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## Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) lifted

On 4th July, DEFRA lifted the AIPZ which has been in place across Great Britain since October last year...

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# TOMORROW'S FARMER



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YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM CREDITON MILLING COMPANY

# Getting the most from your reseed

With the renewed interest in production from forage, the importance of effective reseeding is high on the priority list this autumn.

We know that the returns from undertaking a reseed can range from £800-1350/acre across a 5 year period (depending on utilisation). But with cost of a quality reseed now suggested at being in excess of £250 an acre, it is imperative that establishment and success of this investment is maximised.

Once you have chosen your quality grass seed mixture, Ensuring that the varieties chosen meet your intended use and are on the NIAB Grass recommendation list. The following points will help you maximise the chances of a successful reseed.

### Soil Testing and Soil Structure

Doing a soil test is recommended, so that nutrients can be targeted to the field and so expensive over applications don't take place. This will also give you a more accurate pH reading than a field test. Whilst taking the soil samples it is also useful to dig 3 or 4 soil pits in the field to look for any compaction that won't be removed by ploughing, these areas can then be targeted for subsoiling.

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DAIRY

POULTRY

BEEF & SHEEP

FORAGE

# Getting the most from your reseed *continued from page 1*

## pH

At a pH of below 6.5 lime should be considered and below 6.0 lime should be applied. Remember bulk lime can take some months to have its full effect on soil pH, so if the pH is low a faster acting Granular product may be worth considering. Especially important if you are trying to maximise the use of clovers in your ley.

## Nutrients

The PK requirements for a Autumn reseed are shown below, but at this stage it is also important to consider other aspects such as calcium, magnesium and trace elements, indicated in your soil analysis.

Index	0	1	2	3	4+
Units/Acre					
Phosphate	96	64	40 (M)	24	0
Potash	96	64	48(M) - 32	0	0

P and K applications for a reseed may be deducted from the first seasons grazing and silage recommendations.

## FYM and Slurry

Applications of FYM and slurry need to be taken in to account before applying any additional purchased nutrients, as this is a good way of saving money.

The table below shows that FYM and slurry contain excellent levels of potash and if applied can reduce or remove the need to apply extra potash. At a soil index

of 2 the organic manure applications below would meet the potash requirement of a reseed, (but extra P would be needed)

## Fertiliser

		N	P	K
		Units available		
Slurry 6% DM	2000 gallons/acre	12	11	52
FYM	5 t/acre	6	19	72

It is recommended that Autumn reseeds don't receive a Nitrogen application, due to the low crop requirement and the residual nutrients in the soil being able to provide the balance. Targeting a PK fertiliser in the seed bed to meet requirement or a straight phosphate where organic manure has been used is recommended.

We have a complete range of options to meet not only your reseeded requirements but your autumn PK applications too. These include soft rock phosphate products, split solubility phosphates and standard PK grades

**If you are unsure about any of the above or would like more information and help on nutrient planning for Autumn cropping, please call the office.**



**MARK TUCKER** 07703734530  
FORAGE SPECIALIST

# Quick Beef tips that won't break the bank

As we make our way through these uncertain times with the beef price easing in the last few months, its easy to find yourself thinking that the easiest way to reduce daily cost of production is to reduce the amount, or quality, of the hard feed you give to your stock.

With this in mind, I wanted to focus on some management tips which will help keep daily liveweight gains up for both growing and finishing cattle which don't break the bank.

- Keep feed times as consistent as possible, whether that's feeding cattle at grass in troughs daily or more so for cattle inside, cattle are creatures of habit and just want the same routine/diet day in day out. By sticking to the same feed time as practically possible it avoids sudden feed pattern changes which can cause rumen upsets. I appreciate this is easy for me to say when I'm not dealing with breakdowns and stock getting out etc but you get the gist, consistency is key.
- Feed space and feed availability; if all animals in a group can't all fit around an outside trough or are unable to all feed at the feed face on TMR systems then those lower down the pecking order will be restricted on what they're

eating, meaning growth rates are likely to be compromised. Making sure feed is pushed up and fresh is also a huge factor, cattle will nuzzle the feed out from the feed barrier so making sure feed is accessible 24/7 will really make sure you aren't limiting their intakes, you want your animals to eat as much as they can in as short a time as possible, so you maximise their time spent lying down.

- Keep water troughs clean; I was once told that water is the neglected nutrient so please ensure water access and cleanliness is sufficient with daily inspections.
- Evaluate forage stocks on farm by measuring clamps/bales and work out a feed plan going forward so you can adjust concentrate feeding accordingly to help get the most out of your forage. We have seen quite an increase on the number of farmers who have whole cropped cereals that would normally have been combined because of concerns over forage stocks off the back of a poor 2022 growing year where little surplus was carried forward, wholecrop can compliment other forages but if fed at higher rates than ideal it can limit intakes so we have to allow for that when building a ration to prevent any shortfalls in performance.



