

Focused on Farming



JANUARY 2014 ISSUE

Ten things you might not know about Vitamins

- 1) Propionic acid preservation of cereals results in the destruction of dietary vitamin E, with calves and lambs particularly at risk. Supplementation with vitamin E is needed.
- 2) Cobalt is needed for vitamin B12 which is made in the rumen. If lambs get worms and therefore scour, vitamin B12 absorption is interrupted.
- 3) Supplementation of vitamin E in cows before calving results in reduced incidence of retained foetal membranes (RFM) from 6.5% to 3.1% in one study and from 10.1% to 3% in another study. This has knock-on effects for pregnancy rates as cows in poor health don't hold pregnant.
- 4) Vitamin E supplementation results in an improved immune response which reduces mastitis and infectious disease in general.
- 5) High milk yields make considerable demand on calcium and phosphorus in the dairy cow. Vitamin D plays a major role in calcium metabolism and hence indirectly phosphorus metabolism.
- 6) Rumen microbes synthesize enough B vitamins and vitamin K to meet the usual needs of cattle, except calves. Calves need to be supplemented with these vitamins.
- 7) Ewes supplemented with vitamin E have high colostrum vitamin E concentrations which also transferred to their lambs. Vitamin E supplementation in late pregnancy leads to clear effects on immune function – healthier ewes and healthier lambs.
- 8) Vitamin B12 deficient lambs had high faecal egg counts than supplemented lambs from the same ewe. Studies show that lambs that are deficient in vitamin B12 have higher faecal egg counts than supplemented lambs from the same ewe.
- 9) Supplementing cows in late pregnancy with vitamin A will result in clear benefits for calves.
- 10) New research shows that calves that have been deprived of colostrum respond well to vitamin C inclusion in the calf milk replacer. These supplemented calves will have reduced respiratory disease. This benefit is likely to be particularly important for black & white bulls and calves born to heifers as they don't tend to always receive sufficient good quality colostrum.



Monthly offers

Animal health

Sheep conditioning drench 2.5L + 1L FREE just £50. Given 1-3 weeks prior to lambing maximises foetal development and minimises lamb mortality, Vitamin E & selenium to maximise resistance to disease.

Lamb colostrum – Buy 10, 20 or 40 doses and get a FREE colostrum syringe, Buy 100 doses and get a FREE non vac lamb bottle.

Pro mark marker sprays 400ml buy 5 get a 6th FREE

Country Store

Ring us for a **special price** on full pallets of dog food.

Hardware

- 4' Wooden Hurdles **£6.50 + vat**
- 5' Wooden Hurdles **£7.40 + vat**
- 6' Wooden Hurdles **£7.75 + vat**
- 10' Wooden Troughs **£20 + vat**
- 9' Galv. Hurdles **£23 + vat**
- 4' Galv. Hurdles **£14-50 + vat**
- 6' Galv. Hurdles **£16 + vat**
- Slot over hay baskets **£13-50 + vat**
- Metal & Plastic Wheelbarrows **24% off** (while stocks last)
- Aluminium / ABS bedding fork **was £19.99 now £9.99** (half price)
- Dodson & Horrell 16+ Mix **was £14.99 now £12.99** (£2 off)
- Special Purchase: Dengie Hi-Fi with Apple just £8.50/bale** while stocks last
- Winter Grit / Rocksalt 25kg **£8.75/bag, buy 3 get 1 free**
- New in stock: Fold Hill Essential Working Dog Food 15kg **just £7.99**
- Bedmax pine shavings bale **just 4.99 ex vat when you collect a pallet of 36 bales.**

All ex Masham, While stocks last!





Feed focus: Dalesman Ease hi energy buckets & blocks

High performance flocks with good lambing percentages will benefit from our Dalesman Ease Hi Energy buckets and blocks. Extra vitamins and minerals, for example vitamin E will help support a healthy immune system and vigorous strong lambs. A feature of these buckets is the good levels of energy at 11MJ/kg DM. Dalesman Ease hi energy buckets contain supplemental protein at 18% for the blocks. They also contain sulphur to aid rumen functioning and selenium in both protected and unprotected forms to help the ewe's immune system. Monopropylene glycol (MPG) is included in the buckets to give ewes an energy boost and help avoid twin lamb disease.

