

THE FARMING DIARY OF  
JOHN WOODGATE BAKER

1903 - 1927

1903 Nov. 9th Put in yard 10 bullocks

10th Drilled Dove House field with Wheat

11th. 12th. & 15th Drilled 5 acres Winter Beans

13th Commenced ploughing and drilling Gullfield Wheat

19th Finished drilling and ploughing Gullfield

20th Commenced ploughing Long Bridge for Wheat

27th Finished Wheat sowing

1904 Feb. 18th Commenced draining lower part of Lt. Woodfield, finished Feb. 27th.

First week in October ploughed in Beans in Butt field.

1905 Oct. 2nd Commenced ploughing in Winter Beans and finished everywhere by October 17th.  
45 acres rolled down and harrowed in good order.

Oct. 17th. 18th & 19th Drilled Winter Barley on 13Y~ acres also in Warrensfield.

Third week in October drilled Little Wood and Buttfield, Wheat also Triangle Field, Pitt Field,  
and 8Y2 acres at Waldfd.

1908 Michaelmas. A splendid Autumn, all work done in excellent order to Christmas.

1909 A rough seasonable January, a fair February, a bad March throughout.

Dry February, commenced sowing Peas and Beans. March very winterly, frost from beginning to finish.

Beautiful April and May weather rectifying previous months. June wet throughout and big flood 25th and 26th - thunderstorm. July wet throughout.

About 15 fine dry very hot days the early part of August, the remainder continuously wet and cold. Commenced Harvest August 13th -left off in October. That(h(?d first wheat stack Sept. 1st. September and October all wet weather - a very great proportion of corn carted in bad condition. October 25th and 26th drilled Autumn Barley, Nether Hall, also drilled 10 acres Wheat at Mildens and 12 acres Rivets at Brights. October 29th and 30th big floods.

A wet November - roots came off badly.

December very wet - 4~ rain measured - had several floods.

A most disagreeable year for farmers.

1910. A fairly seasonable January & February, a fine March, Spring sowing done very well. April wet and showery, and May fairly dry. Not a good time for preparing mangold land, consequently they were planted late & rather rough seed bed.

Nice weather for the first three weeks of June, then very wet. Also July very wet & not much heat caused a late Harvest, which we commenced August 12th. & found crops light and foul stubbles owing to bad weather obstructing hoeing in the Spring. Thatched first Wheat stack August 20th. Very trying and tiresome weather during Harvest, a good many rainy & showery days. We finished Harvest about the middle of September with about t~ stacks short.

The latter half September very fine.

A fine October and November excepting the last week in November when we had a flood, and December we had a flood a week for three weeks and the last week only fairly fine which finished up another bad year, rather worse than the previous year 1909.