**MATT HOLMES** 07751 743079  
RUMINANT FEED SPECIALIST

# Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) lifted



**LIZ WARNER**  
POULTRY SPECIALIST

On 4th July, DEFRA lifted the AIPZ which has been in place across Great Britain since October last year. This zone required enhanced biosecurity measures for all poultry keepers, due to the increased risk of Avian Influenza.



Whilst the AIPZ has now been lifted, as risk reduces during the summer months, it is important to ensure biosecurity is still at the forefront of our minds, as the recent case in Scotland, should remind us. AI thrives in colder, damp conditions, and with the knowledge that it is still prevalent in our wild bird populations, we should still not become complacent – especially with the British summers we are often subjected to!

It is important to note, that all poultry gatherings – including shows and markets - are still banned.

## Poultry – Grants available

The poultry sector has long been hailed as a success story, for not relying on farm subsidies for profitability. Poultry is a dynamic industry, quick to adopt new technologies, and keep pushing forwards in terms of genetic improvements, and new systems. But, have we been missing out on some of the grant funding that other sectors have been able to make use of?

DEFRA opened the Animal Health and Welfare grant back in March 2023, which offered grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 to go towards the cost of items which improve the Health and Welfare of Livestock. And Broilers and Laying hens made it onto their list.

Items were chosen that;

- Improve a farms profitability
- Contribute to improved animal health and welfare
- Reduce the unsustainable use of extracted water
- Reduce GHG emissions in line with Net Zero ambitions.



Whilst the current application window has now closed, it is likely to reopen again in the autumn, and now is a good time to start thinking about whether these grants could help your business.

In the last round of applications there was funding for poultry related items, including –

- Automatic curtain systems for poultry housing
- Auto monitoring systems
- Auto weigh scales for poultry
- Feed bins weighing equipment
- Poultry perches (mushroom shaped)
- Broiler Perches
- Auto enrichment feeders
- Nipple drinker systems
- Ultrasonic water meters

There are a few important considerations to be aware of –

Firstly that the grant is a contribution towards the cost of buying new equipment from a supplier, from an approved list of items that can be funded, as published by DEFRA. It will not cover the whole value of that item.

You need to be able to pay for the item up front, and then claim back the grant once proof of purchase has been obtained. Therefore you'll need to plan cash flow accordingly. You must also keep the item for a minimum of 5 years once the grant funding has been paid.

**If it is something you maybe interested in pursuing on your farm, keep an eye out for DEFRA updates, and we will flag up when the application window opens for the next round.**

# Evolution

*"the process by which we need to adapt over time in response to an ever-changing environment"*

## EVOLUTION 50

Free from all Soy by-products a range of high-performance cakes available for Dairy, Youngstock, Beef and Sheep.

## EVOLUTION 100

Free from all Soy and Palm by-products a range of high-performance cakes available for Dairy, Youngstock, Beef and Sheep.

These products, along with our membership of Round Table for Responsible Soya (RTRS) and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), ensures that we can give you the choices you need to fulfil your responsibilities to your milk buyers/end users. Our dedicated team of nutritionists and forage specialists are also available to work with you to target key areas of your business to help meet your sustainability requirements. If you require further information or wish to discuss your individual requirements in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.



# Autumn Grassland Products



### Fertiliser

We have a full offering of Autumn Grade PK products and granular limes, ranging from standard products to bespoke soil conditioning products containing additional calcium, sulphur, magnesium and trace elements.

### Feedsweet Range

The Feedsweet range is a blend of Gafsa rock phosphate, Polysulphate and Muriate of Potash blended into 4 new grades with a high ratio of calcium, sulphur, magnesium and valuable trace elements. Elements that traditional water soluble PK's cannot offer.



### Soil Testing and Nutrient planning

We can provide a full and comprehensive independent analytical service. The options provided range from standard testing to full in depth analysis including carbon testing and soil microbial activity. Accurate analysis is the starting point to maximising forage production.

### Seeding mixtures

We have a comprehensive range of grass seeds available. We have selected mixtures only containing proven varieties from the recommended grass and clover lists.

Re-seed mixtures come in 14 and 15 kilogram packs, helping ensure a good establishment and performance.

**AUTUMN OFFERS**  
in grass seed  
and soil testing

**FREE STANDARD SOIL TEST**  
WITH EVERY  
**5 BAGS OF GRASS SEED**  
PURCHASED IN AUGUST

**SILOSOLVE & MANUVER**  
**LAGOON (SLURRY ADDITIVE)**  
**BUY 10 SACHETS**  
**AND GET 1 FREE**