**ASK NIGEL** (Interview with Jameson’s Seed expert Nigel Rees)

Q Why should I consider growing fodder beet for feeding to my cattle and sheep?

Fodder beet is excellent fodder for cattle and sheep as part of a mixed diet with maize & grass silage. It is high in energy and very palatable although low in protein & fibre. It has the highest dry matter yield (13-15 tonnes/hl) of all fodder crops.

Q How do I sow it?

Sow in April on light or medium soils using a precision drill only. Soil pH should be 7.0, soil temperature a minimum of 5 °C and drilling depth 2.5–3.0 cm.

Q How difficult is it to grow?

Fodder beet is susceptible to attack from slugs, leatherjackets, wireworms and aphids. Also, it shouldn’t be lift too early as 30% DM yield is added in the last 4 weeks of growth.

Q Which varieties are best to grow?

Blaze is a variety with the potential to produce excellent dry matter yields with very clean bright roots. Blaze is a dry matter variety. Good resistance to bolting and excellent establishment.

**Farmers are doing ‘alright’ really** GRAHAM JAMESON

Discussing with two customers in one day why they had chosen to purchase feed from other suppliers with low energy ingredients on the list such as oatfeed and sunflowers was always going to make for a bad night’s sleep. “So how are the cattle performing?” I ask. “Well they’re doing alright”, both customers responded. So what’s ‘alright’? Would you accept ‘alright’ results? Sounds great doesn’t it? Well it doesn’t really, forget that an ‘alright’ rep, sells ‘alright’ feed which produces ‘alright’ results. ‘Alright’ feed means ‘alright’.

I expected them to achieve ‘alright’. Sounds better than “well they’re doing alright”.

Why take the gamble? Would you go out and buy a tractor without knowing the specification? So why buy feed and not insist on an ingredients’ list? It’s a fixed ingredient list at that!” Don’t forget that an ‘alright’ rep, sells ‘alright’ feed which produces ‘alright’ results. Sounds great doesn’t it? Well it doesn’t really, it just sounds ‘alright’! Alright?

Kyros provides consistency, with high yields, clean roots and ease of harvesting. This variety complements grass and maize silage, and can be fed whole or chopped.

Feldher produces a huge fresh yield of low dry matter roots. Feldther is ideal for feeding to dairy cows but also makes excellent feed for ewes that can handle the low dry matter roots. Feldther can be harvested but it is an ideal grazing variety.

Jamon gives a very high fresh root yield. It is a yellow skinned variety with a medium dry matter. Highly palatable beet and easily eaten by a wide range of stock.

Jauna produces a high dry matter fodder beet with more of the root in the root, making it similar to sugar beet. Being of high dry matter it will store well.

Robico provides one of the highest dry matter yields in trials. It has a clean, yellow root and medium dry matter content, making it an ideal choice for beef production.

**For Sale & Wanted**

200 Small wrapped baled 2012 Haylage, clean, suitable for horses.

E7-bales collected, discount for quantity. Leyburn Area. Delivery can be arranged. Phone 07761 871551.

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**FARMING CAN BE RISKY**

**Facing the climate**

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Unwins seeds: buy any three and get one lettuce, tomato or carrot free.

Westland specialist composts now in stock.

4 COSECURE holuses £15 + VAT

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**Buy 10 Dalesman Tri Mag buckets, and get one free.**

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Choose from either whey or skim based powder, with: -

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- Health pack – every supplement we can find that has proven benefits to help calves thrive.

- Ingredients used that don’t irritate the calf’s gut.

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**While Stocks last!**
Finishing hogs

**PETER HARLAND**

Jameson's hogg blend is ideal. Alternatively, a high starch diet can be introduced gradually, building up over 10–14 days. Also, cereals can be rolled rather than ground to reduce acid build-up in the rumen. Once lambs are on ad-lib, they should not be allowed to become emaciated, this will reduce the risk of animals overeating when feeders are refilled. In addition, lambs can be given access to long fibre to help stabilise the rumen. However, this can cause problems with some lambs as they will consume forage instead of concentrate and so not finish as quickly.

David Bridge at Court Green Farm, Guiting flashes hogs off concentrates or silage plus a supplement of up to 25% concentrate to a higher throughput and increased intakes. Silage with a long chop length will slow the digestion process leading to reduced intakes and reduced efficiency. Maze silage is not usually used in lamb finishing but research has shown that it can be used effectively; however protein needs to be balanced appropriately. Concentrate level will depend on silage quality and range from 0.2 to 1 kg/head/day depending on target sale dates.

A number of farms choose to finish on ad-lib concentrates to provide a quick (3–6 weeks) finish. Intakes of concentrates are likely to be 1.0–1.5 kg/head/day. Typically fattening store lambs on ‘hard’ feed is a high throughput, short duration system. Lambs need to be introduced very rapidly to the feed so minimising any delays in fattening.

High starch (rolled wheat, barley and maize) will lead to well finished lambs but those need to be fed with sources of digestible fibre (such as sugars) to allow rapid and safe introduction. Otherwise, acidosis can result when high levels of concentrate are fed.

Cheap as chips

**KATHRYN LAWSON**

Outbreaks of Blackleg have been reported after earthworks such as field drainage work and new road construction. Exposure of earth floors during mucking out buildings.

Malignant edema has been reported after contaminated intramuscular injection sites. Disease can also occur following puncture wounds or infection of the castration site following the application of rubber rings.

Outbreaks of idiopathic tetanus have been reported associated with feeding ropes heavily contaminated with soil. Cases of botulism in cattle have been associated with poultry litter spread onto pasture and bird waste has caused serious losses in cattle on individual farms.

Sporadic cases of botulism have been associated with bird carcasses in silage clamps.

For more information please ask at the trade counter at Jamesons or call the office number.

Kirkby Classic Show and Sale of Store Cattle

The annual Kirkby Classic Show at Kirkby Stephen auction was held on March 11th and supported by Jamesons. Carrying out the judging duties was Mr Will Kelby, Conclester, who had a fantastic show of over 30 cattle to judge.

Taking the Classic Championship honours and topping the sale at £3,000 was a smart 9 month old Limousin cross heifer ‘Little Miss Attitude’, sired by Soleil she was consigned by Messrs Marston, Easegh Head. Our rep Stuart Holmes is pictured here with the winning heifer and her caret.

The sale of store cattle was fantastic, with the overall average being £1003.33, with the majority of the cattle being under 12 months old.

**BEAT THAT STEVE WRIGHT!**

To Creep or Not to Creep

**STUART HOLMES**

Lambs are starting to fall thick on the ground now for many, and we’re seeing some good strong lambs!

Different folks have different views on creep feeding any livestock, and what the mother has to eat play in converting forage into milk for the growing offspring. Stock show additional performance from creep feeding. Creep feeding and when to start can dependant on your farm, your system and your market. If done well, creep feeding can really get animals ahead for the rest of their lives, with lifetime performance advantages. Last year some customers creep fed their lambs ad lib from a few days old on our lamb blend or intensive lamb pellets. Some had early lambs ready to have the farm at between 7–10 weeks old, and making good money. Even at today’s dizzy feed prices this is still a very viable option to bear in mind, as other costs such as medication and management are massively reduced, and stock at this age are very efficient converters of feed. Can we also remind customers that we are able to manufacture our intensive lamb creep pellets with deoxovan by veterinary prescription if coccidiosis is an issue.

Check out our website www.wejameson.co.uk for specifications for our products.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black