NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017 EDITION

Stressed

Stress at weaning is often under-estimated and results in falling growth and susceptibility to disease.

However, careful planning can alleviate this halt in productivity. Often at weaning the stress imposed on lambs is tremendous. Lambs are separated from their mothers, wormed & dosed; not to mention the change from a milk based diet to creep or even stubbles. Rumen development is going on as well as lambs having to learn how to eat new foods. Research shows that animals experiencing new foods when with their mothers will perform better on it after weaning. It makes sense to have a transition period of around 3 weeks for the rumen to adapt to a new feed. Also, you shouldn't drastically change the lamb's diet for 2 weeks after weaning. When weaning, ewes should be removed from their lambs. By leaving lambs in the same field they will experience less stress as they will know where the water and feeders are. It's also important to maintain the same groupings during weaning, e.g. keep siblings together as twins will stay together for the first few days.

Increasing sward height from 6 to 8cms encourages lamb growth, falling sward height particularly after heavy rain make sheep graze lower into the sward where rotting vegetation give off smells that put them off grazing. So it may pay to let lambs have the pick of the grass.

In terms of lamb health, stress will result in compromised immune systems making lambs more susceptible to disease. Routine treatments such as vaccines or wormers should be given before weaning as stress can affect the immune response particularly for vaccines making lambs more susceptible to disease. Ideally avoid grazing on fields which have had sheep on this season as these pose high risks of parasite challenge which can reduce lamb growth rates. Generally ewes are not a source of worm infection for lambs around weaning but experts warn that Moxidectin treated ewes may resume egg output when this long lasting action drug wears off. This is particularly in sheep which have been housed for more than 2 months before lambing and thus gone for months without challenge and temporarily lost their immunity.

Ask us about our lamb blend or lamb creep pellets or for more information visit our website **www.wejameson.co.uk**

TEL: 01765 689666

Grassland weed control

Grassland weeds, particularly when they reach density levels of 10-20 % in swards, will have a significant effect on sward production.

For example, heavy infestations of chickweed have been found to reduce silage yields by up to 65% and there is also a direct correlation between dock and spear thistle ground cover and grass yield - every 1% increase in ground cover results in a 1% decrease in grass growth. To effectively control grassland weeds it is first important to understand what species are present and their individual growth habit.

Annuals

When establishing new leys annual weeds are the most common problem and a wide range of species can appear. However, most of these fade away once the sward has been cut and the density of the sward starts to increase. **Common chickweed** is an exception to this rule and can appear in established grasslands where there are bare patches of soil.

Biennial weeds

Biennial weeds, such as **ragwort** and **spear thistle**, could have a significant impact on grass productivity particularly in rotational leys. The plants germinate and produce vegetative growth in the first season and then flower and die in the second.

Perennial weeds

Many perennial weeds exist in grassland and can have long term implications for sward productivity. Perennials, such as **creeping thistle, buttercups** and **docks**, can appear in a variety of ways in the sward. The may survive as rhizomes or roots in the soil during reseeding and consequently appear in the new ley. Disturbing the seed bank at reseeding can also encourage new weeds to generate.

Arguably, **docks** are one of the most detrimental weeds in the grassland sector and consequently the Weeds Act 1959, requires that land owners control areas of significant dock infestation.

Docks produce a large number of wind transmitted seeds which can generate at any stage throughout the growing season. A large tap root and rapid growth response to nutrient inputs, an ability to grow in low light conditions and a resilience to trampling from animals, all fuels its competitiveness in grassland swards.

The seed is incredibly resilient (lasting over 25 years) and can be passed through the gut, stored in slurries and reapplied to land where it can germinate. As a result, docks can rarely be removed by one application.

Controlling weeds

As weeds increase in size they become more difficult to control so by controlling them at the correct growth stage is advisable. This can be done easily on the grazing rotation through spot spraying as soon as the cows have finished grazing each individual paddock. In doing so, weeds are easier to spot, are likely to be actively growing (encouraging uptake of the herbicide), maximising the uptake of herbicide efficiently.

Please ring Sally on 01765 689666 to discuss a competitive price on all your grassland sprays.

Mixing it up

Farmers with home grown barley will want to mix their own feed for finishing cattle, but which protein is the right one, and how much is needed?

The protein level in the diet depends on breed with continental animals requiring a higher protein level than black & white bulls or steers. Holsteins tend to lay down lean tissue rather than fat. So, if you feed too much protein they continue to grow frame without finishing properly. The protein requirement of finishing cattle declines with age when a greater proportion of their weight gain is fat. However, underfeeding protein can cost much more than overfeeding due to poor live weight gain. So, for black & white bulls, crude protein needs to be around 12.5% DM and for continentals 14.5%. This equates to two bags of our Cattle Pro 60 meal for continentals and one bag for black & white bulls.

