

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 an excellent feed 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 and fibre. It has the highest dry matter yield (13-15 tonnes/ha) 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 lifted 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 medium dry matter variety. Good resistance to bolting and excellent establishment.

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.

Feldherr produces a huge fresh yield of low dry matter roots. Feldherr is ideal for feeding to dairy cows but also makes excellent feed for ewes that can handle the low dry matter roots. Feldherr can be harvested but 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 ground, making it similar to sugar beet. Being of high dry matter it will store well.

Robbos 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.

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' in any other walk of life? What's wrong with 'fantastic', 'brilliant' or even 'they're doing 1.4kg/day' which is exactly what

I expected them to achieve"? 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; 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?

Contractors / Services

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, breakdowns, new installations, lighting, security, 3-phase. Tel John on 07595 620935 or 01423 323436.

Fencing Contractors, A and S Corner, Easingwold. Call Andrew for a competitive quote: 01347 823645.

Cattle freeze-branding, North Yorkshire. Tel Steve Johnson 07940 064991 or 01347 810980.

Fencing Contractors David Robinson Leyburn 07762 317201

Agri Pest management. Agricultural pest control - rats, mice, moles, rabbits & insects. Tel. Nick 07716 467460 or 01765 640 867

Slitting and over-seeding in one pass. Sward lifting, slurry tanking, ploughing, man & tractor and concrete grooving. Tel. Mike 01765 689 039

Rhodes Feed Services for on-farm rolling, grinding, mill & mix services. All areas covered. 01759 318230 or 07811 432127

All types of fencing work. 3 tonne Digger hire. Ditching, lane repairs etc. Simon Poulter 07751 553504

For Sale & Wanted

200 Small wrapped baled 2012 Haylage, clean, suitable for horses. £7/bale collected, discount for quantity. Leyburn Area. Delivery can be arranged. Phone 07702 873111.

Barney's farmhouse foods. Homemade jams, chutneys, marmalades, sauces & cakes for sale. Tel. 01423 780207 or email anneoxenfarm@yahoo.co.uk

Limousin Bulls. Tel John Swales 07713 322245 or 01845 597339

Angus bulls for sale or hire. Peter Turnbull 01347 868236 or 07836 370253

Grassland subsoiling, aerating, ploughing, reseeding & overseeding. Harrogate / Ripon area. Steven Brown 07920 884575

Fullwood parlour split for parts: 2 Q4 Vaccum pumps with motors, 2 Plate coolers, 30 leggato pulsators, 30 mark 1 milk meters. Allan 01748 812386

Haylage for Sale. 100 Round & 40 Square Bales. Northallerton area. Contact Mark 07712654490.

20 acres of standing grass. Harrogate area. 07895 488002.

2 WiFi Mid Range Audio CCTV Cameras by Intershape. Great for Lambing. Only for sale due to expansion of barn and number of sheep. £175.00. Contact Elly Stokeld 07860 363742

Wanted- Old Bale Trailer or Bulk Trailer, needs to be road worthy, for displaying road side sign for 'Masham' if you have anything suitable please contact Graham Jameson 01765 689666

ANIMAL FEEDS • FERTILISERS • SEEDS • COUNTRY STORE

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APRIL 2013 ISSUE

Cut the costs of out-wintering store cattle by growing kale DR RUTH LAWSON

Forage brassicas can provide an alternative way of increasing the amount of winter fodder on farm. If properly grown, it can be less labour intensive than feeding housed cattle. Strip grazing is required to make best use of the crop and the electric fence will need to be moved every day. However, moving an electric fence can take less time than feeding silage using a block cutter or feeder wagon, as long as you've got some waterproofs!

As cattle are outdoors, bedding and manure handling costs are saved. Also, if the land is reseeded afterwards fertiliser use will be reduced. However, a dry, relatively flat field with some form of shelter is best suited to grazing of brassicas. It may be useful to use fields that are close to buildings as during very wet weather cattle may need access to housing.

