WOOL PRESS

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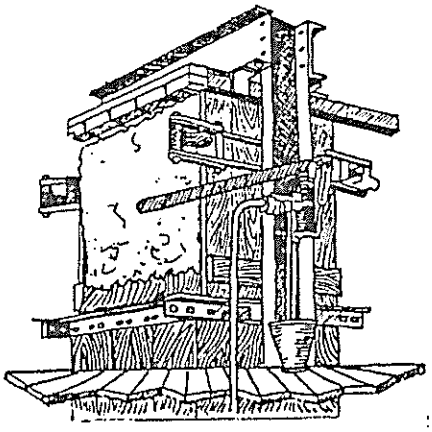

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Editors : M.J. Mcleod and R.H.B. Hall.

EDITORIAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to the 50th Edition of the Wool Press!

Looking back over past Wool Press articles I can see that we have covered a very diverse range of topics, most of which we hope were of interest to Farmers in the Falklands. A lot of sound advice has been given from both "experts" at home and abroad, and from the farmers themselves who excel in some field or have a tip to pass on by virtue of their own mistakes and learning. We are always on the look out for new information to pass on to you and your own contributions are always welcome. We hope that the Wool Press has been a good training aid and conveyer of information to the farming community, and will continue to be so well into the future!

Congratulations to all those who won anything in the holiday events and commiserations to those of you who didn't. Remember that it's the taking part that counts.

In December a fond farewell was bid to Steve, Niamh and Ciara Howlett after 62 months based at Fox Bay Sub-centre. Steve was the agronomist responsible for the various Whitegrass trials, in addition to undertaking work for Tussac and Marinure trials, plant pathology work, etc. Steve and his family will be missed both by the Department and Fox Bay. We wish him every success for the future.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Most people make some form of resolution for the forthcoming year, on New Year's day; such resolutions are intended to either correct a bad habit or "improve" our life by doing something we keep "putting-off". A New Year's resolution is a management objective for our life, which we intend to achieve during the year, albeit normally give up three days later!!!

Management by Objectives (MbO) is a recognised management method first described by the Austrian born Peter Drucker. Management by Objectives can be applied by organisations such as farms, companies, departments or governments. Efficient management always involves a juggling act, balancing the different possible objectives, deciding the priorities to be put on the multiple aims that an organisation has. MbO forces managers (farmers) to examine available alternatives and provides a reliable means for evaluating management performance.

Objectives in a business enterprise enable management to explain, predict and control activities in a way which single ideas like profit maximisation do not. Objectives force one to plan in detail what the business must aim at and to work out ways of effectively achieving these aims. Examining the outcome over time evaluates the objective achievement.

"To quote Drucker: "Objectives are needed in every area where performance and results directly and vitally affect the survival and prosperity of the business." There are eight areas in business where performance objectives must be set, namely: market standing; innovation; productivity; physical and financial resources; profitability; manager performance and development; worker performance and attitude; public responsibility. In deciding how to set objectives for these areas, it is necessary to take account of possible performance measures and lay down a realistic time span."

The essence of the MbO style of management is that all managers (farmers) arrive at a set of realistic objectives (resolutions) for their own units (farms) and for themselves. The system of objectives allows managers to measure and evaluate their own performance, and by doing so strengthens the learning process. This regular review of objectives and performance enables managers to know where their most effective contributions are made and how they are made. As a result they are able to develop their businesses in appropriate areas.

MbO results in organisational (farm) goals being reached by having normal people achieve uncommon performance. For this reason, especially in recessionary times, all farmers should review their farm objectives and this year renew their business resolutions.

Ref.: *Writers on Organisations by Pugh & Hickson.*

ROBERT H.B. HALL.
JANUARY 1993.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1993

The venue for the 'Seventh' West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show was once again Fox Bay Village. Wednesday 29th December 1993 saw the progressive Falkland Farmers compete for the prestige and excellent prizes awarded to winners in this years Show.

Some entries had already arrived by F.I.G.A.S., but the vast majority came overland from all corners of West Falkland. Entries started arriving early in the morning and continued in a steady stream up to the one o'clock deadline, as the ubiquitous Land Rovers waited their turn to discharge their cargo of precious rams and fleeces, which quickly filled the individual pens and fleece tables made ready to receive them. As usual each entry was allocated a number, no names were displayed.

In all nineteen Ram Hoggetts, nine shearling rams and seven mature rams filled the pens, what handsome specimens they were and a credit to their owners, many a covetous glance was in evidence during the day and no wonder. The fleece tables were weighed down with thirty three hoggett fleeces, twenty five fine wool fleeces and fourteen 'B' wether fleeces. All of them displayed the best attributes of pure 'Falkland Wool', what desirable apparel they will make when processed.

After the entries closed the centre of attention moved from the woolshed to the Social Club, throats parched from the track and from extolling the virtues of the rams and fleeces they had just delivered were soon lubricated and quenched. Outside the club sustenance of a more solid nature could be savoured, this was of course the barbecue, skillfully organised by Richard and Griz Cockwell. Five whole sheep were consumed within the space of two hours by visitors and residents alike, quite a memorable feast!

The attention of all present then reverted to the woolshed for the ominous task of judging the entries. Judging was the same as last year and by public ballot. Interested members of the public who considered themselves capable of such an ominous task started off by judging the ram hoggett class, followed by the Shearling Ram class. Each ram was judged individually by awarding points out of ten. Rams they considered to be the best would be allocated higher points than ones they considered not as good. The fleeces were judged differently, here the participants were asked to select what they considered to be the five best fleeces in all three 'Fleece classes'. Their five were also ranked in order to preference.

After the judging, votes were collected and added together. Those entries with the highest number of votes won that particular class. Prizes being awarded for the entries with the four highest number of points. In some cases the judging was so close that the placing could only be decided by referring back to the judging cards and counting the number of first places that had been given, and in one case the second places had to be counted as well. At 6.00pm all assembled for the prize giving, H.E. the Governor was one again present to distribute the prizes at this years show.

In the 'Full Wool Ram Hogeett' Class, Clive Wilkinson from Dunnose Head won first prize with 221 points, this was an engraved 'Challenge Shield' donated by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies, plus a miniature donated by B.T. Construction. The second prize of £50.00 donated by Standard Chartered Bank was won by Leon Marsh of Rincon Ridge with 195 points. Fourth prize of £10.00 donated by R.M. Pitaluga & Family went to Pat Luxton, Chartres with 195 points.

In the 'Full Wool Shearling Class' first prize of a Silver cup presented by Dunnose Head Farm plus £60.00 donated by Cable & Wireless PLC went to Roger Edwards, Lake Sulivan Farm with 201 points, second place won £50.00 presented by Saddle Farm went to Bernard Betts of Boundary Farm with 196 points. Third prize of £25.00 presented by the Farmers Association went to Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm with 189 points, fourth prize of £10.00 from Stanley Electrical went to Bernard Betts, Boundary Farm with 186 points.

In the 'Full Wool Mature Ram Class' Nigel Knight, Coast ridge won the first prize of the Falkland (Woolsales) Challenge cup, plus a replica and £40.00 donated by Falklands Landholdings Ltd., with 220 pints, second prize of £75.00 donated by the Southern Cross social Club was won by Alistair Marsh, Shallow Harbour with 208 points. Third prize of £50.00 presented by Port Howard Farm was won by Dave Dunford, Saddle farm, with 206 points. Fourth prize of £25.00 donated by the Southern Cross Social Club went to Roger Edwards with 198 points. First, second and third prize winners were also presented with Statuettes donated by Peter Short of Falkland Supplies.

Champion Ram was won by Clive Wilkinson, Dunnose Head Farm with 221 points he received an engrave 'Tankard' plus £50.00 donated by the Luxton Family, Chartres. The Reserve Champion prize went to Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge with 220 points this was an engrave cup donated by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Ltd (Bradford).

The 'Hoggett Fleece Class' was won by Alastair Marsh, Shallow Harbour with 39 points he received the Challenge Cup & Replica presented by Meredith Fishing Company and Falkland Hydrocarbon Development Ltd. The second prize of a £60.00 voucher from Falkland Farmers was also won by Alastair with 33 points. Third prize was won by Pat Luxton, Chartres with 33 points this was a £40.00 voucher also from Falkland Farmers. The fourth prize of a £15.00 voucher donated by Stanley Services was won by Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge with 30 points.

Any Fine Wool Fleece other than hoggett, was won by Pat Luxton, Chartres Farm with 42 points, she received the 'Governors Cup' presented by H.E. The Governor, plus a replica donated by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. Second prize of a Lead Crystal Decanter presented by the Falkland Islands company went to the National Stud Flock with 37 points. Third prize of £35.00 also donated by F.I.D.C., also went to Pat Luxton, Chartres, with 35 points.

The fourth prize of £15.00 donated by Stanley Electrical was won by Clive Wilkinson, Dunnose Head, with 30 points.

Any 'B' Type Wether Fleece was won by Pat Luxton, Chartres with 52 points and she received an Engraved Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm and a miniature presented by Ursula Wanglin. Lynn Blake, Little Chartres came second with 36 points she won £50.00 presented by the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association. Third prize of £25.00 from Little Chartres Farm was won by Pat Luxton, Chartres with 35 points. Fourth prize of £10.00 also presented by R.M. Pitaluga & Family went to Alastair Marsh, Shallow Harbour with 27 points.

The Challenge Cup presented by Mr Owen Summers for the farm with most points in all classes went to Pat & Bill Luxton, Chartres. Rosettes given for 1st - 4th places in all classes, Champion rosette given for Champion Ram, these were all provided by Jim McAdam, Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland.

The 'Frazzles Weight' competition was won by James Hassal, he guessed Frazzles weight exactly at 154 pounds. The prize for this was donated by Robin and Pat Marsh. Frazzle again appeared by kind permission of Mrs Joyce Halliday.

The competition for the 'best guess' of the weight of a Ewe Hogget Fleece was won by Fiona Dickson, she guessed 5.05 kilos, which came closest to the actual eight of 5.1 kilos. She won £25.00 donated by Lake Sulivan Farm. The 'best guess' prize for the fibre diameter taken from a mid-side sample, was won by Frank Marsh who guessed 24.0 micron. The result from the tested sample was 24.2 micron. He won £25.00 donated by Argos Fishing Co.

Winner of the 'Under 21' sheep judging competition was won by Justin Knight, this was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture.

The 'Pure Wool' sweaters donated by Mrs Griz Cockwell, Mrs Rosemary Wilkinson and the Falkland Mill were auctioned in aid of Show funds by Mr Roger Edwards.

The organisers would like to take this opportunity of thanking sponsors, entrants and the general public for their support, interest and enthusiasm. Special mention must go to F.I.G.AS. for carrying fleeces free of charge and F.I.B.S. and 'Woolpress' for keeping everyone informed also the Committee of the Southern Cross Social Club for refreshments and entertainment.

Thanks also to the residents of Fox Bay for being such excellent hosts.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR

N.A. KNIGHT
CHAIRMAN, W.F.R.& F.S.

LETTER PAGE

QUIKLINKS

As a result of a potentially nasty injury sustained by one of our workforce whilst unloading bales due to an uncovered quiklink, we thought we should perhaps remind farmers of a Farmers Association and SOA paper which went out some two years ago on the subject of Quiklinks.

Judy Summers has contacted Colin Smith to get advice on the best material for wrapping links in bale hoops. Wool, paper, cardboard and polythene are acceptable to him. Our own preference of the four acceptable materials he lists is cardboard as it provides the best protection for our employees and those handling wool on the vessels.

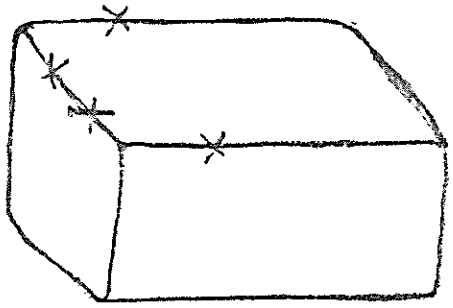
We can assure farmers that we shall try to ensure minimal damage to bales during handling whilst minimising the costs to the farmer of handling.

If any farmers are in Stanley during the wool collecting season, I should be pleased if they would like to contact me to discuss handling and to visit FIPASS with me during the discharge or loading of cargo.

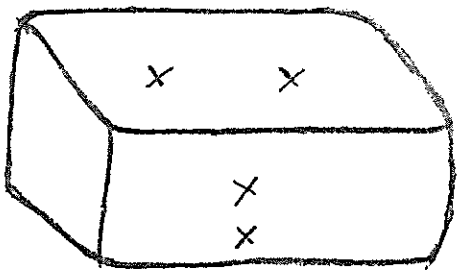
R.K. SPINK
F.I.C.

Quiklinks in the corner crease need not be wrapped.

LINKS MUST BE PLACED HERE (x) IF UNWRAPPED



WRAP THE LNKS IF PLACED HERE (x)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOTE

1. Health and Safety is an important issue. Quicklinks should be applied correctly so that sharp wire does not stick out. Dangerous bale hoops should be replaced.

2. Quicklinks in the corner crease need not be wrapped. Wrapping links in bale hoops should be done using the advised materials which are least likely to contaminate wool in the woollen mills. Woven fabrics should NOT be used.

SLUG PROBLEMS?

THEN READ THIS!

A Dual-pronged attach on slugs may be possible using pellets and the parasitic nematode species discovered last year at Long Ashton Research Station, Bristol.

Pellets typically kill no more than half the soil slug population, which could have little impact on large populations after a mild winter and warm, damp spring and summer.

Using pellets in conjunction with the slug-feeding nematode could prove a very useful way to cut slug numbers. The nematode has as good an effect as pellets, which themselves usually do a reasonable job provided conditions are right. Preliminary trials in U.K. on baldly affected crops suggest most pellets are compatible with the nematode. Dr David Glen, slug specialist at Long Ashton said "We have tested the nematode product with methiocarb and one formulation of metaldehyde - Metarex - and found no adverse effects on the nematode. However, it is too early to say whether using it with pellets will significantly improve slug control."

In the trial, pellets alone controlled the pests almost as well as a mixture of pellets and nematodes, but Dr Glen suspects there is some synergism at work which could improve slug kill when the two are applied together. The idea certainly offers potential where pellets generally give inconsistent control, as in particularly wet seed-beds, he says.

Although the nematode occurs naturally in soil, there are too few at the right time of the year to kill enough slugs. Growers will need to introduce the parasite, so it must be mass-produced in a convenient form to apply to crops - preferably as a spray.

The technology is available to formulate it as a friable clay to be diluted with water, or possibly as a granule. But the manufacturing plant has yet to be built, says Dr Paul Rodgers of Cambridge based Agricultural Genetics Company. MicroBio, a division of AGC, which funds the Long Ashton work, is developing the manufacturing process. It already produces two strains of nematode which kill insect pests in horticultural crops and mushrooms.

The need for further research and a requirement for increased production capacity could delay the product's introduction to the arable market for at least two years. A new phase of research is being funded to find out whether, as suspected, the optimum method is spraying and the best timing is several weeks before drilling. The work will also look into whether the nematode product can be applied with herbicides.

EXTRACTED FROM FARMERS WEEKLY (October '93 edition)

N.S.F. NEWS.

Lambing came to a conclusion in early December. The 453 ewes put to the Polwarth rams produced 472 live lambs and 91 lambs which died at birth, a total of 563 lambs. These lambs have since been marked with 206 ram lambs and 214 ewe lambs recorded; a total of 419 (+1 unmarked + 3 died post marking) lambs (48 lambs dying since being tagged). In addition 16 ewes went to the Comeback rams and produced 17 lambs marked.

Marking results are therefore 440 lambs from 469 ewes put to the rams = 93.8%. Congratulations to Arthur & Rhoda McBain and Fiona Dickson for this successful result, which exceeds the ten year average of Sea Lion Island (92%) and last year's marking result of 62.4%.

Dry sheep shearing was completed in early December by Dave Gillet. The hoggets were shorn last February as lambs, when they produced an average of 1.3kg of lambs wool. The following average hogget fleeces were grown in only 9 months:
Ewe hoggets unskirted fleece weight + belly = 3.06kg,
Ewe hoggets skirted fleece weight = 2.61kg.
Ram hoggets unskirted fleece weight + belly = 3.25kg,
Ram hoggets skirted fleece weight = 2.80kg.
These excellent results demonstrate the likely contribution that the N.S.F. may make to improving average fleece weights.

Prior to shearing body weights averaged 34.5kg for the ewe hoggets and 35.3kg for the ram hoggets. These weights are on course to allow breeding from most of these shearling animals next May.

The 22 imported mature rams were shorn after 12 months wool growth, with unskirted fleeces + belly averaging 6.92kg and skirted fleeces averaging 5.99kg.

RHBH.

WOOL NOTE.

Removal of crutch wool on the shearing board by the wool carrier during shearing can do much to remove stained wool. This is easily done on raised shearing boards and is a practise that should be done on ALL shearing floors. Farmers should undertake this practise especially for ewe shearing.

RHBH.

AUSTRALIAN STUDY TOUR OFFER

I recently received the following offer of training programmes or a study tour, by Melbourne College of Textiles in Australia. When farm incomes improve, such ideas may prove appealing to farmers.

ROBERT HALL

In recent years our college has developed a comprehensive range of training programmes for both on and off campus delivery. Our network is such that we are able to develop wool courses to meet specific training needs.

In addition to your wool testing inquiry, should you have any unserviced training requirements the college and more specifically the Wool and Fibres Studies Department would be grateful for the opportunity to assist.

Further to this offer we would welcome a visit from you and/or a group of sheep/wool producers from the Falkland Islands for a sheep/wool study tour. It is realised that such a venture would be expensive, however, I'm certain that collectively we could put together a comprehensive and interesting training programme. It may even be possible to attract some sponsorship to help defray some of the costs, e.g. an airline may consider fare concessions for a group booking.

Some thoughts for such an activity are as follows:

Begin at the Melbourne College of Textiles. At present the College has two campus locations and shared between these two sites we have the facilities to:

Service the needs of the shearing and wool industries, footwear, floorcovering and clothing industries, the textile industry, i.e., commercial spinning, knitting and weaving, textile testing, dye chemistry, business/communications, handloom weaving, spinning and fabric printing. Sewing machine mechanics training is also available.

All of this could be combined with visits to many woolhandling and research organisations, e.g. Australian Wool Testing Authority Ltd., CSIRO Textile Laboratories, Belmont, Victorial Wool Centre, Wool Broker's Store, High Density Dumping Facility, Wool Scour and Topmaker, Weaving and Knitting Operations as well as a range of sheep properties - stud and commercial, shedded sheep concept and some social functions and sightseeing.

Do hope some of this sounds tempting. It would be a first class study tour and an opportunity for all concerned to see a little of the wool industry in Australia.

JOHN F.W. HURRY
MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF TEXTILES.

HYDATID DOG SURVEY

A LABORATORY UPDATE

There is not much to say at this moment except that, as you were all aware the collection of the dog faeces from all the farms and settlements and arrangements for the testing of these samples had been undertaken by professor Phil Craig at Salford University. These arrived safely in the UK in early November but disappointingly I was informed that due to the loss of a technician in the department they were not able to make a start until February '94. I have been able to contact another research group in Switzerland who were very keen to help us but the same time scale problem existed.

Michael Reichel and Robin Gasser (Melbourne University) will be visiting Salford University in January and have kindly volunteered to get the assays underway for us, so I am hoping to get the first batch of results a little earlier than originally expected. Once these are here we can begin to establish and confirm at risk dogs and undertake the review of the Hydatid Ordinance.

Very recently some dog owners were contacted with a request to send in their dog faeces for the inclusion in the last consignment to U.K. Would the owners who have not yet sent their contributions please do so.

DAVID BABER
JANUARY 1994

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RAMS WOMB EXPERIENCE COULD AFFECT SEX DRIVE!

A ram's experience in the womb may affect his ability to serve ewes, according to American research. USDA animal scientist Jim Fitzgerald has found that the more company a ram has in the womb, the stronger his sex drive. He reports that rams with two siblings have a much higher interest in sex than rams born alone or with only one sibling. Position in the womb may also have an effect according to a report in The Furrow magazine. Fitzgerald's research shows that rams born between two sisters have the highest serving capacity.

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CAUSE OF BARREN EWES

Following our recent articles on Toxoplasmosis, I thought that this brief article taken from 'The Sheep Farmer' was interesting.

Reproductive losses due to ewes aborting may be just the tip of the iceberg in relation to the full impact of toxoplasmosis on sheep output and profits.

According to the results of a new study of barrenness among ewes, toxoplasma may be more of a problem than either producers or vets had thought. Results indicate that toxoplasma is the likely cause of barrenness in a high percentage of cases. The conclusion was drawn from blood tests which were carried out on barren ewes from six flocks in Scotland which were already known to be free from enzootic abortion as members of the EAE-free scheme run by the Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Association (HISHA).

In one flock, toxoplasma antibodies were found in 30 out of 40 barren ewe samples; in another, antibodies were found in nine samples out of 24, while test on a third flock produced six antibody-positive cases from 10 samples.

While high health status can normally be maintained by good management, toxoplasmosis is less easy to control. This is because the infection path of toxoplasmosis must go from mice to cats to sheep, rather than simply from sheep to sheep. The disease, therefore, is more of an 'environmental' problem on farms than a contagious one.

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MORE ON SELF SHEDDING SHEEP!

The fall in wool prices has led to increased interest in Iolo Owen's Easy Care sheep (A recent Wool Press article). Based on the Wiltshire Horn the breed sheds its fleece naturally in April and May. The stable hybrid also has genes from the Welsh Mountain, Southdown and Charollais breeds. The idea was triggered by the New Zealand approach to easy care sheep but Mr Owen decided to take the concept a stage further to avoid wool related problems. He reckons that 50% of the cost of shepherding is linked to wool - such as shearing, dagging, crutching, dipping and becoming cast or caught in hedges and fences.

GRASS GRUBS

What exactly is a grass grub? The term grass grub is used to describe the larvae of various beetles/weevils which feed on grass roots.Because the term is used in a very general sense and includes the larvae of many different types of beetles, grass grubs can vary greatly in appearance, e.g a grass grub in New Zealand has legs while the Falkland Island grub has none.

THE FALKLAND ISLAND GRASS GRUB

To date 23 species of weevils have been recorded from the Falkland Islands. The larvae of all 23 species have a "grass grub" appearance - 8-15mm long, white/cream colour with a distinct brown head (Fig.1). The majority of these weevils cause no discernible damage but the larvae of the weevil Malvinius compressiventris have damaged many reseeded pastures and settlement paddocks throughout the Islands.

Malvinius compressiventris is a brown weevil with a white patch on both sides of its abdomen, a pronounced snout and is usually between 8-15mm long(Fig.3). The adults are found during the late spring and early summer months. It seems likely that mating occurs during the summer months and the females then lay their eggs below the soil surface (this part of the life cycle will have to be verified during the next 2 months). The larvae hatch in late summer/early autumn and start devouring the grass roots. The grubs will continue eating throughout the winter and early spring.

The presence of the larvae is characterised by the appearance of patches of dead grass. In some instances the dead grass can easily be "peeled" back from the underlying soil.

At the completion of feeding each grub constructs an earthen cell at a depth of 1-10cm. Within this cell the grub transforms into the pupal stage(Fig.2). Pupae develop into adults after 3-4 weeks completing the life cycle.

Fig.1 LARVA

Fig.2 PUPA

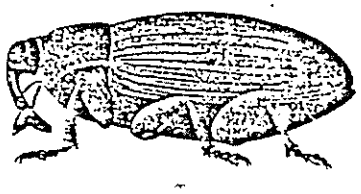

Fig.3 ADULT

CONTROL MEASURES

There are two types of control 1) Biological 2)Chemical

1)Biological.

Exploitation of the grubs natural predators i.e birds is an effective control measure. Rotovation or simply digging the soil will expose the grubs which will be quickly eaten by hens or wild birds.

Rolling the grass with heavy rollers to squash the grubs can be beneficial but this technique will only work if the ground is reasonably hard.

In New Zealand a naturally occurring bacteria has been used very effectively against the grass grub. The bacteria works by entering the grub when it is feeding, attaching itself to the gut wall and preventing further feeding. The grub eventually starves to death, a process referred to as insect anorexia! This type of control is very limited as the bacteria will only work against one species of New Zealand grub and has no detrimental effect on any other species. The bacteria would be of no use against the Falkland Island grub.

2)Chemical.

Many pesticides have been developed to treat major grass grub problems in other countries. In general these pesticides are not very specific, i.e. they are capable of killing a wide range of insects and would be effective against Malvinius compressiventris. However the amount of damage caused by the grubs is minimal at present and the use of pesticides should if possible be avoided. Should the problem escalate and biological controls proved ineffective then a suitable product could be recommended.

JENNIFER FULLER
JANUARY 1994

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EWE FEED BOOKLET

BOCM Pauls has produced a free booklet called Ewe Feeding and Management, detailing nutrition through the breeding cycle to maximise the number of lambs born alive and reared. Contents include trial work on the company's two sheep flocks at Barhill Farm, Shropshire. Copies from, BOCM Pauls, 47 Key Street, Ipswich IP4 1BX.

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ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

Wednesday 29th December saw another good day's shearing at the Estancia Shearing Competition. Despite the 09.30 schedule shearing actually got underway nearer to 10.00 with the first heat of the Intermediate Class. There were 10 entries in this class and they shore in three heats.

Unfortunately there were no entries for the Junior Class this year and only two for the novice section. These two girls shore next and Gillian Phillips emerged as the victor over Angeline Clarke after shearing 3 sheep. The Intermediates all shore 5 sheep, their finals were shorn next. Charles Dickson took 1st prize being 10 points clear of his next opponent - Bobby Short. Steven Dickson was 3rd and Lee Molkenbuhr 4th.

The Open Competition then got underway with a total of 20 entries and was shorn in heats of 4, with 5 sheep being shorn. The finalists - Hugh Grierson, John Jones, Peter McKay, Colin McDonald, S. Scott, Dave Gillette, Neil Mckay & Richard short - all shore another 5 sheep and the four finalists then shore 10. For the second year running, John Jones carried off the Challenge Shield, after a very close final. The excitement was heightened by the ribbing comments being shouted out by Dave Gillette and his colleagues, accompanied by the banging of bins, etc. Colin McDonald was 2nd, Hugh Grierson was 3rd and Peter McKay 4th.

The cleanest pen of sheep was awarded to Charles Dickson being judged over the competition as a whole. We would like to thank everyone who participated in any way. Without Brook the whole day would probably have been a shambles. The judges also get little chance for a break or to grab something to eat. This year, Biggles Mowat replaced Stuart Morrison but the others have taken on the task for us for the last 3 years. They were: George Smith, Owen Summers, Keith Heathman, Eric Goss and Ron Binnie. Sarah Dickson had the task of time keeper and Robert Hall was then invited (without option) to put his wool skills into practice and helped to man a table as well as classing all the wool. This proved more difficult as the day went on and the crowd slowly surged forward around the tables and bins.

Jeannie McKay and helpers were able to supply a steady demand for sweets, drinks, hot dogs, etc. from her van while Michael and helpers barbecued their way through about seven sheep. The bar was once again in the capable hand of Ray & Marlene Newman, even though a quick phone call had to be made to Stanley and some spectators kindly undertook to buy some whisky for us from Stanley Arms.

Mandy and Keith Heathman together with various members of shearing gangs supervised the laying of the Kiwi Hungi. I think the fire lighting went with a bang with the aid of some fuel. We were blessed with a nice day but it turn chilly towards the end so the hungi was brought in and laid out on the shearing floor after Colleen Mowat kindly presented the prizes.

After everyone had relieved their hunger, the hungi was then cleared away and the bale rolling commenced. Dave Gillette did his best to arouse everyones enthusiasm but I think we missed Teddy Summer's organisation and the event lacked the energy of

last year. However, there were several successful 'Mr Muscles' who got the 330kg bale up the planks onto the shearing board. It was around 7pm before we saw off the last visitors after an enjoyable day.

There are many generous people to thank for kind donations which make the prizes so attractive, not least, Lister shearing Equipment who supplied the challenge shield and more prizes this year. Others were: F.I.C., Farmers Association, F.I.D.C., Mr & Mrs G.Smith, Falkland Farmers, Mr & Mrs R.W.Lee, Mr & Mrs P.Goss, Mr & Mrs J.Jones, Mr & Mrs R.Short, Mr P.J.McKay, Mr N.McKay, The Pitaluga family, Mr & Mrs M.J.Clarke, Mr & Mrs R. Binnie, Mr & Mrs Mowat, Falkland Landholdings and The Department of Agriculture.

Thanks also to the shearers who turned up the day before to help draft the sheep, to the Department of Agriculture for the loan of clipboards and a rolling table. The spectators were able to enjoy a better view thanks to Mr Ian Bury who kindly lends his scaffolding each year.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND PRIZES

Novice - Each shore 3 sheep

1st - Gillian Phillips - £20, 3 combs, Lister information sheet & certificate, Time = 11.48, Total= 30 points.

2nd - Angeline Clarke - £15, 2 combs, Lister information sheet & certificate. Time= 14.40, Total= 48

Intermediate - Each shore 5 sheep.

1st - Charles Dickson - cup, £50, e combs & certificate. Time=10.38, Total 22

2nd - Bobby Short - shield, £40, 2 combs & certificate. Time=12.14 Total=37

3rd - Stephen Dickson - shield, £30, 1 comb & certificate. Time=12.14 Total=37

4th - Lee Molkenbuhr Time=12.09 Total=38½ .

Worked out total in decimal point for open final.

Open - Each shore 5 sheep in heats & 10 in final.

1st - John Jones - Challenge shield, belt & buckle, £80, vest, 5 combs & certificate. Time=13.05 Total = 12

2nd - Colin McDonald - Buckle, vest, £45, 4 combs & certificate. Time=12.44 Total=13.1

AILSA HEATHMAN
ESTANCIA

RESEEDS

A NEW ALTERNATIVE GRASSLANDS SPECIES

In the August issue of the Woolpress you read about the interesting research being carried out in the area of genetic engineering in regard to the development of a type of clover that produces large concentrations of sulphur proteins, which can be more efficiently incorporated in the wool fibre and thus increase the amount of wool produced per sheep.

In a similar vein we have just set up a mini-trial in the investigation of a species of legume that has undergone a considerable success in certain parts of New Zealand and Australia, in the provision of a better and more nutritious grazing species for sheep, with improved growth characteristics in the soil and weather conditions that are present.

The inherent common characteristic that is special to this particular plant species is in its capacity to produce its own nitrogen. One of the most important plant nutrients is nitrogen which is crucial in the healthy development and continued growth of most plants.

The inhibiting factor in the greater utilisation of the Falklands re-seed proposals was the need for the addition of large and regular amounts of fertilisers in the establishment and maintenance of the re-seed plots. This group of plants removes that need.

To facilitate the better and quicker establishment of this type of plant a bacterium, which has evolved in developing a beneficial relationship with the plant, is grown and used. This is done by the culturing of large amounts of the bacteria and coating the lotus seed with it just prior to sowing. This provides the germinating seedling with an already built in supply of nitrogen producing bacteria, thus providing a boost in the growth and establishment of the young plant, and enabling the lotus to more easily and more quickly reach grazing and ground cover requisites.

Grasslands Maku Lotus is a pasture legume well adapted to acid low fertility soils. In the tussock grasslands it is well suited to wetter acid soils and to the higher altitude sunny faces in drier inland areas. Because of its slow regrowth it is suitable for summer and early autumn utilisation under lax rotational grazing. It is not recommended for use in intensively grazed pastures.

Maku lotus is an alternative to clovers on the more acid soils (pH 5.0 or less) of the tussock grasslands. On these soils, lotus is tolerant of soil acidity and can outfield clovers in the absence of adding lime. It is particularly suited to wetter acid soils, but dislikes colder shadier faces because its production and spread are more restricted than clovers by cold conditions, and its foliage is susceptible to out of season frosting.

Herbage quality is adequate for ewes over summer to early autumn, but high levels of tannins can restrict weight gain, limiting the suitability of Maku lotus for ewe hoggets and weaned lambs, and for flushing ewes.

A small amount of the lotus seed was tried out at Fox Bay with encouraging results and the trial just set up on the Department plot at Stanley, will I hope provide greater evidence in the suitability of this type of plant to the Falklands.

D.J. BABER, SENIOR LAB. TECHNICIAN
JANUARY 1994

* * * * * * * * * * *

NEW PRODUCT

SUPER SUCTION FOR ROOF RACK

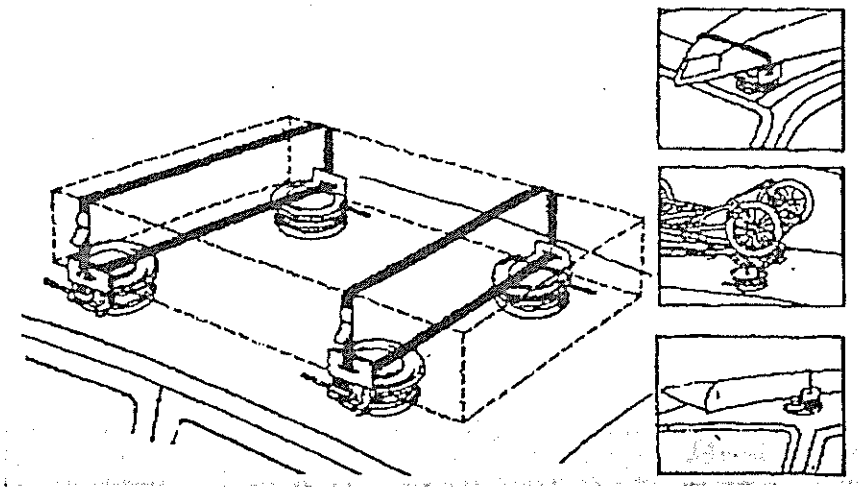
Four super vacuum suction cups placed to form almost any size or shape is the basis of an imported British roof rack that fits in seconds and doesn't damage car paintwork.

Multi-rak roof rack is from British developers and patent holders who claim it can adapt to any size, carry awkward items easily and safely and be stored away in its own small zipped bag.

Items to be secured are placed on the four suction cups and held in place with specially manufactured load straps. The suction cups are made from a high tech process that produces the unit to exact specifications. For this reason Multi-Raks cannot be manufactured outside the British laboratory that developed them.

Multi-Rak are ideally suitable for securing loads carried by taxis, couriers, general carriers and tradesmen because they can be used both outside and inside a vehicle, on top of the roof or in the boot - providing the surface is smooth, clean and dry.

They have been tested and approved by the British Standards Institute.



NEW PRODUCT

POWERWAGON

The DR Powerwagon, a power hauler, is designed to carry heavy loads with high visibility over practically any terrain.

It is able to carry awkward loads such as rocks, tree trunks and gravel, and climbs slopes of 15 deg and steeper, depending on surface conditions. Powered by a 5hp engine with manual or electric start, the unit has four forward speeds, one reverse and a maximum speed of 8mph. The load capacity is 0.14 cubic metres and it is rated for 317kg.

The load is carried over the two powered pneumatic tyred wheels, and the single rear wheel allows it to be turned round in its own length.

Handlebar controls at the rear driving end give positive control and there are separate throttle and hand brake actions. Safety features include a 'dead man's' clutch, reverse gear stop and the parking brake latch. Price in U.K. is about £1,600.

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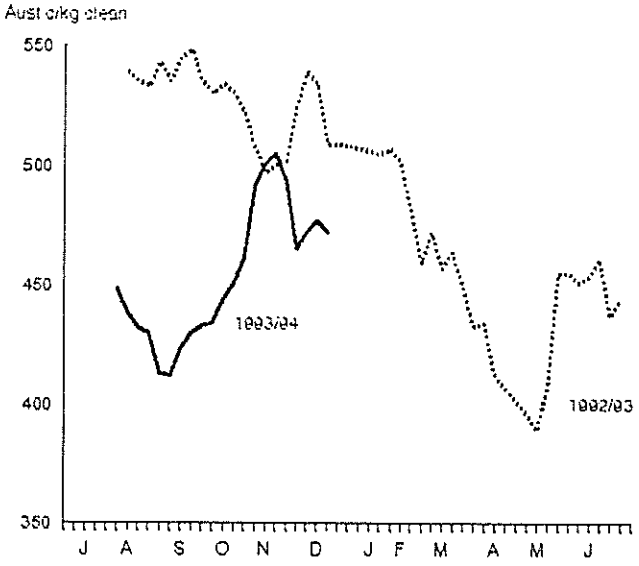
WOOL MARKET

AWRAP MARKET INDICATOR



The Australian Wool Market Indicator closed on 17.12.93, 5 cents lower at 472 cents / kg clean. Australian wools are selling well below last year's prices, as shown in the graph. Australian wool sales resume after the Christmas recess on 11.1.94.
The Australian stockpile totalled 3,836,917 farm bale equivalents on the 10th December 1993.

ROBERT HALL.

RECIPE PAGE

The following recipes were all given to me by Michelle Evans at Fitzroy.

MACARONI FISH PIE

INGREDIENTS:

1 LB MULLET; 1/4 PINT MILK; 1 OZ BUTTER; SEASONING;
6 OZ QUICK COOK MACARONI, 1/2 PINT CHEESE SAUCE;
A LITTLE GRATED CHEESE AND MELTED BUTTER; PARSLEY TO GARNISH.

Place the fish in a saucepan with the milk, seasoning and 1oz butter. Simmer for 8 - 10 minutes until fish is tender. Lift onto a plate and flake with a fork and remove any bones. Cook macaroni and strain. Add flaked fish and cheese sauce together with the cooked macaroni. Sprinkle with the grated cheese and melted butter and brown under a grill or in a hot oven.

Garnish and serve.

* * * * * * * * * * *

PASTIE FILLINGS

JUST MIX THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS TOGETHER
AND USE TO FILL YOUR PASTRY CASES TO MAKE DELICIOUS PASTIES

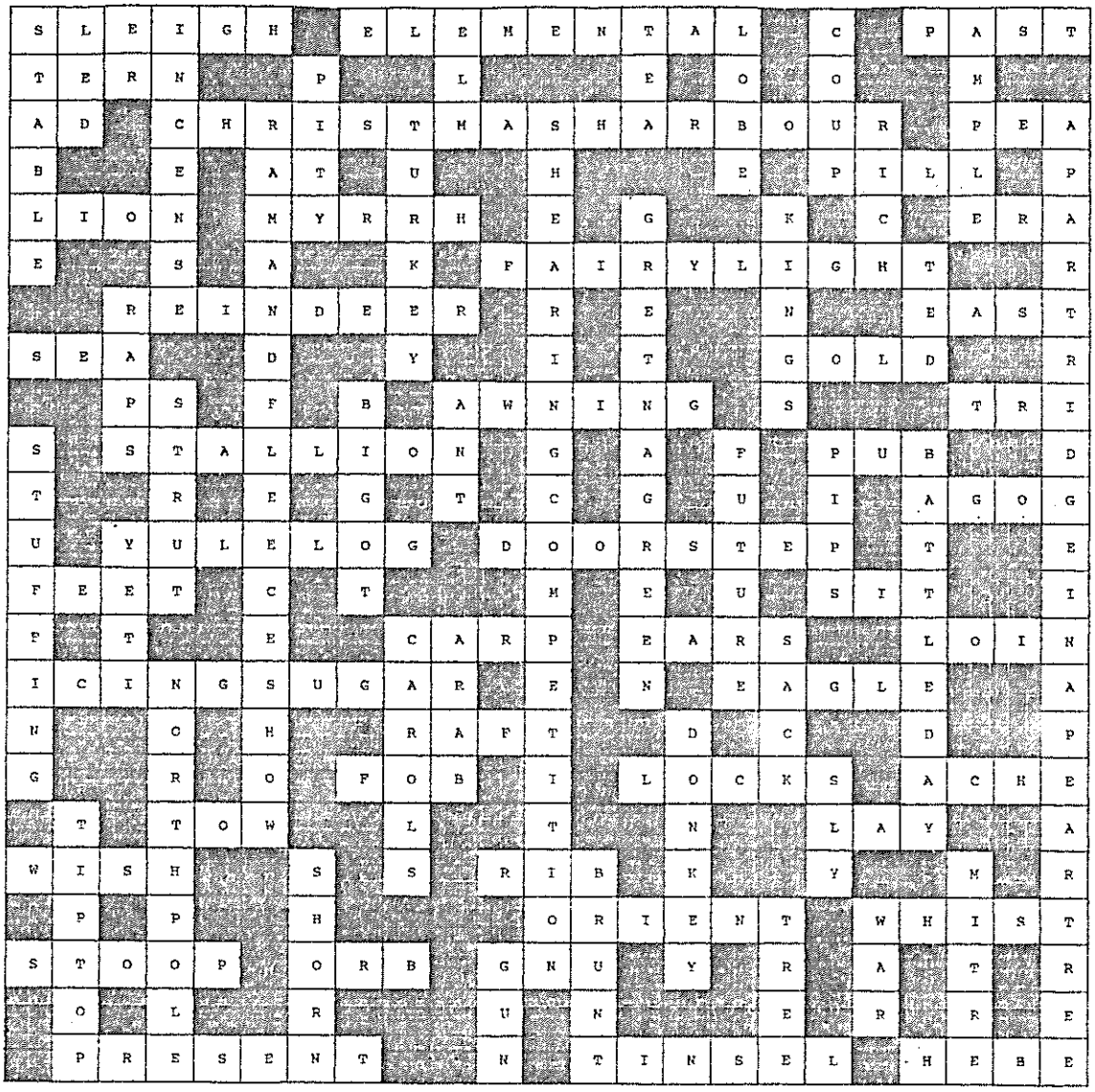
SAVOURY EASTERN LAMB

1 LB LEAN MINCED MUTTON
4 OZ FINELY CHOPPED DRIED APRICOTS (NO SOAK TYPE)
1 LARGE FINELY DICED ONION
2 OZ SULTANAS
1 TEASPOON GROUND CORIANDER
2 TEASPOONS GROUND CUMIN

SWEET APPLE & ALMOND

1 LB PEELED AND GRATED APPLES (THE SHARPER THE BETTER)
3 OZ SUGAR MIXED WITH 1 OZ GROUND ALMONDS OR GRATED MARZIPAN
GRATED RIND OF 1 LEMON
2 TABLESPOONS SULTANAS OR FRESH OR FROZEN SOFT FRUITS

DECEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



MISSION TO ARGENTINA

Agriculture Minister Gillian Sheppard led the first British trade mission to Argentina since the Falklands War. Some 10 representatives from UK agriculture visited the country last month. The sheep industry was represented by Kevin Beaumont of Quality Livestock Company, the Perthshirebased operators of a BACFACT computer linked ultrasound livestock assessment service and the breeding scheme R.R.A.M. Mr Beaumont represented Marlborough Scanner systems who developed and marked BACFACT and who are currently establishing a company in the USA. The trip is seen a prelude to future expansion into South America.

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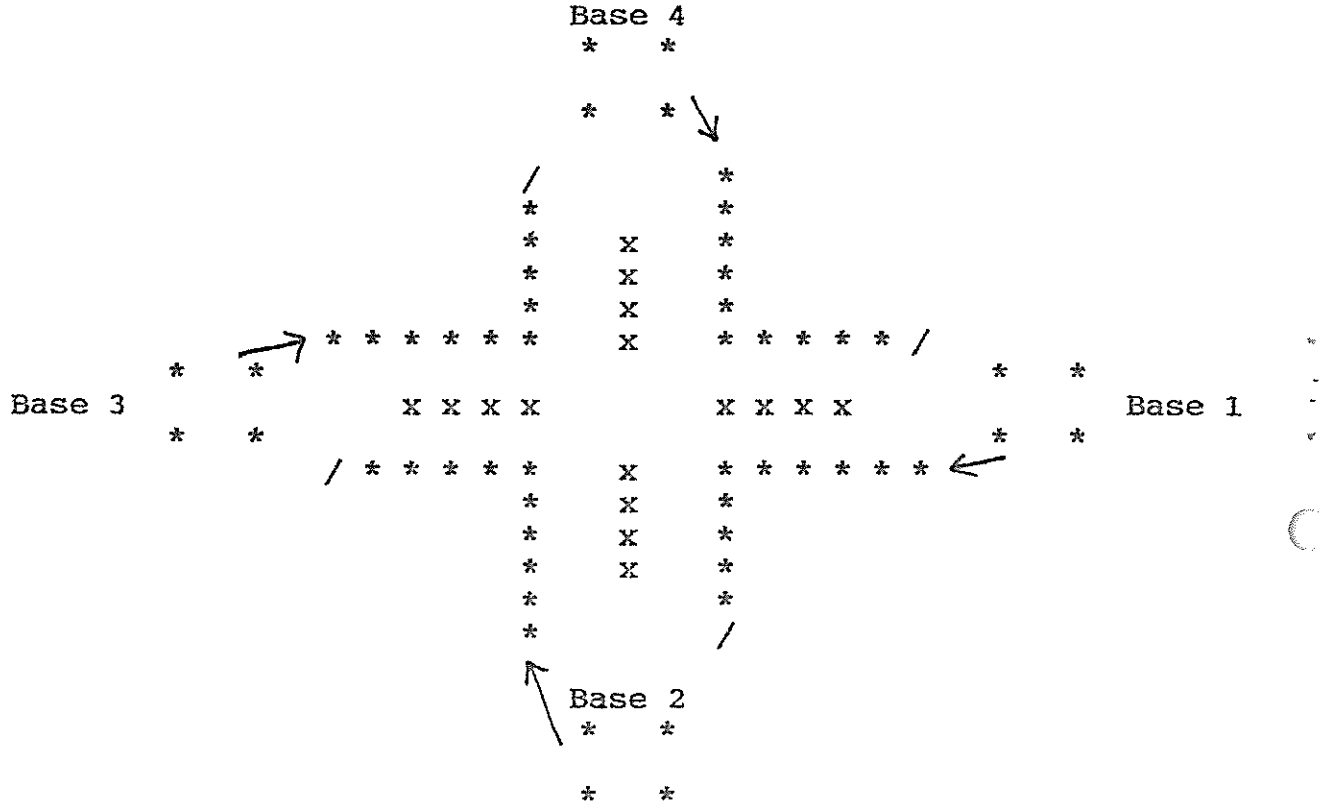
AGGRAVATION

A game for 4 for all the family over the holidays. Make a Ludo type board as follows.



* = Start point
/ = End point
x = Home

You need 1 pack of cards plus 4 Kings and 4 Aces from a similar pack of cards. Each player is a different colour and has 4 men.

You need a King to start.
A Queen = 12 moves
A Jack = 11 moves
10 = 10 moves
9 = 9 moves
etc
Ace = 1 move

Dealer deals five cards to each player at a time.

Dealer swaps every time the enlarged pack is used.

Play as a partner to the opposite player. Ones own colour men cannot pass each other.

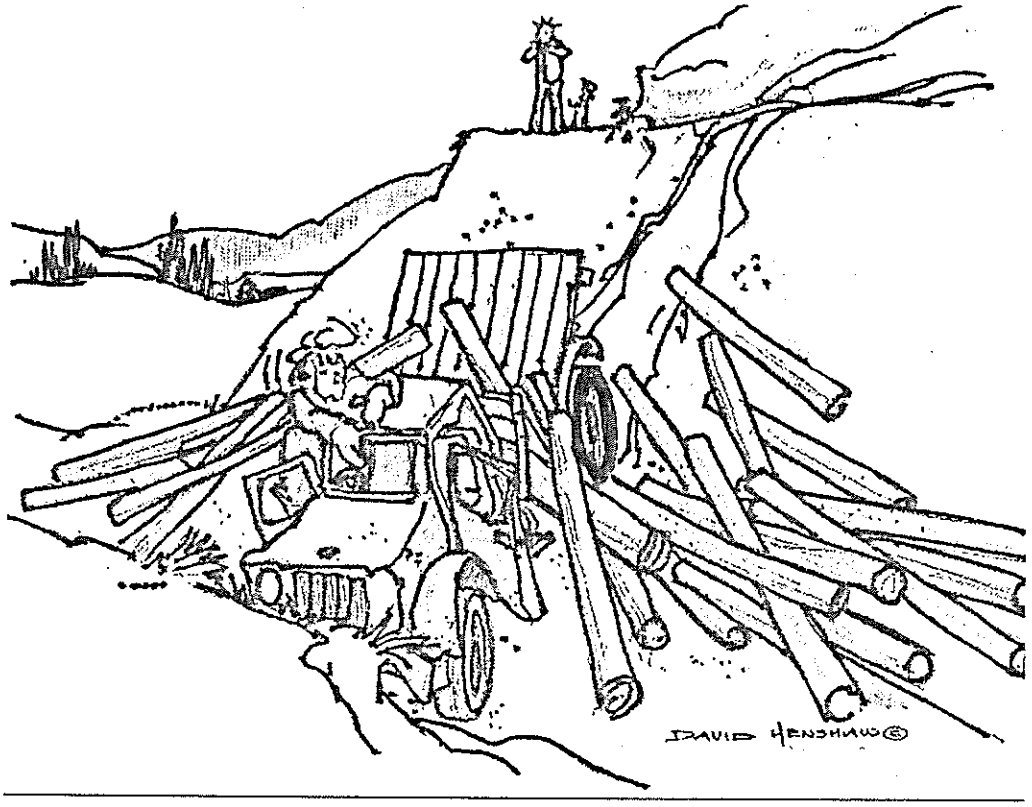
Need a King to start - or you may start your partner.

The winners are the pair of players to get their men home first. Once 1 partner has their men home they must assist the other partner.

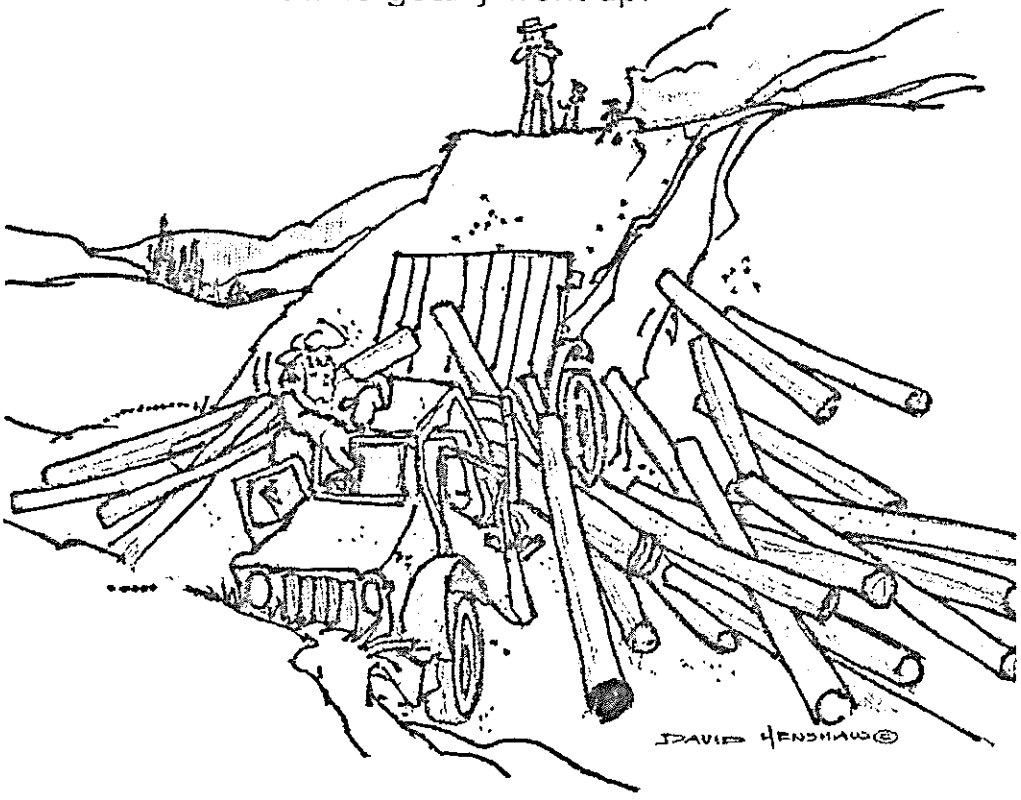
No communication is allowed between players!

This game has been much enjoyed at Bold Cove! Have fun.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

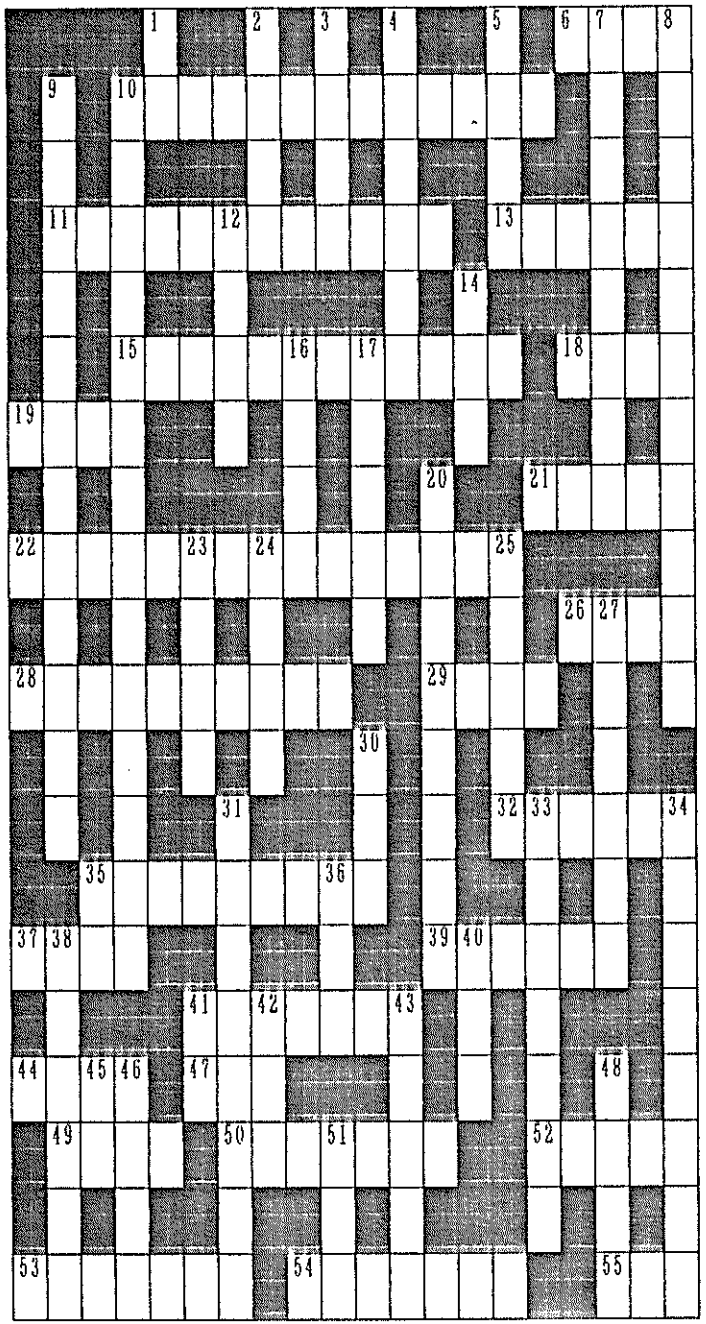


"An' the other thing y'might not know is y'always go down the track in the same gear y'went up!"



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

TOP PICTURE
1.Horse has less mane at withers; 2.Line around top of mountain; 3.Merry Xmas on label; 4.Small label missing; 5.One bell missing on horse side; 6.Extra bell under horse's neck; 7.Mistletoe under horse missing; 8.Boy has black turn-up on trousers; 9.Lady has a pocket on the front of her top; 10. Santa has feather in his hat.



JANUARY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

6. TABLET
10. SOMETHING DONE IN HONOUR OF
11. NUT SPREAD
13. CORES
15. GREY HEN BREED
18. AS A BUG IN A RUG
19. AGAINST
21. KNOCK OVER
22. FIBS QUIZ
26. PRAYER END
28. HAVE YOU BROKEN YOURS YET?
29. LARGE FLAT BOTTOMED BOAT
32. SOIL BREAKING FARM IMPLEMENT
35. PREGNANCY
37. HAIL FROM A SHIP
39. STINGING WEED
41. HORMONE WHICH REGULATES THE BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL
44. FEMALE DEER
47. SHORT SLEEP
49. IDIOT
50. TENTING HOLIDAY
52. ALLURING QUALITIES
53. SHARP AND ABRUPT
54. MOVING AGAINST THE MAIN CURRENT
55. LOCOMOTION AND BALANCE ORGAN OF FISH

DOWN

1. PERFORM
2. AROMATIC PLANT
3. YOUNG HORSE
4. JOB OUTLOOK AND DIRECTION
5. KILN
7. SOMETHING SURGICALLY PLACED
8. DAISY THAT MAY KNOW STANLEY?
9. GREETING TO YOU ALL
10. MAJOR PRIZE WINNER AT RACES
12. BURIAL CHAMBER
14. FROZEN WATER
16. PUSH ONWARD
17. WISE BIRDS NOISE
20. TAMAR PREDECESSOR
23. BELONGS TO YOU
24. ONE OF
25. SINGLE MASTED BOAT
27. DUNG
30. VIOLATION OF DIVINE LAW
31. MARINE CRUSTACEAN ON BOATS
33. COS
34. PERSON WHO TENDS CATTLE
35. START
36. WISE BIRD
38. YOUNG COW
40. FINISH
41. NOT OUT
42. MINERAL SPRING
43. FEMALE GOAT
45. NEGATIVE ANSWER
46. MORE FEMALE DEER
48. YOUNG COW
51. PEA SHELL

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

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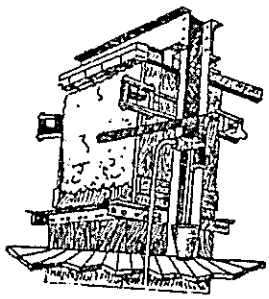

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Editors : M.J. Mcleod and R.H.B. Hall.

EDITORIAL

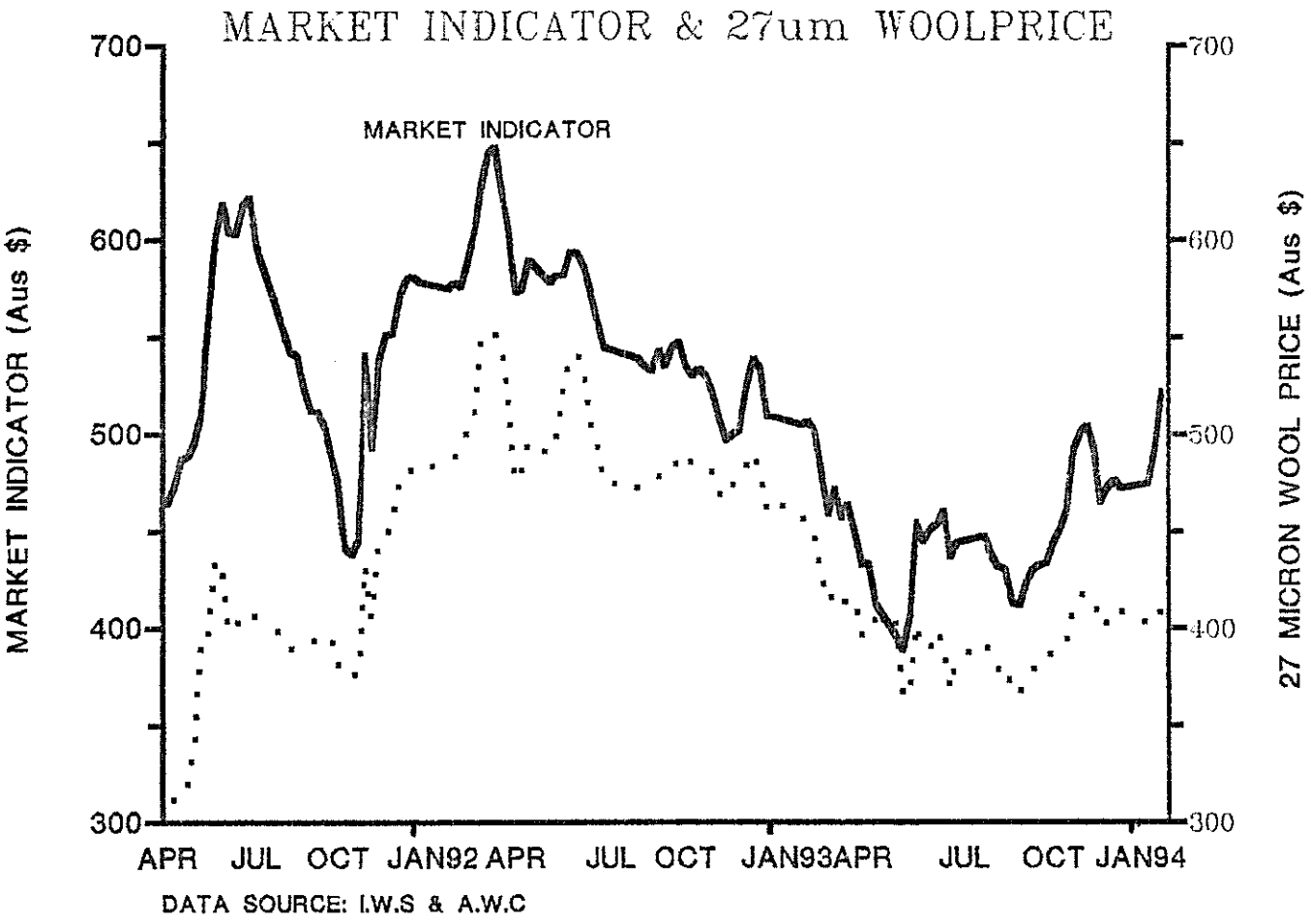
We can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel as we enter the latter throes of shearing and look forward to more time spent outside rather than in the shed!

The impending first auction of National Stud Flock sheep is of great interest and should prove to be an exciting day with most people present actually seeing a part of the flock for the first time (except for video footage).

Keen jockeys will be training their horses ready for sports week while the rest are just looking forward to a week of revelry away from the farm work!

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Market Indicator closed 50 cents higher on last months reported figure to close at 493 cents/kg greasy. The 27 micron indicator has risen only slightly over the same period to close at 410 cents/kg. The dramatic rise in the price of finer wool is quite encouraging as it indicates a strengthening demand for quality garments.



The Australian dollar has strengthened significantly over the month and currently stands at 2.12 cents per pound. This development is also encouraging for the Falkland producer as a stronger $ tends to have a positive influence on prices in the U.K.

The transfer of the Australian Stockpile from the A.W.R.C to Wool International at the beginning of December has been associated with a temporary reduction in the level of stock disposals. It seems likely that Wool International will adopt a more speculative approach to stock disposals and could explain their reluctance to sell onto a strengthening market. Since reaching a peak of 4,765,627 bales in January 1991, the stockpile now stands at 3,828,673 bales, a reduction of almost 20% over the period.

Sales from the South African and New Zealand stockpiles have been significantly greater. This is partly a reflection of the lower volumes in store, but also due to Australia's reluctance make major disposals of her own stocks. In the case of South Africa, disposals have been necessitated by the need to obtain hard currency.

The New Zealand Stockpile has shrunk from a peak of 655,000 bales in Feb 91 to now stand at just under 300,000 bales. The S.A.W.B stocks have been cut from 345,802 bales in Feb 91 to less than 25,000 bales at the end of the year.

Another encouraging set of statistics for the Falkland producer is the 1994 wool production estimates. These figures reveal the extent to which wool production is expected to decline in response to the slump in the international wool market.
As table 1 suggests, 1994 wool production in Australia is forecasted to decline by 12% on the 1993 clip. Lower production is also forecasted in Argentina (13%) the former USSR (10%) and South Africa (10%). The apparent increase in production forecasted for New Zealand is a reflection of the exceptionally poor growing conditions in the 1993 season. Higher production per sheep is forcasted to more than offset a reduction in the New Zealand sheep population in.

Global Wool Production
(mkg clean)

	1991/92	1992/93 (e)	1993/94 (f)
Australia	573	570	500
New Zealand	221	193	204
Former USSR	170	167	150
China	118	120	122
Argentina	72	70	61
South Africa	50	49	44
Uruguay	55	53	62
U.K	49	49	49
Other	414	413	413
Total	1721	1683	1605

Source: I.W.S (e) Estimate (f) Forecast

HUGH MARSDEN
FEBRUARY 1994

USING TEASER RAMS

Teaser rams are valuable in both natural and artificial breeding programmes. John Yates explained to the Sheep Farmer Magazine how they should be used.

Teaser rams are a valuable tool in both AI and ET programmes as well as in natural breeding programmes. It is very important to have the chosen males prepared well before use. From the time of vasectomy until that teaser ram can safely be used is approximately eight weeks. It is advisable to have the teaser ram fertility-tested before use so as to ascertain that there are no live sperm left in the tracts.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

* Health - free from any foot ailments (arthritis, twisted joints etc.)
* Good body condition - not over fat or lazy.
* Good libido.
* Breed - choose a breed related to the breeding season during which the teaser is to be used.
* Young ram - preferably a shearling.

WITHIN NATURAL BREEDING PROGRAMMES

A vasectomised ram is a cheap and reliable way to help to tighten the season's first oestrus in the flock. It is an effective method if used correctly.

HOW IT WORKS

All male sheep excrete chemicals called pheromones. The smell of this substance creates an immediate hormonal response in the ewe. The ewe's first heat is normally a silent heat. The ewes must have been kept away from any male sheep for 4-6 weeks prior to introduction of a teaser. Because the ewe's first heat is silent, the teaser may only mark ewes that have had an earlier oestrus. The teaser has no effect on these ewes that have been marked.

The teaser has the effect of placing ewes into behavioural oestrus. The teaser rams should only be with the flock for 1-2 weeks, no longer. The teasers should then be replaced with fertile rams which should serve most of the ewes within a 10 day period.

The teaser should only be used when the majority of the flock are not cycling. Ewes that are cycling will not be affected by the teaser. Teasers can advance the breeding season by three to four weeks. The teaser will not synchronise the flock, as does sponging, but only tightens up the natural heat.

However, ewes can be inseminated to these natural heats if a raddled teaser is used, but this process is very time consuming. The normal ratio of teaser to use in a natural mating programme is 2% (2:100). Increase entire rams to 4% (4:100) after the used of teasers because of the amount of ewes returning in the first week of this true heat.

Day 0	Teasers in.
Day 2-4	Silent heat.
Day 13-14	Teasers out. Entire rams in (Double amount).
Day 18-21	Early heat (majority of ewes).
Day 27-28	Late heat.

Note that for whatever reason you may be using a teaser, you must be aware of the following.

* A teaser ram may become fertile. This is due to recanalisation.

* It is advisable to have your teaser ram retested before use each year.

* All teaser rams should be clearly identified.

WITH SYNCHRONISED EWES

The teaser should be placed with the synchronised ewes 24 hours after sponge removal (normally day 13 of the AI programme). The teaser should have a raddle or a harness so as to mark the ewes clearly. The ratio of teasers to ewes for an AI programme is 5% (5:100).

Teasers are useful within an AI programme but are not essential. Teasers help by tightening the time that the ewes will ovulate over. This is a definite help when expensive frozen semen is being used. Non-cycling ewes will not be marked by the teasers and so the vet will not inseminate them.

Also, if a large group of ewes is to be inseminated - i.e. 100 plus - then the ewes can be drafted into groups as they come on heat i.e. early, mid and late oestrus and presented for AI in this order.

Teasers are essential for use within an ET programme. Again, as in the AI programme, 5% (5:100) teasers should be used.

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THE COLOUR OF YOUR MONEY?

The first National Stud Flock sale is to be held at Goose Green on Wednesday 16th February 1994. This sale is the culmination of nearly six years dedicated work by the Falkland Flock Improvement Association, National Stud Flock Committee, Falkland Islands Development Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Falkland Landholdings, the National Stud Flock Breeding and Marketing Group and several individuals.

The idea of the National Stud Flock was supported by an overwhelming majority of farmers during the Farmers Association meetings of 1990, and at a subsequent meeting open to all farmers on 25th September 1990. Polwarths as a National Stud Flock breed were likewise supported by the vast majority of farmers. The decision to base the National Stud Flock on Polwarths was supported further by the Falkland Flock Improvement Association questionnaire of September 1988 which concluded that the Polwarth was "easily the most popular" breed with 76% of respondents interested in Polwarths, and by my 1990/91 telephone survey that recorded 43% of farms having Polwarths and that 35% of the Corriedale and Romney farms planned to use Polwarths in the future.

The National Stud Flock sheep on Sea Lion Island have produced some outstanding results:

- The National Stud Flock was to produce wool of 22 to 24 microns; SGS tested the whole ram and ewe clip last year at 23.1 microns.

- The 1993 ram hogget fleeces had an average mid side sample fibre diameter of 18.8 microns - most of these rams are the shearling rams on sale on the 16th February. These rams also produced an average of 1.3kg of lambs wool and an average unskirted fleece weight + belly of 3.25kg; this is a remarkable hogget average unskirted greasy fleece weight + belly of 4.55kg. In short the National Stud Flock is offering very superior quality sheep.

With much help, which is gratefully acknowledged, the Falkland Islands Government has produced the goods. On the 16th February farmers have the opportunity of showing their support for having their wishes carried out to the full, by attending the N.S.F. sale. Farmers should recognise that not only is the success of the National Stud Flock at stake, but also the F.I.G. response to farmer requests for funding future agricultural projects. I encourage all farmers to attend the National Stud Flock sale.

ROBERT HALL
FEBRUARY 1994

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FARMERS ARE REMINDED THAT BOLD COVE FARM
IS CURRENTLY TAKING ORDERS FOR LEADER TAGS, ETC.

HEALTHY HENS

Over the last few months there have been a number of reported sick or dying hens. This article I hope will cover a few basic do's and don'ts for the keeping of healthy hens and chickens.

Housing

The majority of Falkland poultry keepers have a permanent run area which has been used for a great number of years for the same purpose, this area usually becomes a mud bath in the winter and leaves you with a dusty pen in the summer,a haven for parasites and other disease organisms. Ideally the grazing area should be rotated over several grassy areas moving the hens each time the grass begins to show wear. However this may pose a problem if available grassland is restricted. a few alternatives could be:-

1. Dividing your present pen into two or three partitions and adding extra popholes from the hen house.

2. Add an extra small run (or two) to the side of your hen house and add an extra pophole for access.

3. Allow summer grazing to occur only outside the hen run and leave the grass in the run to recover for the colder months.

4. Build a small mobile hen house and run which can be easily moved to fresh grazing. (see next months WP for design).

Hygiene and Health

The hen house should be scrubbed with a disinfectant at least annually and louse powder applied where any signs of mites or lice are present. A build up of manure under the perches can be prevented by placing a board under the perches which can be removed and cleaned on a regular basis. Routine worming for internal parasites with Mebenvet and dusting with louse powder at the first signs of infestation are recommended procedures for all poultry owners. A particular problem which is often seen here is a build up of bones and debris in the chicken run if bones are to be fed to the hens they should be removed immediately the hens have finished, this also helps prevents the seagull problem! Kitchen scraps fed to hens should be fresh and the bucket/container scrubbed every day! Water containers must be clean, suspended on the side of the run rather than on the ground, and filled with fresh water daily. All grain feed should be kept in a dry shed and free from possible contamination by rodents or damp.

Please ring our department and talk to David Baber if you have any number of poultry deaths in your area as our laboratory has an interest in finding causes of poultry illness in the islands

MAGGIE BARKMAN
FEBRUARY 1994

APPLIED ASPECTS OF THE ECOPHYSIOLOGY OF CORTADERIA PILOSA

The following is a brief summary of the thesis which Fiona Wilson submitted for her Ph.D. We have the full thesis at the Department.

The thesis represents a comprehensive study of Whitegrass growth in relation to grazing, nitrogen application, and different soil water and root acration conditions; as such it provides information not available from Falkland Island based studies.

This summary outlines relevant literature, areas studied, results and conclusions.

The initial part of the thesis contains a review of all the available published and unpublished literature on:

1. Whitegrass: its biology (including flowering and seed germination patterns); habitat and distribution, and comparisions with other similar species.

2. A general review of the Falkland Islands: geography, topography and geology; climate; soils; vegetation and conditions for plant growth.

3. Agriculture in the Falkland Islands: background; constraints; past research; information on recent Whitegrass research (including herbage quality and production, leaf and tiller dynamics, burning and ecophysiology).

The experimental programme at the Queen's University of Belfast was divided into three main section:

1. Nitrogen nutrition: the growth response of Whitegrass plants to different forms and amount of applied nitrogen (N) was studied.

2. Waterlogging and root aeration: the tolerance of both "bogged" and "lax" Whitegrass plants to different soil moisture conditions (waterlogging and droughting), and root aeration conditions, was investigated.

3. Photosynthesis: The photosynthetic activity of Whitegrass leaves of different ages (from both "bogged" and "lax" plants) was examined.

In addition to laboratory experiments fieldwork was carried out in the Falkland Islands to study the micro-climate in Whitegrass swards and assess leaf growth on the Bush Pass winter cutting experiment (Fitzroy farm) and on the summer (AWG2) and winter (SS5) grazing trials at Fox Bay East. Root biomass under the summer grazing trial was also examined.

