

2025 edition

www.grainco.co.uk

GrainCo seed special

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

Introducing...

KWS Arnie Winter Wheat
Kitty Winter Barley

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the GrainCo Seeds Special



Tom Carmichael, Northumberland Sales Representative, GrainCo

We will start on a positive note, which it seems has not been the case over the past few seasons.

The majority of crops that were sown in the Autumn are looking well. Those that were able to drill early and take advantage of the better weather seem to have been rewarded with thick, even and healthy-looking fields going in to the spring which is a welcome sight indeed. Of course, when it comes to farming nothing is straight forward. Last year, it rained throughout the spring and this year, it has hardly rained at all. It is safe to say most crops are in need of a drink now and let's hope that isn't too far away as obtaining good yields this harvest is going to be as important as ever. The weather has allowed spring drilling to take place early and in to near perfect seed beds. Fertiliser has also gone on in good time, so the potential for high yielding cereals is there. Let's just hope that potential is not once again lost due to mother nature.

Those that stuck with OSR as part of their rotation seem to have been rewarded in most parts, with crops considerably better than previous campaigns where flea beetle damage ripped through winter plantings and left nothing of worth. Varieties established brilliantly in the Autumn and were well on leading into the winter period. Pigeons have caused issues for some which is disappointing, but again with the ability to apply fertiliser early there is plenty of time for any damage to be recovered.

Harvest 2024 was close to a disaster for many farmers. Some enjoyed good yields like previous years but in general it would be safe to say tonnages were down 50% for wheat and barley, with OSR fairing worse still. Many lost total crops. Commodity prices have been on the low side for a while now, but over the past couple of weeks in particular have been trading within a range of around £170-£175 for spot wheat with barley £20 behind this on average.

At least old crop OSR has fared a bit better, with May values around the £420-£425 ex farm mark.

At the end of February, many growers took advantage of the better new crop prices available and sold some of their harvest 25 grain at the £200/t level for Nov/Dec which at this stage looks to have been a good decision. This volatile market is another reason a lot of farmers have decided to once again market a proportion of their grain through our pools system, which continues to perform admirably in testing circumstances.

As people turn to variety selection for the upcoming Autumn drilling campaign, a number of factors need to be considered but a few in particular seem to be ever more important. With farmers looking to save on costs, and the fact that the chemistry available to produce healthy crops is decreasing year on year, disease profile and untreated yield scores are pivotal.

Peter Collins and the GrainCo seed team carefully select suitable options for the North of England and Scotland including traits discussed above, but also stiff strawed and high specific weights. It is safe to say the AHDB recommended list includes a lot of very useful information, but it is bloated and can leave growers with too much choice as the wheat for example has over 50 varieties available. By reducing and fine tuning what we can offer, our farmers are left with a number of useful options to suit all needs on farm, whether it be an early or late driller, or a good performer on heavy or light land.

We hope you enjoy our latest issue of the **GrainCo Seed Special**, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local rep if you have any questions at all.



Maximise returns from varieties, with yield security in mind



Rob Grainger, Arable Technician Manager, Limagrain UK

From unpredictable weather to evolving disease threats, there are numerous risks to crop profitability; some of which can be managed, or at least mitigated, with careful variety selection.

Yield remains a top priority when choosing what to grow, but the key is selecting proven varieties that deliver “yield security” across multiple - often very different - seasons, by combining yield potential with agronomics and disease resistance suited to specific situations.

It is something Limagrain Field Seeds is providing, with a range of exciting commercial hard wheat varieties, which includes LG Typhoon and LG Beowulf.

Proven performers

LG Typhoon has been on the RL for three years, and has proven popular with many agronomists and farmers, especially those drilling early, and with wider-row regen-type systems. Its excellent disease resistance profile, especially for yellow rust (9) and Septoria tritici (7.2), combined with orange wheat blossom midge (OWBM) resistance, good specific weight, and agronomic characteristics of a slow,

prostrate, growth habit and high tillering ability - all suit such situations.

