



# R.M. JONES Newsletter

## October

FARMCENTRES  
www.rmjones.com

### Why You Should Feed Opti-Lix Energy During Topping Season (and Beyond!)

As topping season approaches, it's crucial to ensure your ewes get the right nutrition to support their health and productivity. Here's why feeding **Opti-Lix High Energy** is a smart choice:

- **Grass Alone May Not Be Enough:** Even if late summer or autumn grazing has been good, grass alone might not provide the energy and nutrients ewes need to maintain or improve their body condition before topping.
- **Declining Grass Quality:** As the season progresses, grass quality dips. Supplementing with Opti-Lix Energy ensures your flock gets a balanced diet with essential energy, protein, and key minerals (especially zinc, cobalt, and selenium), all critical for a successful topping and early pregnancy period.
- **Support Efficient Protein Use:** Grass at this time is often high in rumen-degradable protein but low in sugars. To prevent the waste of this valuable protein, a sugar source is vital for proper digestion—saving energy for the ewe and ensuring optimal nutrition.
- **Boost Lambing Percentages:** A ewe's body condition at topping directly affects lambing success. Maintaining good condition helps increase the chances of ewes holding to their first service, boosting lambing percentages.
- **Support During Mid-Pregnancy:** While lambs don't grow much in mid-pregnancy, the foetal membranes—especially the placenta—develop significantly. Poor nutrition at this stage can lead to smaller placentas and weaker lambs at birth. Providing Opti-Lix Energy can help avoid these issues by ensuring the right nutrients are available for healthy development.

Supplementing ewes during topping and early pregnancy with Opti-Lix Energy can increase lambing percentages, support body condition, and improve overall lamb health and performance. It's a vital step to keep your flock thriving through the season!

### Should I Bolus my Cattle at Housing?

In Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, and South Powys, soil and forage tests consistently show low levels of **Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine, and Copper**—key nutrients for immune and metabolic systems. After silage is mowed, trace elements quickly degrade, meaning your cattle may not get what they need to stay healthy and make the most of their winter feed.

The **Downland Essential Cattle Plus Bolus** provides these essential trace elements daily for 180 days, helping cattle thrive during housing. For cattle **200-400kg**, it costs just **3.5p** per day; for those over **400kg**, it's **4.5p** per day.

Don't let deficiencies impact your herd this winter!

# Arable Update – October

## Comments

September proved to be a challenge weather wise. Frosts, intense rainfall and unfulfilled promises of dryer interludes have made the remnants of harvest difficult to get and plans to drill take a back seat. You can tell a wet September by the amount of hedges that get cut! Where crops have been planted – OSR and some Winter Barley, they have emerged well.

## Tasks:

### OSR

Flea beetle pressure hasn't materialised which has been a blessing. This has allowed crops to get away. The only issue has been slugs – keep a close eye on these even if the crop looks well developed.

### Cereals

Where you can keep seed rates up as soil conditions aren't ideal currently (350+ seeds/m or 175kg/ha). If conditions aren't conducive to good establishment either wait or add 20% to your seed rate. An even establishment is crucial.

### Slugs

They are causing issues – use traps and keep checking

<b>UK LIFFE Wheat Nov24</b>	£178- £184/t
<b>MATIF OSR Nov24</b>	£395 - £405/t
<b>AN34.5% Fertiliser</b>	£335- £340/t

<b>Current wheat GS</b>	-
<b>Current OSR GS</b>	GS20

## Technical Corner:

### **Farm Saved Seed Cleaning & Treatment**

In the UK approximately 45% of cereals planted are processed on farm. Farm saving seed can have a number of benefits which include;

#### **Lower seed cost**

- Savings of £150/t possible

#### **Better seed quality control and reduced contamination**

- Less likelihood of bringing new weeds on farm and carrying over disease.

#### **Know your seed germination and vigour**

- Germ and vigour tests are available

#### **Lower Chemical Use**

- Good seed treatments can reduce disease pressure

#### **Timeliness**

- Your seed is already on farm – no waiting and missing drilling windows
- Customised Seed Treatments
- Signal: for soil pests
- Latitude: for take-all reduction
- Vibrance Duo: for root enhancement

Give us a call for more information and pricing.

## Events:

We will be running a couple of arable events this autumn including

- Trip out to the Croptec Show (27th Nov)
- Fertiliser planning and Crop Marketing talk (Mid Dec)
- Farm field walk (TBC)

If you are interested in any of these events please let us know. If there are other event topics that would be useful then, again, let us know.

