WOOL PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

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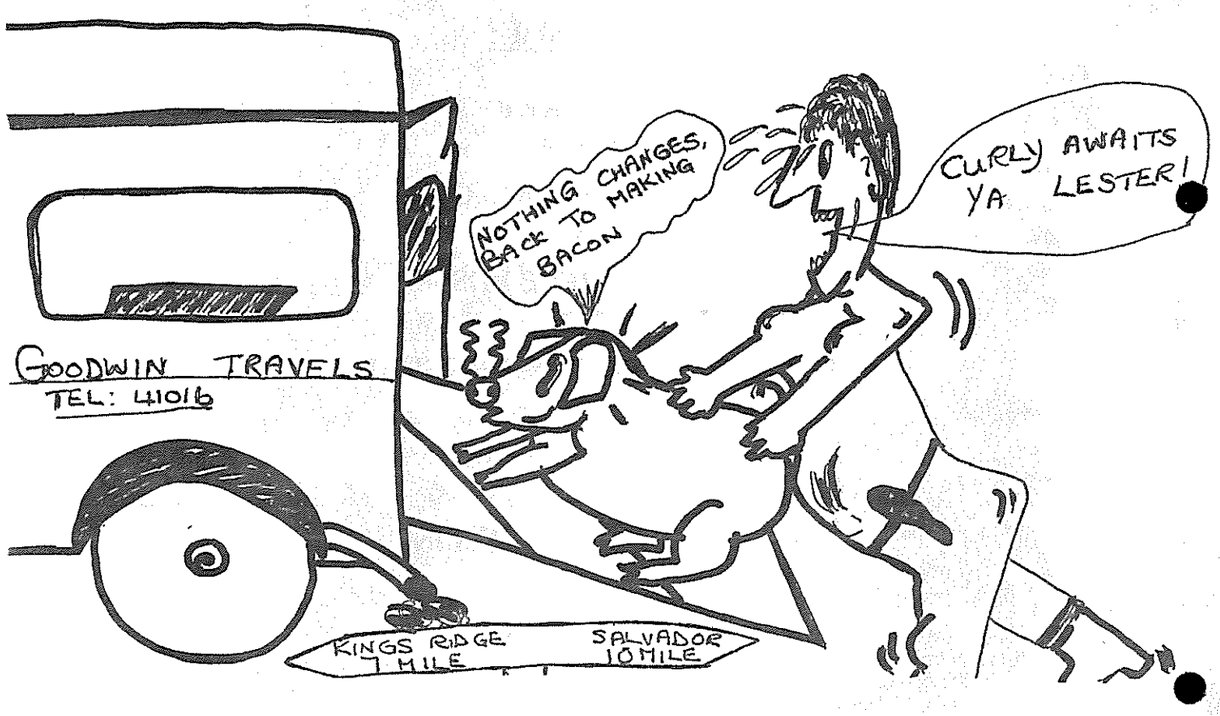
Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

Festivities over, bodies settling down to 'normal' food and drink intake, it's back to detoxification sweating in the shearing shed for most I suppose!

I trust that the West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show went down well again this year. There will be a the usual full report in the next issue of the Wool Press. Likewise, the Annual Estancia Shearing Competition will have drawn its usual crowd, although this year of course, the representatives for the Falklands in the Golden Shears Competition will be selected. More news on that later.

The cartoon below was contributed with relevance to a particular 'incident'. Please keep your articles coming in .....



Happy New Year

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Ailsa Heathman	Farm owner/Farmer's wife, Estancia Farm, East Falkland
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA
Greg Scott	Sheep Scientist / Wool Adviser, DoA
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd, Bradford
Tom Blake	FIDC
S.& J.Poncet	Farm owners/managers, Beaver Island, West Falkland
Dionne Jones	Shearer's daughter, Stanley

INSURING YOUR WOOL CLIP

by Greg Scott

With many farmers now thinking about sending their wool to the UK, the issue of insurance again rears it's head. Fortunately, to my knowledge, last season there were no major insurance claims filed, and certainly nothing like the events of the season before last. Following is a description of the "Sheep's Back" Policy available through the Falkland Islands Company, kindly supplied to me by Ralph Rogers, Colin Smith and Peter Marriott (through the Farmers Association).

1. The policy covers wool from the time of shearing until its arrival (in total) in Bradford, plus one month after arrival. In effect, this can be for a period of up to six weeks after the ship berths in Shoreham, as it may take approximately 10 days for the entire shipment to be transported from Shoreham to Bradford.

The cost of the policy is included in the FIC Freight Invoice, is independently identified on the invoice, and paid by the farmer.

2. The cover is described as "all risks", meaning the policy will cover losses from any cause except for standard policy exclusions such as war or confiscation.

The policy allows for storage on the farm, providing that it is under suitable cover (i.e. in a shed),and *not* in the open. Should wool still be present on the farm after June 30th each year, a new policy is required.

3. Premiums are charged according to declarations made by the London Offices of the FIC, at a realised price. If selling through Colin Smith, the premium is based on a valuation given by D.S. & Co. at the time of importation. D.S. & Co. advise that they take out extra cover for warehousing beyond six weeks, damage to wool in transit to mills by trailer, ship etc., and credit insurance as necessary.

