WOOL PRESS

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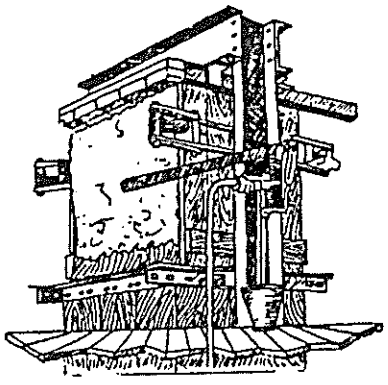
IN THIS ISSUE



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

EDITORIAL

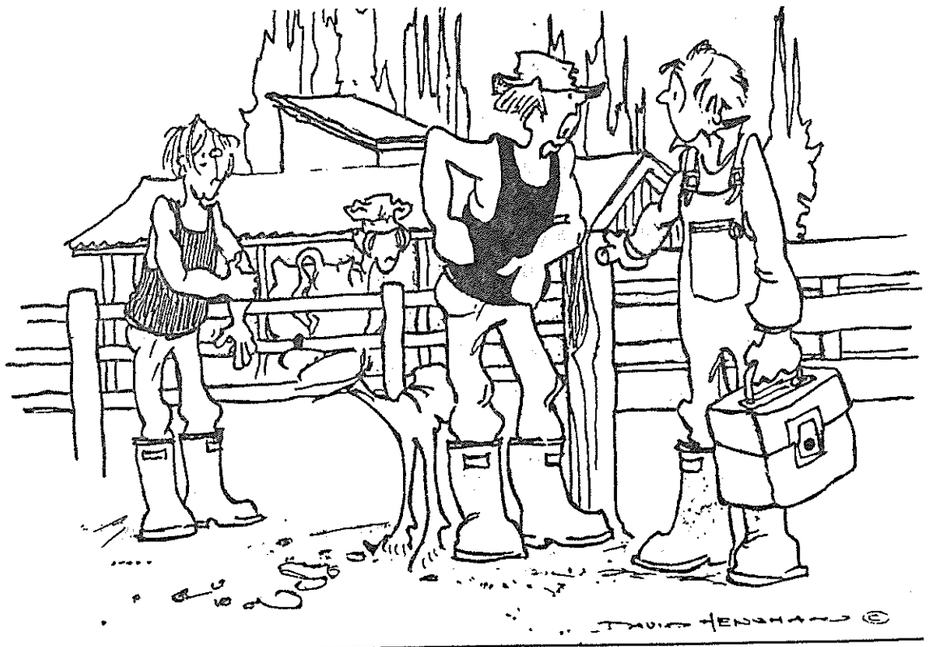
Another year is upon us! I hope you all had a *merry* Christmas and enjoyed your brief break from the hectic shearing time schedule. Most farms will be shearing again now and, no doubt, pleased to see the current spell of warmer weather.

The first Woolpress of '95 has a fairly wide ranging selection of articles including a couple of informative pieces from Smallholder magazine. We also have a report from the Estancia Shearing Competition by Eilsa Heathman and an article from Mr. Brian Wharton of the Met. Office M.P.A.

There must have been record numbers of people travelling around the Islands this Christmas. Those that didn't make it to Stanley for Sports were at Fox Bay for the West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show (report in next month's Woolpress). Both events were well attended and proved extremely successful.

Happy New Year to you all from everyone at the Department Of Agriculture.

TROYD BOWLES



"'E missed with the needle an' got himself...so 'is problem is can cows have aids?!"

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Market closed for the Christmas recess on a slightly subdued note although there has been a continuation in steady rise in the price of cross-bred wools. Since August 1993 the annual increase in the Australian 27um indicator has been 43.38%.

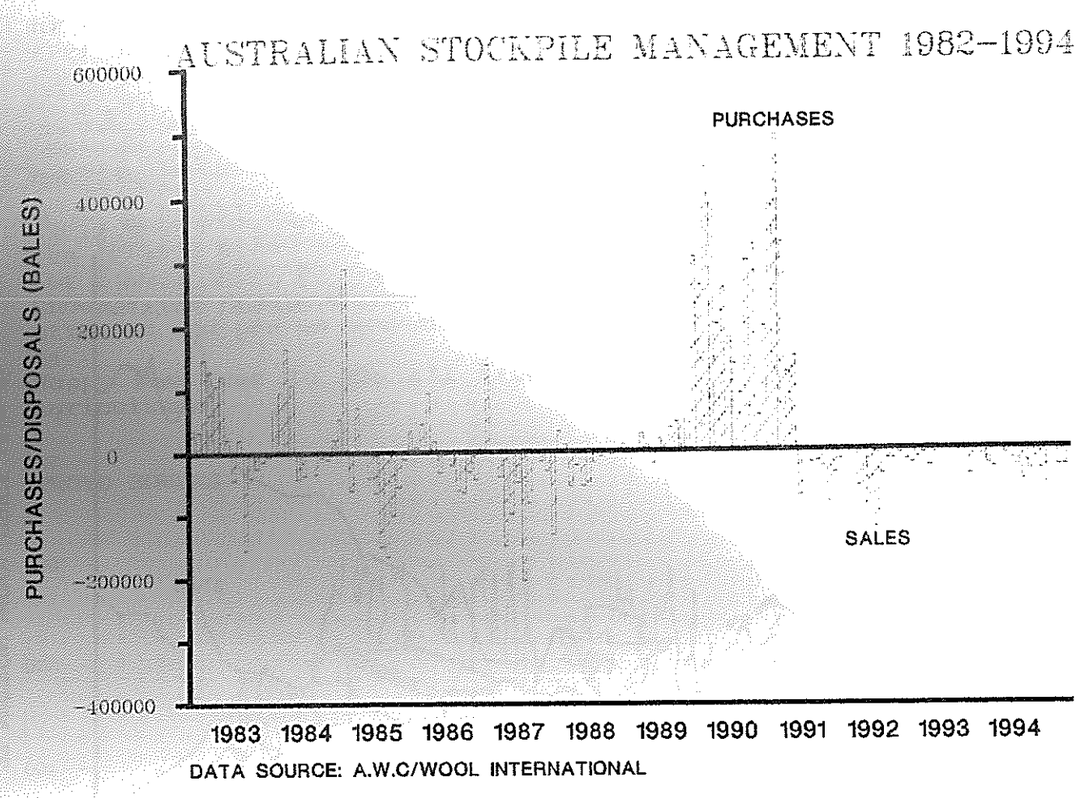
DATA SOURCE: WOOL INTERNATIONAL

The new Eastern Market Indicator closed 23 cents lower (on last month's figure) at 768 cents/kg on the 16th December. The Indicator did however recover slightly in the final week before Christmas.

The 27 micron Indictor performed well during the month finishing 17 cents higher at 566 cents/kg.

The Australian $ has continued to strengthen against the pound closing at 201 cents/£ on the 16th December.

On the 9th of December, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,494,796 bale equivalents.



The Australian stock management graph is included in the report to support last months assertion that we should not expect any "explosion" in wool prices during 1995. Of the 4.76 million bales accumulated during 1989 and 1990 just 1.26 million bales (26.5%) have been disposed of in the 4 years since February 1991. The estimated "supply stocks" of raw wool continue to be high at 619 thousand tonnes (clean). Supply stocks peaked at 723 thousand tonnes during the 1991/92 season. (Data source I.W.T.O)

The recent recovery in the Global Economy appears to be weak and fragmented. This suggests that there will not be any dramatic rise in the demand for wool. Concern must also hang over the sustainability of Chinese economic policy and ability of the textile industry to generate the necessary foreign exchange to pay for wool imports. Recent political unrest (and open warfare) in the former Soviet Union are both worrying developments that will further contain the demand for wool in that region. A resumption of substantial wool sales to the Eastern Block should be regarded as being essential if the Wool Market is to enjoy a sustained and long term recovery.

Hugh Marsden
December 1994

WOOL WISE

Some general notes on wool production, that may improve your wool system:-

1. Stained pieces earn more than locks, therefore shake pieces from the locks at the end of each spell.

2. Two "clapper boards" make picking up a pile of locks from the floor a quick and efficient process.

3. Brushes and brooms drop bristles; they should not be used for sweeping locks, as such bristles contaminate wool. Wooden and plastic "brooms" or paddles are recommended.

4. Removal of dags and stain by rousies on the shearing board, means that such stain is not "lost" on the wool table.

5. Whether hogget testes should NEVER go in any wool (fleece or oddments). Testes should go into the shed rubbish bins.

6. Farms should only ever have one classer classing any one "flock" of sheep.

7. Use of the Falkland Islands "Guide to Clip Preparation" glossary makes identification of bale contents particularly clear and easy to all those who handle your wool - especially to those involved in marketing your wool.

8. Farms sharing a shed might consider sharing oddment bales, as a way of selling their "left over wools" rather than mixing oddment types, which inevitably reduces farm income.

9. Giving sheep access to water after shearing will make sheep better able to reappear at the shearing shed next year.

10. Happy shearing, Happy New Year !!

ROBERT H.B. HALL
DECEMBER 1994

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE — APOLOGY

In the last issue of Woolpress, at the end of the article on the proposed research programme, the composition of the Agricultural Advisory Committee was incorrect. We apologise to the members and trust that the composition below is now correct.

Hon. Councellor Sharon Halford....Chairwoman
Mr. N Knight.....Vice-Chairman & Farmers Assoc.
Mr Rodney Lee.....Farmers Association
Mr Robin Lee.....Sheep Owners Association
Mr M Summers.....General Manager F.I.D.C.
Mrs J Summers.....F.I.D.C. Board
Mr O Summers.....Department Of Agriculture
A.N.Other.....Department Of Agriculture
Mr P Robertson.....Falkland Farmers
Mr R Wagner.....Treasury
Mrs C Rowland.....Secretary

ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

Thursday 29th December saw the Estancia Shearing Competition again in progress. Despite a heavy sky for a short while, the day become warm and sunny and seemed to be enjoyed by shearers and spectators alike. Unfortunately there were not so many of either this year, a working day in Stanley and M.P.A. could account for the fewer spectators but what was the shearers' excuse?

Lack of entries for the Novice & Junior Classers, saw shearing go straight into the Intermediate Competition. Mark Summers emerged as the winner with 114.5 points off, Jan Clarke was 2nd with 134.5 points off, Charles Dickson 3rd with 137.9 points off and Christopher Lee 4th with 146.6 points off. There was an additional prize in this class kindly donated by Mr Murray Christie for the best trainee shearers. After much deliberation it was decided to present this prize to the shearer with the best board and pen score sheets and time would be disregarded. It was felt that this may save a shearer a lot of penalty points for time when Murray's shearing courses had obviously been to promote good shearing rather than speed. Jan Clarke was the recipient of this prize.

There were 20 entries in the Open Competition from which Hugh Greirson trimphed after being in the finals each year. Hugh had 107.15 points off with John Beer in 2nd place with 113.1 points off. John Jones was 3rd with 120.85 points off and Richard Short was 4th with 132.3 points off.

The cleanest Pen of sheep over the whole competition went to John Jones with an incredible - 8.

As there were no juniors or novices, the prizes were offered to an "Old Duffers" Competiton. The "Old Duffers" emerged as Michael Clarke, Tony Heathman, Patrick Bernsten and Peter Goss. Patrick emerged as Champion Duffer, followed by Peter Goss with Tony Heathman just taking 3rd place off Michael Clarke by 1 point.

The licensed bar was again in the capable hands of Ray & Marlene Newman while Jeannie & Mike McKay cooked the day away with an excellent barbecue. A hangi was laid as usual in the morning and cooked slowly all day. The wire baskets were lifted after the prize giving and the contents carried for all to enjoy. It consisted of 27lbs turkey, 15lbs trout, 4 roast of beef, several joints of pork, a bag of spuds and 3 cabbages, plus packages of the famous stuffing. I think Keith and Dags were largely responsible for the hangi again with help from the other Kiwis experts!

We wish to thank everyone who helped in any way. It is a long day for judges and the helpers in the back pens particularly and without the first class co-ordination of Mr Broock Hardcastle, the Competition would be no where near so successful. The generosity of donators is also very pleasing and without the participants there would be no competiton.

Many thanks to everyone.

AILSA HEATHMAN

AN EVENT IN FALKLAND ISLANDS' WEATHER

The Falkland Islands' weather, as you know better than I do, is a law unto itself. How dare we have the temerity to even try to forecast it's twists and turns. Well, oddly enough, because the *general* pattern of weather hereabouts does actually lend itself to computer based predictions, the changes over daily timescales do follow reasonably defined patterns and, give enough time to get used to it, we can have a fair crack at it.

The ideal, which fortunately usually happens, is when a change in the weather moves towards us over a definable time span, even if developments or dissipation of the systems take place. More difficult is when a development takes place over the area or, worse still, over an area of sea where no observations are to be found.

Such an situation occurred on Sunday 20 November, it's ferocity of development intensified following the good conditions of the earlier part of the weekend. In fact an increase of wind Saturday night had been forecast, especially at Mount Pleasant where such a northerly wind gives serious gustiness. This increase was linked to a frontal zone which was, in itself, weakening.

In data sparse areas, and they don't come much more sparse than the Falkland Islands sea areas, the observational tool is the weather satellite. Unfortunately an overlying high layer of cloud from old weather systems can cover events closer to the surface.

So the stage was set for Sunday. An improving situation was forecast. Then conflicting evidence appeared from two mountain reporting stations to the west. Which one should we have believed? Was it an instrument malfunction that caused a 60 kt wind on one of the stations or was it something else? The other evidence of 20 knots fitted the original story well. In the event, the original forecast was followed with a very close watch kept on the unusual reading. Little useful assistance was forthcoming from the satellite.

Then at 3 o'clock both of our western reporting stations came up with strong winds and John Ferguson from Weddell Island phoned to say that it was raining heavily and to ask what was going on. Incidentally our automatic weather station at Weddell was not working that day.

A vigorous low was forming. Barometric pressure was beginning to fall. Reaction was then swift. The forecast was changed but letting people know on a Sunday afternoon is not always so easy, even through BFBS or FIBS. Nor is it easy to get information on a Sunday - without John's call, Knowledge of the development may well have been later still. Contacts from the settlements are more frequent and invaluable during the week, especially from FIGAS, helping us to help you.

Once in a while nature has her say and our attempts to foresee the developments fail. The forecasting runs before and since have given good guidance, but for Sunday 20 November it was not to be.

Some statistics of the wind chill from Mount Pleasant. Taking consecutive 24 hour periods the actual wind chills were:

Time	Midnight-midnight	4 a.m.-4 a.m.	8 a.m.-8 a.m.	Midday-midday	4 p.m.-4 p.m.
Observed	82	88	88	91	90
Forecast	76	75	72	68	66

Had the forecast been correct, the wind chill assessment published at midday at MPA would have been 90.

Mr. Brian Wharton,
Principal Meteorological Officer.
Dec 1994.

GREENS - YOUR MOST VALUABLE PASTURES

Mention "Greens" and some people think of a Danish beer, others of winter vegetables! But anyone who has flown over 'camp' will have noticed that sheep tend to congregate on the greener areas in valleys, around ponds, settlements, along streams, coastlines and fence lines. The reasons include shelter from the sometimes severe wind-chill, thirst for water but mainly because these areas provide the most productive and nutritious food available on most farms. Many farmers have long regarded the grazing value of a particular camp by the area of greens it contains and would agree that Greens are the islands most valuable pastures.

Research done by Jim McAdam of Queen's University, Belfast (former agronomist with GTU) and myself has shown that valley greens were about 2 to 4 times as productive as 'soft' (lax) Whitegrass camp. Coastal greens were up to 9 times more productive depending on how well the green was influenced by birds, especially penguins. Most importantly, the same scale of difference between the greens and soft Whitegrass camp also occurred in Spring when the nutritional demand on ewes was high. Jim also found that 'bog' Whitegrass pastures, which contain similar species to Greens, were equally as productive. Greens produce as much, and often more, reasonable quality food for sheep than expensively fertilised reseeded pasture.

We also confirmed that 65 - 95 % (of the organic matter [OM]) of what grows on greens was eaten by sheep (and geese!) compared to 15 - 34 % (OM) of Whitegrass production (when it was summer stocked at rates similar to those on camp pastures). The highest utilisation rates were found on penguin greens.

So why are greens so productive and attractive to sheep? This depends on the species that grow there, their nutritive value and your grazing management.

In a country-wide survey, greens were more similar than expected given the range of locations where they were found. The common link between them all was the high level of sheep grazing, treading and manuring. Variation between greens was due mainly to the type and degree of these activities by sheep, cattle, horses, penguins and geese.

Although the Native Rush was common to all the greens surveyed, two main types of green vegetation were identified. The first type was dominated by the Bent grasses and or Pigvine and usually occurred in inland valleys and small paddocks, usually on wetter and infertile soils. The second type was dominated by the Meadow grasses and usually occurred at coastal sites, ponds and penguin rookeries on relatively drier, more fertile soils.

Generally greens pasture was about twice as digestible as Whitegrass. Similarly the protein and mineral status of greens was higher than for other vegetation types. The soils of pond, valley or penguin greens were less acidic and the latter two locations had high levels of the major nutrients. With much more digestible food and higher nutrient status it was not surprising that sheep concentrate on the small area of greens within large

'camps' dominated by the relatively unproductive, unpalatable and unutritious Whitegrass or Diddle-dee.

Cattle and geese may also help maintain and even enhance the value of greens through the beneficial effects of grazing and manuring on plant distribution and production.

Unfortunately, the generally free-ranging behaviour of sheep and other livestock can reduce the grazing value of the green. The most valuable greens of Meadow grasses also had much bare ground and mosses, which as well as being of no grazing value, were signs of erosion caused by overgrazing. Once lost, the topsoil is gone almost forever and the availability of pasture and ultimately wool production will be diminished. This gives cause for concern.

However because greens were more similar than dissimilar and that they varied mainly due to the level of grazing, treading and manuring it is expected that strategies for their sustainable management would also be similar. Special management may be needed only for overgrazed greens.

A new research project (SS/6) near MPA beginning in 1995 will examine how greens can be utilised more fully, without diminishing their value for grazing, with Whitegrass to improve wool production.

Aidan Kerr, Senior Scientist.
Jan 1995.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FEEDING LIVESTOCK

FEEDINGSTUFFS ARE MADE UP FROM PROTEINS, OILS (OR FAT), CARBOHYDRATES, CRUDE FIBRE AND FIBRE AND VITAMINS AND MINERALS. PROTEINS ARE TH MUSCLE BUILDING COMPONENTS OF ANY FEED AND ARE PARTICULARLY ESSENTIAL IN YOUNG GROWING ANIMALS. CARBOHYDRATES AND OILS ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF ENERGY IN THE DIET. CRUDE FIBRE IS IMPORTANT IN AIDING MASTICATION AND IN PROMOTING NORMAL BOWEL FUNCTION SUCH AS RUMINATION AND DEFAECATION.

A ration for an animal may look on paper to be very satisfactory but may yet nutritionally be a bad feed if it is not digestible. A simple example of this would be grass. Grass when cut for hay if left until it is mature or coarse will be much less digestible and attractive to the animal. Similarly if grass is stored badly and overheats either in hay or silage it is much less valuable.

Feeding Cattle

The best form of feed for cattle is grass. Well managed pasture will provide enough protein and energy for maintenance and lactation in the suckling cow and will also feed a calf quite adequately for growth and energy providing it is getting it's mothers milk as well. Dairy cows too in the summer grazing months will rely on grass for the bulk of their feed but they do need in edition extra concentrates (i.e. usually a compound of barley, sugarbeet, soya, maize and fishmeal) depending on the amount of milk they are producing.

In the winter months silage is most commonly fed for maintenance although some farmers do still rely on the more traditional hay and roots such as fodder beet and turnips or swedes. The amount of concentrates that require to be fed to the individual dairy cow has to be tailored to the individual needs of each cow and depends on the quality of the forage given as maintenance and the output of milk of the individual animal.

Beef cattle are often fattened on potatoes, supplemented (but not always) with barley meal. Straw is used for both bedding and roughage to the diet. The main danger with feeding any type of root crop but especially potatoes is bloat due to an obstruction in the gullet. Root crops ought to be chopped before feeding to avoid this risk.

The addition of magnesium is vital especially at turn out in the Spring and also in the Autumn to avoid Staggers - an often fatal condition.

Feeding Sheep

Grass provides over ninety percent of the nutritional requirement for most of the national flock in the U.K. Hay, silage and roots are used as maintenance if the pasture fails to provide sufficient grass as is common enough in early Spring and late Autumn.

The feeding management with concentrates to the pregnant ewe is most vital. Pregnant animals should be kept on a low plain of nutrition (maintenance only) during the first part of pregnancy after being allowed a slightly better plain of feeding at tupping time.

From the beginning of the fourth month of pregnancy when the foetuses are rapidly developing the feed should be gradually increased, initially with forage crops and then with concentrates to avoid the scourge of lambing time - pregnancy toxaemia.

When ewes are producing a lot of milk for their lambs, they will need a concentrate supplement to the basic maintenance feed. The vitamin and mineral content including trace elements of the sheep ration must depend to some extent on the known deficiencies in the area but magnesium is required in most areas in the Spring.

Feeding Goats

The main difference between feeding sheep and goats is that goats will readily browse on leaves and small branches of trees and shrubs and will often prefer to eat thistles and other weed in preference to grass. Despite this goats can be fussy eaters. Like sheep, goats can be prone to pregnancy toxaemia and energy intakes should be gradually increased in the same way as for sheep as kidding time approaches.

Dairy goats that are producing a lot of milk have to be fed in a similar manner to dairy cattle with a maintenance ration fed with an addition of concentrates. The amount fed has to be tailored to the needs of the individual animal.

Feeding For Horses And Ponies

Horses and ponies under natural conditions eat grass in small amounts frequently, drink whenever they feel inclined and are always on the move. They have very small stomachs in relation to their size and as a consequence it can be very difficult to maintain them in good health when they are kept indoors for any length of time.

Far more harm is done to them and ponies in particular by over feeding. The perils of ponies eating too well on grass and getting laminitis are well known, but still it happens. If in the summer months, grass is too plentiful, you must be prepared to ration the amount they graze by housing them or alternatively using a small starvation paddock.

Hay when grass is not available is the basic maintenance ration for all equines. It may be all a small pony or donkey requires in the winter months providing they have some form of shelter. First-rate hay is now, due to modern farming methods, often quite difficult to find. It should have a pleasant smell, be dry and green to light brown in colour. Even the best of hay will have in it some fungal spores. Horses and ponies with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease will need to have their hay soaked before it is fed.

Place the hay in a net and immerse it totally in water for thirty minutes and this will denature the spores by causing the hay to swell. It is not necessary to soak for longer than this as that only serves to leach away all the goodness from the hay and make it inedible to the horse. Pouring water with a bucket or a hose on the hay is not effective.

Many horse owners are inclined to mix a ration for their animals without having much knowledge of how a ration should be balanced. Or they may add an extra ingredient to a ration that has been already prepared. This only serves to change the balance of a feed, often with disastrous consequences. It is better by far to find a commercial ratio (e.g. pony nuts or a course mix) that suits your animal's needs and stick to it. Your local feed merchant should be able to help you decide and ask your vet if you are in any doubt.

One of the common extra ingredients in a horse ration is sugar beet pulp. This, as most will know, needs to be soaked thoroughly before being fed. If fed dry it can cause choking very readily. However a word of caution. Do not on any account allow beet pulp to soak for two or three days before it is fed. It will ferment and cause an animal severe colic and probably result in death.

Bran is another extra constituent to a ration that should not be fed as a regular addition unless you are so advised by your vet. However that does not mean it may not be useful given as a bran mash once or twice a week or after a hard days work to avoid constipation. A bran mash may be made as follows; Put the required amount in a bucket . Add enough boiling water to damp the whole lot and stir in well with a stick. When the bran is all damped cover the bucket with a sack and allow to steam for half an hour, when it should be cool enough to eat. A handful of salt can be added to the mixture or for extra effect if the animal is constipated (but showing no signs of colic) Epsom salts.

The watering of horses has over the years caused much heart searching. This has now been resolved as all animals should have access at all times to fresh clean water. I don't believe a horse will come to any harm allowing it to drink when it comes in hot. That is not to say that the animal should be allowed to do fast work immediately after a long drink or heavy feed.

R Russell Lyon, Smallholder.
Nov 1994.

MOBILE FENCING - THINK ALUMINIUM

Only two companies in the World have invested in the specialist tooling and technology required to produce the ultimate in easy to use lightweight mobile sheep handling systems. Lightweight high tensile aluminium although initially more expensive, offers long term savings in both time and effort. Additionally, it does not corrode like mild steel and can therefore be expected to have a much longer serviceable life.

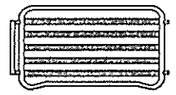
Rapid deployment and single handed management are essential for a lot of farmers today. The alligator, the only British built aluminium system, offers this efficiency. From their experience with New Zealand designed systems, "Euroclip" have constructed an improved sheep handler especially designed for the UK farmer.

With independent suspension, 10" wheels, 5' hurdles and a choice of either 18" or33" drenching races the system is carried semi - assembled on the trailer with minimum set up work in the field.

The starting price is just under £2000, although minus V.A.T., it should be cheaper when purchased for export. Any farmer with sheep at wide spread locations should consider the Alligator mobile sheep yard.

For more information contact Joe Singleton at Euroclip Ltd., Fox Barn, Moreton Pinkney, Daventry, Northants. Tel: 044 295 768391. Alternatively contact Tony Chater who has recently purchased an alligator sheep yard from Euroclip.

OPTIONAL PARTS AVAILABLE



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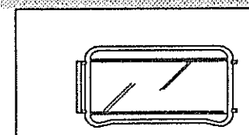

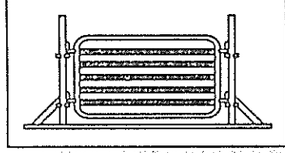

SPREADER WITH GATE (Part No. 533/004002)
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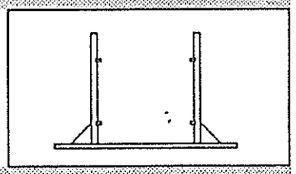
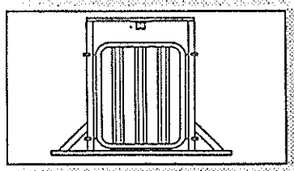
DIAMOND GATE AND FRAME (Part No. 533/004000)
LENGTHS: 5'0" or 1524mm

SPREADER FRAME (Part No.s 533/003002 533/003001)
LENGTHS: 33" or 838mm and 18" or 457mm





GUILLOTINE GATE (Part No. 533/004001)
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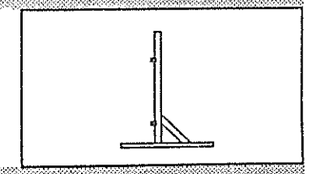
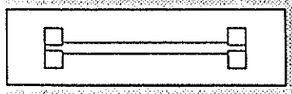
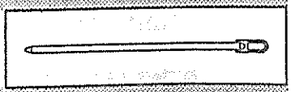
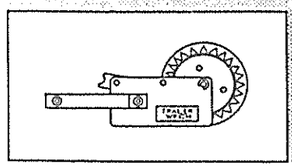




4 WAY HINGE (Part No. 533/002000)

SPARE PINS (Part No. 533/002001)





WINCH

LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW SHEEPDOG PUP

Well fed, properly housed, and with plenty to do, your sheepdog pup should grow into an invaluable workmate. There is no reason why it shouldn't enjoy some fun and freedom in its youth, either.

I had a note from somebody recently telling me she was about to take delivery of an eight week old border collie pup. She asked how she should go about things. Implicit in the question were concerns that her pup, which would be expected to work, might need to lead a special kind of puppyhood if the particular capabilities of its breed were to be realised. I have been asked the question before and my answer is always the same; treat your collie pup just like any other. I think I can justify my answer but, before I do, perhaps we could look at one or two pre-purchase considerations.

There can be problems obtaining a highly bred working pup for a totally domestic situation but, on the assumption that readers of this magazine are going to be working their dogs, we can begin with some practical, down to earth matters.

The pup that has been obtained for work will have come from one of two backgrounds; from someone who has bred from known but unregistered dogs or from those registered with the International Sheep Dog Society. If the purchaser is personally acquainted with the former, or if the source has a known and good reputation, the chances are that things will work out perfectly well. The safest course of action, however, is to go to someone whose dogs are registered with the International sheep Dog society, that way you have a complete pedigree of your pup's working ancestry together with the advantages of the Society's stringent eye testing rules.

There are two inherited eye disorders which are of particular concern to the conscientious breeder. Progressive Retinal Atrophy is an extremely serious condition which was one widespread amongst border collies. Initially, it was thought that only young dogs could be affected but it was later discovered that it could occur at any age. PRA can be discovered with the aid of an opthalmoscope when the dog is between two and three years old and the International Sheep Dog Society, by applying strict testing procedures to dogs registered with them and competing under their rules, has reduced its incidence from a high of fourteen percent to little more than one percent.

The degree to which a dog's eyesight can be affected by Collie Eye Anomoly can vary between marginal impairment and total blindness and it is a non-progressive condition. For various genetic and diagnostic reasons, CEA is not easy to eradicate but one advantage is that it can be detected in a pup as young as six weeks old. It is therefore worth asking the breeder if the pup has been examined and, if not, whether it could be made a condition of purchase. I mention these eye disorders because it might very well be that the new owner is contemplating breeding from the pup in due course. there are no guarantees in the breeding business but eye diseases can be minimised and it is irresponsible to perpetuate them if precautions can be taken.

It is sensible to check with breeders on their worming programme and diet. Roundworms exist in the intestines of all puppies and they can be checked by dosing with liquid or table wormers as early as two to three weeks with follow up administrations at regular intervals. Find out when the last dose was given so that you can continue the treatment; don't forget because serious infestation will debilitate you pup and impair healthy growing. Ask what your pup has been fed on and, even if you don't like the sound of it and have preferences of your own, make the switch gradually. A complete and sudden change of diet will only cause stomach upsets and aggravate the sense of disorientation which the youngster will feel in his new home.

There are four killer diseases which your pup will need to be protected against. These are distemper (hardpad), canine infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus. Some breeders vaccinate pups against parvovirus before they are sold but, in any case, it is imperative that you take your pup to begin its course of combined vaccinations when it is twelve weeks old; booster injections will be required annually.

Whilst all the things I have mentioned so far are standard, common sense procedures with any new pup. things become a little more controversial with the offspring of working dogs when their general treatment and upbringing is considered. The old belief that working dogs should work or be shut away, and that any form of petting will lessen their inclination to work, still prevails in many quarters. My own view is that this is an erroneous belief, grown and nurtured in a mixture of tradition and convenience. the instinct to work is quite incredibly strong in the border collie and I cannot imagine what would push it down to number two in its list of priorities. Not only will collies work for masters that lavish affection on them but they will often do the same for those who are thoughtless and unkind; this is the kind of instinct we are dealing with.

Whilst I have not come across any collies whose working instincts have been moderated or spoilt by plenty of social contact, I have seen many that have been nervous or reluctant workers through lack of it. Like children, they learn from exposure to a broad range of experiences and like them, too, they can be disadvantaged without them. The owner who shuts a young puppy away for months on end runs a high risk of ending up with a shy, neurotic, maladjusted dog. Even those that stoically survive such neglect will have missed out on the important bond building process that can be so usefully established during the early, formative months of their lives.

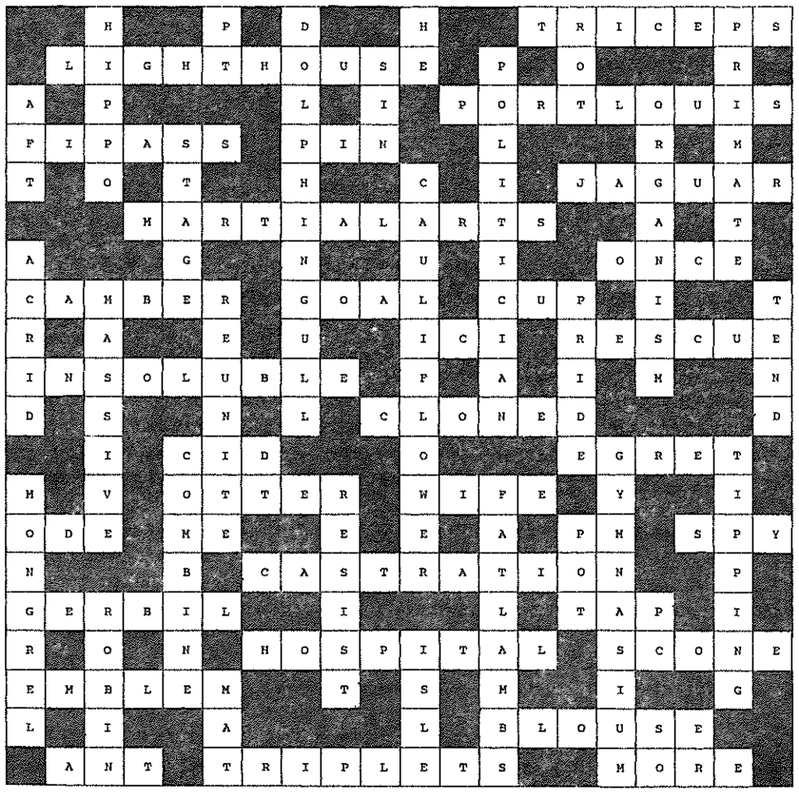
For these reasons I think it is not only harmless, but actually beneficial, to treat your young collie pup as you might like to treat any other. My own approach to dealing with pups is ruled by the important maxim 'firm but fair'. Because I believe that pups can enjoy social contact, relative freedom and fun, however, it does not mean I advocate needless indulgence; quite the opposite. From the outset the youngster should be taught right from wrong which, incidentally, happens to be easier if he is around you quite a bit. Fun is one thing, unchecked nonsense quite another and it should not be allowed. The owner's position as undisputed pack leader should be firmly and fairly established

to begin with and if it is done sensibly it creates a situation which the dog will be content and comfortable with. It is doubly important that his arrangement is achieved where working dogs are concerned because the business of handling livestock in a stress-free, efficient manner can only be accomplished if the dog is respectful and controlled.

I am firmly convinced that it is inadequate discipline and training that turns a pup into a mediocre or uncontrollable works, not whether it gets a cuddle or not! those pups that I have bred and kept myself are kennelled at night and when I am not around and the rest of the time they are loose around the garden. they play games with children, go for walks as well as to work and are more or less my constant companions. Nevertheless, they can deal with any work situation I put their way, they are successful sheepdog trials competitors and obedient enough to work as a group in demonstrations. I am not saying this is how sheepdogs ought to be brought up but that it is an approach which suits me personally and one that works perfectly well. the minimum requirements of the working collie are that it is vaccinated against disease and given proper veterinary attention when it is required; that it is adequately fed and housed (which means that any dog spending long periods of time on its own should not be slammed in soul destroying blackness) and that it does, indeed, have some sort of work to perform. In return for these basic necessities there is every chance that your pup will grow into a happy and well adjusted animal and that these few conditions will seem nothing compared to the usefulness and companionship given in return.

Austin Bennett, Smallholder.
Nov 1994.

WP61



FOR SALE

Ford 5000 single wheel drive tractor in need of a good mechanic to make it a runner, but there are plenty of good parts on her for spares. Back tyres are in good condition, size 16.9 R30 BIB X Michelin Radials. Back axle, P.T.O. and gear box all in good order.

Willing to sell as one lot or as parts.

New Spares For Ford 5000

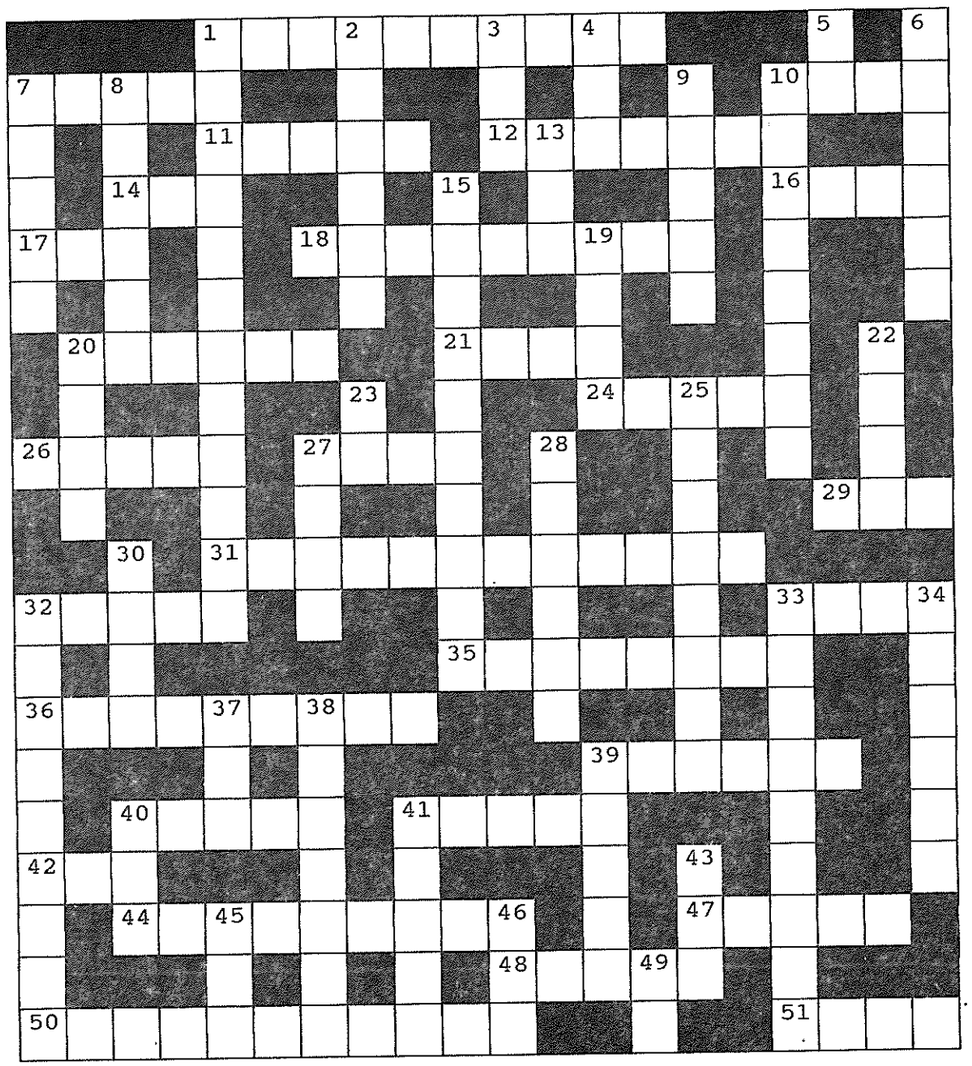
Part No.	Description	Amount
C7NN 2A097B		8
C5NN 2N315B		2
	Manifold Gaskets	4
	Gasket Set Almost Complete	3
C7NN 3N 538 A	Filter	3
D2NN 9N636 A		1
DFPN6211 B	Big End Bearing	8
C0NN 9D512 A		2
C5NN 9N425 B		1
C5NF 11448 B	Bush	2
E1NN R437 AA		1
C5NN N710 B	P.T.O. Seal	1
	Studs For Front Wheel	5
C5NN 3N652 A		1
D9NN 2N289 AA		1
C5NN 3N654 B		1
D1NN 2N155 A		1
	P.T.O Shaft Cover	1
D8PN 6731 A	Filter	10
C5NN N832C	Filter	1
C7NN 3N538B	Filter	1
	Valves	4
E1ADKN 13060B	Headlight Glass	6
D4NN 10316A	Regulator	1
C5NN 24610	Bushing	2
	Diaphragm For Fuel Lift Pump	1
	Voltage Regulator 12v - 22 amp	1
	Armature	1

OFFERS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE TO:- M.McRAE, SOUTH HARBOUR FARM. TEL: 42308.

LIVESTOCK

150 SHEARLING EWES AT £10 EACH.

CONTACT: R.McGHIE, PORT NORTH. TEL: 41104.



FOR SALE — WOOLPACKS

Shallow Harbour Farm are again taking orders for woolpacks in either heavy duty Polyethylene or Jute.

Please order early so we can take advantage of the reduced shipping rate offered by Darwin Shipping Ltd.

We are also taking orders for Quicklinks, Marking Ink, Twine and Fish Hooks (for the Capless Bales).

Any orders or enquiries to A and M Marsh, Shallow Harbour.

Tel: 42019.

WP62

ACROSS

1. BROWSING ANIMALS
7. AN EXHIBITION OF COWBOY SKILLS
10. TONE PRODUCING DEVICE
11. TO SPEAK VIOLENTLY
12. EASY TO READ
14. ARRANGE
16. OF THE SAME FAMILY OR CLASS
17. TO ALLOW OR PERMIT
18. PERIOD WHERE DEVELOPING YOUNG IS IN THE UTERUS DURING PREGNANCY
20. SOIL-BREAKING FARM IMPLEMENT
21. MALE PARENT(HORSE)
24. PLANT OCCURING IN WATER OR MOIST GROUND
26. PERSON REPRESENTING ANOTHER
27. A NOTE
29. IMPART COLOUR OR STAIN
31. USEFUL IMPLEMENT AT LAMBMARKING
32. STOMACH LINING OF BEEF
33. A SHARP SOUR BITING SUBSTANCE (VINEGAR)
35. OUTSIDE
36. OUTER BOUNDARY OF A PLANE FIGURE
39. TALL GRASS COMMON ON SMALL ISLANDS
40. SACRIFICIAL TABLE(IN A CHURCH)
41. THE MAN WHO DOES THE BALEING
42. PADDLE FOR ROWING A BOAT
44. BOOK OF WORDS
47. TO JOIN OR ATTACH
48. SOLEMN SWEARINGS
50. LIZARDLIKE AMPHIBIAN
51. A SWEET PERENIAL HERB

DOWN

1. ART OF GARDENING
2. A HEAD MALE SERVANT
3. IT COULD PROVIDE THE FALKLANDS WITH A LOT OF REVENUE
4. A PRODUCT FROM A HEN
5. MINING ENGINEER
6. REMOVE COLOUR
7. A LONG FIREARM
8. TO EXTRACT THE ESSENCE OF
9. HARD BLACK WOOD
10. LIGHT OR RADIO SIGNAL
13. CONSUME
15. TALLEST POINT IN THE FALKLANDS
19. THOUGHT
20. FEW OF THESE ANIMALS CAN BE SEEN AROUND THE ISLANDS
22. RESEMBLING ASHES
23. REFERS TO A MALE PERSON OR ANIMAL
25. STUDY OF HEREDITY
27. GERMINATED GRAIN
28. FROZEN DEW
30. ONE ROW OF A SERIES
32. PARASITIC FLATWORMS
33. MILITARY SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS
34. AN OFFICIAL ORDER
37. SHORT FOR METEOROLOGICAL
38. NATURAL LAND FEATURES
39. A FRESH WATER FALKLANDS FISH
40. CREATION OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL
41. A BOAT OFTEN FOUND IN A CANAL
43. MOST DIFFUSE FORM OF MATTER
45. COMMON TALL HARDY TREE
46. SAVE OUR SOULS
49. REFERS TO A MALE PERSON OR ANIMAL

RECIPES

IDIOT PROOF CHOCOLATE CAKE

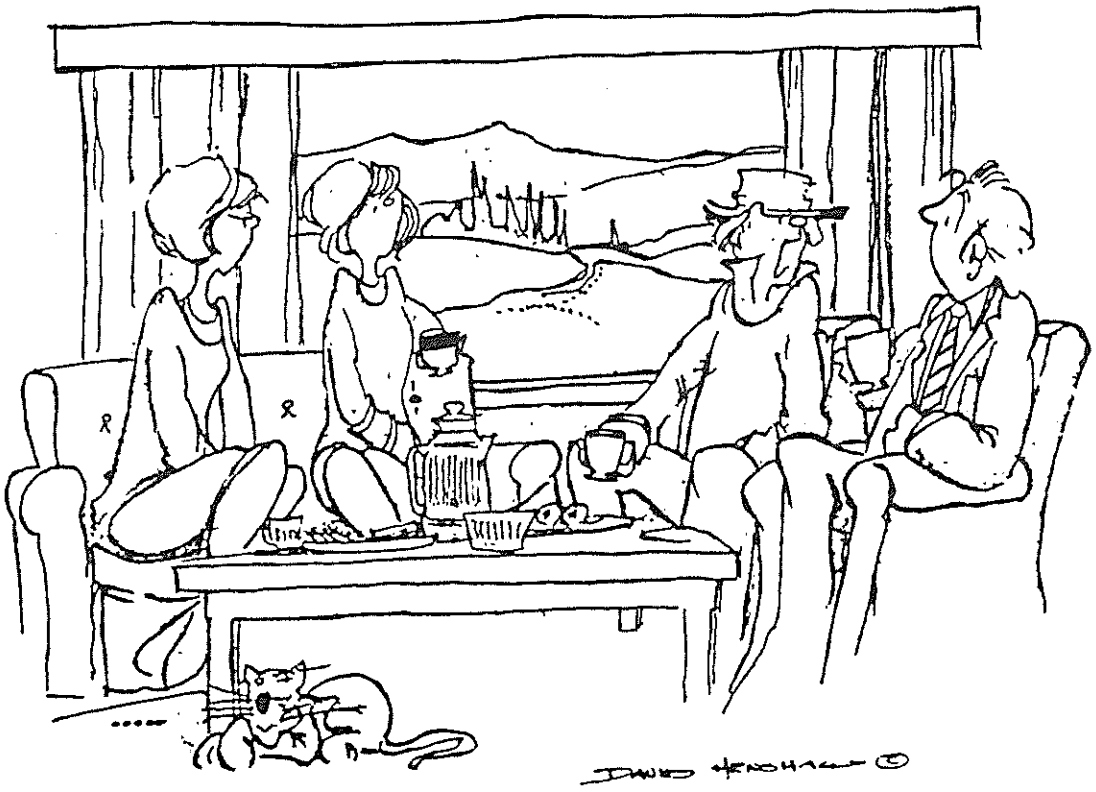
7 1/2 ozs Flour
3 3/4 Level Teaspoons Baking Powder
1/4 Teaspoon Salt
1 1/2 ozs Cocoa Powder
6 3/4 ozs Sugar
5 1/4 ozs Margarine
3 Eggs
6 Tablespoons Milk

METHOD

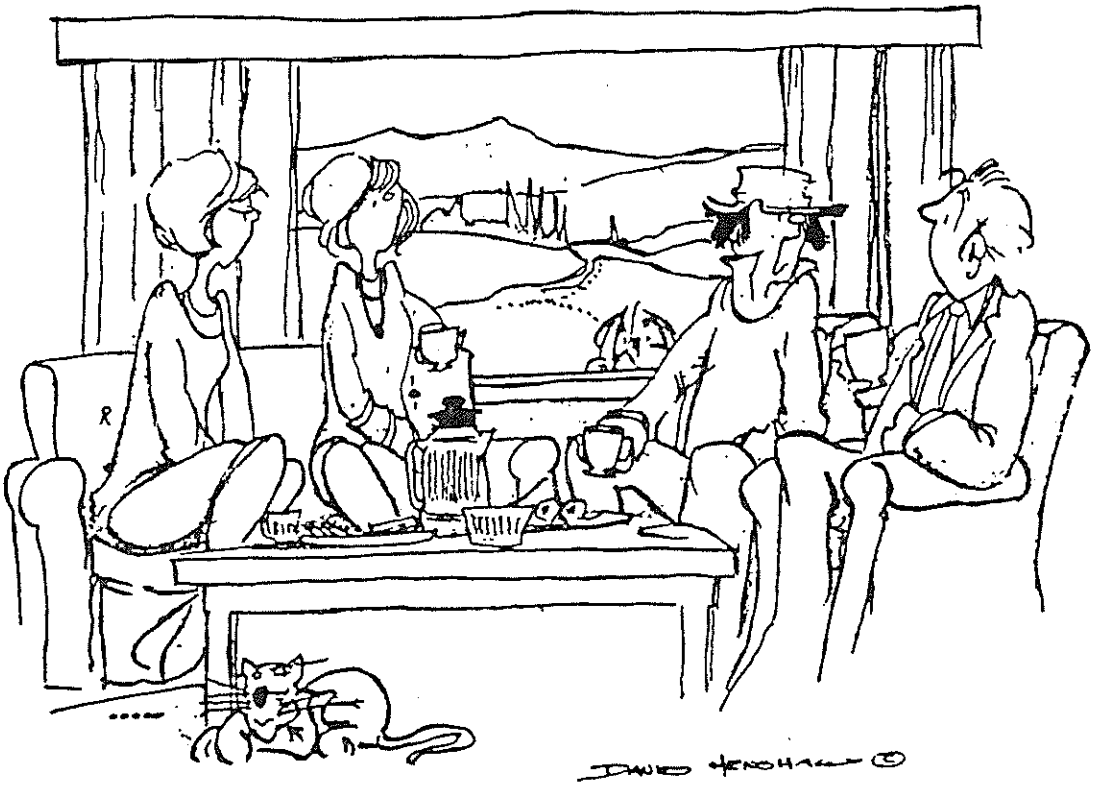
Pre - heat oven to 350^{o}C.
Whack it all in a bowl and beat thoroughly for two minutes. Put into sandwich tins. Place tins in oven till done (20 - 25 mins). Ice with your own choice of icing and scoff at high speed.

Shirley Knight, Coast Ridge.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



"It's great t'get visitors out here now 'n'again...it gets the place cleaned up!"



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

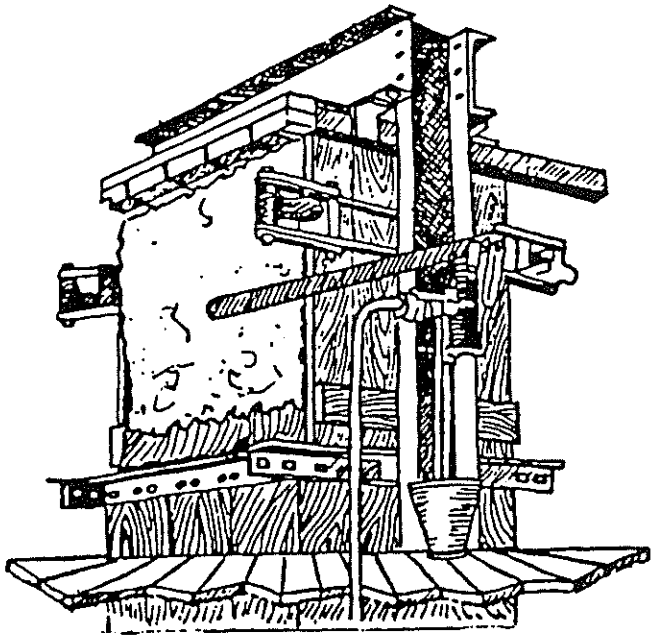
1.White label on bottle; 2. Label missing of clothes basket; 3. Stripy towel in basket; 4. Pocket on wife's T-shirt; 5. No reel on fishing rod; 6. Plug & socket visible; 7. Man has fair hair; 8. Black soles on man's boots; 9. Drip above dog's head is missing; 10. Extra pocket on wife's jeans.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 63 FEBRAURY 1995

IN THIS ISSUE



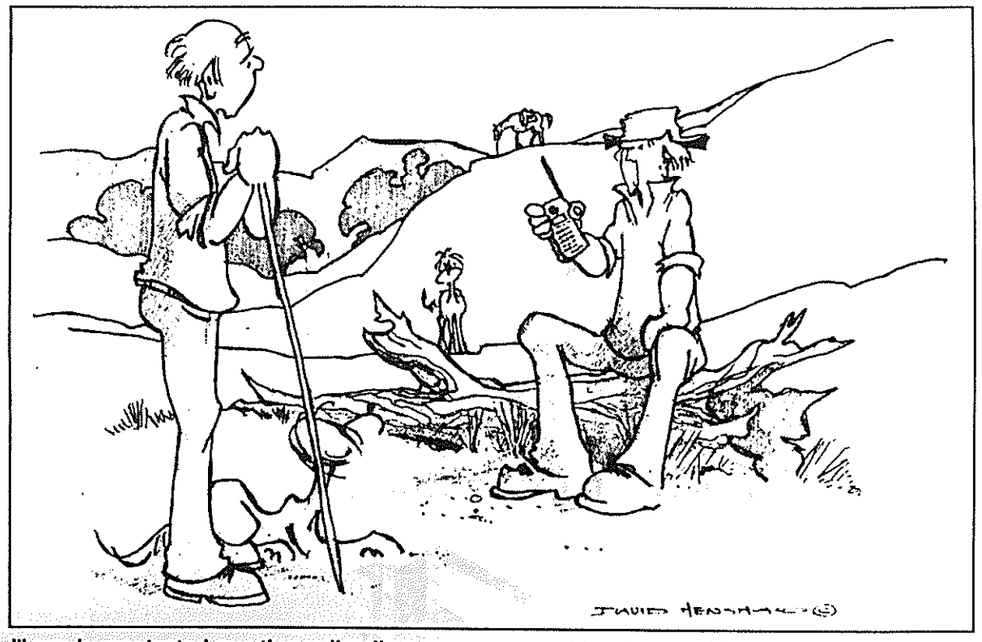
The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editors: M. J. McLeod and T. Bowles.

EDITORIAL

The end is in sight .....ALMOST! Most farms will now be on the run-in to the end of shearing for another year. Preparation for Camp Sports both at North Arm and Port Howard is well under way. I guess you all will be looking forward to Sports for a chance to wind-down and relax after another hard season's work.

This month's Woolpress is unfortunately four pages shorter than usual. All you 'crossworders' needn't worry as I've still fitted in your favourite '*article*'. We haven't had a large input from any farmers for several months, so anyone with anything to write about, put pen to paper and send us in your article or letter a.s.a.p.

TROYD BOWLES



"I can be contacted any time, all calls are programmed to divert to this...as long as I haven't left it up there in m'saddle bag, the batteries aren't flat, an' I've remembered to switch it on!"

FOR SALE

4 Comeback rams, direct results of A.I. in 1992, £85 each. Micron and wool samples available.

Anyone interested contact Pickthorne Farm. Tel no. 41101.

THE HISTORICAL DECLINE OF TUSSAC GRASS.

I am delighted to be back in the Islands again. I am currently employed as a research assistant with the Department of Agriculture looking at the problem of coastal erosion - mainly Tussac grass sites and sand blows.

My previous contract involved a study of insects in the Tussac grass community, this involved an investigation of the role of insect pests in the decline of Tussac grass. One of my first tasks on arriving was to convey the results of my study to the farming community and it was while preparing this article (see next months Wool Press)that I realised that although most of you know that Tussac grass cover has declined dramatically in the past century, many may not realise the extent of this decline.

The following article highlights some of the results of a 1988 report entitled "Tussac grass in the Falkland Islands". It was commissioned by the F.I.G in association with the Falkland Islands Foundation in 1986 as a result of concern expressed to Executive Council about the decline of Tussac grass. The report consisted of two surveys

1) A survey by Ian Strange on the importance, distribution and decline of Tussac grass, based on old records and extensive on-site visits by him.
2) A survey by Robin Woods and Cynthia and Martin Parry on decline in Tussac grass cover based on analysis of aerial photographs taken in 1956 and 1983.

Although the two reports used different methods they both arrived at the same conclusions. Both reported that less than 1% of the original Tussac grass cover of East and West Falkland remained and while 33% of the original cover remained on offshore islands there was a trend of continual decline (Table 1). Strange's report also highlighted that most of the Tussac grass cover was lost from East and West Falkland before 1956.

Tussac grass cover in acres (% decline since colonization).			
	Pre-colonization	1956	1983
East Falkland	14,006	573 (96%)	40 (99%)
West Falkland	10,504	610 (94%)	121 (99%)
Offshore Islands	30,302	23,778 (22%)	10,116 (67%)
TOTAL	54,812	24,961 (55%)	10,277 (81%)

Table 1. The estimated cover of Tussac grass (acres) in the Falkland Islands.

<u>Reasons for the decline on East Falkland.</u>

Although it is generally believed that Tussac grass formed a fringe around the coastline of East and West Falkland, Strange

suggested that this may not have been the case. The west coast of Lafonia for example showed no evidence of having ever supported Tussac grass. The north and north east coast of East Falkland however had prolific stands of Tussac grass. The introduction of cattle by early settlers undoubtedly had a devastating effect on the Tussac grass. There were about 30,000 cattle on East Falkland by 1840, many of which ran wild, resulting in uncontrolled grazing of Tussac grass.

Old farm records and Government papers indicate that Tussac grass was already severely depleted by the grazing activities of cattle, horses and pigs before the introduction of large numbers of sheep in the 1840's. Strange proposed that the decline after 1956 may have been due partly to grazing activities by sheep which were able to reach areas that were relatively inaccessible to other livestock.

Reasons for the decline on West Falkland.
West Falkland did not have large numbers of cattle like East Falkland and it was not until the 1860's that large numbers of sheep were introduced. In many areas sheep grazed uncontrolled on Tussac grass. Historical records also indicate that some Tussac grass cover was lost due to fires. However farm records and reports from visiting ships show that West Falkland had large areas of Tussac grass before the introduction of large numbers of sheep. It therefore seems probable that uncontrolled grazing by sheep was a major factor in the decline of Tussac grass cover on West Falkland since the 1860's.

Reasons for the decline on offshore Islands
Strange outlined several factors which contributed to the decline of Tussac grass on offshore islands.The actions of sealers and whalers who introduced pigs to many of the offshore islands, particularly in the south west, had devastating results. The destructive grazing by the pigs and the subsequent fires which were used to drive both pigs and seals from the dense Tussac grass stands, resulted in the decimation of Tussac grass on some islands.
Old farm records also show that some islands were affected by fires caused by lightning strikes. However Woods suggested that Tussac areas that remain ungrazed after burning were capable of recovery. Strange also noted minor damage on some Tussac islands caused by increases in seal populations.
Both Strange and Woods indicated that uncontrolled grazing by sheep has been a major factor in the decline of Tussac grass cover on offshore islands. The photographic study showed a decline (-11%) in Tussac grass cover on the islands that had been stocked while islands that had been unstocked showed little change (+0.3). Thus recent uncontrolled grazing by livestock caused a decline in Tussac grass cover.
The increased awareness shown by the present farming community, with regard to the dangers of uncontrolled grazing of Tussac grass, will hopefully prevent any further decline.

For anyone wishing to read the findings of either survey in full,a copy of the report is available on loan from the Department of Agriculture Library.

JENNIFER FULLER

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1994
PRIZE LIST

Where sheep or fleeces have the same number of points, the placings are decided by counting the highest number of firsts on the judging cards.

CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGETT.

1st Prize - Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr and Mrs A Davies + £100 donated by Cable & Wireless Plc.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 254 pts.

2nd Prize - £75 presented by Standard Chartered Bank.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 252 pts.

3rd Prize - Statuette presented by Falkland Islands Company Ltd.

WON BY: Dunnose Head; 249 pts.

4th Prize - £25 PRESENTED BY R.M.Pitaluga & Family.

WON BY: Saddle Farm; 237 pts.

CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARLING RAM.

1st Prize - Silver Cup presented by Dunnose Head Farm + £25 presented by Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

WON BY: Dunnose Head; 289 pts.

2nd Prize - £75 presented by F.I.D.C.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 281 pts.

3rd Prize - £50 presented by Saddle Farm.

WON BY: Saddle Farm; 244 pts.

4th Prize - £25 presented by the Farmer's Association.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 211 pts.

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM

1st Prize - Falkland (Woolsales) Challenge Cup & Replica + £40 presented by Falkland Landholdings Ltd.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 280 pts.

2nd Prize - £75 presented by Southern Cross Social Club.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 273 pts.

3rd Prize - £50 presented by Port Howard Farm.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 217 pts.

4th Prize - £25 presented by Southern Cross Social Club.

WON BY: Lake Sullivan; 198 pts.

CLASS 4 HOGGETT FLEECE.

1st Prize - Challenge Cup & Replica presented by Meredith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development Ltd.

WON BY: Saddle Farm; 53 pts.

2nd Prize - £70 Voucher presented by Falkland Farmers.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 43 pts.

3rd Prize - £50 Fuel Voucher presented by Stanley Services.

WON BY: Chartes Farm; 38 pts.

4th Prize - £30 Voucher presented by Falkland Farmers.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 38 pts.

CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGETT.

1st Prize - "Governor's Cup," Challenge Cup presented by H.E. The Governor + Replica presented by Newton/Capital House.

WON BY: National Stud Flock; 53 pts

2nd Prize - £75 presented by Newton/Capital House.

WON BY: National Stud Flock; 42 pts

3rd Prize - £50 presented by Newton/Capital House.

WON BY: Harps Farm; 39 pts.

4th Prize - £25 presented by Newton/Capital House.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 26 pts.

CLASS 6 ANY 'B' TYPE WETHER FLEECE.

1st Prize - Engraved Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm + Replica presented by Ursula Wanglin.

WON BY: Chartes Farm; 76 pts.

2nd Prize - £50 presented by the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association.

WON BY: Shallow Harbour; 48 pts.

3rd Prize - £25 presented by Little Chartes.

WON BY: Coast Ridge Farm; 36 pts.

4th Prize - £25 presented by Stanley Electrical.

WON BY: Lake Sullivan; 32 pts.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

CHAMPION RAM, won by Dunnose Head Farm with 289 pts. Prize of Engraved Tankard + £50 from the Luxton Family.
RESERVE CHAMPION, won by Coast Ridge Farm with 281 pts. £40 prize donated by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Ltd.

Rosettes given for 1st - 4th places in all classes, except for best ram overall where a supreme champion rosette is given. These were all provided by Jim McAdam.

For 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners in class 3, additional trophies were donated by Mr.P Short of Falkland Supplies.

A Challenge Cup presented by Owen Summers for the farm with most points in all classes was won by Coast Ridge.

Guess the weight of Frazzle, (prize donated by Lakelands) was won by Bill Pole-Evans.

Guess the Weight of Wether Hoggett Fleece, £25 donated by Lake Sullivan, was won by Gideon Ashworth.

Guess the micron from mid-side sample, £25 donated by the Argos Fishing Company, was won by Rosemary Wilkinson.

Winner of the U.21's Sheep Judging Competition, sponsored by the Department Of Agriculture, was won by Gideon Ashworth.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS.

Mrs. Griz Cockwell and the Falkland Mill both knitted sweaters, these items were auctioned for show funds by Roger Edwards.

F.I.G.A.S. kindly agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.

Mr & Mrs Cockwell for the barbecue, with meat supplied by Coast Ridge Farm.

The Committee of Southern Cross Social Club.

The residents of Fox Bay for being excellent Hosts!

Mr N KNIGHT
COAST RIDGE FARM.