The results of the experimental and fieldwork can be summarised as follows:

1. Whitegrass responded only to a very low level of ammonium nitrogen, similar to that naturally occurring in Falkland Islands pastures. Growth of the plants decreased when the amount of added nitrogen was increased. This is an unusual response to nitrogen fertilisation. As a result of presentations about this effect in Whitegrass (at the European Grassland Conference, Finland, 1992), professor Jerzy Poskuta (University of Warsaw), a world authority on photosynthesis, is coming to Belfast (funded by the E.C.) for six weeks in February to carry out research on Whitegrass.

2. Whitegrass grew equally well in both waterlogged and well-aerated soil. This demonstrates the ability of the grass to tolerate a lack of oxygen around its root system. Drought conditions did not noticeably affect plant growth until about 20 months after the drought had been imposed. However, droughted plants produced less flower-heads than well-watered plants.

3. There was no difference in the response to watering conditions between "bogged" and "lax" plants but "lax" type plants were usually smaller and less vigorous than "bogged" plants.

4. The youngest leaves of Whitegrass plants were the most photosynthetically active, with maximum leaf growth occurring between 18 and 24 C. These temperatures are well above average Falkland Island temperatures, even in the summer months.

5. Studies from the Whitegrass grazing trials in the Falkland Islands showed that severe grazing decreased Whitegrass leaf growth but, somewhat surprisingly, after eight years of prolonged, intensive grazing the amount and distribution of roots under the sward was not affected.

The general discussion and conclusions of the thesis focus on four main areas:

1. The ecological strategy of Whitegrass: Whitegrass seems to be well-adapted to its natural habitat in the Falkland Islands. The grass appears to be able to recycle nutrients from its older leaves to younger, growing leaves. This would help explain why the grass grows successfully with only a small amount of applied nitrogen. The low growth rate of the grass would also decrease its nitrogen demand and allow it to survive in the low-nutrient Falkland Island pastures. The slow growth of Whitegrass probably also helps the plants survive in waterlogged soil, by lowering their oxygen requirement. The fact that most Whitegrass roots are found in the upper 15cm of soil also improves plant survival in waterlogged conditions.

2. Environmental limitations to the growth of Whitegrass: The low average temperatures of the Falkland Islands are almost certainly the greatest restriction on the productivity of Whitegrass. It appears likely, however, that the windy conditions in the Islands also limit growth of the grass; this possibility requires further investigation.

3. The difference between the "lax" and "bogged" forms of Whitegrass: When grown in identical conditions "lax" Whitegrass plants were generally smaller and carried more dead material than "bogged" plants. It would appear, therefore, that the two plant types are genetically distinct ecotypes.

4. Implications for the management of Whitegrass dominant pastures: From the above findings and discussion it can be concluded that:

(a). The slow growth of Whitegrass (and its apparent internal nutrient recycling strategy) may make the plant intolerant of heavy grazing pressure.

(b). Nitrogen fertiliser application and/or land drainage would not improve the production or palatability of Whitegrass pasture.

(c). Attempts to convert "lax" Whitegrass pasture into "bogged" pasture by increasing grazing pressure are unlikely to be effective and may be damaging to the "lax" pasture which appears to be less tolerant of grazing than the Whitegrass "bogs".

(d). Planting more shelter belts around paddocks would decrease the exposure of the pasture to wind and increase the temperature of the vegetation. This could improve the productivity of Whitegrass by increasing its growth rate and perhaps increasing leaf area and decreasing leaf "die-back". The problem remains, however, of tree growth itself being restricted by the windy conditions in the Falkland Islands.

The result of this project go some way to increasing knowledge about Whitegrass growth and ecophysiology. It is hoped that the work will contribute to improving the production, management and utilisation of Whitegrass dominant pasture in the Falkland Islands.

Acknowledgements

The provision of financial assistance from the F.I.G. Department of Agriculture, through the Queen's University of Belfast, is gratefully acknowledged, as is the help and advice of Dr Jim McAdam, Mr Owen Summers, Mr Gerry Hoppe, Mr Steve Howlett and all the staff in the Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture.

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SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE WHITEGRASS GRAZING TRIAL

Having paid a brief visit to the Whitegrass summer grazing trial at Fox Bay at least once a year since its establishment I thought that some of the changes I noticed on my recent visit were of particular interest. I should add that the output results from the trial and their interpretation have been already presented by Steve Howlett in earlier issues of the Woolpress and at the whitegrass meeting in Belfast.

The trial was officially concluded in early 1993 and some of the plots have been ungrazed for almost a year. It was particularly interesting to see the state of those pastures which had been hard grazed during summer for about 8 years (to a 4 cm sward height). Each year the proportion of bare ground had increased steadily on those plots, the whitegrass plants were getting smaller and there was a real risk of severe pasture deterioration and soil erosion (Howlett, 1992). However, as Fiona Wilson's work showed (see this issue of Woolpress) the root system of the plants was not significantly depleted over 7 years hard grazing and so presumably the plants would have the capacity to recover if the grazing pressure was removed.

During my visit in November 1992 I saw that, at long last, some finer grasses were appearing in the gaps between the hard grazed whitegrass plants. The seed from there must have either blown in from elsewhere (greens ponds, nearby reseeds etc.) or from elsewhere as the grasses were not obvious at the beginning of the trial. Grass seed is generally only short - lived in the soil once shed.

On re-visiting the site this month I was surprised to see these areas were a sea of waving grass with native fescue, bent, wavy hair grass etc. The whitegrass has regrown a bit but its reserves will have been depleted by the long period of grazing pressure and recovery will take time. Overall the pasture quality was high with a combination of regrowth of whitegrass and finer grasses.

What also struck me was the number of wild flowers which appeared to have come in to the plots. A widespread patch of the uncommon orchid *Chlorea gaudichaudii* has sprung up and there are Dusty Millers (*Primula magellanica*, a fair scattering of vanilla daisy (*Leuceria suaveolens*), the endemic *Senecio littoralis*, many plants of the small gentian, *Gentianella magellanica*, a rare sedge (*Carex macloviana*) and at least 3 other species of sedge. I had not noticed such a profusion of wild flowers on the site before-presumably the hard grazing had left enough bare patches to allow colonisation and the absence of grazing this year had allowed the wild flowers to develop along with the grasses. It will certainly be interesting to monitor these pastures over time to see if more new species come in although the density of grass may rapidly reach a level where plants start to be "choked" out again . Either way, it might be possible to create pasture which has both high conservation and high grazing value. The penalty which has to be paid in terms of individual animal performance to achieve this result must not be overlooked. It is possible that a shorter, more intense period of hard grazing might achieve the same result. The maintenance and sustainability of pasture with such a high proportion of whitegrass and recolonising , finer grasses will be of key interest to the farmer and researcher.

JIM MCADAM
FEBRUARY 1994

BOOK REVIEW

CATCHING THE PATIENT

It used to be common practice among farmers in Scotland to castrate ram lambs with their teeth. My father used this technique every year and, what's more, it was a method that made some sense. The 'surgeon' would make the necessary cuts with a sharp knife and then extract the testicles with his teeth. It was done in this way as invariably the shepherd's mouth was cleaner than his hands and therefore reduced the risk of infection to the sheep by a considerable amount.

I had a gym teacher who always pestered me to bring him the testicles when the lambs were being "cut". I had to take a bag of the offending bits to school for his delectation. He liked them fried. Dad carried on this way with the lambs for many years and only stopped when he had to have dentures.'

This is vet Russell Lyon's description of one of the management practices on sheep farms. His book *First Catch Your Patient* is packed with brief anecdotes as the Scotsman recalls his life as a veterinary surgeon on the Fens of England.

Fast moving and easy to read, this is not in the side-splitting league of James Herriot, but it recounts unembellished everyday events in his work with which any animal owner can sympathise. It also offers information and advice on animal management and welfare and, as such, is a useful text book for aspiring young vets and smallholders. An enjoyable, modest paperback publication but perhaps a bit pricey at £6.99. Published by Smallholder Publication Ltd, High Street, Stoke Ferry, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

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U.K. SCRAPIE QUESTIONNAIRE

In a self-administered questionnaire survey to identify the prevalence and incidence of scrapie in UK sheep flocks, 26% of respondents indicated that they had seen sheep with clinical signs of scrapie in their flocks. The incidence in affected flocks ranged from 0.03-7.5 cases/100 sheep/year with a mean of 0.4 cases/100 sheep/year. The survey was run by the University of Bristol's Department of Veterinary Medicine and reported at the Sheep Veterinary Society Conference.

EXTRACTED FROM THE SHEEP FARMER MAGAZINE.

GUARDING AGAINST PREDATORS

I have adapted the following article which appeared in The Sheep farmer about sheep predation and the use of other animals to deter the likes of foxes and wolves. I know that some farmers have experienced problems with foxes and may find this interesting. Unfortunately there is no mention of Johnny Rooks so It's a bit of guess work as to whether any of the following would deter them!

Recent interest in the use of dogs for guarding sheep from predators - especially other dogs - has provoked a lot of controversy.

It is estimated that 10,000 sheep are savaged by marauding dogs and foxes in the UK each year and recently sheep producers in the Brecon area of Wales were reported as bringing in the army with night sights to help them track down killer dogs.

The latest idea is to use Pyrenean mountain dogs for the job. The breed is claimed to be naturally protective without being naturally aggressive. If allowed to live with the flock from an early age it will become part of that flock. Pyreneans are claimed to have been bred specifically for the purpose of guarding sheep against natural predators such as wolves and bears and are used for that purpose in France and the USA. Critics of the scheme, however, point to the possibility that dogs which are trained to see off predators may be just as likely to see off shepherds, farm staff, ramblers, and fertiliser reps. Not forgetting of course, that they cost money to buy, train and feed. I doubt that this would be feasible in the Falklands due to our Hydatid laws.

OSTRICHES

Another guard animal which is used with sheep in parts of the African continent, is the ostrich. It seems that they stamp on their victims - but unfortunately are also liable to stamp on the shepherd! The Ostriches may find our winters a little too cold!

LLAMAS

Following the interest in guard dogs, Paul Rose of the Cotswold Llama Farm has promoted the idea that llamas make excellent sheep guards. Farmers in Iowa who lost sheep to coyote, wild dogs, foxes and bears, had predatory losses reduced from an average of 21% to 7% - and half of them had no losses at all - after introducing llamas. One gelded male llama per flock is recommended. The advantage of a llama, says Mr Rose, is that they are cheap to keep, eat the same food as sheep, need little attention and are long-lived. (I wonder if Guanaco would do the same job?)

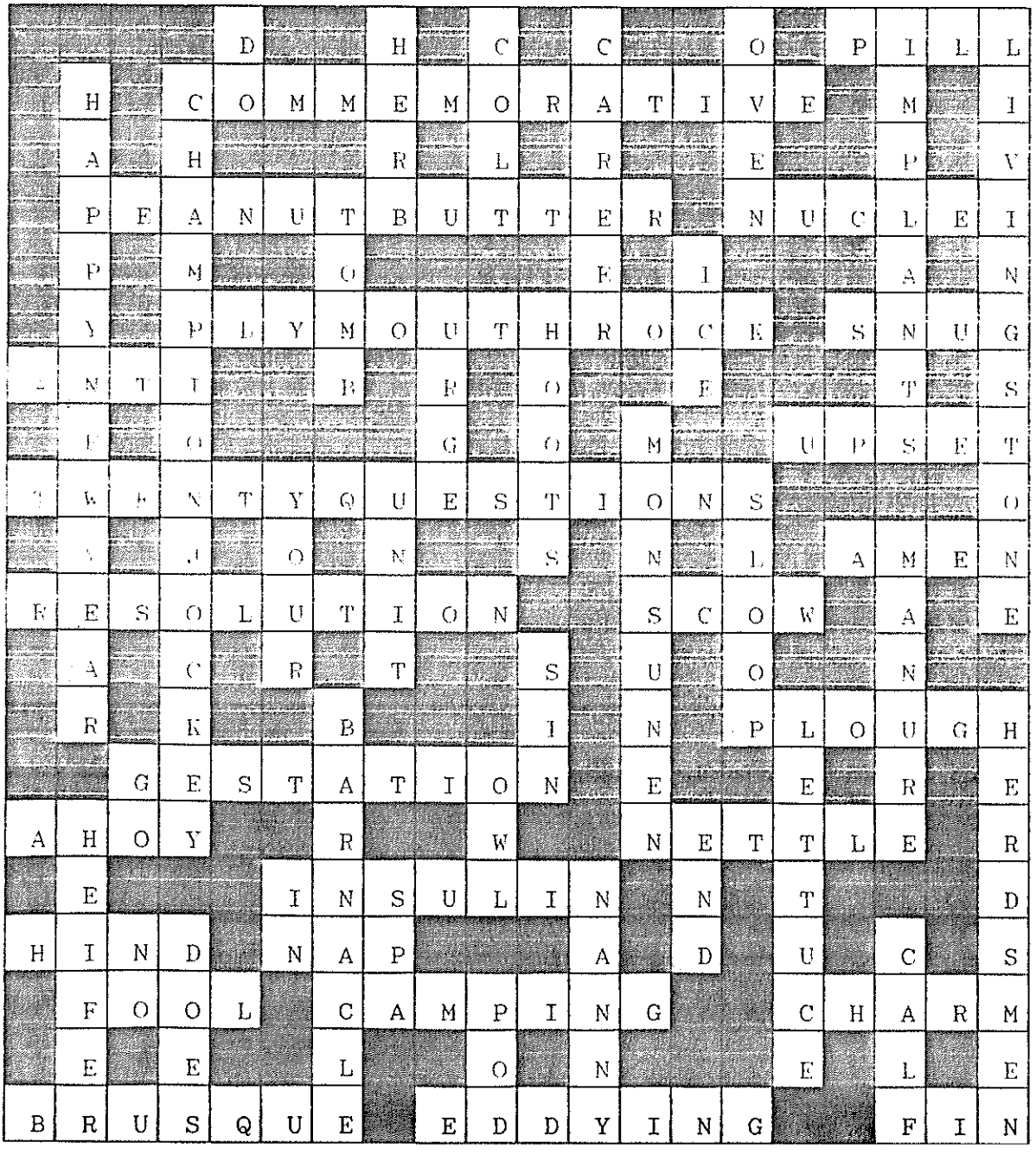
DONKEYS

Probably the least exotic of guard animals is the donkey. The claim from America is that donkeys are replacing guard dogs in sheep flocks. The reason they are successful, say the Americans, is that donkeys hate dogs. They will confront a dog, chase it, bray, bite and kick it. They are cheap to keep, naturally gregarious and become part of the flock. They require no training since their loathing of dogs is instinctive. They are more effective in larger flocks and are run at the rate of one donkey for every 150 sheep. Females or gelded males are recommended.

OTHER SHEEP

Over the years there have also been reports of rams protecting their flocks against dogs. One was about a Wiltshire Horn and another about a British Milksheep ram - both of which hated dogs and would attack them.

MANDY McLEOD
FEBRUARY 1994



JANUARY SOLUTION

WEST FALKLAND
ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING

to be held at Hill Cove

27th February - 3rd March 1994

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	6.45 pm	General Sports Meeting to organise events for the week. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Monday:	9.30 am	Dog Trials at Boundary farm and a barbecue lunch hosted by Mr & Mrs B. Betts.
Tuesday:	9.30am	Horse Racing.
Wednesday:	9.30am	Shearing Competition, with Children's Sports to run concurrently.
	2.30pm	Gymkhana
Thursday:	9.30am	Adult Foot events
	2.30pm	Go-kart racing
	6.00pm	Annual General Meeting

There will be dances every night of sports, commencing at 10pm. Prize-giving on the last night.

Golf Tournament to be played throughout the week. Prizes for this event presented by Shallow Bay and West Lagoons Farms.

Note: All adult visitors pay a subscription of £10.00 .

Would all prospective Dog Handlers be good enough to notify Bernard Betts by the 15th February.

Anyone wanting accommodation at Hill Cove please notify respective households by the 15th February.

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WEST FALKLAND SPORTS ASSOCIATION RULES

(Revised 1993)

1. Entries for horse races will only be accepted between 10 and 12pm on the Monday of sports week. Entries can be accepted after 9am on race day but will be classed as late entries.

2. Jockeys to carry weight if under 11 stone and to weigh in the day before the horse events. Jockeys needing to carry weight must produce it when weighing in.

3. Lady jockeys wishing to compete in men's events come under exactly the same rules as the men.

4. Jockeys must line up at the start in the positions drawn by the Clerk of the course; No 1 being nearest the starter.

5. Official starters may after suitable warning, order any jockey to withdraw his horse from the start if he or his horse is seriously interfering with the start of the race.

6. Any jockey who runs off any portion of the course, or who breaks any rule of the course must report themselves to the judges on arrival at the winning post.

7. No whips are allowed, only switches and these must be used by wrist movement only and not used with whole arm movements so as to interfere with other competitors. Switches may be examined and disallowed by the judges.

8. Any complaint with the starting or running of the race must be reported to the judges immediately.

9. Judges decision is final and any person interfering with the decision will be liable to a fine of £10 .

10. Jockeys must be ready at the judges box ten minutes after the bell rings.

11. No spurs are allowed at the meetings.

12. Non-subscribers may not compete in any event.

13. Dead heats will be ran off on the same day at a time decided by the judges and the jockeys.

14. Three horses must compete to make a race. Where there are three there will only be two prizes, four horses will qualify for three prizes. Where there are more than eight horses in a race there will be a fourth prize,

15. No horse is allowed to win more than two first prizes and four prizes in all, excluding final races for 1st and 2nd.

16. The starters decision at the starts is final.

17. MAIDEN PLATE. Horses run in any previous race are barred. Any horse, provided that it does not start, may enter the race another year.

18. GOVERNORS CUP Open to any horse except any that have won this race twice.

19. CHAMPION RACE. Open to horses that have won either first or second prizes at the meeting. There is no late entry fee for this race. Open Champion Race is over 700yds.

20. TROTTING RACE. Any horse breaking into a trot in a trotting race must turn round before proceeding.

21. ASSOCIATION RACE. Open to all officials, judged and started by jockeys.

22. PICKTHORN PLATE. Only open to maiden plater's that have competed that day.

23. CONSOLATION RACE. Must have competed in at least one race that day.

24. In the case of subsequent disqualification, to prevent delay in paying out, the totalisator will pay out on the first backed entrant past the post.

25. DUMMY RACE. Dummies can be picked up from horse back.

26. THREADING THE NEEDLE. Ladies to await their partners at the opposite end of the course holding the needle for their partner to ride down, dismount and thread the needle, using one hand only and must not touch his partner, then ride back to the winning post with the needle properly threaded.

27. DONKEY RACE. No foot wear to be worn and no spurs whips or switches.

28. POLE JUMP. If the pole touches the bar before the competitor goes over his jump shall not count.

29. HIGH JUMP ETC. The following rules apply to the high jump, long jump, pole jump and hop step and jump, each competitor is allowed three attempts only, each to be measured. If the second should be a tie they shall try again for second place; should either of these beat the winner they shall still only qualify for second place. This also applies to third place. In the case of the long jump, the measurement shall be taken from the furthest back point where any part of the competitors body touches.

DOG TRIALS. The Dog Handlers Association is at present compiling an up-to-date and revised set of rules/marking system etc, and it is proposed that these be adopted by the WFSA.

SHEARING COMPETITION Estancia Farm hold a shearing competition annually during the Christmas holiday period and as the WFSA and DHA propose to use this venue for the winners from the respective Sports meetings to decide who would represent the Islands at the next Golden Shears competitions, it is suggested that we adopt the same shearing regulations as used by them. These are undergoing revision at present.

The W.F.S.A. would be pleased to hear from any interested member who thinks that any of the above need to be altered, corrected or omitted or if there are any other rules which should be included. The whole subject will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting held on the last day of Sports.

ANN ROBERTSON
W.F.S.A.

FOREST RANGE SUCCESS STORY

The following piece comes from the New Zealand Merino Annual and focuses on a producer of ultrafine wool.

More than 10 years of intense selection pressure backed with objective measurements have moved the huge Forest Range merino clip more than 2.5 microns into the ultrafine area. Few outside rams have been purchased for the 20,000 ewe flock during the decade, so the micron gains have been home grown - assisted by a single-minded dedication to genetics, technology, measurement and artificial insemination.

The rewards are considerable for station owners Russell and Jeanette Emmerson, being at least $10 a kg greasy more on average than if Forest Range had stood still for the past decade. It would be the last thing in the world one could accuse Russell Emmerson of doing. A helicopter is now the primary transportation on Forest Range, being quick and easy to access the back country or the Dunedin wool sale, and all points in between.

Moreover the Emmersons have moved with surprising speed to change the wool production of a 20,000 plus Merino flock and now plan further realistic, measurable improvements in the years to come. "There is nothing on the world scene which would persuade me to change from superfines," says Russell. Indeed with the Northern Hemisphere emerging from recession and a looming shortage of fine wools, the superfine specialisation could become even more lucrative very quickly. At Dunedin on November 25, Forest Range averaged $17 a kg greasy for all the rams and hoggets fleece sold, including non-fleece lots, as buyers for Korea, Italy and Germany competed for 36 bales tested under 17 micron.

At the same sale, fleece wools of 21-22 micron, which was where Forest Range began 10 years ago, sold for $4-$5 a kg. This is one measure of the Emmerson's achievement. Forest Range is one of the largest superfine flocks in New Zealand, possibly the world, and its annual sale offering of four-tooth rams are keenly sought after at auction. The achievements are a delight to sheep geneticists, proving in one flock and in just a decade what had been predicted in the textbooks and only practised on a smaller scale.

A decade ago Forest Range marketed 50,000kgs annually in the range 17 to 24 micron, with only 15,000kg under 20 micron. Last year it sold 73,400kgs, all of it under 20 micron and 47% under 18 micron. The clip weighted micron average is now 17.7 micron, down 2.6 microns from the 20.3 microns in 1982-83. the tools for moving the whole clip such a long way in the micron in a decade have been the computer, mid-side sampling prior to shearing and sheep selection, fleece weighing, heavy culling of higher micron sheep, open nucleus and elite flock breeding, progeny testing, sire grouping and, latterly, sheep AI with fresh semen to multiply the influence of selected sires.

None of these techniques or management principles are unique to Forest Range, but it is the way Russell and Jeanette have applied them, to such success, which makes Forest Range one of the best

examples of modern sheep farming in the world. As the Collinsville Way collapsed, in a wreckage of debts and wave of publicity, Russell Emmerson astounded the international Merino world by recording in a matter-of-fact way in South Africa at the last world conference the achievements of Forest Range to 1990.

Another New Zealander at the congress said Russell's speech was the highlight of the whole event, and acknowledged by everyone present.

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RECIPES

Both of the recipes below have been sent in by Michelle Marsh

BANANA CAKE

4oz butter
6oz sugar
2oz eggs
2 mashed bananas
1tsp bicarb
2 tblsp boiling milk
1 tsp baking powder
8oz flour

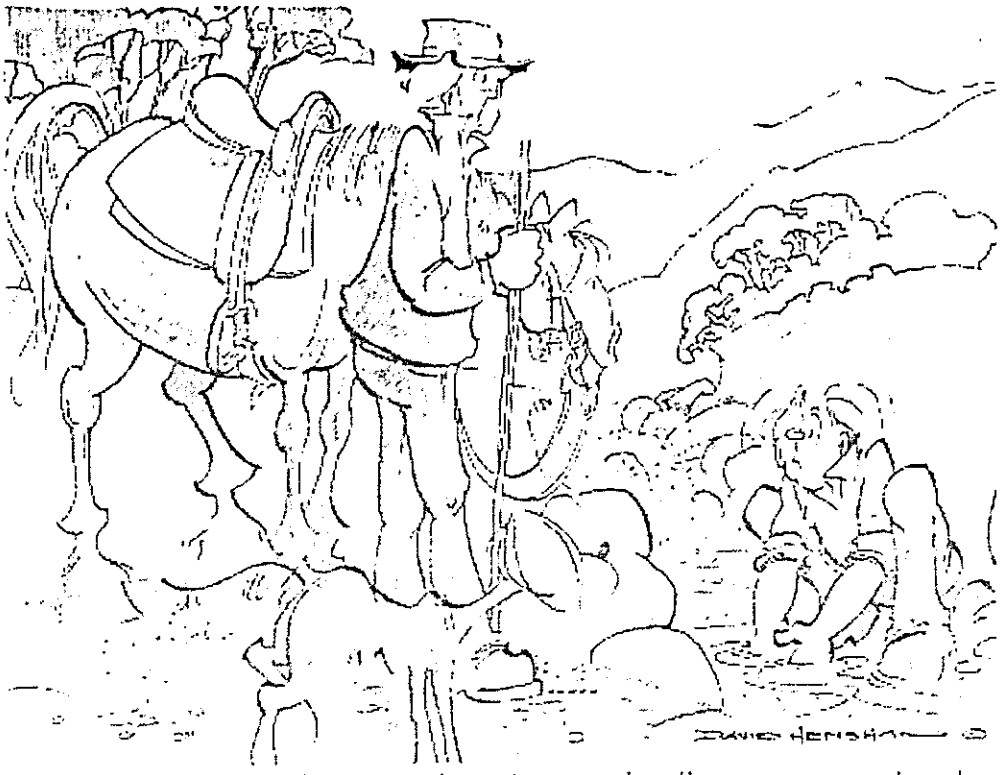
Cream butter and sugar, add eggs and mashed bananas then bicarb dissolved in the boiling milk. Lastly flour and baking powder. Cook for 10 minutes in 108°C fill with whipped cream and sliced banana.

CHEESE STRAWS

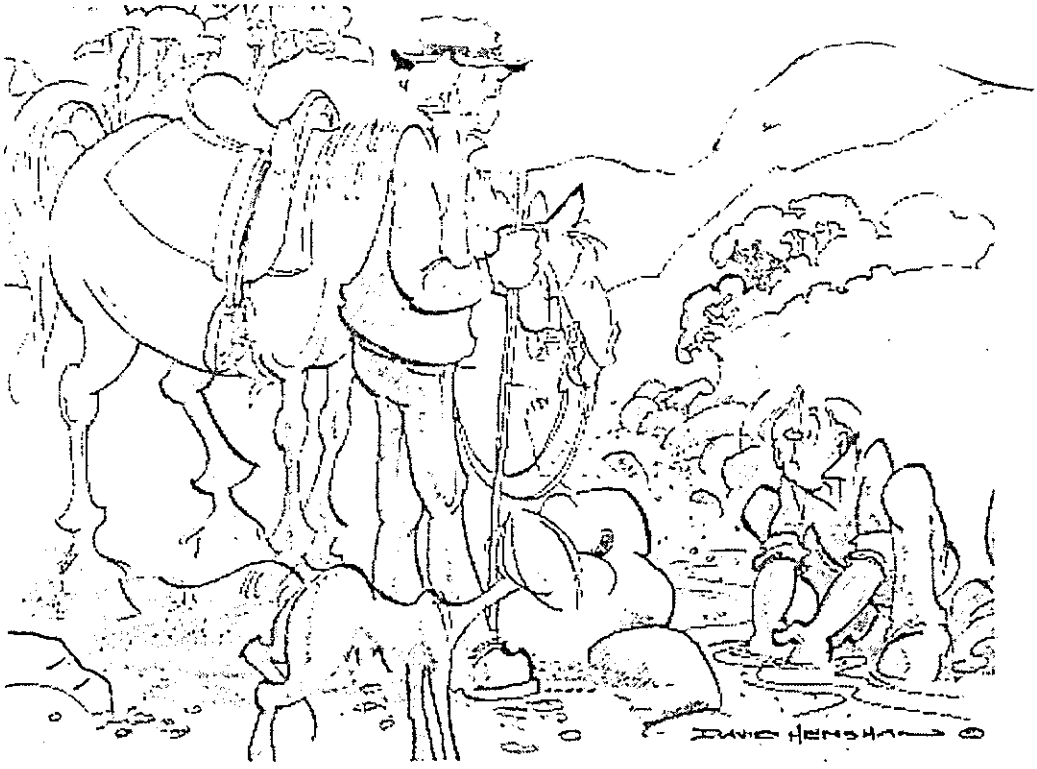
8oz butter
12oz cheese
1 lb flour
Salt & pepper
Pinch dry mustard

Cream butter and cheese. Work in flour and seasoning, knead lightly roll out and cut into strips ¼" wide 3" to 4" long and bake till golden brown.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

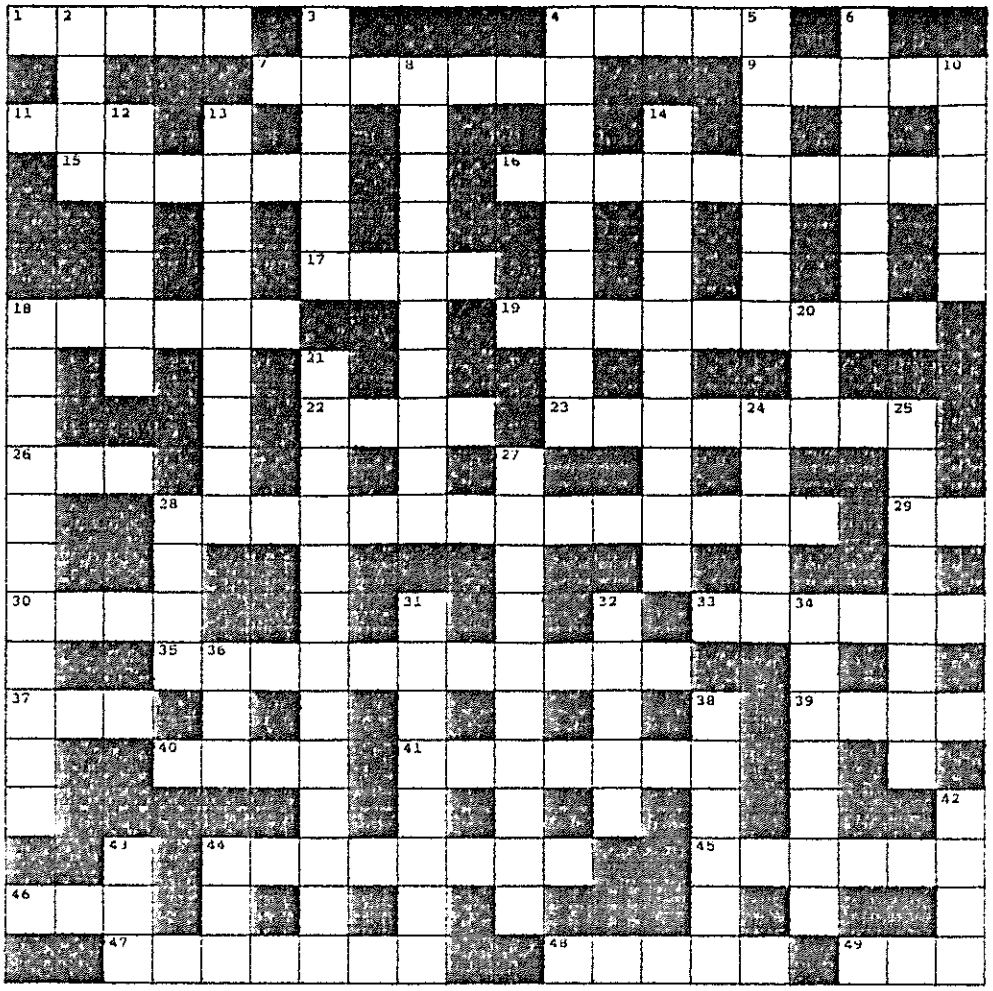


"Of course it's clean ... there's no giardia, mercury, lead, fluoride or chlorine here mate .... just the odd dead sheep!"



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

TOP PICTURE
1.Man on hill has lost his hat; 2.Part of left hill line missing; 3.Furthest away log is missing; 4.Rear truck tyre is black; 5.One line on truck bed extra; 6.Extra clump of trees; 7.One headlight missing; 8.One log end black; 9.Extra grass bog to left of truck front; 10.Truck has a bonnet crest.



FEBRUARY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. FAMOUS RACECOURSE AND DAY
4. PATCHY COLOURED HORSE
7. AIRCRAFT
9. DIGNIFIED AND UPSTANDING
11. SUGAR CANE LIQUOR
15. ROBBER OF SHIPS
16. ANNUAL EVENT ON EAST AND WEST
17. CARRYING FRAME
18. BE FRUGAL
19. MARRIAGE RITE
22. FEED CROP
23. GUARDIAN OF SHEEP
26. FISH EGGS
28. MUSEUM LOCATION IN STANLEY
29. AFTER CHRIST
30. PRODUCT OF SHEEP
33. CLOSE
35. PORT NEAR M.P.A.
37. PRIMATE
39. SHEAR
40. WHITE FLESH OF CITRUS FRUIT
41. UNIFORM SHOULDER ORNAMENT
44. SMALL PONY
45. SOIL BREAKER OR STAR FORMATION
46. LONG FOOT ATTIRE FOR WINTER SPORT
47. LATEST TYPE OF WOOL PACKS
48. BOUND MAP COLLECTION
49. FELINE

DOWN

2. LIQUID FOOD
3. MAJOR BLOOD VESSEL
4. OFFERS OF MARRIAGE
5. MARSUPIAL NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA
6. LEADER OF WORKERS
8. SIR ERNEST
10. DAMS OR EMBANKMENTS
12. DISTRESS AND SUFFERING
13. GRASS CUTTER
14. BURROWING RODENT OF NORTH AMERICA
18. BIRD OF PREY
20. SINGLE UNIT
21. STRAINED CURDLED MILK
24. SPEED
25. SCOTTISH LIQUEUR
27. SIMPLE PEOPLE
28. SOOTHING OINTMENT
31. SMALL SLENDER ANTELOPE
32. TYPE OF SHEEPYARD NAMED BY SHAPE
34. BIDDING SALE
36. BOXER
38. PLACE OF IDEAL PERFECTION
42. NATTER
43. RESIDENT INFANTRY COMPANY
44. VITAL PLANT FLUIDS

FOR SALE

Approx. 950 dry - run ewes, 4 & 5 years old only and due to change in camp use, this years rising 3 year old, surplus ewes, (400 approx). Price £1/head unchanged for last 5 years, will negotiate on older age group or whole lot. Quantity of cattle, including all age groups, beef animals, milk cows, yearlings. - phone for more details. Offers.

Available (from Australia) due to dual packing, Honda CT 200 farm motorcycle electric start, carrier, semi-auto transmission (3 - wheeler engine in motorcycle frame) knobblies etc. Final arrival price is not yet known, due end of February, should be around £2,000.

WANTED

Honda 125 parts, dismantled bike, anything considered.

Does anyone have an old rollerskate with at least a couple of sound wheels/bearing?

Also, 2 good swivel housing assemblies for Series III, would consider complete axle.

IF YOU CAN HELP OR ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT NICK PITALUGA AT SALVADOR ON 31193 (answerphone) OR ROBIN ON 31199.

* *

* * NEW WOOL POSTER * *

By now all farmers should have received a new glossy poster on correct skirting. "THE FALKLANDS NEED YOU TO SKIRT PROPERLY".

Please display it preferably in your wool preparation area as a constant reminder to all those who are skirting YOUR wool.

More copies are available from the Department of Agriculture. Contact Robert Hall on 27355 if you have a need for extra posters.

* *

The Falklands Need YOU to SKIRT PROPERLY

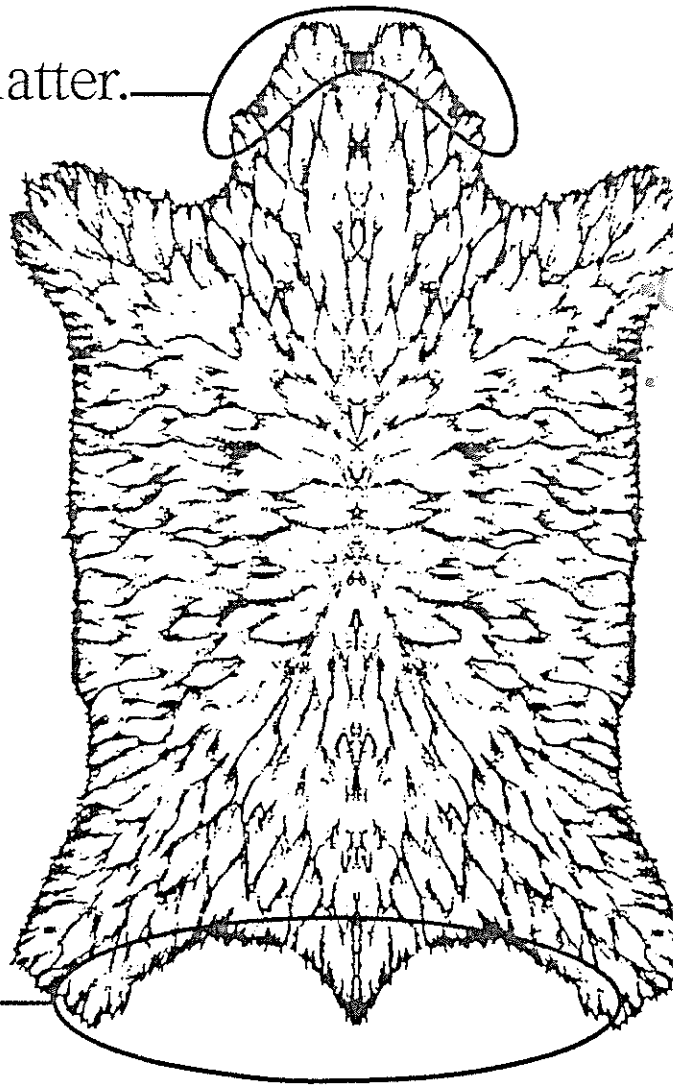
Dark Fibres & Stain Ruin Fleece Value

All Dark Fibres & Stain MUST Be Skirted

REMOVE neck collar with kemps &vegetable matter.

REMOVE all stains, brands, & black spots.

REMOVE all dags & stain.



WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 52 MARCH 1994

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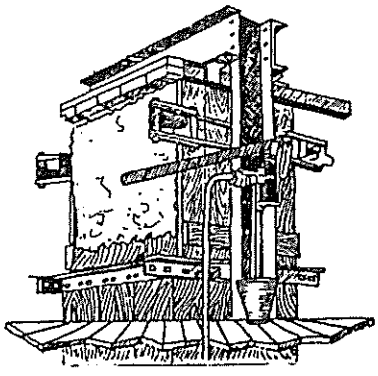


The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editors : M.J. Mcleod and R.H.B. Hall.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new look Wool Press. By the time many of you receive this the excitement of Sports Week will be over. There will be some elated souls out there who can reminisce over their triumphs of the week and there will likewise be one or two people nursing bumps and bruises (gained either in victory or defeat). Whatever your thought are, we hope you had a good break from the farm and saw the shearing 'out' in style.

As you will be aware, some of the National Stud Flock sheep are on the move and are waiting at Goose Green for the impending auction before being settled onto their new farms. I feel that congratulations are in order on the excellent sale price of Hogget fleeces sold (see letter from D.S.& Co. Ltd on Stud Flock News page).

I received this cartoon for inclusion in the Wool Press. Can we assume that someone got lost?!

MANDY McLEOD

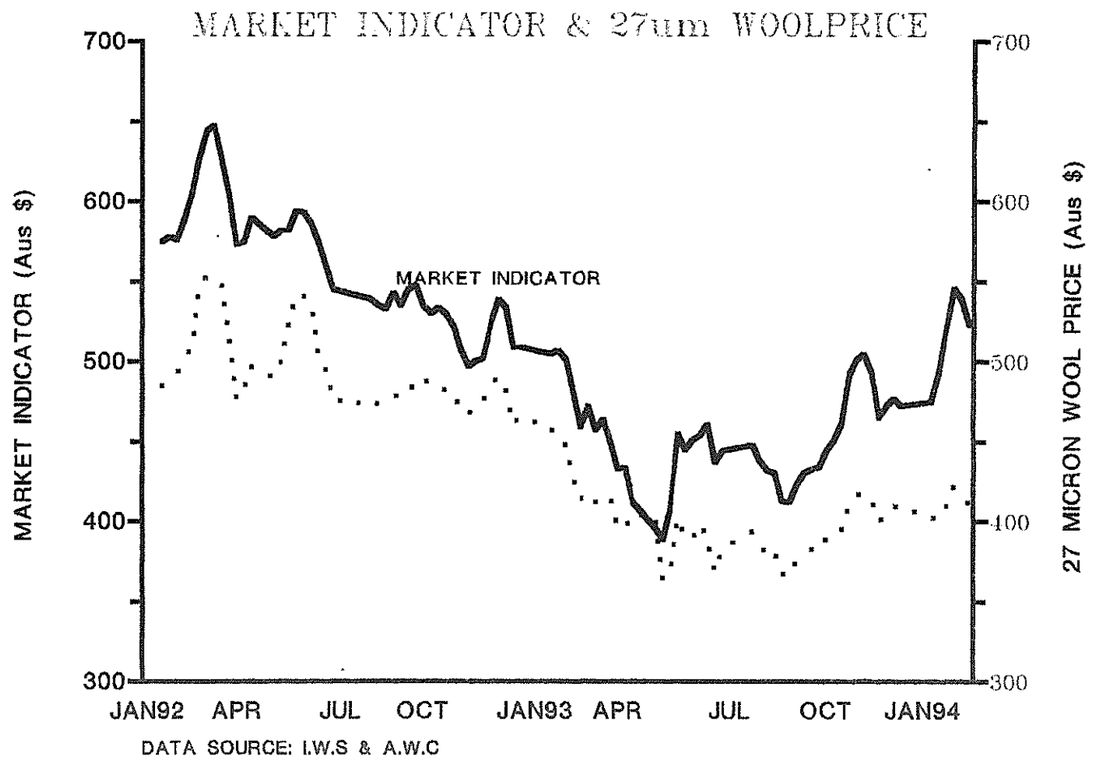
WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Market Indicator closed 30 cents higher on last months reported figure to close at 523 cents/kg greasy on the 18th February. Heavy stockpile disposals and large auction volumes helped to weaken the market in the last 2 weeks. (The market having previously peaked at 546 cents/kg on the 2nd of February.) The 27 micron indicator rose just 2 cents over the same period to close at 412 cents/kg.

The Australian dollar has continued to strengthen and will provide a positive influence on U.K prices. The dollar currently stands at 208 cents per pound.

Recent forecasts produced by the Australian Bureau of Resource and Agricultural Economics (A.B.A.R.E) and published in the Australian Farm Journal make interesting reading. They have projected an average Market Indicator price of 480 cents/kg for the 1993/94 (current) selling season. Given that the average M.I since July 1993 has been 467 cents, it suggests that prices should average out at around 501 cents/kg for the remaining selling season period to the end of June.

A.B.A.R.E have also issued longer term M.I projections. They suggests that prices will improve to an average of 545 cents/kg for the 1994/95 selling season and 625 cents/kg for the 1995/96 seasons. A.B.A.R.E also confirm lasts months projections by suggesting that Australian wool production will not increase until prices have improved beyond the break-even point of 600 cents/kg. It is worth remembering that the M.I was as high as 1100 cents/kg in October 1988.



HUGH MARSDEN
MARCH 1994

N.S.F. NEWS.

On the 23rd and 24th of January the lambs were shorn by Jo Tekapa. This practise is done to remove the date of birth effect from the hogget fleece weight; superior fleece weight producing sheep will be identifiable at hogget shearing next December.

The auction has occupied much time and many staff of both F.I.H. and the Department. Sheep have had to be selected, sorted and shipped, whilst the auction has had to be planned and the catalogues produced. The auction is now definitely on Tuesday 15th March, as the 251 sheep for sale were successfully landed at Goose Green, by the Tamar, on Tuesday 24th February.

Late February has included much general sheep husbandry. 202 male and 195 female lambs were weighed, averaging 22.1 kg. Large plastic number tags were given to all lambs to supplement the small metal tags given at birth. The lambs were vaccinated with Glanvac 6 to prevent boils etc. and all the lambs and ewes received a worm drench. Finally all the ewes had their feet checked and the lambs were weaned.

To reduce the winter grazing pressure on Sea Lion Island, the weaned ram lambs have been shipped to Lively Island for the winter. Good growth rates are anticipated on Lively Island and it is expected to be able to breed off these sheep next year.

Excellent wool bale test results have just been received form S.G.S. Bradford, and support the mid-side sample results tested by S.G.S. New Zealand (included in the auction catalogue animal information under the heading "FIBRE DIAM"). The 3 bales of N.S.F. hogget wool tested at a Falkland's record of 19.5 microns. The ram and ewe wool tested at 23.3 microns; this is a 0.2 micron increase on last year's shearling result of 23.1 microns for exactly the same animals a year older.

ROBERT HALL.

LETTER.

D.S. & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd.,
Yorkshire.

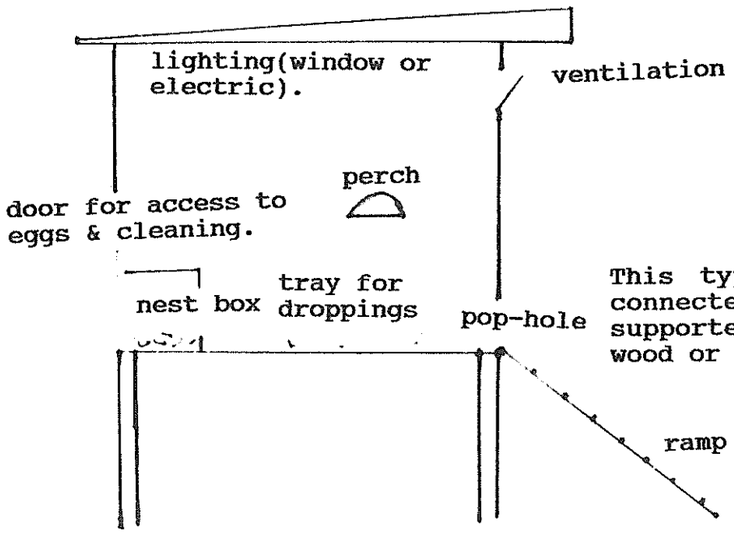
Delighted to advise that National Stud Flock hogget fleeces sold today to G. Modiano of London at 400 pence clean; the highest price achieved for Falkland wool since 1990. If there had been a larger quantity, the price achieved would have been substantially higher. The wool delivered in Bradford will manufacture fine, worsted cloth.

Regards,

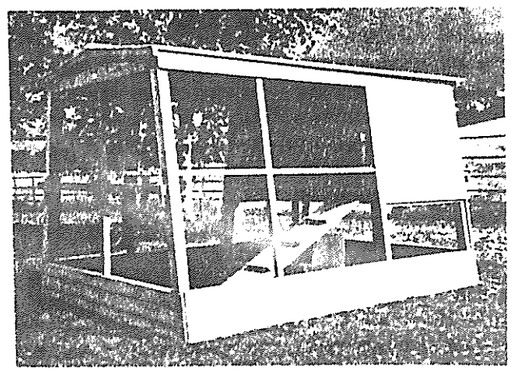
Colin Smith.

MOBILE HEN HOUSES

As promised in last month's Wool Press here are some examples of portable hen houses and runs.

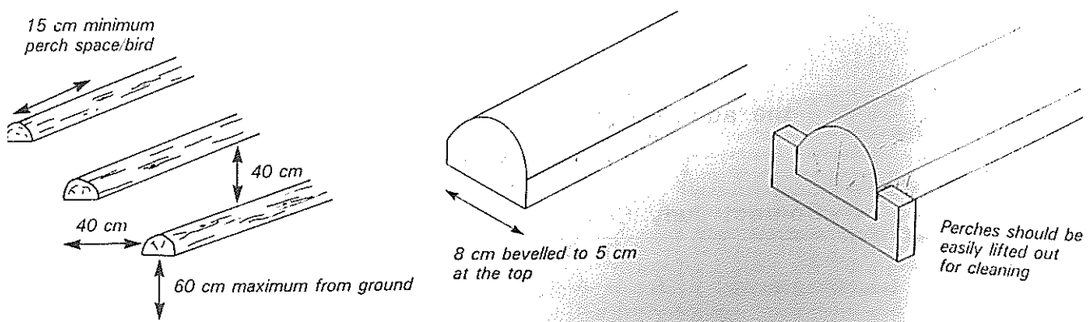


This type of housing can be connected to a mesh run supported by a framework of wood or a roofed run as below.



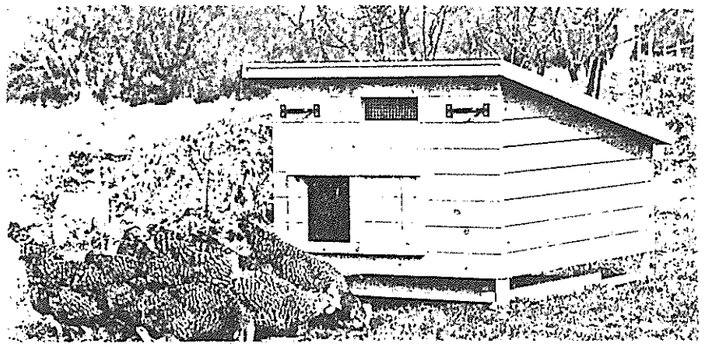
Scale the size of the house and run down or up depending on the amount of hens. Always allow at least one nest box for every two hens and a roosting space on the perches of no less than 15 cm per hen.

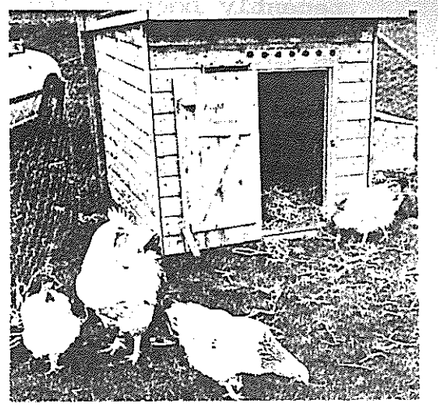
Perches can be made from 8 cm wood bevelled to 5cm at the top.



Nest boxes are best positioned in the darkest area to help prevent egg eating. Lighting can be provided in the house by either a small window or electricity.

Ventilation can be a collection of fine mesh covered holes as in these houses:-





MAGGIE BARKMAN
MARCH 1994

EXAM HOWLERS 1993

These snippets were taken from a recent issue of 'BIOLOGIST'. We can share in this amusement thanks to 'eagle-eyed' examiners.

A species is when two things are completely different, for example the French are one species and the Germans are another.

Some believe that by having frozen the meat they are killing the bacteria but in fact that only puts the bacteria to sleep.

The whole site is one big isor.

In the 19th century there were no hospitals, operations were done at the local butcher's by the butcher, not a nice environment for a sick person to be in.

Bigamy has become second nature in these underdeveloped parts.

Q. What are your views about UK energy policy in the 1990s?
A. My personal view of the UK energy policy in the 1990s does not make a lot of sense.

If you cross XY and XX you get some XX (female), some YY (male) and some XY (undecided).

Nitrogenous excretion in mammals is clearly illustrated in the waste products exhaled by the anus.

Cows produce large amounts of methane, so the problem could be solved by fitting them with catalytic converters.

The cerebral hemispheres is where you would find your morals.

* * * * * * * * * *

THYER

Many of you will be aware that the Stanley Sport Association has recently been gifted with a stallion - Thyer, by Sheik Maktoum Al Maktoum, however, we thought some information on Thyer might be interesting.

Thyer is a 16.2 hh Bay (Colorado) sired by Nijinsky (CAN) out of Quil Royalty (USA) (see below). Having handled the horse over a period of several weeks I find him of excellent temperament. He is well proportioned with good strong quarters.

Thyers race record shows that out of eight starts he took three firsts, one second, two thirds, and was unplaced twice, both of which were fourth placings. As I understand his racing career spanned the two years 1991 and 1992. He sustained a leg injury in 1992/93, was tried again in 1993, but because the injury was of an aggravating type he had to be pulled up and was then taken out of racing with a view to being sold for stud. However, this did not happen as he was gifted to the S.S.A. for the Falklands and subsequently arrived late January of this year.

After a short period of rest to recover from the sea voyage Thyer will be introduced to a small number of mares this year. Next season looks extremely busy and hopefully he will be a happy boy by the end of the summer. Persons wishing to put mares to Thyer need to book a place with myself. Owners will be required to pay £150 stud fee in advance of the mare going to stud. If for any reason the mare does not get covered then the fee will obviously be returned, for mares that are serviced it is not intended at this stage to give rebates or free returns for mares who do not foal or lose foals at birth. The S.S.A. will also require owners to sign an agreement at the time of servicing which exempts S.S.A. from any liability in the event that mares are damaged at any time prior to, during or after mating. This agreement will also give S.S.A. the right to either purchase back or retain an interest in any offspring from Thyer up to the age of two years of age, if this right is not exercised by the time the animal is two years of age S.S.A. automatically relinquishes that right. This latter condition is intended purely to protect the blood line.

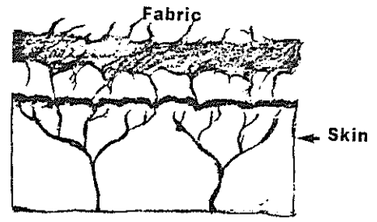
	(Nearctic	(Nearco
	Northern Dancer	(Lady Angela
	(	(Native Dancer
	(Natalma	(Almahmoud
NIJINSKY (CAN)		
	(Bull Page	(Bull Lea
	Flaming Page	(Our Page
	(	(Menow
	(Flaring Top	(Flaming Top
		(Native Dancer
	(Raise A Native	(Raise You
	Native Royalty	(
	(	(Nasrullah
	(Queen Nasra	(Bayborough
QUI ROYALTY		(Royal Charger
(USA) (1977)	(Francis S.	(Blue Eyed Momo
	Qui Blink	(
	(	(Dark Star
	(Winking Star	(Peccadillo

O.W. SUMMERS
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

WHY DO WOOLLEN GARMENTS ITCH?

The uncomfortable sensations that some people experience when they wear wool next to their skin are caused by stiff fibres in the fabric, not allergic reaction. Skin comfort is determined by the percentage of fibres greater than a threshold diameter - for both wool and acrylics.

Fabric properties likely to affect comfort include yarn hairiness, yarn structure, cover factor and type of processing. Scientists are working on these parameters to deliver recommendations to manufacturers on how to produce the best fabric from particular quality wools.



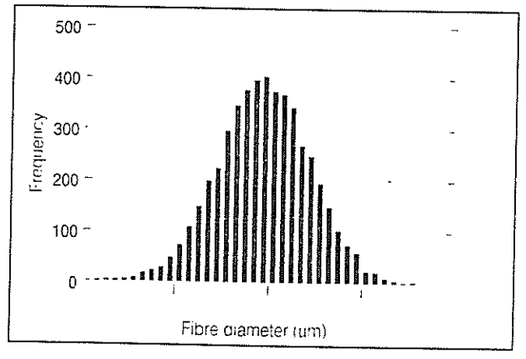
Fibre ends on a fabric surface indenting the skin and triggering superficial skin pain receptors (the itch).

In the long term, woolgrowers may decide to reduce fibre diameter (where wool is 23 μ or more) if they want to get into the market where wool is worn next to the skin.

WHAT IS FIBRE DIAMETER DISTRIBUTION?

Instruments are now available to measure mean fibre diameter and its distribution. The CSIRO's Sirolan-Laserscan has overcome problems inherent in the old instruments.

This diagram shows a fibre diameter distribution based on the cumulative measurements of individual wool snippets. In this example, the diameter of the fibre snippets measures, on average, 20 micrometres.



The distribution also shows the spread of fibre diameters. Some of the snippets in this sample are as fine as 5 μm and others are as coarse as 35 μm. For a given fabric type, skin comfort is determined purely by the percentage of fibres greater than a threshold diameter, regardless of the detailed shape of the fibre diameter distribution. Experiments comparing wool and acrylic fabrics with similar fibre diameter distribution showed they are equivalent in this respect.

Some woolgrowers are now incorporating fibre diameter distribution measurements into their breeding decisions. In a limited trial the fibre diameter distribution has recently been available to buyers in the auction room.

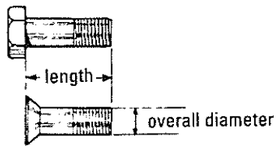
MANDY McLEOD, MARCH 1994.
(a combination of articles from the Australian Farm Journal)

Thread Identification Chart

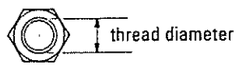
How to use this chart

1 If there is an 'M' on the bolt head, the bolt is metric and all measurements should be made in mm. If there is not, measure in inches.

2 Measure the length of the bolt.



3 Measure the overall diameter of the bolt or the thread diameter of the nut.

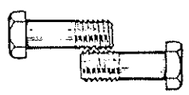


4 Check the nut and bolt for identification marks.

5 Count number of threads per inch (TPI) or measure the pitch of metric threads (distance between 10 threads in mm ÷ 10).

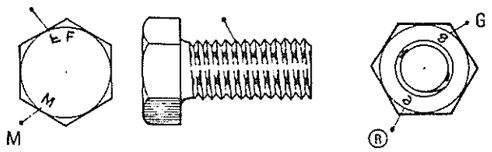
6 Check with thread count table.

To check threads hold bolts

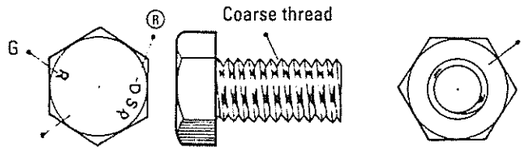


If threads are correct they will 'nestle'.

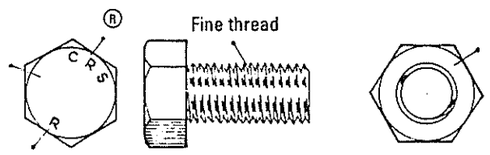
What the different bolts look like



ISO metric – usually 'M' or grade number e.g. 8.8



British Standard Whitworth (B.S.W.) – usually no marks.



British Standard Fine (B.S.F.) – usually no marks.

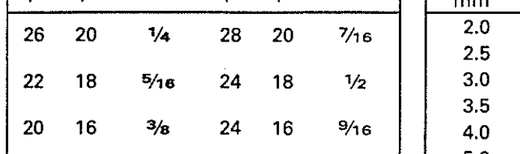
Imperial		Bolt diameter in	American		Spanner size AF in
BSF tpi	BSW tpi		UNF tpi	UNC tpi	
26	20	1/4	28	20	7/16
22	18	5/16	24	18	1/2
20	16	3/8	24	16	9/16
18	14	7/16	20	14	5/8
16	12	1/2	20	13	3/4
16	12	9/16	18	12	13/16
14	11	5/8	18	11	15/16
12	10	3/4	16	10	1 1/8
11	9	7/8	14	9	1 5/16
10	8	1	12	8	1 1/2
9	7	1 1/8	12	7	1 11/16
9	7	1 1/4	12	7	1 7/8
8	6	1 1/2	12	6	2 1/4

Metric Threads		
Thread diameter mm	Pitch mm	Spanner size mm
2.0	0.40	4
2.5	0.45	5
3.0	0.50	5.5
3.5	0.60	6
4.0	0.70	7
5.0	0.80	8
6.0	1.00	10
7.0	1.00	11
8.0	1.25	13
10.0	1.50	17
12.0	1.75	19
14.0	2.00	22
16.0	2.00	24
18.0	2.50	27
20.0	2.50	30
22.0	2.50	32
24.0	3.00	36
27.0	3.00	41
30.0	3.50	46
33.0	3.50	
36.0	4.00	55
39.0	4.00	60
42.0	4.50	65

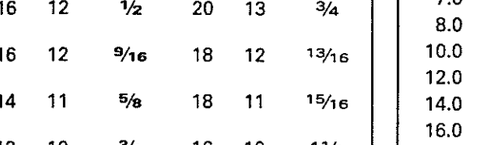
Fastening Quality

There are two main grades of Nuts and bolts "Black" this is the normal grade. It simply implies a forged bolt with wider tolerances (they might have a bright finish). "High tensile" – a higher quality bolt usually limited to hexagon bolts or setscrews.

Special Use – ensure replacements are to manufacturer's specification this can be especially important for shearbolts, bearing caps, bolts etc.



Unified National Fine (UNF) – usually 3 radial lines, 'ring', 0000 or UNF.



Unified National Coarse (UNC) – usually 3 radial lines, 'ring', 0000 or UNC.

\ – a feature of importance

Ⓡ manufacturers name or mark – of no importance.

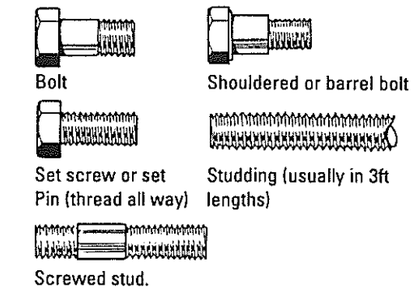
G – grade of bolt	"Black"	High Tensile
Metric	4.6	8.8
BSF/BSW	–	R
UNF/UNC	–	S

* – other marks of no siginificance.

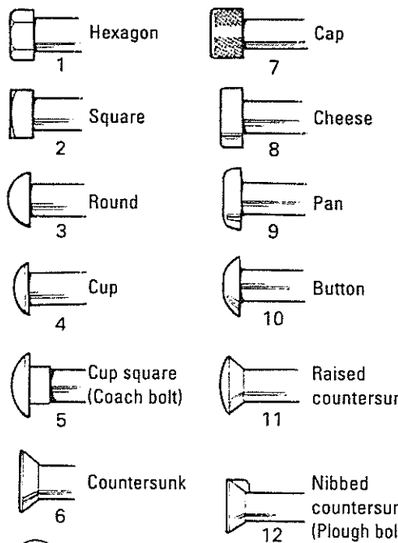
Note: These are the standards or recommendations but are not observed by all manufacturers. Source can help
e.g. John Deere Tractor – UNF/UNC
Fiat Tractor – Metric.

Common types of Threaded Fastenings

Bolts



Bolt and Screw Heads

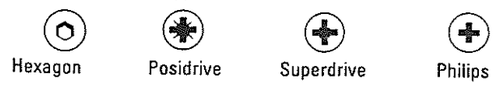


Slotted heads are available on types 3,6,8,9 and 11.

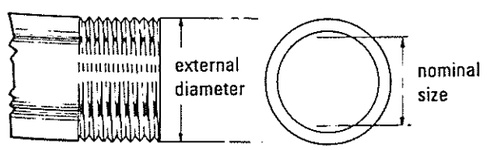
Hexagon Sockets are available on types 6,7 and 10.

Recessed head drive (Countersunk)

There are 4 common types of drive



Pipe Threads

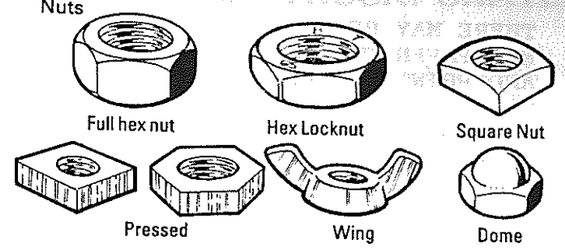


British Standard Pipe (B.S.P.)

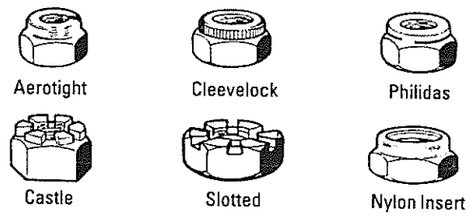
Size (in.)	1/8	1/4	3/8	1/2	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	2
Ext diam.	13/32	17/32	1 1/16	27/32	15/16	1 1/16	1 7/32	1 3/8	1 11/16	1 29/32	2 5/32	2 3/8
TPI	28	19	19	14	14	14	14	11	11	11	11	11

Some pipe fittings have threads other than B.S.P., e.g. ISO metric conduit. So, when ordering or fitting pipe-work, check that threads are identical.

Nuts

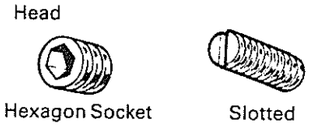


Locking Nuts (there are many types) all metal self-lock

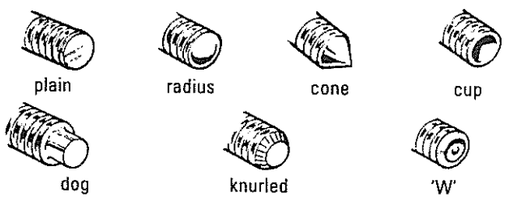


Grub Screws (no head)

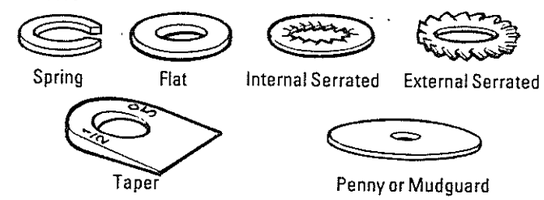
Head



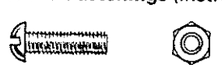
Points (can also apply to Setscrews)



Washers



Small Fastenings (Instruments and electrical)



machine screw and nut (reference to manufacture)

British Association (B.A.)

Size	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Diam. in.	.236	.209	.185	.161	.141	.126	.110	.098	.087	.075	.067	.059	.051
TPI	25	28	31	35	38	43	48	53	59	65	72	82	91

Metric – see above

A.N.F. and A.N.C. (not common)

Size		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	12
Diam. in.		.060	.073	.086	.099	.112	.125	.138	.164	.190	.216
TPI	A.N.F.	80	72	64	56	48	44	40	36	32	28
	A.N.C.	–	64	56	48	40	40	32	32	24	24

B.S.W. threads go to 1/8in. and B.S.F. to 3/16in. – so take care!

U.K. WILDLIFE GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM

THERE MAY BE A CHANGE IN AMMUNITION LAWS IN EUROPE ACCORDING TO A NEWSPAPER CUTTING RECENTLY. THE MAIN POINTS HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED AND PRINTED BELOW.

Lead shot is considered the ideal pellet for finely built, light-weight British shotguns, but it is a material linked with the poisoning of wildfowl and some birds cf prey. So the good news is that it should have all but disappeared from wetland areas by autumn 1997.

Shooting organisations, conservationists and the U.K. Govern-ment's nature advisers have confirmed that all 12-bore weapons, the most popular size for shooting wildfowl, should fire only unleaded pellets in four years' time.

The phasing-out, which will begin in September 1995, will be voluntary. The move to ban lead shot follows two years of talks between a wide range of organisations such as conservationists, officials at the environment department and shooting bodies. They have been in discussions since a meeting organised by the International Wildfowl and Wetlands Bureau, in Brussels in 1991. It was called following mounting evidence that many species of wetland and wading birds can be poisoned by lead shot, after mistaking it for grit used to aid food digestion. The lead shot, an estimated 160 tons of which is discarded in Britain and more than 4,000 tons in the European country side annually, causes paralysis and a lingering death.

The dangers were highlighted by a case earlier in 1993 when 27 whooper swans at a pond near Jedburgh in the Borders died as a result of lead poisoning. David Rollo, a veterinary surgeon based at Berwick, found that some of the birds were carrying between 56 and 58 lead pellets in the gizzards. Lead levels in the birds' livers ranged up to 250 parts per billion, or nearly ten times a toxic dose.

Birds of prey which feed on wildfowl can also suffer. Mr Holmes says: "Positive evidence for this has come from marsh harriers in the Camargue. Lead levels here were consistent with levels found to poison bald eagles in the United States".

The main alternative to lead shot is steel or soft iron. But conventional cartridges housing such metal pellets can damage the barrels of many British guns and create a potentially hazardous build up of pressure. Dr Harradine says the domestic ammunition industry has needed time to develop new cartridges that protect the gun and control the burning times.

Ammunition makers are confident that they will have solved these issues and have the necessary manufacturing technology in place to meet demand at a cost effective price. Stephen Dales, man-aging director of Gamebore Cartridge Company in Hull, one of the companies developing the new ammunition, says the solution is a wad or plastic cup installed in the cartridge which envelopes the steel shot. He says "It's a bit like a bucket with the shot inside. The cup has slits down the side. As it emerges from the barrel, wind resistance takes over and the plastic peels back like the petals of a flower releasing the steel shot." ☻

SHEARING COMPETITION RULES AS LAID DOWN BY THE SHEARING SPORTS NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED.

In New Zealand shearing competitions are very big events with entries at various levels including both single and team events. Wool handling and pressing competitions are also held. For this issue of the Wool Press I have concentrated on printing the Shearing competition rules from their Shearing Sports N.Z. inc. competition directory. Some of the specifications do not apply to us in the Falklands, but the general concepts do.

OFFICIAL RULES FOR SHEARING, WOOLHANDLING AND WOOLPRESSING JUDGES

1. A prospective judge must be approved by the examiner and the Wool Board's senior instructor or the Woolhandling Examiner. A badge will be issued by the senior shearing instructor/wool production officer when the examiner is satisfied that the judge has served an adequate probationary period.

2. To remain on the list a judge must judge at one competition annually and/or attend a judges day biannually.

3. All judges must be certified, competent to judge all relevant skills and be given the opportunity to judge a trial sheep/pen/fleece before the competition commences.

4. Judges must report to competitions thirty minutes before the commencement of the first event.

5. Judges must be tidily dressed, preferably wearing a white coat plus the official judges badge.

6. Judges are not permitted to judge while under the influence of liquor or smoke while judging.

7. Judges must be conversant with all rules in the current Shearers' & Woolhandlers' Directory.

8. Advice of changes of address or phone numbers should be given to the examiner and the secretary of Shearing Sport NZ, c/o New Zealand Wool Board, P O Box 945, Palmerston North.

9. Written complaints regarding the performance of a judge will be handled by the local examiner, the senior shearing instructor responsible for the area and a responsible member of the committee concerned. If they all agree the judge has not given reasonable satisfaction, the judge will be advised and given the right to appeal to Shearing Sports NZ. This Committee will make the final decision as to whether the judge should be removed from or remain on the list.

10. Judges must rotate so that all competitors receive equal scrutiny.

11. Referees to be available on board before each heat starts and the referees should be easily identifiable.

COMPETITION RULES

1. A judge has the right to switch off the machine or disqualify any competitor whose work or conduct on the board is detrimental to the image of competition shearing, woolhandling or pressing.

2. The referee is to ensure that judges use separate cards and do not confer.

3. A referee will be appointed for each competition ie. shearing, woolhandling or pressing.

4. Approved Hand Held Counters may be used at contests.

5. Shearers will be allowed two loaded handpieces which are their responsibility and no time will be allowed for stoppages caused by either gear, handpieces or sheep getting away from the shearer on the board. However, should any stoppages occur through the fault of the machine and downtube or through another competitor's sheep escaping, a time allowance will be made or re-run given at the committee's discretion. (Exception; 3 handpieces permitted for 3 or more breeds).

6. Without Assistance each shearer must:
   (a) Start and stop his machine.
   (b) Catch his sheep. (In standing position (see Rule No.9))
   (c) Put each sheep out the porthole.

7. Competitors have the right to reject any substandard sheep/fleece before shearing commences, provided the referee agrees.

8. Heats and stands will be drawn prior to the start of the events. Finalist should draw for stands as they take the board. All woolhandling finals must use competent resident shearers. (also for heats when possible) who must also draw for stands.

9. No unauthorised persons are permitted in the catching pen and no officials are permitted to assist a competitor in any way.

10. The maximum amount of preparation of competition sheep will be no more than the closed hand will cover around the tail and no more than 2" above and below the teats.

11. Late entries will be accepted at a surcharge of 50%.

12. Trial sheep may be used in finals or shearing/woolhandling teams events.

13. Competitors may not present their own sheep for outside judges but may be required to present sheep from other heats or competitors and may be penalised if they fail to do so.

14. Competitors in competitions must be suitably attired and this will include footwear (ie. jandals or open sandals are prohibited). The marshall or referee will administer this ruling.

15. Any competitor who is not present for the presentation of prizes will not receive the prize unless reasonable ground for being absent are presented to the Organising Committee before the prizegiving.

16. Woolhandlers are not allowed on the shearing board if shearers being judged.

17. No oddment piles are allowed on the board except at the referees discretion.

18. Competitors must be suitably attired for prize giving.

19. The disqualification point for shearers will bo over 12 on the board and over 13 in the pen and all shearers points must be calculated (except Merinos at Alexandra).

20. In any shear, disqualification receives least place and no prize money.

21. Competitors may judge at a contest where they are competing, but not in the class they are competing in.

22. Competitors points for any titles such as the South Island Shearer of the year or any Circle Events where points are accumulated will not be taken from societies not affiliated to the National Body.

23. Any disputes will be taken to a disputes committee of which the referee shall be chairman.

24. In any tie the highest quality points wins.

25. All contests must be equipped with needle, thread and antiseptic.

26. Competitors may compete in one class only. Exception at referee's discretion.

27. At the start of the season all competitors must state their allegiance to either the North or South Island and may only represent one country in a season (eg NZ/Aust).

28. Each shearer will have a separate timekeeper with a stopwatch or other suitable timing device and time will be taken from "GO" until the machine is switched off after completing final sheep. Shearers must wait on the board with one hand on the closed door to wait for "GO".

29. One spare stopwatch and timekeeper will be available to time any stoppages and these will be deducted from the competitor's total time.