Kale is high in protein and has reasonable energy levels. Animals will tend to grow frame rather than putting on condition. They will also require mineral supplementation. Due to the low fibre content of the crop, cattle should have access to straw, hay or high DM baled silage. Having a source of forage will have merit during periods of low temperatures

and frost. This is due to the fact that it is not recommended to feed kale when frozen.

Typical feed values and yields for kale are outlined below:

DM%	Yield DM ton/acre	Energy (MJ/kg)	Protein (%CP)	D Value	Cost to grow £/acre
15-17	4.5	10-11	15-17%	80	90

(Establishment costs include ploughing, tillage, seed and fertiliser). Figures taken from DARDNI.

Costs of brassicas for store cattle can be 28p per day (EBLEX figures, not including straw or labour). Growth rates for growing cattle out-wintered on brassicas are between 0.6 – 0.9 kg / day. As a rule of thumb, 1 acre of kale should feed 30 adult cows for 12/14 days.

Kale is a high yielding fodder crop that can be sown from late spring (May) through to early summer (end of June) and grazed from October until March weather conditions permitting! It can be sown by broadcasting, drilling or direct drilling.

Varieties are available that are resistant to clubroot and seed dressing to protect against flea beetle is recommended.



Want to save money on your feed?

We offer a discount of £4/t on all Jameson feeds as an incentive for our customers to sign up for direct debit. The benefits of direct debit are: -

- Less chance of forgetting to pay bills
- No stamps or envelopes to buy
- Save money on your feed bill
- No cheques to write out – one less job to do
- Reduced bank charges

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Westland specialist composts now in stock.

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

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- Ingredients used that calves can digest well.
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Whilst Stocks last!

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Finishing hoggs

With hogg prices improving it makes sense to finish lambs as quickly and efficiently as possible. The most popular diets for indoor finishing are ad-lib concentrates or silage plus concentrates. Alternatives such as moist by-products can also be used successfully.



For lamb finishing on silage and concentrates the best results are seen on well fermented, palatable silage with a short chop length. A dry matter greater than 25% should be the aim, with ME over 11 MJ/kg DM, pH over 4.0 and ammonia nitrogen less than 10%. Silage should be chopped as it is digested in the rumen quicker which leads to a higher throughput and increased intakes. Silage with long chop length can slow the digestion process leading to reduced intakes and reduced efficiency. Maize silage is not usually used in lamb finishing diets 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 per 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 these need to be fed with sources of digestible fibre (such as sugarbeet) to allow rapid and safe introduction. Otherwise, acidosis can result when high levels of concentrate are fed.

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 fully on ad-lib, they should not be allowed to become empty, this will reduce the risk of animals overeating when feeders are refilled. In addition, lambs can be given access to long fibre to help stabilize 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, Guisborough finishes beltex cross lambs for a premium market. In a difficult year for sheep farmers, David's lambs have averaged 184p per kilo over January and February. David uses hogg blend and aims for fast finishing with the first draw ready 3 weeks after they start on the ration. David says lambs sold in the first draw came in weighing 36 - 38 kg and ranged between 43 and 49 kg in the first batch, taking 3 weeks to finish. Lambs put on a whopping 333g and 524g per day on hogg blend. Hogg blend is a 13.2 MJ/kg blend containing high quality ingredients including rolled barley & wheat, sugarbeet, distillers & soya. The combination of starch and fibrous energy sources means lambs go straight on to this blend ad lib without upsetting the rumen. Lambs also have access to both wheat and oat straw to aid rumen function. As the blend is very palatable he doesn't get issues with lambs eating forage rather than concentrates.

Despite the slightly higher costs per kg of the blends compared to other rations, we're finding the physical structure of blends coupled with quality ingredients are leading to very rapid finish, leading to lambs leaving farm in less time.

Check out our website www.wejameson.co.uk for specifications for our hogg blend.