1911. January a fine seasonable month with some nice hard frosts with no snow, and returned fair without downfall, the first half February fine and nice with some frosts. The second half February fair weather and drilled Spring Beans in good order.
- The first few days March nice weather and then throughout very bad and wet until 1st week in April. The remainder of April very good. Barley drilled in good order and very forcing hot weather. The first week in May very fine and hot. A very fine month until first week in June and nearly three weeks very showery weather which came steadily and measured 3 inches. Then followed a very hot fine time to July 16th when all the heavy land crops looked well, and especially Wheat. A splendid time for fallows.
- Remainder of July very fine and hot. Commenced Harvest at all farms on July 29th. First Wheat stack thatched on August 5th and all Wheat carted without any wet and in dry fine condition and settled with three draws and a settlement on August 26th.
- Two very wet days the latter part of Harvest and had a small quantity of Barley not carried which grew very fast in the short time. Otherwise a very fine Harvest and drought continued until end of September. Wheat price and yield bad. especially the latter yielded well per acre, Barley making a high Peas and Beans good quality and bad yield
- October 1911 commenced with sufficient rain to make winter beans plough in well. We finished ploughing in 46 acres by October 14th.
- & rolled down &c. in good order.
- Commenced drilling wheat Oct. 9th. in excellent order & perfect weather for heavy land to Oct. 14th. Turnips to a certain extent a failure causing a great loss to Flock masters, the future prospect looking bad owing to want of feed. All feeding corn & cake, much dearer than hitherto. Good weather to the end of November, very wet December with floods.
- 1912 January very wet also floods, the last of January & first few days of February. The frost was exceedingly sharp up to 20 degrees of frost. A nice thaw followed & rather wet to middle of February.
- A very wet March & no drilling done until April. Spring Beans a moderate seedbed and Barley sowing not satisfactorily done. A sharp drought during the remainder of month. Mangold drilled in fairly good order.
- May very fine and dry until the 14th & rain very much wanted for small seeds & growing Clovers.
- 1913 A cold July in 1913 - a poor Harvest yield.
- Michaelmas I took possession of Nether Hall & Brights Farm. Bought Horses very dear. A fairly wet October & November after a dry time in September. A good Autumn sowing taking all weathers into consideration. A mild & dry December.
- 1914 January a dry month with several sharp frosts. February commenced fine and spring-like, then a very decent lot of rain during remainder of month, finishing mild.
- March came in like a lamb for two days & then rained for 26 days of the month, amounting to 4 inches, causing floods. Planted Parryfield Spring Beans at end of February, Beans at Brights drilled early in April, also Oats and Barley & finished drilling by April 15th. Nether Hall, Peas & Oats drilled early in April, also Barley. Mangold drilled in good seed bed by April 22nd. So far, fine, hot, summer weather.
- A good rain & thunder on May 7th & again on the 9th & another good rain about third week, making 1Y2 inches which was not general. June - the first w(~~ very fine & dry & crops at the moment are generally looking well. Mangold coming slowly.
- June, July & August very hot & dry - quite a drought. Excellent Harvest weather & generally a good crop of corn excepting Spring Beans.

Sept. 12th/14th the first nice rain for several hours, followed by a fine dry Sunday.

War declared at commencement of Harvest. Wheat making 20/- per Coomb. The weather continued very dry and hot until middle of October and then only slight showers. Mangold crop a failure. Brights Mangold one cart load per acre and only few swedes. October 24th drilled Little Wood Winter Beans.

Good Wheat sowing and seed bed the second half November, much wet and was wanted. Ploughing up close.

December wet and very flooded.

1915 January, February and March very wet and floods.

Commenced sowing in April. Finished Barley sowing April 19th. Not much frost during Winter.

Sold 17 Elms, 1 Oak and 3 small Ash trees in Brights drift. Wheat reached 33/- per Coomb.

First week in June a drop in Wheat owing to Government placing Indian Wheat on the market.

Beef making 14/- to 15/- per stone.

Sold Pork at 10/- per stone to Cook Bros. of Sudbury and Mutton very dear and War still going on after one year.

Second week in July rain commenced after drought and continued most days every week, also many thunder storms. Crops much laid. Began harvest August 9th in very unsettled weather, reaper working badly. Roots looking well.

Nearly seven weeks of St. Swithins weather. The first part of Harvest very treacherous weather for Wheat, the last ten days of Harvest perfect weather, finishing at Brights on September 10th and at Nether Hall on Sept. 14th. Best Wheat and Barley both making 23/- per Coomb.

Sold about 40 fat hogs making 15/3 per score and two fat Sows make £16 and £15 at Lawrence's sale.

Sept. 24th Bought at Mr. Robt. Edgar's sale 3 yr. old Colt 81 Guineas and 2 yr. old Colt 78 Guineas - also bought 16 big bullocks at

P. Edgar's sale ex W. Bantock costing £337.10.0 plus £8 profit, also two red polled buds @ £9.10.0 each plus £1 -profit. Big bullocks average £21.11.10.

Weather continues fine and good and all October excellent weather which was much needed for the backward work. Winter beans all planted in October, the majority of Wheat planted early November. In the middle of the month a lot of rain for a few days and then several sharp frosts. Commenced Mangold pulling about the middle of month and stopped by frost.

Wheat and Barley both reached 28/- per Coomb. Finished carting in

December, 50 far the latest on record. A mild December and wet.

Xmas beef cheap.

1916 January mild and very wet.

February wet and mild, and in middle of February plenty of snow-falls, some of which were very heavy and continued until middle of March with slight frosts, and continually wet. Plenty of floods during the winter months and today, March 21st. 1916 is still very wet and at present no signs of Spring sowing.

