

R. M. JONES - SEPTEMBER 2018

The Start of the Sheep Year



Flock health and productivity ~ Maximising returns starts at tugging

“You only get one chance a year to raise a lamb crop and make a profit – you have to get it right first time”.

Autumn is the start of the sheep year. How you manage your flock over the next couple of months will be key to a successful lambing and a profitable lamb crop.

Ewe body condition has a significant affect on the number of ewes that become pregnant and eventually carry their lambs through to lambing time.

And after such a challenging year Sheep will need some nurturing!

Even though Grass is starting to grow again since the rain the quality your sheep will need supplementing to keep Condition Score at 3.5 (for lowland ewes).

Preparation for Tugging

Ewe fertility is the main driver of your flock's profitability.

Get your Ewes fit – We have Tup2Ewe buckets, Crystalyx & Opti-lix. They are convenient, labour saving and do a good job!

Boost Cobalt, Selenium and Iodine levels with **Downland Essential Sheep bolus-releases trace elements every day for 6 months.**

Trace elements and Vitamins also available with Ovigain drench. Inadequate Cobalt at Tugging reduces Lamb vitality at birth.

If you grow cereals and want to feed them we have protein balancers to provide a balanced ration.

Treat and Quarantine Any New Stock - for the sake of your land

Don't bring resistant worms and scab onto your farm – because the resistant worms will infest not only your existing stock but also your pastures for many years to come.

Talk to us about the best option & if Zolvix can fit into your system

Clear out Scab & Worms

Talk to us about the best treatments as not all Ewes will need a straight wormer at this time of year—although watch out for Haemonchus this season

Big Bob's Memorial Tractor Run & Hog Roast

Sunday 9th September 2018

Charity Tractor Run in Memory of Bob Lawrence

Proceeds to Allensmore Young Farmers, Wormside Agricultural Society & the British Heart Foundation

Contact: bobtractorrund@hotmail.com for further details

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Cattle Housing Dose



Zermex Pour On is the most flexible product to use this autumn.

It is broad spectrum, controlling all major stomach worms, lungworm and lice.

Zermex is also very flexible - you can dose your cattle at grass, and house them within 5 weeks without the need to dose again. So making the most of your grass & reducing your feeding bills.

Zermex is also kind to dung beetles - this means they can still do their job of recycling the dung. This reduces the incidence of "mole hills" typically seen after dosing with Ivermectin pour ons.

Forage Crops to Extend grazing - we have seed in store.

Arable News

Autumn Cereal Herbicides

With fewer effective contact herbicide options it is essential that we are prepared to tackle the problem early. There are increasing brome and blackgrass issues in our area but even benign looking annual meadow grass can reduce yields significantly and needs to be controlled in the autumn. Weed control should have started with cultural techniques immediately after harvest to reduce the initial burden. A word of caution however, WRAG (Weed Resistance Action Group) are keen to try to prevent glyphosate resistance, as we all are, and they state that more than one application of glyphosate pre-drilling could significantly increase the risk of resistance developing.

The on-going work carried out at our black grass trial site in Stow Longa highlights these key points:

- Make the primary cultivation soon after harvest
- Don't keep cultivating or spraying to chit more blackgrass on high level sites - thousands of seeds in the seedbank so leave them there!
- Leave 6 weeks between the main cultivation and drilling
- Glyphosate with a decent product and rate close to drilling
- When you drill - drill, don't cultivate!
- Consolidate the seedbed if possible and use a sensible residual programme
- Stand back and admire the results of the above in June 2019!

Pre-emergence chemistry is extremely important and is vital for early grass weed control particularly in winter barley for brome grass where it is the only option available and still unlikely to give full control. Pre-em's are generally safer to the crop, reduce the reliance on more resistant prone contact herbicides and any survivors are likely to be weakened and more sensitive to follow up treatments.

Movon is still performing the best with 5% better control of difficult grassweeds such as blackgrass and ryegrass compared to other options.

Autumn Oilseed Rape Herbicides

Similar to the cereal situation the portfolio is being reduced, Katamaran Turbo has the most broad spectrum range of control covering all of the main weed species. It may also be necessary to use a clomazone based product pre emergence if cleavers or hedge mustard are likely to be a particular problem.

As always speak to your R.M. Jones agronomist for the best advice.