



### Are you Protecting Your Investment in Your Ewes?

We always talk about feeding management of Ewes at Flushing & Pre tugging. But Ewe Nutrition is needed in Mid Pregnancy for the placenta to grow & develop.

The placenta provides all the nutrients for the unborn lamb in late pregnancy. Poor Placenta development results in small lambs – Irrespective of late pregnancy feeding. SAC trials show that Cobalt deficiency in first half of pregnancy produces lambs that are slower to stand & suckle, and more prone to neonatal disease -

**Irrespective of late pregnancy feeding**

Opti-Lix High Energy provides a very palatable and available source of minerals, trace elements and vitamins and is ideal for feeding Ewes.

### Opti-Lix Buckets versus Concentrates

Buckets	Concentrates
Up to 10% improvement forage digestibility	Replaces cheap good quality grazing (substitution effect)
Replaces up to 3 x its weight in cake	More expensive
Supports rumen function	Risks of acidosis
Convenient	Labour intensive
“Round the clock” availability	Limited availability
Shy feeders get their share	Dominant animals overconsume
More even group performance	Uneven group performance
Suitable for outwintered stock	Difficult to feed on wet ground



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## Don't let Fluke Eat into your Profits

As little as 50 fluke per animal can reduce weight gain by 10%

### Should I fluke my cattle at housing?

If you need to control fluke in your sheep then you should control fluke in your cattle too - because this parasite affects both sheep and cattle. Otherwise the fluke infestation on your farm will be prolonged, leaving losses from this disease to continue unchecked. Integrating cattle and sheep treatments can break this cycle. Please talk to us about product choice & timing

**Many of you know Sion Powell from our Hay Farmcentre. Sadly Sion is leaving us after 27 years to work closer to home now he lives in Newport. We will miss his enthusiasm and great sense of humour and wish him all the best for the future.**

## Arable Update – November 2020

### Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat Nov @ £189 - £190

MATIF OSR Nov @ £355

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £210 - 216/t

### Overview

Most crops have now been drilled up in the drier interludes. Some crops have been planted in slightly poorer conditions than hoped for. Establishment on the whole has been good with most crops well set up for the winter. Autumn herbicides have been delayed on a lot of farms – either to prioritise drilling or because the ground wouldn't travel.

### Key tasks this month

OSR There is still some flea beetle activity which is putting pressure on crops. As most rape is now well established the pressure of crop loss is reduced but issues from egg laying and larval damage will grow. Not all chewed crops are Flea Beetle however, there is some slug activity as well as a few pigeons

Where Phoma/LLS fungicides have not been applied these should be prioritised along with Propyzamide based herbicides for further grass and broad leaved weed control.

Cereals A limited number of crops have had any autumn herbicide. Where the crops is planted and has emerged then the addition of an Aphicide will reduce BYDV issues next spring.

Wheat and Oat seed rates need to be closer to 400seeds/m<sup>2</sup> from now on to account for the wetter soil conditions and later drillings. Please don't force crops in, several days delay to achieve a better seedbed will pay dividends (however frustrating that feels...)

Beans Beans, although not a significant crop in this region, are being planted now. Ensure that they are planted around 75mm – 125mm and that a pre-emergence herbicide is applied – there are not too many herbicide options on pulses.

### Marketing

The wheat and OSR prices for harvest 2021 are strong (Nov 21 wheat circa £152). It may be worth a conversation with your grain trader to hedge a proportion of crop sales.

Hay 01497 820410

Hereford 01432 769527

Abergavenny 01873 858300

Ledbury 01531 806130