30. The use of drugs, drips or oxygen are banned in all competitions.

31. At all competitions random drug tests may be required and if proved positive the competitor shall pay all costs.

32. All competitors compete at their own risk.

FIXED PENALTIES

1. One penalty stroke for not throwing belly clear.

2. One penalty stroke for a cleared belly where it interferes with other competitors or their wool.

3. Up to two strokes for obvious belly or brisket wool not removed excluding side fringes.

4. One penalty stroke for not breaking the neck wool.

5. A competitor is automatically penalised by the addition of 3 strokes per sheep added to his normal penalties on any sheep on which he:
   (a) Cuts a teat and impairs the breeding ability of a ewe.
   (b) Cuts or seriously damages the pizzle on a wether.
   (c) Cuts a hamstring.
   (d) Cuts any sheep to the extent that it requires surgical attention.
   (Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the above penalty.)

6. Up to 20 penalty strokes per leg for failing to remove socks.

8. The shearer will incur a penalty of two strokes per sheep if his authorised helper in the catching pen lifts sheep to assist the catch.

POINTS CALCULATIONS

Time penalties: 1 Penalty for each 20 seconds. Multiply minutes by 3. Multiply seconds by 5 and move decimal point two places or divide by 20.

Board Penalties: Divide judges strokes by sheep shorn.

Pen: Divide averaged judges strokes by sheep shorn.

Result: Add time penalty to board and pen penalties to get total. Least penalties wins.

MANDY McLEOD
MARCH 1994

* * * * * * * * * * *

MATERNAL DETERMINATION!

I have been reading a story about an 8 year old Dorset ewe. Apparently she had twins along with the rest of the flock belonging to Arabella Melville in Wales in December 1991. Six months later to the day she had triplets (June 1992). She reared all 5 of the lambs. There wasn't a ram in the field when she got pregnant the second time so a tup must have got her through the gate! She lambed again in July 1993. She was supposed to wait until December, but the owners seem to have little control on her maternal urge. The father of the last lot was a three month old ram lamb who'd crept under the fence!

RECIPES PAGE

BEETROOT SPREAD

11 lbs beetroot
6 lbs sugar
1 1/2 pints vinegar
1/2 teaspoon. salt

Boil beetroot for about 3 hours or until one can remove the skin by pressing lightly with finger or thumb, then mash the beetroot with potato masher, after this has been done put the beetroot and other ingredient into a saucepan and boil for about 2 hours or until thick. This can be used either as a spread on bread and butter or as chutney with cook meat.

MUSTARD SAUCE

10 hen eggs
2 oz mustard
1 oz curry powder
3/4 lb sugar
3/4 pint vinegar

Break eggs into a bowl and add all other ingredients. Beat well with an egg beater, then put it all into a saucepan to cook stirring all the time until thick. (But don't let it boil as this will make it curdle.)

BOTH OF THESE RECIPES WERE KINDLY SENT IN TO US BY AASE DAVIS OF EVELYN STATION

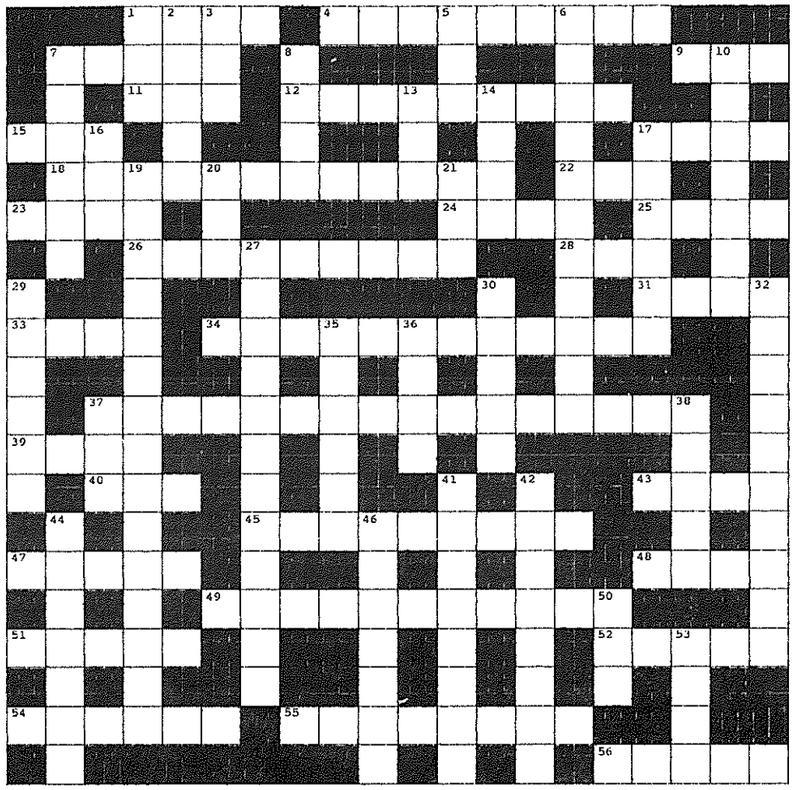
* * * * * * * * * * *

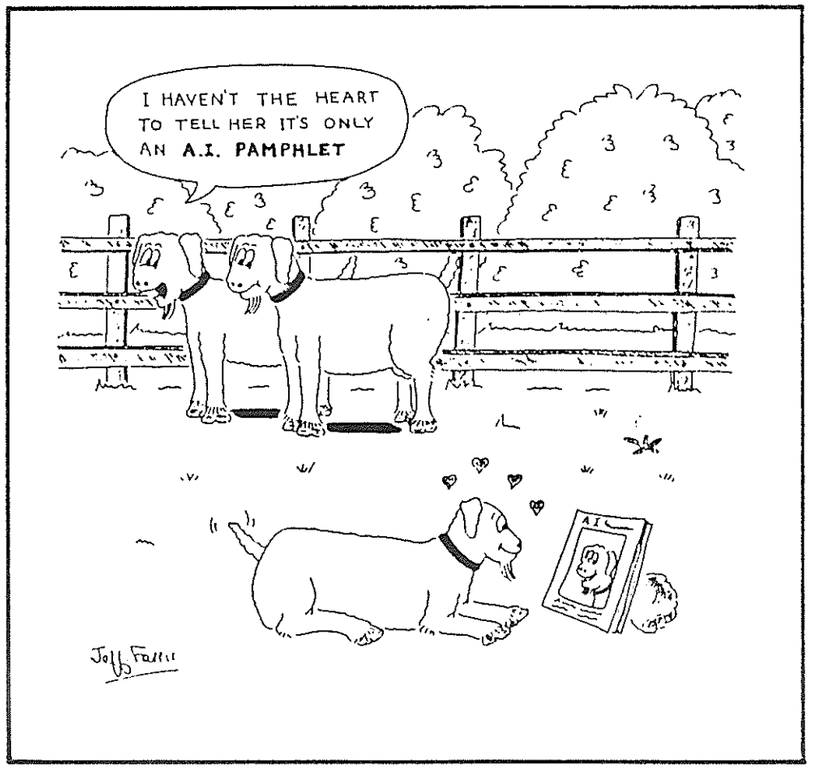
SHEARING RECORDS

Murray Christie, the N.Z.W.B. shearing instructor who was in the Islands before Christmas sent me a fax a few days ago with the following note on the bottom which he thought would be of interest to you:

"Thought I would mention that Alan McDonald broke the lamb shearing record. He shore 831 in 9 hours. David Fagan is looking for ewes to have a go on and Dion Morrel is having a go this week on ewes"

I haven't had the results of the attempts yet but as soon as I get them I will put them in the Wool Press, hopefully with a bit of detail.





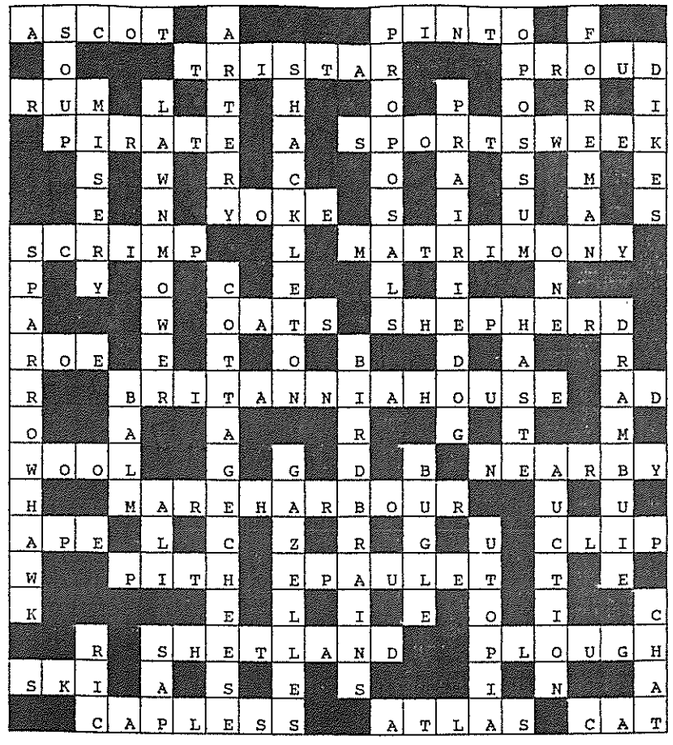
MARCH

ACROSS

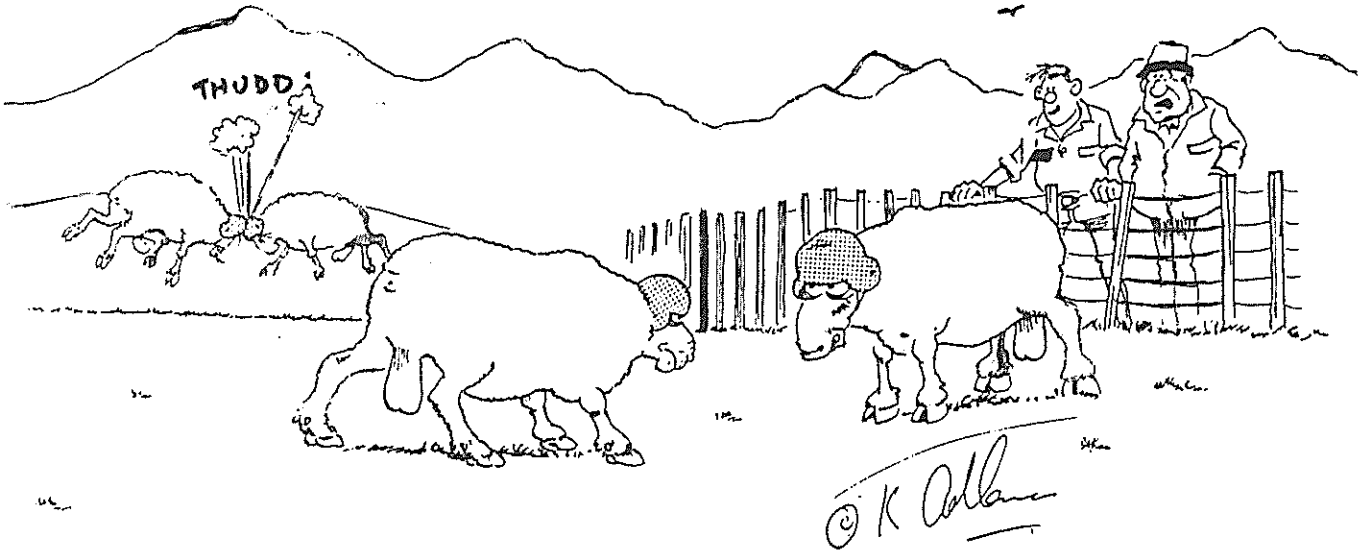
1. FINE SPRAY
4. LARGEST MAMMAL
7. IMPACT
9. NUMBER ONE
11. STEADILY PURSUE OR QUESTION
12. TYPE OF CONTAMINATION
15. CHUNK OF PEAT
17. WATER VESSEL
18. GRASS BETWEEN THE GYMNASIUM AND THE SPARES SECTION
22. CHOICE OF ALL
23. PROTEST MARCH
24. SELL
25. ANIMALS NOT KEPT FOR WORK OR COMMERCIAL GAIN
26. AS MAD AS A ...
28. EGG
31. GARMENT OF HINDU WOMEN
33. SPIRITUAL TEACHER
34. GOOD GARDENERS ARE SAID TO HAVE THESE
37. LOCAL FRUIT
39. SONG FOR TWO
40. COLOUR
43. HYBRID OFFSPRING OF MARE AND DONKEY
45. AMERICAN PLACE OF MOVIES
47. BLOOD SUCKER
48. NIL
49. BEFORE RECORDED HISTORY
51. PULSATE
52. WATERING HOLE OR MPA COFFEE SHOP
54. SCANDINAVIAN FOLKLORE DWARF
55. OF THE HEART
56. FEMALE CANINE

DOWN

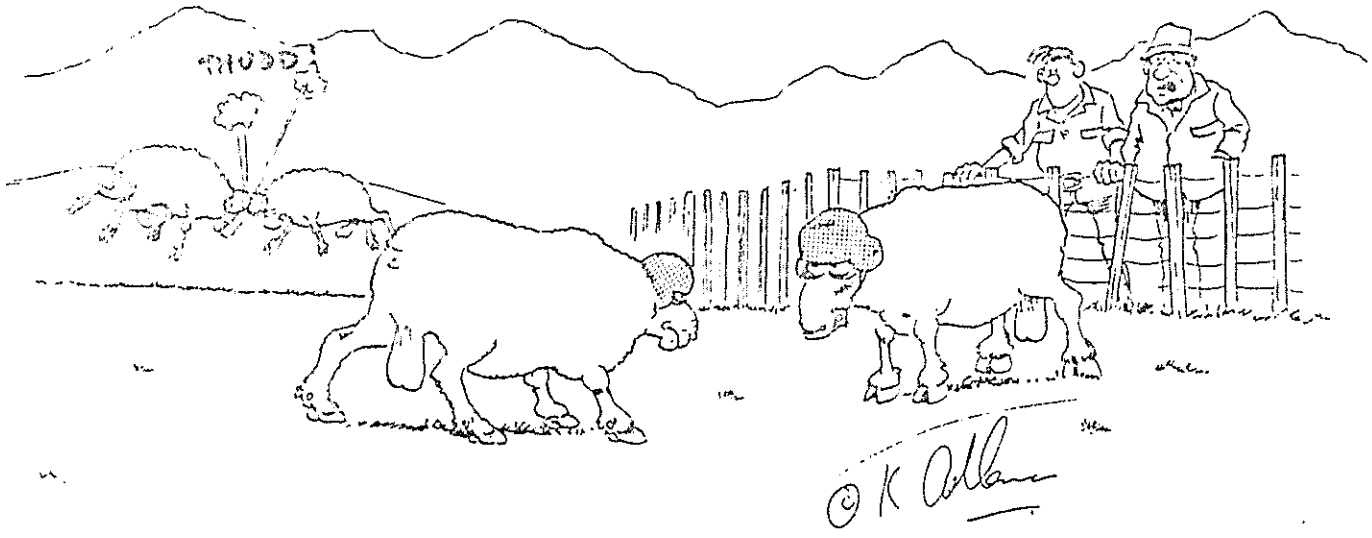
1. CHART
2. SMALL ISLAND
3. COY
5. LARGE BIRD
6. TROPICAL FRUIT USUALLY SERVED SAVOURY
7. THREE LEAFED PLANT
8. OVARY REMOVAL IN BITCH
10. CONTRACT FOR LEASE OR HIRE
13. UNTRUTH
14. MELODY
16. BADLY LIT
17. GO AROUND
19. STANLEY EDUCATION CENTRE
20. BOAT MANOEUVERING IMPLEMENT
21. FIRST LADY
27. CATHEDRAL
29. LIST OF THINGS TO DO
30. RIVER ENTRANCE OR PASSAGE
32. NATIVE
35. SLANG FOR A GOOD TELLING!
36. YOUNG DEER
37. MARRIED
38. CHEEKY DRESSING?
41. REVISING
42. THOSE THAT 'LIVE IN'
44. POULTRY TYPE
46. FREE, VACANT TIME
50. MAIN MILK PRODUCER
53. ROTISSERIE



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



"Old Cyril sure is kind-hearted. Who else would put crash helmets on his rams!"



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

Top picture.
1.Hill is different shape; 2.Band on mans hat is black; 3.Stick is longer; 4.Extra stone in left corner; 5.Extra blanket on horse; 6.Shadow on stirrup strap; 7.Extra stone in pile by the river; 8.Black trunk on tree on hill; 9.Line above mans head; 10.Larger black stone on rock by man standing up.

WOOL PRESS

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MARCH 1994

Compiled by T.Bowles

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Editors : M.J. Mcleod and R.H.B. Hall.

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WOOL PRESS

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ISSUE 53 APRIL 1994

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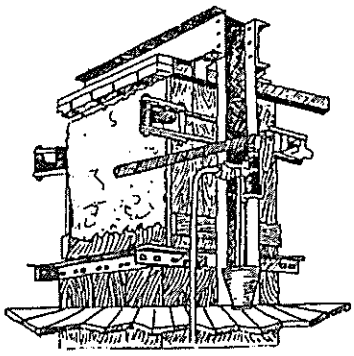


The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors: M.J.McLeod and T.Bowles.

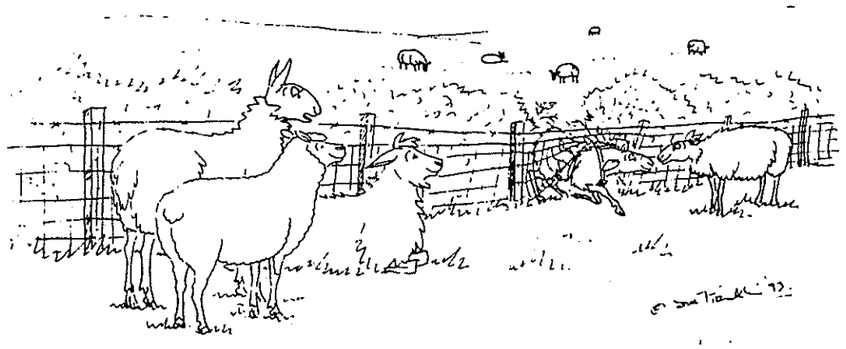
EDITORIAL

This has been quite an exciting month with the first National Stud Flock auction having been and gone. It was a highly successful occasion thanks to the support shown by you, the farmers. It was encouraging to see money invested wisely in the future of the Falkland wool clip! A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes over recent years to bring this project to fruition and credit must go to all those who had a part in it. The list is long but you know who you are and can give yourselves a pat on the back.

The Department of Agriculture is undergoing some staff changes at the moment. Jenny Fuller (Beetlewoman) has returned to Ireland, David Baber (Lab tech.) has returned to Spain and his duties here have been taken up by Diana Roberts who came back before Christmas after successfully completing her training. Our office manager, Danuta Valler has moved to the Treasury and Charlene Rowlands is now in her seat. John Jaffray has joined us as field assistant and Aidan Kerr is back (see article to find out what he has been up to in his absence).

Last but not least, we say farewell to Robert for six months while he works with Colin Smith in Bradford. His editorial role has been taken on by Troyd Bowles, but I am sure we will still get a steady flow of contributions from him.

MANDY McLEOD



It must be her age. In Spring it was one of my twins. Now it's next doors tup!!!

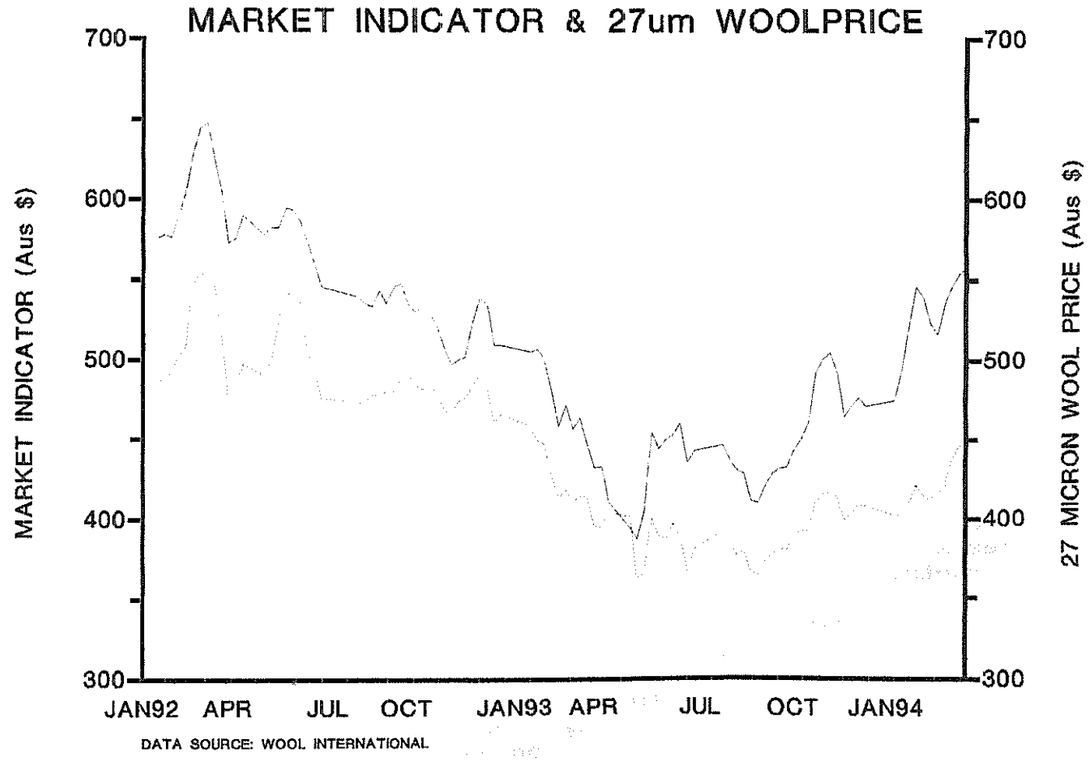
WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Market Indicator closed 35 cents higher on last months reported figure to close at 558 cents/kg greasy on the 25th March. The 27 micron indicator rose 33 cents over the same period to close at 445 cents/kg. The markets closed on the 24th March for the Easter recess and will resume business on the 12th April.

On the Currency Markets, the Australian $ weakened slightly relative to the pound and closed at 211 cents on the 11th March. This movement represents a reversal of recent trends and can be expected to have a negative impact on the Falklands Market.

Since October 1993 the sterling/dollar rate had weakened by 13.4% (from 238 cents to 206 cents at the end of February.) As previous reports have suggested, currency movements of this magnitude have a significant influence on the Falklands Wool Market. If currency factors alone are considered, Australian 27 micron wool (that had a sterling value of 216 pence/kg at the end of February) could have been worth just 187 pence/kg given October 1993 exchange rates.

This simple analysis aptly demonstrates the vunerability of the Falkland Wool industry to global economic and political forces. The Economist Intelligence Unit's 9 month exchange rate forecasts indicate that the Austaralian $ should continue to weaken slightly during April but strengthen again through July to October.



HUGH MARSDEN
APRIL 1994

BOILS REDUCE WOOL PRODUCTION

Recent research in Australia has shown that boils caused by Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis reduce wool production as well as being "responsible for most of the condemnations of carcasses in Australian abattoirs". The same organism is responsible for boils in the Falklands; "it is characterised by abscesses in lymph nodes, lung tissue and occasionally other organs of sheep. Abscesses develop a thick wall allowing the bacteria inside to survive while producing few obvious signs in the sheep, allowing most infected sheep in a flock to suffer clinically inapparent infection".

In the Australian trial, sheep showing serological evidence of new C. pseudotuberculosis infection produced less greasy (3.8 to 4.8%) and clean (4.1 to 5.6%) wool than sheep not showing evidence of C. pseudotuberculosis infection. Evidence to date suggests that the loss of wool production occurs only once in a sheep's life, however the total wool production loss due to boils in Australia is estimated at $17 million annually. If the Falklands boil problem is similar to the Australian problem, then the Islands lose several tens of thousands of pounds annually, due to Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis reducing Falklands wool production.

The Department of Agriculture is currently running trials using a boils vaccine (GLANVAC) as stated in the article "It's a vets life". An economic return in having a vaccination programme for wool production only has yet to be proven, although keeping your sheep healthy for on selling after their wool years may make it viable.

Ref: *New infection with Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis reduces wool production,* MW Paton et al.
Australian Veterinary Island Vol. 71, No. 2, February 1994.

ROBERT HALL and DAVID BABER
APRIL 1994

INTEGRATED FIBRE PRODUCTION.

A new development plan for the production of textile fibres in the Falklands has recently received encouragement from various funding sources. The plan is for the continued breeding of sheep with heavier fleeces and finer wool, but takes the use of sheep for fibre production a stage further, as it is proposed that the annual unused cull of 38,000 sheep will be fed to Husky dogs currently being evicted from the Antarctic. Huskies bred for living in cold latitudes have a fine "cashmere" undercoat below their coarser outer hair coat. It is planned to eventually breed up to 5,000 Huskies which will eat the 38,000 sheep culls each year to comb about 12,000 kg of the rare Husky "cashmere", which tests around 18 microns and is keenly sought after in Far Eastern markets.

Culled Huskies will in turn be fed to the fine coated Persian cats that may comb 200 kg per annum, of the finest Persian "Arabia" fibre, much in demand by the royal households of the Middle East. It is predicted that integrated fibre production may increase colony revenue by £260,000 per annum and that an integrated unit will be sited on both East and West Falkland !!

1st April 1994 !!
RHBH.

IT'S A VET'S LIFE

Well Easter is almost here and I don't think I've put pen to paper in the Wool Press for quite a while so here goes.

I thought it would be quite valuable to inform you of the current topics I am or have been involved with over the past couple of months. They involve the health of your animals and sometimes you as a result of your animals diseases.

<u>Hydatids</u>

Top of the list from the point of human health must be Hydatids. I must say I am disappointed by the speed of progress but progress is being made. There have been long delays in getting results especially of the copro-antigen tests (faecal samples to you and me). These are out of our hands, the U.K. laboratory has had staff shortages. The overall picture however, is that we still have a problem.

a) The blood tests indicated exposure of dogs albeit confined to several locations, Hill Cove, Fox Bay and North Camp - there were 16 positive dogs in all (908 were sampled).

b) Because of the way the faecal samples had to be sent we could only send 178. From those we had 3 positives. These dogs at the time of sampling had E. granulosus (i.e. Hydatid infection).

c) Hydatid cysts although at a low level are still being seen at the Stanley Abattoir.

d) The saddest fact of all to me is that the medical department in their most recent screening have found new evidence of recent exposure to infection in the human population. Medical history is of course confidential. I do not know the people involved but there are children the youngest being only three. It is not to say that these people/children will go on to develop the disease but they have been exposed.

All these factors together indicate that if we continue as we are at the moment infection and risk primarily to you and your families is not going to go away and may increase.

Michael Reichel has in conjunction with the University of Melbourne submitted a report on the blood sample results and his views of why there is a problem. It would be impossible to detail all the findings and my views in an article as short as this, but we must close all the loopholes and finish what was intended in 1965, the Eradication of Hydatids from the Falkland Islands.

<u>Toxoplasmosis</u> - The infection cycle

* Caused by a parasite called Toxoplasma gondii.
* Toxoplasma gondii has complicated life cycle.
* An essential stage occurs only in cats.

* The cat becomes exposed to the infection by eating infected meat, such as mice or birds.

* The infection multiplies rapidly inside the cat, and millions of Toxoplasma eggs are shed in its faeces.

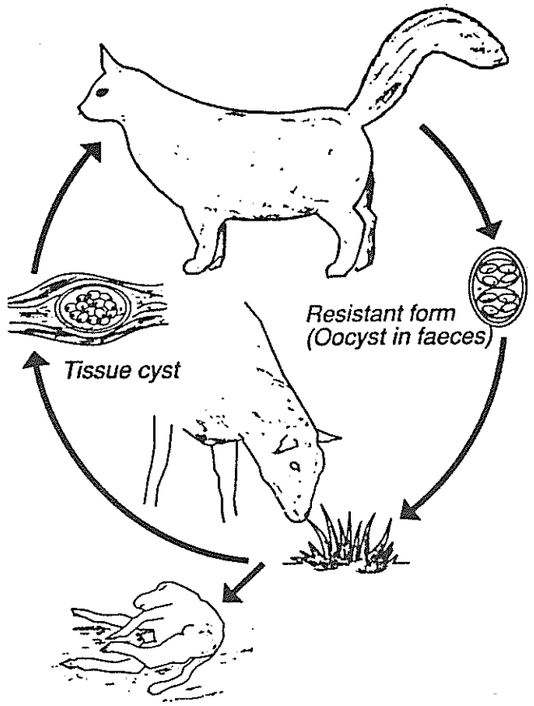
* After a week the cat is no longer infective, but the Toxoplasma eggs can survive for at least 18 months.

* The infection spreads easily across the farm in hay, feed or soil.

* Sheep become infected by eating contaminated pasture or feed.

* If the sheep has not had toxoplasmosis before, abortion occurs.

* The abortion material is eaten by another animal or bird which becomes infected.



I must stress the disease affecting sheep may not be out here but we need to know. If it does exist it is likely be near settlements the place where the stud/pedigree flocks are most often kept. Infertility, abortions and stillbirths will be costly.

The reasons which make me wonder if it is present are:

1) There are lots of cats.
2) There is evidence of human exposure to infection (Blood samples were analysed in 1988).

I am in the process of sampling two or three hundred sheep in varied locations to ascertain if the sheep population has been exposed. There is a vaccine available to prevent the fertility problems associated with this parasite. If there is infection in sheep then it would be sensible to use the vaccine on ewes at risk.

Can humans catch Toxoplasmosis?
YES, many people, particularly farmers, are exposed to toxoplasmosis at some time during their life and become infected. Surveys in New Zealand suggest that about 60% of adults have had the infection by age 40. Generally the infection will pass unnoticed with nothing more than flu-like symptoms in adults, although the severity of the infection can vary widely.

However, toxoplasmosis is a serious threat to the unborn child if the mother becomes infected for the first time while she is pregnant. Abortion may occur, or the child may be born with damage such as impaired eyesight. Toxoplasmosis is also a threat to people who are immuno-deficient (e.g. AIDS sufferers, transplant patients, persons undergoing chemotherapy or taking immuno-suppressive drugs).

Fortunately, simple protective measures, such as careful washing of hands, and garden fruit and vegetables will reduce the risk of infection. Meat is easily made safe by cooking to at least 66 degrees C for at least five minutes. (When meat is cooked enough to change its colour from red to brown, the infection should be killed). Cats are only likely to be a major source of human infection when they are young. Pregnant women may therefore prefer not to keep kittens in the house and wear gloves when gardening.

A further protective measure is, of course, to ensure that sheep on the farm do not have toxoplasmosis. Vaccination with Toxovax vaccine will help to achieve this.

B. ovis

Many farmers seem to be of the impression that once the disease was eradicated that sampling would cease. However, with any such programme once eradication is achieved it is necessary to monitor it on a reduced scale to ensure that there is no infection lurking anywhere. This could happen if only one lost ram had been missed previously!

The good news is that to date approximately 1,000 rams have been tested this year and all are clean. I still have approx 150 to sample. For those of you who are confused about the cost of this sampling, the Department of Agriculture is not charging. *So its free.* It just costs you your time which I think is a small price to pay for ensuring that B. ovis does not recur. Sampling will again be taking place next year.

Dissemination of N.S.F. rams

Background: Dissemination and semen storage of N.S.F. rams would allow greater benefits to be obtained from the investment, for some insurance to be given to the investment and enable evaluation of the project in years to come. Laprascopic A.I. has been successfully undertaken in the Falklands between 1989 and 1993. the immediate objective is to perfect semen storage and collection so that the following aims can be pursued:

1) Insurance of genotypes against individual ram deaths.

2) Enable the N.S.F. project genetic gain be valuated in 20 years time.

3) Enable greater distribution of superior genotypes through local A.I.

4) Enable revenue generation through the export of semen.

Successful collection and assessment of semen has taken place on Sea Lion Island. Some rams will need a period of training for collection to be achieved, whereas some were simple to collect from.

However, we had problems with freezing semen down on Sea Lion Island. The resulting straws were not of the quality required in terms of survival of sperm, although the quality up to putting into the straws and freezing had been very good.

We are now going to attempt the processing of ejaculates collected on S.L.I. in the laboratory in Stanley with hopefully better results.

T.B and Brucellosis

Cattle T.B. & Brucellosis testing has been carried out on six farms this year. We have concentrated on areas with cows which produce milk for several families. There has been no evidence of any infection to date. However, the programme will continue time permitting this year to take in additional farms until we have covered all the milk production areas. There is no reason to believe that there is any problem and the exercise is only being carried out to demonstrate that this is the case to ourselves and to reassure people consuming milk in camp and Stanley.

Welfare

I recently attended what was probably the first case of its type in the Falkland Islands.

The case has been well covered on Penguin News and on F.I.B.S. so I do not propose to go over old ground on comment on the sentence given by the magistrate. However, in my mind there was a clear message given by the magistrate in his summing up prior to sentencing. This was that the welfare of animals on a farm is the responsibility of the owner. If you fail to do something and this causes suffering to take place you are just as guilty as if you actually inflected suffering on an animal.

He also warned that he had the power to ban someone from keeping animals in other words he could effectively finish a farmers career if he thought it necessary.

I am glad to say that on the whole this sort of incident is few and far between but at least we now know what the likely outcome of such a case will be in the courts here in the Falklands. Everyone must take the time necessary to care for the animals on their farms and do their best to ensure their well being.

Boils

There has also been some work on the Glanvac (boils vaccine) trial at Goose Green. This project is ongoing and I will discuss it another time. However, there has been work in Australia which proves that fleece weight is reduced when infection takes place. (See article in this Wool Press.

These are all the major topics which currently sprung to mind. Clinical work continues as ever, ranging from neutering cats/dogs/horses to looking at poultry. You name it and I've probably had to look at it.

Import/export health checks also take place. We have imported pigs, Thyer and other horses, pet dogs, pet cats, cage birds and eggs. The B.A.S. huskies were kept here and required rabies vaccination and health certification prior to their flight to U.K. and onward to America.

Time permitting in future issues I will try to discuss topical subjects. If anyone has any suggestions on what would be a useful article or has a questions that they think will benefit the readership with a printed answer, I'll be pleased to hear it.

IAN SAUNDERS
VETERINARY OFFICER

GLAD TO BE BACK!

Aidan Kerr returned recently to the Islands as the Senior Scientist/Agronomist in the Department of Agriculture. Aidan was a pasture agronomist with the former Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) from March 1985 to June 1988. He was mainly responsible for work on the ecology and agronomy of the valuable "Greens" pastures and for evaluating suitable establishment methods for white clover in the Falklands' environment. He was also involved in the work which led to the formulation of the seeds mixture and fertilising strategies for reseeded pastures which was conducted mainly at the Camber and Fitzroy Bridge experimental sites.

Despite his training and experience in pasture agronomy, Aidan also became involved with some worthwhile sheep husbandry projects. In particular he initiated, tested and developed the system for forecasting wind-chill conditions which were likely to be dangerous to newly shorn sheep. This practical and helpful addition to the Falkland's weather information is still in use during the shearing season.

Since 1988 he obtained his MSc at Wye College, University of London, worked briefly in the Entomology and Soil Science sections of MAFF in UK before working as a pasture scientist with the CSIRO in Townsville, north Queensland. There he was responsible for a project which would provide information to graziers concerning new grasses capable of restoring and developing degraded rangelands of northern Australia. Through his work Aidan was able to visit many of the remote stations and gain valuable experience in pasture development with graziers.

On returning to the Falklands, Aidan hopes to continue his training and experience to continue with as much of the R & D programme as is possible and practically relevant to Falklands farmers within his two year contract. He also aims to provide farmers with more feedback from past work and he is keen to establish good working relationships with many of them. To this end Aidan looks forward to renewing many acquaintances and establishing quite a few new ones.

We wish Aidan and his wife Pauline, an expensed nurse, a happy and productive stay in the Islands. Watch this space!

FIRST N.S.F. SHEEP GO TO AUCTION

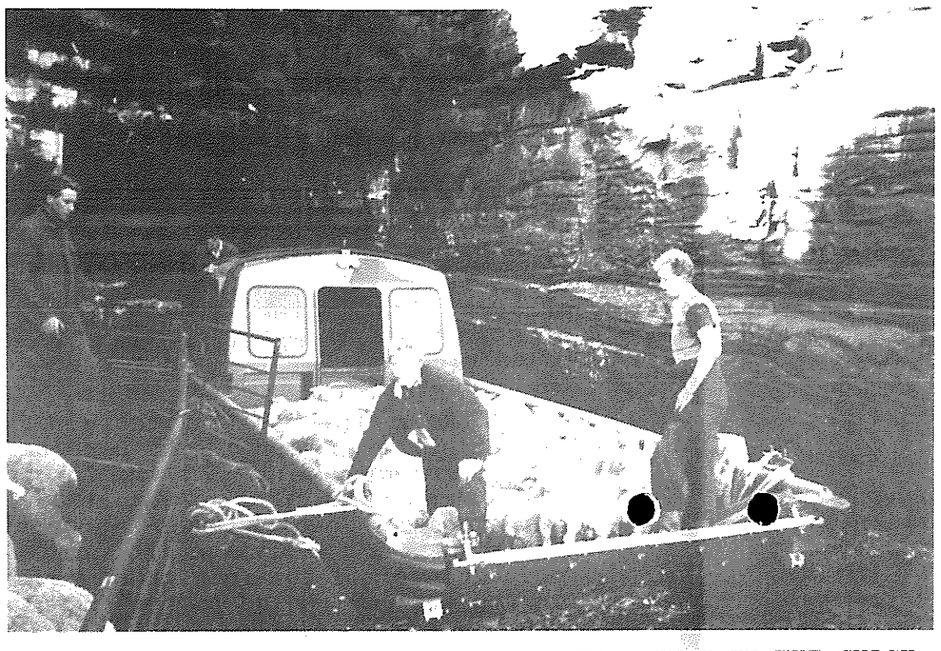
On Thursday 24 February 1994 almost 450 National Stud Flock Sheep left Sea Lion Island aboard M.V. Tamar. 251 of the sheep were bound for the N.S.F. auction at Goose Green. The remaining sheep were ram hoggets which will spend the winter on Lively Island.

Conditions for loading the sheep onto the Tamar couldn't have been much better with next to no wind and only a minor swell in the gulch. The Tamar crew were able to load the sheep directly from the sea truck into the Tamar's hold. Once in the hold the sheep were penned in three separate lots with the ram hoggets in the first, the ewes for auction in the next and the rams for auction in the final lot.

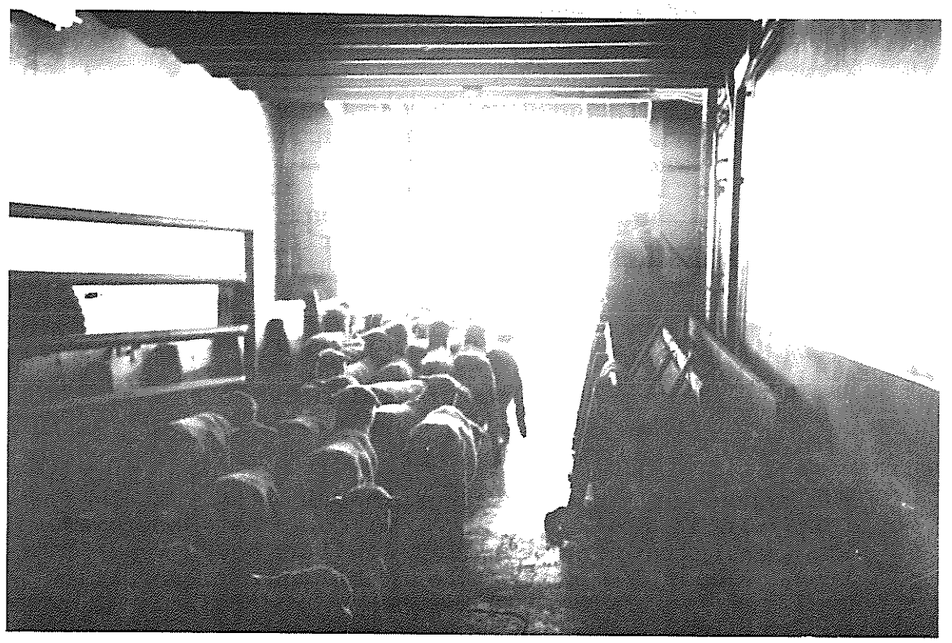
All went well for the five and a half hour voyage to Goose Green and the efficient design of the pens in the Tamar's hold meant unloading took a matter of minutes. The ram hoggets stayed on board and as soon as the sheep for auction were off, the Tamar sailed for Lively.

Thanks to all who helped in the movement of the sheep, especially Arthur and Rhoda for all their hard work and usual generous hospitality.

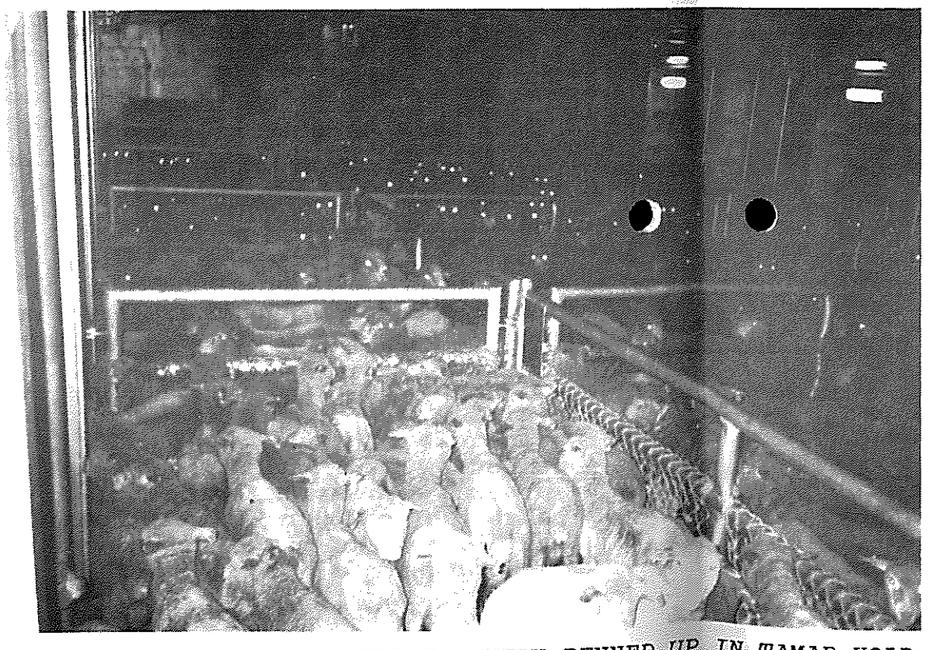
TROYD BOWLES



THE RAM HOGGETS ARE LOADED ONTO THE SEA TRUCK IN THE GULCH.



THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!!



N.S.F. SHEEP IN MID-JOURNEY SAFELY PENNED UP IN TAMAR HOLD.

STUD FLOCK RAMS FOR AUCTION MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN GOOSE GREEN JETTY AFTER THEIR 5 1/2 HOUR JOURNEY.

U.K. EVENTS AND DATES '94

For those of you who intend going to the U.K. for a holiday this winter, we thought it would be useful to include a list of events you may wish to attend.

There are two events, both organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England (R.A.S.E.), that are a must for anyone able to attend. The largest of these is the Royal Show, held at Stoneleigh in the first week of July each year. It is the biggest outdoor agricultural event in the world, attended by approximately 180,000 people during it's four day run. The address for the show is:

Royal Agricultural Society Of England
Northern Agricultural Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ
England.

The second of the shows organised by R.A.S.E. is The Sheep Event '94. It is held at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern. The event is open from 0900 to 1800 hours on Wednesday 27 July 1994. Sheep '94 will focus on "Managing Production - Maximising Quality" as it's main theme (meat production). Admission is free to International visitors on presentation of a passport which makes sheep '94 definitely worth a look. The address for Sheep '94 is:

Sheep '94
Three Counties Showground
Malvern, nr. Worcester
England.

Here is a list of shearing competitions being held through-out the U.K. this summer and the dates on which they are being held.

Royal Ulster	11 & 12 MAY
Devon County	19, 20 & 21 MAY
Shropshire & West Midlands	20 MAY
Staffordshire	25 MAY
Bath & West	1, 2 & 3 JUNE
Montgomery	4 JUNE
Royal Cornwall	10 & 11 JUNE
Northern Borders	11 JUNE
Llys asi	11 JUNE
South of Scotland	12 JUNE
Three Counties	14 & 15 JUNE
Royal Highland	24, 25 & 26 JUNE
French Shears	25 & 26 JUNE
Royal Show	5 & 6 JULY
Great Yorkshire	13 JULY
Romney	16 & 17 JULY
Stennybridge Lamb Shears	16 JULY
Royal Welsh	18 - 21 JULY
Corwen Shears	23 JULY
Llanrwst	30 JULY

LAPAROSCOPIC AI IN SHEEP

This procedure has now been carried out in the Falkland Islands for the sixth season and I felt it was time to summarize the results so far to illustrate what AI can and cannot do.

Year	Total Inseminated	No. Ewes Returns Recieved	Concieved	%	Lambs	%
1989	316	186	112	58%	154	83%
1990	nk	315	141	45%	213	68%
1991	nk	368	197	54%	203	55%
1992	370	345	165	48%	207	60%
1993	108	101	67	66%	100	99%
Total: (excl. 1989)		1129	570	50%	723	64%
Total: (incl. 1989)		1315	682	52%	877	67%

nk = Not Known

This year saw the best results yet achieved with A.I in the Falklands. They compare favourably with Edinburgh Genetics results already published in the Woolpress (May 1993) of 64%.

FLOCK RECORDING

Now that the pedigree sheep from the National Stud Flock sale are settled into their new homes, may I just remind everyone that the Farmers Association office still has a stock of books and cards for flock recording. This system was devised by Nigel Knight, Jimmy Forster, Danny Donnelly and Robbie Bain of the Agricultural Research Centre when the Falklands Flock Improvement Association was first formed in 1988. An explanation of the recording method was printed in the August and September 1990 editions of the Wool Press. Photocopies of the articles are available if anyone would like to refresh their memory but no longer has those copies of the Wool Press.

The Flock Summary book has pages for ram progeny summaries, ewe, ram and progeny details, fleece weight and micron records over a five year period. They cost £2 each.

The cards have space for sire and dam, grand and great-grand parents of the animal, age and body weight at weaning, fleece weight, yield and micron at shearing, and general remarks. They cost 10p each.

Please contact me at the Farmers Association office if you would like a book or cards sent to you.

JUDY SUMMERS
SECRETARY, FARMERS ASSOCIATION

DIVERSIFICATION IN PERSPECTIVE

With Winter drawing near and with it a little time to think, it is worth putting some of that time into thoughts of diversification. Over the next few months we hope to cover some alternative enterprises as a regular feature in the WOOL PRESS. This article is written in the Knowledge that there is already a considerable degree of "alternative" enterprise in Camp (a fact that many outside of agriculture fail to appreciate.) We also recognise that individual circumstances vary throughout the Islands and that there is no simple panacea for all.

It is important to understand that although the Wool Market appears to be in a recovery phase, it would be unreasonable (and naive) to assume that farm incomes will rise accordingly. Higher wool prices will inevitably be followed by a corresponding withdrawal of the F.I.G assistance programmes. It is only when recovery in the wool market exceeds the current level of subsidy will there be any significant rise in farm incomes.

Agriculture throughout the world is currently undergoing a period of transition. Free Market Economics is sweeping aside the principals of import taxes and subsidies. This trend is set to continue particularly in response to the recent ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Agreement (G.A.T.T.). Industries throughout the World are increasingly being obliged to compete on level terms at real market prices.

Free market principals can already be linked to a decline in "traditional" farm incomes. Prior to G.A.T.T farm incomes were supported by transferring the extra costs onto the consumer. Farmers in the richer countries such as the U.S.A, Japan, E.E.C and Australia benefited the most. The loss of farm income has also been mirrored by a reduction in the farming population. This trend has inevitably resulted in a loss of political support for the industry. In the more progressive countries, diversification is seen as being an important key to address the problem of dwindling farm incomes and also as a means to promote the survival of the rural economy.

As wool growers, the immediate objective for Falkland Producers should be to capitalise on alternative sources of income during an unprecedented period of recession. It is also important that the farmers should accept the shrinkage in the industry and acknowledge the arrival of the "new World order." On this basis, we should be prepared to plan for the future and set objectives accordingly (see January 1994 Wool Press.) Each farm needs to individually question whether he/she is satisfied with current (and projected) levels of farm income. If the answer is yes, there is no problem and farmers should continue operating regardless. Clearly if the answer is no, then the possibility of generating alternative income sources needs to be investigated. Remember that while wool prices remain weak there is little scope for making substantial short term gains in wool revenues.

Select enterprises carefully to suit the farm and that exploit individual skills and advantages. This entails making the best possible use of resources namely, land, labour and capital.

Land
Unlike in many parts of the world, the availability of land in the Falklands is not a major constraint. The quality of Falklands land is another matter and clearly restricts the diversification into alternative agricultural enterprises. There are however small parcels of fertile, (frost-free) land that could be effectively used for horticultural purposes. Many of the sites with highest potential situated in or around former settlements. The establishment of polytunnels also gives scope for greater diversity.

Labour
We naturally appreciate that many farms are faced with a major dilemma given the decline in rural population and also the considerable backlog of work required in establishing (and maintaining) farm infrastructure. We would also recommend that farms make full use of the Agricultural Grant Scheme as it is unlikely that Falkland farmers will ever receive such generous terms and conditions again. Remember that the majority of projects undertaken on the Grant Scheme can significantly increase labour efficiency on the farm. To overcome this dilemma, priorities need to be established and labour utilised accordingly. To ensure that there is no clash in interests a Labour Profile could be drawn up to match labour requirements with availability. Don't think too big. Remember that the objective is to supplement wool income not replace it. At the same time, any diversification should be approached and treated as a business, not a hobby, meaning that to get some return for your labours, there are tasks to be done whether they be at a time when you 'feel like it' or not.

Capital
While the financial situation on many farms remains precarious it would be wise to avoid alternative enterprises that require large capital inputs particularly if the risk factor associated with the venture is high. As with any form of capital expenditure, a thorough investment appraisal should be carried out prior to investing in new capital. In this respect it is important to utilise any existing farm equipment and encourage the transfer of items between farms. There are still substantial benefits to be gained from greater co-operation between farms. Increased co-operation over the care of domestic animals could for example, enable opportunities outside the farm to be exploited.

Marketing
Improved communication within the Islands should provide farms with far greater market opportunities. Even those farms who do not have access to the road network should be able to capitalise on a more "user friendly" F.I.G.A.S and coastal shipping service. We have already witnessed the introduction of the first formal ferry service between East and West Falkland.

Most retail outlets in Stanley are more than happy to receive high quality produce from Camp although to ensure maximum returns, the correct timing of sales is vital. As an example, it is important to avoid selling vegetable produce in conjunction with the arrival of the supply ship from Chile. Many diversification ideas can be worked on several farms, but it must be rememberd that some products will always have a limited market. Retailers will often be prepared to give advice on this aspect of marketing.

Cost Reduction
Diversification should not just be seen as an income generating exercise. There are also methods of enhancing the financial

position of the farm through improved technology or diversification into alternative methods of production. The development of an alternative power source is an obvious example.

Seek advice
Before embarking on any new venture it is important to seek as much advice as possible. The Falklands are quite unique in that there is a considerable amount of financial and technical assistance available for the establishment of alternative enterprises.

HUGH MARSDEN
APRIL 1994

N.S.F. NEWS.
FARMERS INVEST IN FUTURE.

On Tuesday 15th March, farmers demonstrated their commitment to improving Falklands wool production, by investing in quality pedigree Polwarth sheep.

An auction of 252 sheep, organised by the Department of Agriculture, took place in Goose Green shearing shed, raising £39,085 towards the future running of the National Stud Flock.

119 rams sold at an average price of £216, with prices ranging from £20 to £750. An average price of £101 was obtained for the 116 ewes, with prices ranging from £10 to £175.

The enthusiastic demand for quality wool producing sheep, was extremely rewarding to the many people who have been working on the Stud Flock project during the last four years. The demand also demonstrated that even during a recession, farmers are prepared to invest in one of their most important farm inputs, namely quality breeding stock.

57.9% of sheep were purchased by East Falkland farmers, 36.9% by West Falkland farms and 5.2% of purchases are going to Island farms. This distribution of sheep purchases is almost exactly the same as the distribution of sheep throughout the Falklands, as East Falkland have 58.2% of the colony sheep population!!

******

The N.S.F. have retained 470 ewes and 24 Polwarth rams for the forthcoming breeding season. The ewes will be mated in 20 single sire mating groups for 7 weeks from 20.5.94.

The ewe hoggets will winter on Sea Lion Island, whilst the ram hoggets are wintering on Lively Island.

ROBERT H.B. HALL.
APRIL 1994.

RUBBER RINGS ARE GIVEN THE OK ON ANIMAL WELFARE GROUNDS IN U.K.

Lamb marking times and dates are often debated when the subject of animal welfare is raised. Rubber ring castration and tailing is only reccommended in the early days of a lamb's life. There have been thoughts in U.K. on banning the use of rubber rings totally. The following extracts are from a Farmers Weekly article.

"Flockmasters will welcome news that the rubber ring method of tailing and castrating young lambs has escaped being banned on animal welfare grounds.

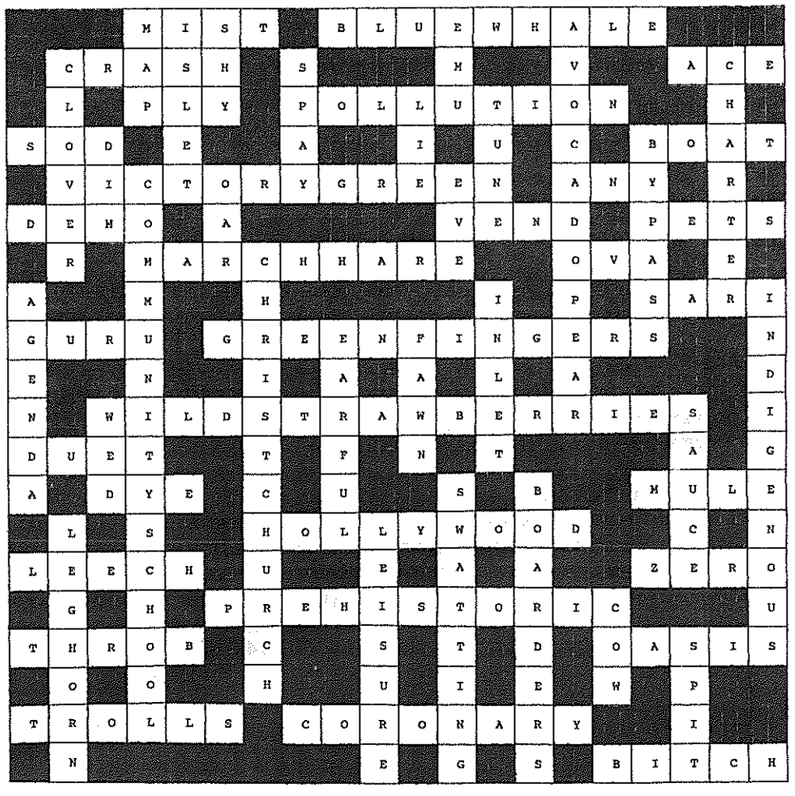
Dr Agnes Winter, lecturer in veterinary clinical science at Liverpool University and a member of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, said farmers who had feared the rubber ring would be banned had no need to worry. She suggested that those who would like to use the rubber ring on slightly older lambs than was currently allowed might be pleased with the conclusions of the council's report on its two-year investigation of the sheep industry, published in April.

She said the council had agonised over which castration method was the right way forward. But her personal opinion was that a requirement to anaesthetise all lambs before castration would cause huge problems. There was not going to be any such requirement at the moment. It was not practical. But, she added, extended use of the rubber ring did not mean this was the accepted method farmers should adopt. If a method could be found for reducing pain in the first two or three hours, it would solve a lot of the problems."

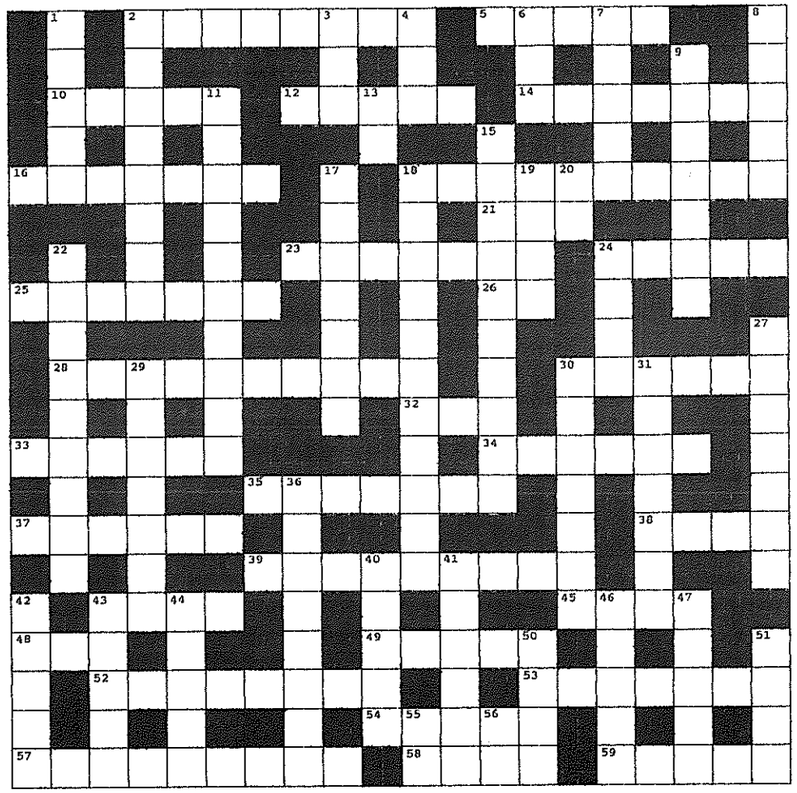
Ref: Farmers Weekly, Mar 4 - 10 1994

MANDY McLEOD
APRIL 1994

MARCH CROSSWORD SOLUTION



APRIL



BOVINE MULTIPLE BIRTH

Multiple calving is not something we see in the Falklands. (Please let me know if I am wrong, I would love to know of any local cases). In view of that, I thought this extract from letter to a Smallholder magazine from a Veterinary Practitioner was quite amazing.

"Ten years ago a former member of this practice was called to assist a Friesian cow at her fourth calving. The cow was full term and had delivered live Friesian twins the previous day. The client suspected a third calf as the cow was uneasy. Mr Stead eventually delivered three dead calves! The dam made an uneventful recovery and one of the calves survived.

At subsequent calvings, this cow successively produced triplets; twins; triplets; triplets before being culled from the herd. All calves from her last four calvings survived making a total of 12 surviving from 16 born (all Friesian). She was rather a small cow and always recovered from these births with amazing ease and milked well.

This may not be a record but I think her achievement of producing so many live calves over a five-year period will take some beating."

Ref: Smallholder, February 1994.

MANDY McLEOD
APRIL 1994

APRIL

ACROSS

2. TWO MASTED SAIL BOAT
5. S.AMERICAN BEAVER-LIKE WATER RODENT
10. LENNOX LEWIS IS THE HEAVYWEIGHT??
12. POSITIVE ELECTRODE
14. RECENTLY BROUGHT INTO LIFE
16. SUN UMBRELLA
18. FRIDAY BEFORE EASTER SUNDAY
21. ... BASTEN, DUTCH FOOTBALL STAR
23. EARLY SETTLER/EXPLORER
24. MALE DUCK
25. PROCESS OF WASTING
26. ROYAL ENGINEER
28. SUBMERGING SAILOR
30. STANLEY HAS THREE
32. HONEY INSECT
33. COMMON METHOD OF COMMUNICATION
34. NOT AS FAR AWAY
35. PROMINENT OR LOFTY
37. RELATING TO DOGS
38. REFLECTED SOUND
39. SMALL BURROWING BONY-PLATED ANIMAL OF S.AMERICA
43. QUIET CHARACTER PLAYED BY ROWAN ATKINSON
45. LAYER OF WEDDING CAKE
48. FOOT DIGIT
49. EXHIBITION OF COWBOY SKILLS
52. CUT OFF
53. MEMBER OF THE HIGHEST GROUP OF MAMMALS
54. TOOL USED FOR DIGGING
57. ALIENATED OR IRRITATED
58. ANONYMOUS
59. ELEPHANTS HAVE IVORY ONES

DOWN

1. DESERT LILY
2. TRAINEE SAILOR
3. A LADY OF RELIGIOUS HABIT
4. FISHING TOOL
6. POSSESS
7. ELECTRICITY
8. CASH
9. SQUASH
11. SNAPPED IMAGE
13. ALTERNATIVELY
15. RULING BODY
17. MALARIA DRUG
18. SPICY CAKE
19. CHALLENGE
20. ARGENTINE RIFLE
22. POUCHED MAMMAL
24. SHORT BURST
27. SHEEP BREED
29. MAN-MADE HOME FOR HONEY MAKERS
30. HORSE DRAWN 2-WHEEL CART
31. SMALL GUITAR-LIKE INSTRUMENT
36. SOAK-IN SAUCE
40. LAND MEASURES
41. SIOUX
42. LOOK AT FIXEDLY
43. FAIRYTALE CHARACTER ASSOCIATED WITH BEAUTY
44. FIRST GREEK LETTER
46. FOOL
47. GATHERS
50. NOT CLOSED
51. MONSTER LOCH
55. PERSONAL ASSISTANT
56. PERFORM

NEW PRODUCT

NEW-BORN LAMB COATS FOR WARMTH

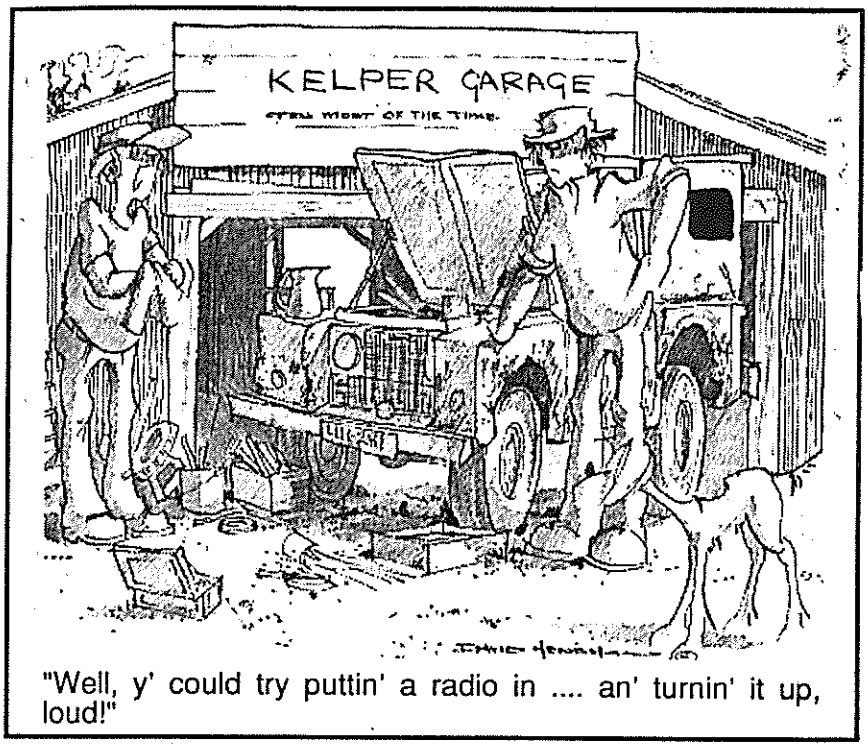
This product was advertised
in an issue of Farmers Weekly recently

Protective lamb coats, developed in New Zealand and made from 100% pure wool, are now available from Cox Surgical, Coulsdon, Surrey, and through animal health distributors. Suppliers claim that the "woolover" felt-like garment has a major advantage over alternative plastic coats, as it encourages the ewe to accept her lamb and also generates warmth in damp conditions.

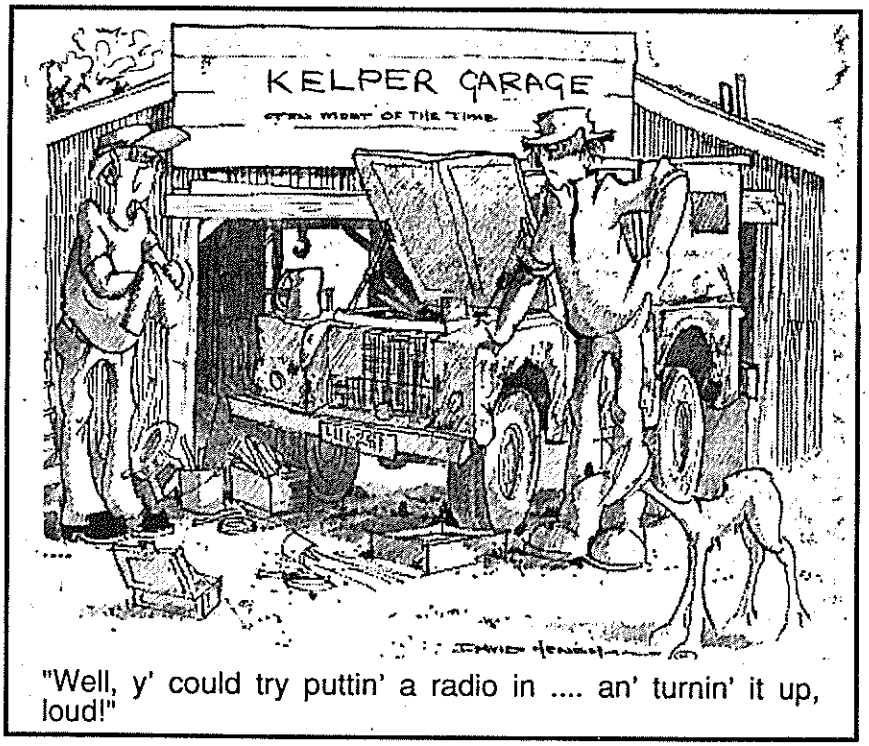
"The wool cover protects the lamb from wind-chill, allows its skin to breath and also stretches as the lamb grows. When shed in the field it is also biodegradable and breaks down," claims New Zealand farmer-inventor David Brown. Covers are recommended for weak lambs during the first four days of life. They can then be re- used, preferably after a wash.

Woolovers are stitched quickly under the brisket to help retain body heat, and the fibre accepts all marking systems. Recommended retail price is £1.99 excluding VAT. Details (081-668-2131).

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE.



"Well, y' could try puttin' a radio in .... an' turnin' it up, loud!"



"Well, y' could try puttin' a radio in .... an' turnin' it up, loud!"

LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

Top picture.
1.Fence post missing; 2.Black fence post; 3.Shadow on rams back leg; 4.Black rim on mans hat; 5.Black back leg on ram in background; 6.Shape of hill on left side; 7.Extra hill in middle; 8.Black pocket on mans shirt; 9.Bird in the background; 10.Extra line above rams in the background.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

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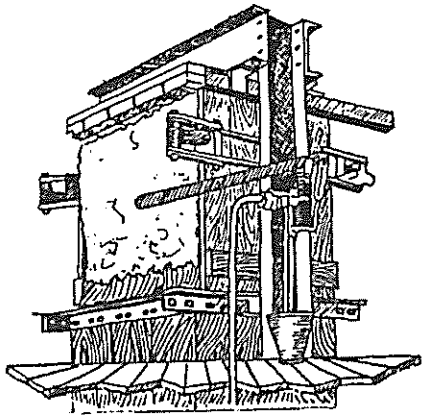
IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors: M.J.McLeod and T.Bowles.

EDITORIAL

This month's woolpress is accompanied by this year's Stock Return Forms. The forms follow the usual format and should by filled in and returned to us at the Dept. of Agriculture as soon as possible after the 31.05.94.

It is noticeable in this month's woolpress that several of our contributors are asking for some reader feedback as to what you want to read about. Therefore now, more than ever, your ideas and suggestions are most welcome and we hope they will help us to improve the paper for your benefit.

In the near future (probably next month) I intend to begin a fairly regular vehicle column. In this I hope to cover most transport that may be of interest to farmers - 4x4's, Quads, Motorcycles, Tractors, other farm implements such as Trailers and P.T.O. run equipment and I may possibly look into U.K. car-hire for those of you going away on holiday/business. Anyone wishing to find out more about a certain vehicle(s) should contact me and I'll do my best to provide you with information on it.

This month sees the follow-up to Hugh's first acticle and what we hope will be a regular feature on diversification. The article is on potato production and has been compiled by Hugh Marsden. Over the next few months other members of staff will also be making contributions on the subject of alternative enterprises.

TROYD BOWLES.

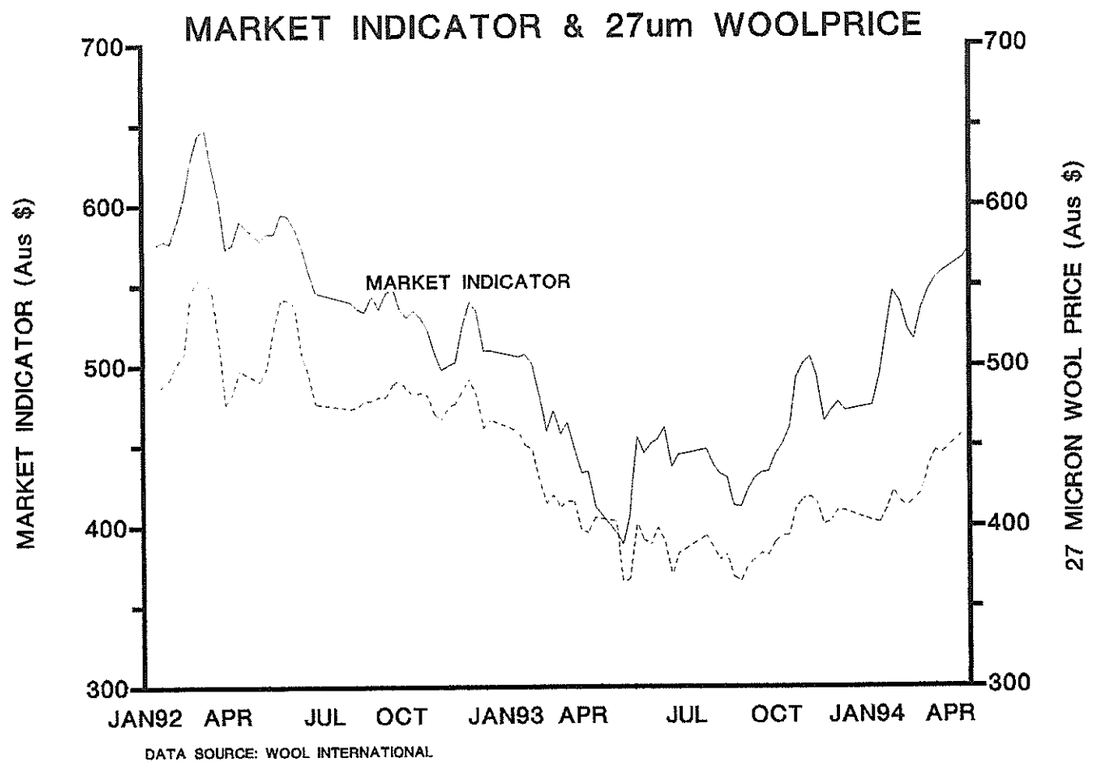
I suppose we'll be stuck out here 'till the novelty wears off his A.T.V.!!

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Market has again continued to rise following the Easter recess. The National Market Indicator closed 16 cents higher on last months reported figure to close at 574 cents/kg. The 27 micron indicator also rose by 16 cents to close at 461 on the 22nd of April.

The Australian $ strengthened relative to the pound to close 8 cents higher at 203 cents/£ on the 15th April. The increase in the value of the Australian $ effectively increases the U.K imported price of Australian wools.

Recent International Monetary Fund forecasts suggests that the level of growth in the World economy will be the highest since th start of the recession in 1988. Although much of this growth will be concentrated in the Far East, the figures are yet another optimistic sign for a medium term recovery in the Wool Market.



HUGH MARSDEN

APRIL 1994

MORE DIVERSIFICATION!

* * POTATOES * *

As the table below shows, in 1993 there were almost 87 tonnes of potatoes imported into the Islands. At a conservative retail price of 60 pence a kilo, this represents a **potential** gross income of £52,200! These imports are not just a direct financial drain on the economy, they also increase the risk of introducing new strains of pests,diseases and viruses into the Islands.

Vegetables imported into the Falklands

	1991	1992	1993
POTATOES	92,548	98,903	86,929
ONIONS	33,067	30,687	22,654
CABBAGE	5,575	5,401	3,260
CARROTS	5,505	7,493	6,010
CAULIFLOWER	1,725	1,040	320
TOMATO	2,265	2,420	1,805

Land

Original settlement gardens have for decades provided reliable crops so the "risk factor" in establishing plots in these areas is small. Furthermore, if an abandoned garden can be reclaimed it is likely that the incidence of Potato Cyst Eelworm will be low or in some cases, virtually eradicated. Farms that are not situated in potato growing areas (especially those that were formally "outside houses" might consider acquiring an old settlement plot.