Project SS/6, Improved Grazing Systems For Whitegrass

Introduction

In January's issue I outlined the reasons why 'Greens' are the most valuable pastures and why they are favoured by sheep in preference to Whitegrass. This week I intend to describe the main features of a project which will examine how Greens can be integrated more effectively to improve wool production, within a large 'camp' dominated by Whitegrass.

Overall Aim

To develop a farmer-oriented grazing system which will maximise wool production from Whitegrass with minimal pasture degradation.

Research findings

As a result of local (GTU/ARC/DOA) and overseas (Queens University Belfast) research much valuable, information is available about the biology, ecology and agronomy of Whitegrass. 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 these findings have been communicated and demonstrated to you most have not been directly relevant to your practical need i.e. a year-round grazing system for improved and sustained wool production from Whitegrass. However, relevant information from previous research has been used to develop a grazing system which is scientifically sound as well as locally practical. The system will then be tested against the 'set-stocked' system and the wool production, costs and income compared. This article outlines some of the preliminary ideas behind the project.

Land

Trial Location - Up to 700 ha (1750 acres), may be provided near MPA, on Fitzroy Farm, by kind permission of FLH. The area lies around the north-east corner of MPA, is bounded roughly by Peak Stream to the north and the fence between Mt. Pleasant and Goose Ponds to the east. The area will be divided into a grid of 1 ha squares so that the area's resources can be mapped.

GEOLOGY - The altitude is 17-67 m.a.s.l. with a slight northerly aspect. The geology is tillite derived from Sandstone of the Lower Lafonian Series,

TOPOGRAPHY - The 1:50,000 map shows five streams 1-2 km which generally drain north-east into Peak Stream. The drainage pattern is angulate and trellised and the dominant land facets are flat-topped ridges which occupy more than 60% of the area in a linear and random plan (King et al, 1969). Most of the ridges trend East/West, thus the North and South slopes are less exposed. Where the ridges meet stream valleys trending North/South, the West and East slopes are less exposed. The relative degree of exposure will be estimated for each 1 ha square using an 'index of landscape roughness'.

SOILS - mainly peat to about 0.15m depth on ridges and to over 1m depth in valleys. On ridges where peat is absent patches of clay and sandy loam are exposed. Changes to soil nutrient status will be monitored before and after grazing. Areas susceptible to erosion e.g clay patches, slopes of 'greens' will be monitored annually to detect change in ground cover.

VEGETATION - both 'hard' and 'soft' camp. Lax Whitegrass dominates in the poorly drained hollows, with 'greens' along the streams and ditches. The harder ridges have patches of Diddle-dee, some Balsam bog while bog Whitegrass occurs in patches on slopes and around ditches. A survey will describe the composition of the main vegetation types in each 1 ha square. Thus the value of an area for grazing will be calculated based on information on pasture production and nutritive quality from previous research. This method will be useful experimentally for fencing the area equally between the systems to be tested and, where necessary, for locating and sizing camps within a system. Later it is hoped that it may be adapted for use on farms. Productivity, ground cover, species composition and nutritive value will be monitored at least annually. In particular the changes on 'sensitive areas' of Whitegrass and greens will be monitored separately.

RECENT STOCKING - Until Winter 1993, when a boundary fence with MPA was moved South, about 100 ha was unstocked since about 1986. Until December 1993 wethers were set-stocked at usual rates on most of the area. Since then about 1600 young sheep have been grazed there.

MOB -STOCKING - After fences have been erected and before Winter 1995 the area will be 'mob-grazed' to remove excess rank grass. The site's proximity to MPA may not be favourable to burning.

Sheep

TYPE - a Wether flock of mixed ages will be used.

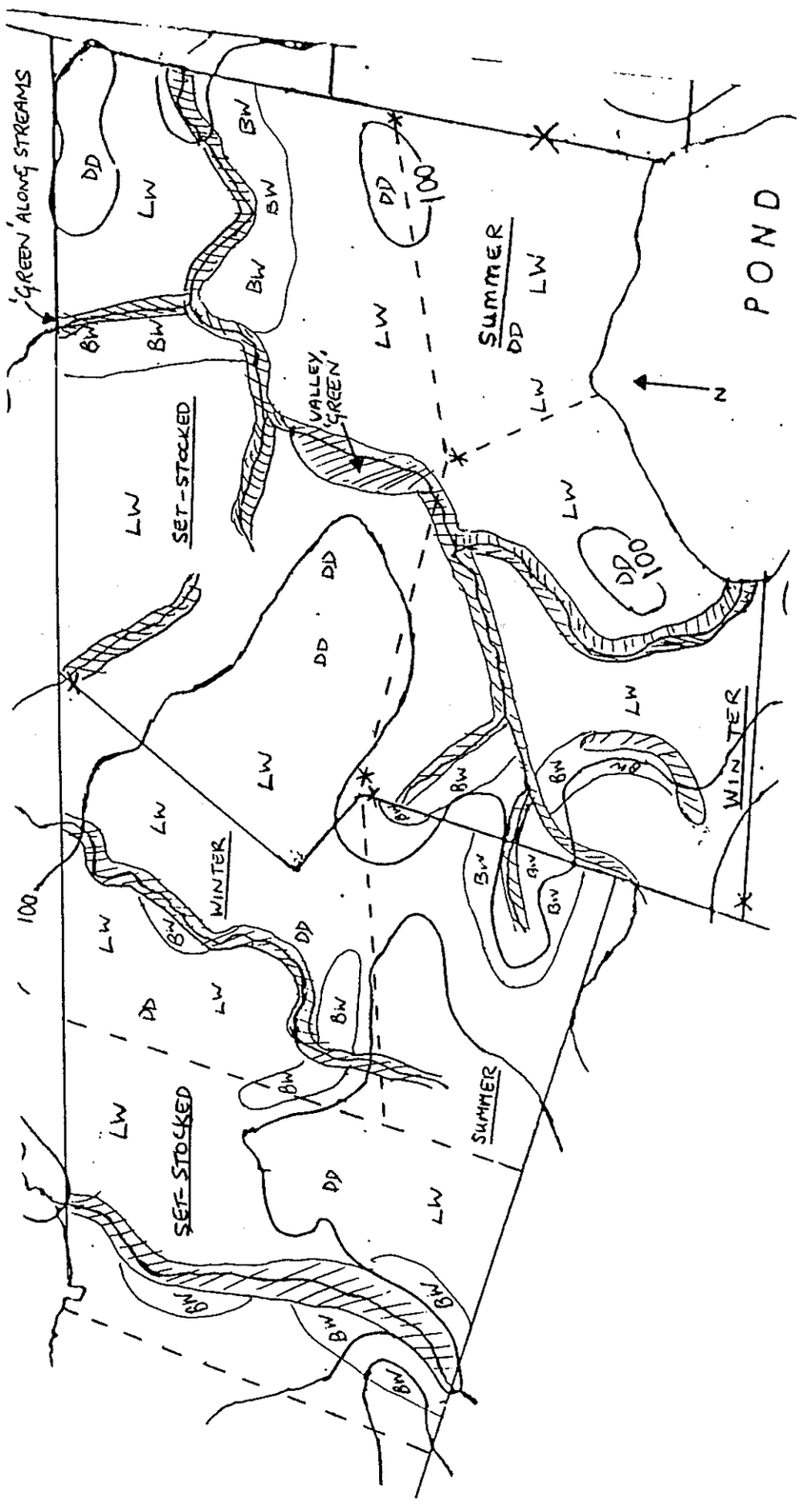
MOVEMENTS - Initially, traditional dates i.e. shearing (December) and tallying (April) will be used to move sheep to new camps and conduct assessments.

ASSESSMENTS - After shearing fleeces will be weighed and fibre diameter measured. All sheep will be weighed and condition scored each December, April and August.

GRAZING SYSTEMS -
1. 'Set-stocked' - a fixed number of animals will be stocked in one camp all year.

2. 'Summer - Winter' sequence - A system which will stock different types of 'camp' in sequence is proposed. This will

SS/6: EXAMPLE OF EXPERIMENTAL LAYOUT



KEY:BW= 'Bog' Whitegrass, LW='Lax' Whitegrass, DD=Diddle-dee, ////////= 'Greens, '-100- = 100ft contour,
-------- = new fence line, X= gate

make full use of variation in both the grazing value of the vegetation and the degree of exposure associated with differences in topography. This system aims to extend the grazing seasons, satisfy the winter nutritional burden and reduce adverse effects of exposure so that more sheep survive to produce more wool per unit area. The condition of the sheep and the quality of the wool should not be compromised significantly.

Example: initially this system could be run within an existing large camp as follows (see Diagram);
Summer camp (Dec.-Mar) fence off and intensively stock only a smaller, nutritionally poorer and a more exposed part of the 'camp' e.g. lax Whitegrass flats. This camp would be rested Apr-Nov.

Winter (Apr. -Nov.) - sheep stocked in nutritionally better and less exposed remainder of camp (i.e. Greens and areas with valleys and peat banks) at a stocking rate equivalent for the original camp. Winter areas should include varied relief to help sheep avoid snow drifts. This camp would be rested Dec-Mar.

Experimentally two areas of each system will be needed to confirm results.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Any new system will need higher stocking rates sufficient to pay for the cost of the fencing needed to establish it. These could be increased annually, if as expected, the pasture composition and nutritive quality improves.

The system may develop further grazing and rest periods e.g Summer - Autumn - Winter- Spring.

Timing of extra feed - depending on the condition of the sheep and of the summer paddock, during winter the sheep could be given access to all of the original camp by leaving the gates to the summer camp open until about early Spring. Then the summer area would be spelled to allow grass regrowth before the next summer.

Similarly, depending on normal sheep husbandry, newly shorn wethers may need more shelter and better pasture than the summer camps may have to offer. This may help them survive any dangerous wind-chill conditions. Thus these sheep may need access to all of the original camp for a short period after shearing.

Economics

Any new system should aim to produce significantly more wool than a set-stocked system and the cost of the inputs needed to establish it.

Fencing costs - in total about 8 km will be needed for the establishment of the experiment. The costs associated with the establishment of a 1.5 km fence around the 'summer' camp in the 'Summer - Winter' sequence will be recorded for input to an economic model. To reduce costs, where possible summer camps will be fenced by the shortest possible route between existing fences or natural sheep-proof boundaries e.g. deep wide streams and permanent ponds.

Stock costs- labour and other costs associated with normal operations to move, shear and keep the sheep healthy will also be included in the model. The main experimental costs of monitoring and reporting pasture and sheep performance and frequent transport to and from Stanley will not be included in the model.

Duration

To get any meaningful results at least five years will be required for the project. One year will be required to review past work, establish the site, describe the vegetation, arrange farmer involvement and decide on protocol. The grazing systems will begin after shearing in 1995 and require at least three years of testing. A final year will be needed to analyse and report the findings.

Staff

This is a multi-disciplinary project which will have input from all sections. As Senior Scientist I will lead and supervise the project. I will be specifically responsible for the soil, pasture and climate monitoring and for farmer involvement. It is expected that the Sheep Scientist /Wool Adviser will be responsible for the sheep and wool measurements. Input will also be sought from the Veterinary, Economic and Laboratory sections.

Your views

At this stage much remains to be decided. THE PROJECT AIMS TO BENEFIT YOU THUS YOUR INPUT IS ENCOURAGED. Please contact me (Tel 27355), any of our staff, or the Agricultural Advisory Committee (see January's issue). Given some notice I will be happy to visit the site with you the next time you are around Stanley. Look forward to seeing you.

Aidan Kerr,
Senior Scientist.

NETTLE MENACE

The stinging nettle *(Urtica dioica)* can be hard to remove once it gets established. Nettles can, and do, grow from seed but much of their rapid spread is by the tough, underground rhizomes which arise from the roots and the surface-creeping stems, stolons, which root at the nodes giving rise to new plants.

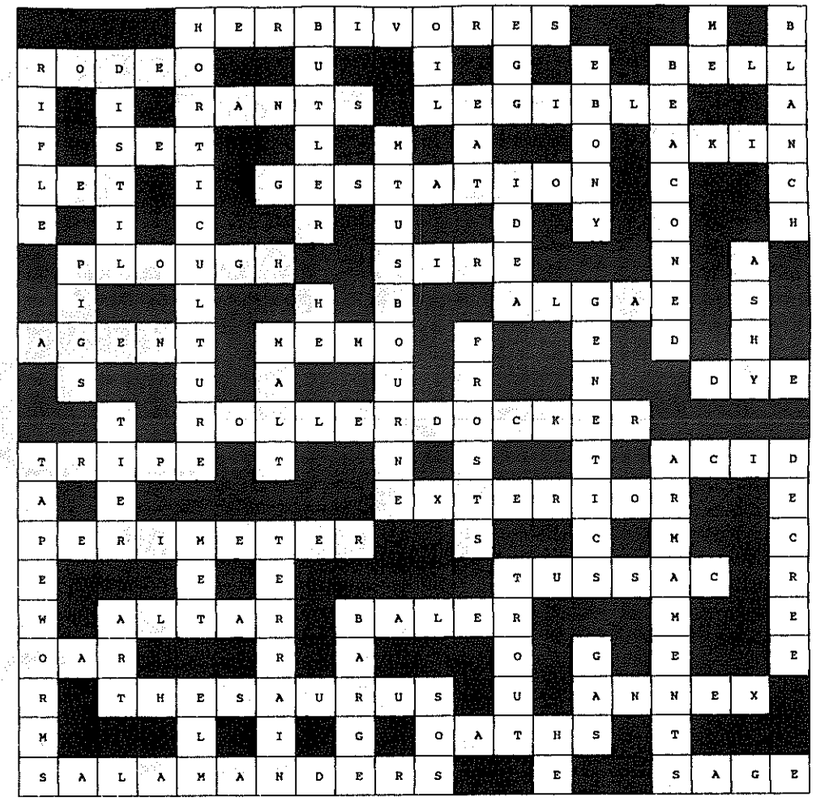
The stolons insinuate themselves between other plants in summer and autumn and often divided into numerous shooting branches. They are frost-resistant and can go on growing in winter when the plant's leaves have been browned by the frosts. This gives the nettles a head-start over other plants in the spring.

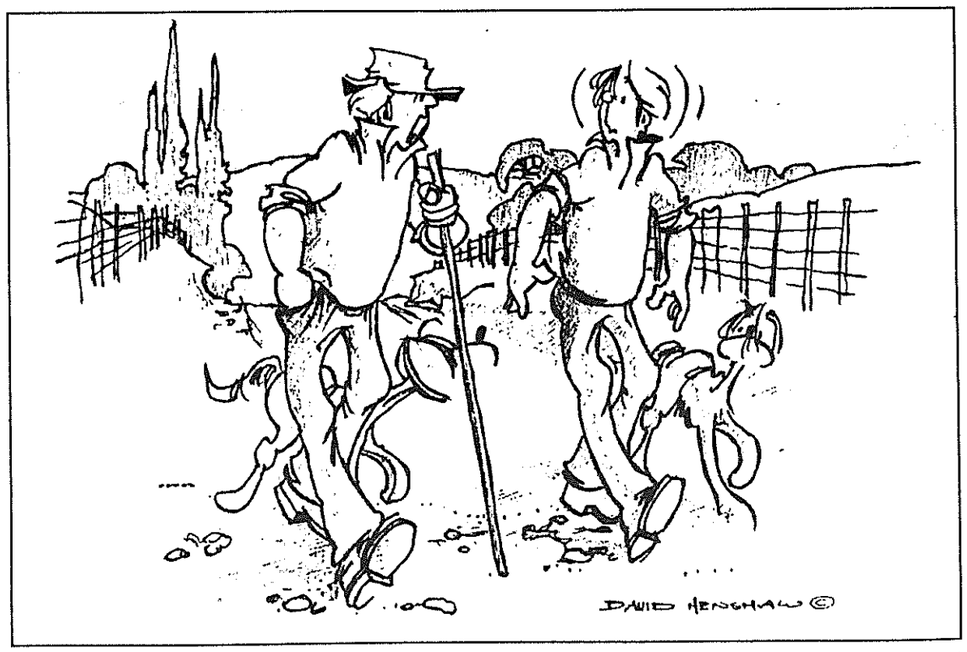
Getting rid of nettles is not easy but it is a task which should not be put off because their rhizomes and stolons keep on growing quite fast even in midwinter. Nettle shoots should be removed before they flower and set seed. In addition the stolons and rhizomes must be destroyed.

This must be done as thoroughly as possible since new nettle plants can grow from quite small fragments of either stolon or rhizome left in the soil or carried on tools. Once a nettlebed has established itself it can take more than one season to clear it out, but it is worth the effort. Near the River Kennet in Wiltshire nettles grow big, up to 8½ feet (225 cm) high. Imagine these on your smallholding or in your garden!

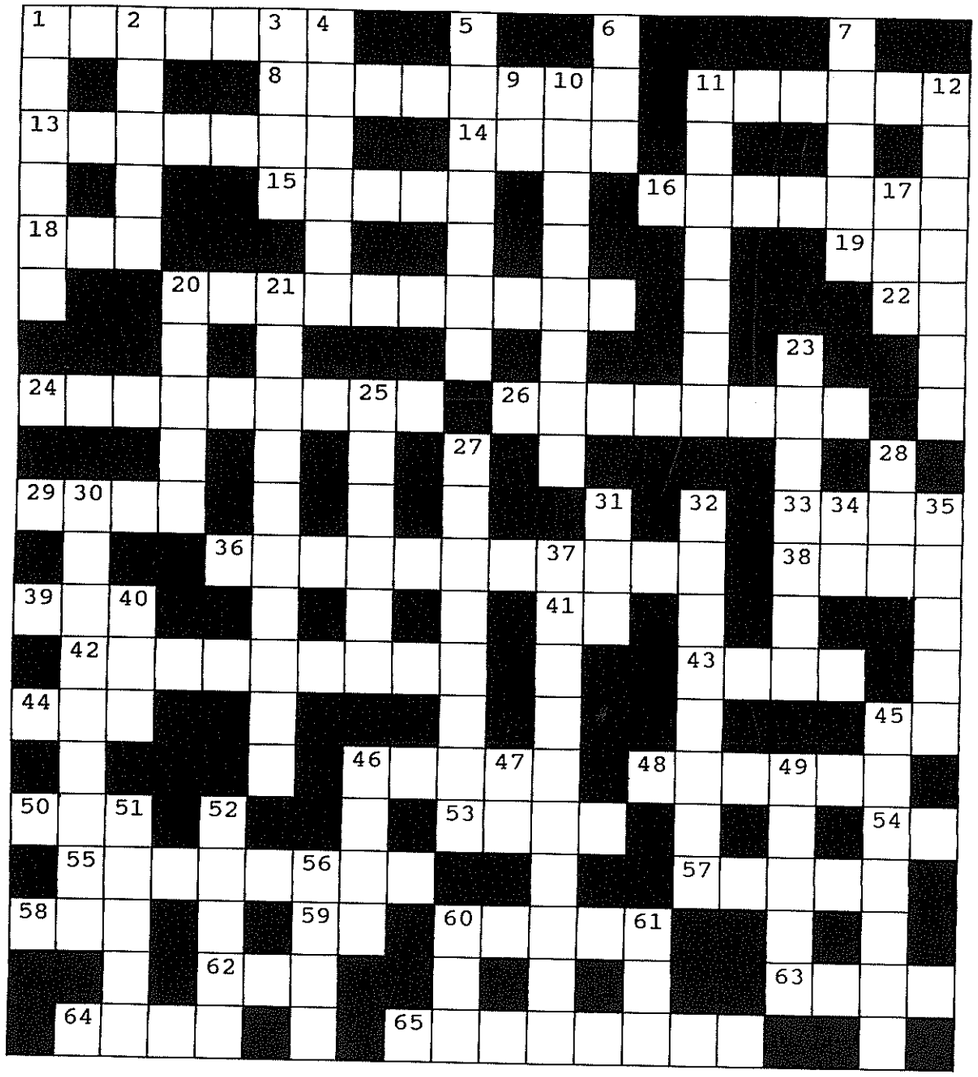
SOURCE: SMALLHOLDER

WP62





"A word in y'ear...If y'really want to impress her don't talk about dagging an' avoid all mention about how you react to onions!"



RECIPES

Chocolate Blacmange

60g dark chocolate chopped
1/3 cup cornflour
2 1/2 cups milk
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tsp vanilla essence

Melt chocolate in a bowl over a pan of boiling water. When melted leave to cool for 5 minutes. Blend cornflour with 1/2 cup of the milk. Add remaining milk to pan with sugar, stir until nearly boiling. Stir in cornflour mixture and continue stirring until it boils and thickens. Remove from heat, stir in chocolate and essence. When smooth pour into 4 glasses. Refrigerate for several hour or overnight. Serve with cream.

WP63

ACROSS

1. FLOWER OR BLOOM
8. MAMMARY INFECTION
11. AFTER THIRD
13. RELIEVE LOAD A LITTLE
14. NOT PROFIT
15. PUSH GENTLY
16. AMBRIDGE FARMERS
18. POSSESS
19. SMALL SET OF TOOLS
20. SAFETY EQUIPMENT AT AIRSTRIPS
22. START
24. THE FIRST EVENT AT CAMP SPORTS
26. LINE OF ANCESTORS
29. SELF-ESTEEM
33. FORCE IN
36. SPECIALISING WITH ONE CROP
38. INDIAN EMPIRE OF PERU
39. PAST TENSE OF EAT
41. ABBREVIATION FOR EDUCATION
42. A COMBINE PERHAPS
43. BARRED ENCLOSURE
44. REFERS TO A FEMALE PERSON
45. FATHER
46. A LARGE ONION ON EAST FALKLAND
48. A SOUTH AMERICAN COWBOY,ONCE IN THE ISLANDS
50. COMMON METAL IN ALLOYS
53. PIERCE WITH A HORN
54. ULTRAVIOLET
55. FATHER OF THYER
57. WET FEED FOR PIGS
58. TO GROW OLD
59. HIS EXCELLENCY
60. UNDERCOVER AGENTS
62. UNFERTILIZED FEMALE GAMETES
63. AVERAGE
64. THIS FUEL IS COMMONLY USED IN THE CAMP
65. ALL OF THE BIG SETTLEMENTS HAVE THIS

DOWN

1. A LOUD CRY OR ROAR
2. INSTRUMENT FOUND IN A CHURCH
3. PROPHETIC SIGN
4. ORGANIC FERTILISER
5. DISTANCE IN MILES
6. HARDY LONG-EARED MAMMAL RELATED TO A HORSE
7. NARROW INLET OF THE SEA
9. IN THE DIRECTION OF
10. RIGID WINGED FLYER OFTEN SPOTTED OVER THE FALKLANDS
11. NEW ZEALANDERS DO IT WITH SHEEP
12. RECORD OF PAST EVENTS
17. PROVIDE WITH EQUIPMENT
20. A DEVELOPED EMBRYO
21. PRECIPITOUS TREE AREA
23. USED TO DIVIDE CAMP
25. ARRANGEMENT OF A HOUSE, FOR EXAMPLE
27. SCORES POINTS AT STEER RIDING
28. A POUCHLIKE STRUCTURE
30. ONCE DONE ON HORSEBACK NOW OFTEN ON MOTORBIKE
31. WET SOIL
32. NONFUNCTIONAL CLAW IN DOGS
34. ROYAL NAVY
35. MOUNTAIN OVERLOOKING PORT HOWARD
37. SWEAT TASTING BERRY NATIVE TO FALKLANDS
40. CONTAINS THE SMALLEST BONES OF THE BODY
45. DOMESTIC FOWL
46. GARDEN TOOL
47. START
49. MOUND MADE OF STONES
51. BROTHERS DAUGHTER
52. POINT OF ROTATION
56. LOCAL NAME FOR A CORMORANT
60. FOOTGEAR FOR A WINTER SPORT
61. PREFIX ATTAINED FOLLOWING KNIGHTHOOD

Impossible Pie

1/2 cup plain flour
1 cup coconut
2 tsp vanilla essence
2 cups milk
1 cup sugar
4 eggs lightly beaten
125g butter melted

Sift flour into bowl, stir in sugar, coconut, eggs, essence, butter and milk, mix until smooth. Pour the batter into a greased straight sided 24 cm pie dish. Bake in moderate oven until lightly browned and firm.

SUSIE BONNER
PICKTHORNE FARM

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

"But dammit I always change the subject when I'm losing!"

LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1. Woman on right has necklace; 2. Back leg missing of table; 3. Black lid on coffee pot; 4. Centre clasp missing of sofa; 5. Man's suit pocket; 6. Man with hat has dark hair; 7. Dog at window; 8. Man's tie; 9. Tall tree missing; 10. Woman's cup has no black rim.

WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

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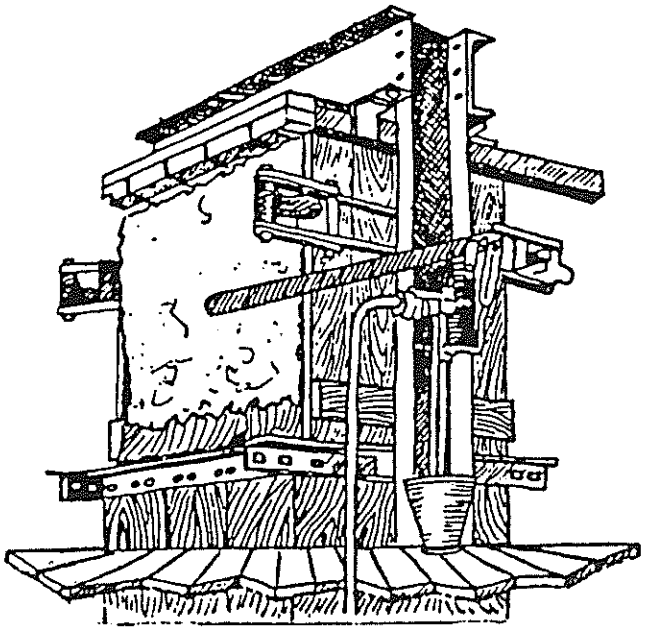
IN THIS ISSUE



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editor: Mrs Charlene Rowland

EDITORIAL

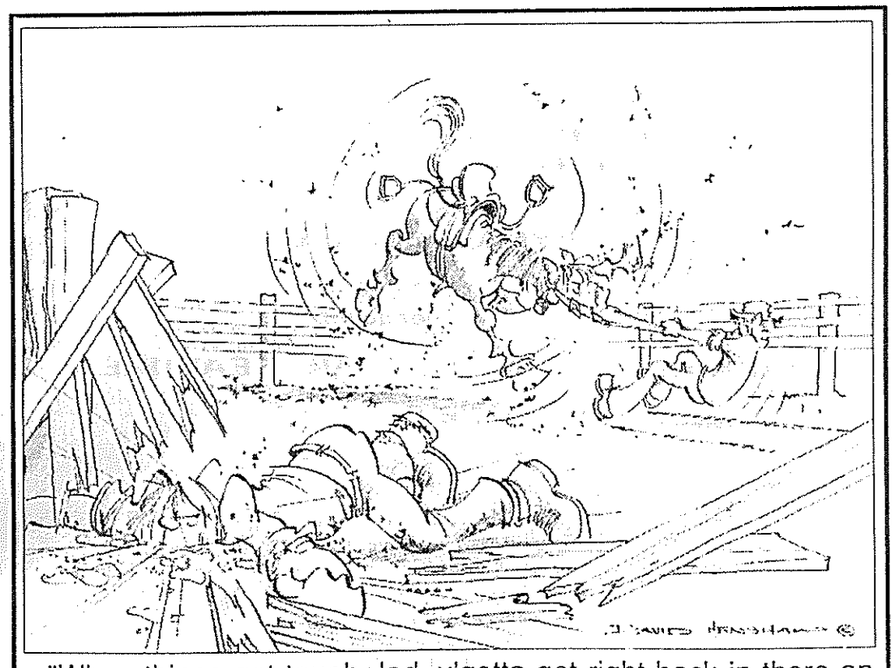
Well.. shearing is almost completed for another year, just the pressing to do!!

This is my first attempt at the 'Wool Press' hope it is satisfactory, apologies for the February Wool Press with it being out so late. Which was due to the printers having a heavy load.

The National Stud Flock Sale went very well, everyone concerned seemed to be pleased, Greg will have an article ready for April 'Wool Press' with all the in's and out's.

Troyd is about to depart on his new adventures. We wish him all the best. I would like to thank Troyd for his help over the weeks in helping me to settle into my new job.

Charlene Rowland



"When things get tough, lad, y'gotta get right back in there an fight...th'harder y'fall quicker it is that y'gotta get back up there...when y'get bucked off y'gotta just climb right back on!"

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Market has continued to perform well following the slight dip in prices prior to the Christmas recess. The Market Indicator finished 67 cents higher (on January's reported figure) at 835 on the 3rd March.

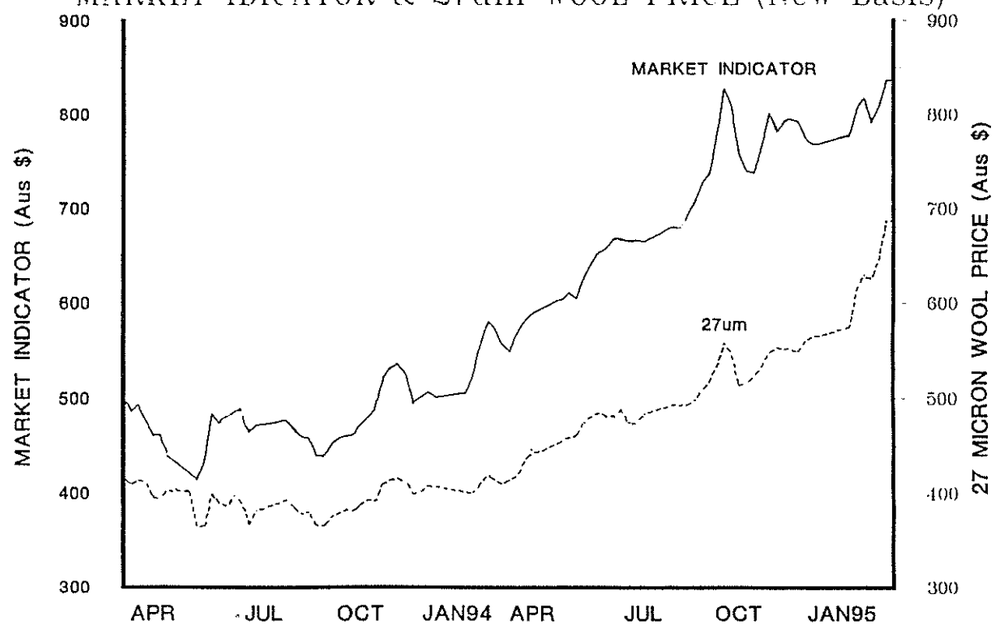
Sales held during the second half of February saw the Australian Market Indicator level off at (a 4 year high) of 837 cents/kg. This levelling off can partially be explained by heavy sales of medium merino wools from the Wool International stockpile.

In contrast, the 27um Indicator has performed exceedingly well during the last 2 weeks. This surge is partially explained by heavy demand from Chinese buyers. Since the 16th December, the 27 um Indicator has advanced by 143 cents to close at 709 cents on the 3rd March. This development is extremely welcome for Falkland Producers and reflects an underlying strength market due to the limited availability of crossbred wools.

The Australian $ has, by contrast, not moved in Falkland producer's favour. It has weakened considerably against the pound down 18 cents on the mid-December rate at 219 cents on the 7th March. Devaluations of this nature effectively decrease the imported price of competing Australian wool in the U.K.

On the 24th of February, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,135,844 bale equivalents.

MARKET IDICATOR & 27um WOOL PRICE (New Basis)



DATA SOURCE: WOOL INTERNATIONAL

Hugh Marsden
March 1995

"Where Are We Going With Wool, and Will We Ever Get There?"

The above question may be one that each and every Falkland woolgrower should ask themselves, at least once each year. With the shearing season drawing to a close, many will be reflecting on this year's clip, and eagerly awaiting the results from core tests. Hopefully, those that have adopted some sort of improvement program will see the benefits of their efforts, through either a reduction in fibre diameter in their hoggets, or through an overall increase in wool produced per hectare of land grazed.

In the November issue of the Woolpress, I outlined the philosophy of Total Quality Management, how it is being advocated for use by the Australian Wool Industry, and he potential benefits for the Falkland wool industry. Rather belatedly, I wish to continue the theme, particularly in light of my experiences and observations this season.

To be successful in the increasingly competitive international textile markets, all parties in the wool industry need to adopt what the Americans term as 'attitude'. From a woolgrower's point of view, to be happy with being "just a farmer growing wool" is fine if increased profit margins are not high on the list of goals and aspirations. In order to survive in this industry, it is essential that goals be set, and an aggressive attitude be adopted towards achieving that goal. To achieve this, farmers must be willing to critically analyse their production system, identify where the weaknesses are, and seek the appropriate information to improve these weaknesses. This applies to all areas of the production system, from choosing the most appropriate eartag through to having a positive input into the marketing of your clip.

A positive 'attitude' will include the acquiring and sharing of knowledge and experiences, particularly when relating to those working for the farm business, and the adoption of improved management strategies. For example, if the shearing is going so fast that those on the wool tables are not able to adequately prepare the fleeces to the standard required, request the shearers to slow down. They may not achieve the big tallies they strive for, but at the end of the season they will still have shorn the same number of sheep regardless of whether it has taken 12 weeks or 15 weeks. The penalties for poorly prepared fleeces can be much greater, however, as it only takes the wrong portion of a poorly-skirted fleece (e.g. a piece of stained wool) appearing in a core sample to downgrade the overall potential value of your annual income. Under the CLIPCARE program in Australia, if the shearers are going so fast that there are more fleeces waiting to be skirted than the number of shearers, then the shearers must stop until that wool has been skirted and classed. Those growers who consistently produce a clean well-skirted fleece should then be able to command a price premium for their product in the market place. Remember that the shearers are working for you, and not the other way around!

Genetics play an important role in determining the profitability of a wool-growing enterprise. Once the appropriate market has been identified, then the type of sheep required to meet those market objectives can be determined. The important thing to remember is that it costs the same amount to run a bad sheep as it does to run a good sheep. Therefore, there must be a continued determination to produce the best possible sheep and wool under any given conditions, to achieve a place in the market with a high-quality, uniform and well-prepared product that will command a premium price.

To survive in the twenty-first century, long-term goals should be based on the real trends in the wool industry. The most important trends are for lighter weight fabrics, higher processing speeds, an increasing demand for comfortable clothing, an increase in the productivity of each unit of labour throughout the entire industry, and more efficient utilisation of each productive land unit through increased stocking rates and more intensive grazing management. To produce fine wools that meet the above criteria, management must ensure that animals are selected on genetic merit for softness and fineness, rather than on 'poverty-fineness' which may occur if the system is pushed past its economically and environmental sustainable level. Wools of inherently high tensile strength and a low variation of fibre length and diameter are more likely to command a premium than wools not meeting these specifications.

Once the goals have been set, there are various avenues to success. Suitable sheep must be bred and selected under challenging conditions to allow expression of their genetic potential under those conditions relative to other sheep. The best way to assess genetic potential is through a system of observation, monitoring and recording. Most Falkland Island farms have their own special stud flock, which they use to breed replacement rams for their main flock. How many farmers actually eartag each newborn lamb and identify which ewe that lamb came from? How many farmers have rigidly structured breeding schemes to ensure low levels of inbreeding? How many farmers objectively measure wool from their stud flock, and then use this information to assist in their selection processes? Can you be sure that the sheep in your stud flock are the best sheep available from your flock? The processes available to find the answers to these questions are not difficult once set up, and if done properly (even on a small scale) can ensure that progress, however small, is being achieved each year.

With the new wool testing laboratory at the Department of Agriculture finally coming into operation, I strongly urge farmers to take mid-side samples at shearing from at least their stud flock rams, and from their stud flock ewes if possible, and to individually identify each animal for future reference. I throw the challenge open to the Falkland farming community to have objective measurement information on all of their stud flock rams (at the very least, and preferably on ewes as well) on all farms by the year 2000. I do not think this is a challenge that cannot be met and achieved. All that is needed is 'attitude', planning and the appropriate initial advice in setting up a recording system suitable for each individual stud flock. By doing this, it will then be possible to see where we are going, and to ensure that we make positive progress towards the individual ultimate goal.

Should there be enough interest in setting up appropriate recording schemes for small stud flocks, or in how to select superior sheep for a stud flock, the Department of Agriculture may be able to run a series of workshops for interested farmers. Please contact myself if interested.

Greg Scott
Sheep Scientist/Wool Adviser
February, 1995.

WOOLLY AWAY

It does not seem that long ago that I was carting my peat at Fox Bay and enjoying my first West Falkland sports: It was in fact over six years ago!! I thoroughly enjoyed working for the Department of Agriculture with Falkland farmers, particularly as the agricultural business challenges of animal production in a difficult environment are similar to those I grew up with, on my father's Scottish Hill Farm; but just very much greater in the Falklands.

That I enjoyed the Falklands so much, is due to the people of Fox Bay, my Department of Agriculture colleagues, the F.I.D.F., the Cheek family, the FISAP farmers and the Camp community in general. To you all, "My very grateful thanks".

There have been many agricultural changes in recent years; hopefully history will judge most of them as development!! The work that I was involved with has been reported in my "Final Report", copies of which can be obtained from the D.o.A office.

Diane and I are now based in Yorkshire, where I am continuing to work and train in marketing Falklands wool with Colin at D.S. & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd.. My work and family associations will ensure that I return to the Falklands fairly regularly and I look forward to working for farmers in the future.

ROBERT H.B. HALL
MARCH 1995.

****

A N A G R A M S

Sort out these jumbled letters to give names of places or farms in the Falklands. Answers below.

SAND ERSS ILUAND TEEK CRILLTE KAFE VORD YINGLLY

HOEBY HOARSES ROAD CEIGST

ANSWERS: SAUNDERS ISLAND; KINGSFORD VALLEY; HORSESHOE BAY; LITTLE CREEK; COAST RIDGE.

DISORDERS OF TUSSAC GRASS

Last month I reported the historical decline of Tussac grass this month I take a closer look at the pests and diseases which affect Tussac.

In 1974 as a result of Tussac grass stands in the Falklands having a yellow and unhealthy appearance and the lack of success from replanting, a report was compiled on the disorders of Tussac grass. Timothy Gunn who had worked on Tussac grass in South Georgia reported that the major disorders of Tussac grass were Yellow Rust *(Puccinia striiformis)* and three types of insect larvae.

Yellow Rust *(Puccinia striiformis).*

Work by the Agricultural Research Centre, Stanley and the Queens University of Belfast during the 1980's revealed that Yellow Rust was a recent introduction to the Falklands - probably arriving in the Islands during the 1960's as a result of wind dispersal from South America, or on plant imports.
Although Yellow rust reduces the productivity of a Tussac plant and makes it less palatable to livestock, it does not kill the plant. Trials carried out on Sea Lion Island showed that conventional cereal Fungicides give satisfactory control on Tussac grass but their use may not be economically or ecologically acceptable.

Insect Larvae

Gunn identified 3 insect larvae which feed on Tussac Grass. Two of these are moth larvae (caterpillars) which feed on the leaves but they are not widespread and do not cause serious damage. The third is larvae of a beetle *(Poophylax falklandica)* which is found only in the Falklands.

The adult beetle (known locally as the Tussac beetle) is yellow/brown in colour - 5-6mm long and does not damage the Tussac plant. The larvae/juvenile stages of the beetle however, live and feed in the bases of the Tussac grass tillers. The larvae, which resemble maggots, are 1-5mm long, cream coloured and have 3 pairs of short legs.

In July 1993 I set up a trial at Coast Ridge, Fox Bay to examine the damage caused by these larvae to replanted Tussac grass and to examine the use of certain pesticides to kill the larvae.

Tussac grass was collected from Government Island in Fox Bay Harbour and divided into 3 groups - A, B and C. Plants in each group received the following treatments

A = Roots and stem bases steeped in a pesticide solution (Dimethoate) for 36 hours prior to planting kill all beetle larvae prior to planting and protect plants from reinfestation for a short time (2 - 4 weeks) after planting.

B = Roots and stem bases steeped in freshwater for 36 hours prior to planting and then planted with 3g of granular pesticide (Phorate) kill all beetle larvae within a week of

planting and protect the plant from reinfestation, for a longer time (2 - 3 months) after planting.

C = Roots and stems steeped in freshwater for 36 hours before planting. This was a control group which was used to compare the effects of treatments A and B against.

123 blocks of plants were replanted throughout the existing Tussac grass plantation at Coast Ridge - each block of plants contained a 3 tiller plant from each of the groups A, B and C.

After 8 months the number of the tillers, height, health score (based on the plants appearance) and the number of larvae for each plant was recorded (Table 1).

	PESTICIDE TREATMENTS		
	A = Dimethoate	B = Phorate	C = None
Number of Larvae	0.20	0.08	1.11
Health score (%)	48.1	53.6	54.5
Number of Tillers	3.9	4.4	5.3
Height (m)	0.44	0.48	0.48

Table 1 - Effects of pesticide treatment on beetle larvae and the growth of Tussac grass

The results showed that pesticide application reduced beetle larvae infestation in replanted Tussac grass but that did not result in bigger or healthier plants. The control (group C) plants which had over 5 times the number of larvae present were of similar height and had more tillers than plants that had been treated with pesticide. It was concluded from this that the Tussac beetle *(Poophylax falklandica)* is not a major pest of replanted Tussac grass and there is no need to control it.

It was also noted during the trial that although all of the replanted Tussac was infected with Yellow rust, 92% of the plants survived for the duration of the trial (8 months). This would indicate that the presence of both beetle larvae and Yellow rust does not result in the death of Tussac grass plants.

There is also evidence that the beetle larvae do not have a damaging effect on older Tussac grass plants. Some Tussac grass plants on Kidney Island had up to 30 larvae/tiller yet the Tussac showed no signs of ill health, conversely unhealthy Tussac bogs at Tussac Point, Stanley had no beetle larvae damage.

The overall conclusion was that the larvae of the Tussac beetle *(Poophylax falklandica)* do not cause serious damage and are not responsible for the death of Tussac grass.

Other causes - future research

During examination of unhealthy Tussac plants it was discovered that some plants had a distinct striping effect on the leaves. This is a common symptom of viral infections in other plants. Viruses have a variety of effects on plants ranging from discoloured patches, stunted growth and in severe cases death of the plant. The isolation and identification of viruses is a difficult procedure but the Department is currently investigating the possibility of a "Tussac grass virus" through its link with Queens University Belfast.

The failure of some replanted Tussac grass areas may have been due to limiting physical or chemical conditions in the soil. A trial carried out in 1990/91 showed that Tussac grass planted on rotovated Whitegrass camp (Port Howard and Stanley) died within 3 years of planting while Tussac planted on old Tussac areas (Coast Ridge and Sea Lion Island) survived and thrived. It is generally accepted locally that Tussac grass grows best on "black Tussac peat" but it is not known why this is or how this type of peat differs from other types. Preliminary soil analysis of "Tussac peat" and "non - Tussac peat" did not reveal any clear chemical differences. More detailed analysis will be undertaken which will quantify the physical and chemical nature of "black Tussac peat". Analysis of soil from areas where replanting has been unsuccessful will enable us to accurately pinpoint the physical/chemical soil factors which are necessary for Tussac grass growth.

Another factor which could have been imported in the failure of replanted Tussac grass is the amount and type of roots present. Since no information is available on rooting in Tussac grass, future research will examine the growth, function and importance when replanting of Tussac grass roots.

It is envisaged that the future research on Tussac grass will enable the Department to advise farmers on the optimum soil conditions and types of replants for the successful establishment of a Tussac grass plantation.

Jennifer Fuller
March 1995

FOR SALE

The Artificial Insemination Scheme has for sale the following White - Wooled, Meat Breed, Sheep Semen.

50 TEXEL No. 11 @ £11.12 per straw
50 FINNISH LANDRACE D5 @ £11.12 per straw

Interested persons contact the Department of Agriculture on 27355.

CULTIVATION OPERATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRASS AIRSTRIPS.

Recently I have been asked by the Director of Civil Aviation to provide advice on the establishment of grass airstrips. This article summarizes the cultivation operations involved.

The information and advice herein have evolved from studies on reseeding conducted by the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in the 1980's combined with local knowledge and experience of airstrip establishment nationwide over many years.

The following sequence of events was found to give satisfactory results.

- Fence off the site.
- Rotavate to prepare a seed bed.
- Broadcast seed.
- Harrow in and roll.
- Fertilise

EQUIPMENT

Tractor
Rotavator
Harrows
Seed Broadcaster. (e.g. Vicon Varispreader).
Grass seed (usually supplied by Dept. of Civil Aviation).
Marker Poles
Fencing materials.
Tape measure, bucket and scales for calibrating seeder.
Nitrogen fertiliser (e.g. Nitram 34.5% N usually supplied by Dept of Civil Aviation)

SITE SELECTION

This will normally be done in conjunction with the Dept of Civil Aviation, FIGAS and the land owner.

ROTAVATION
Equipment

Rotavating is demanding work for the equipment so it is essential to have a sufficiently powerful tractor and a rotavator that matches it. A tractor with a minimum of 70 horse-power ideally with 4 wheel drive is needed to achieve a reasonable rate of work. As a rule of the thumb, the rotavator should be of a width in inches which matches the number of horse-power of the tractor e.g. a 75hp tractor should be matched to a rotavator not wider than 75 inches. Before each spell of work check oil, greasing, tightness of blades etc.

There are two aims in rotavating. Firstly to destroy the existing vegetation and secondly to cultivate the soil to produce a fine tilthed seedbed. At least two rotavations are required to achieve these aims.

FIRST ROTAVATION

Depth

A first 'run' may be necessary to destroy any 'bogs' or even out hummocks and hollows. The rotavator should be set using the depth wheels or skids so that the blades work just below (10 cm or 4") the soil surface.

Speed.

For ease of drying the sods chopped off by the rotavator should be small. This can be achieved by setting the cogs in the rotavator to give a fast rotor speed and the tractor should be driven at only about 1½ m.p.h. Depending on the size of rotavator a work rate of 1 to 1¼ acres per hour can be expected or about 10 hours per airstrip.

Flaps

Fast, uniform drying of the trash will be assisted if it is well scattered and left lying in open swaths. The flaps should therefore be in the raised position for this operation.

Test runs.

Test runs of 10 to 20 metres should be made to check the depth, size of sod and degree of scatter.

TRASH

At some sites there may be large amounts of trash remaining after the first rotavation. This does not make a good seedbed and it is necessary to get rid of it. There are three options available;

1) If time permits the site could be left for at least 6 months preferably over winter before the next run of the rotavator. This would allow the excess trash to either blow away or decompose and create a more favourable tilth for seedling growth.

2) The trash could be removed from the strip using a tractor and its implements e.g. front shovel, link box or harrows.

3) The trash could be burnt off when climatic conditions are suitable. This is a dangerous operation for everyone around and all necessary precautions should be taken. The Department of Agriculture can offer further advice on this matter. Burning will allow the nutrients in the ash to be incorporated at the next rotavation.

PREPARATION OF SEEDBED.

The object is to produce a firm, fine seedbed. This means having

a layer of very fine "crumbs" overlying a solid base. Deep cultivations are unnecessary.

In the second rotavation the depth should be 3-5cm (1-2") depth. This operation may be done at as high a speed as conditions permit, with the flaps of the rotavator down to break up and level the soil. Harrowing once or twice is also desirable after rotavating to level out the ground.

Each cultivation operation should be done at right angles to the previous one to ensure coverage and avoid excessive wheelings.

SOWING SEEDS.

The grass seeds mixture should be broadcast at 23kg/ha (20lb/acre) on the surface using a Vicon Varispreader. This works out at just less than one 25kg (55lb) bag per hectare (2.5 acres).

The broadcaster must be set carefully according to the maker's instructions. Several short test runs should be made. The most important point to check is the width of spread. Examine the ground carefully to see exactly where the seeds are falling. Broadcasting is obviously susceptible to wind drift. If the wind exceeds 15 knots there is a risk of uneven spread or "striping". Calmer conditions often occur in the early morning or late evening.

The tractor driver has to take great care to ensure that areas are not missed. A slight overlapping is desirable. Marker flags should be placed at the ends of each run at the same distance apart as the measured width of spread of seed.

COVERING THE SEEDS.

As soon as possible after the seeds have been sown the area should be harrowed. One pass at right angles to the direction of the last rotavation will probably suffice. If harrows are not available a large rope or similar item pulled slowly at right angles behind the tractor may suffice to bury the seed.

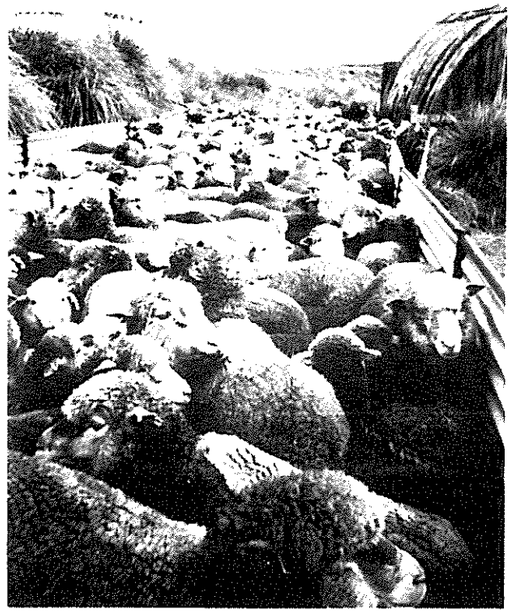
CONSOLIDATION.

The final and most important operation is rolling. This should be done at a right angle to the direction of the last harrowing. Forward tractor speed should be as slow as possible. Consolidation brings the seeds into intimate contact with the fine soil particles thus ensuring rapid and even germination.

If soil and climate conditions are correct germination will occur in the following three weeks.

J. Aidan Kerr
Senior Scientist

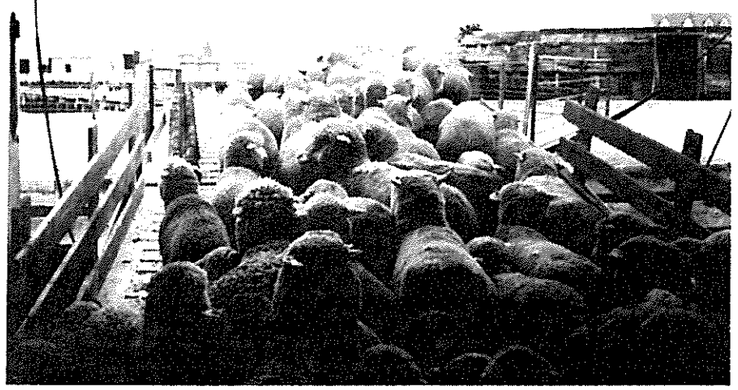
N.S.F. SHEEP BOUND FOR SALE AT GOOSE



Ewe hoggets waiting penned up at the Gulch.

The last week in February saw the N.S.F. ewes hoggets, ewes, rams and ram hoggets aboard the m.v. Tamar for their long trip to Goose Green. All the sheep seemed to find their sea legs.

Just a few photos of the sheep arriving at Goose Green.



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

INCIDENCE OF HYDATIDS FROM 1983 - 1994

The following is a summery of the data recieved from farms and the information collected from the Stanley butchery over the period 1983 - 1994.

YEAR	NO. EXAMINED	HYDATIDS	%
1983	14441	465	3.22%
1984	20133	262	1.30%
1985	18431	234	1.27%
1986	21268	138	0.65%
1987	15122 (Farms Only)	30	0.20%
1988	15974 (Farms Only)	30	0.19%
1989	15327 (Farms Only)	48	0.31%
1990	16682 (Farms Only)	43	0.26%
1991	19553	12	0.06%
1992	22803	19	0.08%
1993	19733	29	0.15%
1994	20440	4	0.04%

The General trend is down and 1994 showed a low not before reached on record. So far in 1995 there has been one recorded Hydatid cyst.

LETTER

From Mandy McRae of South Harbour:

Due to my own interest in woolclassing and also heedful of the growing need for the islands to come up to the standards of other wool producing countries, I asked, and was sent to, Lincoln University, to do a woolclassing course.

Since my return I have met virtually nothing but a total negative attitude from certain places, and it makes me wonder why I bothered to go at all. We hear on the radio and issuing from counsellors mouths the need to send the islands young away to train them and then hopefully, they come back and fill positions that are at present filled with overseas people, solely because no islander has that particular talent, or that these youngsters will bring back their new found knowledge to assist and better the islands, but drawing from my own personal experience it would appear that not all farmers want to progress and improve.

Why should the young go away and work and study hard for many months/years, at tax payers costs and come back to indifference and ignorance.

FOR SALE

A small quantity of:

10 month old Pullets	£6 each
1 and 2 year old hens	£5 each

Also orders are being taken for pure bred pullets (approx. 12 weeks old) for Oct/Nov 1995.

BREEDS AVAILABLE

Friesan	Light breed - Ginger and cream in colour
Old English Pheasant Fowl	Light breed - Brown with black lacing
Silkies	Light breed - White, these are excellent broodies and ideal pets.
Australorps	Heavy breed - Black with green sheen.
Light Sussex	Heavy breed - White with black neck and tail feathers.

All of these pure bred pullets will be £10 each.

Ordinary FI bred pullets will also be available 12 weeks old for £6 each.

Cockerels for all of the above with the exception of the Silkies will also be available at £15 each.

From S Bonner Pickthorne Farm Tel: No 41101

FOR SALE

Hardtop diesel U.M.M. TRANSCAT, 13,000 miles only. In very good condition. Fitted with Indenor/Peugeot 2.3l engine. axles, with limited slip diff in rear, load sense brakes, heavy duty springs, bucket front seats, rear seats, stereo, 7.50 Avons on wide rims, with set of tractor grips on rims and quality of essential spares available as well. Colour, red and white. Most mileage on road, very little camp use, excellent performance off road. Bought for specific job and no longer getting the use fair price to good to leave.

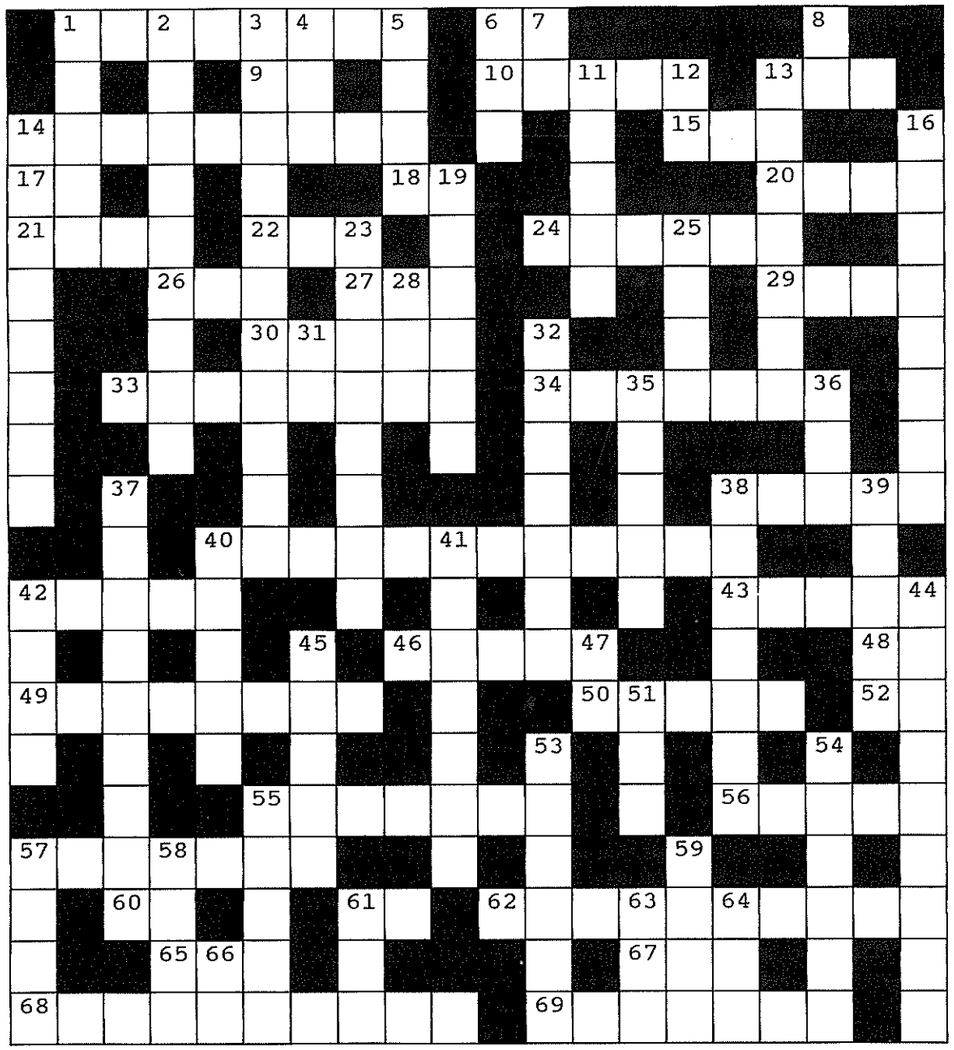
Phone Nick Pitaluga on 31193 or Fax 31194 Mealtimes/Evenings (KEEP TRYING)

FOR SALE (by tender)

Two ex - Royal Navy ammunition barges 70 ft. long, 18 ft. beam, 9ft 4ins high, 2ft 6ins draught. Some mooring equipment available. Suit jetty construction or extension project. Bought for that purpose and no longer required. Sellers not bound to accept any tender received. For further information;

Contact R. Pitaluga on Phone: 31199 or Fax: 31194

WP64



WANTED

Land Rover Series 2 or 3 LWB back body, civilian type but good condition, military O.K. must be straight or require minor repairs only.
Land Rover Series 3 front axle, (or complete swivel housing assemblies - diff and casing not really needed, but would accept whole axle.) Chrome swivels must be good.

Phone Nick Pitaluga on 31193 or Fax 31194 Mealtime/Evenings.
(KEEP TRYING)

WP64

ACROSS

1. HITLER OR STALIN PERHAPS
6. USED TO IDENTIFY SOMEONE
9. ADVANCE
10. HANDPIECE PART
13. DISTRESS SIGNAL
14. ANIMALS THAT COME OUT AT NIGHT
15. CENTRE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM
17. OPPOSITE OF OUT
18. BIG CITY IN THE U.S.A
20. AJAR
21. A DUCK FOUND IN THE FALKLANDS
22. FEMALE WHALE
24. YOUNG COW (WITHOUT CALF)
26. LARGE FLIGHTLESS BIRD
27. HEARING ORGAN
29. FRUIT WITH A HAIRY SKIN
30. LARGE SPOON
33. SMALL HOUSES
34. TO CONVERT WASTE MATERIAL INTO A FORM IN WHICH IT CAN BE REUSED
38. SHORT FORCEFUL EMMISSIONS OF AIR
40. A SUBSTANCE THAT CAN DECAY IS?
42. A CONIFEROUS TREE
43. CRY OF A HORSE
46. JOINT CONNECTING FOOT WITH LEG
48. HECTARE
49. MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS
50. COUNTRYSIDE
52. TEAL INLET
55. GIVE EVIDENCE
56. BLOOD SUCKING ARACHNIDS
57. THE EATING AWAY OF LAND
60. NOT YES
61. BRITISH TELECOM
62. STUDY OF PREHISTORIC CULTURES
65. AUCTION ITEM
66. SURNAME OF A FAMOUS BOXER
67. GULLET
69. SPECIMENS

DOWN

1. A DEEP HUMMING SOUND
2. SEED LEAF
3. PRODUCTION OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK
4. 2000 LBS
5. ROTATE
6. VERY SLIPPERY
7. TO CARRY OUT
8. NOT YES
11. PUT TOGETHER
12. ASSOCIATED WITH STEAMSHIPS
13. USED FOR BREATHING WHILE SWIMMING
14. COMMON ELEMENT OF FERTILISERS
16. STIMULANT TO DEVELOP ANTIBODIES
19. TO APPREHEND
23. A KIND OF FINE POTTERY
25. HAZY ATMOSPHERE
28. A DARK HEAVY BITTER BEER
31. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
32. A SPROUT IN THE GARDEN
35. A NECESSITY TO A GOLFER
36. SMALL MAGICAL FAIRY
37. A COMPULSIVE HABIT
38. SMALL TRIANGULAR FLAG
39. PHYSICAL COMBAT
40. WITHOUT MOISTURE
41. THERE ARE FIVE LOCAL TYPES OF THIS CREATURE
42. TAXIS
44. ARRANGEMENT OF HAIR
45. A FEMALE FOX
47. ROYAL MARK
51. GROUP OF COUNTRIES ON OR NEAR THE PERSIAN GULF
53. MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND
54. NOT DOWN
55. BONY GROWTH COATED IN ENAMEL
57. A REFLECTING SOUND
58. SINGLE
59. CALL 999 FOR THIS
61. WET SPONGY GROUND
63. UPPER PART OF A PIGS LEG
64. PETROLEUM
66. SHORT FOR OPERATION

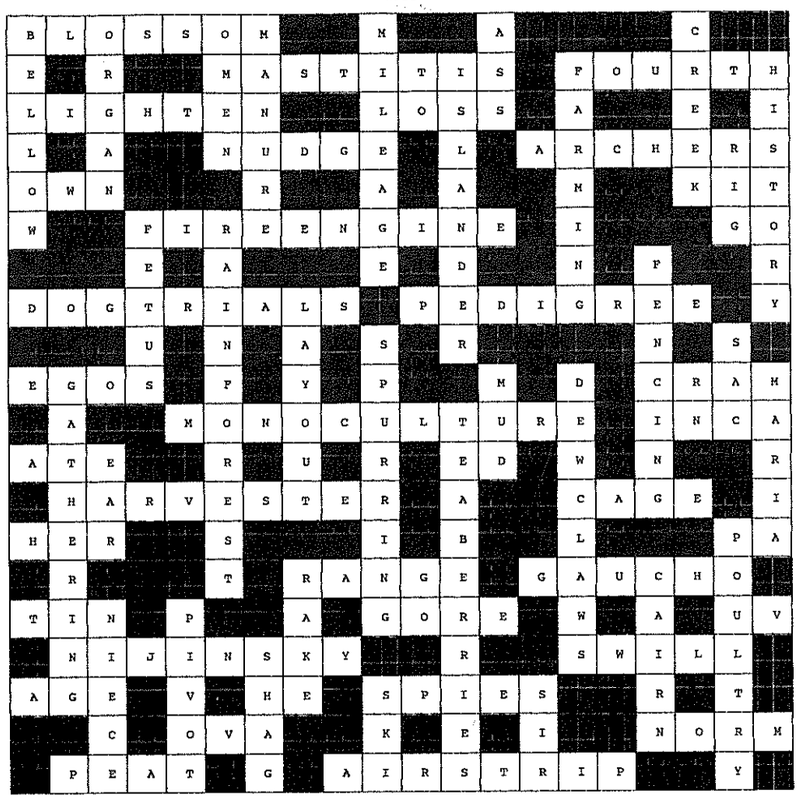
FOR SALE

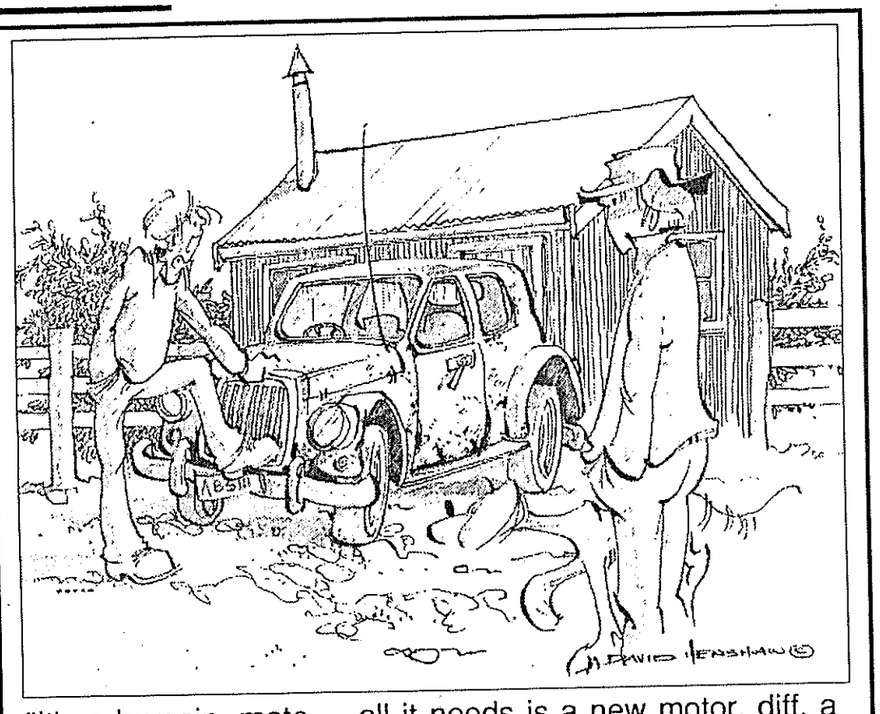
One inflatable Diesel Bulk Storage Tank.

