



# R.M. Jones Farmcentre

## January 2020 - What's Occurring? Your Local Family Business

### Why You Need to Rear More Lambs!

#### Lowland Spring Lambing (per Ewe) (selling lambs off grass)

Performance level	Low	Average	High
Lambs born per 100 Ewes	147	166	184
Average price per lamb	£72	£76	£80
	£	£	£
Lamb Sales	£93	£114	£135
Wool	£1	£1	£1
Less Ewes & Depreciation	£19	£19	£19
<b>Output per Ewe</b>	<b>£75</b>	<b>£96</b>	<b>£117</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Variable Costs</b>			
Concentrates	£13	£13	£12
Vet. & Med	£8	£9	£11
Miscellaneous & Transport	£13	£13	£13
Forage Variable costs (inc bought)	£21	£16	£14
<b>Gross Margin per Ewe</b>	<b>£19</b>	<b>£46</b>	<b>£67</b>
Stocking rate (ewes, with lambs per forage acre	3.1	4.0	4.5
<b>Gross Margin per Forage Acre</b>	<b>£59</b>	<b>£185</b>	<b>£299</b>

This extract taken from "Farm Management Pocketbook" by John Nix. 2020 50th Edition

The gap between the high & the low performing flocks is dramatic at **£48 per Ewe** and **£240 per acre**. Care of your pregnant ewes and attention to detail at Lambing is going to be crucial this year and will make the difference between profit and loss. We can help you get the best out of the modern medicines, nutrition and supplements that help boost ewe and lamb vitality and survivability — and also increase your gross margin.



City & Guilds **NROSO**  
National Register Of Sprayer Operators



*The Annual NROSO Update will take place on the following dates;*

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 – Hereford Farmcentre**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Rhydspence, Whitney-On-Wye**

**Please book through the Hay Farmcentre**



**R.M. Jones  
Farmcentre**

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### Rat Alert – there are high numbers of Rats about at the moment

#### Rats carry over 45 different diseases

To Man ie. Salmonella / Typhoid / Dysentery etc  
To Animals ie. Aujesky's disease / Foot and mouth / Brucellosis

50% of rats carry pathogens in their urine ...

One rat leaves 25,000 droppings per year

One pair of rats can produce a colony of 2,000 in a year

A group of rats is called a mischief

#### Nearly 50% of all farm fires caused by rodents!

Rodents cause over £25 Million damage each year on farms

NB – In order to purchase Rat Bait you need to have either valid Farm Assurance or hold an appropriate Rodent Control Qualification.

### Arable News

**Current Wheat** @ £141 - £142

**Current OSR** @ £330 - £332

**Wheat Nov 2020** @ £157 - £161

**Nitrogen** @ £260

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crops Not Yet Planted/Emerged
Winter Wheat	5%	10%	21%	13%	2%	49%
Winter Barley	5%	11%	28%	14%	2%	39%
Oats	3%	12%	22%	15%	2%	47%
WOSR	8%	17%	44%	26%	4%	2%

Source: AHDB Planting Summary Autumn 2020

Hmmm... Where do we go from here? What resolutions do we need to make?

- Walk crops with your agronomist and identify which crops can be salvaged and how they will be managed, which crops will really respond and need investing in and which to re-plant
- This year more than any other sit down with your agronomist and work out Gross Margins, cost of production and how you can get the best from the crops you have in the ground
- The grain market (current and futures) has strengthened so speak to your grain buyer and keep in the market where possible
- Look at local demand for alternative spring crops (especially if everyone else loads up with Spring Barley) Is there a demand for maize (and crimped grain maize...), pulses, beet, lucerne or other products locally?
- Use the opportunity to cost effectively take out persistent weed issues in fields that are currently uncropped

Currently these are about as much as anyone can do with conditions as they are.

In the meantime, have a Happy (and hopefully drier) New Year!

*At R M Jones the Farmer comes First -Thanks for your support in 2019— we are here to help you in 2020*  
**Hay 01497 820410    Ledbury 01531 806130    Hereford 01432 769527    Abergavenny 01873 858300**