



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

February 2022

Did you know 38% of Lambing Deaths are due to Infections*

Planning successful Lambing without relying on Antibiotics such as Spectam.

Prebiotics

Prebiotics are designed to feed the beneficial bacteria present in the gut. More beneficial bacteria make it harder for pathogenic bacteria, such as E.Coli, to establish a foothold in the lamb's gut. **Downland Lamb Boost** is a source of energy with a prebiotic and a powerful antioxidant blend. Encouraging a healthy gut environment and lamb survival

Beneficial Bacteria

A large dose of a specific beneficial bacteria, can help improve/restore gut flora. . **Provita Lamb Response** contain 1 billion bacteria per ml. It also contains a high energy base and vitamins that counter common deficiencies in lambs.

Environment

Prevention is better than a cure. Ensure the lambing environment is kept clean and use fresh straw. We stock a range of disinfection product to help maintain a clean environment. It is important that sterilant is applied to a surface free from muck, otherwise you will not effectively kill the pathogenic bacteria.

- **Iodine** - Ensuring Navels are double dipped with **STRONG** iodine. **Downland Iodine** is 10% strength
- **Bactibed**—helps keep bedding dry and helps prevent the growth of potentially pathogenic bacteria such as E.Coli
- **Milton**—Keep bottles and tube feeders clean, as these present a huge risk for cross-contamination between lambs.
- **Blitz**- Effective against all viruses and bacteria, does not cause mis-mothering and you can re-stock immediately after use. Ideal for spraying pens between lambing

Colostrum. 3Qs – Quality, Quantity, Quickly

Ewes colostrum is always the best but, if the ewe isn't milky and there's none in the freezer to defrost then use **Downland Lamb Force** colostrum – knocks the socks off the competition with the highest levels of antibodies (Cambridge University trials). Feed 50mg/kg LW at birth and then every 6hrs for the first 24hrs.

Milk Powder

Quality milk powders give the best results and **Downland Lamb Force** with **Pro Zest** stands head and shoulders above the rest – trials show a 3kg LWG advantage over well-known competitor brands: that's the benefit of using powder based on ewe's milk with added probiotics. Feed warm or cold, by bottle or ad lib, available in conventional and freeflow versions. Now with a **£100** cashback for 1 tonne deliveries

Lambing Webinars

Don't worry if you missed our lambing webinars, the recordings can be found on our YouTube channel, just search for R.M.Jones on YouTube. We've had some great talks, most recently with Harriet Fuller Sheep Vet Specialist.

*Source: Shiels et al 2018

Arable Update – February 2022

UK LIFFE Wheat May22 @ £216 - 218/T

MATIF OSR May22 @ £575 - 588/T

AN34.5% Fertiliser: £640/t Jan Full Load

Current Wheat growth stage: GS20 - 25

Current OSR growth stage: GS20 - 30

Crop Nutrition

It goes without saying but the fertiliser market is not an enjoyable place to have to visit currently. Ultimately crops do need Nitrogen to produce any sort of yield be that combinables, roots, grassland or forage crops. There are a number of steps you can take to reduce your reliance on purchased fertiliser and make it less painful;

1. Have a clear idea what you want from your crop – yield, quality, output, financial return.
2. Understand what it needs nutritionally to achieve your aims. Have you done a recent soil analysis and do you have a reasonably accurate idea on soil nitrogen reserves? Talk to your agronomist – they can give you the right advice on nutrient planning for each crop. This will give you a plan that maximises the potential of each crop, minimises surplus purchased nutrition and reduces costs.
3. Utilise the nutrients on farm first e.g. organic manures, legumes. Effective and targeted use of these is your first step to reducing costs. Matching nutrient availability to crops where they will be best utilised. Get your dung sampled to ensure you know what your spreading. The Farming Rules for Water have made life more challenging for Autumn spreading of organic manure but finding ways to utilise them in the spring can give you more bang for your buck.
4. Look at alternative products eg OENS Urea vs AN34.5 – OENS is approx. 10p/kgN less costly than AN34.5, has a lower Carbon footprint and can be applied throughout the season.

Option 1	500kg/ha AN34.5/ha (4cwt/acre)	£320/ha (£128/acre)	
Option 2	250kg/ha 40N14S (2cwt/acre) +	£188/ha (£75.20/acre)	Early application
	160kg/ha Enhance Urea (1.3cwt/acre)	£129/ha (£51.60/acre) £317/ha (£127/acre)	Mid-season application

This gives a **£3/ha** saving but also applies 35kg Sulphur.

5. Through Origin we can provide a wide range of products that can simplify application but provide a complete nutrition package in one product.
6. We have a stock of **Efficient N28** for late application to cereals, OSR and maize. This, though not normally cost effective, is competitive this year to apply as a late season dose of N to crops to build protein, oils and starch content.
7. We can organise payment terms for fertiliser if required.

Tasks

- Nitrogen on Winter Barleys, backward wheats and Oilseed Rape
- Preparing ground for Spring cropping – have you bought your seed yet? Talk to us for varieties that perform on your farm
- Growth regulation and LLS control in Oilseed Rape

January Farm Walk postponed until later in February

Our next farm walk will take place towards the end of February. The topic for discussion is fertiliser (N in particular) and how to get the best out of what you have. We have a couple of speakers lined up and hopefully some manufacturer presence to support it. Dates to follow – please keep in touch with your agronomist and the Farmcentres for more information.

NROSO – February

COVID notwithstanding, we are hope to run a couple of NROSO events in Feb so you can earn those much needed points. Topics this year come under the acronym “CAST” – Current Issues, Adjuvants, Sprayer