

R. M. JONES - APRIL 2019

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.

Optigain Lamb is a specially formulated for Growing Lambs. A highly concentrated liquid supplement containing key ingredients known to support Growth & Development in young & growing lambs.

It has high levels of Cobalt, Selenium, Vitamin A, D3 & E, together with amino acids

To achieve the best lamb prices it is a good plan to finish lambs quickly—**Optigain Lamb** will help with this! For the very best results use before Essential lamb bolus

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.

New Bolus Balancer Buckets Specially formulated to complement the Downland bolus range Containing Calcium, Phos, Mag, Zinc (including protected Zinc) & a full Vitamin package

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.

£4.75/ Bolus for 200kg - 400kg
£6.04/ Bolus for 400kg upwards
Quantity Discounts available

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

Iodine

This winter has seen more sheep than ever fed on root crops and although they are a cost effective way of feeding they are high in Goitrogens. Goitrogens basically interfere with Iodine uptake causing a deficiency.

Iodine deficiency at worst presents as still born animals.

We recently heard of a flock of sheep that were bolused just over 4 weeks before tugging, when lambing got underway ewes started having still born lambs because the bolus had run out of steam.

If you would like to know more about combatting any iodine deficiencies please talk to your R M Jones Rep or Farmcentre.

*Remember not all Bolus are equal. D/L Essential Bolus have the highest Iodine content.

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 Update - April 2019

Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat May @ £165 -positive

MATIF OSR May @ £307 - positive

Nitram Fertiliser @ £265 - 2-70/t

Key tasks this month

This is the busiest arable month, herbicide, fungicide, growth regulation, fertiliser, field work and drilling are all going on.

- **OSR** - Sclerotinia sprays will be required from early flowering. Depending on conditions there may be a need for a two spray program. Yield loss can be significant in a bad year with potential yield penalties up to 2t/ha.
- **OSR** - Late LLS fungicide and growth regulation at yellow bud and early flowering can increase pod numbers through better lower branching in the crop.
- **Winter Wheat** - T1 (growth stage 31 sprays) will need to be applied later in April to reduce Septoria disease pressure. As ever Septoria levels are high, driven in part by the mild winter and recent rain. Many newer varieties have improved resistance to Septoria although not enough to significantly negate the need for fungicides to reduce disease levels. Early Brown rust is also a growing concern in wheat.
- **Winter Barley** - as with Wheat fungicide, application to control disease will be required early in the month. Ramularia has been seen in earlier drilled crops, again this probably a function of the really warm and mild February - it normally affects crops in May and June. Ramularia is a relatively recent disease in this region (historically a Northern and Scottish issue). Yield penalties can be severe and there are limited products that can control it - Chlorothalonil or Folpet based products are the most effective.
- **Winter Cereals** - Growth regulation to reduce internode length and strengthen stems to reduce lodging will need to be applied. Growth Regulators help the crop partition more nutrient to tillers, ear development and yield. The actual straw loss is minimal as crops are generally thicker due to increased tiller numbers and survival.
- **All crops** - Nitrogen application to all crops in this rapid growth phase of crops is very important.
- Peas, beet, potatoes, maize and later spring cereals will be going in the ground. Please let your agronomist know when you aim to plant as the earlier you can get onto weed control the lower the costs generally are.
- *As with all pesticide and fertiliser applications timing is crucial - getting on at the right time can sometimes be more important than the products used. Getting the right products on at the correct time is, however, the best way to protect and grow yields. Chase up your contractor if its not going on in good time...*

Trace Elements

Many of you will be aware that more crops are receiving trace element applications than they have had historically. This isn't a way for agronomists to make more money (honest!) but is based on increasing trial evidence that crop performance can be improved when micronutrients are in adequate supply. Early season Manganese and Zinc in cereals and Boron in OSR have big impacts on grain site development. Later in the season Magnesium and Sulphur become more important to ensure maximum photosynthetic capacity.

Maize Seedbeds

Land destined for maize should ideally be worked up a few weeks in advance of the maize being planted. This will help the ground warm up more quickly and dry out. It is not always necessary to plough maize ground just so long as there is no compaction and a 70 - 90mm deep fine tilth is created around the seed. Incorporated dung will break down pretty quickly in most soils and keep the nutrient where the plant needs it. One of the main Maize herbicide active ingredients has been removed from sale this year so alternative products may be used on farms for weed control.