



### 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, and the high rainfall back in the autumn/winter may have washed it out. 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. This year the heavy rain we had in February and March may have leached Cobalt from the top soil making the Cobalt deficiency even worse

### Three 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. SuperStock Ewe & Lamb Mineral Buckets.

High levels of Cobalt & Selenium together with Vitamin B12 and other vitamins makes this very useful block for the summer grazing period. Specially formulated for us to suit local soil deficiencies.

Lambs take this block readily.

### Rearing to Go! New Downland Essential Calf Bolus

Releases Copper, Cobalt, Iodine and Selenium every day for 180 days. Coming in at under 9p a week it is just right for our Farming area.

### 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\*\***

Downland Grass Seed— You Reap what you Sow! So use this great quality grass seed



FECPAK<sup>G2</sup>

### Faecal Egg Counting Service

The warm weather after all the rain we had will have increased worm populations on your pastures and in your Flock!

Don't let worms undo your hard work, check if your sheep need treating with a Faecal Egg Count.

### Order your Winter Barley, Oats & Wheat seed now

Hay 01497 820410

Hereford 01432 769527

Abergavenny 01873 858300

Ledbury 01531 806130

## 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 2020

### Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat Nov @ £160 – 165/t

MATIF OSR Nov @ £340 - £345/t

Nitram Fertiliser @ £212 - 215/t

### Overview

The recent rains have rescued a number of crops. Moisture at grain fill is crucial for yield, with the lower plant populations ensuring grains/ear and grain weight are maximised are going to be even more crucial. Backward beet crops have started to come alive with recently germinated plants just emerging – flea beetle is a concern so keep checking the young plants for any sign of “shot holing” on the leaves.

### Key tasks this month

- Most cereal crops have reached the point where there is little we can do to influence final yield. Monitoring ears for disease is still important for quality and maintaining crop values.
- Early Oilseed Rape will need desiccation in the next 2 weeks. Correct sampling is very important – ensure you choose 2 - 3 representative area of the crop, sample at least 20 pods mid-way the main Raceme (stem). 2/3rds of seed in the majority of pods need to be brown. If the crop has reached this threshold then desiccation can start in 3 – 4 days if the weather conditions are suitable. Remember to use **Iskay** pod sealant to reduce pod shatter at harvest.
- Beet fungicides will be applied during this month along with Boron and Manganese trace elements. If beet is destined to be in the ground after the end of November a second fungicide application will be necessary to keep leaves greens and protect the beet from frost damage.
- Eyespot: (*Kabatiella zae*) is an increasing issue in Maize – obviously timing is crucial for this as the crop will often be too tall for application. A late liquid fertiliser (Efficient N28) product applied at the same time can improve cob size and overall yield.

### iFarm tours and technical updates

As you are all painfully aware the limitations on public events due to Covid 19 have curtailed many events including the I-Farm events we are involved in with our partners at AGRII. All is not lost however... there are digital updates and presentations available throughout the summer for you to log into. Go to;

**<https://www.agrii.co.uk/summer-virtual-ifarm-and-technology-centre-events-hub/>**

(A pass code is required for the site – please contact your agronomist for details)

The presentations and updates are very useful and informative. The breadth and depth of the trials carried out highlight the vast amount of on farm research that we have access into. Please feel free to access and, as ever, please contact your agronomist if you would like more information.