

NEWS FROM BOCM PAULS

Creep feeding lambs pays, that is the simple message given to local sheep farmers by Dyfrig Hughes of BOCM PAULS. Trial work has shown that Daily Liveweight Gain (DLWG) on lambs more than trebles when a creep feed such as Ewbol Lambwena is introduced. In the trial DLWG on the control group was 115 grams per day but when the creep feed was fed this increased to 388 grams per day. Over an 8 week period that is the equivalent of an extra 15kg of saleable lamb. This means the lambs can be sold at a time of the farmers choosing when prices are at their best or can be sold younger, reducing overall feed costs.

The ideal creep feed is Ewbol Lambwena Pellets which has done an excellent job for many years. A few improvements have been made to Lambwena for this feeding season to make it even better. Lambwena has always been exceptional at ensuring the best growth rates possible

so there are no changes there. The changes are to improve the health of the lambs to ensure more survive and fewer lambs have any growth checks. Lambwena now contains Stimulate L which helps the lambs own immune system to function better. The lambs immune system is started by drinking colostrum but this only lasts for a few days. It will gradually gain its own immunity but this takes up to six weeks leaving a period of high risk in the first few weeks of life, this is when many problems occur in lambs. Stimulate L works during this period by binding to bad bugs and excreting them, allowing good bacteria to colonise the lambs' gut. Stimulate L also increases the levels of Immunoglobulins, Vitamin E & Selenium all of which develop the immune system. A lamb that is in good health will thrive and grow more quickly and will be a more efficient converter of food into meat.

Once Ewbol Lambwena

has been fed for the first 6 – 8 weeks the best growth rates are achieved by moving onto Ewbol Prestige Lamb Pellets for finishing. Trial work shows that this two feed system reduces the time to slaughter by about a week again leading to savings in feed costs and better market prices. Lambwena is 20% protein and grows the lambs frame while Prestige is 18% protein with higher starch to hang meat on the frame. Ewbol lamb feeds have been proven over many years to give excellent results in the market.

For further information on the BOCM Pauls range of sheep feeds contact Chris Elliott at Chris.Elliott@bocmpauls.co.uk or your nearest CCF branch.



Happy
New
Year !!

SHEEP & GOAT TAGGING LEGISLATION

The legislation surrounding sheep and goat tagging within Great Britain is constantly being monitored and amended. A summary of the regulations are as follows:-

- All animals must be tagged on their holding of birth with an ear tag as soon as possible (within six months of birth for intensively reared animals or nine months of birth for extensively reared animals) or before they are moved off the holding, whichever comes first.

- In Great Britain, the holding of birth tag must display 'UK', the flock mark, followed by the individual identification number (in Scotland this must be six digits)

- Animals moving from a holding that they were not born on must be tagged with an 'S' tag showing the flock mark of the holding you are moving them from.

- Farmers will be able to choose which number they wish to start with, subsequent orders will run on from the initial number.

- Lost tags must be replaced.

- Animals moved within Great Britain must be accompanied by movement documents.

- Animals born after 9th July 2005 and intended for intra community trade or export will require two identical holding of birth ear tags.

- Temporary marks are no longer a valid form of identification for sheep and goats.

- Ear tags must be maintained so they can be clearly read. Lost or illegal ear tags must be replaced. If you know the original mark on the tag you may replace it with that mark or, if you prefer with the flock mark of the holding where the animal currently resides (cross-referencing the new mark with the old mark in your farm register). If the original flock mark is not known so that cross referencing is not possible, the animal must be identified by a red 'R' tag. These animals cannot be exported.

- Tags can be any colour except red (which will be used for replacement tags where the flock mark is not known)

- Animals are limited to a maximum of three tags at any one time, these include the original flock mark tag and two movement tags allowing sheep and goats to move to a further three holdings from birth. Any

sheep that are to be moved beyond the fourth holding, other than to slaughter, require the individual identification numbers to be recorded on the movement documents.

- From the beginning of 2006 all ear tags must be registered with the ministry, similar to the ETAS cattle registration, where a unique identification number will be issued with each tag. Tag numbers will therefore follow on and farmers will no longer be able to skip numbers.