Fat Pigs are worth 12/- per stone or 17/- per score lbs. I am sending 12 to Bacon Factory @ 17/- per score on March 6th. 3 Beefling made £24.15.0 13 months old. £19.10.0 for a year old and for a red poll 14 months £21.10.0.

Barley reached a very high price owing to the War, Government commandeering all London Distillers. My seed Barley cost 32/3 per Coomb at Yeldham Station. Barley being used for explosives. Common malting Barley making 30/- to 32/- per Coomb.

No spring seeding in March.

April 3rd commenced sowing Oats and Peas and started to prepare for Barley sowing, the seed bed the worst I can remember. Finished drilling Barley on April 27th. on 15 acres at Nether Hall. The last week very hot and dry and no Mangold drilled in April.

Beef, Mutton and Pork all making about 14/- per stone.

Drilled Mangold May 3rd to 5th. May 6th finished rolling Spring Corn, a nice gentle shower on May 7th, also on 8th and 9th. 13th heavy rainfall, land drains running, consequently too much wet.

Further advance on all meat, which is making further extreme prices. Beef to 17/- per stone, also old hens very dear.

Nice weather until end of May. Commenced cutting Stover the last day of May.

June was a very showery month and the coldest on record. Clover and Hay-making lasting two months until end of July.

Made about 30 tons Hay, 20 tons red Clover, 15 tons Trefoil at Nether Hall. About 20 tons Hay and Stover at Brights, all of good quality, being fortunate in having on the Cock.

Harvest late, commenced August 14th, rather showery for first fortnight. Third week very wet, not a stack carted in August.

Went to see Maurice at Glasgow from 16th to 29th August. Returned to London on 26th August Bush H Park.

Lionel left for France on August 28th.

A very wet September. Harvest work done under great difficulties and not at all satisfactory. Corn carried in an indifferent condition. September very behind with work, finished Harvest last week in September.

October was also a very wet month and could not drill anything. After a treacherous three weeks we carted Hop Ground Seed Clover in an indifferent condition.

November 3rd finished drilling 15 acres Beans, Nether Hall, Dove House. First Wheat drilled on November 11th.

Wheat making to 39/- Coomb & Barley to 33/- per Coomb. So far bad wet weather.

A good root crop.

A very winterly winter, frost and snow from early in November 1916 to April 18th 1917.

1917 Severe record winter in January and nearly throughout April. Commenced to sow Oats April 3rd and followed drilling Barley. Pork at 23/6 per score, Beef to 16/6 per stone.

Fat Sow made at auction £22.12.6.

Government commandeered Wheat, Barley and Oats, Wheat 18 stone 81/10Y2 per qr. Barley 16 stone 72/9 per qr. and Oats 12 stone

59/3 per qr.

Mangold drilled May 8th in fair order and started to grow quickly. Drilled red Clover seed in middle of May. Quite summer weather during May and an inch of rain on the 17th. May and everything growing very fast except Winter Beans which are partly a failure. Made 48/6 of Brights Beans making over £19. per acre.

Sold W. Bantock bay mare £84, old bay horse £18, 20 years old. Sold 7 weeks fat calf £11.15.0.

Beef making 18/- to 19/- per stone.

Best Horse worth £100 died in June from pricked foot (neglect). Fine hot June and Hay and Stover made in a short time, fair crop, good quality.

Very forcing weather until 28th July, made up Peas Nether Hall July 27th and 28th. Commenced raining July 29th and rained every day for a week. Cut Home Dovehouse Wheat July 30th. and rain at night which continued every day until middle of August. August 5th Bank Holiday first fine day. Baby Show.

Not a complete fine week during Harvest nor a complete week's work during Harvest. A very wet August, about 4 inches rain.

Finished harvest second week in September, settled up September 14th and fairly fine weather to end of month.

The last week heavy rain and continued wet all through October.

Finished ploughing in winter Beans by middle of October at Nether Hall, also at Brights. Drilled 42 acres Wheat second half of October and remainder early in November and finished Warren Field drilling in good order November 19th. Land drains always running a little to middle of November.