These characteristics make LG Typhoon a great all-round package, as certainly shown in the very testing disease season of 2024, and it should not just be considered as an early drilling variety. It has proven to be a good all-rounder, showing good results when drilled later, affording extra flexibility, should the weather disrupt plans.

LG Beowulf takes genetic gains further, building on its strong Costello x Gleam parentage. It offers robust disease resistance, with ratings of 9 for yellow rust, and 6.6 for Septoria tritici, although brown rust, as we learnt in 2024, will require monitoring. This, combined with 8 ratings for straw strength and its strong tillering ability, with the benefit of OWBM resistance and excellent grain quality - particularly specific weight, make it an attractive proposition on farm.

It has all the key agronomic attributes for securing yield potential - with proven performance across different situations, soil types, drilling dates, and regions - it is a variety that could suit most situations this autumn and has the potential to be the leading wheat variety on farm this autumn.

LG Typhoon and LG Beowulf are both very differing varieties regarding their growth characteristics. LG Typhoon sits flat and hugs the ground all winter, with a slow spring growth; proven characteristics for the earlier sowing window.

LG Beowulf has a semi-erect habit, with strong tillering and a quicker spring growth, which could make it a better option for those concerned about black-grass and want to maximise crop competition.



September drilled Beowulf in December nr Tadcaster.

One thing the varieties do have in common is “agronomic security” for achieving good yield potential on farm.

With hard feed wheats accounting for around half of the UK wheat market, and likely to feature heavily again this autumn, selecting a variety that fits your situation and offers yield security is key to maximising returns - whatever next season throws at us.



GrainCo's Seeds Manager Peter Collins pictured in a crop of Typhoon nr Tadcaster, May 2025.



Autumn 2025 GrainCo Key Winter Wheat Variety Comparison Chart

	Group 2			Group 3 Soft			Group 4 Soft			Group 4 Hard			
	KWS ARNIE	KWS EXTASE	KWS PALLADIUM	BAMFORD	KWS SOLITARE	BLACKSTONE	RGT HEXTON	LG BEOWULF	CHAMPION	KWS DAWSUM	LG TYPHOON		
Parentage	Extase x Zyatt	Boisseau x Sorehio	Trinity x Zyatt	Moulton x EWL 129	Sundance x Shabras	Pancea x KWS Tempo	N/A	Costello x Gleam	Reflection x DSV 20122	Costello x Kerrin	Garrus x LGW88		
UK Yield %	106	102	101	106	107	102	105	105	107	103	101		
East	106	102	100	106	106	102	105	106	106	103	101		
West	108	102	103	107	109	101	104	104	109	103	101		
North	(103)	101	101	107	(108)	104	(111)	107	105	106	103		
Untreated Yield %	87	91	89	90	88	83	80	85	86	89	87		
Spt Wt	79.1	79.2	77.7	78.7	77.1	78.6	77	78.5	75.6	79.9	77.4		
Ripening (days +/-1 Skyfall)	0	-1	-1	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	2		
Straw Length without PGR (cm)	87	91	84	89	90	91	88	88	88	84	86		
Straw Length with PGR (cm)	81	86	79	83	83	83	81	80	81	77	79		
Resistance to Lodging without Pgr (1–9)	8	7	8	7	5	8	7	8	7	8	7		
Resist. to Lodging with PGR (1–9)	7	7	8	7	6	7	7	8	7	7	7		
Lodging without PGR%	2	2	1	2	15	1	2	1	3	2	2		
Lodging with PGR%	2	3	2	3	9	2	3	2	5	2	2		
Mildew	(5)	6	7	6	(6)	6	(6)	6	5	8	6		
Yellow Rust	7	7	9	7	8	9	7	9	8	9	9		
Yellow Rust Seedling Resistance	5	5	R	5	5	R	5	R	R	R	R		
Brown Rust	6	7	6	6	5	6	5	4	5	7	6		
Septoria Tritici	7	7	7.2	6.6	6.7	5.9	6.7	6.6	7.6	6.3	7.2		
Eyespot	5	3	6	6	4	5	4	6	4	5	5		
OWBM	No	No	No	No	R	R	R	R	R	No	R		
First Wheat	106	102	101	106	107	102	105	106	107	103	101		
Second Wheat	105	102	100	106	105	101	108	105	107	103	102		
Light Land	(103)	102	100	106	(105)	103	107	103	106	105	101		
Heavy Land	107	103	101	106	106	101	105	106	108	103	101		
Annual Treated Yield (% Control)													
2021	N/A	102	98	N/A	104	102	N/A	106	106	103	100		
2022	105	102	101	107	106	103	105	105	106	103	98		
2023	105	101	101	106	106	102	106	106	106	104	101		
2024	108	104	107	110	106	101	109	105	111	103	107		

