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TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Oilseed Rape – The number one option in your break crop system

Oilseed rape is an exceptionally deep rooting plant which naturally improves soil structure. It also contributes a massive yield benefit to the following crop in the rotation. It can help in the reduction and elimination of hazardous grass weeds in cereal production systems. Oilseed rape is the optimum plant to utilize autumn applied organic manures.

Rotation

It is important to take into account the field rotation when sowing oilseed rape. In an ideal scenario oilseed rape should be grown with a 1 in 6 rotation to prevent the buildup of soil borne diseases such as sclerotinia. Ignoring this rotation can lead to issues including drastically diminishing yields. It is also important to avoid brassica cover crops in an oilseed rape rotation as these cover crops can too lead to soil borne diseases.



Varieties and Sowing

This year we will stocking the main varieties from Dekab and LG seeds, with varieties like **DK Expectation**, **DK Exstar** along with **Aurelis**, **Aviron** and **Dart**. Oilseed rape can be sown as early as mid-August and up to mid to late September depending on soil conditons. Earlier sown crops will generally have a higher GA1

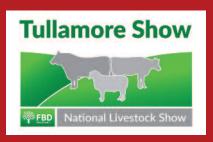
resulting in less required artificial N. However, earlier sown oilseed rape may be subject to higher disease pressure and higher lodging risk and will probably require a PGR and fungicide in October. Sowing depths for oilseed rape are quite shallow at 1.2cm. Increase the sowing depth if the seed bed top is very dry to find more moisture. For earlier sown crops, a reduced seeding rate is advised because if the canopy is too dense it can reduce pod fill later in the season. The use of slug pellets is also advised when drilling oilseed rape.

Quinns are also stocking Clearfield varieties which include **DK Imprint** and **Beatrix** for growers who have charlock and other brassica weed problems on farm. The herbicide **Cleranda** can only be used on Clearfield varieties safely and effectively to control most brassica weed problems.

Management

Oilseed rape is useful crop in a rotation to help counteract grassweed problems. There are multiple options in terms of chemistry pre and post emergence. An application on of Katamaran Turbo provides effective control of problem weeds such as poppies and cleavers. Where these weeds are not a problem then an application of **Butisan S** should suffice. In an ideal scenario, pre-emergence herbicides should be applied directly after rolling to damp soil as they are soil-acting in their mode of action. Post emergence options consist of Falcon, Belkar, **Astrokerb** and **Kerb Flo**. Where pre-emergence performance was not satisfactory or grassweeds are an issue, then an application of Astrokerb before January 30th will provide impressive weed control. An important point to note is that **Astrokerb** contains aminoyralid. Any crop treated with this cannot be baled and used for the mushroom industry. **Belkar** @ 0.3 - 0.5ltr/ha provides excellent activity on a variety of broad-leaved weeds such as cleavers, poppies, fumitory and shepherd's purse.

Quinns are now offering a very attractive forward price for harvest 2025. Please contact your local Quinns technical agri sales representative for further details.



Visit Quinns Stand Sunday 11th August Livestock Area - L86



Clover-Safe options on Grassland

With the large increase in clover use and establishment in the past number of years on farms it is important to try our best to keep it in the sward. It is widely acknowledged that clover needs a pH of 6.5 and above and our Pand K indexes to be 3 or above to maintain the sward. However, another threat to its longevity in the sward is weeds!

This year a new clover-safe herbicide called **Pro-Clova XL** that kills key weeds in newly sown leys and established grassland was brought to the market by Corteva.



Each Pro-Clova XL co-pack treats 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of newly sown leys or 2 hectares (5 acres) when applying to established grassland. This product can only be applied to red-clover swards after it has reached the 3-trifoliate leaf stage, in **the spring of the year after planting**. It is safe to use on white clover swards in same year of planting once the clover has reached the 3- trifoliate stage before application.

It has good control on key seedling weeds in newly sown leys such as chickweed, fat-hen, redshank, seedling docks, mayweed and hogweed.

In established grassland it has good control on weeds such as broadleaf dock, cow-parsley, hogweed, plantain, buttercups and dandelions. It has no known effect on thistles or nettles. There are very important measures to adhere to when thinking of applying Pro-Clova XL such as using at least 75% drift reducing nozzles, not applying this product to land parcels where an intersecting watercourse is present and keeping a 3 metre buffer zone to other watercourses etc but be sure to talk to our technical advisors to see if this product is suitable to you.

DB Plus (formerly named Underclear)

DB Plus, which you will have known as Underclear is now back on the market having received emergency approval from the Dept of Agriculture. You may wonder why it has received approval considering Pro-Clova XL is now available but the label of **DB Plus** clearly states that its use is for **red clover swards only**. This means that is has approval for use in newly sown grass swards that contains red clover.



DB Plus comes in a 10 litre drum and will cover 1.43 ha (3.53 acres) at a rate of 7 litres per hectare. This approval is until the 15th of October and Quinn's have received a certain allocation so it is important you contact us as it may be in short supply.

