

Ask Nigel *(Interview with Jameson's seed specialist Nigel Rees)*

Q What could I sow after maize or cereals?

Forage rape can provide nutritious, cost-effective feed for beef and sheep and is ideal for extending the grazing season. Forage rape is lower yielding than either kale or stubble turnips, but grows at a faster rate so can be sown even into September.

Q When can I graze it?

It can be grazed 12-14 weeks after sowing. The crude protein content will be 19-20% with an ME of approximately 10.5 MJ/kg DM. Winter hardy varieties are available. Average fresh yield is 24-35 tonnes per hectare at 12-14% DM, with a D-value of 65.

Q What will it cost?

Costs per tonne of fresh weight is £12, with a cost per acre of £166.

Q How do I grow it?

It is best to choose varieties with good disease resistance, especially against powdery mildew. A fine, firm seedbed is needed at a seed rate of 2.5 kg/acre (6.2 kg/ha) if drilled or 4 kg/acre (10 kg/ha) if broadcast. The crop should be limed to keep pH between 6.0 and 6.5 and the P & K status checked. The seedbed will need to be clean before sowing as rape is vulnerable to competition. Also watch out for flea beetle and slug damage.

You know you're a sheep farmer when...

- 1 You have used baler band to attach a license plate.
- 2 You've cancelled a dentist or doctor's appointment because you're lambing a ewe and the receptionist sucks in her breath with that "you can't be serious" sound.
- 3 You have an industrial sized container of lube on your vet shelf, and don't understand why visitors find this weird.
- 4 You have at least five flypaper strips scattered around the house and/or barn covered with dying flies, and this pleases you.
- 5 Your idea of neighbourhood watch is someone calling you to let you know your sheep are out.
- 6 Your idea of overnight delivery is pulling a lamb out at three in the morning.
- 7 Watching sheep mating no longer seems remotely weird.
- 8 The weekend away with your other half means you take a diversion to drop in at a machinery dealer or to see a new tup.
- 9 Your idea of a day out is attending your local auction.
- 10 Your idea of a few days away is attending the NEMSA sales.

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.

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

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

Fencing contractor. J. Weatherhead & Son Tel. 01765 658508 or 07974 695774

For Sale & Wanted

Pearson Jumbo Bed Former with Sub-Soiler Legs and Drag Tines £1500. Reekie Bed Tiller with Bed Former, good condition £2,500 o.n.o. Tel: Greensit 01677 460272.

4000 litres (approx) Müller DX bulk tank. Complete with compressors etc. Open to offers. Also, Bayerthorpe 100, 000 gallon slurry store 3 ring type £1000. Buyer to remove with both items. Tel. 01423 780624 or 07894634154.

Flat 8 Grab For Sale Stokesley Area £225. Tel 07860 363742.

2500 ltr bunded plastic diesel tank, electric dispenser Tel. 01677 470860 / 07753 637638

Barney's farmhouse foods. Home made 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

12t Bailey grain trailer £3500 + VAT. Ripon area. Tel. Tim Abel on 07802 712501 or 01765 602605

Wanted farm worker for large beef & arable unit. Ripon area. Tel. Tim Abel on 07802 712501 or 01765 602605

Wanted - 8ft Trailed mower. Contact Harvey 0775 9619804.

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AUGUST 2013 ISSUE

Swards of Champions

PETER HARLAND

Congratulations to Mr Mike Chapman of Travellers Rest Farm Whitby for winning the Whitby dairy discussion group's grassland competition, and to Eddie Nicholson of Briscoe farm for taking the second placed spot.



Mr Chapman entered a Jameson No3 Max D ley sown last year, and Mr Nicholson entered a Jameson No6 Endura-Sile ley also sown last year. Both leys are in close proximity on fairly high, re-claimed moorland and struggled a bit through establishment due to low light levels, cold soils and a general lack of summer! Now however, they are highly production and are obviously faring very well.