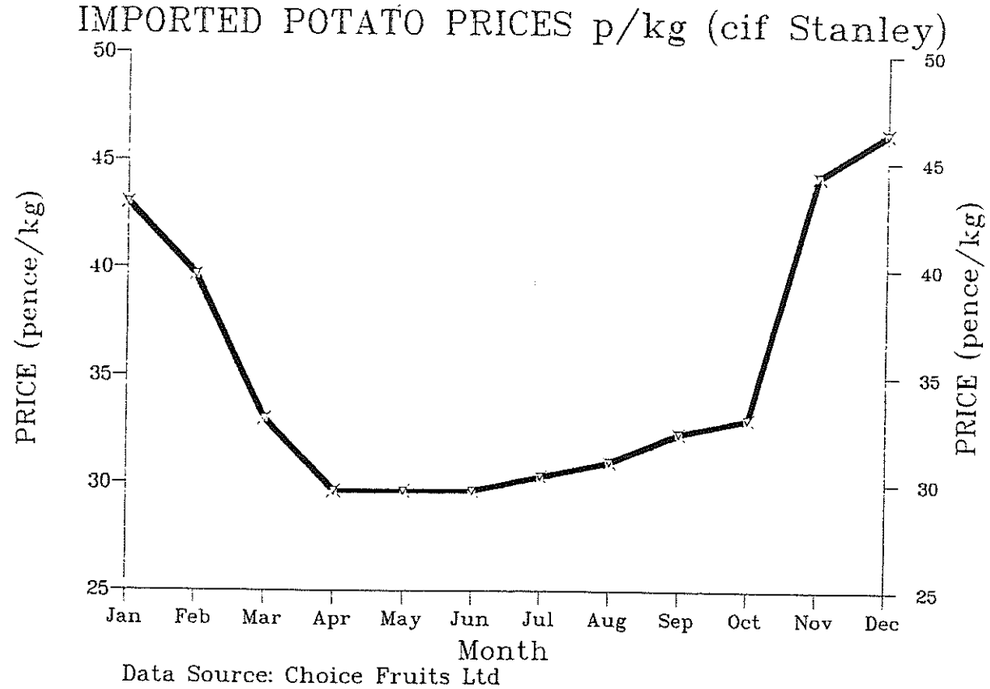
Given that "potato growing" is a subject that has not previously been tackled by the Wool Press we intend to publish a follow up article on the husbandry aspects of the crop.

Labour/Capital

Where possible, make full use of any tractor driven/mechanical cultivation equipment available on the farm. The use of such equipment may however require the erection of semi permanent wind breaks to allow access. By carrying out soil preparation work over the winter months it is possible to minimise the critical spring and summer workloads. Potatoes are relatively easy to grow as they have a wide leaf canopy which can suppress weeds. The provision of a simple irrigation system will greatly enhance yields.

MARKETING

Lifting potatoes once the shearing season is over is recommended with early harvesting also giving the possibility of capitalising on the new potato premium (see fig 1.)



Data Source: Choice Fruits Ltd

Another possibility is to specifically target the spring market when imported produce tends to be more expensive and of poor quality (See graph). This would require the planting of potato varieties that have good keeping qualities such as Sharpes Express, Estima, Catriona, Great Scot and Romano. Orders for a specific variety of potato might have to be made now to be available for the next planting season. The timing of sales at any time of the year is critical. Avoid marketing produce with the arrival of the M.V Tamar from Chile and or following harvesting time at Stanley Growers. There is a definite slump in the market at these times. If possible, try to sell direct to the consumer and try to achieve **commercial** (retail) prices. If large quantities are available it might be worth negotiating with a hotel, shipping / fishing company or other retail outlet on prices and the scheduling of sales. The West Store, Co-op, Market Garden, Choice Fruits, Leifs and Beauchene are all potential retail outlets.

PRESENTATION

As with wool, if farmers are in a position to sell any surplus produce it is worth taking the trouble to ensure that the product is well presented and graded to achieve the best possible prices. Consider lifting the potatoes early to reduce the incidence of damage from soil borne pests and frost. Washing/cleaning prior to sale is also strongly recommended.

If these simple measures are carried out there is no reason why locally produced potatoes should not earn a substantial premium over imported (South American) produce.

HUGH MARSDEN
MAY 1994

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ORGANISATION

The following interesting notes from the International Textile Organisation Conference April 1994 (IWTO) have been received courtesy of Robert Hall and Colin Smith.

ARGENTINA

All categories of Argentine wool production have declined dramatically, particularly coarse Lincoln wools, from B.A. Province. The total clip has declined to about 90 million kilos of which only approximately 15 million kilos is consumed by the home market. Argentine scouring, topmaking and wool processing has also been reduced substantially, due to uncompetitiveness with overseas producers, in Europe and Asia.

AUSTRALIA

Quality and contamination controls.
In the past, quality controls were enforced by government regulations and growers had little choice but to comply with minimum standards, however, the advent of market deregulation has seen these gradually being replaced by new and more relevant quality systems which work to service the varying needs of the customer.

Australian Production.
Shorn wool production for 1993/94 has been revised upwards by 60 million kilos to 751 million kilos. Growers holding onto wool, passing in and re-offering will continue whilst prices fluctuate. In recent weeks widespread drought-breaking rains have occurred in Queensland and parts of New South Wales and there are currently no adverse seasonal problems in Australia. It is considered that most producers with option to redirect resources to crops or cattle, in response to the price situation, have done so, therefore, future seasonal conditions aside, production seems unlikely to fall further. 1994/95 production should be in the region of 700-800 million kilos with about a 10% chance of it being outside that range, this will be combined with the legislated disposal of 96 million kilos from the stockpile.

Australian Wool Prices
The average price for this season so far is 479 cents per kilo clean or about 228 pence clean for 80% bulk Merino wool. It is anticipated that the average for the year will be between 480 and 500 cents. The price of wool remains historically at very low levels in real terms which is reflected in the Australian research groups forecast of 530 cents per kilo clean as an average market indicator during the 1994/95 season.

Australian stockpile
175,000 bales have been sold so far this season and the total is expected to be 230,000. This will mean that, by 30 June 1994, nearly 900,000 bales (20%) of the stockpile will have been sold since July 1991. Sales activity this season will be nearly double the 1992/93 season. A comparison of the stockpile by micron against the 1992/93 clip shows that it has more than a year's supply of 22-24 micron, less than half a year's supply of 19 micron and finer and less than a year's supply of other categories. This situation could contribute to a faster and more sustainable recovery of fine wool prices than for the market as a whole.

From 1st July 1994 the stockpile will be sold by a fixed net selling schedule which has been legislated. This will require:

> 28,000 bales per month to be sold from the stockpile between July and December 1994 and 187,000 bales per quarter thereafter.

The sale requirements for the first six months must be seen in context. Since July 1991 the average stockpile sales have run at 25,000 bales per month. The thinking behind this new approach is that arbitrary changes to existing policies can add to market uncertainties.

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK clip is approximately 68 million kilos of which 48 million in handled by the Marketing Board, this is 4.8% down on last year mainly due to the policy of not handling daggings. The price indicator is now 102 pence kilo, or 84 pence kilo after Board costs.

URUGUAY

Sheep numbers decreased by 5% and a further reduction is expected in 1994 but the wool clip increased by 2.3% .

INTERNATIONAL WOOL SECRETARIAT
Wool availability for domestic use increased steadily in the emerging wool markets during 1993 except in Eastern Europe where demand in Russia and the CIS has remained very depressed. China has been a bright spot with an increase of nearly 11% in wool consumption.

There is a continuing need to develop:

a. Lightweight fabrics and knitwear (from finer quality wools).
b. Softness.
d. Easy Care.
d. New finishes and colouring techniques.

GENERAL

Fine Falkland wools are to receive a boost, with Modiano's of London in conjunction with leading manufacturers carrying out a promotion campaign spearheaded by wools drawn from the National Stud Flock and fine wool farms across the Falklands. Demand for Falklands finer than 28 micron is growing rapidly.

COLIN SMITH/ R.H.B. HALL

FARMERS - ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH?

Upon arriving in the Department of Agriculture and being asked by Mandy for contributions to Wool Press, I first had to find out what subjects had already been covered by my predecessors and how recently. Although I am now Senior Scientist, in charge of the whole research programme, my main interests in the past have been in the agronomy and ecology of the various types of pastures, so it was there I started.

Upon consulting the excellent Wool Press index, compiled by Troyd Bowles, I have found that the quantity, quality and pattern of output of articles on Falklands pastures and related subjects could be improved.

To date a rough survey showed that over the four and a half years and 53 issues, about 33 articles concerning pasture research have been published. That's more than one for every second issue.

The subject breakdown in order was roughly as follows;

	%
Tussac	27
Whitegrass	21
General agronomy research	15
Grassland pests	12
Reseeds	6
Trees etc.	6
Others	12

I also examined the timing of these publications with regard to season and could not find any real pattern, except that the early summer months (Oct-Dec) were favourite dates.

In contrast, there were over 200 articles related to sheep and wool etc which averages about four per issue. They broke down roughly as follows;

	%
Sheep health	17
Shearing	17
Breeds and breeding	13
National Stud Flock	10
Reproduction	10
Wool marketing and economics	9
Wool preparation	8
Grazing management/husbandry	8
Other livestock and products	7

Although, I am planning to improve the output of pasture-related articles e.g. greens, clover and reseeding, over the next few issues, I would be grateful for any suggestions of relevant pasture topics which you would like to know more about. If you don't feel like putting pen to paper then just give me a ring on 27355 or call at the office the next time you are in Stanley. I will be only too happy to discuss this and any other research matters with you. Hope to hear from you - cheers.

J. Aidan Kerr, Senior Scientist/Agronomist
MAY 1994.

CHILEAN AGRICULTURE

When we think of South America, in particular it's industries, we often think of it as being run-down, poverty stricken and unorganised with hyper-inflation. However this couldn't be further off the mark where Chilean agriculture is concerned.

Until a few years ago, Chile was under the dictatorial rule of General Pinochet and the military for almost two decades. Now the General has retired from office and a democratically elected civil government is now in power. The latest administration, under President Eduardo Frei, took office only in March.

Although the end of military rule was welcomed, it's influence on the current economic situation in Chile cannot be ignored. The Chilean economy is booming and appears to have escaped the World-wide recession relatively unscathed.

Annual economic growth has averaged nearly 7.5% for the past three years, much better than almost any other country in the World. Agriculture accounts for 29% of Chile's export earnings, which have almost trebled in the last eight years - most of which were under the Pinochet regime. Thirty percent of the population are involved, both directly and indirectly, in agriculture and it's ancillary industries.

In the central valley, site of the capital, Santiago, there are new industrial buildings being built everyday, many of them food related. Much of the industrial development is a result of investment by companies from other countries. This is a sure sign of widespread confidence in the Chilean economy.

The Chilean fruit trade is also on an economic "high" at the moment, with internal investment from local businessmen giving fruit production and export strong backing.

With World-wide prices of raw materials at a recession-hit low, and the added advantage of cheap labour, (average annual pay in Chile is just over £2000) the future looks very bright for Chilean agriculture, providing the new government can keep inflation under control.

Source: Farmers Weekly (Mar 18 - Mar 24 1994) Adapted from an article by David Richardson.

TROYD BOWLES

****

DRONCIT PRICES INCREASED

We recently recieved our new Droncit supply. The new stock has been packaged in boxes of 20 tablets instead of the usual 50 and the prices have been increased slightly to:

DRONCIT	DRONTAL
£6.40 per 20 Tablets	£7.60 per 20 Tablets
£32.00 per 100 Tablets	£38.00 per 100 tablets

Please remember when ordering that one packet now contains only 20 tablets!

HERE ARE A FEW MORE DATES IF YOU ARE IN U.K. THIS YEAR

JUNE

1	North Sheep '94 Wood Hall Hesket, Newmarket, Wigton, Cumbria. Julie Sedgewick. Tel 0388 832418 Fax: 0388 603335.
1-4	Royal Bath & West of England Show, The Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Tel. 0749 823211.
9-11	Royal Cornwall Show, Showground Wadebridge, Cornwall. Tel 0208 812183.
9-11	South of England Show, Showground, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. Tel 0444 892700.
14-16	Three Counties Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs. Tel. 0684 892751.
17-19	Essex County Show, Great Leighs, Chelmsford. Tel 0733 234451.
21-22	Cheshire County Show, Tabley, Knutford, Cheshire. Tel 027073 245.
22-23	Lincolnshire Show, The Showground, Grange De Lings, Lincoln. Tel 0522 522900.
23-26	Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh Exhibition & Trade Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh. tel 031 333 2444.
25-26	Middlesex County Show, Showground, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Tel 081 866 1367.
25-26	Rudgwick Agricultural West Sussex. Tel 0403 822378.
25-26	Smallholder Weekend for small farmers. The Royal Welsh showground, Builth Wells, Wales. Tel 0366 501035/0354 740719. Smallholder's Own Show.
29-30	Royal Norfolk Show, the Showground, New Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel 0603 748931.
30	Malton Show, Malton, North Yorkshire. Tel 0653 693382.

JULY

4-7	The Royal Show, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warks. Tel 0203 696969.
9-10	South Bedfordshire County Show, Toddington, Beds. Tel 0525 875170.
12-14	Great Yorkshire Show, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Tel 0423 561536.
14-16	Kent Show, County Showground, Detling, Nr Maidstone Kent. Tel 0622 630975.
16	Fordingbridge Show, Fordingbridge, Hants. Tel. 0425 652223.
16	Caithness County Show, Twick. Tel 084 783 614.
16-17	Durham County Agricultural Show, Lambton Park, Chester Le Street, Co Durham. Tel 091 388 5459.
16-17	Great Ecclestone Agricultural Show, Lancashire. Tel 09958 204.
17	Ashby De la Zouch Agricultural Society Annual Show, Measham, Burton on Trent. Tel 0530 412125.
18-21	Royal Welsh Show, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Powys. Tel 0982 553683.
19-21	East of England Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough. Tel 0733 234451.
20	Driffield Agricultural Show, Driffield, North Humberside. Tel 0377 47494.
23	Cleveland County Show, Steward Park, Middlesborough. Tel 0642 327583.
23	Penrith Agricultural Show, Brougham Hall Farm, Penrith. Tel 09313 325.
23	Antrim Agricultural Society Show, Castle Ground, Co Antrim. Tel 08494 32914.
24	Rare and Traditional Breeds Show. Weald & Downland Open air Museum, Singleton, Nr Chichester. Tel 0243 811348 Fax:0243 811475. Smallholder will be here.
27	Sheep '94 Malvern. Tel. 0203 696969
27	Nantwich & South Cheshire Show, Dorfold Hall Park, Nantwich, Cheshire. Tel 0270 780306.
27	Yealmpton Agricultural Show, Kitley Lanws, Yealmpton, Plymouth. Tel 0752 892464.
31	Animal Health Trust Show, Kennet, Suffolk. Tel 0638 661111.

AUGUST

5-6	Perthshire Agricultural Society Show, Perth. Tel 0738 23780.
6-7	Howden Horticultural & Agricultural Show, Howden, East Yorkshire. Tel 0757 630247.
9	Taunton Agricultural, Somerset. Tel 0823 421860.
18-21	Ponies Association UK Summer Championship Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough. Tel 0487 830278.
20-21	Shepton Mallet Country Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Tel 0306 741302. Smallholder will be here.
20-21	Ardingly Horse Show, South of England Showground, Ardingly, Hawyards Heath, West Sussex. Tel 0892 783227.
21	Thornham Open Sheep Dog Trials, Eye, Suffolk. Tel 0379 788153.
25	Melplash Agricultural Society Show, Melplash, Dorset. Tel 0308 23337.
27-28	Egham Royal Show, Runnymede, Egham, Surrey. Tel 0784 424833.
28-29	Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show, Lingfield. Tel 0737 645843.
29	Aylsham Agricultural Show, Blickling Park, Nr Aylsham, Norfolk. Tel 0263 732432.
29	Madresfield Agricultural Show, Madresfield Court, Nr Malvern, Worcs. Tel 0684 576604.

SEPTEMBER

3	Alresford Agricultural Show, Alresford, Hants. Tel 0692 733887.
3-4	Newport Town & Country Show, Tredegar House Country Park, Newport, Gwent. Tel 0633 253781.
9-10	Rare Breeds Survival Trust Show & Sale, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warks. Tel 0203 696551. Smallholder will be here.
10-11	Chertsey Agricultural, Surrey. Tel 0932 872272.
17	Stokesley Agricultural Society Show, Stokesley, Middlesborough, Cleveland. Tel 0642 713209.
17-18	Suffolk County Show. Suffolk Showground, Ipswich, Suffolk. Tel 0306 741302. Smallholder will be here.
	18 - Wimblington Show, Wimblington, March, Cambs. Tel 0354 740471.
21	From Cheese Show Somerset. Tel 0373 463600.

OCTOBER

1-2	Smallholder Weekend for Smallfarmers. Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate. Tel 0366 501035/0354 740719. Smallholders Own show.
2	South of England Autumn Show Ardingly, Sussex. Tel 0444 892700.
9	East of England Autumn Exhibition, East of England Showground, Peterborough. Tel 0733 234451. Smallholder

PIGLET SURVIVAL

I thought that an article on pig rearing would be of interest taking into account the import of some pigs recently.

Piglets are born with no hair, virtually no body fat and little innate resistance to infection. It is vital for their welfare that they are born into a warm clean dry environment and have ready access to a supply of colostrum from their mother.

Measures to protect and care for piglets must start before they are born. Time spent with the pregnant mother to make sure she is in the best possible condition will pay off when strong healthy pigs are born.

THE SOW

A few simple measures in the last few weeks of pregnancy are recommended for a healthy litter. The sow should be wormed about two weeks before farrowing and washed with a lice and mange wash before she is moved into clean farrowing accommodation. The move to the farrowing house should be at least a week before the birth is due. If there has been a history of scouring problems in previous litters, then it is useful to boost the sows immune status to E. Coli by using one of the many modern vaccines that are available.

It is vital in the last few days of pregnancy to make sure the sow does not become constipated. A constipated sow is very subject to farrowing fever which can result in her becoming quite ill and the milk supply on which the piglets depend for both nourishment and protection (through the colostrum) being much reduced. Severe illness may mean that piglets may have to be fed artificially which can never be to their advantage as "breast is always best". If necessary reduce the sow's ration in the last few days before she farrows and make up the bulk with bran. Alternatively, give her a cup of liquid paraffin a day in the ration or in the water.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Most sows that farrow in an indoor intensive system will give birth in a farrowing crate. These help a great deal to prevent piglets being crushed by a clumsy mother. If you intend using an ordinary pen, make sure there are anti crush rails around the outer wall. This also applies if a sow is farrowing in an outdoor ark. Whatever the accommodation use plenty of straw as a bedding material.

Temperature in indoor farrowing houses should be, especially if a sow is in a farrowing crate, in the order of 15-20°C and the creep area which should be boxed in against draughts should be 24-30°C. Outdoor farrowing arks are not heated but should be well insulated, the door opening protected from draughts by a curtain, and be well supplied with straw for the sow to make a warm bed.

THE PIGLETS

A few remaining procedures in the few hours after the piglets are born go a long way to ensuring strong healthy piglet.

Supervise sucking properly and that the sow has an adequate supply of milk. If necessary, transfer weak piglets to other sows (if suitably available) if the mother has too many piglets or not enough milk. If this is not possible, time spent on individual feeding, by stomach tube if required is often worth the time and effort.

Clip the youngsters eye teeth in the first twenty four hours of birth. This will stop them damaging the sows udder (which could result in mastitis) and their litter mates' faces. At the same time spray the umbilical cord with an antibiotic spray or alternatively paint with iodine solution.

Iron injections for indoor reared piglets are essential and should be given in the first three days of life. Sows' milk contains insufficient iron to meet the requirements of the sucking pig. If the youngsters don't receive supplementary iron, then they will be showing signs of anaemia by the time they are three weeks of age.

Creep feed for piglets is often offered from about three to four days old but it is doubtful if much is taken in the first week or two. Fresh water should always be available for indoor piglets, preferably through nipple type drinkers.

ORIGINALLY PRINTED IN SMALLHOLDER MAGAZINE

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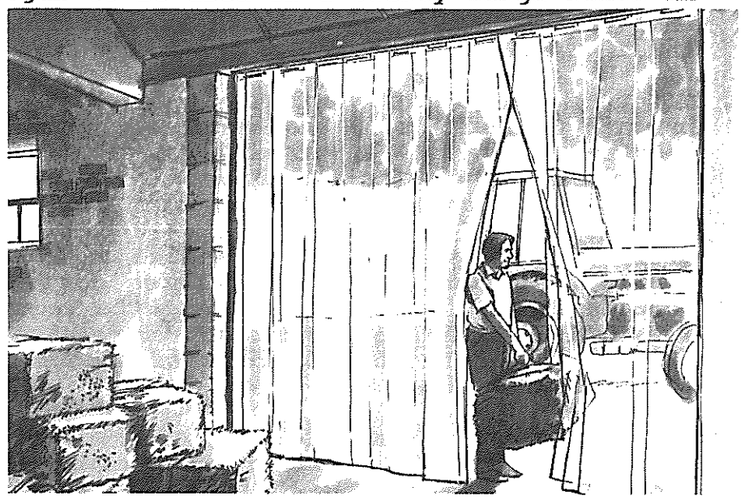
NEW PRODUCTS - P.V.C. STRIP CURTAIN/DOOR

I recently received some information on P.V.C. strip doors from a firm based in Wiltshire, England called Crusader.

Strip doors have for quite a long time been used as internal doors in large storage and wholesale warehouses. Recently, however, they have begun to be used on a fairly large scale in farming.



The doors produced by crusader are made from clear P.V.C. strips allowing free access and vision to pedestrians, machinery and livestock. They are claimed to be an effective heat and noise barrier that keeps out cold, rain, draughts, birds, insects and dust.

The strips can be used as both internal and external doors. They are easily adapted for both by a simple adjustment of the overlap of the strips. It is claimed that animals quickly become accustomed to the strips and push through them quite happily.

The strip doors are useful for most buildings including tractor sheds, bale sheds, workshops, timber sheds as well as livestock housing. They will reduce both heating and lighting bills whilst providing a highly efficient door that doesn't require closing.

Maintenance is no problem as a damaged strip is easily replaced and they are easily cleaned with a detergent solution.

Crusader sell the doors in two different packages. The complete package includes the strip doors with all of the component parts - track, nuts, bolts, wall fixings e.t.c. - ready for on-site assembly. The strip door kit package includes the P.V.C. in roll form - which allows the strips to be cut to length - and full instructions. The strips can be fixed to a wooden batten which in turn can be attached to the door lintel.

The example below will give a rough idea of cost:

approx.opening area	strip size	roll length	weight	cost delivered to docks
105 sq. ft.	300mm X 3mm	50m	56kg	£197.55

Calculations based on external door with 50% overlap.
Opening size = width X height.

Further details of prices and suitable strip sizes are available from me at the Department of Agriculture.

TROYD BOWLES.

BUYING A HANDPIECE

Handpieces are expensive and because they are cast they are not always identical. It pays to look them over carefully before you buy, says Peter Black.

The New Zealand born instructor for the Australian Wool Corporation is based at Esperance in Western Australia.

These are 10 points he says you should look for:

1. Viewed from the front, is the arch an even thickness? This is to ensure the comb bed is well supported.

2. Are the faces of the comb screws parallel with the comb bed? If they are not they will not hold the comb correctly.

3. Look at the thickness of the fork around the fork yoke holes - the thicker the better.

4. Check the ball race at the back of the fork where the ball runs up and down. Make sure it is well constructed. Each side should be the same thickness and the more metal the better.

5. The fork yoke pins should fit into the cutter correctly, not one in and the other half out, or the cutter may come off during use.

6. See the centre fork yokes (or inside prongs on the fork yokes) when fitted on a cutter. They should sit in the centre of the cutter teeth and not too much to one side so as to ensure there is even pressure on the cutter.

7. Hold the barrel and turn the back end to see if it is loose or stiff. If too stiff, it could be the leather gripping, grit inside or out of round.

8. Put a comb and cutter on the handpiece; put the cutter to one side and screw the tension down lightly till it holds. Then move the cutter to the other side. If the tension is different, the tension pin and sleeve may not be at 90 deg to the comb bed.

9. Check the centre post setting is correct and make sure the centre post nut is tight.

10. Take the tension nut off and check that the screw in the sleeve is tight or it may come loose and you will lose tension.

REF: SHEARING MAGAZINE
Vol.9, No.3, November 1993

PEN PALS

Susie Hansen has sent in some addresses for pen pals.

Maria Fountain
Filkins, Down Cottage
Filkins, Lechlade
Glos. GL7 3RE
England.

Maria is 39, has no children, lives in the country and works for a wild life park.

Stephanie Goldberg
105 Cardinal Lane
Nedersonville TN 37075
USA.

Has many hobbies and interests. Is 33 years old with a 3 year old daughter.

Mrs Linda Edison
221 Chatsworth ave
Cosham
Hants
PO6 2UL
England.

Married to Ray a musician, has 3 sons ages 5yrs, 3yrs, 9 months. They have many animals including 2 dogs & 5 cats.

Anyone wanting to know more can contact Susie and she can forward them more details of the above ladies.

Mrs Susan Hansen
Main Point Farm
Falkland Islands.

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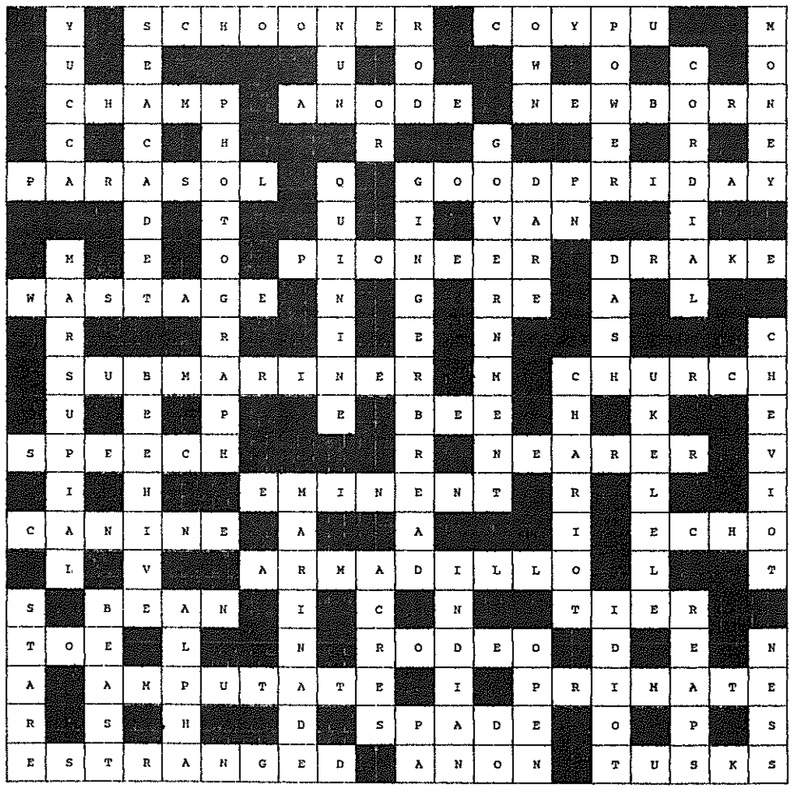


APRIL CROSSWORD SOLUTION

RECIPES

CHOCOLATE FUDGE PUDDING.

1Cup,sugar
1.5 Cups flour
Vanilla essence
milk to mix
0.5 Cups Margarine
1.5 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon cocoa

1. Cream margarine & sugar together in a bowl, and add the rest of the ingredients & mix to a smooth cake like mixture with the milk.
2. Put 1.5 cups of boiling water in a casserole dish together with 1 cup of sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence and 1 tablespoon of cocoa.
3. Mix well and spoon cake mixture over the top, and cook in a medium oven for about 40 minutes.

CARROT JAM

3 lbs carrots cooked without salt.
4 lbs sugar .
1 tablespoon whisky or ginger.

Save enough cooking liquid, mash the carrots and add all other ingredients, then put everything into a saucepan & cook for about 2 hrs or until thick.

These delicious recipes have been sent in by Aase Davis.

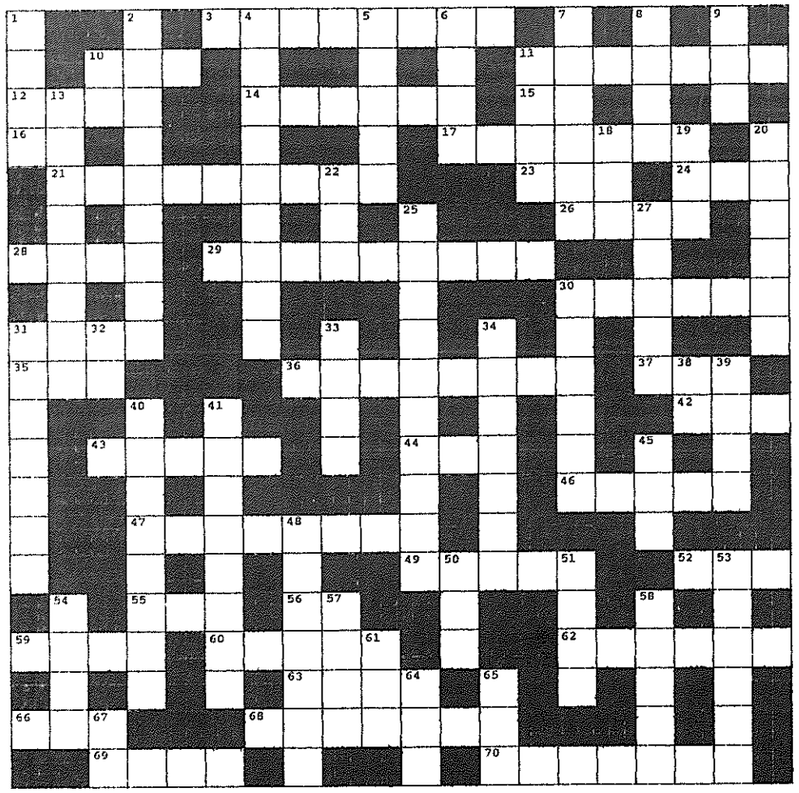
PREGNANCY TEST FOR MARES

There is a laboratory based assay which can test whether or not your mare is in foal. The test is based on detecting a hormone Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin (PMSG) or equine chorionic gonadotropin. It is secreted by the pregnant mare's uterus and is found in the blood between the 40th and 120th day of gestestion, reaching a peak at approximately the 60th day. Measurement of PMSG provides a specific test for pregnancy since the hormone is only found in the pregnant mare.

If people are interested in this test for next summer could they let me know, then I can look into the possibility of getting an assay kit for the Agriculture Dept Laboratory. If this service is available next summer then there would be a charge for each test, probably between £5 and £10 depending on interest.

Diana Roberts.
Senior Laboratory Technician.

MAY CROSSWORD



WASH—OFF GLUE BACK

Sunbeam will soon be marketing an emery glue that can be removed by soaking in water.

A similar popular glue disappeared from the market because the makers said demand was not sufficient to warrant manufacture in New Zealand. Ray Dunick of Sunbeam says papers can be left on for months but still soak off readily. The glue will not move or stretch and will not cause pitting on alloy discs.

Sunbeam is also adding further modifications to its range of combs. The Super Flight, like the Sonic, has had the riders extended slightly and the bevels machined on the new plant. The Ultra Flash has also had the riders extended and dropped slightly for longer life. It is in fact a Super Flight pulled out to 94 mm. It will be available soon.

The old popular standard pendulum with the same setting for combs and cutters is making a come-back. On Sunbeam's new model the pressure plate can be reversed should the front side be damaged. The handle can be locked into a fixed position if desired and the rod adjusted with a wing nut. The Wool Board favours the standard pendulum; there's less opportunity for bad grinding!

Ref: SHEARING MAGAZINE
Vol 9, No 3, Nov 1993.

ACROSS

3. CARD GAME FOR ONE
10. SHEEPISH SOUND
11. RINSES WITH WATER
12. FOR ALL ENTRANTS
14. SMALL BREED OF POULTRY
15. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
16. PERFORM
17. DOMESTIC FOWL
21. RECEIVING AREA
23. NOT ANY OF THE TWO
24. FLIGHTLESS AUSTRALIAN BIRD
26. DAMP FOG
28. COOK
29. OLD EASTERN CAPITAL
30. PREFERRED OPTION
31. IN ADDITION TO
35. SALESPERSON
36. APERTURE IN FENCE MADE WITH FENCING MATERIALS.
37. MAT
41. PART OF PAW
43. EXTRA
44. ANTIQUE
46. INSENSITIVE, AS IN A COMMENT
47. FORCE
49. GATHERING GARDEN IMPLEMENTS
52. MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRIC CURRENT
55. NECK WEAR
56. SEAMAN
59. RUN FOR ANIMALS
60. LIQUID FROM COAGULATED BLOOD
62. DRINKABLE RACKET AND BALL GAME?
63. SLOW ARDUOUS JOURNEY
66. TOWARDS THE STERN
68. FROM MARS
69. WORN AROUND THE WAIST TO KEEP GARMENTS UP
70. WHEELED CART PULLED BEHIND

DOWN

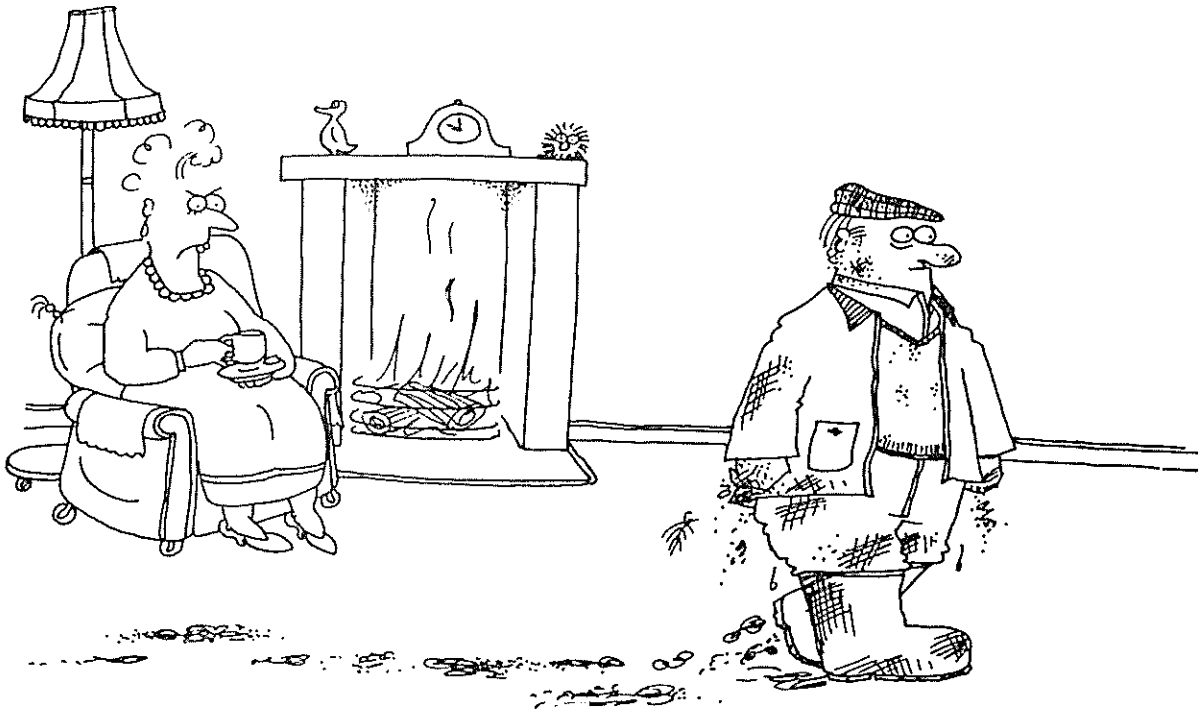
1. A HORSE WITH SHOES
2. METHOD OF POLICE RESTRAINT
4. SEABIRD WITH LARGE WINGSPAN
5. DEVOURED
6. NOT STANLEY
7. ZIG-ZAG SKIING OR CANOEING
8. RUSSIAN RULER
9. ANIMAL DOCTOR
10. EXIST
11. YOUNG DEER
13. SHIPS WINDOW
18. THREE
19. THUS FAR
20. FINANCIAL PLAN
22. CHOOSE
25. MEASUREMENT OF VEHICULAR POWER
27. DESCRIPTION OF DIRRHOEA
30. BABYLIKE ANGEL
31. NOT PUBLIC
32. HIGHER
33. CONNECT
34. GRAZING FIELD
38. HIGHER
39. MANNER OF MOVEMENT
40. ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSOR
41. TYRES NOT REQUIRING AN INNERTUBE
45. VEHICLE FOR TRANSPORTING A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
48. DISCIPLINED
50. NOAH'S BOAT
51. DECORATIVE BAND OF CLOTHING
53. DOG'S BOSS
54. YOUNG COW
57. STICKY PART OF PLANT BEARING SEED
58. SMALL FLIGHTLESS BIRD
61. ACQUAINTED
64. FAMILY
65. WORKING COMMUNITY INSECT
67. CONSUMPTION

* * * * * * * * * * *

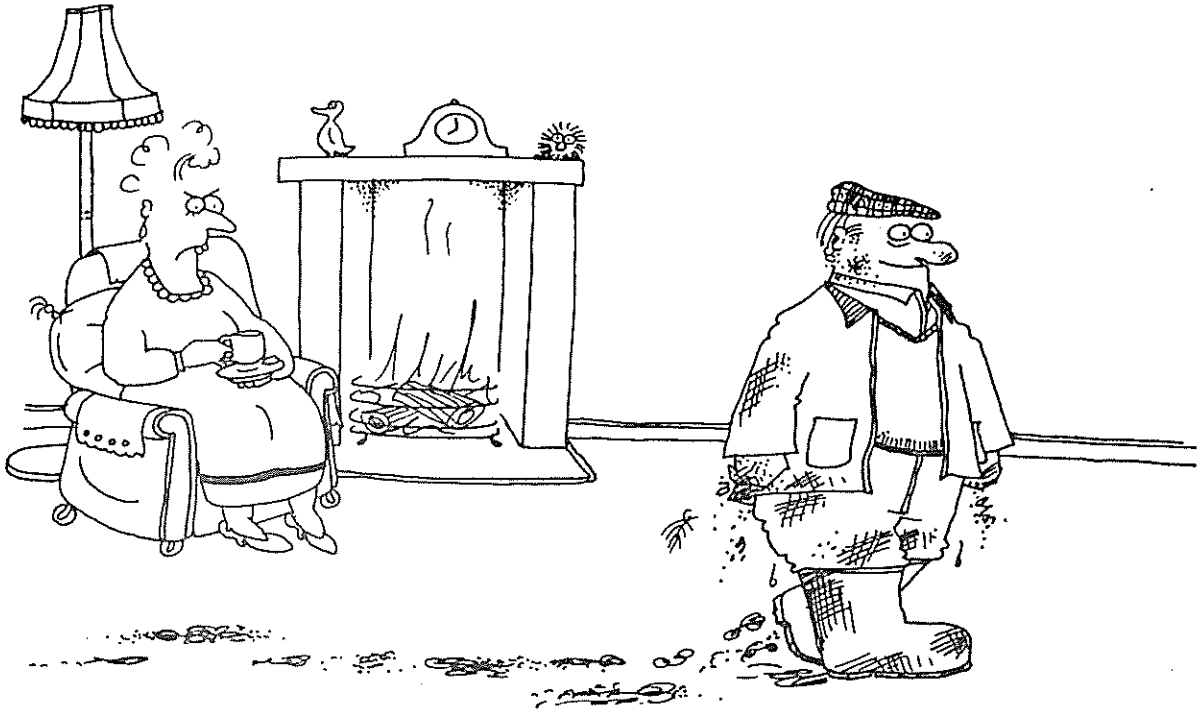
TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board would like to hear from people anywhere in camp who would be prepared to take visitors, either throughout the year or at specific times. These could be overseas tourists or local residents from Stanley who want to get away from it all. Some of these may even be prepared to lend a hand on the farm in return for reduced cost of accommodation or free evening meals. Anyone interested please call Cherilyn at FITB on 22215 and let her know on what basis you would be prepared to accept visitors and at what cost.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



MUCK-SPREADING



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

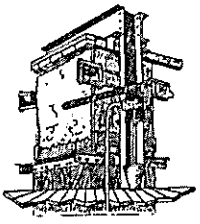
BOTTOM PICTURE: 1.More foliage behind garage; 2.There are chimneys on the roof; 3.Dog has no tail; 4.No left headlamp on rover; 5.Man on left has black shoes; 6.Jug is a different shape; 7.Window in rover is paler; 8.Tool box has a clasp; 9.There's a hook in the garage; 10.Man's shirt opening is longer.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 55 JUNE 1994

IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors: M.J.McLeod and T.Bowles.

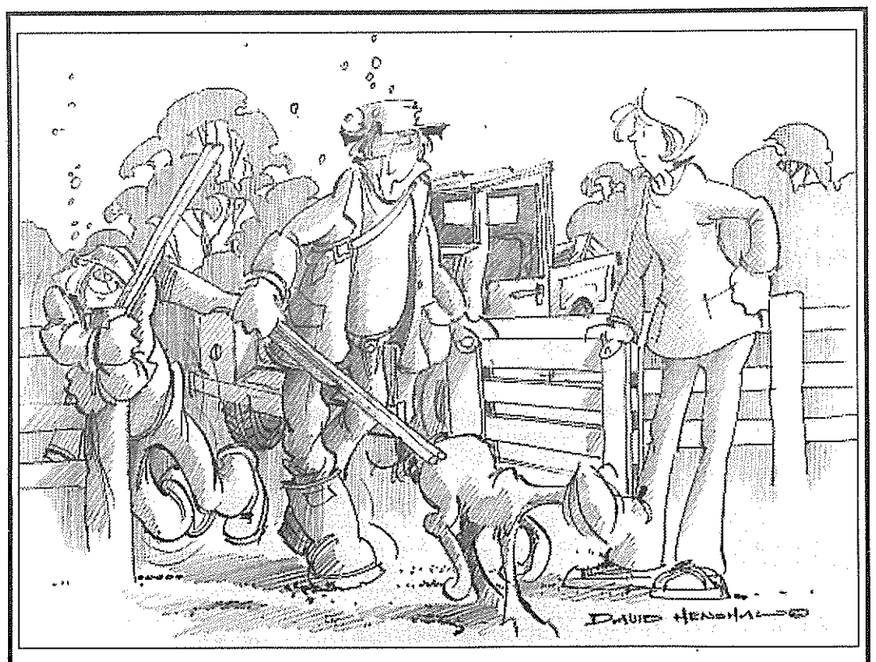
EDITORIAL

This month's edition of the Wool Press has articles from Aidan Kerr and Jim McAdam reporting on the interest being shown by other countries at congresses and meetings that they have attended and taken part in, showing various papers involving research in the Falklands. This international recognition is good news for the Falkland Islands agriculture.

Some of you will be disappointed in the A.I.programme not coming to full fruition this year due to circumstances beyond our control. We hope that next year we will not encounter these transit problems.

I hope you find the centre page useful. We were asked by a reader to create a chart showing "Which needle I need for what and where to give it?". Well now you know!

MANDY McLEOD



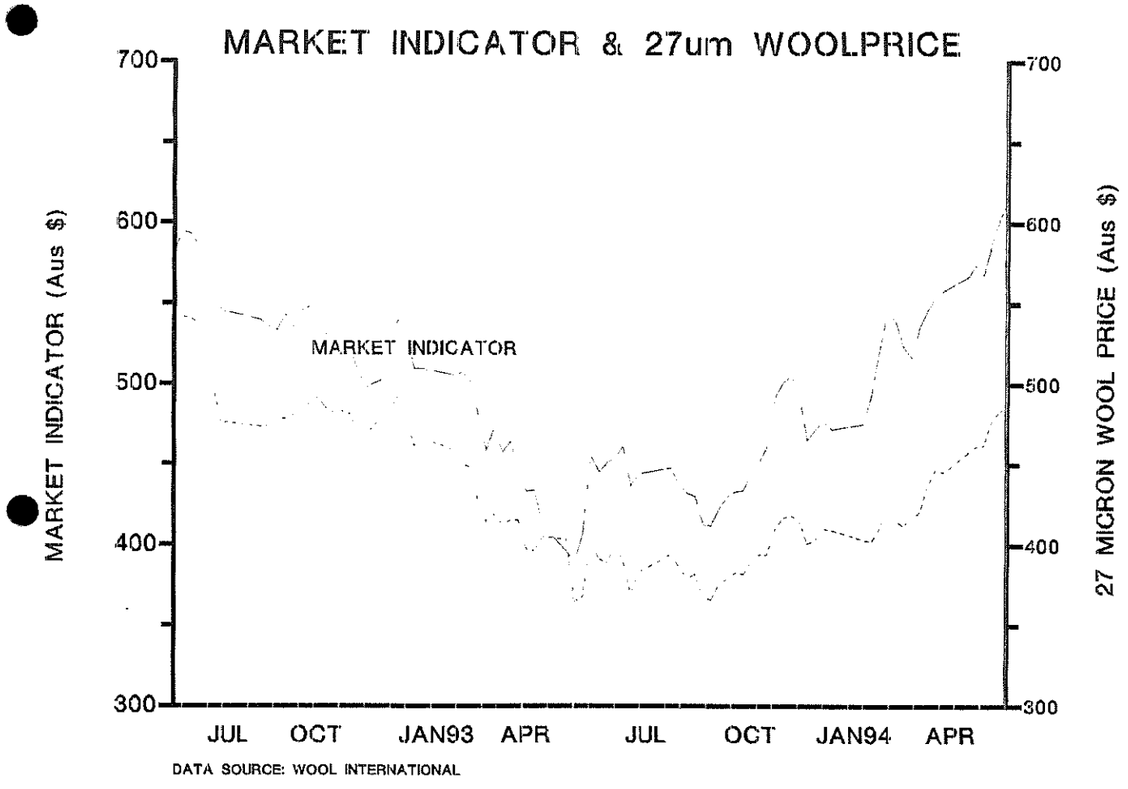
"It wush tellible...clean fine morning...not a duck in shight...there was nothing else t'do!"

WOOL MARKET REPORT

For the first time in over 2 years, the Australian Market Indicator has risen above the critical 600 cents / kg barrier, closing at 614 cents / kg on the 20th May.

600 cents / kg is regarded by the industry as being the break-even price for Australian produced wool. If the prices remain over 600 cents it is likely that Australian farmers will be drawn back into the wool industry. This move back to wool would not be adverse for Falkland producers as it is important that the long term supply for wool remains in balance with demand.

The 27 micron indicator also rose over the month to close at 487 cents / kg. The Australian $ weakened on last months reported figure to close at 208 on the 6th May.



HUGH MARSDEN
JUNE 1994

DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

In February 1993 I attended the 17th International Grassland Congress in New Zealand and Australia. There I presented six posters covering several aspects of the grassland research and development from the Falkland Islands. Their associated papers reported joint work done by the staff of the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Centre, Queen's University Belfast, British Antarctic Survey and Rothamsted Experimental Station.

The International Grassland Congress is held every four years and is attended by most of the world's best grassland researchers, advisers and by many people who depend upon grassland for their livelihoods. Prior to publication all the papers published in the proceedings had passed a system of rigorous checks by an editorial panel of experienced grassland scientists. This ensures that the papers contain information which is scientifically original, accurate and that it is practically relevant to grassland workers worldwide.

The posters generated much interest and discussion from a wide variety of congress attendants. I am certain that this exercise has not only put Falkland's grassland R & D firmly "on the map", it showed that much of the R & D work done here was of a high standard internationally. I aim to continue in this way.

Abstracts of three of the papers are presented in this issue, the other papers on Tussac and Clover will be published in July's issue. If anyone would like copies of the full papers, please give me a ring on 27355.

AIDAN KERR
JUNE 1994

Land subdivision in the Falkland Islands

O.W.Summers, W.J.R. Haydock and A.Kerr.

Abstract

The Falkland Islands agricultural industry depends mainly on wool production. This paper reviews the structure of an industry which has changed radically in the last 10 years. Lord Shackleton completed his economic survey of the Falkland Islands in 1976 when there where only 36 farms, most of which were owned by companies based mainly in the UK, and an absentee-landlord system prevailed. Shackleton advocated that the Falkland Islands Government should purchase large farms and split them into smaller family units for sale to local people. Presently (1991-92) there are 92 farms and most of the Islands is in local ownership. The success of the land subdivision programme is analysed, illustrating the benefits of increased wool production and stocking rates. The effect of subdivision on the rural, social and economic structure of Falklands agriculture, and agricultural policy is also discussed.

A research and development strategy for Whitegrass pasture: the dominant cool temperate rangeland species of the Falkland Islands.

G.M. Hoppe and J.A.Kerr

Abstract

Whitegrass *(Cortaderia pilosa)*, the dominant rangeland plant species in the Falkland Islands, has been estimated to cover approximately 60% of the land area. It generally grows on peat soils and exhibits a range of growth forms depending upon soil drainage. The climate of the islands is cool oceanic with an annual precipitation of 300-650 mm. A brief history of agricultural research (established only in 1975) and work areas is presented. A major constraint to the productivity of the Falkland Islands sheep industry is poor utilisation of Whitegrass -dominant pasture. To develop new management strategies for Whitegrass aimed at improved animal output and sustained pastureproduction, a programme of research and development has evolved which combines (1) agronomic trials in the Falkland Islands, (2) ecophysiology studies in an agronomy laboratory in the U.K., and (3) grazing trials, underpinned by the research programmes outlined in 1 and 2. The principle findings of the Whitegrass research will be outlined in this paper.

Productivity and nutritive value of coastal and valley-bottom plant communities in the Falkland Islands

J.A.Kerr and J.H.McAdam

Abstract

In the Falkland Islands, short dense grassland communities ("greens") in valley-bottoms, and in coastal areas often associated with dense populations of sea birds, are selectively grazed by livestock and wild geese within the extensive grazing systems. Annual and seasonal herbage productivity, botanical composition, digestibility and utilisation ,of greens were experimentally assessed at 6 sites on East Falkland. Herbage productivity, digestibility and utilisation were higher than reported for the dominant Cortaderia communities and compared favourably with improved pastures. Botanical composition of green types were similar. Despite their uneven distribution and low area, greens are an important forage resource and could be used more effectively to improve wool production.

* *

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED STOCK RETURNS
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY

* *

MANAGEMENT OF STUD SHEEP

Farmers are aware of the potential benefits which may be passed on to main flock sheep from the superior performance and breeding of stud sheep. Farmers are also acutely aware of the high prices which they pay for their "studs". Obviously it will be important to maximise the returns from such costly investments. Ensuring that these "studs" have long and healthy lives and produce many off spring, will achieve this. This article provides some general recommendations for stud flock management. D.O.A. staff can make more specific recommendations on request.

The management of stud flocks based on good nutrition should ensure sustained, superior performances. A sufficient supply of good grass is the cheapest source of food. Thus stud sheep will benefit from grazing the more nutritious and productive grasses found in settlement paddocks, greens and reseeds.

Supplementary feeding of stud rams is often required just before and during tupping and during the worst of the winter. Supplementary feeding of stud ewes is required at tupping time, in the last two months of pregnancy and during the first few weeks of lactation. Also supplementary feed any stud animal whose body condition falls below 2 at any time.

Underfeeding can result in production losses, such as few ewes tupped, poor lamb numbers and animal death. Overfeeding can also lower production performance. Sheep are generally fed less than 1kg(2.5lbs) per day of feed nuts, because with greater quantities, sheep tend to substitute cheap grass with expensive grass nuts. Most supplementary feeding of sheep on grass, allows 0.3kg to 0.7 kg (0.75 to 1.75 lbs) per day per head. More supplement should be given only to ewes milking twin lambs.

A water supply is always required, particularly if dry feeds are being fed. Good nutrition does much for good health. However for sheep in small paddocks worm drenching is recommended, at lambing and in the autumn, together with a change to other pastures.

Stud flock productivity will benefit from good sheep husbandry at lambing. (e.g. see relevant articles in issues 12, 13, 23, 24).

The design of the farm breeding programme will have a great impact on the productivity of the stud flock. D.O.A. staff can advise farmers on the design of their programmes. Breeding programmes that include fresh A.I. from superior sires usually achieve more offspring per rams than natural service programmes.

In conclusion stud sheep are special and should benefit from special treatment.

ROBERT H.B. HALL & AIDAN KERR
JUNE 1994

KNARESBOROUGH NEWS

Two weeks were spent getting organised for the arrival of the Anne Boye, and included checking shipping lists and wool specifications, and ten solid days lotting wools and printing lot instructions.

Lotting has two conflicting objectives namely trying to obtain the maximum amount of information for minimal cost. Information is necessary for both marketing and farming. Marketing requires information to prove that the terms of contracts have been met. Farming requires information to assess farm physical performance, determine breeding trends and ensure revenues are obtained for the physical wools (yield and micron) produced. In conflict with this need for information, is the fact that the cheapest test costs £102.50 and the average test costs about £111.00. Lotting is thus no easy task and by definition requires a compromise between cost and information.

Farm specifications are the key to knowing what has been sent and the basis of lotting; hence the disruptions caused when such information has not been received in Britain, months after sheep have been shorn and the wool is half way up the Atlantic. I have recently discovered good specifications and bad specifications!! Good specifications have clear, accurate descriptions (as promoted in the Guide to preparation), have few bales with mixed wool types and a total gross weight. Not such good specifications are those which give little idea of the bale contents, use "estimated", but never similar weights and that don't add-up.

Descriptions of contents must be accurate, otherwise we end up dealing with unhappy buyers of Falklands wool, who want money back and never to use our wool again!! What is in a bale of "mixed wool" - A, AA,B,BB,C,CC, necks, bellies, stained pieces, lox or double fleece? Heavy stained wool can contaminate other wools, whilst double fleeces can wreck a normally set-up card. Given the potential damage that can be caused by the wrong wools getting into the wrong place, it is essential that wools are labelled correctly and the reason for mixed bales joining the worst wools contained in a bale. Good advice is to describe bale contents accurately and to avoid mixing bale contents by careful planning during pressing.

The shipment lotting instructions, once completed, were sent to Bower Green for them to make space in the warehouse, chalk out lot locations on the warehouse floor and draw up weighing requirement charts. S.G.S. wool testing also received the lotting instructions so they can plan their work schedules and get all the different core-testing labels and forms prepared.

In short, lotting a shipment of wool is a large job, which is greatly assisted by the majority of farms that send accurate specifications well in advance of ships leaving Stanley.

ROBERT H.B. HALL.
JUNE 1994.

... AND MORE DIVERSIFICATION

SHEEPSKIN CURING -

A LOGICAL ENTERPRISE FOR SHEEP FARMERS!

Following my investigations into skin curing I have decided to do this small article to give you some food for thought. It appears to me that with an abundant availability of the basic material (skins) and an insatiable demand for the finished product at a pretty good price, skin curing is worth a try as a diversification. We have promoted sheepskin curing over the years through the Agricultural Training Scheme so most of you know the basic principles of the task. It is being done successfully by a few farmers, some by our method, some have found alternative ways which suit them better, the fact that these few are still curing shows that it can be fitted into most yearly schedules.

I have looked into the cost of chemicals needed per skin from Falkland Farmers. At the most it is around £4.50 (that also includes salt purchased elsewhere). The selling price of the finished item may vary depending on the quality and size of the skin. A couple of years ago, a shop in Stanley was selling sheepskins imported from U.K. for £30!

You need very little equipment for most methods so the initial outlay is small. A knife for fleshing, an old twin tub for the washes, some large plastic barrels for the different soak stages (those big blue cement tubs are ideal), space for slowly drying the skins (the shearing shed in winter), a comb and a pumice stone for the finishing touches.

From my enquiries it would seem that lambskins are the ideal type. The problem being that most lambs are usually killed for Christmas consumption and that is definitely not the best time to throw yourself into a dedicated week or two of guggling in chemicals and skins! There are a couple of solutions to this. You can either salt them or freeze them until the winter when the seasons work is over. A lot of the work can be done in the warmth of your home.

As with any diversification project, you would be pretty lucky to get it right first time so you have to allow for initial errors, although now that a few people have had a go, ideas and tips can be exchanged. This should make the task easier and improve the quality of the finished Falkland product.

Lynn Blake at Little Chartres is having success with skin curing and is happy to share her knowledge and experience with anyone who would like to give it a go. We will also endeavour to help provide information where possible.

Lynn is going to do an article explaining her method including trials and tribulations. We look forward to reading it in the Wool Press. Comments on tips and problem solving are welcome from anyone curing skins by whatever method. The more information that can be gained from each other the better.

MANDY McLEOD
JUNE 1994

HELPING SHEEP TO SAFELY GRAZE AND KEEP THEIR HAIR ON

Sheep may appear serene, but they suffer an awful lot of stress. The result is that they lose their hair and sheep that go bald, even slightly, cost Australian wool exporters around £23 million a year in lost production.

One reason why they cannot fill so many bags with wool is pregnancy. Like some human mothers sheep suffer temporary hair loss when expecting, government scientist Dr Tony Schlink said yesterday in Sydney:" It's stress-related," he explained at the Common wealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

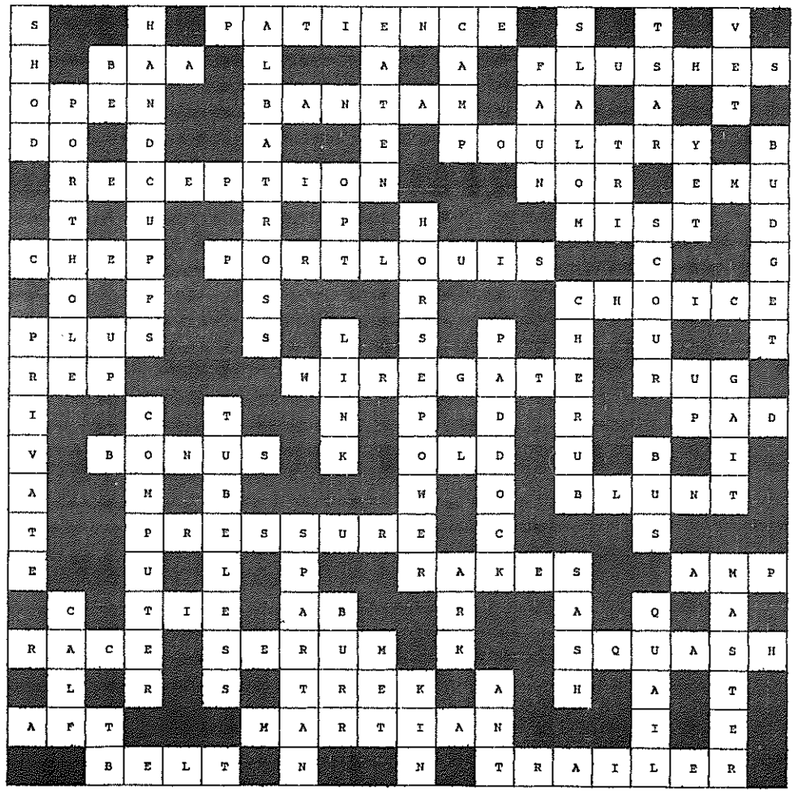
UPHEAVAL

Worry can also come with extended rainfall, drought. blow-fly infestation or simply moving from one paddock to another.

Around 30 million of Australia's 140 million sheep have baldness in varying degrees. Most lose only 1 or 2 percent, and not even their owners notice because the wool fibres tend to mat, forming a cover over the thin patches. But with some, up to half their wool falls out.

Dr Schlink, however, has found a cure - an acid called methionine, which almost totally eliminates shedding. Sheep will soon be grazing on genetically engineered grasses containing rich doses of the remedy.

Source: Daily Mail 5 May 1994



MAY

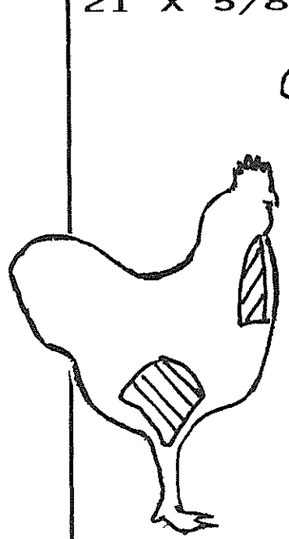
CROSSWORD

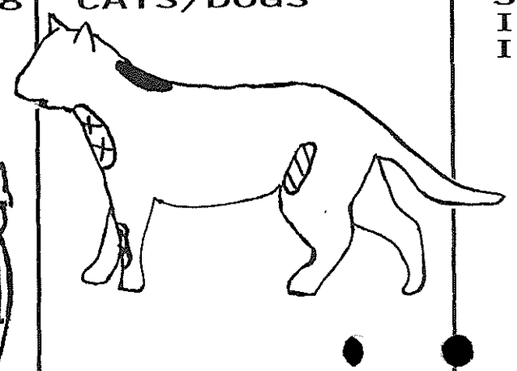
SOLUTION

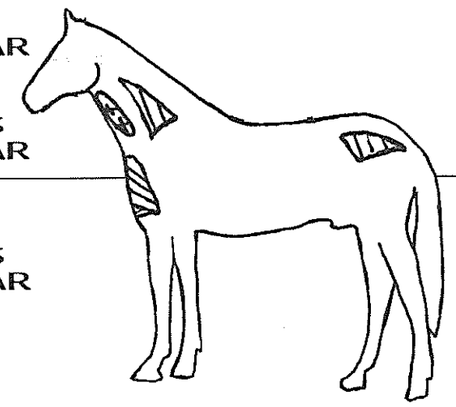
NEEDLES AND INJECTION SITES

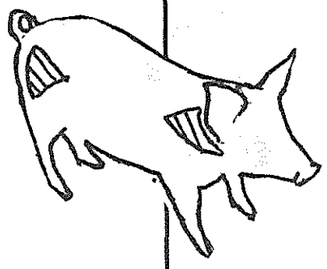
WALL CHART

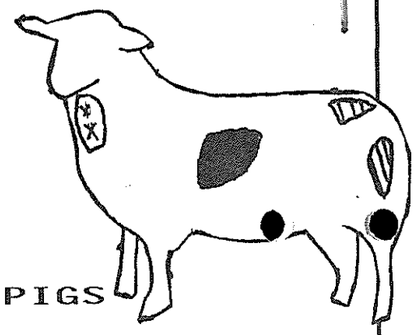
COLOUR CODE	NEEDLE SIZE	ANIMAL	SITE	HINTS
GREEN	21 X 5/8	CATS/DOGS	SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAMUSCULAR INTRAVENOUS	NEEDLE SIZE eg. 21 x 5/8 diameter length The higher the diameter number the thinner the needle. Any injections made subcutaneously or intramuscularly will most likely be anti-biotics or vitamins. Any intraveneous injections will probably be blood withdrawel done by the vet. An exception is Buscopan which is administered in the jugular vein of horses with colic.
		POULTRY	INTRAMUSCULAR	
		LAMBS/PIGS	SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAMUSCULAR	
WHITE/ CREAM	19 X 1	SHEEP/GOATS	INTRAVENOUS SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAMUSCULAR	Goat injection sites are similar to sheep.
		PIGS	SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAMUSCULAR	
		HORSES	INTRAVENOUS INTRAMUSCULAR	
		CATTLE	SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAVENOUS	
PINK	18 X 1½	CATTLE	SUB CUTANEOUS INTRAMUSCULAR	INJECTION SITE KEY Intramuscular Subcutaneous Intravenous
		HORSES	INTRAMUSCULAR INTRAVENOUS (Buscopan)	
		PIGS	INTRAMUSCULAR	

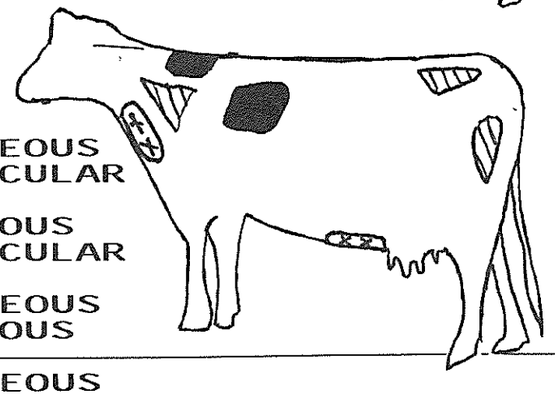












RECIPES

THE FOLLOWING RECIPES HAVE BEEN KINDLY PROVIDED BY AASE DAVIES FROM EVELYN STATION.

YO-YO BISCUITS

12oz butter
4 oz icing sugar
4oz custard powder
12oz flour

Beat butter and sugar until light and soft, then mix in the custard and flour, roll into small balls and press with a fork and bake in an oven for about 20 minutes, when cold put together with the following mixture as below.

Filling for Yo Yo's

12 tablespoons icing sugar
2 tablespoons custard powder
2 tablespoons butter
A little hot water to mix

LANCASHIRE NUTS

4 oz butter
4 oz sugar
4 oz flour
4oz cornflour
1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg.

Cream butter and sugar until light and soft, then add egg and mix well. Add flour, cornflour and baking powder. Roll into small balls. Flatten and bake for 15-20 mins or until light brown. When cold put together with lemon curd.

AUSTRALIANS LEAD EFFORTS TO REDUCE WOOL CONTAMINATION

The Australian wool industry is so concerned about wool contamination in its own wool, that it established a Contamination Task Force, undertook a Mill Survey to establish objective information relating to the incidence, type and cost of contamination and is currently researching practical means of contamination reduction and detection.

WOOL PACKS: Currently there are some six research and development projects being undertaken to either develop a totally new packaging material (including sheet polythene and wool) or improve on the current High Density Polyethylene and Nylon packs. Improvement aims at higher strength and lower fibrillation packs, thereby reducing the chance of small pack fibres breaking off and contaminating the wool during processing.

DETECTION SYSTEMS: Research is being conducted to examine the potential for detection of contaminants during processing, by impregnating pack fibre with detectable materials such a fluorescent and metallic compounds.

CONTAMINATION SCREENING: All core samples taken from Australian wool measured for fibre diameter, yield and VM have been screened for the presence of in-bale contamination since July 1993.

Australia exports some of the highest quality wools in the world, yet it is still trying to improve the quality of it's product. The Falklands wool industry should note that the leader of the pack is pulling ahead!! We must keep pace with the world's front runner; this means that our recent improvements have not come to an end.

Ref: AWRPO Progress Report.

ROBERT H.B. HALL

WHITEGRASS - THE POLISH CONNECTION

by JIM McADAM, Queen's University Belfast.

A high-tech plant physiology lab in the middle of Warsaw, Poland, might seem the most unlikely place in the world to find someone enthusing about Whitegrass, but that is indeed what is happening this year!

For the background to all this it is necessary to go back to 1992. In June of that year Fiona Wilson and I were in Lahti, Finland, attending the biennial meeting of the European Grassland Federation. Grassland researchers from all over Europe (both 'East' and 'West') gather at this very prestigious event and we were very pleased that six months earlier the organisers had accepted our submission of three papers on the aspects of the ecophysiology and growth of Whitegrass (see references at end), reporting work carried out by Gerry Hoppe and Fiona. One paper (1) was chosen for oral presentation as a keynote paper and the other two (2 & 3) were presented as posters.

After I had given the paper, a very excited Polish gentleman leapt to his feet and began bombarding me with questions about Whitegrass. It transpired that he was George Poskuta, Professor of Plant Physiology at the University of Warsaw and who is an internationally renowned authority on the plant growth process called photosynthesis (whereby green plants use the energy of the sun to create complex sugars for growth). He realised that Whitegrass seemed to do everything which other grasses did not and it would therefore be an ideal plant to study some of the things he was particularly interested in - such as the relationship between the uptake of nitrogen and photosynthesis and the effect of the lack of oxygen on photosynthesis. Fiona Wilson's work had shown that unlike most grasses, Whitegrass can actually grow better in water logged soils than drained soils and the more nitrogen it is given the less it grows!

Professor Poskuta and I talked more about how he could progress his interest in Whitegrass and we decided to apply to the EC for research funding under a scheme called "Go-East Go-West" whereby scientists from Eastern and Western European countries are encouraged to visit each others institutes and carry out or promote research links.

Fortunately our application was successful against stiff competition and late last year we were awarded funding for Prof Poskuta to come and work in the laboratories at Queen's on Whitegrass for approximately six weeks. This he did earlier this year and in about two weeks time I will make a reciprocal visit to Warsaw (funded by the same EC grant) where I will give two seminars on the Falklands - one on agriculture in the Islands in general, and one specifically on Whitegrass growth. I will also hope to explore some other areas of cooperation between Queen's and Warsaw. Prof Poskuta wants me to bring him some more Whitegrass plants from our stock in Belfast as he has used up those he brought over with him.

Those plants had been collected from the Department of Agriculture's experimental site at Bush Pass, Fitzroy, by Jason Whitney and Gerry Hoppe, carefully had soil washed off their roots by Willie May, carted back to Belfast by myself, grown on in a growth cabinet by Fiona Wilson, talked about in Finland and eventually ended up in a laboratory in Warsaw! It is a small world!

More will reported later on progress and findings from this project which is a valuable spin-off from the links which the Department of Agriculture has with the Queen's University of Belfast.

Whitegrass references from the Proceedings of the 14th General Meeting of the European Grasslands Federation, Lahti, Finland,

1. McADAM, J.H., HARVEY, B.M.R., WALTON, D.W.H. and WILSON, F.E.A. (1992). Ecophysiology and growth of *Cortaderia pilosa*. pp 171-175.

2. HOPPE, G.G. and McADAM, J.H. (1992). The effects of winter defoliation on the growth of two forms of Whitegrass (*Cortaderia pilosa*) in the Falkland Islands. pp 424-426.

3. HOPPE, G.M. and WILSON, F.E.A. The effects of frequency of defoliation on the rate of leaf growth and senescence of Whitegrass (*Cortaderia pilosa*) in the Falkland Islands. pp 422-424.

4. McADAM, J.H. and WALTON, D.W.H. (1992). Summer and winter grazing of Tussac grass (*Parodiochloa flabellata*) - a sustainable cool temperate forage resource. pp 673-675.

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WELCOME NEWS ON WOOL PRICES FROM BWMB

THE SOURCE OF THIS ARTICLE
WAS A RECENT EDITION OF FARMERS WEEKLY (MAY 1994).

"A Welcome increase in wool prices will bring bigger cheques for producers, and the upward trend is set to continue. Alan Barker got the good news from BWMB managing director, Ian Hartley.

Sheep farmers will receive the full benefit of the remarkable and continuing upturn in wool prices which has occurred over the past six months, when cheques for this year's clip drop on doormats.

The British Wool Marketing Board's annual schedule of prices, just issued, reveals that when the balance payment for 1993 is added to the advance payment for the 1994 clip, producers can expect payments averaging between 80p and 85p/kg, a figure that is only marginally less than the old guarantee level. Prompt payment is being promised by the board, with cheques in the producers' hands within 10 days of this year's clip being received at the depot.

One of the most welcome features of the rising market, which has seen the indicator prices rise from 61p to 95p / kg, is the considerable improvement in previous low value wools.

A fashion switch from pastel to stronger shades has enabled carpet manufactures to include more black and grey fibres, and this has pushed up hill wool values. A year ago, for example, the board announced an advanced payment of just 1p / kg for Dark Grey/Black Welsh and Radnor cross wools. The balance payment for 1993 is 43.4p / kg, with an advanced payment for 1994 of 25p. Similarly, Swaledale wool, which attracted a first payment of 11p, commands a second payment of 41p, with a first payment on 1994 wool of 38p. At the other end of the scale, the Bluefaced grade, which enjoyed a first payment of 47p, earns a balancing payment of 81.7p, giving a total price for the 1993 clip of 128.7p/kg. The first payment for 1994 wool is 80p.

<u>But the fashion pendulum will swing again. The quality message for hill men remains one of clean, white wool production.</u>

The board's two-payment system has not won the support of all wool producers, who would argue for cash up-front. But Ian Hartley, the board's new managing director, says the balancing payments now on offer illustrate the benefits of the system by ensuring producers enjoy the full market price.

Anyone who has been tempted to sell their wool early last season for export, which they were legally entitled to do (about 70t was sold in this way) would now realise the extent to which they had lost out.

"Higher wool prices, lower costs and prompt payment is the message we are trying to get across to out 93,000 wool producers", said Mr Hartely.

He expects wool prices to continue to rise throughout the coming year, probably by as much as 10-20%, but he warns it will not be a smooth increase, and there may be the occasional blip. Mr Hartley says New Zealand, our main competitor, had reduced its stockpile to between 25 and 30m kilo - one-quarter of three year ago. This and a total clearance of the UK clip was bound to be reflected back in market price.

The total UK production of 48m kilos of wool, plus any carryover stocks, had been sold at auction during last season, with the exception of 2m kilos deliberately held back to ensure a full offering of wool to the trade at the first of this season's sales. Because the wet winter was likely to reduce individual fleece weights, this year's clip was likely to be lower at about 47m kilos.