Correctly fed ewes will result in high lambing percentages as the ewe needs nutrients for:

- Maintaining and growing the unborn lamb(s)
- Developing the udder and milk production
- Producing good quality colostrum
- To avoid metabolic disorders, such as twin lamb disease.

The lambs in turn will be vigorous and get up to suckle quickly. They will have strong immune systems and lamb mortality will be reduced.



Ask your rep or ring the office about our Dalesman buckets and blocks.

MAIZE VARIETIES

What a difference a year makes! 2013 maize crops were much bigger than the washout of 2012 and the quality target of 30% dry matter and 30% starch was achieved by many. It was a difficult year to determine differences between varieties as all crops looked good over the hedge.

So what will 2014 bring? It is probably unwise to rely on a repeat of 2013 so selecting a good reliable variety that has done well locally is important.

ACTIVATE

This very early variety has produced extremely good quality silage and has done well in marginal crop conditions. Also it is suited to late sowing after an early grazing or silage crop. It has achieved the Limagrain LG Animal Nutrition Status verifying the beneficial animal performance achieved.

AMBITION

This was the bestselling variety last year achieving very high yields. It is slightly later than Activate but is a very tall variety with good long cobs resulting in very high yields. It also has achieved the Limagrain LG Animal Nutrition Status and feeds very well.

YUKON

Well placed in the NIAB Descriptive List this has proved to be a very reliable variety over different soil types in the two years we have seen it grow locally. It is slightly earlier than Ambition and will be a good replacement for Destiny whose seed is getting in short supply.

These 3 varieties are all on the NIAB 1ST choice list. For further details contact your rep or Neil on 07889 539373.

Artificial rearing of lambs

Dr Ruth Lawson

Artificial rearing of lambs does not have to be labour intensive or accompanied by high levels of lamb death loss. They can also be financially viable if done right. If finished lambs prices are around £82 per head with variable costs to produce a finished animal of £47, it's certainly worth considering.

The most labour saving method is to use an automatic milk feeder, which could also be used to rear calves out of lambing season. Next it is essential to use the best quality lamb milk powder. Britmilk lamb milk powder is by far the best on the market and along with TMF automatic machines can be purchased through Jamesons.

So what's the most effective way of rearing them? The best rule of thumb is to remove the most different lamb, with size and gender being the determining factors. For example, in a set of triplets, where two are small and one is a bit bigger, take the biggest ones off the ewe.

In terms of training the lambs to use the teats, soft teats will elicit more suckling, and teats about 4cm in length elicited more sucking than shorter or longer ones. Use of teats that do not readily elicit sucking may explain some of the difficulty in training artificially-reared lambs to suck. The training pen should be placed closest to the milk as this will mean it has the shortest pipes which will make it easier for new lambs to suck. Lambs should be removed from the ewes at around 48h after having sufficient colostrum and left for a few hours to get hungry. However, extended periods without food may cause lambs to lose their desire to suck. Learning to suckle from an artificial teat is enhanced by untrained lambs observing already trained ones. The training sessions should be repeated regularly every 4-6 hours, two to three sessions is usually all that is necessary. Lambs left with the ewe for more than 2 days may require six to eight sessions before accepting the nipple. Most lambs remain in the training pen for only 1 to 2 days before moving to the intermediate pen. You can spray letters on each lamb to identify them. Once they have been seen feeding independently they can be moved into the main group and ticked off your list.

In order to wean lambs at an early age, it is important to offer good quality creep feed. Premium Coarse mix is ideal as it contains palatable ingredients, such as flaked peas, beans and maize. Alternatively, you may prefer to use Intensive Lamb Creep pellets and lambs do equally well on these. Forage, either hay or straw; and fresh water should also be provided. Lambs should be weaned at 5 weeks or 10kg live weight whichever is soonest, provided lambs are eating at least a small amount of hard food.

By weaning, lambs should have consumed around 13 kg of milk powder. You must limit use of milk powder to this figure otherwise margins will be affected. A week before weaning they are moved into another pen with more trough space and 15 to 20 lambs per teat. Lambs can be kept inside and sold at 38 to 42kg liveweight as soon as they are ready. If you intend to graze the lambs they will need to be a good size to survive on grass and will need creep feeding.

