

What's up pussy cat?

DR RUTH LAWSON

If lambing rapidly starts to go pear-shaped this year due to lamb losses from infectious abortion, help is at hand. Every abortion should be investigated with your vet, but if ewes are aborting down to toxoplasmosis, we can incorporate Deccox into our Ewedale range of sheep cakes provided a veterinary prescription is obtained.

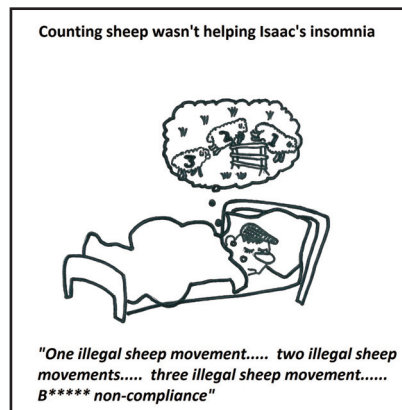
Research has shown that a significant decrease in lamb losses due to Toxoplasmosis can be achieved by feeding Deccox during pregnancy. However, Deccox is most effective if it is already being fed to susceptible ewes at the time they encounter infection rather than after infection.

Infection in sheep in early pregnancy kills the foetus and ewes show up as empty. Infection later in pregnancy may result in abortion, still births or weak lambs, often accompanied by mummified foetuses. However, following infection sheep are immune and should not abort again due to toxoplasmosis.

Toxoplasma eggs are produced by cats in their faeces. Sheep become infected if they eat feed (grass or concentrates) or drink water contaminated with cat faeces that contain Toxoplasma eggs.

Also, please remember, Toxoplasma can cause serious disease in pregnant women and people who have a weak immune system. Be sure to make visitors to your farm aware of the problem and keep pregnant women and immunocompromised people away from lambing ewes and clothing that may be contaminated.

For more information please visit www.wejameson.co.uk



ANIMAL FEEDS • FERTILISERS • SEEDS • COUNTRY STORE

Focused on Farming



The grass is always greener... in your neighbour's field.

JANUARY 2013 ISSUE

JONATHAN STANSFIELD

Even though it's only January and there's still plenty of winter to come, it makes sense to start planning your fertilizer so that you have it available when the time comes to apply it.

It's a good idea to have your soil analysed for N, P, K and pH. By doing this you'll save money by only applying what you need. If lime levels are low, it's vital to put this right to improve availability of other nutrients to the plant. You can also look at slurry and manure application to make use of nutrients on farm.

Once you have this information you can decide what fertilizer you need to buy. Growing grass is still the least expensive feed for ruminants, so it makes sense not to economize on fertilizer.

Many farmers will start to run out of silage stocks so it will be important to decide which fields can provide early turnout and apply fert here first.

Results from NIAB GM20 trials, showed that the response to each extra kg of nitrogen is 28 kg grass DM. At 12 MJ ME per kg DM, that is 61 litres of milk per kg N.

Fertilizer will be cheaper in January and will get progressively more expensive towards spring. Many farmers haven't bought their supplies yet so there will be a rush in spring. Once you know what you need please contact us and place your order so that you get it delivered onto farm when you want it.

Chewing the fat (with Dr Ruth & Martha Mule)



If you've chowed your way through the last turkey sandwich and watched the Great Escape on rerun. Seen granny get tipsy again on Baileys and suffered the consequences of copious servings of brussel sprouts, you'll be glad to get back to farming. I'm not saying the "I'll have to go outside and milk the chickens and bed-up the laying heifers" isn't a great way of escaping for a bit of peace and quiet. This month we look into the Jameson crystal ball with Martha the North Country mule. Here's what she had to say: -

"On a scale of Victoria Beckham to Lisa Riley, us lasses are closer to the VB end of the condition score range. I blame the summer, there's no sugar in the green stuff. The winter green stuff is even worse. I'm dreading the magic scan, I don't think us girls will be full of arms & legs as we weren't exactly over-run with food when Terry Tex visited."

You're right Martha, at Jamesons, we think it will be critical to feed ewes correctly in late pregnancy, to avoid twin lamb disease and ensure fit healthy lambs. It will make sense to have your forage tested so that you can work out how much supplementary feed to use. Also, an analysis will tell you other things about how the silage will work in the rumen. For example, it will tell you how stable the rumen is likely to be. If the silage is a bit lively you'll need to avoid too many starchy ingredients otherwise you lasses may suffer from acidosis.

