

# Urea - a cost effective alternative to ammonium nitrate?

Neil Edminson

With current ammonium nitrate prices continuing to be high, this may be a time to consider urea as an alternative. With urea at 46% like for like unit value, in the current market ammonium nitrate would need to be under £200t. History will recount however, initial concerns with regards to leaching or gassing off (volatilization) when urea was applied; however, these concerns were never proven. There may be some losses in high temperature, high moisture situations, but similarly the same may apply to ammonium nitrate.

Because urea has a slower release action it should be applied 10/12 days prior to your normal first application when the temperature should not have a significant effect on any perceived losses. Granular or Prilled Urea is available, so check your fertiliser spreader settings to establish which would be the best form of urea for your situation.

A farm unit that uses say 50t of ammonium nitrate could try a load of urea as a first early application. If you swapped 20t ammonium nitrate for 15t Urea to give the

equivalent units there could be a possible saving of £1100. Urea is not hygroscopic and non-corrosive therefore will not harm machinery or concrete floors.

Granular or prilled urea is available from us, ask your rep or ring the office for a competitive quote.

## Countryside Live

Congratulations to our customers KR & J Flintoft for success with lambs at Countryside Live and to the Hobson family for success in the young handler classes with their Charolais sheep.

## Accounting and Taxation Services - The Barker Partnership

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

Initial meeting free of charge for new clients

the barker partnership  
chartered accountants

## 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. 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.

Berrichon rams and females for sale. MV acc. Easy lambing. Quick suckling. Fast finishing. Tel. Charlton on 01609 881234

FABDEC DX Milk tank 5000ltrs, 3 phase, Two refrigeration units, auto wash 01765 620275.

Pig farmers - EB center-less feed auger for shed (bin not included) - 150 ft length, 75mm pipe; Climate controlled roller sheet system - 75ft x 2; Washable insulated boards, very strong, suitable for walls or ceiling - 15ft x 4ft (3inch thick). Tel. Andrew Petch - 07860393082 or 01642 724487

4ft Round Bale wholecrop barley and grass silage mixed. Bedale area. Offers 07753 772470

ANIMAL FEEDS • FERTILISERS • SEEDS • COUNTRY STORE

## Focused on Farming



NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE

## Looking after the little'uns

Stuart Holmes

Analysing your silage will give you a good idea of the quantity and also the type of bought-in feeds you need to use this winter. It will also give you feedback about your silage making, highlighting areas where you can improve the process.

It is sensible to offer the suckler calves creep feed well before you plan to wean them. Creep feeding helps reduce the stress of changing diets for calves in winter, as ruminants need several weeks to get used to different rations so that micro-organisms inside them can adapt. Managing stress on the calves helps protect them against diseases such as scours and pneumonia when they are housed. Creep feeds should be designed to aid rumen development. They should be palatable and need to be offered fresh. Blends are particularly good for this job as the physical nature encourages intake. A mineralized concentrate will make up for any deficiencies and promote effective functioning of the immune system. A couple of weeks before weaning, move calves onto a creep with forage offered ad lib. This is a

further attempt to reduce stress after weaning, minimizing the number of changes the calves have to endure.

If the plan is to sell calves after weaning at least they will know how to eat when they are housed and mixed with other cattle after undergoing the stress of the auction and transportation as well as being separated from their mothers. It's a good idea to administer any wormers or vaccinations prior to weaning. This will reduce the stress levels at the time of weaning resulting in fewer cases of pneumonia and scour.

It also makes sense to weigh the calves regularly so that you can monitor performance. Replacement heifers can be weighed regularly so that they are big enough to bull and then calve at 2 years old. Heifers will need to grow at 0.8 kg/day from birth to bulling at 15 months.

### Summary

- Don't do all the jobs at the same time as weaning, it's too stressful.
- Have your silage analysed so you can tailor the bought-in feeds to the forage.
- Weigh calves regularly to monitor performance and get them used to being handled.

## Biolime H90

Biolime H90 is our new cow-friendly hydrated lime. It is a hydrated lime product which creates a stable alkali environment inhibiting bacterial growth. It is effective at preventing mastitis and reduces hoof infections. Hydrated lime can improve hygiene in calf pens if it's sprinkled on before the bedding.

Biolime can also be used for poultry and game and is useful at protecting against bacterial infections. During lambing time, biolime helps with the fight against watery mouth, joint & navel ill and infectious scours.

Our introductory offer price for Biolime is only £225 + VAT delivered, or £200 + VAT ex Masham. Ask your rep or ring the office to order.

## Monthly offers

### Work clothes

Dickies work jeans

**20% off only £12.66 + VAT.**

Dickies pro combat green body warmer

**10% off only £18.75 + VAT.**

Bernex body warmer

**10% off only £19.49 + VAT.**

Buy the new Dickies Cambridge jacket and get a **LED light half price worth £2.50 + VAT**

### Countrystore

**10% off** all Hoggs work boots and free pair of socks with every pair.

Cobbycat assorted shapes 15kg was

**£20.99 now only £18.50.**

Thermal builders gloves **just £2.65 a pair.**

Hi-Pro 30% protein working dog food **just £14.99.**

Dunlop fleece lined Blizzard welly  
**save a third at £32.99.**



Supadog 15kg chicken flavour **special price £13.99.**

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

### Hardware

Sheep ring feeders – horned and standard **£83 + VAT**

Standard Cattle ring feeders **£147 + VAT**

Heavy duty Cattle ring feeders **£165 + VAT**



8' cattle feed bin on skids **£405 + VAT**  
All ex Masham

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# Sustain range of minerals

Peter Harland

We offer a “no frills” range of mineral and vitamin supplements. We have a general supplement for cattle and one for sheep as well as one specific to dairy cattle.

