



R.M. JONES

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

Newsletter

April 2024

Boost Lamb Growth

Trace elements such as Selenium & Cobalt are vital for healthy growing lambs. The Welsh border counties are notoriously deficient in these elements and if they are not balanced then lambs will fail to thrive.

Optigain Lamb is a specially formulated for growing lambs. A highly concentrated liquid supplement containing key ingredients known to support growth & development in young & growing lambs.

It has high levels of **Cobalt, Selenium, Vitamin A, D3 & E**, together with **amino acids**.

To achieve the best lamb prices it is a good plan to finish lambs quickly—**Optigain Lamb** will help with this! For the very best results use before **Essential Lamb Bolus**

Downland Essential Lamb Bolus can be used for lambs over 8 weeks old (25kg) & contains **Cobalt, Selenium & Iodine**. A trial by Glasgow Vet School showed a 38% increase in DLWG compared to untreated.

Vitamin B12 levels increased by 300% and Serum Glutathione (an indicator of **Selenium**) by 100%

SuperStock Ewe & Lamb Bucket— with **Cobalt** and **Vitamin B1** in a 22.5kg buckets.

Downland Opti-lix Extra High Energy— with **Cobalt** levels and **Selenium**.

Cattle Turn Out – Don't Let Worms Reduce Weight Gain

Over half your cattle liveweight gain is achieved in the first 3 months after turnout.

Don't allow Worms and Trace Element deficiencies steal the growth!

Talk to us about alternating your wormer active group with a wormer bolus. We can also check if a Moxidectin treatment has been effective with a pre and post treatment FEC.

Downland Essential Plus Cattle Bolus contains **Cobalt, Iodine, Selenium & Copper** in one bolus application. This is tailor made for our area with the inherent deficiencies in these Trace Elements. Much better value than other boluses – lasts for 6 months.

£6.29/ Bolus for 200kg to 400kg— 3.49 pence per day

£7.98/ Bolus for 400kg upwards—4.43pence per day

Quantity Discounts Available

Turnout is a good time for a booster Clostridial vaccine for your Cattle—protect against Blackleg.

Hay: 01497 820410 | Hereford: 01432 769527 | Abergavenny: 01873 858300 | Ledbury: 01531 806130

Arable Update – April

Comments

Spring doesn't appear to have sprung which is really hampering crucial activities. There are a lot of very good crops out (and some less so!), but they all need investment appropriate to the potential to get the best out of them. Nutrition, as ever, is king and needs to be prioritised.

Cereals

Crop nutrition and weed control are still to start on many farms. With Spring paused the same issues are still widespread so I have repeated last month's task list for cereals.

- 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

OSR

Crops are now starting to flower in many situations. There is a need to check for Pollen Beetle on crops at green/yellow bud stage. Keep an eye out and let your agronomist know if you see any of the tiny black beetles in the buds.

Growth regulation and a fungicide to keep the crop canopy developing and reduce Sclerotinia pressure is a must. We have been using **Highgate** with a lot of success at this timing.

Spring Crops

Be patient and put them in when they can get away successfully. As soil conditions and timing are more compromised than usual it is important to keep seed rates up – 350 – 400 seeds/m² is a good guide to help the plant overcome tillering limitations.

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.

UK LIFFE Wheat May24	£165 - £174/t
MATIF OSR May24	£370 - £390/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£340 - £360

Current wheat GS	GS12—30
Current OSR GS	GS51—GS61

Technical Corner – Soil Texture:

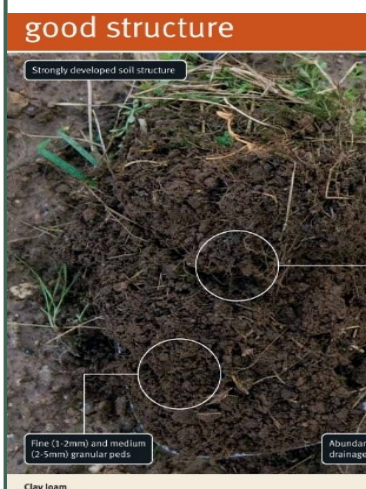
After a very wet winter it is well worth getting the spade out to look at soil structure so that you can make plans on how to resolve issues present.

Poor Soil Structure



- Digs up in large blocks
- Thick horizontal plates with low porosity
- Very dense with high bulk density
- Roots follow limited pathways through the soil and are often shallow and lateral
- Very few roots at depth (below 100mm)
- Mottling and soil discolouration

Good Soil Structure



- Easily fractured soil into small "peds"
- Large number of fissures through the soil profile
- Roots throughout the soil profile to depth
- Larger but easily fractured soil blocks at depth (200mm)