The two leys are quite similar in makeup, and are there to do a comparable job. Mr Chapman wanted a 5 year ley and required high yields of top quality forage for cutting with some grazing. For this reason some hybrid ryegrass is present in this mixture to really bulk up production in the first few years. Mr Nicholson wanted his ley to provide quality silage with some grazing, but last for all eternity! For this reason hybrid ryegrass is not durable enough, and so a mixture of diploid and tetraploid, late and intermediate ryegrass is included to give a dense persistent high yielding quality ley.

While some leys if managed well can maintain a good percentage of ryegrass for many years, it is always worth considering renewing even a long-term ley after 10 years or so if you intend to use it for intensive production. You can then take advantage of the new genetics and improved efficiency of a new sward, giving you more production per unit of input, and so giving you an economic advantage, i.e. more for your money!

Monthly offers



10% off

all shooting gear during August.



Buy 10 Dalesman Garlic grazer buckets to stop the flies and **get one free.**

Buy 10 Dalesman tugging (Feet & Fertility) buckets and **get one free.**

Buy any size Rodilon rat poison and **get a ratbox half price.**

10% off

0.8 litres of Crovect
£24.55 + VAT

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2.2 litres of Crovect
£45.45 + VAT

NETTEX Sheep Conditioning drench (*suitable for ewes pre-tupping or gimmers being prepared for the sales*)
3.5 litres for **only £50 (no VAT).**

10% off

Slaymore rat bait sachets.

While Stocks last!



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Cereal seed

NICK BOWKETT

Barley

KWS Cassia is a feed barley which has given high yields of grain with a high specific weight and is the most popular feed variety grown. However, it is susceptible to mildew and Rhynchosporium but has resistance to mosaic virus. A new variety, **KWS Glacier** is even better, but there is limited tonnage available. **Volume** is a 6-row hybrid which has very high yields. It is tall with only moderate straw strength. It has good disease resistance and good specific weight. Volume is also resistant to the common strains of mosaic virus.

First wheats

Cougar is a high yielding variety with excellent disease resistance plus resistance to wheat blossom midge. It has high tillering capacity with fairly late maturity and low specific weight, but there is limited tonnage available. **KWS Santiago** is the highest yielding variety on the Recommended List. It has a hard endosperm with moderate grain quality and moderate straw strength. It has resistance to orange blossom midge but has a rather poor spectrum of disease resistance to rust so requires a good fungicide and PGR programme. However, it is able to perform well in all situations.

KWS Kielder has very high yield potential, but mediocre disease resistance so benefits from a comprehensive fungicide programme. It has blossom midge resistance, but needs to be sown early as it is slow to develop. **KWS Leeds** is a new variety and is extremely high yielding with a tall but relatively stiff straw. It has relatively good resistance to both yellow rust and fusarium but is susceptible to mildew. KWS Leeds is resistant to orange wheat blossom midge and has a good specific weight.

Second wheats

JB Diego is a second wheat that has given consistently high yields in many situations. It has reasonable disease resistance, but is susceptible to brown rust. It is early maturing with good sprouting resistance and good grain quality. **Duxford** has moderate yields and long but stiff straw. It has only moderate all-round disease resistance and is quite susceptible to yellow and brown rust. It shows rapid development from early sowing, so is best sown mid to late September onwards.

For more information, availability & prices, please call Nick Bowkett or speak to your rep.

Reducing the threat of summer mastitis

KATHRYN LAWSON

Summer mastitis is a disease that changes little over the years, affecting the same farms year after year. Spread by flies, it affects non-lactating cattle at any age. Although mainly caused by the bacterium *Actinomyces pyogenes*, other organisms may make the situation worse. If left untreated the condition may damage the affected quarter and in severe cases lead to abortion and death.

Dalesman Garlic buckets or long acting pour-ons are effective at controlling flies on cattle. Ask us about fly control: -

- Dalesman Garlic buckets
- Pour-ons
 - Spot-On
 - Swish
 - Flypor



Feed focus: Gimmer lamb blend

GRAHAM JAMESON

Gimmer lamb blend is highly palatable and formulated to maximize intake, optimizing performance at sale time. This flakey blend contains mixed flakes, rolled barley, soya, high energy nuts, sugarbeet nuts and barley distillers. These ingredients are very highly digestible.