"With rubbish green stuff, I don't want any fillers to eat, no rice bran, sunflower etc. Get me some tasty Ewedale sheep food ☺".

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

For Sale & Wanted

JOB General farm worker wanted. Catterick. Dairy, beef & arable. Tel 01748 811643.

WANTED Flexicoil triple K cultivator CW with coil. Tel. 07551 614916

FOR SALE Good quality 4ft round bales 2011 seed hay at £20 per bale Easingwold area. Tel 01759 303246.

FOR SALE 12t molasses tank. Purpose built with all fittings. On a 10ft stand. Tel Mark Houseman 07977 403393

FOR SALE Bainbridge Feedall vertical mixer / chopper. 10 cubic capacity. As new. Easingwold area. Tel. David 07773 606682



Congratulations go to the Ryders at Long Liberty Farm for reserve champion at Otley Christmas show & sale

Photo Courtesy of Judith Brown of Yeadon town



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Promark sheep markers buy 5 get 1 free. Choose from a mix of 7 colours.



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7 things you might not know about BLOAT in cattle

GRAHAM JAMESON

- 1 There are breed differences in susceptibility. There's a higher incidence in Holsteins due to high dry matter intakes.
- 2 Yeast inclusion can help where high starch levels are fed, Actisaf yeast is in our protein concentrates.
- 3 Cereal variety can affect bloat, due to a higher fermentation rate in some varieties.
- 4 Rock salt can be used to encourage saliva production and therefore buffer the rumen.
- 5 Cattle with severe chronic pneumonia or foreign bodies in the gut may develop free-gas bloat due to damage of the vagus nerve and impaired rumen motility.
- 6 Over processing of the cereal can result in bloat conditions, this may come about from excessive roller wear, low bushel weight or dry cereals.
- 7 Poor feed trough management can result in mouldy feed which can lead to bloat conditions, as can mycotoxin contamination of forages.

Are you still bare? What are the options?

DAVID LEWIS

The wet autumn has left many farmers with bare stubble or ploughed land with nothing growing. So, what are the options for getting that land back into production? This will vary from farm to farm depending on individual circumstances and demands.

SPRING BARLEY: This can be grown for grain production or wholecrop and could possibly be undersown with a grass ley. Cereal seed is still available at the time of writing. This option would yield some concentrate for next winter and some straw if harvested or a bulk forage if wholecropped. There would be time after harvesting to get a subsequent crop sown in the autumn. On light land the bulk weight will depend on there being sufficient moisture in spring. Spring oats and Spring wheat seed are sold out.

FORAGE MAIZE: The 2012 maize season certainly highlighted the necessity for good land with a warm southerly aspect. Heavy marginal land was certainly found unsuitable this last year but surely the weather will be a bit kinder this next season. In most seasons maize can give a big yield of high value forage which feeds well. The April/May sowing window certainly gives plenty of time for land to dry out and be subsoiled prior to drilling. Seed costs are similar to the last two seasons.

SHORT TERM GRASS: Where bulk forage is required in the short term Westerwolds ryegrass is the best option. This fast growing one year grass will provide three or four cuts of silage. Seed costs per acre will be lower than the two options above. The short intervals between harvests would mean this crop would need ensiling separate to the main grass silage crops at some part of the summer (or big baling).

LONG TERM GRASS: For a long lasting option a long term ley may be considered. We can include 2-3kg of Westerwolds or Italian Ryegrass in the mix to increase the yield in the first two years.

FORAGE CROPS: The high performing forage crops are Fodder Beet and Kale, and to a lesser extent the fast growing catch crops Forage Rape and Stubble Turnips.

FODDER BEET: Is a high energy palatable crop with a high dry matter content of 17%. Crop is precision drilled in April and usually lifted in October, hence lifting equipment or contractor would be required, although grazing in situ can be carried out. Fresh yields 32-36 tonnes/acre.

KALE: Traditionally grown for cattle and sheep strip grazing or zero grazed. Kale has a flexible utilisation period from late summer into winter; hence sowing times are from April until early July. Fresh yields are 25-30 tonnes/acre with a crude protein of 16-17%.