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

A background image showing a field of green crops in the foreground and several white wind turbines against a blue sky with scattered clouds.

PIERCEBRIDGE PLANT **HVS CERTIFIED SEED AVAILABILITY LIST AUTUMN 2025**

WINTER WHEAT *Newly Recommended for 2025

GROUP 2	*KWS ARNIE, KWS EXTASE, KWS PALLADIUM
GROUP 3 SOFT	BAMFORD *KWS SOLITAIRE
GROUP 4 HARD	CHAMPION, LG TYPHOON, LG BEOWULF, KWS DAWSUM
GROUP 4 SOFT	*RGT HEXTON

WINTER BARLEY *Newly Recommended for 2025

TWO-ROW FEED	*KITTY, KWS TARDIS, LG CARAVELLE
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Please order your Barley seed requirements in good time before we switch to wheat production.

BASE SEED DRESSINGS (applied as standard)

WHEAT	REDIGO PRO
BARLEY	RANCONA I-MIX

ADDITIONAL SEED DRESSINGS	KICK OFF, MANGANESE, LATITUDE VIBRANCE DUO
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In addition we are pleased to also offer the following from our network of suppliers.

HYBRID BARLEY	SY KINGSBARN, INYS, QUANTOCK
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WINTER OATS	CROMWELL, SOUTHWARK
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WINTER OILSEED RAPE

CONVENTIONAL	ACACIA, PINNACLE
HYBRID	LG ARMADA, AURELIA, ADAPT, AVENGER
CLUB ROOT RESIS.	CROME, SCORPION

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

The GrainCo logo, featuring the company name in a serif font with a stylized wheat stalk icon above the 'o' in 'Co'.

DIRECT ORDER LINES:

Seed Office, Tyne Dock

Kate Grix: 0191 428 7700

Piercebridge Plant

Peter Collins: 01325 728905

Why Group 2 new RL addition KWS Arnie could be a real game changer



Olivia Bacon, Wheat Product Manager, KWS

KWS Extase and KWS Palladium are difficult acts to follow but the new highest yielding Group 2 variety on the latest AHDB RL 2025/26 KWS Arnie could be just the variety to do so.

When it comes to outright yield, KWS Arnie is some 4% ahead of KWS Extase in the latest RL, but that's not the only reason growers and the trade are getting excited about KWS Arnie, says KWS UK wheat product manager Olivia Bacon.

"It's a real all-round performer and more than capable of bringing the fight to the best of the existing and new Group 2 wheat varieties, taking yields and field performance to the next level," she explains.

"That yield at 106% of controls, for example, makes it comparable to many of the current crop of Group 4s for sheer output and that's before you add in its excellent disease resistance package including 7s for both yellow rust and septoria resistance.

"It's also the best performing bread making variety in the second and more slot on the current RL with a milling spec. protein content of 12.1%, a Hagberg Falling Number (HFN) of 287 and a specific weight of 79.1kg/hl.

"So, not only does it have the advantage of being a strong milling contender when the opportunity arises, it's also an exceptionally profitable variety when grown as a high performance feed wheat in its own right. It's a genuine dual-purpose choice.