Holds up to 1500 gallons, plus pipeline and connections, for pumping diesel from ship to shore. £750.00 ono

Contact: Roy McGhie, Port North. Telephone No: 41104

WP63





"It's a bargain, mate ... all it needs is a new motor, diff, a set of tyres an' a bit of work on the body!"

RECIPES

AUSTRALIAN CRUNCHIE

Ingredients

8ozs Butter/Margarine
5ozs Plain Flour
5ozs Castor Sugar
3ozs Coconut
2½ozs Cornflakes
1 rounded tablespoon Cocoa powder
8ins x 11ins swiss roll tin

Icing
8ozs Icing sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
little water to mix
Drop Vanilla essence

Method

Brush tin thoroughly with melted fat. Melt butter at a slow heat. Stir sugar, coconut, cornflakes and cocoa into butter. Sift flour and gradually add flour. Turn mixture into tin and press into corners. Make sure surface is level. Bake crunchie in a moderate oven 350 °C for about 30 minutes. Leave crunchie in tin ice while hot. Run icing over top of crunchie and spread to edges. Before icing is set cut into 18 pieces.

GOLDEN CRUNCH

Ingredients

4ozs Orange flavoured cooking chocolate (from CO-OP)
4ozs Butter
3 tablespoons Golden Syrup
4ozs Icing sugar (sifted)
6ozs Cornflakes
Small tin Manderine oranges
Small tin sliced peaches
One packet orange quick jelly (from West Store)
Round 9ins loose bottom cake tin.

Method

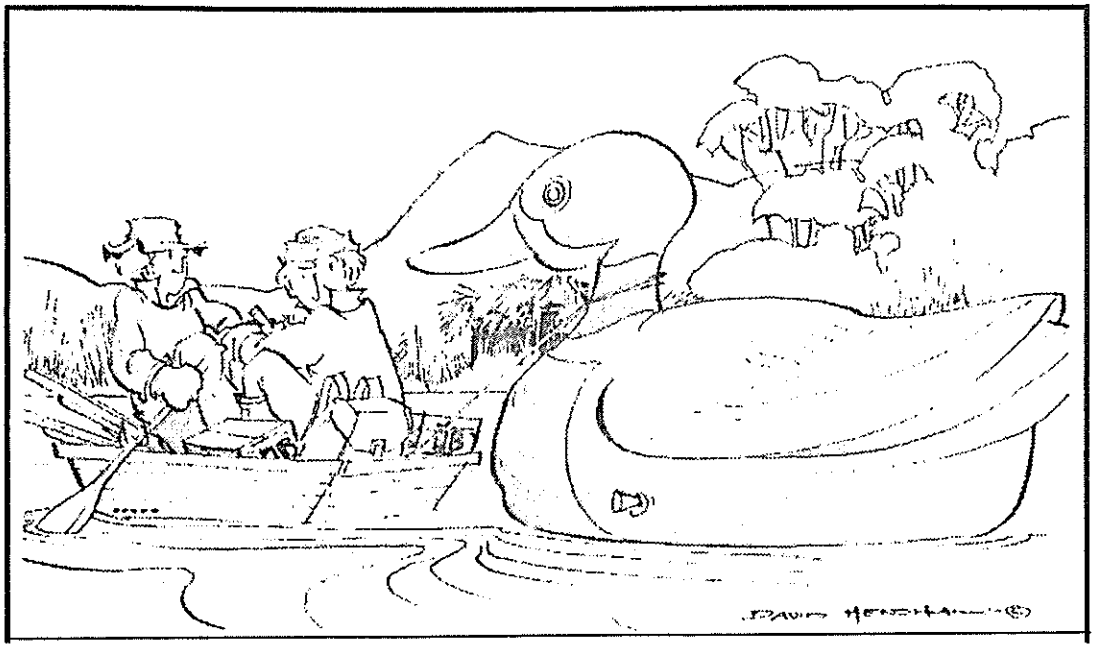
Melt together the Chocolate, Butter and Syrup, stir in the icing sugar and slightly crushed cornflakes. Put crunch mixture into the tin, leave in the Fridge until set. Arrange oranges and peach slices on top. Mix jelly according to instructions and spoon over the top of crunch. Decorate with whipped cream.

Arina Berntsen
Pebble Island

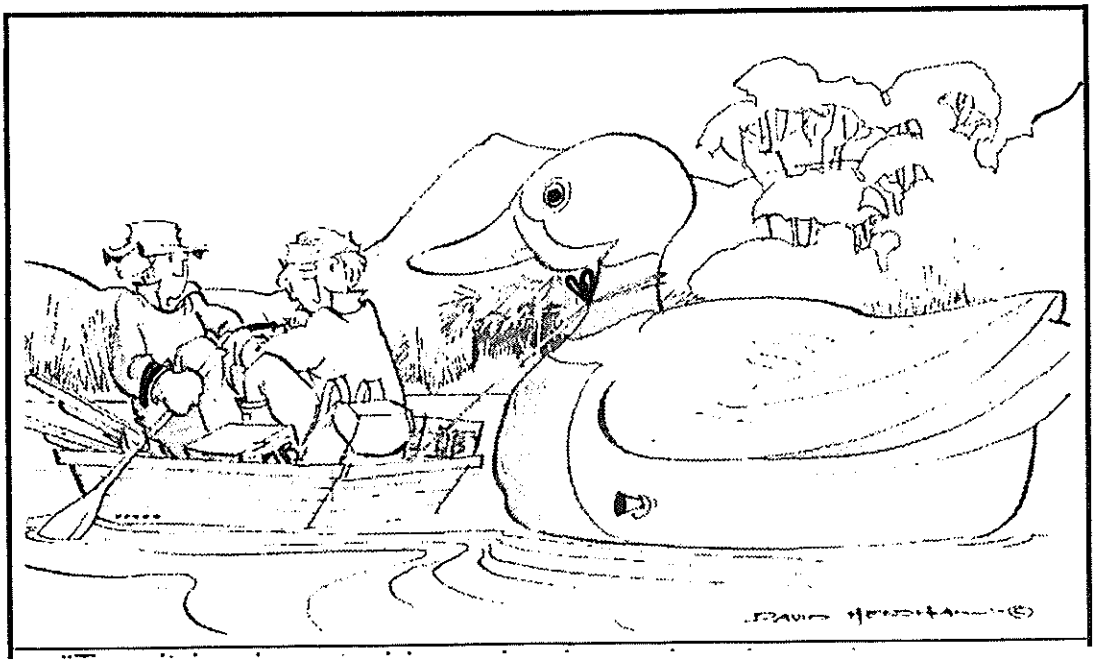
"WOULD ANY FARMERS REQUIRING TAGS FOR THE NEXT LAMB MARKING, PLEASE LET ME HAVE THEIR ORDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"

J Forster, Bold Cove Farm.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



".... when he wakes up he'll either promise he was only gonna shoot a goose or he'll lay off whisky for the rest of 'is life!"



LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1. Handle missing of door behind boy; 2. Black handle on large pot lid; 3. Top missing off plant; 4. Biscuit missing off plate; 5. Extra ring on mug; 6. Vase on window sil; 7. Farmers watch missing; 8. Finger missing on boy's left hand; 9. Plate next to large pot missing.

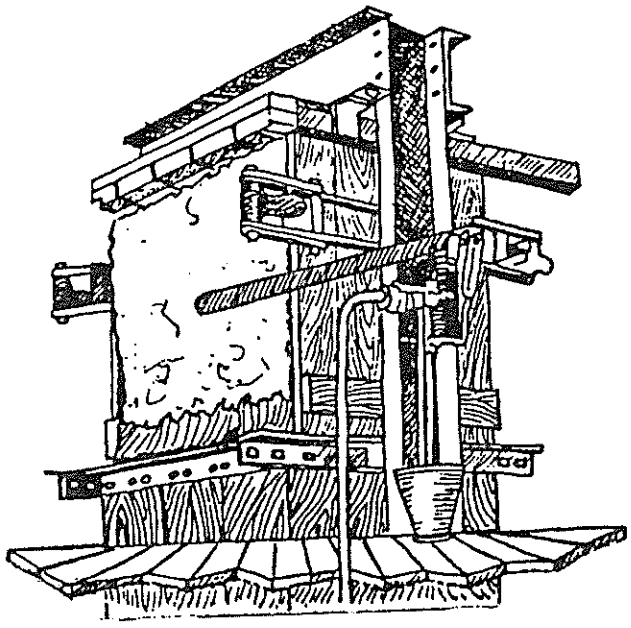
WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 65 APRIL 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES. AND MORE!



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
Editor: Mrs Charlene Rowland

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April issue of WOOL PRESS. Greg, Gillian and John are busy getting Saladero all ready for the National Stud Flock.

There have been a few changes in the department. Willie May who cleaned in the laboratory, retired after 11 years, we wish him all the very best in his retirement. Isabel Short has taken his place, and we wish her all the best. Lilian is Acting Senior Clerk until Julie Fisher-Smith returns from UK, Julie was transferred from the Customs & Immigrations Department. Julie has just given birth to a baby girl in the UK - Congratulations to Julie and Russell. Tracy Evans is filling in for Lilian as Clerk/Typist, Tracy is expecting to go off to College in September.

CHARLENE ROWLAND
APRIL, 1995.

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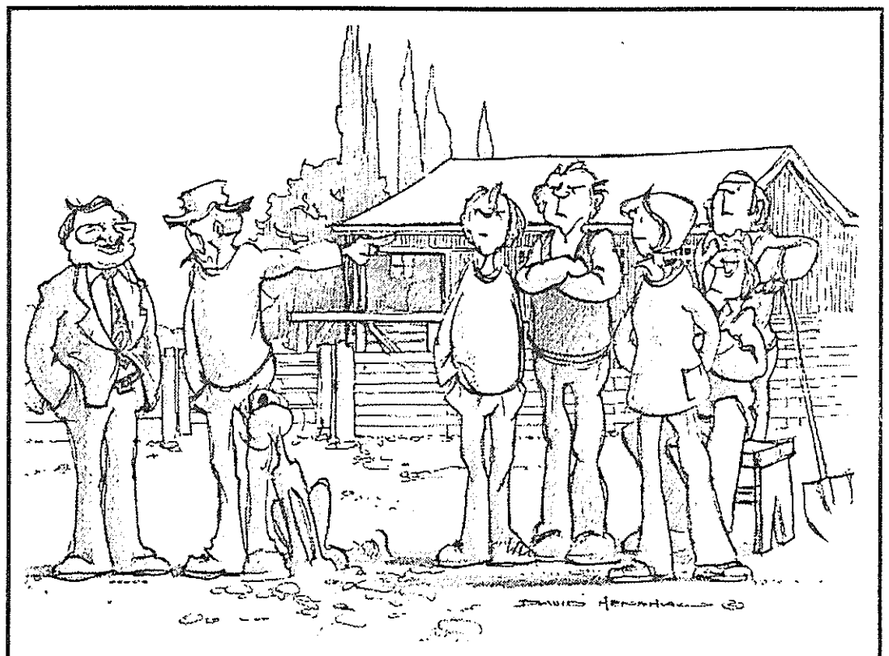


"You think you've got problems, mate...I've got one on my side, four against, an' one who keeps talking about consensus...an' I own the bloody place!"

WOOL MARKETS

Following two weeks of decline, the Australian Wool Market has continued to strengthen finishing on yet another all season high. The Market Indicator closed 8 cents higher on last months figure to close at 843 cents on the 31st March. A reduction in the level of deferred delivery stockpile sales in the second half of March probably explained the market recovery. (Sales from the stockpile having been high during February and early March.)

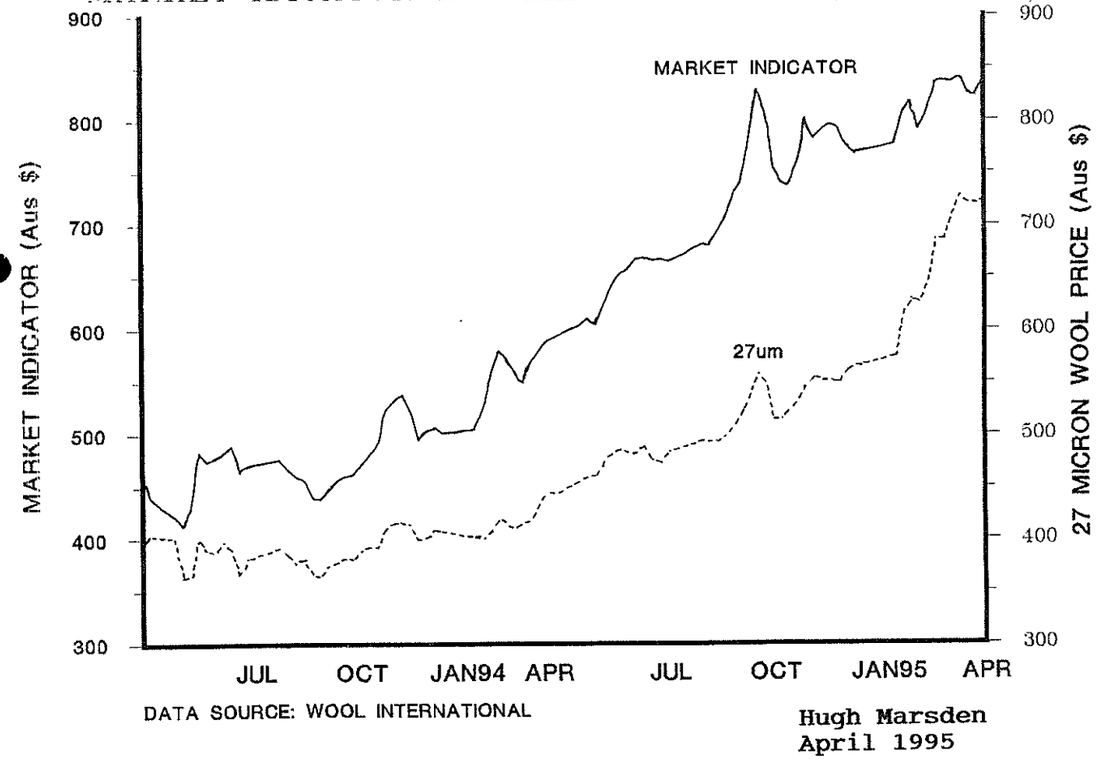
Coarser wools have continued to maintain strength on the Australian Market. The 27um Indicator a closed 20 cents higher on the 3rd March figure to close at 724 cents on the 31st.

A simple analysis of Australian auction sales give a clear indication of why we are currently experiencing a recovery in the market. The table below gives the cumulative seasonal sales (bales) at week 39 for the last 4 years. It clearly demonstrates that the availability of raw wool at auction has significantly dropped on previous seasons. It also reflects the significant drop in the sheep population in Australia.

Year	Cumulative Sales
1991/92	3,184,531
1992/93	3,014,280
1993/94	2,908,056
1994/95	2,605,923

On the 24th of March, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,100,384 bale equivalents.

MARKET IDICATOR & 27um WOOL PRICE (New Basis)



DATA SOURCE: WOOL INTERNATIONAL

Hugh Marsden
April 1995

National Stud Flock Update.

As most readers will now be aware, the East Falkland Site for the National Stud Flock has finally been settled, with the flock to be located at Saladero. Moves are currently underway to fence suitable areas for the ram and ewe hoggets for the coming winter. The remainder of the flock will spend their last winter on Sea Lion Island, and it is envisaged that they will arrive at Saladero early in 1996.

There is much work to be done in the coming months in preparation for the main flock's arrival at Saladero. Suitable areas will have to be identified for tupping and lambing, with up to 20 individual tupping paddocks required for next year. The area lends itself well to the establishment of reseeds, and chosen areas will need to be prepared for sowing as soon as possible.

Perhaps the greatest task is that of establishing infrastructure other than fencing. The site requires construction of a house, shearing shed and sheep pens. As future sales will be held at Saladero, the shed complex must be suitable for holding such an event under cover. Suitable plans are currently being considered.

Approximately 355 ewes will be tupped in late May on Sea Lion Island, within 15 individual mating groups. At present all breeding ewes are in excellent condition, and Sea Lion Island reportedly looks the best it has since the arrival of the NSF three years ago.

As some are no doubt aware, the NSF hogget wool has been core tested in Bradford, returning the excellent fibre diameter of 18.8 microns. It should be noted that this reading is for the ewe hogget wool only (from those sheep on Sea Lion), as the ram hogget wool has not been core tested at the time of writing. This compares favourably with the fibre diameter for the hogget wool from 1993/94 season, which core tested at 19.5 microns). Other wool test results show the ewe wool testing at 22.7 microns, compared to 23.3 microns for the 1993/94 season. Excellent results indeed, showing the continued progress being made within the NSF.

A final thanks to all those farmers who attended the recent Auction at Goose Green. Also, a hearty thanks to Tony McMullen and his staff at Goose Green for their assistance in various acitvities both before and after the auction.

GREG SCOTT
APRIL, 1995.

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"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." - Sir Winston Churchill.

Tips for Tupping

With the shearing season well and truly over, many will be completing their tallying and preparing for the next activity on the sheep calendar - tupping. Various management decisions must be carefully considered before making the final decisions such as "How many rams do I have/need?", and "Are all my rams healthy enough to survive this year's tupping and do their job to the best of their potential?"

In answer to the first question, many farms suffer from consistently low lamb marking percentages. Upon reviewing last year's Farming Statistics, it has become apparent that some of these farms might, in fact, not be using enough rams per 100 ewes. Under extensive grazing conditions such as in the Falklands, it is advisable to tupp using at least 3%, or 3 rams per 100 ewes. If less rams are used, there is the possibility that all ewes may not be covered by the ram within the tupping period, due to large camp sizes. If possible, when tupping in large camps, it is advisable to use more rams than the 3% stated above.

Having said that, some farms are tupping at greater than 3% and still not recording high lamb marking percentages. One possible cause may be ram infertility, either temporary or permanent. Temporary infertility can be induced by any stress, including transport from one farm to another. As it takes approximately six weeks for a stress to be reflected in sperm quality, excessive stress should be avoided during the period immediately prior to introduction of the rams to the ewes. Therefore, anyone intending to purchase rams and use them this year should be thinking of doing so soon, as tupping for many starts within the next 6-8 weeks. Newly purchased rams will also need time to settle into their new camps prior to being put out with the ewes.

Various physical examinations of rams immediately prior to putting out with the ewes are necessary, to ensure that each ram is in a fit, healthy condition and ready to 'do the job'. Following are some points to consider when inspection rams:

Head

Eyes: Vision should not be impaired, and there should be no persistent discharges form either eye.

Teeth: All teeth should be in sound condition, and a full set is mandatory for any working ram. Gross abnormal defects in the molars can be detected by running fingers along the outside cutting edge of the upper molars. These can be felt through the cheek at either side of the mouth. Swelling of the upper or lower jaw may indicate a tooth problem, and can have a major impact on mating performance.

Head and Ears: It is possible that when fighting, rams can seriously injure each other through 'butting'. Rams exhibiting large sores or swelling are unlikely to perform to their optimum. Any ear irritations should be further investigated, and veterinary inspection may be necessary. Reject any rams that show signs of Pharyngeal or Laryngeal injuries.

Brisket Region

If intending to use ram harnesses, particular attention is required of the brisket region. Brisket sores can cause irritation and pain, thereby reducing the mating capacity of the ram. Rams with brisket sores often lay down for the majority of the day to avoid irritation.

Limbs and Feet

Strong limbs and feet are of the utmost importance to a good ram. Cowhocks and straight hocks with long sloping pasterns are a sign of weakness. Claws should be strong and well developed, and people with softer ground are urged to trim their rams' feet prior to tupping. Growths are common to all breeds, and should be inspected to ensure they are not causing any lameness. Any lameness will reduce the serving capacity of the ram, and if accompanied by infection will reduce the active daily sperm production.

Prepuce and Penis

Some confusion arises between the prepuce and the penis. The prepuce is the 'visible bit', whereas the penis is only extruded during the actual act of mating. The prepuce should be examined closely for any visible signs of injury (most often shearing cuts), ulcers, abnormal discharges or blood staining. Any rams showing these signs should be rejected. Small shearing cuts on the prepuce may not affect mating, as they will only cause scar tissue formation. Should the cut be severe, the scar tissue formation may actually prevent full extension of the penis during mating.

Manual extension of the penis is necessary for visual examination. This is done by grasping the sigmoid flexure between the finger and thumb, pushing upwards towards the prepuce, and at the same time pushing the prepuce downwards grasping it tightly. A further push from the sigmoid flexure area will fully extend the penis for examination.

Whilst in this area, check the umbilical area for any signs of hernias.

Testicles and Scrotum

The testicles should be handled with care during examination. In theory, the larger the testicles, the more sperm and testosterone (the male sex hormone) will be produced. In practice, as long as the testicles are of reasonable uniform size for the age of the animal, they will produce sufficient sperm and testosterone for successful mating. The testicles themselves should feel firm, plump and slightly springy. They should show no localised areas of hardness of softness.

The scrotum should feel heavy when lifted up, and should be covered with soft clean skin. There should be no sign of injury or disease (e.g. dermatitis) which may be uncomfortable or discourage the ram from working. The skin should be supple and slide freely over the testicles.

Consideration of the above when inspecting rams prior to tupping will ensure that all rams used are of the best possible physical and reproductive condition, and hopefully ensure the production of many healthy lambs next spring.

Greg Scott
April, 1995.

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BEEF

The primary objective for anyone considering beef production in the Falkland, must be to increase sustainable farm profits. To achieve this, income must be increased sufficient to more than off-set all additional costs.

The current cattle population is about 4,800 animals, with sex and ages unpublished. The mature breeding cow population is uncertain, but probably lies in the range 1600 to 2800 head: this is not large and has declined from about double this number since farm sub-division began.

One of the most notable things, about the current Falklands cattle population, is the influence of dairy and dual-purpose breeds in much of the herd. This is unexpected given the "poor feeding value" of Whitegrass Camp, but is explained by milk production being a breeding objective, until recent times. Any serious beef industry would anticipate a move to specialist beef breeds or recognised beef crosses.

There are many beef breeds to consider. Hill breeds such as the Galloway, Luing and Welsh Black would happily survive, as demonstrated by the Bluff Cove herd of Belted Galloways. The Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn and several others have been successfully ranched in numerous parts of the world, but require a better diet than the Hill Breeds. Crosses such as the Blue Grey (White Shorthorn X Galloway), Hereford X and Angus X are also well recognised beef animals and demonstrate hybrid vigour. All these cattle are described as "Early Maturing" because they reach slaughter condition (required fat class and conformation) earlier and on poorer diets, than the "late Maturing" "Continental" breeds; these latter animals would be quite unsuitable due to their much higher nutritional requirements.

Breed choice is determined by how animals fit into the whole production system. With cattle: survival, ease of calving and ability to reach slaughter on the diet available, are all important. Having made the decision to start a beef enterprise, farmers face a considerable time-lag for herd expansion, due to the long gestation period and length of time cattle require to reach sexual maturity.

Profitable beef farming, like profitable sheep farming, is dependent upon good income per head, good income per management and labour unit involved and good income per acre. Success in these cattle performance measures is determined by various financial and physical factors including:

- the capital outlay in terms of genetics, animals, feeding systems, fencing, handling facilities etc.,

- the interval between calving (calving index),

- the number of calves reared per cow,

- the daily growth rate gains,

- the feed used (which is critical if requiring imported concentrates at any stage of production),

- the stocking rate,

- the death rates,

- the final slaughter weight and carcass quality,

- the revenue per carcass.

The Falklands has a large grassland area for agriculture to exploit, unfortunately Whitegrass is of low feeding value. It is more than possible however, that cattle could assist very significant grassland improvement and at lower population levels cattle may well complement sheep, allowing numbers of both to increase. These would be most attractive and positive aspects of cattle in the Falklands, however no research has been undertaken to quantify the benefits.

The adoption of beef production as a major income generating enterprise on Falklands farms should be determined by objective analysis of practical production possibilities combined with realistic financial projections. At present serious financial feasibility studies cannot be undertaken due to the lack of cattle information: therefore advocates of beef production must gather all the information that is already on farms with cattle (e.g. the size of the breeding herd and the whole cattle population's age and sex distribution) and research that information which is not routinely gathered by farms (e.g. calving percentages, weaning rates, growth rates, feed requirements, age of first calving, stocking rates, death rates, slaughter weights and carcass qualities - in terms of conformation and fat class). Such work may necessitate additional resources being committed to the Department of Agriculture, however advisers, brought-in-consultants, decision-makers and farmers will not have any of the vital basic information required for economic and financial feasibility studies without. This work is therefore recommended to all advocates of beef production, if a reasoned proposal for expenditure on "beef" is to be made.

ROBERT H.B. HALL
APRIL 1995.

1995 FARMING STATISTICS

All farms will receive their annual Livestock Ordinance form in this months Wool Press. It is recognised that the distribution of this years form is slightly earlier than usual and that many farms are still sorting sheep for the winter, however the aim of this is to complete the Farming Statistics in July rather than September. Please return the form before the 30th June in the usual manner.

We have made a few slight alterations to the form which we hope will not cause too much concern. These are as follows:

We have reintroduced the category of "Dry Ewes" as there was no provision for this category of sheep in the old format. Please note that this category only includes ewes that have had a lamb but have not/will not be mated during this breeding season.

Lines have been incorporated into the acquisitions/disposals section to assist in compilation and computerisation. We have included a category for "sheep culled and slaughtered" as this information will be useful data for the abattoir proposal. If there is insufficient space in this section please feel free to include a continuation sheet with the completed form.

Finally, we have inserted a box to cover the number of tractors currently in service on the farm. This addition will hopefully provide us with a more reliable estimate of the number of tractors currently in service on the Islands for the bi-annual United Nations (Food and Agricultural Organisation) questionnaire.

If any farmer has any queries with the forms please don't hesitate to get in contact with us at the Department.

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

We would be most grateful if farms who have not submitted their annual summary sheets could do so as we unfortunately still do not have sufficient numbers returned to draw a representative sample.

Economics Section
April 1995

5TH INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONFERENCE.

I will be attending this important conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA in late July. Its theme is "Rangelands in a Sustainable Biosphere". A variety of rangeland workers from owners to researchers to policy makers will discuss the future use, conservation, and production of rangelands and how this vast, renewable natural resource can be sustained for everyone's benefit.

Rangelands dominate the landscape here and on Earth. They are under tremendous pressure to produce forage for many domestic and wild animals and to provide food, water, fuel, fibre and open space for expanding human populations. Consequently, the risks of soil erosion, pollution, reduced biodiversity and those associated with climate change are increasing. Thus sustaining the productivity of the rangelands is vital for everyone.

To this end my main contribution will be a voluntary paper which I will present as a poster in a discussion session entitled "Ecological aspects of Rangeland Management: Landscape and Higher level processes". The full text of the paper (see a final draft below) will be published in the proceedings later.

The presentation will improve the Department of Agriculture's scientific profile and encourage research of high scientific merit. This is a great opportunity to gauge the up-to-date views of the world's best rangeland workers on how the rangelands here can be managed for sustainable wool production. I am confident that my attendance will benefit the future use of our rangelands by all its users. I am grateful for the support of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the approval of Executive Council.

KERR J.A. Department of Agriculture, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. Can variation in rangeland topography and vegetation be used to sustain improvements to wool production in the Falkland Islands?

ABSTRACT

Inadequate nutrition, adverse weather and uneven utilisation by free-ranging sheep limit the carrying capacity of *Cortaderia pilosa* production in the Falkland Islands. It is proposed that wool production may be maximised and stocking densities sustained using a grazing system which matches fencing patterns and sheep management to spatial and seasonal variation in vegetation and topography. A grazing trial will compare sheep and pasture performance under sequence grazing with that under set stocking.

LIMITATIONS TO WOOL PRODUCTION

Wool production has been the main industry of the rangelands in the Falkland Islands (51-53° S & 57-62° W) for about 120 years. The adverse effects of the climate (McAdam 1985), and the lack of high quality nutrition (Davies et al. 1971) particularly in winter and spring, are major biological limitations to carrying capacity on the extensively set stocked rangelands. The isolation of the islands restricts the use of imported forage species, fertilisers and feedstuffs. Shelter belts are uncommon. These limitations contribute to low growth rates, poor fertility and high losses in the sheep.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

Since land sub-division began in 1980 the number of farms increased from 36 to 88, most are owner occupied and only 10% remain larger than 200 km². Sheep numbers have increased by 20% and wool production by 16%. New owners divided large paddocks into smaller ones, increased stocking rates and had improved awareness of the value of controlled grazing (Summers et al. 1993). However, of farms that applied for fencing grants since 1989, only 17% intended to control seasonal grazing. Convenience and reduction of labour inputs during sheep gathering were the main factors for siting fences.

Although research showed that greater summer utilisation of the Cortaderia pilosa (D'Urv. Hack.) communities improved their agronomic performance and species composition (Davies et al. 1989), practical advice on effective annual utilisation for improved wool production was still being developed. Thus overall utilisation remained low but imbalanced. Consequently, seasonal availability of herbage to sheep was low and species composition degraded (Kerr unpublished data) on some of the preferred short grass and herb communities (Greens).

Improved average wool weights following sub-division illustrated that wool production had not reached full potential (Summers et al. 1993). If the survival of wethers (non-reproductive adult male sheep) could be improved the need to breed replacements, which has traditionally been difficult, would be reduced. This may allow farms to divert more resources to the best wool producing sheep.

To sustain the increased stocking rates, protect rangeland condition and optimise wool production, a more balanced utilisation of the rangeland is required. A sequence grazing method is proposed which will use variation in vegetation and topography more effectively than the traditional set stocking to increase the carrying capacity of low-lying (< 83 m.a.s.l.), inland paddocks for wethers.

SEASONAL AND SPATIAL VARIATION

Weather

Constant strong (8.5 m s^{-1} mean speed) westerly winds and a narrow temperature range (mean 2.2-9.4 °C) are significant features of the climate (McAdam 1985). Rainfall (640 mm yr^{-1} mean in Stanley) is summer dominant and spring is the driest season. Frosts and snow can occur in any season. Severe wind chill was correlated with high mortality rates in lambs (McAdam 1985) and increase the energy required for sheep maintenance (Mount and Brown 1983).

Topography

Topography is the main shelter from wind chill on the broken, hilly (≤700 m) and generally treeless land. The proportion of land occupied by highs (flat-tops, crests or peaks), their profile, shape and arrangement (King et al. 1969) are the main topographic influences on exposure. For example, land where crests cover a high proportion of area and are oriented North-South is probably less exposed than land where flat-tops cover a lower proportion of area and which are oriented East-West.

Vegetation

The very acid (pH 4.1-5.1) peaty soils (King et al. 1969) are covered by a mosaic of oceanic heath communities dominated either by the grass *C. pilosa* or the dwarf-shrub *Empetrum rubrum* (Vahl. Ex Willd) (Moore 1968). *E. rubrum* communities cover less area and carry less sheep than *C. pilosa* communities (Davies et al. 1971). Lax (non-tussocky) *C. pilosa* covers flat, poorly drained land uniformly but is of lower grazing value than the tussocky *C. pilosa* which grows with herbs and other grasses in the shallow-sided and better drained valleys (Table 1).

Table 1. Variation in the grazing value of inland grass heath communities in the Falkland Islands.

	Short grasses and herbs (Greens)	*C.pilosa*-tussock	*C.pilosa*-lax
Area of farmed land (%)[a]	15*	15*	41
Annual productivity (t DM ha^{-1})	5-6[b]	5	1-3
Spring " "	1.2[b]	-	0.2
Standing crop (t DM ha^{-1})	1-3	6-22	2-4
Maximum leaf length (cm)	3	31[c]	17[c]
Green matter (%)	70, 89[b]	40	29
OMD (%) of green matter	55-63[b]	50[d]	43-48[b]
Utilisation by sheep (%)	65-94[b]	20	20

1*includes both communities. 2 Sources: Summers and McAdam 1993 except: "Davies et al. 1971, [b]Kerr and McAdam 1993, [c]Davies et al 1990, [d]McAdam unpublished data.

Greens have the highest value for grazing and are heavily utilised (Table 1). They are dominated by short grasses (*Agrostis* spp. (L.), Poa spp. (L.)) and herbs (*Juncus scheuzerioides* (Gaudich.), *Gunnera magellanica* (Lam.)) and are interspersed along valleys, the edges of streams and ponds and on slopes which offer shelter from southerly winds (Kerr, unpublished data). Their superior productivity in spring compared to *C. pilosa* communities (Table 1) is due mainly to the earlier growth of the short grasses (Kerr unpublished data) compared to *C. pilosa* (McAdam 1986). Heavy grazing by native sheldgeese (*Chloëhaga* spp.) in winter contributes to the low availability of herbage to sheep (Summers and McAdam 1993) (Table 1). Consequently, the longer but less digestible *C. pilosa* may be more available then.

Nutrition

Wethers have a cyclical pattern of nutritional need and deficit (Ferguson unpublished data). Wool production peaks in Autumn, when body weight and condition are greatest, and is lowest from July to December, when they are nutritionally stressed.

MATCHING THE VARIATION

Improved wether nutrition and a more balanced utilisation of the rangeland resources could be sustained by matching;

a. the location and scale of new paddocks to the spatial variation in vegetation types and topography and,
b. the timing of flock movements to the seasonal variation in the grazing value of the vegetation and the severity of wind-chill.

Sequence grazing could extend the grazing seasons and reduce the energy needs of wethers by spelling sheltered areas containing tussocky *C. pilosa* and Greens for grazing from autumn to spring and stocking exposed areas of lax *C. pilosa* more intensively in summer. This could be achieved without much change to existing fencing patterns and sheep management. The existing network of fences matches sheep type to land quality under year long set stocking (Summers and McAdam, 1993). With good advice and planning, new paddocks could be inserted at minimal cost. Similarly, the new flock movement in Autumn should complement the farming calendar.

A grazing trial will compare economics, wool production, sheep performance and pasture responses between the set stocked and sequence methods of grazing over three years. Farmer involvement will be encouraged so that a practical year round grazing system is developed.

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J. Aidan Kerr
Senior Scientist

13.8 MICRON ULTRA FINE MERINO WOOL.

It was reported that on 11th January, 1995 a 116 kilogram bale of ultra fine Merino wool, with 13.8 micron, measured at 72.5% yield, which has a vegetable matter content of 0.1% with an estimation of fibre strength of 45-50 newtons per kilotex, was auctioned at Geelong, Victoria, Australia. The opening bid of 27,272 p/kg was called, after an aggressive bidding on the floor, the nylon bale eventually fetched a world record price of 468,181 pence per kilogram. (The previous world record fetched 136,527 pence/kg).

This bale was bought by a large mens wear store group in Japan, who intend to make Italian designer suits.

The sellers of the bale Mr & Mrs Appledore of "Kadinia" Brim, Victoria, was reported to be in attendance at the sale and could not believe what was happening.

The wool drawn from a selected flock of 600 wethers, which are maintained under highly controlled conditions, being "shedded" or housed, and individually penned and coated to minimise dust contamination. Feeding was also controlled, both by volume and content, and comprised of a mixture of grain and roughage.

This system of husbandry has resulted in progressive reductions in fibre diameter being achieved. In 1987, 15.9 microns; 1991, 13.3 microns and 1994, 14.7 microns. Mr Appledore stated the results reflect a combination of genetics and environment, roughly in the same proportion.

Charlene Rowland
April 1995

Source: Ref: (March) Wool Record

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VOLATILE SKINS

Hides and skins - particularly sheep skins are notoriously volatile, reported by the British Leather Confederation, because the supply does not respond to increases or decreases in demand. Over recent years the price of raw sheep skins has varied from more than £8 per skin for periods in 1987/88 to £1 per skin in 1990 and reaching more than £7 per skin earlier this year.

There is also a seasonal effect on skin prices with new season lamb skins fetching lower prices because of their smaller size - with the trend generally upwards through the rest of the season.

At present the combination of a recovery in international demand and tighter supplies worldwide has pushed skin prices to a relatively high level.

Over the autumn raw skin prices fell back by around 50p per skin from the high levels reached in September, but had partially recovered by early January. As a general guide prices in early December were in the range of £6.00-£6.50 at the abattoir with supply, demand and achievable prices for finished leather all tightly balanced. (Prices may vary from this depending on local conditions and at smaller abattoirs)

Comparable prices at the same time last year were averaging £4.50 per skin, reflecting a lower of demand at the time.

Skin quality continues to be a problem - especially from parasite damage - reducing the intrinsic value of the skins affected.

THE SHEEP FARMER
JAN/FEB 1995

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FOR SALE

BOLD COVE FARM HAS FOR SALE THE FOLLOWING RAMS:

No.	Age:	Micron:	Fleece wt. Kg.	£
40	2	23.8	4.45	60.00
51	2	24.2	4.40	60.00
61	2	24.3	4.50	60.00
66	1	23.3	5.00	60.00
01	4	23.7	3.70	40.00
70	1	23.7	5.60	60.00
49	2	24.6	5.65	60.00

Any one interested please contact:

Jimmy Foster — Telephone No: 42178
Bold Cove — Fax No: 42177

POLWARTH SHEEP FROM AUSTRALIA

In 1839 Alexander and Emma Dennis left their family home and farms with such names as Truro, Trewidden, Lariggan and Tregavarrah around Penzance in Cornwall to follow Emma's Tregurtha family to Australia.

They sailed from Plymouth on the sailing ship 'John Bull' with their two-year-old daughter and Alexander's two brothers, John and William; Emma was expecting their second child. Arriving safely in Melbourne on 21 January 1840, they soon sailed to Tasmania to join Emma's Aunt and Uncle Tregurtha.

Alexander returned to the mainland with his brothers on April that year with 600 Saxon Merino sheep. Landing near Geelong, they travelled west in search of a home, eventually taking up land at Tarndwarncoort, 80km west of Geelong.

The station then extended for many miles (approximately 15,000 acres) at the foothills of the Otway Ranges. With an annual rainfall of 25-26 inches, the country consisted mainly of Manna Gums, acacias and scrub, running out to a treeless basalt plain. 'Tarndwarncoort' was the Aboriginal name of the locality, meaning the ridge of low undulating hills, resembling a Bandicoot running along.

In 1880, Richard Dennis, eldest son of the pioneer, began crossing the original Merino sheep with Lincolns to improve the wool quality and constitution of the sheep for this harsh environment. This first cross, now known as Corriedale, was crossed back with a Merino, producing a cross that was three-quarters Merino and one-quarter Lincoln. These sheep had a fleece with longer staple, but retained the fine-micron fibre, thus shedding the rain and preventing fleece rot, dermatitis, etc., caused by prolonged wetting of the fleece. Also, their feet were stringer, giving them a better chance of withstanding the harsh, wet conditions. These sheep became known as 'Dennis Comebacks', i.e. 'back to the Merino' or 'Ideals'. Eventually, they were renamed 'Polwarth' after the English tradition of naming breeds of sheep after the country of origin. Tarndwarncoort is in the electorate of Polwarth, named after Lord Polwarth of Scotland. In South America, Polwarth sheep are still known as Ideals. The Polwarth Sheepbreeders' Association of Australia was founded in 1919. Polwarths are truly dual-purpose sheep (for wool and meat), are now found in similar latitudes around the world, e.g. Uruguay, Argentina, Falkland Islands, New Zealand, India, Canada and South Africa. There is a British Polwarth Sheepbreeders' Association, based in Gloucestershire.

In the last 24 years there have been marked changes in the Tarndwarncoort Polwarth flock. At the start of the 1970s Australian wool prices were rather dismal; in country homes, woolgrowers' wives were spinning wool on Ashford spinning wheels from New Zealand, making yarn to knit garments as away of obtaining a small income from the wool. The interest grew to towns and cities, hence the demand for top-quality handspinning wool. Half the flock is now natural coloured and all the top young sheep wear special sheepcoats for 12 months. These coats made from split woven polyethelene type material prevent the wool being contaminated with grass seeds, dust and mud. They also prevent ultraviolet burning and bleaching of the wool tip. The yield of the wool is greater and it is softer and takes a good dye, has a longer staple and needs no preparation prior to hand-spinning. The colour range in the natural-coloured Polwarths ranges from jet black through to all the shades of grey with some brown tones. The combination of the staple length of 12-13 cm and fibre diameter of 24-25 micron is ideal for spinning, the extra softness of the Merino influence being a real bonus. From the flock of 1000 coated sheep, this wool finds its way to a number of overseas countries including the United Kingdom and has enjoyed success at many fleece shows in Australia and the USA.

Wendy Dennis

'Tarndwarncoort', Warncoort, Victoria, AUSTRALIA

Wendy specialises in handspinning wool from the Polwarth sheep, which is exported throughout the world.

Her husband, David, is the great, great grandson of Alexander and Emma Dennis.

Footnote: Overseas travellers are most welcome to visit. The historic apple room with cider press below now houses wool, sheepskins, Sickinger and Majacraft spinning wheels, Polwarth yarn and wool dyes. Workshops are held regularly. Room for four in the holiday cottage.

Wendy would like to hear from any hand spinners in the Falkland Islands.

LETTER

I would like to reply to Mandy McRae's letter in the March edition of Wool Press.

Firstly Mandy - you chose to go and train for a Wool Classing Course. As far as I know, you weren't forced to go, so do not start blaming everyone else for something that hasn't worked out for you, you're not the first. If you remember when you were here at Hope Cottage this shearing season, you told me you didn't like the classing job - it was boring and you would rather be a ROUSIE.

I feel when people buy a small farm they are interested in learning most jobs themselves, it is more satisfying at the end of the day. Most small farmers I know do want to progress and improve, and hope that by employing a qualified wool classer they are employing someone dedicated to overall farm improvement. Sadly in our case, this was not to be. I'm sure your attitude will not help you at all in getting this work if you carry on blaming everyone else!!

CAROL PHILLIPS
HOPE COTTAGE.

DON'T BE DOGGED BY WORMS!!

There are a great many misconceptions and "old wives tales" about worms in dogs, the treatment required to get rid of them and their possible effects on people.

ROUNDWORMS

Toxocara Canis is the most important roundworm to infect dogs. The adult worm is found in the small intestine. The worm has a complicated life cycle and the pups can become infected by various routes.

Symptoms of infection can vary from abdominal distention, discomfort, poor growth, vomiting and diarrhoea in mild cases of infection. Severe infections can cause parasitic pneumonia, intestinal impaction and sometimes death.

Toxocara canis is also important from the public health point of view. Man acts as a paratenic host and when a somatic larval infection is acquired, especially in children, ocular larva migrans and visceral larval migrans can occur.

It is therefore vital for both dog and man that treatment against the worm is vigorous and unrelenting.

TREATMENT IN PUPS

Puppies born to an untreated bitch should be dewormed from two weeks of age, every two weeks, until the puppies are a least twelve weeks old. After this they should be dosed every month until they are six months throughout their life. Piperazine, Strongid or Panacur are all commonly used and effective.

TREATMENT AND CONTROL IN BITCHES

The transfer of larvae from the bitch to her developing pup can be reduced by 95% by the daily treatment of the bitch with anthelmintic from about forty days after mating until whelping. Continuing the treatment for about two weeks after whelping will help to reduce the spread of infection via the milk to the pup. Panacur at the dose of 50mgs/kg daily can be used in this way and is safe for both bitch an puppies. It is the only fully licensed dog wormer which is effective against the larval stages of the worm in the bitch and in the milk. If the bitch has had regular treatment during late pregnancy and early lactation it is not necessary to worm the puppies until they are three to four weeks old. They should then be treated about three weeks later and then again before they go to their new homes.

Adult dogs should be treated with broad spectrum wormer such as Panacur or Drontal Plus at least twice yearly.

Kennels and runs should be kept clean and dry. If an establishment had a heavy level of infestation, all runs should be made impervious, easily cleaned material, to reduce the possibility of survival of the roundworm eggs.

HOOKWORMS

Two important genera exist namely Ancylostoma and Uncinaria. The adult worms are found in the small intestine.

Ancylostoma is known as the tropical Hookworm and would only be seen in dogs imported into the UK from tropical and semi tropical areas. The most important species in dogs A. Caninum. Dogs can become infected by various routes namely, orally, through the skin or orenatally and the latter route is important in young pups. This has a similar life cycle to Toxocara, the larvae passing to the tissues of the bitch and then to the developing pups in the womb during pregnancy.

Uncinaria stemocephala is "northern" hookworm. It is commonly found in Ireland especially in Grey Hounds but also in the UK. Outbreaks of infection can also be found in other sporting breeds eg. Foxhounds. Again, infection can be either oral or through the skin but there is no prenatal infection. Infection may be associated with low grate anaemia accompanied by diarrhoea, lethargy and reduced appetite. A moist eczema may occur at the site of percutaneous infection.

TREATMENT AND CONTROL

Prenatal transfer of the tropical hookworm Anyclostoma can be prevented by treating the pregnant bitch with wormers such as Panacur from day forty of pregnancy until whelping. Thereafter, regular treatment of the puppies is necessary.

Uncinaria is controlled by either a single or divided dose of suitable wormer. Keep kennels as dry as possible and dispose of all bedding daily. Use concrete runs.

WHIPWORM - TRICHURIS VULPIS

These worms are found in the large intestine. The infective stage is the egg containing the first stage larvae. Sporadic disease due to heavy infections is fairly common and is associated with watery diarrhoea which contains blood.

TREATMENT AND CONTROL

Use a broad spectrum wormer either as a single or split dose. Good hygiene is also essential as eggs can live for 4-5 years in damp, unhygienic conditions.

LUNGWORM - FILAROIDES OSLERI

Pups can become infected either by faeces or via larvae in their mothers' sputum. The worm develops in the airways and nodules can be seen there within eight weeks of infection. The main clinical signs are a chronic cough and respiratory distress after exercise. Prolonged treatment with a wormer such as Panacur has had considerable clinical success.

TAPEWORMS

A/Dipylidium caninum. Like all tape worms, the life cycle involves an intermediate host (usually the developing flea or louse). The dog becomes infected by eating the flea or louse while grooming. Tapeworm segments (like rice grains) can be seen round the anus three weeks after infection. Infection has little effect on dogs. When trying to control infection with this tapeworm it is necessary to treat the dog with an effective anti tapeworm drug such ad Droncit. It is also necessary to teat the animal for fleas and lice. If present, it will be necessary to treat the bedding and other area frequented by the dog.

B/Taemia spp of tapeworms. The adult tapeworm is found in the small intestine of the dog. The intermediate hosts are other animals such as sheep, cattle, rabbits, mice and rats. Dogs become infected by eating the muscle of the intermediate host which contains the cyst of the tape worm. The infection used to be a common perpetual problem in hill steep country such as Wales and the Scottish Borders due to collies being allowed to supplement their diet of porridge with dead sheep flesh. The cysts in sheep meat are aesthetically objectionable and can be a significant cause of economic loss due to carcass condemnation at meat inspection.

Inspections has little effect on the dog. Signs of infection are segments seen at the anus. Taenia spp are easily treated in the dog with Panacur or Droncit.

C/Echinococcus granulosis. The adult tape worm is found in the small intestine of dogs. It is about 6mm long and does not cause disease. The intermediate hosts are varied and include sheep, pigs, cattle and most importantly man. If man becomes infected, the developing stage of tapeworm , known as the Hydatid Cyst, can cause serious illness and even death especially if the liver and lungs are infected.

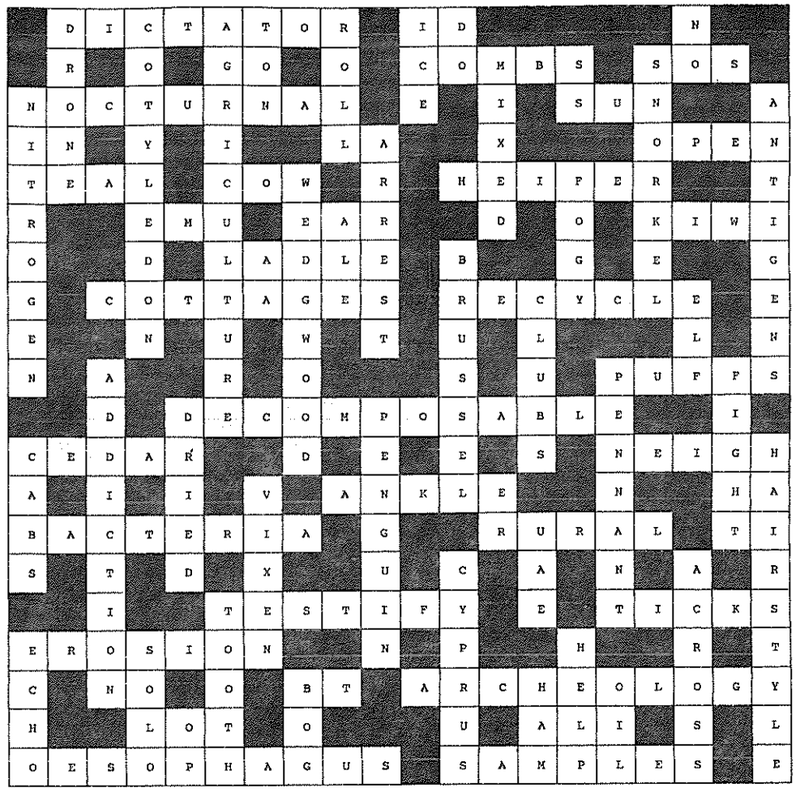
Drugs such as Droncit are very effective against this tapeworm species in the dog but control is also based on not allowing dogs access to dead sheep carcasses. Dead sheep should always be buried or incinerated as soon as practical and any farmer not doing so can be prosecuted.

SMALLHOLDER
JANUARY 1995.

WOOLMOSS HANGING BASKET LINER

The British Wool Marketing Board has developed a hanging basket liner made from Wool as a use to further increase demand. These environmentally friendly liners make a natural alternative to sphagnum moss, giving excellent moisture retention reducing the frequency of watering along with good root insulation. They are totally organic and biodegradable giving slow discharge of valuable nitrogen for good healthy plants.

WP64



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS CROSSWORD

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RECIPES

GINGER BISCUITS

Ingredients:

2 mugs flour;
1 mug sugar;
1 teaspoon ginger;
1 teaspoon cinnamon;
1 teaspoon bicarb;
2 tablespoons milk;
4 ozs butter;
2 tablespoons syrup;

from Biffo Evans of Saunders Island

Put all the dry ingredients into a bowl except bicarb. Bicarb and 1 tablespoon of milk into a cup. Melt together butter, syrup, 1 tablespoon of milk into a pan, when melted pour in bicarb until froths up. Then pour the dry ingredients into the mixture, and mix. Roll into balls, place on a tray and flatten and bake at 275° for about 20 minutes.

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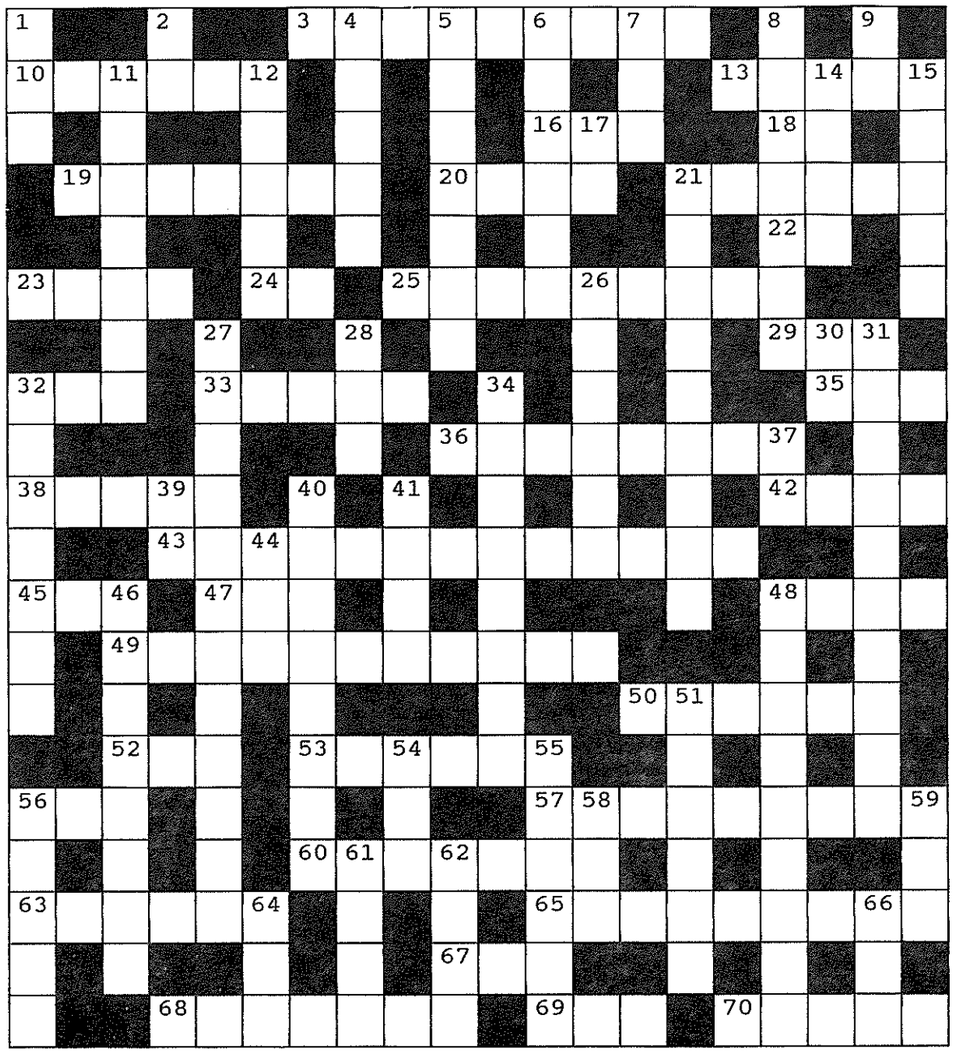
WP65



FOR SALE

Quantity of Red Pole Bulls, under 1 year old. Father is from A.I. New Zealand breed of Red Pole. £50.00

Further details contact: Susan Pole-Evans, Saunders Island.
Telephone No: 41298 or Fax: 41297

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WP65

ACROSS

3. THREE WHEELED BICYCLE
10. PLANT SUCKING INSECT
13. ORGAN THAT PUMPS BLOOD
16. A LIMB FOR SUPPORT
18. INDEFINITE ARTICLE
19. FEEDING ON GRASS
20. CRY OF AN OWL
21. WORD ARRANGEMENT IN SENTENCES
22. DETECTIVE INSPECTOR
23. SMALL PARTICLE
24. EMBRYO TRANSFER
25. LOSE OF WATER OR MOISTURE
29. NOT COOKED
32. GOLF BALL SUPPORT
33. WATER SPOT IN A DESERT
35. DIAGRAM SHOWING THE WORLD
36. PARASITE FOUND IN SOME ADULTS INTESTINE
38. NOT BEHIND
42. REGION
43. TOTAL CHANGE IN PHYSICAL FORM
45. SMALL AMOUNT
47. THE EGG OF A LOUSE
48. CALL FROM A SAILER, LAND ....
49. THE PROCESS OF BREATH -ING AND EXHALING
50. RELISHES
52. A LARGE OPENING IN THE GROUND
53. COMMON GOOSE OF THE FALKLANDS
56. ONE-FOOTED JUMP
57. INCENSED
60. BIOLOGICAL CATALYSTS
63. A FINE WOOL SHEEP
65. AUTHORISATION
67. FISH EGGS
68. TRICKED OR SWINDLED
69. LABORATORY
70. FALKLANDS BIRD WITH LONG BEAK

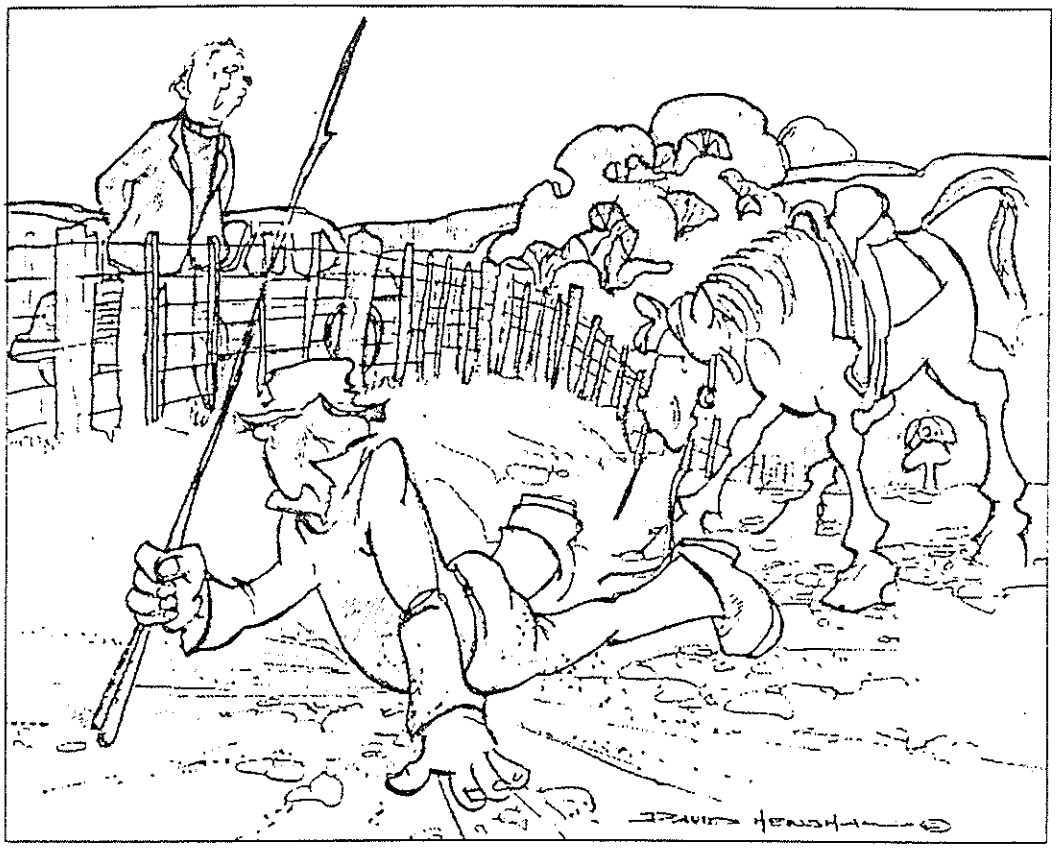
DOWN

1. BARRIER TO HOLD BACK WATER
2. TWO
4. LADDER STEPS
5. SMALL BONE IN EAR
6. DISBANDED STANLEY CLUB
7. OMELETTE INGREDIENT
8. THE BEND IN A RIVER
9. BRITISH RAIL
11. CHEMICAL PRODUCED BY PLANTS THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR PLANT GROWTH
12. FOOD SEASONING
14. OPPOSED TO SOMETHING
15. POISONOUS
17. EMBRYO TRANSFER
21. COMPLETELY DISORGA-NIZED
26. SPANISH MONEY
27. WATER VAPOUR FORMED ON WINDOW
28. FRUIT SEED
30. FROM MIDNIGHT TO NOON
31. BUILDING FOR STORING GOODS
32. VEHICLE NECESSARY TO A FARMER
34. ORGANISED ACTION FOR SPECIFIC GOAL
37. MOTHER
39. FROM MIDNIGHT TO NOON
40. THE EQUATOR LIES AT ZERO
41. LASTING STATE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS
44. GRATUITY
46. FENCING MATERIALS
48. ATLANTIC ISLAND WELL KNOWN TO THE FALKLANDS
51. LAUNCH A PHYSICAL ASSAULT
54. LADY IN STANLEY HARBOUR
55. FUEL
56. MOIST
58. COMMENCE EXAMS
59. SPECIAL AIR SERVICE
61. BIRDS ABODE
62. IMPERIAL MEASUREMENT
64. SINGLE ENTITY
66. SHEEP SHORN

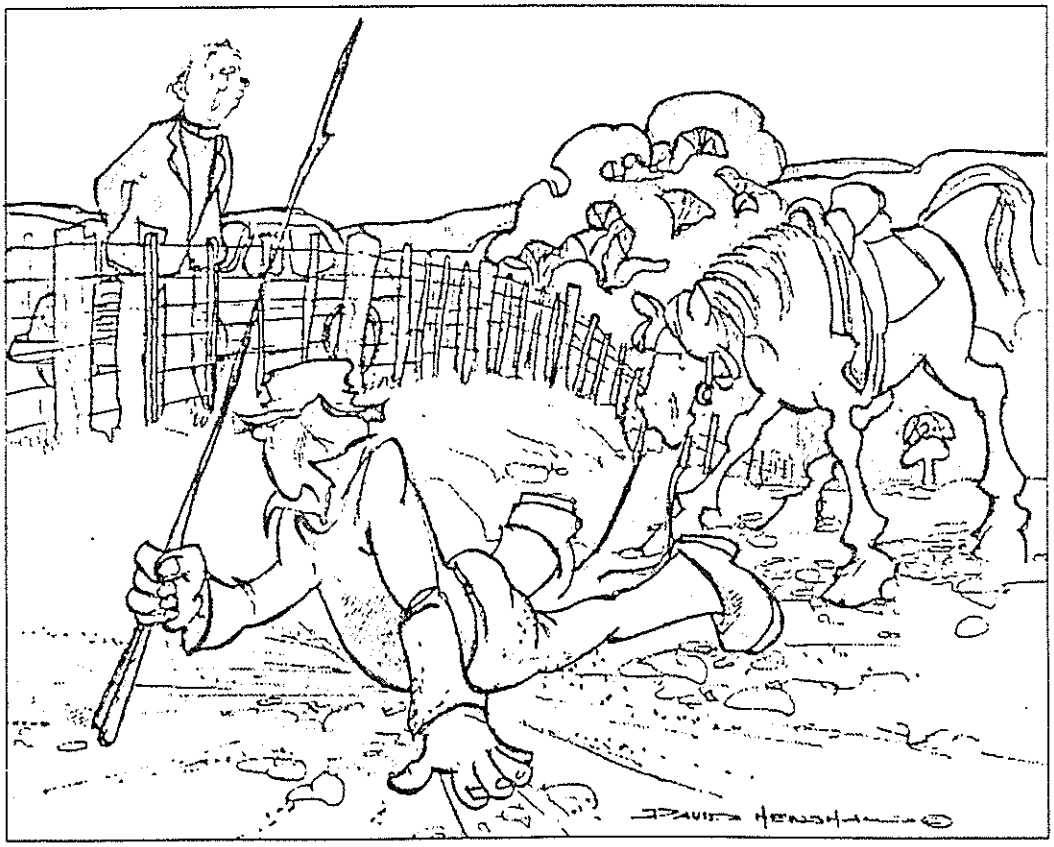
LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1: Catch on bag missing; 2: Handle missing on right ore; 3: Tree in right hand corner taller; 4: Flap on box; 5: Top line of feathers on wing missing; 6: Black eye on goose; 7: Bung in goose has black top: 8: Extra bow on goose neck; 9: Band on mans arm.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



"Have yer considered forgiveness, my son?!"

