) and Septoria tritici (6.7).

The variety also delivers a very high untreated yield (91%) a consequence of its superb disease resistance in combination with its straw strength. Although a slightly taller variety, LG Beowulf offers very good straw strength, one of the best available – combining a rating of 8 untreated, with an 8 rating with PGR treatments applied.

The inclusion of Orange Wheat Blossom Midge in the package is an important benefit, especially for growers in

southern and the South East regions, where the pest can inflict economical damage to crops, depending on the season. It's a genetic IPM offering that should not be underestimated.

Another important attribute of LG Beowulf is its flexibility in drilling date – it is a variety that can be drilled early and onwards through into the very late drilling slot, if the season dictates, giving growers a security and flexibility of drilling date, that not all varieties exhibit.

The variety does have a slightly later maturity, but as we have seen over the last few seasons, widening the harvest date is useful as an insurance against erratic weather patterns.

LG Beowulf has the benefit of a high specific weight combined with a high Hagberg. This is a great attribute to have in any feed wheat, and as we know, a high specific weight is one of the best characteristics to ensure high yield potential is maintained in erratic seasons of either drought or indeed wet harvest seasons, as seen in 2023.

There is no such thing as a perfect variety, however, LG Beowulf comes close. Offering a comprehensive agronomy package along with very high yield potential in the hard feed wheat sector; desirable characteristics both on-farm and for the market.



LG Beowulf, Middlesbrough, April 2024.

LG Beowulf – the highest yielding wheat on the 2024-25 AHDB Recommended List offering a complete agronomic package for securing high yield potential on-farm.

Ron Granger, arable technical manager for breeders Limagrain UK, shares his views on what the variety offers and where it fits on farm.

As breeders, when we make a cross between two varieties, we have in our heads what we want to accomplish with regards to the complimentary attributes both parent varieties offer – genetically and agronomically – in the progeny.



KICK-OFF
What you need on your seed

Helps convert a good yield into a GREAT ONE!

KICK-OFF

contains a generous mix of 8 key nutrients including Phosphites, Zinc, Manganese and 19 Amino Acids

KICK-OFF

is the complete nutrient package that removes the need for stand-alone manganese treatments

KICK-OFF

is proven to boost healthy growth, improve root biomass for stronger winter hardiness and drought tolerance

KICK-OFF

can be used on seed crops including cereals and is compatible with all fungicide and insecticide seed treatments

For further details speak to your local GrainCo contact

fielder
first for growth

Farmer spotlight: Peter & Jane Chapman of Thornton Grange Farm, nr Middlesbrough



Peter Chapman and his dog, Peggy

Peter is the 5th generation of the Chapman family to farm at Thornton Grange having taken over the farm tenancy with his wife Jane from his parents in 2003.

Peter's parents Brian & Margaret had taken over the tenancy of the then 240 acre farm from his Grandparents in 1965 with the farm at that time being mostly down to arable.

Peter says Dad had always been keen on the idea of having dairy cows and shortly after taking on the farm decided to put his ideas in to practice and introduced the first 6 dairy cows onto the farm.

When his parents retired in 2003 Peter took over the reins and over the next 5 years working alongside Jane who was responsible amongst other things for looking after the calves and thankfully as Peter put it all of the paperwork they increased the size of the herd to 220 milking cows.

However in 2013 they decided it was time to take a new direction on the farm, selling the dairy cows and over the following years adding an extra 220 acres taking the farm up to what it is today of 600 acres, 570 acres of arable and 30 acres of grassland which is utilised by the son-in-law's beef cattle.

Following the sale of the dairy cows all of the farm was ploughed and power harrowed. Today however this approach has changed with the land now being worked off the top with disc legs. To speed up the operation seed is sown with a cultivator drill which in turn has saved the farm nearly 40% on their fuel costs, which with recent world events has proved to be a wise move.

All the farm work is done in house by Peter and Jane with their own machinery supported in the hectic harvest months by both daughters Jenny and Rachel along with son-in-law Matthew.

The farms current rotation is a combination of winter wheat, barley, oilseed rape and spring beans with the majority of the straw being chopped to help maintain the organic matter in the soils, something that Peter is passionate about. The remainder being exchanged for farm manure with neighbouring farms which is then spread over roughly 80

acres each year and a small amount being used for the beef cattle.

