



R.M. JONES

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

Newsletter

August 2024

SFI Solutions: From Planning to Implementation

R.M. Jones can help you with:

We offer a complete service for SFI, which includes:

- Developing the plan.
- Submitting the plan (with the farmer's signature).
- Creating a management schedule tailored for the farmer.
- **Planning Crop Rotation or Forage Production Systems:**
 - Assess how the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) can be incorporated into current crop rotation or forage production systems.
 - Evaluate the impacts of various SFI options on subsequent crops, as well as on weed, pest, and disease control.
- **Establishment Support:**
 - Provide ideas and strategies for establishing different SFI options successfully.
- **Financial Valuation:**
 - Calculate the financial value of different SFI options to the farm, ensuring the most cost-effective choices.
- **Seed Provision:**
 - Supply seed options including SAM3, AHL1, and AHL2, along with other varieties, ranging from £382/ha to £853/ha per annum.
- **Nutrient Management Planning:**
 - Develop nutrient management plans, valued at £652/ha per annum.
- **Integrated Pest Management Plans:**
 - Create integrated pest management plans, valued at £1,129 per annum.
- **Soil Assessments and Testing:**
 - Conduct soil assessments and soil testing, specifically SAM1, valued at £6/ha and £97 per SFI agreement per annum.

We are keeping an eye on the Welsh Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) and plan to develop similar services.

Arable Update – August

Comments

Harvest is upon us and early results suggest Barley yields have been average at best for most, but OSR yields have been below average. The delayed start to the spring has, no doubt had the biggest impact, limiting nutrition and disease control opportunities early season.

Pulses

- Continue to keep on eye for disease and pest damage (Bruchid Beetle in particular) in Spring crops.

Spring Crops

- Spring cereals have charged through the growth stages and look reasonably decent. Keep an eye out for late disease.

Forage Crops

- Maize has had a challenging start with a colder, later start than usual and lack of soil nutrition due to rain induced nutrient loss. Where crops are still very backward there may still be scope for foliar applied nutrient to help boost cobs size and grain development.
- Beet is looking very good on the whole. The moisture levels have kept it going and weed control has been good. If you haven't applied a Fungicide for disease then this will need applying as soon as possible with some Boron and Magnesium.

OSR Planting – see technical corner...

Seed:

If you weren't able to get to Gatley or the Callow then phone us for a seed book or our thoughts on varieties. We have decent stocks but it is **CRUCIAL TO GET ORDERS IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**. In particular Barley and Oats seed orders need to be in now to get a mid September delivery slot

As a number of you are aware we utilise AGRILs 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.

UK LIFFE Wheat Nov24	£193 - £200/t
MATIF OSR Nov24	£410 - £420/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser	£335- £340/t

Current wheat GS	GS85—GS95
Current OSR GS	Harvest

Technical Corner – OSR Planting

Useful The single biggest challenge to OSR development is Flea Beetle pressure. Getting plants to develop quickly through the risk period - Cotyledon to 4 leaf stage, is crucial. What strategies can you use to reduce the risk to your crop?

- Grow crops with high Autumn Vigour scores eg **Exsteel, Auckland**. These will get up and grow fast.
- Use Companion crops to obscure OSR plants and reduce grazing pressure. Use companion crops that can be removed by frosts or herbicide at a later stage
 - **Buckwheat, Fenugreek and Berseem Clover** are the ideal companions and can be planted together
- Early Nutrition is crucial. Starter fertiliser and Seed Dressings can speed up development of the crop which takes them through the risk stage more rapidly.
 - **AGRII Start OSR** or **AGRII Start Drill** as starter fertiliser
 - **Take Off** seed dressing contains a blend of trace elements and nutrients that can help speed up germination
- There is anecdotal evidence that **Digestate** or **Organic manures** can obscure the smell/biological odours given off by the crop. This may reduce grazing pressure.
- Growing alternative varieties eg **Clearfield** varieties. These can be overseeded with cheap or barn dipped OSR planted at a very high seed rate. This dilutes the grazing pressure on the Clearfield crops. A Clearfield herbicide can then be used which will remove the overseed OSR plants. The 2nd benefit is that this also gives Charlock and Runch control.
- Again anecdotally, drilling time seems to make a difference – early and late drilled crops seem to face less pressure than late August planted crops. This can change every season. Moisture at planting may be the key driver