



SHINE HELPS ORPHAN LAMBS MATCH PERFORMANCE OF EWE-REARED ANIMALS

ANOTHER INNOVATION FROM BONANZA CALF NUTRITION

Lambs reared on a milk replacer made from ewe milk are outperforming some ewe-reared lambs on a Powys farm.

The Powell family – brothers Geraint and Morton and their wives, Anabel and Mandy – farm at Kerry, near Newtown.

At Glanmeliheli Farm, Geraint and Anabel runs a flock of Welsh mules. The flock, which lambs from the beginning of March, this year scanned at 200%.

Orphan lambs are reared on Shine Lamb Milk replacer once they have received a good volume of colostrum. The replacer is fed through a Britmix feeder.

Anabel, who is in charge of feeding the orphan lambs, reports that the performance of these lambs is better than that of the lambs reared by ewes in the field.

A test of this came when lambs were sold last year. The orphan lambs were sold at Welshpool market at the same time as the ewe-reared lambs, from the beginning of May. "The pet lambs were being picked out of the first draw of all lambs," says Anabel.

Last year, Glanmeliheli hosted the NSA Welsh Sheep event. "Before we hosted the event, we turned the pet lambs out into the field with the rest of the flock and there wasn't a noticeable difference between any of the lambs," says Anabel. Scour is not an issue in these lambs either.

Moreton and Mandy, who farm at Drefor Farm, report similar results. They too were introduced to Shine by Will Hughes, of CCF Ltd. They liked the fact that the product is made with ewe's milk.

They run a flock of 1500 Mule, Welsh and Beulah ewes and start lambing at the end of February. Lambs are reared in individual pens before being turned out but pet lambs are housed until weaning.

The lambs are given as much colostrum as they will take as soon as possible after birth and then topped up two hours later with either an artificial colostrum or ewe's colostrum. They are then fed Shine Lamb Milk replacer.

Mandy says packaging Shine Lamb Milk replacer in a 20kg bag makes it easy to lift into the hopper. "The powder smells as good as a ewe's own milk," she says.

As with the lambs at Glanmeliheli, the Shine-reared animals are drawn in April and May at the same time as the lambs from main flock with all sold through Welshpool market.



Will Hughes (CCF Ltd.) with Morton and Mandy Powell



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