

RSABI

Tarff is pleased to confirm that it has recently upgraded to become a 'Corporate Supporter' of RSABI. This means the charity can provide 10-12 counselling sessions for a farmer struggling with poor mental health helping them to move forward.

RSABI provides emotional, practical and financial support to individuals and their families across the agricultural sector including farming and crofting.

The last 10 months have been extremely challenging for everyone and Tarff would like to remind our customers that if you feel the need to speak to someone, RSABI's helpline is open from 7am to 11pm 365 days of the year. The number to call is 0300 111 4166.

Ayr Show

In case you haven't seen the recent news, Ayr Show has been postponed until 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022. This is due to the ongoing uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic.

Follow us,  
Join us,  
#teamtarff  
@tarffvalley



# TARFF newsletter

February 2021, Issue 50

## Rumenco Lifeline Lamb and Ewe Pre-Lambing

With the recent announcement of changes to the Basic Payment Scheme over the next four years, it is more important than ever to be thinking about reducing losses and maximising lambing success.

Lambing success will be influenced by a number of factors including disease, labour provision and management at lambing time. However, arguably one of the most important factors that will influence lambing season success will be the nutrition of the ewe throughout pregnancy and in particular during late pregnancy. With 60% of lamb losses at lambing time being related to incorrect nutrition in late pregnancy, it is important to make sure that ewes are fed to meet their nutritional requirements to avoid problems occurring at this critical time.

Overfeeding ewes in late pregnancy will supply more energy to the ewe than required. An increased energy supply can result in fat accumulating around the pelvic area which increases the risk of dystocia. Ewes are also more prone to prolapses when overfed in late pregnancy. An increased energy supply to the lamb may result in larger lambs being born which will increase the risk of dystocia at lambing and can reduce lamb survival.

Underfeeding ewes in late pregnancy is likely to result in a shortage of energy supply to the lamb(s) and as a result, lambs may be born small, weak and will have less brown fat available for mobilisation during the first few hours of life. The quality and quantity of colostrum produced is likely to

be insufficient if ewes have been underfed in late pregnancy and will often result in a poor chance of survival for the lambs. If there is a large deficit in energy then the ewe will be forced to mobilise her own body reserves which can result in an increased risk of pregnancy toxæmia, potentially leading to the death of the ewe and the unborn lambs.

Rumenco's LIFELINE Lamb and Ewe range can form the basis of any late pregnancy/lambing nutrition plan, providing essential nutrients required to support both the ewe and unborn lamb. There are three products in the range to suit all farming systems: Lifeline Lamb and Ewe bucket, Lifeline Lamb and Ewe Protein Meal and Lifeline Lamb and Ewe block. Call your local Tarff Sales Representative to discuss your requirements.



## Country UF Lamb Colostrum

Under the banner of Country UF, United Farmers, (of which Tarff was a founding member), offers a diverse product portfolio. The Country UF range of products has been researched and developed with key manufacturers. If you are not already benefitting from these products, why not check out their performance compared to your usual brand? Pricing is competitive and quality strictly monitored.

With lambing time approaching, the Country UF range supports many of the basic requirements such as iodine, 5 in 1 newborn solution, twin lamb solution and colostrum. Featured below are the benefits of Country UF Colostrum.

### Country UF Lamb Colostrum Information

- Contains probiotics which physically exclude harmful pathogens from attaching to the gut wall.

- Fortified with egg powder to supplement the high level of natural colostrum.

- Contains vitamins A, D3 & E to counter common deficiencies in lambs.

- High levels of easy-absorbable energy

- Formulated to mix easily and sealed in a foil sachet for preservation of nutrients.

**Available 500g, 1.25kg & 2.5kg. Either 'Call and Collect' or visit your local Tarff branch.**



## Women in Agriculture Practical Training Fund

A new training fund has been made available to Women in Agriculture!

The Scottish Government's Women in Agriculture Practical Training Fund offers support to women resident in Scotland who are either already working in agriculture\* or studying it full-time or part-time, or who are keen to start work in this area and who are able to demonstrate how a training course will support the development of their business or employment options.