FORAGE RAPE: Ready for grazing during September to December, 3 months from sowing, which is usually after cereal harvest. Forage rape is suitable for both cattle and sheep with fresh yields of 12-15 tonnes/acre, in addition to having a high crude protein of 19-20%.

STUBBLE TURNIPS: Grazed through the winter period following a sowing preferably after winter barley. Stubble turnips are a flexible and economical crop to grow especially for finishing lambs, with fresh yields of 15-16 tonnes/acre and crude protein of 17-18%. Leafy varieties may be sown in May to supplement grazing for dairy cows in late summer.

Whatever decision is made we would recommend assessing the field for structural damage through panning and compaction and soil testing to assess the fertiliser requirements.

For more information please visit www.wejameson.co.uk

Beef shorthorns

STUART HOLMES

Congratulations go to Jameson customer Gerald Turton, of Upsall, Thirsk, who took the championship at the Shorthorn breed society's show & sale at Skipton. His champion was Tessa X767 of Upsall, a 20 month old in-calf Dunsyre Bonaparte daughter out of a home-bred which sold for 3,100 gns to J & L Swiers, of Thirsk.



FEED FOCUS - Ewedale range of sheep pencils & rolls

GRAHAM JAMESON

Our Ewedale range of sheep pencils & rolls supply a good supply of vitamin E at 150 mg/kg which is essential for lamb vigour.

High levels of energy will ensure good milk production and strong lambs. There are no filler ingredients in these as they would reduce energy levels.

Our Ewedale Ease has MPG added to make it even higher in energy at over 13MJ, our Gold pencils / rolls come next at 13MJ and our Green roll / pencils are also high in energy at 12.6 MJ.



All our Ewedale range are 18% crude protein, with good levels of DUP (by pass protein), particularly in the Gold and Ease products. This will ensure good lamb birth weights and high levels of immunity, especially to parasites.

Selenium is provided in a protected form to ensure optimal functioning of the immune system. Calcium, Phosphorus & Magnesium are included at correct levels to reduce the risk of hypocalcaemia. Salt is included to help buffer the rumen and avoid acidosis.

For more information please visit www.wejameson.co.uk

The patter of little cloven feet

DAVID LEWIS

The day of calving is a critical time in the life of a dairy cow. She needs to be prepared for calving and the subsequent lactation.



Prior to calving the dairy cow requires a high fibre ration to keep the rumen in good order with the correct mineral balance to reduce the risk of milk fever and displaced abomasums. Ideally she will be carrying the same body condition as when she was dried off (Condition score 2.5 to 3) and have been

introduced to some of the milking ration just prior to calving.

Calving pens need to be clean and dry to avoid bugs like rotavirus and E. coli etc. **NATUR-CLEAN** or **CUBICLE CARE**

are good anti-bacterial agents for keeping the environment healthy and dry.

On the day of calving the amount of dry matter that a cow will eat dips dramatically and all must be done to ensure this drop is kept in check. Forages must be clean, fresh and appetising. Some of the milking ration should be offered with, possibly some sugar beet pulp to help intake. **MAXCARE REVIVA** is a reviving drink to help with this process and cows love it. It gives a good source of energy and minerals to stimulate appetite.

Our **TRANSITION COW ROLLS** contain propylene glycol which is a very concentrated and easily digestible source of energy for the new calved cow. This is also available in 25 litre drums for drenching any cow which looks a bit down and needs a boost of energy. Cows that are deficient in energy at this time are more likely to succumb to a twisted abomasum.

High starch feeds should be introduced slowly to give the rumen chance to adapt to their inclusion.

This is a very brief account of the problems that can occur at a difficult transition in the cow's life.

For more information please visit www.wejameson.co.uk

Mats and rice: the battle goes on!

KATHRYN LAWSON

As the weather becomes cold, the battle against rats and mice commences. As carriers of approximately 45 different diseases, rodents pose a potentially devastating health hazard to both animals and humans. Losses from poor stock health and performance, contamination and feed wastage as well as damage to property and equipment is estimated to be costing UK farmers between 16 and 25 million pounds per year.

Mice and rats are known carriers of Salmonella, Leptospira, Toxoplasma and Campylobacter. As there have been no new active ingredients over the last 20 years, rodents have built up resistance to the baits. However, Bayer has introduced Difethialone as an anticoagulant in the Rodilon range of products, which has no known resistance in rats or mice and is a single feed bait.

USEFUL NUMBERS 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)