



# RE:SEED

Your Seasonal Newsletter

## A FOOL'S SPRING...

Welcome to the pilot issue of our newsletter "RE:SEED". In this quarterly mail-out we will be talking about issues affecting grassland, arable and livestock farming. It's a place to catch up on company news and we will be showcasing new products and services throughout the year.

A mostly dry and mild start to winter saw many farms stocking fields well into the new year, which on one hand made for respectable savings in both feed costs and labour but has also led to extra stress on leys during a time of limited growth. However, the fools spring ended abruptly with a succession of storms across the region bringing high levels of rainfall and ultimately flooding. This has highlighted the benefits of continuous "green" cropping to prevent soil erosion and nutrient run off.

Now is the time for an early spring assessment, singling out fields which have suffered from poaching, underperforming leys and planning rotational reseeds, arable and forage crops for the season ahead.



## TO RESEED OR REJUVINATE... THAT IS THE QUESTION

When it comes to grassland productivity, many don't realise that to merely "stand still" you need to reseed on average 10% of your farm per year. It's not until you hit 15% that tangible returns are seen. Reseeding still offers the best return on investment, but sometimes it's just not possible to take land out of production, that's where rejuvenation comes in.

Although this is a short to medium term solution, the principles of establishment are not too dissimilar to a reseed with soil nutrition a top priority. We recommend soil sampling before any reseed to establish pH, P&K indexes as well as inspecting the soil profile for any signs of compaction. Any remedial work should be done before getting the drill out. Mixture choice is key to creating a productive, useful ley and we can advise on the right mixture for your needs.

## MONEY BAGS £££

It's no secret that fertiliser prices are driving many farmers and growers to rethink their farm nutrient plans with many opting to reduce rates of applied N. This has sparked a keen interest in low input, nitrogen fixing mixtures and we are pleased to offer a range of clover-rich leys for grazing and ensiling. The latest edition of our seed catalogue sees the return of our popular "Red Turbo" mixture which is a powerful short-term ley designed to add protein and N fixing into your rotation.



## GET YOUR GRASSLAND BACK UNDER CONTROL THIS SPRING

After UK wide supply chain issues with some key grassland chemical actives last year, we are delighted to say the full range of Corteva© herbicide products will be available at Powys Leys this spring. We can advise on all aspects of grassland agronomy to help you get the most from your leys.





## TREADING THE TRAMLINES...



The mild winter has seen crops entering spring quite forward enough. Wet and warm conditions mean early disease pressure is high with mildew and septoria particularly problematic in some crops. TO fungicide applications may be more commonplace on all farms this year and a programmed approach to disease control is always advisable. As the old adage goes "prevention is better than the cure". Another consideration when looking at forward crops is a robust PGR programme to ensure crops are well rooted or "anchored" and cells develop strong walls giving crops better standing power. A slightly shorter crop that's upright will always out yield a tall, flat one in both grain and straw.

Fertiliser prices are forcing many to review their crop nutrient plans and we have a range of foliar nutrition and bio stimulant products to help root formation, chlorophyl production and aid nutrient uptake.

It will soon be time to start thinking about forage crops, we can help you stay in front this season assessing any potential sites, agronomic programmes, and crop nutrient plans.

We can advise and supply a full range of crop protection products for cereals, maize, grassland and root crops.

## FEED FOCUS

### LAMB & EWE

2021 was a brilliant year for lambs and we hope spring 2022 will follow suit. Over the past 12 months the average deadweight price was 582.3p/kg for 2021 compared to just 479.1p/kg in 2020, a 103.2p/kg difference ((gov.uk). Ensuring lambs get the right nutrition from day one is essential for hitting target weights/grades, killing out well and meeting daily live weight gains. With prices across the industry rising, buying the right product at the right price is more important than ever.



*Bethan Till and Will Barnes  
(For Farmers and Powys Leys)*

"Lamb prices have been exceptionally good the past few seasons and creep feeding lambs has many benefits, not only does it help them reach target finishing weight early with a feed conversion ratio of 5-6:1- hitting the market before it typically drops in June, it also lessens the burden on the ewe. Ewes that can maintain their condition post lambing will be more likely to perform better in following seasons, increasing your lambing percentages. Ewe lambs that will be bred from in their first season also need to reach 60% of their mature body weight pre-breeding, good nutrition is essential so that they grow a good frame and that their longevity as breeding ewes is not compromised" - *Bethan Till, For Farmers Ruminant Specialist*

For Farmers range of premium ewe feeds are all available from Powys Leys with rations to suit every system from 18-21% protein. All the products contain the ExtraGuard vit and min package, Addarome which is a flavour enhancer so products can be changed at any time without intakes being affected. We stock the most popular lines of Platinum18 (25kg nuts & rolls) and Ewbol19 (500kg nuts, 25kg nuts & rolls) in store with a full range of products available in bulk.

## COMPANY NEWS

### A FOND FARWEWELL

At the end of 2021 we said farewell to Jeanette who has taken her well-deserved retirement. Having built Powys Leys alongside husband Nigel, Jeanette has been a long-time colleague, associate and friend to many in the Mid Wales/Shropshire farming community. Jeanette would like to extend her thanks and appreciation to all our customers and she looks forward to bumping into some friendly faces again as shows and events open their doors this year.

### FRESH FACES



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Zoe Gilbert Hall to the team who will be looking after accounts. Keeping true to the family ethos, Zoe is Will's partner and has joined us following her maternity leave.

I'm sure many of you will have already met Katie Evans, who joined the team last April. Katie joined fresh from college after completing a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture and HND and has already made a great impression on customers and colleagues old and new. When Katie is not at Powys Leys, you will find her working at her family's mixed dairy farm in Marton.