Minerals support various functions in cattle and sheep and mineral deficiencies can result in unsatisfactory production. By supplementing the ration with our sustain range of minerals you ensure your cattle and sheep have everything they need for healthy growth, development, and feed efficiency.

Our Sustain cattle is designed to balance forages, cereals and straights as part of the total mineral feeding policy on farm. This general cattle mineral is ideally suited to youngstock, growing cattle and sucklers. It contains high calcium for milk production.

Designed to balance forages, cereals and straights as part of the total mineral feeding policy on farm, our Sustain dairy is ideally suited for lactating dairy cows, and dairy replacement heifers. It contains high calcium to milk production.

Our Sustain sheep is a general purpose mineral for sheep. It is designed to balance forages, cereals and straights. Containing good levels of magnesium and excellent levels of trace elements and vitamins it ensures optimal performance for all classes of sheep.

This range of supplements works well where protected minerals are not required and specific deficiencies are not identified. Available in tonne lots delivered direct to farm only. Ask your rep for a competitive price or ring the office for a quote.

# Finishing hill lambs

Dr Ruth Lawson

Having a firm grip on costs of production is vital when finishing store lambs this season. Store lambs should still make money this year, provided finishers are mindful of the initial bought-in price, time on farm and feed costs. As with all these things buying lambs at the right money is the key to margins. Hill lambs need to be around the £25 mark for a 20kg lamb. However, check these lambs are not small due to previous health problems. The aim with these lambs is to have them ready for market to catch the price rise in March / April.

When lambs are brought on to the farm they will need to be isolated from other sheep for at least 3 weeks. Lambs will first need to be wormed and fluked, but watch out for withdrawal times and don't get caught out. Often they will also benefit from

a dose of vitamins and minerals. Also, it's wise to vaccinate for clostridial disease and don't assume the vendor has done it.

Long keep lambs can run on until the new year offered concentrates in troughs at a rate of about 0.7 kg a head per day. Once they have grown in stature the finishing process can begin and lambs can go onto ad lib. You should allow 300-400mm per lamb trough space and clean water must be available at all times. Access to salt will also encourage water intakes. Lambs can be finished on concentrates on an ad lib basis over 4-6 weeks, less if you feed our hogg blend. Intakes should be 1-1.5 kg/head/day and growth rates at least 125-175g/day. Feed conversion varies from 6:1 to 10:1, with hill lambs at the poorer end of this range.

# Pro-wheat & Pro-barley

Dr Ruth Lawson



Cereals are needed in rations for dairy cows to promote milk protein and fertility in early lactation. In beef cattle starchy cereals produce good levels of fast finish. However, acidosis can be an issue in diets for both. We now supply protected starch feeds - Pro-wheat and Pro-barley. Part of the starch is protected in the rumen and the portion that is broken down in the rumen breaks down more slowly. This makes these products more rumen friendly resulting in fewer incidences of acidosis.

Reports from a large scale beef finisher using Pro-barley show an increase in live weight gain of 0.2 kg per head per day. This is with no extra feed eaten, on a farm where live weight gain was already very high.

For dairy cows, Pro-wheat and Pro-barley allow high starch inclusion without upsetting the rumen. Similar results are obtained

as when rolled maize is fed. Supplying glucogenic (starchy) ingredients will help fertility, getting cows back in calf quickly at the same time as maintaining milk yield.

The process involves the use of a processing aid that works within the feed to bind starch molecules to form pH sensitive complexes for starch. This starch complex is stable at rumen pH; however they are broken down in the more acidic conditions which exist in the abomasum and lower intestine, thereby releasing the protected starch to the animal. Pro-wheat and Pro-barley also slows starch fermentation in the rumen thereby reducing the risk of acidosis.

Ask us about incorporating Pro-wheat or Pro-barley into your blend or buy them directly from us. Alternatively you can treat your own home-grown cereals on-farm, using our technology.

# Jamesons customers top all sections at Otley market

At one of the October sales, Jamesons customers topped all sections at Otley market. The top price lambs at £111 per head were presented by M&K Farrar, Wighill Farm partnership. Top pence per kilo new season lambs at 247p/kg were from D&C Mitchell, Wilsden. Top price ewes and rams at £86 per head came from LW & EJ Coverdale, Beckwithshaw.

# Thank you!

A huge thank you to our customers for donations in our collection boxes at the summer shows. £314 was raised for Yorkshire Cancer Research.



# Feed focus: Hogg blend

Graham Jameson

Hogg blend ensures fast weight gains, finishing lambs in lightning quick time. For rapid weight gains, finishing diets must be palatable, high in energy and must contain adequate protein, minerals (especially calcium, since grains are low in calcium), and vitamins. To achieve high performance and encourage a healthy gut, lambs should receive a diet that combines high starch sources for rapid gain with high energy fibrous ingredients helping to keep the rumen balanced; this can be achieved by feeding hogg blend.

Energy levels are high in Hogg blend at 13.2 MJ/kg and protein levels are 17%. Minerals are balanced to help prevent urinary calculi (stones) in intensively fed lambs. Ammonium chloride is also added for this purpose. High quality ingredients are included and a high level of cereals ensures fast growth rates and maximum feed conversion efficiency. Hogg blend can be fed ad lib or restricted depending on the speed of finish required. Ingredients have been selected that are rumen friendly and so lambs can go onto hogg blend ad lib from the start.

Check out our website [www.wejameson.co.uk](http://www.wejameson.co.uk) for specifications for our hogg blend and speak to your rep or ring the office for a quote.

**USEFUL NUMBERS** Country 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)