

R. M. JONES - APRIL 2018

Boost Lamb Growth

Trace elements such as Selenium & Cobalt are vital for healthy growing lambs. The Welsh border counties are notoriously deficient in these elements and if they are not balanced then lambs will fail to thrive.

Ovigain is a broad spectrum drench containing Cobalt with Vitamin B12 and Selenium with Vitamin E. Deficiencies can result in Pine and White Muscle Disease. It also contains Vitamins B1, A & D3 which are necessary for growth & development. And it costs less than 8 pence per lamb! To achieve the best lamb prices it is a good plan to finish lambs quickly—**Ovigain** will help with this!

Downland Essential Lamb Bolus can be used for lambs over 8 weeks old (25kg) & contains Cobalt, Selenium & Iodine. A recent trial resulted in growth improvements of 2.1kg over 12 weeks compared to non- treated, which was worth £3.16 per lamb.

SuperStock Ewe & Lamb Buckets The mineral bucket that's made for this area! - with extra Fish Oil, Cobalt, Selenium & Zinc. Specially formulated for the Welsh Border Counties
Give your Lambs a Boost

Cattle Turn Out - Don't let Worms suppress Weight gain

Over half your Cattle liveweight gain is achieved in the first 3 months after turnout. Don't allow Worms to steady the growth!!

Using **Zermex Pour On** at turnout cleans pastures of worms because it works longer: - for 10 weeks. So your cattle are protected and able to "do" for only 2.5 pence per day (300kg), and the withdrawal time is only 14 days.

Downland Essential Plus Cattle bolus contains Cobalt, Iodine, Selenium & Copper in one bolus application. This is tailor made for our area with the inherent deficiencies in these Trace Elements. Much better value than other boluses - lasts for 6 months.

£4.66/ Bolus for 200kg - 400kg
£5.92/ Bolus for 400kg upwards
Quantity Discounts available

Turnout is a good time for a booster Clostridial vaccine for your Cattle—protect against Blackleg.

**Ask about Agrii Finance for all Seed, Fertiliser
& Agrochemical inputs.**

Grassland Evening Meeting- Are you making the most of your best asset?

Grassland is one of your biggest assets. Maximising production of quality grass reduces purchased feed costs, increases animal growth rates and will increase profitability. R.M.Jones are holding a grass management evening on the 5th April bringing together grass and fertiliser specialists who can answer any questions you may have. Along with these we have Elaine Jewkes, head of the British Grassland Society, talking through the best practice ideas she has seen as she meets farmers and researchers both in the UK and overseas.

**April 5th 2018, Temple Bar, Ewyas Harold from 6.30pm -
spaces are limited so please phone to guarantee your place.**

Hay 01497 820410

Hereford 01432 769527

Abergavenny 01873 858300

Fodder Crop Options for Winter Feeding

Catch Crop mixtures can help by providing a balanced feed of protein & energy supplied by the carefully blending of forage rape and stubble turnips

- Balanced feed to graze on your farm
- Autumn or Winter keep
- Improved protein content
- Flea beetle seed dressing available if required
- **Cost effective, Grow Your Own Feed.**

Arable News

April is a busy month in the arable calendar with spring planting, T1's, OSR flowering/pollen beetle etc. Having had probably one of the best autumn planting seasons that I have seen we have moved into probably the worst spring (to date anyway). The majority of crops are now showing signs of stress, struggling with waterlogged soils and cold conditions. The lack of field access has delayed most nitrogen and sulphur applications and it is imperative that these are applied as soon as conditions allow, backward later planted crops and second wheats should have quite high application rates. As well as a lack of fertiliser applied, cereals have yet to receive their T0's. Although too late now probably for our barley crops that will move straight to the T1 application there is still a place for it on our wheat crops. Whilst the freezing conditions will have helped reduce the yellow rust pressure, Septoria will only have been slowed, it is still ever present in the crop and we need to start the fungicide programme as early as possible to reduce later infection. Even if there is only a 10-14 day interval between T0 and T1 it will pay to apply and start our planned stacking of chemistry to keep on top of this yield destroying disease.

T1 on Winter Wheat

With a decline in Septoria curative activity the fungicide programme must take a much more preventative approach. At the T1 timing we are targeting application to cover leaf 3 whilst balancing the timing so as not to stretch the interval between the T2 application, ideally this will be three weeks. If leaf development is delayed and this interval stretched, it may be necessary to apply an additional holding fungicide to keep Septoria and or Yellow rust at bay. At the T1 timing it is also important to consider eyespot which can cause yield losses of 10-30%. Wet soils and earlier drilled crops give a greater risk, products such as Kestrel, Helix and Boogie are amongst the best but it is important to note that even these will only give up to 60% control.

OSR Sclerotinia

This can be a yield devastating disease and HGCA trials consistently show increased yields from fungicide treatment of between 0.5T and 2T/ha. As flowering starts the risk period begins. Crops will have a fungicide for light leaf spot control and growth regulation as soon as conditions allow. This will provide some initial protection but more targeted control will be needed as flowering starts. As fungicide persistence is no more than 3 weeks crops may need up to two more following sprays to give effective control. Piori Xtra, Kestrel and Highgate either alone or in mix are established amongst the most effective as a result of disease control and green leaf retention within the canopy.

Spring Planting

As conditions improve and spring planting progresses please keep your agronomist informed as pre-emergence weed control could be the most effective option. Once a spring sown crop has germinated any halt in growth due to a nutrient deficiency or stress will incur a yield penalty. An application of Nutri-Phite PGA will optimise growth and yield of the crop at the establishment stage to maximise root growth and nutrient supply. This can be combined with its application of Adjust at the 3 leaf stage to maximise tiller survival and strengthen the stem base.