



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

June 2025

Don't Wait Till Weaning – Set Your Lambs Up for Success Now

Optimal levels of trace elements are essential for lamb growth, health, and profitability – and timing is critical.

Cobalt is vital for the production of **Vitamin B12** in the rumen, which allows lambs to efficiently utilise their feed. A deficiency in B12 can lead to reduced growth rates and pine. Prolonged wet conditions in 2023/2024 caused further depletion of already low soil cobalt levels in many areas due to leaching, as well as interference from antagonistic minerals in waterlogged pasture; impacts that may still be affecting lamb performance even in the current drier spell.

Selenium plays a key role in muscle development, immune support, and acts as a crucial antioxidant, particularly during stressful periods such as weaning. Inadequate selenium can result in poor growth, delayed muscle formation, and white muscle disease.

Muscle = Weight = Money!

Iodine supports healthy thyroid function and metabolic rate. Without it, lambs grow more slowly, require more grass, and take longer to finish.

Importantly, **cobalt** and **iodine** cannot be stored in the animal's body – a consistent daily supply is essential.

Selenium can be stored, but levels must be built up over time

Don't Wait Till Weaning – Bolus at 25kgs

*The lamb's rumen may not be fully functioning till it is 25kgs so **Optigain Lamb drench** is the ideal choice for young lambs. Once the lamb is 25kgs and over then the **Essential Lamb bolus** is the product of choice as it supplies the lamb with optimal amounts of **cobalt**, **selenium** and **iodine** all day, every day for **4 months**.*

Bolusing **well ahead of weaning** ensures trace element levels are optimised before lambs encounter this highly stressful period. This can help maintain growth rates and reduce the risk of a growth check.

Essential Lamb boluses are manufactured to GMP standards and contain only pharmaceutical-grade minerals – the same quality used in licensed veterinary products.

Not all boluses are created equal.

Always look for products backed by data – Following a trial by the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine, lambs supplemented with **Essential Lamb Boluses** achieved an increased **daily live weight gain of 49g per day** when compared with un-supplemented lambs.

Get ahead now. Don't wait till weaning!

Events – Gatley iFarm

The annual **iFarm crop trials and arable open day** is on the **25th June at Gatley Farms, Leinthall Earls**. Please book a place with the R.M. Jones office 01497 820410. There will be Cover Crop Trials, Wheat Trial, Animal Health Demonstrations and a hog roast.

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

Arable Update

UK LIFFE Wheat November 25 £175 - £183/t
MATIF OSR November 25 £400 - £420/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser £385—£410 (new Season soon)

Current wheat GS GS50 –GS60
Current OSR GS GS69 - GS75

Comments

Rain... and just in time for grass, beet, maize, potatoes and spring crops. Notwithstanding the excitement that the rain has created, there is a likelihood that harvest could kick off a bit earlier this year with the potential for some Winter Barley to get cut at the end of June!

Tasks

OSR

Later this month we may see the first rape crops get desiccated. Most people will apply **Iskay/Podstick** at the same time as Glyphosate as there is good synergy between the two products. Another option is to apply the **Iskay/Podstick** 10 – 14 days before the Glyphosate. This can reduce pod shatter even more, as the pods are greener and more resilient when its applied and are tougher when the Glyphosate is applied. If you have **Activator 90** in store (all farms have a can or two!) then use it as a sprayer cleaner after the **Iskay/Podstick** pass.

Cereals

Although disease pressure, on the whole, has been pretty low due to the dry spring, wheat T2 (Flag Leaf) sprays will still have a positive impact in keeping crops cleaner longer, boosting green leaf area and increasing physiological response to nutrients. Most of these products will have gone on or will be going on at a composite T2/T3 (ear wash stage) which has the added benefit of giving the ear some protection (remember the ear contributes 20% - 30% of yield and more under stress situations). Along with these fungicides, **Magnesium** based trace elements are important for **maintaining Chlorophyll levels** in the crop. **Master Mag TE** is a broad spectrum foliar feed that will provide a wide range of essential nutrients into the crop very cost effectively.

Most Spring Cereals are at Flag Leaf stage or Awns emerging. **Ramularia** may pose a threat in Spring Barley given the conditions. If it does we may need to treat as soon as possible to control it.

Beet

Crops will reach the shut drill stage this month. The use of amino acid based **PhysioCrop** or **PhysioN** along with **Boron/Molybdenum/Magnesium** will improve plant resilience and maximise green leaf area.

Maize

With the warm soil temperatures and the recent rain, maize is bounding out of the ground. Weed control is now underway on many crops. Where you are undersowing your maize to help protect soil, reduce water pollution and provide some grazing over the winter, then talk to your agronomist about the best herbicide to use in your situation.

Events – Grassland Overseeding follow up

We will be holding a follow up field walk to look at the grassland overseeding on Thursday 12th June (late afternoon/evening). All are welcome, just call 01497 820410 for more information.

Dock Control in Grassland

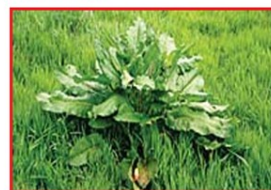
Timing is crucial to tackle docks. Control at the rosette stage, from 150mm to 250mm across or high, when plants are young and actively growing is the optimal timing for control.

TOO SOON

CORRECT TIMING

TOO LATE

DOCKS – at the rosette stage up to 250 mm high or across and actively growing



Products of choice

Where clover is important - **ProClova XL**, Pinnacle

No Clover - Minstrel, **Cardinal**, Dockstar

Water rates are important – keep them up nearer 300lt/ha where possible