Another Clover-safe Product that is well-known is **Eagle**. Eagle can be applied to established grassland, including swards with white

clover. Apply in the spring/early summer or in the autumn when the grass and docks are actively growing, and good growing conditions are expected to last for at least two weeks after spraying. Eagle can have good control on docks, cleavers and shepherds purse.



It is important to talk with our technical advisors to ensure you are selecting the correct product on your swards and are giving clover the best chance on your farm.





Field results after applying Pro-Clova XL

Faecal egg sampling

Recent spells of wet weather with humid conditions have brought a surge in parasitic activity in grazing groups especially young-stock like lambs and calves.

Using the equipment from Micron Agritech we can test for most common parasites and officially can test for Rumen and Liver Fluke.

Antimicrobial resistance has been becoming more of an issue

over the last number of years so using fecal egg testing to accurately determine parasites present and precisely dose animals will be more beneficial that blanket dosing.

Please contact your local Technical agri sales rep or branch for more info on testing



€15/Sample for worms only



Ewe Mineral Supplementation at mating

Having a mineral deficiency in your flock pretupping can be detrimental to the fertility and performance of the flock and will ultimately lead to reduced profitability. Mineral deficiencies can arise in two forms; a primary or secondary deficiency.

- 1. Primary deficiency → lack of mineral supplied in diet
- 2. Secondary deficiency → adequate mineral provided but uptake is prevented via another barrier (ie high Molybdenum)

Major elements such as Calcium magnesium phosphorus etc exist in larger quantities in forage however trace elements such as copper, zinc, cobalt manganese selenium and iodine are provided in much smaller quantities in the forage.

Mineral supplementation is one part in the working wheel of overall ewe fertility. Ensure your flock is uniform in body condition and free from parasitic burden will lead to a successful mating period.

We have a wide range of boluses, drenches and licks available in Quinns. Please contact our agri technical sales team or local branch to avail of upcoming offers and products.









Mineral	Deficiency associated
Cobalt	Production of Vit B12 essential for egg production and reproductive health. It also stimulates thrive, growth and springy wool
Copper	Deficiency leads to Swayback and poor growth rates but be careful not to oversupply as it can be toxic
Selenium	Important for fertility and conception in ewes – deficiency at mating lead to embryo losses
Manganese	Hormonal regulation
Zinc	Promotion of hoof health for mating so ewes stay sound on foot

Feeding Store Lambs

As we approach another store lamb season it's important to have a plan in place to implement especially for lambs being bought in.

Firstly it's strongly recommended that all lambs are thoroughly examined when they arrive on the farm.

- 1) Any lame lambs should be treated and isolated from the rest of the flock for 5 7 days to avoid spreading diseases such as foot rot to other stock on the farm.
- 2) Fluke and Worms Quinns are able to carry out dung samples in our lab in Baltinglass, this will highlight any worm or fluke issues that may be present in the flock and we can recommend a suitable drenching programme based on results.
- **3)** Mineral and Vitamin Supplements Lambs respond well to supplement drench especially Cobalt and Vitamin B12. This will help boost lamb thrive and overall lamb performance.
- **4)** Lambs should be treated with Clickzin or Clik depending on lamb weight and target finishing period to avoid any setbacks with maggots infestation etc
- 5) Ideally lambs should be grouped together according to their weight and fed accordingly

There are so many factors that affect lamb thrive including

- Feeding rates and duration of feeding period
- Feed space and Feed management

- Animal health and Nutritional history
- Water access and quality
- Forage Quality
- Breed and age of lambs
- External stress factors such as weather, disease and transport

The feeding programme

Lambs should be gradually introduced to concentrate feed and built up to ad lib feeding over a period of 7 – 14 days. Depending on the age and size of the lambs will help decide on the correct concentrate to feed to lambs. Younger lambs will respond more to a higher protein concentrate and therefore we would recommend the **Supreme Intensive Lamb** (ration or pellet). This 18% protein formulation is a high energy feed including maize and barley and it also includes soya bean meal to optimise lamb growth rates.

For older lambs we would recommend the **Supreme Hogget** (ration or pellet). This 14% formulation is ideal for the older store lamb or hogget. Both the Lamb and hogget ranges of feed include a fully balanced mineral and vitamin package with ammonium chloride included to reduce the risk of urinary calculi.

For further information on finishing store lambs and hogget's this autumn please don't hesitate to contact your Quinns sales team.





EVERYTHING FOR THE FARMER ATHY · AVOCA · BALTINGLASS · GEASHILL · MILFORD · NAAS













Jeyes Fluid















Photos are for illustration only, all prices are strictly cash collect. E&OE. Prices may change due to circumstances outside our control.



€400 – David Kelly, Kildare, Co. Kildare

58643/58450

€200 – Tony Greene – Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

€200 - Peter Spollen - Geashill, Co. Offaly

€100 – TWM Matthews – Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow

€100 – Michael and Harry Germaine – Castledermot, Co. Kildare