



## MAINTAIN SPRING LAMB GROWTH RATES

Rumenco's new nutritional health product launched last summer is formulated to help support existing, effective worm management programmes and to optimise lamb growth at grass.



David Thornton,  
Rumenco Technical Manager

CleanSweep, is a supplementary mineral-vitamin bucket containing the natural active ingredient diatomaceous earth. Rumenco's technical manager, David Thornton explains, "The inclusion of this hard-shelled aquatic plant mineral helps keep on top of faecal egg counts, where control strategies are already in place, while the overall bucket formulation supports a balanced nutritional intake." Spring grass is

high in protein and is very digestible, but misses out on optimum levels of minerals, trace elements and vitamins necessary to keep up with fast growing lamb requirements.

In addition, the risk of performance losses in sheep is a real threat as anthelmintic resistance becomes an increasing challenge in tackling on-farm parasite issues.

"Rumenco has identified diatomaceous earth as an alternative physical method that supports existing worm control programmes" says Mr Thornton.

"The mode of action of diatomaceous earth is the key factor of CleanSweep which helps maintain spring-like high performance in sheep longer in to the season," he says.

Diatomaceous earth is comprised of tiny components called diatoms

– hard shelled algae deposits. The structure of diatoms means they naturally adhere to the waxy cuticle of intestinal worms and subsequently interfere and kill parasites by dehydration. Due to this physical mode of action, parasites can't acquire resistance.

On-farm trials, supported by Rumenco, showed that weaned lambs supplemented with diatomaceous earth as part of a grazing only diet, had lower faecal egg counts, significantly better daily live weight gains, cleaner fleeces and improvements in foot health, compared to lambs fed a control diet on identical grazing.

"The results from the trials are very encouraging because it saves the daily job of feeding lambs at a busy time of year. With lamb prices being squeezed farmers might be looking for a lower cost alternative to feeding creep or concentrates, in terms of both feed and labour costs. CleanSweep is an exciting addition to Rumenco's growing nutritional healthcare range.

"I'd recommend offering the buckets ad lib, close to the water source initially, at a ratio of one bucket per 10 to 15 head of cattle, or 35 sheep, from May onwards," says Mr Thornton.

