



# Newsletter

## January 2021

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# R.M. JONES

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### Watch This Space

We are working on a new website, which should be up and running soon. You may have noticed we've updated our logo. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebooks where we will be celebrating our new website launch with a few giveaway competitions!

### 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	£78	£82	£86
	£	£	£
Lamb Sales	£100	£123	£145
Wool	£0.40	£0.40	£0.40
Less Ewes & Depreciation	£20	£20	£20
<b>Output per Ewe</b>	<b>£81</b>	<b>£103</b>	<b>£125</b>
	£	£	£
<b>Variable Costs</b>			
Concentrates	£14	£13	£12
Vet. & Med	£9	£9	£11
Miscellaneous & Transport	£13	£13	£13
Forage Variable costs (inc bought)	£18	£13	£12
<b>Gross Margin</b> per Ewe	£27	£54	£76
Stocking rate (ewes, with lambs per forage acre)	3.1	4.0	4.5
<b>Gross Margin</b> per Forage Acre	<b>£83</b>	<b>£219</b>	<b>£340</b>

This extract taken from "Farm Management Pocketbook" by John Nix. 2021 51st Edition

The gap between the high & the low performing flocks is dramatic at **£49 per Ewe** and **£257 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.

## Did you Know?

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

**Nearly 50% of all farm fires are caused by rodents!**

Rodents cause over **£25 million** in damage each year to farms

Contact us for details



## Arable Update – January 2021

### Market averages

**UK LIFFE wheat** March 21 @ £193 - £194

**MATIF OSR** May 21 @ £366 - £368

**AN34.5% Fertiliser** @ £220 - 230/t

### Overview and the techy bit...

January is the hibernation month for most crops although they will keep growing slowly underground. It has worked hard to get here however, a well-developed wheat crop, with a population of 250 plants/m<sup>2</sup>, will have grown up to 7,000 metres of root length/m<sup>2</sup> and a root mass of 0.3t/ha by the middle of winter.

During the autumn wheat plant development is quite rapid as the crop forms new leaves, tillers and roots. A new leaf will form after 122 °C /days (Phyllochron period) with a new tiller developing from a leaf junction after 3 - 4 leaves have developed. By the time the plant has grown 2 leaves its root network is already well on its way – initially 3 – 6 seminal roots have developed – these are the plants deepest roots and can grow at up to 12mm day in warmer autumns but slow down to about 2mm - 6mm day during the winter months. As the plant continues to grow, slightly different roots called crown roots develop from the base of the stem. Up to 20 crown roots can establish per plant helping it to anchor in the soil and scavenge nutrient.

This is where most of your wheat crops are currently. They will add some more tillers in the spring as temperatures increase although not many if the plant population is already good – overall plant and tiller population can exceed a 1000 plants/m<sup>2</sup> by early April but generally stops once the crop reaches a GAI of 1. To ensure we achieve decent yields we have to create the right soil environment for these roots to collect nutrient, put the right level of nutrients in place where they are in short supply and keep the above ground part of the plant capturing as much solar energy as possible by controlling disease and manipulating growth.

### Tasks

- For those of you lifting beet and wanting to plant wheat then check your varieties latest safe drilling dates. Extase, Skyfall, Siskin, Costello are all solid performers in the late slot. Keep your seed rates up - 450seed/m<sup>2</sup> + to ensure a decent plant population.
- Think about Maize and Cereal seed now, get some booked up to get the varieties you want.
- Fertiliser prices are rising, it is your biggest cost, terms are available.
- As always talk to your agronomist or ask in the Farmcentres.