



R.M. JONES Newsletters

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

January 2024

Make Every Lamb Count!

Lowland Spring Lambing (per Ewe) - Selling lambs off grass

Performance level	Low	Average	High
Lambs born per 100 Ewes	147	166	184
Average price per lamb	£89	£94	£99
	£	£	£
Lamb Sales	£115	£141	£167
Wool	£2	£2	£2
Less Ewes & Depreciation	£27	£27	£27
Output per Ewe	£89	£115	£142
Variable Costs	£	£	£
Concentrates	£20	£19	£18
Vet. & Med	£11	£11	£11
Miscellaneous & Transport	£16	£16	£16
Forage Variable costs (inc bought)	£16	£14	£13
Gross Margin per Ewe	£26	£55	£84
Stocking rate (ewes, with lambs per forage acre	3.2	3.6	4.0
Gross Margin per Forage Acre	£86	£201	£339

This extract taken from "Farm Management Pocketbook" by John Nix. 2024 54th Edition

The gap between the high & the low performing flocks is dramatic at **£58 per Ewe** and **£253 per acre**. Care of your pregnant ewes and attention to detail at Lambing is going to be crucial this year, as we have been hearing some low early scanning percentages. We can help you make every lamb count by getting the best out of the medicines, nutrition and supplements that help boost ewe and lamb vitality and survivability, increasing your gross margin.

Upcoming Events

Date	Subject	Content	Location	How to book
11 Jan	Pre/Early post lambing nutrition. Tips on creating a stress free successful lambing	How to get nutrition right around lambing. What a good lambing yard looks like. (This is a follow up to our October talk on mid-season nutrition)	Online	Call 01497 820410 for an online link
18 th Jan	Maximising grass and forage performance	Sward composition, rectifying issues, overseeding, forage brassicas and other ideas	Online	Call 01497 820410 for an online link

Arable Update – January 2024

Comments

Hopefully Christmas has allowed most of you to take stock of your current cropping and figure out an updated crop plan going forward. Many of you will have cereals that need patching up, especially headlands and wet areas. Most varieties of wheat can be planted out until the end of January and some, Skyfall can, in reasonable conditions, be planted into March.

Tasks

Cereals

Early N will be crucial this spring to help crops build tiller numbers. This is especially important in Winter Barley crops. The earliest date that N can be applied is from 16th January, if conditions allow, be ready to go.

Weed control will need to be completed on a number of crops. Most products on farm can still be applied however check with your agronomist before spraying

OSR

Even though some OSR looks pretty ropey there is a good chance it will perform. The minimum plants required to achieve a respectable yield is 10 plants/m².

Again early N is crucial to build yield. Target GAI by Green Bud is 3.5, every unit of GAI equates to 50kgN/ha in the crop. By late Jan we should have a good idea where crops are going to be.

Soil management

Quite a few soils will have taken a battering post maize, potatoes or beet. Each field needs assessing carefully to make the right decision to alleviate compaction, prevent erosion and reduce soil and nutrient loss. Talk to your agronomist for ideas.

UK LIFFE Wheat May24	£190 - £200/t
MATIF OSR May24	£380- £390/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£365 +/-

Current wheat GS	GS12–22
Current OSR GS	GS20—GS24

Technical Corner Useful Dates:

January 1st

Beginning of the year for assessing organic manure applications to crops and grassland

January 1st

You can apply high RAN organic manures to sandy and shallow soils as long you comply with FRW and NVZ legislation. (See SMR1)

January 16th

You can apply manufactured Nitrogen to crops (See SMR1)

February 1st

You can apply high RAN organic manures to all soil types from this date as long as you comply with FRW and NVZ legislation (See SMR1)

March 1st

You cannot cut or trim hedges from this date (You can coppice and hedge lay until the 30th April) (GAEC 7a/7C)

NRoSO ‘Keeping Safe, Legal and Productive’

You will be pleased to know there is no online test this year and that slide count has dropped dramatically!! The dates are:

January 30th Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch

February 13th Rhydspence Inn, Whitney on Wye

Ring Hay-on-Wye Farmcentre on 01497 820410 to book a spot. Limited Spaces Available

This will cost £60 exVAT which includes £15 non-refundable deposit to BASIS for the NRoSO printed hand book

This workshop will be worth **10 CPD** points for NRoSO and **8 CPD** points for BASIS members