



R.M. JONES Newsletter

November 2022

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

Winter Feeding Critical To Lambing Returns

We always talk about feeding management of Ewes at **Flushing & Pre-tupping**, 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 Vs. 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



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. **Talk to us about what is best for YOUR farm now we have specific flukicide pour-on available.** We can do a Faecal egg count so you only treat for what is there.

Arable Update – November 2022

UK LIFFE wheat Nov 22 @ 260—270/t

MATIF OSR Nov 22 @ £535—545/t

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £930+/-

Current Wheat growth stage GS0—21

Current OSR growth stage GS12—23

Comments

Most cereal crops have established very well with decent seedbeds (although soils in some situations have been very hard). Seed rates will need to be increased as we get into November – **450seeds/m² (approx. 225kg/ha)** is a good target.

Keep an eye for slugs – they are around especially after rape and on cobbly ground.

Tasks

Oilseed Rape

- Most weed control is up together. A late **Propyzamide** application eg **Kerb**, **CC Forward**, **AstroKerb** is generally required to give persistent control into the new year and to clean up background **grass weeds** and **Blackgrass**
- Disease levels have been low but **Phoma** is there and ideally, will need treating this Autumn. Very few crops are in need of **Growth Regulation** as they are on the smaller size this year. Products like **Kestrel** and **Angle** will provide good disease control

Cereals

- Most crops are set up for the winter and will need little or no input going forward.
- Where **Blackgrass** is an issue there is scope to apply a late top up dose of **Flufenacet** eg **CC Jab** to help take out emerging **Blackgrass** seedlings.

Beans

- **Pre-emergence herbicides** are the best weed control solution as there are limited post-emergence controls
- Keep seed rates around **27–30 seeds/m²** and ideally **75–100mm** deep.

Slugs

There are **4 species** but the two main ones are **the Grey Slug** and the **Keeled Slug**. Slugs will hollow out seed (especially wheat) and strip leaves all the way up to tillering stage in cereals. They will graze the growing stem off young Rape plants. Warm, moist conditions are ideal for slugs but they can survive towards freezing. Open, cloddy, heavy or silty soils favour slugs with reduced tillage systems most prone to issues.

Cultivations help reduce egg survivability and firm, well consolidated seedbeds are the best control methods. Several tiles placed across a field with a spoonful of layers mash under each is a good way of monitoring slug activity. Where thresholds are met (Cereals – 4 slugs under a tile, OSR – 1 slug) then apply **Fe Lyn** slug pellets.



Grey Slug (AHDB)



Keeled Slug (AHDB)



Cereal slug damage

Autumn Farm Event

We are intending to have a farm breakfast event in early December to discuss crop nutrition, fertiliser and nutrient management (including phosphates in water courses – which seems topical!). Please let your agronomist or a Farmcentre know if you are interested in attending.