The board, he said, was continuing to look at the efficiency of its own operation. Board costs for this year were projected to be 18p/kg, against 25p last year and 33p three or four years ago. Every penny saved in this way was worth £500,000. Of that 18p 15p went in deport remuneration, leaving only 3p/kg to cover the board's operating costs and its marketing and promotions budget."

* * * * * * * * * * * *

GRAZING HORSES
- TAKING THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH

Horses are more active than ruminant livestock, causing more damage to swards by trampling and poaching, and spending some 60-80% of each day grazing. Productive grass swards are the cheapest means of providing the feed which brood mares and young stock require. However, grassland used by horses provides more than a feed - it is a training ground on which the equine athlete exercises. This article describes how best to grow and utilise grass for use by horses.

Grazing Pattern

Horses are very careful about what they graze, having the ability to be more selective than cattle or sheep regarding the actual parts of the plants which they eat. They are also extremely selective in where they graze. This leads to characteristic patterns developing which are seen as areas of long rejected grass (roughs) and areas of very closely grazed grass (lawns). This situation may be established within six months and becomes worse the longer the horses are left on the pasture. Horses avoid grazing any where near their droppings. Although lowering the nutritive value of the sward, this grazing practice does reduce the degree to which parasitic worms are passed on. The ungrazed areas can account for up to 90% of the field area in long established horse paddocks. Such extreme situations are almost impossible to resolve as even after ploughing and reseeding, considerable rejection will still occur on the areas previously rejected.

Lawns and Roughs

Avoiding large roughs becoming established is obviously important. As roughs are formed, the sward deteriorates and changes occur in the soil nutrient status. Horses excrete a large proportion of their potassium intake in their urine and faeces. Consequently, the soil potash level underlying areas which are not grazed may be considerably higher than that of the closely grazed areas.

Avoiding Wastage

To avoid the formation of large areas of rejected grass in fields grazed by horses, it is desirable to graze cattle or sheep in the same fields, either at the same time or in rotation. Horses will graze right up to cattle dung pats and graze evenly over areas after well rotted cattle manure has been spread. Similarly, cattle will graze the longer grass around the horse dung pats, but sheep tend to favour shorter grass. Mixed grazing will improve pasture utilisation and reduce the worm burden for both species. Even with the best of management, in a mixed grazing situation some areas of grass will get hard. Regular topping of fields during the grazing season will help to encourage more vigorous fresh growth. Alternating grazing and cutting areas will bring about further advantages associated with improved production and lower worm burdens.

Grass Supply - Meeting Requirements

One of the most common fallacies associated with the use of grassland for horses is that fertilisers should not be used. The most desirable species of grass have a large requirement for nutrients, especially nitrogen. Fertiliser nitrogen recommendations for the grazing of beef cattle and sheep are better suited to horses when compared to the higher rates generally used for dairy cows. Nutrients can be supplied as artificial fertiliser or organic manures. Cattle manure encourages horses to graze evenly over the field but it is preferable that horse manure should not be spread onto land used by horses. In situations where little or no fertiliser nitrogen is used, management of the swards to encourage clover will help maintain good levels of production.

Laminitis can occur when horses have access to large quantities of herbage and care should be taken to avoid situations where animals have sudden access to large quantities of young leafy grass, especially early in the season. Ponies are particularly susceptible to *Laminitis* and it may be necessary to restrict the access of mature animals to pasture.

Liming

For most soils pH should be maintained in the range 6.0 - 6.5. Soil acidity can be corrected by applying lime to raise the pH to a more suitable level. Acid soils favour the growth of poorer grasses and weeds (such as buttercup) whilst white clover cannot survive and the availability of the major nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulphur, calcium and magnesium is reduced. However, excessive liming should be avoided as the availability of phosphorous and many trace minerals is reduced. Consequently, a balanced approach to liming practice is important and is best achieved through the use of soil analysis, to determine lime requirement, followed by uniform and accurate application of high quality liming material.

Controlling Weeds

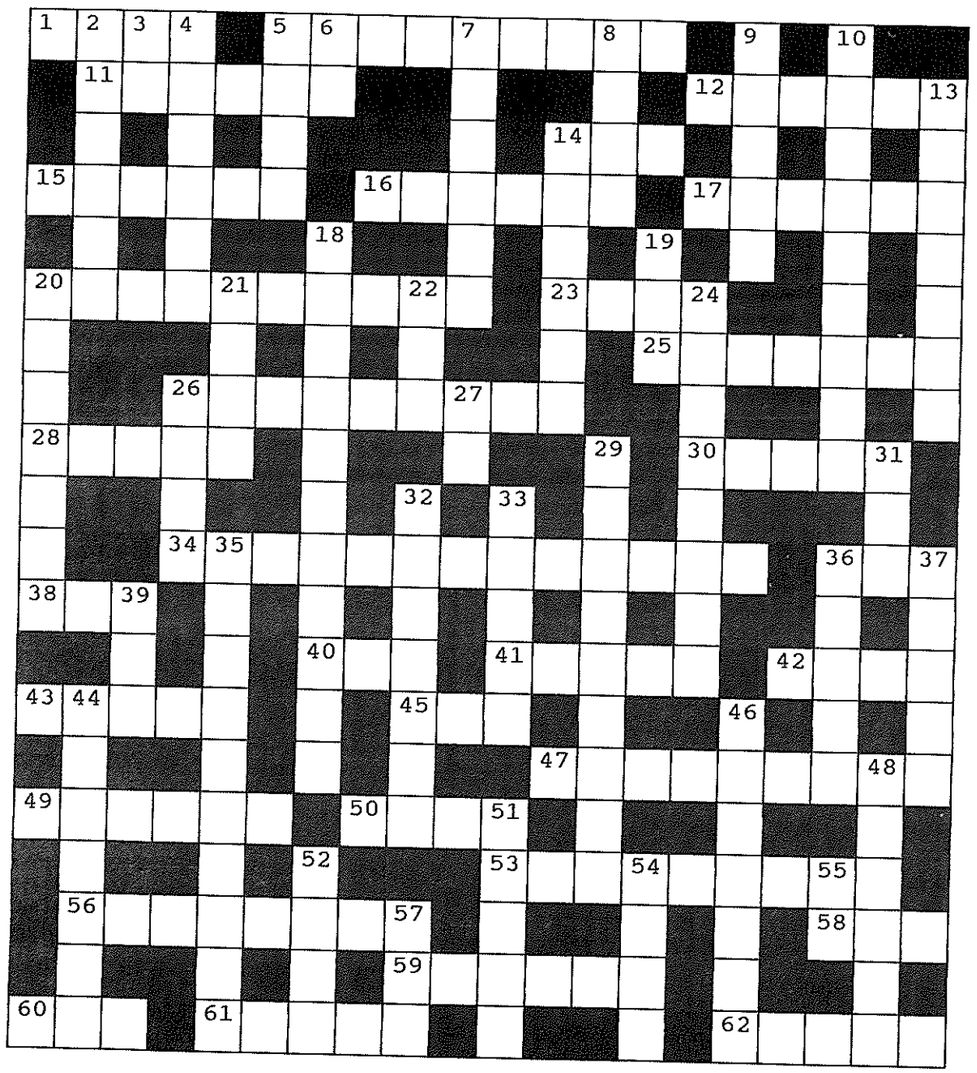
Weeds are all too often a conspicuous feature of fields grazed by horses. Their presence usually indicates overgrazing, excessive poaching or poor soil nutrient status. Topping to prevent seed production, or grazing with sheep can reduce weed problems, however, spraying may be necessary to remove the most persistent offenders. If pastures contain ragwort, stock should always be removed following cutting or spraying until all of the decaying weeds are **completely** dead or removed.

Sward Improvement

Wherever possible swards should be improved by correcting the deficiencies which have resulted in their deterioration, whether caused by nutrition, poor drainage or poor grassland management. However, in some situations it will be necessary to reseed. Direct drilling should be considered as an alternative to ploughing and traditional reseeding, and care taken in the selection of seeds mixtures.
The general principles of growing grass for horses are similar to those for beef cattle and sheep. Grazing management requires particular attention to avoid considerable wastage resulting from ungrazed areas.

Source: Agriculture in Northern Ireland - Vol8 No 5

JUNE



ANGER AT FEE FOR WOOLMARK

The International Wool Secretariat, which licenses the textile trademark, the Woolmark, is about to introduce a £7,000 annual fee for the symbol's use.

The IWS has announced that from May 1 next year it will charge spinners, weavers and manufacturers for the use of the Woolmark and Woolblendmark, which assure the presence of a minimum of 60 percent of new wool.

Britain's wool industry has reacted angrily. The Confederation of British Wool Textiles has been critical of the flat-rate fee, which it believes will penalise small producers.

Source: FINANCIAL TIMES, 4TH MAY 1994.

JUNE

ACROSS

1. ON THE COLD SIDE
5. COAL GIVING OFF NO SMOKE
11. IMPUDENT
12. FUN, PLAY, GAMBOL
14. RODENT
15. REDDISH BROWN
16. FALSE
17. RESIDENTIAL OUTER AREA OF A CITY
20. MECHANICAL WRITING DEVICE
23. OBJECT
25. PUTTING THE RAM(S) TO THE EWES
26. SOFT INVERTEBRATE SEA ANIMAL
28. ENCOURAGED AND PUSHED
30. UPPER LOWER LIMB
34. EXERCISE PRESCRIBED BY DOCTOR
36. FEMALE SWAN
38. LONG FISH
40. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
41. BE OF GOOD FORTUNE
42. BEFORE (PREFIX)
43. TELL OFF
45. ACORN TREE
47. IMPREGNATE WITH GAS LIKE LEMONADE
49. BLACK AND WHITE NOCTURNAL ANIMAL
50. AFRICAN ANTELOPES
53. FLOWER BED FOR THE SILL
56. PELARGONIUM
58. CLASS FAVOURITE
59. ELABORATELY ADORNED
60. RAW METAL
61. STEMS OF GRAIN PLANTS (BEDDING)
62. EVIL SPIRIT

DOWN

2. TAKE UP SPACE - INVADE
3. EXCLAMATION OF SURPRISE
4. SEED POD PLANT
5. OUTER COVERING
6. BELONGING TO ME
7. STURDY WEST COUNTRY PONY
8. REMAIN
9. GAME FISH FOUND IN THE FALKLANDS
10. BREAKING AND TURNING UP SOIL
13. POPULAR WINTER (GENERALLY) VEG
14. SUACE
18. PRIME BEEF CUT
19. HOME OF 49 ACROSS
20. DISTURBANCE
21. UNWANTED PLANT
22. TYPE OF FAIRY
24. INCREASE IN NUMBER
26. ORIGINAL U.S. 4 WHEEL DRIVE
27. IDENTIFICATION
29. CONTROL WORN UNDER HORSES CHIN
31. SOIL LOOSENING TOOL
32. MAIZE COOKED IN HOT FAT
33. SOFT LIMESTONE
35. STEERING PART OF BIKE
36. BAMBOO EATING MAMMAL
37. SISTER OR BROTHER'S DAUGHTER
39. LIONS STAR SIGN
44. BATTERY BOOSTER
46. HEDGING TREE OR BUSH
48. FORMAL SUIT
51. PIGS
52. JETTY
54. ANTLERED ANIMAL
55. SURGICAL PROCEDURE
57. CUT GRASS

WORLD INSPECTOR

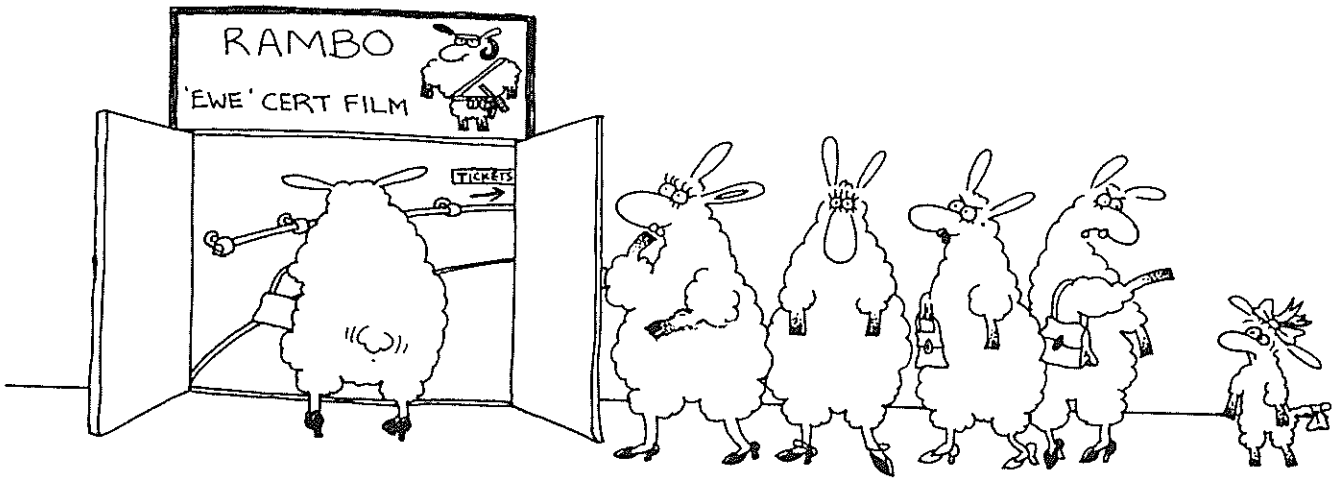
All Falkland Islands' farmers are familiar with the company S.G.S. (Societe Generale de Surveillance), as it is this company which tests core samples of all bales of Falklands wool shipped to Britain and which tested the N.S.F. mid-side samples in New Zealand.

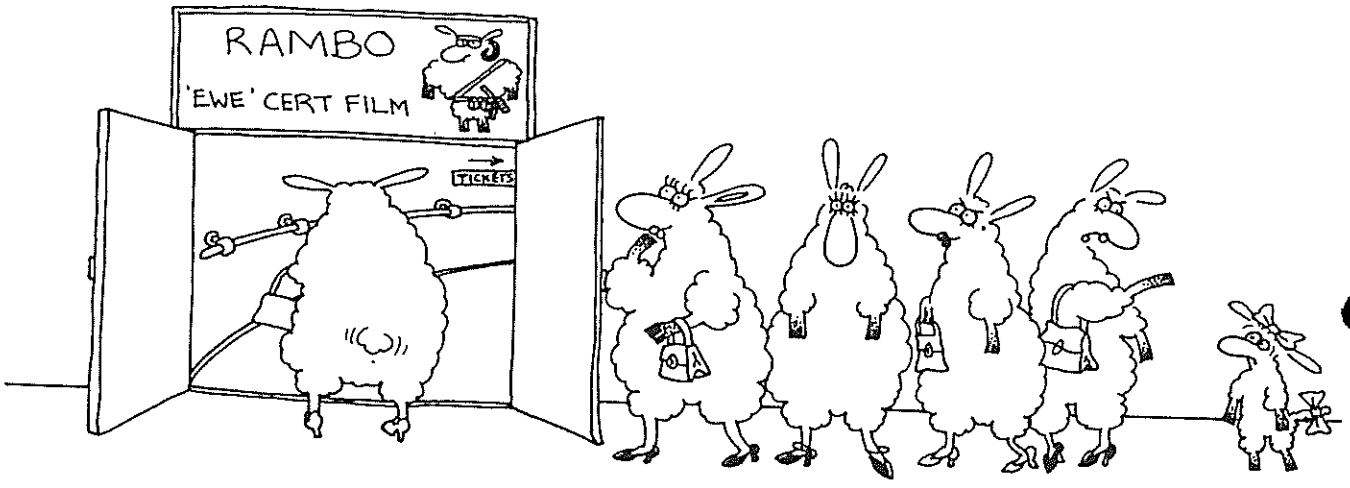
The S.G.S. wool testing operation is only a small part of the Geneva based, group's activities. S.G.S. is the "world's largest international trade inspector, testing and verification organisation, operating in more than 140 countries through 1,170 offices and 309 laboratories staffed by 31,000 people."

Ref: Financial Times 5.5.94.

ROBERT H.B. HALL

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

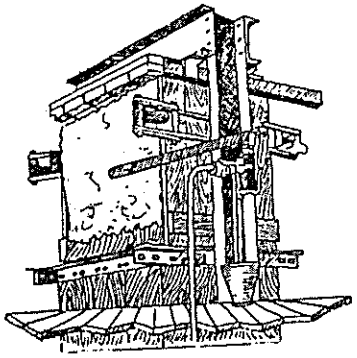
BOTTOM PICTURE.. 1,Fire hearth feet; 2,Pocket button; 3,Clean jumper; 4,Clock time; 5,Lace holes; 6,Lamp stand joint; 7,Mans mouth; 8,Dress stripe; 9,More flames; 10,Lamp stand feet;.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 56 JULY 1994

IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORS: M.McLEOD & T.BOWLES

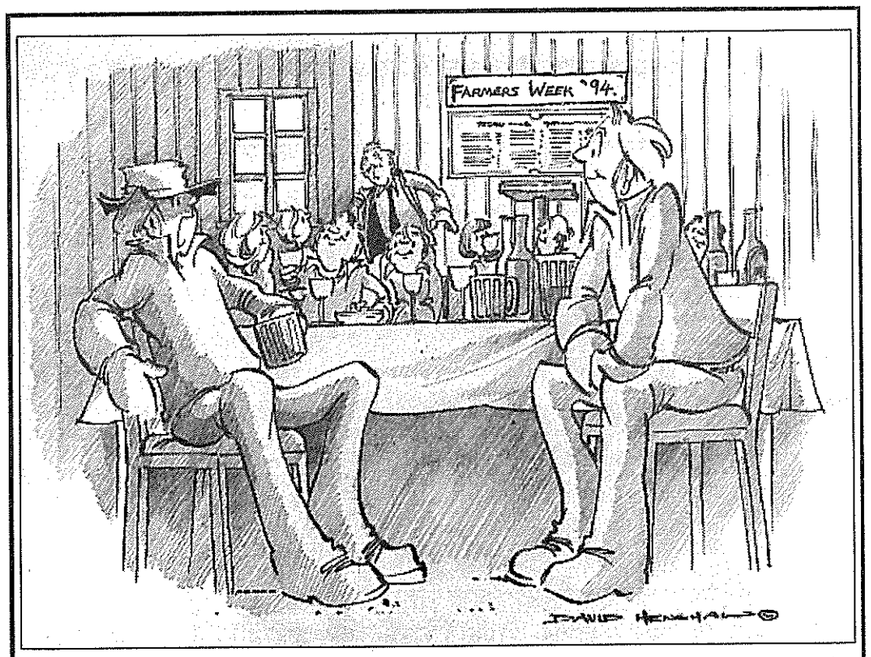
EDITORIAL

This edition of the WOOL PRESS has been a pleasure to put together, mainly because of the reader contributions. I sometimes get a little despondent due to the lack of reader response. I ask myself numerous questions "Am I getting the balance right?" "Is it being read or just used to light the fire?" Well, my fears have been abated. The contributions from readers this month are very encouraging. This is your publication and your voice. If you have anything that you feel could benefit others, either in the way of an opinion or passing on a skill or even an interesting article you came across in a magazine, then send it in. Likewise, if you have any suggestions as to content, contact us. *If you do send an article from another publication, please let us know where it came from so that we may acknowledge the source.*

Apologies for the lack of a Wool Market Report this month but Hugh has been away for medical reasons. I am sure that you all share our thought and wish him a speedy recovery.

I will close this editorial with a thought provoking quote.

"The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more."
(Jonas Salk)



"The good thing about this bloke as an after-dinner speaker is 'e always forgets 'is speech!"

WOOL MARKETS

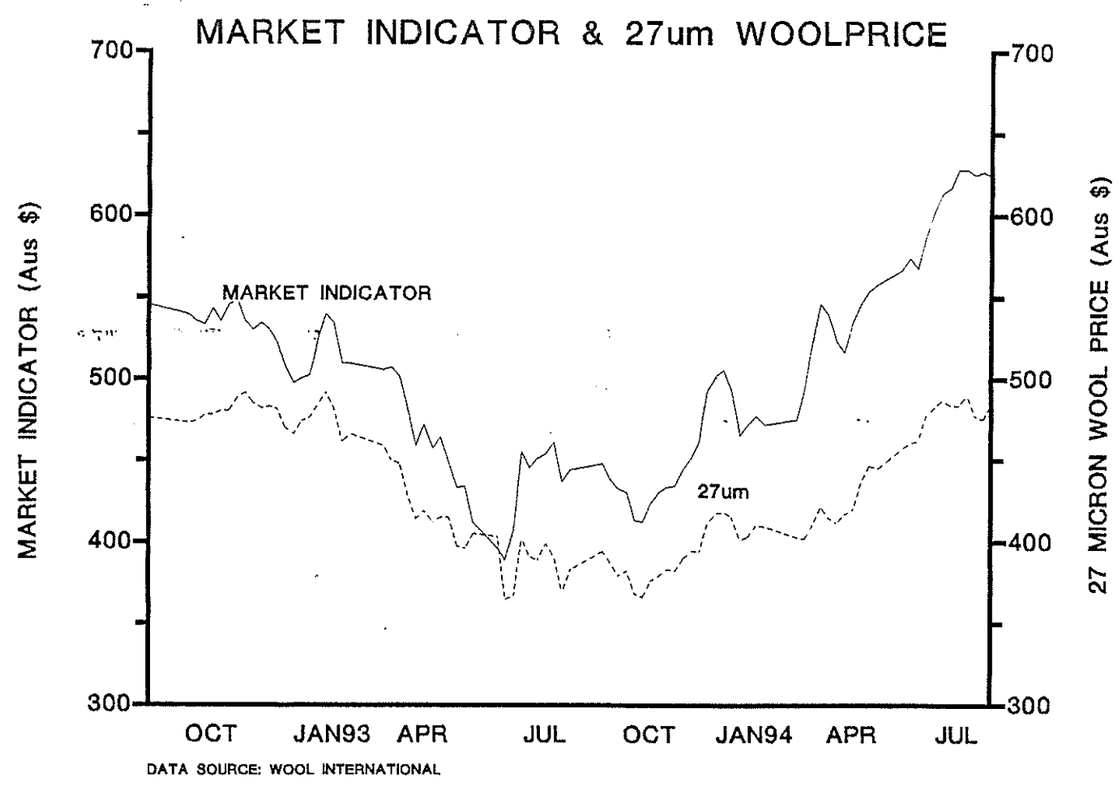
The final week of the 1993/94 Wool Selling Season has again seen a continuation in the trend in higher Australian wool prices that has been largely maintained since September 1993. The Market Indicator closed 10 cents higher on last months reported figure at 624 cents/kg on the 1st of July.

On the currency markets the Australian dollar reversed recent trends and ended slightly weaker against the pound at 213 cents/£ on the 24th June. A weaker dollar effectively reduces the imported price of Australian wool in the U.K.

A recently published Country Report prepared by the Economics Department of Barclays Bank Plc suggest that the dollar will remain weak into 1995 but strengthen again during 1996.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / STERLING EXCHANGE RATES (cents/£)

1985-1992	Average	221
1992	Average	240
1993	Average	221
1994	Forecast	200
1995	Forecast	195
1996	Forecast	205
1997	Forecast	210



Crossbred Wools performed less favourably over the month with the 27 micron indicator closing 2 cents lower at 485 cents per kilo. This unwelcome trend can partially be explained by the relative strength in the demand for superfine wools, but perhaps more specifically because of heavy disposals of coarser wool from the Australian Stockpile (see table.)

Comparison of Wool International Stocks July 91 - March 94

Micron Range	Total Stock 2/7/91	Total Stock 25/3/94	% of Total 94 Stock	% reduction on 2/7/91
20.5 and finer	221856	204791	5.41	- 7.69
20.6 - 22.5	1150545	1090176	28.85	- 5.24
22.6 - 24.5	1425907	1332685	35.27	- 6.53
24.6 - 26.5	348136	304353	8.05	- 12.57
26.5 - 28.5	76406	61369	1.61	- 19.68
28.6 - 30.5	107952	96244	2.24	- 10.84
30.6 and coarser	80151	41179	1.08	- 48.62
Skirtings	358794	180488	4.78	- 49.69
Combing 1ms/Wrns	51206	33636	.88	- 34.31
Cardings	481284	330740	8.76	- 31.27
Miscellaneous	50454	16611	0.43	- 67.07
Processed stocks	207446	100239	2.65	- 51.68
	4623137	3777279	100.00	18.29

The final Weekly Market Report for the 1993/94 selling season supports this contention. Of the 4,606 bales sold from the stockpile by Wool International 1,133 bales (24.9%) were in the 24.6 micron and coarser category.

The Wool International Stockpile on the 24th June stood at 3,674,182 farm bale equivalents. This figure represents a 21.5 % reduction on the ceiling reached in July 1991.

Sales will resume in Australia on the 25th of July.

HUGH MARSDEN
JULY 1994

DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION (part 2)

Printed below are the three remaining abstracts from the Proceedings of the 1993 International Grassland Congress. The first three were published in last month's edition of the WOOL PRESS.

Tussac grass *(Parodiochloa flabellata)*: a potentially valuable forage for winter grazing in the Falkland Islands. I.Past use and management

D.W.H.Walton, J.H.McAdam and J.A.Kerr

Abstract

Tussac grass *(Parodiochloa flabellata)* is tall (up to 3m), tussock-forming, coastal grass reported by settlers in the early 1800's to be the best grazing for cattle and horses. Fire and uncontrolled grazing with sheep during the late 19th and early 20th centuries caused widespread damage to the coastal Tussac fringe. Although some replanting by hand occurred, on most of the larger farms lack of protection to sensitive Tussac stands has resulted in a decline in the total area from around 22,000 ha originally to an estimated 4,000 ha in 1988. During the 20th century some farmers have gradually learned to manage Tussac to their advantage but at present only approximately 300 ha are actively managed on 3 island farms. The grass is also a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Tussac grass *(Parodiochloa flabellata)*: a potentially valuable forage for winter grazing in the Falkland Islands. II. Restoration of a natural resource

G.M.Hoppe, S.G.Howlett and J.A Kerr

Abstract

Tussac grass *(Parodiochloa flabellata)* is a coastal tussock-forming grass and is potentially the most valuable source of winter feed and shelter for livestock and as a wildlife habitat. Tussac grass herbage provides a feed of high digestibility throughout the year and is unrivalled by any other native plant species in the Falkland Islands. Historical records indicate that this was recognised as a valuable resource; sadly however, an estimated 81% of the former coastal Tussac fringe has disappeared and only approximately 5,000 ha remain. Recent changes in farm ownership and farming attitudes have resulted in a greater awareness of the value of Tussac grass. Restoration of the unique Tussac coastal habitat and integration of the resource into the sheep farming system is recognised as being highly desirable. The strategy and preliminary research results for Tussac restoration is outlined.

Effects of lime and fertilisers on the establishment of white clover in the Falkland Islands

J.A.Kerr and Rosie Poultney

Abstract

White Clover *(Trifolium repens L.)*-based pastures could improve low pasture and animal production in the Falkland Islands. However, establishment is difficult and expensive. Effects of lime and fertilisers containing nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) on white clover dry matter yield and root nodulation were experimentally assessed between 1986 - 88. Lime at 1 t/ha and 30 kg/ha P as triple superphosphate, separately improved clover yield. Nodulation was improved only by lime. Neither N nor K fertilisers affected on white clover establishment yields.

PLENTY OF INTEREST SHOWN IN ONE OF
THE FALKLAND'S RESEARCH POSTERS
AT THE 1993 INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK RETURNS

ALL LIVESTOCK RETURN FORMS SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED
AND SENT TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BY THE 30th JUNE 1994.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO,
YOUR ATTENTION TO THE MATTER
AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY WILL BE APPRECIATED.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

THE FALKLANDS: CHINA RELATIONSHIP.

What has a Falklander and Chinaman got in common?

Both people are from countries with large vested interests in wool; both are from countries which bought sheep from Tasmania!!

The Falklands are particularly interested in selling greasy wool and bought Tasmanian Polwarths in 1992; whereas China who imported Tasmanian Comebacks in about 1990, additionally buys a huge amount of imported greasy wool and produces finished goods for both its home market and for export. China imports about 66% of its mill consumption of raw wool and around 70% of imported wool now stays within China for local consumption.

A recent IWS report suggests that "1994 is likely to see a slow global improvement in final apparel wool demand together with increased pipeline activity as the de-stocking phase comes to an end. China continues to be an unpredictable "wild-card" but purchasing started again in March. Rising cotton prices and synthetic fibre prices in China and elsewhere will help to maintain wool's competitiveness."

The reason that China is so important and that its activities have an international "wild-card" status, is that China buys an increasing, huge, but uncertain amount of wool. China's global wool fibre use has increased from 7% in 1980 to 18% in 1992. It is estimated that China's domestic wool consumption in 1993 was 275,000,000 clean kg..

The increase in Chinese demand, and increasing demand is good news for the Falklands, however the uncertainty is very significant and contributes to all the blips in market prices. The known sensitivity of Chinese buyers to increasing international prices and the availability of foreign exchange (controlled to reduce the import deficit and inflation) to import such large quantities of wool, mean that the Chinese may leave the market at any time for short spells. This precipitates a fall in prices and people with wool in stock see their wool assets decline in value; this possibility creates some of the uncertainty in the wool market today, and hence price fluctuations.

In short, wool is a global commodity and the Falklands have several things in common with such countries as China!!

D.S. & Co..
JULY 1994

LETTERS PAGE

I am pleased to print the following letters sent to the WOOL PRESS. The first is from Tim Miller in response to an earlier diversification article. The second is from Marion Betts with her thoughts on Hydatid.

P O T A T O E S

As a Commercial potato grower, I would like to comment on the article in May's Woolpress.

Farmers would be better advised to cultivate new areas for potatoes, preferably at least 1 acre in size rather than small areas of weed seeded, possibly diseased old gardens.

Although beneficial, windbreaks are not essential unless the site is very exposed, and can, instead, increase frost risk. More importantly, is to site near the sea, with a good clear slope down for air frost to "run off".

Definitely mechanise - hand growing is not economic - unless you don't value your time! Machinery required is not expensive and could well be co-operatively owned under the A.G.S. system.

You have a conflict of interest in your paragraph on 'marketing' - you cannot lift potatoes after shearing and cash in on the earlies premium, as the price premium ends late February, and most farmers are, presumably, still active on sheep work until mid February at least, also, unless a Tamar visit coincides, the Air Freight of 30p lb would be prohibitive to anything other than small quantities to a private customer, as Stanley Growers are lifting good quantities of new potatoes from mid-February.

I would also like to comment on your reasoning for price fluctuation - this is purely seasonal, the reverse months see low producer prices in Britain and the Northern Hemisphere - and is not just because of Stanley Growers and / or Punta Arenas. Stanley Growers have potatoes on sale from early February until July as a rule.

On prices, growers cannot expect retail prices levels if they sell in bulk or negotiate with a specific market outlet. The higher the price you want, the higher the risk you have to take. We, for example, hand grade and sell 5lb pre-packs at 30p lb but can only sell bulk sacks at 18-20p lb.

There is also some confusion over Stanley Growers as a producer, and the Market Garden as a retailer - Stanley Growers and the Market Garden are one and the same, and we wholesale to various outlets and only occasionally retail special crops such as Christmas Potatoes.

However, for several years we have been saying to anyone interested that Stanley Growers are keen to get a system going where we would bulk buy potatoes, as lifted, off farmers and do all the grading, packing and marketing, as we have the machinery and market outlets. Seed Potatoes would be graded off and returned, we could also bulk supply initial seed and fertiliser. I would also query some of the suggested varieties, especially as several are unknown and untested in the Islands, and 2 of those listed are Earlies and not ideal for long term storage. Romano is a main crop, but highly susceptible to drought - and thus, questionable here, unless you can irrigate.

Fishing Companies do not normally bulk buy ahead - we often receive 4 hours notice - or less, for orders up to ¼ ton!

I agree with your comments on presentation, having frequently seen badly harvested or packed camp produce in shops. Also, with the exception of Leif's, most retailers have little idea on presentation and display of fresh produce.

You could also add the 400 or so tons of potatoes imported at M.P.A. to your figures, although local supply there would be difficult as potatoes ship well in reefer containers and U.K. potatoes only cost about 10-15 pence landed in bulk.

I feel that there is considerable scope for arable farming and market gardening in camp, but it must be one of 2 styles to be economic.

Either relatively large scale - 1 acre or more - of conventional arable, or, small well sheltered gardens or polytunnels producing specific high value crops for identified market "niches" which will withstand air freight.

For example, there is no point growing say 100 cauliflower or cabbages for sale January to May, as it clashes with Stanley Growers main season and our economies of sale push down the local shop prices, but, someone would do well with say, winter cauliflower, asparagus, celery, soft fruit, early carrots, mangetout peas etc.

TIM MILLER, Stanley Growers
JULY 1994

* * * * * * * * * * *

HYDATID

I do not plan to be at the Farmers Week Meetings so I decided to write this letter.

In the early days of the Hydatid Campaign on the farm where we worked, some cattle were killed. Some of the livers and lights with Hydatid Cysts in were put on display in the woolshed by the vet for people on the farm to look at before they were destroyed. I have never forgotten those huge cysts and how dreadful they looked. However it made you realise just how important it was to try and eradicate the disease.

I remember being told early in the campaign, whether it was in the " Hydatid News" or on a radio programme I'm not sure, that it would be fairly easy to get the percentage of cysts down to a low

level but it would then become much harder to get rid of the last little bit and it would be only too easy for the figure to rise again. Somehow we have to try harder.

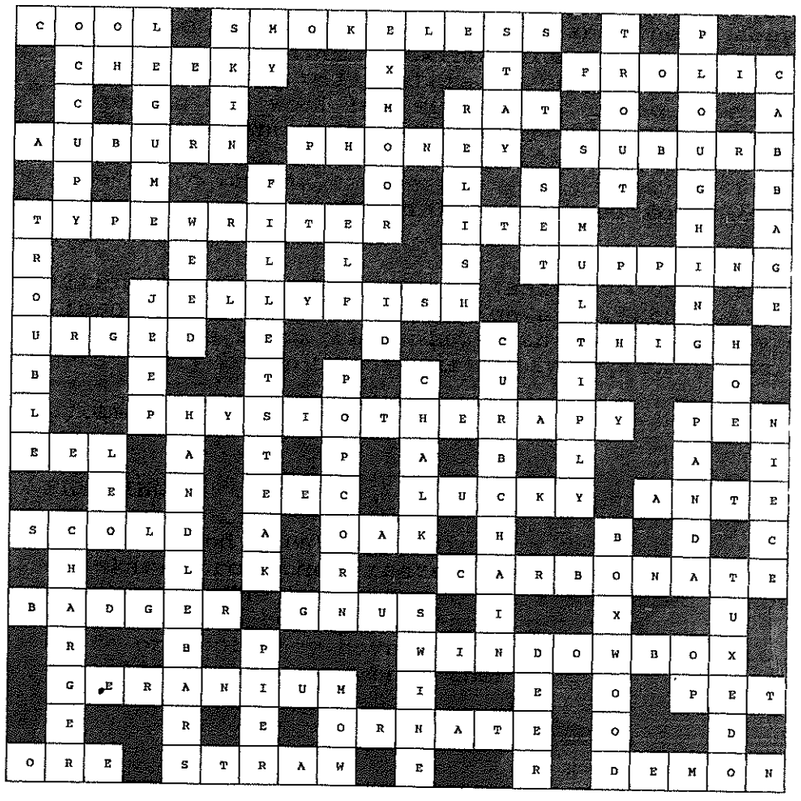
I don't claim to have any answers. Taking more frequent samples from dogs and random testing sound good ideas. If any dog shows sign of infection maybe they could be dosed by injection rather than pills. If the pills are not working on a dog for whatever reason surely an injection would.

I still believe we can get rid of hydatid but it's disheartening to hear of cysts being found in young sheep as this means quite a few more years.

The Falkland farms eradicated sheep keds. As that campaign neared it's end the farms who still had keds were forced to try harder by a fine being imposed which was to increase each year the keds remained. It did not take too long for all farms to be cleared. Surely we can all work together to finally get rid of hydatid without these kind of penalties.

I'd like to end by quoting a few lines from the February 1979 'Hydatid News'. "It is for ALL OF US to work together to get rid of Hydatid as soon as possible. It is not up to the 'Government,' 'the Inspectors,' 'them' or the 'Vet' to do the job, it is up to every individual to ask him or herself if he or his dog is breaking the law and therefore providing a disservice to the community."

MARION BETTS, BOUNDARY FARM
JULY 1994



JUNE

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

SHEARING MERINOS

With the increase of Merino blood into many Falkland flocks, the traits which make the sheep more difficult to shear are coming through. In light of this fact, the following article by Murray Christie is appropriate. Many of you will remember Murray when he was here last year as an instructor. He is senior shearing instructor for the New Zealand Wool Board. The centre spread page overleaf will hopefully give you a few tips on how to cope better when shearing the wrinkly skinned beasts!

Merino wool is fairly short in the staple so a second cut almost chops it in half. On top of that, the sheep are bony and soft skinned. An old Merino hand will tell you that in a pen of five, there are six varieties!

So first you need patience. You're not going to be able to shear Merinos as quick as crossbreds. They are hard to shear. You've got to have the right mental approach. It's quite natural for a 300-a-day man to shear 80 Merinos. If he settles down, he could be up to 150 in a week - if the sheep are O.K.

You have to learn the shape of the sheep. They vary, especially around the neck and you have to concentrate much more. With the softer skin and the wrinkles, you have to be more aware of your left hand, flattening the skin.

With crossbred sheep, you shear on the skin; with Merinos you are trying to shear above the body wrinkle. You don't try to make it look pink; you want it to look white.

Merinos cut easily so it is very important to shear with as much lead as possible. That way the comb flattens the skin out of the way of the cutter. You want a flat hand so that the teeth are tipped up a little.

You want combs with a straight bottom tooth. Don't try shearing Merinos with a bull-nosed comb. Good entry into the wool is very important. Depending on the sheep, you need a medium to long bevel.

You can buy combs that are ready for shearing and it is a good idea to try them out before doing anything to them. If you have bought the right comb, very little preparation will be needed.

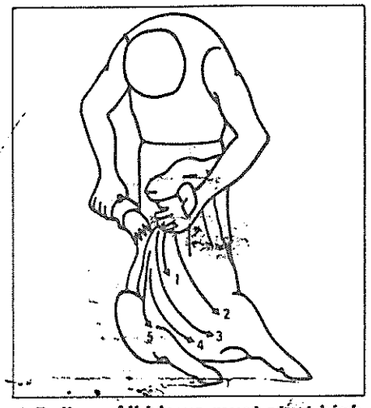
You may need to thin the tip if the entry is not good. Work on each tooth with a piece of fine emery paper, just on the part shown in the diagram, Finish off on a leather strop or a buffer. Even a bright point must feel smooth; there should be no scratchiness.

What else? Merinos are generally fairly passive, depending on the time of year. They're very long legged so reach is a problem.

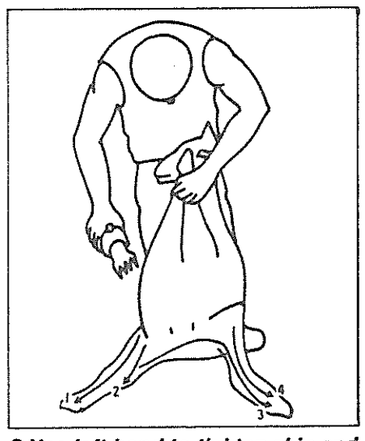
"As I said, they're a different animal. I've been shearing them about 20 years and I enjoy it. They're more of a challenge."

MURRAY CHRISTIE

PATTERN FOR MERINOS

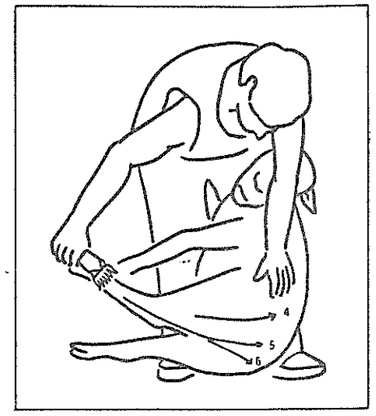


1 Belly — All blows must start high on the brisket to remove all discoloured fribs.
Use left hand (on blow 2 particularly) to smooth out wrinkles. Shear across more to avoid prominent veins on belly.

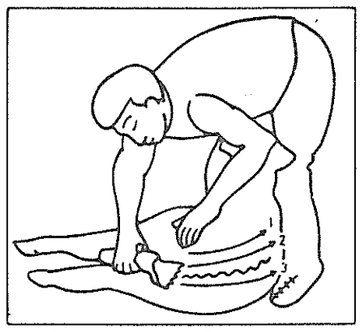


2 Use left hand to tighten skin and to protect teats.

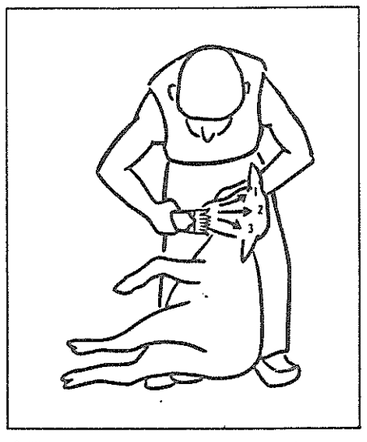
3 First hind leg 1 — Stretch skin with left hand. Blow 1 runs down, then 2 back up to flank.



4 First hind leg 2 — Press left hand into flank.

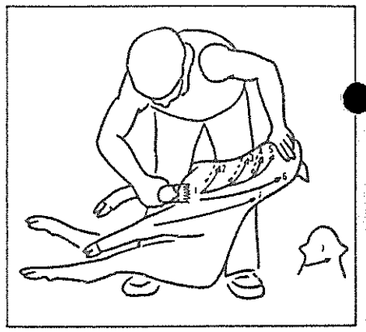


5 NOTE: ~~~~~ Denotes backbone. Third blow must be a full comb under backbone.

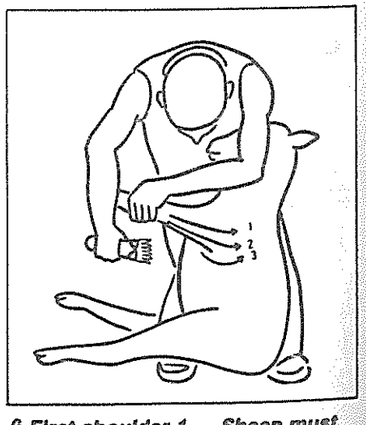


6 Topnot — Blow 3 must go in under horn.

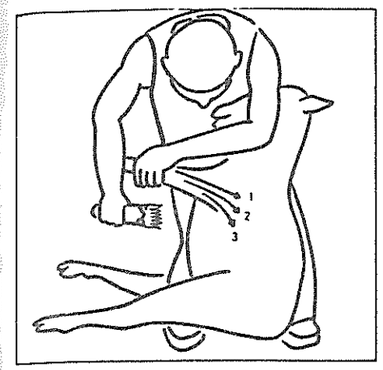
7 Face — Lift sheep up and clear side of face.



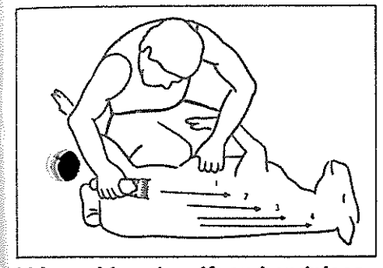
8 Neck — Left foot must be well forward. A clearing blow to the bottom of the first fold, then in a circular motion run blows up neck to top of main neck fold. It is important to start as deep as possible on neck and not to break fleece open until it is completed. Blow 5 clears side of face. Dotted lines indicate return. Insert: Blow 7 runs across wrinkle.



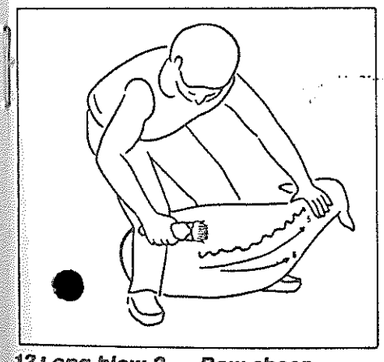
9 First shoulder 1 — Sheep must be sitting up. Bring left foot in. Blow 3 starts under shoulder.



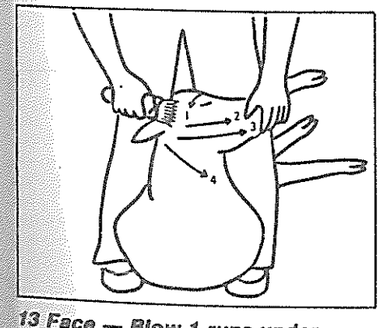
10 First shoulder 2 — On some sheep, blows run down the leg.



11 Long blow 1 — Keep handpiece flat.

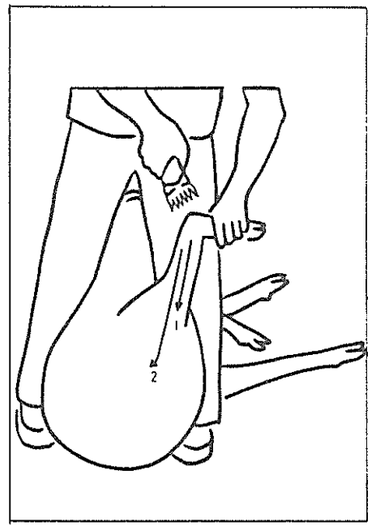


12 Long blow 2 — Bow sheep around leg and push head firmly down. Blow 6 leads into full comb around shoulder.



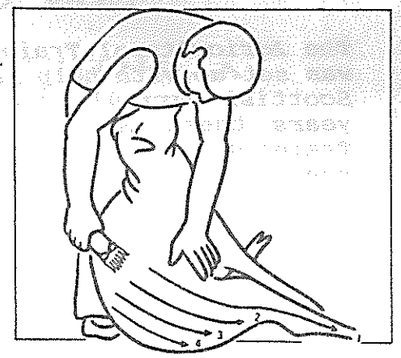
13 Face — Blow 1 runs under horn. Blow 4 runs to first fold.

14 Neck — Lift head onto knee and shear down to first fold. Tuck head between knees, then run blows around folds to complete neck. Step forward on right foot to pick up leg as Blow 6 finishes.



15 Shoulder — First blow clears inside of leg. Second blow slides at bottom of leg to flatten wrinkle.

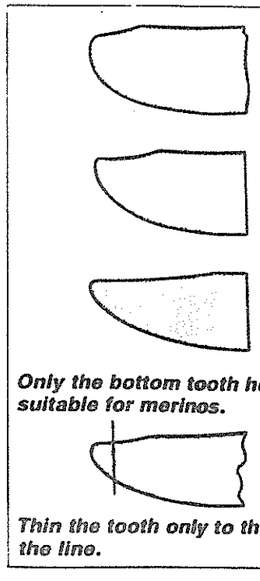
16 Last side 1 — Keep handpiece flat. Second blow to hock.



17 Last side 2 — Pick up head and step back. Use the left hand to keep leg straight and stretch skin.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Select a medium to long bevel.
2. Use only factory bottom bends.
3. Use new combs wherever possible.
4. Use maximum lead to minimise skin cuts.
5. Remember points may need to be bright but not scratchy or prickly.
6. Merinos need a flatter hand. Keep the heel of the handpiece down to ride the wrinkles.



Only the bottom tooth here is suitable for merinos.

Thin the tooth only to the left of the line.

'SON OF ATB' LAUNCHED

The Agricultural Training Scheme which operates in the Falklands was set up with help in the form of advice and expertise from the Scottish Agricultural Training Board. Over the past couple of years there have been major changes to the ATB in Britain. Training is an important aspect of farming as new technology is constant and there are always new-comers to the industry who need to learn even the basics. The following article is interesting to those who are concerned with the future of agricultural training.

ATB-Landbase was launched by farm minister Gillian Shephard on Wednesday as the commercial successor to the Agricultural Training Board.

Mrs Shephard pledged an initial £6m government contract with the new company, which is registered as a charity.

ATB-Landbase will identify and provide training programmes to suit these needs, sometimes in partnership with existing government and Rural Development commission programmes. A network of 430 registered "providers" range from individual instructors to colleges and employer groups.

Courses on husbandry and practical agricultural skills would still be available through the six regional offices, provided there is a demand for them, said chief executive Nigel Snook.

Source: Farmers Weekly

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

SHEARING INSTRUCTION PLANNED AGAIN FOR THIS SEASON

Murray Christie will be returning to the Falklands in October this year to reinforce the shearing instruction given last year. It is planned that he will run two pre-season courses starting around the 22nd October, the venue being Goose Green shed. He will run a 4 day course for the experienced shearers and a 5 day course for beginners. We hope to incorporate a wool handling course for rousies at the same time.

Once Goose Green start their main shearing around November 1st, Murray will visit two or three of the larger sheds for a couple of weeks. These venues will have to be worked out at a later date when we have more accurate shearing dates. We would try to get him to Port Howard, North Arm and possibly Walker Creek or Fitzroy.

If anyone is interested in joining Murray on the set pre-season courses at Goose Green could they let me know as soon as possible so that a place may be reserved. A small deposit will be required to secure a place which will be refunded on completion of the full course.

We are also offering places to suitable young people on the training scheme which was run for the first time last year when Critta Lee, Paul Phillips and Chris Hawksworth turned their hands to shearing. So, if you are interested in making shearing your career, contact me for more information.

MANDY McLEOD
JULY 1994

SHEEPSKIN TANNING USING A 'PAINT-ON SYSTEM'

Lynn has contributed this interesting article on the method that she uses to tan sheepskins. It is a paint-on method as opposed to the soak type method which Dennis Middleton instructed on at the Department of Agriculture run courses.

Looking at a successfully tanned lambskin or sheepskin where the wool is white and fluffy and the leather is bluey-grey and like suede, just makes my fingers itch - usually to keep trying!

To me the main attraction of the Paint-on system is that after the initial wash there need be no further occasion when the skin is immersed and therefore heavy to handle. I say 'need be' because there is a "now wash thoroughly" step in the manufacturer's instructions after the final application of chemicals, but I have found sponging down the leather side only to be quite satisfactory. Although I am going to mention problems I have had they of a general nature which can occur with any system.

SKIN SELECTION & STORAGE

Size. Don't go for a full size, full woolled wether pelt for your first attempt. I started with skins that came off lambs that died at lambing or were taken from hoggets or shearlings at shearing time. It is a busy hot time of the year but if you can slaughter and skin the lambs about 6pm the skins will be cool enough to freeze in two hours, and there they can stay safely until you want them. Skins from Christmas lambs can be treated the same. They will naturally be quite a bit bigger in area and longer in the wool but still very manageable. Hogget pelts i.e. lambs after April have too much wool for my preference. Wether skins with about 1½" to 2" max. wool are fairly easy to wash, but from there on the longer the wool the more effort required. Also a greater area of flesh is presented for fleshing and that is a task on its own!

Alternatively, skins can be salted. They are stacked flesh to flesh, wool to wool, stored on a pallet in a cool airy place and I spray the stack liberally with household fly spray. If a skin gets badly blown it is virtually impossible to clean, but a few eggs around an edge doesn't matter as they go when the skin is trimmed.

FLESHING

I have found fleshing easier to do after a skin has been salted so skins from the freezer are salted for three days prior to fleshing. The knife I use is a serrated steak knife, not what the books say but it is what I get on with best. (If anyone has a knife or tool they have found particularly effective for this job I would like to hear from them.)

WASHING

I wash by hand in the bath. I found that my agitation style washing machine, even with tepid water, caused some felting, which turned out to be due to mechanical agitation. It didn't happen all the time to all the skins, just annoying patches. I have found the spinning unit of the Twin-tub invaluable. Further fleshing at this stage often seems desirable.

PAINTING

Work Area & Work Surface. I now take the skins to the woolshed - a cool, dry, airy place. The work surface is ideally some plastic coated netting or wind break type material made into a long table so the air circulates around the skins as they sit there for a few days having the chemicals painted on. Don't sit wet/damp wool on wood - it may stain.

FRAMING

Done the same way as stretching a cattle hide. If you are doing more that one skin at a time it is worth making a frame that will hold more than one skin.

Timber required: 2 pieces 16' x 4" x 2"
5 pieces 5' x 3" x 2"

FINISHING

A sander can be a help but there really isn't any substitute for physically working the skin over the sharp edge of a table or similar. I actually fix a piece of 1" x 9" into a Black & Decker Workmate so it sticks out about 3' and work the skins over that.

TANNING CHEMICALS & COSTS

The kit I use and have for sale, costs £18, and is said to do 4 wether skins. I have actually done up to 10 Christmas size lambs with one kit. There are full instructions in each kit and I price the skins from £10 to £25 depending on size and quality. i.e. black ones are £30.

LYNN BLAKE
LITTLE CHARTRES, JULY 1994

ANOTHER QUOTE

"Often the impossible is what has not been attempted."
(Ultimas Thomas)

A HEAVY SURE FIRE BET

There are few sure-fire bets in life, but increasing fleece weight is one of the safest bets in farming. In the Falklands, assuming wool microns become finer or remain unchanged:- More Kg Clean Wool - More £££ Revenue, ALWAYS!!

Farms can initially increase clean wool production by running more sheep, however this has largely been achieved, given the current limitations to understanding grassland management. Future research may provide further opportunities in this area one day.

Farms can secondly increase clean wool production by increasing the clean fleece weight grown by each sheep:

1. For non-Merino farms, the fastest method of increasing the fleece weight per sheep on a farm is to change breed, through breeds towards the Merino, which has been developed over centuries to produce fine, heavy fleeces. A move to Polwarths, Cormos and Comebacks is a move towards wool specialist Merinos.

2. If a breed change is unacceptable or not possible, then the next quickest method of improving fleece weight per sheep, is to obtain high performance animals within that breed. Buying sheep, semen and embryos from overseas is one example, whilst purchasing animals from the National Stud Flock and farms which have demonstrated very good performances are local opportunities.

3. Finally fleece weight improvements can be obtained by weighing hogget or shearling fleeces, and selecting the better rams and ewes for breeding. Culling poor performers is the other side of this coin. This practise is usually done having adopted the faster affordable methods and is the slower rewarding science of sheep breeding.

More wool - more revenue if microns are maintained, and very much more revenue if microns are reduced at the same time. More wool and more revenue would greatly enhance the security of Falklands farms and Camp. Farmers could afford to invest more and perhaps support the employment of adult children. The decline in wools shipped by M.V. Tamar, resulting from new Camp roads, could be partially reversed with more wool being grown; whilst the security of monthly northbound shipping would also be strengthened.

In 1992/93, whole farm average clean fleece weights ranged from 2.00 kg to over 3.60 kg per sheep shorn. Projections suggest that within 10 years, an average of 4.00 kg per sheep shorn will have been attained be progressive farms in the Falklands. In spite of the fact that grass quality varies across the Islands, all farms should aim to increase clean fleece weight, whilst continuing to reduce microns: It's a sure safe bet; so target a winner: fleece weight.

ROBERT HALL.
JULY 1994

SHEEP FARMERS TAKE A SHINE TO FLUORESCENT FOX DETERRENT

Following reports that some English Farmers have purchased Peruvian Llamas to guard their lambs for predators, it has been learned that Irish farmers have taken to spraying fluorescent paint on their lambs for the same reason.

A Co. Tipperary agricultural supply store, Agristock in Fethard, has been supplying a special spray paint to Irish Farmers which, it claims, will Fox Reynard and keep the lambs safe. Mr Pat Leahy of Agristock said that he has been inundated with calls from sheep farmers all over the country for cans of the special spray.

"I saw an article on this special spray last year and I decided to bring it in from Britain. The farmers I sell it to say it is very successful and keeps the foxes away from their lambs", he said.

"I cannot guarantee that it will provide total protection but farmers say it has worked for them. I suppose the fox will not touch anything which would appear to be different and a lamb that shines at night must put them off."

Mr Leahy said that the spray which is contained in aerosol cans, comes in fluorescent red, orange, green and blue.

One Co.Offaly farmer who used the spray on hiS lambs said there have been no losses due to foxes in the flock this year. Last year, he had considerable losses. "I don't know how it works and I don't care as long as it prevents losses. I will continue to use it as long as it works but the problem is that the fox may get used to it in time and begin killing again". he said.

Source: Sean MacConnell, Agriculture Correspondent, for the Irish Times.

* * * * * * * * *

AUSSIE BRANDING FLUID ON SALE IN U.K.

Lanolin based Si-Ro-Mark Sheep Branding Fluid, made by Chemical Recovery Co Pyt, Australia, and used widely in many countries, is being handled exclusively in the U.K. by Cox Surgical, Coulsdon, Surrey.

The completely scourable branding fluid can be applied to wet or dry sheep and remains identifiable for up to a year in all climatic conditions.

Source:,Farmers Weekly, June 1994.

RECIPES

CHOCOLATE BISCUITS

8oz. flour
4oz sugar
4oz margarine
3 tablespoons cocoa
5 " milk
Few drops vanilla essence

In a bowl mix flour, sugar and cocoa, rub in margarine and add milk and essence, mix well. Bring mixture together with your hands and knead lightly on a floured surface. Roll out to 1/4 inch thick and cut into rounds using a 3 inch cutter. Place on baking trays and cool on a wire rack.

Place icing sugar and cocoa in a bowl and gradually mix in enough water to make a smooth icing consistency, use the decorate biscuits and add chocolate curls if wished.

ALMOND BISCUITS

6oz flour
3oz sugar
2oz ground almonds
5oz margarine
Pinch of salt
Few drops almond essence
Blanched almonds

Mix together the flour ingredients and rub in margarine, add essence, mix well then bring mixture together using your hands. Roll out thinly and cut into rounds. Place half a blanched almond on each biscuit, place on a baking tray and bake for about 15 minutes.

AASE DAVIS
Evelyn Station, July 1994

* * * * * * * * * * *

GUINNESS and SHREDDED WHEAT

Trying to restore the appetite of a sick sheep is often the most tedious aspect of returning a sheep to full health.

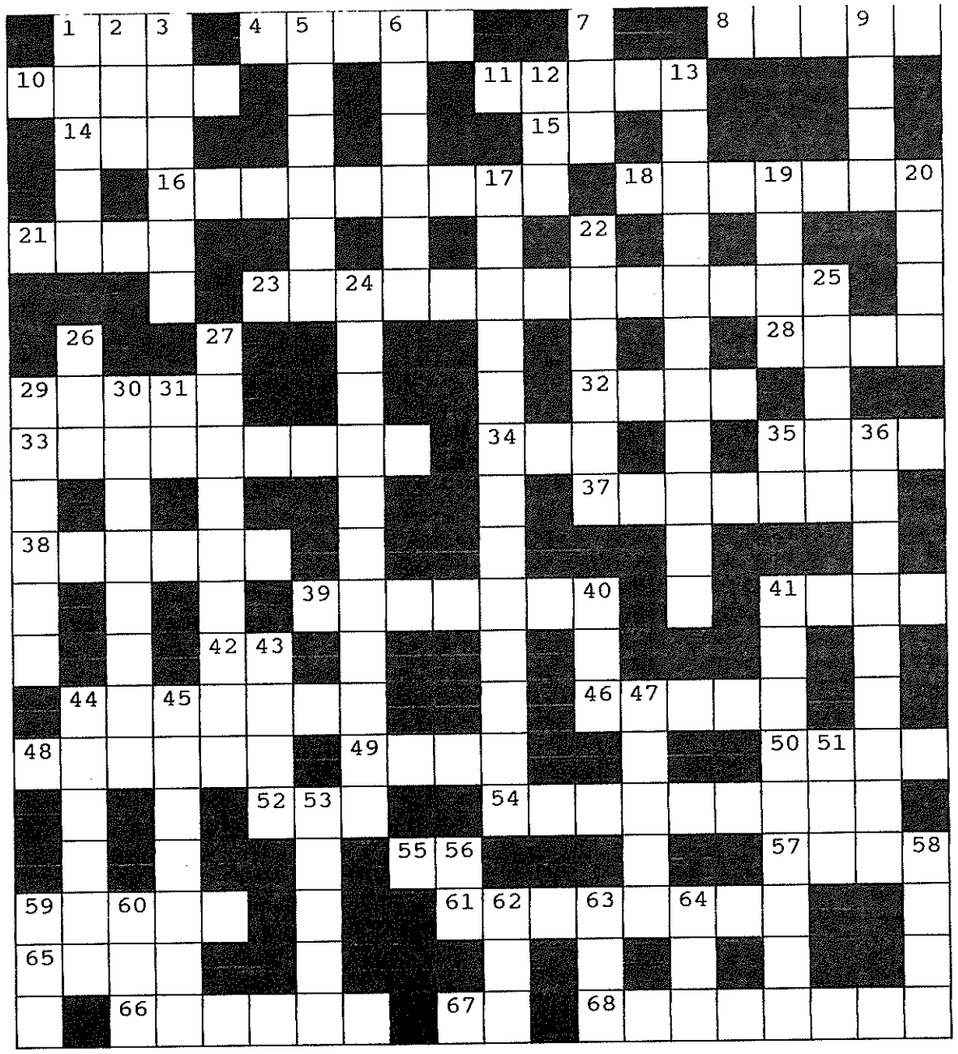
Appetite (or rumen) restorers discovered by farmers are legion. One of the latest from a producer in Shropshire recommends Guinness as a pick-me-up. It is used on ewes which have has a difficult lambing. Apparently they enjoy the first few sips but then go off it. One ewe, however, has become hooked on it and suffers withdrawal symptoms. She gets moody if she misses out on her daily jug. A couple of teaspoons full are also fed to off-colour lambs.

Another farmer's kick-start for sheep is by feeding them Shredded Wheat and glucose. There is no carefully balanced recipe - just a dollop of both, well mixed. Results, apparently, can be miraculous.

Another appetiser is a packet of Trebor Refreshers. Sheep like all the colours, enjoy the fizz and Trebor believe that it is the bicarbonate of soda which improves the rumen digestion.

Source: The Sheep Farmer, April 1994

JULY CROSSWORD



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* * NEW WOOL PRESS FEES * *

IT IS REGRETTED
THAT DUE TO POSTAL INCREASES
THE ANNUAL CHARGE FOR WOOL PRESS
SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM 1.7.94 WILL BE:

£12 FOR TWELVE ISSUES (LOCAL)
£24 FOR TWELVE ISSUES (OVERSEAS)

* *

ACROSS

1. SLANG SLEEP
4. PRAYER BEFORE EATING
8. FEATHERED CREATURES
10. SKELETON COMPONENTS
11. SQUEEZING DEVICE
14. COMMUNITY INSECT
15. HIGH
16. SECOND STOMACH OF RUMINANT
18. SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF ANIMALS
21. NECK HAIR ON HORSE
23. BONE ARRANGEMENT IN STANLEY
28. MR WILLIAMS (C&W)
29. INDIAN INSTRUMENT
32. MINNIE?
33. SMALL BARREL TO HOLD GUNPOWDER
34. FROZEN WATER
35. LONG SCHOOL PERIOD
37. ROPE LACEWORK
38. AIR PASSAGE
39. LATTICE WORK FOR GROWTH SUPPORT
41. PIERCE WITH A HORN
42. LIKE
44. RUBBER SWIM WEAR
46. ROUGH WEATHER
48. ROBBER OF SHIPS
49. SIX BALLS!
50. SENIOR SERVICE
52. PITCH
54. STRIP OF LEAVES
55. PERFORM
57. PEASANT BOUND IN SERVITUDE
59. CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM
61. COURGETTE
65. POETIC IRELAND
66. ARCTIC NATIVE
67. NOT OFF
68. DRUG COUNTER

DOWN

1. MARSUPIAL BEAR
2. SMALL HOTEL OR TAVERN
3. SEA BIRD
5. HOT SALAD STUFF!
6. RELAXED
7. SALESMAN MAYBE?
9. NARCOTIC
12. SUGAR CANE ALCOHOL
13. TUMMY PAIN
17. LIFELINE
19. HIGHLAND LAKE
20. YELLOW OF AN EGG
22. NATIONAL TUNE OR SONG
24. SPEED DEDAL
25. SHEIK'S WIVES
26. SUGAR LOAF LOCATION
27. FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY
29. LEAF OR COIL
30. BIRD WATCHER
31. AFTER CHRIST
35. THANKS TO THE PART TIME SOLDIERS
36. GUN DOG
40. DISTRESS SIGNAL
41. WORK OUT VENUE
43. HARD FAT
44. COLD SEASON
45. ALE HOUSES
47. CANINE FOR EXAMPLE
51. DEVOURED
53. PHOTO BOOK
56. EMERALD CITY WIZARD
58. STRIP OFF THE SKIN
59. ADULT MALE HUMANS
60. NECK GARMENT
62. TEA HOLDER
63. TROPHY
64. TERRORIST GROUP

GETTING HITCHED

A Cleveland firm has developed a device that makes the hitching of cars and four-wheel-drive vehicles up to trailers easier.

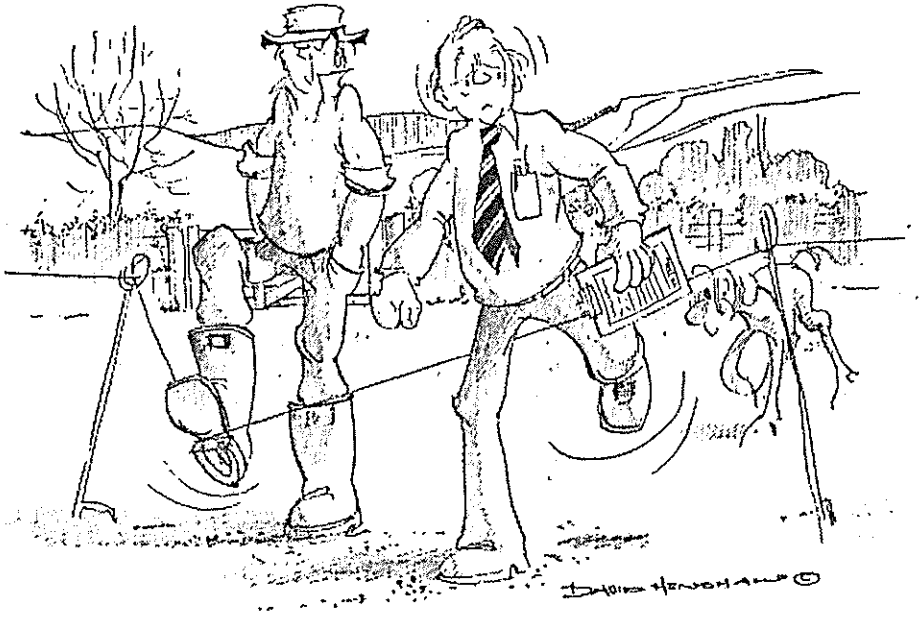
The Easy Hitch, from John Foster, allows a trailer to be connected when the ball hitch is within 0.3m (1ft) of the trailer coupling and 150-200mm (6-8in) to either side.

The telescopic hitch is then unlocked and extended from the towing vehicle; that allows the ball to move freely from side to side and up and down. The ball is then located and the vehicle driven forward to align the trailer and towing vehicle.

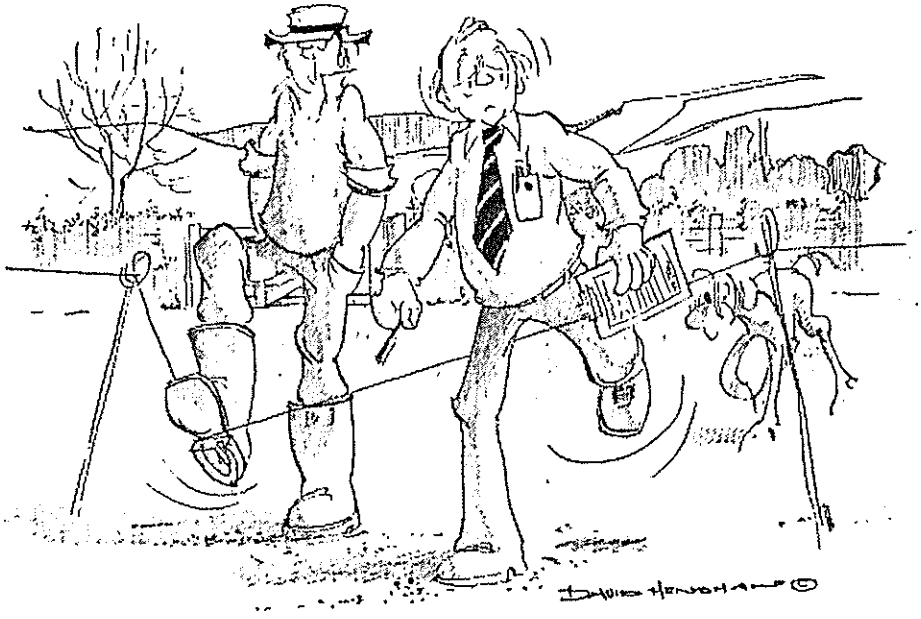
Cost of the easy hitch is £155 (0740-631110)

SOURCE: FARMERS WEEKLY MAY 1994

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



NOW---- About that Grant!!!.



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

Top picture: 1,Boarder around picture is black; 2,Arrow is below picture; 3,End of rail is missing; 4,First ewes shoes are black; 5,Door handle on right door is missing; 6,Second ewes bag is gone; 7,Sheep on picture has a black ear; 8,Button on last ewes bag is black; 9,Tails on lambs bow on head; 10,Half a bow on lambs tail;.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 57 AUGUST 1994

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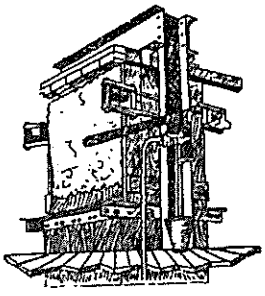


The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORS: M.McLEOD & T.BOWLES

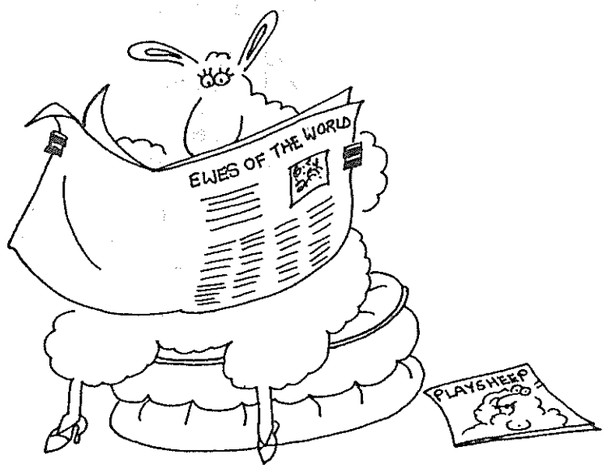
EDITORIAL

Well, we all thought we were going to get away with a record mild winter didn't we? I thought it was too good to true! We moan about the inconveniences of frozen pipes, snow over the wellies, and in town, being slippery under foot and wheels, but at least we can eat. Livestock are having a tougher life at the moment and due to the locality of a lot of the stock, there's not a lot we can do to alleviate their problem. As I write this the message from the MET office at MPA is that a thaw is on the way. Let's hope they are right and livestock mortality will slow down!

"Farmers Week" has been and gone for another year. It was very encouraging to witness and be a part of the well attended Tussac and Sand Grass discussion group. A lot can be gained and a lot of time saved by exchanging experiences. I am sure that this "workshop" could be the forerunner of many more on a wide range of subjects.

Be it snow, erosion or some other obstacle of farming, the following quote comes to mind, although I'm not sure I fully agree with it. There are times when I could so with a bit of monotony!

"Golf without bunkers and hazards would be lame and monotonous. So would life." - *B.C.Forbes*



EWESPAPER

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Market opened the 1994/95 selling season on an optimistic note with a continuation of the trend in rising prices seen during the 93/94 season.

Changes to the Wool International wool reporting service have occurred since the start of the season. The National Market Indicator is no longer being quoted and there has been a revision to the composition of wool types used to derive the Eastern Market Indicator.

