



R.M.JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

March 2025

Downland Fresh Start—Calf Milk

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 remain intact 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. 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 of the **Fresh Start** range include **ProZest**. 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 to maintain lamb vigour, performance & balance pasture deficiencies.

Dose lambs 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

Comments

Right... this month we are going to get stuff done! Enough waiting for the weather and conditions to improve...

Tasks

OSR

GAI index monitoring to decide on final N rates middle of the month.

Boron and Magnesium will need applying along with remnants of weed and LLS/Phoma control.

Plant growth regulation with Architect or Highgate to increase raceme survival and length.

Cereals

Maximising and maintaining tiller numbers by the end of March is crucial. The target shoot number is 400/m² – 500/m². Some crops have few if any tillers currently. They will need some warmth and nitrogen as soon as conditions allow to get them tillering. Thicker crops will need approx. 50-70KgN/ha Nitrogen in early March to keep those tillers alive and keep those shoot numbers up.

In backward crops there are several ways to improve plant growth and increase tillering e.g. early growth regulators that take away apical dominance and force plants to root and tiller and biostimulants such as Nutriphite that provide unique nutrition routes that give plants a real boost.

Tank mixes will be a bit complex this spring as herbicides, growth reg and nutrition will all need to go through the sprayer

Maize

Have you bought your maize seed? Time to get the varieties you want ordered up – **Leto**, **P7179** are very earlys, **PASCO** is early, **Resolute** is the big performer.

Beet

Where beet ground has been cultivated, it is important to get any Salt and Potash worked in several weeks before planting. Beet will use a lot of Na and K over the growing season.

Other Topics

We now have access to **PROCLOVA**, the first new clover safe herbicide that will control docks and a myriad of other grassland weeds both in new leys and established swards. Talk to us on how to get the best out of this product.

Trials

We have a number of farm trials this year including maize variety plots, fungicides and nutrition in beet, maize, grassland overseeding and variety plots. Please keep an eye out for dates.

UK LIFFE Wheat May25 £183 - £188/t

MATIF OSR May25 £430 - £445/t

AN34.5% Fertiliser £355—£370

Current wheat GS GS21 –GS31

Current OSR GS GS30 - GS60

Technical - Plant Hormones and Growth

There are many plant hormones that modify growth and performance in cereals.

Gibberellins

These induce cell elongation with resulting growth in the plant. Because this growth occurs everywhere in the plant (depending on stage in growth) it can lead to dominance of main stems and potentially lower yields. Inhibition of Gibberellins by Plant Growth Regulators (PGRS) at certain times in the crop growth stages can increase rooting and tiller retention (ensuring more shoots, grain and straw!) and reduce lodging.

Auxins/Cytokinins

Although these are two different plant hormones, when produced as synthetic Plant Growth Regulators they can have the following effects;

- Reduce apical dominance of the main shoot forcing the plant to partition nutrient and growth to side shoots (tillers).
- Increase rooting and adventitious root mass which increase nutrient scavenging and capture (this can also lead to greater root interaction with soil fungi.)
- Thicken cells in the plant which can reduce lodging at the base later in the plant life.

Products that can manipulate or replicate these hormones include **Adjust**, **3C Chlormequat**, **Canopy** and **Alatrin Evo**. Although they do work better at different stages and may only work on a particular part of plant growth.

Ethylene

This hormone stimulates seed development, root and shoot growth. In some situations where significant late crop growth occurs there is a higher risk of crop lodging. Manipulating this hormone with products like **Ephon Top** and **Bogata** can reduce overall crop height and thicken cell walls.