Good Mangold and Swedes carried off in dirty heavy condition. November weather fairly good and very fine in middle of month. All stubbles very foul after harvest.

December ploughed most of Wheat stubble for Fallow.

1918 January a very wintery month, the most severe frost since 1895. February fairly mild and favourable weather.

March a typical fine month, drilled Oats, Peas and Barley all in excellent condition, a record for many years.

April the first fortnight nice fine seasonable weather and then a fortnight's rain. Flood upon flood threatening to destroy what good had been done.

Mangold drilled end of April also Swedes.

May fine weather for hoeing and horse hoeing and from 14th May to 21st May perfect summer weather.

Everything growing fast and seasonable weather until June 11th when grass cutting commenced and was most difficult to procure Hay and Stover.

The weather remained treacherous, constantly raining and showery weather and during July a deluge of wet, inches causing big floods causing Hay and Stover to be gathered in a very indifferent condition. August 7th we commenced Harvest and until the 16th August a very fine time, thrashed Home Field and about 3 acres Peas in further Dovehouse. Wheat 7 Coombs per acre, good quality but poor yield. Peas good condition on August 23rd.

Thrashed 4Y2 acres Wheat Brights 7 Coombs per acre.

On Sunday 25th it rained also on 26th heavy thunderstorm, and on 27th and 28th. On 29th thrashed Peas at Brights, fine day after 4 days rain.

Sold Peas at £4.2.6. per Coomb, about 11 Coombs per acre and making £45 per acre, and made £5 per Coomb of seed Beans ex Nether Hall and the remainder at £4.16.6 per Coomb, realizing £40 per acre.

Sold 98 Hoggets which paid £63 for 3 months keep after losing two.

A wet September taking 8 weeks for Harvest. Wet weather continued throughout October. Ploughed in Moneyhole Beans and 4 acres Long Bridge, finished by third week in October.

Drilled 20 acres Wheat at Nether Hall and 20 acres at Brights by end of October or November 1st.

Wet Autumn and bad seed bed for Autumn Corn.

Two fat Sows made £58 in October, £29 each, they weighed live weight nearly Y2 ton.

Bought 20 Bullocks on October 30th ex Bury market average £16.17.6 each.

Carted Mangold early in November.

A very good crop of Mangold and Swedes at Nether Hall, good Mangold at Brights, very poor Swedes.

November and December both very wet months.

At Xmas packed 28 Chickens to London, average 9/9 each, per lb. making 2/2 wholesale. Eggs controlled price 5d. each.

1919 January 1st very wet and floods to the 5th January.

Recorded a wet January.

Early in February excessive sharp frosts about fortnight. February a wet week and heavy floods.

Early part of March wet and floods, drilled Spring corn end of March<sub>1</sub> finished by first week in April.

The remainder of April very wet and end of April the heaviest snowfall for 70 years for time of year, about 2 inches, causing excessive floods.

May 12th drilled Nether Hall Mangold fairly good order, also drilled red Clover.

Third week

Suddenly hot weather set in for 6 weeks. Swedes and Mangold grew after 6 weeks drought and a good plant.

Stover made in a short time and good quality and quantity. hay making about a fortnight, showery time, remaining on Cock about ten days. Carted in fairly good order - managed to keep colour green and fair quality.

Cut Trefoil last July 11th. Cut Hop Ground Trefoil July 17th and 18th. Carted Butt Field July 19th.

July 19th Peace Celebrations.

General holiday July 20th. Very wet.

End of July, ploughed up Hop Grounds and Butt Field after Trefoil.

Rather cold weather until **August** Bank Holiday. Fine weather set in and was excessively hot, record heat since 1911. Commenced August **9th** date of Arthur and Maurice going to Eastbourne by motorbike side car. Began Harvest, Beans in Moneyhole cut by hand August 11th.

A very good week's work done to 16/8/19.

Good Harvest weather and light crops. Carted seed Clover by end of **September**.

Splendid September and October weather being fine and dry, few frosts by end of October. About half Wheat drilled in second half October, remainder second half November.