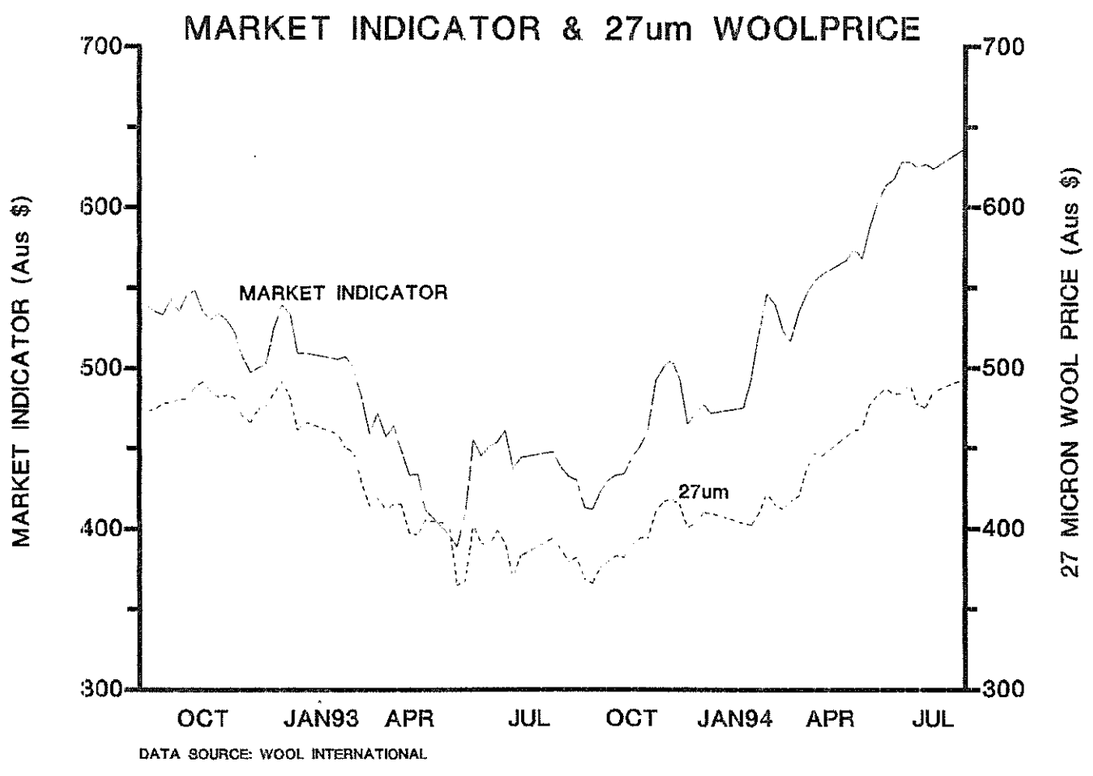
The new Eastern Market Indicator rose 15 cents on the June's (equivalent) reported figure to close at 681 cents/kg. The Eastern 27 micron Indicator rose 10 cents at the start of the Season to close at 493 cents/kg on the 29th of July.

The Australian $ has remained relatively weak against the pound. It finished 1 cent stronger over the month at 212cents on the 17th of July.

Sales from the Wool International stockpile are now being scheduled in advance. Pre-arranged sales have already been set for the next 3 months at:

July (actual)	27,604	(bales)
August	27,958	
September	24,597	
October	24,597	

On the 22nd of July, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,639,306 bale equivalents.



HUGH MARSDEN, JULY 1994

ARE THE FALKLANDS ERODING AWAY?

Yes, according to the many farmers that attended the recent forum on 'Tussac and Sand Grass planting' organised by the Farmer's Association and the Department of Agriculture during the recent farmer's week. Preparation of the proceedings of this first ever forum for Falklands' farmers on this subject will soon be completed and circulated.

One of aims of the forum was to encourage farmers to exchange their knowledge and experience of Tussac and Sand grass planting. While this was largely achieved it soon became clear that combating erosion was one of the reasons for planting these useful grasses. Vivid descriptions of soil erosion and sand drifting were reported from many parts of the country. The smaller Tussac islands and many coastal areas of West Falkland were worse off, but areas of East Falkland were also affected.

LOSS OF WOOL INCOME

Some of those who attended were very seriously concerned about the impact that erosion was having on their farm income. Loss of valuable pasture due to erosion reduced the amount of feed available, the value of the land and hastened erosion in other areas as sheep moved to better pastures.

However, many felt that the problem will get worse if not controlled. Once the vegetation has been removed, light peaty and sandy soils were particularly vulnerable to the strong winds wich batter much of the land. Loose soil became airborne easily and ended up in the fleeces of sheep grazing the eroded or nearby 'camps'. Consequently, wool was contaminated and large piles of dirt were often found beneath the fleece tables at shearing. Thus income from wool was directly affected.

LONGER AND WIDER IMPLICATIONS

Many were also concerned about the effect of erosion on the long-term viability of the land, the benefit for their children and the wider community. Once lost, these soils will probably never be replaced. They took many thousand of years to form and it is certain that nobody alive to-day will see them regenerate. These areas will remain barren, ugly and unproductive.

All who enjoy visiting coast lines and Tussac islands where wildlife often flourishes will find less opportunity to do so if the erosion of Tussac and soil continues. Of the original Tussac areas on the two main islands about 99% has disappeared since settlement. The remainder of the Tussac on the smaller islands has recently disappeared at rates of up to 1% every 3 years.

The forum highlighted the exclusive dependence of many of the most important Falklands' birds on Tussac. However if this unique habitat continues to disappear the adverse effects may not just be felt by Falklands' wildlife and tourism but they may also have wider ecological implications for this part of the South Atlantic.

Next month : The causes and possible solutions to the erosion problem?

AIDAN KERR
AUGUST 1994

A CHINESE PROVERB

A man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.

NEW ZEALAND'S HYDATID CAMPAIGN

"The campaign to eradicate *E.granulosus* from New Zealand is now in its final stages and the aim of all concerned is that hydatids shall join sheep scab and *Brucella abortus* as animal diseases that have been eradicated from New Zealand. However, the situation described here shows that the risk of a large scale outbreak still exists and that any relaxation in dog control and feeding practices of dogs would be inappropriate

When eradicating *E.granulosus* it is important to remember that cysts will only be detected at routine meat inspection once they have reached a certain size. This, combined with the large number of eggs that can be spread by an infested dog, has ramifications for hydatids control. A large number of sheep can become infested before there is any indication of the problem being present in an area.

This episode emphasises the importance of continued compliance of all dog owners with dog control, dog feeding and carcass disposal requirements.

It is hoped that this episode was, in fact, New Zealand's last hydatids out-break."

In 1990 hydatid cysts were detected at slaughter in ewes from a farm in N.Z. (farm A). During the previous 15 years there had been no history of the disease on the farm. A neighbouring property (farm B) was found to have hydatid cysts in some of its sheep at slaughter in 1992. A third infested farm was found (farm C) It was separated from farms A and B by rough hill country. "A connection with infestation on farms A and B was considered, as was the possibility of infestation being caused by the dogs of pig hunters."

"Concern about the high level of infestation and the risk of dogs becoming infested by scavenging raised the question of early slaughter of potentially infested animals. It was decided in consultation with the farmers to slaughter all remaining sheep considered exposed to infestation. On farm A, 1,852 ewes were in this category and they were slaughtered in February 1993. At routine meat inspection 979 ewes were found to be infested with hydatids. Farm B had 831 ewes left in the risk category. At slaughter 77 were found infested."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
The assistance of Mr K.Kasper, former Chief Executive Officer, National Hydatids Council; R.H.Montgomery, Invermay Animal Health Laboratory; P van der Logt, MAF Regulatory Authority, Wellington.

Source: Surveillance 21(2)

GODFREY BOWEN

A name you don't hear much these days, but when I first came to the Falklands and was a "wool-boy" at Goose Green, shearing was done in the old style. It was a real pain to the wool boys with all those twisted, trodden on fleeces, and even more of a nuisance to the table hands who had to sort out the mess that they were often presented with. The wool boys always got the blame of course! Before the start of the following season, an instructor called Taff Evans came and taught many of the farm employees this new 'BOWEN' style of shearing. It was a great improvement for us wool boys that season!

One comment that always stuck in my mind from Taff was that a sheep won't wriggle and end up kicking you up the nostril so long as it's comfortable. That's probably why this letter caught my eye when I was reading The Sheepfarmer recently.

I first saw Godfrey in 1957 when I was 10, writes *George Mudge*. My father took me to the pannier market in Tavistock to see Godfrey's demonstration. I remember that he was using a solid drive - everyone in the U.K at that time was using flexible drive.

I remember him shearing a sheep blindfold with ease. During the demonstration he shore a full woolled Scotch Blackface ewe in 47 seconds - an excellent time even by today's standards.

Godfrey said to me only two weeks before his death, when I was visiting him in New Zealand, that before his demonstration in Tavistock a Dartmoor farmer had said to him, "I see your sheep don't kick, Mr Bowen. Let me tell you our sheep here in Devon kick like ....." Godfrey's reply was that if a sheep kicked he would catch the next plane back to New Zealand. That is what you call laying your reputation on the line.

At that time I never thought that I would meet Godfrey and become a close friend.

I was introduced to him at the World Championships in 1977 where, at the age of 55, he finished fourth. I went to New Zealand where I was shearing for England in the 1980 World Championships and stayed at his home in Waikanae. His generosity in looking after overseas guests was second to none and appreciated by people from around the world.

Godfrey was the person who taught the world to shear. He was a great shearer, a gifted orator, a confident showman and he had a strong Christian faith. It is a privilege to have been his friend.

SOURCE: THE SHEEP FARMER
MAY 1994

THE HISTORY OF SHEEP SCAB IN U.K - can lessons be learned?

In a recent newsletter of the National Sheep Association the issue of increased cases of Sheep Scab in the U.K. was featured. The concerns of this association were expressed and the realisation that the relaxing of commitment to eradication has now brought about an increase which could have been avoided. The determination of Australia and New Zealand had rid them of the disease last century.

A major cause of the increase seems to lie in the less effective measures taken on dipping brought about by the reports of adverse effects on human health associated with dipping.

The campaign against sheep scab can be divided into 4 phases.

1. Up to the early 1900's shepherds in the U.K. regarded sheep scab as a part of sheep husbandry and more of a nuisance than a disease capable of elimination. The period to 1903 when agricultural opinion was slowly being conditioned to the view that scab, a universal affliction of the national flock, could be eradicated

2. The years of national single dipping from 1905 to 1920 was largely ineffective since the method was based on the erroneous conclusion of the department Committee of 1904 that one dipping would normally kill scab.

3. From 1920 to 1953 routine double dipping cleared scab from the greater part of the resident flocks in the lowland counties. By 1928 the majority of Scottish cases were declining but the attitude of some farmers in northern England and Wales meant that 6 counties where responsible for one-third of the 70 outbreaks.

4. Repeated flock inspections from 1933 to 1953 combined with regular and especially winter dippings, ultimately won what had become a war of attrition in the Hebrides and the mountain ranges of Wales and northern England. In 1952 the last case of scab in UK was found in Hereford.

Between 1953 and 1973 information on the continued vigilance or lack of the same is not made clear in this article but the fact that Sheep Scab remained out of sight until 1973 indicates that vigilance must be maintained to the levels that it had in previous years. 21 cases were reported in 1973, and in 1974 there were 152 cases. In 1976 national dipping was introduced. From this year onwards a steady flow of cases have been reported and by 1992 the counties involved numbered 30.

The lesson to be learned by this article is clear. The slow trend of farmers and ministry associations alike to relax their attitudes to the complete eradication of the disease and to strict measures on the possible importation of infected animals inevitably led to the disease gaining a hold once more and becoming a national problem again. The same can be said of any disease including *Brucella ovis* and *Hydatidosis*. Control measures which are only half-heartedly carried out will not succeed.

M.BARKMAN
JULY 1994

PAST AND FUTURE FORESTS OF THE FALKLANDS

by Sally Poncet

May school holidays this year lasted exactly two weeks, and a mere 12 days for those children flying to and from Camp. So where can a family go in 12 days for a change of scenery?

Our Series 3 Landrover wouldn't pass the West Falklands MOT and besides, camp tracks haven't got to Beaver yet. So, leaving Pete and Annie on their yacht *Badger* in charge of Beaver, we left the island by sea on *Damien II*, and sailed west until we came to the nearest piece of land: Staten Island lying off the southwest tip of South America, only 270 kilometres from Beaver and 200 kilometres northeast of Cape Horn. A day and a half of fast sailing and we were there.

With the diddle-dee and grass-covered hills of Beaver just over the horizon, Staten Island comes as a shock. Trees, trees and more trees; they clad the hills from the beach up to 100 to 200 metres altitude, where bare rock rises steeply up to 900 metre snow-capped peaks. The island and its trees are beautiful: huge evergreen southern beeches (known in the Falklands as Sandy Point) and the tropical-green winter's bark, a forest floor carpeted with mosses and ferns, and a mass of wild flowers in the spring.

The island is 65 kilometres long, with a deeply indented coastline. Numerous fjords provide excellent shelter from the depressions which move through as regularly as they do in the Falklands. Leaving the boat in a millpond below, we explored the forest - a novel sensation for all of us. It's slow going, pushing a path through leaves and branches, over cascading streams and otter's tracks, but eventually you emerge above the tree-line and on to open grassland and bare rock with magnificent views on all sides: very much like Tasmania's highlands for me - the same wind stunted deciduous beech trees, rushes and prickly heath, with only the button grass and yabbies missing.

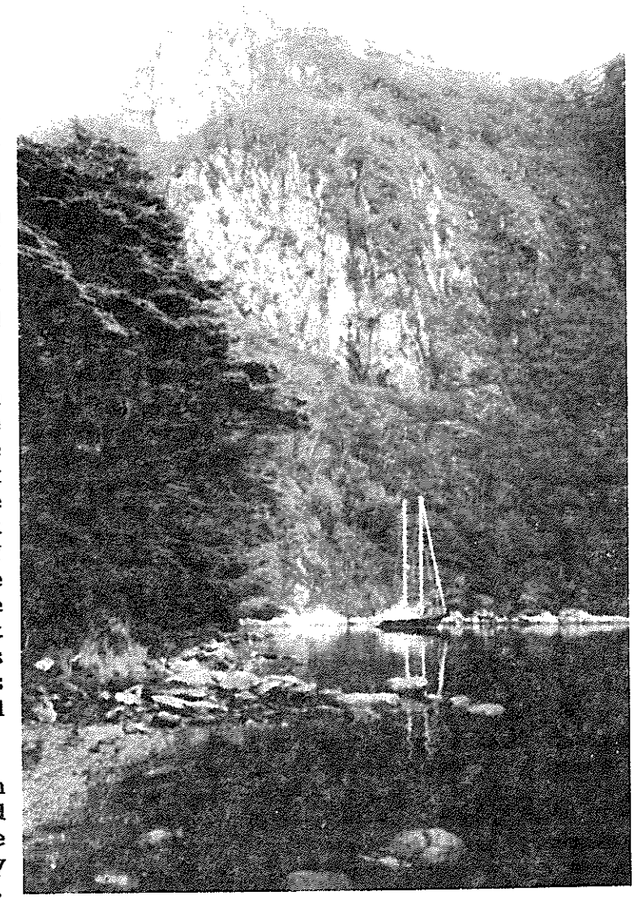
However, if you look closely at the plants on Staten Island, there are more similarities with the Falklands than Tasmania: diddle-dee, tea berries, mountain berries, strawberries, fachine, boxwood, tussac grass, wild celery, dusty millers, pig vine, almond flowers, sea cabbage - to name but a few - all grow on Staten Island. In fact, of the 100 or so flowering plants (not including grasses) found in the Falklands, over half also grow in the forests of Staten Island.

It was these forests of Staten Island that caught the eye of Louis Vernet, a German of French Huguenot extraction with Falklands connections. Based at Port Louis between 1826 and 1831, he established nearly 100 settlers of various nationalities on East Falklands, and at one point had rights to the entire East Falkland and Staten Island. His "landholders were also entitled to one lot of town land [this, I think, refers to the land around Port Louis] gratis for every hundred acres they possessed, as well as two acres of woodland on Staten Island, the colony's principal source of timber." Perhaps the stonework we saw on the beach at Puerto Ano Nuevo near a section of once-cleared forest dates from this era, or maybe it was the work of the "four families and six single Englishman [who] were sent to Staten Island" from the Falklands by Vernet in 1829.

Today, no-one lives on the island. Although white goats and deer (introduced, unfortunately, for no apparent reason) survive in the forests at the west end of the island, farming the land here would be a harder and far less rewarding task than it is in the Falklands. This probably explains why the several attempts at settling Staten Island met with no success.

Despite having been felled for timber last century and now being grazed by goats, the trees are still magnificent. Walking through the forest, you can't help asking yourself the question: if diddle-dee can grow here *and* in the Falklands, then why can't the trees? After all, Staten Island lies over 300 kilometres further south than Stanley and it is colder in the winter, with snow often lying to sea level. Yet, there are also big differences - the rainfall for a start: there is lots and lots of rain with the mountain ranges typically covered in cloud. And although the island lies directly in the path of westerly gales, these ranges provide an effective barrier to the wind: the fjords are often calm while outside the wind blows 30 knots.

Is it the low rainfall and wind that account for the lack of trees in the Falklands? And yet, the magnificent southern beech on Keppel, the wild currant bushes and wild fuschias in some of the old established gardens, all were introduced from the Coast and as individual plants they thrive. However, very few seem to set seed and spread naturally.



Yet there was a time when trees grew in the Falklands. Large tree trunks, some over six feet in diameter, were found in a forest-bed at Westpoint in 1899, proof that at some time in the past before the last ice age, the forests that then covered the Islands grew as luxuriantly as those do at Staten Island today.

Who knows, perhaps in another ten thousand years or so we'll be growing our own Sandy Point and Insultimber. Here's hoping.

(quotes from *Land and Life in the Falkland Islands* by Wayne Bernhardson, 1989).

DOG TRIALING

Over many years of trialing in the Falklands it has become apparent that a consistent set of rules for both judges and dog handlers is needed. Inexperienced handlers and first time judges have at times, through no fault of their own, not been fully aware of what is required of them on a dog trial course.

As secretary of the DHA I proposed a set of rules which were then scrutinised by a committee of experienced judges and handlers. The following rules were agreed on by the committee and should be recognised from 1st September 1994 when working or judging in DHA trials.

DOG HANDLER'S ASSOCIATION JUDGING & TRIAL RULES.

1) THE OUTRUN.
The outrun begins within the circle, when the dog leaves the handler, either on the left or right hand. At the judges discretion (i.e amount of points deducted), the dog shall be penalised for: crossing over, running directly at the sheep, failing to pick up sheep at first attempt, short heading or over running. The outrun should end with dog positioned to bring sheep in as straight a line as possible to the handler.

2) THE LIFT.
Ideally sheep should be stationary as the lift begins. Penalties will be incurred for a dog rushing in and moving sheep too quickly, or failing to stop outrun (thus mixing outrun and lift). However, points should not be deducted as to the position of the dog on commencement of lift. i.e. If the dog stops on the side of stationary sheep, and moves them QUIETLY and EFFECTIVELY in the direction of the handler, the points should have been deducted on outrun.

3) THE FETCH.
The fetch begins when sheep move towards the handler under control of the dog. Points will be deducted for: not bringing sheep in a straight line, over flanking and unnecessary harrying or leaving sheep in course of fetch.

The fetch will be completed with work, to a senior judges satisfaction, in a ring either marked or dictated by a length of rope held by the handler. Points shall be deducted if the dog crosses between sheep and handler. When the senior judge is satisfied sheep are under control the handler will be told to move on to:

4) THE DRIVE.
The drive should consist - en route to pen - of two 12 foot hurdles 12 foot apart, or as necessitates on some courses a gate. Ideally the dog should drive the sheep in a steady and controlled manner, flanking them as required. There should be no deduction of points if the dog passes between handler and sheep during the course of the drive. Handler and dog should (whenever possible) be either behind or to the side of the sheep. Handler and dog should both follow sheep through hurdles or gate. Points shall be deducted if they fail to do so. If for some reason the handler decides to drive directly to the pen without passing through hurdles, they will not be disqualified, but should expect to be penalised heavily.

5) PEN WORK.
Pen work begins immediately the handler takes hold of the rope attached to gate. Points should be deducted for dog crossing between sheep and handler. This part of the trial is judged solely on the dog trying to or achieving a penning.

6) PENNING.
Points are awarded per head of sheep penned. i.e. one sheep penned equals one point and so on. Handlers should not touch or push sheep into pen.

7) COMMAND.
Judges shall score commands on the basis of the dog obeying orders without hesitation, or the repetition of a command from the handler. Whether the command is spoken or whistled is not a factor in point deduction.

8) STYLE.
Judges shall score style on the overall performance of the dog. This part of judging is very much a personal opinion of each individual judge, and shall be recognised as such.

9) MISCELLANEOUS.
GRIPPING, points shall be deducted for unprovoked gripping by a dog. This shall be done at the judges discretion, (although handlers should expect to be heavily penalised for unprovoked gripping) and should be taken off the relevant section of the trial. i.e. If the dog grips during the fetch points should be deducted accordingly. However judges should remember there may be an instance where no alternative is left to the dog but grip. Handlers should be aware of what is expected of them and their dogs. No crook or stick longer than 4 foot six inches should be carried. The handler may not relinquish the rope, or step out of the ring until the senior judge signals. If a handler calls off, no points shall be totalled for that run. Each handler is expected to clear the course of sheep at the end of his run. Points will not be deducted if handlers assist their dogs when possible - it is a team effort.

The senior judge is responsible for keeping spectators a reasonable distance from any part of the course during the working of a dog.

The judges have the right to allow re-runs if there is interference on the course, that they deem unfair to the handler running. If judges agree on disqualification for failing to appear when drawn to work, drunkenness on the course or any other reason, it should be upheld. However if judges wish to make a stand on any particular issue, they should speak to handlers prior to running their dogs.

POINTS - 50 per judge.

Outrun 10, Lift 5, Fetch 10, Drive 5, Penwork 5, Penning 5, Style 5, Command 5.

I would like to thank the committee for the advice, alterations and agreement in putting these rules together.

IAN HANSEN - SECRETARY
DOG HANDLERS ASSOCIATION

'SNOW LAUGHING MATTER'!!

I was reading the latest New Zealand Farmer the other day and the following article caught my eye - probably due to the weather lately.

SNOW BRINGS CHANGE by Sean Stephens:

"Large numbers of Canterbury farmers have changed their farm management as a result of the snowstorms two years ago, a MAF survey has shown. The survey of nearly 150 farmers indicated a wide range of farm management and structural changes farmers believe will assist in future storms.

No major single management change was identified, although 13% of farmers intend to lamb later. Other changes include changing from winter to summer shearing. The need for more shelter trees, farm tracks and hay barns was also identified, along with supplementary feed and improved maintenance of vehicles, dozers and equipment. Stock losses on the 143 survey farms averaged at 13.2% of sheep 4.9% of cattle and 7.6% of deer. The main sheep losses were ewes and wethers with most cattle losses being cows. The survey was undertaken by Gerald Scales, a research consultant at Rangiora. He says some farmers were better equipped than others to deal with snow. This observation prompted the setting up of the present survey, the purpose of which is to identify successful actions taken by farmers, management practices which were associated with lower losses, and to record farmer recommendations on how to best minimise the impact of future snows."

Robin Lee must have been on the same wavelength as he faxed a copy to me with the message "Due to the recent events, could something like this in relation to the Falklands be printed in the WOOL PRESS".

Here are a few of my thoughts and observations.
The recent fall of snow was different to the usual as there was little or no drifting, therefore no pasture was exposed for grazing. The livestock could 'paw' the snow away at that point though. Then it started to thaw - not much, but the snow packed down a little. Then it FROZE AGAIN! The snow was then too hard for the animals to break through, some even got trapped during the re-freezing process.

I know that there is little that can be done for the main flocks as travelling to their areas is near impossible at times. However, with a bit of careful planning, the more 'valuable' livestock could be kept closer to home, especially your flock improvement animals. I know that there have been unexpected lambs, but even during normal lambing times, bad weather, be it snow or rain storms, can lead to high mortality.

Shearing sheds with all their individual pens could be utilised during lambing for your 'stud flock' or 'A.I' ewes. They don't take much temporary conversion.

The following benefits can arise with proper organisation:.

1. At first signs of lambing, the ewe can be penned individually on straw/hay to lamb-down reducing exposure to adverse weather and the ensuing hypothermia threat to both ewe and lamb.

2. You can feed ewes in the latter stages of gestation (pregnancy) to provide them with:
   a) the extra energy needed for parturition.
   b) improved nutrition to promote milk production. Many lambs are lost or end up being bottle fed due to poor ewe nutrition and lack of milk production as a consequence. Lam-lac or other ewe milk replacers are not cheap.

3. Lambs born can be associated to the correct ewe and more accurate records can be kept. Lambs can be identified weighed and sexed without a traumatic chasing and catching fiasco!

4. If fostering is necessary due to multiple births, sick ewes etc., the task is so much easier with 'foster-pens' creating confinement of foster ewes and lambs.

5. If a ewe is having a difficult lambing, assistance and any follow up treatment can be easily given.

6. In the long run, time can be saved if you are a normally conscientious shepherd as less time will be spent searching pastures in bad weather for ewes and lambs.

7. A more comfortable environment for both sheep and shepherd is created.

The only real extra cost is the supply of food supplements during housing, but I am sure the saving in Ewe - milk replacers and lost valuable ewes and lambs far outweighs that. As years go on your knowledge and level of expertise will increase and savings will grow as you recognise problems before they happen, and act then, rather than having to rectify a problem after it has occurred.

As a footnote I would like to add a few words on behalf of the ewe. Pasture grazing is not good in the Falklands during the months of a ewes pregnancy. Generally speaking, if she is in poor condition when she is mated, she will not improve during gestation, she may even die, or abort the lamb. If she does go full term she may not produce much milk. If she lambs in decent weather things may not be so bad as she will not burn up so much energy. On the other hand, if the weather is bad, she will be as much at risk of dying as her lamb. These situations can be reduced by only putting ewes in good condition to the ram. It's false economy!

We all immediately think about 'saving the hypothermic lamb', giving it a drink, towel drying it, and warming it up, but quite often the ewe is hypothermic after being cast in the snow or exposed to the wind and rain. Her chance of survival could be improved by giving her a warm drink of treacle or molasses in water. This will give her some energy, raise her blood sugar level, and help to warm her up. Once again, you could always pen her in straw or hay, with her lamb in the shearing shed.

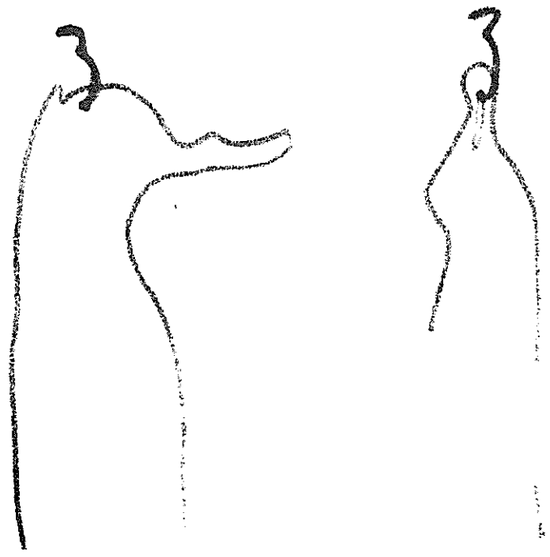
We have some ATB booklets on lambing, hypothermia and fostering. If you would like a free copy, please phone the department.

MANDY McLEOD
AUGUST 1994

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.K. "LAMB" CARCASSES

I have lamb in the title in inverted comma's because in U.K. terms they are talking about animals substantially older than the Falkland interpretation of lamb. With all the talk over the past couple of years or so on the proposed abattoir, I keep an interested eye out for market requirements. The Meat & Livestock Commission (MLC) in U.K. has produced a blue-print for consumer satisfaction on "lamb" meat.

The survey reveals that 50% of consumers still reckon lamb is too fat. I suppose this is partly derived from the healthy trend of eating low fat foods these days.



'AITCH' BONE SHIN BONE

What on earth would the U.K. consumer think of our "lamb" (mutton)!! Personally, I think it has much more flavour and I just trim off the excess fat before cooking, but I've eaten Falkland meat for most of my life and it therefore suits my taste.

Out of interest, one of the main recommendations in this blue-print is on the new way to hang carcasses of animals over 6months old. They recommend hanging by the 'Aitch' bone instead of the usual method.

This apparently gives a better conformation of the leg meat and produces larger steaks. Looks good for milanesas to me!!

MANDY MCLEOD
AUGUST 1994

FARMING SAFELY

In the U.K. fewer people were killed in farming accidents last year, but agriculture now has a worse safety record than any other industry.

That is the message from the Health and Safety Executive, which in its annual report, states that deaths in agriculture last year were the lowest ever recorded. A total of 41 deaths occurred, 11 fewer than the previous year.

Source: Farmers weekly, July 1994.

PTO GUARD OFFERS PROTECTION

A new power take-off shaft guard can help farmers avoid serious injury.

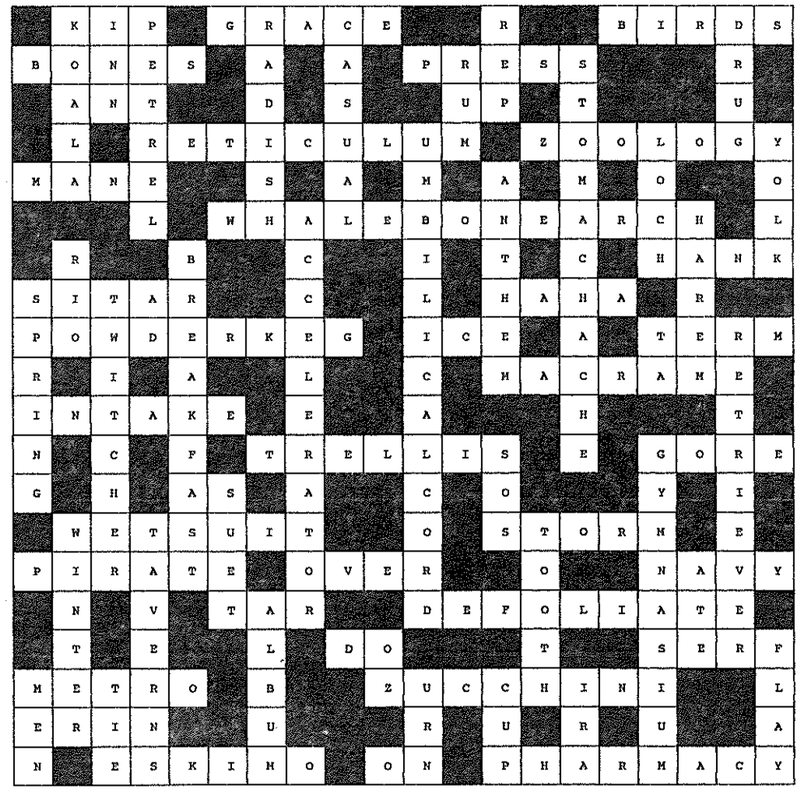
The 'PTO total guard' marketed by Axon Agrico, Wagga Wagga NSW gives complete protection from a rotating PTO shaft. The distributor claims this guard is safer than any other guard on the market.

The 'Total Guard' consists of a heavy duty neoprene convoluted rubber cover with internal poly acetal bearing support rings which the manufacturer says resists the heaviest of impacts.

A metal bayonet fitting is attached to each end of the cover and a quick release bayonet type fitting mounts on the tractor and implement to take the device. This ensures that it remains stationary at all times. An adaptor can be supplied to fit over slip clutches. Although it is claimed that the product made by Spaldings in Ireland is easier to fit than conventional guards, it does require a fitting to be put on each implement as they are used which may slow the operation down a little, but when lives are at stake then time is a small price to pay.

The standard unit fits shafts up to 1500mm in length and sells for $499 (Aus) and the longer version (2100mm shafts) sells for $575 (Aus).

SOURCE: FARMING AHEAD, MARCH 1994



JULY

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

AND FINALLY!

The Department would like to thank all farmers for their assistance in compiling the 1993/94 Farming Statistics.

Although many will use the long winter nights to make their own assessment of 1993/94, it does appear that the past season has been a relatively favourable one. Greasy wool weights (excluding volcanic ash) were well up on previous years although slightly below the 1989-90 clip of 2,590,626 kg.

This figure is even more remarkable when one considers that Global wool production has declined by almost 17% since 1989/90 and that Australian production alone has shrunk by 26% ! These statistics clearly underline the value that the Assistance Programme has had in maintaining production levels in the Islands.

Lambing percentages also rose significantly across the Islands with the national figure reaching a staggering 65.92% ! It is particularly pleasing to see a dramatic improvement on the West and Western Islands. These farms clearly took the brunt of the 1991 volcanic ash and this assertion is reflected in the aggregated farming statistics (see below.)

Average lambing performances for Falkland farms 1990/1994

	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	AVERAGE
East Falkland	67.67	61.32	62.36	66.23	66.38	64.81
West Falkland	60.97	55.50	50.79	58.55	63.66	57.91
Islands	68.35	64.59	56.51	71.54	74.15	67.05
TOTAL	65.24	59.41	57.68	63.92	65.92	62.46

In addition to the normal Farming Statistics, the Department has produced individual farm " Key Area" statistics using historic information drawn from previous stock returns. The information available from these files include greasy wool weights, wool weights per sheep, winter mortality rates, lamb marking percentages and stocking rates.

In most cases data has been collected for farms post-subdivision although for the older established farms we have up to 20 years of statistics available.

If any farm wishes to receive a copy of their individual file please contact the Department.

HUGH MARSDEN
AUGUST 1994

RECIPES

GOLDEN SYRUP BISCUITS

3 cups of flour
4 oz butter
1 cup of sugar
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg
2 tablespoons golden syrup

Cream butter, sugar and syrup, add egg and dry ingredients. Roll out very thin and bake in a moderate oven until light brown.

MACAROON SHORTCAKE

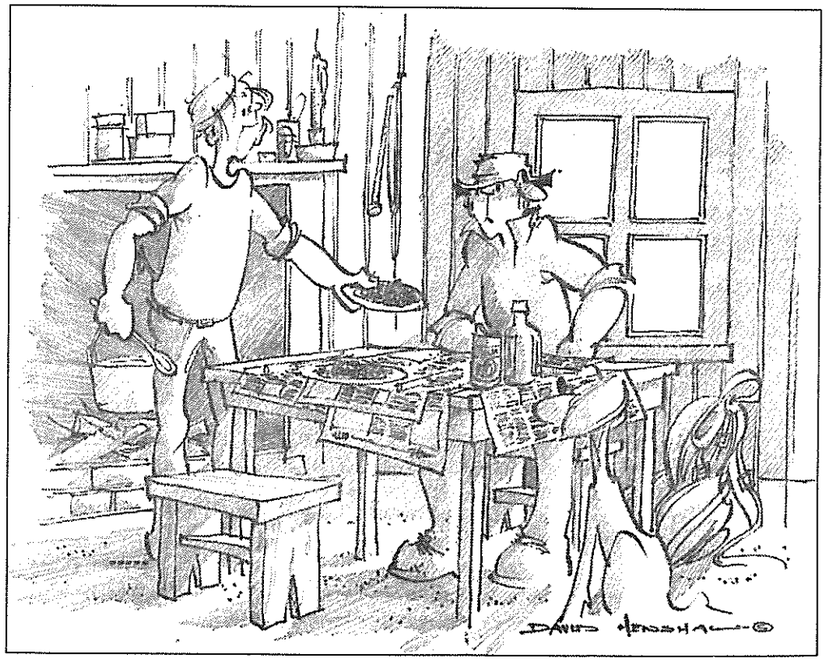
4 oz butter
½ cup of sugar
1½ cups of flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 tablespoon custard powder

Cream together butter and sugar, then add flour, baking powder and custard powder. Press into a swiss roll tin and spread with apricot jam. Put the following mixture on top.

1 cup of sugar
2 oz butter
1 cop of coconut
1 egg, beaten

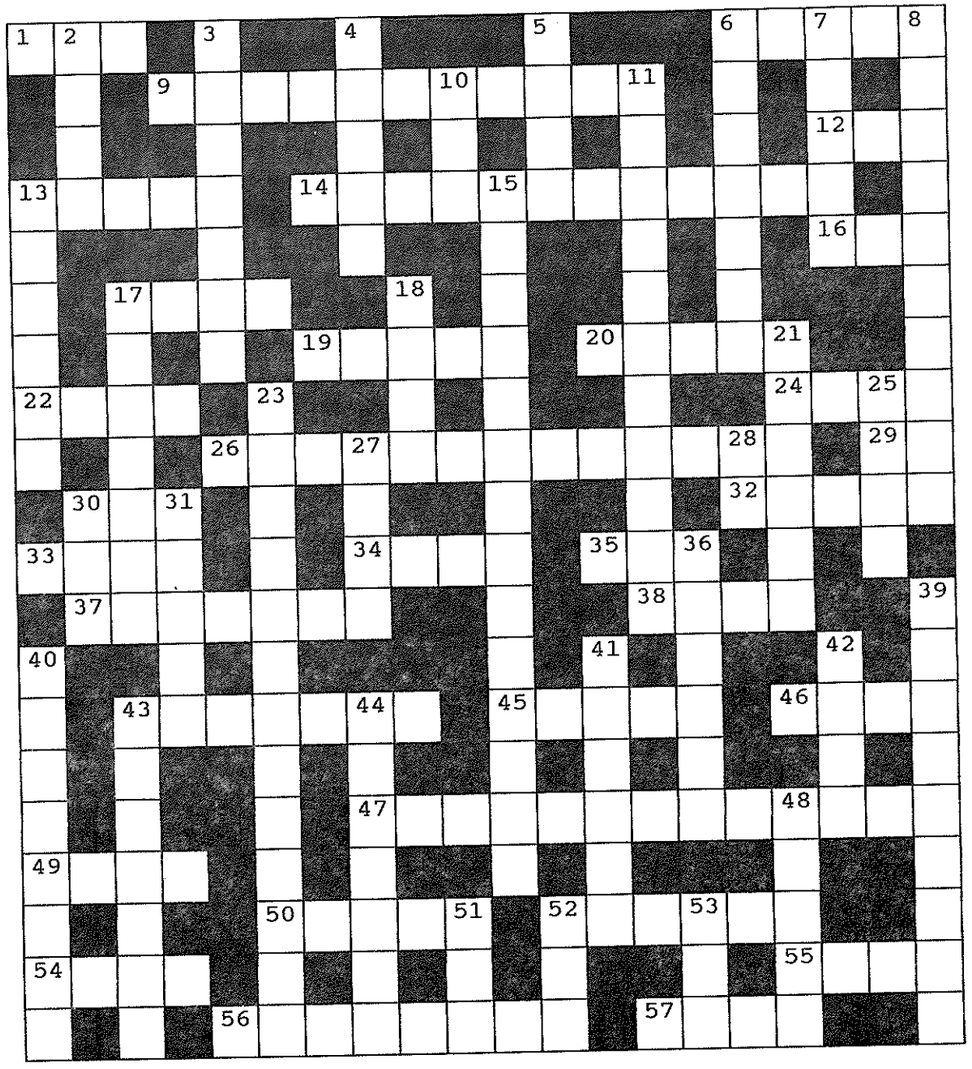
Beat the egg. Add sugar and meted butter, then add the coconut. Spread on the shortcake and bake in a moderate oven for 20-25 minutes.

AASE DAVIS, EVELYN STATION



"THE BAD NEWS IS IT'S BEANS AGAIN.....
THE GOOD NEWS IS THIS IS THE LAST TIN!"

AUGUST



TELEPATHY AND EWE!

Do some shepherds have a mental link with their flock? A shepherd in Australia believes that Man and sheep can communicate through a type of telepathy.

'When I was shepherding,' he writes, 'I would have a good look at the flock at about 10 at night and go to bed. Sometimes I would be up and wide awake in an hour and be back with the sheep. Sometimes it was two hours - rarely more than four. Almost every time I went, one of the ewes needed me. Never did I fail to go when one did. I am convinced that the sheep and myself had some kind of mental link.'

SOURCE: THE SHEEP FARMER
MARCH 1994

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. DONKEY
6. MINUTE FURRY FUNGI
9. HABDY CORD FOR ASSISTING EWES!
12. SMALL HOTEL
13. EAT GRASS
14. CHEMICAL REACTION WHEN HOME BREWING
16. ADAMS WIFE
17. BURN THE LEANING LADY SLIGHTLY?
19. MACHINE FOR COMPACTING HAY
20. FOUND ON FISH SKIN
22. STORY
24. FAMOUS CLOWN
26. FISHY STARTER
29. UNITED NATIONS
30. FEMALE PARENT
32. HINDMOST PARTS OF ANIMALS
33. PAINFUL SKIN AREA
34. ANIMAL DEN
35. CRY
37. FALKLAND ISLAND
38. CLOSE
43. GUN BORE DIAMETER
45. FIERY PARTICLE
46. SEA HEN
47. CAVITY TISSUE USED IN TRANSPLANTS FOR LEUKEMIA
49. SMALLEST OF THE LITTER
50. WORSHIPPED ONE
51. STOMACH LINING
53. YOUNG COW
55. THUNDER GOD
56. REFLECTED SOUND
57. A HORSE DISCIPLINE
58. X AND Y ON A GRAPH

DOWN

2. MARK LEFT AFTER SKIN DAMAGE
3. PRIMITIVE HUMAN
4. APPLE DRINK
5. BROUGHT INTO LIFE
6. GENERAL EXAMINATION BY DOCTOR
7. LIQUID BODY WASTE
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48. THIN STRANDS OF METAL THAT SOMETIMES GET CROSSED?
52. TIME
53. GARDEN IMPLEMENT
54. SLY ANIMAL

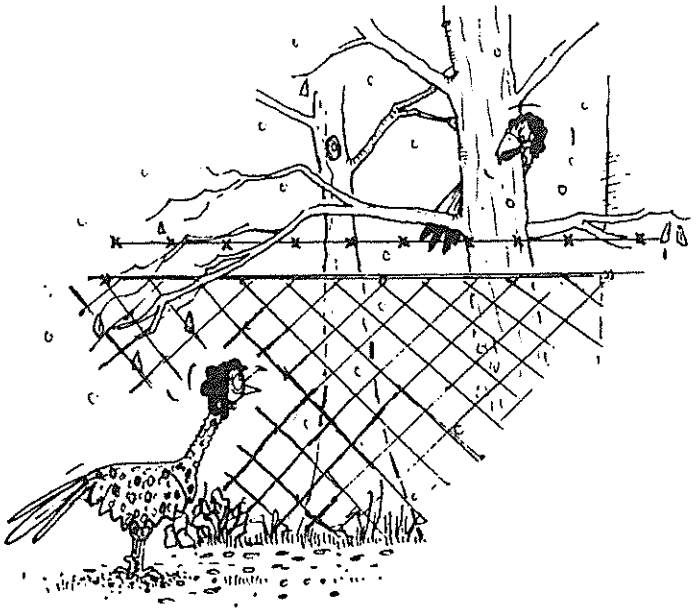
SHEARING TRAINING

If anyone is interested in taking shearing instruction with Murray Christie toward the end of October and hasn't already contacted me, please do so at your earliest opportunity so that a place may reserved for you. There are two levels being taught, one for beginners and one for all others.

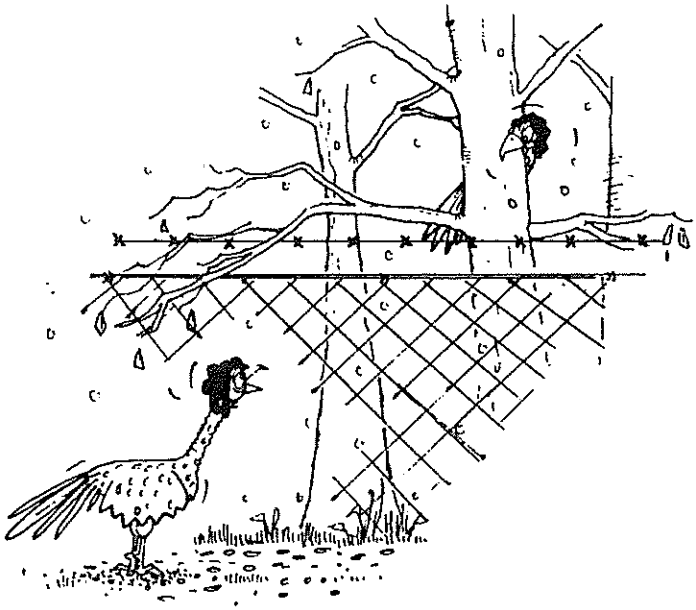
If you are a beginner and would like to be a part of our Shearing Training Scheme, contact me for more information.

MANDY McLEOD

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



'. . . how fascinating, – I don't think I've ever met a two-year-old turkey . . .'



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

Bottom picture: 1,Bottom of stake gone; 2,Thicker hat band; 3,Thinner tie stripes; 4,Button on pocket; 5,Extra bushes on right; 6,One hill contour missing; 7,Man holding pen; 8,Left collar gone; 9,Label on wellie; 10,No shadow of mans tie.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 58 SEPTEMBER 1994

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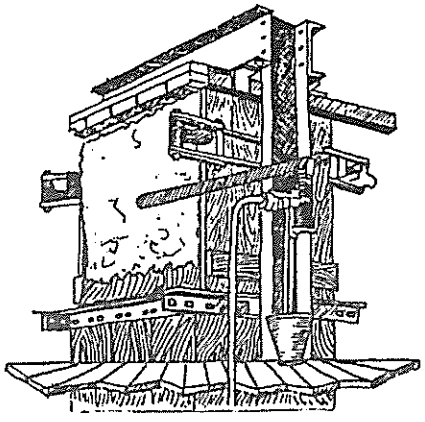


The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORS: M.McLEOD & T.BOWLES

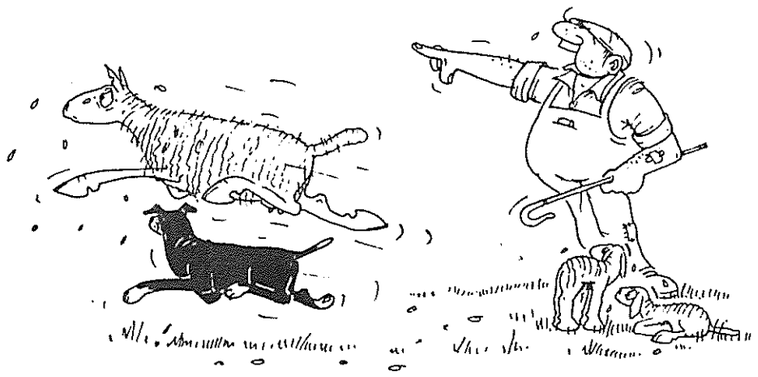
EDITORIAL

This will be my last editorial for some time as I depart the Falklands for a year to study. I will keep an "Editor's Eye" open for things of interest while I am away and send them to Troyd for inclusion wherever he feels fit. I hope the extra page in this issue compensates for the frustrations that you crossworders must have endured last month!

The full throes of the season will be on you shortly with lambing and all the other preparations and work that come with the spring like peat cutting (for those of you still using natural resources).

If anyone is interested in seeing the shearing instructor when he comes at the end of October and haven't yet told us, please do so now so that a place can be reserved for you on one of his courses.

MANDY



'. . . go on, Sweep, fetch 'er back, – pretend you're a bleedin' rottweiler . . .!'

PREVENTING FURTHER EROSION

Last month's article ('Are the Falklands eroding away?') highlighted the concern among the farming community, expressed at the recently held Farmer's Forum, that erosion was now a considerable problem in many areas. Contamination of fleeces with blown sand and dirt and the loss of productive pasture affected the incomes of members of the Farmer's Association (FA), who attended the Forum. Many were worried that if the current erosion continued the long-term viability, productivity and beauty of the land, especially along the coast, would be lost for the benefit of future generations and the wider community.

What can be done to maintain this land and to prevent further erosion? Solutions to the problem depend largely on the causes. At the forum the main causes of erosion and the disappearance of the Tussac were fire and overgrazing.

TUSSAC FIRES

Most farmers were aware of the dangers and consequences of burning Tussac, which was very vulnerable to fire. Consequently, in recent years there have been no reported deliberate burns of Tussac and accidental fires were due mainly to lightning strikes. A few fires occurred in 1982 during the conflict as result of military activities. Tussac has always burned naturally and will continue to do so.

The severity of damage depended on the time of year the fire was ignited and the depth of peat. Tussac was more vulnerable to both ignition and severe damage when it was dry. Thus fires started after a prolonged period of dry weather, usually the Spring drought, burned deeper than those which occurred later in the season. The latter type burned the upper, drier leaves and left the lower, damper leaves relatively untouched. Consequently, most of the 'buds' from which new Tussac shoots regrew remained undamaged.

Many fires have burned for years, especially on those Tussac islands with deep peat. Fire pits thirty feet deep remain on the Jason Islands thirty years after burning. In contrast, on islands with shallower peat the fires lasted a shorter time and did not burn as deep.
Let us hope that the present common sense exhibited against deliberate burning continues and that all users of Tussac, be they old or new, remain aware of the vulnerability to fire of this valuable resource. To achieve this, perhaps a code of practice regarding burning needs to be created and broadcast to all Tussac users so that they remain vigilant.

OVERGRAZING BY SHEEP

Damage from overgrazing was due mainly to sheep grazing uncontrolled for too long in sensitive areas. Tussac and sandy areas were particularly vulnerable. Consequently, the damage to grass and soils, intensified in dry seasons, rendered the sensitive areas unproductive and of little value for grazing.

Even where sheep densities were reduced considerably, one or a few sheep could still prevent recovery. They did so by selecting the new, palatable leaves, as soon as they appeared, in preference to the older less palatable leaves. Thus it was important to fence and remove all stock from the area, if recovery was to succeed.

RESTORATION

Farmers suggested two phases of restoration. Fencing off from stock and resting from grazing was the first phase of recovery. This facilitated natural regeneration and Tussac often recovered better and quicker than by its establishment from plantings. Sand grass also self-regenerated when grazing was removed.
There were few reports of successful plantations of Sand grass among FA members and it is an area where further research may be usefully directed. Much information was available from the Department of Agriculture on research on the biology, ecology and establishment of Tussac for individuals to continue with replanting. However FA members requested more information on specific areas - economic benefits, best sites for replanting, relationships with birds, prevention of the sudden death of bogs, and grazing management of established Tussac.

Perhaps it is time that a national management strategy was designed and implemented to conserve the remaining Tussac areas for future use, sustain its excellent potential for Winter feed and shelter for stock, and to reduce the eroded areas by encouraging schemes for Tussac regeneration and replanting.

Your ideas on erosion - its extent, causes, and solutions would be welcome.

AIDAN KERR, SENIOR SCIENTIST
SEPTEMBER 1994

AVOID LAMB MORTALITY!

This article, although specifically written on Australian research, does have some relevance to the Falklands. Much of the information has been covered in past issues of the WOOL PRESS in articles with figures from our own research. (Condition Scoring, Nutrition).

New born lamb deaths are one of the biggest causes of reproductive inefficiency on sheep enterprises.

About 25% of lambs die in the first three days after birth in Western Victoria. Most of these deaths result from starvation, exposure and mis-mothering in the first three days of life.

Pregnancy rates of over 90% of ewes mated are usual but keeping many lambs alive over the first few days of life presents serious problems.

Ewes need to produce sufficient lambs for flock replacements. In flocks orientated to wool production weaning percentages should be over 70%. Weaners should weigh at least 22 kg by summer if survival is to be satisfactory. Good nutrition and management of ewes is necessary to achieve this weight.

Excessive lamb mortalities, poor lamb growth and subsequent weaner ill-thrift can usually be traced back to under-nutrition or faulty management of the breeding ewe and the pastures on which they graze. Some of the important factors contributing to unsatisfactory performance are outlined below.

Nutrition before lambing

Research at the Pastoral and Veterinary Institute at Hamilton has shown a very close relationship between ewe condition score at lambing and subsequent lamb survival and weight gain. Lamb survival and growth depend heavily on ewe condition. Lamb birth weight was increased, and desertion of twins reduced by improving ewe nutrition in the last few weeks before lambing.

If the condition score of ewes is falling to 2.5 or less, and if they are grazing short pastures with less than 700kg dry matter per hectare, they will need supplementary feeding. If they are fat, in Condition score 3 or better, and losing weight on such pastures, they need measures to minimise pregnancy toxaemia and hypocalcaemia. This generally means feeding and some producers draft off the lightest ewes in each mob to give them special attention.

Shelter belts

The benefits of shelter for lambing ewes have varied in trials but nevertheless carefully planned shelter belts are a desirable part of any farm improvement programme. They certainly won't harm chances of better lamb survival.

Post lambing nutrition

Milk supplies depend heavily on current ewe nutrition. Lamb growth rates are normally about 20% of daily milk yield. Thus a lamb gaining 170g/day is probably getting about 850g/day of milk. This takes about 2kg of nutritious pasture per day.

Ewes lambing in a condition score less than 2.0 will not lactate well, even if they are grazing green pasture at about 1500kg/ha or better. If they lamb in better condition, their udders have developed sufficiently in late pregnancy to take advantage of the good pasture.

Lambs on ewes which are milking poorly may not survive and if they survive they will grow poorly. Their need for food is not satisfied by milk, so they eat the short pasture and pick up heavy worm burdens.

SOURCE: FARMING AHEAD - MARCH 1994
by JOHN WEBB WARE

FEEDING THE PREGNANT OR LACTATING EWE

Many farmers have small stud flocks which may consist of sheep purchased from overseas. In my opinion these animals need more care than the native sheep in several areas.

Nutrition during pregnancy is more critical than that for camp sheep as the pregnancies are often multiple. Remember the survivability of the lamb is influenced by its body weight so it makes sense to put something into the ewe.

There are often many individual situations as far as the way you manage your animals. When you start looking at dietary requirements in terms of energy, digestible crude protein, minerals etc, the situation is fairly complex. The precise requirement of the ewe depends on her breed, body weight and number of lambs. There are other factors that come into the equation e.g. is she shorn pre-lambing, is she housed etc.? It is impossible to be precise and exactly meet every individual situation.

However, I propose to give you some guidelines based on the sort of diets available at Falkland Farmers. I am going to concentrate on the provision of adequate energy to the ewe. If we start to look at protein separately the situation becomes unnecessarily complex. Assuming that the protein should be more or less O.K. if the energy is right it isn't far off the mark for the situation here.

Remember in general some food will be better than pasture alone. I am assuming body weight in the region of 50 kg and carrying twin lambs. The energy requirement and pregnancy for this type of sheep is roughly 12 MJ. In late pregnancy it will rise to approximately 20 MJ.

a) Where little to no pasture is available in well eaten paddocks this should be provided by hay and concentrate.

b) In camps where there is still some feed, provision of concentrate alone is adequate as roughage is available to the ewe.

Most of the concentrate feeds available from Falkland Farmers have an energy content in the region of 10 MJ/kg. (Hay we will assume to be 8MJ/kg but obviously varies a lot). The following table shows protein, energy and copper levels in some of the feeds available. (The copper levels are the total of background and added copper).

FEED	PROTEIN %	M.E.mj/kg	COPPER mj/kg
Mixed corn	10.50	11.90	3.50
Pony cubes	11.50	9.10	42.00
Dengie alpha A	15.00	10.30	10.00
Feed oats	10.00	10.15	4.00
Flaked maize	9.00	12.40	3.00
Coarse goat mix	15.00	9.60	1.50
Ewe rolls	17.50	10.53	15.00
Lamb creep	17.50	11.26	13.00

A mid-pregnant ewe's energy requirement is 12 MJ.

a) Where pasture is not available this can be met by hay providing 4 MJ and concentrate supply 8 MJ.
(for those of you not used to metric this means 1/2 Kg (or 1 lb) hay & 0.8 Kg (or 1 3/4 lb concentrate.

b) Where pasture is available we will assume that it can provide the 4 MJ so we only need to give the 0.8 Kg concentrate.

A late pregnant ewe's energy requirement is 20 MJ.

a) This can be met by 1/2 Kg (1 lb) hay = 4 MJ. The remaining 16 MJ can be provided by 1 1/2 Kg (3 lb) of concentrate.

b) Where reasonable pasture is available we will assume that it is providing 4 MJ and the 3 lb of concentrate alone is required.

The lactating ewe requires 25 - 30 MJ in early lactation.

The extra energy can be supplied by another 2 lb of concentrate. As the ewe's belly is emptier now she should be able to accommodate this easily.

The golden rule for all this feeding is a gradual build up: Start with 0.25 Kg (1/2 lb) concentrate in whichever method fits your actual situation.

IAN SAUNDERS, VETERINARY OFFICER
SEPTEMBER 1994

NOAH'S ARK ANIMALS

Hay Miller at Falklands Conservation has been contacted by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in connection with some of the Animals that came down on the Noah's Ark. She will be sending a small questionnaire to those who received the animals in question and would be grateful if you could spare the time to help her in her quest to gather information for the R.B.S.T.

A.T.S. UPDATE

There have been some successful courses run through the Agricultural Training Scheme this winter. Basic plumbing and welding courses in Stanley have been well attended by several F.L.H. employees on request of their General Manager.

On the 1st & 2nd of September I will be instructing on the Basics of Computers for beginners. This was requested during farmers week and the response has been encouraging.

A First Aid course is being organised at Goose Green on 5th & 6th of October. If anyone living in camp would like to attend they will be most welcome to join the group. Please contact myself or Troyd if you wish to do the course so that we have some idea of numbers. You will need to make your own accommodation arrangements.

MANDY McLEOD
SEPTEMBER 1994

THE CHALLENGE OF MAXIMISING INCOME FROM LAND AND SHEEP

All efforts to increase farm revenues by farmers, farming companies and the Department of Agriculture, ultimately endeavour to increase income per acre, on a sustainable basis. Even with the extensive farming system of the Falkland Islands, land is a limited resource and every farm has only so much land it can graze. Income per acre has two major components in the Falkland Islands wool production enterprise, namely income per head and stocking rate. Nearly all improvements endeavour to increase income per head and/or stocking rate: eg. sheep purchases, sheep breeding, fencing, rotational grazing, two pasture systems, reseeds, fertilising, animal health, research and laboratory analysis.

Analysing income per head and stocking rates for Falkland Islands farms shows considerable variations. A July 1994 analysis of 81% of sheep farms showed that:

- Income per head varied from £4.23 to £9.61, with the highest 10% of income per head farms averaging £7.67.

- Stocking rates varied from 0.09 to 0.62 sheep shorn per acre, with the most intensive 10% of farms averaging 0.46 sheep shorn per acre.

When analysing income per head and stocking rates, it is important to recognise a) that farmers can economically be unable to improve the underlying quality of their land and b) that income per head is largely determined by breed and farmers may have had little time to select sheep for improved income per head. Such information is however extremely useful in helping all parties involved in agriculture to identify those components that make the greatest contributions to farm revenues. Only one farm can have sheep with the highest income per head (which as one would hope it was the National Stud Flock), much more important is the trend that a farm can achieve over time. By monitoring their income per head and stocking rates, farms can also evaluate their improvements in income per acre.

The same analysis showed that current incomes per acre range from £0.50 to £3.29, with the better 10% of farms achieving £2.76. The value of using this type of information to encourage, guide and monitor improvements is illustrated by calculating the income per acre of a farm that could achieve the top 10% for both income per head and stocking rate, as such a farm would earn £3.53 per acre or £0.24 per acre more than the top farm today: in short as these figures have already been generated by some farms in the Falklands, there is potential for all farms to further improve. Such potential is just as well, as the attractions of agriculture would diminish, if there were no such challenges of potential improvement.

ROBERT H.B. HALL
SEPTEMBER 1994

WOOL PEOPLE

AGENT (eg. D.S. & Co (Falkland Farming) Ltd)

Contacts numerous potential wool users to create lots of competition on behalf of farmer principals. Given that higher revenues are earned from higher wool prices, the interests of farmers and the agent coincide. An agent acts for the long term and is thus interested in sustained improvements of the clip. Agents provide market price information, wool production data, full sales disclosure, marketing analyses with improvement recommendations and general wool commodity information. Wool agencies generally work for only one origin of wool.

MERCHANT (eg. Holdsworth Ltd., etc.)

Contacts users on own behalf, not that of farmers. Given that merchant revenues derive form buying cheap and selling dear; a merchant's interests are not the same as a farmer's interests. Merchants profits do not necessarily increase with improvements in a clip. Merchants may provide some general market price information, but do not disclose full sales information. Merchants don't restrict their activities to any one origin of wool.

MILLS (eg. Bremer Woll-Kammerei, Germany, etc.).

Don't contact other users. Interest in wool is to purchase specified wools cheapest. Mill costs can be minimised by buying cheaply. Full information often too valuable to give away. Origin less important than required wool specification and mill demand for wool changes with down-stream demand.

FARM PRINCIPALS (eg. All farmers and farming companies).

Working for him / herself or itself. Business objective should include maximising long term profits. Principals are usually risk adverse and therefore try to minimise all their business risks. Farmers might sell directly to the trusted merchant, however farmers cannot monitor the wool market every trading day of the year and lack up-to-the-minute wool market information, therefore many farmers employ the services of an agent to gather wool market information and create maximum competition on their behalf.

TAXPAYER

"That's someone who works for the government but who doesn't have to take a civil service examination"!! Ronald Reagan.

ROBERT H.B. HALL
SEPTEMBER 1994

SUPERFIBRE COULD CHANGE FACE OF MERINO PRODUCTION

The July issue of Wool Record reports that "in Bowral, New South Wales, Dr.Watts started his quest for the "Superfibre" about six years ago. Coming from CSIRO, he said that he had realised for years that "while we have been trying to improve the Merino fibre by chemical methods, working on it's crease resistance and shrink resistance, we have been staring the obvious in the face. In a natural fibre it is better to work with the tide and improve its natural tendencies the natural way."

This led him to sit down and define what the perfect fibre, or "Superfibre" would be, then create it with natural means from the sheep itself.

The elements of "Superfibre" were to:-

* Create resistance and crease retention: This has to do with the fibre shape, integrity of the fibre and its elasticity.

* Softness: Softness is related to "minimisation of fibre diameter variation" and an even cylindrical shape of fibre itself.

* Processing performance: Dr.Watts Concluded that there was little that improved fibres could do to improve yarn performance with modern spinning speeds. However, further down the line, results demonstrated that a sound and very elastic fibre gave substantially improved weaving performance as the fibre itself was able to better withstand the explosion of energy it is exposed to when moving through the weft shed. Further this characteristic improved warping performance substantially. Mending cost were lower and there were fewer strings.

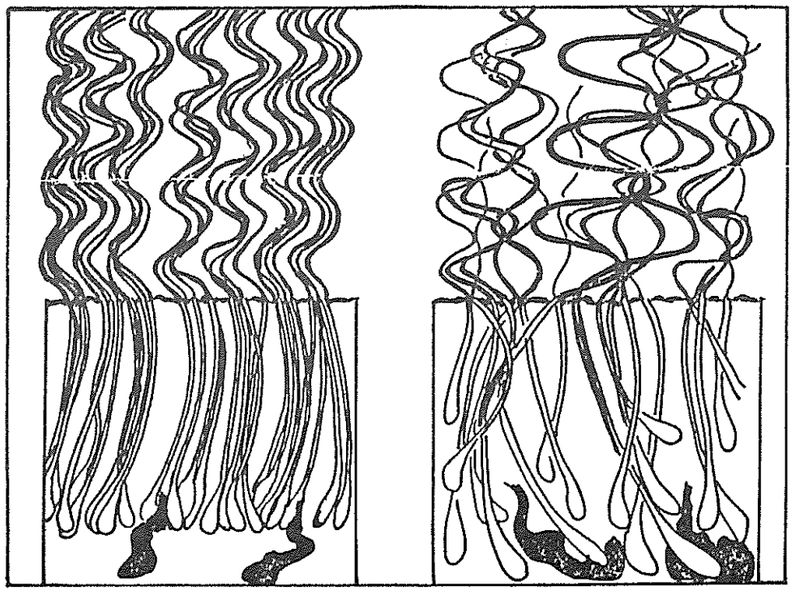
Finally there are problems of sheep management to solve. A great deal of tender or unsound fibre comes from sheep reacting badly to stress, which produces thin weak spots along the fibre. Dr.Watts began to study the "fibre-producing machine", the wool follicle itself.

He found that sheep with skin formations that produced high density arrangements of long, slender follicles, reacted well to stress. He believes this is an advanced Merino in which any vestige of the primitive characteristics of wool fibre shedding has been eliminated by breeding. He found that sheep with those characteristics continue this even, cylindrical fibre production in times of stress, whether drought, pregnancy or lactation, and maintain integrity of fibre formation throughout.

By breeding not on the look of the sheep, but on their true genetic characteristics as expressed in the skin, or fibre factory itself, a true Super Merino is emerging that promises to change the face of Australian Merino production.

The best sheep are characterised by the high density of wool follicles, which ensures that these follicles are slender, and a remarkable increase in the proportion of secondary (to primary) wool follicles. With this genetic bluprint in place, the sheep grow wool fibres that automatically become finer, more uniform in diameter and length, softer handling and more elastic with greater tensile strength.

The accompanying drawings of the difference in fibre characteristics bears out the growth pattern of the fibre itself.



Left: growth of "Superfibre"; right — growth of ordinary Merino fibre.

With the low stress reactor's regular growth providing an ordered helix, the bonds maintain their shape more efficiently and react better to the shaping and fixing required in a high quality worsted garment.

The "Superfibre" cylindricality gives both regularity of strength and reflectivity in the final cloth; the visible glow of high quality cloth.

A small clip of "Superfibre" will be shorn in November and industrial production will be realised thereafter. It promises to have an effect not only on processing and in final performance but also in creating finer fibres for the whole Australian clip. Particular improvements in the coarse Merino are expected, but also in the dry pastoral Merino populations where trials are producing superb 19.5 micron wool, four microns finer than normal, and with a regularity of growth that will make for great weaver demand.

D.S.& Co..
SEPTEMBER 1994

FARMING STATISTICS

If you find any anomalies in the 1993 / 94 Farming Statistics please contact the Department of Agriculture so that an addendum can be prepared.

* *

LETTERS

This month I have two letters to publish on the same subject. While I would not like the WOOL PRESS to become too involved in "Who's at fault?" controversies, this is an important wool shipping issue and I believe that both parties have now had their say and put their points forward.

ANNE BOYE VOYAGE 3

We are particularly concerned at the allegations made by D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. as regards the arrival of the wool cargo in Bradford. On learning that there appeared to be some problems with this consignment, we immediately called in Insurance assessors to give us a full report in order to deal speedily with any potential claims.

Initial reports indicate that, other than 2 bales which were 'quite warm' and left in the open air for the bagging to dry, all other bales weighed in were within 2 - 3 kilos of their farm weights. We take any problem such as this very seriously and will take action to avoid problems in the future once we have received the assessors report. The owner of the two bales concerned has been contacted by us and is happy for us to deal with the matter.

It is disappointing that Colin Smith does not react to all claims with equal verbiage. An analysis of all insurance claims over the past two years indicated the following:

ANNE BOYE March 1993	2 burst bales.	Agencies claim	£662
		Wool sold for	£515
		Claim settled	£147
WESTMOOR May 1993	6 bales water damaged	Agencies claim	£2129
		Net proceeds from wool	£1315
		Claim settled	£ 814

The second and largest claim was reported by Colin Smith on 6th May 1993 as follows: - "Reports from Hogg Robinson indicate a dozen bales have been wetted by a leaking ballast tank on the Westmoor. This will be dealt with on arrival at Bower Green".

We shall let farmers draw their own conclusions.

R.K.SPINK, 12th AUGUST 1994

Dear Editor

In May 1993, the Captain of the Westmoor reported a leaking water tank had damaged about a dozen bales of wool. This was immediately communicated to all concerned by H.R.Shipping, in line with accepted shipping practice and regulations. In the event just 6 bales proved to be damaged. The agencies claim on behalf of farm principals was settled in full.

In August 1994, the Anne Boye wool shipment arrived strangely in six refrigeration containers. Delivered door to door, unopened, from Stanley to Bower Green. 88 bales were reported as being shipped. There was absolutely no report of any damage from F.I.C., Stanley. When the containers were opened, 91 bales were found, many of them severely damaged, smeared with mud and water. It is the duty of a port, shipping company, haulier or warehouse keeper, to immediately advise owners and all parties concerned of damage to any cargo consigned to their safe keeping. Why was this duty not performed?

Yours sincerely

C.M.L.SMITH, D.S.& Co.(Falkland Farming) Ltd, 24th August 1994

The following letter was received from Maggie Goss. Both her and Peter are pleased with their N.S.F. purchases and are looking forward to lambing.

After a very wet winter we are pleased to see our stock looking well wooled and healthy. The rams bought from N.S.F. have lost five kilos body weight since the start of tupping on 20th May. All have had the three W's treatment, (Wigged, Worm drenched and Weighed) and seem alert and content with the wool being snow white and superfine. None of these sheep have been given any extra food supplement since date of purchase and we don't intend giving any.

We also gave 20 of our three year old first cross Polwarth rams (out of the same camp) the three W's treatment and found that these sheep had lost between 8-10 kilos body weight since 20th May (up to twice as much weight loss as the N.S.F purchases).

The imported ewes have also survived this winter on white grass and haven't had any extra food supplement either and compare well with our local born stud flock ewes. We're happy that the N.S.F. rams have survived in Jubilee camp which has a stocking rate of 2.06 acres per sheep, and normally we wouldn't be breeding off shearling rams.

MAGGIE GOSS, HORSESHOE BAY
SEPTEMBER 1994

HYDATIDS
ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

I have for some time been concerned that we in the Falkands are possibly not following the correct procedures for eradication of the hydatids problem here. My experience as a working dog owner in New Zealand tells me that the current procedures in the Falklands are not going to eliminate the problem.

In New Zealand it is an offence to feed raw sheep or goats meat to dogs. All sheep and goat meat for consumption by dogs must by law be either cooked (boiled) or frozen for at least one week before it can legally be fed to dogs.

I contacted a friend, Vere Nicolson who was a farmer in New Zealand and is now a vet and the following article Vere wrote supports my opinion.

TAPEWORMS OF DOGS WITH SIGNIFICANCE TO OTHER ANIMALS OR PUBLIC HEALTH

"Several types of tapeworms which live in the intestine of dogs have developed an effective means of infecting new dog hosts. They achieve new infections via an intermediate (non-dog) host. Eggs pass from an infected dog in the faeces and contaminate the environment, especially pasture. The objective is that these eggs are eaten by a natural prey species of the dog, and develop in the tissues of this animal into a form which is infective to another dog. Occasionally the wrong species becomes infected, sometimes this is man. Hydatid cysts in human tissue would be more destructive, and harder to treat than many forms of cancer.

In New Zealand a campaign has been running for some years to eradicate three hydatid parasites. In New Zealand it is illegal to feed dogs raw offal from any animal, or untreated sheep or goat MEAT. The flesh of sheep or goat meat has to be heated to 72 degrees Celsius or kept frozen at -10 degrees Celsius or lower for 14 days before it is safe to feed to dogs - this treatment kills C.ovis, the hydatid tapeworm.

Offal, which includes all thoracic and abdominal viscera and heads must be boiled vigorously for at least 30 minutes to kill hydatids and other cysts - cooking is often inadequate and it is better not to feed offal at all.

Farm dogs must be kept under proper control when not working to prevent them feeding on dead sheep.

To aid eradication by treatment with drugs the interval between treatments of dogs with Drontal must not exceed six weeks or the parasite may be able to complete its life cycle and dogs contaminate pasture.

Of the three parasites which are targeted in the N.Z. campaign, one cycles normally between dogs and sheep and goats - man can be affected causing human hydatid disease. Another parasite causes "Sheep measles" where the carcass can be peppered throughout with cysts. Although not dangerous to human health the carcasses are unsalable. The third parasite can affect the offal and carcasses of sheep, goats, cattle, pigs and deer causing economic loss.

Thanks to the campaign few New Zealanders under 30 are infected which is fortunate, because the few of those infected earlier survived into their 30's."

(VERE NICOLSON, DipAg,DipF.M., BVSc)

Perhaps the law makers should take this information into account when writing the laws on dog ownership in the Falklands? I know that freezing or cooking meat is a hassle but if we are to get on top of this problem, I believe a lot more effort will be required. Remember the effort the farming community went to in eradicating the sheep lice problem? I think you will all agree that it was worth it in the end, so too with the hydatids problem - a little hassle required for a great gain.

I am not imposing my views on the farming community, just offering some information which I think will be of benefit based on the New Zealand experience. New Zealand now has a low incidence of hydatids due to the policies now in place and adhered to.

MARTIN COX
AUGUST 1994

RECIPES

TEA CAKE

10oz Flour
1tsp Baking Powder
1tsp Cinnamon
4oz Sugar
2tsp Treacle
2½ Cups Milk
1½ Cups Raisins

WHOLE OAT FLAPJACKS

4oz Brown Sugar
4oz Butter
1 dessertspoon Golden Syrup
6oz Whole Oats
1tsp Ground Ginger

DITI PONCET
BEAVER ISLAND

ALL IN ONE SPONGE

4oz Flour
1tsp Baking Powder
4oz Butter
4oz Sugar
2 eggs
2 or 3 drops Vanilla Essence

WHOLE OAT SLICES

3oz Porridge Oats
3oz Whole Wheat Flour
1½oz Brown Sugar
3oz Butter
¾tsp Baking Powder

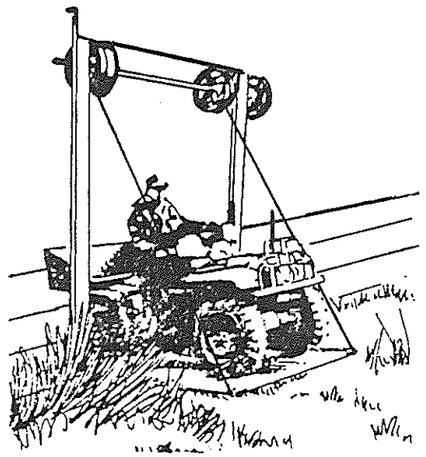
AN AUSTRALIAN "HOME GROWN IDEA"

DRIVE-OVER GATE FOR ATVs

Dean Pierson, Copake, New York, came up with a simple, drive-over gate for his four-wheel, all terrain vehicle (ATV) that automatically opens in either direction. Mr Pierson simply lets his front wheels push the gate down and then drives over it. After the ATV has crossed the gate, the gate automatically flips back up into place.

