



# R.M.JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

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## February 2023

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

Planning successful Lambing without relying on Antibiotics such as Spectam.

#### Prebiotics

\*Source: Shiels et al 2018

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 products to help maintain a clean environment. It is important that sterilant is applied to a surface free from muck, otherwise you will not kill pathogenic bacteria effectively .

- **Iodine** - Ensuring Navels are double dipped with **STRONG** iodine. **Downland Iodine** is 10% strength . Iodine supplies are tight this year, so speak to us about your requirements.
- **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



#### **“I'm Hannah, the new trainee agronomist here at R.M.Jones.**

A little bit of information about me; I'm 23, from South Wales and have a BSc in Physical Geography and Geology from the University of Plymouth, as well as an MSc in Sustainable Crop Production: Agronomy for the 21st Century, from the University of Warwick. Prior to working for R.M.Jones I worked on a large dairy unit, in the Vale of Glamorgan.

My passion for agronomy has grown over the years, from the days of riding the combine with my grandfather, right through to my university education in Warwick. I look forward to my future as an agronomist, with skills and knowledge to help feed the world, in the most sustainable and environmentally friendly ways possible.”

# Arable Update – February 2023

## Comments

*Wet, cold, wet, cold – must be winter.*

It has been quite a tough end to autumn and early winter so far with a wetter and warmer than average November and an above average rain December. The cold in particular has had an impact on Oilseed Rape crops stopping leaf growth and taking out any Charlock and Runch. Beet crops have been frosted in places – lift and use quickly will be important this year.

## Tasks

**Barley** If conditions allow an early application of approx. 50% of the crop N in mid Feb will help keep tillers alive

**OSR** The cut off date for Propyzamide application was the 31st Jan. If this hasn't gone on please talk to your agronomist for options

GAI index monitoring will give a good indication of Nitrogen requirements. Each GAI unit means the crop has captured 50kgN/ha.



GAI = 0.6

GAI = 1.8

<b>UK LIFFE Wheat May23</b>	£220 - £225/t
<b>MATIF OSR May23</b>	£470 - £480/t
<b>AN34.5% Fertiliser</b>	£690 +/-

<b>Current wheat GS</b>	13 - 24
<b>Current OSR GS</b>	20 - 29

### Technical Corner – Tiller Formation

Tillers are extra side shoots that are produced by the plant to maximise the potential for seed production.

#### More Tillers = More Ears

Not all tillers will go on to produce fertile seed heads. Once the plant reaches its reproductive stage at the end of its tillering phase (GS31) it will partition nutrient to the primary shoot and, if enough nutrient is available, to the tillers. Gradually surplus tillers will die off.

Tillers number are related to the leaf number. A new leaf forms after 122deg days (the Phyllochron - cumulative temperature measurement). A tiller can form at the base of each new leaf as it forms. Tillers can form on tillers but rarely survive. Over a 1000 shoots can form per m<sup>2</sup>

### How do we keep them alive?

- We don't need all the tillers but need enough to produce 400+ ears/m<sup>2</sup>.
- Drilling date and seed rate in good conditions (260 plants/m<sup>2</sup> established)
- Early nitrogen (especially on Barley and thin crops)
- Effective PGRs to manipulate tiller growth

## NROSO – “Back to Basics”

We held one of our annual NROSO talks in January. 30 farmers earned their 10 NROSO points for farm assurance by updating on First Aid, Lone Working, What Three Words and how to get the best output and performance from their sprayers. We have an online course set for the evening of the 9th February.

### Farm Sprayer Day and Crop Walk

This is practical midday/early afternoon practical session on how to get the best from your sprayer, updates on new products and a crop walk. **16th February, Dorstone AM**

Please contact [ask@rmjones.com](mailto:ask@rmjones.com) or **01497 820410** if you wish to attend either of these events.

### Fertiliser and Seed

Fertiliser prices have dropped significantly since the beginning of December. The main issue will be supply. If you need some talk to us as soon as possible as the production has been drastically cut so availability may now suffer.

Seed – talk to us about spring seed including beet and maize.