Soil analysis testing is carried out yearly on the farm with any additional potash and phosphate requirements being carried out as and when required but not after any farm manure application.

Nitrogen application rates are typically between 200-220kg/ha for wheat, 180-200kg for barley and 150-200kg for OSR.

Peter has found that he has had to slowly increase these rates over the years as the soils fertility has dipped as expected since the sale of the dairy cows.

All of the grain produced is dried and stored on farm with the exception of the oilseed rape which is dried and stored off farm.

Marketing is done in house, selling some forward and on a spot basis as and when he feels the time is right which has in the main worked well for him.

The family started growing seed wheat crops for Grainco in 2018 with **KWS Extase** being the first variety grown and this season they have 60 acres of **LG Beowulf** in the ground, a variety which has just been added as the highest yielding feed wheat on the new RL.

Decisions on which commercial varieties are drilled on the farm are taken by visiting amongst others the **Grainco** Wheat Demonstration site at Boroughbridge where 17 varieties are on show each year in large scale ½ acre blocks and advice from his local **Grainco** Representative Colin Jewell.

He likes to have a percentage of his seed as Over Yeared, this ensures he has some seed in the barn ready to go in case it's a catchy season with **KWS Dawsum**, **Extase**, **Palladium** and **Typhoon** being the varieties he settled on for last autumn's plantings.

Until last autumn Peter had not experienced any major issues

establishing oilseed rape on the farm, however like so many northern farmers as a result of the dreaded flea beetle he has lost all 90 acres and as things stand at the moment he has serious concerns as to whether there is any future in keeping osr in his rotation.

He is currently looking at what possibilities SFI will bring to the farm and at the time of writing (mid-march) is thinking of the wild bird seed option for the wetter corners, grass margins nearer to watercourses, legume fallow and any odd fields which traditionally struggle to provide good returns.

All of us do at times need to de-stress and farmers are no different especially after the last 6 months of perpetual rain and Peter finds his peace in walking which he took up as a hobby in 2015. He is currently on doing the Wainwrights with

plans for hopefully this year Ben Nevis – wow is all we can say!

Jane has taken up willow weaving, not only making the baskets but teaching this skilled art form and together they have a small willow plot on the farm, once again forward thinking by keeping it all in house.

As for the future, well that's possibly more SFI to feed the birds with the bonus of more hobby time, but deep down that's not what he wants to do for as he says "we are farmers" and as an industry we are good at what we do i.e. producing food to some of the highest standards in the world and long may that continue.

We are grateful to the Chapman family for their continued support and for taking the time to give us a glimpse of their farm practices and we wish them and the farm well for the future.



Grainco Seed Production Manager, Peter Collins, pictured in Mr Chapman's crop of **Beowulf**, January 2024.

Introducing Bamford: the highest yielding UK soft wheat on the RL



Toby Reich, Head of Agricultural Sales, Elsoms

timely harvest and flexible rotational position.”

“We recommend growers drill at their usual on-farm sowing rate, only reducing on particularly heavy or fertile soils. Its ideal sowing window is from the middle of September through to the end of November, however this can be stretched either side dependant on the season and has a slightly more erect than prostrate growth habit.”

“The variety has strong early-season disease resistance, which is key to maintaining green leaf area for maximum yield potential. Growers also benefit from the PCH1 rendezvous gene for resistance to eyespot. This robust disease package makes it suitable for all regions of the UK, with the benefit of being the variety with the highest untreated yield out of the Group 3s in the 2024/25 RL List.”

“It has been a long time since we’ve seen a variety on the RL with a 6% yield advantage over the next best variety in its group. On grain quality, we’ve seen several top yielding wheats in recent years that couldn’t quite combine high yield with high bushel weight. Bamford’s specific weight of 78.5kg/hl represents a real step up in this area. It gives growers



Bamford winter wheat.

With a UK treated yield of 106% and untreated yield of 92% from 2024/25 RL, Bamford consistently delivers high yields across the UK year to year, making it the benchmark in yield resilience for growers.