Gimmer lamb blend contains specific levels of vitamins A & D and is fortified with vitamin E which is particularly important for the immune system of the animal. Selenium is also needed for optimal functioning of the immune system and our blend contains good levels. Crude protein is at 17% and ME 13.2 MJ/kg DM. Gimmer lamb blend enables excellent growth rates with show quality finish.

Gimmer lambs which are not of sufficient size for tupping no longer command the same premium as well-grown lambs. So it pays to feed them before the sales.

Has it rained yet?

DAVID LEWIS

The following article was written in the drought. As we go to the printers in late July, it has rained a variable amount in most areas but some places have had none. It might rain again before this is read but the consequences of the drought may still be affecting farms.

The last time we had a hot, dry spell was July 2006 and we have to go a long way further back than that to remember a prolonged hot summer. Memories are perhaps a little short as to how we coped and what we did. Livestock farmers need to consider their own situation and decide whether they need to respond.

Should we just be patient and buffer feed our stock in the short term and hope to replenish fodder stocks later? The current dry sunny period has raised soil temperature dramatically so, if we do get rain, grass will grow quickly and there will be chance to replenish missing stocks. Also long hot summers are not usually followed by an early housing date. Stock can usually be left out longer and this will save housing costs. However, the climate has been erratic over the last few years so we can't guarantee that will be the case. Also, in an extreme example such as 1976, if the weather doesn't break until late September there will only be a limited amount of grass growth in the autumn when days are getting shorter.

So do farmers need to do something about the dry weather? Every farm is different and what would suit one farm may not suit another. So, if an individual farmer does think they should prepare for a difficult feeding period what are the options:

MOIST FEEDS such as brewers' grains: these are very palatable and succulent. When grass is dry and unappealing these can help animal performance as well as preserve silage stocks as the overall dry matter intake will rise. Arable bi-products such as stock feed potatoes and vegetables can be included if they are available locally. It is best to try and establish a continuous supply if possible as spot loads with erratic supply can upset stock. However, the weather is already creating extra demand for these products and the prices are rising as a result. Pressed pulp should be available from October onwards, although we have no confirmation of tonnage or price yet.

WHOLECROP CEREALS can provide a big tonnage of silage if stocks of grass silage are low. The falling price of cereals for harvest onwards makes the option of buying a standing crop more advantageous. Spring barley as a wholecrop looks particularly attractive. With the new crop price looking like being in the £130 to £140 range and a yield of 2 to 2.5 tonnes, an arable farmer may take a view that selling as a wholecrop might be beneficial, especially if they want an entry for an early drilled crop such as rape. If silage is going to be short, then this option should prove more economic than buying silage or a moist feed in winter.

GROWING A CATCH CROP can be an option either from a field that is not doing particularly well or after wholecrop or winter barley. Brassicas such as stubble turnips or forage rape are a good option for short term grazing or Italian ryegrass with the view to cutting for silage in late September/October with another crop next April. The key issue here is getting the crop established. Soil operations should be minimal to preserve any water in the soil. Working dilute slurry or dirty water in to the land may help to get the crop established.

STRAW BASED RATIONS in arable areas can reduce the demand for silage where it is in short supply. Dairy youngstock can do well on a straw plus a 20% compound feed. Maize gluten is available this winter and can provide a cheap alternative, provided minerals are included. This would be less attractive where haulage adds significantly to the price of straw.

REDUCING NUMBERS of stock can prove more cost effective than buying in large quantities of feed. If store prices are high then reducing numbers on the farm might be a good option. Conversely but still effective would be to put stores, that would maybe normally run on over winter on silage, on to an intensive finishing ration. Cereals are a bit lower in price and although the animals would not finish at as high a weight, it may prove an option on some farms.

At least it's better to be fretting about this year's weather than last and we are enjoying the sunshine on a daily basis.



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)