



Key reasons for feeding Opti-lix Energy this Topping time and beyond

- Late Summer/ Autumn grazing alone may not be able to provide all that is required, even when grass growth conditions have been favourable, for ewes to maintain and/or gain body condition on the approach to tugging.
- As grass quality starts to drop throughout the season, supplementation may be required to balance energy, protein and provide essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements, in particular zinc, cobalt and selenium.
- Grazed grass at this time of year will be low in sugar but high in rumen degradable protein. To ensure animals can make use of this protein a sugar source in the diet is essential (protein not able to be utilised will need to be processed and excreted at an energy cost to the ewe).
- This year in particular the warm dry spring left most farms short of grazing early on, which may have affected ewe body condition now as they approach tugging.
- Although very little growth of the lambs will occur during the mid-pregnancy period, the foetal membrane, including the placenta which is essential for providing oxygen and essential nutrients to the growing lambs, will develop at this time. If nutrition is compromised during mid-pregnancy, then placental size can be small and a reduced supply of nutrients and oxygen will be available to the unborn lambs, often resulting in the birth of weak, unviable lambs

Should I Bolus my Cattle at Housing?

With Autumn upon us it is time to start planning for cattle housing

It is really important that the animals remain healthy during this period to maintain optimum production – and having the correct amounts of trace elements in the diet can really help with this.

In Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and South Powys there are low levels of Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine & Copper – we have seen this from numerous soil & forage tests over the years.

Silage is never better than the day it was mowed. Once clamped or wrapped the vitamin and trace element levels start to degrade – and Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine & Copper all have really important functions in the immune system & the metabolic systems involved in weight gain.

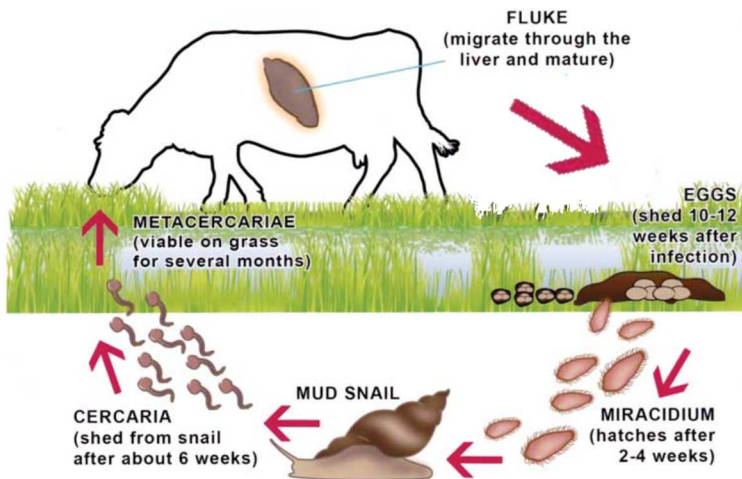
Winter Feeding is expensive, if animals are suffering from these deficiencies they will not make the most of their feed.

Downland Essential Cattle Plus Bolus contains all Four of these trace elements & releases them into the rumen every day, for 180 days.

For Cattle between 200kg & 400kg the cost is £4.75 per dose which is 2.6 pence per day. For Cattle above 400kg the cost is £6.04 per dose which works out at 3.3pence per day

**Prevent the Housing check and boost weight gain in your cattle with
Downland Essential Bolus – please phone for more information**

Norofas – The Ideal Winter Dose



Norofas key product points

- Kills triclabendazole resistant fluke
- Provides broad spectrum efficacy against liver fluke, gut worms, lungworms & ectoparasites
- Easy to pour on

Liver Fluke infection in growing cattle has been shown to depress liveweight gain by 1.2kg/ week depending on the size of the fluke burden.

Arable Update – October 2020

Market averages

UK LIFFE wheat Nov @ £181 - 182

MATIF OSR Nov @ £347 - 378

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £218 - 225/t

Overview

Harvest is well over and mostly one to forget for most people. The atrocious autumn conditions and very dry spring of the last cropping year impacted on yields across the board. Crops are now going into the ground in far better conditions and appear to be establishing well. The recent rain is helping the OSR, grassland and green crop to grow away. Flea beetle has been playing havoc and still needs to be watched as it hasn't gone away just yet!

Key tasks this month

OSR Some of you will have delayed any Autumn herbicide applications onto your Rape. If you have you will need to apply Ralos by the 3 leaf stage or Kat Turbo by leaf 7. There is opportunity, especially with Kat Turbo, to combine volunteer control into the tank mix.

Phoma/LLS control will need to happen this month. The dryer September will have reduced Phoma pressure but it will still be there, the use of Kestrel when 10 – 20% leaves are infected will pay dividends.

Cereals With the demise of Deter seed treatment a couple of years ago the threat of BYDV infection due to Aphids is in increasing. Barley and Oats are most susceptible but Wheat can also suffer, especially where earlier drilling has taken place. We would recommend that all cereals are treated with an Aphicide this Autumn. Crops that have emerged in September and are growing in warmer mild conditions are at high risk.

All Autumn herbicides have label requirements on timing and soil coverage. If spraying is delayed please talk to your Agronomist before applying to ensure that legal application requirements are being met and crop damage doesn't occur.

Maize Maize harvest is underway everywhere, where ground isn't rutted or heavily trafficked then reduced cultivations can work very effectively. If you are a milling whet grower then be aware of the Fusarium carryover and ensure your seed has a good seed dressing.

Hay 01497 820410

Hereford 01432 769527

Abergavenny 01873 858300

Ledbury 01531 806130