“Bamford gives growers the best grain marketing opportunity” says Toby Reich, Elsoms’ Head of Agricultural Sales. “It’s first and foremost a standout high yielding wheat, suitable for any feed outlet. It tops the list as a Group 3 variety suitable for domestic biscuit milling, export (uks) and distilling, with excellent grain quality producing quality soft flour. Bamford is also positive for distilling, offering a substantial alcohol yield increase over control varieties.”

When choosing Bamford, it’s not only because of the yield but because it has no major agronomic weaknesses. “A moderate tillering and vigorous spring grower, a well targeted split PGR programme will be suitable for this stiff strawed wheat. It is relatively early maturing with some trials indicated slightly earlier than the RL data at a +1 indicates. Choosing an early variety helps to ensure a

versatility in end-market use, cost-effective farming solutions, and unmatched performance.”

So why choose Bamford?

Unmatched Yield Potential

- Top for yield - It’s the highest yielding UK soft wheat on the market, yielding 106% on the 2024/25 RL List.
- Consistency - Bamford has shown true yield resilience with consecutive top yield results across two inconsistent years.

Unlock Multiple Market Opportunities

- Suitable fo domestic biscuit milling, export (uks) and distilling.
- Excellent grain quality.
- Positive for distilling.

Optimised for Lower Inputs

- Bamford has good resistance to Yellow Rust and Septoria tritici.
- Soil Borne Virus resistance - Bamford benefits from having a resistance gene to Soil Borne Wheat Mosaic Virus.

Efficient Agronomic Performance

- Bamford is suitable on both light and heavy soils, including high fertility soils.
- Robust standing - Bamford has stiff straw showing 0% lodging in 2022 trials. Like most varieties, Bamford will benefit from a split well timed PGR programme.
- Rotation position - Bamford suits a first and second cereal position, good resistance to take all and has the Pch1 gene for eyespot resistance.



SFI payments, companion crops and establishment risk schemes

Sensible options to reduce your risks and help establish your Oilseed Rape Crop.

Ever since the ban on neonicotinoid seed dressing on rape growers have been searching for something to protect the crops in the very early stages of growth. The warm weather in early September of 2023 saw flea beetle damage at a level we are not used to in the north. One of the tools that can be used to battle flea beetle is companion crops, which now can be funded through SFI. Some of our growers have found the companion crop mixture using buck wheat, berseem clover and fenugreek have helped against flea beetle. The buck wheat grows very rapidly camouflaging the OSR seedlings, the berseem clover is a legume that provides a small amount of nutrition as well as biomass that competes with weeds and conditions soil and the fenugreek emits a garlic like

odour that repels flea beetle. Although this is all killed by the Kerb application, the stems of the buck wheat have proved useful in the reduction of pigeon damage in the spring.

With A SFI payment of £55/ha on offer for growing a companion crop and the seed mixture of 2kg Fenugreek + 3.5kg Buckwheat + 2kg Berseem clover costing £30/ha why would you not do it.

We will be holding a stock of companion crop seed at our stores as well as stocks of the best hybrid and conventional rape seed varieties for grower collection and immediate delivery.

Establishment Risk Scheme

Several of the plant breeders have been offering an establishment guarantee scheme over recent years. Growers in our region showed little or no interest in this. However, after the

problems of establishing crops of rape in 2023 we suggest signing up for a scheme which pays you back some of the seed costs should the crop fail makes sense. All varieties supplied by Bayer have this option, but growers must register online to qualify. All Bayer variety names start with DK. We can offer DK Excited and DK Essential which are hybrid varieties. Limagrain are the biggest rape breeder at the moment, with a large number of hybrid and conventional varieties on the RL. They are offering a limited quantity of their varieties to growers wishing to take up the guarantee offer. Of course this will be on a first come basis.

If you are interested in companion crops and which oilseed rape varieties are available for the Establishment Risk Scheme please contact your local Grainco representative – see back page for contact details.



Several members of the Grainco Seed team pictured with DSV’s Arable Manager Sarah Hawthorne and Host of the Grainco Wheat Trials Stephen Buckle, April 2024, and yes it was cold!

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Front cover photo courtesy of FA Willis & Son, Newton Under Roseberry.

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Every care is taken in the preparation of this booklet, however it should only be used as a guide and GrainCo cannot accept any responsibility for any losses incurred as a consequence of this information.

Data from the AHDB Recommended List except where otherwise stated. Full database available at www.ahdb.co.uk