



# DN NEWSLETTER

## issue 14

As many lambs are being weaned, we need to minimise changes to reduce stress. Dietary changes at weaning should be kept to a minimum in order to reduce the amount of stressors. It is important to weigh lambs so that growth rates and the health of the lambs can be monitored, plus it allows lambs to be grouped and targeted to specific markets. This newsletter addresses a few points that sheep farmers should be looking at.

### Q. How well are your lambs performing around and post weaning?

Weighing lambs around and post weaning is beneficial for various reasons, including identifying lambs that have hit weight for sale sooner. This helps reduce penalties for overweight lambs as well as selling them off farm sooner and allowing more grass availability for smaller lambs and also ewes for tugging. Every year is different from a grass production perspective and without measuring the lambs it is difficult to know if the grass is providing all that is required for performance.

Weighing regularly can also highlight those lambs that are not performing as well as the majority, or if a whole group slows down. Reduction in growth rate can give an indication of worm burdens earlier than detecting clinical signs. Faecal egg counts can then be performed to determine if a burden of worms are present and which worms are present, this can target worm dosing to support health and performance. If lambs are growing at less than 200 grams per day then their feed and health should be reviewed.

### Selecting and Sorting

At weaning or just after, many lambs get selected and sorted into groups such as store lambs, finishing lambs and replacement ewe lambs.

Vaccinations should be considered to avoid losses further down the line. Replacement ewe lambs should be vaccinated for clostridial diseases and abortion problems.

### Q. Do you leave triplet lambs on ewes at lambing or do you remove excess lambs?

Creep-feeding lambs whilst they remain on their ewes reduces the hassle of feeding pet-lambs and if that creep-feed is designed to target rumen development and growth, such as Progressive Rumistart, these lambs will perform as well as twins if not even better.



### Progressive Rumistart Pellets

An 18% protein pellet which is designed as a starter pellet to support structural growth. It contains NuStart to help develop the rumen and Safmannan yeast to support intestinal health and develop the immune system. Ammonium chloride is included so it is safe to feed to tup lambs.



## Finishing Lambs

Now, at or after weaning, if lambs are needing pushing a bit faster or if they just need a little bit of help with a lack of grass availability, it is a good time to start introducing some creep feed to ensure they perform as required. Using a good concentrate with cereal, quality protein and good mineral package will encourage growth.

For lambs at grass just needing a little support or starting on creep consider Intensive lamb nuts or Lamb finisher pellets.

### Intensive Lamb Nuts & Lamb Finisher Pellets

Both are a 16% protein compound with adequate levels of starch from cereals and sugar from maize sugar meal which encourages efficient growth and finish. The risk of Calculi in tup is reduced due to the inclusion of Ammonium Chloride.

If lambs have been on creep and need a little more fat cover we can look at Super lamb or Alka finisher nuts.

### Super Lamb Nuts

A 15% protein nut which is fully mineralised. Starch and sugar content adding up to 35% which supports fast finishing. Ammonium chloride is included.

### Alka Finisher

A fully mineralised nut with a protein content of 15%. Includes Alkagrain to allow for higher starch levels whilst supporting rumen function. Very high levels of a range of starch and sugar sources to encourage efficient finish. Actisaf live yeast also to help with rumen microbes and function. Ammonium chloride is included.

## Home Grown Cereals

For farms with their own cereal available a good quality protein pellet, such as 3in1 protein pellets will help reduce the risk of acidosis and bloat and will help support growth with a very low inclusion.

### 3 in 1 Protein Pellets

A 38% protein pellet which is designed to provide the protein in blends and can be fed in Advantage 3 in 1 feeders. These pellets comprise of good quality protein which will help support a growing lamb as well as a finishing lamb when mixed appropriately with cereals. The pellets contain Ammonium Chloride to reduce the risk of Calculi in tups.

## Gimmer & Tups

For gimmers or tups for breeding requiring leaner growth consider Progressive GT nuts.

### Progressive GT Nuts

A 6mm fully mineralised nut with a 17% protein. Average levels of a range of starch and sugar sources to encourage efficient lean growth with healthy rumen. Range of protein sources to enable frame growth. Ammonium chloride to reduce risk of calculi in tups. Actisaf to support rumen health.

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