

Covid-19 Update – Input and Feed Supplies



Information correct as at 12:00pm on 27.03.2020

- **Allow for extended lead times on orders**
- **Make contingency plans for products being unavailable**
- **Review stocks regularly**
- **Keep a close eye on forward prices for straights and keep booking as opportunities arise**
- **Take vet advice on alternatives/complements to medication**

Inputs:

Whilst we are under Covid-19 restrictions we anticipate there may be longer lead times or shortages of certain products.

Ensure good communication with your suppliers, consider their manufacturing source, and have contingency plans to avoid running out of supplies.

Allow for extended lead times and place orders in good time. Many suppliers are limiting the size of deliveries so you will probably need to order more frequently. Future planning of stocks is important and consider what else can be used if products become unavailable.

There are often alternatives to many products, in the event of disposable product shortages, utilising reusable products is important, for example washable towels and a washing machine or using a teat dip/spray and towel instead of medicated wipes.

Regarding medicines, we advise prudent use and consider stocks and alternative products. Utilising supportive care, such as anti-inflammatories and fluids is important. These methods will help reduce the use of antimicrobial products in farm. In the first instance, in cases of mild illness, supportive care should be instigated, and this may be enough to aid recovery without the use of medicines (Always seek veterinary advice).

Disinfectant products are important in this time. Ensuring that correct concentrations of products are used and measuring them out accurately will help avoid waste and ensure accurate kill times for pathogens.

Updates on veterinary medicines supplies can be obtained from your local vet and on the NOAH website. <https://www.noah.co.uk/focus-areas/covid-19-information-for-the-animal-health-sector/>

Feed markets:

- Covid 19 pandemic is causing massive volatility in world feed markets
- LIFFE wheat prices for May and November 2020 up by around £16/t or 10% since last month to £166/t for May 2020 and £176/t for November 2020
- Higher prices further forward due to concerns over UK/EU production with low wheat planted area and exceptionally wet winter
- Demand for bioethanol has fallen with very low oil prices – now around \$24/barrel = 50% fall in last month
- Lower supplies of US Maize Distillers will follow from US and wheat distillers from EU plants
- Similar drop in demand for biodiesel in EU. Some plants could cut production or close
- This will knock on to lower supplies of rapemeal
- Spot rapemeal currently hard to find and expensive – c£250-260/t
- Forward prices for Aug/Oct 2020 around £200/t ex Erith so worth booking forward now
- Argentina supplies c.40% of world Soyabean meal. Political issues, port strikes and Covid 19 precautions are slowing down supplies
- UK soyabean meal prices currently around £395/t ex port, up around £90/t (28%) in the last month