

R.M. JONES - JULY 2019

The Cobalt Story - The Key To Getting Growth Into Your Lambs

Cobalt deficiency, Pine or Golden Valley disease leads to unthrifty lambs. Our Red Sandstone soils are inherently deficient.

Cobalt is an essential element for Lamb growth. Lambs fail to thrive without it & fail to finish. It is even more important when lambs are tightly grazed.

Production losses from poor growth and delays to marketing may cost £10-£15 per lamb

In the last few years there were many cases of Cobalt deficiency leading to poor lamb condition & reduced growth rates

Four Ways of Getting Cobalt into Growing Lambs.

- 1. Downland Essential Lamb Bolus**
Releases Cobalt, Selenium & Iodine every day for 120 days— Great Value at 0.5 pence per day. Dose as soon as Lamb is 8 weeks old and 25kg, no need to wait until weaning
Helps reduce stress at weaning
- 2. Optigain Lamb Liquid Supplement**
Rich in Cobalt & Selenium plus Vitamins A, B1, B12, E, D3 & amino acids.
Specifically developed for growing lambs.
Boost effect for the lamb flock particularly valued for “poor doers” .
Puts bloom on costs. Higher levels of Vitamin E, Selenium & Natural antioxidants to support the natural immune function
- 3. Ewe & Lamb Mineral Buckets.**
High levels of Cobalt & Selenium together with Vitamin B12 and other vitamins makes this a very useful block for the summer grazing period. Specially formulated for us to suit local soil deficiencies. Lambs take this block readily.

Which option should I take?

- Downland Essential Lamb Bolus will give the best result over 120 days
- Use Optigain Lamb for a one off dose
- Or alternate with Thrift drench which contains Cobalt, Selenium & B12 only.
- For mid season finishing Ewe & Lamb buckets are essential. For Autumn/Winter lamb sales make sure that these buckets are available post weaning



- Not getting the weight gains you want? Use our new Fecpak service to optimally treat your flock for worms with the right product.
- Check the resistance status of your farm with a second, discounted, Faecal egg count.
- Save time, money and wormer. Treat right first time.
- Get results in as little as 2 hours, please phone us for more details.

Filling the Forage Gap

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***

*****Cost effective, Grow Your Own Feed*****

Order your Winter Barley, Oats & Wheat seed now

Hay 01497 820410

Hereford 01432 769527

Abergavenny 01873 858300

Visit us at www.rmjones.com for all the latest news & updates

Cost Effective Rations to finish your Lambs

After weaning, lambs can gain about 1kg/week on good grazing without any supplementary feed. However, in practice, this is often not achieved as grazing is unsuitable. In this situation, a home-mix, containing rolled cereal and a protein concentrate such as Superstock Supreme Sheep 40 is a cost-effective alternative to compound.

Once sward height drops below 4cm lambs will require supplementary feeding to maintain growth. A home mix containing 85% rolled cereal (oats can be fed whole and up to 30% wheat can be included to increase energy levels compared to barley and oats alone) and 15% Superstock Supreme Sheep 40 will offer a 15% protein and 13.2 MJ ME/kg DM mix.

The home-mix should be introduced gradually to lambs over a period of 10 days and up to 0.5kg/h/d. Target gains are 250 - 350 g/h/d on this system. This mix would also be suitable for breeding lambs in order to optimize growth rates so that 60% of mature weight is reached at breeding for the first time.

Superstock proteins are free flowing palatable protein meals containing a full specification of minerals, vitamins and trace elements meaning no additional minerals are required. Superstock Supreme Sheep 40 contains 40% all-natural protein, protected fat and protected zinc to support health.

Costs

Based on on-farm cereals at £125/t and Superstock protein at £740/t, the above mix (15% protein and 13.2 MJ ME/kg DM) will cost approximately £217 /t. This is equivalent to **11p/head/day** based on 0.5kg/h/d feed rate.

Arable Update - July 2019

Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat July @ £154

MATIF OSR July @ £323

Nitram Fertiliser @ £270 - 280/t (Protected Urea more competitive)

Key tasks this month

Most cereal crops have been put to bed now. Some late fungicides for ear diseases in wheat or spring crops may be required following the June Monsoon. The combine is hopefully serviced up or booked and the store, trailers and buckets are cleaned out and fumigated.

- **OSR** - Crop desiccation. Early pod sealant (Iskay) followed by Glyphosate has proved very effective in reducing seed loss. Ensure that the rapeseed is under 30% (2/3rds of seed is turning brown in the middle pods of the main raceme) at Glyphosate application.
- **Cereals** - Disease. June rainfall has pushed up disease pressure, Fusarium and Ramularia may need treating again.
- **Beet** - Disease and Pest control. Aphid pressure has been low to date due to the rain however higher temperatures will now increase numbers to threshold levels. Alongside those little blighters it is important to get fungicide and Boron/Magnesium on by the end of the month against Rusts, Ramularia, Mildew and Cercospora.
- **Grain Storage** - Pest control. Reldan 22 has lost its approval for use in wheat (store and grain treatment) . There are other options available, please talk to your agronomist

2020 cropping...

July is generally a good month to fine tune plans for the year ahead. Please speak to your agronomist about what has gone well or not so well, how to get the best out of rotations, what varieties to consider, weed control strategies and fertiliser plans. There are a lot of changes happening in the industry in a raft of areas, good advice has never been as crucial. **R.M. Jones** can help make those changes more manageable.

