

# Sheep Update

## SUMMER 2020

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## TICKING ALL THE BOXES AT DRIMSYNIE AND HIGHLAND

Sheep can be picky and it was one reason for Andrew Campbell of Drimsynie Estate Livestock and Highland Livestock to make the change to Harbro's Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb nuts for his pedigree sheep.

"We had been feeding a coarse mix in creep feeders and we could see birds eating what the sheep had sorted and left." says Andrew Campbell.

After discussion with David Allan, his sheep specialist, the switch was made to Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb nuts. Not only does the nut contain all the key nutrients required for the sheep to achieve their genetic potential, it can be blown into bulk bins, which is a great time saving benefit for Andrew.

"Having the bulk feed is much more convenient than bags and totes. We can buy more cost effectively and the feed stays really fresh." he added.

"We have slightly different feeding regimes dependent on the breed, sex and age. Texels start on Clover Baby Lamb Creep No 1, moving to Lamb Coarse No 2 and lastly to Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb. Our Bluefaced Leicesters and Blackfaces go straight from Baby Lamb Creep to Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb."

"Across the three breeds, we are selling over 60 tups annually. In addition, we sell many breeding females and Scotch Mule lambs, which are also turned out on Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb."

"We see great growth rates, there is always nice bloom and there's no wastage."

The Cowal Texel flock, based in Lochgoilhead, Argyllshire was founded in 1983 by Andrew's father Keith and his brothers Allan and Roy. Under the watchful eyes of this previous generation, Andrew now runs the pedigree and commercial flocks along with a fulltime shepherd.

**"We see great growth rates, there is always nice bloom and there's no wastage."**

The Clover pedigree range has been continually developed and fine-tuned over the last 40 years, informed by the latest innovations and trial work. The resulting range of products allows pedigree sheep

to get the best possible start through to preparation for show and sale, supported by advice from Harbro's team of specialists.

**"Having the bulk feed is much more convenient than bags and totes. We can buy more cost effectively and the feed stays really fresh."**

Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb is intended for breeding lambs, shearlings and gimmers in the lead up to shows and sales. The ingredients are coarsely ground, allowing for slower digestion, resulting in a reduced risk of acidosis. The Maxammon treated cereals used in this 16% protein nut stabilise rumen pH, allowing for higher levels of starch to be fed.

"I like the fact that the feed is a pellet, everything they need is in it and they get it all, the sheep can't pick and choose."

"Since we moved to Kelso Tup & Lamb, we have never tried anything else. It ticks all the boxes for us."

# LATE SUMMER SHEEP MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Jill Hunter, Beef & Sheep Nutritionist

There are three priorities at this time of year for any shepherd: **finishing lambs, getting ewes into the right condition for tugging and marketing any breeding stock they have for sale.**

Following a good growing season, lambs are beginning to be weaned across the country. Many have already hit the new season lamb trade and benefited from good prices with low input costs. Earlier lambing flocks should aim to have 30% of their lambs finished before weaning time. Thereafter, a target of 80% should be sold before the ewes are back at the tup.

Supplementary feeding lambs after weaning will coincide with a downturn in grass quality and help ensure lamb performance is maintained by boosting energy, protein and trace element intakes.

## Finishing lambs - avoid false economy

It can be attractive to opt for a low cost feed at this time of year, especially where large numbers of lambs are to be fed. However, when growing and finishing lambs, the cost per kg gain should be the main concern and the efficiency of how the lambs convert the feed into meat is the biggest driver of this. Harbro's **Lamb Feeder** consistently achieves a feed conversion ratio (FCR) of **4:1**. This means, to put on 1kg liveweight, a lamb has to eat 4kg of feed. Lower quality feeds with a lower energy density are more likely to achieve

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**Harbro's Lamb Feeder consistently achieves a feed conversion ratio (FCR) of 4:1.**

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a FCR of 5:1. This means an extra kg feed is needed to achieve exactly the same liveweight gain. Using this calculation, the difference in FCR can justify up to £50/t more for a more efficient feed.



## Look after the ewes

Ewes have worked hard all summer to look after their lambs and they now need time to repair and most likely gain some body condition ready for tugging time. At weaning, the opportunity should be taken to body condition score the ewes and batch them accordingly. To regain body condition, offer the leanest ewes the best quality grass and keep in mind it can take up to 50 days to gain one body condition score on quality grass, with a target of 3-3.5 at tugging. It's also essential to ensure ewes' feet are in good condition so they can graze for long enough to eat the right amount of

late summer grass to increase their body condition. Getting body condition right at this time of year will help boost scanning percentages due to more efficient ovulation in the ewes. Too lean or too fat ewes will reduce success rates.

