



# RE:SEED

Your Seasonal Newsletter

Winter 2022

As the year draws to a close and we look forward to starting a new, many will take this time to reflect on the events of the past 12 months. The prolonged dry weather throughout spring and summer have put pressure on forage stocks but the autumn rains did result in a late flush of grass for most areas. As we look towards 2023, building resilient cropping programs will be crucial to securing good stocks of forage for the following winter. Species and variety choices will undoubtedly evolve to include drought and flood resistance, and agronomic focus will shift towards growth promotion and nutrition to support plants through stress situations. Fertiliser prices remain high and imminent NVZ restrictions will trigger changes to our cropping systems and a move towards broader programs and rotations. This all equates to some exciting prospects for 2023 and we are already looking forward to sharing our new catalogue with you all next spring.

In this newsletter we will be discussing the role of legumes and we'll be having a chat with For Farmers beef and sheep specialist Alister Davies about the Ewbol range.

## ROOM FOR MORE LEGUMES?

Legumes are no new thing. The inclusion of white and red clover in grass mixtures is as old as the hills, however, the demand for clover mixtures dropped off in recent years due to, in part, a lack of clover safe herbicides. But with fertiliser prices remaining high we have seen a return demand for legume rich swards and many farms are looking to reintroduce legumes into existing pasture.

## BENEFITS

Legumes are beneficial to both soil fertility and stock health. When it comes to increasing soil nitrogen (N) supplies without reaching for the bag, legumes make perfect sense. By forming symbiotic relationships with N fixing bacteria (rhizobia), legumes can convert atmospheric N into ammonia via root nodules which is then available to both the host and other crops.

The inclusion of legumes as companion crops (e.g. peas in an arable silage crop) not only boosts soil N but can also raise protein levels in forage. Legume crops such as winter field beans and peas also make great break-crops whilst simultaneously providing protein rich forage (which can be included in on farm TMR) and fixing N for the following crop. Another popular forage crop is lucerne. This midterm crop (4-5 years) can yield bulky crops, rich in protein and due to its deep taproot system can withstand drought conditions on some of the driest sites. Placed correctly in the rotation it can provide a great opportunity for reseeding leaving soil rich in N with improved structure.



## ESTABLISHMENT

Legumes can be sown as companion crops, pure stand (lucerne, beans, peas, red clover) or introduced into existing pasture. Our range of CLOVER PLUS<sup>©</sup> pelleted clover is a fantastic way to introduce legumes back into your leys. The increased pellet size provides better seed to soil contact, a more even distribution and the proven Headstart Gold coating speeds up germination for increased establishment.

Speak to us for more information on how legumes can boost productivity on your farm.

## MAIZE SEED & AGRONOMY



ORDER NOW

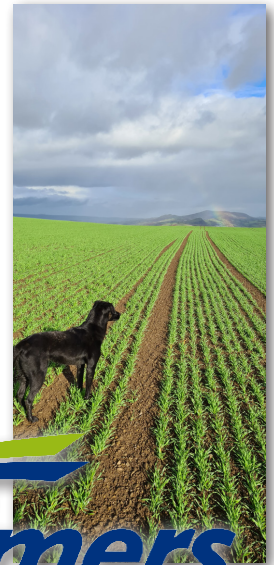




## A PROMISING START...

Autumn planted crops went in well this year, which makes for a welcome change. Establishment was good, fuelled by warm conditions and plenty of moisture. Record numbers of aphids resulted in widespread BYDV sprays which offered growers the opportunity for additional herbicide top-ups and growth promoters. Where second (or more) wheats were grown an application of foliar nutrition and/or bio stimulant had a tremendous effect on establishment resulting in higher plant populations. The latter also significantly increases root mass which will be beneficial if we see more prolonged dry spells next year.

With high demand for spring cereals already, it would be prudent to start planning cropping as early as possible this year. Speak to us about varieties and availability.



## F E E D   F O C U S

With 2022 being one of the hottest and driest years we have seen, grass shortage will have had an affect on scanning percentages for earlier lambing flocks. Ensuring ewes have the best nutrition during pregnancy will benefit lamb birth weights, lamb vigour and milk yield. If we are going to see a drop in lamb numbers spring 2023, lamb survival and finishing in line with early strong trade will be paramount.

For Farmers offer a wide range of ewe compounds from 18% - 21% protein as well as 30% double mineralised balancer pellets for home mixing. All products in the Ewbol range include: ExtraGuard vitamin and mineral package to improve animal health, lamb growth and development, milk production; highest levels of Vitamin E and Iodine for lamb vigour; Addarome flavour enhancer makes it easy to change ration within the For Farmers range without affecting intake.

The full range is available in bulk and we stock the most popular products, Platinum 18 (25kg nuts & rolls) and Ewbol 19 (500kg nuts, 25kg nuts & rolls). Other products can be ordered on request.

We spoke to For Farmers beef and sheep specialist Alister Davies to answer some commonly asked questions and offer some helpful insights to maximise productivity from your flock.




- **What is lamb vigour and why is it important?** The Extraguard package of Organic Selenium, Vitamin E and Cellguard boosts the new born lamb's brown fat mobilisation so it gets up and suckling 16 minutes quicker
- **How can I ensure my ewes milk well?** The Ewbol compounds are formulated not just to energy and protein but to specific amino acid and starch levels that ensures a healthy rumen microflora population together with early development of udders pre lambing
- **How much should I feed?** The rule of thumb is to feed 0.5kg per expected lamb in the three weeks pre lambing, ideally in 2 or 3 feeds
- **When should I start and stop feeding?** Dependant on ewe condition, forage stocks and expected lamb crop. Usually 6 weeks pre lambing is ideal to start step feeding and supplementation can stop as soon as the grass is growing, obviously being carefull not to stop magnesium supplementation
- **What is step feeding?** A system where a different feed can be introduced earlier than normally planned so to either help stretch forages or boost condition of leaner ewes. Feed can be introduced gradually and stepped up to the full ration by 3 weeks pre lambing. A different diet can then be introduced three weeks prior to lambing that is safe to introduce due to the addition of Adderome
- **What is addarome?** Adderome is an appetite enhancing enzyme that encourages eating of all feeds offered. Something most important in heavily pregnant / delicate ewes near lambing to avoid nutritional diseases such as Twin Lamb

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BULK ORDER DEADLINES**  
 Order before **14.12.22** for delivery before Christmas  
 Order before **16.12.22** for delivery before New Year

## COMPANY NEWS

### THANK YOU

We would like to extend our gratitude to all our customers old and new for you support over the past 12 months and from all of us here at Powys Leys we wish you a very merry christmas and a happy new year.

 **24.12 - 27.12 - CLOSED**     **CHRISTMAS HOURS**      **02.12 - CLOSED**  
**28.12 - 30.12 - OPEN (8:30 - 13:00)**