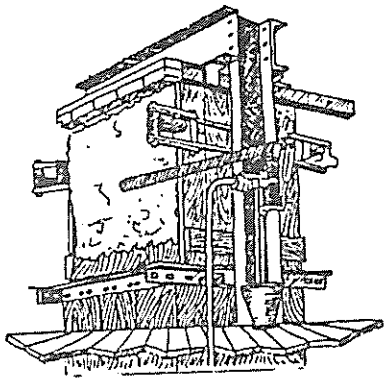


WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 66 MAY 1995

IN THIS ISSUE



EDITOR: MRS CHARLENE ROWLAND

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORIAL

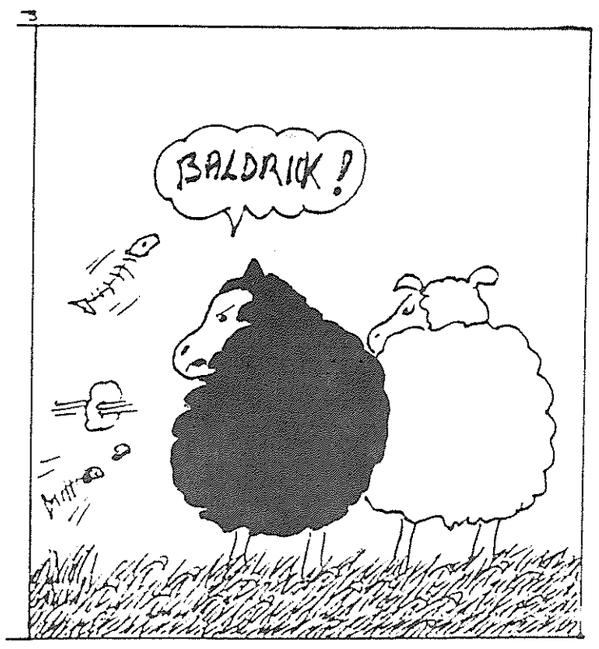
This months WOOL PRESS see's a letter from Mr David Harding-Price. He is the Community Psychiatric Nurse in the Hospital. Mr Harding-Price is keen to get to know as many people in camp either with a problem or just to phone him up for a chat.

Mandy McLeod was back home briefly in April, she has written a small updated article on her Diploma in Advanced Agricultural Business Management course.

Many thanks to John Teggart for a few cartoon's that he has kindly given us for the WOOL PRESS.

The WOOL PRESS 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 come across in a magazine, then send it in. Likewise, if you have any suggestions as to content, contact me. If you do send an article from another publication, please let me know where it came from so that I may acknowledge the source.

CHARLENE ROWLAND

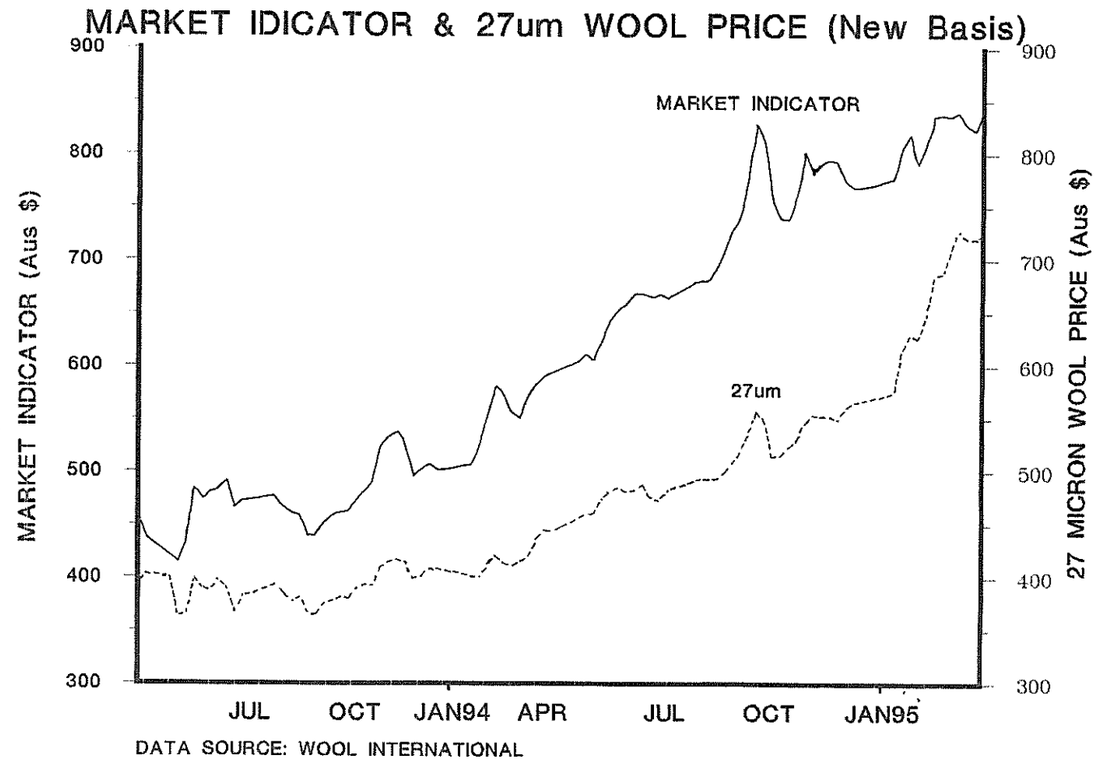


WOOL MARKETS

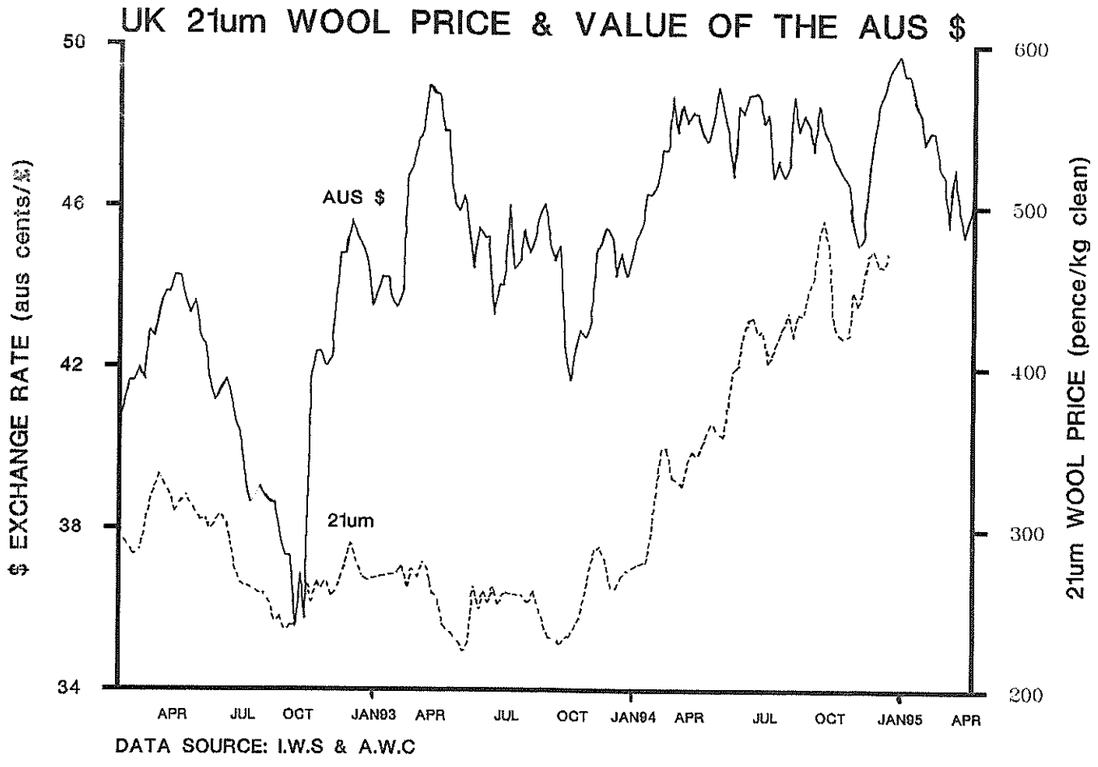
The resumption of auction sales following the Easter recess in Australia saw a substantial slide prices slide from the all-season high reached before the recess.

The Market Indicator closed 50 cents lower on last months figure to close at 793 cents on the 28th April. Clearance rates for last weeks sales were well below the season's average of 88.4% at just 64.1%. This figure represents 40,162 of the 62,665 bales on offer in Sydney and Melbourne.

On the 28th of April, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,083,233 bale equivalents. The recent slide in the market suggests that Wool International may have difficulty in shifting the 83,233 bales necessary to push the stockpile below the critical 3 million bale mark before the end of the 1994/5 season.



The Australian $ has continued to weaken against the £. On the 1st May the S.C.B rate stood at 227 cents (up 26 cents on the beginning of the year . Graph 2 is also included in this months market report to demonstrate the close relationship (or correlation) between the £ / Aus$ exchange rate and the imported price of Australian wool in the U.K. Exchange rates can clearly be seen to a major influence on the price of imported wool. A devaluation of the Australian $ tending to lower the price of Falkland wool. The slide in the value of the $ since the start of the New Year will have undermined much of the boyancy seen in the Australian market over the period.



Hugh Marsden
May 1995

REPLACEMENT SHEEP FOR STONEY RIDGE FARM

By Aidan Kerr, Senior Scientist

With lambing percentages well below 50% on native 'camp' Roy Smith, Stoney Ridge Farm, West Falkland felt that some drastic action was necessary to maintain flock numbers. Two options were available;

1) He could buy lambs from Spring Point Farm for £5 each.

or

2) He could produce more of his own by grazing ewes on a reseed from October to December.

In the end he chose to do both and some costs and benefits are shown below.

29 acres of reseed was established and fenced at £116 per acre aided by a DoA grant.

Lamb Purchase

	Number	Cost/lamb (£)*
1993-4	355	5.00
1994-5	100	5.00

* Note: Cost does not include delivery to farm.

Lamb Production From Reseeds

	Fertiliser Cost	Ewes	Lambs	%	Cost/Lamb (£)*
1993-4	£502	133	122	92	4.76
1994-5	£502	142	124	88	4.70

* Includes labour costs for fertilising.

The ewes picked for the reseed from flock ewes were the poorest. The reseed was also used for hoggets for 6 weeks in February - March and for rams from March until April.

Reseed fed ewes and hoggets had estimated increase in wool weights of about 0.25 - 0.5 kg/hd.

No ewes were lost during lambing in either year compared to 12-14% losses in ewes in native camps where lambing percentages in the same two years were 38% and 50%.

The rate of fertilisation with Nitram (34.5%N) was one 50kg bag per acre which is equivalent to 43 kg of N per hectare.

Other Costs And Benefits

Reseed Establishment

The total cost of establishing and fencing the reseed was about £116/acre. Grant assistance was provided for the seed and fertiliser and fencing. Freight, fuel labour and machinery costs were not assisted.

Annual

1) The annual replacement costs (depreciation) of the reseed was about £7 per acre assuming a 10 year lifespan for the reseed while annual depreciation of the fencing was about £50 per mile over 25 years.

2) The costs saved through buying in sheep ie. the need to carry less ewes and young sheep, and also the extra revenue to be gained from shearing additional older sheep need to be considered. Balanced against this would be some uncertainty about fleece weight and quality, and genetics particularly if the purchased sheep were used for breeding.

3) For the reseed better pasture within traditional ewe camps could be made available to other stock particularly in spring. Alternatively the ewe camps could be spelled until the ewes return from the reseed. A more rigorous culling policy would allow genetic improvements to fleece production and quality.

Options For Established Reseeds

For farms with established (or establishing) reseeds there is a need to maximise the return on the investment. This will be best achieved by fertilising annually to ensure greater production of high quality grass and improve soil fertility in the long-term.

On an well established reseed (>70% cover of the sown grasses) and adequate moisture and temperature conditions in Spring the following stocking rates of ewes with single lambs will depend mainly on the fertiliser rate.

Nitrogen			Fertiliser rate Oct-Dec	Stocking rates		
kg N/Ha	or	(kg N/Ac)	50kg Bags "Nitram"/Acre	Ewes/Ha	or	Ewes/Acre
30		12	1	10		4
40		16	1	11		4
50		20	1	13		5
60		24	1	14		6
70		28	1	16		6
80		32	2	17		7
90		36	2	19		7
100		40	2	20		8
110		44	2	21		8
120		48	2	22		9
130		52	3	23		9
140		56	3	24		10
150		60	3	25		10
160		64	3	26		10
170		68	4	27		11
180		72	4	28		11
190		76	4	29		11
200		80	4	29		12

N.B. Fertiliser rates, amounts and stocking rates are totals for a 10 week period of grazing e.g. mid September to early December.

The general rule is to maximise utilisation of the high quality grass with your most important class of sheep at their most critical time of year. For most farms this will be ewes and lambs in Spring hoggets in Autumn, or the farm stud flock in Winter.

If unfertilised the reseed will probably degrade to Whitegrass or Diddle-dee camp and the initial investment will be wasted.

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OSTRICH FARMING

I thought I would write a small article on Ostrich Farming, which is becoming popular in the U.K.

The Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) can stand over 7'6" tall and weighs 300lbs, can run at speeds up to 42 miles per hour, live as long as a human and lays eggs.

The meat of the Ostrich is one of the healthiest red meats, with 80% less fat and cholesterol than a beef steak, 70% less calories with equivalent protein.

The Ostrich is the largest of a family of flightless running birds known as Ratites, other members being the Emu, Cassowary, Kiwi and Rhea.

These birds originate from the African continent where a number of subspecies may still be found in the wild. Whilst natural egg incubation and chick rearing is done by a pair of birds the eggs are laid by a whole harem of concubine hens served by the resident male. The polygamous nature is used to advantage in Ostrich farming.

The first U.K. farm was set up in 1991, initially bred for their feathers, in recent years the greater potential for the leather and meat has finally began to be realised.

The domesticated or farmed Ostrich is usually the "African Black" a farmed hybrid, although the original "Rednecks" and "Bluenecks" are obtainable.

The African Black can reach 7'6" in height and matures in 2 to 3 years. A hen bird can lay between 20 and 120 eggs in each year over a 40 year breeding lifetime giving about 2000 eggs in all.

To start and Ostrich farm you would have to buy in the eggs at a cost of £100 to £200 per egg, with an incubation period of 42 days, and needs a low 25% humidity incubator.

Ostrich chicks can suffer with digestive problems and leg deformations up to 3 months old.

Buy in adult birds. This is a quick way to get a return but it is expensive (£15,000 for a 2-3 year old trio). Disadvantages include handling a 300lb animal capable of inflicting serious injury, which has caused human fatalities. A big advantage is the quick return on expenditure, sell only a dozen 3 month old chicks and you have recouped the initial outlay within the first year.

One of the advantages of keeping Ostriches is that like sheep they are grass grazers, but as with sheep, supplementary feeds are available and recommended at times.

Breeding groups may be communal, with all birds in one paddock although here the males will tend to fight and hence room and shelter is needed for subservient males to escape more dominant males. More generally Ostriches are run as a trio with one male and two hens in about half-acre paddock. Running birds as trios ensures a more natural breeding pattern with greater food conversion than as pairs and allowing for upwards of 75% fertility of eggs to be achieved.

The hens mature at about 2-3 years and peak production commencing from about 4-5 years. Males usually need to be one year older than the hens to achieve dominance over the hen.

Source: SMALLHOLDER
MAY 1995

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A FEW DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR IF YOU ARE GOING ON HOLIDAY.

8th, 9th and 10th June
South of England Show.
South of England Showground.
Ardingly, West Sussex

3rd - 6th July 1995
The Royal Show
National Agricultural Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire

19th/20th August
Bath and West Showground
Shepton Mallet
Somerset

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LETTER FROM THE K.E.M.H.

There is an old adage " A problem shared is a problem halved". When it comes to how we feel; be that sad or happy or just plain average; then this saying is very true.

'But why' you may ask, 'would I want to share my problems with a total stranger?'

Well firstly I hope not to remain a total stranger for very long. Secondly the service I offer is independent of anything to do with farming, the Government or your physical health care. This results in my not being influenced by factors outside which you share with me.

I am offering a confidential service. This means what you say to me is between you and me. There are a couple of clinical exceptions to this. 'But what can you offer me?' may well be your next question.

Well although I may not be able to strip down a tractor and only know how to put diesel into a Rover, I can help when it comes to feelings of loneliness, stress, anxiety, in fact almost anything to do with the way you feel and your mind works.

'Okay so my family and I want to have a chat with you to see if there is something in your bag of tricks for us. How do we get hold of you so that everyone on West Falkland does not know about it?'

Currently we are working on installing a system where you can ring and or fax me direct into my office at the hospital. This will allow anyone to talk to me or book an appointment in the confidence that privacy will be ensured. At present, however, we are waiting for the fax to arrive and when it comes I will announce the telephone number.

In the mean time I am offering people in Camp the opportunity of ringing me at my home between 8.00 and 8.30am. If you prefer I can come to your home, call me on 22105 (between 8.00 & 8.30am) or at the appointments desk at the hospital, ask for me by name. You do not have to give your name to whoever answers the telephone.

Alternatively you can write to me at the hospital and ask for an appointment or for me to telephone you.

So who am I?

My name is David Harding-Price. Although I am employed as the Community Psychiatric Nurse in the hospital, I am able to get out and about to come to your home. My main role is as a Nurse Counsellor for all the people of the Falkland Islands.

I qualified in psychiatric nursing at Cambridge and then in drug and alcohol dependency nursing at the Metro University, in Manchester.

This will I believe allow me to offer a wide range of services to everyone who presents me with a problem some answers which will lead to an improvement of your quality of life.

In the mean time I will close by saying I look forward to meeting you, and for people in Camp for the next month please remember that you can contact me on 21105 between 8.00am and 8.30am to arrange an appointment.

DAVID HARDING-PRICE

IF YOU LIVE IN CAMP FOR THE NEXT MONTH PLEASE USE 22105 BETWEEN 8.00AM TO 8.30AM TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT.

****

N.S.F. REAL FINE = BIG MONEY

The National Stud Flock is in the news again!!

The N.S.F. ewe hogget wool from Sea Lion Island which tested at 18.8 microns (Clean Yield 69.0% and v.m. 0.3%) sold on Monday 24th April for an impressive £5.75 per clean kilo. This is the best wool test result and price attained to date this season. Such results illustrate the real benefits that farms may be able to achieve in the future and clearly show the huge continuing value of the N.S.F. flock.

18.8 microns and £5.75 is something!!!

ROBERT HALL
MAY 1995

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***** FOR SALE *****

The Department of Agriculture has for sale a quantity of Series III landrover spares, if anyone is interested in obtaining a list, please contact the Department on telephone 27355.

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THE ROYAL SHOW - 3 to 6 July 1995

Are you going on holiday to UK this year.....I have just received information on the Royal Show, if anyone is interested in obtaining free tickets for 3 - 6 July 1995, please give me a call and I can send you the details or contact the Visitor Service Office The Royal Agricultural Society of England, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ. Fax No. 01203 696900.

The Royal International Agricultural Exhibition, Europe's premier exhibition of farming, food and the countryside, has been extensively restructured for 1995 in one of the most significant and far-reaching developments in the exhibition's 155 year history.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) had developed a series of themed, specialist areas, each supported by technical demonstrations, exhibits, trade stands and displays from key organisations.

LIVESTOCK AREA: Over 7,000 animals will be on show with the best pedigree and commercial livestock in the world.

MACHINERY AREA: Technical features: all the latest new equipment, with awards and working demonstrations.

ARABLE AREA: Major production systems - from organic to the full commercial approach.

EQUINE AREA: One of the biggest all-weather rings in the world, with trade section and demonstrations.

FARMING AND THE COUNTRYSIDE: Demonstrating the integration of farming and conservation in a visually striking themed area and including "Home Farm", a complete working demonstration farm to demonstrate the latest developments and initiatives.

PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: An area dedicated to issues such as housing and transport, social issues, employment and training, leisure and tourism.

FOOD AREA: This exhibition will provide a unique interface between farmers, buyers, wholesalers and retailers. International food will be strongly represented in the International Food Court and International Food Pavilion. A Cookery Theatre will include celebrities from the world of food.

COUNTRY PURSUITS: This will cover all the aspects of hunting, shooting, fishing and much more. Also covering bigger and better off-road track, trade area, and Town and Country area including crafts and skills.

RETAIL: This exhibition boasts one of the finest collections of retail outlets, each has a unique mix of top quality goods and crafts.

FARM WOODLAND AND FORESTRY: This area features technical displays and practical demonstrations - including biomass and the integration of forestry and agriculture.

GARDENING AND HORTICULTURE: A visually stunning display of all that is best about British gardening and with an immense flower show marquee.

AGRIBUSINESS: A Forum for the latest device, information, products and services needed to cope with change of the world of agriculture. Also includes Education and Training.

INTERNATIONAL: Emphasis on bringing international visitors into contact with the relevant exhibitors and organisations will be in place for 1995, following extensive co-operation with the relevant government and trade organisations and the strengthening of the RASE international team. The RASE offers complimentary tickets to all overseas visitors who express an interest in attending the event. Once on the showground there is a dedicated International Centre offering not only interpreting assistance and general multi-lingual information but also identification of the areas and exhibitors of interest, with leading trade associations providing advice covering most aspects of the agricultural industry. Visitors also receive a free copy of the Show Guide whilst their badge gives them free entry to the exhibition on subsequent days plus free access to the Grand Ring and Flower Show.

Source: Royal International Agricultural Exhibition Programme.

Charlene Rowland
May 1995

FARM MONITORING OF DANGEROUS WIND-CHILL CONDITIONS

The Department would be grateful if all the farms who took part in this exercise over the 1994/95 shearing season would now return their completed forms. To date only 4 out of a possible 11 have been returned and to improve the prediction system for everyone's benefit we really need a few more. So if you were one of the farms that have not yet returned the forms please do so as soon as possible. This will be much appreciated.

J. Aidan Kerr
Senior Scientist

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"Square meals often make round people". Joseph Cossman

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL - I THINK I CAN SEE IT!

When I left the Falklands last September to embark on a nine month Diploma in Advanced Agricultural Business Management, I wasn't really sure what to expect. I had deep rooted fears about stepping back into education after such a long break, although the challenge was a big attraction, and an opportunity I didn't want to pass up. I was a bit apprehensive about being "older", but was assured that I wouldn't be the oldest. WRONG - They all call me "MUM" (respectfully of course).

The course has a very "hands on" approach, learning through live case studies. Farmers or other business managers contact the college with real problems which are passed onto the students on my course. We then investigate the situation, produce a report and seminar for the "client" (hopefully with some useful options and solutions).

These case studies are assessed and contribute towards the final marks at the end of the course. I personally like this approach as your ability in the workplace isn't judged by exams at the end of the year, but by your performance in the real world. Saying that, we do have written exams throughout the year, which is where being out of education for so long tells the tale, as a major part of doing well in exams is down to skill and technique. I think I might be just getting into the swing of those skills and techniques by the end of the nine months!

To embark on a course like this took a fair amount of commitment, not only from me, but from my family left behind who have been so supportive. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to learn, not only for the benefits of my job, but also for self-satisfaction.

In all, the course is going well for me and I am looking forward to putting my new skills into practice when I come home in August.

MANDY McLEOD
MATURE STUDENT?
MAY 1995

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RECIPES

BUNS

Ingredients:

1lb flour, 12 ozs sugar, 12 ozs margarine, 6 eggs, 2 teaspoons baking powder.

Cream butter and sugar well, add eggs, flour and baking powder, a little milk if needed. cook at about 375 for 15-20 minutes.

If you want chocolate, then add two tablespoons of cocoa,

Farm Account Book 3

The Department will shortly be reprinting the Farm Account Book 3 (Blue Book) as stocks of the 2nd edition are already running low. A few slight modifications are envisaged and these include:

1. The removal of M.S.L from the wages summary sheet (in line with recent changes to the tax system.)

2. The provision of more space for the itemisation Machinery and Fencing on the depreciation tables

3. The inclusion of "Balance Sheet" depreciation tables for those farms that compile a Balance Sheet on an annual basis. Additional tables are now considered necessary given the flexibility in the tax ordinance relating to depreciation. Where the written down value of an asset is held (ie depreciation not claimed), a situation is created where the "true" value of assets is not reflected in the "taxation" depreciation table. The true value of farm assets may now be recorded on the balance sheet depreciation table.

4. To improve the accuracy of recording (and conform to tax legislation) farmers are now encouraged to enter gross wool receipts on the Profit and Loss account. If gross receipts are recorded the relevant marketing costs should be recorded as a direct cost under the payments section. Any advance on wool proceeds should be regarded as a loan and only be regarded as income during the normal selling season. For example an advance on 1995 wool proceeds paid in December 1994 should entered as income in the 1995 tax year.

We recognise the difficulties that quoting gross wool receipts may create and suggest that a reconciliation of all wool statements at the end of the selling season is the easiest way of extracting the relevant information. The analysis of marketing cost is also recommended for planning and budgeting purposes. The information also provides greater precision in preparing the Farm Gross Margin Account.

If farmers have any comments or queries relating to the reprinting of Farm Account Book 3 please contact the Department.

Agricultural Grant scheme

Farmers are reminded that the existing grant scheme (including EDF programme) expires at the end of the current (1994/95) financial year. All applications for EDF materials and F.I.G funding should be placed with the Department well before the 30th June to ensure payment.

SHEARING SHEEP WITHOUT BENDING OVER

Technology has answered many of the questions woolgrowers have asked, but the problem of how to keep a shearer standing upright while shearing has only recently been overcome.

A long term research project has developed a semi-automated sheep shearing system which allows that to happen while reducing animal stress at the same time.

Working on the principle that efficiencies can be gained through a reduction in handling and through improved work practices, the International Wool Secretariat (IWS) and its partners at the University of Western Australia are now in the process of commercialising a sophisticated shearing table called the "Simplified Loading and Manipulation Platform (SLAMP).

The platform stands at waist height. It is envisaged that a sheep will be delivered from a holding pen via a conveyor belt that stops adjacent to the platform. The sheep is then lowered onto the mechanically driven rollers. The sheep's hocks will be clamped into place, its head restrained and its eyes covered to reduce struggling and animal stress which can impede shearing speed.

The platform's rollers and swing arms manipulate the sheep into the required shearing position eliminating the need for the shearer to physically restrain the animal as is required during conventional shearing. Shearers are able to do their job while standing up and with minimum exertion.

Once the fleece has been shorn, it is removed by anther conveyor belt to be skirted and baled. The sheep is released, tipped to the floor, and moved on to a holding pen through a race.

To maximise the efficiency of the SLAMP, IWS and its partners have designed the system to operate as a production line with several units in a row. The system would be housed in a mobile trailer that can be easily transported from one property to the next.

Trials have shown that the SLAMP delivers a shorn sheep in equivalent times to conventional shearing while still attaining the desired results. It is being taken to several properties around Western Australia for further tests. However, it is expected that the SLAMP, or Shear Magic as it will be known in its commercial guise, will be available for widespread use next year.

AUSTRALIAN FARM JOURNAL WOOL
DECEMBER 1994

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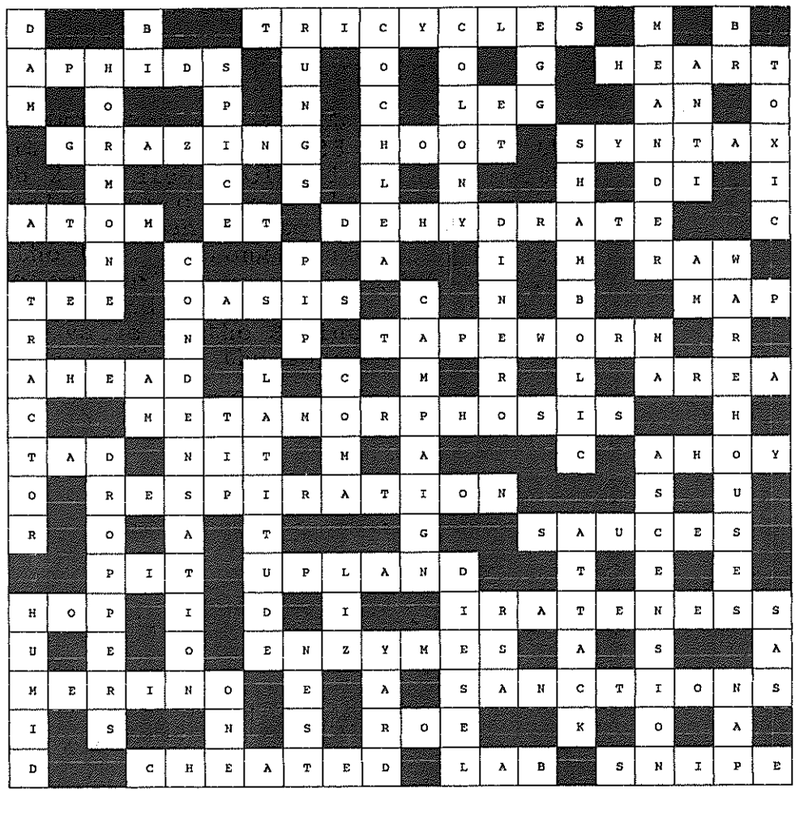
WP65



LETTER

Following the article in the latest Woolpress about Beef by Robert Hall and the wildly enthusiastic (?) reception of the F.I.D.C. Slaughterhouse Report together with the opportunities it will create for the farming community, I would like to offer the following old Yorkshire saying to anyone considering diversifying into Beef -

There are three ways of losing money:-

Backing horses is the quickest
Wine and women the pleasantest
Fattening bullocks is the surest.

Malcolm Ashworth
April 1995

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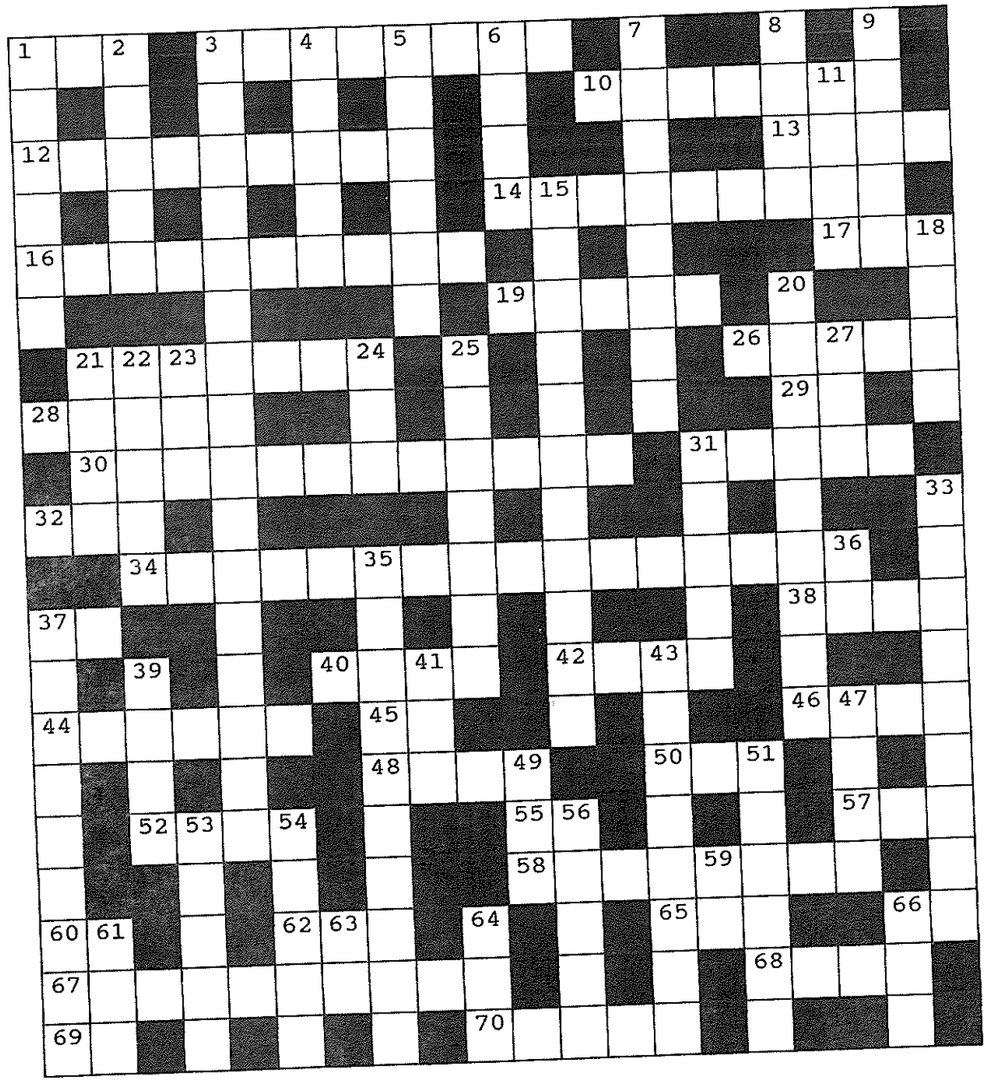

FOR SALE

LANDROVER 90 2.5LTR Station Wagon, - 1989 - 31,000 KMS - power stearing - cassette radio - recently fitted with extra grip tyres - coil springs - plastic bushes. In good condition and running order and with a full service history. Available from mid June.

Enquires to M. Alazia at Port Edgar. Telephone No. 42010

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WP66

ACROSS

1. KED ERADICATION TREATMENT
3. GARDEN GREENS
10. REAP
12. NAUTICAL GREEN
13. PERSON, PLACE OR THING
14. PIGMAN
16. HAIRY FRUIT (USUALLY)
17. EXTRA-SENSORY-PERCEPTION
19. SMITH'S FORGING BLOCK
21. ATMOSPHERIC BANG
26. HEART RATE
28. CAME ACROSS
29. SOUTH ATLANTC
30. USUAL DIAGNOSIS FOR YOUTH ACHES
31. PASTIME
32. PITCH
34. NORTH COUNTY ROASTED BATTER MIX
37. 16th GREEK LETTER
38. OPENING
40. FIRST MAN
42. SECURE
44. TOOTH COVERING
45. COMMANDO
46. CARRYING DEVICE
48. UNWRAP
50. BABY'S DRIBBLE COLLECTOR
52. INVENTORY
55. YOU AND ME
57. FROZEN WATER
58. SLEEPY STATE OF PARTIAL ANAESTHESIA
60. FOR INSTANCE
62. SKILL
65. OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
66. SAINT
67. ATTORNEY
68. HIDE
69. LONG SKINNEY NECKED ALIEN
70. WISHES

DOWN

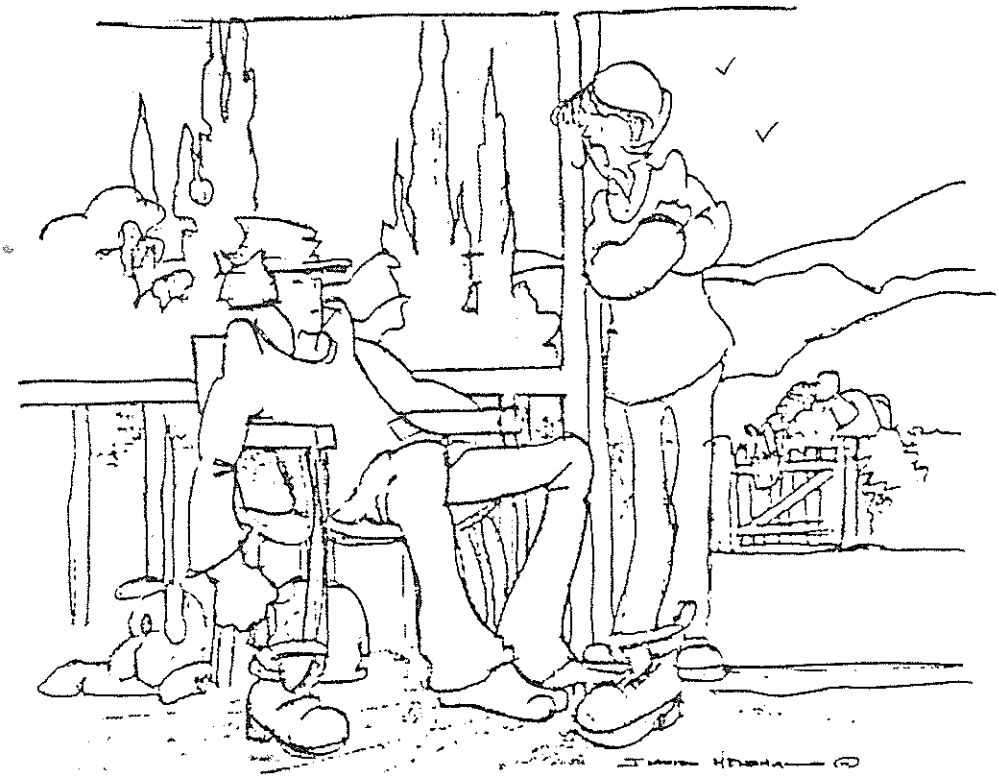
1. PLAN
2. IVORY KEYED INSTRUMENT
3. PHONE COMPANY
4. INDIAN MALE
5. VIPERS
6. OPTICAL ORGANS
7. LIVER COMPLAINT
8. HEREDITARY DATA CELL
9. BREEDING MALES
11. PAINFUL
15. FINISHING POINT
18. LITTLE BO
20. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT SCIENCE
21. ROMAN GARMENT
22. RUSH
23. SPANISH ONE
24. CRYPTORCHID
25. INSTRUCTIONAL DRAWING
27. EXPERIMENTAL AREA
31. BARRIER OF SHRUBS
33. CONTRACT
35. INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING WATER DENSITY
36. START
37. ORDER A REMEDY OR TREATMENT
39. BE UNSUCCESSFUL
41. MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY
43. WONDERFUL
47. LEAVE OUT
49. FRUIT WITH HARD SHELL
51. HAVING TWO SPOUSES
53. INACTIVE
54. RUBBISH
56. WET SPONGY LAND
59. YOUR UNCONSCIOUS SELF
61. DEVOUR
63. RADIO TRANSMITTER
64. FIRE REMAINS
66. BLUE ABOVE

****

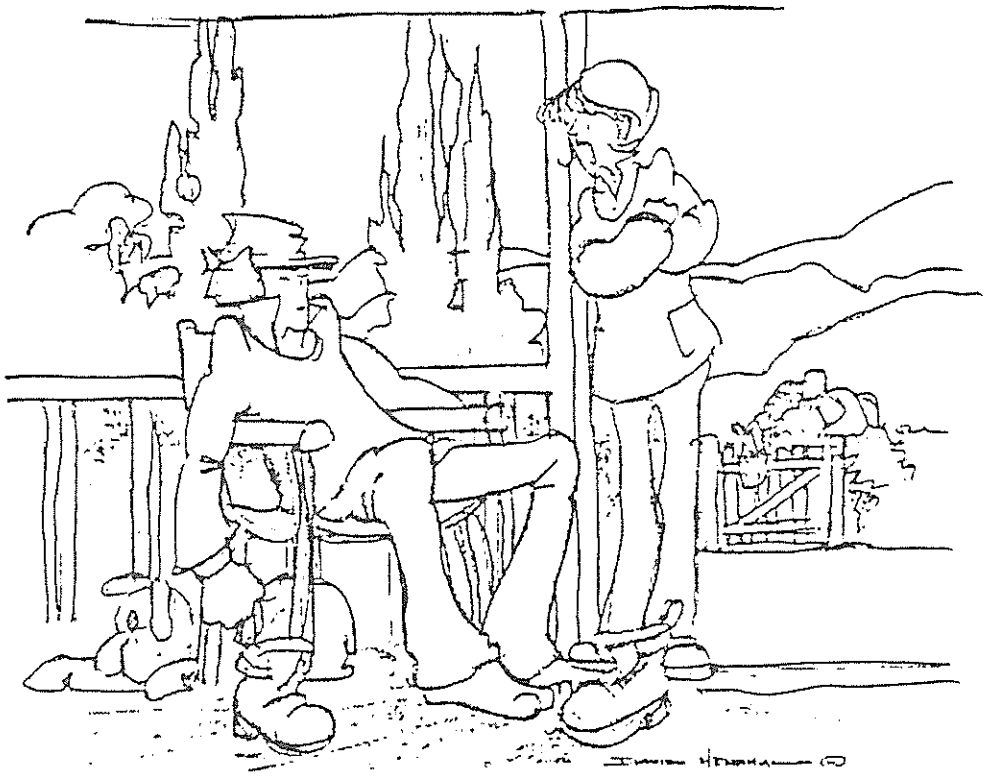
LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

1. Pocket missing on Vicars jacket; 2. 4th finger missing on mans hand.; 3. Tail on horse; 4. Stone missing; 5. Tree in background; 6. Saddle on horse; 7. Part of head gear on horse missing; 8. Part of reins missing; 9. Mans colar; 10. Car window missing.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



"Y'either doing too much or it's your age .... and at your age I'd say it's your age!"



WOOL PRESS

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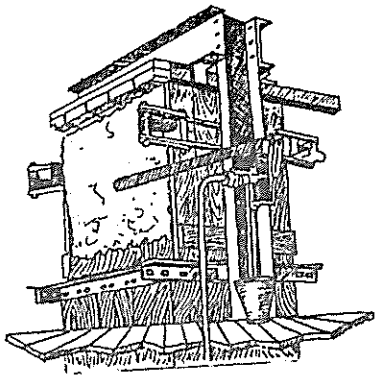
ISSUE 67 JUNE 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES.
AND MORE!



Editor: Mrs Charlene Rowland

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORIAL

This months WOOL PRESS "OVERSEAS EXCHANGE" was sent to Gerald Cheek. If you think you may like a challenge, Gerald would be delighted to hear from you.

May Week has been and gone again. Hope everyone enjoyed a well earned holiday and all well rested and recuperated.

The Department of Agriculture has had a few staff changes. Tracy Evans has now departed us and off to college shortly, we all wish her well.

Julie Fisher-Smith has started as the new Senior Clerk.
Greg is at the moment on holiday in Australia soaking up the sun in Wagga Wagga.

Hugh is about to leave on a well earned holiday touring South America. Jenny Fuller will also departs very soon, back to Ireland and hopefully will be back in the summer.

Charlene Rowland.

1994 FARMER'S FORUM ON TUSSAC AND SAND GRASS

The proceedings of the very successful Farmers Forum on this subject, held during Farmer's week 1994, have recently been published. All of those people who attended and many others should by now have received copies.

The Department of Agriculture still have a few copies to spare. If anyone would like a copy please contact me on 27355.

We would also welcome your ideas on subjects for a similar forum/workshop during 1995 Farmers Week.

Aidan Kerr
Senior Scientist.

****

WOOL MARKETS

The Australian Wool Markets have performed moderately well with prices moving back towards the seasonal high experienced prior to the Easter recess. The underlying situation remains subdued given the extremely low levels of wool being offered for sale and actually sold at auction.

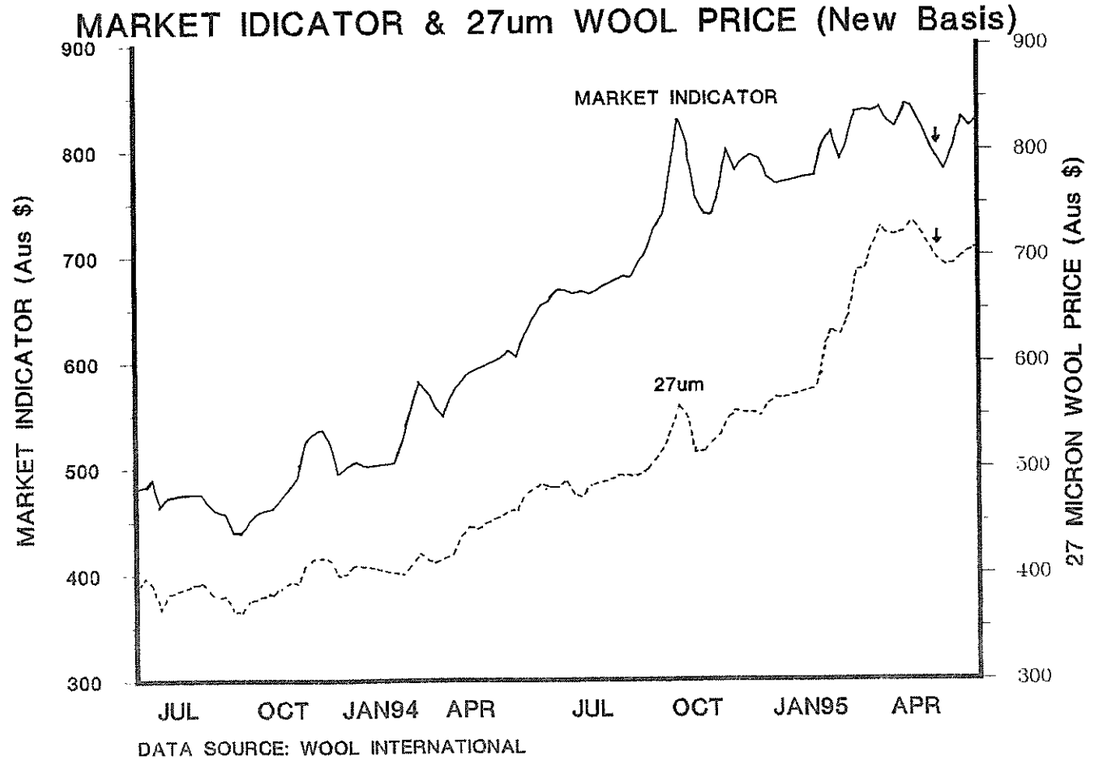
Part of this weakness could be caused by the politics of the Australian Wool Industry. It now seems likely that the Australian Stockpile will finish the selling season below the 3 million bale threshold. Wool International has recently increased the level of stockpile disposals, and this does seem to have contributed to the destabilised market situation.

The Market Indicator closed 36 cents higher on last months figure to close at 829 cents on the 2nd June. (An arrow on the graph indicates last months quoted prices.)

The 27um Indicator has risen 11 cents since the 28th April to close at 708 cents. It is noticeable that coarse wool prices have remained stable in comparison to finer wools.

The Australian dollar has remained unchanged at 227 cents/£.

On the 2nd June, the Wool International stockpile totalled 3,035,398 farm bale equivalents.



Hugh Marsden
June 1995

CONTROLLING HORSE WORMS

Horse Worms

The major worms of horses are the Cyathostomes (small strongyles/red worms), and the two types of large strongyle. They infect horses of all ages.

Wormer resistance (where the worm is not affected by the wormer administered) is a growing problem in many countries. One survey in England revealed that 80% of farms had Benzimidazole resistant Cyathostomes. The large strongyles have not developed resistance and tend only to cause problems where control of parasites is neglected.

Wormer Types

There are four classes of wormer which work in different ways:-

1. Benzimidazoles of which PANACUR is a brand.
2. Pyrantel/Morantel of which STRONGID P is the only product available in this group.
3. Avermectins of which EQVALAN is the only product available.
4. Organophosphates of which HALOXON is the only product available in the U.K.

Epidemiology - Based Control Programme: Avoid The Development Of Anthelmintic Resistance

1. Use Effective Anthelmintics or Wormers.
   Continuing to use an anthelmintic to which resistance has developed only makes the resistance worse.

   Farms can test for resistance by taking faecal samples from half a dozen horses before worming and then again 7 to 14 days later. If the faecal egg count is not reduced by 90% or more wormer resistance is the most likely the cause. When resistance to Panacur is detected its use should be discontinued.

2. Give The Correct Dose
   If horses cannot be weighed then it is better to overestimate the weight as most modern wormers are safe and will not harm the horse. Underdosing may provide poor worm control and help to produce resistant strains of worms.

3. Rotate Anthelmintic Classes On An Annual Basis
   This is done with sheep wormers and studies in Australia showed that resistance in horses was not a problem on farms where different classes of wormers were used in a slow annual rotation i.e. change the family of wormer each year.

4. Avoid Introducing Resistant Worms
   Treat new arrivals or mares returning home from the stud with any of the products available here except for Panacur and keep them off the pasture for 48 hours.

   This should prevent a farm with no history of resistance acquiring a resistance problem.

5. Use The Minimum Number Of Treatments
   The more frequent the treatment the more likely it is that anthelmitic resistance will develop.

   Foals need only be treated when their faecal egg count exceeds 100 e.p.g. (eggs per gram). It is important that they are exposed to immune stimulation. Heavy worming would slow their development of immunity. On the other hand if treatments are too widely spaced pasture contamination will not be controlled.

   The best way to determine the optimum spacing for worm treatments is to do faecal egg counts every two weeks after worming. When the level rises to the level present when worming was carried out its time to worm again.

6. Use Epidemiological Principles Of Worm Control
   In northern U.S.A., Europe and Canada there is a spring/summer rise in faecal egg counts. Worming from April to August proved to be as effective as worming all the year round and actually reduced pasture infection in a trial carried out in Northern U.S.A.

Obviously we are in the Southern Hemishpere here and I would stress that no parasite studies have been done on horses here.

However based on sheep trials here I would think that it is highly likely Spring, early Summer and Autumn will be the periods when parasite activity is greater as the dry summer conditions certainly will kill worm infection on pastures. Worming in summer and winter is unlikely to have any major benefit.

Young horses (just weaned and yearlings) often pose a problem because of their poor response to worming under intensive grazing conditions. High faecal egg counts and serious pasture contamination may occur even when young horses are treated all year round. Better control can be arranged with pasture management by either alternating grazing with sheep or cattle or prolonged destocking of pasture (at least over the whole winter and following spring). These measures are likely to reduce the number of wormings required to one or two a year.

The Veterinary surgeon is in the best position to advise on control strategies for farms or even individual horse owners and will be happy to give what advise he can.

Conclusion

There is no reason to believe that resistance at present exists to Strongid P, Eqvalan, or Haloxon but there is no reason to believe that it could not happen as it has done with sheep and cattle worms. It is vital to try and observe the above precautions to try and prevent the development of resistance.

I would again stress that no parasite work on horses has been carried out in the Islands but there is no reason to assume that the above does not apply at least until work actually proves that anomalies exist here.

J D J SAUNDERS BVMS MRCVS

OVERSEAS EXCHANGE

Mr Gerald Cheek has received the following letters and if anyone is interested in this opportunity to work and see South Africa, please can you get in touch with Gerald:

Quote:

Our Chairman, John de Havilland, has two hard working single daughters aged 28 and 30 who currently work on John and his wife's estate in South Africa. John is very keen that they should take a 6 month sabbatical from South Africa and do something else.

John was round for supper last night and we talked through the problem and discussed various places where they might like to go and right on top of the list was the Falkland Islands.

What John would like to consider is some sort of exchange with two Falkland Islanders in their twenties (I think John would prefer two hard working young men but I am sure two equally hard working young women would be very acceptable) who would like to spend six months or so working in a beautiful part of South Africa. The idea being that at least the Falkland Islanders would get accommodated and paid for their work in South Africa, it is not so important that the girls get paid be accommodated would be a must.

With all your contacts on the Islands do you know of anyone who would welcome such an exchange? The type of work is relatively immaterial but they are very used to working outdoors. The suggestion is that the exchange should take place from about October.

I look forward to hearing from you when you have time to consider the problem. Sorry to bother you with it but I could not think of anyone better placed. Unquote:
Yours sincerely - Colin Cheshire.

****

Quote:

I do apologise for bothering you with my home affairs, as per Colin's letter of May 31st, but would hugely appreciate your help.

I recognise that the whole idea is a complete long shot, but the part of South Africa we live in is just about as remote as I understand the Falklands to be, with a farm about every 5 miles.

Our crop is wild flowers, entirely produced by mother nature, so there is virtually no farming as such, and the flowers are picked by the locals.

The job that needs doing is fencing, clearing fire breaks (bush fires are a fearful hazard), looking after the horses (we have 4 moderately docile but potentially a bit strong for my wife and daughters), riding - say 2 hours a day, fetching and carrying flowers pickers and the picked flowers (usually a ton is a "load") and generally being "about the place" since it is not terribly intelligent to have an isolated farm with no man about.

We have about 5,000 acres and it is a botanists and conservationists paradise. Anyone coming would have a very comfortable house, next door to ours, and would basically fend for themselves though it breaks the monotony if they come in now and again for a meal or whatever.

If anyone does come I would have to pay them in the Falkland Islands because of work permit rules, but all fares, expenses etc would get paid. Unquote
J.A. de Havilland.

****

MORE WIDESPREAD RESEEDING?

Aidan's article about reseeding last month precipitated the question "Should reseeding be more commonly undertaken?"

The first question is, what are the objectives of establishing a reseed? "More lambs weaned" is often the main objective, to achieve higher farm profits and reduce farm-risk in the terms of being self sustaining in sheep replacements. Defining all the costs and benefits is difficult and differs from farm to farm.

Taking Aidan's figures for a 29 acre reseed enabling 133 ewes to wean 122 lambs (92%):

COSTS

Capital costs (previously grant assisted):
£3364 (£116/acre) for reseeding and fencing, or £336.40 per annum written off over 10 years.

Fertilizing (variable) costs p.a.:
£502 for fertilzer,
£80 for fertilzing costs including labour.

The total annual cost for a 29 acre reseed would be £336.40 (capital) + £582 fertilizer) = £918.40 p.a.

BENEFITS

Wool benefits:
Additional fleece wool = 50 kg greasy @ 66% = 33 kg clean, worth today perhaps £94 nett.

Lamb cost: benefits:
Assumes that ewes achieve 92% lambing on the reseed (assumptions of higher or lower lambing percentages will alter costings accordingly).
Total annual costs of £918.40, minus wool income of £94, leaves £824.40 to be covered by the extra lambs per annum.

Lambing % for ewes on non improved camp	Extra lambing % for ewes on reseed if @ 92%	Extra lambs from 133 ewes on 29 acres	Total annual cost per extra lamb	Annual capital cost per extra lamb	Annual fertilizer costs per extra lamb *
25%	67%	89	9.26	3.78	5.48
38%	54%	72	11.45	4.67	6.78
50%	42%	56	14.72	6.01	8.71
60%	32%	43	19.17	7.82	11.35
70%	22%	29	28.43	11.60	16.83

* Additional wool income used to reduce variable costs.

It is the extra lambs weaned which make a reseed worthwhile, provided that their subsequent survival rate is also good; improved fencing and pasture management follow.

The above exercise is not precise, it assumes a successful reseed, but it does illustrate the large total costs and how they change per lamb, depending upon the number of additional lambs weaned. It also shows the contribution that grants make to the costing of a reseed and illustrates that without grants, buying-in young sheep is currently the more economic option.

Reseeds have significant costs. Farms most likely to justify reseeds are:
1. Those with poor lambing percentages, which can significantly increase lamb production from a reseed.
2. Those farms trying to increase stocking rates quickly.
3. Farms involved in breeding programmes trying to breed and/or multiply superior animals.
4. Those farms planning to sell young sheep either to other farms or for killing.

The abattoir proposal may lead to competition for young sheep, in which case the need for reseeds will increase, particularly to protect and make self-sufficient those farms on difficult country which need more lambs merely to survive. Hopefully the next grant scheme should recognise this critical requirement.

ROBERT H.B. HALL
D.S. & Co. (FALKLAND FARMING) LTD.
JUNE 1995

Crops for Winter Feed.

This article originated after a few recent enquiries from farmers regarding different types of crops suitable for winter feed for both sheep and cattle. It will compare the feed values of various crops with local pastures and give some agronomic advice on Kale growing. More information has been requested from overseas and when it arrives it will be presented in Wool Press.

As early as 1924 Munro recommended growing Swedes and soft turnips for winter feed for hoggets here. He claimed that 20 acres of an average crop of turnips in New Zealand would feed 1,000 sheep for one month. Although such claims have never been fully tested here A.B. Monk in 1967 grew Kale as a winter feed for 14 cows and 1 bull on Pebble Island.

There is good experience in growing Swedes both in Stanley and in 'camp'. This could be applied to growing Swedes as a winter feed for sheep, cattle or horses. Oats have also been grown by several farmers. Wool Press readers would be grateful for shared information and experience on growing oats, Swedes or other crops. Anyone wishing to do so should contact me initially.

A high energy value feed to maintain animal body condition and vital organ functions is the primary need for winter feeding. The table below shows the various crop feeds in comparison to Cocksfoot, Whitegrass, Greens and Tussac pastures. Feeds with higher ME (Metabolisable Energy) values are more nutritious than those with lower values because they contain more energy per kilogram of dry weight. (The energy values of human foods are often quoted on the package e.g. breakfast cereals!). Similarly the higher the DOMD (the digestible organic matter in the dry matter) the more digestible the feed is.

The energy and digestibility values of commonly used feeds and pastures.

Feed	Winter D-value (%)	ME (MJ/kg DM)
Swede turnip (roots)	88*	14
Kale thousand head (leaves)	77*	12
Oats grain	68*	12
Tussac	66	11
Reseed Hay	61	9
Reseed Silage	61*	9
Reseed	53	8
Greens	50	8
Oats hay	50*	8
Whitegrass	45	7
Oats straw	46*	7

(*N.B. where winter D-values for locally grown crops were not available values from UKMAFF (Ref. Book 433) were substituted. It is not clear what time of year the feeds were sampled thus the values may be higher than for the same crops grown during winter here).

Kale

Kale produces high yields of green feed over winter and once established it requires little maintenance as its vigorous growth smothers weeds and it is rarely affected by pests and diseases. The main pest here is likely to be geese which can reduce the young crop by about 15% although once the crop has grown over 9" (23 cm) damage from geese should be less likely.

Site

A valley or paddock close to the settlement and away from goose shedding areas should be preferable. The site for the crop should neither be too waterlogged nor too dry. Thus very wet boggy areas and dry Diddle-dee ridges should both be avoided. Include an area of Whitegrass for roughage and a dry valley side or bank for shelter and night camp. The latter should face north or east or both to offer some shelter from the severe south-westerly winds. A surrounding fence should keep the stock out until the crop is ready for grazing.

Seedbed preparation

Although Kale is usually direct-drilled it can be broadcast onto a suitably prepared seedbed. The cultivation operations used to establish grass reseeds or airstrips should suffice (see Wool Press May 91 & March 95 for details). At least two rotovations will be required. The first should destroy the existing vegetation and the second should prepare the seedbed. For example to have a crop ready for winter grazing in 1996 it would be necessary to lime and rotovate before Winter 1995, followed by the seedbed preparation and sowing in early October 1995.

Varieties & sowing

Choose 'winter' kales not 'autumn' kales. 'Thousand Head' kale was grown successfully by A.B. Monk. However varieties which are better yielding, more digestible, more winter hardy and resistant to lodging are now available e.g. Deboretta, Bittern, Maris Kestrel, Proteor. Monk believed that "the seed was cheaper than oats and the labour requirement is so much less".

Broadcast Kale at about 3 kg/acre in October or earlier if dry spring conditions usually prevail. Harrowing followed by heavy rolling or trampling by a mob of sheep should provide good seed to soil contact. FIRM CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOIL IS VITAL.

Lime and Fertilisers

An analysis by the DoA laboratory will determine soil acidity (pH) any major nutrient deficiencies (currently 3.80 per sample).

The optimum pH for growth is 6.0-6.5 which is well above the 4.7-4.8 pH for most valleys or settlement paddocks. Most uncultivated peats are very acid, thus for 'virgin' soils liming (or use shell sand if locally available) every 3-5 years, depending on changes to pH, would be beneficial. The experience of other crop growers may be useful.

Such soils are also usually deficient in Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K). Phosphate encourages seedling establishment and potash promotes winter hardiness and maximises the response of Kale to N. The application of a compound NPK fertiliser in the ratio of 20N : 14 Phosphate : 14 Potash at about 7 bags per acre should produce a full response. Alternatively, on less peaty and less acid soils with adequate levels of P and K then about 4 bags of Nitram per acre should produce a good crop. It could be applied in split dressings of about 67% at sowing an 33% when the kale is 6" (15cm) high. Spreading animal manure will also benefit the crop.

Grazing

Kale contains an anti-thyroid substance and an anaemia factor and IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR PREGNANT EWES.

