

R. M. JONES - SEPTEMBER 2019

The Start of the Sheep Year



Ensure Ewes are in Tip Top Condition at Topping Time

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

Topping time marks the start of the farming year all over again, and provides the foundation for a potential profitable lamb crop five months down the line.

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 influences ovulation rate & so has a significant affect on the number of ewes that become pregnant and eventually carry their lambs through to lambing time. Even though there is plenty of grass your sheep will need supplementing to keep Condition Score at 3.5 for lowland ewes and 3.0 for hill ewes

Maintaining ewe condition after topping will help them hold to service first time round, which will also help tighten the lambing period which can be music to many farmers' ears. Not only can this result in a more uniform lamb crop, but it also helps lower disease risk and aids management actions

Preparation for Topping

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

The poorer quality grazing typically available at topping time, means offering an energy dense supplement such as Opti-lix High Energy is particularly important to help support ewe condition and overall breeding success. The extra high 35% content also provides the rumen bugs with a source of fermentable energy which helps support microbial growth for optimal forage utilisation and dry matter intakes. The hard and sweet nature of Opti-lix also gives excellent intake control

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

What about Trace elements?

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 Topping reduces Lamb vitality at birth.

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.

Use a Quarantine (Farm Protection) dose

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 and there are some resistance issues for injectables against scab

R M Jones FEC pack reminder— we are doing more worm egg count tests and farmers are finding the results very useful. If you have resistance on your farm you really need to know!

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 Update - Sept 2019

Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat Nov @ £134

MATIF OSR July @ £345

AN34.5 Fertiliser @ £255 - 260/t (Protected Urea more competitive)

Key tasks this month

Most cereals are harvested or will be cleared up by next week. Overall yields have returned a good average. Obviously un-harvested crops will take priority with straw baling and clearance high up on the priority list. The new cropping season starts here and the job list gets bigger...

- **OSR - Planting.** Late drilling of OSR until the 10-15th Sept is possible but remember to put seed rates up the later you go. Fast establishing, high vigour varieties are crucial to get past flea beetle and counteract late drilling. Please consider **Take Off** seed dressing and seedbed fertiliser like **AGRISTART OSR** with **P-Reserve** which will turbo-charge crop growth through the key 2 week risk period of pest damage.
- **OSR - Weed control.** With very high flea beetle pressure there will be conversations regarding holding off on pre-em herbicides until crops have established. The counter argument to this is pre-em herbicides will give the best broad leaved weed control especially difficult weeds like Cleavers and Cranesbill. Please discuss with your **R.M.Jones** agronomist.
- **Cereals - Cultivations.** Obviously there are lots of cultivation methods in use on farm but the key thing is to ensure seedbeds are level and firm to ensure an even drilling depth for seeding.
- **Cereals - Drilling.** Later drilling is one of the most effective ways to reduce grass weed pressure especially when carried out in conjunction with glyphosate destruction of volunteers and weed flushes. Please drill as late as you dare and ideally after mid Oct when planting wheat
- **Grain Storage** - Monitoring grain temperatures is crucial after grain goes in store. Keep sampling and use hot spot grain spears where needed to reduce in store pests.

Pest control in new season crops

With the loss of Deter last year the risks of Flea Beetle, BYDV and Wireworm (in land recently in perm pasture) is high. Its essential that OSR crops are checked every day or two and at the first sign of "shot-holing" that you give us a call. Oats and Barley are at particular risk of BYDV so most crops will need 1 or 2 effective Aphicide passes to reduce virus transmission. There are 2 seed dressings now available for Wireworm control - Signal and Austral Plus. Please speak to your **R.M.Jones** agronomist to discuss options.

**** Please speak to us for prompt, competitive on farm seed cleaning carried out to a very high standard ****