"It works great for checking cattle in my pastures," says Mr Pierson, who has built three drive-over gates.

He built a frame for the gate out of 18 millimetre diameter pipe. A steel cable, which runs through the pipe along the bottom edge of the gate is anchored to two, three-metre high gate posts on either side, acts as a hinge. A 37mm diameter pipe mounts above the gate about 2.6m off the ground.



Three used-car wheel rims are welded to the pipe and wrapped with cable. Two of the wheel rims are mounted between the wood posts and are tied to the gate's top corners. The other wheel rim is positioned outside one of the wood posts and has a 20 kilogram counterweight tied to its cable.

When the gate is in the closed position, the weight hangs about 150mm off the ground, "As the ATVs front tyres push the gate down, the pipe and wheel rims rotate, raising the counterweight up," says Mr Pierson. "After the ATV has crossed the gate, the counterweight drops, rewinding the cable on the other two rims to lift the gate back up to the vertical closed position.

"The key is that the cable on the outside wheel rim is wrapped in the opposite direction from the other wheel rims. I first tested my idea by making a .6m high, toy model from scrap lumber and twine. I used small pulleys, so I could see how the cables should be wrapped.

"The wide circumference of the wheel rims provides leverage that makes the gate easier to push down and causes it to go back up slowly. I used only one counterweight (a roller from a bulldozer track) because it happened to be perfectly balanced with the gate.

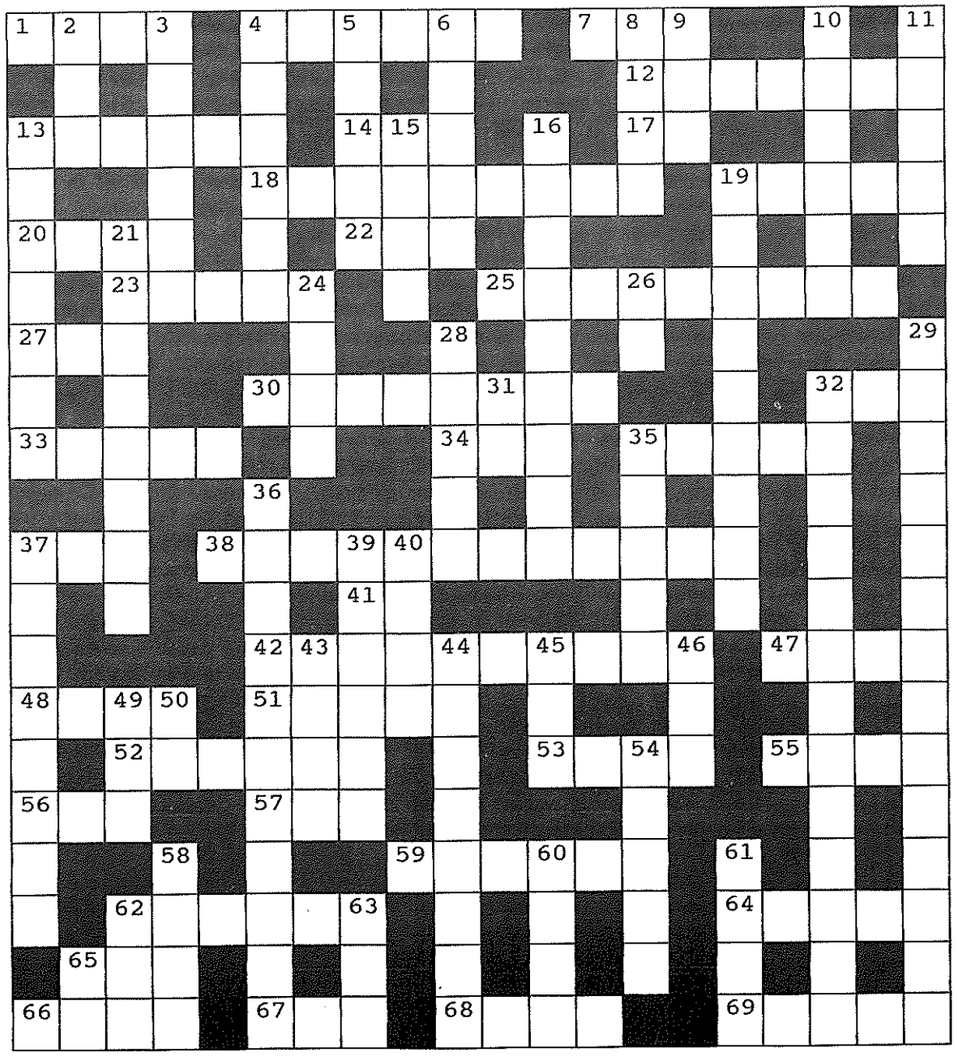
"However, on the other two gates I used two counterweights, a light one on top and a heavier one that rests upon the ground. The light counterweight on top makes it easier to push the gate over, and the heavy counterweight keeps the momentum going once the gate is halfway down. It also keeps the gate from being blown over by the wind or accidentally opened by a cow."

The pipe rotates inside a pair of home-made bearings mounted on the wood posts.

"The same idea could be used to make drive-over gates for cars, pick-ups, tractors, etc," he says.

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN FARM JOURNAL - MARCH 1994

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

1. MUSICIAN AND POET
4. DEADEN SOUND
7. ALPHABET
12. LOOPED ROPE THROWER
13. BELL NOISES
14. EDGE OF MOUTH
17. RISEN
18. TILL
19. LIGHT SHARP SOUND
20. GARDEN GATHERER
22. FOREIGN CURRENCY
23. RIVER ENTRANCE OR PASSAGE
25. GARDEN SLEEPING AREA?
27. PUB AND HOTEL
30. CHINESE FOR INSTANCE
32. EVERYTHING
33. LARGE BUNS
34. SOUTH AMERICAN FLIGHT CONNECTION
35. VILLAIN
37. SMALL ANIMAL ENCLOSURE
38. PARTY FOR NEW HOME
41. EXTENDED PLAYER (RECORD)
42. CLEAR OF SPEACH
47. SMALL INSECT
48. TIP
51. GROOVE
52. FANCY CLIPPED DOG
53. INFANT
55. ALE
56. ANGER
57. SHORT FOR JOSEPH
59. MARIONETTE
62. ORANGE VEGETABLE
64. EASERN RELIGION
65. DRINKING PLACE
66. CHICKEN FEED?
67. CONIFEROUS TREE
68. MEAT AND VEGETABLES IN BROTH
69. THICK SPREADABLE MIXTURE

DOWN

2. FIRE REMAINS
3. WET A LITTLE
4. SUPPORTIVE FLEXING TISSUE
5. FEMALE COLT
6. COMMONLY GROWN GARDEN FLOWER
8. LARGEST WHALE
9. HEAD COVER
10. LAW ENFORCERS
11. MALE DUCK
13. OF THE HEART
15. THING
16. DECORATIVE ROOM COVERING
19. CONECTIVE TISSUE IN KNEES
21. GIANT PRIMATE
24. OPEN FILLED PASTRY CASE
26. US
28. PROVIDE
29. KILLING PLACE
31. CHILDISH THANKS
32. WEATHER, FLIGHTS, ETC
35. HARD STONE
36. CAT AND MOUSE CARTOON CHARACTERS
37. SEA MAMMAL
39. SOFA
40. LONG NARRATIVE OF EVENT OR FILM
43. CHOCOLATE WITH CARAMEL CENTRE
44. DAWN SONGS?
45. SCIENCE WORKSHOP
46. ORGAN OF SIGHT
49. LARGE PRIMATE
50. KNOCK OUT
54. FABRIC DYEING TECHNIQUE
58. HAY STORAGE AREA
60. CATHOLIC HEAD
61. COWBOY'S LEG PROTECTION
62. MOTOR TRANSPORT
63. PULL BEHIND
65. BODY ODOUR

FOR SALE

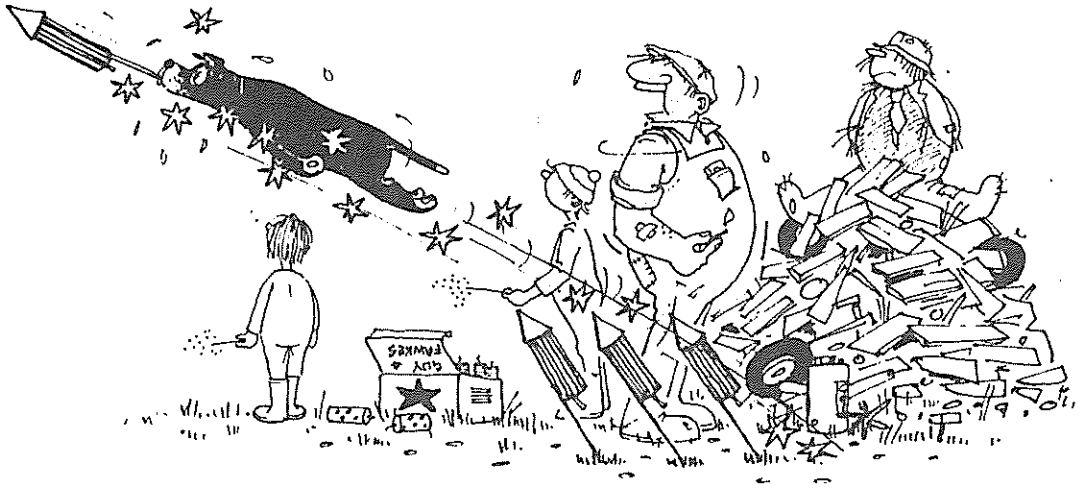
**ONE 50 Hp MERCURY OUTBOARD WITH ELECTRIC START,
INBOARD STEERING AND SPARE PROPELLER.
£800 O.N.O.**

**ONE 10 Kw LISTER GENERATOR IN GOOD RUNNING ORDER.
HOWEVER, IT IS DUE FOR AN OVERHAUL.
£1,100 O.N.O.**

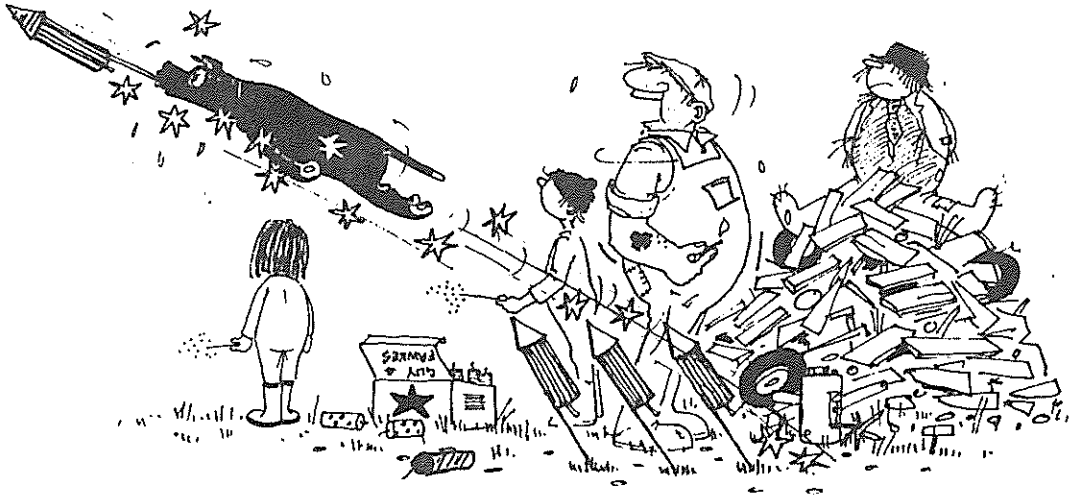
**ONE 6 Kw LISTER GENERATOR ALSO IN NEED OF AN OVERHAUL.
COMPLETE WITH APPROXIMATELY £33 WORTH OF SPARES.
£800 O.N.O.**

***For further information on any of the above items contact
Simon or Susie Bonner at Pickthorne Farm on telephone 41101.***

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



'. . . come bye, y' stupid dog . . .!'



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

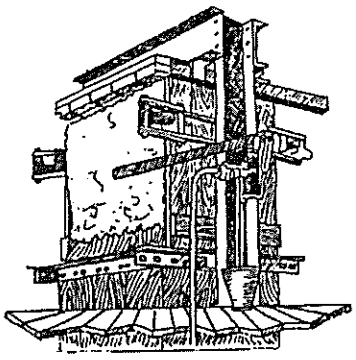
Top picture: 1,Branch missing on left tree; 2,Shadow on tree of birds beak; 3,Extra lines on right trees branch; 4,Extra circle on right tree; 5,More spots on bird on ground; 6,More wire showing on fence; 7,Tail feathers missing off bird on ground; 8,Tip of tail feathers on bird in tree are black; 9,Extra plant on ground; 10,More tree lines on center tree.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 59 OCTOBER 1994

IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORS: M.McLEOD & T.BOWLES

EDITORIAL

Well this is my first solo effort at the Wool Press and I'm pleased to say everything seems to have fallen into place OK. It hasn't been the easiest of months to try and prepare the Wool Press with Mandy leaving to undertake a years training and several other members of staff on leave or training courses.

We have welcomed two arrivals to the department this month with Bob Jackman returning as locum vet whilst Ian Saunders takes his U.K. leave and Greg Scott joining us as Sheep Scientist/Advisor. Greg is accompanied by his wife Lisa and son Jeremy. Look out for his introductory article inside.

Apologies to Pat and Bill Luxton whose article on planting potatoes should have been in last months Wool Press. Hopefully it's helpful advice won't be too late for all of you.

If anyone has an idea for articles for the Wool Press or would even like to contribute themselves they should feel free to send their ideas/contributions to me at the Dept. of Agriculture.

TROYD BOWLES

"Interest rates have gone up, the freezing works have closed a chain, m'huntaway got run over, an' m'piles are playing up again...everything's back to normal!"

REALITY

The Falkland Islands have an excellent wool growing environment, due to there being low humidity which stops wool yellowing, no severe summer droughts, nor extremely harsh winters (enabling production of sound wools) and no very contaminatory vegetable matter bush/scrub. Falklands wool as a whole, is considered by manufacturers to be a very good origin of wool, with speciality niches in its own right - "snow white Falklands fleeces"; it is also used blended with other wools when specification: price is paramount. The price of Falklands wool is determined by the international wool commodity price levels, which reflect general wool demand and wool specification.

There is a belief that Falklands wool earns a premium price, because it is generally so white, sound (no breaks in the fibre) and free of serious vegetable matter contamination. A premium price in this context implies that Falklands wool earns more for a particular micron type than other origins of wool; this is only partially correct, as Falklands wool does generally earn more per clean kilo than south American wools, however, Falklands wool does not generally earn more than similar Australian wools. Whilst this is an unpalatable fact, it also represents an opportunity for Falklands wool to earn more revenue, by generating a reputation equal to, or better than that of Australian wool.

When analysing this subject, it is important to note that because the Falklands clip is 1,700 tonnes clean (which is small on a world scale), manufacturers judge the reputation of Falklands wool as a whole. The reason that Falklands wool does not earn as much as Australian wools, is that Falkland wool does not yet have the very low and zero coloured fibre readings and medullated fibre specifications (illustrated by tests on wool tops) that Australia can produce, and that the Falklands as a whole do not have the same consistent reputation for wool preparation (witness the occasional complaint by manufacturers).

The visit to Bradford by Colin Smith, Owen Summers, Greg Scott and myself in early September, confirmed that manufacturers perceive Falklands wool has yet to equal the reputation acquired by Australian wool. It is difficult to quantify how much that additional reputation is worth, however, it is possibly up to ten percent of current Falklands wool prices. This additional revenue is one of the prizes of continuing the work in breeding excellent wool sheep and maintaining improved standards of wool handling. The Falklands can challenge Australia for its top wool reputation; small size could work to our advantage, but ultimately improvement must be consistent and throughout; therefore keep up the campaign to improve Falklands wool.

ROBERT H.B. HALL. OCTOBER 1994.

LETTER PAGE

We recently received the following letter from Peter Marriott of Falkland Islands Wool Marketing for inclusion in the Woolpress.

Dear Farmers,

I am writing to you in order that you should know my disappointment, having read a quite misleading note in the Wool Press addressed "Wool People" (a copy of which I have just received).

Mr Robert H B Hall is quite wrong on a number of points:-

The idea that an agent and the farmer are the only ones interested in improvements in the clip is utterly unreasonable. Everybody - from the farmer, to the merchant, to the mills, to the retailer, absolutely depend for their livelihood upon the quality of the product they are selling - it is not just the agent who is interested in quality.

With the Falkland Islands clip, which has highly specialised end uses, quality is critical. But it is up to not only the farmer and agent to deliver and ensure the highest quality but, more particularly, the merchant and the mills to promote the special character and inherent value of Falkland wool against other fibres (whether natural or synthetic).

Quite apart from the above, I would like to point out that whilst the note sent out is basically factual, it is somewhat misleading. In the current system of selling Falkland wools, D S & Co (the agents) sell, in principle, to a limited number of Bradford companies (Woolcombers and W & J Whitehead, etc) who then use the wool alongside their Australian and South American purchases. The Falkland wools may be promoted by these companies in their own right but more often are blended with wools of other origins and at the prevailing market price.

Falkland Islands Wool Marketing (a D B Holdsworth Ltd company) actively promotes and markets "Falkland wool" adding value by selling in top or in scoured form but in addition is also in a position and does, from time to time, sell to the current traditional Falkland wool users (ie Woolcombers and Whiteheads, etc).

Furthermore, the suggestion that an agent creates competition is misleading. On a daily basis, competition occurs between all parties but basically the market price must prevail. The only possible improvement on this is for Falkland wool to be promoted and marketed as a speciality in its own right and used into specialised areas which are prepared to pay a premium for its excellent style, colour and cleanliness. This is the area in which Falkland the farmer, itself, and the customers.

We are confident that the farmers, from whom we have bought wool this season, would give a satisfactory account of their dealings with us, both in terms of the price paid and prompt payment received, adding weight to the points made above.

FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL MARKETING

FEED ROLLS BOOSTS THE SPERM COUNT OF RAMS

High energy, 15% protein rolls with extra digestible fibre have been launched by Dalgety Agriculture.

The rolls are fed at a level of 0.25 to 0.5 kg/day during the eight weeks before tupping, irrespective of grazing and forage quality.

Ewes fed at the higher rate (0.5kg) three weeks prior to mating and through the first month of pregnancy should also benefit. Precise rates depend upon forage availability and the sheep's body condition, but a condition score of 3.5 at mating will increase a ewe's lambing percentage by 16% when compared to a condition score of 3.0.

According to Dalgety this could equate to an extra £6000 of income per 100 ewes. Tupping Rolls are claimed to lift ewe ovulation rate and ram performance by ensuring stock are in ideal condition before and after mating.

"The high level of digestible undegradable protein helps sperm formation and the mineral/vitamin selection helps to reduce the risks of urinary calculi and copper toxicity," says Dalgety's Dr Chris Bartram.

As yet I have no contact address for further details, but this should be available soon. Anyone interested in gaining further details should get in touch with me at the Dept of Agriculture on 27355.

TROYD BOWLES

Article compiled with extracts from Farmers Weekly, Sept 16-22 and What's New In Farming, Sept 1994.

NEW ARRIVAL

Coming from Australia, I have spent the past seven years as a research scientist in improving sheep nutrition from pastures and in identifying pastures of superior nutritive value for sheep production. I have a wealth of practical experience, having spent the past 13 years involved in the Australian sheep and wool industry from various angles. Firstly as a jackaroo on a large western Queensland sheep station, followed by University training a then the research position at the Agricultural Research Institute in Wagga Wagga.

Primary responsibilities of my position will be to undertake advisory work with Falkland woolgrowers targeting improved quantity and quality of wool production, with subsequent increases in farm incomes being the ultimate goal. Prior to my arrival in Stanley, I spent a valuable day with Colin Smith, Robert Hall and Owen Summers in Bradford, where we met with two major buyers and processors of Falkland wool. These meetings were quite beneficial as we were able to hear how Falkland wool was placed in relation to other wool from around the world, and what improvements are deemed necessary from a processing perspective to elevate Falkland wool to a status similar to/or even greater than Australian wool. I firmly believe that the required improvements are realistically achievable, with the end result being an increased value of the national clip and a subsequent improvement in farm income.

Also falling under my umbrella of duties will be the co-ordination of the Department of Agricultures involvement in the National Stud Flock. I shall keep all farmers informed of developments within this most valuable Falkland Islands asset.

With lambing and shearing fast approaching, I look forward to meeting and assisting many farmers in achieving their goals, through farm visits and monitoring programs. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 27355 for a discussion or to arrange a farm visit at your convenience.

Cheers for now,

GREG SCOTT
SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER/WOOL ADVISOR

JOB VACANCIES

The Department Of Agriculture has two vacancies on our Agricultural Training Scheme, beginning early in January 1995.

These posts are for a period of one years full time employment. Work will be undertaken on all aspects of farming in the Falkland Islands, which includes placement on farms plus other training as appropriate.

The post is primarily aimed at school leavers looking for a career in farming or other young persons looking for a years experience before going overseas to pursue a career in agriculture.

Interested persons should apply to the D.O.A. on or before 31 Oct 1994, further details on these posts can also be had by contacting the D.O.A.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The farming of animals in general and treatment with respect to their welfare in particular is an issue that is gaining greater importance in the world and it is an area of human activity that is coming under greater scrutiny by people with a wide diversity of views.

These range from those who feel that any farming or enclosure of animals is "exploitation" (using the word in it's worst connotation) or "specieism" where one species exploits another and should not be allowed; to those that wish for all animals to be farmed in a manner that closely resembles their original habitat (without any predators of course), to those that can accept any farming practice that does not include the suffering by animals.; to those that will farm in the most profitable manner irrespective of any suffering caused. There are of course shades of opinion in between these broad definitions and one can say that there is no world consensus as to which farming system is most acceptable.

Unfortunately the extreme views tend to be given more media coverage (for all the reasons that the media prefers shocking news i.e. to increase newspaper sales, T.V. ratings etc.) while the moderate opinions are generally unheard by the general public.

No doubt all of this is well known by the farming community in the Falkland Islands and many farmers will feel defensive about having to justify some of their farming practices to people with extreme views and often little knowledge of farming.

However, like it or not, your farming practices will come under the spot light more frequently in the future. This will become more likely when the proposed E.C abattoir becomes a reality and you wish to export meat to Europe. People there with an anti-meat, or anti-farming bias will draw attention to any practices on the Falkland Islands that they can use to make their case.

A similar situation can be seen in the wool industry where there is a movement in some European countries (e.g. Germany) to boycott the sales of hand made carpets from India where forced child labour has been used. These people will similarly use an animal welfare issue to make the same case against Falkland Island wool if there was an area of animal treatment here that warranted it in their view.

As the world trading system becomes slowly less protected (as promised by the latest GATT agreement) then other non-tariff trade barriers will be used and it is well known that industries are not above using animal rightists when it suits them to damage an overseas competitor's image.

I have refrained in this article from talking about specific farm practices because to highlight one area may be to unjustly slight what many farmers do well.

But in general terms, any practice that causes "unnecessary suffering" to an animal is the key point. If there is a

practical way (with or without veterinary involvement) of reducing suffering in a necessary farm operation, then try to adjust to that system. The definition of "unnecessary" used above is not just to be defined by farmers because with the way the world is going, urban people will steadily gain more influence over what rural people do with animals.

My recommendation is to have good objective look at your farm practices and if you feel they would not stand close scrutiny by an informed public, then change them, which will be a lot easier than if change is forced upon you.

BOB JACKMAN B.V.Sc., VETERINARY OFFICER

FENCING HINTS

SAFETY

Farmers should not neglect safety considerations when fencing. Safety glasses, hats and gloves should be worn, especially when handling barbed wire.

Wire in the coil is under tension so care should be taken from the start of the job. When wire has been rolled out make sure both ends are anchored securely.

Cut wire only when both sides of the cut are controlled. Wires allowed to whip around after cutting can make a nasty scratch or take out an eye. Extra care should be taken when using high tensile wire because of the wire's increased 'liveliness' and firmer handling is required.

Wire strainers for high tensile wire should be the smooth jaw type. 'Walk along' wire strainers do not grip the harder wire well and can damage the wire's galvanising thereby reducing it's effectiveness. Serrated grip strainers should be avoided if barbed wire is being strained as they can seriously notch the strands.Even compression type smooth jaw grips need care to avoid a strand being cut or seriously weakened by being squashed.

Use top quality chain, shackles and swivels on wire strainers to prevent accidents.

Over-straining of any wire should be avoided, particularly barbed wire and care should be taken during straining to prevent wires whipping about or snagging.

Pick up the off-cuts and dispose of them correctly to avoid later damage to livestock and vehicles.

HELPFUL IDEAS

When transporting wire make sure the truck or trailer has not been used to cart fertilisers. Always ensure the truck or trailer is clean before transporting wire.

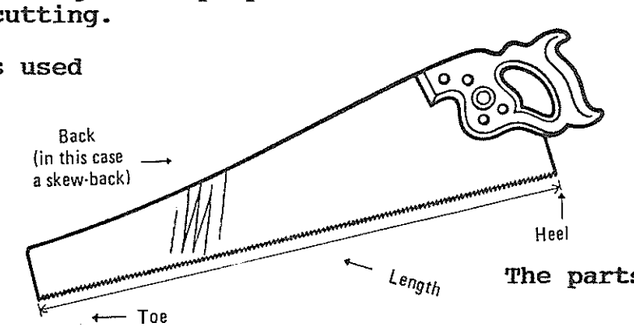
Always store fencing products off the ground, preferably inside a shed and supported by a sling or stacked on pallets. This will reduce the risk of corrosion and ensure product performance is maximised.

SETTING AND SHARPENING A SAW

(a) There are three main types of woodworking saw:
- rip saws for cutting with grain
- cross-cut saws for cutting across grain
- backsaws (i.e. with a rigid back) for precision work.

A handsaw is a general purpose saw which can be used for ripping and cross-cutting.

(b) Terms used



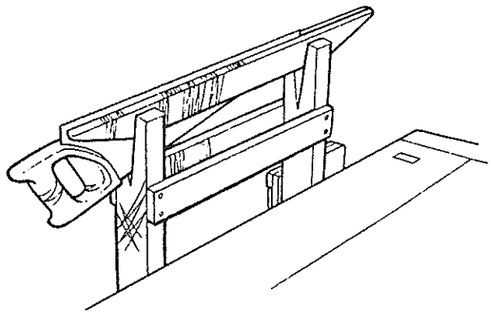
The parts of a saw.

(c) Recognising a saw which needs attention
A saw needs setting and sharpening when:
- cutting with it becomes hard work
- it will not cut timber accurately to a squared mark
- exposed ends of sawn timber are badly scored with saw's teeth marks
- teeth are visibly blunt and/or uneven in shape and size.

(d) Preparing the tools and equipment
You will need:
- well lit work area
- work bench
- saw clamp (e.g. saw horse/saw stocks) or two flat pieces of wood which can be clamped in a vice, both pieces as long as the saw blade and shaped at one end to allow for the angled edge of the saw handle
- fine flat file
- triangular file of a size which is appropriate to the type of saw (e.g. 250 mm file for a rip saw; 175 mm or 200 mm file for a panel/ cross-cut saw)
- saw set
- oilstone
- screwdriver for tightening the screws in the saw handle
- oily rag
- saw guards and polythene or stout paper for storing saws
- first aid kit.

(e) Checking the length of the teeth.
Hold up the saw at eye level and with the blade across the line of sight, teeth uppermost. Check if the teeth are all of the same length or of varying lengths. If some teeth are longer than other, they need 'topping' (also called 'flatting', 'jointing' or 'breasting').

(f) Topping the teeth
Clamp the saw (in the horse/stocks or vice) with its handle to your right and the teeth pointing vertically upwards. Make sure that the top edge of the wood is no more than 4 mm below the saw gullets (i.e. the V-shaped spaces between the teeth). If too much of the blade stands above the wood it will vibrate during work.

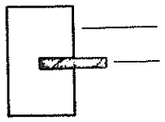


Only about 4mm of blade exposed

The correct position of a saw when clamped in the horse/stocks.

Ideally the saw should be at elbow height.

Lightly run a fine flat file along the tips of the teeth, keeping the file square to and in line with the blade. This can be done by holding the file in a prepared block of wood.



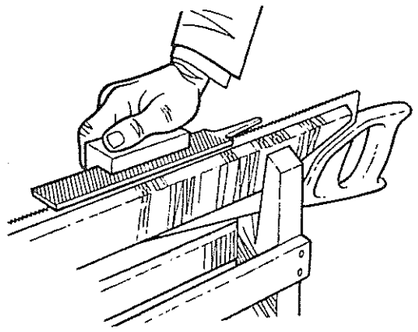
Topping with a flat file which is held in a wood block.

Keep the file perfectly horizontal while topping.

Take care not to contact the teeth with your fingers.

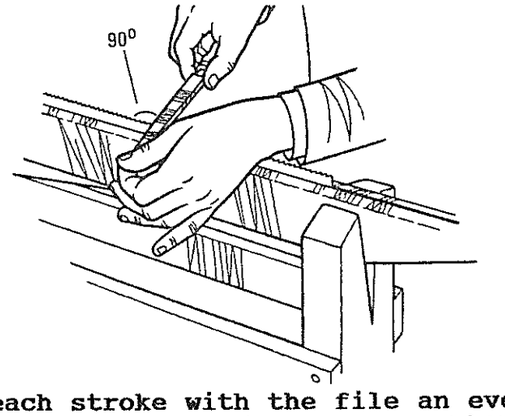
Wood block

File held in slot



The teeth are correctly topped when the file runs on every tooth and each shown a small amount of bright metal at its tip.

(g) Shaping the teeth.
Using a triangular file of the appropriate size, file every gullet, keeping the file horizontal and at right angles to the line of the saw blade.



Shaping the teeth, using a triangular file.

The file is moved by your right hand holding the file handle. The end of the file is lightly guided by the tips of the thumb and first two fingers of your left hand.

Make each stroke with the file an even, continuous one, taking care not to let it swing. Always lift the file clear of the saw on the back stroke.

Get an idea of the required shape of the teeth and gullets by what the file feels like in the gullets at the heel of the saw where the teeth are hardly used.

Continue filing until all the teeth are the same shape and size and each has a small area of bright metal at its tip.

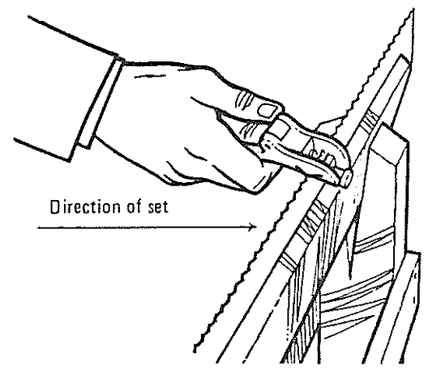
(h) Setting the teeth
Adjust the saw set to slightly less than the pitch of the saw. The pitch is the number of teeth per 25mm (or 1 in) of saw blade length. so, for a 10 pitch saw, set the saw at 11.

Adjust the position of the saw in the clamp so that about half the blade width is above the wood. Apply the saw set to alternate teeth, making sure that:

- teeth being set are those pointing away from piston of saw set and towards anvil which carries calibration marks
- saw set sits right down on each tooth with no clearance between tooth and tool.

Operate the saw set by squeezing the handles together as if using pliers, taking care not to apply too much pressure or too much 'set' which can cause the teeth to break off at the roots.

When all the teeth pointing one way have been set, turn the saw round and repeat the setting operation on those teeth pointing the opposite way.

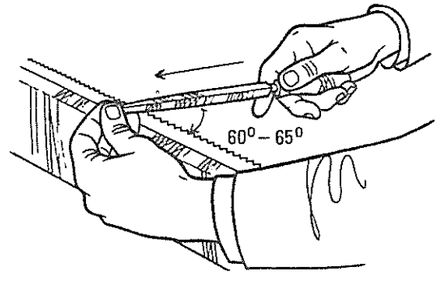


After setting, lay the saw on a flat surface and lightly rub an oilstone along the teeth on both sides to dress back any which have been over set. The saw can now be sharpened.

(i) Preparing to sharpen the teeth
Return the saw to the clamp with the handle to your right. Make sure as before, that the top edge of the wood of the clamp is no more than 4 mm below the saw gullets so that the saw does not vibrate during sharpening.

Begin sharpening only if you will be able to complete the whole operation without a break. If you interrupt the work for any reason, it is likely that the rhythm and pressure of filing and the angle at which you hold the file will all be slightly different when you begin again.

(j) Sharpening a cross-cut saw
Beginning at the toe end of the saw (i.e. furthest from the handle), place the file in the gullet to the left of the first tooth which is set towards you and so that:



- file handle is slightly lower than its tapered end.
- angle between left-hand edge of file and your side of saw blade is approx. 60-65°.

Handling the file as for shaping make a single positive forward stroke with the file, leaving a small flat bright area on the tips of the teeth either side of the file. Additional strokes are necessary only if too much 'flat' remains after one stroke.

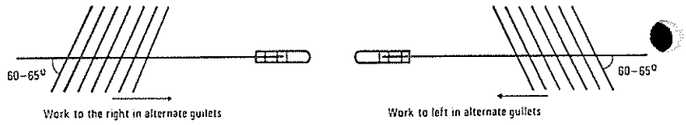
Move the file to the right to the next but one gullet and repeat the filing action. Continue in this way, working in alternate gullets, for the whole length of the saw (i.e. until you reach the heel).

Turn the saw round so that the handle is to the left and begin again at the end furthest from the handle.

This time, place the file in the gullet to the right of the first tooth which is set towards you and so that the angle of 60 - 65° between the file and your side of the saw is to the right of the file. Remember to hold the file handle slightly lower than the tapered end.

Work in alternate gullets as before (i.e. those missed on the first run), this time removing all of the flat, bright area at the top of each tooth so that all the teeth are pointed.

How the file is used when sharpening a cross-cut saw.



(k) Sharpening a rip saw
Hold the file at right angles to the saw blade, as when shaping the teeth (see (g) but work in alternate gullets in both directions as for a cross-cut saw.

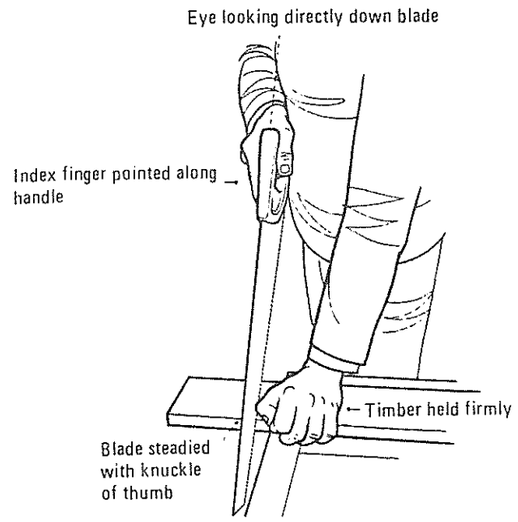
(l) Testing the saw
Mark a squared pencil line on four sides of a length of waste timber and saw through on the mark.

If the saw is correctly set and sharpened:
- it will move through timber without unnecessary effort
- cut will follow mark exactly, leaving no visible pencil lines on timber
- there will be no excess tooth marks on cut ends of timber.

(m) Using and maintaining saws
Do not try to correct a cut which is drifting off the mark once sawing has progressed beyond 20-30mm into the timber. This will merely force the saw to cut in the opposite direction, resulting in an uneven cut and, possibly, a buckled saw.

Make sure that a saw cuts accurately by controlling it at the beginning of the cut as follows:

- hold saw on mark and lower handle towards timber so that blade can be aligned with line to be cut
- align blade with line by looking along blade from directly above
- use knuckle of your left thumb (if sawing with right hand) to steady blade on mark until saw begins to cut
- point index finger of your 'saw' hand along side of saw handle to keep saw at right angles to timber.



Once the cut has started, lift the saw handle away from the timber and work with the saw at a higher angle. Keep your index finger extended along the side of the saw handle and your eye directly above the blade throughout the cut.

Use the full length of the saw blade when cutting, otherwise extra wear on the centre teeth will later cause the blade to 'bind'. Allow a saw to move at its own pace. Do not try to force it through the timber.

If resting a saw temporarily during work:

- stand it on its handle so that blade does not take weight and become distorted.

or

- lay it in well of bench, rather than on working surface or floor where it is likely to be damage.

Regularly check the screws in a saw handle and make sure that they are kept tightened. Regularly wipe each saw blade with an oily rag. Store each saw in a plastic or wood saw guard to protect the teeth and to prevent injury. Keep saws dry by wrapping them in polythene or stout paper. Each person will handle a saw in his own individual way. Therefore, do not lend any of your saws to, or borrow saws from, anyone else.

* * * * * * * * * * *

NEW PRODUCT

AIR-O-MATIC DRENCHING

"Drenching hundreds of sheep in a day usually gives one a lot of hand-ache having to squeeze the gun so often; with this device all that is required is a light finger pull on the trigger to release the dose," said sheep contractor Chris Farnsworth, Allington near Devizes, who has been involved in the trials of the Air-o-Matic new lightweight dosing gun.

The gun can be converted to be used for either injecting or drenching. It can also be used for pour-ons via a special nozzle which has been developed with Grampian Pharmaceutical and is only available with its products.

Each time the trigger is operated the plunger is depressed by compressed air, and the speed of action means an experienced operator can inject at the rate of a sheep every four seconds.

The compressed air is supplied by a disposable liquid CO_2 Mig welding bottle which is available from welding companies or retail shops. Each filling will administer about 3600 doses which costs only a fraction of a penny per dose. The cylinder is carried in a cloth holster with a special thin hose connecting it to the drench gun.

By the undoing of five screws and replacing the whole barrel the size or configuration of the Air-o-Matic can be changed. Each complete barrel costs £5, cheaper than many spare parts kits required by traditional drench guns. The dosage setting is easily adjusted and because each dose is mechanically set, under-dosing is unlikely. The gun automatically reloads to the given dose.

Each gun comes complete in a plastic case with everything, including gas cylinder to enable the operator to start work straight away, at a cost of £120.00. More information can be obtained from the Department.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

NEW PRODUCT:
RAPPATITE - FOR TIGHTENING FENCES.

A simple, cheap and quick method of tensioning fences comes from Rappa Fencing.

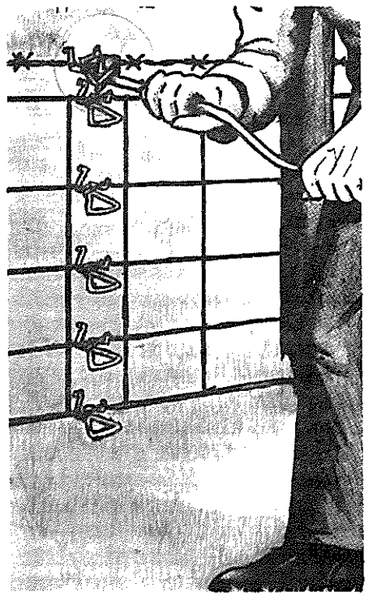
The *Rappatite* is put on the slack wire and turned with a special handle. It winds in the slack to give the amount of tension needed and the wire need not be cut. Hooks on the *Rappatite* stop the wire unwinding.

The *Rappatite* remains on the wire and can be tensioned at later stages if needed. It works on plain or barbed wire, multi-electric wire or sheep netting.

Starter packs of 20 *Rappatites* with handle retail at £16 and tubs of 40 retail at around 60p each.

More details are avaliable from: Rappa Fencing Ltd., Steepleton Hill, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6JE. Tel: 044 264 810665.

Source: The Sheep Farmer, August 1994.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN....

...time to wheel in the manure and dig over the potato garden, looking for that tasty second crop that you cunningly left there to keep them from the winter frost.

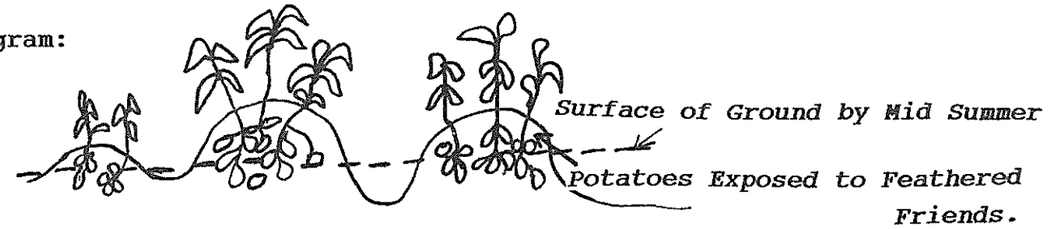
If, like us, you are blessed with flocks of marauding robins just waiting for a tasty spud to surface before removing all but the skin, the following tip may be of use. It certainly works for us.

The traditional "earthing up" of potatoes is fine - if you don't have hot dry windy summers combined with light peaty soils. The effect of course is to level the heaped rows as fast as you hoe them up leaving the potatoes at or close to the surface - just where our lovely little feathered friends like them. We decided to experiment and did the opposite - making rows first and planting in the gullies between. An added benefit is that what rain we do get in November/December tends to run down into the roots as well. As the plants develop, gently hoe down the crests around the roots where the potatoes are already developing until you finish up with a more or less level garden - see diagram.

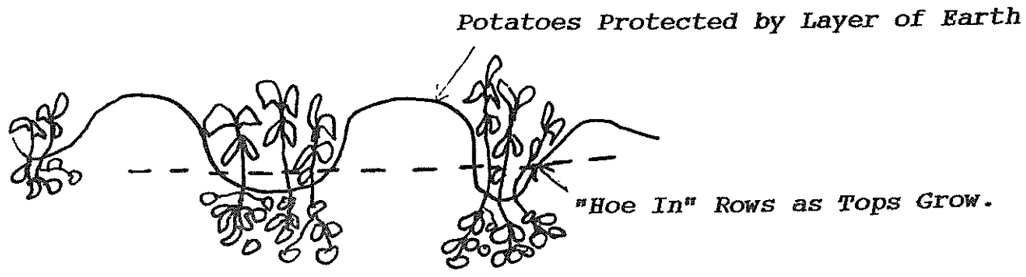
Since doing this, we have hardly lost a single potato to the robins where we used to lose up to 50% at times.

By the way - we have also found that the most "robin-proof" breed of potato is the White King Edward - the one with pink eyes. It seems to be one of the deepest growing and regularly does well at Chartres anyway.

Diagram:

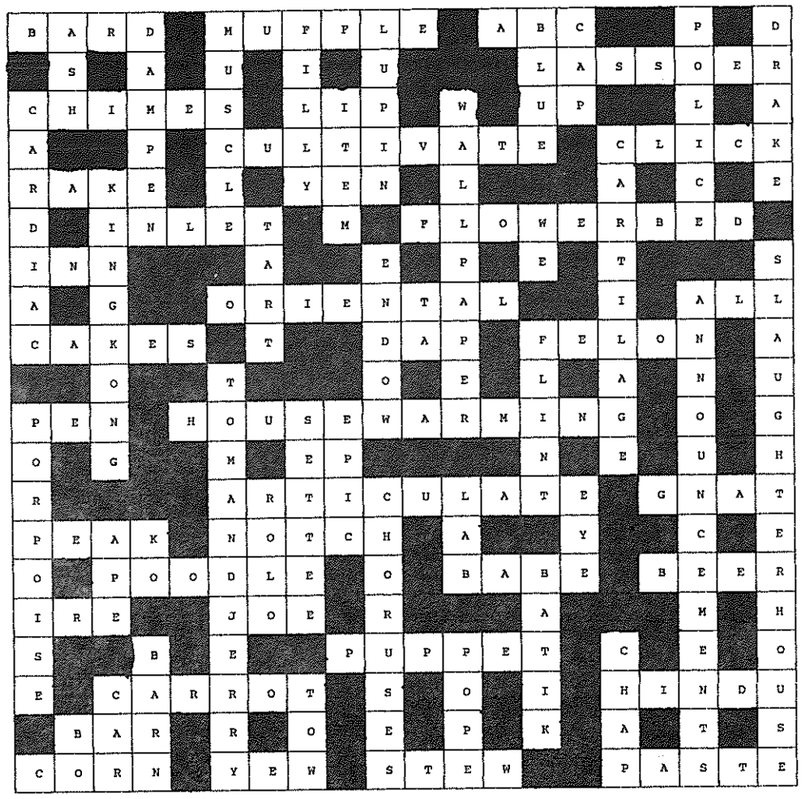


TRADITIONAL METHOD



OUR METHOD

PAT AND BILL LUXTON
SEPTEMBER 94



AUGUST

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

RECIPES PAGE

The recipes this month are given to us by Lilian Wallace, who has tried both recently and strongly recommends them.

Beef Bourguignon

This classic French stew is even better if you have time to marinate it in the red wine and herbs overnight.

1 kilogram chuck steak, trimmed of all visible fat and cut into 2.5 centimetre strips
2 cups dry red wine
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 rashers bacon, trimmed of all visible fat and chopped
250 grams button mushrooms
12 picking onions or shallots
1 cup beef stock
1/2 cup tomato puree
2 tablespoons brandy
2 teaspoons cornflour blended with 2 tablespoons water
freshly ground black pepper

1. Combine beef, wine thyme, garlic and bay leaf in a glass or ceramic bowl, cover and marinate for 30 minutes. Remove beef from wine mixture and pat dry. Reserve wine mixture.

2. Heat oil in a large saucepan over a high heat, add beef and bacon and cook in batches for five minutes or until brown. Remove beef mixture from pan, drain on absorbent kitchen paper and set aside.

3. Add mushrooms and onions or shallots to pan and cook, stirring, for five minutes or until onions or shallots are brown. Remove mushrooms and onions from pan and set aside.

4. Return beef mixture to pan, stir in stock, tomato puree and reserved wine mixture. Bring to boil, cover and simmer for one-and-a-half hours or until beef is tender. Return mushrooms and onions or shallots to pan, stir in brandy and cornflour mixture, cover and simmer for 30 minutes longer. Season to taste with black pepper.

Sticky Banana Pudding

Oven temperature 180˚C.

375 grams butter, softened
1 1/2 cups castor sugar
6 eggs
3 cups self-raising flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
3 large bananas, mashed

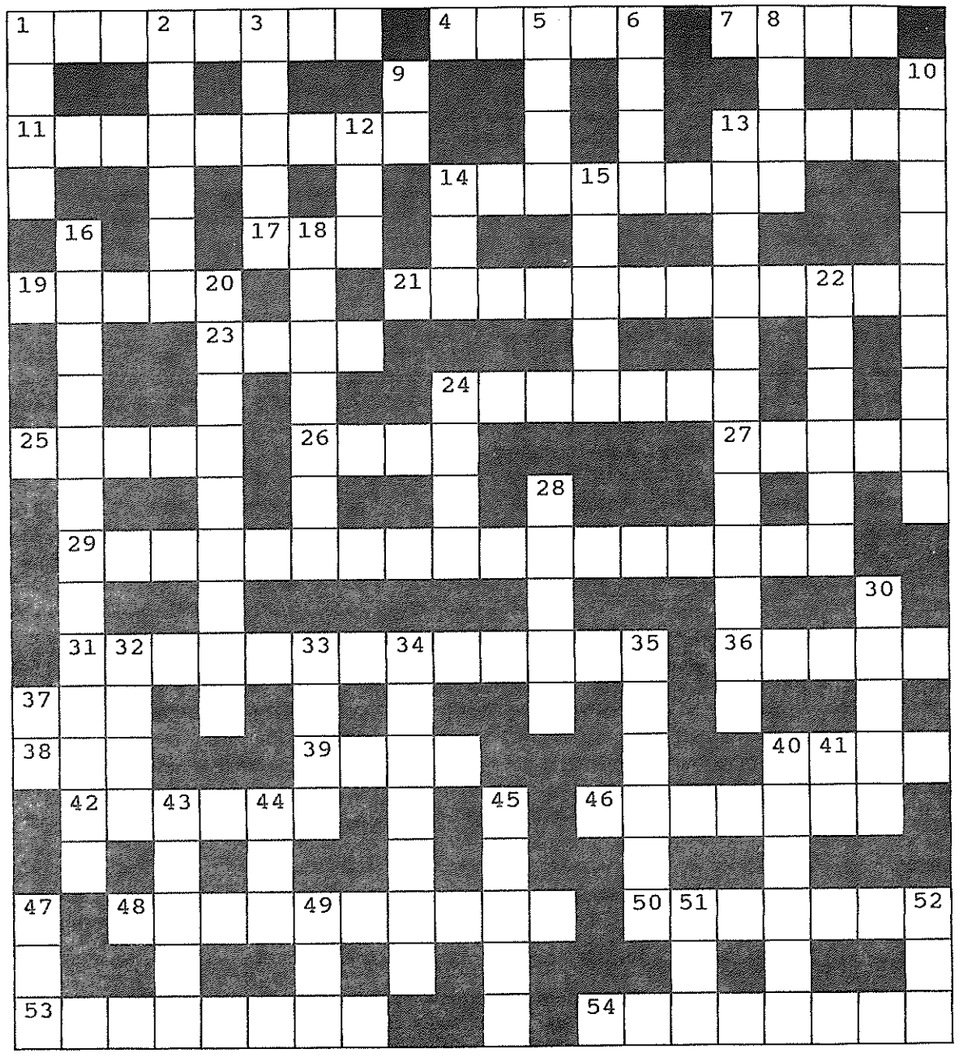
Toffee Sauce
220 grams butter
1 1/4 cups brown sugar
1 3/4 cups cream

1. Place butter and castor sugar in a bowl and beat until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.

2. Sift together flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Fold flour mixture and vanilla essence into butter mixture. Stir in bananas. Pour batter into a greased and lined 25 centimetre square cake tin and bake for one hour or until cooked when tested with a skewer.

3. To make sauce, place butter and brown sugar in a saucepan and cook over a low heat, stirring, for 10 minutes or until sugar dissolves. Remove pan from heat and gradually stir in cream. Return pan to heat, bring to simmer and simmer, stirring, for four minutes until sauce is smooth.

4. Serve pudding hot or warm, cut into squares and accompanied by sauce. Serves 10.



GUN SCABBARD FOR ATV'S

A sturdy scabbard for carrying a gun safely on ATVs is now available from EP Barrus.

Constructed in rigid polypropylene, the Scabbard can be mounted on the front or rear of any ATV. The cost of the scabbard is £69.95.

More details available from myself at the Dept of Agriculture.

WHAT'S NEW IN FARMING
SEPTEMBER 1994

ACROSS

1. THE DIVIDER BETWEEN FARMS
4. INTERNAL PARTS OF AN ANIMAL
7. SMALL BURROWING MAMMAL
11. FARM ANIMALS
13. THIGH BONE
14. GRASS TYPE
17. PAT OR TAP GENTLY
19. LOW WET LAND
21. ANNUAL RECORDS SENT TO D.O.A
23. A CURVED SUPPORTING STRUCTURE
24. HOLDS THE STIRRUPS TOGETHER
25. BODY FLUID PUMPED BY THE HEART
26. A THOUGHT
27. DRAW OFF LIQUID
29. SEA LION ISLAND SHEEP
31. LIVESTOCK PER ACRE
36. PARASITES
37. COW NOISE
38. MADE A HOLE
39. NOT ENERGETIC
40. COMMON BROAD WINGED INSECT
42. PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE
46. BUSH PLANT FOUND IN CAMP
48. WHAT BIRDS DO TO THEIR NEST
50. FERTILISED EGGS
53. V SHAPED BONE IN THE CHICKEN
54. SCIENCE OF FARMLAND

DOWN

1. A LARGE BUNDLE OR PACK
2. DAUGHTERS OF A BROTHERS OR SISTERS
3. PERFORMED
5. LOCAL PLANT
6. MOLTEN VOLCANIC MATERIAL
8. BOVINE MAMMAL
9. ALRIGHT
10. TYPE OF COW
12. YOUNG OF SOME ANIMALS
13. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE OF FARM STOCK
14. SMALL DOMESTICATED MAMMAL
15. UNCOVERED
16. STRETCH OF WATER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST FALKLAND
18. A METHOD OF SALE
20. SHEARING OBJECT
22. A CASUAL COMMENT
24. USED TO IDENTIFY SHEEP
28. BASIC PRODUCTION
30. FLAT MARINE FISH
32. OUTER GARMENT OF ANCIENT ROME
33. INACTIVE
34. BIRDS SECOND STOMACH
35. CROP HARVESTED FOR FODDER
37. DOCTORS INITIALS
40. MILLIONTH OF A METRE
41. POWERED UP
43. FOUND IN THE MOUTH
44. A LONG TAILED RODENT
45. YEAR
47. WATER DROPLETS CONDENSED FROM COOL NIGHT AIR
49. FEMALE BIRD OF DOMESTIC FOWL
51. TO DEFACE
52. A PLACE WHERE PIGS ARE FOUND

FOR SALE

Multico NTA 300 tilting arbor circular saw & bench with metering attachment plus two 300mm saw blades 2.2kw motor. £500 o.n.o.

Yamaha DT 50 cc motorbike in very good condition. £500 o.n.o.

Typewriter Olympia Travel as new £35.00.

If interested, please contact Michael McRae, South Harbour, tel: 42308.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

'. . . y' don't think he'll take any notice after your language in the sheep pens this morning do y' . . .?'

LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

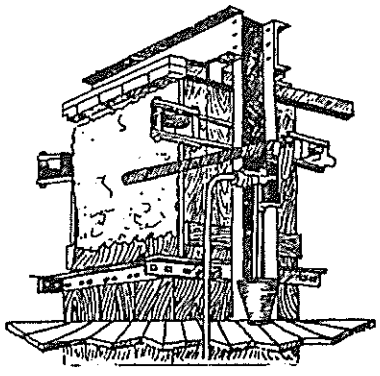
Bottom Picture:
1. Stripes on rocket in air; 2. Extra fire work on floor; 3. Child has longer hair; 4. Guy Fawkes has a black hat; 5. Guy Fawkes has a spotted tie; 6. Man has no black plaster on arm; 7. Child has black bobble hat; 8. Child has black face; 9 Child has black rims and soles on wellies.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 60 NOVEMBER 1994

IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editors: M. J. McLeod and T. Bowles.

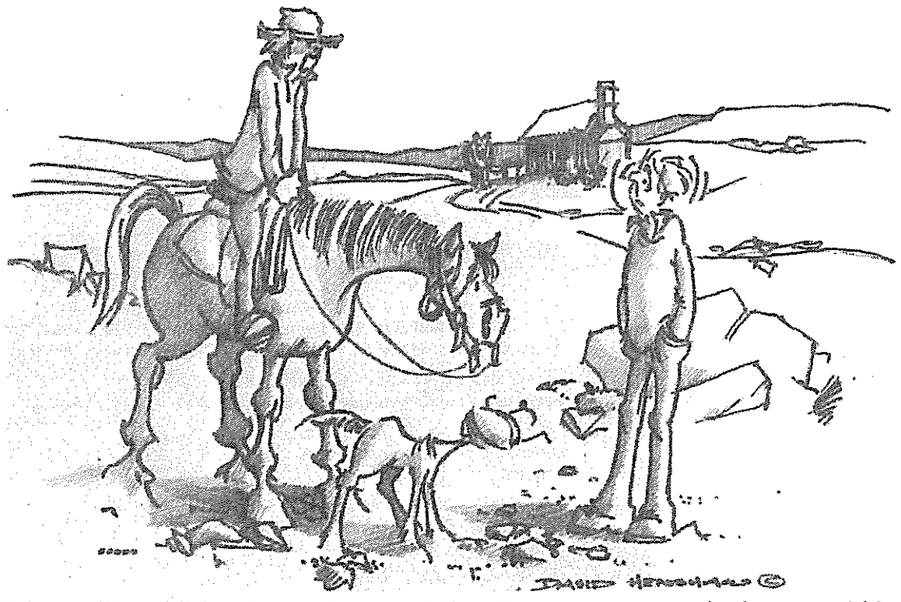
EDITORIAL

October - what a month!! Who could ever have predicted that a month, beginning with warnings of the depletion of our ozone layer and the dangers of over exposure to the sun, would go on to provide us with some of the worst weather on record for this time of the year.

Most of you will be starting shearing this month and wind - chill will be a worry, especially with the recent cold spell and the traditional November winds. Hopefully Aidan Kerr's article in this month edition will shed some light on the subject.

I have had a busy end to the month with trying to organise the shearing course at Goose Green as well as compiling this edition of the Wool Press and I must thank Charlene for her help with this edition, without which this edition may still not be out.

TROYD BOWLES



"I know it's a bit lonely out here, an' there's no power or telephone, an' it's cold, so I've dropped a bit of company off at th'hut...a hottie!"

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Market has performed well throughout October, reversing the slide in the market experienced during September. The apparent volatility in the market is perhaps an indication that the underlying factors of demand remain weak. Higher levels of stock disposals and auction volumes appear to have contributed to the September slide in prices.

The new Eastern Market Indicator closed 121 cents higher (on the 29th July figure) at 802 cents/kg on the 28th October. Much of this rise can be apportioned to increasing strength in the fine and superfine market (see table)

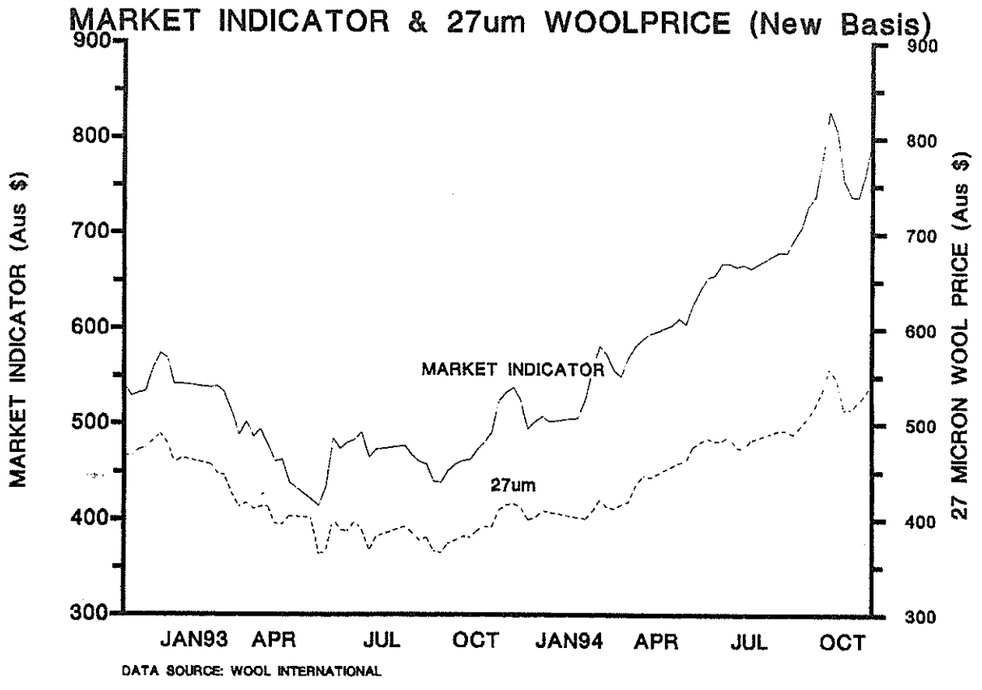
% Increases in Australian Wool Prices 19 - 31um

Micron	$ Price 28/10/94	Start of Season %	Last Year %
19	1,546	38.65	94.71
21	917	11.15	67.03
23	616	13.65	28.60
25	581	12.81	35.74
27	546	10.75	33.49
29	535	9.85	29.85
31	515	10.77	22.76

The 27 micron Indictor has also risen steadily over the period to close 53 cents higher at 546 cents/kg.

The Australian $ has weakened significantly against the pound closing at 220cent/£ on the 31st October.

On the 21st of October, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,552,713 bale equivalents.



Total Quality Management and the Falkland Wool Industry.

One of many tasks undertaken since arriving in the Falkland Islands has been to review recent issues of the Woolpress to get an indication of the direction in which wool producers were being guided through the extension services offered by the Department of Agriculture. The general themes appear to be that farmers are being urged to improve wool harvesting and preparation techniques (through better shearing shed practices such as skirting and classing), and improvements in wool quality and quantity through reducing fibre diameter and increasing average fleece weights. Other issues arising are those of improved husbandry to reduce the currently high levels of reproductive wastage experienced by some farms (ie. high mortality rates of lambs), and perhaps an improvement in pasture and grazing management strategies, to better utilise the resources at hand. I suppose the ideal Falkland Farm would produce 24 micron wool with average greasy fleece weights around the 5 kg mark, and lamb weaning percentages in excess of 85%. Unfortunately this is not the case for the majority of producers, although I am happy to say that from the data I have seen, there is a steady trend towards improvement.

Perhaps the main issue at hand is the overall goals and aspirations of each individual farmer, and how you might attain such goals and aspirations. Not all farmers may strive for the "Top Spot" in the annual farm statistics, and that in itself is not necessarily a bad thing. As long as there is an inclination towards improvement in some or all of the above factors, there should be a general improvement in net return. However, the danger lies in becoming complacent and just accepting the situation as it is with little or no direction for improvement. A recent issue of the Australian Farm Journal (June 1994) featured a section on their wool industry, how various participants felt the industry was going and what was needed for the future. Much of what was reported is relevant not only to the Australian situation, but I feel to all wool producing nations regardless of size. In fact, much of what was advocated in the series of articles could be more readily achieved by an industry such as that here in the Falklands, purely because of the relatively small size and ability to produce a product which can supply a particular market niche. In the following paragraphs, I would like to briefly summarise the points arising from the Australian perceptions, and indicate how they can be adopted by wool producers in the Falkland Islands.

According to a leading expert in the area of Total Quality Management (TQM), all facets of the wool industry must adopt an attitude of working together to ensure survival. If individual players chose to act alone, there would be a large number going out of business (and these would not only be the primary producers either). In other words, there is a need for the wool industry to "sort out its future (at an industry level) rather than individual organisations trying to maximise profit alone", and that if "individual enterprises and even entire sectors of the wool industry were to remain successful, they would have to become increasingly committed to the achievement of profitability through excellence". Strong words indeed, but they recognise the importance of each sector within the industry, and the reliance of each sector on the others to ensure long term survival and profitability.

Not being involved in any way with the Australian wool industry enabled the TQM expert to critically analyse it from an unbiased perspective. His conclusions were quite astounding, but nevertheless pertinent to wool production in many other countries, not only Australia. Some of the more interesting conclusions include:

- the wool industry as a whole has a problem, because management starts at the individual enterprise level. To alleviate these problems, management should really be directed at an industry level, with ample communication between the various enterprises within the industry as to their specific needs and capabilities.

- the wool industry needed to become more objective and sophisticated. What was good enough in the past was no longer good enough if the industry is to survive in the face of growing market competition from synthetic fibres.

- all industries want less variability in their raw materials. The high degree of variability existing in the wool industry is unacceptable if the industry is to survive, because the buyers want to purchase a product with as narrow a band of variability as possible, and are prepared to pay a premium price for a consistently high-quality product of given specification.

In short, the general underlying message was that improvements in quality (as advocated by the principle of TQM) did not necessarily mean producing high quality all the time, although that would be ideal. The general thrust was that improvements in *product uniformity and dependability* were essential, with the quality level set by the market place. This attitude was further supported by the general manager of a leading Australian wool broking company, who claims that "if we don't get quality control into gear, we will be so far behind the rest of the world (that) we will no longer be competitive with synthetics". Strong words again, but it gives an indication of the thinking behind the leading players in the Australian wool industry, and the direction in which their industry appears to be heading.

If the Falkland Islands are to compete with Australia in the international wool market place, these attitudes must be recognised as important. I strongly believe that the wool produced here in the Islands can develop a niche market of it's own. Future marketing of Falklands wool should be able to describe and provide a superior, consistently high quality product in it's own right, not "just another wool from somewhere near the tip of South America" for use in blending with Australian or New Zealand wools. All it needs is a commitment from producers, marketing personnel and processors to adopt some basic TQM principles within their own system. From the farmers' perspective, the product leaving each and every farm should be as uniform in specification and quality as possible. This means continued breeding to reduce fibre diameter variation within each flock, and stringent application of uniform fleece preparation and classing principals at all times to reduce all forms of contamination within the clip. All it requires is paying a little more attention to detail, and a general understanding of

what is required by the manufacturing sector. At the end of the day, it spells increased profits for the farmer, and an improved reputation within the international wool marketing arena. Let's do it!!!

While not wishing to put the Australians on a pedestal, I feel that it is important to see the direction in which their industry is heading, so we do not fall behind and lose out on overall profitability. In the next issue of the WOOLPRESS, I will continue the review of the directions and attitudes of the Australian wool industry. In the meantime, should anyone wish to discuss how they may improve their clip management and adopt some basic TQM principals, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Greg Scott.
November, 1994.

Bale Handling Equipment

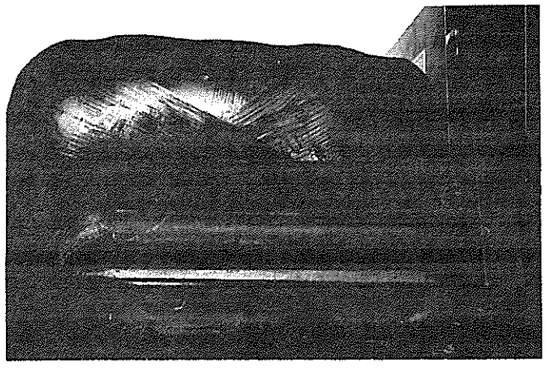
Over the last 20 years there has been a rapid transition in field baling technology. On bale handling side, it seems possible that recent innovation may also benefit wool growers in the Falklands.

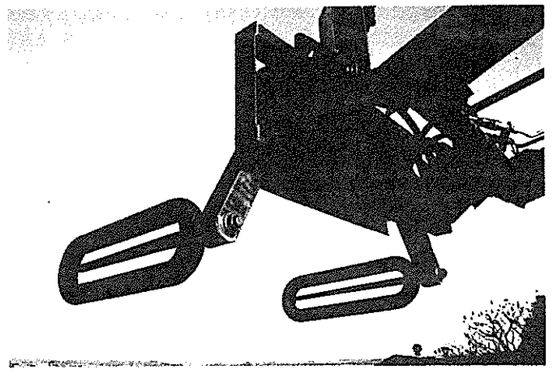
The shrink wrapped square bale system is becoming increasingly popular as it offers the advantage of greater stackability compared to the big round bale. These square bales have many of the characteristics of wool bales found in the Falklands. Given that many farms in the Islands now have access to powerful fore-end loaders there may now be a place for Hydraulic Bale Handlers in the Falklands ?

S.G.M. BALEMASTER

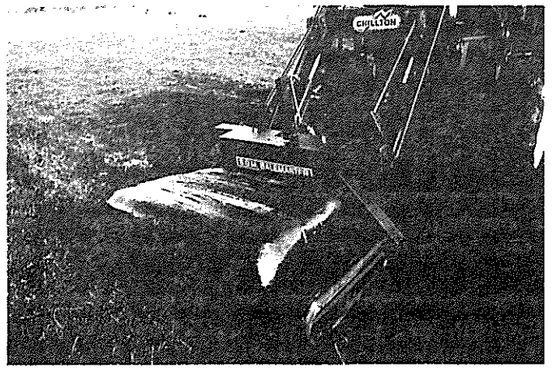
Wrapped Bale [illegible]
for Square Bale

Hydraulically operated Tube-Loop cradle arms handle wrapped square silage bales without the need to squeeze the bale.

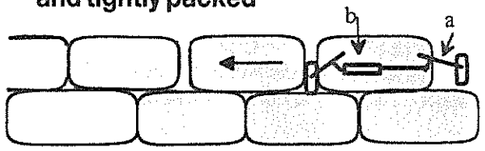




- Tube-Loops cradle arms provide a secure bale platform
- The arms are opened and closed by a double acting hydraulic ram
- Pivoting Tube-Loops automatically adjust to fit snug on the bale, which becomes wedged between the arms
- Un-laden, the pivoting Tube-Loops remain vertical - always in optimum bale loading position



- As the current bale is being unloaded the hydraulic unloading mechanism automatically pushes across the previous bale. Stacks therefore are neat and tightly packed



A. Support arms abuts with an adjustable stop

B. Further opening of the hydraulic ram then pushes across the previous bale

SPECIFICATION

Tube-Loop diameter:	76mm (3 inches)
Length of Tube-Loop Arms:	840mm (33 inches)*
Maximum gap between Arms:	1676mm (66 inches)*
Minimum gap between Arms:	711mm (28 inches)*

*Variations to the above dimensions can be incorporated to suit individual requirements

Tube-Loop Cradle Arms are available for retrofit with an existing Balemaster ™ wrapped round bale handler

Within the farming sector, the system is perhaps best suited to the newly sub-divided farms. These farms tend to be remote and naturally do not enjoy the sophisticated bale shed /jetty rail link systems found on more established farms. In extreme cases bales can be handled as many as 5 times prior to loading on the M.V Tamar.

The advantages of the system in handling materials are therefore quite obvious. What many will fail to appreciate is the potential of the loader to significantly enhance the presentation of wool bales at the point of sale.

The loader could also be effectively used further down the marketing chain by haulage contractor and warehouse staff. In these cases, the high volume of bales handled would provide a more immediate return on investment costs.

The days of the grappling hook and fork-lift must surely be numbered!

S.G.M Engineering of Yorkshire is one of a number of companies manufacturing Cradle Arm Loaders. Their Technical Adviser has expressed confidence that their standard machine would be ideally suited to the majority of Falkland bales. A modification to the arm width could easily be made to accommodate larger bales.

Prices start at £726 (fob) with loader attachment kits ranging from £50 (Quicke) to £113.50 (JCB).

If further information is required please contact the Department of Agriculture.

Machinery Purchases

While on the subject of machinery, it is worth reminding any potential purchaser that the U.K agricultural machinery/building market is in an extremely competitive state at the moment. With the continuing slump in the Agricultural sector some extremely good deals are available, particularly if cash is available up-front. Given the commitment that the Department has in providing F.I.G grants to farmers, we are naturally committed to ensure that all farm purchases are made wisely.

Farmers wishing to make an overseas purchase should exploit all tax advantages including an exemption from V.A.T. Export prices should always be sought.

Remember that in the Falkland context, it is often not the "top of the range" piece of kit that provides the best value for money (whether farmers or F.I.G money!) We are all aware that most machinery use is seasonal by nature and is invariably quite small. Even where machines are used co-operatively, paying the price for a "top of the range" model should be questioned.

While we appreciate there is a lack of product information in the Islands, there are ways to ensure that the most suitable product for individual circumstances is chosen:

Always try to obtain advice from fellow farmers who may have already purchased similar items. The Department is always happy (and well placed) to provide farmers with product information and network local contacts. Fully investigate the possibility of obtaining a second-hand item, both locally and overseas (including South America.)

Check that the make/model is fully compatible with existing machinery and always seek the advice of the manufacturer/dealer prior to ordering.

Try to obtain the best freight rates from the shipper:
Always look at the packaged dimensions of the product when considering alternative suppliers. (Think c.i.f rather than f.o.b prices.)
Always investigate the possibilities of reducing the volume of the article with the supplier.
Be prepared to reassemble the item on arrival at the farm.

Take advantage of any existing dealerships that may already exist in the Islands. Even if there is little direct financial benefit in doing so, it must surely be better to keep any commission gained within the Islands. The local dealership can also often provide the advantages of a local spare part and support service. With improvements in communications to the Islands the potential for local dealers has never been better and should be encouraged.

BEAT THOSE WORMS!

This article on worm resistance, although written for the U.K.farmer, is worth taking notice of in the Falklands. Worm resistance is not a major problem here, but it could become one if precautions aren't taken, both in sheep movements, rotational worming and pasture management.

The Moredun Research Foundation have updated a report on worm resistance first reported on in 1989. The report states that resistant worms are an increasing problem in the UK. Resistant worms are however a far bigger problem in other parts of the world, in particular, Australia, South Africa and parts of South America.

Fortunately roundworm parasites have a limited capacity for travel so that any resistant worms can only move when livestock moves. Reversion where the worm becomes susceptible to a drug again can occur but not frequently enough to benefit the farmer. It is for this reason it is vital to limit the development of resistance and stop resistance being imported onto a new farm.

RULES TO DELAY WORM RESISTANCE AND TRANSMISSION.

1. Adopt an annual (slow) rotation of anthelmintics. Do this by using one of the three broad spectrum categories of wormers in rotation for one year. (Year 1 - Benzimindazoles eg Panacur; Year 2 - Imindazothiazoles/Tetrahydeopyrimindines eg Nilverm; Year 3 - Avermectins eg Ivermectin).

2. Do not drench unnecessarily. Consult your vet first for a programme that best suits your farm.

3. Use the correct dose rates.

4. Use pasture management to reduce pasture contamination and limit host exposure.

5. Don't import resistant worms. Treat all purchased stock on arrival with anthelmintic from two different families of anthelmintic. Hold new stock in a yard for 24 hours after worming.

