



The Barley Forecast

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The English Winter barley harvest is well underway now. With some Winter barleys being cut in the last couple of days of June it is a very early start this year. This has been down to the hot weather that has been consistent in most geographies over the last few weeks. As a consequence moisture levels have been very low – about 3% lower than normal. Nitrogen levels in the crop have generally been acceptable so far but grain size has been smaller than we would ideally like to see which has been down to the heat stress.

Harvesting of the English Spring barley is still 10-14 days away. However there may be some very early land which gives an opportunity for a small amount of combining next week. As mentioned in the previous update, the effect on quality of the wide spread in planting dates this year remains to be seen but it is likely there will be variability in the crop. The hot weather will put continued stress on the Spring barley and could result in high nitrogen and screenings for some farms.

The markets have continued to rally on the back of Spring barley quality concerns across Europe due to the hot weather seen across all main barley growing areas. The French will be well into their Spring barley harvesting now with Germany, England, Denmark then Scotland following on in the weeks throughout August and September.

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