



R.M. JONES Newsletter

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

July 2025

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 High Energy is a low moisture, extra high energy, 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

UK LIFFE Wheat November 25 £170 - £180/t
MATIF OSR November 25 £410 - £420/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser £335- £360

Current wheat GS GS75 -GS85
Current OSR GS GS68 - GS85

Comments

Short arable news this month as you'll all, no doubt, be itching to jump on a combine...

As we move into the harvesting period I thought it useful to recap on the weather that has brought us here. It has had significant impacts, several negative (patchy, thinner crops) and some positive (disease pressure esp. Septoria down).

Weather

Autumn

- Wettest autumn on record with over 400mm rain in September, October and November.
- 3 named storms including Bert which brought intense rain and snow at the end of Nov just after many had planted their wheat.

Winter

- Average winter rainfall (98%) but with significant rainfall events eg Storm Eowyn.
- 95% of sunshine levels compared to the long term average.
- Temperature was bang on average.

Spring

- 2nd driest spring in England, 6th driest in Wales on record.
- Warmest spring on record.
- 2nd sunniest spring on record.

Crops

Winter Cereals

If you are aiming to desiccate your cereal crops remember that there is a 7 day harvest interval from spraying to cutting.

- Reasons to desiccate include.
- More even ripening and ease of harvest.
- Remove the late germinating weeds in the gappy parts of crops.
- Clean up stubbles before the next crop.

Fodder Beet

Mid season nutrition needs to be applied around this period – **Boron, Molybdenum, Magnesium** are all crucial elements in building and sustaining a robust leaf canopy to harvest the sunshine we are having.

Maize

As with beet above, extra nutrition now can help the crop maintain green leaf area and also improve cob formation helping to maximise grain set.

Late Nitrogen in the form of **Efficient N28** has been shown to improve cob weight and increase starch content.

Seed

As many of you know seed deliveries can be disappointing and cause frustration. Your friendly agronomists also find it a challenge when chasing seed orders that have disappeared down into the dark pit of mysteries of logistics etc. To that end if you are looking for seed please get in touch sooner rather than later – especially for Winter Barley. Alternatively we can offer a seed cleaning service which can reduce seed costs significantly and provide you with a wide variety of seed treatments to suit your on farm situation.

If you made it to the I Farm open day at the end of June you may well be confused with the sheer number of varieties available. To save you having to sift through to reach the variety you need, we have a shorter list of our preferred varieties.

Wheat

Palladium Grp2, 102% yield, 6 standing, very good disease profile, spec weights 75.6kg
Champion Grp4 hard, 107.5% yield, 4 standing needs PGR, very good disease profile, spec weights 77.7kg
Fitzroy Grp4 hard, 105.6% yield, 5 standing needs PGR, very good disease profile, spec weights 74.5kg
Worth a punt **Bamford**

Barley

Caravelle 2 row, 103.5% yield, 7 standing, decent disease profile, high spec weight 71.4kg
Belfry 6 row, 104% yield, 7 standing, decent disease profile, avg. spec weight 68kg
Kingsbarn 6 row, 106.3% yield, 6 standing, decent disease profile, high spec weight 70.2kg