As we approach late summer and move towards autumn, grass quality can decline. Forage samples from Agrii and blood samples taken by veterinary practices show typical trace element problems associated with the Marches region. Trace elements at weaning and post-weaning are vital to make sure that lambs do not lose condition due to stress factors, and do not get to the stage of looking open coated and unthrifty.

If you have concerns about the condition of your lambs or ewes, Agrii can offer a service of a full grass analysis, to determine the mineral, vitamin and trace element status of your forage. This will provide a full picture of deficiencies, but also any high levels that could be causing a “lock up” of necessary and essential inputs.

There is a range of products available depending on the results. Oral drenches will in most cases provide broad vitamin and trace element components. Boluses will provide, selenium, cobalt, iodine and added copper if required, over a longer period.

It is important to follow up with trace element buckets to give continuity of availability for vital minerals and trace elements.

Agrimin 24/7 Startrace for lambs

A sustained release bolus specifically designed for lambs, containing cobalt, selenium and iodine. For ruminating lambs over 25kg.

Designed for situations where cobalt, selenium and iodine supplementation is essential for growing ruminating lambs, helping them to maintain and maximise growth rates.

Supplies the lamb’s full daily requirement of each essential trace element for 120 days.

Benefits:
- Delivers full daily requirement of cobalt, iodine and selenium
- Free from copper and line for continental breeds
- Helps to maintain lamb growth post-weaning
- Promotes strong healthy lambs
Internal parasite control for autumn

Lungworm control

Lungworm infection in cattle is caused by infective larvae on pasture being ingested and migrating from the gut by penetrating the intestine to travel via the bloodstream to the lungs, where the adults reside. The disease (commonly called husk) is classically seen in young stock from July to October, approximately 4 months after turn out to pasture, although problems may not be noted until housing. Pour-on solutions are the easiest and most effective products with broad spectrum worm control. Please speak with your Agrii Animal Health advisor.

Liver Fluke management

Liver Fluke management and control should form part of your livestock strategy over the next few months. Even in low risk areas early dosing is important as soon as October with further control in January. In high risk areas additional treatment may be necessary.

- Immature fluke migrate through the liver tissue causing damage, reducing productivity, and predisposing the animal to clostridial disease
- Adult fluke live in the bile ducts and can ingest up to 0.5ml of blood per day. A moderate burden can mean a litre of blood loss per week
- The cost to the UK industry has been estimated at £23 million
- AHDB figures show that cattle with a fluke burden require up to an extra 80 days to reach slaughter weight, costing between £25-£35 per head

Bonanza calf and lamb nutrition

Bonanza produce the renowned Shine range of milk replacers for both calves and lambs. Using both skim and buttermilk powder, selected and dried for use in calf milk, alongside 4 vegetable oils, means that many farmers consider Shine Once-a-Day the best calf milk available. Focusing on calves and their health and nutrition requirements, Bonanza Calf Nutrition has now also launched Compumate, the only milk replacer designed for computerised machine fed calves. As well as these pioneering products there are also two bucket fed products, Shine and Shine Complete. These are also available under the Downland label as Downland Supreme (skim based) and Downland Zero (whey based).

To improve lamb health and performance Shine Lamb Milk is now made with whey products sourced from ewes’ milk.

Lifeline Pre-Calver for autumn calvers

Lifeline Pre-Calver is a unique supplement containing a blend of nutritional boosters, along with a potent mineral and vitamin component, to help optimise immunity in the calf and improve the calving process.

Recommended for both dairy and suckler cows and in calf heifers, Lifeline is ideal for feeding at grass, and can buffer a diet where grass is limited. It can also support high forage diets fed to dry cows/heifers, giving the calf a head start at birth.

Benefits:
- Enhanced colostrum quality. The combined benefits of lactose and molasses as energy, ensure the efficient absorption of nutrients and enhanced colostrum protein levels.
- Easier calving and improved calf vitality. High levels of selenium and vitamin E are added to ensure the newborn gets the best possible start, while birthing problems are minimised for the cow.
- Supports health in the cow and calf. A mineral and vitamin package is formulated for optimum health for the cow and calf.
- Optimal calf immunity. The addition of MOS also increases absorption of colostrum by the calf, therefore maximising their immune status, enabling the newborn to fight disease, supporting healthy calves.

Available in 22.5 kg buckets: Autumn offer: Order 5, get 1 Free, while stocks last.
Rodenticides

With the ever changing regulations for rodenticides, just a reminder that Agrii will still be carrying the same range of rodenticides as before. We hold at present loose bait, blocks and bait bags etc. under the Romax range of 50% difenacoum and 50% bromadiolone. Tests have shown that Romax Muskil is twice as fast at killing rodents compared to other actives evaluated.

- Speed of kill more than twice as fast compared with other actives tested.
- Rapid bait acceptance, superior palatability.
- Effective against certain anticoagulant resistant rats and mice.
- Less bait per programme.