First week in November drawn red Clover seed about 2Y4 bushel per acre and made £9.12.6 per bushel, over £300 per ton of Nether Hall seed. Barley making up to £3 per Coomb and about 7 Coombs per acre. Through seeding, unable to lift Mangold, very sharp frost set in November 10th and continuing to 17th. Finished ploughing for Wheat November

15th. Finished drilling in November, fair order. A very wet December - too wet for ploughing.

**1920 January** - first half wet, second half seasonable and few frosts. **February** very dry fine month, drilled Peas and Spring Oats third week in good order.

**March** a nice mild dry month, drilled Barley in last week in splendid order.

April a record wet month, 27 wet days, about 4Y2 inches rain. Above average for about 20 years.

**May** a fine dry month with few showers and plenty of sun (hot). Cut 5 acres and Warren Fields Trefoil on May **26th and 29th** and carted on **June 3rd and 4th**. about 18 loads in good condition. June **6th** commenced ploughing Warren field for basted fallow.

Early part of June nice weather, the last week showery.

**July** 1st very wet and continued wet and unsettled until **August 10th**. Made up Peas end of July and carted by August 10th in fair stacking condition. Promise to be a good yield.

August 11th thrashed Butfield Winter Oats 122 Coombs. Sold 60 Coombs @ 30/6 per Coomb in good order and condition. August 12th Commenced carting 8 acres Wheat and Long Bridge.

**17th** Thrashed "Yeoman" 11 Coombs per acre.

18th Thrashed 10 acres Brights 80 Coombs. A very wet night.

19th No Harvesting.

20th No Harvesting.

21st Carted 12 acres Wheat Brights, also cut 9 acres Home Field, Nether Hall.

August **22nd** Sunday - showery and rain.

**23rd No Harvesting.**

Finished Harvest on **September 2nd** and settled up September **3rd** after tiresome Harvest weather. Believe the crop as a whole promises to be very fair.

September a showery month, had difficulty in procuring red Clover seed, turned several times, ultimately carted in dry order and afterwards very fine weather set in and October was an exceptionally fine month, about half inch rain. Winter Beans finished ploughing in October 15th.

Commenced drilling Wheat October 15th. Finished carting Mangolds in October. Thrashed Barley off 15 acres and sold to Bas & Co. @ 116/6 per qr. also sold Barley ex Brights to Branwhite @ 106/- per qr. which averaged over £25 per acre (very good).

Weather continued very fine to finish drilling Wheat on Middlepath field on November 19th. Drilled Wheat after Mangold at Brights on November 13th. All Autumn sowing went in well and good seed bed. Several little frosts during month, 8 degrees Sunday, November **21st**. In the middle of **December** a heavy fall of snow, more than foot and severe frost for a week averaging about 20 degrees.

Xmas time mild weather.

**1921 January** - forward with all Farm Work.

**A very fine February**, drilled Maple Peas on Home Field February 17th  
**good order. Also ploughed in 4 acres Sprats in Hop Ground and 3 acres**

Sprats at Brights for Mangold, good order.

**March** came in mild, drilled Barley in Little Wood, March **5th**.

March 7th and 8th Steam Mole drained further 23 acres at Brights next further 15 acres ("Rag Field"). Drilled further 11 acres March 15th and 16th. Barley and finished Barley sowing. A very fine month.

April - a few small showers, on the whole a very fine month.

Mangold and Swedes drilled about third week and a good plant.

**May** continued to be fine and dry and splendid for long fallows.

Cut Butt Field Trefoil self sown May 20th and 21st and carted 11 big loads May 25th, and finished ploughing it afterwards by May 31st.

June - Cut Nether Hall red Clover June 6th and Brights June 8th and 9th. Carted in excellent order 23 big wagon loads Nether Hall and 20 loads Brights.

Grass Hay light crop:

3 loads Warrens meadow

3 loads Brown meadow

5 loads Charity meadow

Cut one day and carted next, beautiful order and quality.

Practically no rain in June and great drought to end of June. Corn



generally looking well. Finished Hay Carting June **25th**.

July - drought continued.

