



# R.M. JONES Newsletter

March 2026

FARMCENTRES

[www.rmjones.com](http://www.rmjones.com)

## 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.

**Fresh Start Elite** supports digestive health and encourages rumen development which will maximise early growth in beef and dairy calves.

- ✓ Contains skim.
- ✓ Optimal level of nutrients to support good starter intake to promote early rumen development.
- ✓ Contains **Pro Zest**, a blend of essential fatty acids to support calf health, immunity and performance.
- ✓ Egg protein; natural antibodies to support the immune system, and aid gut health & development.
- ✓ Promotes a healthy gut flora.
- ✓ For use where your target daily liveweight gain is 750g - 850g.
- ✓ Excellent solubility and stability for easy mixing and consistent feeding.
- ✓ Suitable for all calf rearing feeding and weaning systems.

## 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<sup>®</sup>

## 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

**UK LIFFE Wheat May 26**  
**MATIF OSR May 26**  
**AN34.5% Fertiliser**

£168 - £172/t  
£418 - £430/t  
£405- £420/t

**Current wheat GS**  
**Current OSR GS**

GS21—30  
GS25—37

## Comments

March is here! Where did February go so fast? Crops are motoring on, the majority in the absence of any field work or input this spring due to weather. By late February a lot of farms will have seen over 320mm rain in the region, twice the average. Along with warm temperatures this has created a high disease risk Spring. With crops having a large amount of potential and “yield being king” (more so in a low value year), getting on top of yield robbing disease will be crucial to success.

## Tasks: The job list is long this Spring.

### Wheat

Mildew and Septoria are present in crops to a very high level. If it stays damp eyespot will also become an issue. Quite often we scrimp on a TO application, this is **NOT** the year to do that. **Innocul8/IODUS** with a herbicide followed by a TO fungicide will be a more important than ever. **Innocul8** and **IODUS** are elicitors and stimulate an immune response in the crop against Septoria in particular. There is a raft of trial data showing the yield benefit they bring.



Septoria



Eyespot

Crop nutrition, as mentioned last month is crucial to getting your crops to yield. Many crops won't have had any to date, Where you are able to travel an application of 30kgN/ha – 80kgN/ha depending on tiller numbers and crop size, it is important to keep the crop building canopy and green leaf area. Remember Sulphur is applied at the same time.

### Barley

The same comments from above apply to Barley as well. However Net Blotch, Mildew and Rhynchosporium are the disease threats. A TO is a must this year to control these yield robbers. Tiller numbers are key to barley yield. Doing everything we can to keep these alive and thriving will reward us with yield. TO (**Helix**) and effective growth regulation are the first jobs along with Nitrogen as soon as possible. Realistically half your nitrogen fertiliser along with Sulphur needs to go on as soon as possible. Managing strong crops, especially hybrids, will require some effort to help contain them and even them up.

### OSR

Green Area Index (GAI) is the ratio between leaf area and ground area – it's the way to measure Nitrogen requirements in OSR crops. Each GAI is approx. 50kgN/ha in the crop. Forward crops have a GAI of 3 currently (green bud stage) meaning they already have 150kgN/ha in the crop and the total N needs applying to create a 4t/ha – 5t/ha yield may be quite low – 70KgN/ha (a 4t/ha crop needs 220kgN/ha in total). Talk to your agronomist before applying N. There may be considerable savings to be made and timing will be crucial.

Late weed control, LLS, Phoma and trace element nutrition will be needed as many crops didn't have a follow up weed, disease and nutrition pass in the Autumn. **Architect** is still the go to fungicide/PGR in Rape.

### Spring Crops

As soon as you can, make a decent seedbed. Your spring cereals need to be in. If it does go dry then those crops that are established early will respond. If you are buying seed or having seed cleaned then seed dressings with Manganese will be important (**IMan, Take Off**). In trials, these show consistent yield benefits in all conditions.

*This year will be a challenge on how to balance costs and achieve yield. It may be one of the most difficult years to deal with for a long time but the crops are there. The yield potential is there and with good weather there is profit in your fields.*