Strip grazing using a moveable electric fence will increase the efficiency of grazing Kale and prevent damage to the crop by trampling. Daily allowances should be about 30 kg/head for cattle and 7.5 kg/head for lambs and hoggs. A grazing strip of about 1,750m2 (about 0.5 acre) in a good crop of Kale should feed 200 lambs and hoggs for a week. Once the yield and fence length have been determined the feed allocations can be calculated for various periods.

Monk recommended grazing from no earlier than mid-August until the end of September. He found that cutting and carrying it to his cows reduced wastage but obviously increased the labour requirement. The crop provided 60 days feed for 14 cows and 1 bull and he concluded; "All agreed that in the good kale year the milk and cream had been better than had ever been known before on Pebble".

Follow up with a grass reseed

The fertility and structure of the soil will have improved considerably through the application of lime and fertiliser and by grazing. If the area is not to be resown to Kale or another crop it would favour establishment of a grass reseed. A shallow rotovation in October should produce a fine tilth fit for sowing the DoA Cocksfoot-Fescue-Bent seed mixture. White clover seed could also be included in the mixture as it would benefit from the enhanced fertility.

Aidan Kerr,
Senior Scientist/Agronomist

HOME SMOKING - A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SMOKING MEAT & FISH

There has recently been a huge revival in the age old tradition of smoking food. On the supermarket and delicatessens shelves there is a whole range of smoked food to choose from. Smoked oysters, quails eggs, cheeses and most meats. While the exotics are very fashionable, nothing beats the taste of a home cured and smoked ham or fish. Most commercially smoked foods have never come into contact with real smoke. A cocktail of chemicals, dyes, and preservatives are sprayed or injected into the meat to give it a smoked flavour.

Before smoking takes place meat and fish must be picked in a brine solution. The meat can then be cured. There are many different recipes for cures to choose from. Different cures results in quite different tasting hams. Smoking on top of a cure adds another whole range of flavours.

RECIPE FOR TWO LOINS OF PORK.

Mix 5lbs of salt, 5ozs of dark brown sugar, 8ozs of clear honey, 5flozs of lemon juice and 12 points of boiling water. Put the mixure in a plastic or enamel container and when it is cold add the meat and 3 pints of cider. The pork must be kept under the surface of the brine and turned every day for five days. It must be kept cold whilst it is curing.

TO BUILD A SIMPLE SMOKER

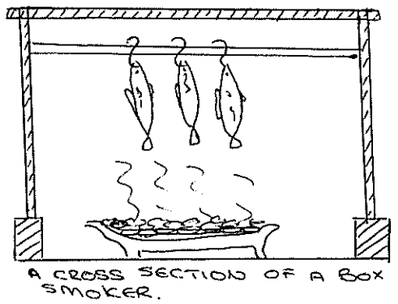
Next comes the smoking process. To build a simple smoker make a ply wood box without a top or bottom about 40 inches high, 30 inches wide and 30 inches deep. Place a grate or family barbecue some where away from the house. Stand the box on blocks of wood or logs above the fire grate. Secure the rod across the top of the box and hang the meat on and make a loose fitting lid for the top.

Create a slow buring charcoal fire and string up the meat inside the smoke box. Add some soaked hickory or oak chips (if you can't obtain hickory or oak chip, sandy point chips is also reasonably good) to the fire. This makes the smoke that will preserve and flavour the meat. Rest the lid on the box and leave for a couple of hours. Make sure the supply of wood chips and charcoal does not run out. Smoke the pork for about two or three days to really let the flavour penetrate to the middle of the joint.

After smoking is complete store the ham in the fridge where is will keep for several weeks. The ham is delicious when served cold with a crispy salad, cheese, a tasty pickle and home baked bread.

RECIPE FOR SMOKED FISH

This is a recipe for hot smoked mullet which can be adapted for other fish. Clean two mullets leaving the heads and tails on. Place in a brine solution of 1lb of salt in 4 pints of water for 5 hours. Hang the fish up to dry for about 1 hour in a cool place then transfer to the smoker. They can be hung up by a loop of string through their gills.



A CROSS SECTION OF A BOX SMOKER.

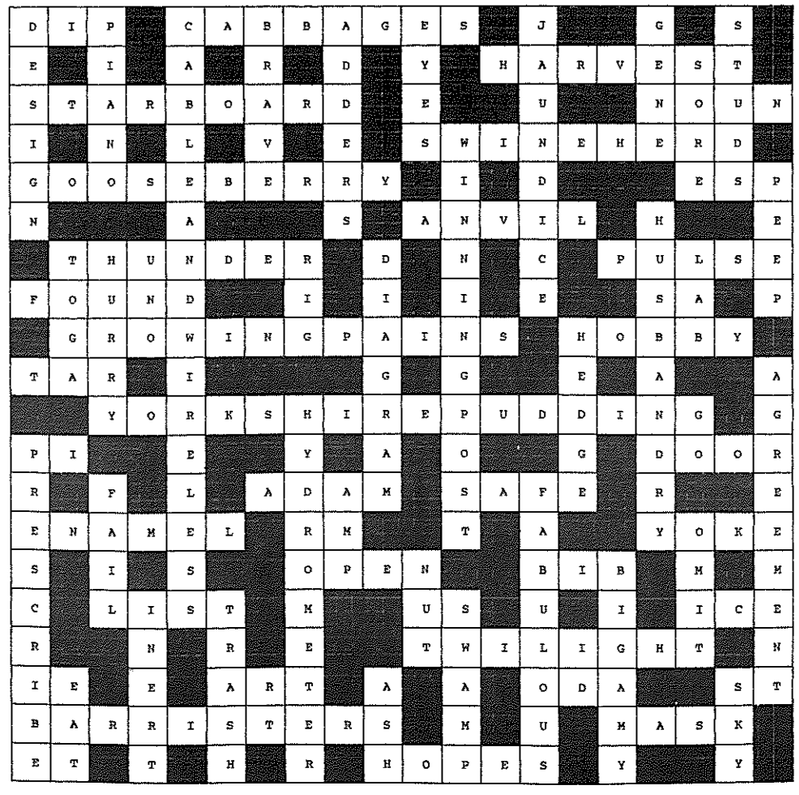
Hot smoking is when the fish is cooked and smoked at the same time. The fire will need to be more fierce than it is when used for smoking meat. This means it will get through more wood chips and need attending regularly. Leave the fish to smoke for about 2 to 3 hours. The fish will be ready for eating immediately or can be kept in the fridge for a couple of days.

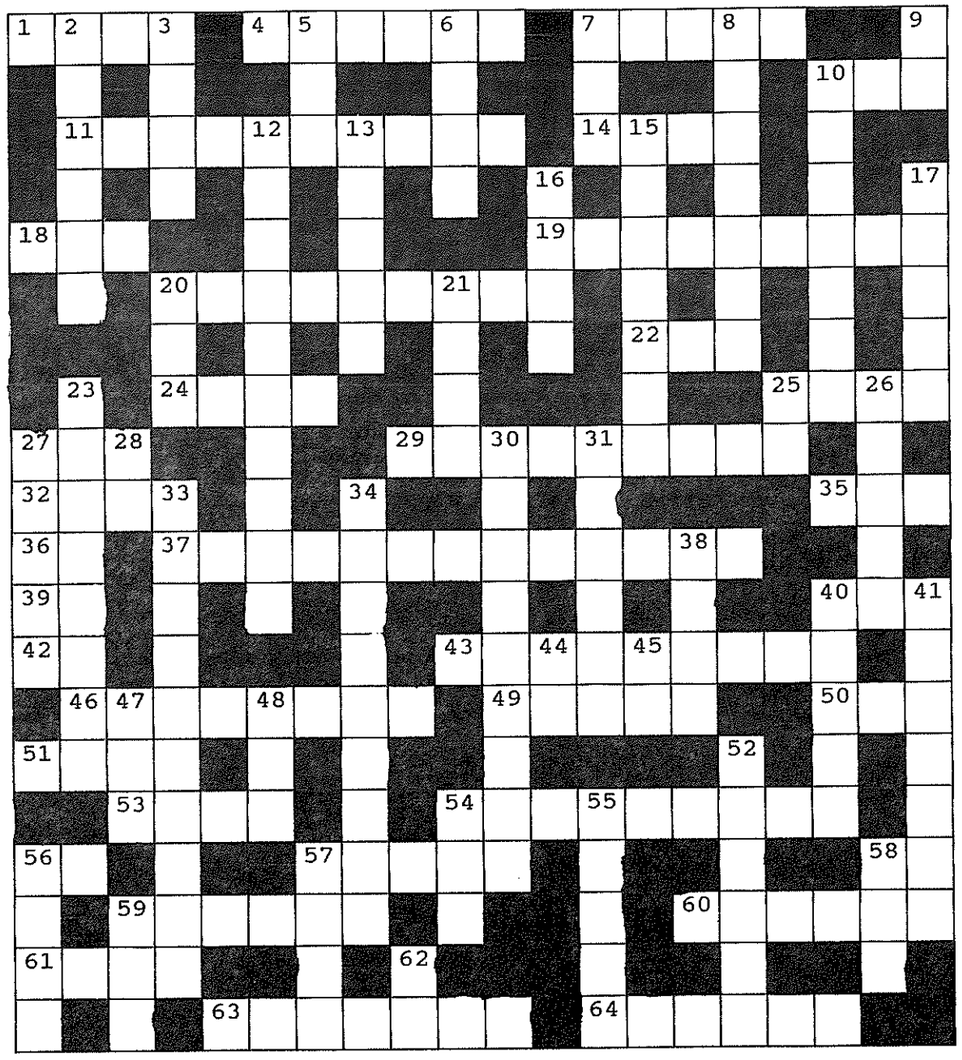
An excellent accompaniment to smoked fish is buttered new potatoes and a fresh salad and horse radish sauce.

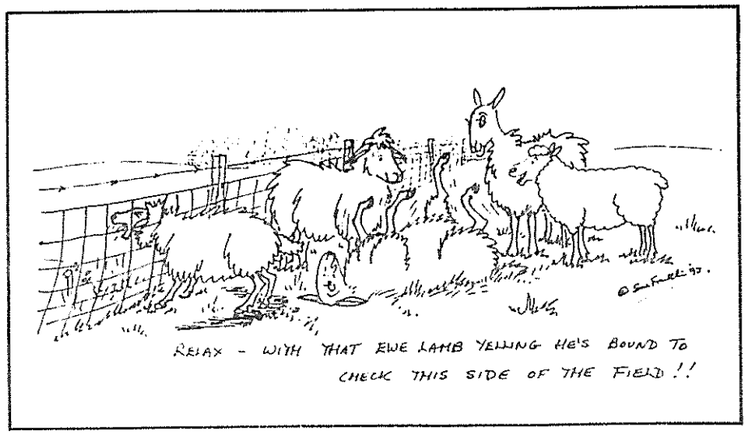
Once home smoked ham and fish have been tried, any bought products will seem very inadequate and unsuitable in taste and texture. The "Home Book of Smoke Cooking Meat, Fish and Game" is available from Smallholder Bookshop. It has many ideas and recipes for smoking cheeses, game, poultry, meat, salami and fish.

Source: Smallholder
May 1995

WP66







WP67

ACROSS

1. DUTCH CHEESE
4. SOUTH AMERICAN NATIVE
7. POTTED PIGS HEAD MEAT
10. SLY REYNARD
11. SHIELD
14. SMALL DUCK
18. TOP CARD
19. LURER
20. LAND & WATER ANIMAL
22. TAKE YOUR PICK
24. SUDDEN SHARP PAIN
25. REMOVE THE SKIN
27. THAT WOMAN
29. FIRST MILK PROVIDING PROTECTION
32. SOLID
35. GROW OLD
36. ALTERNATIVELY
37. LIQUID PROTECTING THE FETUS
39. DERIVED FROM
40. FLAT, MARSHY LOWLAND
42. BABY THANKS
43. CHEW
46. WATERPROOF OVERSHOES
49. 8TH CREEK LETTER
50. CAT CALL
51. BAZAAR
53. OVA
54. BEHIND
56. MYSELF
57. BOATSWAIN
58. PHYSICAL EDUCATION
59. PASTURE OR LAWN GRASS
60. CURED OR SMOKED HAM
61. KILL
63. MEMORY LOSS
64. VIOLIN

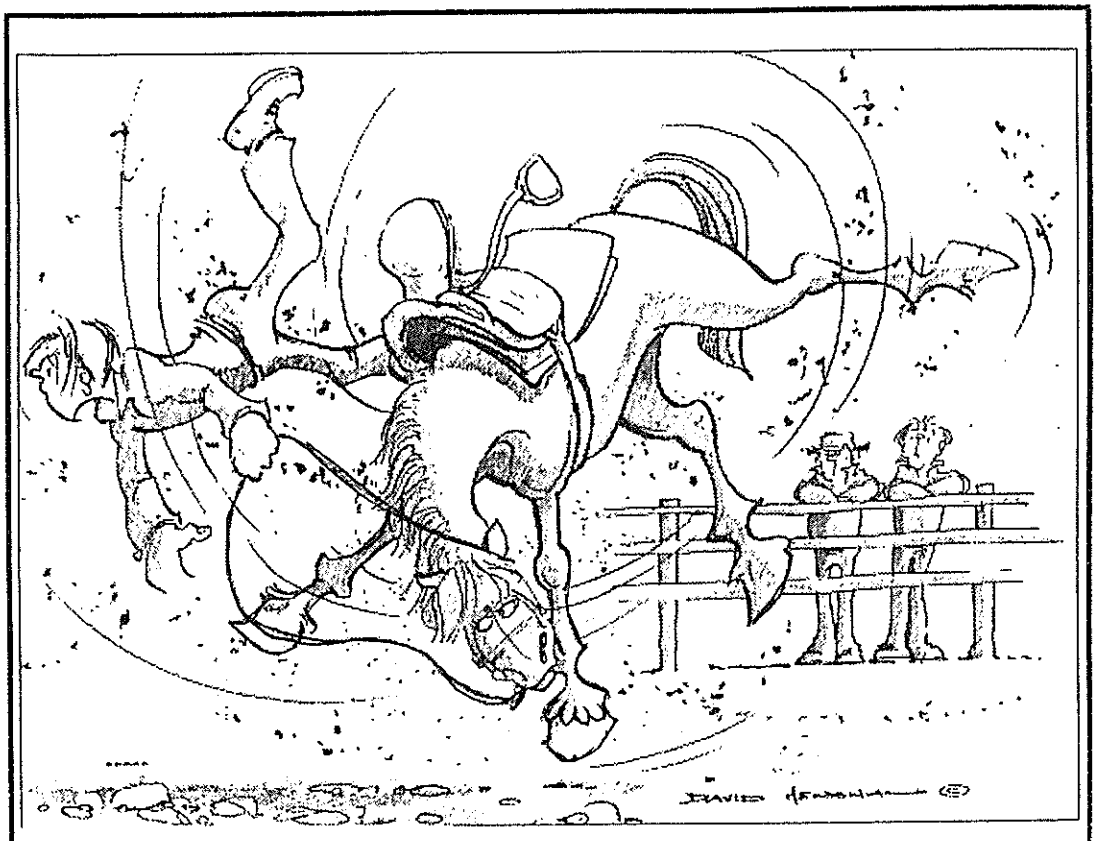
DOWN

2. ORALLY DOSE
3. DIRT
5. LEAP OF ELECTRIC CURRENT
6. OWL CRY
7. WAGER
8. SMALL KANGAROO
9. CASTRATED BULL
10. PRODUCTIVE
12. THINNERS
13. CLOSE (OF AIR)
15. DRAW FROM
16. NECK HAIR
17. COURT CASE
20. SNAKE
21. TO THE INSIDE OF
23. DOCK CHARGE
25. AFTERNOON
26. LARGE BIRD OF PREY
27. FIRE
28. MAJESTIC INITIALS
30. MILK PRODUCTION
31. OFFICER RECOGNITION
33. BLOTTED HORSE COLOUR
34. METAL PROTECTION ON EQUINE HOOF
38. PURUVIAN INDIAN
40. THIGH BONE
41. REPORTERS
44. BE QUIET
45. THAT THING
47. DEVOURED
48. HELP
52. CLEVER PERSON OR MALE WITCH
54. PLAY ON WORDS
55. ONE WHO STEALS
56. PREPARED HENS FEED
57. CHAR
58. PEA CASING
59. OVERWEIGHT
62. POST SCRIPT

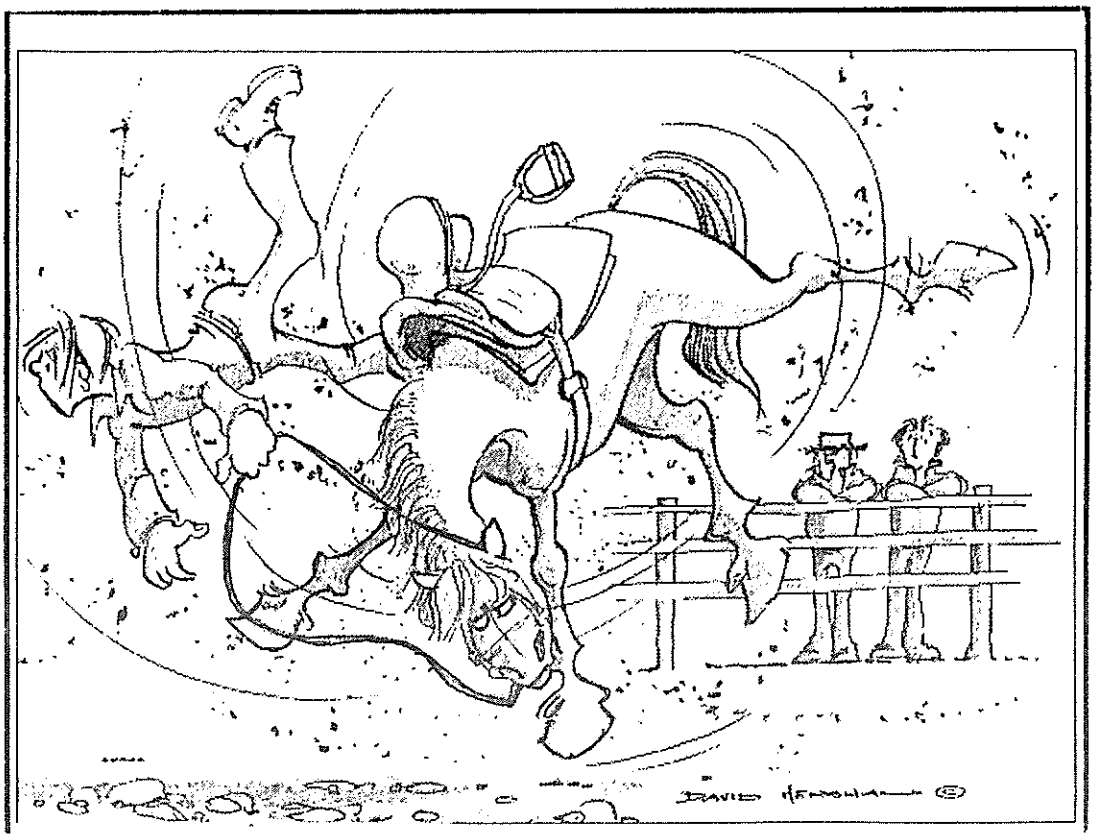
****

LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

1. Pocket on womans jumper; 2. Tree missing; 3. Collar on mans shirt; 4. Arm chair; 5. Birds in the sky; 6. Pocket on man's jumper; 7. Extra tree; 8. Back of chair; 9. Post behind dog missing; 10. Band on mans cuff.



"Goin' down is a piece of cake...it's getting there that's got 'im a bit worried!"



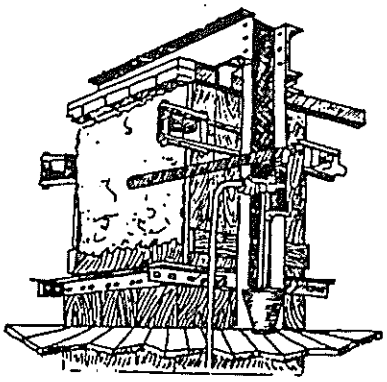
WOOL PRESS

retail price: £1.00

ISSUE 68 JULY 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES.
AND MORE!



EDITOR: Mrs Charlene Rowland

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

EDITORIAL

Winter seems to have caught up with us once again; short days and plenty of snow and ice. Just hope that July sees an improvement.

As you all know Farmers Week is almost upon us. If any farmers have any queries or specific subjects that they would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to call in and see us, and we would endeavour to help you.

Have a good Farmers Week!!

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PAYMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

In an attempt to streamline our accounting procedures and make the system more user friendly, the Department of Agriculture wishes to advise customers that we will be introducing a system of cash payments for veterinary services/drugs which will now require payment at the time of consultation.

Customers are requested to make sure they bring cash with them when they visit the surgery. Camp customers are also encouraged to send cash/cheques where possible with orders for drugs, laboratory tests, account books etc. However, in instances where this in not possible the usual billing system will still be used.

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WELDING COURSE

A Welding Course has been set up for late August early September in the Falkland Islands Community School.

Anyone who would be interested in participating in this course, please contact me on telephone 27355 as soon as possible, so that we can establish how many people would be interested.

The course fee is £5.50

STABILIZING SAND BLOWS

Erosion of many different soil types occurs in the Falklands but a preliminary assessment by Dr Peter Wilson's team suggested that the most extensive areas of eroded ground are coastal sites.

About 80% of the blown sand originates from the backshore between the high water mark and dunes. Attempts at stabilization are more likely to be successful above the high water mark.

Stabilizing moving sand

Throughout the world various techniques and materials e.g. geofabrics, fencing, thatching, mulches and vegetation, have been developed to stabilize sand along eroding coastlines. Some of the techniques which have proved successful elsewhere are not suitable here because the materials involved are in short supply or difficult or expensive to obtain e.g. brushwood and forestry trimmings used for thatching and in fencing. The use of local materials e.g. Kelp and Marram/Sand grass for mulching and transplanting is encouraged.

Transplanting grasses which can spread is one of the most successful methods of stabilizing eroded sand. Once established, beach grasses not only stabilize the sand surface but also reduce the wind speed causing wind-borne sand to deposit and accumulate.

a) Transplanting

The three species which are commonly replanted on eroding sand are Sand grass, Lyme grass and Sand Couch grass. Their long narrow leaves are resistant to sand abrasion and moisture loss and the grasses have a great capacity for rhizome (root) growth. Sand grass is more able to withstand sand accumulation than both Lyme and Sand Couch grass.

Both sand and Lyme were introduced here in the 1920's. Sand grass established more successfully than Lyme grass, and is now common at coastal sites on both East and West Falkland. Several farms have replanted sand grass at eroding sites e.g. Beaver Island, New Island and Port San Carlos with varying degrees of success.

Replanting of sand grass is usually done by transplanting tillers with rhizomes attached. Replanting must be carried out above the high tide line as the plant is salt sensitive and tolerates at most only 1% salinity. In the UK attempts at establishing sand grass from seed have not been very successful because of low germination rates but locally revegetation using seed can be successful. Desiccation is a major cause of death in seedling plants therefore revegetation using seed may be more suitable for sites which have a higher rainfall e.g. on East Falkland.

Overseas research supports local farming experience that winter is the optimum season for planting. A seed rate of 15kg/ha (6kg/acre) or about 1 kg for 25 square metres is regarded as the optimum.

Fertilizer improves vigour and tillering but it is not essential for the survival of replants. The high cost of fertilizer probably make its application only worthwhile where stablization is essential.

b) Mulches

The process of mulching involves the addition of organic matter to the sand surface to prevent further erosion, improve soil water retention, increase plant nutrients and provide a barrier for trapping seeds. Materials used for mulching elsewhere include chopped straw, peat, soil, seaweed, and sewage. The abundance of kelp along the shore here means that it could be an easily accessible and inexpensive mulch and a source of nutrients as it decomposes.

Sand grass trials in the Falklands

In order to assess the most practical method of replanting sand grass here a trial has been set up at three farms, Beaver Islands, Dunbar and Smylies Coast. The sites were selected for a variety of reasons including their geographical spread and good interest from the farms involved in solving erosion problems. The sites may be used later for demonstration purposes.

Re-vegetation of small plots over three years will be compared for the following treatments.

a) Sand grass planted at 50cm intervals,
b) Sand grass planted at 50 cm intervals with kelp,
c) Sand grass seed sown into 5 cm deep rills,
d) Kelp only,
e) Control - no treatment.

Insufficient kelp at the Beaver Island site meant that only treatments a, c and e, were carried out there.

Livestock are generally considered to be damaging to dune pastures and it is usually recommended that stock are excluded from replanted areas. The Beaver island and Dunbar sites are both fenced off to prevent any grazing or disturbance by livestock. At the Smylie's Coast site the impact of livestock on replanted grass will be assessed by comparing the survival of plants in three unfenced blocks with those in three fenced off blocks.

All sites were planted during May 1995 and the first assessment of the trial will be in November 1995. The trial will run for three years (this is the time it takes for Marram grass to become established) and its progress will be reported at least once a year in Wool Press.

JENNY FULLER, RESEARCH ASSISTANT
AIDAN KERR, SENIOR SCIENTIST/AGRONOMIST

FOR SALE

The Department of Agriculture has the following surplus landrover series 3 parts for sale:

Description	Part No	Price per item
Halfshaft bearings	244150	£12.97
Shackle plates	244162	1.13
Rocker gasket	247606	1.69
Nuts	252165	0.51
Cyl. kits	2666687	4.48
Halfshafts complete	269165	57.39
Halfshafts complete	269166	65.14
Shackle plates	270520	3.17
VIB damper	275234	0.99
Wheel cylinder kits	275744	5.77
Boot kit	276484	1.38
Caps petrol	277260	3.51
Timing chains	504375	7.00
Overhaul kits	515923	21.85
Hand brake adjuster	515924	3.48
Thermostats	532453	3.03
Shackle plates rear	537685	3.00
Shackle plates	537687	2.07
Bolts	537740	0.74
Bolts	537742	0.76
Sump gaskets	546841	3.24
Bushes short	548205	0.69
Rubbers	552819	0.20
Front propshaft	553000	60.47
Lift pumps	563146	25.75
Hoses	564724	0.48
Valve guides	568688	2.04
Valve guides	568689	2.04
Bushes long	569746	1.99
Indicator switches	575383	20.85
Wiper blade	575437	5.69
Radiator Hose Top	5777346	2.83
M. Shaft gear	591362	27.50
Second gear	591363	28.26
Sycronising cone	591364	3.08
Manifolds	598104	63.68
Diff. wheels	599943	26.67
Gear box gaskets set	600603	3.03
Bottom filter breather	600613	15.77
Steering box assembly	607965	78.51
Master cyl. kit	8G8837	3.96
Repair kits lift pump	8G8845	4.27
Bearings camshaft	90519054	3.47
Bearings camshaft	90519055	3.47
Master cylinder	90569126	28.16
Brake linings	AAU-8471	15.00
Brake linings	AAU-9942	11.00
Repair pump	AEU-2760	
Repair kit lift pump	AEU-2760	4.27
Values	ERC 6794	6.25
Values	ERC 6795	3.18
Water pump	ERC 9178	42.50

Water pump	ERC9298	42.50
Head gaskets	ETC-5301	6.64
Front brake hose	FAM-3162	8.46
Halfshafts complete	FRC-1644	25.11
Halfshafts complete	FRC-1645	26.19
Clutch plate	FRC-2297	31.63
Oil seal V.8 gear box	FRC-2365	2.23
Halfshafts complete	FRC-3907	116.22
Rear propshafts	FRC-4907	93.75
Bushes Flex Rubber	GEX-7325(265601)	2.85
Oil seals	GHS 206	
Radiator hose bottom	NRC3115	3.42
Steering relay	NRC-1269	85.75
Mountings	NRC-2052	3.81
Fuel caps	NRC-9572	3.95
Resister	PRC-1716	5.62
Crankshaft bearing	RTC-1729	
Sets main bearing	RTC-1729	14.95
Connecting rod bearing	RTC-1730	24.66
Drive cable	RTC-202	8.27
Sets piston rings S.T.D.	RTC-2415	10.73
Water pump kit	RTC-3072	19.04
Adjuster kit	RTC-3176	9.81
Oil filters	RTC-3184	3.91
Gasket sets	RTC-3336	14.86
Horns	RTC-3368	7.21
Rear brake hose	RTC-3386	5.92
Hand brake shoes	RTC-3404	18.75
Brake shoes III front	RTC-3411	28.50
Brake shoes III front	RTC-3471	40.50
Oil seal hub	RTC-3510	1.96
Hub bearing kits	RTC-3534	24.75
Shock absorbers front	RTC-4230	28.67
Shock absorbers rear	RTC-4232	24.15

In you are interested in any of these parts, please give us a ring on 27355 during working hours.

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ANNUAL LIVESTOCK FORMS

Would all those farms that have yet not submitted their Livestock Annual Forms, please complete as soon as possible.

Charlene Rowland
Snr. Agricultural Assistant.

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HUMAN INTEREST STORIES FOR SHANDWICK

Shandwick Ltd have recently been appointed by the Falkland Islands Government as their Public Relations consultants.

Miss Deborah Ford has been appointed as the link person between the Falkland Islands and Shandwick Ltd.

One of Deborah's tasks is to provide human interest stories on a regular basis to Shandwick Ltd.

It would be most helpful if you could pass on any relevant topics of interest you have to Deborah. In order to be effective Shandwick Ltd need to be kept fully informed, this can be achieved with your help.

Deborah can be contacted at the Secretariat on telephone 27242 or fax 27212 to pass on your news/information.

BRITISH FARMERS FEED MILLIONS

Farmers Seeds Federal the U.K.'s largest farmer owned seed business has "news for all those people who thought British farmers did nothing for their money but collect subsidies; pour surplus milk down the drain and pollute U.K. water supplies with nitrates; let alone rear animals just for export!

In fact last year, British farmers produced a staggering amount of food for consumption in Britain, eg.:

3.5 million tonnes of bread making wheat;
1.1 million tonnes of oilseed rape;
6.8 million tonnes of potatoes;
918,000 tonnes of beef;
1.8 million tonnes of malting barley;
13.8 billion litres of milk, and much, much more.

A "British Farmers Feed Millions" campaign has been instigated to show support for farmers and to increase the public awareness of what farmers are actually producing in Britain."

Source: Seed Matters, Farmers Weekly.

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NEUTERING?

Why should I have my pet neutered at all?

1. It will make your own life easier.
   Amorous cats and dogs can be a real handful and no-one enjoys having to confine their pet.

2. There are already too many unwanted kittens and puppies who have to be destroyed. The least we can do is not add to their number.

3. Neutering is kinder to the animal itself. The necessary frustration of hormone activity in a pet often leads to mental and physical ailments. Neutering removes the source and hence the problem.

What problems would I have if my male dog were not neutered?

Male dogs cannot resist going courting when the opportunity occurs and in the process all sorts of disasters can befall them. They get into fights with other dogs; they wander about in the traffic and either hurt themselves or cause nasty accidents; and in the country they're liable to sheep - and cattle - worrying.

On the other hand, if you keep a hot-blooded dog indoors, he can turn his amorous attentions to pieces of furniture, or even people. Barking and ill-temper are other symptoms of frustration.

What problems would I have with an unneutered female dog?

A female dog comes on heat twice yearly, each time for a period of three weeks. This is likely to continue for as long as she lives. This not only makes her somewhat messy, it also means scores of visiting dogs clustering around your front door.

What's more, she's likely to escape and become pregnant no matter how much care is taken. Finding good homes for a whole litter of puppies can be difficult. Even if she doesn't, a bitch can go through a phantom pregnancy, which can lead to all sorts of odd behaviour and possibly require veterinary attention to correct it.

Would I have problems with an unneutered tom-cat?

Yes, because tom-cats have one of the most unpleasant habits of all - the habit of 'spraying'. This means that they mark out their territory by urinating upon it, and the unpleasant smell can be extremely difficult to get rid of.

Male cats are also some of the greatest wanderers and almost impossible to keep indoors. Their constant escapades nearly always lead to cat fights and these in turn can produce infected wounds, abscesses and serious illness.

How about the problems of a female cat?

As with a female dog, a female cat in season will attract a continual host of admirers. Romantic cat-calls in the middle of the night, which even the most dedicated sleeper would be hardpushed to ignore, are a prelude to almost inevitable pregnancy. A cat can have three pregnancies a year and up to five or six kittens in each litter.

It obviously makes life easier to neuter my pet, but how will the animal benefit?

A domestic animal can really suffer from the effects of its biological urges. As explained above, the desires themselves lead the males into all sorts of aggressive behaviour (even towards people) and in both sexes frustration can actually result in illness. Since there's no possibility of these animals returning to the wild and indulging all their impulses, by far the kindest thing is to save them from these violent feelings altogether by having them neutered.

How about the problem of over-population? Will it really help to neuter my pet?

Thousands of puppies and kittens are born every year. Many of these will not find homes and will eventually have to be destroyed. If every pet owner assumes a responsible attitude and does not allow their animal to breed then the present appalling number of stray and unwanted animals would fall dramatically.

What does the operation consist of?

In a female animal, 'spaying' consists of removing the womb and the ovaries. The technical term is ovaro-hysterectomy. For a male, just the testicles are removed, and this is known as castration.

Does it hurt?

The operation is done under general anaesthetic and is therefore completely painless. The process is a simple one and the animals recover quickly. At the most, your pet will experience a very mild discomfort.

When should it be done?

A pet can be successfully neutered at any time in its life. However, to remove the risk of unwanted pregnancies it should be done at the earliest possible age.
For a cat, the ideal age for both males and females is from 5 to 6 months. For bitches it is before the first season (which occurs between 8 and 18 months). Your veterinary surgeon will advise on the best age but it can be done as early as 4 months. For a male dog it is best done between 7 and 12 months of age.

Shouldn't a female animal have one litter first?

Like many outdated theories, this one is nothing more than an old wives' tale. There is no good reason for letting a female dog or cat produce a litter, and the normal health risks involved in birth and pregnancy mean that it can actually be harmful.

Isn't neutering unnatural?

Yes, but so is keeping a pet at all. For example it isn't natural to teach a dog to sit, or to house-train a cat, or breed animals with special characteristics.

Won't it make my dog fat?

No, not in itself. An animal only gets fat from overeating. However, a neutered animal may not need as much food as before and you should keep and eye on what you're giving it. Note that guide dogs for the blind are always neutered and you probably can't remember ever seeing a fat one.

Will it change my pet's personality?

For a female there'll be virtually no change at all. In the case of a male it's certainly going to change it a small amount, for all the reasons mentioned above. These changes are always for the better in that the animal will become less determined to wander off on its own.

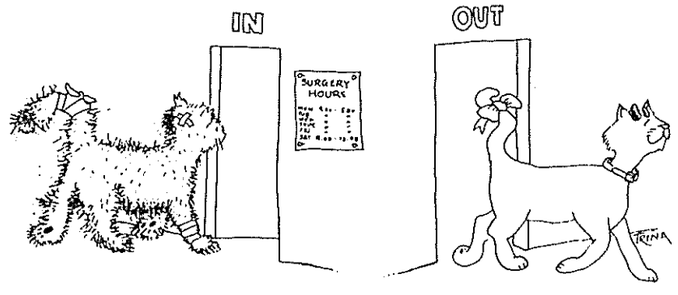
After all this, what exactly is it going to cost?

A large dog will cost more than a small dog. If your pet is overweight this can also add to the cost. Charges for neutering operations depend on many factors so you must contact your own veterinary surgeon to get an idea of the cost involved. Many veterinary practices co-operate with RSPCA branches in offering reduced fees for owners on low incomes. Contact your local branch to see if such a scheme operates in your area.

So how do I go about it?

Once you decide to have your pet neutered, you should go along and see your veterinary surgeon. He or she will be happy to tell you everything you want to know, and will give you details about costs and possible dates for the operation. Then you can just go ahead and make an appointment. After that you can relax in the knowledge that you really have made the best decision for yourself and your pet.

SOURCE RSPCA



IMPORT OF UNTREATED LOGS AND TIMBER

It has come to the attention of the Chief Plant Inspector that insect pests which have damaged plants grown in the islands have been introduced accidentally by the above means.

Please note that all imports of timber would appear to be subject to the provisions of the Plant Disease Regulation Ordinance and Regulations made under the Ordinance. At present, it is not intended to enforce any permit requirements in relation to treated logs and timber. However, consignments of untreated logs or timber with bark still attached will require a Plant Import Permit which is only likely to be granted if an appropriate Phytosanitary Certificate from the country of export is produced.

Such timber is occasionally imported as logs for use as strainer posts or in building stock corrals. Experience shows that timber which has had its bark removed and treated with a wood preservant will last longer.

Timber imports which have been debarked, chemically treated or cleaned etc are more likely to satisfy the above-mentioned regulations and be permitted entry more quickly. Your co-operation in this matter will be appreciated.

****

EARLY SHORN WOOL

Between now and next shearing, a considerable number of sheep will be shorn prior to being killed for mutton sales, home consumption and dogs meat. Sheep skins will also be shorn. Staple length is of great importance in successful marketing and manufacturing of these wools, therefore accurate information should be provided on farm specifications eg. "Less than quarter length", "Quarter to half length", "Half to three-quarter length" and "Three-quarter to full length" are suitable, clear descriptions.

Only "MXD" stencilled on the bale itself is required for marketing purposes.

Robert Hall
July 1995

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Proverb:

"A man talking sense to himself is no madder than the man talking nonsense not to himself" - Tom Stoppard.

THE ROMNEY

AN OLD BREED FOR THE FUTURE

I have come across an article in "The Sheep Farmer" which I thought may be of interest to you."

The Romney has colonised more than 60 different countries. Not only colonised, but bred so successfully that it dominates sheep production in many places.

In New Zealand, the Romney - together with its crosses the Coopworth and Perrendale - accounts for 90% of the country's 50 million sheep. Much of today's New Zealand lamb is pure Romney.

Why has this sheep been so successful? Many breeds claim assets such as toughness and durability, but the Romney is the ultimate survivor. From its origins in the European Whitefaced sheep, probably brought in by the Romans, the breed was introduced onto the Romney Marsh by early graziers.

As Norman drainage banks were built to stop the sea's encroachment, the sheep spread over the Marsh's 40,000 acres of flat land scape. The Marsh is bleak and exposed, parts are almost bare shingle, yet a mile inland there is a considerable area of rich alluvial loam capable of heavy stocking. The progress of the breed was almost by natural selection good mouths to find the last bite of stubbly grass between the shingle, docile temperament so the energy was not wasted, good thick wool coat capable of shedding water so as not to lose insulation, enough size and fat reserves to hold out through the 'hungry gap' and an ability to lamb unaided outdoors and rear a lamb or two in conditions where most others could not. The breed could stand high stocking rates because of richer pastures provided for that and suffered less than average from diseases of intensification.

IMPROVED

Like so many others, the Romney was improved by the introduction of New Leicester blood in the late 1700's. The sheep became more compact, better bodied and earlier maturing. This aside, the Romney is a relatively unadulterated breed with most improvement achieved from within the Romney flock.

In 1796 an entry in the journal of the Agricultural Society described the Romney Marsh, or Kent Sheep, as 'perhaps the most valuable sheep in the world' because of its early maturity and heavy fleece.

The New Zealanders agreed and so run huge flocks with little or no labour. The Argentineans thought so too and bought more than 13,000 Romneys in the early part of this century, paying up to 750 gns for rams in 1928. The Chinese, Russians and Hungarians also used the Romney to establish large flocks, and as recently as 1991 the islands of the Azores, which vary from lush Yorkshire-type upland pastures to nearly bare volcanic rock, took 3000 to establish their national flock, which saved the islands' agriculture.

THE UK SCENE

In the UK the Romney has the advantage over hill breed derivatives in that it depreciates much more slowly, has a higher cull value and produces a better carcass when crossed with terminal sires. These crosses also make useful breeding females with many Romney characteristics. These are particularly valuable on the bleak permanent pastures of the North Sea coast where the Romney is replacing the 'outsiders' because of its ability to maintain body condition and performance when grass is short.

New flocks are appearing in other parts too: the West Country, Yorkshire, the Midlands, the Lake District and even Scotland. These flocks vary in size from 10's to 100's but the bred suits commercial and part-time farmers. Romneys adapt. Add docility and no great desire to exert oneself by jumping out and you can see why such an old breed still retains its attraction and is the breed for the future.

Source: The Sheep Farmer
April 1995

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DIARY DATES:

	For further information:
15 July 1995 Cumberland County Show Rickerby Park Carlisle, Cumbria.	Mrs Vanessa Vasey, Tele: 01228 560364
13-15 June 1995 Three Counties Show Malvern, Worcester.	Tele: 01684 892751
New Forest & Hampshire County Show The Showground, New Park Brockenhurst, Hants SO42 7QH	Contact: Jean Bunch Tele: 10590 622400 Fax: 10590 622637
3rd August 1995 Honiton Agricultural Show Honiton, Devon.	C W Charlton, Croydon, Luppit, Devon EX14 ORT
2 September 1995 Moreton-in-Marsh Show Gloucestershire.	(This is a large Agricultural show with 57 sheep classes) Tele: 01608 651908
18 19 20 July 1995 East of England Show East of England Show Ground Peterborought PX2 6XE	Tele: 01733 234451 Fax: 01733 370038

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SHARPENING OF HAND SHEARS

Many users of daging and shearing shears find the work difficult because they fail to get the shears really sharp. The following description of two methods of sharpening will help the operator with this skill.

Sharpening with whetstone and oil

A twin grade carborundum stone set on a wooden block and positioned on a work surface close to the shearing position is ideal. A pair of shears held with the spring nearest to you will have the right hand blade above the left. The surface to sharpen is the bevel on the left upper edge of the right hand blade. This is the same for the other blade. No other edge should be honed.

To present the bevel to the stone, open the blades, cross them so that the left is above the right, gripping the handles together tightly with the right hand. Position left hand fingers three an four as in *figure 1* and the index finger and thumb as in *figure 2*. Index finger and thumb should push away, fingers three and four should pull towards you. The effort to hold the shears like this with the spring closed can now be shared by both hands.

Position the bevel at the correct angle to the surface of the previously oiled stone shown in *figure 3*. See that the length of the blade is diagonally across the stone; but move the blade directly down the length of the stone making sure that the whole length of the bevel is wiped on the carborundum. Most shears have a curved cutting edge so that a slightly rocking action is required. Repeat the action for the other blade.

Return to the shears to normal cutting position and test the sharpness of a lock of wool - *see figure 4*. If they fold the wool over re-sharpen that part of the blade. If that fails it is likely that the shears are 'out of set' or damages.

A quick run on the stone between each sheep will keep the edge keen with least effort.

Dry stone sharpening

To present the bevel of sharpening, lift the right hand blade over the left blade stop and grip the handles with the left hand - *see figure 5*. Place the crossed-over tips against the bench edge, or somewhere similar, to help the left hand keep the spring closed. Sharpen each bevel in turn using a fine stone as in *figure 6*. Sharpening between sheep also gives the shearer an 'uprighter' to relax the back.

Some refinements

Positioning a leather buffer on one or both blade stops quietens the work and reduces jarring - *figure 7*.

Figures 8 and 9 show a pair of blades with a hand strap. This is very simple to apply and prevents the blade from being kicked out of the hand.

New shears are purchased with a bevel measuring about 60% which, I would suggest, is suitable for dagging and cutting through dirt and dung. For shearing I use, and observe in other shearers, blades that are ground to approximately 30% and can be sharp enough to cut as they drive through the wool. Making that new bevel takes some time and effort but can be achieved with the coarse side of the oil stone or the drystone. Electric grind stones are often too coarse and may overheat the metal.

Another feature of the new shears is blunt tips. This must be right from a safety point of view but blunt tips will not drive easily through the wool or under dags. Narrowing to a non-prickly point makes for efficient work in the same way a machine shearing comb teeth need dressing. Smooth, Shiny blades polished with a very fine emery paper or cloth also help.

In conclusion, sharp, clean, oiled shearing blades stored dry, carried in a hip holster will make the work efficient and serve well over a long period.

This article was written for the Sheep Farmer April 1995, by Ron Harrington who is a shearing contractor and ATB Landbase instructor based at Lewes in Sussex (Tele: 01273 812678). He also undertakes other livestock work and farmsitting.

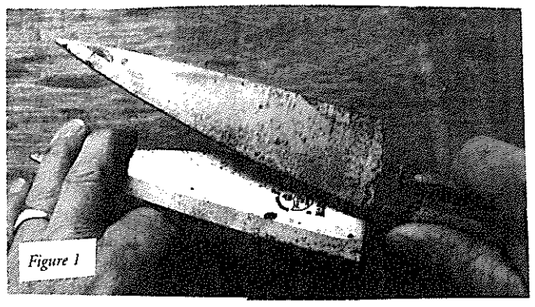


Figure 1

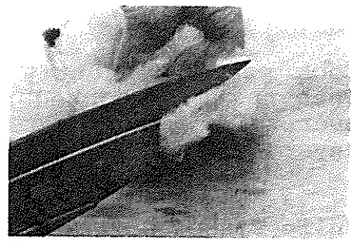


Figure 4

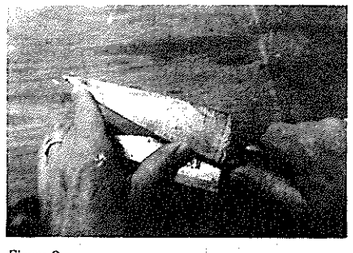
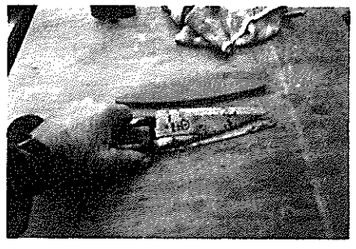


Figure 2



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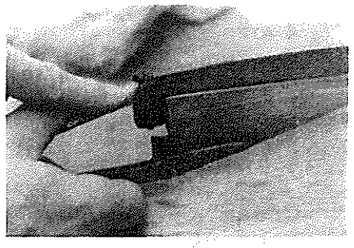
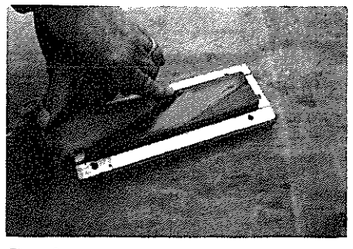


Figure 7



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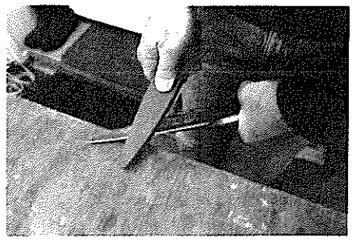

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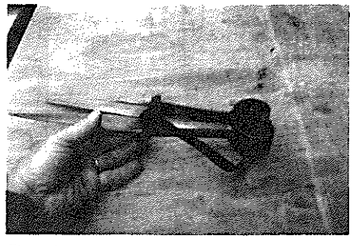


Figure 8

BAR-B-CUE MARINADE SAUCE

2 Tablespoons	Tomato Sauce
1 Teaspoon	Sugar
1 Tablespoon	Soy Sauce
¼ Cup	Chilli Sauce
2 Cloves of Crushed	Garlic

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Cover steaks/chops with sauce making sure that they are covered completely. Cover dish with cling film and leave to stand in warm place for an hour or more.

Tracy Evans

TUNA PASTA

1	Large Can Tuna
8ozs	Cheese
½	Bag Pasta
3	Cloves Garlic
1	Large Onion
½ lb	Mushrooms
1	Green Pepper
3 Tablespoons	Milk

Cook pasta. Lightly fry garlic, mushrooms onion and pepper. When pasta is cooked put all the ingredients in a dish and mix everything together. Leave enough cheese to cover the top with a layer, cook in the oven for 20 minutes or until the cheese melts.

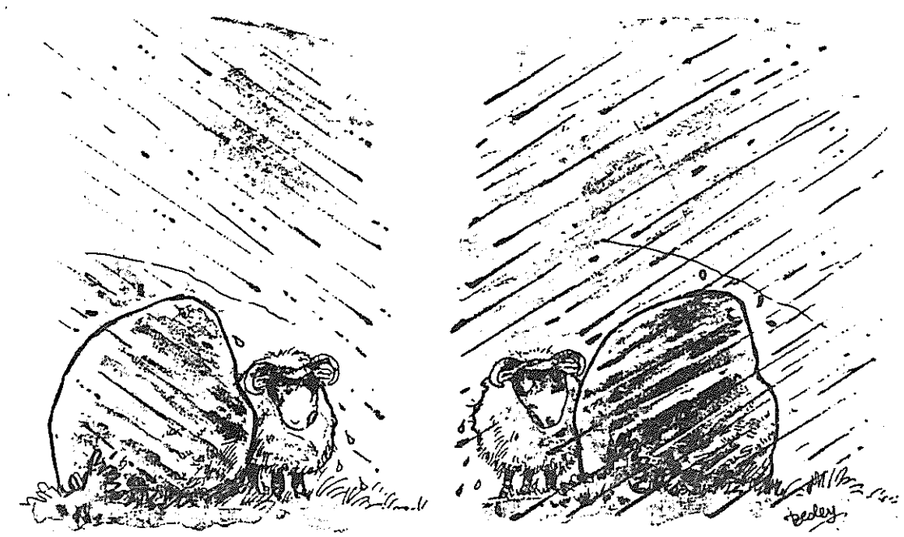
Julie Fisher-Smith

COCONUT JUMBLES

4 ozs	Butter
4 ozs	Sugar
6 ozs	Flour
½ cup	Coconut
1	Beaten Egg
½ Teaspoon	Vanilla Essence

Cream butter and sugar beat in egg and essence add flour and coconut. Put in greased tray to ½ inch thickness. Cook in moderate oven for 20 minutes. Spread with Icing Sugar and sprinkle with coconut and cut into fingers.

Lilian Wallace



THEY DID SAY WE'D GET A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER . . .

WP67

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■	N	■	K	■	U	■	U	■	T	■	M	■	X	■	L	■	R	■	T
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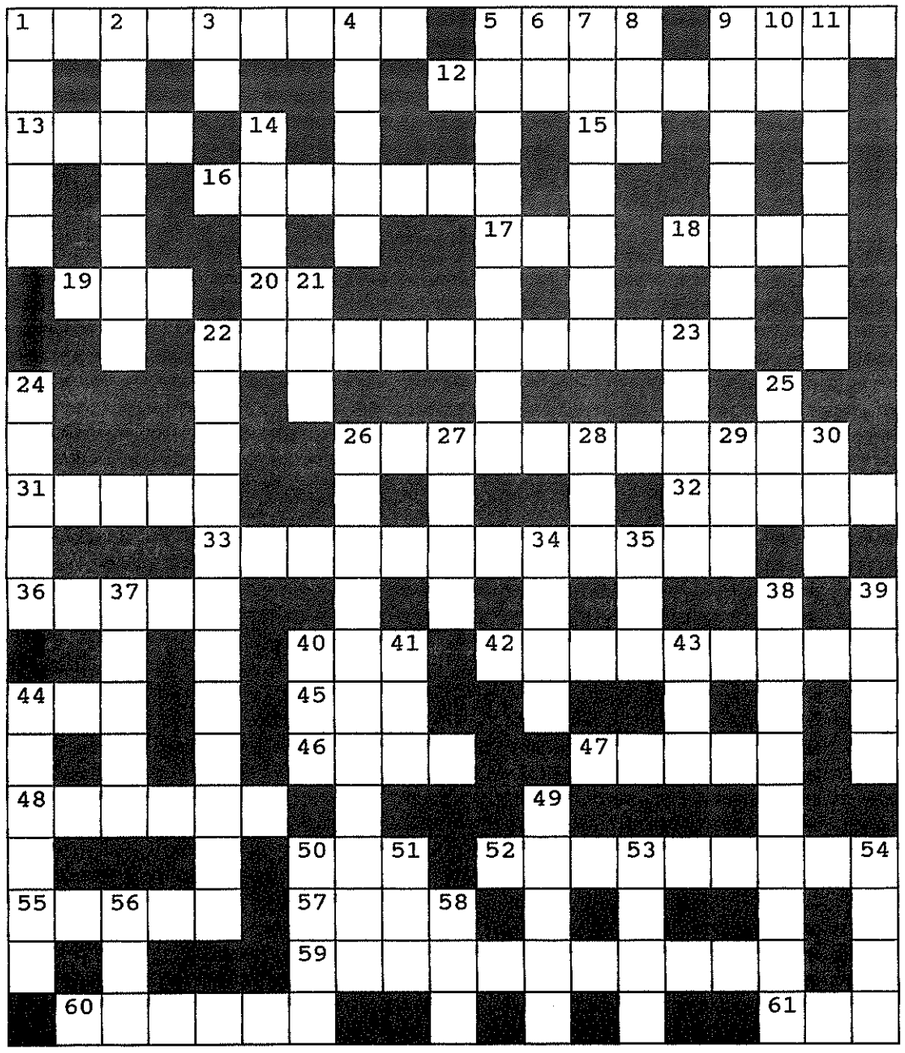
WP68



LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

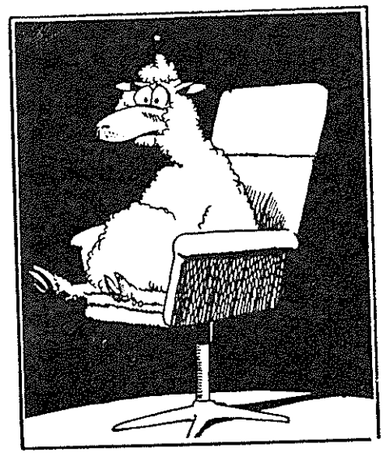
1. Buckle on cinch; 2. Thumb on mans hand; 3. Post missing; 4. Stirrup; 5. Jockeys collar; 6. Heel on Jockeys boot; 7. Horses hoof; 8. Horses tail; 9. Fingers on Jockeys hand; 10. Part of saddle missing.

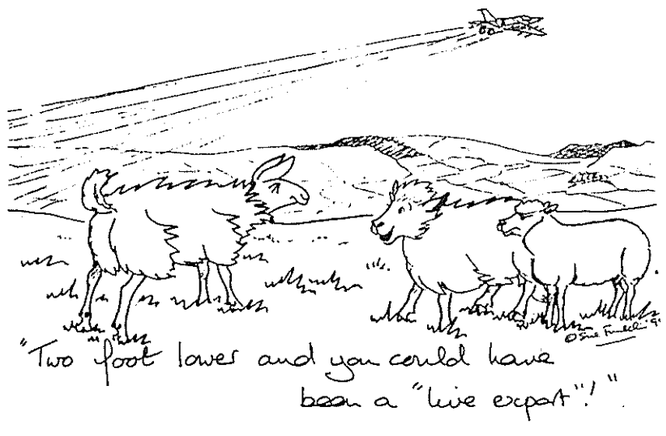
ACROSS

1. HYDATIDS FOR EXAMPLE
5. DROOPS
9. HEAD AND SHOULDERS SCULPTURE
12. MARRIAGE
13. SONDS LIKE TWO FRUITS
15. AT HOME
16. BIRDS SECOND STOMACH
17. ALMIGHTY IDOL
18. TAKE AWAY FROM MOTHER
19. OFFAL BURYING AREA
20. COMPACT DISC
22. TOWED IMPLEMENT FOR LEVELLING LAND.
26. REAR OF CHICKEN
31. LAND MEASUREMENT
32. PURE
33. RACEHORSE
36. ITALIAN FARE
40. MAT
43. WATER STORAGE PLACE
44. GLIDE ON SNOW
45. ANGER
46. SEA BIRD
47. WATER MAMMAL
48. DEADLY
50. LUBRICATE
52. SAN CARLOS WATER
55. WANDERER
57. WRITER OF VERSE
59. TREATMENT FOR BACTERIAL INFECTION
60. MISSION ISLAND
61. KNIGHT TITLE

DOWN

1. INDIAN TENT
2. MAN MADE MATERIAL CAPABLE OF BEING MOULDED
3. TOILET
4. CORN
5. COASTAL VEGETATION
6. IN THAT PLACE OR TIME
7. MILL
8. WRONG DOING
9. DRINKERS
10. UNITED NATIONS
11. APPLICATOR
14. FEMALE DOG
21. PAT
22. POLICE FORCE
23. FLINCH WITH PAIN
24. MAKE FAST
25. UTILISE
26. BIRTH
27. DEFEAT OVERWHELMINGLY
28. PEN TIP
29. AGED
30. HEARING AID
34. REAR OF FOOT
35. FISH EGGS
37. LOWER PROTECTIVE AREA OF TUSSAC BOG
38. SHAPELY TIMING DEVICE
39. SIDEWAYS CRUSTACEAN
40. OIL WORKING PLATFORM
41. GELLY-LIKE MASS
43. LARGE RODENT
44. GREEN FODDER
49. ACUTE ABDOMINAL PAIN
50. SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE
51. RENT OUT
53. BARREL
54. TWELVE MONTHS
56. FILLED PASTRY CASE
58. END





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

"He'll not take his jacket off...he's ironing his shirts now, an' he didn't, so he can't!"

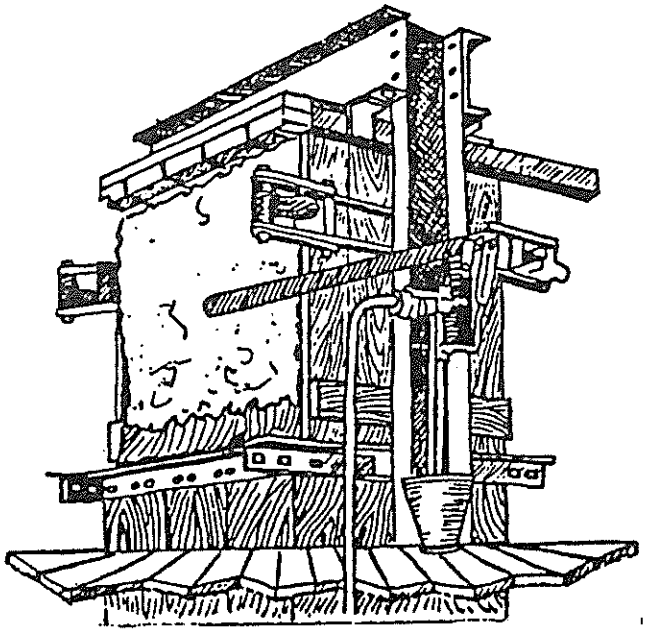
WOOL PRESS

Retail Price £1.00

ISSUE 69 AUGUST 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture
EDITOR: Charlene Rowlands

EDITORIAL

What an awful winter we have had, the snow and ice just didn't seem to want to go. Some of the older folks reckon that this is the worst winter for years - and I believe them! The livestock are of course having a tougher life trying to find decent food, but there's not a lot we can do to alleviate their problem.

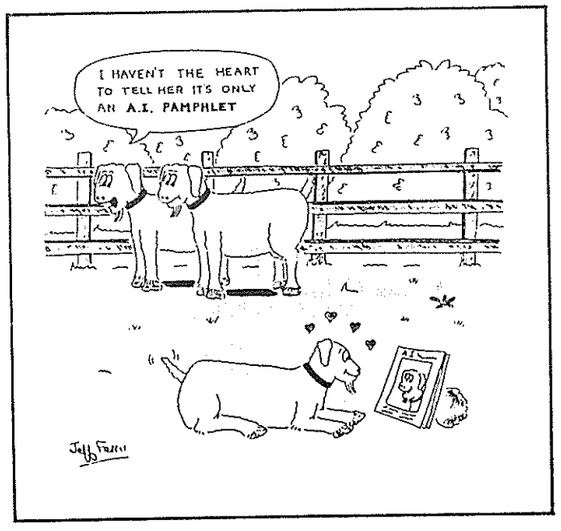
We have a very interesting article from Sally Poncet this month, on the "Tussac Islands Restoration Group". If you are interested in supporting this group or want information on exterminating rats etc, please contact Sally at Beaver Island.

Greg has an article on "Workshops". He is very keen to get this going, and welcomes any farmer who would be interested in participating.

Mandy will be back next week after 9 months of training. No doubt she will have an article for the next WOOL PRESS on what she has been up too.

Mr Ian Saunders will be departing the Falklands on the 19th August. Staff of The Department of Agriculture wish Ian and his family all the very best for the future.

CHARLENE



THE TUSSAC ISLANDS RESTORATION GROUP

The Tussac Islands Restoration Group was formed in July by land owners and farmers for those land owners and farmers who are interested in restoring their Tussac Islands. It is an informal working group made up of voluntary participants rather than subscribing members, whose main aim is to promote the benefits of tussac habitat restoration, to circulate relevant information among participants, and to actively seek out contacts with similar groups from overseas in order to exchange information.

The idea of forming such a group came about during a recent visit by Brian and Paul Bell of Wildlife Management International, who, at the instigation of Sally and Jerome Poncet, were invited to the Islands by Falkland convervation to carry out a feasibility study on eradication of rats from selected Tussac Islands. Some land owners had already expressed an interest in eradication prior to the visit, including Sally and Jerome Poncet and Ian Bury who were Brian and Paul's hosts during their two weeks stay. Additional interest was shown by other island owners during the visit. This interest reflects a broader understanding that it is the restoration of the tussac islands themselves that is important. The Tussac Islands Restoration Group was formed in order to promote this concept and to raise support and interest within the Islands and overseas.

Brian and Paul's itinerary was organised by Sally Poncet and included discussions with Owen Summers, Ian Saunders and Aidan Kerr at the Department of Agriculture about the various eradication methods of trapping, poisoning and shooting. Meetings were also arranged with interested land owners, and selected islands were visited to evaluate their priority for eradication of rats.

David McLeod took us out to Top and Bottom Tussac Islands off Cape Pembroke, with permission from DoA. Until rats were introduced here, these islands were no doubt once like nearby Kidney and Cochon Islands, abounding in small birds, the ground riddled with seabird burrows. Their small size makes them ideal sites for eradication, with the strong possiblity that the birds will return, enhancing the islands' tourism value for visitors wanting to experience a typical tussac island located conveniently to Stanley.

After a week in town, Brian and Paul flew to Beaver Island for a week of visits to several Islands in the Beaver group, including Tea Island which has rats and foxes. Jerome took us twice across to New Island in the "Laura Jay" amid snow squalls for a day's visit, by arrangement with Ian Strange and Tony Chater. Introduced rabbits, rats and cats are the problem here, with rabbits causing localised erosion when numbers are high as they are at the moment, and rats and cats affecting the populations of small birds. On Beaver Island, we discussed the possibility of eradicating foxes which are responsible for the disappearance of many small birds and a certain percentage of lambs each year.

A visit was organised to North East Island near Lively Island but was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute. Owners Ian Bury and Sally and Jerome Poncet are concerned about the fact that it is the only rat-infested island in the Lively group. Its proximity to Lively Island makes it a prority for eradication. This would be a demanding, expensive but entirely feasible operation.