Customers who are not members of the approved assurance scheme for Rodenticide Stewardship will find the following link useful, [www.thinkwildlife.org/list-of-approved-farm-assurance-schemes/](http://www.thinkwildlife.org/list-of-approved-farm-assurance-schemes/) as it lists all of the approved assurance schemes.

Dairy herds:
To worm or not to worm? That is the question

Advantages of using Eprinomectin Pour-on:

**Increase in milk production:** Studies have shown that cattle treated with Eprinomectin Pour-on can have an increase in their milk yield.

**Increased weight gain:** Cattle treated with Eprinomectin Pour-on have also been shown to graze for up to an hour longer every day. This leads to improved weight gain as well as improved milk yields.

**Improved body condition:** The increase in grazing times leads also to an increase in the nutrients consumed by cattle. This increase in nutrients leads to healthier cattle with improved body condition.

**Improved fertility rates:** The elimination of parasites and the improved overall health of the cattle will lead to increased fertility rates. Herds treated with Eprinomectin Pour-on have shown increases of up to 20% in conception rates in the first year alone.

If the above statements haven’t convinced you please feel free to contact our Ludlow Office who will arrange for one of our Animal Health Specialists to conduct a free of charge bulk milk tank test to establish worm burden in the herd.

Pre Tapping Buckets:

Agrii “NEW” Supreme Energy Buckets are a high energy feed and mineral bucket ideal for pre-tupping.

**Features and Benefits:**

- High energy product, 16% ME, which includes a source of rumen by-pass energy, ideal for feeding for 2 weeks pre-tupping and for 8 weeks through the tupping period.
- 15% crude protein, from a mixture of high quality natural protein sources, which help to increase protein availability.
- Ultra-high level of vitamin E, which will help to support the ewes’ natural immunity.
- Fortified with a range of major minerals, trace elements and vitamins to supplement declines in forage. Also ideal as a supplement for finishing lambs at grass where extra energy and protein is required.

Sheep Scab

Recently we have had a large number of customers contacting us over a concern for sheep scab in both breeding ewes and also store lambs. In sheep the infestation of scab mites causes intense skin irritation. Sheep scab is transmitted via contact with live mites, when sheep are gathered and held together. Penning of sheep in market can cause the mite to be transmitted between flocks. When infected wool is left hanging from fence posts, trees, hedges or wire, it is a source from which the disease can be transferred from animal to animal.

Early signs of the infestation are not obvious when mite levels are relatively low, although sheep may show signs of rubbing against trees and fence posts. The lesions at these early stages are difficult to detect. At later stages of the disease where there are higher mite numbers, the lesions spread, causing increased irritation. Areas of wool loss may appear with open, bleeding wounds. In young and store lambs the infestation can cause very rapid weight loss. In pregnant ewes affected with scab, low birth weights in lambs have been recorded, almost certainly resulting in rapid loss of body condition in the ewe.

Zermex 1% injection has a persistent effect in preventing infection or re-infection for sheep scab. When treating or even preventing sheep scab (such as when sheep introduced to the farm are given the recommended quarantine procedure treatment) the benefits of a product with persistent effects (i.e. longer than the scab mites can survive) cannot be underestimated. This is because scab mites can live off sheep and wool on fences etc. for up to 17 days, which means that they can easily re-infest sheep if the correct product is not used. Only (Moxidectin) Zermex or Cydectin have a persistence claim of at least 28 days post-treatment and have proved in trials to be highly effective in preventing and eradicating sheep scab.
Diary Notes and Information:

- Agrii welcomes Ollie James to the Animal Health Sales Team. Ollie is based at the Ludlow Office. He lives in Ludlow with his wife Kaylee and new addition to the family Bertie.

- Nigel Ellis has made the sad decision to leave Agrii and will be joining an animal health manufacturing company. We all wish Nigel every success in his new role. The Welshpool Market office will remain open on market days and farm visits and deliveries will still be maintained.

- Thank you to everyone who came to visit our stand at the National Sheep Event in Malvern on 27th July. We’ll be at the Welsh Winter Fair on 28th and 29th November at Builth Wells. Please come and see us there!

- Early order rebates are now available for the range of both Rumenc and Downland Feed Blocks. Speak to your Agrii representative regarding this offer.

- It is important to follow quarantine procedures for bought in ewes and lambs to avoid the spread of Sheep Scab to your flock. Bought-in stock should be treated with Zermex injections and be isolated from the main flock for a minimum of 12 days.

- A pre-tupping bolus will provide cobalt, selenium, iodine and added copper if required. Do not use copper boluses for breeds susceptible to copper toxicity or for sheep housed for long periods and fed on concentrates.

- Make sure that weaned and store lambs are vaccinated before they are subjected to periods of stress as a result of Autumn temperature variations etc. Ovivac P Plus is the product of choice for store/fattening lambs. Lambs intended for breeding should receive Heptavac P. Plus.

- Catch crops are available, including a number of varieties of stubble turnips/forage rape etc. to suit your grazing period.

- Silage sheets, netwrap and string are available. Please contact your Agrii representative.

- If you require a derogation for hedge cutting please send your requests to ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk