



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

February 2024

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

Vaccine Supply Issues:

Heptavac P and Clostridial vaccines are very short again this year. Please talk to us about options for your flock.

Prebiotics

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

Environment

Prevention is better than a cure. Ensure the lambing environment is kept clean and use fresh straw. We stock a range of disinfection product to help maintain a clean environment. It is important that sterilant is applied to a surface free from muck, otherwise you will not effectively kill the pathogenic bacteria.

- **Iodine** — Ensuring Navels are double dipped with **STRONG** iodine. **Downland Iodine** is 10% strength
- **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. This now falls under the Explosive Precursor Act, so requires a photo ID when buying for the first time.

Colostrum. 3Qs – Quality, Quantity, Quickly

Ewes colostrum is always the best but, if the ewe isn't milky and there's none in the freezer to defrost then use **Downland Lamb Force** colostrum – knocks the socks off the competition with the highest levels of antibodies (Cambridge University trials). Feed 50mg/kg LW at birth and then every 6hrs for the first 24hrs.

Milk Powder

Quality milk powders give the best results and **Downland Lamb Force** with **Pro Zest** stands head and shoulders above the rest. Trials show a 3kg LWG advantage over well-known competitor brands: that's the benefit of using powder based on ewe's milk with added prebiotics. Feed warm or cold, by bottle or ad lib, available in conventional and freeflow versions.

Lambing Webinars

Don't worry if you missed our lambing webinars, the recordings can be found on our YouTube channel, just search for R.M.Jones on YouTube. We've had some great talks, most recently with Dr Alision Bond on Pre Lambing Nutrition and Lamb Shed Management : www.youtube.com/@rmjones

**Source: Shiels et al 2018*

Arable Update – February 2024

Comments

Its not been the most inspiring start to a year! Weather, crop conditions, unexciting grain prices... The good thing is that there are many well set up crops and that input prices, especially fertiliser have tumbled to a more realistic level. The crucial thing now is to make the most of the crops in the ground, to get them going and try and reach their economic potential to make you a decent margin. Talk to your agronomist about what you want to realistically achieve from each crop and set a budget for each field!!

Tasks

Cereals

Weed control is still outstanding on many crops, some of the weeds will be a lot bigger than usual and some of the Blackgrass may be very hard to control effectively. As long as weather conditions are suitable then early weed control will be better than late control.

Early N and P releasing nutrition enhancers will be really useful in getting plants to root harder and develop more resilience for the season ahead. Please see the technical article About AGRII Start Release



OSR

Nutrition, nutrition, nutrition... As soon as you can travel and conditions are suitable an early dose of Nitrogen will be crucial.

Weed control and Phoma/LLS is still to do on many farms – Propyzamide based products are not outside their application window. Please talk to us about options.

UK LIFFE Wheat May24	£180 - £190/t
MATIF OSR May24	£365 - £380/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£330 - £260

Current wheat GS	GS12—23
Current OSR GS	GS20—GS24

Technical Corner P Reserve/Release:

In most soils there is often enough nutrition to build decent yield. The availability of that nutrient, e.g. Phosphate, is where difficulties lie. In good conditions with warm, moist soils, a well developed plant with good roots and access to soil fungi will obtain a acceptable proportion of that nutrient. Under our current conditions it is very unlikely that our plant is able to mine this nutrient effectively due to poor rooting, waterlogging and possible compaction.

As you know P is crucial for root development so the plant is in a catch 22 – limited P availability, poor rooting leading to poor P uptake and so on. Along with this, in the Wye catchment we have real issues around applying P fertilisers. How do we overcome this hurdle?

We've recently had access to a product called **RELEASE** which is formulated similar to root exudate and will help make the soil P more available. This can be applied with an early herbicide and has been shown to release up to 300+kg P/Ha making it available to the plant. Under field trials this has demonstrated consistent wheat yield responses of up to **0.7t/ha**. Talk to your agronomist for more information and give it a trial on your farm. This is the year where we should see big responses.

Updates:

Our next NROSO meetings are on the 13th February at the Rhydspence Inn. The Topic is Back to Basics. If you haven't booked please do so as soon as possible. Ring Hay on Wye Farmcentre on 01497 820410 to book a spot.

Seed.... As you will no doubt be aware spring crop seed supply is challenging. We have access to small amounts as it becomes available. We also have relationships with some local companies who may have some. Please let us know your requirements and we will do our best to secure you seed or point you in the right direction.