6. Where resistance is suspected get a faecal egg count reduction test at your nearest Veterinary Investigation Centre.

If resistance is confirmed then it will be necessary to stop using that particular wormer. Alternate annually between the remaining effective wormers. Test annually for any new resistance and step up the management to reduce the number of worming treatments required in the year.

Source: R.Russel Lyon, SMALLHOLDER August 1994.

POULTRY PARASITES

PARASITICAL OR INTESTINAL WORMS

The most common is the Ascaridia (LARGE ROUND WORM) and it is mainly found in overstocked ground or pens which have not been rested between batches of hens. The amount of roundworm present in the soil may be too great for new pullets or growers to contend with. This being the case, birds will have to be wormed every three months. This is not viable as eggs are not allowed for human consumption during the period of treatment or for a minimum of seven days after. This will vary according to the treatment recommended.

Pullets placed on fresh ground which has been fully rested, are normally able to cope with the gradual build up of worms in the gut as the consumption increases. This does not apply to second year birds which will have to be treated before the onset of their second lay. Assuming that birds are not overstocked, (no more than 100 to the acre) then few problems will arise. If birds are not treated, loss of production occurs while the appetite increases. Mortality may commence where birds are unable to take the increased stress, as worms absorb the important feed nutrients.

Hens infected with worms will show a dull pinched comb and have a voracious appetite. They may have diarrhoea, but not necessarily. Many badly infected birds faeces will be solid and be passing worms via the faeces. If birds are reared from a young age on range then they must be wormed at 17-18 weeks of age. Laying hens should be wormed on a yearly basis. If birds are constantly kept on one site at the rate of 150 birds per acre, then worming may have to be carried out on a three monthly basis.

Syngamus Trachia (GAPE WORM) lives in the trachia and is rarely observed in poultry unless they have been running with or on land which has been infected by gamebirds. The host is the earthworm and infected land may stay infected for several years. The classical symptom is when the bird stretches its neck with mouth wide open, gasping for breath. This is because the worm partially blocks the airway and the bird has difficulty in breathing. Unless treated mortality will occur. It is possibly unfortunate that the similarity of these symptoms can be confused with symptoms of other diseases. It is very rare to see gapeworm in poultry, although many owners are convinced or told by expert neighbours that that is what their birds are suffering from as soon as any gasping is observed, albeit in only one bird. It can be treated via the feed over a seven day course with Flubenvet, which also treats other worm parasites equally effectively.

ECTOPARASITES (LICE AND MITES)

LICE on chickens are more unpleasant and irritable than harmful, nevertheless they should be protected or dealt with as soon as they are discovered. Lice live on poultry and are usually seen around the vent area. What is commonly mistaken for a build up of calcium faeces on the base of the rear feathers is in fact lice eggs. Treatment is by using a general purpose animal louse powder in dust baths and nest boxes. (In the U.K. this is no longer possible due to E.C. legislation and licensing on louse powder. Alternative products are available).

RED MITES do not live on birds and are not all red. They are only red after sucking the bird's blood. This is done at night when they run along the perches and crawl up into the birds flesh. Because it is not obvious during the day it is often missed and subsequent loss of production with the lowering of health and resistance to disease will, when disease occurs be thought of as the primary cause of illness or death, rather than the disease being a secondary factor.

All crevices, the joints between timber boards or framework plus the underneath of the perch ends should be inspected at least once a month. Regular cleaning of the hen house and dabbing perch ends monthly with creosote will help to keep red mites at bay. There are commercial sprays for the treatment of both equipment, houses and birds on the market.

NORTHERN MITE These seem to be more common in show birds and rarely found in laying hens. It can be seen around the head or the vent of the chickens usually accompanied by tell tail black specks of excrement. The face of the hen is sometimes scabby. It is difficult to treat unless one really perseveres with a mite killer every seven days for at least six weeks. It looks like red mite in its dormant stage, (red mite). It is also airborne, and I believe its popularity with the show bird is because once one infected bird is shown it passes on to all neighbours in the cages either side. Treatment as for red mite, particularly on the bird.

DEPLUMING MITE. Fair wear and tear on a laying hen is commonly confused with depluming mite. It is rarely seen. The mite buries under the skin and eats the feathers before they protrude through the skin. This round bodied mite attacks the rump, head and neck regions causing feathers to fall out. The mite is rarely seen today.

Treatment as for red mite (particularly on the bird) only it is very difficult to clear. The hen house should be thoroughly disinfected and left empty for two to three months.

SCALY LEG is similar to the depluming mite except that the parasite burrows under the leg scales, forming tunnels in which the young are produced. The scales become raised and distorted (hence the name) and in severe cases can lead to lameness and death.

Treatment is easy if caught in time . Scrub on Surgical Spirit with a toothbrush on the infected area, brush in a solution of one part paraffin to two parts cooking oil or any similar oil. Some older poultry keepers dip the birds legs in old engine oil which suffocates the mite. It needs to be done at least twice over a seven day period after which the scale and debris should be gradually removed.

This information was extracted from the article "CHOKE UP CHICKEN" in a recent edition of the Smallholder magazine.

Wind-chill prediction - 'improving'.

"The wind-chill forecast for newly shorn sheep is ....." While those words are familiar to the farmers about to start or who have already started shearing I often wondered if the sheep actually listen! Seriously though, farmers will be aware of this service which the Meteorological Office at MPA kindly provide each shearing season free of charge.

Having returned recently I was pleased to see that the prediction system was still in operation. Obviously this must mean it is still desired and useful to farmers! It should be remembered that the forecasts have their limitations especially as if almost impossible to accurately forecast wind-chill conditions for every farm. Thus the forecasts should only be taken as a guide and adapted for local weather patterns and altitude.

Recently, the Meteorological Office kindly agreed to review the accuracy of the predictions for the 1993-4 season by comparing the predictions of the wind-chill index (WCI) with values for its occurrence at MPA.

Firstly, from the table below only 37 % of days at MPA during the 1993-4 shearing season would have been relatively 'safe' for putting out newly shorn sheep. Obviously, this does not reflect current husbandry practice as sheep are probably kept in shelter only on few occasions each season. Perhaps the relationship between the 'danger' levels of the index (adapted from a similar system in UK hill-land to help protect lambs), and the critical levels for Falkland's sheep need to be more accurately determined. This could be an area worthy of future research!

Forecast Description	WCI range	% of actual wind-chill at MPA
'Critically dangerous'	>90	3
'Dangerous'	>80	17
'Warning'	>70	43
'No danger'	>60	37

Secondly, it was found that the system correctly predicted wind-chill conditions which merited a 'warning' or worse (WCI>70) in about 79% of forecasts. Conditions described as 'dangerous' or worse (WCI>80) were correctly predicted in about 38% of forecasts. This was not good as 39 days had 'dangerous' conditions or worse, of which only 15 days were forecast as such. However a 'warning' was forecast on 35 of those days. Most importantly 6 'critically dangerous' days (WCI>90) were not forecast as such but either 'dangerous' or 'warning' forecasts were broadcast instead.

In another assessment, as the wind-chill conditions worsened the tendency to make 'false alarms' was greater. A 'false alarm' occurred in about 28% and 57% of forecasts of either 'warning', or of 'dangerous' or worse conditions, respectively.

Thus as the index was not producing satisfactory forecasts, particularly of 'dangerous' conditions, the calculations involved were re-examined. It was found that they may not have been sensitive enough to variations in rain as only two options for rain i.e. wet or dry were used. However as the duration of wet weather without drying periods in between was reported to be the crucial factor a measure of rainfall probability in each of the six four-hour periods seemed to be the most appropriate solution.

This change has already been incorporated into the 1994-5 season's forecasts and during September and October there was evidence of improvement in the accuracy of the predictions. Predictions were now correct in 88%, 62% and 50% of forecasts at least 'warning', 'dangerous' and 'critically dangerous' conditions, respectively. Making 'false alarms' improved slightly to 12% , 54% and 71% for the same categories.

Another change will be introduced during the forthcoming season. Two wind-chill values may be broadcast when a significant difference between tow or more areas in expected. However, no greater detail than north south, east or west will be possible.

Obviously, much more work is needed to improve the system not only for the MPA area but for all farms. We will continue to work with the Meteorological Office to provide this FREE and valuable service. More importantly we would also be grateful to know how accurate the forecasts are for your farm. To this end please record the occurrences of what you regard as 'dangerous' wind-chill conditions for newly shorn sheep over the shearing season. More about this next month.

J.A.Kerr - Senior Scientist

EUROCLIP 12-VOLT CRUTCHER

The ability to shear sheep any time, anywhere, has been realised with the introduction of a new machine, operating from a 12-volt motor, by Euroclip Limited, Fox Barn, Moreton Pinkney, Daventry, Northants., the specialist shearing machine manufacturer.

The Euroclip 12-volt Crutcher is designed for use with any make of pin-type shearing hand piece. It may be connected to a 12-volt DC vehicle battery using the crocodile clips supplied, and produces a hearty 150 watt power at 3000 RPM.

The carrying handle is designed so that the machine may be hooked over a fence rail for crutching or dagging, and yet may be suspended vertically from a rope if full shearing is required.

The quiet direct drive motor is connected by a flexible drive with standard bayonet fittings to a pin-type hand piece. Up to 6 hours continuous use may be made from a fully charged tractor battery, although the makers recommend running the engine for a few minutes each hour for recharging.

For further information please contact the Department of Agriculture or Mr Tony Chater.

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS.

I was recently asked "Does Falkland Wool have any U.S.P.'s?" The London based marketing consultant who asked the question was using the marketing jargon for "Unique Selling Points." U.S.P.'s can be used to promote markets for any product fortunate enough to have such special attributes.

Falklands wool does have several U.S.P's, in particular its excellent white colour, freedom from severe vegetable matter contamination and generally good fibre strength.

Australia has high quality wool preparation and very low coloured fibre readings, amongst the U.S.P.'s that its wool can boast. It is these characteristics that Falklands wool should challenge in order to further enhance the Falklands wool reputation and demand.

The 1994/5 shearing season has begun, the "crop" has grown. Work in the wool shed is the last opportunity that farmers have to influence their product: Keeping sheep "clean" prior to shearing, clean shearing, careful and consistent wool skirting, accurate classing and tidy pressing are rarely all perfect, yet all go some way towards the " Falklands wool image." The watch word during shearing should be "QUALITY". When the Falklands can consistently export fleece wools throughout its industry that equal or better the quality levels of all competing wools, then Falklands wool will have another, unique selling point and anticipated demand and prices will increase.

ROBERT H B HALL
NOVEMBER 1994

WOOL TESTING

The new laboratory wool room is yet to be completed, which continues to handicap the promotion of wool testing. The department is anticipating that wool testing will begin in early 1995, therefore wool mid-side samples are definately worth taking from stud sheep and together with fleeces weights will provide extremely valuable sheep breeding information early next year.

Fleece weight and mid-side sample information is particularly useful for comparisons of stud hogget and shearling sheep.

ROBERT H B HALL
NOVEMBER 1994

"There are lots of people who mistake their imagination for their memory." - Josh Billings.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

To all Falkland Farmers:

The 'Eighth' West Falkland Ram and Fleece show will be held this year on Thursday 29th December 1994 in Fox Bay Village.

This is to remind farms before the start of shearing to save rams and fleeces for the following classes.

CLASS 1	FULL WOOLED RAM HOGGETT.
CLASS 2	FULL WOOLED SHEARLING RAM.
CLASS 3	FULL WOOLED MATURE RAM.
CLASS 4	HOGGETT FLEECE.
CLASS 5	ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGETT.
CLASS 6	ANY 'B' WETHER TYPE FLEECE.

With the large number of high class sheep imported in the last few years we expect to see some outstanding rams and fleeces.

Most of the West Flocked to Fox Bay last year, but there were still a few who were a bit sheepish.

We will keep you all up to date on details of prizes and sponsors as the event approaches nearer.

This is all for now, good luck with the start of shearing.

Yours sincerely,

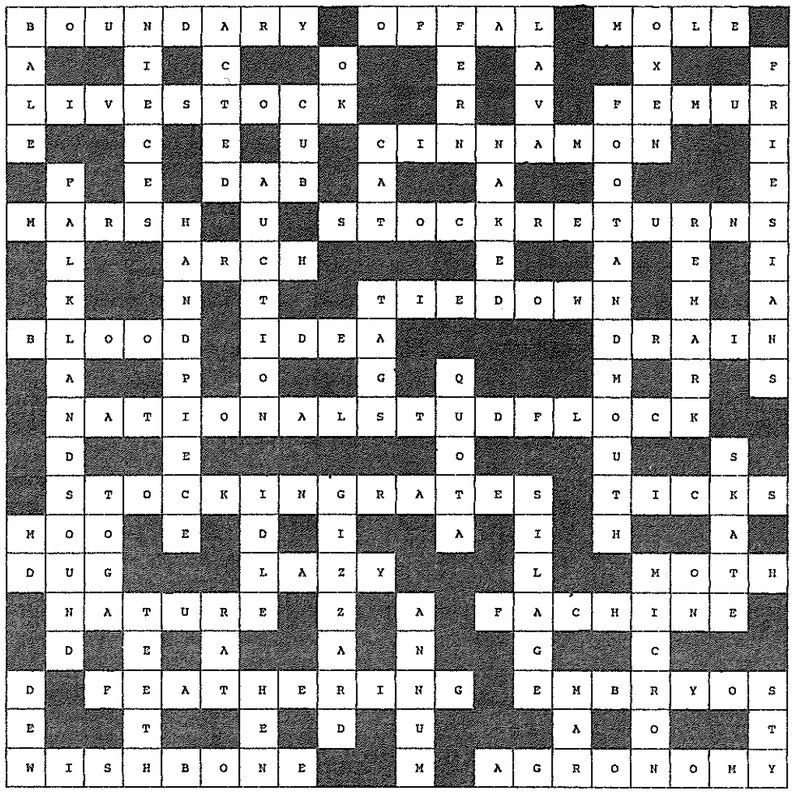
K.A. Knight
Chairman W.F.R. & F.S.

APOLOGIES

We express our apologies to Mr Peter Marriott of Falkland Islands Wool Marketing, concerning his article for the October 1994 WOOL PRESS. We inadvertently missed a part of a paragraph.

The paragraph should read like this:

Furthermore, the suggestion that an agent creates competition is misleading. On a daily basis, competition occurs between all parties but basically the market price must prevail. The only possible improvement on this is for Falkland wools to be promoted and marketed as a speciality in its own right and used into specialised areas which are prepared to pay a premium for its excellent style, colour and cleanliness. This is the area in which Falkland Islands Wool Marketing is working, for the benefit of the farmer, itself, and the customers.



RECIPES PAGE

BAKED TROUT

Ingredients:

4 Trout, cleaned
2-3 Sage leaves, shredded
1 sprig rosemary, chopped
Salt and black pepper to taste
1 Lemon, thinly sliced
3½ fl oz (100 ml) olive oil
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
1 teaspoon capers, chopped

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F or 200°C.

2. Place each trout on a large piece of aluminium foil or greaseproof paper. Sprinkle with the herbs and garlic, season to taste and lay over slices of lemon. Wrap the fish parcels securely, place in an oven proof dish and bake for 30-40 minutes.

3. To make the dressing put the oil and vinegar into a dish, add the capers, season to taste and beat with a fork.

4. Serve the dressing separately with the fish.

CHOCOLATE PEARS

Ingredients:

2 large pears
2 tablespoons dry white wine
1 tablespoon caster sugar
1 cinnamon stick, crumbled
1 3/4 oz (50g) plain chocolate
2 teaspoons milk

Method:

1. Peel and halve the pears. Place in a pan large enough to take the four halves without overlap. Add 3½ fl oz (100 ml) water and the wine.

2. Sprinkle with the sugar and pieces of cinnamon. Cover and cook gently for 15 minutes.

3. Melt the chocolate with the milk in a small bowl placed over a pan of boiling water.

4. Remove the pears from the cooling liquid, dry with kitchen paper and arrange on a serving dish.

5. Over a high heat reduce the cooking liquid by a third, sieve to remove the cinnamon pieces, then carefully stir into the melted chocolate, off the heat.

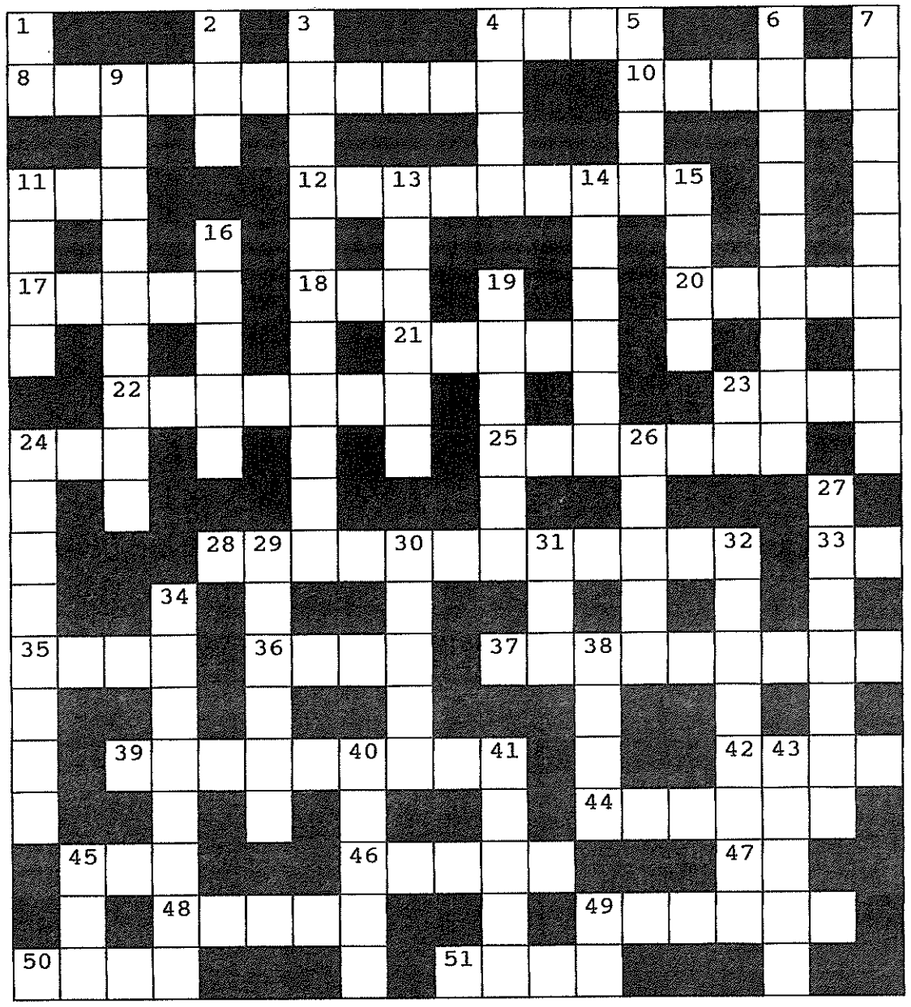
6. Pour the sauce over the pears and serve hot or warm as preferred.

POINT OF INTEREST - WIRE CORROSION

In the U.S.A., steel wire manufacturers have co-operated with the American Society for Testing Materials to test the life of wire in different conditions over a 30 year period.

More than 100 different wire lots were exposed at 11 locations representing industrial, coastal and rural conditions.

Results indicate corrosion in rural areas varies by up to 100 per cent from dry to humid locations. In industrial areas, the atmosphere was twice as corrosive as in the coastal location.



"The bulls are steers, the cows are heifers an' you've just buckled y'surcingle to y'girth . . . . . now tell me more about yer years an' years of experience!" DAVID HOUGHTON ©

WP60

ACROSS

4. LAND MEASUREMENT
8. MARKET GARDEN SYSTEM
10. A LONG UNDERGROUND CHANNEL
11. REGURGITATED FOOD FOR CHEWING
12. BIRD OF PREY FOUND IN FALKLANDS
17. A COMMON WHALE
18. CHEMICAL BATH
20. BILE PRODUCING ORGAN
21. PERFECT
22. VALUABLE GEM STONE
23. UNTIDY
24. FISHES EGGS
25. LOCALISED INFECTION
28. MOST NORTHERLY FALKLAND LAND
33. IDENTIFICATION
35. NOT FAR
36. AGAINST
37. HORSE STUDS
39. DOA MONTHLY
42. CHILDRENS PLAYTHINGS
44. FURNISHES
45. FUSS
46. AN AUSTRALIAN WILD DOG
47. FIGAS LABEL FOR NORTH ARM
48. SHINBONE
49. A FLOCK OF GEESE
50. GOV'T PAYMENT TO THE JOBLESS
51. CAPITAL OF NORWAY

DOWN

1. EXCLAIMATION OF SURPRISE
2. PEA HOLDER?
3. INTESTINAL DISEASE OFTEN FOUND IN POULTRY
4. CONTINENT
5. PENCIL DRAW FOR INSTANCE
6. SALTY DECORATIVE FISH
7. SEABIRD OF GREAT WING SPAN
9. RED BERRIED GROUND COVER
11. DOLPHIN TERRITORY?
13. SWIFT RIVER CURRENTS
14. HARDENED SKIN AREA
15. HOOTY BIRDS
16. MAP BOOK
19. LEAFLIKE FLOWER PART
23. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
24. CUD CHEWING ANIMAL
26. ARTIFICIAL WATERWAY
27. FILTERING ORGANS
29. LAND FOR PLOUGHING
30. INNOCENT
31. TO ALLOW OR PERMIT
32. TRIMMING A FLEECE
34. WOOD PRESERVER
38. COMPANY FROM WHICH BUGS BUNNY USUAL MAKES PURCHASES!
40. A RADIO-WAVE DETECTION DEVICE
41. LONG INVOLVED STORIES
43. SEMI PRECIOUS STONES
45. PAST TIME
49. START OF RACE COMMAND

FOR SALE

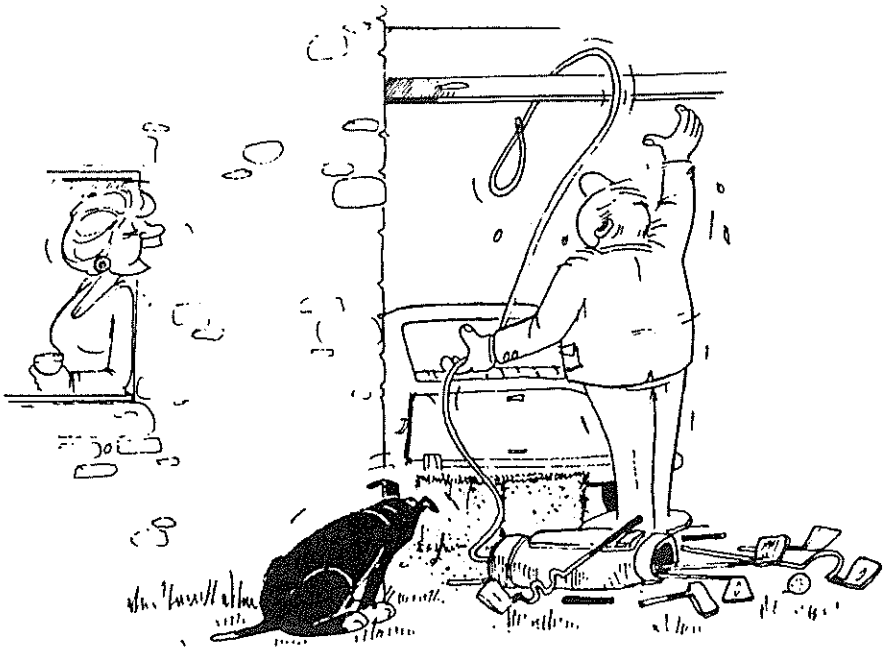
1 Electric Chain Saw PKE30B Bosch. £120.00

If interested, please contact Peter Nightingale,
West Lagoons Farm, Hill Cove. Tele: 41194

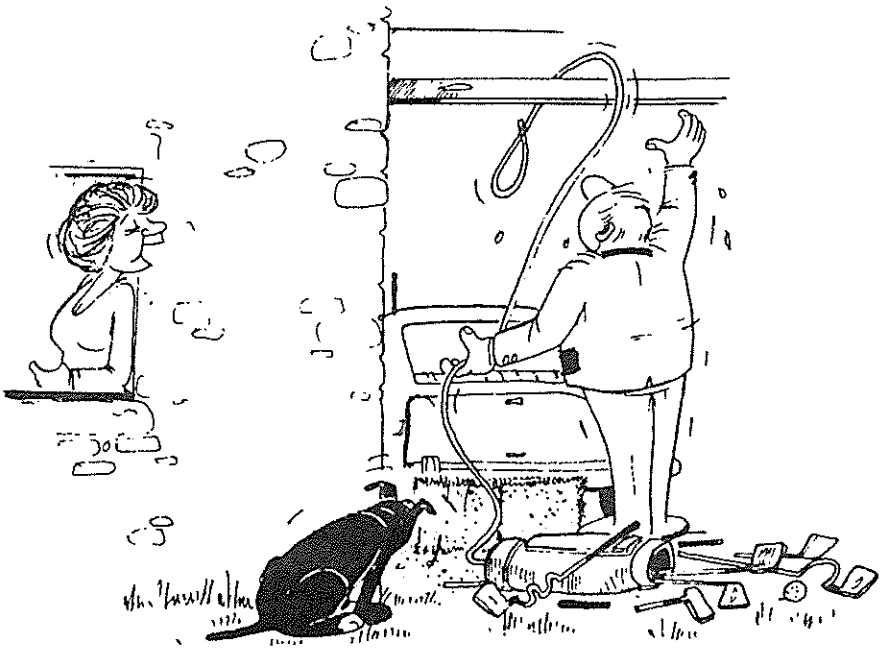
Packard Bell Personal Computer, 486 SX, CD Rom, 4 MB Memory plus software. £1200.00
14" Portable Colour Television £90.00
Video Recorder £80.00
Game Boy and Games £70.00

If you are interested please contact:
Troyd Bowles Telephone No: 21189

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



'. . . have a good round, Sweetheart . . .?'



LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

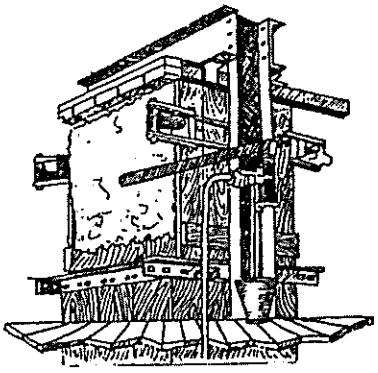
1. Moon has smaller creasent; 2. Lamp shade has black lines; 3. Tin next to bed has a black lid (ladies side); 4. Strap missing on ladies nightdress; 5. Mans shirt has black spots; 6. Extra sock on floor; 7. Soles of slippers are black; 8. Draw handle is missing from draws next to man; 9. Clock says different time; 10. Top of stick is black.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 61 DECEMBER 1994

IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editors: M. J. McLeod and T. Bowles.

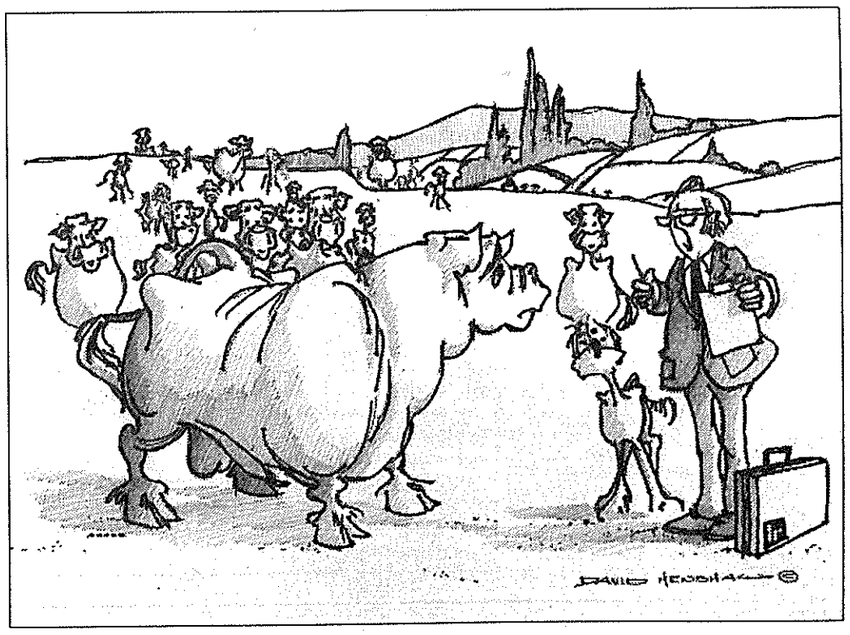
EDITORIAL

This edition of the Wool Press is a little different to normal. It's four pages longer for starters. This is to accommodate a paper on the Department of Agriculture's research. The paper is published here at request of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC).

The purpose of the article is to outline the proposed research to be undertaken by the Department until 2000. Farmers and other interested people in the Agricultural Industry now have a great opportunity to have their say in this important work. If you feel you can contribute to the consideration of the plan by the AAC at its December meeting, then please make your views known to any of its members (list at the end of the article) or Aidan Kerr before December 13th. Your views are very welcome.

Being the December edition, this is traditionally the Xmas edition of the Wool Press. However this edition is noticeably lacking Xmas articles. To make up for this I shall attempt to get the January edition out in time for Xmas.

TROYD BOWLES



"Now, about child support...?!"

WOOL MARKETS

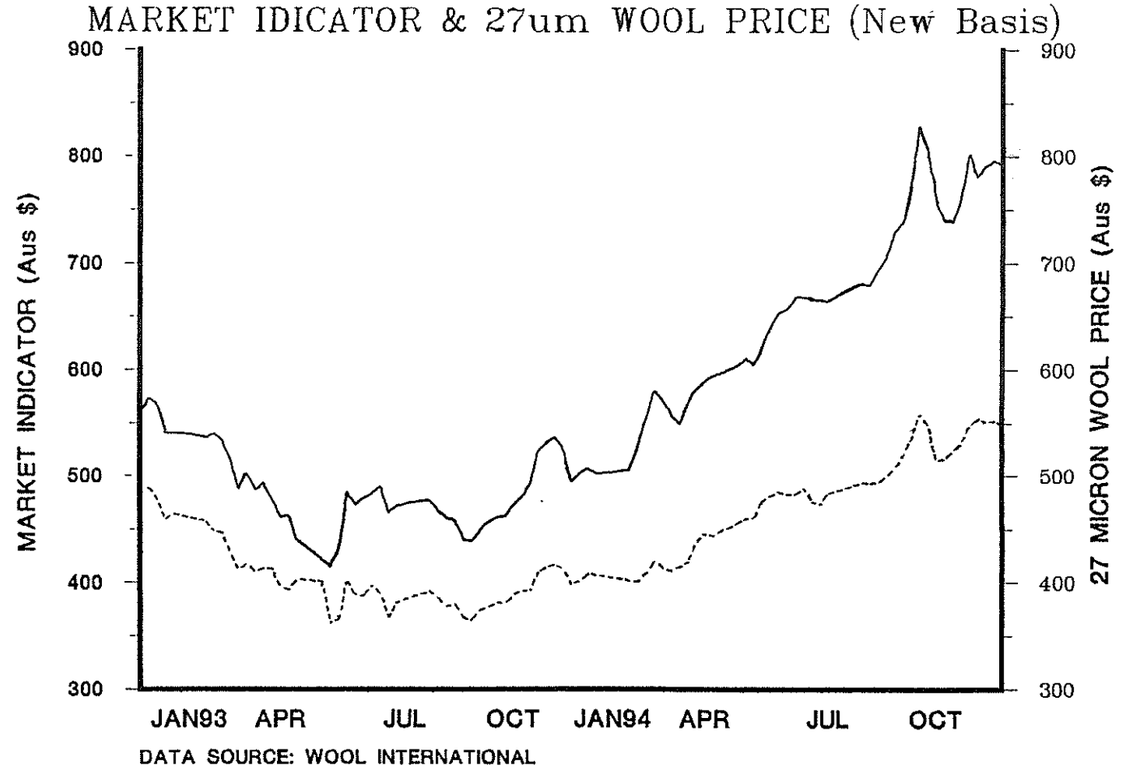
The Australian Wool Market had an indifferent month with a reversal to the market recovery experienced during October. This type of reversal has to be expected while the Wool International Stockpile remains above the highly significant 2 million bale mark. While the political motives to dispose of the stockpile remain, producers should not expect prices to rise beyond the recently established trend. Since September 1993 the annual increase in the Australian Market Indicator has been 63%

The new Eastern Market Indicator closed 10 cents lower (on last month's figure) at 792 cents/kg on the 25th November.

The 27 micron Indictor rose slightly during the month it finished 3 cents higher at 549cent/kg

The Australian $ has strengthened against the pound closing at 210cent/£ on the 25th November.

On the 18th of November, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,523,064 bale equivalents.



Hugh Marsden
November 1994

A Pressing Issue

Following recent visits to various farms and the FIPASS warehouse, it has become evident that some farmers may be inadvertently jeopardising their wool returns through overpressing. Despite only a small proportion of the wool clip actually being in the warehouse, some of the current season's bales are already showing the strains of time, through split seams and cap stitching. Even the 'tough' new capless 'pink packs' were showing signs of splitting their stitching, and the wool hasn't even left the Falklands yet!

Woolpack quality is becoming more of an important consideration with many farmers, with the purchase of the 'pink' and Australian capless packs increasing each year. It should be remembered, however, that these packs are designed with specific specifications. In the case of the Australian packs, their design is based on the bale weight and height standards insisted by the marketing authorities. The specifications state that bales should not weigh more than 204 kg when received at the wool store, and should not be more than 1.25m in height. These specifications are designed to streamline transport and handling systems

While some may regard the Australian standards as exceptionally strict, they must nevertheless be kept in mind when considering the amount of wool pressed into a bale here in the Falklands. It seems as if many farmers still operate under the principles of 'the heavier the bale, the better it is', and reports of bales weighing up to 300kg are not uncommon. However, if these bales were viewed at various warehouses, perhaps attitudes would change. Take a moment to consider the importance of what the bale contains - it contains the sole source of income for many farmers. Protect your income through ensuring it reaches the point of sale in as good a condition as it was when it left the farm.

Being generally risk-averse, farmers are reluctant to take any more risks than absolutely necessary. Overpressing bales adds yet another element of risk - the risk of pack damage and subsequent contamination, and press damage or failure. By reducing present bale weights by even 10kg per bale (leave out the last two to three fleeces), less stress is being put on both the pack and the press. This may ultimately increase the lifetime of the press, while reducing the need for oil seal replacement and other costly maintenance. Let's adopt some Total Quality Management principles this season (see November Woolpress), and continue along the road towards improvement of each and every aspect of wool production and handling in the Falklands. Purchase high quality packs, and press to sensible weights to prevent woolpack failure and prolong press life.

A request from the people at FIPASS - when putting hoops on bales, please ensure that the wire join is either on the corner of the bale, or that the join is wrapped in paper. This not only significantly reduces the risk of personal injury to anyone handling the bales, but also prevents the possibility of damage to other bales during transport.

Greg Scott
December, 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RESEARCH

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) seeks approval from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) regarding the following research proposals for 1994-2000.

FARMERS' VIEWS ON ANY ASPECT OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES ARE VERY WELCOME. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR AAC REPRESENTATIVE OR AIDAN KERR.

The aims of this paper are to;

a. provide a general view of the structure and direction of DoA research until about 2000,

b. show how research will contribute to agricultural development,

c. illustrate how research integrates and complements the DoA advisory and other work.

Role and aims

The research programme will remain conducive with the Department's role "... to foster an efficient and competitive agricultural industry". The aims of the research function, agreed by AAC, are to conduct research directed towards;

1. Increasing wool output and efficiency of production,

2. Developing farm management principles which are ecologically sound,

3. Exploring options for agricultural diversification, and

4. Supporting advisory and extension activities.

General structure and priority

Irrespective of the products from the industry it is believed that the land, plant, animal, environmental and human resources must be managed efficiently and sustainably. Three programmes have been defined which attempt to satisfy the aims above by producing industry-oriented information, advice and technology from research on these resources.

The programmes provide structure which should ensure continuity of the research for the foreseeable future. They seek to address current and perceived future problems of the agricultural industry but the structure is sufficiently flexible to allow new or higher priority problems to be researched within this framework.

The programmes are integrated and all require inputs from the multi-disciplinary team. The transfer of technology to farmers

will feature strongly in each. Individual projects will contribute outcomes towards achieving programme goals.

The current priority is to conduct research for the wool industry. To this end the research will continue to concentrate on gaining a sound understanding of the biological processes and relationships involved in the local wool production system i.e. the climate - soil - plant - sheep - wool - farmer - market complex. Field, laboratory and desk-based research will be conducted locally, and where necessary abroad, and integrated with existing knowledge of similar farming systems and environments elsewhere.

Priorities 1994-5.

Most of the research resources are directed towards the Sustainable Pastures Programme. In a new initiative originating from farmers and developed mainly in liaison with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) research will be directed towards defining and solving the problems of soil erosion and pasture degradation. This work complements well the past work on tussac and other sensitive coastal areas and the existing work on whitegrass inland.

The Sheep Production programme has several on-farm projects near completion which require priority. Farm monitoring within the Sheep Assessment Project will continue but the project will be reviewed regarding how the large data set can be best used to provide advice to farmers. Also after further planning, systems which will improve wool production through more efficient and sustainable grazing of native pastures, particularly Whitegrass, will be developed and demonstrated to farmers.

In the Agricultural Diversification Programme a veterinary trial at Goose Green, aimed at testing the efficacy of 'Glanvac' vaccine for the eradication of boils requires review by the Veterinary Officer and senior staff prior to further experimentation .

A. Sustainable Pastures Programme.

Outcomes: Practical guidelines and technology for improving pasture production, quality and utilisation and minimising pasture degradation and soil erosion.

Pasture degradation and soil erosion were highlighted as problems at the Farmer's Association-DoA's joint forum during Farmer's Week, 1994. Partly in response to this the DoA, in conjunction with Dr McAdam, QUB and Dr Wilson (University of Ulster), has redesigned its research to include a comprehensive five year study of these perceived problems.

Some of the Department's work has already examined these problems e.g. Tussac grass loss and restoration, and this will continue. Research on soil erosion requires new initiatives and inputs but it will complement the past work.

The programme is complex and involves the overlap of many elements, summarised in 1-3 below. Aidan Kerr will have overall responsibility for the programme and will co-ordinate work by other staff, QUB and other researchers and students, with the help of a small advisory team. The principal members of the team will be Aidan Kerr, Dr McAdam (QUB), and Mr Robin Lee (UKFI Trust Trustee, see below).

As well as a supervisory role, Aidan Kerr will concentrate his work on inland pastures particularly Whitegrass. A Research Assistant is needed to undertake the work on coastal areas, especially on Tussac grass. Jenny Fuller, (Research Assistant, Applied Plant Science, QUB) will be re-employed for this purpose and funds for her 1994-5 work have already been budgeted.

Additional funding, for experimental materials and local flights, has been provided by FIDC through the UK Falkland Island Trust. The Department is keen to co-operate with both organisations in such matters. Other interested bodies may also provide resources in the future. Thus apart from FIG salaries, annual costs are anticipated to be up to £21.5 K.

1. Pasture degradation and soil erosion.

Outcomes: Definition and quantification of the nature and significance of pasture degradation and soil erosion problems.

Potential solutions to these problems, will depend greatly on defining the extent, types and rates of erosion on a range of soils and vegetation types both coastal and inland. In 1994/5 the work will involve;

a. A study on coastal 'sand blows' and on the erosion of clay patches inland. Long-term monitoring sites will be established.

b. Quantifying the economic significance of the problem. This part will attempt to calculate the economic impact of erosion and pasture degradation for the wool industry and other forms of land use. This will involve input from an agricultural economist.

c. Assessing public attitudes to erosion and soil conservation. This needs to be assessed so that suitable programmes for education and the transfer of technology can be designed. This may involve liaison with community groups e.g. Farmers' Association, Falklands Conservation etc.

2. Pasture restoration and re-vegetation.

Outcome: Farmer-oriented methods for restoring the grazing

potential of degraded pastures and re-vegetating areas where soil erosion has occurred.

Most of the work will be conducted by Jenny Fuller with help from Aidan Kerr. In 1994-95 work will focus on degraded Tussac areas and sand drifts. It will include;

a. Reviews of the literature on plant species selection and revegetation strategies.

b. Trials to match plant species to soil type - root/shoot studies .

c. Experiments with propagation and soil preparation methods.

d. Evaluation of artificial inputs e.g fertilisers, kelp, mulch, shelter.

e. Establishment of Tussac grass - other problems specific to Tussac and Sand grass.

f. Evaluation of the roles of livestock, insects, birds and other animals in plant establishment.

3. Pasture improvement.

Outcome: Farmer-oriented methods for improving pastures by changing species composition.

a. Improving Whitegrass pasture.

This area will concentrate on determining how heavy grazing changes the species composition in Whitegrass pasture. The aim is to identify the environmental factors which determine the vegetation changes (succession) and ultimately the value of the heavily grazed Whitegrass pasture for sustainable sheep production. Aidan Kerr will conduct most of this work over the next five years. This study will provide information on;

i. how grazing disturbs Whitegrass communities and creates 'gaps' for colonisation and succession,
ii. how the 'gaps' are colonised and by what species,
iii. how the above processes are affected by environmental variables, especially light, nutrients, grazing and plant competition.

In 1994-5 work will continue on AWG/5 (the former site of the Whitegrass summer grazing trial, AWG/2) about which the grazing history and botanical changes have been well documented. The aims are to determine the species order of plant colonisation and succession under heavy grazing and to investigate how this is affected by past grazing history, spelling and topography. Later on the pasture monitoring component of SS/6 (see below) will provide additional data.

b. Reseeding with superior species.

While the biological value of using reseeded pastures of superior grasses for increasing weaning percentages and hoggett performance was demonstrated, the cost of imported nitrogen fertilisers and of site preparation made them generally uneconomic. The potentially high cost of inputs required to establish White Clover may also make any biological benefits from this highly valued legume uneconomic. However worthwhile areas of future research could develop low costs methods of ground preparation and test other legume species which may be more adaptable to the local environmental conditions. This will only be done if further resources become available and at present is a low priority.

In a preliminary trial (RL/1) the New Zealand legume Lotus was tested at a site in Stanley. By April 1994 some Lotus seedlings had emerged after the December 1993 sowing. Exclusion cages were positioned over the seedlings to assess seedling survival over winter and the effects of grazing by geese. In October 1993 few seedlings had survived the winter and none had survived grazing by geese. Monitoring continues, but on low priority.

4. Other research.

The effects of ozone depletion / climate change on pasture sustainability and wool production may need to be assessed.

B: Sheep production programme.

Outcome: Practical guidelines and technology for farmers which will help them improve sheep reproduction, breeding, health, husbandry, nutrition and grazing systems.

1. Grazing systems

This area will concentrate on developing year-round systems of grazing which improve wool production by increasing the efficiency of utilisation of native pastures while minimising their degradation. Initially the work will concentrate on Whitegrass and associated Greens. However if resources become available, similar work will be done on Diddle-dee and Tussac pastures.

SS/6 Improved grazing systems for sheep on Whitegrass

Outcome: A farmer-oriented system for increased and sustained wool production from Whitegrass.

As a result of research, both locally and overseas, much more is now known about Whitegrass - the most important pasture

type. A step by step approach from basic laboratory experiments, small plot and large grazing trials has yielded previously unknown information on its;

growth and life cycle,
soil and climatic conditions,
associations with other species
annual and seasonal production and nutritive quality,
response to fertilisers and cutting,
response to sheep grazing.

While some of the findings have been communicated and demonstrated to farmers most have not been directly relevant to their practical needs i.e. a year-round grazing system for improved and sustained wool production from Whitegrass.

Consequently the practical outcomes of all the relevant research now need to be reviewed and discussed with farmers to develop proposals for potentially better systems. These will then be tested and compared against systems currently in use. The latter are expected to be mainly based on 'set-stocking', but accurate information is needed to confirm current practices.

This trial will be the culmination of about ten years intensive research on Whitegrass. It will combine relevant scientific information on its biology, ecology and agronomy with local experience of pasture management and sheep husbandry.

SS/3 Sheep Assessment Project.

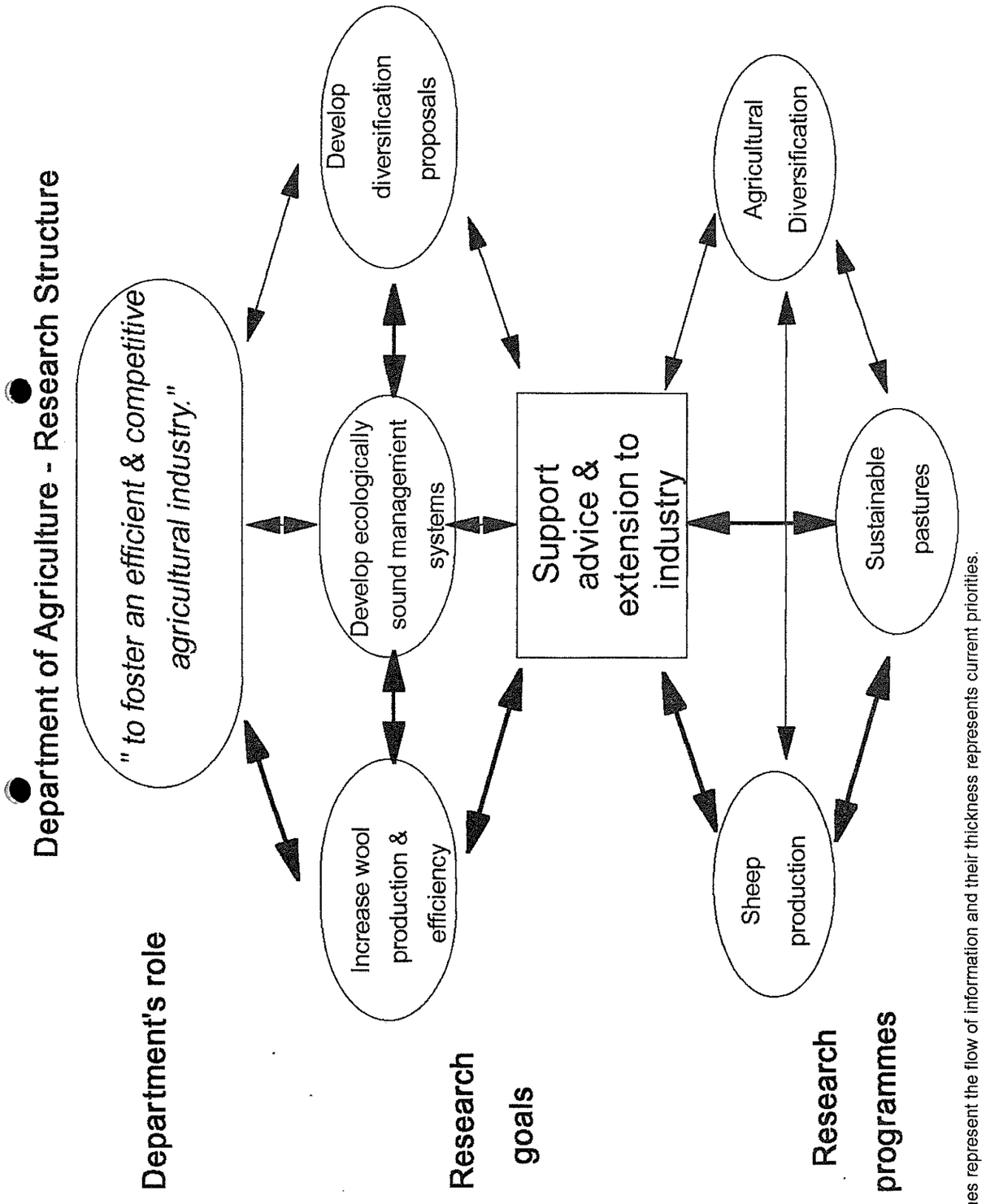
Outcome: *Information on the structure and characteristics of sheep flocks and wool clips for input to a model of wool production and for the provision of advice to farmers.*

Monitoring flock performance and wool output has continued on three farms since 1987. Much previously unknown baseline data has been collected. The project urgently requires review as it has important implications for the development of current advice and for input to other projects (e.g. SS/4). Greg Scott should take responsibility for a review in liaison with involved staff and make recommendations regarding its continuation and possible outcomes.

SS/4 A Wool Production model.

Outcome: *A computer based model which can predict, for advisory purposes, the potential impact of changes in the various parameters of wool output.*

This project has not commenced but should complement SS/3. It should develop, for advisory purposes, a computer based flock model capable of predicting the potential impact of changes in various parameters of wool output. Greg Scott will take responsibility for this project.



2. Nutrition

SNW/4. A preliminary assessment of the effects of high and low plane nutrition on wool growth in wethers.

Outcome: Basic information on the relationship between improved nutrition and wool production.

Field work for this trial has been completed and the results will be analysed and reported by Robert Hall.

SNY/5&7. The study of trace element supplementation of lambs on Port Stephens (South Harbour) Bed soils.

Outcome: Advice on the effectiveness of trace element supplementation on the performance of young sheep in the Port Stephens area.

Two experiments (SNY/5 & 7) were started by the Veterinary section (Reichel and McCabe). All field work has been completed and the data has been stored on disc and checked ready for analysis. It is recommended that Ian Saunders, the Veterinary Officer take responsibility for the completion of this work. Considerable liaison with Greg Scott, a biometrician and a trace element nutritionist is required to analyse and report it.

3. Reproduction

SR/1. The relationship between ewe condition score at mating and lamb rearing ability.

Outcome: Advice on the identification of ewes prior to mating, which are unlikely to rear a lamb.

This trial at Horseshoe Bay seeks to prove whether or not this relationship exists. Greg Scott should take responsibility for a review in liaison with involved staff and make recommendations regarding its continuation and potential outcomes.

4. Husbandry.

SHS/1 Wind-chill prediction system for newly shorn sheep.

Outcome: Daily Forecasts of wind-chill conditions likely to be harmful to shorn sheep.

This on-going project in co-operation with the Meteorological Office during each shearing season requires annual monitoring by staff. Aidan Kerr has recently completed a preliminary review for Wool Press.

SHS/2 Shearing with cover combs.

Outcome: Preliminary evaluation of the potential benefits of shearing with cover combs.

In a new initiative, Greg Scott, in co-operation with the Estancia Farm, will conduct a preliminary investigation into the effects of using cover combs for shearing hoggetts. Potential benefits to industry include increased hoggett survival and growth rates. Half of the hoggetts will be shorn with cover combs and half with conventional combs. In 1994-95 live weight and condition score will be monitored during summer, autumn and spring.

C: Agricultural Diversification Programme.

1. Commercial meat production.

SM/1. The eradication of boils from sheep carcasses.

Outcome: Advice for production of boils-free mutton.

A three year project aimed at testing the efficacy of 'Glanvac' vaccine for the eradication of boils from sheep carcasses for commercial meat production is proposed. This project seeks to repeat recent work done at Goose Green which requires proper review by the Ian Saunders before further experimentation occurs.

2. Other research

Research may be required to provide information on the following possibilities for diversification.

Beef production.

Goat or camellid products.

Vegetable production.

Land management for tourism.

Staff resources.

In 1994-5 up to 2.5 professionals may be available for research work of which up to only 1.5 persons are established staff.

Scientific/Professional Staff

Director of Agriculture, Owen Summers
Owen has no specific research responsibility but as Director he has ultimate responsibility for managing all of the Department's work.

Senior Scientist/Agronomist, Aidan Kerr
arrived March 1994, succeeded Gerry Hoppe and is responsible

for all of the research work. Pasture researcher with knowledge of Falklands' wool industry, agronomy, grazing ecology and technology transfer. Contract until June 1996. Time for research < 75%.

Sheep Scientist/ Adviser, Greg Scott
arrived in September 1994, will succeed Robert Hall in December 1994 and be responsible for individual projects in the Sheep Production Programme. Greg is an adviser/ researcher with experience in sheep husbandry, wool science, nutrition, pasture agronomy and technology transfer. Contract until December 1996.
Time for research < 25%.

Veterinary Officer, Ian Saunders
Ian has responsibility for completing the research work on trace element nutrition and to review and continue the work on the incidence of boils. He is also expected to provide veterinary input to all trials regarding animal welfare.
Time for research <25%.

Agricultural Economist, Hugh Marsden
Hugh will conduct economic analysis in the planning of various trials especially within the Sustainable Pastures programme.
Time for research <20%.

Specialist Services via DoA-QUB link.
The Department's established link with Dr. Mc Adam's group in QUB will provide extra assistance to the research programme. It is proposed to employ a research assistant over the next five growing seasons until 2000. Initially Jenny Fuller will be employed in 1994-95 and for at least one season thereafter.
Time for research - 100%.

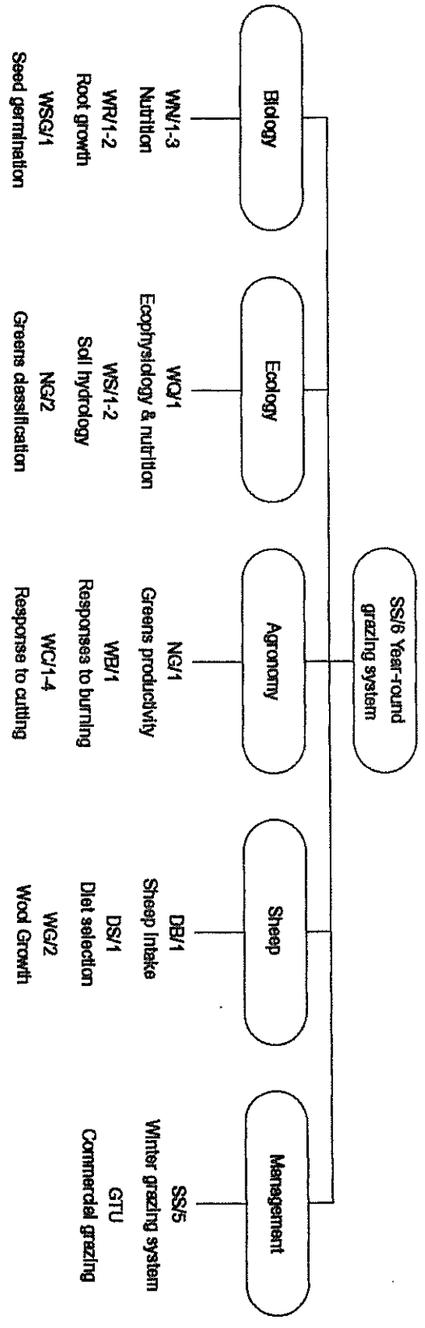
In 1993-4 Jenny undertook field research on important grassland pests as part of her studentship. This included agronomic studies on the effects of 'Tussac beetle' larvae on Tussac grass and of the 'grass grub' (weevil larvae) on short grass pastures. Since her return to QUB she has made good progress in analysing her data and she expected to completed her report by October 1994. Additionally, it was agreed that she would complete the analysis and report on the Tussac establishment trial (ANT10) by December 1994.

Additionally, by sponsoring a research studentship for the work on colonisation of heavily grazed Whitegrass the Department will have access to QUB laboratory, library and biometrics facilities. For biometrics costs alone this is a saving of up to £400 per day.

Support Staff

Senior Laboratory Technician,	Diana Roberts
Laboratory Technician /Agricultural Assistant,	Gordon Lennie.
Veterinary Assistant /Clerk	Maggie Barkman
Agricultural Assistant	John Jaffray
Agricultural Assistant	Gillian Phillips
Economic Assistant (in UK, training)	Mandy McLeod
Economic Assistant	Troyd Bowles

Whitegrass research



DoA/ARC project codes and work done by GTU etc. are shown.

Senior Clerk — Charlene Rowland
Clerk — Lilian Wallace

Overseas research on Whitegrass.

Dr McAdam's presentation of Dr. Fiona Wilson's Whitegrass research at a recent conference has led to new work by an eminent plant scientist, Professor George Poskuta, (Department of Plant Physiology, University of Warsaw, Poland). He initiated research on the relationships between nitrogen, oxygen and photosynthesis (the process by which plants grow) in Whitegrass.

He has found that photosynthesis in Whitegrass is unique compared to other grasses and while his work could lead to a greater understanding of how Whitegrass grows it may produce new and highly significant knowledge on how photosynthesis works.

The work is funded by an EC grant for 'scientific exchange' between Prof. Poskuta and Dr McAdam and is of no cost to the Department. They expect to report the work in the top scientific journal 'Nature'. This may have several benefits locally. Firstly, the international publicity would further enhance the Falklands as a place of scientific interest which could favour recruitment to the Department. Secondly, the publicity could inspire interest from other top researchers who wish to study Whitegrass here. Their requirement for local support e.g. technical assistance, laboratory and field facilities, transport and accommodation could be financially beneficial to the Department and the community. The Department will continue to support this work.

Concluding remarks

This article describes the current and future plans for DoA research, as requested by the AAC.

THERE IS NOW A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL FARMERS TO HAVE A SAY IN THE PLAN. PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO YOUR AAC REPRESENTATIVE OR AIDAN KERR BEFORE DECEMBER 13TH.

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Hon. Councillor Sharon Halford	Chairwoman
Mr N. Knight	Vice Chairman & F.A.R.
Mrs J. Summers	Farmers Association Rep.
Mr Rodney Lee	Farmers Association Rep.
Mr Robin Lee	Falkland Landholdings
Mr M. Summers	General Manager FIDC
Mr O. Summers	Director of Agriculture
Mr P. Robertson	Farmer

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW, 1994.

This will be held in Coast Ridge Farm Woolshed at Fox bay Village on 29th December 1994.

Entries may be sent to Fox bay c/o N. Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day before 9.00 am - 1.00pm.

Judging will commence at 2.30pm - 4.00pm and be by public ballot.

Prizes will be presented at 6.00pm in the woolshed.

Prize List

CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGET

1st prize Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies + £100.00 donated by Cable & Wireless Plc.

2nd prize £75.00 donated by the Falkland Island Company Ltd.

3rd prize Prize donated by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd.

4th prize £25.00 donated by R.M.Pitaluga and family.

CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARING RAM

1st prize Silver cup presented by Dunnose Head Farm + £25.00 donated by Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

2nd prize £75.00 also presented by the Development Corporation.

3rd prize Donated by the Saddle Farm.

4th prize £25.00 presented by the Farmers Association.

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM

1st prize Falkland (Woolsales) Challenge Cup + replica & £40.00 presented by Falkland Landholdings Ltd.

2nd prize £75.00 donated by the Southern Cross Social Club.

3rd prize £50.00 presented by Port Howard Farm.

4th prize £25.00 presented by the Southern Cross Social Club.

CLASS 4 HOGGET FLEECE.

1st prize Silver cup & replica presented by Meridith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development Ltd.

2nd prize £70.00 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers.

3rd prize £50.00 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services.

4th prize £30.00 voucher also donated by Falkland Farmers.

CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGET

1st prize 'Governors Cup', Challenge Cup presented by H.E. the Governor + replica donated by Newton/Capital House (FIG's investment managers).

ALL PRIZES IN THIS CLASS PRESENTED BY NEWTON/CAPITAL HOUSE

2nd prize £75.00

3rd prize £50.00

4th prize £25.00

CLASS 6 ANY 'B' TYPE WETHER FLEECE

1st prize Engraved Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm. + replica presented by Ursula Wanglin.

2nd prize £50.00 donated by F.I. Sheepowners Assocation.

3rd prize £25.00 donated by Little Chartres Farm.

4th prize £25.00 donated by Stanley Electrical.

Additional Prizes

The champion ram wins a prize + £50.00 from the Luxton Family Chartres.

Reserve champion wins £40.00 donated by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing (Bradford).

Rosettes will be presented for 1st - 2nd - 3rd and 4th prize winners in all six classes. A supreme champion rosette is also given to the champion ram.

For 1st - 2nd and 3rd prize winners in class 3 trophys are donated by Peter Short, Falkland Supplies.

A Challenge Cup for the farm with most points in all classes in donated by Mr Own Summers.

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

Frazzle will again appearing in the 'Guess the Weight Competition', by kind permission of Mrs J Halliday. Prize for the 'Best Guess' from Lakelands Farm.

The winner of the 'Fleece Weight' competition will receive £25.00 from Lake Sulivan Farm. Whilst the winner of the 'micron estimate' competition will receive £25.00 from the Argos Fishing Company.

The Department of Agriculture will be sponsoring a 'A Sheep Judging competition for the under 21's'.

The Falkland Mill and Mrs Griz Cockwell have all kindly knitted sweaters. These items will be auctioned for the show funds after the prize giving.

F.I.G.A.S. have once again generously agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.

Please note that fleece entries, should be skirted fleece only. All neck, belly and stained wool should be removed before the fleece is rolled.

N.A.Knight
Chairman W.F.R & F.S.

RECIPE

Caravan cookies

Shearing gang amount

Ingredient:

16 oz four
16 oz margarine
16 oz sugar
16 oz porridge oats
4 level teasp. bicarbonate
2 level teasp. baking powder
4 heaped teasp. ginger
1/2 teasp. cream of tartar
8 level tablespoons syrup
4 dessertspoons boiling water
1/2 teasp. salt

Method

Beat margarine and sugar to soft cream. Add oats. Dissolve bicarbonate in the boiling water and add to the mixture. Melt the syrup for more efficient measuring and add to creamed/oat mix. Then add all the rest of the dry ingredients allow mixture to stand for 1/2 hour. Then roll into balls and cook it golden brown. I use ungreased not stick tins as it spreads out if they are greased. 350°.

SHIRLEY KNIGHT
DECEMBER

HYDATID REGULATIONS AND VISITS

At the moment it is still not possible to print the New Regulations as there are still one or two areas to be finalised, however once the final adjustments are made and the Regulations are passed by Legco, all farmers will receive copies.

It is intended that all farms will be visited by myself or another member of Agricultural Department Staff.

The areas I will be looking at are:.

1) Killing House / area.
2) Offal disposal.
3) Cull disposal site.
4) Dog cages.
5) Condition of dogs.

1) Killing House / Area.

This must be dogproof. Body fluids must be contained within this area. Drainage from this area must be effected in a way which prevents dog access to outflow areas.

2) Offal Disposal

The named offals i.e. Hearts, Lungs and Livers must either be stored in a dogproof container for 28 days prior to disposal or burned to ash.

3) Cull Disposal

This may be inspected and advice given on what is needed. The precise location will need to be known.

4) Dog Cages

The dog cages should be in a good state of repair and clean.

5) Dog Condition

The dogs should be in good condition.

In addition it may be that I will take a faecal sample from your dogs for Copro-antigen survey in other words a test for evidence of Hydatid infection. Our Senior Laboratory Technician Miss Diana Roberts has recently returned from the U.K. where she underwent training on how to carry out this test. Once our new Laboratory is up and running testing can be carried out. Note, however, we can take samples now if we think it is necessary and store them until we are in a position to test them.

It is the Agriculture Departments intention that all farms will be visited as soon as it is feasible. The requirements will be uniformly applied. No-one need feel he/she has been singled out for special attention.

However, I must stress that if complaints about Hydatid Regulation compliance or animal welfare are made to the Department then it is possible and legal that unannounced visits can be made, accompanied by police officers if necessary if we feel that there may be grounds for the complaints.

It is expected that it will become a legal requirement for dog dosing returns and offal inspection results to be submitted to this office on a regular basis.

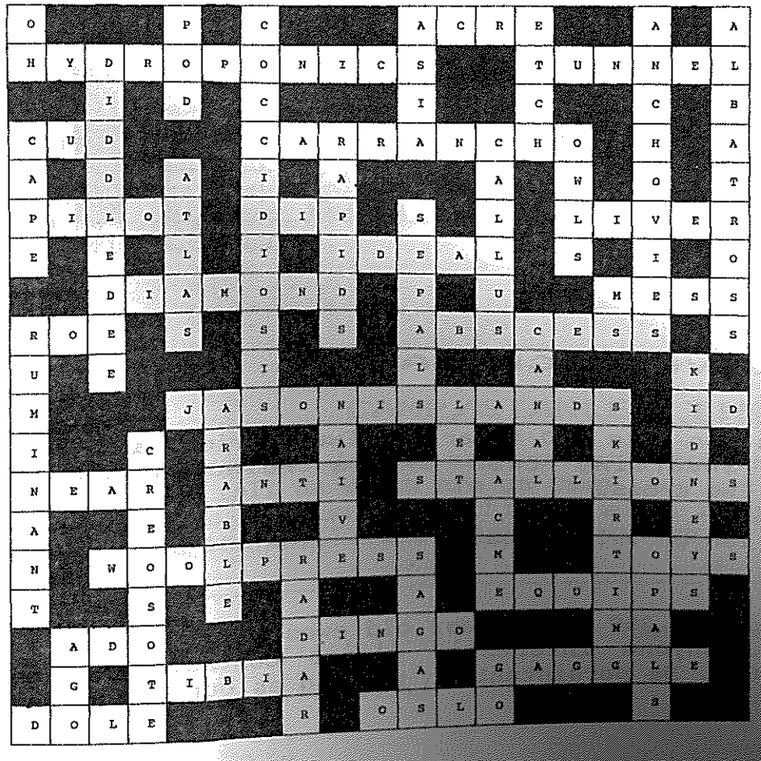
Positive results for hydatid cysts in sheep submitted to Stanley Butchery will be reported to the farmer concerned.

Any farmers who feel that they are uncertain about identifying the common conditions in offals are invited to contact me and when you are in town I will try to take you to the butchery and show you how we identify the common problems. Alternatively I may be able to do this on your farm, time permitting.

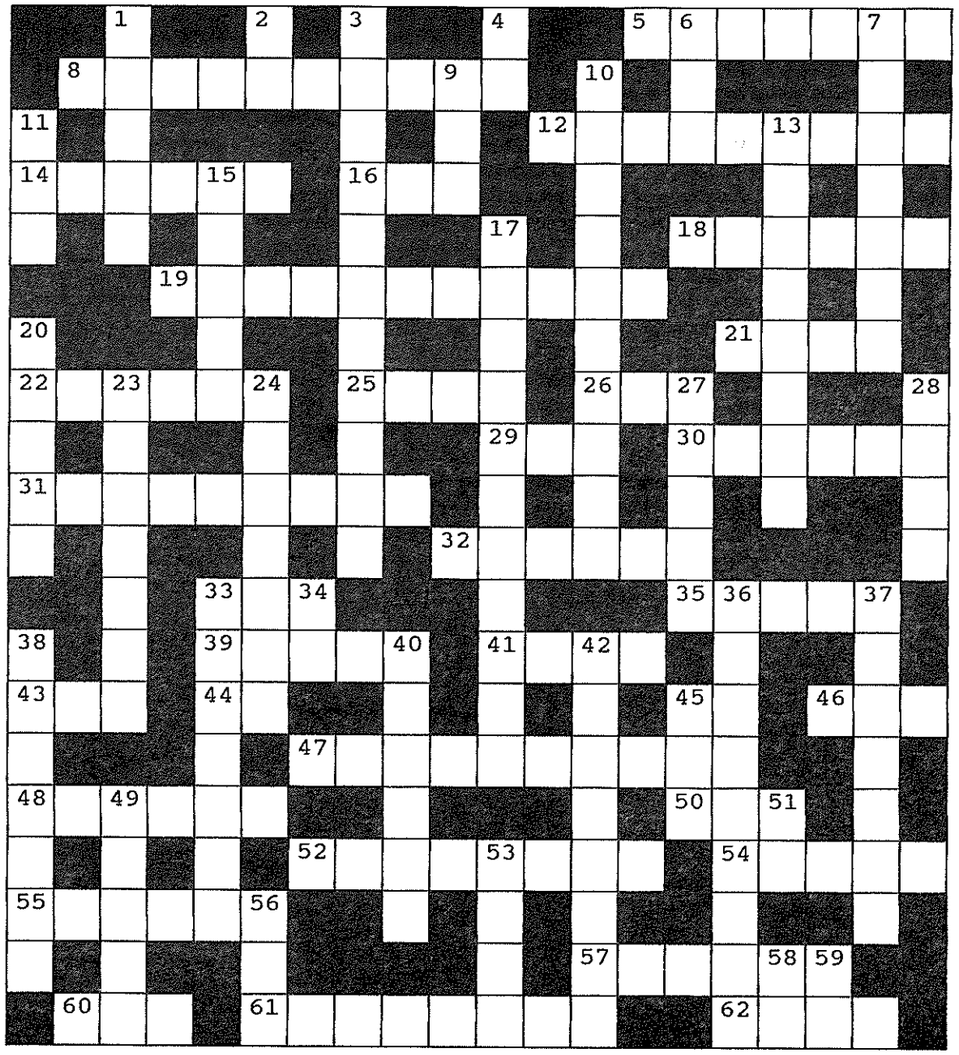
I hope that we can all work together and see the eradication of Hydatid becoming a reality.

IAN SAUNDERS
DECEMBER 1994

WP60



LAST MONTH,S ANSWERS



LIVESTOCK SALE

Main Point Farm has for sale 100 Shearling Ewes, priced at £15 per head. The Shearling Ewes are a Polworth Ram, Corriedale/Polworth Ewe cross.

Any queries contact Ian on tel: 41008.

150 2 year old ewes, 250 5 - 6 year old ewes & approx. 200 6 year old wethers. Anyone interested please contact Shallow Harbour on Tel: 42019. Be persistent in phoning as our VHF phone is very unreliable.

WP61

ACROSS

5. MUSCLES OF THE UPPER ARMS
8. TOWER PROVIDING A LIGHT SIGNAL
12. HISTORICAL SITE IN THE ISLANDS
14. LOCATED EAST OF THE MARKET GARDEN
16. SIMPLE FASTENER
18. LARGE SPOTTED CAT
19. FIGHTING SKILLS ORIGINATING FROM EAST ASIA
21. ONE TIME
22. LOCATED ON WIRELESS RIDGE OPPOSITE STANLEY
25. OBJECT OF SOME EFFORT
26. DRINKING VESSEL
29. IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
30. SAVE FROM DANGER
31. INCAPABLE OF BEING DISSOLVED
32. REPRODUCE AN ORGANISM ASEXUALLY
33. THE DETECTIVE DIVISION OF A POLICE FORCE
35. COMMON VAGRANT TO THE ISLANDS
36. RARE SIGHTS OF THESE HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE ISLANDS
41. A MARRIED WOMAN
43. LYRIC POEM OFTEN RHYMED
44. MARINE ENGINEER
45. THE AFTERNOON TO NIGHT
46. AN UNDERCOVER AGENT
47. CARRIED OUT AT LAMBMARKING
48. A DESERT RODENT
50. A LIGHT BLOW
52. PLACE PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE
54. ROUND BISCUIT DELICIOUS WITH CREAM
55. THIS IS THE SHAMROCK FOR THE IRISH
57. LOOSE UPPER GARMENT
60. SMALL SOCIAL INSECT
61. THREE BORN AT THE SAME TIME
62. ADDITIONAL AMOUNT

DOWN

1. LARGE LAND-WATER ANIMAL
2. PHYSICAL TRAINING
3. SEA-BIRD COMMON IN THE ISLANDS
4. HIS EXCELLENCY
6. DECAY
7. A MEMBER OF THE HIGHEST GROUP OF MAMMALS
9. A VIOLATION OF DIVINE LAW
10. SOMEONE WHO DEALS WITH POLITICS
11. TOWARD THE STERN
13. ANIMAL/PLANT LIFE
15. EXHIBITION PLATFORM
17. GARDEN VEGETABLE WITH WHITE HEAD
20. A SHARP BITING TASTE OR ODOUR
23. GREAT SIZE
24. BRING TOGETHER
27. VANITY
28. CARE FOR
33. A MULTI PURPOSE HARVESTER
34. DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
36. A PLACE WERE YOU CAN TRAIN
37. OVERTURNING
38. A DOG ,OF MIXED OR UNKNOWN BREEDING
40. WITHSTAND
42. CHRISTMAS DINNER
45. DEEP ROUND CONTAINER
49. MEADOWLARK WITH REDDISH BREAST
51. A PERSONAL COMPUTER
53. A SMALL ISLAND
56. A FLOOR COVERING
58. IN A WAY OR MANNER
59. ROYAL INITIALS

CAMP/STANLEY TIME?

At the Dept. of Ag. we are currently putting together a list of farms to tell us which are on Camp time and which are on Stanley time. To help us to do this we would be grateful if you could fill in the small form below and return it to us at the Department.

FARM NAME:..... CAMP/STANLEY TIME:.....

OWNER:.....

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

"I can put up with nails, I can tolerate baling twine, I don't mind eartags or y'shepherd's whistle, an' I don't care about y'tally book..BUT I'LL NOT TOLERATE LAMBS' TAILS!"

LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1.Man's collar is black; 2. Lady not holding cup; 3. More lines on ladies hair; 4. Lady missing an earring; 5. Dog has black fore paw; 6. Dog has black tail; 7. Man's pocket is black; 8. Aerial on car; 9. Black windowsill; 10. Sole of man's shoe is black.