The automatic machine provides a constant supply of pre mixed powdered milk and warm water. As the milk is consumed the level drops, once the level drops below the sensor probe the machine will mix up another feed. The machine has a powder hopper at the top and a heated water tank in the bottom. The water temperature is controlled by an adjustable thermostat. Cleaning the machine is quick and easy. The teats will also need to be cleaned and disinfected to prevent disease, particularly orf. The area directly in front of the teats should be kept clean and as dry as possible. Using a bedding sanitizer is a good idea, for example Biolime.

Once you have the system set up you'll find different ways of using it. Replacement ewes can be reared artificially and have good mothering instincts due to their genetics rather than the environment in which they have been reared. In fact they tend to be easier to handle and more robust in their health when they enter the flock. You'll find that by artificially rearing triplet lambs and twins from hogs, ewes come out of summer in better body condition and there is less mastitis.

Ask your rep for advice on rearing spare lambs and for prices on Britmilk lamb milk powder, TMF ad lib machines & intensive lamb creep pellets.



FARMING FUNNIES

Two farmers were sitting next to each other. One says to the other, "I have such a big farm I could climb in my truck, and it would take me two days to get across the whole farm!" The other farmer turns back to him and replies, "I also used to have a truck like that!"

What do you get from a drunk chicken?
Scotch eggs!

What banned weapon can you use to kill slugs?
A salt rifle.

Starting to think about fertilizer

Neil Edminson

Although it's still winter, it pays to start thinking about fertilizer, making sure you have the correct fertilizer on farm when the time comes to apply it. The starting point should be to carry out a soil analysis for N, P, K & pH from a proportion of your fields. We can have your soil samples analysed for you. Lime is vital to maximize the availability of nutrients for plants, with grass needing a soil pH of between 6 and 6.5. It makes sense to maximize grassland productivity through specific fertilizer use. This will enable you to get stock out earlier and enjoy an early start to spring as well as the extended grazing during autumn. It is also important to make sure the fertilizer is available to apply as soon as is practical. At this stage in the year it's a good idea to calibrate and service your spreader as any wastage of fertilizer is costly. Once you know what you need, give us a ring for a quote and to order. You'll ensure that you get your delivery when you need it as the value of lost production will outweigh the savings in interest.

Check your grassland

Peter Harland

This time of year can be a good time to think about your grassland management. Here are five things to check to maximize productivity on your land: ~

- 1) Soil tests for NPK and pH can be completed to target fertilizer effectively.
- 2) If compaction is an issue, soil structure needs to be improved. An aerator will help with compaction at the top, but where compaction is deeper, ploughing will be needed.
- 3) Low numbers of worms can indicate that the soil is too acidic (or too alkaline), too wet or dry, compacted or has no organic matter.
- 4) Sometimes the colour of the soil can indicate soil status. Grey soil can indicate poor drainage, these soils show poor growth as the soil takes a long time to warm up and uptake of nutrients is compromised. Soils that smell are also indicative of the same issues.
- 5) It's also worth thinking about how much of a problem weeds have been and addressing these too. Also, consider re-seeding in the Spring if weed grass species are taking over.

Give me a ring to discuss your grassland management on 07803116410.

Accounting and Taxation Services - The Barker Partnership

Come and visit Fiona Wilkinson in Masham Town Hall, Wednesdays 2-5pm or call **01969 623137**



Contractors / Service

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.

5t digger for hire, with or without operator. Andrew Donaldson 07753 637638.

Fencing, Forestry and Groundworks Contractor. WM Rural Contractors, Yorkshire. Contact Will McDermott 07791335602 for a competitive quote.

Fodder beet cleaner to hire. Mike Swainston 01765 689039

For Sale & Wanted

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.

80 IAE Supercomfort Cubicles. 1900mm or 2000mm. Also 12 cow mats. Northallerton Area. Tel: 01609 772959

"Quantity of 1T feed bins - waterproof and sound construction. £150 each o.n.o. K.Foster 07711 469280."

"JCB 3C digger, working order. Genuine reason for sale £2500. 07850 029146"

W E Jameson & Son Ltd, Foxholme Lane Mill, Masham, N Yorkshire HG4 4EL

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