



# R.M. JONES

FARMCENTRES

[www.rmjones.com](http://www.rmjones.com)

## Newsletter

### July 2024

## Weaning: Preparing for the start of the year

The length of time taken for the ewe's ovary to mature means nutrition and **Body Condition Score (BCS)** can influence ovulation as much as 6 months before mating. Unless management plans are put in place now for weaning and beyond, this year's spring grazing may affect next year's lambing percentage and profitability.

Rather than thinking of **weaning** as the end of the production cycle we should think of it as the start. Typically, lambs are **weaned** 8 to 10 weeks **pre-tupping** to allow ewes to recover and gain **BCS** if required. It is recommended that lowland and hill ewes are **BCS 3.5** and **2.5** respectively when going to the tup. This helps to support optimal ovulation rates and ensure pregnancy success. It is estimated that ewes require at least 6-8 weeks of good quality grazing (**>10.5 ME MJ/kg DM**) to gain **1 BCS**.

However, if ewes are required to increase the condition score by more than **1 BCS** where grazing is limited or poor quality then further time will be required and early weaning should be considered. In addition, supplementation can support ewes and help balance energy, protein and minerals during this key time.

**Optilix Energy** is a low moisture, extra high energy and protein feed and mineral lick.

- Extra energy is ideal for supporting optimal body condition
- The **high sugar** formulation provides more fermentable energy to further support performance and overall feed intake
- **High protein (12%)**, including natural and urea sources supports grass and forage utilization
- The addition of key minerals, vitamins and trace elements, including protected **selenium** and **zinc** supports ewe overall **health, performance** and **fertility**.

**Make weaning count this year to boost next year's bottom line**

## Micron Faecal Egg Counting

Save time and money by not worming unnecessarily.  
Use the right product at the right time and resist  
resistance!

**Call us for more details**



# Arable Update – July

## Comments

We are coming into the harvest period with a wide range of crop situations, some are looking really well set up, others less so... however all are worth reasonable money currently.

## OSR

- Desiccation has started on very early crops. Ensure that the majority of seeds are black in a wide selection of pods throughout the crop taken from the main stems.
- Pod sealants eg **ISKAY**, are now widely used. If you don't use them then really consider their use, they do keep the pods intact longer.

## Pulses

- Keep an eye for Chocolate Spot and pest damage in crops.

## Spring Crops

- Spring cereals are romping through the growth stages. Barley crops are at ear emergence in most cases (in 6 – 7 weeks!). Ramularia is a threat to these crops, the use of **Phoenix** can help reduce disease pressure
- Beet and maize weed control, if not already completed then prioritise to ensure crops don't suffer competition.
- The addition of **EfficientN** to maize crops at 6 – 8 leaf stage can increase cob size and starch content.

<b>UK LIFFE Wheat Nov24</b>	£195 - £200/t
<b>MATIF OSR Nov24</b>	£395 - £405/t
<b>AN34.5% Fertiliser</b>	£335- £340/t

<b>Current wheat GS</b>	GS70—GS80
<b>Current OSR GS</b>	GS90—GS95

## Technical Corner – Variety Selection Criteria

Useful rules to apply when selecting varieties for your cereals. Obviously knowing what your market is the first and most crucial one.

Overall Yield	100+	Why be below average!
Untreated Yield	90+	Indicator of disease resilience
Spec Weight	78+	Important for market specs

## Wheat

Septoria	7+	Higher the better in the west
Other disease		Aim for higher scores
Standing ability	8+	Keep crops standing

## Barley

Rhynchosporium	7+	Higher the better
Other disease		Aim for high scores
Standing ability	7+	Keep crops standing
Brackling	11-	Lower the better

## Seed

Well worth considering seed varieties for 2024/2025. We will soon have Autumn seed books covering cereals, oilseeds, pulses and novel crops including buyback contracts.

We utilise Agrii's seed cleaning service. It is very efficient, competitively priced, staffed by conscientious operators and provides a first class service. Get a slot booked up now and have some of your seed requirements ready in good time for Autumn planting.