All ewes should be offered mineral supplementation to complement their grass intake. As no compound feed is required at this time of year, mineral licks are the most convenient option. Harbro's **Feet & Fertility** mineral bucket is designed specifically for this time of year, right through to tugging, to



maintain hoof health and tissue repair, then to support fertility and gain a positive epigenetic effect.

### Don't forget the tups

Before we know it, tupping time will be upon us. Body condition of tups should be managed to hit the 3-3.5 at tupping time and they should also be offered mineral supplementation at very least, 3 weeks before tupping.

### Epigenetics

Half a lamb's genetics come from the ewe and the other half from the tup. Epigenetics is a simple concept where we can influence which genes are switched on and off by our supplementation, before and during



tupping. When we supplement ewes and tups with Feet & Fertility mineral buckets, coupled with good management, we see an increase in scanning percentage, increased number of live lambs, lamb vigour and subsequent lamb performance.

### Selling breeding stock

Although some breeding sales have been cancelled, many producers are finding innovative ways to market their breeding lambs, tups and gimmers. Making sure they're well bred, correctly fed and fit for purpose should be the main aim and this will allow animals to catch the eye of prospective buyers. Harbro's **Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb** is a flagship product, used by many top breeders across all breeds, to turn out quality stock.

It has been designed to:

- Promote liveweight gain
- Promote muscle growth
- Boost overall health, immunity and fertility and bloom
- Reduce stress
- Get animals into optimum condition

**Harbro's Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb is a flagship product, used by many top breeders across all breeds, to turn out quality stock.**

**MAXAMMON**®



Stephen Sufferin, Crewelands, Supreme Champion at Scottish Suffolk Show & Sale Stirling 2019, Maxammon Kelso Tup & Lamb customer.

## IMPROVING FOOT HEALTH AT PHILIPHAUGH



Alan Cowens is the farm manager at the beautiful Philiphaugh Estate on the outskirts of Selkirk in the Scottish Borders. Along with 120 Luing cows, Alan runs a flock of 2,000 ewes comprising of Cheviots, Texels, Suffolks and Mules, and is supported by full-time shepherds, Allan Wilson and Scott Bell.

Alan routinely vaccinates against foot rot but still found it didn't eradicate the problem completely. Having tried most of the mineral blocks on the market, back in 2017 he decided to give Harbro's **Feet & Fertility** a try. It cleared the foot problems

up immediately and Alan has been using it ever since. Alan commented that "because it is quite a hard block, the sheep don't take it too fast, therefore it lasts a lot longer than other products on the market."

**It cleared the foot problems up immediately.**

Feet & Fertility is one of Harbro's mineral buckets formulated to improve foot health and enhance fertility. Supplying essential trace elements and vitamins, it is fed throughout the summer and at tupping time.

The bucket is supplied to Alan through Harbro's Earlston store where Alan is supported by store manager, Hugh Briggs and his team.

## THREE STEP SHEEP NUTRITION SOLUTION 1>2>3

1



**Feet & Fertility**

2



**Energyze Forage Booster**

3



**Energyze Vitality**

# FREE ONLINE TUPPING EVENT

Nutrition, prevention and measurement:  
Your essential guide to maximising  
flock potential

Wednesday 2 September 7.00 - 8.30pm

BOOK  
NOW



## Speakers include:

- **Jill Hunter, Harbro Beef & Sheep Nutritionist**  
Epigenetics
- **Reg Jones, Glasgow Vet School**  
Benchmarking and ewe health
- **Hannah McKerrow, MSD Veterinary Advisor**  
Stamp out lameness
- **Tom Slay, Agri food consultant, ex M&S and Tesco**  
Know your supply chain

Book your place  
before 28 Aug  
to be in with  
the chance of

winning **5 FREE**  
**Feet & Fertility buckets.**

Check out our social media pages  
and website for the link.



## Our nationwide network of Country Stores

Our Country Stores stock a wide range of livestock feed as well as:

- **Animal health products**
- **Farm equipment and hardware**
- **Workwear and country clothing**
- **Vaccines, boluses and drenches**

Each store has a Registered Animal Medicines Advisor (RAMA) who can recommend and supply certain veterinary medicines. Our friendly team are also trained to advise on cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, equine and pets.



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