Great Britain has gained exemption from double tagging until April 2006. If the European Commission is convinced the existing national system provides traceability between holdings, full derogation to double tagging could be obtained until 2008. If not convinced, the current system will be withdrawn and double tagging will become law. Further information on tagging sheep and goats can be found by contacting DEFRA on 08459 335577 or helpline @defra.gsi.gov.uk.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

By Keith Gosney

It seems to happen quicker and quicker – the passing of each new year and I suppose besides making us all feel older, it prompts us to reflect on things past and to look to the future.

As seems all too familiar in farming of late there are perhaps too many questions left hanging – such as how will the single farm payment really effect farming?

Will the scheme run beyond 2008?

How will farming respond to the new waste regulations?

Will common sense begin to prevail with TB, so that any eradication scheme takes account of all species carrying and capable of transmitting TB?

Is the government sincere, in wishing to establish a renewable bio- fuel industry?

On the political front will the announced campaign

from Messrs Handly and Kendall, to challenge the N.F.U leadership, lead to a new approach from farming's main political voice?

All of these issues and the dozens of others that lie unanswered waiting at farming's door have a direct knock on to agri – business suppliers such as C.C.F.

All suppliers to agriculture are in the same position as fleas on a dogs back, we have a common interest in making sure the dog (farming) survives.

Perhaps a good wish for the new year would be that common sense would prevail, within our industry and like the Countryside Alliance did with hunting, all of those with a common interest in the health of the core industry FARMING, could speak with one voice not several differing voices, with separate agendas.

NEW ARABLE MANAGER FOR CCF

Richard Carlisle has joined CCF as our new Arable Trading Manager.

Richard has vast experience of the arable business in the UK especially the Fertiliser Seed and Agrochemical sectors.

Richard left university and joined a family owned Agri-business based in Berkshire called H. Dolton and Sons Ltd, which can trace it's business back to the 1800's.

With different merger's over the years, Richard worked for Frontier, a merger of Cargill and Allied Grain (ABF), as a Regional Sales Manager before joining C.C.F.

Richard is relishing his new role and looks forward to being part of the Welsh Agricultural Industry. We wish him every success.

Contact details: 07748 512101

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FERTILIZER UPDATE

"I cannot stress enough just how important it is to get your fertiliser ordered.

It is easier to cancel it, if you do not want it, than have it delivered when you need it!!

Also you will be fixing the price at today's level for Feb/March delivery rather than ordering in Feb or March, when prices could be another 15-20% higher again.

All is not doom and gloom; there are some products that make real economic sense to use in this part of the Country. E.g. Granular urea 46% N, a quality product, 24 metre spread, and equates to Ammonium Ni-

trate @ approx £141.00 / tonne. (Compared to £170.00 ish for 34.5% N) It really makes sense saving £30/tonne – 100 tonne order saves £3000!!.

Don't delay, cover your fertiliser requirements as soon as possible."

To discuss the fertiliser market in more detail and opportunities for you, the customer, to save money, please call Richard Carlisle on 07748 512101.



NEW RULES ON WASTE

The long awaited packaging waste legislation come into force during the early part of 2006 which means that you will no longer be able to bury or burn any agricultural waste. It also means that all farm dumps should be closed before the legislation comes into force. To not do this is likely to result in a heavy fine or, worse still, the requirement to register the dump which would be very expensive. You have been warned. We will bring you more information in our February edition.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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TOP QUALITY PEDIGREE Limousin bulls.
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WANTED

HEREFORD & ABER-deen Angus cattle by registered bull (fat or stores). A good price given
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GLOUCESTER OLD SPOT, bred and traditionally reared by a housewife, for a housewife's choice, at affordable prices, additive free.

Joints, chops, sausages etc. Discount on half and whole porker. Also, bacons, gammons & hams. Wild boar X's for traditional hog roasts, and pedigree GOS, Berkshire weaners & Tamworth X's. Boars & breeding stock available. Order now to save disappointment.

Tel John or Penny on 01570 470224

DAIRY HYGIENE DELIVERY SERVICE

Did you know we are operating a Dairy Hygiene Delivery Service in Pembrokeshire and South Ceredigion? If you are having cell count problems, would like advice about Dairy Hygiene issues, or simply have your Dairy Hygiene products delivered to your door - why not give David John a ring on 07971 587772.

