



# R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

November 2021

## Winter Feeding Critical To Lambing Returns

We always talk about feeding management of Ewes at Flushing & Pre tugging. But Ewe Nutrition is needed in Mid Pregnancy for the placenta to grow & develop.

The placenta provides all the nutrients for the unborn lamb in late pregnancy. Poor Placenta development results in small lambs – Irrespective of late pregnancy feeding. SAC trials show that Cobalt deficiency in first half of pregnancy produces lambs that are slower to stand & suckle, and more prone to neonatal disease.

*"Inadequate nutrition in early/mid-pregnancy cannot be compensated for later on in pregnancy and can result in the production of smaller and weaker lambs with higher mortality."*

Opti-Lix High Energy provides a very palatable and available source of minerals, trace elements and vitamins and is ideal for feeding Ewes.

## Opti-Lix Buckets versus Concentrates

### Buckets

### Concentrates

Up to 10% improvement forage digestibility	Replaces cheap good quality grazing (substitution effect)
Replaces up to 3 x its weight in cake	More expensive
Supports rumen function	Risks of acidosis
Convenient	Labour intensive
"Round the clock" availability	Limited availability
Shy feeders get their share	Dominant animals overconsume
More even group performance	Uneven group performance
Suitable for outwintered stock	Difficult to feed on wet ground



**Amanda from the Office is leaving us after 22 years due to childcare commitments. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best in the future.**

Hay: 01497 820410

Hereford: 01432 769527

Abergavenny: 01873 858300

Ledbury: 01531 806130

# Housing Cattle—should I Worm or Wait?

We have more options now, with a specific pour on Flukicide available this autumn. Bring in a dung sample, we can do a Fecpak test and decide the best way forward. Talk to us about what is best for **your** farm

## Don't Fluke it up!

*Did you know as little as 50 Fluke per animal can reduce weight gain by 10%*

If you need to control fluke in your sheep then you should control fluke in your cattle too - because this parasite affects both sheep and cattle. Otherwise the fluke infestation on your farm will be prolonged, leaving losses from this disease to continue unchecked. Integrating cattle and sheep treatments can break this cycle.

Please talk to us about product choice & timing

## Arable Update – November 2021

**UK LIFFE Wheat** May22 @ £212 - 218/t

**MATIF OSR** May22 @ £542 - 548/t

**Current Wheat growth stage:** GS12 - 21

**Current OSR growth stage:** GS15 - 20

## Overview

A kinder autumn has allowed for better crop establishment conditions. Unfortunately slow deliveries of seed has meant that some cereals have not yet been planted. There is still plenty of time to plant wheat and oat crops successfully. Maintain appropriate seed rates at least 375 - 425+ seeds/m<sup>2</sup> (at a TGW of 50 this equates to around 190 - 210kg/ha or 75 - 85kg/acre).

Fertiliser prices are proving **VERY** challenging to justify. Hopefully there will be soon be some clarity to what is going to happen in the market. Break even ratios for nitrogen are currently around 9:1 which is historically as high as its ever been. We are working with **ORIGIN** and **AGRII** to try and produce some crop nutrition options and ideas going forward.

## Tasks

**OSR** The vast majority of OSR has escaped the worst ravages of Flea Beetle. Crops are well established and set up. Phoma and LLS control is either required now or in the next 3 - 5 weeks. Some broad leaved weed control may be required to tidy up any escaped frustrating weeds eg Groundsel. Where Blackgrass is problem, Clethodim and Propyzamide based products will be required.

**Cereals** Most cereals have been drilled and are well established. Aphid control, if not applied, will be required especially on Barley and Oats. Keep watching for slugs - there are a few out there.

**Seed** Start planning your seed requirements for the spring. We can help you with budget plans (especially in light of fertiliser costs). Early ordering of seed will help reduce your seed cost and ensure timely delivery on farm.

## Online and web based events

We hope to have a number of on-line catch ups and webinars over the winter with guest speakers. If you have ideas on what topics would be of interest please let us know.