"KWS Arnie is also a great expression of our Productivity2 initiative that puts the focus on breeding varieties that are able to stretch margins by maximising yields, offering added-value opportunities and providing optimised agronomic traits to help make the most efficient use of inputs.

"It's proved exceptionally consistent in terms of yield over some very contrasting seasons with widely differing weather conditions in AHDB trials, delivering yields within 1% of each other across the years.

"All in all, KWS Arnie has real-world versatility across a range of different production scenarios making it a powerful addition to any wheat grower's portfolio."

Excellent trial results

Grainco seed manager Peter Collins agrees, saying their own trial results and response from growers to KWS Arnie is extremely encouraging.

"It's definitely a variety we are going to be backing for 2025 and beyond," he says. "KWS Arnie looks very promising indeed with an almost perfect balance of productivity, marketing potential and agronomic benefits.

In our 2024 continuous wheat trials held in conjunction with host farmer Stephen Buckle at Boroughbridge North Yorks, KWS Arnie achieved a very impressive yield of 12.1 t/ha with Palladium just behind at 12.0 t/ha.

"Both varieties looked an absolute picture staying clean right through what was a challenging season from a disease pressure perspective and this played a huge part in the strong performances seen."





Grainco has been a strong advocate of high performing Group 2s in recent years, Peter points out.

"For several years now **Extase** has been one of our biggest selling varieties due to it being ideally suited to our region, which mainly covers Durham and Northumberland.

"It's perfect for being drilling in the 3rd week of September onwards due to its vigorous growth habit, whether that as a first or second wheat.

"Generally speaking, we have a lot of heavy soils in the area, so growers like to get on and drill a lot earlier than most parts of the country, from the first week of September onwards.

"Weather permitting, most producers want to be totally drilled up by the end of September and that's where we see a great opportunity for **KWS Arnie**.

"**KWS Extase** is still a great performer but it is in its sixth year on the RL and while it is still hugely popular, we are keen to find the next generation of high performance Group 2s to follow it. **KWS Arnie** could well be the variety to start that.

"Group 2 **KWS Palladium** has also been another strong variety for us, being a super clean bread maker with its short stiff straw giving good harvest security plus it's got a 7 for septoria tritici resistance underpinning a very high untreated yield."

Extase and Palladium still great choices

While welcoming new varieties like **KWS Arnie**, the company's Olivia Bacon says proven performers like **KWS Extase** and **KWS Palladium** still have a lot to offer growers.

"**KWS Extase** set a new standard for septoria resistance and untreated yield

when it was introduced five years ago and these are still the reasons it's a first choice variety for many growers.

"It's a variety that has set the gold standard in Group 2 for many years, trumping all others for profitability when grown in the right conditions with its proven track record earning it a place amongst the UK's most successful milling wheats ever.

"Although often in the shadow of **Extase**, **KWS Palladium** also has extremely high untreated yields and brings real flexibility to growers in terms of its management.

"It's an exceptionally clean variety with one of the highest untreated yields available and has proved to be a great partner to **KWS Extase** in rotations, being superb on heavier land where it delivers a solid second wheat performance, particularly where the focus is on premium markets.

IT'S THE GUV'NOR.



KWS ARNIE

Group 2 Winter Wheat

- Exceptional yield performance, especially in the East (106%) and West (108%)
- Outstanding disease resistance including 7 for *Septoria*
- Best performing breadmaking variety in the second and more slot

www.kws-uk.com



Quality Wheats With Feed Wheat Yields



Stephen Buckle, Host Farmer of the GrainCo Wheat Variety Trials, Boroughbridge

For the past eight years, I've had the pleasure of hosting the GrainCo wheat variety trial plots and welcoming around 60 farmers annually to our Open Day. It's been a wonderful experience, and I'd like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has attended these events.

Every year, the plots are harvested using my own combine, with yields measured via a yield monitor that is calibrated annually. Over these eight years, we've sown approximately 15 varieties in the same field (a continual wheat trial) under varying weather

conditions. This long-term experiment has offered some fascinating insights.

