



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

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June 2021

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When Grazed Grass is not Enough

Early season grazed grass is one of the cheapest and most nutritious feeds on farm for ruminant animals, typically containing;

- **20 – 24% protein** (in dry matter; DM),
- Metabolizable energy of **12.5 MJ/kg DM** and above.

These values are higher than in many concentrate feeds therefore good gains in lamb growth are relatively easily achieved at this time of year.

However, by early summer, **DM** and **fibre** levels begin to increase, digestibility decreases and consequently animal performance can reduce or stall. Furthermore, this year in particular, the dry, cold weather in April, followed by the wet May has meant that grass growth has been slow to start which may delay lamb growth.

Supplementary feeding will therefore play an important role in helping to maintain growth and ensure lambs remain on target this year. Furthermore, lambs may finish sooner with the addition of supplementary feeds, freeing up grazing for ewes that are preparing for tupping. The addition of supplementary feeds will often also provide **minerals**, **vitamins** and **trace elements** to balance deficiencies often found in grass, support lamb health and growth.

Superstock Supreme Sheep 40

- A 40% all-natural protein blend ideal for the addition to home grown cereals.
- 85% rolled cereal (oats can be fed whole and up to 30% wheat can be included to increase energy levels compared to barley and oats alone) plus 15% **Superstock Supreme Sheep 40** will provide 15% protein and **13.2 MJ ME/kg DM**.
- In addition, **Superstock Supreme Sheep 40** contains an optimum blend of minerals, vitamins and trace elements, including protected zinc which means no extra supplementation is required.

Superstock Ewe & Lamb 365

- A molassed mineral bucket containing optimum levels of **minerals**, **vitamins** and **trace elements**.
- High levels of **cobalt**, protected zinc and **vitamins B1** and **B12**. This combination of elements will help support lamb growth and health throughout this key period.

Ensure your lambs hit target this year and get the most from the cheapest feed on farm this year with supplementary feeds.

Account Payments

We are finding it more difficult to accept Cheques (and cash) now. There are no Banks in Hay-on-Wye and the Post Office is about to close (unbelievable!)

It would really help us if you would pay your account by Bank Transfer or with a Debit card
Please phone my colleagues in the office on 01497 820410 if you need any more information

Many thanks Rod Jones

Arable Update – June 2021

Market futures averages

UK LIFFE wheat Nov21 @ £175 - 180 /t

MATIF OSR Nov21 @ £450 - 458 /t

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £275 - £285 /t

Current wheat growth stage GS43-47 Flag leaf boot splitting

Current OSR growth stage GS70 Pod formation

Overview



(Septoria Tritici – AHDB)

The rain came and has kept coming... Most crops responded very quickly to the moisture and are moving through the growth stages at a fair old rate. The diseases lurking in the base of crops (**Septoria** in particular – see picture) cycled very quickly and rapidly moved up through the plant during May.

T2 fungicide (Flag or Final leaf timing) have been applied to the majority of crops – if they haven't they should be prioritised. Most of the yield comes from the last 3 leaves of a cereal crop so protecting these is crucial.

Key tasks this month

- Cereals, where they haven't had a **T2 fungicide** need to be treated as priority. An ear wash (**T3**) later in the month at or around flowering will maintain quality, reduce **Fusarium** risk and can add upto 0.4t/ha of yield.
- Spring crops have really responded to the rain and look very good. **S Barley** in particular will need constant observation for **Ramularia**. This is a recent disease to the south of the UK but one that can have a big impact on yield. Late application of a **multisite fungicide** such as **Phoenix** can reduce the impacts. As spring crops aren't in the ground for very long it is important they receive decent trace element nutrition – **Manganese**, **Magnesium**, **Zinc**, **Copper** are important for photosynthesis and, spikelet formation and survival.
- Most **OSR** crops are now done for the year. Desiccation and harvest are next!
- Beet and maize plantings and **herbicide** application have been disrupted and delayed by the weather in May. Later drillings will still perform but keeping on top of weed control is crucial. With the colder start to the year **Aphid** populations in beet are lower but it is crucial to keep checking – **1 wingless green aphid** (Peach Potato aphid) per 4 beet plants is the threshold for control.

Providing sound, technical advice

