



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

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May 2021

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May - The Month for Growth

Keep Lambs Thriving

- Boost Growth with **Cobalt**:
 - New **Superstock Ewe & Lamb** buckets now contain 10% more **Cobalt**
 - **Optigain Lamb** mineral drench.
- **Downland Essential Lamb bolus** will boost growth—with **Cobalt, Selenium & Iodine**
- Glasgow University Vet school trials showed **38% DLWG** increase over untreated
- Reduce reliance on expensive feeds — use **Superstock Lamb Finisher** buckets
- Watch out for **Nematodirus**
- Protect against **Fly Strike**

Look after the Cattle

- Prevent **staggers** with **Downland Extra Magnesium Buckets**
- Treat at Turnout with **Zermex Pour On** for **stomach, Lungworm** & maximise growth rates— don't feed the Worms!
- Clear out **Fluke** in the Summer with Pour ons
- Use **Downland Essential Cattle Plus Cattle bolus**—6 months continuous supply of **Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine & Copper**.
- Remember to vaccinate against **Clostridial diseases, Blackleg** is a killer





Produce more home grown Forage to reduce feeding costs

- Quality grass seed is the foundation of a good sward
- **Downland seed** is very high quality with germination specs much higher than the UK minimum requirement
- In trials Overseeding has increased the feed value per acre of grass by the equivalent of 1.5 tonnes of dried Barley!
- Order Root & Forage crops now, to produce much needed keep during the Winter.

High Nematodirus risk in our Area!

Be vigilant, nematodirus is a particularly nasty disease in lambs, causing a high number of lamb deaths and stunting the growth of many others.

First choice for sheep when staggers is a risk **OPTI-LIX SHEEP MAG**

<p>HIGH MAGNESIUM</p> <p>8% Magnesium</p> <p>Fortified with vitamins, minerals and trace elements including protected zinc</p> 	<p>HIGH SUGARS</p> <p>37% readily available sugar, enhancing palatability</p> 	<p>HIGH ENERGY</p> <p>10.5 ME MJ/Kg DM</p> <p>To support milk production post lambing</p> 	 <p>• Palatable High Magnesium • Controlled intake</p> <p>DOWNLAND PARTNERS IN FARMING HEALTH</p>
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Arable Update – May 2021

Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat	May21 @ £178 - 182 /t
MATIF OSR	May21 @ £424 - 430 /t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	@ £275 - £290 /t
Current wheat growth stage	GS32/33 2 nd /3 rd Node
Current OSR growth stage	GS60 - 70 Flowering

Overview

April has been a head scratching month. On one hand it has been exceptionally dry and crops are suffering from **drought stress** (**trace element** and **nutrition** issues are very evident): along with this, the depressed temperatures including frosts late into the month have really slowed development with many **Oilseed Rape** crops flowering 10 – 15 days later than normal. Conversely there is a surprising amount of **disease** (especially **Septoria** and **Yellow Rust**) in crops that has, until now, been suppressed by the conditions. When it does warm up and rainfall/humidity levels increase the potential for a foliar **disease** explosion is very real. Rates of **fungicides** have been reduced and lower cost products have been used to try and reflect the conditions and drive down costs. Not doing anything however, is not really an option – the risks are to great (especially with wheat around £180/t for Nov).

Key tasks this month

- **Cereals** will be hitting flag leaf stage from early in the month (**Barley**) and the middle of the month (**Wheat**). This is a crucial stage for crops as 40 - 50% of yield comes from this leaf. Keeping it healthy and green for as long as possible is crucial to **maximise yields**. Weather and disease levels need to be closely watched to ensure that is achieved.
- During the hot, dry conditions in Spring 2020 a number of on farm trials of stress reducing mixes of **trace element** and **plant stimulants** were carried out. These appeared to give positive yield results. If the dry conditions continue then it may be worth considering looking at this as an option.
- Spring crops have been drilled into dry conditions. The majority have established really well with decent populations Many have had pre-emergence **herbicides**, for those that haven't some form of weed control will be required. Please discuss with your agronomist any following crops you have planned as this may dictate the herbicides that can be used
- As mentioned above **Oilseed Rape** is flowering. **Sclerotinia** is a risk in warmer more humid conditions as petals fall onto the stem and stick to it. **Kestrel** applied at early petal drop will reduce the likelihood of disease development.
- **Beet** have been planted widely. Please keep **herbicide** timings on **beet** tight (7 – 10 days) to ensure good weed control. The current **Aphid pressure** is low but will need monitoring closely to ensure virus levels are kept low.