Observations over the years

The plots have consistently been sown in early October, except in the very wet autumn of 2019 when we eventually puddled wheat in on 31st January and probably wouldn't have bothered if there hadn't been the pressure of an Open Day. Ironically, the event was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Excluding 2019-2020, the average plot yield over seven years stands at 10.3 T/ha. Last year saw the highest mean yield across all plots at 11.1 T/ha, compared to the lowest yield of 9.9 T/ha in 2017 – a testament to our progress. It's worth noting that these plot yields exclude both headlands and tramlines and so are approximately 10% higher than field yields.

Addressing yield variation

A common question I encounter is, "Over the years, have some plots been inherently better yielding than others?" To answer this, I've calculated the mean yield for each plot across the years, which ranges from 10.0 T/ha to 10.7 T/ha. Interestingly, top-yielding plots are often adjacent to lower-yielding ones, suggesting that site conditions are remarkably uniform. Most yield variation appears to stem from the varieties themselves.

However, autumn 2023 brought extreme rainfall, and three plots were excluded from the results due to poor establishment caused by ponding after two inches of rain fell shortly after drilling. Unfortunately, **Dawsum** which was the highest yielding variety for the 2023 harvest was one variety affected.

Insights into wheat varieties

Last year's top-yielding varieties included:

Bamford: 12.2 T/ha

Arnie: 12.1 T/ha

Palladium and Solitaire: 12.0 T/ha

Other varieties: 10.4 to 11.4 T/ha

These results highlight that quality wheats, Group 2 and Group 3 varieties, can achieve impressive yields – even outperforming feed wheats. This observation is supported by the Recommended List, where quality wheats yield alongside top feed varieties. During a GrainCo visit last spring, **Bamford** and **Arnie** stood out as particularly healthy and vigorous varieties, maintaining their robust performance up to harvest. This year, they appear similarly promising – we'll see their results at the Open Day this year and, most importantly, at harvest.

Both varieties boast strong disease resistance (Septoria scores of 6.6 and 7.0; Yellow Rust scores of 7) and good lodging resistance.

Spotlight on Palladium

Palladium has consistently ranked among the top four yielders during its three years in the trial here. With outstanding disease and lodging resistance scores and versatility for early or late drilling, it performs exceptionally at this continual wheat site. Its reliability speaks volumes – I'm growing **Palladium** on a quarter of my farm.

Looking ahead

I'd like to thank GrainCo's seed plant team for supporting these trials, as well as all the farmers who have attended our Open Days. I'm excited to see many of you at our next event on June 18th, where we'll showcase 15 varieties, including Recommended List candidates **Aintree** and **Grebe**.

AHDB
RECOMMENDED

TOP BAMFORD '25.

Bamford is the most impressive Group 3.

Bamford is the top choice for growers, being the most widely grown Group 3 variety across the UK.

Bamford offers an enviable agronomic and disease resistance package, and with excellent yield scores of 106% treated and 90% untreated it is one of the top soft wheats on this year's Recommended List.

Bamford continues to offer unbeatable end-market flexibility as it delivers to feed, distilling, UK export and biscuit milling quality, making it the ideal choice in volatile market conditions.

Bamford is the dependable wheat you can trust to deliver the best gross output potential.

Bamford. Your unrivalled top choice for 2025.

BAMFORD

Winter Wheat

Speak to your seed merchant today about availability.

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New winter barley Kitty brings outstanding set of agronomic advances to Northern growers



Hugh Harley, Seed Sales Manager, Senova

The new two-row feed winter barley variety Kitty is expected to be in big demand in the north of England, thanks to a compelling combination of agronomic features which includes the added protection to both strains of the soil-borne BaYM Virus.

A Valerie cross, Kitty was added to the AHDB Recommended List 2025/26 at the end of last year with a UK treated

yield of 104. However, a yield of 108 in the North region makes it the joint highest for this part of the country, while an untreated yield of 91 shows its potential for lower input regimes.