Funding for 100% of costs is available for training up to the value of £500 per course. Applications for training over the value of £500 will still be accepted and will be assessed depending on the value to the individual or business.

Call Tarff Services (01557 820247) today to discuss how we can help support you!

\*This can be within a related, or key supply chain business.

## Tarff Own Brand Sheep Rolls

These rolls are 18% protein and combine the right levels of vitamins and minerals to support your ewes at lambing.

Customers can collect tonne totes of Tarff's own brand sheep rolls from their local store. Stores have limited supplies, and this is only on a call and collect basis. Phone your local Tarff branch today to find out more!

Find your local Tarff branch here >>  
<http://www.tarffvalley.co.uk/branches/>

## Pre-Apprenticeship – Mentors Required!

Applications for the 2021 Pre-Apprenticeship programme are now open! Like every year, we are on the lookout for mentors to take on a Pre-Apprentice. This year, we have 18 spaces available.

### What is the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme?

Tarff's Pre-Apprenticeship programme is a 6 month, fully paid, work placement where the student is supported by a mentor. The mentor will prepare the student for work and will help set clear guidelines as to how the student should behave and perform at work. The programme is tailored towards 16 – 20 year olds.

On completion of the programme, the student is awarded a Land-based Pre-Apprenticeship award (SCQF Level 4) which is accredited by SRUC.

### What is the aim of the programme?

The aim of the programme is to prepare young people for a career within the rural sector and offer a guided and well supported learning programme.

By becoming a mentor to a young person you offer your knowledge, skills and guidance at the beginning of the Pre-Apprentice's career. It's all about encouraging and supporting an individual to help them make the most of themselves. Throughout your time as a mentor, you will have continuous support and training provided from Tarff.

Before you are matched with a student, induction days are arranged so the Programme Leader, Tracey McEwan, can come out and observe the student and discuss whether being a mentor to a young person is something you want to continue with.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a mentor, please visit:

<http://www.tarffvalley.co.uk/mentors/> or speak to the Programme Leader, Tracey McEwan, on 07785 657861.

Alternatively, if you would like to become a mentor, please fill out our registration form: <https://tinyurl.com/y4ja6tkc>.

## It's never too early to plan silage

If last season's up and down weather taught us anything, it's this, says Alan Smith, Volac's area business manager for Scotland:

1. Having enough silage available, and of good enough quality, is essential
2. When it comes to the weather, expect the unexpected

There's no getting away from it; when you're ultimately dependant on the weather to earn your living, you are exposed to risk.

### So, how do you manage that risk?

Preparation is everything and it's never too early to start. Begin by calculating how much silage you will need next winter. If you need 1,000 tonnes, how many acres of grass do you need to cut to produce that, and how many silage cuts do you need to take in the year?

But don't stop there.

With the unpredictable nature of farming, ask yourself: do I need to make a bit more silage – say an extra 10% – in case the weather in 2021 throws a curve ball again? You feed silage for six months of the year or more, so, it's definitely worth prioritising silage-making as a strategic part of your business. The quantity and quality of what you make can have a huge impact on your bottom line.

To make more silage or better quality, consider reseedling if you haven't done so already. Weed grasses that creep into swards are less nutritious.

Remember, too, that using the quality, proven additive Ecosyl serves two purposes. By improving fermentation (the pickling process that conserves silage), not only has Ecosyl been shown to reduce the tonnes of dry matter lost during storage – which essentially means more silage available to feed – but also to 'lock-in' greater nutritional quality in the silage.

Recent research showed treating with Ecosyl cut dry matter losses during ensilage by more than half and improved the energy content sufficiently to potentially support the production of an additional 1.3 litres of milk per cow per day, compared with leaving silage untreated (in line with historical milk trial data).

There's plenty of good, freely-available information on the steps to making consistently better silage. To begin look at [www.cuttoclamp.com](http://www.cuttoclamp.com) or speak to your local Tarff Sales Representative.

*Remember the benefits of a proven additive,*  
says Alan Smith

