



R.M. JONES Newsletter

May 2026

FARMCENTRES
www.rmjones.com

May - The Month for Growth

Keep Lambs Thriving

- Protect against **Fly Strike**.
- Faecal Egg Count — The most expensive wormer is the one that doesn't work!
- A FWI article showed a **3.52kg uplift at 10 weeks** after **treating cobalt deficiency**
- **Downland Essential Lamb bolus** will boost growth—with **Cobalt, Selenium & Iodine**. Glasgow University Vet school trials showed **38% DLWG** increase over untreated.
- Boost Growth with **Cobalt**:
 - **Superstock Ewe & Lamb** one of the highest spec'd buckets available
 - **Optigain Lamb** mineral drench—Helps maintain health, vigour, performance and balance pasture deficiencies.

Look after the Cattle

- Prevent **staggers** with **Downland Extra Magnesium Buckets**.
- Treat at Turnout for **Stomach, Lungworm** & maximise growth rates— don't feed the Worms!
- Clear out **Fluke** in the Summer with Pour ons.
- Use **Downland Essential Cattle Plus Cattle bolus**—6 months continuous supply of **Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine & Copper**.
- Remember to vaccinate against **Clostridial diseases, Blackleg** is a **killer**.

Produce more home grown Forage to reduce feeding costs

- Quality grass seed is the foundation of a good sward.
- **Downland seed** is very high quality with germination specs much higher than the UK minimum requirement.
- In trials Overseeding has increased the feed value per acre of grass by the equivalent of 1.5 tonnes of dried Barley!
- Order Root & Forage crops now, to produce much needed keep during the Winter.

Why spend money on fertiliser when you can work with nature to provide you with **free nitrogen fertiliser from clover**.....



DOWNLAND
PARTNERS IN FARMING HEALTH

Arable Update

UK LIFFE Wheat May 26 £175 - £179/t
MATIF OSR May 26 £445 - £455/t
AN34.5% Fertiliser £550 - £560/t (guide only)

Current wheat GS GS37—41
Current OSR GS GS60—75

Comments

Crops in general are looking good although BYDV is very evident in Winter Barley crops and some wheat crops.

Tasks: Wheat

Weed control has been very good this spring although some blackgrass is evident where resistance is high. Sampling the blackgrass for resistance status would be a good thing to do to inform future control planning.

Crops will soon be at flag leaf and maximising utilisation of sunshine. As ever keeping these crops green will maximise yield. Although they have had a bad rap over the last 3 years, products containing Fenpicoxamid (**Questar**) give the best yield response through excellent disease control. There are sprayer hygiene guidelines for use but they are straightforward.

There are some big crops out there notwithstanding the growth regulation carried out, late PGRs may be needed on some of these crops.

Spring Cereals

Early weed control will have hopefully occurred by now. Nitrogen needs to be going on as soon as you can see tramlines in the crop – early N drives tiller numbers and increases spikelet (grain site) formation. Extra manganese and zinc should be applied as soon as the crop has enough canopy to utilise (see Technical corner).

OSR

As flowering ends, plants are podding up. Keep an eye out for Brassica Pod Midge which can cause damage to pods.

Beet/Maize

If not planted these should now be a priority. Ensure that seedbeds are not cloddy, this will help with weed control.

Where crops are established the application of early nitrogen at the 2 – 3 leaf stage will drive yield. Maize has a demand for nitrogen and will utilise 120kgN/ha (take into account the SNS and organic N supplied to calculate the correct rate)

Weed control in beet should be progressing. Remember to keep water volumes low (80lt – 100lt/ha) when applying post emergence herbicides. The use of Black Gold at the 2 -4 leaf stage has shown decent yield responses.

Maize weed control can be Pre or Post emergence although a post emergence spray is generally required either way. The addition of Release will make more Phosphate available to the crop.

Technical Corner – Manganese and Zinc

Manganese and Zinc are crucial micronutrients for Spring Barley, acting as vital enzyme components that improve nitrogen metabolism, enhance resistance to diseases like powdery mildew, and boost grain weight. Deficiencies, common in dry or high-pH soils, cause stunting and chlorotic spots (Mn) or leaf blotches (Zn), typically requiring foliar application between the 2-leaf stage and GS31.

Key Effects of Manganese and Zinc on Spring Barley

Yield Enhancement: Both manganese and zinc contribute to increasing the thousand grain weight (TGW) in barley.

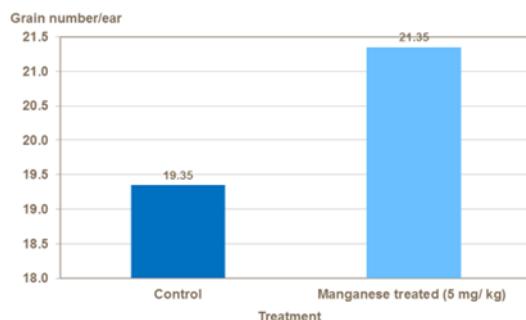
Disease Resistance: Manganese plays a direct role in reducing powdery mildew infection and improves physical resistance to disease via lignin and suberin production.

Nutrient Utilization: They are essential for proper nitrogen metabolism. When deficient, lead to poor metabolism and nitrate accumulation in leaves.

Stress Adaptation: Application of these elements, particularly as a cocktail, improves plant photosynthesis and adaptation to abiotic stresses like drought

Grain Numbers: Trials have consistently shown that Manganese and Zinc (as well as Copper) can and do increase grain numbers in Spring Barley.

Effect of manganese on barley grains per ear



REF: Mohammad Reza Boorboori, D. Eradatmand and Mohammad Mehdi