Its other outstanding features include the highest specific weight on the list of 72.7kg/hl – something that growers are always seeking – and resistance to both strain 1 and strain 2 of Barley Yellow Mosaic Virus (BaYMV).

This gives it a unique position as one of only two varieties to offer this level of virus protection. It comes from having two resistance genes – rym4 and rym5 – which give it defence against both known strains of BaYMV.

Until recently, strain 1 of BaYMV dominated in the UK, so the rym4 resistance found in most winter barley varieties was effective. That changed however when strain 2 was confirmed in the UK, which the majority of winter barley varieties don't carry resistance to.

Despite being classed as resistant they have started showing symptoms – with 2024 being a particularly bad year.

Strain 2 was first identified in the south-west of England, with researchers believing that it has spread from there to soils in other parts of the country where barley is grown.

As there are no chemical control options, genetic resistance is the only form of defence.

Currently, the only two recommended winter barley varieties with both resistance genes are **Kitty** and **Valerie**, a feature which has been highlighted on the latest Recommended List so that growers can make informed choices.

"The yield loss from BaYMV can be as much as 40%," reports Senova's Seed Sales Manager, Hugh Harley. "It's a soil-borne virus, so it is difficult to detect and even harder to determine which strain or strains are present."

Infection has also shown to affect grain quality, he adds, with higher screenings and lower specific weight often reported. "The weather often dictates how much virus is seen in any particular year but it has certainly been a feature of the last two growing seasons."

Kitty's other attributes include short, very stiff straw (Twin 8's for lodging) and good disease resistance ratings, including a 7 for Rhynchosporium.

In addition, the lowest brackling score is a welcome addition to such a good all-rounder, as it avoids stem weakness problems higher up the plant as the crop matures.





"We know that many barley growers prefer two-rows and we are really pleased to have such a strong variety," says Tom.

"Varieties like **Kitty** really challenge some of the existing barley choices as they help to minimise risk and control costs."

Grainco Seeds Manager Peter Collins expects the variety to create a lot of interest and will without doubt he say's sell out in its first commercial season.

Barley Yellow Mosaic Virus

Barley Yellow Mosaic Virus can persist in the soil for many years and affects winter-sown varieties.

Once plants are infected, there is no control method available. Symptoms show in early spring, following a cold spell, and infection occurs in distinct patches. These patches increase in size in successive years.

The first signs are small yellow patches – seen from February onwards – with leaves going on to develop streaky

yellow look. Infected plants are stunted and mature later.

High risk factors include previous infection, movement of infected soil and growing a susceptible variety.

Grower case study

A 9ha crop of **Kitty** being grown for seed last year yielded 11.1t/ha, giving an additional 0.5t/ha over Scottish grower David Lawrie's previous seed crops.

Predominantly a dairy farm, the 270 milking cows at Cuthill Towers Farm are housed year-round. As a result, the land is in an arable rotation, with ground coming out of four years of grass creating clean fields for growing new varieties for seed.

Given the availability of slurry, the soil's organic matter and fertility are very good, points out David, helping crops to fulfil their potential.

"Winter crops can struggle a bit up here but the **Kitty** was drilled in September in good conditions, so it

came through and got going before the weather turned.

"I wish I could say the same for the wheat."

Otherwise, it was treated similarly to previous crops, he recalls. "Getting a good seedbed is important and we find that the previous grass ley helps with that. We use a plough and combination drill to establish crops as soon as there's a window."

This year he has almost 18ha of **Kitty** in the ground. "It's gone in well again and we've been able to get some slurry on it, so fertiliser use should be lower. There's always a risk of lodging on high fertility sites, so we'll watch the agronomy as the season progresses."

He adds that two-row winter feed barley varieties have changed beyond recognition. "We're seeing good results from the more recent introductions. It was a really nice surprise to exceed 11t/ha."



Mr Lawrie combining his C1 crop of Kitty, Kinross Scotland.



Spotlight on Raby Farms

Hello - I am Philip Vickers, Farm Manager of Raby Estates.