Brian Bell's report and recommendations will be circulated later this year and copies will be available from the Tussac Islands Restoration Group.

It is possible to successfully eradicate rats, cats and foxes from islands here, if you have the funding and a professional team to do the job. As to why they should be radicated, the reasons are simple enough. Islands with tussac are already a rare resource in the Falklands. Even rarer are tussac islands without rats and cats. Those tussac islands that are rat-and cat-free are the last remaining intact wildlife reserves of the Falklands, among them Carcass, Sea Lion, Kidney, Beauchene, the Jasons, and just a few tiny stacks (maybe 60 at the most), whose uniqueness is due to the fact that birds such as Prions, Diving Petrels, Tussac-birds, Cobb's wrens, Short-eared owls are able to nest and feed here only because there is no predation from rats and cats.

Cats, rats and foxes prey on the insects and birds that are essential for the maintenance of healthy stands of tussac. Cobb's Wrens, Tussac-birds, Short-feared Owls, Diving Petrels, Storm petrels, Prions and Johnnny Rooks, all are affected either directly or indirectly by the presence of rats, cats and foxes, which eat eggs, chicks and is some cases adult birds, as well as the insects upon which some of these birds feed.

There is no doubt that tussac grass forms the most valuable wildlife habitat in the Falklands. 75% of native breeding birds nest or feed in tussac areas. It is associated with the breeding grounds of Sea Lions which use it for hauling out, as do Elephant Seals. A day spent at Sea Lion Island, Kidney or Carcass (all rat-, cat- and fox-free) is sufficient to convince any visitor of the pleasure to be had from tussac and its wildlife: Wrens and Tussac-birds scurrying inquisitively aroud your feet, Sea Lions sleeping in the tussac. For land owners, there is also the knowledge that wildlife tourism is an expanding industry that even today is bringing in some welcome extra income. With careful management of sheep, land and tussac, it is possible for this particular form of tourism to exist side by side with farming, and for it to contribute increasingly to the Islands' economy.

If you would like to know more about Brian Bell's visit or about eradication, please contact The Tussac Islands Restoration Group, c/ - Sally Poncet, Beaver Island.

SALLY PONCET, TUSSAC ISLANDS RESTORATION GROUP
JULY 1995.

FARMERS WORKSHOPS FOR 1995

The Department of Agriculture wishes to conduct a series of farmer workshops. The content of these workshops has not been set in concrete, as it is envisaged that they be structured primarily to suit the needs of small groups of like-minded farmers.

Over the next couple of months, farmers will be sent a questionnaire relating to the first workshop series, and space will be provided on the forms for specification of individual wishes. We will then aim to meet these wishes as closely as possible, and arrange for the workshops to be held at various locations in camp.

As many farms have their own stud flocks, the first workshop will aim to assist farmers in gaining the maximum possible benefit from their stud sheep. Various breeding systems are available, and can be tailored to suit individual needs. Discussions will include what benefits are to be achieved from individual systems, how to monitor progress, and the availability of various techniques to assist in reaching specified goals. For those who are interested, the use of Artificial Insemination and/or Embryo transfer will be discussed, including the specialised management required to ensure success of these programs. Other topics for discussion may include the establishment of group breeding schemes, (to enable access to a larger genetic pool), establishing multiplier flocks on those farms with superior ewe camps, rather than each farm relying on their own stud flock, and special nutritional requirements of stud sheep.

The main aim of these workshops is to provide a informal forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas and information. Where possible individual farmers may be asked to describe systems that have worked (or failed), thus lending local experience. Any comments and ideas will be welcomed, as these workshops are designed to deliver maximum benefit to the farmer. At the end of each workshop, I will endeavour to produce a summary handbook for each participant.

Any ideas for future workshops will be welcomed by the Department of Agriculture. Other potential topics may include woolclassing, strategic grazing management and general livestock nutrition, or low cost methods of establishing reseed.

I look forward to farmer input into the first workshop series,"Maximising the benefit from small stud flocks".

Greg Scott

FEEDING PUPPIES:

After weaning, which normally takes place at about 5-7 weeks of age, puppies should be reared on 4 meals a day. A suggested procedure is given in the chart below -

8.00 Cereal, i.e. porridge, farex, baked brown bread, puppy meal and milk.

12 noon Meat and puppy meal soaked.
4.00pm. As for 8.00am.
8.00pm As for 12 noon.

At between 3 to 4 months a milky feed can be omitted and the amount of food increase gradually. At about 6 months the puppy need only have 2 meals a day. Tinned meat or prepared diets can be used after 6 months of age, never feed milk and meat at the same time. Fresh water must always be available marrow bones (not poultry, lamb, neck of mutton or any other small bones) can be given as exercise for the jaws and are good for the teeth. Avoid snacks and tit-bits between meals.

Adult dogs require a balanced diet containing protein (meat) carbohydrates (cereals) and fat, with minerals and vitamins added. Nearly all types of meat are suitable. It is advisable to cook meat.

Tinned meat and other prepared meat and diets from reliable sources are convenient and wholesome but expensive. Dog biscuits may come in the form of meal or biscuits, most of these are supplemented with minerals and vitamins and are necessary both to balance the meat portion of the diet and to provide the necessary energy. Fat is present in sufficient quantities in cooked and raw meat.

Water must always be available. Marrow bones may be given occasionally, but small bones, chops, lamb bones, ham bones and poultry bones should not be given as they may be swallowed whole and lodge inside the animal and they are very liable to splinter with very sharp pieces.

In between meals, snacks should not be given. Dogs may be fed once or twice a day, the amount depending on the animal's weight and exercise. The following table is only a rough guide, more or less depending on the temperament and individuality of the dog. In general terms small dogs need more food relative to the size than do large dogs.

GUIDE TO MINIMUM AMOUNT WHICH SHOULD BE FED IN 24 HOURS

	AGE	CEREALS OR PUPPY MEAL	MEAT	MILK
SMALL PUPPY				
5 lbs.	7 - 12 weeks	3 ozs.	-	¼
10 lbs.	15 - 25 weeks	5 ozs.	2 ozs.	¼
15 lbs.	20 - 30 weeks	6 ozs.	4 ozs.	¼
MEDIUM PUPPY				
8 lbs.	7 - 12 weeks	6 ozs.	-	½
15 lbs.	15 - 25 weeks	8 ozs.	3 ozs	½
25 lbs.	20 - 30 weeks	10 ozs.	6 ozs.	½
LARGE PUPPY				
15 lbs.	7 - 12 weeks	10 ozs.	-	1 pt.
30 lbs.	15 - 25 weeks	14 ozs.	6 ozs.	1 pt.
60 lbs.	20 - 30 weeks	18 ozs.	12 ozs	1 pt.

Food must never be given straight from the refrigerator: either it must be left long enough to reach room temperature, or else warmed in a saucepan or in the oven. Food should be taken up if the dog has not eaten it in half an hour, covered over and tried again at the next feeding time. Avoid white bread, sweet biscuits, cake and sugar, and potatoes. Pregnant and nursing bitches need extra vitamins and minerals, they benefit, as also do old dogs, from milk puddings, egg custard and fish to replace part of the cereal diet. Consult your veterinary surgeon on these points.

WEIGHT IN LBS.	COMPLETE DIET Tinned, Dried or Moisturised	ALTERNATIVE DIET TINNED OR FRESH MEAT & MEAL	
		MAIN MEAL	SECOND MEAL option when complete diet is fed
7½	½ - 1 can	½ tin meat 2 ozs. meal	¼ pt. milk 2 biscuits (small)
15 lbs.	1 - 1½ cans	½ tin meat 3 ozs. meal	¼ pt. milk 5 biscuits (small)
20 lbs.	1½ cans	3/4 tin meat 4 ozs. meal	10 biscuits (small)
25 lbs.	2 - 3 cans	1 tin meat 4 ozs. meal	10 biscuits (small)
60 lbs +	3 - 5 cans	2 tins meat 9 ozs. meal	15 biscuits (small)

SOURCE: RSPCA Dogs & Puppies

GETTING YOUR OATS FOR WINTER!

Further to my article in last months issue about Kale as a winter feed, I continue this month on oats.

Oats have been grown by farmers here for many years thus as there may be greater experience in 'camp' I will concentrate on the most important points.

Varieties

Two types of oat can be used in winter and spring. They differ only in the time of sowing. Winter oats should be sown in late March-April and spring oats in late August-September. Winter sown oats can produce up to 20% greater yield than spring oats mainly because of their longer growing season.

The latest UKMAFF and DANI advisory leaflets recommend the following varieties which should be suitable for growing here.

Spring oats

Valiant
Melys

Both have good yields (c.5.9. tonne/ha or about 2.3 ton/acre) in North Scotland. They also have the highest rating for standing power, high ratings for shortness of straw, early ripening and resistance to mildew. They have average resistance to crown rust but I am not aware of this disease being a problem for oats here!

Winter Oats

For the same reasons and also for good winter hardiness the following varieties should grow well here;

Aintree
Mirabel
Gerald

When requesting seed ensure that the seed is certified by the agricultural authorities e.g. MAFF. A label stating this should be on each bag when it arrives. The certification ensures that you are buying seed that is above UK/EEC standards and is high quality. Cheap seed doesn't feed!

Other important points

a. Ploughing plus light rotavation seems to be effective cultivation at Fitzroy.

b. Seed rates are recommended at 190-250kg/ha or 1.5-2 50kg bags/acre.

c. If establishing a grass ley then the rate should be lowered appropriately.

d. oats like a soil pH above 5 which means that settlement paddocks which have had the benefits of stock dung and urine will probably be suitable. Preferably sow in a wind-sheltered spot with a good northerly aspect.

e. Fertilisers - lime if available and about 50kg/ha of each of NPK will be beneficial.

Please let me know of your progress, success or failure (I hope not!). I will be happy to visit, inspect and discuss your crop.

J. A. KERR

****

WELDING COURSE

A Welding Course has been arranged for after the 25th September in the Falkland Islands Community Schoool.

Anyone who would be interested in participating in this course, contact me (Charlene) on telephone 27355 as soon as possible, so that we can establish how many people would be interested.

The course fee if £5.50 for the 2 days.

****

The "Livestock Statistics" and the "Farm Management Handbook and Statistical Review" have been completed and are at the printers. These will be sent to all farmers as soon as possible.

****

UPDATE ON VETERINARY OFFICERS

Mr Bob Jackman will be arriving on the 18th August, to stand in as Locum Veterinary Officer.

Mr Ian Saunders will depart from the Falklands on the 19th August.

Mr Andrew Coe is arriving on the 17 September to replace Mr Saunders and 14 October Miss Caroline Lamb will be leaving New Zealand to take up the 2nd Veterinary Officers job.

BURNING ISSUES:

Burning Whitegrass camp was a traditional practise in the Falklands, but is now less popular, due to profitable alternatives.

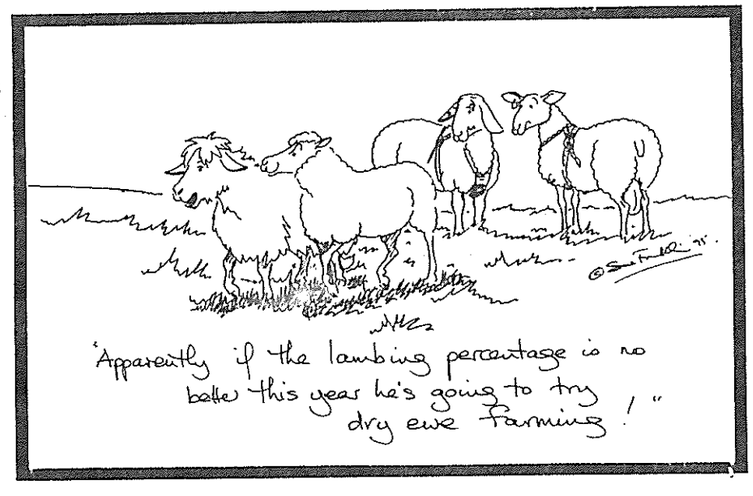
The main advantage of burning long rank Whitegrass, is that it precipitates a flush of green growth and attractive grazing for a "couple" of years. Unfortunately unless grassland management alters and stocking rates are increased, long rank Whitegrass returns in the medium term, thus requiring another burn. Different areas being burnt within a camp in succeeding years attract animals, probably hastening rank growth else where within that camp. By definition a Whitegrass burn has the risk of getting out of control, "burning-in" causing smouldering peat/soil fires and precipitating erosion (West Falkland's Blue Mountain is probably an example from the past); in addition fires remove much energy from the grassland system, in the form of heat (FIGAS pilots will confirm the localised thermals!!).

Camp burning is now practised less, not only because of the recognised risks to soils and other grass supplies, but because sustainable advantages of greener growth can be achieved, by well managed mob stocking and increasing stocking rates of ruminant livestock. Such safer alternatives utilise more of the grassland output and generally increase farm revenues.

Clippy paddocks and settlement areas illustrate the effects of mob stocking. Stocking rates have been increased on many farms in conjunction with additional fences, which force animals to graze areas which might otherwise have been allowed to go rank. Increasing stocking rates include not only the running of extra sheep but also of cattle, as has been undertaken by Port Howard over recent years. Cattle not only add to the stocking rate of an area, but their different mouth, tongue and mode of grazing means that they can complement sheep, by eating longer material that the more selective sheep would avoid, thus increasing overall animal production per acre.

The burning issues are therefore profitable investments in ruminant livestock and fencing, and how such investments should be encouraged.

RHBH



CREOSOTE

Wood is one of the Earth's most valuable resources yet it is being consumed at an annual rate of 2 billion tonnes. Much of the softwood used is harvested on the 'sustainable yield' principle, i.e. trees are replaced on a cyclical basis. Many industrialised countries, such as the UK do not produce enough timber to satisfy their requirements. Coupled with the growing need of the developing world, this could result in demand eventually outstripping supply. It is essential, therefore, to protect wooden products in order to prolong their service lives.

The traditional and highly effective preservative for external timbers is Creosote or, to be more precise, 100% coal tar creosote. A distillate of coal tar, it is a natural product which prevents timber from drying out and splitting, inhibits the growth and fungi and destroys insects which would otherwise damage the wood.

SO WHAT NEEDS PRESERVING?

The lives of many heavy duty items, such as railway sleepers and telegraph poles, are dramatically prolonged by pressure impregnating them with Creosote. In the past, when such items became redundant, they were eagerly sought by farmers and smallholders who cut and adapt them for other uses. Today, most people buy ready cut timber. Apart from some fence posts, most of the products will not have been pressure impregnated, simply dipped or brushed with a preservative or stain. These need to be brushed regularly with Creosote in order to prolong their lives.

CREOSOTE AND LIVESTOCK.

"Can I uses Creosote in areas with livestock"? The answer is "Yes". The most obvious precaution, and one frequently ignored, is to read the safety instructions on the pack before you start work. 'Do not use on the internal timbers of residential properties', your pig sty or henhouse is a 'residence', as far as a pig or the hens are concerned, so apply Creosote to the outside only and shut all doors whilst doing so. Apply the Creosote with a brush, and not as spray, as mist will penetrate into the gaps and linger inside. Make sure that it is touch dry, usually after 48 hours, before you introduce your pigs or hens to their newly refurbished home.

Creosote splashes on plants will cause minor chemical burns to parts of plants but as it is not a systemic poison it will not kill.

Creosote does have a distinctive smell, foxes hate it, so poultry keepers should opt for creosote to keep the predators at bay. Horses also not keen on it either, so they tend not to chew creosoted timbers.

ABSTRACTS FROM 'SMALLHOLDER'
MARCH 1995

RECIPE PAGE

Four O'Clocks

Original directions said 'stamp each cookie with a butter point in flour pattern to make the 4 o'clock point'.

6 oz caster sugar
1 egg
1 Teaspoon Bicarbonate soda
Peel and juice of 1 lemon .
4 oz butter
8 oz plain flour
½ teaspoon salt

Cream fat, sugar and egg. Add dry ingredients, lemon rind and juice. Mix well. Drop from teaspoon on to a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake in a moderate oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Coconut Cookies

Take it easy!

4 ozs flour
4 ozs granulated sugar
5 ozs desiccated coconut
1 egg
4 ozs butter
Cherries

Rub fat into flour, sugar and coconut. Bind with egg. Form into small balls. Roll in coconut. Flatten, place half of cherry in centre. Bake in moderate oven for 10 to 15 minutes until golden brown.

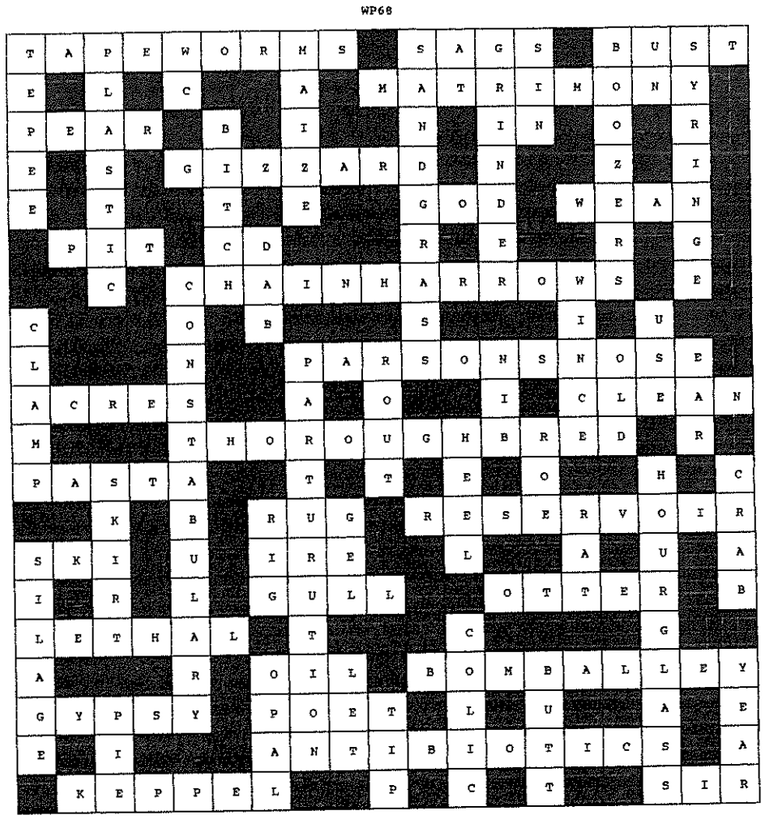
Coconut Quakers

This recipe may be rolled, chilled and sliced to make thinner crisper cookies.

8ozs dark brown sugar
2 ozs butter
2 ozs shortening
1 egg
5 ozs oats
3 ozs flour
4 ozs desiccated coconut
¼ Teaspoon Bicarbonate soda
Pinch salt, milk to mix & vanilla essence.

Cream fats and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, flour, oats and coconut. Beat well. Adjust consistency with milk. Form into balls. Roll in granulated sugar. Place on greased baking sheet. Flatten slightly. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.

ANSWER'S TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD



Lumberjacks

The dough will keep indefinitely in the refrigerator

6 ozs caster sugar
2 ozs butter
4 ozs treacle
2 eggs
16 ozs flour
½ teaspoon bicarbonate soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon
½ teaspoon ginger

Cream fat and sugar. Beat in treacle and eggs. Mix in dry ingredients. Form into balls. Roll in granulated sugar. Place on a greased baking sheet. Flatten. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

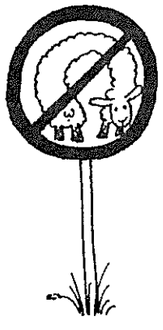
WP69

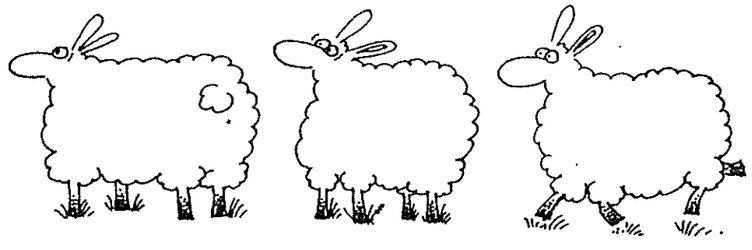
ACROSS

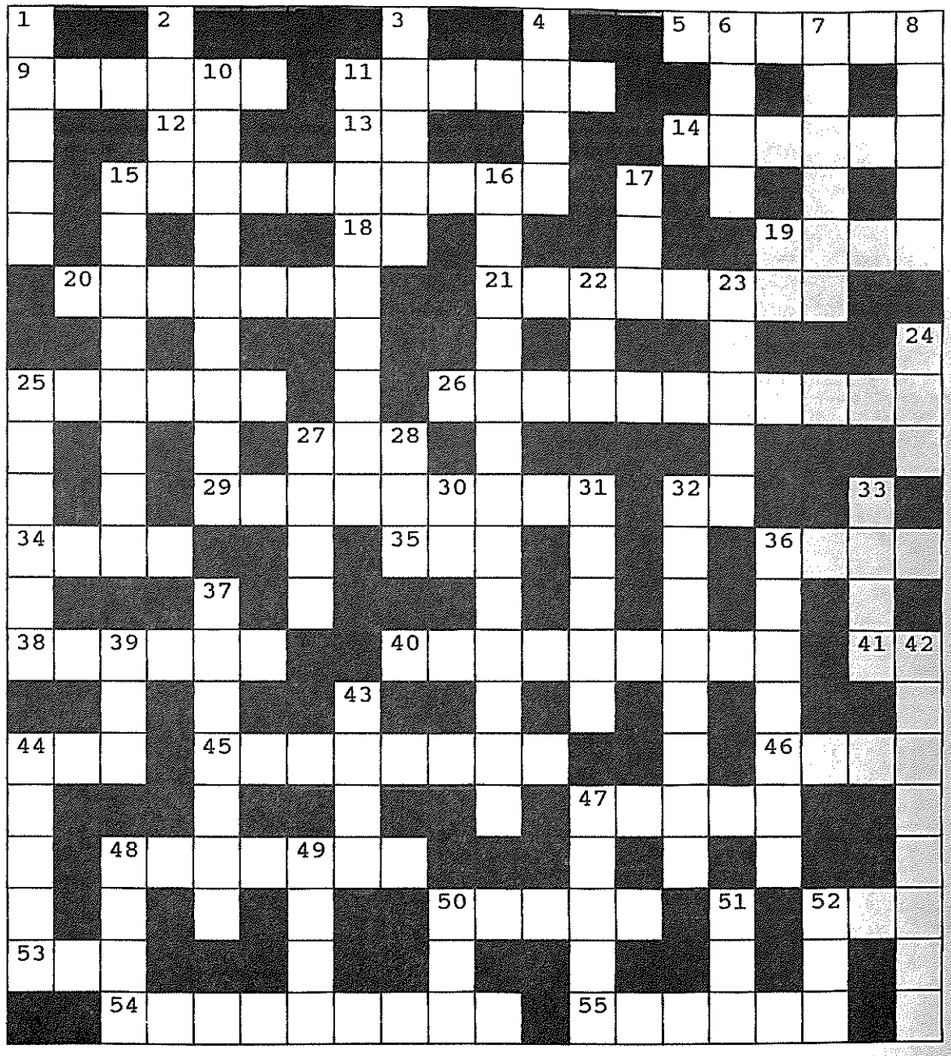
5. MILITARY PROCESSION
9. GROUP OF 8 NOTES
11. BIRD OF DOVE FAMILY
12. ENGINEER
13. ROYAL NAVY
14. FALKLAND ISLANDER
15. CATHERDRAL CITY GUN?
18. MYSELF
19. EVERGREEN TREE
20. FARRY THAT CROSSED FROM PUNTA TO STANLEY
21. LARGE GUARD DOG BREED
25. APE-LIKE
26. KILL
27. PERIOD OF TIME
29. FEATHER QUILT
32. TESTUBE BABIES
34. CULTIVATE
35. 2000 LBS
36. HORSE FOOT
38. HORSE PACE
40. PUPA
41. KNOCK-OUT
44. METAL CONTAINER
45. CHEWY OAT BISCUITS
46. MONSTER
47. MORE SECURE
48. AGRICULTURAL SKILLS
50. LAND AREA
52. FIRE REMAINS
53. NOUGHT
54. GRAVE MARKER
55. ALLOY JOINT

DOWN

1. SHEARING STYLE
2. HINDU DRESS
3. WASH OUT
4. SIXTY MINUTES
6. CUT
7. PAIN-KILLER
8. CREEPY
10. GIVE AIR TO
11. EARLY BABY
15. THESE WERE USED TO OUT WATER IN THE NETHERLANDS
16. YOU CAN SEE THIS TO THE NORTH OF CAPE DOLPHIN
17. WOOL EXTRACT
19. SECRETARY
22. LADIES UNDERGARMENTS
23. DAMP
24. FISH CATCHER
25. PUTREFACTION
27. PREPARE TO PUBLISH
28. PAINTING AND DRAWING
30. PARTY
31. ROPE LOOP
32. MIXING LIQUIDS TO MAKE THICK
33. CUT OFF TAIL
36. RECORD OF PAST EVENTS
37. ONE'S WELL BEING
39. WOMAN OF RELIGIOUS ORDER
42. LONGER UPPER JAW
43. MAKE RAW WOOL KNITABLE
44. MILK HOLDER
47. JOCKEY COLOURS
48. NON-WOVEN FABRIC
49. COLOURED PORTION OF THE EYE
50. FISH FEATURE
51. AUCTION PRICE
52. ATMOSPHERE



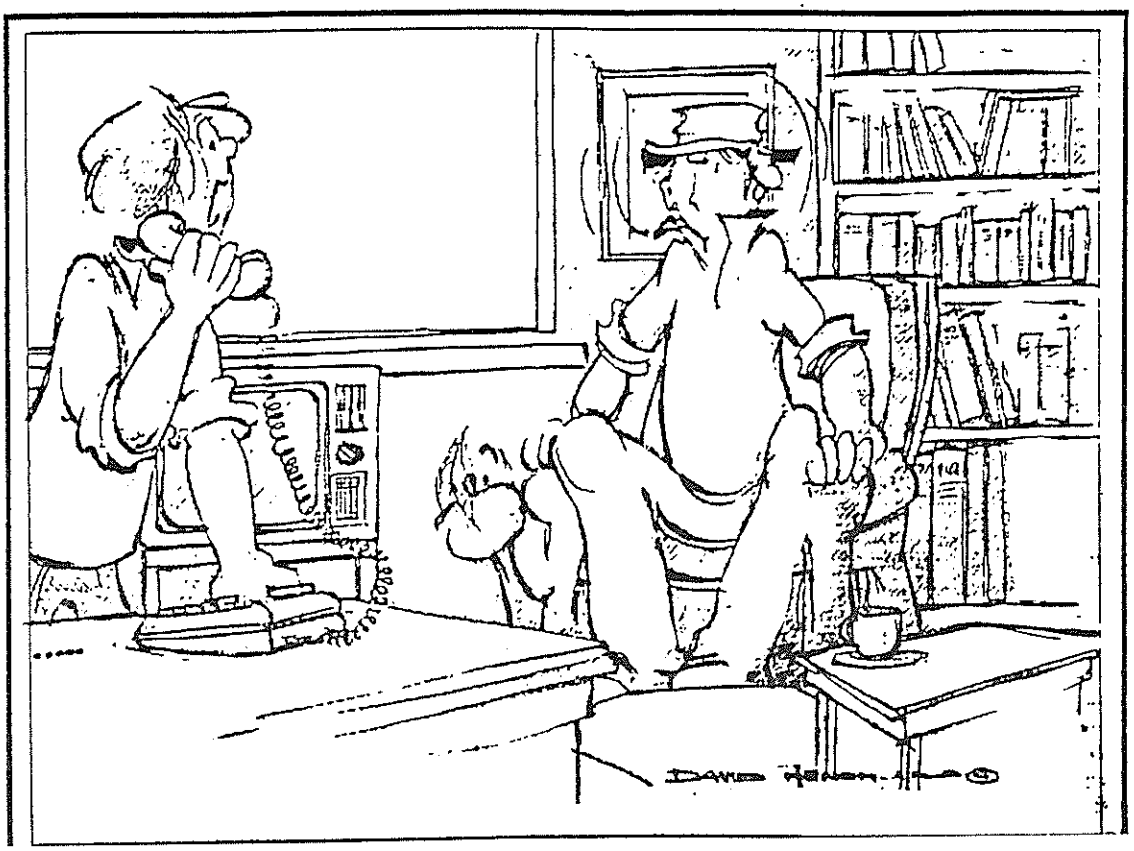


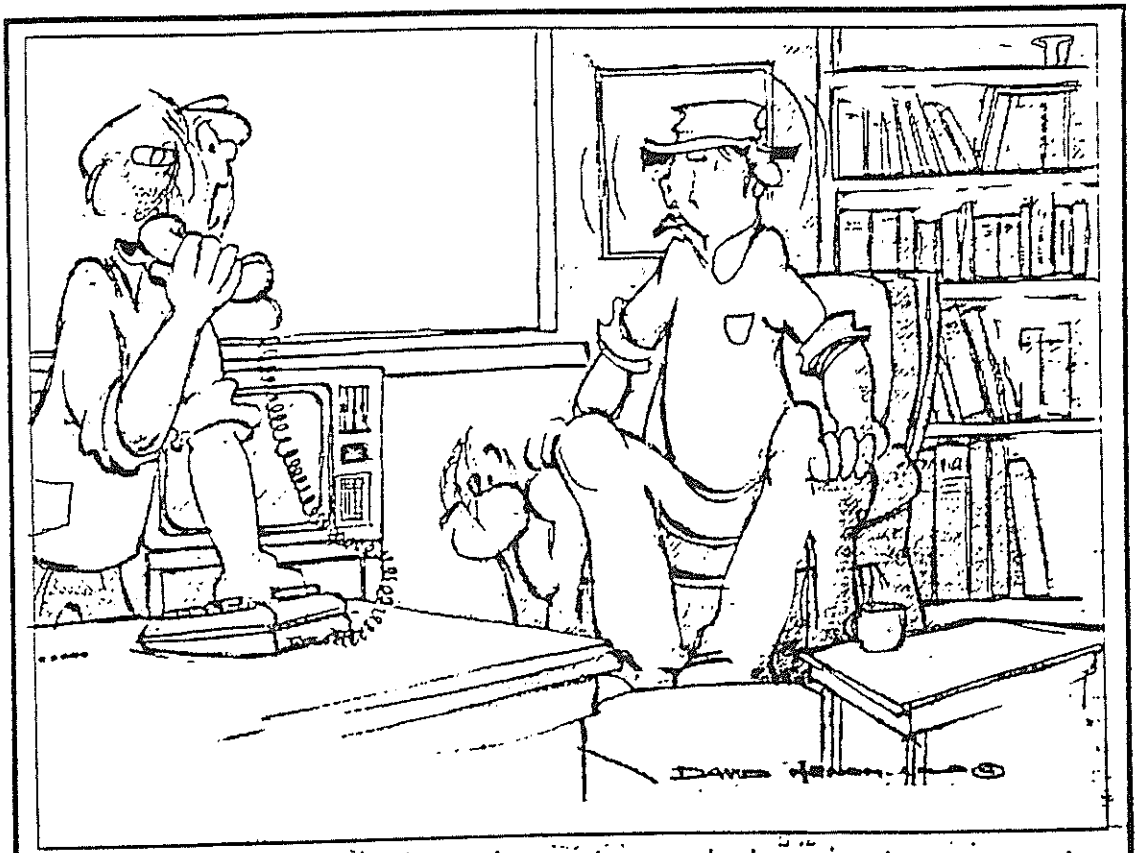


LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

1. Tea cup missing;
2. Pocket on ladies jacket;
3. Spoon in sugar bowl;
4. Collar missing on left man;
5. D missing in Falkland;
6. Mans hat missing;
7. Window pane in door;
8. Centre beam missing;
9. Spoon on table;
10. Belt on womans coat;

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





"She's ringing from th' paint an' panel shop, an' says you're absolutely right...the brakes on the new car are not as good as on the old one!"

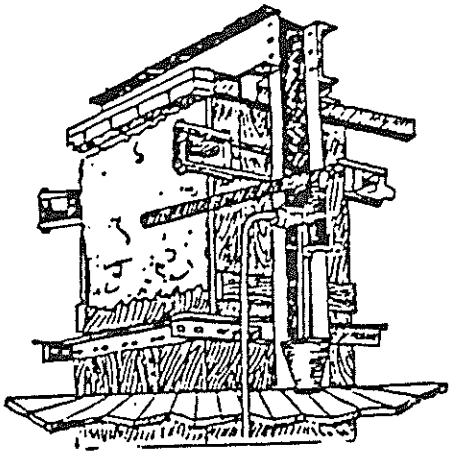
WOOL PRESS

Retail Price £1.00

ISSUE 70 SEPTEMBER 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!



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Editor Mrs C Rowland and Mrs M McLeod

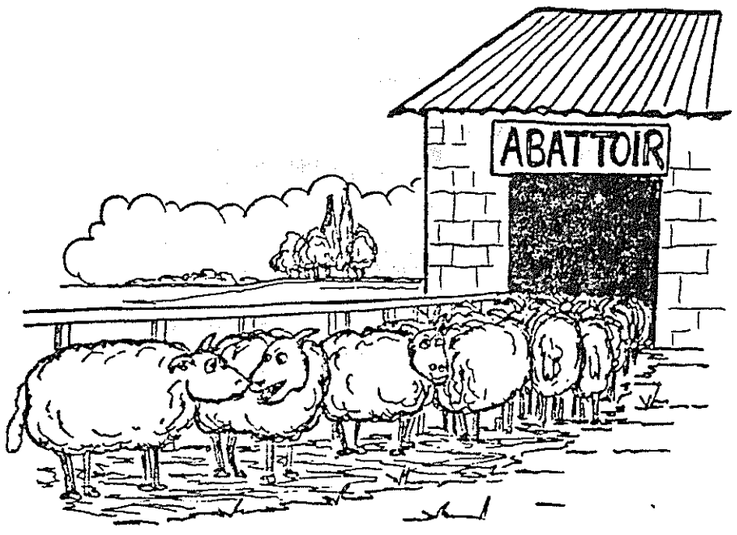
EDITORIAL

What a winter - hopefully most farms will not have lost too many sheep, cattle and horses. Lets hope the weather is going to improve so that farmers can assess what they have lost in the worst winter since 1906.

Greg has a very interesting article called "Winter Devastation in South America". After reading this article, I felt that what we've thought to be a bad winter is nothing what has been suffered in Chile.

In this WOOL PRESS we have also included a supplement called "Tanalith, Tanalised, Tanatone Treated Timber and Plywood", As some concern was shown by farmers as to the safety of handling wood preserved in this way. I hope the supplement answers your questions and puts your mind at ease. Tanalith is a preservative used world-wide and once the treated timber product is dry (after 48 hours minimum) the timber is safe to handle.

Charlene



WINTER DEVASTATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Isn't it good to see some sunshine and watch the mercury creep above $0^{o}C$? No doubt people will be finding their way around their farms, to start assessing the full impact of the recent winter storms. Hopefully most farms will not have lost too many sheep, and even more importantly their ewes will have pulled through in reasonable condition for lambing.

If you think things have been bad here, spare a thought for our farming counterparts in Southern Chile. Various reports are starting to filter in of the catastrophe facing many livestock producers. According to a report from Merco Press in the Teaberry Express (Issue 52, August 25 1995), up to 350,000 cattle have already perished with another 190,000 cattle, 1.08 million sheep and 7000 horses still at risk due to poor body condition, deep snow and a severe shortage of feed. Over 50% of the sheep in Tierra Del Fuego are estimated to have died. A recent fax from Nilo Covacevich, Director of the INIA Research Station Kampenaike, indicated that in the Punta Arenas region alone more than 12,000 cattle and 150,000 sheep are known to have perished. However, he stresses that these figures are conservative estimates only, with most of the area still being inaccessible due to deep snow.

The potential economic losses are frightening. According to Merco press, the losses could be as high as $65 million (US) in the Punta Arenas region alone. The Chilean Government is currently assessing schemes for assisting with re-stocking through long-term loans. Nilo Covacevich has expressed interest to me regarding the possibility of purchasing sheep from the Falklands to assist in their re-stocking. Details of their requirements are sketchy, but given the level of devastation, they may be interested in wethers as well as ewes.

I realise it is still early days for Falkland farmers to be able to commit themselves, but if anyone feels they have lost abnormally high numbers of sheep or would have cull sheep available (particularly ewes) for sale either locally or to Southern Chile, could they please contact me at the Department of Agriculture with approximate numbers, ages and when they may be ready for sale. Price has not been mentioned, and is presumably negotiable. Obviously we'll have a better idea of the Chilean requirements and the Falklands availability once the spring thaw arrives and we can fully assess our respective situation. In the meantime, any potential sources will be most welcome.

Greg Scott
Sept. 1995

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SWEDES FOR WINTER FEED

I have had a few enquiries about growing swedes as a winter feed for sheep. Thus this article provides some basic information and follows the articles on oats and kale in the two previous issues. Please get in touch if you require more information.

Swedes should be sown at about 5-7 kg/ha or 2-3 kg/acre in October or early November. Varieties with dark-purple skin seem appropriate for here given the short growing season and taking into account moderate winter hardiness and feed value. Thus Marian and Ruta y Tofte seem the most appropriate.

Swedes can be grown and fed on site and can be cheaper than harvested oats. A movable electric fence will provide break feeding which restricts access to a few days supply and reduce wastage, usually half, due to tramphing by sheep. The more frequently the fences are moved the higher the level of utilisation and the lower the wastage.

Swedes will keep longer than stubble turnips and should provide forage in August and early September.

A dry lie-back area and access to Whitegrass and 'greens' is advised. This should increase utilisation, improve welfare, reduce fleece contamination and allow time for the sheep to adjust to the new feed.

Assuming a low to moderate crop yield of 3-4 tonnes DM/ha and 50% utilisation about 10 pregnant ewes per hectare (4 ewes/acre) could be grazed per hectare from early August until the end of September.

Swedes may be susceptible to various disease in the acid soil here. Therefore use the more fertile paddocks and apply lime and NPK fertiliser if available.

Swedes have been grown for both human and animal consumption here for many years. Thus there is probably a wealth of experience in 'camp' - please let Wool Press know your tips for growing swedes or any other winter feeds.

(Some of the information in this article was taken from 'Forage brassicas for hill sheep' by John Vipond, SAC, in the 'Sheepfarmers', March 1995).

Aidan Kerr
Sept. 1995

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MASTITIS

Many minor infections go undetected if they are left unnoticed and untreated the result can be a severe life threatening illness or a chronic infection which will drastically reduce the economic value of the animal. Chronic mastitis is the most common reason given by many for culling an animal from a herd.

MASTITIS IN COWS

There are many different types of mastitis in cattle mostly defined by the causal organism. In cows the presence of mastitis is seen usually starting in the milk. Milk may be discoloured or appear like water or most likely, have milk clots in it. The presence of clots means infection by streptococcal bacteria. This type of infection is often a mild form of the disease and the cow will show no other signs of illness.

In severe cases of mastitis the part of the udder affected will be swollen and painful, the animal may have a temperature and in many cases, if left untreated, death will be the outcome. In acute cases the milk will be discoloured (yellow) and thicker than normal and difficult to express but on other occasions it can often be like water. Do not confuse these symptoms with the appearance of colostrum which is thick, yellow and perfectly normal and remember also it is not unusual to see blood in the milk soon after calving. This usually disappears after a day or two and requires no treatment.

Staphylococcus aureus and E.Coli are the organisms that cause the more acute infections and in the summer months - Corynebacterium pyogenes. Cows with summer mastitis invariably lose the infected quarter.

Treatment must be under the direction of the veterinary officer. Streptococcal infections will only require intra mammary antibiotic which is given up the teat canal after the gland has been stripped out as much as possible. It is often necessary to take a sample of the milk for antibiotic sensitivity testing before treatment begins as resistant bacteria can be a major problem. In acute infections where the patient has a temperature, the antibiotic will have to be given by injection into the muscle or intravenously as well as into the mammary gland. Cows with per acute and life threatening infections will require, in addition to antibiotic, powerful anti inflammatory drugs which have an anti toxaemia action. Some vets will also use intra venous drips and if the quarter has become gangrenous the teat may have to be amputated.

Prevention of mastitis is all important and much cheaper than having to treat the disease.

Milking cows should have a sample taken from each quarter and examined for the presence of clots before the machine is applied. Milking machines should be regularly checked to ensure they are working properly. Incorrect pressures of cracked linings can be a common reason for the mammary gland becoming traumatised and more susceptible to infection. Other preventative measures that may be advised are washing and drying the udder prior to milking, and dipping the clusters before placing them on the next cow. There is no doubt, whatever control method is advocated, that

keeping the cow's udder clean and dry is the best way to avoid mastitis. Antibiotic treatment which infuses all the cow's quarters when they are dried off with a long acting antibiotic is also extremely effective at reducing the overall incidence of mastistis in a herd.

Cows which are milked by a hand are less likely to develop mastitis so long as the milker has a good technique and is not rough on the udder. Chapped and sore teats should be rubbed with a good udder cream.

MASTITIS IN SHEEP AND GOATS

The disease is not as common in sheep and goats as it is in cattle but where animals are milked, especially by machine, the incidence will be much higher and will follow the same pattern as a dairy cows.

Treatment also follow similar lines and intra mammary infusions are commonly used in goats. These are not so useful for the sheep with mastitis and that intramuscular injections for almost every case.

In every type of mastitis it is very important to milk the infected gland out as far as possible before putting antibiotic up the teat canal or before giving an injection.

The same preventative regimes should be uses as for dairy cattle. Cleanliness is all important as is making sure the gland is not damaged by faulty equipment or rough handling.

MASTITIS IN MARES

Mastitis in mares in not common but when it does occur it can be difficult to treat as the gland will be hot and sore. The mare will be reluctant to feed the foal and very unwilling to allow human hands to strip out the affected quarter. The most common infection is caused by Streptoccal bacteria.

Treatment consists of antibiotic treatment, usually by injection as it is often difficult to insert antibiotic tubes into the teat canal. If the mare is reluctant to allow the gland to be stripped out then gently bathe the udder in warm water or massage it with udder cream. This often reduces the mare's discomfort and she will then allow the quarter to be emptied. If this method is not effective, it may be necessary to sedate the mare. The udder can then be stripped out of all infected material. This ought to be done a least twice a day and if it is done effectively the first time, subsequent milking will be much easier.

Some horse owners may have difficulty in distinguishing a mastitic udder from a normal gland that is just full of milk.

This often happens at weaning time but simply looking at a sample of milk will distinguish the healthy from the abnormal.

SOURCE: SMALLHOLDER
September 1995.

MEASURING UP

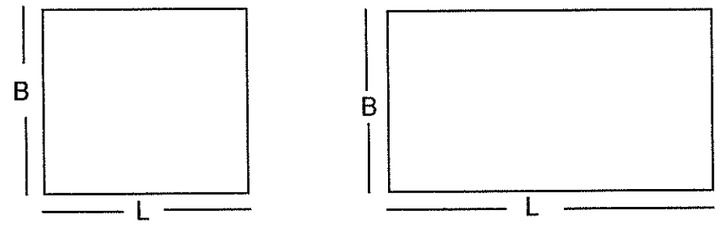
Formerly land was measured in square yards or acres. Even today many farmers still prefer to use acres because they judge this unit to be of a more sensible size than the hectare, which is the metric alternative. However, much farming literature expresses itself in metric terms. Here are some useful equivalents and conversions:

4,840 square yards = 1 acre
2.5 acres (approx.) = 1 hectare
10,000 square metres = 1 hectare
1 square yard = 0.84 square metre (m^2)
1 metre = 1.09 yards

Most fields, paddocks or camps are not regular shapes. Their sides may twist and bend about, fence lines being dictated possibly by ditches, ponds and hedges. For large camps you can work out the lengths of the sides to be measured by using a scale map. For smaller areas you may be able to pace the distances required or use a tape measure or wheel measure.

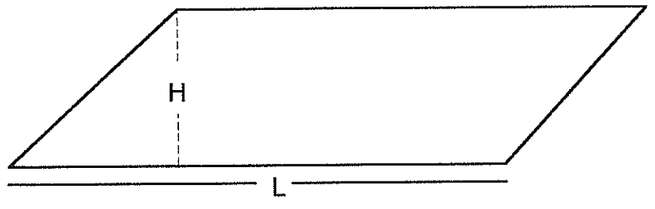
Here are some ways to measure different shaped pieces of land.

Rectangles and Squares.



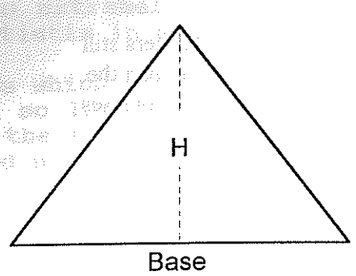
Shapes with four sides and rightangle corners. The area is found by multiplying the adjacent sides: Length x Breadth (L x B).

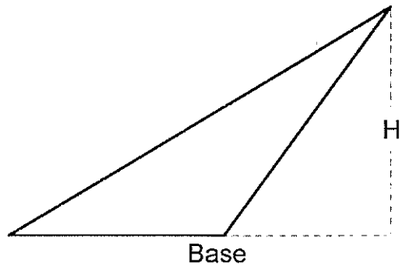
Parallelogram



A shape where opposite sides are parallel and equal, but there are no right angles. You find the total area by multiplying the length of the base by the height: Length x Height (L x H)

Triangle

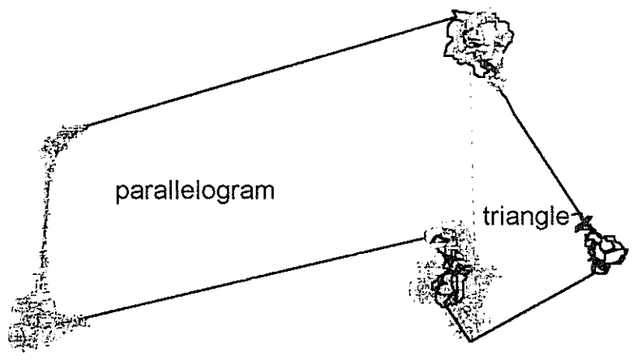




A three sided shape. You find the total area by multiplying together the base and the vertical height and dividing by 2. (It is exactly the same if you say ½ Base x Height or ½ Height x Base). $\frac{B \times H}{2}$

If the area being measured is not a simple shape, do the following:

Divide it up into several simple areas.
Calculate each of these areas.
Add the lot together to get the total area of the field, paddock or camp.



In next months Wool Press I will cover the area of circles and volume (handy when working out the holding capacity of tanks and buildings).

Mandy McLeod
September 1995

SHEEP AND TREES

Given the current interest in planting trees either on their own or as an agroforestry project with sheep, this article offers some sound information.

AGROFORESTRY AN ALTERNATIVE AND USE:

Agroforestry systems - in which trees are integrated directly with agricultural activities - offer significant potential environmental and economic benefits as an alternative land use. Such systems may form part of a sustainable strategy in which different activities (ranging from conservation setaside of land, conventional forestry, through to conventional agriculture) are integrated.

THE EXPERIMENT:

The Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER), in collaboration with the Forestry Commission has been examining the conversion of current sheep-grazed grassland in upland and lowland sites at Bronydd Mawr in Powys and at North Wyke in Devon since 1988. Trees (including Sycamore, Ash and Hybrid Larch) have been planted at 5 m or 10 m regular spacing (100 or 400 trees/ha) into sheep grazed pasture so that the biological interactions between tree, pasture and animal can be quantified. Three growth is compared with conventional close spaced forestry without sheep (2500 trees/ha) and animal production is compared with no-tree pasture controls.

Brecknock Hill Cheviot ewes are crossed with Suffolks at Bronydd Mawr and Masham ewes are crossed with Suffolks at North Wyke. The ryegrass-based pasture is grazed by a core group of sheep with a target heights of 4-6 cm maintained by the addition of removal of sheep outside of the core group. Animal production is determined as the mean live weight of stock carried during the grazing season. Pasture productivity can be assessed from a knowledge of animal intake levels (based on a standard sward height profile) and stocking rates. The pasture receives 160 kg/N/ha/yr as ammonium nitrate and 50 kg each of P and K.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

As long as livestock are present trees will be vulnerable to damage and will need continuing protection. In this study the evenly spaced trees in grazed plots required individual protection using 1.2-1.5m tall plastic shelters (Tubex Ltd) which have proved effective in preventing direct sheep damage.

Early growth was better in agroforestry treatments compared to conventional forestry which can be attributed partly to the use of the shelters which created improved microclimate conditions for tree growth. Tree form, however, has also been modified in some species by the use of shelters and is not noticeable for Hybrid Larch when compared to conventional forestry planting and larger diameter mesh guards (Netlon Ltd) have now been installed in these treatments. It is hoped that this will allow greater lateral movement, with development of better form and stability although research is needed into correct design of tree protection systems. Alternatively, different planting arrangements

such as rows of blocks would mean that the need for individual protection would be avoided because conventional fencing could be used.

Trees were established in a weed-free area which was maintained for three years with herbicide applied around the base of the tree to reduce competition for water and nutrients. The bare soil around the tree was, however, also vulnerable to compaction by sheep trampling, especially in the lowest density treatments (where sheep to tree ration was highest). Tree growth was also generally slower at the wider spacing where there were four times as many sheep per tree than with the narrow spacing, although - as with effect of shelters - the differences are now lessening.

The relatively high levels of fertility in grazed plots (as a result of fertiliser and animal inputs) may also have consequences for normal tree development. For example it has been shown that root development can be reduced under such circumstances. High levels of nutrient can also affect branching pattern and, therefore, overall final wool quality. The experiment also includes agroforestry treatment in which no nitrogen fertiliser is supplied and clover-rich sward is encouraged. Reductions in stocking rates will also reduce the impact of sheep on tree growth.

Despite a significant canopy development which has resulted in reductions of transmitted light, there do not appear to be any consistent effects of tree planting on animal production. The latest full results for Bronydd Mawr from 1993 show that the mean animal live weight carried (tonne-days/ha) was 248 and 265 for the two agroforestry treatments (100 and 400 trees/ha respectively) compared to 234 for no-tree pasture control. The apparently better production in agroforestry plots (although not statistically significant) could indicate a possible beneficial effect of tree planting - that of shelter. In the more exposed upland site this may be of benefit in terms of improved early season grass growth as well as improved conditions for livestock, although as the tree canopy develops further it is anticipated that pasture productivity will decline.

CONCLUSIONS:

Matching of species and site requirements is clearly important. Correct species selection and the use of high quality planting material are essential. There are, however, clear differences in management requirements of trees in forestry and agricultural systems. Valuable practical lessons have been learnt from the research so far. Future research will need to examine further improvements in establishment and management techniques. Agroforestry systems within the UK may be based on reduced inputs, with more emphasis put on environmental benefits such as bio-diversity, aesthetic an amenity values.

THE SHEEP FARMER
MARCH 1995

What runs but never moves?
A fence

FARM STUDY TOUR OF SOUTHERN CHILE

As mentioned briefly during Farmers Week, I am organising a study tour for interested farmers in the Punta Arenas and Tierra Del Fuego regions of Chile. I have had discussions with Nilo Covacevich (Director , INIA Research Station, Kampenaike) who is very interested in developing some type of reciprocal visit program to enable not only Falkland Island farmers to visit Chile, but also for Chilean farmers to come here.

While returning from Australia last July, I spent a couple of days in Punta Arenas, discussing the tour concept with executive members of the Magellanes Farmers Association and with a group of very progressive farmers. Many of them face production constraints similar to those experienced here, and some of these are much more severe (See report on winter devastation in South America in this issue). The idea of establishing an exchange visit was very appealing to them, as they see mutual benefit to all those who participate.

At this stage, the itinerary has not been finalised. Ideas which come to mind include various sheep farms, some of which are employing a unique system of pasture rotation and grazing management; a particular breeder who is utilising advanced breeding techniques such as A.I. and embryo transfer to accelerate his rate of genetic gain; a cattle farm or two for those interested in beef production; the Kampenaike Research Station where various improved pasture species are being evaluated; and the local abattoir and the Standard Wools Mill if possible. As mentioned earlier, these are only ideas at this stage, and I would certainly welcome input from any interested participants as to other places we might visit.

Dates have not been set either, but it is envisaged that the tour be one week in duration, largely governed by the DAP flight. My thoughts were perhaps five days of visits with a sixth day being available for shopping/sight seeing around Punta Arenas. There may also be the possibility of individuals extending their stay for personal holidays if desired.

Two times have come to mind, the first being early January. I realise this is in the middle of the shearing season, but if people have enough time to plan ahead it may not be out of the question. An advantage of this is that we may be able to visit operating shearing sheds and inspect their wool and fleece preparation. However, I feel that a drawback from the Chilean perspective may be that they would not have as much time to spend with us for discussion purposes. The second time is sometime in March/April. While we wouldn't see their sheds in operation, the Chileans may be more willing to spend more time with us, to the benefit of both parties. In addition, it may be a more relaxed time as most of us should be finished shearing by then. Initial impressions from the Chileans tend to favour March/April.

These are a number of points on which I need input from Falkland Island farmers. Perhaps the most important one is the number of interested farmers. I would also welcome ideas on where you would like to visit and what you would like to see, as well as the most suitable time to go. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, impressions and ideas. After all, the trip should (and will, as much as possible) be tailored to your needs, because you are the ones who may benefit the most.

I look forward to your responses and input.

Greg Scott

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BODY MEASUREMENTS

For centuries the 'hand' has been used as a measurement for horses. The hand being about 4" across the palm below the four fingers. In many parts of the world, the hand, the foot, the forearm and the thumb (supposedly one inch) are used - even to the extent of the thumb being used in Scandinavia to measure timber! We all know the old method of measuring cloth or rope from the nose to the end of the outstretched arm.

All of these are excellent when there is no tape measure or rule to hand, but there is one snag..... we are not all built the same, so the measurements are somewhat inaccurate.

However, these measurements can be made into more accurate figures by having your own measurements at hand. Then all you need to do after you've paced a paddock or forearmed your way up the side of a building, is convert your measurement into either imperial or metric (depending on your preference, although it is sensible now to get used to metric if you haven't already).

Use the list below to record your own measurements.

BODY MEASURE	METRIC	IMPERIAL
LENGTH OF FOOT (in shoes)		
LENGTH OF PACE (stride)		
FOREARM (from outstretched finger tip to elbow)		
THUMB (tip to knuckle/joint)		
NOSE TO OUTSTRETCHED ARM		
HAND (palm span below the fingers on widest part)		

RECIPES

As the cold weather doesn't seem to be relenting in a hurry, I thought some of you might be interested in an alternative to a hot toddy when you come in from facing the elements!

CINNAMON CIDER PUNCH

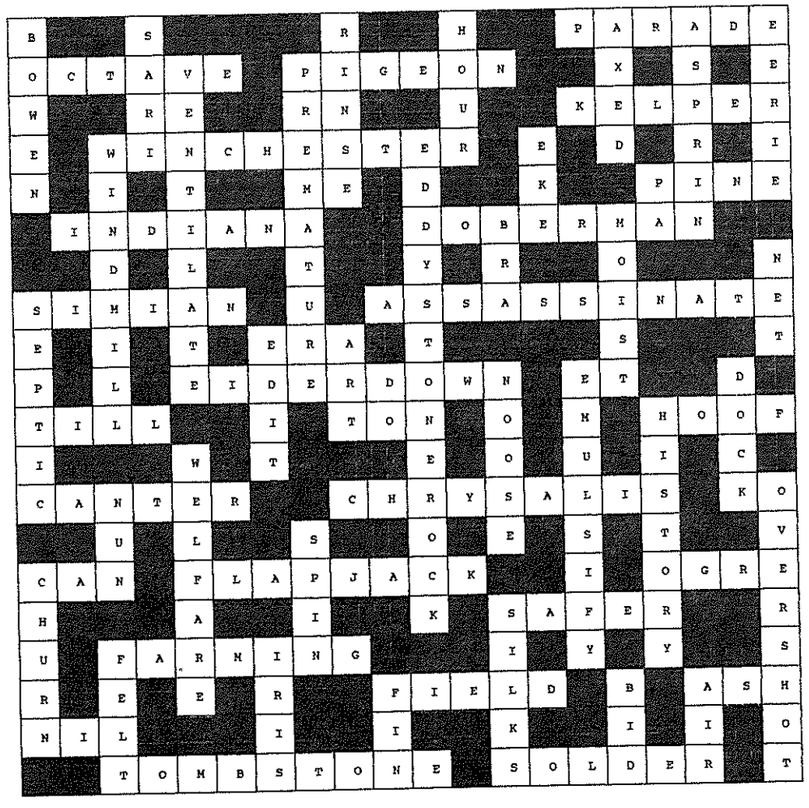
Ingredients

3 pints boiling water
grated rind off 1 lemon
3 cans sweet cider
quarter pint of rum
2 teaspoons loose tea
1 teaspoon powdered cinnamon
6 oz sugar

To the water add the tea, lemon rind and cinnamon. Allow to brew for 5 minutes and then strain into a bowl. Gently heat the cider, sugar and rum. Add to the brew and serve piping hot.

MANDY McLEOD

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

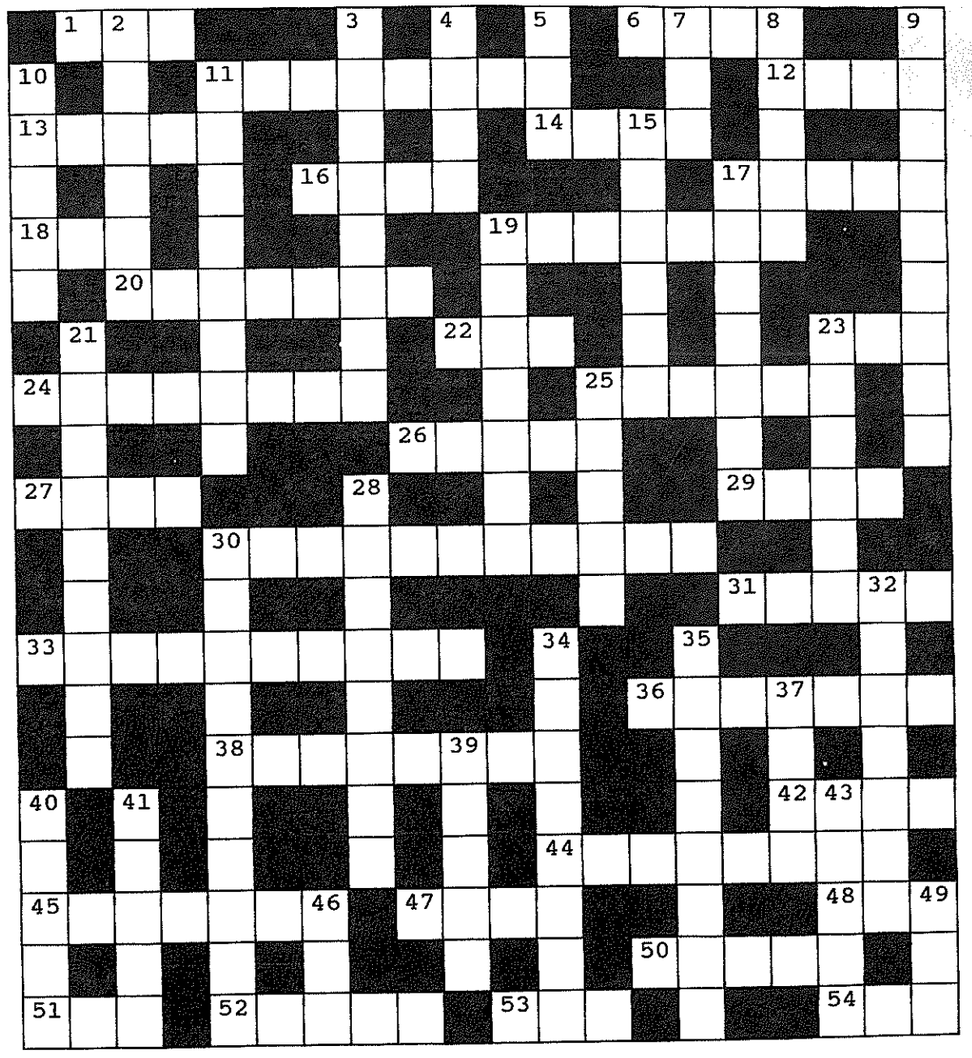


ACROSS

1. SHALLOW METAL CONTAINER
6. HORSE PACE
11. ORGANISM THAT LIVES OFF ANOTHER
12. SPOIL
13. MILK SAC (COW / EWE)
14. OIL RESERVOIR
16. SURRENDER
17. GIRTH
18. NIGHT BEFORE
19. PIECE
20. STYLISH, SPIRITED AND LIVELY
22. WRITING FLUID
23. WEAPON
24. PRIVATE
25. LONG HAIRED RABBIT
26. CAUSING GRIEF OR PAIN
27. SWINE
29. SMALL DARK SKIN BLEMISH
30. CAMPING BED LINEN
31. WATER RAT
33. TOXOCARA
36. MILKING PLACE
38. FRENCH CATTLE BREED
42. DRY
44. ADVERSE REACTION TO SOMETHING
45. SEASONED MEAT IN A SKIN
47. EMIT LIGHT
48. ATS AREA COORDINATOR
50. LONG HAIRED COLLIE
51. SCARLET
52. SCOTTISH ATTIRE
53. ORGAN OF SIGHT
54. CURE

DOWN

2. ROTTEN LIKE AN EGG
3. FATHERLY
4. PRODUCT OF THE LIVER
5. AFFIRMATIVE
7. TEAR
8. TEACH
9. FREE MELODY PERHAPS?
10. BED QUILT
11. AREA WHERE WOOL IS PACKED FOR BALING
15. SENIOR NURSE
17. COMPLY WITH
19. FLIGHTLESS BIRD
21. TREES THAT LOSE LEAVES ANNUALLY
23. SHIP'S KITCHEN
25. COVERING EXCUSE
28. PERSONAL FAMILY POSSESSION
30. BREED OF PIG
32. FORECAST
34. SHEEP DOG BREED
35. EQUINE TRANSPORTER
37. CORMORANT
39. BOOTH FOR HORSES
40. MEAN, MISERABLE PERSON
41. FUNGAL GROWTH
43. WE DESIRE THIS
46. LONG FISH
49. HAVE



A FALKLANDS PERSPECTIVE

For Falkland Island sheep farmer Nigel Knight, the highlight of the exhibition was the fleece competition.

He explained the only significant market he could supply from his 16,164ha (40,000-acre) farm at Fox Bay, West Falkland, was the one for very high quality wool. With a population of only 2400 there was almost no market for lamb, or meat from culled ewes, through some mutton was exported to Chile.