Cheap as chips

KATHRYN LAWSON

Vaccinating cattle against clostridial disease makes sound economic sense as the vaccines are inexpensive yet the diseases can be devastating. Often the first you know about it is a dead beast. Clostridial diseases of cattle include black disease, blackleg, malignant oedema, tetanus and botulism. Clostridial spores are widespread particularly in soil. Disease in cattle is triggered by damage to body tissues activating disease spores. This is followed by very rapid multiplication in the animal's body with toxins produced, causing death within hours. The response to antibiotic treatment is very poor. Prevention of clostridial diseases by vaccination is standard practice in sheep and should be seriously considered in cattle where there is a history of disease on the farm or where risk factors exist.

There are various triggers for the different clostridial diseases. Black disease is typically associated with migration of immature liver flukes during late summer/early autumn and can affect unvaccinated cattle and sheep of all ages.

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

Outbreaks of Blackleg have been reported after earthworks such as field drainage work and new road construction, and exposure of earth floors during mucking out buildings. Malignant oedema 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 root crops heavily contaminated with soil. Cases of botulism in cattle have been associated with poultry litter spread onto pasture and bakery waste has caused serious losses in cattle on individual farms. Sporadic cases of botulism have been associated with bird carcasses in silage clamps.

Kirkby Classic Show and Sale of Store Cattle

The annual Kirkby Classic show at Kirkby Stephen auction was held on March 11th and sponsored by Jamesons. Carrying out the judging duties was Mr Will Ketley, Colchester, 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, Easegill Head. Our rep Stuart Holmes is pictured here with the winning heifer and her owner.

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.



Silage factoids!

PETER HARLAND

- My dad's favourite motto and a golden rule for most aspects of farming including filling the silage the pit, stacking bales, building walls, loading trailers, etc. "Look after the edges and the middle will look after itself".
- Plan suitable fertilizer applications, a field of grass will utilize about 2 units of nitrogen fertilizer per acre per day (1kg N per acre).
- Get soils tested every 4 years, every 4 tonnes fresh of a 25%DM silage contains 2-4kg of P and 15-40kg of K, so you might save money by targeting some nutrients whilst not needing others.
- On average (25%DM), 1 fresh tonne of farm yard manure contains 2kg of available P_2O_5 and 7kg of K_2O REMEMBER 1kg of P_2O_5 = 0.44kg of P. And 1kg of K_2O = 0.83kg of K.
- The stage of growth when the grass is cut will be a major determinant of the quality of the silage and its suitability for different types of stock, sucklers, ewes, dairy, stores etc.
- Round bale silage can match pit silage quality, and can be used as a grassland management tool. It also allows easy partitioning of different quality silages for different stock.
- Stacking round bales higher than 2 or 3 can burst their air tight seal leading to spoilage.
- Wilting can improve fermentation in silage, however losses can occur in grass wilted for longer than 24hrs
- If stopping silaging for 6hrs or more it is beneficial to sheet over your pit.
- Eblex say the pressure of a tractor wheel will only be effective for a depth of 20cm on the silage pit...so keep paddling it down as you fill.

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 while the mother has her part to play in converting forage into milk for the growing offspring, stock show additional performance from creep feeding. Creep feeding, and when to creep are very much 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 adlib from a few days old on our lamb blend or intensive lamb pellets. Some had early lambs ready to leave 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 deccox by veterinary prescription if coccidiosis is an issue.

Our Gimmer lamb blend will also be available again this year, and has proved very successful at getting good frame and shape onto these future breeders, helping them catch the buyer's eye!

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

Congratulations:

to our customer Robert Tindall at Linton Springs Farm for winning the championship for new season lambs at Otley auction Easter show and sale.

USEFUL NUMBERS County Store 01765 680215 • Nick Bowkett 07715 994178 (Product Sales) • David Lewis 07710 600848 (Dairy Specialist) • John England 07703 559246 (Sales) • Stuart Holmes 07894 595194 (Sales) • Graham Jameson 07802 253060 (Sales) • Jonathan Stansfield 07732 396078 (Grain Buyer / Fertiliser Sales) • Richard Harker 07732 396079 (Accounts) • Nigel Rees 07860 367850 (Seed Sales) • Peter Harland 07803 116410 (Sales) • Ruth Lawson 07725 263050 (Nutritionist)