



R.M. JONES

Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

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Downland Fresh Start—Calf

Rearing calves is always a challenge but providing consistent milk ingredients every day is one of the most effective ways to improve health and performance. The ease of mixing ensures the fat and vitamins included are intact when mixed and the flavour ensures calves are primed to drink every feed. Using low heat skim milk allows the calf to digest the milk slowly throughout the day reducing stress on calves. The Downland range has reared more than 400,000 calves over the last 10 years and has been used on some farms for over 30 years.

All the **Fresh Start** range include **PRO-ZEST**. Which is a blend of essential active components including fatty acids, that work in synergy to support the intestinal environment in neonate and pre-weaned calves



Boost Lamb Growth with Optigain Lamb

Optigain Lamb is a highly concentrated liquid supplement specifically formulated with key ingredients known to support growth & development in young & growing lambs.

- **Increased Vitamins A, D3 & E**— higher levels of key vitamins to support lamb growth.
- **Increased Cobalt**— essential for Rumen development and production of Vitamin B12.
- **Added Amino Acids**—aids growth & development in young lambs.
- **Higher levels of Vitamin E, Selenium & Natural antioxidants**—to support the natural immune function.

Optigain Lamb helps maintain vigour, performance & balance pasture deficiencies

Dose at around 6 weeks of age.

Specially formulated for growing lambs

OPTIGAIN[®] LAMB

Also available with Copper

A highly concentrated liquid supplement containing key ingredients known to support growth and development in young and growing lambs.

Vitamins A, D3 & E
Key vitamins to support lamb growth

Increased Cobalt
For rumen development

Arable Update – March 2024

Comments

Mmmmm... where to start after a very wet winter? Lots to do, but still no time or place to do it. I would imagine quite a few people are getting frustrated by the weather and the impacts it is having. The inability to travel, the concern over crops in the ground and the fraying patience to get things rolling. How do we proceed? Priorities first....

Cereals

Crop nutrition and weed control are still to start on many farms.

- Where an autumn herbicide hasn't been applied there may well be time to apply one (check labels for latest timings – generally based on growth stage or a calendar date). A residual herbicide now may reduce weed pressure for several months where weeds have just emerged or are yet to emerge. It won't be as effective in a contact situation if larger weeds are present.
- If Blackgrass is the problem it may be a challenge to get meaningful control where no Autumn herbicide has been applied. Contacts like **Hatra** or **Pacifica** will have a better chance of control, but may not tackle strong blackgrass (3 leaf to tillering).
- As mentioned last month there is a good case for Phosphate releasing products (**Release**) this spring to get plants to root effectively
- Crop Nitrogen and Sulphur rates

OSR

A lot of OSR didn't have any **Proyzamide (Kerb)** applied by the end of January. This will leave some holes in weed control – especially Groundsel. **Korvetto** and **Fox** products will give decent a wide spectrum of broad leaved weed control.

As with cereals it is now imperative to get crop nutrition underway. Root development is crucial so **Release** and Nitrogen/Sulphur fertiliser application needs to be prioritised.

Spring Crops

Be patient and put them in when they can get away successfully.

UK LIFFE Wheat May24	£160 - £165/t
MATIF OSR May24	£360 - £370/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£330 - £360

Current wheat GS	GS12—23
Current OSR GS	GS24—GS30

Technical Corner – Nitrogen use:

Crops will soon enter a rapid growth period where Nitrogen (N) demands increase. Achieving the best yield and best economic response are crucial to performance.

This N will need to come from a number of sources including;

- Soil Nitrogen Supply (**SNS**)
- Organic manures
- Manufactured fertiliser

When calculating your N needs it is important to take into account your residual soil N or **SNS**. This is calculated from **soil type, previous cropping and rainfall** (see RB209 guide) or an **NMin** test. The lower the SNS score the lower the level of N in the soil and the higher the crop N requirements. The target N rate is provided in the RB209 charts but can be calculated if required. The level of rainfall this winter will almost certainly have reduced soil N reserves. Along with this you need to know the N content of the crop at the stage you apply.

Depending on your target yield and armed with your SNS figure you can now calculate your N requirements.

As an example;

Prev Crop	Maize
Soil Type	Medium Soil
Rainfall	Over 700mm
This gives an SNS of 1 (using RB209 tables)	
Crop	Winter Wheat (500 shoots)
Target Yield	8t/ha (3.2t/acre)
SNS	1
N Required	220kgN/ha (88kgN/acre or 178units/acre)

This rate should be amended for higher or lower target yields or if milling is required. These figures can be calculated for all crops and different yield targets.

Seed:

...is tight but talk to us and we will help you secure some either from us or putting you in touch with someone who may have some on farm.

SFI:

We are planning an SFI online talk later this month. If you would be interested in attending, please let us know and we will send you online login details. We can help with planning, setting up and administering your SFI applications and schemes. Unlike some “support” out there we will help you identify ideas that work for your farm business, that can integrate into things you already do and highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each item within your farming operation. Please call to discuss.