- July
- 21st- Commenced Cutting Wheat at Brights
  - 22nd - Continued Wheat Cutting at Nether Hall
  - 23rd - Cut Middle Path and Preston 7 acres
  - 25th - Cut Gull Field and 8 acres Winter Beans
  - 26th - Cut further Dovehouse Wheat and commenced Warrens Field  
Wheat.
    - Finished Wheat cutting
    - First half day at work through shower during night.
  - Carted Wheat second half day.
  - 30th - Commenced Cutting Brights Barley  
Carting Home Field Maple Peas

August 3rd - Heavy thunderstorm and a lot of hail

- 5th and 6th - Thrashed Home Field Maple Peas off stack, yielded 7 Coombs per acre and sold them at 47/6 Coomb 18 stone at Station.
- 6th - Commenced carting Prentice Hill barley
- 9th - Finished cutting all Corn at both farms
- 10th - Carted Great and Little Wood
- 11th - Finished carting Barley at Brights except 4 loads -stopped in evening by severe thunderstorm
- 12th - Carted Beans at Brights.
- 13th - Finished carting Sheaf Corn
- 15th - Carted Beans at Nether Hall
- 16th - Carted few rakings and finished Harvest
- 19th - Settled Harvest and paid each man £7.10.0 each as per Wage Board
  - 18th, 19th, **20th** - cut red seed Clover at Nether Hall and Brights 30 acres and all put on one stack at Nether Hall 7 yards by 5 yards.
- 23rd - Finished clearing ground, afterward a very wet night,  
thunderstorm very heavy.
  - 6 loads Nether Hall and 6 loads Brights
  - A record summer of drought.

**28th**

**29th**

September - Ploughed fallows in excellent order both Nether Hall and Brights and good weather for preparing Autumn Crop. Drilled Beans September 30th and first week in October at Nether Hall and Brights. **October** - All Wheat sowing drilled in good condition and good seed bed and fine weather. Finished drilling Wheat by middle of November. **November** - First week in November a few sharp frosts which interfered with Mangold pulling and carting. Afterwards Mangold and Swedes all carried in good order. Not a large crop, but fair for such a dry season. Started ploughing stubbles. All Clovers mis-planted at Nether Hall and ploughed up.

December - All the farm at Nether Hall ploughed after Harvest and the year finished the driest on record. The River at Bagg's and Prentice Street cleaned out before Harvest and not filled up at end of year and still carting water for horses &c. &c.

**1922 January - A decent blizzard on 4th and 5th** January which made a little

water from a decent bit of snow, and made sufficient water by January 12th to stop carting water for Horses. Sunk well at Brights 135 feet deep, found water at end of November 1921 4 feet 2 inches water placed a patent draw chain, and to pump all day by two men reduced it only Y2 inch.

A dry time for finishing ploughing on Great Wood mis-plant Clover of January 12th and commenced roving ridges for manuring Mangold. Frost and snow throughout January.

A wet February.

March was a cold, rough, but a dry month and frosty.

Peas and Oats planted and commenced drilling Barley. Most of the Barley drilled at latter part of April not in good order through April being an extra wet month. A good many white frosts in April and continually raining.

Drilled Mangold at Brights May 1st.

Drilled Mangold and Swedes at Nether Hall on May 9th. Preston 7 acres, Middle Path and Long Bridge, also 21 acres Barley drilled in May, finishing on May 10th.

May a dry month, the latter part excessively hot with record heat. June fine and dry to about the 14th, afterwards a continuation of wet and cool weather, thus delaying the ripening of Harvest Corn. I only had a small stack of Hay off meadows and a small stack Stover at Brights.

Grass Hay light crop:

3 loads Warrens meadow

3 loads Brown meadow

5 loads Charity meadow

Cut one day and carted next, beautiful order and quality.

Practically no rain in June and great drought to end of June. Corn generally looking well. Finished Hay Carting June **25th**.

July - drought continued.

July 21st- Commenced Cutting Wheat at Brights  
22nd - Continued Wheat Cutting at Nether Hall  
23rd - Cut Middle Path and Preston 7 acres  
25th - Cut Gull Field and 8 acres Winter Beans  
26th - Cut further Dovehouse Wheat and commenced Warrens Field  
Wheat.  
28th - Finished Wheat cutting  
29th - First half day at work through shower during night.  
Carted Wheat second half day.  
30th - Commenced Cutting Brights Barley  
Carting Home Field Maple Peas

**August 3rd** - Heavy thunderstorm and a lot of hail

5th and 6th - Thrashed Home Field Maple Peas off stack, yielded 7 Coombs per acre and sold them at 47/6 Coomb 18 stone at Station.