Based between Bishop Auckland and Barnard Castle Raby Home Farm is a traditional estate farm that has decided to embrace a new focus on sustainable crop management with a reduced environmental footprint.

As Farm Manager, appointed in 2022 I undertook a strategic review guided by Lord Barnard's wishes, it was agreed that a mainly direct drilling approach to crop establishment, combined with a more varied rotation would help us achieve our objectives. Over this we endeavour to reduce our synthetic inputs, while keeping

a close eye on output. We are very conscious that we need to remain economically viable.

One area we have been very keen to focus on is crop genetic and variety choice is no longer just about maximum. We need strong disease resistance characteristics, early maturity as well as yield. One phrase we use more than ever is 'maximum margin'. In these challenging times maintaining a margin is vital to us.

We are fortunate at Raby in that we have an incredible farm team that are very passionate about farming and achieving our objectives on the farm. This has been made particularly apparent to me as the last couple of

years we have suffered from very wet periods followed by very dry periods and the whole time an incredible amount of effort has gone into timeliness of operations, which has helped us recover from the difficult climatic events. At the end of the day the weather is a massive factor and that we can't control, but we can still influence the harvest outcome by what we do.

Victoria Cadman, our Sustainability Officer is closely monitoring what we do, her areas of interest include, but are not limited to fuel use, yields, and soil factors. We have seen our diesel use fall. I have been fascinated by the significantly different soil changes that she has also picked up, mainly the soil organic matter levels. These are increasing (in the



The Grainco Piercebridge site with the wheat demonstration plots next to the seed plant.

0-150mm soil depth where we measure). Bulk density figures are also looking favourable as we try to move away from intense cultivations. As we see more extreme weather events, soil infiltration rates and water holding capacity become more important and work the Victoria has carried out in cooperation with Durham University has given us hope!

As alluded to above relationships are very important to any business, we have a strong team here at Raby but equally important to me is the relationships we have with the companies that work with us. We are fortunate that we have many exceptional relationships with companies we buy from and sell to.

GrainCo for me, has been a very good example of what can be achieved when like minded companies work together.

Over the past 3 years the relationship between Raby and **GrainCo** has grown and together this has helped us achieve our goals. We have a local seed supplier and a grain customer that share similar values. **GrainCo** is right on our doorstep, providing quality service and seed (sometimes at very short notice) whilst helping us reduce fuel use. Peter in the Seed Plant and James on the Trading Desk have both given us sound advice and worked with me to progress the Raby business.

Our rotations have changed significantly since I have taken over. Before it was very simple 3 crop rotation consisting of Wheat, Barley and OSR. Now we grow wheat, winter and spring barley, OSR, winter and spring beans and rye.



The main wheat varieties we grow are **Typhoon**, **Graham** and **Beowulf** which make up 60% of the wheat area.

Fertiliser applications are split between liquid and solid. The 1st application is one of Granular Urea and we then run a 2nd application of Liquid UAN.


We have also increased the use of organic manure.

This year, in partnership with **GrainCo** is our first wheat trials at Piercebridge, consisting of 14 of all the major varieties including the new addition to the RL including **KWS Arnie**. The plots are field sized which will hopefully give us a true on farm result.


I very much look forward to seeing as many of you at the wheat trials days in early July.

Great results for early sown and light soils



Feed or distilling




G4 soft wheat, great disease resistance

THE #1 SECOND WHEAT! RGT HEXTON

RGT Hexton is the best yielding second wheat on the AHDB Recommended List 2025/2026.

LEARN MORE: [RGT.UK/RGT-HEXTON](https://ragt.uk/rgt-hexton)
+ For more information contact us on 01799 533700 or visit ragt.uk



think SOLUTIONS
think RAGT

Post harvest handling of beans

The Human Consumption market offers a premium over feed for beans that are good bright colour, free from insect damage (contract spec is max 6% holes and internal insects), cracks and of a good size.