"Only lambs needed as replacements are reared," Mr Knight said. "We have to get our income from wool, which means that a flock of 3000 ewes is needed to allow a family to live in reasonable comfort."

His flock extended to 9500 Polworths. These produced an average of 4.2kg of wool a head. Clean, dry wool yield was around 70%, and average price at auction in Bradford last year was £3/kg.

"During our UK tour I have been amazed at the level of subsidies paid to sheep farmers, and poor attention paid to wool clip."

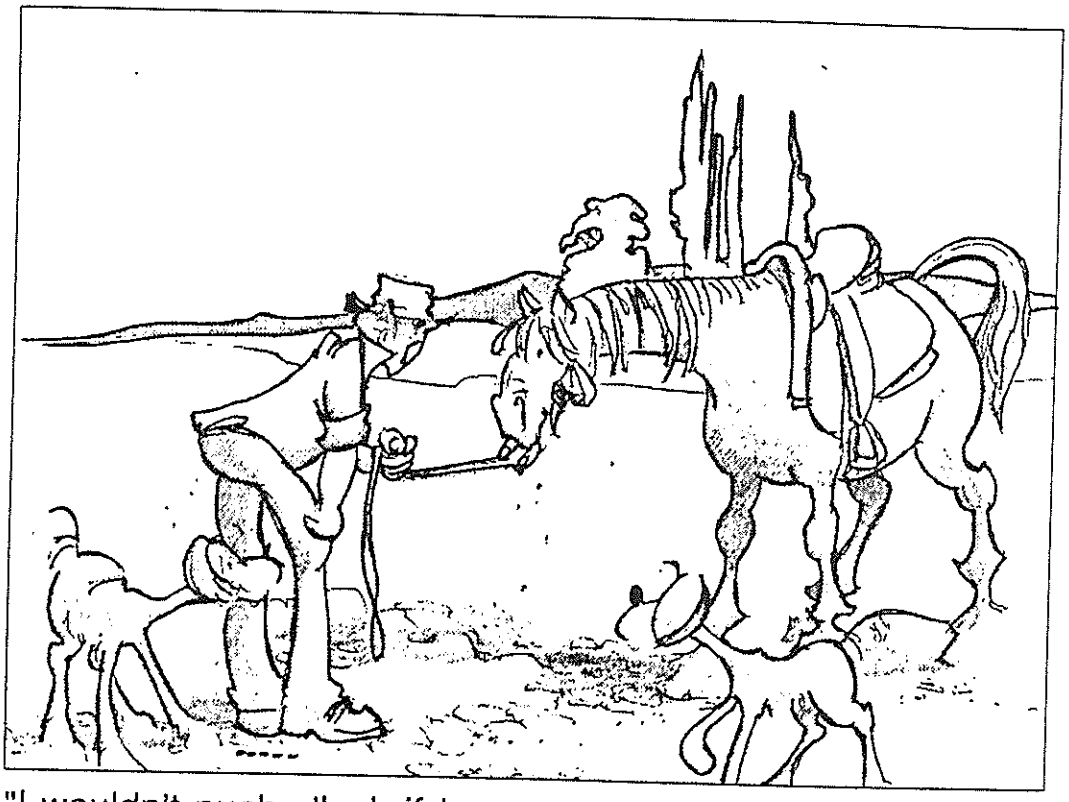
SOURCE: FARMERS WEEKLY

LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

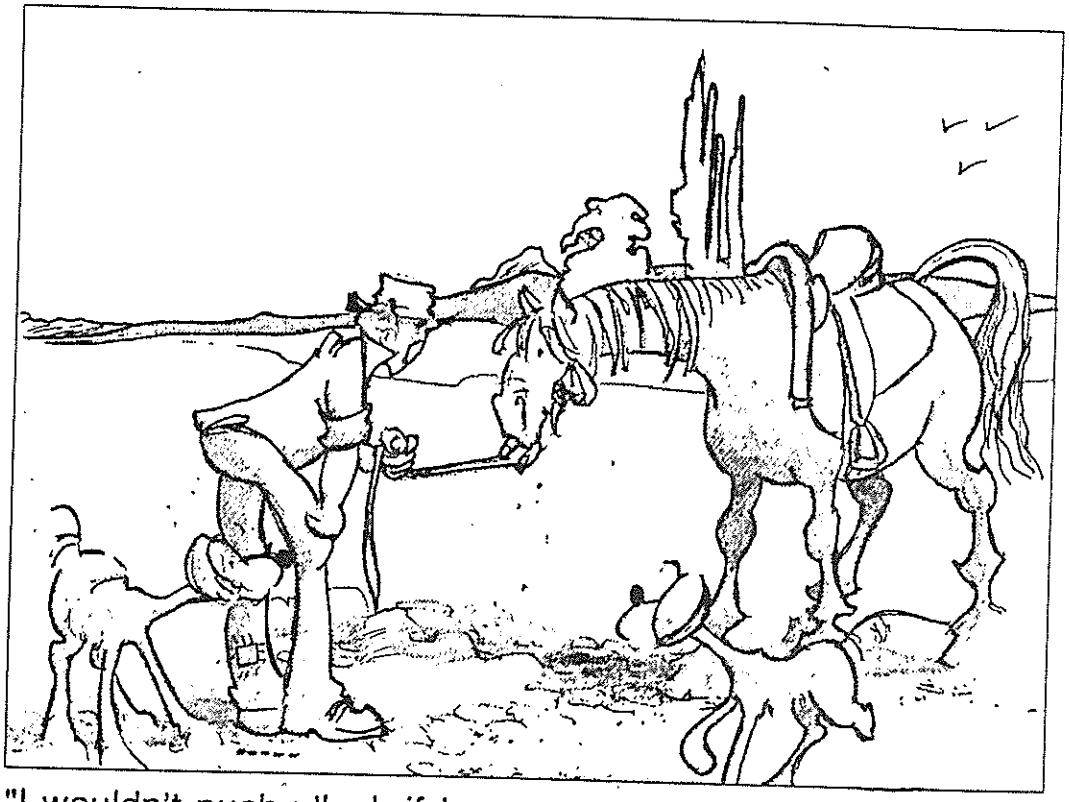
WP 69

1. Book missing on bottom shelf; 2. Pocket on womans shirt; 3. Collar on mans shirt; 4. Saucer on tea cup missing; 5. Knob on T.V.; 6. Part of picture frame; 7. Clip in womans hair; 8. pocket on mans jumper; 9. Books missing top shelf; 10. vase on top shelf.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



"I wouldn't push y'luck if I were you mate...



"I wouldn't push y'luck if I were you mate...

WOOL PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

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Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

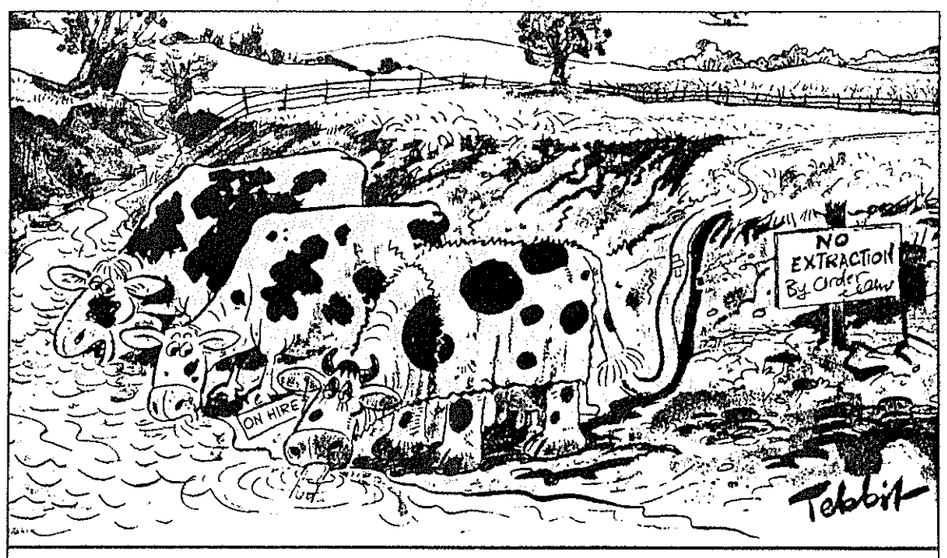
EDITORIAL

Is it a bird? Is it a plane?. No it's Spring (I think)! The Winter must be seeming terrible long to those of you who have been here for the duration.

With the better weather comes that time when there's a mad rush to get those long awaited jobs done around the farm (fencing for one), before all your time is taken up with shearing and the full throes of the season. Those of you who pre-lamb shear must feel that the season has already begun.

Still, it will all be over soon enough, and I dare say there'll be days when plenty of people will be grumbling about the heat, myself included! Are we never satisfied with our lot?

Many thanks to Tex Alazia for his article contribution featured in this edition of the WOOL PRESS. We were beginning to wonder if there was anybody out there .....



"There's something very strange about that new cow..."

A FAREWELL FROM BOB

As my third locum in the Falkland Islands comes to an end I want to take this opportunity to write a few words of thanks and encouragement to the farming community. Firstly, I would like to extend my appreciation to all those people I met and stayed with (for some if was longer than anticipated) because your hospitality is one of those special qualities in the Islands that encourages people like myself to keep coming back. Not only have the food and refreshments been good enough reason to relish the camp visits but the wide range of topics and interest shown by yourselves shows that although you are all Islanders, you are by no means insular in your attitudes.

Secondly another trait shown by yourselves that I will always remember is your determination to continue farming and improving your farms and flocks despite all of the setbacks and hardships that come with farming in these latitudes. Any gains that you make are often small and with the winter that you've just gone through, the thought of doing something else for a living must have crossed a few minds lately. However, with eternal optimism being one of the essential ingredients of a farmer and in good supply here. I am sure the Island's farming community will still be holding its own when fishing and then oil have passed their boom times.

With regard to the new abattoir I can see that this will bring about changes in the farming patterns that may be difficult to anticipate. With an increase in value for cull animals you may well find that in years to come that it makes more sense for some to concentrate on farming wethers while the breeding will be restricted to the better camps, i.e. there will be a gradual diversification of farming practices.

Agroforestry is a subject much more talked about now in the Islands and is one that I have been involved with for about ten years in New Zealand and I encourage anyone who can to plant more vegetation on their farms whether it be shrubs or trees, as more shelter for stock especially at lambing time has to be worthwhile. Whether or not the trees are cut down in 50 years is not so important at this stage. First get the trees growing what ever the perceived end use for them is, and the wisdom of cutting them down can be debated at the time.

Once again, many thanks for your hospitality, best wishes for the future and may the summer be a great one.

Regards

Bob Jackman
Locum Veterinary Officer

The 5th International Rangeland Congress, Utah, USA.

by Aidan Kerr.

In July I represented the Department at this important conference based mainly in Salt Lake City. This article gives a brief account of my activities there.

Poster paper

The main purpose of attending the congress was to present a poster based on extracts from the scientific paper;

> Can variation in rangeland topography and vegetation be used to sustain improvements to wool production in the Falkland Islands?

A full copy was published in Wool Press, Issue 65, April 1995 and it will be published in the congress proceedings later this year. Research project SS/6 aims to answer this question and is a major part of the Department's research. Valuable comment and advice was provided by several leading rangeland scientists on

- the choice of sites and timing of increased utilisation of Whitegrass by sheep,
- the ecological methods for monitoring changes in the vegetation,
- the development of grazing system models to sustain improved stocking rates, improve 'dry' sheep survival and minimise rangeland degradation.

This information will be incorporated into project SS/6 which will compare the economic, agricultural and environmental benefits of a sequence grazing system with a 'set-stocked' system for Whitegrass pasture. The paper was particularly relevant to the theme of the congress - "Rangelands in a Sustainable Biosphere".

The congress was attended by over 600 rangeland workers from 70 countries from every continent. There were 12 topic sessions, most concurrent, each of which were opened by two or three invited speakers on the topic. Each session's posters were then presented simultaneously by their authors in an hour's informal discussion with audience members. This was followed by a focused discussion of all the presentations. I attended most sessions and in particular found those on Multiple Use of Rangeland Ecosystems, Restoration Ecology, Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring, Rangeland Biodiversity, Ecological Aspects of Rangeland Management most relevant to current and future use of the land here.

Climate change

I also attended a special evening session on monitoring global climate change and its effects on rangelands. Consequently, as work in this area may be of concern to many here the Department has now joined a group working on Global Change in Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE). Their work is a core project of the International Geosphere - Biosphere Program (IGBP) and probably combines the best world knowledge on the factors and impacts of global change. Membership, currently free, entitles the Department to avail of the most up to date and correct information. On request from other members we may supply basic data related to climate and plant and wool production to enable predictive models of the effects of climate change to be improved. By doing so we will be making a valuable input to the development of global solutions to minimise the impact of climate change and receiving the best information from which we can make sound decisions for sustainable use of rangelands and other resources here.

Study tour

During the pre-congress study tour I visited the US Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho where valuable contact was made with scientists working on developing commercial sheep selection indices for wool and meat. The information obtained will be passed to the Sheep/ Wool Scientist for input to his work. Informative visits and discussions were also conducted at various rangeland sites and farms in Idaho, Oregon and Utah on;

- weed problems affecting land productivity and the conservation of biodiversity,
- the role of scientist in the interaction and conflicts between livestock, wildlife and other land uses,
- rangeland - based grazing systems for sheep and cattle,
- management of riparian (watercourses) pasture,
- restoration of degraded/ eroded pasture.

Problems

Despite serious problems here of sheep mortality, overgrazing and a relatively undeveloped rural infrastructure (which also occur elsewhere!) it is fortunate that major additional problems related to;

- conflicts in multiple use of publicly-owned rangelands e.g. recreationists and aboriginals in USA and Australia,
- lack of influence by the rural community on the decision-making process e.g. mid-west USA and many African countries,
- large herds of free-roaming ungulates and associated predators e.g. elk and coyote in USA,
- livestock farming at much higher altitudes, in less developed and more rugged environments e.g. Mongolia and Nepal,
- invasions of unpalatable or toxic weeds e.g. Acacia in USA and Hawkweed New Zealand,
- very infectious diseases of livestock e.g. many South American countries,
- severe and unpredictable drought e.g. Australia,

do not occur here mainly because;

- no aboriginal nor large ungulates were present before settlement,
- much of the land is now privately and locally owned,
- potential conflicts in land use and management can be solved locally,
- many land owners have sound land stewardship motives,
- good co-operation occurs regarding plant and animals imports.

Video

Many aspects of the preceding tour and congress were recorded on video and an edited version should be available soon for circulation to farmers and other interested people. If any readers are interested in seeing this video please contact me.

Conclusion

The interaction with other scientists was extremely valuable and confirmed to me that our research is well focused, relevant, on the right track and of high scientific integrity. Attendance at this international congress was a good advertisement for the department and the islands in general and was good value for money. Attendance at selected international conferences should continue and be well supported.

RAM 2000

Have you heard the saying "It's an investment when you win and speculation when you loose?"

How many investments do farmers make, without gauging the value of the product?..... More than you might think!!

Rams are an investment, that have considerable affect on a farm's future. Acquiring accurate information about rams in a mob, is the best means of gauging relative animal values and making an investment; without such information you could be speculating!!

A potentially valuable medium term objective for Falklands sheep breeders would be that "ALL rams used in the Islands be of known hogget or shearling fleece weight and objectively tested fibre diameter, by the year 2000."

The concept that ram performance information is extremely useful to wool producers, is very well known. Some farms may already have achieved the target of only breeding from rams with known fleece weight and micron information. The idea that a practical target can be achieved nation-wide, in a short number of years, has been made possible by the recent completion and commissioning of the DoA's Wool Room.

The benefits of such wool information would stem from higher breeding value rams being used to sire more productive progeny. Farmers would inevitably compare animals within ram mobs: more accurately selecting the best rams and culling the poorest performing animals; also the number of years that the best rams are used could be maximised, whilst least good rams could be run for the fewest years. In addition all rams sold from single mobs could be compared, assisting sellers to set prices and purchasers to know the relative values of animals within a group.

"Ram 2000" is practical, the objectives and techniques can be refined and the concept of sire information, can be applied to all livestock enterprises. The main point is that "Ram 2000" should apply to ALL rams used on farms throughout the Falklands, not just to stud rams. I would encourage all farmers to set themselves a "Ram 2000" target, if they have not already got similar objectives.

Quality breeding for the next century, means obtaining objective breeding information by the year 2000.

Reference: DoA Objectives - Wool. June 1992.
Robert Hall

LETTER PAGE

The following letter from Michael Alazia voices his concerns regarding what he see's could be repercussions to farmers on the opening of the new abattoir. It's good to put your feelings in print. Let's hear from more of you.....

There has been much said and written concerning the abattoir and our worry is that it is going to make it prohibitive to us purchasing replacement sheep along with a large number of other farms, more farms perhaps than is appreciated.

As a rule of thumb you need a lambing percentage of 60% to be self sufficient in replacement stock, assuming a death rate of about 10% and breeding from 1/3 of your total flock. (We only breed from 20% of our total flock, because to breed from more means lambing on wether ground achieving percentages of 20% and ewe death rates of 18% to 20%).

The 1994/95 statistics shows that nearly half the Islands farms (43) achieved lambing percentages below 60%. Of those 43 farms, 14 were under 40%. Also 24 farms acquired sheep in excess of 100. I very much doubt that these farms will improve this season considering the winter everybodys stock has endured.

It is our worry that the abattoir will inevitably offer the few farms able to produce surplus sheep, prices over and above those that the sole wool producer could afford for replacement stock.

We were all for subdivision, but in some cases, through the logistics of the original farm, and in other cases through unfair camp distribution at the time of subdivision, what has happened in some farms are able to run their wethers on former ewe camps and the less fortunate are battling to achieve 20 & 30% lambing on former wether ground.

It is our hope that any future grants may be directed towards land improvements through reseeding, fencing and possibly the shipping of live sheep, because in the case of the south half of West Falklands for instance there are more farms requiring replacements than farms with surpluses.

M Alazia
Port Edgar

****

FOR SALE

I have a quantity of Australian high tensile capless pack bale fasteners at £7.50 per tub of 250.

Anybody requiring some for this season, just give me a call.

Jimmy Forster - Bold Cove
Tele: 42178

****

EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW POTATOES IN STANLEY

by Willie Bowles and Aidan Kerr.

Nadine - Sante - Cultra - names new to some people and maybe familiar to others! These varieties may offer new options to potato growers here who wish to combat the common and persistent problems associated with soils infected by potato cyst eelworm.

Two species of eelworm (*Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis*) affect potato crops world-wide and both are common in Europe. Locally, a garden survey conducted by Aidan and analysed at Queen's University and the Dept. of Agriculture for N. Ireland found that *G. pallida* was the most common type here but was not the same type of *G. pallida* found in Europe. Also *G. rostochiensis* was absent from the survey samples which indicated more strongly that the eelworm here had been introduced from S. America and was well established. This finding has important implications for growers who wish to use resistant varieties. They should ensure that the variety offers resistance to *G. pallida*.

In UK trials Cultra was recommended as fully resistant to both types of eelworm, while Nadine and Sante offered only partial resistance to *G. pallida* but full resistance to *G. rostochiensis*. In contrast some common varieties e.g. Pentland Dell and Crown, British Queen are susceptible to both types.

A small trial in Stanley seemed a worthwhile proposition. Willie's plot was used for the trial. Planting was deliberately left until late December. One reason was waiting for the set tubers to arrive in Stanley - and it was also felt the longer the planting was delayed, the less chance the eelworm had to attack! (N.B. Aidan is not aware of any scientific evidence for this but a delayed planting may also avoid late frosts and the usual drought!).

Each variety cropped differently in size, consistency and yield. The following figures illustrate comparison with King Edwards:-

	Nadine	**Sante**	**Cultra**	**King Edward**
5 plants:	2nd early	Main	Main	Main
Total Wgt (kg)	5.8	5.9	6.7	8.5
Number	76	56	43	128
Wgt (kg)/ tuber	0.71	0.81	0.98	0.39

Generally all three new types were satisfactory and Cultra yielded well despite obvious large numbers of eelworm cysts on its roots. (Note: eelworms are too tiny to be seen by the naked eye!). No particular variety was considered to outweigh the old favourites like King Edward, The Pentland and Maris Lappes, Home Guard, etc. Up to seven years without potatoes is usually required to reduce infestation levels for economic cropping. However rotating resistant and susceptible varieties may reduce the levels of eelworm and produce better crops from the susceptible traditional varieties.

Further trials are needed to confirm these preliminary results. A further late planting from selected seed saved from last season will be tried this summer. It is proposed to plant about late November, early December, thus giving a longer growing season hoping to increase yield.

All the new potatoes proved to be good keepers, even enduring the past cold winter. No "fusarex" or preservative being used. All these types were pleasantly palatable.

Thanks go to Jim McAdam and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland for supplying the seed. These varieties should be commonly available from any reputable seed merchant in UK.

If you're looking for something different and a new variety, then these new potatoes are well worth a try.

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

TOPICAL WOOL NOTES

October is a good time to test weigh your bale scales. Those Bower Green weight lists which have a * beside bale weights, have a large difference from farm weights; scales producing such weights need special checking. Check weigh using a known weight; ideally the check weight should be about the average weight of your farm bales: eg. use four 50 kg bags of fertilizer or eight 25 kg bags of animal feed to check 200 kg.

> Camp wool gathered using a horse should be protected from coarse hair, by using a bag which cannot be penetrated by horse hair, which is a serious contaminant. This was a problem in the past, before the days of four-wheelers, but given the winter weather's toll on sheep, is one which could reoccur this season! Wool length should be specified.

At present, it is recommended to shear skins and ship the wool but not to ship the pelts. Store pelts in dry, clean conditions until the market improves or until farms have a significant quantity (more than 500 pelts) to sell.

> It is important to specify the length of Mutton or Early Shorn Wool, both when from skins or from sheep before killing: eg. 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4 length.

Now is the time to clean wool sheds and remove potential wool contaminants. Perhaps re-read the Guide to Clip Preparation as "Clip Care" is what competing Australian farmers are about!!!

ROBERT HALL
OCT 1995

A GUTSY EFFORT

On June 11, senior shearing instructor Murray Christie had a crack at Grant Smith's 447 merino ewe record, set in 1993.

It was a game effort; Christie in his mid-forties spends more time coaching than shearing and the weather had not been helpful.

"I'd always felt it was a challenge. I'd often thought of doing it," he said.

The attempt was staged at Killinchy farm, near Leeston - cold and frosty at 5 am. Gus Dermody up from his Southland pub, was Christie's second. Gavin Rowland, John Hough and other close friends made up the team. Referees were Stuart Weir, Don Morrison and Lex Jury.

The first run saw 97 down the porthole, six behind Smith. It was level pegging through the morning runs: 87 but Christie dropped back three after lunch; 81 (84). At that point it needed a last run of 97 to break the record, and the attempt was called off. "If it had been 88 - 90 I would have had a go," said Christie. "I was pretty buggered, mentally and physically. I was very disappointed but I came out of it all right."" The afternoon crowd numbered about 60, Grant Smith among them.

The sheep didn't comb as well as they should, said Christie. "Doughy," said Gus. Weir added that they clipped a little over 4 kg when only 3.4 is required. Christie's quality was good, although it slipped with fatigue in the last run. "A gutsy effort".

Last word from Christie: "I'm not making my age an excuse."

SOURCE: SHEARING MAGAZINE
AUGUST 1995

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CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S WOOL PRESS

A FALKLAND'S PERSPECTIVE

Mr Knight was misquoted in the Farmer's Weekly by saying "3000 ewes is needed to allow a family to live in reasonable comfort", when he stated that **3000 sheep is needed .....**

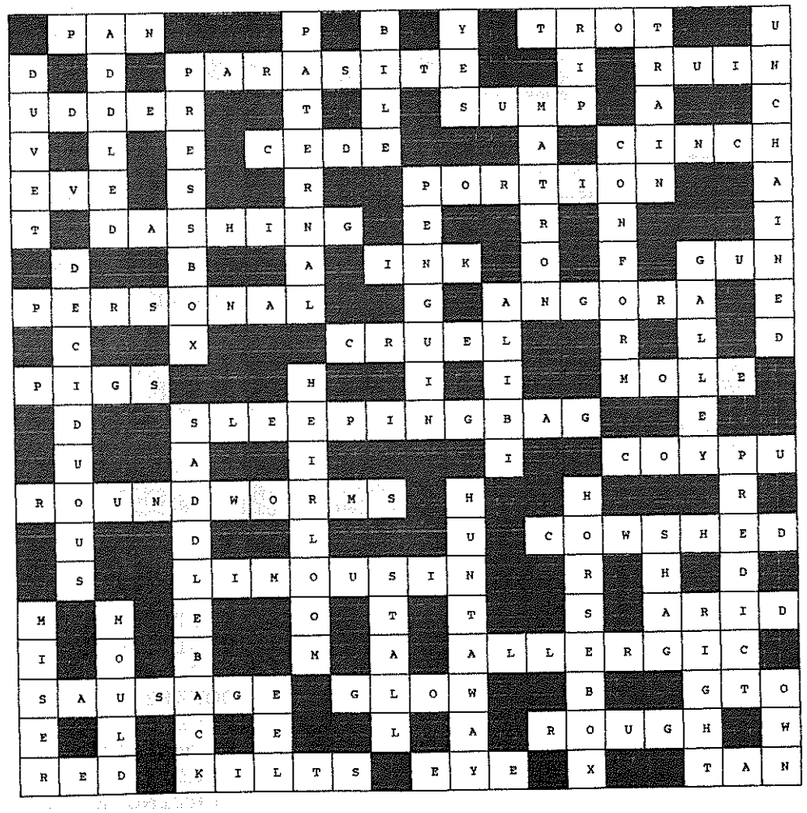
Apologies to Mr Knight.

****

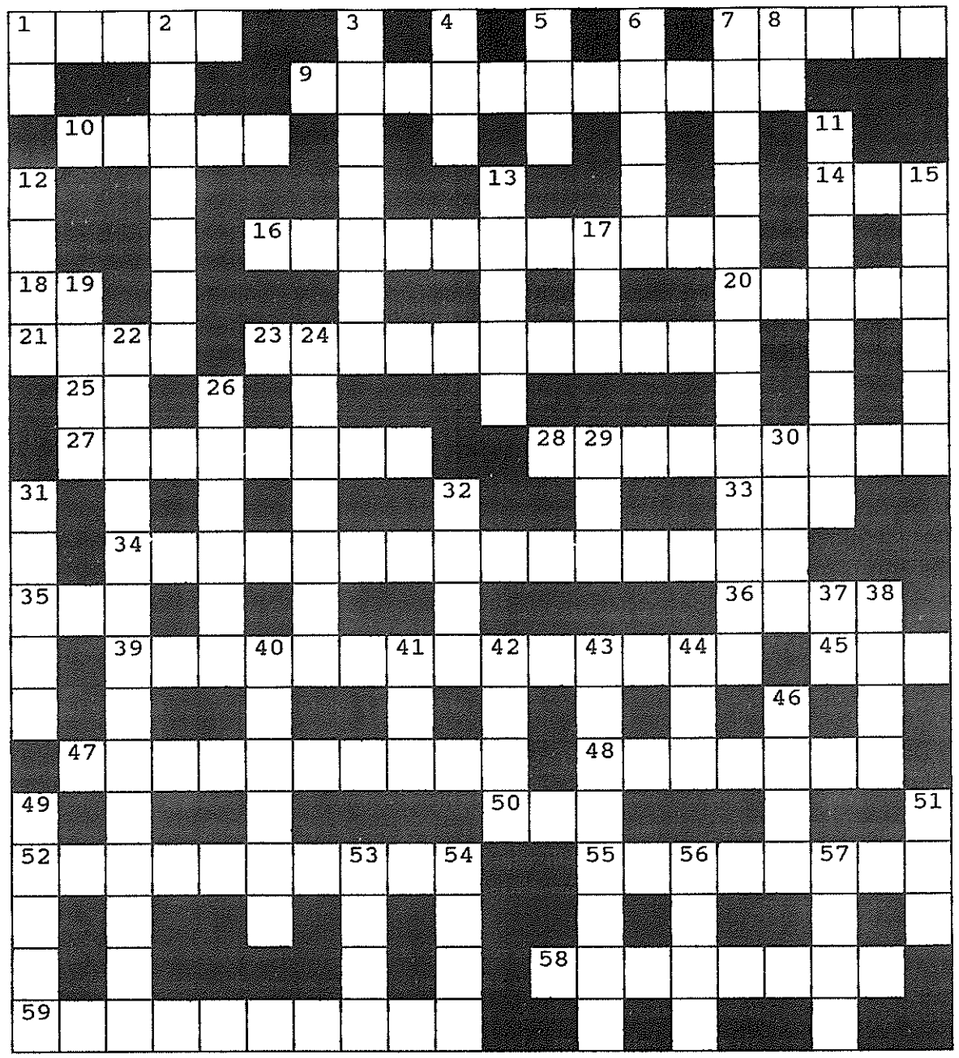
LAST MONTH'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

1; Hill in left hand corner of picture;
2; Two extra trees;
3; Reins shorter;
4; Patch on mans leg;
5; Birds flying in the sky;
6; Horses tail longer length;
7; Part of saddle missing;
8; Three legged dog;
9; Black nose on dog.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD



OCTOBER 1995



ACROSS

1. MOORING POINT OR PIER
7. HOODED SNAKE
9. SOFT FLUFFY SWEET
10. ILEX
14. HEAD GEAR
16. REDUCED BODY TEMPERATURE AND BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL
18. HE PHONED HOME!
20. LAVATORY FOR MEN
21. CURLED HAIR PROCEDURE
23. OTHER CHOICE OR POSSIBILITY
25. BE QUIET!
27. USUALLY RED SALAD FRUIT
28. UNBOUND BOOKLET

DOWN

1. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
2. VISITING TRADE
3. BIG WIN
4. DONKEY
5. FUSE RATING
6. FLOWERHEAD
7. CURD
8. HURTING EXCLAMATION
11. SHIPPING MERCHANT
12. ORIGINAL OFF ROADER
13. EXPRESS GRATITUDE
15. CULINARY SAMPLING
17. LARGE RODENT
19. EXAMINE
22. HEN BREED
24. FOCUSED ON SEARCHING?
26. PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT
29. EVERY
30. SMALL SONGBIRD, ROBIN RELATED
31. NAME OF STANLEY YOUTH CLUB
32. EUROPEAN SOFT CHEESE
33. CORN HEAD
34. SUBSTITUTE LAMB FEED
35. MOHAMMED?
36. LIGHT JUMP
39. ABATTOIR
40. MOTHER
47. ROAD NETWORK
48. CHEMICAL PRODUCED BY THE PANCREAS
50. GARDEN TOOL
52. FLUID REGULATED MECHANICS AS IN BRAKES OR RAMS
55. AIR HOLES
58. RACE OFFICIAL
59. BELTED PIG
37. IDENTIFICATION
38. MOST EXPENDABLE PIECE
40. LIE
41. INVOLUNTARY SPASM
42. MINOR SKIN CONDITION
43. EASTERN
44. DISTRESS SIGNAL
46. RUN WORDS TOGETHER IN SPEECH
49. LEATHER LEG PROTECTORS
51. UTILISE
53. QUECHUAN INDIAN EMPIRE OF PERU
54. FOOTWEAR
56. OLD TYPE OF WINDOW USING WEIGHTS
57. SPEED AT WHICH VEHICLE MAINTAINS MOMENTUM WITHOUT STALLING

RECIPE

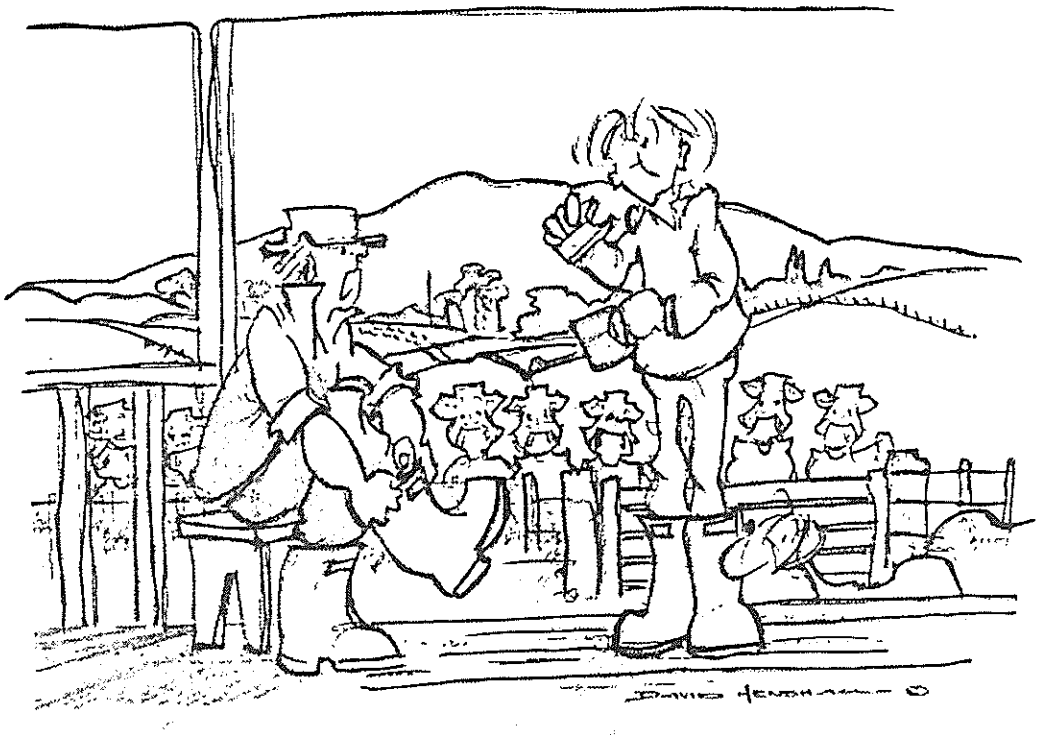
Rhubarb Wine - This recipe is also good made with Scurvy Grass.
You will need:

4lb rhubard 6 pints boiling water

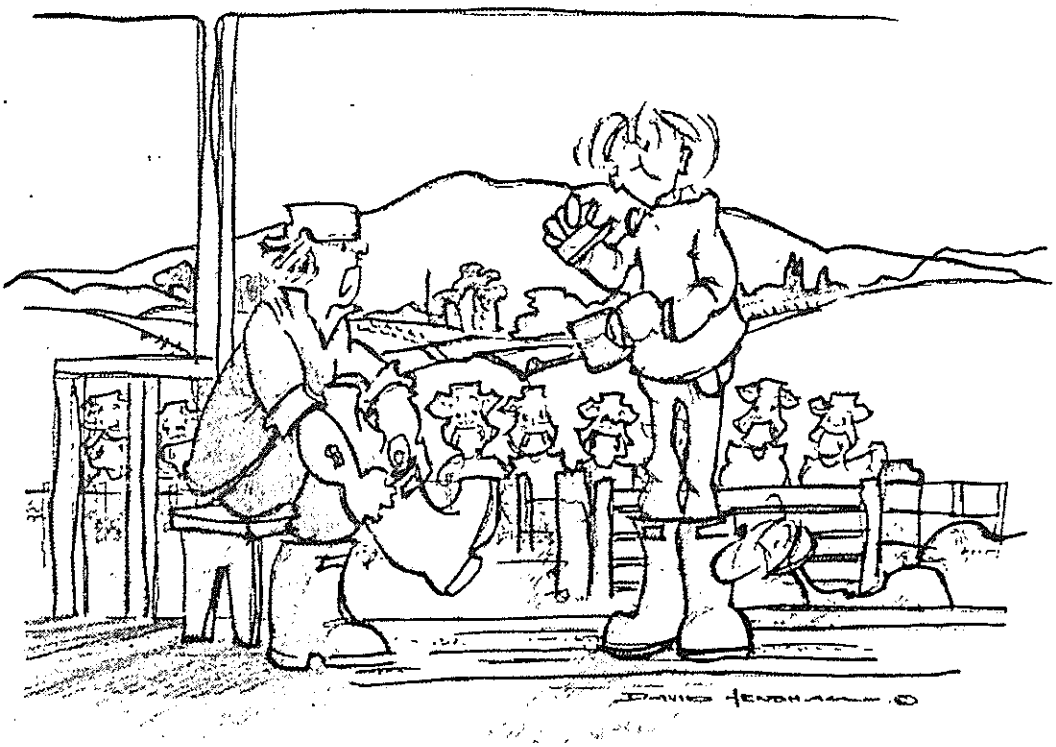
To each gallon juice:
2½ lb. sugar juice ½ lemon
¼ oz. yeast juice ½ orange

1. Cut the fruit into pieces and pour over the water, pressing well to extract juice.
2. Leave for 4 days to infuse.
3. Strain off liquid and measure.
4. Add sugar and yeast (which can be spread on a small piece of toast or mixed with a little of the liquid).
5. Add fruit juice and leave to ferment in a warm place (65°F-75°F).
6. When bubbling ceases (this will be after 4-6 weeks), stir well.
7. Leave for a further 3 days for the sediment to settle.
8. Strain through flannel or very thick muslin into a cask. The cask must be completely filled, otherwise your wine will taste like vinegar.
9. Cork and leave for 6 months.
10. Pour into bottles, cork and store in a cool dark place to mature for another few months at least.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE'S



"And the terms of y'contract are that y'never mention margarine, y'have cream on your porridge, milk in your tea and y'love cheese!"



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 72 NOVEMBER 1995 RETAIL PRICE £1.00

IN THIS ISSUE:

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture.
Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

For many farmers now shearing is well underway. We hope that the bad weather is past with some thought for the lambs and clippy's.

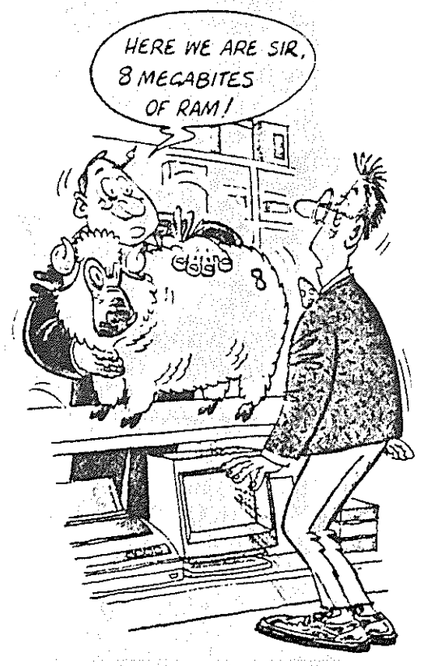
The Department has seen a few changes over recent months, both in personnel and the building itself.

In the veterinary section we have seen the departure of Ian Saunders and the arrival of Andrew Coe and Caroline Lamb. In the economics section I (Mandy) am back into the full throes of things again after my time away and we look forward to Hugh Marsden's return in the next few weeks.

The DoA building is just about finished (inside and out) and will be greatly enhanced when the car park is re-surfaced. We are no longer the 'derelict looking buildings on the hill'.

Also we have changed the format of the Wool Press slightly, hopefully providing a more uniform and attractive document. This comes about with the upgrading of computers within Government Departments.

With that in mind we thought the cartoon below to be quite appropriate.



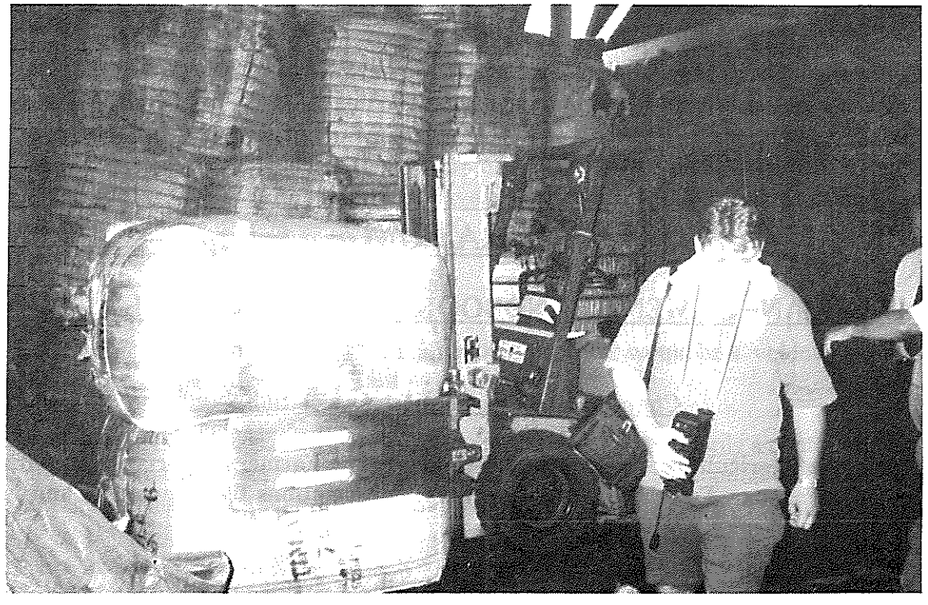
THIS MONTHS CONTRIBUTORS

Greg Scott	Sheep Scientist/Wool Adviser, DoA
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics / Training Officer, DoA
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co.Falkland Woolsales, Bradford
Peter Woodward	Deputy Financial Secretary, FIG
Jim McAdam	Queens University, Belfast
Len McGill	Detective Sergeant, FIG Police
Nigel Knight	Farmer / Owner, Coast Ridge, West Falkland
Eddy Watts	Principal Met. Officer, MPA

IMPROVED WOOL HANDLING FOR THE 1995/96 CLIP

by Greg Scott

Farmers sending wool away this season can rest assured that their wool will be handled with much improved equipment at the FIPASS warehouse, Stanley. Prolonged negotiations between FIDC and the FIC have resulted in the purchase of wool grabs or clamps to be fitted to two forklift trucks at the warehouse, similar to the grabs currently used to handle wool at all UK warehouses.

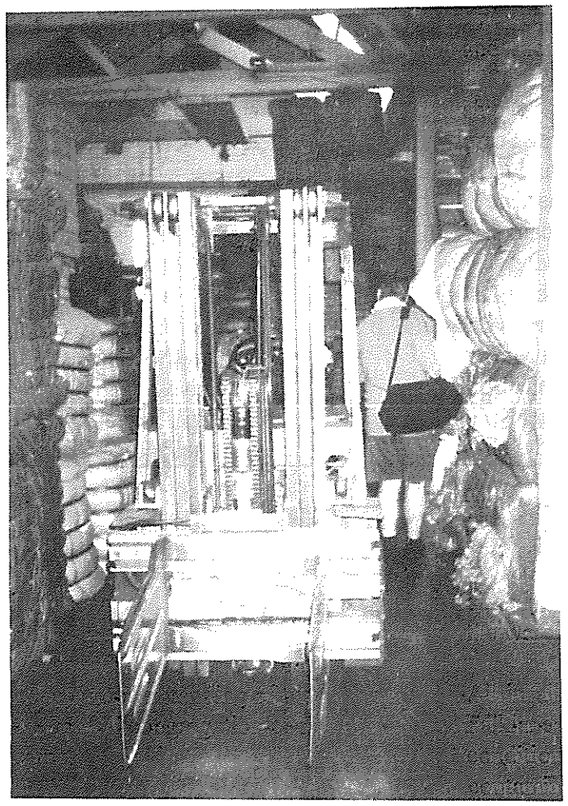


The grabs are currently on order from the UK, and should arrive in the Falklands in January 1996. While wool heading away on the first shipment will perhaps not be handled with the grabs, it is envisaged that the majority of this season's clip will be "grabbed".

The benefits of this new equipment is that bales will no longer be handled using the traditional forks, thus preventing damage to wool bales by puncturing during loading and unloading at the warehouses. Once the operators become familiar with the equipment, there should be no reason why four bales cannot be moved at a time with one grab.

There may also not be a need to dump the bales onto the floor of the warehouse after unloading the *Tamar*, as they can be picked up directly from the trailers and put into place in the warehouse.

All in all, this is another step in ensuring that Falkland wool reaches Bradford in as best condition as possible, with minimal contamination caused though punctured wool packs.



The two photographs have been kindly submitted by Mr Nigel Knight. They were taken on his recent tour of the warehouses at Bradford, showing the construction of the grabs and two bales being moved at once.

ERRATUM

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK AND STATISTICAL REVIEW

Chapter 1.4 - The Farmers Association.

The Department of Agriculture would like to apologise to the Farmers Association in paragraph 2, saying that 'the Farmers Association exists solely on subscriptions from members and is entirely dependent'.

This should have read as follows:

'Farmers Association exists solely on subscriptions from members and is entirely independent'.

REVISED SCHEME FOR OLD AGE PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

by Peter Woodward

Employees Contribution
It is suggested that a flat rate of contribution required from employees when the new scheme is implemented in January 1997 will be £6 per week.

Employers Contributions
At a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce it was suggested that whilst the employers would prefer a percentage contribution there should be a maximum weekly contribution .
Two possible schemes are being considered and in both of them employers would pay 5% of earnings.

In the first there would be no lower limit, that is employers would have to contribute for all earnings from £1 upwards to the maximum of £16, 120 per annum and the maximum contribution at this figure would be £15.50 per week.

In the second employers contributions would only commence when earnings reached £2,500 per annum - £50 per week - and would reach a maximum at £17,155 with contributions varying from £2.40 to £16.50 per week.

If there were no maximums and minimum's the employers contributions on all earnings is estimated at 4% of earnings.

Self Employed Contributions
The self employed would have to contribute both contributions in lieu of the employee and the employer. The contribution in lieu of the employee would be at the same rate as the employees contribution and is projected at £6 per week.

It is suggested that the self employed could make contributions monthly and that they should do so on the basis of making the contribution in lieu of employees contribution, £6 per week and an estimated contribution in respect of employers contribution based on an estimated average earnings of £10,000 which would be £9.62 per week making a total of £15.62 per week. An annual return, accompanying the tax return would allow for refunds when earnings have been less than £10,000 and for payment of the balance where earnings have been more than £10,000. The same ceiling as applied to employers would be applied to self employed.

Voluntary Contributions
For those not working or earning less than the minimum salary there would be a voluntary contribution at the employees rate, £6 per week.

For persons who leave the Islands and wish to continue to contribute voluntarily a contribution in lieu of both the employees and employers contributions will be payable. The contribution could be based on either the average earnings, £10,000 or the maximum earnings figures which are set out above.

Comments are invited either directly to the Treasury or to the Agricultural Management Committee through your representatives.

RESEEDS - FERTILISERS AND STOCKING RATES

by Aidan Kerr.

Some recent questions about reseeds (reseeded pasture) have ranged from;

what rates should the reseed be stocked by ewes and lambs in spring and hoggs after weaning?

what amount and cost of nitrogen (N) fertiliser?

The answers to these questions are not straight forward as size, fertiliser and stocking rates for reseeded pasture are dependent on each other. It is also difficult to make general recommendations for the range of reseeded pastures and situations across the islands.

However the table below is based on data collected in ARC's plot and grazing trials on East Falkland during the 1980's. Thus in extending these results elsewhere several **IMPORTANT** assumptions have been made of which account should be taken when setting stocking rates. Those given are 'guidelines' and it would seem sensible to stock more conservatively initially. They could be adjusted later according to pasture and sheep performance.

- **Pasture** - The pasture response was derived from an established pasture with a good cover of Cocksfoot, Red Fescue and Bent. These grasses compose most of the current mixture recommended by the Department.
- The trials were conducted in relatively wetter areas of East Falkland in 1983-88 and pasture yields will probably be less in drier areas and years. Hence the stocking rates should also be less.
- Pasture response is likely to decline with time. The decline is likely to be more rapid if fertiliser application rates are reduced.

- **Fertiliser** - Calcium Nitrate ('Nitrochalk' , 26%N) was used and it may be more beneficial to the soil in the long term than Ammonium Nitrate (e.g. 'Nitroprill', 34.5%N). Yields in comparative trials were similar but the latter was chosen for its more economical proportion of N during shipping.
- Rates from about 0-450 kg N/ha were applied to small plots in three equal dressings in September, November and December and grass yields were measured in November, December, February, and April.

- **Sheep** - 40 kg ewes carrying single lambs were grazed on the reseed from about 2nd week of October when grass growth began and about two weeks prior to lambing in the 4th week of October, for about 70 days until just before Christmas.
- Ewes were expected to sustain themselves entirely on the reseed and would not utilise body reserves.
- 18 kg hoggs would be weaned onto the reseed about February 1st and grazed there for about 56 days until mid-March when they were expected to weigh about 25 kg.
- The energy requirements of both sheep types were assumed to be the same as those for typical ewes and hoggs grazing a Scottish hill farm.

The following table provides stocking and fertiliser rates per acre for a likely range of options. The fertiliser costs are £19.50 per 50 kg bag of 'Nitroprill' from Falkland Farmers Ltd, Oct'95 (based on the cost of a bulk order of 8-10 tonnes landed in Stanley). To work out the amount of fertiliser needed, firstly, choose the number of ewes or hoggs to be grazed per acre. Move across the row to find the amount and costs of fertiliser needed.

£ ac/yr	50 kg bags 34.5%N /ac/yr	N kg /ac	Stocking rates Ewes Oct-Dec	Hoggs Feb-Mar
26.42	1.4	23	**4**	**2**
66.04	3.4	58	**6**	**3**
105.65	5.4	93	**8**	**4**
145.26	7.4	128	**10**	**5**

FARMING TOUR OF SOUTHERN CHILE

By Greg Scott

A gentle reminder that the I am in the process of organising a tour of the farming regions of Southern Chile, based largely around Punta Arenas and the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego (see September 1995 *Woolpress* for details). At this stage the itinerary still has not been finalised, as I have been waiting to see what the interest from the farming community here is like, and whether it will be worth organising. I am pleased to say that I have 10 interested persons so far, so will be proceeding with the planning in the near future.

It appears that the timing which would suit most people is around mid-March, so I shall work on that one unless strong opposition is received by those already (or potentially) interested. Obviously part of the timing depends on the proposed schedules of flights with the new Chilean air link, and if this link does go ahead more people may be able to be accommodated on the tour.

As mentioned in September's *Woolpress,* I am proposing visits to a range of farming systems, which incorporate advanced breeding techniques and pasture management systems. I feel that it would also be of benefit to Falkland farmers to discuss wool marketing options with the Chileans. Visits to the abattoir and the Standard Wool Mill are also potentially on the itinerary.

Please contact me at the Department of Agriculture for further details if you are even remotely interested in participating, and particularly if there is any specific place or industry you would like to visit. Future developments will be made available as they come to hand.

MORE MEASURING UP

by Mandy Mcleod

In issue 70 of the Wool Press I did a short article on measuring areas and working out hectareage or acreage, with particular attention given to camps or fields of irregular shape.
In this issue I will look at area measurements of circles and follow on from that with volume measurements , which are useful when calculating the holding capacity of water tanks, buildings etc.

CIRCLES

The area of a circle is often needed when calculating the volume of round tanks or silos. To calculate the area of the base of a circle a factor called pi (π) is used. π is roughly 3.14.

A straight line across a circle, passing through the centre, is the diameter. The centre to the outside is the radius and the distance around is the circumference. The circumference is: Diameter x π (3.14), and the area is: Radius ^{2} x π, known as πr^2 (pi r squared).

Example: The diameter of the bottom of a tank is 5 metres. Find the circumference and the area.
The circumference is : 5 x 3.14(π) = 15.7 metres

If the diameter is 5 m then the radius is 2.5 m; The radius squared is 2.5 x 2.5 = 6.25 m^2)
The area is : 6.25 x 3.14 = 19.63 m^2

VOLUME

Volume is measured in cubic units and is simple to calculate in basic shapes:

Square - Length x Breadth x Height

Triangle - Such as a gable loft space or root clamp: $\frac{L \times B \times H}{2}$

Cylinder - (Such as a silo or circular tank): Multiply the area of its base by the height. If we take the example of the circle above and imagine that area calculated being the base of water tank 4 metres high we get a sum like so: 19.63 m^2 x 4 = 78.52 m^3

To find out how much water this would be we need to do a conversion. 1 cubic metre is equal to 1,000 litres, therefore the maximum water that the tank could hold would be 78,520 litres.

Cone - (Such as the roof of a round stack): In this case multiply the Area of the Base by the Height and divide by three.

SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER

by Andrew Coe

Now that I've been here for a little over a month, I thought that I would write something for the Wool Press to tell you a little about myself and what I see as the priorities for the Veterinary arm of the Agriculture Department over the next couple of years.

I qualified from the Royal Veterinary College, London University in 1979 and spent the next five years working in general mixed practice, first in North Wales and then in North Eastern England. I then worked for a year at a small animal hospital in London.

In 1986 the Overseas Development Administration sponsored me to study for a Master of Science in Tropical Veterinary Medicine at the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh University. Between 1988 and 1991 I worked for ODA in Rio Grande do Sul, Southern Brazil on a sheep development project involving largely Corridale and Polwarth Sheep.

In 1991, I returned to Scotland to work for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as a Veterinary Officer when my main responsibilities were the control of notifiable disease, farm animal welfare and the licensing of both red meat and white meat abattoirs.

So, now you know my past, what about the future? As I see there are a number of key topics affecting farmers that I and my soon to arrive colleague, Caroline lamb, are likely to want to tackle.

HYDATIDOSIS

Reading through the literature it is obvious to anyone that the Hydatid control programme has to date been a great success with a huge reduction in the number of infected sheep livers to well below 1%. This must have been achieved by good co-operation between the Agricultural Department who administer the programme and the farmers who implement it. However, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY. A few months of half hearted effort by a single farmer could lead to massive contamination of both his and his neighbours camp with tapeworm eggs and a consequent huge increase in the number of infected livers. Such action could put a whole settlement back to square one.

Because of this the Veterinary Department will be attempting to visit as many farms as possible to talk to yourselves about the need for vigilance and to advise on how you can best comply with both the current legislation and the new legislation that is proposed. The dog proofing of your killing facilities and the correct disposal of culls must be seen as a priority and we intend to issue letters of approval or requests for upgrading with an agreed time scale. I should like to stress that we are hear to HELP you comply, not to try and catch you out. That is not to say that we will not enforce the legislation if the need arises. If you have any queries then please contact us.

In line with the above we will be attempting to collect samples of sheep dog faeces during farm visits in order to test for the presence of the tapeworm responsible for Hydatidosis. This is primarily a monitoring exercise designed to assess the effectiveness of the current control measures not a means of identifying likely candidates for prosecution. We would therefore ask for you co-operation in this.

With the presence of Hydatid Cysts in sheep livers at such low levels and sustained effort for the next few years could lead to eradication of the parasite once and for all which would of course be to everyone's benefit.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE

This is often an emotive issue and one which in the UK can be guaranteed to raise the hackles of many an otherwise mild mannered farmer!

As a vet I naturally have a keen interest to try and prevent any animal from suffering unnecessarily, with unnecessarily being the key word. In other words if there are practical ways of carrying out procedures that will reduce animal suffering then I and I'm sure most of you will be all for adapting them. At the same time it is likely that there will be certain actions that may simply be unacceptable in welfare terms and over a period of time may actually have to stop.

Whilst I know that some people will see this as interference from outside there are good economic reasons as well as ethical reasons for putting animal welfare to the forefront., If an EC approved abattoir is built in the Falklands it will presumably be with the intention of exporting meat to Europe. Falklands meat could present a very 'green' image with the extensive nature of production and the lack of use of chemicals, providing that welfare aspects are not neglected. I believe it is better to try and manage change voluntarily rather than to have it imposed and be constantly fighting a rearguard action. It is worth remembering that in present circumstances in Europe, meat is eaten as much for pleasure as for nutritional need and the views of the consumer (regardless of whether they are rational or whether one agrees with them) must be seriously considered. If the consumer doesn't like the way the meat is produced, he or she doesn't have to buy it.

Any views you may have on the subject of animal welfare and where you think we should be going, would be gratefully received.

DISEASE CONTROL

The Falkland Islands are extremely lucky in being relatively free of infectious diseases in most of the domestic farm species. We intend to continue monitoring for *Brucella ovis* in sheep and *Tuberculosis* and *Brucella abortus* in cattle and also to try and develop a more rational approach to the monitoring over the next few years. If any of your milking cows abort prior to 270 days gestation please let us know.

Finally I should just like to stress the importance of there being a good working relationship between the veterinary department and the farming community. If there are things you think we SHOULD be doing then let us know. If you have any complaints or misgivings about what we ARE doing then by all means tell your neighbour but tell US as well. In this way we can hopefully develop a partnership with common goals and objectives that will benefit not only yourselves but the Falkland Islands as a whole.

CAMP PATROLS BY THE ROYAL FALKLAND ISLANDS POLICE

by Len McGill

By now all farms in the Falklands will have received a circular letter from the Royal Falklands Police outlining the introduction of Camp Patrols. This included a "tick box page" for return in the envelope provided.

To date the response has been substantial, (60%), and encouraging, and if anyone has still not responded I would be most grateful if they could do so shortly to complete the return.

I have received several calls, for which I am most grateful, and a letter from the Farmers Association which have thrown up several questions that I believe will be of interest to all. These areas were not touched on in the circular as it was primarily designed as a preliminary approach.

1. Patrols will not arrive unannounced and will contact each farmer within a beat area well in advance of departure and will plan visits around 'Shearers' and other major busy times. No farm will be visited when occupied in this way.

2. Reimbursement for services extended to the patrols will be offered at the agreed Falkland Islands Government rates where they are claimed.

3. These initial patrols will be an opportunity for udating our computer records for registration as is the law. This is a "house keeping" exercise designed to "tidy the shelf" and pass on and explain the legislation contained in the Road Traffic Ordinance in so far as it applies to the camp.

4. Any queries regarding the registration and licensing of firearms will be dealt with on a one to one basis which will allow for personal explanation of the systems used.

I trust the above will have answered the main areas of concern that have been identified, but if you should require clarification of any point then please ring me on 27229 during office hours.

On a personal note it is heartening to find that in this rapidly changing world the spirit of hospitality, legendary in the camp, still exists and I look forward to successfully completing the seasons patrols through my fellow officers.

WIND-CHILL FORECASTS FOR NEWLY SHORN SHEEP

by Eddy Watts

As we approach the period of maximum sheep shearing over the Islands I have taken the opportunity, in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, to review the way in which we construct the wind chill forecasts. I have also given thought to how we may provide a more appropriate service to the farmers during the shearing season.

Due to the lack of weather data in this part of the world, we rely heavily on the guidance provided by our super computer at Bracknell to help us prepare forecasts. The empirical method which is used for sheep chill calculations is particularly dependent on precipitation and this is very often one of the areas where the computer guidance could be better. I have reviewed our performance of wind chill prediction for last year and I would like to reduce the number of occasions when we under-forecast the chill.

The computer gives us advice twice daily and for this season, we will re-calculate our wind chill forecast with the arrival of the new guidance. The first forecast of the day will be available on BFBS just after 6 am and will be repeated on FIBS at 9.30 and at lunchtime. A new forecast will be issued with the late afternoon weather forecast. In addition, the forecasters will keep the situation under review and Patrick Watts has agreed to put out on FIBS any amendments that are necessary.

And finally for the new season, we have amended the sheep chill formula so that rain which falls early in a period continues to have an affect on the forecast for some hours after it stops. This may reflect the effects of prolonged wetting better than in previous seasons.

I wish you have a successful season and hope that our service is of help to you

MONITORING WIND CHILL ON FARMS

by Aidan Kerr

The Met office have kindly provided the wind-chill service free of charge for about seven years. They are continually trying to improve it for the benefit of farmers here but, unlike the similar warning index for lambing in UK the predictions are not supported by enough meteorological data of high quality.

By monitoring the occurrence of 'shorn sheep killing weather' island wide, farmers can help to 'fine tune' the prediction system and make it better for everyone. In the next week or so a range of farms islands-wide will receive monitoring forms. Please complete them as requested.

Thanks go to those who completed them (or sent diary records) last season. The data were very useful.

If you do not receive a form and would like to participate simply record the days on which the weather did kill newly shorn sheep or the days when you believe it would have. Please send the data to me at the end of February and I will include you in next season's monitoring scheme.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

from Nigel Knight

To All Falkland Farmers:

The 'Ninth' West Falkland Ram and Fleece show will be held this year on Thursday 28th December 1995, 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 HOGGET.
CLASS 2	FULL WOOLED SHEARLING RAM.
CLASS 3	FULL WOOLED MATURE RAM.
CLASS 4	HOGGET FLEECE.
CLASS 5	ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGET.
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.

SHEARING HOGGETS WITH COVER COMBS

By Greg Scott

With the approaching shearing season, and the appalling winter conditions experienced around the islands, many will be wondering what their losses will be, and how to possibly reduce any further losses brought on by the stress of shearing. As we are all too well aware, sudden storms immediately post-shearing can have a further devastating effect on newly-shorn sheep. This effect may be compounded in weak sheep with inadequate access to high quality feed immediately after shearing. Given that the grass is only just starting to grow, nutrition for many newly shorn hoggets may not be of high enough quality to enable them to survive prolonged periods of wet stormy weather.

Research from New Zealand suggests that there are potential benefits to sheep when shorn with cover combs as opposed to the conventional shearing comb. These benefits are primarily a reduction in the energy required purely for keeping warm, enabling more of the consumed energy to be used for production purposes (i.e. liveweight gain and wool growth). The New Zealand results showed no effect on mortality rates. Given that the conditions here in the Falkland Islands are somewhat harsher than those experienced in the New Zealand trial, it stands to reason that the benefits of using cover combs here may be greater, and that an effect on survival may also be recorded.

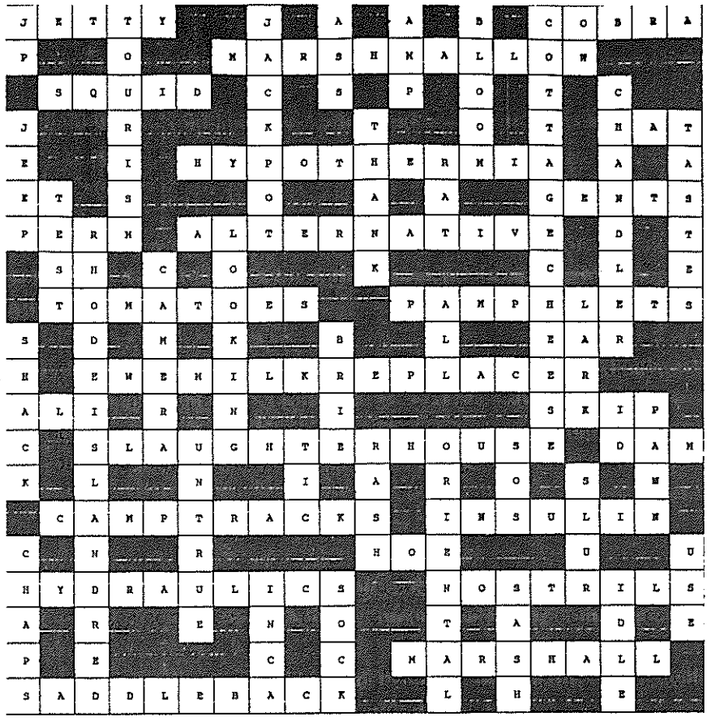
A preliminary trial conducted last season at Tony and Ailsa Heathman's *Estancia* farm investigated the benefits of using cover combs as a method of reducing post-shearing hogget mortality rates. The trial was very basic in construction, whereby the entire ewe and wether hogget flocks were divided into two groups, being those that were shorn with the conventional shearing comb, and those shorn with a cover comb. All animals were individually ear tagged, weighed and condition scored prior to shearing, and all fleeces were weighed (unskirted). Shearing occurred on 16 November 1994, just prior to the severe storm that saw many sheep lost in other regions of the Islands. All animals were returned to the traditional *Estancia* hogget camp, and managed in accordance with the Heathman's normal management policies.

