



R.M. JONES

FARMCENTRES

www.rmjones.com

Newsletter

November 2025

Important Update: New Rat Bait Rules Coming January 2026

From **1st January 2026**, new laws will change how rat bait can be bought and used across the UK. After this date, anyone wanting to buy **professional-strength rodenticides** will need to hold a **recognised qualification**, such as the **LANTRA Level 2 Award in Rodent Control** or another **CRRU approved certificate**.

If you don't have the qualification, you won't be able to purchase professional baits once the new rules kick in.

It's worth **planning ahead now**:

- **Check** if you already hold an approved certificate.
- **Book training early** – courses are expected to fill up fast.
- **Make sure you have enough bait to last until you're qualified**, as from 1st January 2026, you'll need certification to buy more.

These changes are being introduced to promote safer and more responsible use of rodenticides, but we know they'll cause a few headaches if left until the last minute.

If you're unsure what you'll need or want advice on suitable alternatives, **speak to your local R.M. Jones Farmcentre**. Our team is happy to help make sure you're ready before the new rules take effect.

Don't get caught out – act before January 2026!

Winter Feeding Critical To Lambing Returns

We always talk about feeding management of Ewes at **Flushing & Pre-tupping**, but **Ewe Nutrition** is needed in **Mid Pregnancy** for the placenta to **Grow & Develop**.

The placenta provides all the nutrients for the unborn lamb in late pregnancy. Poor placenta development results in small lambs – irrespective of late pregnancy feeding. SAC trials show that **Cobalt** deficiency in first half of pregnancy produces lambs that are slower to stand & suckle and more prone to neonatal disease.

"Inadequate nutrition in early/mid-pregnancy cannot be compensated for later on in pregnancy and can result in the production of smaller, weaker lambs with higher mortality."

Opti-Lix High Energy provides a very palatable and available source of **Minerals, Trace Elements** and **Vitamins** and is ideal for feeding **Ewes** during pregnancy and beyond.

Arable Update

UK LIFFE Wheat November 25 £160 - £170/t
MATIF OSR November 25 £405 - £420/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser £390- £400/t

Current wheat GS GS12—14
Current OSR GS GS16

Comments

Its been a very busy few weeks. There isn't much left to plant up and pretty well everything that has been planted looks in A1 condition. What a difference to the previous couple of autumns.

Oilseed Rape

Soil temperatures will have declined enough this month to allow Propyzamide applications. Products such as **Cleancrop Forward** and **Astrokerb** will give good residual grass weed control and, in the case of **Astrokerb**, extra broadleaf weed control against Groundsel and similar weeds. Remember that there are restrictions on straw use where crops have been treated with **Astrokerb**.

Where crops do not need an Autumn growth regulator, but need Phoma control we have a new product **Maganic**. Trials have shown good results. Combine this with Zoom trace element and your crops will be well set up going into the winter.

Cereal

If late blackgrass germination is an issue then a top up with Flufenacet containing product eg **Octavian Met** can help reduce the weed population.

Beans

If you have beans being planted this autumn you'll need a good residual pre-emergence herbicide – **Stallion Syntec**, **Nirvana** – along with a partner product to give grass weed control. There are very few post emergent options and their effectiveness is limited.

Winter events

20th November Crop Walk and discussion on herbicide effectiveness, plant populations and thoughts on spring nutrition.

18th December Grain Market update including benchmarking, Fertiliser market situation and breakfast.

14th January LAMMA and Croptec event at the NEC.

15th January NROSO event Number 1.

22nd January NROSO event Number 2.

PEO – Pesticide Enforcement Officer...

We have assisted with a couple of PEO visits on farm over the last month. Having spoken to the PEOs they have explained what they are looking for and what they hope to find. Below is a brief summary of the do's and don'ts...

Personnel

Evidence of up to date certificates of competence eg PA1/2 etc. Anyone who applies pesticide will need the relevant certificates.

Have you registered as someone who stores, uses, applies pesticide as a professional user? Most farms will need this even if you only buy herbicide to spot spray grassland weeds.

Storage/Filling

Any storage must comply with legislation. All stores must be lockable, carry signage identifying it as a chemical store with a hazard symbol and no smoking/naked flames. Further signage including exits, emergency action plans etc should be available.

All stores must be constructed of suitable materials and be bunded sufficiently. Heating and lighting is recommended.

Your filling area must be suitably constructed to capture any spillage for correct disposal.

Products

Two inventories should be kept of products in the store – one in the store and one as a backup. A whiteboard is sufficient along with a backup phone photo.

All products should be legal and in date – MAPP numbers should be checked.

Sprayer

Should be suitable for use and have a current NSTS certificate.

Records

You will need evidence of all applications made, including products used, MAPP numbers, rates, water volume, dates, times, weather conditions and person applying – field diaries are acceptable. You may be asked about buffer zones. If you use a contractor ensure they are recording all this and you have access to it. Records should be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

This list isn't exhaustive, but covers the main areas for inspection.