6th - Commenced carting Prentice Hill Barley

9th - Finished cutting all Corn at both farms

10th - Carted Great and Little Wood

11th - Finished carting Barley at Brights except 4 loads -stopped in evening by severe thunderstorm

12th - Carted Beans at Brights.

13th - Finished carting Sheaf Corn

15th - Carted Beans at Nether Hall

16th - Carted few rakings and finished Harvest

19th - Settled Harvest and paid each man £7.10.0 each as per Wage board

**18th, 19th, 20th** - cut red seed Clover at Nether Hall and Brights 30 acres and all put on one stack at Nether Hall 7 yards by 5 yards.

**23rd** - Finished clearing ground, afterward a very wet night,

thunderstorm very heavy.

6 loads Nether Hall and 6 loads Brights

A record summer of drought.

Commenced Harvest **August 14th**, the first week a full week's work, the Binder not running any too clean on wheels. Work continued moderately slow to August **28th**. All Wheat at Brights carted and two big stacks at Nether Hall. Monday 28th August wet day no Harvest

work and about 14 acres of 15 acres to cart.

A very wet September, all Barley very much deteriorated, some thrashed out of field and had to be kiln dried and all Barley for Malt had to be kiln dried and finished Harvest in **October**, the latest and worst on record for weather.

**October** we started late for Autumn work.

Fair weather for **November** and **December**. A mild Winter, not sufficient frost.

**1923 January** mild.

**February 6th** and **7th** drilled about 9 acres Maple Peas and then rained

a record wet month and could not finish drilling until **March 13th**

(6 weeks wet).

Drilled further Dovehouse March **14th**.

Agricultural men started to strike March 17th.

All our men ceased work except S. Fayers, Spite and Steward and boy John Moore.

Men agreed to accept 25/- for 54 hours and were called out by Workers

Union March 17th at about 8 0' clock after starting work. (Sacked Currey).

April - Motor ploughed Home Field and 8 acres. Motor cultivated 15 acres twice at a place.

Men out 2 to 3 weeks on Strike.

A very fine and dry April, 2 or 3 slight rains, finished drilling

Barley April 30th.

New man (Webb) commenced at Brights April 14th.

From the middle of March until end of **June** making 4 months drought.

The seed bed for Barley the worst on record, had to plough up 16 acres Bailey at Brights.

Swedes and Mangolds ploughed up through drought making 37 acres clean

Fallow, Nether Hall 55 acres Fallow.

Commenced cutting red Clover early.

A very cold June.

Made a good stack Stover.

**July** and August average wet weather and unsettled.

Carted all Corn in good order in tedious weather and carted red Clover seed in good order and promised good seed after scare of maggots in heads.

**September 4th** a very wet day, shooting at Nether Hall, otherwise a decent month for Farm work.

First half October showery and second half wet. Considered a wet month but Farm work has done very well owing to land wanting rain. October 1st drilled White Winter Oats (8 acres). Drilled Butt field Beans 8 acres and 15 acres Barley(Archers plumage), also drilled in October Preston 9 acres, Middle Path, Warrens field and 5 acres Hop Ground. Also drilled at Brights in October 12 acres Wheat, 11 acres Beans and 10 acres Barley, making 104 acres drilled in October, all in quite decent order.

**November** - not any roots at Brights, 2 acres good Swedes at Nether Hall and a short crop of Mangold and small. Fortunately they were all carted early and earthed up at once. After first week in November a very frosty month, more or less frosty throughout and one or two days snow, making quite a winterly month.

**December** a very winterly month, the frost allowed ploughing to be close up before Xmas and generally Farm work very forward. Just before Xmas commenced drawing red Clover seed. Wet, snow and rough weather continued during Xmas and delayed Clovering. Several floods during month.

Red Clover promise to turn out well.

