



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

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The Natural Choice at Topping

Topping is one of the most critical times of the sheep production cycle, setting the standard for a healthy lamb crop five months down the line.

The main aim at topping time is to **maximise ovulation rate** and **conception**, which impacts on the number of lambs sold per ewe which has a direct effect on **profitability**.

Ewe body condition score has a profound effect on breeding success, which ultimately relies on getting nutrition right, not just before, but also after mating. The current recommended optimal condition score for **hill** and **lowland** ewes is **2.5** and **3.5** respectively.

Providing a high energy lick such as **Sheep Natural Energy**, containing high quality natural protein, will help support ewe fertility and topping success, which will influence overall lamb output. Supplementing ewes at this time will help maintain nutrition levels during and after mating when **grazing quality declines**.

This bucket also contains a range of essential minerals including; **Selenium** to support fertility, **Iodine** to support foetal development and **Cobalt** to support fertility and lamb vigour. Also **Vitamins** required for good reproductive performance, and **Fish Oil** which helps support ovulation and potential pregnancy rates.

Supporting topping success with Sheep Natural Energy:

- **13.5ME** to support ewe condition
- **Fish oil** as a rich source of **Omega-3 fatty** acids to support ewe and tup fertility
- **Protected Zinc** to support healthy hooves
- High levels of **Vitamin E** and **Selenium** for easier lambing and thrifty lambs
- Offer 2 weeks pre-topping for a total of 8 weeks, or earlier if quality grass is poor



Downland Fresh Start

Rearing calves is always a challenge but providing consistent milk ingredients every day is one of the most effective ways to improve health and performance. Low heat skim milk is the basis of the **Downland Fresh Start** range of calf milks. It is made in the one factory from milk from the same cows all year round. The ease of mixing ensures the fat and vitamins included are intact when mixed and the flavour ensures calves are primed to drink every feed. Using low heat skim milk allows the calf to digest the milk slowly throughout the day reducing stress on calves. The Downland range has reared more than 400,000 calves over the last 10 years and has been used on some farms for over 30 years.

Flydown Spot-on Solution for Cattle

- **Easy dosing – no need to weigh – 10ml dose**
- 17 day meat withdrawal for cattle
- **Zero milk withdrawal for cattle**
- Pack sizes: 250ml, 500ml, 1L, 2.5L

Farm **productivity** and **animal welfare** can be improved by the all-important application of an **external parasite** treatment in cattle.

Protect you Growing Lambs from Disease Threats

With lamb prices remaining strong, it's important to make sure lambs are vaccinated against **pasteurellosis** and the main **clostridial** diseases.

If ewes are on a **Heptavac-P** program and have been boosted in the run up to lambing then their lambs will also gain immunity from drinking her colostrum. But this so called passive immunity only lasts for so long. Lambs that receive a good intake of colostrum only have antibodies against **pasteurella** for up to four weeks and **clostridia** for up to 12 weeks.

Lambs can be protected by vaccination with either **Heptavac-P** or **Ovivac-P** from three weeks of age. The primary course involves two 2ml vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart. The first dose is a primer, while the second produces effective immunity. Animals to be kept for breeding (i.e. those previously vaccinated with **Heptavac-P**) simply need a booster of **Heptavac-P** within 12 months. Given at the same time as the rest of the flock get their annual pre-lambing booster, with an annual booster 4-6 weeks before lambing every year thereafter.

Arable Update – August 2022

UK LIFFE wheat Nov22 @ 255– 260 /t

MATIF OSR Nov22 @ £525 - 535 /t

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £850 /870

Current wheat growth stage Harvest

Current OSR growth stage Harvested

Comments

Winter Barleys have come off. Yields have been reasonably good where early N was applied. Forage crops are being planted but hot, dry conditions are slowing establishment. Keep an eye out for **Flea Beetle!**

Tasks

Fodder Beet

- **Fungicide** and **Trace elements** need to be applied as soon as possible. **Cercospora**, **Mildew** and **Rust** are the key targets for disease control with **Magnesium** and **Boron** required to maintain green area and root quality. There is a good data to show that a second fungicide has a positive effect on yield where crops are harvested after Christmas.

Brassicas

- Keep an eye on **Flea Beetle** – at the first sign of leaf pepper potting control is likely to be required.



Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)

There has been a lot of interest over the last few to measure nutrient use efficiency in crops. In particular **Nitrogen** content and **Macro elements (Ps and Ks)**. This can be measured by taking a small grain sample and analysing mineral content. The data produced can highlight both offtake from the crop and also where crop nutrition can be improved next year. Please give us a call to discuss.