Six weeks later, all animals were gathered, weighed and condition scored, and an assessment of mortality rates were made. Shearing with cover combs did not appear to make a significant difference to either condition score or liveweight gain during this period. The most notable results were in mortality rates, particularly with the wether hoggets. 1.6% of the hoggets shorn with cover combs died, compared to 12.1% of those shorn with the conventional comb. The story with the ewe hoggets is not so clear, with the trend showing that 4.1% of those shorn with cover combs having died compared to 2.6% of those shorn conventionally having died. At this stage, I am at a loss to explain this difference.

The results are by no means conclusive, and further trial work is currently being planned for the coming season. Changes to the experimental procedure include a more rigorous monitoring regime, particularly during the first four weeks following shearing.

However, the data on hand points towards large potential benefits being achievable from a relatively simple adjustment to current management practices, namely by shearing hoggets with cover combs as opposed to using conventional combs. This may be particularly pertinent this season, where potential stock losses may already be far greater than those of a normal season.

I am particularly grateful to Tony and Ailsa Heathman for their co-operation and assistance last season, and look forward to continuing the trial this coming spring. Should any further information be required (particularly in relation to possible suppliers of cover combs), please do not hesitate to contact me.



LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

AGROFORESTRY - THE QUEEN'S CONNECTION

by Jim McAdam

I was interested to read the piece on "Sheep and Trees" in *Wool Press*, September 1995. This article described silvopastoral (trees on pasture) experiment running at two IGER sites in England & Wales. Readers may be interested to know that we have two sites in Northern Ireland which are of the same network of agroforestry sites (The National Network Silvopastoral Experiment - NNE). Indeed, Queens University has a central role in the Network, collecting and analysing the pasture and biodiversity data from all the sites and I am currently Chairman of the UK Agroforestry Research Discussion Forum which is the central co-ordinating body for all agroforestry research in the UK and including the NNE. Other sites in the 'Network' include the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (at Aberdeen) and the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

We see agroforestry as a potentially viable land use option in Northern Ireland because:

1. Tree cover is the lowest in Europe (5.5% of land area).
2. Most livestock products are at or near levels of surplus production.
3. Over 85% of timber used is imported.

Against this, farms are small and reluctant to tie up land for a long period in conventional forestry planting and farmers are unfamiliar with the technology of growing and managing trees. Hence, agroforestry systems involving wide-spaced protected trees in pasture and where sheep grazing is the primary land use are seen as a viable option. This would allow gradual reduction in sheep production, development of a wide-spaced woodland and maintenance of a good level of income from the land. Indeed the experiment at Loughgall in Co Armagh has shown that even at a spacing of 5 m between Ash trees, after five years (and 14-16 foot high trees) grass growth and sheep production has not been significantly reduced.

In addition, the concept is being welcomed by farmers as the basic level of management skills are concerned with grassland management - the trees are merely an "add on" to the system.

On our upland site at Broughshane, Co Antrim, tree growth is slower but the trees have been protected against the more aggressive Scottish Blackface and it is felt that the system will be accepted, though more on an environmental rather than a production basis. The Department of Agriculture is Grant aiding agroforestry planting under its Farm Woodland Grant Scheme (but at a rate which is proportional to the full amount, reflecting the reduced tree density in the agroforestry system). Three on-farm demonstration sites have been established.

Are there any lessons for the Falklands from this work? Most of you are aware that the UK Falkland Islands Trust trials have shown that trees can be established in camp and indeed can be grown well in tree shelters. Land is not in short supply for tree planting in the Falklands and shelter belts and small farms woodlands integrated into a more intensive sheep farming industry might be a realistic scenario to aim for on a wider farm scale.

However, those wishing to establish small numbers of trees in selected locations for amenity and some shelter might consider individual tree protection from stock using round section plastic tree shelters. Future articles in the *Wool Press* will summarise the Trust's work and give some practical advice on tree planting.

800,000 SHEEP : 20,000 CATTLE ?

by Robert Hall

"In 1898 the number of sheep in the Colony was 807,000" (Ref: 1926). Given the importance of sustainable stocking rates to farm revenues, it is interesting to consider why 800,000 sheep have not been run in the Falkland since the beginning of this century and to appraise the significance of this fact.

In 1931 the Veterinary Officer Mr J. Morton wrote: " In 1900 the Islands supported 800,000 sheep, in 1931 600,000. Such figures indicate that the carrying capacity of the islands has been reduced or that a change in general management has taken place. This may appear to be a serious fall, but it must be recorded that the weight of wool produced per head has increased considerably: in 1890 the average (greasy) weight per fleece was 5.1 pounds (2.31 kg); in 1930 7.1 pounds (3.22 kg vs 1994's 3.62 kg). Both stock and pasture suffered from overstocking, but this has been remedied to some extent by the erection of fencing."

Thus it can be claimed that Total Wool Production (kg) was slightly greater from the smaller sheep population. Although de-stocking may have contributed to increased fleece weights per head, it seems

likely that the culling of old sheep (recommended in 1912 & 1927) and systematic breeding from large importations of Romney Marsh rams from England and New Zealand, contributed to maintaining wool production. In 1911 it was stated that "Annual importations of sheep of this quality are very materially raising the standard of stock".

In addition to a decline in stock numbers there seems to have been a material drop in Lamb marking percentages, maybe due to changes in sheep genetics, available nutrition, climate, shelter etc. Many factors could account for the decline in sheep numbers and marking percentages, but a drop in the quality and quantity of edible vegetation could be largely responsible.

It is estimated that since colonisation, the Falkland Islands have lost about 45,000 acres of coastal tussac grass; fire and uncontrolled grazing being considered to be the main causes. (Ref: Fuller; Woolpress 63). Such was the loss of Tussac, but I have discovered references suggesting that finer grass species have also declined. In 1931, Morton wrote "As the finer grasses and tussac points disappeared, the coarse grasses and diddle-dee increased. The coarse grass may serve in severe winter as bulky fibrous fodder, but diddle-dee is a menace". This is supported by the earlier 1926 report: "It is claimed by many, that the grass throughout the Falklands has not the feeding qualities nor the abundance that it had a few years back and for this reason, the carrying capacity of the land has been affected to a great extent".

This precipitates questioning why the change in vegetation occurred. Several explanations can be put forward, including overstocking, uncontrolled grazing, single-species grazing, erosion and burning: Overstocking has been identified by several authors, however, this seems an over-simplification and uncontrolled grazing is more accurate, especially given today's understanding of tussac grass's intolerance to being grazed at certain times of year and the known congregation of sheep on better areas of camp (localised overstocking), ignoring the rest of a camp.

Low density, mono-species grazing is also likely to have contributed to the change. Grazing with sheep alone, which are selective feeders, will have targeted the most palatable finer grasses, allowing plants less eaten by sheep to prosper. The low density stocking rates and uncontrolled grazing, mean that sheep are also not forced to eat less edible plants such as whitegrass, which can thrive. Such thriving Whitegrass would grow, multiply and shade out the finer species, reducing the feed quality within a camp.

Erosion caused, however, would have reduced available vegetation.

It is documented that fires were used by sealers to drive out seals, thus damaging tussac plantations. The traditional practise of burning camps is also likely to have altered the type of vegetation, as by definition the post- fire vegetation will be that which can tolerate fire. Mr A.M. Bonner's comments in 1935 are particularly relevant: " Burning of Camp is in my opinion detrimental. To my knowledge there are seven different kinds of grass in the Islands and of these only one will stand burning. Unless under proper control, burning should not be allowed". Bonner presumably refers to Whitegrass as the species which tolerates burning; unfortunately this is the least nutritious grass species in the Falklands. Thus burning of camps may encourage the spread of Whitegrass at the expense of fine grasses previously growing amongst the Whitegrass.

From this discussion, sub-division of camps for improved grassland management and controlled grazing is encouraged. This encompasses the protection and strategic grazing of tussac, managing greens, "mob-stocking" under-grazed areas, increasing stocking rates and allowing rotational grazing. At this point it is worth noting, that the more heavily stocked experimental plots in the Fox Bay Summer Whitegrass Trial (AWG/2) ended with the greatest quantity of fine grasses. Thus intensive, well controlled grazing can improve swards.

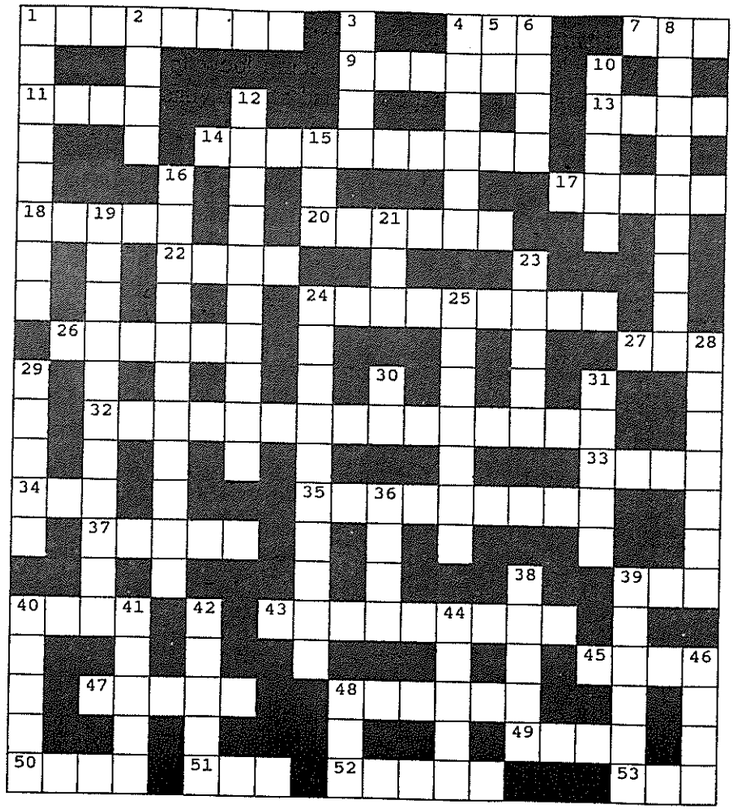
There are also strong arguments against the burning of camps. Burning not only destroys unused potential animal feed and risks erosion, but may severely deplete the grazing value of a sward.

To date grazing by sheep alone has been practised because wool provides the greatest possible source of income. If , however, there is an outlet for beef cattle, with their different and complementary dietary preferences, then cattle could help improve Falklands rangelands benefiting the sheep population. This may be particularly appropriate for farms with a lowdensity of sheep on Whitegrass.

In conclusion, whilst repeated burning already has much to answer for, further sub-division of camps, controlled grazing and mixed sheep and cattle grazing are practises for future improvement. Such developments could re-establish the finer grass swards and the mixed grazing could enable 800,000 sheep to be again run in the Falklands, perhaps with 20,00 cattle?

References:
1. Annual Stock Returns and Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Stock (as dated).
2. 1994-95 Falkland Islands Farming Statistics.
3. Wright I.A., Howard C.L., Nolan T., Osoro K., "Integration of Cattle and Sheep in Hill Areas" . European Association for Animal Production. 1994.

THE NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



GOLDY'S MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS

Source: Sunday Telegraph - Sept. 17 1995

A British cow which thrives on "proper handling and understanding" has seized the world record for milk production from America.

The 10 year old British Friesian, called Acme Goldy 2nd, broke the record with production of 26,963 kilograms of milk over 337 days to August 30. The total was produced in her seventh year of milk production and took her lifetime yield to over 80 tonnes.

Her owner, Bryce Miller, who farms at Islip, near Kettering, Northants, said "We're elated with Goldy". He also praised his stockman, David Halliday, who has been allowed a free rein to improve yields. "Successful milking depends on handling cattle properly and understanding them", said Mr Miller.

The previous record for a year's production - 25,247 kgs - has been held since 1975 by a Holstein owned by a farmer in Rochester, Indiana.

CLUES

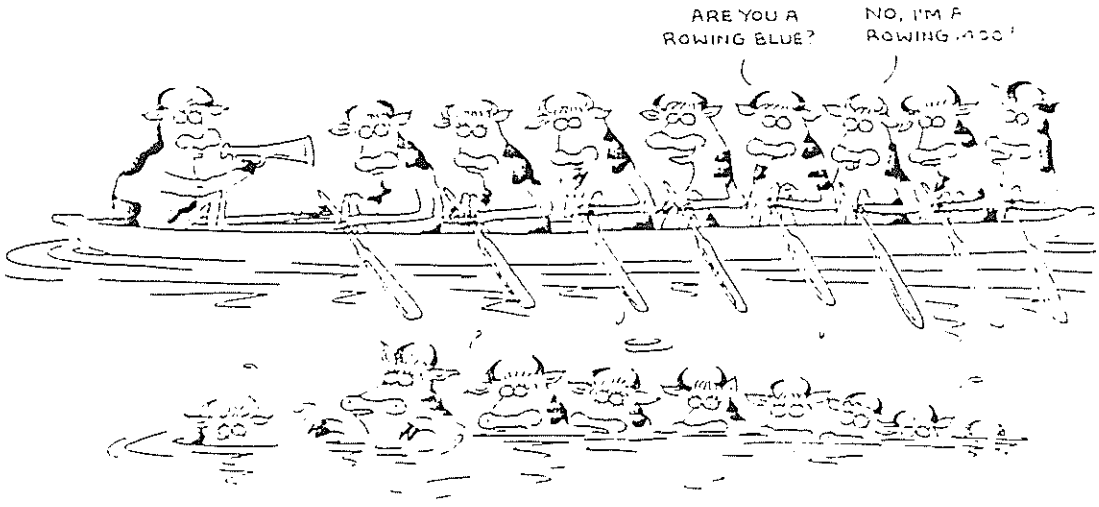
ACROSS

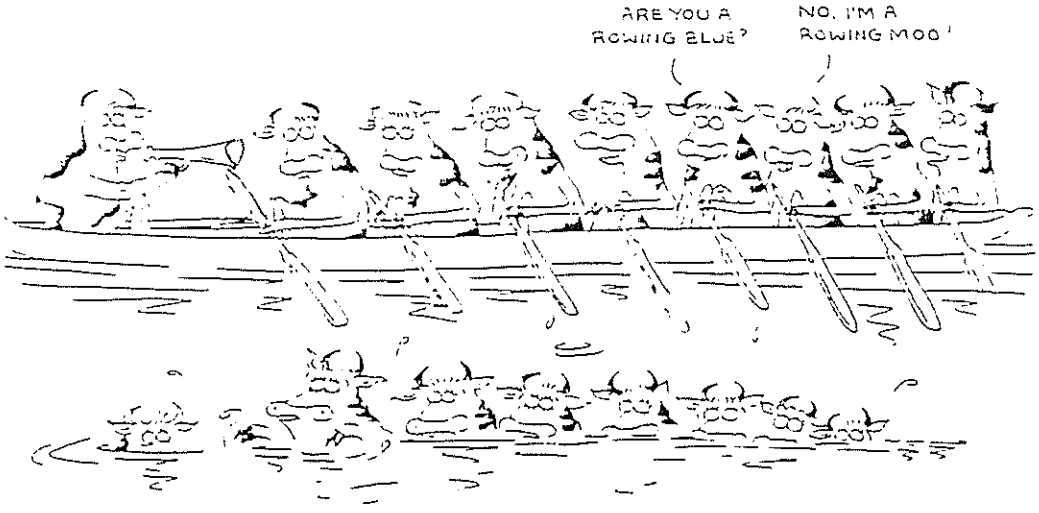
1. STANLEY PUBLIC BUILDING
4. ROTTER
7. MISCHIEVOUS CHILD
9. CEREMONIAL MARCH
11. STINGING INSECT
13. GOVERN
14. HAIRY (USUALLY) FRUIT
17. PRICKLY YELLOW BUSH
18. SPANISH FRIEND
20. MARIS PIPER FOR EXAMPLE
22. CEREALGRASS
24. PROFFESIONAL STUFFING
26. DR SPOCK'S NATIONALITY
29. NOT VERY MANY
32. LOCAL RAG
33. TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF
34. CARIBBEAN SPIRIT
35. EXPANDER - USUALLY OF SOUND
37. LAMB CALL
39. GRASS CLUMP
40. PULLED WAGON
43. ELECTRIC FENCING ACCESSORY FOR CONVENTIONAL FENCE
45. RUSSIAN RULER
47. FIERY PARTICLE
48. SORROWFUL
49. MAN ADMIRED FOR NOBLE QUALITIES AND BRAVERY
50. OPENING
51. FIELD
52. STANLEY STUD
53. PASTRY DISH

DOWN

1. STANLEY PUBLIC BUILDING
2. BACK OF NECK
3. VAULTED CURVED RECESS
4. ORANGE VEGETABLE
5. AFTER CHRIST
6. DECLARE AS FALSE
8. FLAVOURED DRINK RICH IN CALCIUM
10. TROTTING HORSE BREED
12. PLASTIC GREENHOUSE
15. DRINK CAREFULLY
16. FLEECE SORTER
19. ELECTRIC FENCING MATERIAL
21. LEVY
23. TWO BIRDS
24. SERIES OF CONTESTS (SPORT)
25. SEA MAMMAL
28. NEVER ENDING GARDEN TASK
29. WHALE
30. EXIST
31. WRONGFULLY SEIZE BY FORCE
36. CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY
38. COOK IN WATER
39. DIOCESE SUPERIOR
40. VISIBLE ATMOSPHERIC WATER
41. WILD PIGLIKE ANIMAL WITH FLEXIBLE SNOUT
42. COUNTRY
44. FISH
46. READY FOR HARVESTING
48. LITTLE ONE (CHILD OR DRINK)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1. Ear Missing; 2. Brim of man's hat; 3. Extra hills in the right hand corner; 4. Collar on right hand mans shirt; 5. Top of fence post; 6. Pocket on man standing - trousers; 7. Collar on man in chair; 8. Tattoo on mans arm; 9. Fence missing up the hill; 10. Fence behind left hand man is missing.

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 73 DECEMBER 1995 RETAIL PRICE £1.00

IN THIS ISSUE:

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

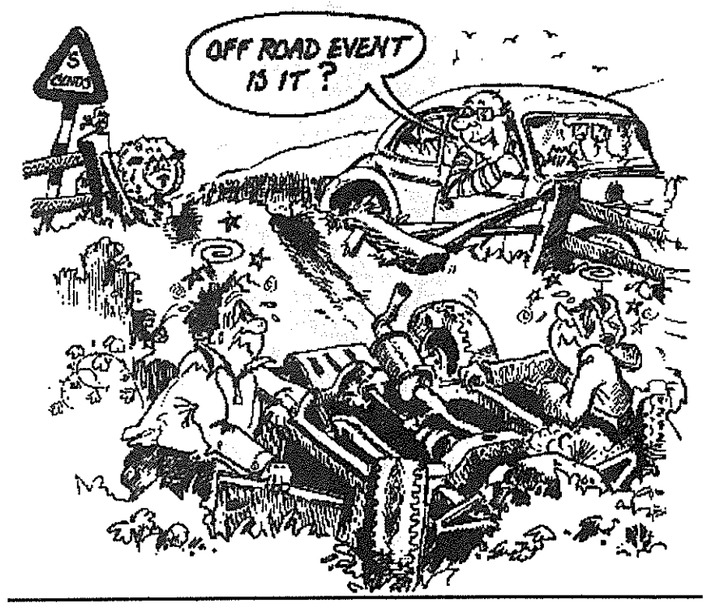
The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture.
Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

Well, I think the summer has finally won the battle with winter. It was so late coming that a fair few people took advantage of it and suffered the consequences with sunburn. It's amazing how many people have been burnt, some who have lived here for many years. With the ozone depletion it is vital to protect yourselves so wear a hat, especially if you're 'follicularly challenged' (balding), cover up and use sun block. A temporary white nose doesn't look as bad as a permanent red peely one!

With all the humdrum of shearing, lambing, moving sheep, etc. etc..... , the last thing most of you will be thinking about is book-keeping. However, a little bit of thought now may save you one or two headaches later. Have you got your next set of account books on hand? Have you got a handy container in a handy spot that you can deposit all your mail into when you don't have time to deal with it? (This saves any getting left in pockets, sheds, tractors, etc. and mislaid.). If anyone would like advice on book-keeping, contact myself or Hugh.

Changing the subject - someone handed me this cartoon - I don't understand it myself!



THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

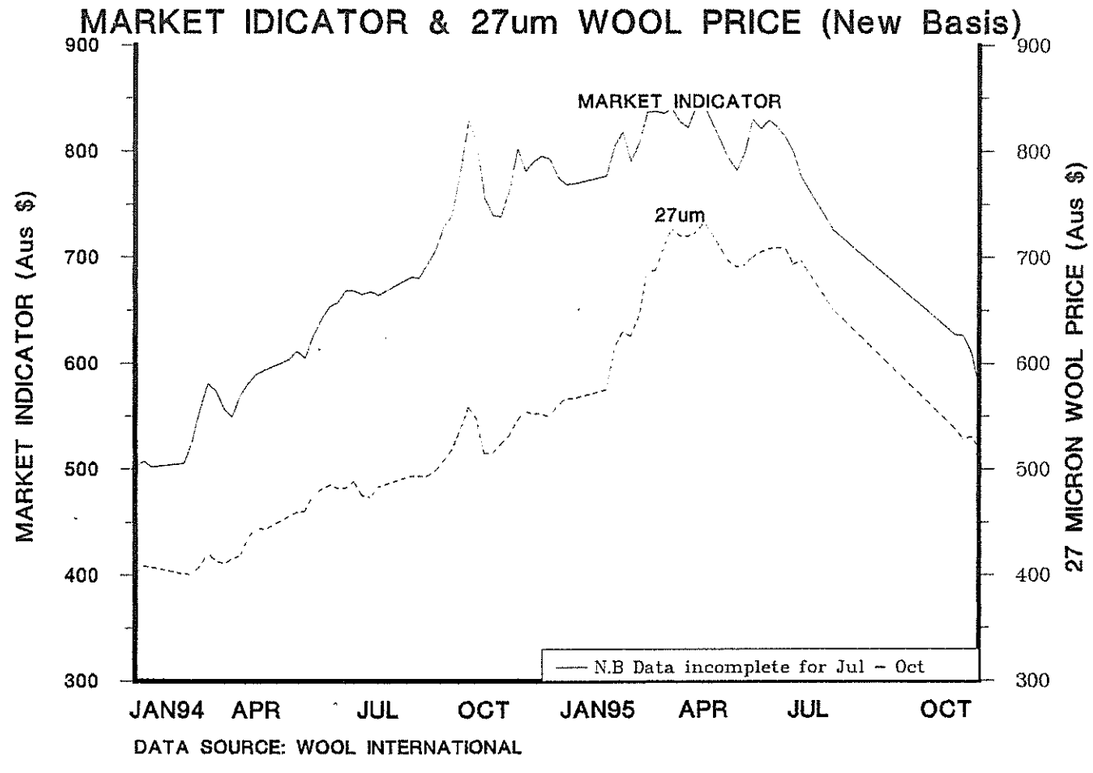
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA
Greg Scott	Sheep Scientist / Wool Adviser, DoA
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics / Training Officer, DoA
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA
Caroline Lamb	Veterinary Officer, DoA
Colin Smith	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd, Bradford
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd, Bradford
Nigel Knight	Farm Manager / Owner, Coast Ridge, West Falkland
Sammy Marsh	Farmers daughter, Rincon Ridge, West Falkland

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

Since the last market report (June) the Australian Wool Market has suffered a substantial setback. The Australian Market Indicator having declined by 254 cents closing at 611 cents on the 1st December. The 27um Indicator has held slightly better, declining 189 cents and closing at 519 cents.

Once again it is the politics of the Australian Wool Industry (augmented a period of weak market conditions) that has led to the decline. The pre-scheduled disposal programme has increased stockpile sales to over 12,000 bales per week since June. Talk of the possible privatisation of Wool International has also increased the level of market uncertainty.



An updated analysis of the stockpile for the end of October reveals that over 70% of the unsold wool (1,943,089 bales) is in the 20.6 - 24.5um range and should not compete directly with the mainstream of Falkland producers. On the 1st of December the Wool International stockpile totalled 2,729,301 bales, a decline of 10% on the June total.

Comparison of Wool International Stocks July 91 - October 95
(farm bale equivalents)

Micron Range	Total stock 02/07/91	Total Stock 28/10/95	% reduction on 1991 level	% of total 1995 stock
20.5 & finer	221,856	155,318	29.9	5.6%
20.6 - 22.5	1,150,545	878,744	23.6	31.7%
22.6 - 24.5	1,425907	1,064345	25.35	38.5%
24.6 - 26.5	348,136	246,539	29.18	8..9%
26.6 & coarser	264,509	142,504	46.12	5.2%
skirtings	358,794	74,293	79.29	2.7%
combing lms/wrns	51,206	5,763	88.74	0..3%
cardings	481,284	179,279	62.74	6..4%
miscellaneous	50,454	8,904	82.35	0..3%
processed stocks	207446	13,093	93.68	0.4%
Total Stocks	4,623,137	2,768,782		100

The Australian $ has tended to firm (in relation to the £) following a period of weakness at the end of September. It closed at 211 cents/ £ on the 1st December.

The need for the privatisation of Wool International follows agreements reached during recent G.A.T.T summit meetings. Policies reached now include a pledge to discourage market intervention by governments/government controlled marketing agencies such as Wool International. The future of other important state marketing bodies such as the Canadian Wheat Board and U.K Wool Marketing Board are in doubt for the same reason.

Development proposals for the privatisation of Wool International have recently been presented by the Australian Minister for Primary Industries. He suggests that that the activities of the privatised organisation will become increasingly centred around the reduction of risk through the development of the futures market .

The attraction of this move is that it allows buyer and seller to fix prices in advance giving a greater lead-time for the industry to react to changes in supply and demand conditions. This should help smooth out the peaks and troughs that have been the curse of growers around the world . Just as the Industry does not relish the abysmal prices of the past 5 years, it also does not need an explosion in prices predicted by some analysts. Such prices only serve to jeopardise the long term market potential for wool and promote the use synthetic and substitute fibres.

Merry Christmas

from all at the Department of Agriculture

VET OFFICERESS !

by Caroline Lamb

Coming from the "Land of the Long White Cloud", I have already discovered my accent seems to be very distinctive and, quite possibly, a little hard for some to comprehend! So if you happen to ring the Vet and can't understand a word of what is said, you'll know whom you have struck!

Sadly my vocation was plotted from an early age when I was christened Caroline Lamb (which some people find fairly comical, may I add!) I was born and raised in Auckland (upper North Island), spent 6 years at University in Palmerston North (lower North Island) and then went to work in Southland (falling off the bottom end of South Island) - so please don't ask me if I'm from the North or South as my answer varies depending on which province is currently holding the Ranfurly Rugby Shield! The practice I was in was near Gore and involved a wide variety of work - sheep, cattle, horses, deer and companion animals so after 4 years acclimatising to that climate, I decided to head South - and here I am, still finding my way around foreign drug names and the various settlements, so while I may be a little vague at times, hopefully it will improve as I find my feet.

As there are now two of us vets in the Department of Agriculture for the first time in a while, Andrew and I are trying to arrange things so that we basically share the work load evenly. The only 'specialising' being that he gets lumped with the fisheries side of things and I take on the sheep A.I. programmes. Hence I would like to say a few things on that subject now, well in advance of the event taking place.

Ewes should be selected and looked after for several months prior to the insemination date. They should be checked for udder conformation (no mastitis or shearing cuts), sound feet and you may use either maiden ewes or older ewes that have raised at least 1 lamb successfully. For optimal fertility adequate bodyweight is essential and preferably increasing at time of insemination. Ewes in poor condition may not respond to the synchronising drugs well, and may give low conception rates. The presence of teaser rams will aid in the synchronisation treatment, but they must be vasectomized at least 2 weeks prior to use to avoid undesired by-products.

During the A.I. programme the avoidance of stress factors is important. so from the date of sponge / CIDR insertion until at least a month after insemination long travel, feed or water deprivation, shearing etc. should be avoided. I prefer ewes to have a fair cover of wool as they tend to kick to a lesser degree, and to have the bellies clipped on the day of insemination.

For ewes that fail to conceive, back - up rams should be introduced 2 weeks after the A.I. date, and there will still be some degree of insemination at this stage.

See you around .....

1995 FARMING STATISTICS

by Hugh Marsden

Following the completion of the 1994/95 Annual Farming Statistics, the following "Key Area" tables have been prepared to provide further seasonal analysis:

Table 1 FALKLAND ISLAND LAMBING PERCENTAGES 1990/1995

	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	AVERAGE 1990-95
EAST	67.67	61.32	58.01	66.23	66.38	59.51	63.19%
WEST	60.97	55.50	50.79	58.55	63.66	55.02	57.42%
ISLANDS	68.35	64.59	56.51	71.54	74.15	64.99	66.69%
TOTAL	65.24	59.41	55.35	63.94	65.92	58.26	61.35%

Following exceptional laming percentages in the 1993/94 season , the figures for last year were poor, The adverse weather during the lambing period was a major factor.

TABLE 2 FALKLAND ISLAND HOGGET SURVIVAL RATE 1991-1995 (%)

	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	AVERAGE 1991-95
EAST	86.43	85.44	85.93	86.06	83.91	85.55%
WEST	83.19	83.86	86.74	84.92	84.25	84.59%
ISLANDS	74.72	81.51	93.79	83.45	88.18	84.33%
TOTAL	83.60	84.59	86.73	85.49	84.36	84.95%

With the winter of 1994 being considered as unfavourable it is surprising that hogget survival rates were not lower. This is perhaps partly due to favourable conditions during the growing season.

The farm hogget survival ratio should be monitored and appraised annually as it is an extremely important economic variable.

TABLE 3 FALKLAND ISLANDS RAM/EWE RATIO 1991-95 (%)

	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	AVERAGE 1991-95
EAST	3.25	3.57	3.45	3.41	3.47	3.43%
WEST	2.88	2.90	2.90	2.78	3.18	2.93%
ISLANDS	3.63	3.64	3.39	3.46	3.31	3.49%
TOTAL	3.29	3.33	3.25	3.18	3.35	3.28%

The adult ram/ewe ratio is another "key" indicator that should be carefully monitored as part of the farm's breeding policy. An analysis of the 1995 farming statistics has identified considerable variability between farms. The spread between East Falkland farms was 5.35% (1.33% - 6.69%.) The figures for the West were more uniform with a 2.8% spread (2.4% - 4.8%.) While the Islands farms had the greatest range of 13.83% (1.17 -15.00) It is essential that farms adopt optimum Ram/Breeding Ewe ratios for successful lambing.

CORRECTION

From Greg Scott .

The last issue of Wool Press contained an article regarding the purchase by F.I.D.C. of two sets of wool bale clamps for use at F.I.P.A.S.S. It has been brought to my attention that I failed to mention the role played by the Farmers Association in the negotiating for purchasing the clamps. This omission was purely an oversight on my behalf, and was not intentional by any means. Full credit should go to the Farmers Association for their continued efforts to secure the purchase of the clamps, thereby ensuring that Falkland wool is handled in the best possible manner with minimal bale damage prior to leaving the Islands.

PIGGIN' INTERESTED?

by Mandy McLeod

There has been a run of interest in 'pig keeping', both for finishing (fattening) and breeding. I recently spent several months researching information on pig production to assess the viability's of such an enterprise in the Falklands, both in physical and financial terms.

The long and the short of it is that 'outdoor pig production' is viable in both these aspects, but only with a high level of commitment on the part of the 'pig-person'. Knowledge of the needs of the animals, including routine care (diet, housing, vaccines, breeding, tooth clipping, tail docking, etc., etc.,) is vital. It is one thing keeping a couple of pigs for fattening for home consumption, it is a different ball game dealing with a production business where keeping piglet mortality down are crucial to success, not to mention producing a good finished carcass with a desirable fat to lean ratio to suit today's market requirements (a little fat is fine, two inches plus on a chop isn't).

I intend to follow this article with further pig based information in the Wool Press, covering many different aspects of establishing and running this type of enterprise. Herewith is the first:

PIGLET WEANING

Piglets in their natural environment will wean at about twelve weeks of age. Under modern systems of management, piglets are now weaned at three to six weeks of age (intensive units at three).

It is good husbandry, if at weaning, the sow is removed from the piglets, rather than the other way as less stress is then caused to the youngsters and they are much less likely to become ill. The earlier pigs are weaned the more susceptible they will be to chill. Their diet will also need to be supplemented to provide the nutrition they are no longer getting from the sows milk.

If however the pigs are five to six weeks old when they are weaned, then they can get by very well with unheated huts (insulated arks are available) providing there is plenty of straw (diddle-dee could be a good alternative as it will provide some height from the ground and deter draughts). Also their digestive tracts will also have adjusted to more fibrous and less expensive feeds (they will probably eat some of the diddle dee and will be able to cope with culls - preferably ground up to prevent choking).

If, when the pigs are weaned, they are kept in the same paddock that they were born in, there should not be a problem with fighting, which you would get if you mixed newly weaned litters for the first time. It would make practical sense to 'batch mate' so that you had several sows farrowing at the same time. The number of sows at any one mating would depend on the size of your breeding herd, as you don't want all your porkers ready at the same time).

VENTILATION

If the weaners are to be fattened outdoors there is no problem with ventilation. Good ventilation is vital for the health if any animal, therefore, if you intend to finish them indoors you must be sure that the building is well ventilated (that does not mean plenty of draughts!). If you get it wrong there will be a high cost in terms of reduction in growth rates due to cold or disease, such as pneumonia.
Natural ventilation is best and easiest to control. Forced ventilation systems with fans can be very effective but they do require expert assistance to get working correctly. A back up generator may be required in case of a power cut. I do not feel that this would be a viable option here.

STOCKING

The main guide to stocking rate tends to apply to the sheltered / sleeping area. There should be adequate ground space provided so that there is room for each pig to lay 'flat out'. In an outdoor unit the number of shelters (portable) should be increased accordingly as the finishers grow. Pigs without sleeping space will not thrive in the same way that pigs kept in correct numbers will. Under stocking, especially when just weaned, can be as big a problem as over stocking as they will not generate enough heat and will start to burn up their body reserves in order to keep warm, thus reducing the feed efficiency rate.

Pigs, even youngsters, given the opportunity, are clean creatures and will mostly use the same dunging area. If there is a need to introduce new animals to an area, a good method of ensuring they learn fast where the dunging area is located is to drive them when they first come into the pen via the dunging place. Hold them there for a short time, as young animals when they are moved will tend to dung and urinate. The pigs very rapidly learn to associate these functions with the area they first fouled.

FEEDING

Providing the piglets have been eating well prior to weaning then they be fed ad lib after weaning. However, it is sensible to restrict feed for a short time after weaning (a few hours only). This is so that hunger can be determined, as hunger at feed times is a good indication of health and restricting the ration at this time can help in the recognition of weaners that may be harbouring infection. Do remember though, that if pigs are not on ad lib feeding then you must allow enough through space for them all to feed at the same time.

Fresh water is vital for any animal and you should provide water bowls or water nipples, one for every ten pigs and make sure when pigs are introduced into a new pen that they know where the drinkers are and that they know how to operate them. Check the drinkers yourself daily, as dehydration will not take long to set in if the automatic system has an airlock or leak!

SOME COMMON DISEASES OF WEANERS

Scours can be caused by a wide variety of bacteria and viruses. The production of diarrhoea is merely an outward sign of what is very often a complex disease problem where management failure can be as important a factor in the disorder as the infection itself.

The most common bacterial scour is due to E. Coli bacteria which causes Post Weaning Enteritis. Another manifestation of the same syndrome is Bowel Oedema. The diarrhoea is watery without blood and occurs three to five days after weaning. Affected animals rapidly lose condition, become dehydrated and slightly feverish. Bowel Oedema symptoms may be few apart from sudden death but some pigs show incoordination, seeming blindness and a peculiar high pitched squeaky voice when handled. There are of course other bacteria that can be responsible for scours, but E.coli is the most common.
Virus infection can cause enteritis. Transmissible Gastro Enteritis (TGE) and Epidemic Diarrhoea can result in severe scouring but the disease will not be confined to weaners. Symptoms will appear in all age groups.

Respiratory disease can be subdivided into infections of the upper respiratory tract - *Rhinitis* and infections of the lower respiratory tract (lungs) - *Pneumonia.*

Rhinitis usually starts in piglets but the effects are often not seen until the weaning stage when some pigs will be seen to have distorted, twisted snouts. The main causal organism are Pasteurella and Bordetella bacteria which combine to produce toxins which attack and damage the nasal bones. Poor ventilation can a contributory element in the disease and viral infections may also have a part to play.

Acute Pneumonia is characterised by the sudden onset of a high temperature and respiratory distress. The pig will not eat and many will die quite quickly. *Chronic Pneumonia* has a more insidious onset. The pig will develop a dry cough which may become widespread throughout the group. Appetites will de depressed, pigs will become thinner and breathing will become laboured.

Meningitis is the third most common disease in weaners and is the result of infection by a bacteria Streptococcus Suis type 2. This can cause severe nervous symptoms, convulsions and death unless treatment with antibiotic injections are started almost immediately.

With each of these diseases and conditions, careful management with a close eye to detail will go a long way to prevent and alleviate the worst aspects.

NEW WOOL PRESSES

By Greg Scott

I am currently collecting specifications and prices for Capless Wool Presses from Australia. Very competitive prices are available for Sunbeam and TPC wool presses. At this stage there are two interested parties wishing to purchase Sunbeam presses subject to receival of further information from Australia. I urge anyone interested in a new press to contact me at the Department as we may be able to get a more competitive price for purchase of more presses.

WOOL REMINDERS

from Robert Hall

AVOID CONTAMINATING YOUR WOOL AT ALL TIMES AND AT ALL STAGES.

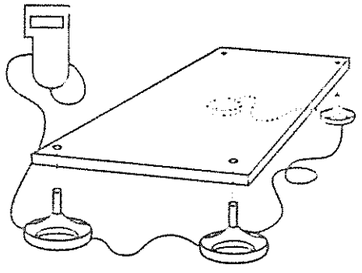
- Ensure towels and other potential contaminants are kept well away from wool bins and presses
- Never use dividers in bales.
- Only press wool into bales.
- Unwrapped Quicklinks are acceptable to local bale handlers provided the knots are moved to a protective corner edge of the bale
- Farms using non-standard quicklinks should take special care that all protrusions are cut off with wire cutters.
- For links which have to be wrapped, the best materials to use are either cardboard or white wool. Do not use pieces of sheepskin or woven materials such as bagging, which are serious contaminants.
- Make sure wool specifications are clear and correct.
- Early shorn wool lengths must be recorded.
- Please also prepare and airmail specifications as soon as the wool is pressed and a bale book page is completed. Do not delay until shipment of the wool.
- Shorn wool is "near money". Always handle wool with due care and ensure that your helpers do likewise!

A NEW CONCEPT IN ELECTRONIC WEIGHING:

By Charlene Rowland

No more the bulky weighing scales. Richey Tagg have come up with new electronic weigh scales in the form of Loadbars or Feet.

EZIFEET



Ezifeet are the ultimate in flexibility. Four revolutionary, lightweight nylon-composite feet extend the possibilities of electronic weighting and enable greater portability, without any compromise on toughness or capacity.

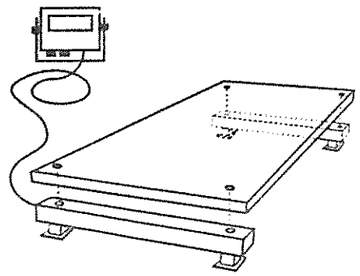
Ezifeet will take up to the maximum capacity of 2000kg (two tons), and can be adjusted to any dimension up to 1.1m x 2.5m (3.5ft x 8ft).

You can use Ezifeet to design your own weighing platform from materials to hand or fit to a ready made crate.

LOADBARS

Richey Tagg has a series of four Loadbars with a variety of capabilities to meet the full range of weighing applications. Each set can be used with any of the Tru-test indicators described, as well as any existing equipment.

Designed to withstand agricultural conditions and protected to operate in all weathers, these robust Loadbars can be portable or permanent as required and will provide accurate and reliable results for many years.



Multi purpose Loadbars are available from 600mm to 1010mm and weigh up to 3000 kg (three tons). They can be used to weigh anything from a sheep to a bale of wool.

All you need is a firm level surface (ideally a concrete pad) on which to position the Loadbars, and a rigid platform, crate or crush. Then you're ready to set up you scales, this should only be a five to ten minute job.

TRU-TEST INDICATORS

There are four Indicator options. From the simplicity of the Model 700 Economy Plus, to the extensive data recording and analysing capability of the Model 703, there is an Indicator to suit your farming operation. Each Indicator has simple, uncluttered keyboards with large, well spaced keys. The 8 digit LCD display is easy to read in all light conditions. With logical step by step user manuals written in plain English. The Indicator case is made from a top quality, impact-resistant plastic, able to withstand knocks. The loadcells are made from high grade aircraft aluminium, and the Loadbars' heavy duty cables and connectors ensure many years of accurate and trouble-free weighing.
The Tru-Test Aglinker software package allows the Model 702 and 703 to easily interface with IBM and IBM compatible PC`s for the complete transfer of data. Also the Model 701 can be set up for remote data storage on a PC.

Indicators require a 12V DC power supply, either from an external battery e.g. car/motorbike, or from an AC Power Adapter. Alternatively, the Models 701, 702 and 703 can have an internal rechargeable battery. Fully charged, the battery will provide eight hours of continuos weighing and can be recharged in six hours.

If you would like anymore information on Indicators, Ezifeet and Loadbars, please give me a call and I will supply you with the relevant information.

WOOL PRESS 72 - SPOT THE DIFFERENCE SOLUTION

1. Ear missing on first rowing cow; 2. Last cow in water gone; 3. Cox's loud hailer longer; 4. End of oar in water on last rower; 5. Oar handle missing on fourth cow; 6. Horn missing on third cow from end; 7. Ear missing from cox; 8. Oar with handle missing is longer; 9. End of boat gone; 10. First oar handle longer.

BIG HOUSE TO STATE CONTROL

by Colin Smith

Government's 1995 Falkland Island Farm Management Handbook leads one to believe that the sale of farms and homes to Falkland families is complete. Exampled in the introduction by:

"1991 saw the last remaining absentee owned farm in the Falklands revert to local ownership. Just 16 years after Lord Shackleton formulated the policy objectives of land sub-division and local farm ownership." (FIG 1995)

Lord Shackleton recommended that:

"Urgent steps be taken to transfer the ownership of absentee owned farms, with the main objective of creating as far as possible, owner occupied smaller farming units ..... As a priority sell farms to Falkland Islanders or to suitable outsiders." (Shackleton 1982).

Shackleton was a big hearted man who cherished the Falklands and he is sadly missed.

Today, a third of the Falklands consists of State owned farms. Overcoming labour shortages with transient foreign workers. Controlled by State administrators. (Observed in Penguin News 'Irregular Column / Farming Phobia', 1.11.95).

State farms are the antithesis of the transfer of farms and homes to local ownership. Land reform has halted. Several small farms constrained by limited land, production and sufficient income are not allowed to develop. Worst of all. A number of Falkland Island families continue to be denied the opportunity of owning their own farms and homes.

U.K. (WORKPLACE) DEATH RATE AT RECORD LOW

The number of people killed in workplace accidents fell to a record low last year, according to the Health & Safety Commission yesterday. There were 283 fatal accidents, compared with 296 in the previous year, the lowest number since records began in the last century.

But the number of self employed workers killed in workplace accidents increased - with 73 fatal accidents among the self employed in Britain to March, compared to an average of 62 a year over the previous three years.

A significant increase was recorded in Agriculture, where numbers of inspectors have fallen.

Source: Financial Times, 22.11.95

TRACTOR SAFETY - IT COULD BE YOU!

by Mandy McLeod

It never fails to amaze me how fortunate we are that there have not been any major or fatal accidents in recent years involving tractors and the equipment associated with them. I know from my years in camp that I took risks, mostly in ignorance of the dangers, but there were times when common sense should have told me something, but I carried on regardless. Reading the following examples of tractor accidents and how they came about, I can see that I was perhaps fortunate, as are many of you, when it comes to the abuse of tractor safety principles.

Read on and I challenge you to deny that you have ever done any of the same or similar actions as these unfortunate victims!

'An employee was instructing a casual worker on how to drive a tractor. The casual worker had little experience of driving tractors and was having difficulty engaging gears. The instructor became impatient, reached into the cab, and while standing alongside the tractor, moved the gear lever. The tractor lurched forward, crushing him beneath the dual wheels.'

'The driver of a tractor and loaded grain trailer had been standing alongside the tractor to start the engine so that he could tip the trailer. He then reached in to operate the tip control. The hand brake was not fully on and as the grain started to come out of the trailer, the tractor moved forward, trapping him beneath the wheel.'

'A tractor driver was travelling along a road with a trailer. He was carrying a passenger who decided to travel on the draw bar. The driver did not notice when he lost his balance and therefore could not apply the brakes in time to stop the trailer wheels running over the passengers head.'

'A tractor driver was crushed to death while taking a fertiliser spinner off a tractor. He had not left the spinner high enough to place pallets beneath the machine to support it at the right height. He climbed onto the lower link arm and reached through the cab window to operate the lift control. The empty spinner lifted quickly and trapped him between the machine and the tractor.'

'A tractor driver was picking up silage with a trailed forage harvester when it became blocked. He got off the machine to try and clear the blockage. He did not stop the engine or the PTO drive. As he removed a guard the rotor hit his arm and ripped it off. He died from loss of blood.'

I've got plenty more examples, all of which make me shudder when I think of the risks we take. It would appear to me from these examples that they have a common element. The operators are all looking at the time factor, rushing, taking short cuts. Think on and remember: *Always be in the cab when operating the tractor and always shut the machine off when working 'on' it*.

WEST FALKLAND RAM AND FLEECE SHOW

This will be held in Coast Ridge Farm Woolshed at Fox Bay Village on 28th December 1995. Entries may be sent to Fox Bay c/o Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day between 9 am and 1 pm. Judging will commence at 2.30 pm - 4 pm by public ballot. Prizes will be presented at 6 pm in the woolshed

The prize list is as follows:

CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGETT

1st prize Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies, plus £100 donated by Cable & Wireless.
2nd prize £75 donated by the Standard Chartered Bank.
3rd prize £50 donated by the Southern Cross Social Club.
4th prize £25 donated by R.M.Pitaluga and Family.

CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARLING RAM

1st prize Silver Cup presented by Dunnose Head Farm, plus £25 donated by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.
2nd prize £75 also presented by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.
3rd prize £50 presented by the Saddle Farm.
4th prize £25 presented by the Farmers Association.

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM

1st prize Falkland (Woolsales) Challenge Cup plus replica and £40 presented by Falkland Landholdings Ltd.
2nd prize Donated by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd.
3rd prize £50 presented by Port Howard Farm.
4th prize £25 presented by the Southern Cross Social Club.

CLASS 4 HOGGETT FLEECE

1st prize Silver Challenge Cup and replica presented by Meridith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development Ltd.
2nd prize £70 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers.
3rd prize £50 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services.
4th prize £30 voucher also donated by Falkland Farmers.

CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGETT

1st prize 'Governors Cup' challenge cup presented by H.E.The Governor plus replica donated by Newton Investment Management Ltd. (FIG's Investment Managers).

All prizes in this class donated by Newton Investment management Ltd.

2nd prize £75 **3rd prize** £50 **4th prize** £25

CLASS 6 ANY 'B' TYPE WETHER FLEECE

1st prize Engraved challenge cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm plus replica & £25 presented by Ursula Wanglin.
2nd prize £50 donated by F.I.Sheep Owners Association.
3rd prize £25 donated by Little Chartres Farm.
4th prize £25 donated by Stanley Electrical.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

The Champion Ram wins the Patricia Luxton 'Perpetual Challenge Cup' plus £25 from the Luxton Family, Chartres.

Reserve Champion wins £40 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.** These are all provided by Jim McAdam, Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland.

For 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners in class 3, trophies are donated by Peter Short, Falkland Supplies.

A Challenge Cup for the farm with most points in all classes is donated by Mr Owen Summers.

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

Frazzle will be again appearing in the **'Guess the Weight'** competition, by kind permission of Mrs J.Halliday. £25 prize for the best guess from Southern Cross Social Club.

The winner of the **'Fleece Weight'** competition will receive £25 from Lake Sullivan Farm, whilst the winner of the **'Micron Estimate'** competition will receive £25 from the Argos Fishing Company.

The Department of Agriculture will be sponsoring a **'Sheep Judging'** competition for the under 21's.

The Falkland Mill and Mrs Griz Cockwell have kindly knitted sweaters. These items will be auctioned for the show funds after the prize giving.

FIGAS have once again generously agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.

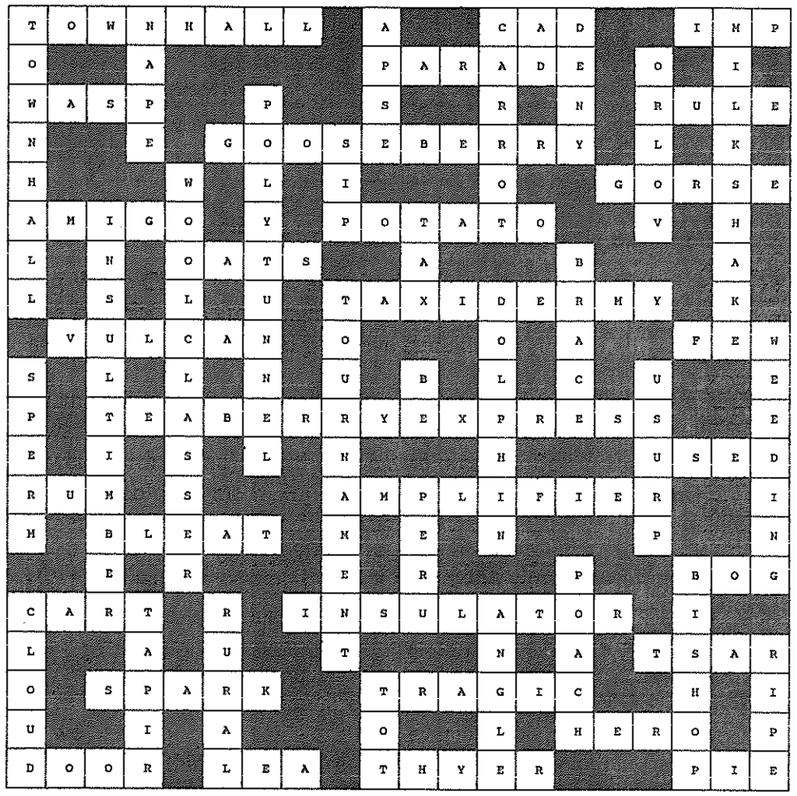
Please note that fleece entries should be skirted fleeces only. All neck, belly and stained wool should be removed before the fleece is rolled.

N.A. Knight
Chairman W.F.R.& F.S.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

WOOL PRESS 72 - NOVEMBER 1995

APOLOGIES FIRSTLY TO ALL THOSE AVID CROSSWORD FANATICS. I HOPE YOU SPOTTED THE 'DELIBERATE' (AHEM!) MISTAKE OF ONE ACROSS AND ONE DOWN BEING THE SAME.



RECIPE

REFRIGERATED CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

by Mandy McLeod

INGREDIENTS (to serve 8 - 12 portions)

9 oz (250 g) dark plain chocolate
9 oz (250 g) semi sweet biscuits (rich tea)
3 oz (75 g) mixed chopped nuts
9 oz (250 g) mixed dried fruit
9 oz (250 g) butter
2 eggs

METHOD

Grease and line an 8" loose bottom tin. Cube the butter and break the chocolate into small pieces. Gently melt using a bowl standing in hot water (alternatively, use a microwave oven on low setting) stirring gently occasionally. Do not allow the mixture to become too hot, it just needs to be melted.

Chop the dried fruit and crush the biscuits. Mix them together with the nuts and add the eggs. Stir well. Add the chocolate mixture and stir thoroughly mixing well together. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin. Smooth the top and place in the refrigerator until set (2 - 3 hours).

Delicious served in wedges with fresh cream!

TRACTOR OF THE FUTURE

by Hugh Marsden

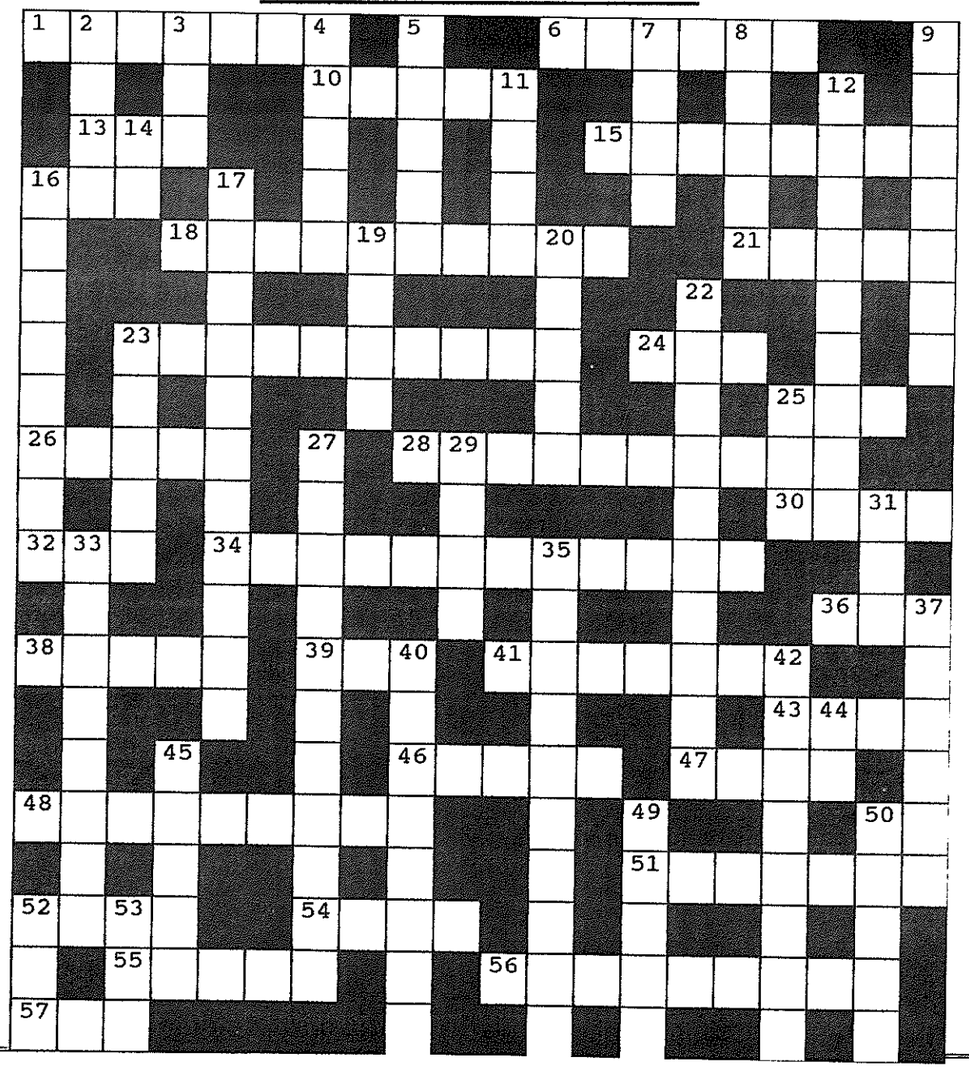
While being best known for earth moving equipment , J.C.B have recently made major modifications to it's range of "Fastrac" tractors initially launched in 1991. The company now claims a "niche" in the growing dual purpose tractors market. U.K surveys have continued to reveal the increasing use of tractors for transport purposes rather field operations.

J.C.B have incorporated much of it's earth moving technology and engineering skills in the development of the new range. Enhanced brake, suspension and gearing systems have been combined to produce a tractor that can match any tractor in the field, while also having a top road speed of 46 mph ! Has a tractor ever been caught speeding on the M.P.A road?!!

With the increasing road network in the Islands, it is already apparent that tractors here are also destined to follow the U.K trend. Better road conditions will inevitably facilitate the greater use of tractors in a transport role.

As with all new machinery, owning a 'formulae 1' tractor does not come cheap. U.K prices start at £27,810 for the smaller 76hp model. Perhaps the Fastrac could be best suited to the requirements of the larger farm or even contracting business providing services to a number of outlying farms?

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



BLEATING AT THE GRUB

Sheep are not happy at having to eat a diet of boring old grass. They would much rather have meals like they serve up at the Ritz, scientists have discovered.

Their research shows that sheep's favourite food is exotic truffles which sell at £200 a lb. They also prefer garlic, onion, caramel, apple, maple, orange and strawberry to their usual diet.

Now the Aberdeen scientists are creating a synthetic truffle-flavoured feed in a bid to improve ewes diets and breeding performance.

Source: Daily Star, November 2nd, 1995.

DECEMBER CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

1. NATURAL FARMING
6. WHEEL NUT COVER
10. BREAD RAISING AGENT
13. OBJECTION / EXCUSE
15. LARGE MAMMAL
16. HUMAN MALES
18. EFFECT OF POLLUTION
21. POWDER FROM CACAO SEEDS
23. ERA
24. MARK OUT AN AREA
25. DOMESTIC FOWL
26. FROM IRELAND
28. LACK OF FOOD
30. ENGRAVE WITH ACID
32. WOOL EXTRACT
34. TYPICAL RACEHORSE BREED
36. FOOTBALL UMPIRE (abbreiated)
38. MR NEWTON - RELATIVE MAN
39. A PREDECESSOR OF THE DOA
41. TIMPANIC PART OF HEARING ORGAN
43. TAIL-LESS MONKEY
46. CHOOSE
47. SATELLITE RECEIVER
48. REAPER
50. EXIST
51. TOWED LOAD CARRIER
52. EDIBLE LEGUME SEED
54. TWO WHEELED CYCLE
55. A STEP OVER A FENCE
56. POUCHED ANIMAL
57. CHILEAN AIRLINE

DOWN

2. OFFICIAL GOWN
3. SOLDIERING INSECT
4. REGULAR TURN OF EVENTS
5. LOW WET GRASSLAND
7. CIRCULAR STRAP OR BAND
8. MEAT JELLY
9. RICH CAKES
11. SHORT DANCING SKIRT
12. TYPE OF PAPER ORIGINALLY MADE FROM GOAT SKIN
14. INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPERS
16. AFFAIRS OF THE SEA
17. LONG EUROPEAN BREAD
19. HIS ANIMALS WENT IN TWO BY TWO
20. UNDERWATER SOUND RANGING DEVICE
22. ROAD CROSSING TO STOP LIVESTOCK
23. MIXTURE GIVEN TO INFANTS FOR WIND AND COLIC
25. GARDEN TOOL
27. HANDY FOR FEEDING WEAK LAMBS
29. PULLED TIGHT
31. POOL STICK
33. LATCHLESS OPENING
35. BOSAL
37. GIVE TO ANOTHER MOTHER
40. INDIAN TRIBE
42. UDDER INFECTION
44. ACID / ALKALINE MEASUREMENT
45. HAPPENING
49. STOW AWAY
50. STOMACH AREA
52. FLOWER AREA
53. SNAKE

The Editors of the WOOL PRESS
would like to thank those people who contribute
recipes, letters, cartoons, home grown ideas, reports on events, etc.

We still need more articles, so keep them rolling in!

THANK YOU

ABOUT SHEARING

by Sammy Marsh (age 12)

Ever since I was little, I have always been fascinated by shearers and shearing. I love the smell of sweat and sheep mixed up with a touch of lanolin. Penning up sheep, the radio blaring, the rousie bustling around, wool flying around everywhere. You will find all this in the shearing shed. Here is my story:

Dad yells at me to get up as he stomps down the stairs. I leap out of bed, pull on my greasy jeans and T-shirt, (from the day before) and run over to the shed where dad and the shearers are sharpening their blades on the grinder and pulling on their moccs (a kind of slipper looking thing). The sheep "maa" and "baa" pitifully as if they are going to go through some great torture. The engines start with a terrific roar and the rousie starts bustling about, and the music blares around the shed. The sheeps hooves clatter against the chute as they go scuttering down into the letting out pen, shivering for a couple of seconds, getting their bearings, baa-ing, wandering around the letting out pen.

Phew! Not a minute too soon it's time for dinner. Everybody rushes home eagerly and eats the dinner hurriedly. Around 1.30 everyone starts to move reluctantly out of the comfortable arm chairs and doddle over to the shearing shed. Once again the engines roar and the radio blares. Around 4.30 the shearers go home and dad and I stay behind to press the wool into bales. We go home around 5.50 for a hot bath and a decent supper. We watch a bit of telly, dad usually falls asleep and then everyone else retires for a good sleep. Well, until 6 tomorrow.

FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.....

A circular regarding a UK government statement was received by the Department of Agriculture from the Chief Medical Officer, KEMH.

The statement contained a warning about an insecticide that is contained in a range of pesticides for human use. The insecticide is 'Carbaryl' and it has been recommended that any pesticides containing it be withdrawn from human use.

'Carbaryl is contained in preparations for treating head lice. Human medicines containing 'Carbaryl are: ***Carylderm lotion and shampoo; Clinicide lotion; Derbac - C lotion and shampoo; Suleo - C lotion and shampoo.***

On the basis of experimental data in laboratory animals, the committee on Carcinogenicity conclude that it would be prudent to consider 'Carbaryl' as a potential human carcinogen. It has shown to produce cancer in laboratory animals (rats and mice) when given at high dosage over a prolonged period approaching their life span. These levels are very much higher than the exposure related to the intermittent use of head lice preparations.

If you have any of the preparations named above you are advised to dispose of them sensibly. There are other non Carbaryl containing treatments available.

It must be emphasised that the reason for this warning is based on theoretical risk.