**1924 January** a very winterly month. **February** likewise.

**March** very fine until the **23rd** which was a wet day, the first 22 days sharp frost every morning. Drilled in good order Spring Beans at Nether Hall March 10th. Drilled Maple Peas at Brights March 17th and following days about 25 acres. Drilling commenced after breakfast owing to frosty mornings. Harrowed up beautifully March 20th Mangold ridges at present in bad order. The only good business was that good Autumn Barley sold well. I made 105/- per qr. for Barley off 15 acres. Wheat thrashed out in bad condition, if Millable made 30/-per Coomb. All Barley sold very dear in Autumn.

**April 1st** - drilled Home Dovehouse, Barley. **April 2nd** - drilled further Dovehouse.

**4th** - drilled Home Field, Barley.

**4th** - point to point races Brights. Nearly every morning to April **12th** few degrees frost.

**11th** - deep snow, 5 to 6 inches deep.

**12th** - more snow and frost.

**19th** - drilled red Clover at Brights.

**22nd** - drilled red Clover home Dovehouse at Nether Hall.

**26th** - some bit of rain up to April 30th.

Not nice weather during May and very wet until June 14th. Commenced Clover cutting June 16th and very fine to July 16th. Carted Stover and Hay in -good order. From July 16th very wet and bad weather continued during all August. Very bad Harvest weather, the worst Autumn sowing on record, very bad seed bed, could not finish Wheat sowing. 15 acres ought to have been Wheat at Nether Hall was

-drilled with Oats in the middle of February.

**1925 In January** 1925 the Barley trade completely collapsed. A very mild winter. A few days fine weather in middle February, drilled 15 acres Spring Oats, seed ex C. Goodchild. Followed by a wet time until middle March, then a few fine days and drilled Middle Path and Preston 7 acres in good order.

Drilled Barley, second half April in fair order. **May** was a fair growing month, unable to do weeding, consequently thistles are plentiful.

**June** a very fine month, cut red Clover first week, a heavy crop and carted in good condition.

July was showery and second crop red Clover promises to be good. The last week in July was wet also first week in August wet. Commenced Harvest August **5th**. Splendid weather until August 21st when rain commenced and continued for 8 consecutive days. All Wheat, Oats and Maple Peas carried in good thrashing condition, leaving 23 acres Barley on Shock and 42 acres to cut, on the **28th**. All Barley obliged to be re-shocked and 3 loads Wheat in Butt Field.

A very wet period followed, Barley badly discoloured, seed Clover practically spoilt and turning several times. Value of Barley spoilt and made bad price.

A more or less -wet Autumn, drilled at Nether Hall 41Y2 Several frosts and snow in travelling before **December**

Wheat sowing not satisfactory and late

acres Wheat and 17Y2 acres at Brights.

**November.** A fortnight's winter and bad

8th. More or less too much wet.

**1926** First week in January, floods, followed by a fortnight's frost and a week's fine, and finish up a very wet, perhaps a seasonable month. The first week in February wet and floods and continued until last week which was fine, and throughout all March, March being the finest and most dry March for many years. Little Wood and Gull Field were practically fallowed before drilling Barley, and finished drilling Barley in March.

**April** - the first week warm and summerlike weather. On the **7th** April a nice rain which was wanted. A few more fine days and then a fortnight's rain continually day and night, the land drains running. So much that all work, ploughing &c. was stopped.

Drilled Mangold on the 12th and 13th and commenced drilling Swedes and was stopped by rain until **May** which was a wet month also.

**June** and July both wet months and a poor prospect for Harvest. The first week in August wet although it was fair weather for holiday makers.

Commenced Harvest August 9th. Showery weather continued. The Autumn Barley carted in good condition and all the Wheat carried in good order. Both Wheat and Spring Barley a bit blighted.

A very bad yield of Wheat. Middle Path and Preston seven acres was an average of 4 Coombs 2 Bushels per acre, also Barley rose very badly. About one of the worst Crops on record both for quantity and quality, especially Barley. Eight acres Maple Peas yielded better than expected 9 Coombs per acre.

**1927** drilled Spring Oats and Peas at Milden, also Maple Peas at Nether Hall by the middle of **March**.

**Not a very satisfactory Spring sowing**, only a fair Barley sowing and rather late.

A very wet Summer in **June, July and August**.

Commenced Harvest middle of August and a very showery season started.