Type of protein is also a consideration for finishing cattle. Protein requirement for finishers can be met through microbial protein in the rumen. So with strong, well grown, healthy cattle, urea can be incorporated into the protein pellet or meal. For cattle that have struggled a bit in the growth phase, natural proteins work better. Young animals, less than 4 months of age or less than 270kg will need to avoid urea as their rumen isn't well enough developed.

For fast finishing beef cattle, incorporating yeast into the protein component is essential to prevent acidosis and lameness issues. Actisaf is a protected live yeast, meaning it doesn't get destroyed by the environment in the gut. The live yeast is protected from heat and acid by a layer of dead yeast cells, meaning more yeast cells reach the rumen alive. Actisaf stabilizes rumen pH by reducing the build-up of lactic acid, which causes acidosis. It reduces rumen oxygen content and stimulates the growth of rumen organisms that digest fibre and starch, thus increasing feed intake and helping efficient digestion.

Also, minerals and vitamins need to be at the correct level.

For more information visit our website www.wejameson.co.uk or ring us to discuss your options.

Propcorn barley

Propcorn treatment of barley provides a cost-effective method of storing grain. Propionic acid stops the growth of moulds, yeast and bacteria. It also prevents barley heating up when it's been harvested in less than perfect weather conditions.

Propionic acid also aids processing, making rolling easier and making grain less likely to shatter. This makes the barley less dusty, improving intakes when fed out. Application results in fewer digestive problems compared with feeding dry cereals.

We stock propcorn in either 1000 litre IBC's or in 205 litre barrels. We also sell propcorn applicators. Why not ring us for a price?

Congratulations to Graham Pickering, from Goathland for a clean sweep at Ruswarp. Graham took top price heifer, steer & bull at £2800, £2400 & £1020 respectively. Graham uses a special keymix from Jamesons.

North Sheep

NSA North Sheep 2017

Date: 7th June 2017

Location: West Shields Farm, Tow Law, County Durham, DL13 4HN

NSA North Sheep 2017 will be hosted by W.H & J Smith & Sons at West Shields Farm, near Tow Law, in County Durham, DL13 4HN, on Wednesday 7th June.

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Extra feed

Stubble turnips are an excellent catch crop which can produce a great feed in just 12 weeks.

You can grow stubble turnips after cereal harvest. As a guide, one hectare of a good crop should provide enough feed for 50 lambs for 60-70 days.

For more information ring us to discuss your options or visit our website www.wejameson.co.uk

Water, water everywhere

Milk yield is closely related to water quality, availability and intake.

Lactating dairy cows need at least 60 litres each per day with some high yielding cattle needing up to 100 litres. One way to quickly check that cows are getting enough water is by looking at their dung. Manure that is too firm can be a sign that the cows' water requirements are not being met.

Dairy cows are social animals and like to drink together. You need enough space for at least 10% of the herd to be drinking at any one time, with animals needing 70cm of space at the trough. Cows have a sensitive sense of smell and will choose not to drink tainted or dirty water, so make sure you clean out troughs regularly (or go into gold fish).

Water flow should be sufficient to allow rapid refilling of the trough, so that plenty of water is always in front of the cow. Cows can drink up to 14 litres per minute, so 10 cows drinking at the same time can consume 140 litres in 60 seconds! Where water pressure is low booster pumps or extra covered storage tanks that can fill during off peak periods can be used. Where water pressure is adequate, poor flow rates may be improved by using a larger supply pipe. Water bowsers are also an effective short term solution in areas of low water pressure or where troughs are yet to be installed.

JUNE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Hay for sale, 1st class quality. Small, round and quadrant bales. Delivery Available. Tel: 07740 721567.

Kuhn 3m power harrow. VGC. £2,900 Bedale 07711 824325.

Sheep shearing – combs & cutters sharpening. Excellent rates. Richmond area. Tel. 07775 803988.

200 tree protectors/guards, 90mm diameter, 1.2m long. Complete with 1.5m support posts. Open to offers. Tel: 07711 824325, Bedale area.

Siloking 16m3 diet feeder. 3 years old. Left or right feed distribution. Magnets on auger. Excellent condition. £20, 000 + VAT ono. Ripon area 07977 141497.

6 pedigree Aberdeen Angus bulls. 14-16 months. Ready for work, easy calving & good conformation. BVD, IBR, lepto & Johnes free. TB4. Ripon 01765 658646.

10t Easterby trailer. VGC. 18ft long, hydraulic end door. £3,800. Bedale 07711 824325.