



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

September 2023

The Start of the Sheep Year

“You only get one chance a year to raise a lamb crop and make a profit – you have to get it right first time”

Tupping time marks the start of the farming year all over again and provides the foundation for a potential profitable lamb crop five months down the line.

How you manage your flock over the next couple of months will be key to a successful lambing and a profitable lamb crop.

Ewe body condition influences ovulation rate and so has a significant affect on the number of ewes that become pregnant and eventually carry their lambs through to lambing time.

Preparation for Tupping

Last summer, high temperatures affected grazing and forage availability and impacted not only last year's finishing lamb crop but also this year's lambing performance. This year, a variable summer has meant grazing is plentiful, however, quality is largely **below the previous 3-year average**. In particular, ME & protein levels have generally been below average, particularly across the summer and this may have limited ewe body condition score recovery post-weaning. Furthermore, **grass sugar levels are significantly reduced** resulting in lower fermentable carbohydrate levels and limited microbial protein synthesis.

Offering **Sheep Natural Energy** alongside grass at this time of year can help support ewe body condition score. The combination of minerals, vitamins and trace elements including **selenium, zinc, iodine** and **cobalt** balance deficiencies often seen in grazing. **Sheep Natural Energy** also contains **Omega-3 fatty acids** from fish oil for optimal fertility.

Sheep Natural Energy is also suitable for finishing lambs on forage and/or root systems – offering extra energy and protein to support lamb growth.

What about Trace elements?

Boost **Cobalt, Selenium** and **Iodine** levels with **Downland Essential Sheep bolus** – releases trace elements every day for **6 months**.

Trace elements and **Vitamins** also available with **Optigain** drench. Inadequate **Cobalt** at Tupping reduces Lamb vitality at birth.

Treat and Quarantine Any New Stock - for the sake of your land

Don't bring resistant worms and scab onto your farm – because the resistant worms will infest not only your existing stock but also your pastures for many years to come. Use a Quarantine (Farm Protection) dose. Talk to us about the best option.

Clear out Scab & Worms

Talk to us about the best treatments as not all ewes will need a straight wormer at this time of year and there are some resistance issues for injectables against scab.

Buy 10, get 1 Free on Sheep Natural Energy Buckets available until the end of October

Arable Update – September 2023

Technical Corner - Stubble Management:

With harvest well and truly underway it's important to think ahead to how those stubbles left behind will be managed to get next year's crops off to the best start. An integrated approach is most effective and includes 3 main practices aimed at encouraging early weed germination and eradication prior to drilling.

1. Cultivations- surface cultivations can be used to mechanically destroy weeds or to encourage rapid germination of weed seeds depending on the timing of cultivations. They also help to break down remaining crop residue which destroy potential slug habitats. Deep cultivations aim to bury weed seeds at depth, preventing germination. This method of control has proved effective in the control of temperamental grass weeds such as **blackgrass**, **sterile brome** and **wild oats**.

2. Delayed Drilling- drilling later in the season and leaving the seedbed undisturbed for longer allows more weeds to germinate and be destroyed. This results in a cleaner seedbed for the following crop to establish in.

3. Stale Seedbed- leaving a consolidated, cultivated seedbed for at least 2 weeks prior to drilling encourages rapid weed flushes which can be sprayed off using **glyphosate**. If time allows, a first and second flush of weeds can be hit (this includes weeds suppressed by other allelopathic weeds such as wild oats)- prior to drilling- with glyphosate. No more than 2 applications of glyphosate are recommended prior to drilling and adhering to the correct volumes is imperative for effective weed control and resistance risk reduction. Addition of an adjuvant to glyphosate such as, **Newman V7**, dramatically enhances herbicide efficacy by encouraging faster plant uptake.

These methods whether utilised alone or in unison help to:

- Minimise regrowth from half buried seeds.
- Stop green bridges (weeds), allowing the transfer of pests and diseases such as **Flea Beetle** and **BYDV** into your crops.
- Reduce the number of volunteers which can harbour and provide a feed source, to slugs and **Flea Beetle**.

UK LIFFE Wheat Nov23	£185 - £195/t
MATIF OSR Nov23	£390- £410/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£350 +/-

Current wheat GS	—
Current OSR GS	GS00—GS15

Comments

Harvest has been a bit frustrating! 2023 will not go down as a vintage year for many. Yields have, for the most part been average to middling with a surprising amount of flat wheat. This next cropping cycle will hopefully be far less volatile and positive (weather permitting).

Tasks

OSR

Some of the really fast establishing hybrid Oilseed varieties can be planted into early Sept quite happily. Ideally the cut-off should be around the 10th Sept but we have seen crops planted on the 20th Sept and get away well (in good conditions...) Remember as you get later ensure that your seed rate goes up. Stretching a 3ha bag to fit 4ha in Mid Aug is one thing but it will only do 3ha in Mid Sept!

Pre-em herbicides are the best weed control program for your OSR. There are a number of cash back assurance schemes available if your OSR fails (subject to conditions). Please ask for more info.

Cereal

Barley will be planted from the middle of the month. There has been a lot of BYDV around this year. On Barley in particular it is important to control the aphid vectors. This can be carried out from the 2 – 3 leaf stage of the crop. In a mild autumn it may be necessary to go through again 6 weeks later.

Seed and seed cleaning

Give us a call if you need seed or seed cleaning carried out. All our seed is packed in 500kg bags and is produced to a higher standards than HVS. We have all the key seed dressings including Vibrance Duo, Signal and Latitude with more specialist ones available if required.