Post harvest wet beans quickly deteriorate especially when over 20% moisture. It can be difficult to measure the moisture content of beans and this can lead to not realising how wet they actually are. Beans should be dried and cleaned immediately post-harvest and if over 20% this should be done in 2 stages to avoid beans turning black. It is difficult to avoid beans cracking when dried from over 20%,

drying with a low heat in a continuous flow dryer or on floor are the best methods. Mobile dryers tend to turn beans grey, at which point they are then only suitable for feed. Once dried it is important to cool the beans with low volume ventilation. Beans should be dried to under 15% moisture. The storage of beans is also very important as beans against porous walls can lead to dry beans turning black.

Beans discolour in sunlight, so it is best to store them in dark sheds. Do not mix last years beans with new crop, this is obvious even when they are put at the bottom of the load - If this is done the whole load will be downgraded to feed.

If you are unable to dry beans, or are not confident of maintaining the quality yourself, Grainco can do this work for you. Grainco will also test the moisture of your beans. It is possible to get a human consumption premium for beans that are harvested very wet if they are dealt with promptly. This year we have seen several samples that have been rejected from the feed market due to black and mouldy beans if immediate action isn't taken.

When looking for varieties to grow choose ones that have large seed (high thousand seed weight), the winter variety **Vincent** and the spring variety **Genius** both look promising.





Winter oilseed rape, companion crops and establishment schemes

Since the ban on neonicotinoid seed dressings, the area of OSR grown throughout the UK has declined. Previous to Autumn 24, wet weather during the drilling period, flea beetle and slug damage along with pigeons in the spring have only added to the difficulties in growing this crop successfully.

However, the OSR that was drilled for harvest 25 is looking good. With the favourable drilling conditions last Autumn allowed strong crop establishment. The flea beetles barely came, and all looked close to perfect leading into and over the winter months. Pigeon damage has been a concern for quite a few farmers this spring, but hopefully with the ability to apply fertiliser early, the crops will recover within plenty of time before the combines roll through.

Here are a few of the key varieties on offer to look out for from **GrainCo**:

LG Adapt

Joint top of the current RL with very high oil content, looks to be the hybrid variety of choice for 2025.

LG Avenger

Only variety on the RL with Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle resilience, exceptional Autumn & Spring Vigour.

LG Armada

Highest Yielding Hybrid on the RL last season, good all-rounder.

Pinnacle Conventional

Highest Yielding Conventional on the RL, Born and bred in the UK.

Scorpion

Club Root Resistant - Fully loaded with traits including pod shatter, with robust disease package.

The majority of our OSR seed for Autumn 2025 is sourced on an over yeared basis, and we aim to get all orders despatched and on to farm by the end of July/early August.

Companion crops

A useful tool to aid establishment of OSR, and to deter flea beetle if they are to become prevalent again is the use of companion cropping. Many farmers have used this practice for several years now, with results coming back mainly positive.

Our preferred mixture is made up of 3 components: Buckwheat, Berseem Clover and Fenugreek.

The buckwheat grows rapidly camouflaging the OSR seedlings, the berseem clover is a legume that provides a small amount of nutrition along with biomass that competes with weeds and conditions the soil. The fenugreek omits a garlic like odour that repels the flea beetle. Although this is all killed with the application of Kerb, the stems of the buckwheat have proved useful in the reduction of pigeon damage in the spring.

We will be holding a stock of companion crop seed at our stores so

please get in touch if this is of interest to you.

Establishment schemes

Another way to reduce the risk of growing OSR is by using an establishment scheme, which is on offer with most varieties available. The grower is required to register their area of land in OSR within a certain timeframe, and then log whether any crop has failed to establish by another date further into the season. If all criteria are met, then a credit against the cost of the seed will be issued for the failed area.

These schemes have been available for several years now, and became particularly noticeable after the problems of establishing the crops of OSR back in 2023. The successful establishment of the crops in 2024 meant that this option was not required, but it could prove useful again in the future with every growing season seemingly very different.

There is a limited quantity of this strategy on offer, and is therefore on a first come, first served basis. So again, please get in touch with your local rep if this could be of interest to you.



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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