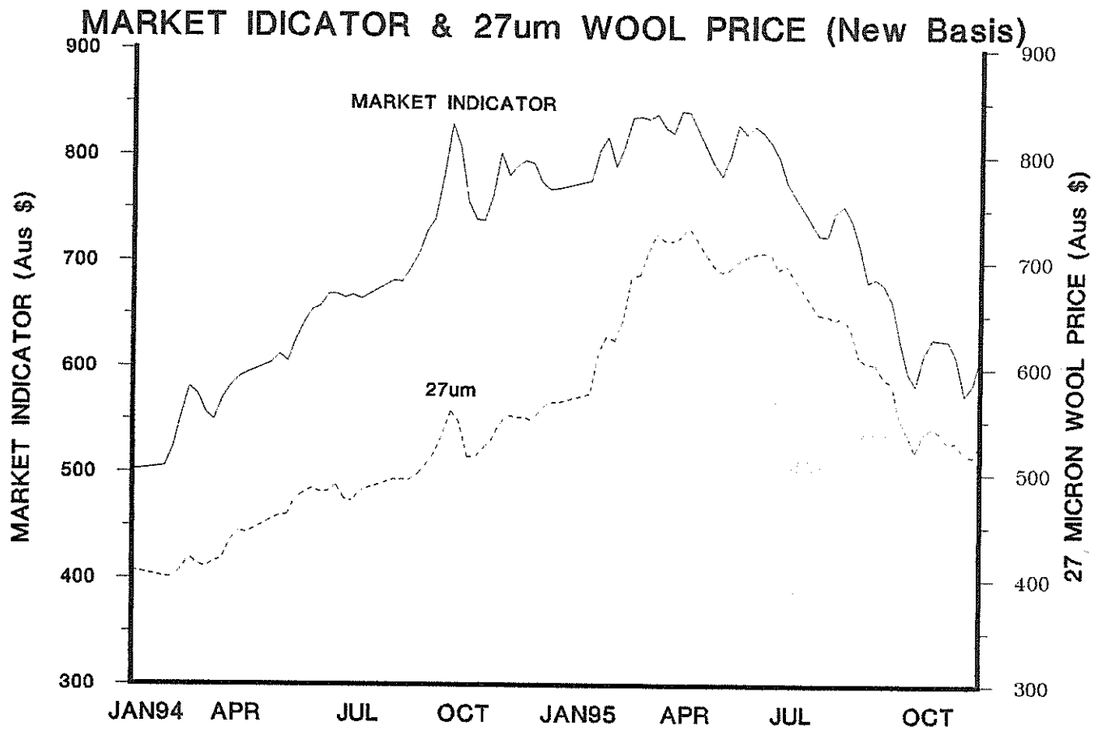
4. If a clip is lost prior to shipment (e.g. through fire damage), premiums will be charged on the claim value.

5. The general marine policy held by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing covers all wool during shipping, transport and storage for all wool purchased by that company. All charges are absorbed by them under a block policy without any charge to the farm. Wools not purchased by FIWM within 4 weeks of arrival at Bradford are not insured - additional policies must be arranged.

As the insurance game can be particularly complicated at times, should there be any questions or problems, I would recommend that the relevant bodies be contacted (either the FIC, Colin Smith or Peter Marriott).

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden



The Australian Wool Market ended the 1995 calendar year on a slightly more optimistic note with a higher volume of auction sales and prices rising in all micron categories. Following a poor start in December, the Market Indicator rose by 1 cent on last month's reported figure to close at 612 cents/kg clean on the 15th December. The 27 um Indicator has risen by 9 cents during the same period finishing at 528 cents. The Market is now closed for the Christmas recess with sales resuming on the 9th January.

Wool International comfortably achieved it's statutory December quarter sales target 182.000 bales. 88,506 bales have already been forward sold for the March quarter suggesting that the rate of disposal continues to be on track. On the 22nd December, the Wool International stockpile totalled 2,650,479 bales.

The Australian $ weakened slightly against the £ (sterling) at 2.13 cents on the 21st December.

In trading on the Sydney Futures Exchange, settlement prices for February rose 21 cents at 699 cents/kg. With the 21 market indicator closing at just 663 on the 15th December, the speculators obviously foresee a market recovery in the New Year. The April 1996 contract price also rose during the week, finishing 23 cents higher at 695 cents/kg.

WOOL TESTING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By Greg Scott

The new wool testing laboratory at the Department of Agriculture is now up and running at full steam, and offers a high quality rapid fleece testing service for all Falkland woolgrowers. Samples submitted should ideally be taken from the middle of the last side during shearing (often referred to as the 'midside sample'), identified with the farm or farmer's name and any identification number of the sheep, and sent to the Department for analyses.

During Farmer's Week, the charges were discussed. At the present time the following charges exist, on a per sample basis, for farmers wishing to test a large number of samples. It is hoped that this sliding scale of charges will encourage farmers to test at least all their rams, with the RAM 2000 target in mind.

The first 25 samples:	
- fibre diameter only	£2.00
- fibre diameter and yield	£2.50
The second 25 samples:	
- fibre diameter only	£1.50
- fibre diameter and yield	£2.00
Any additional samples:	
- fibre diameter only	£1.00
- fibre diameter and yield	£1.50

For example, if a farmer wished to test 100 samples this season for fibre diameter only, the following charges would apply:

The first 25 samples (@ £2.00 per sample):	£50.00
The second 25 samples (@ £1.50 per sample):	£37.50
The remaining 50 samples (@ £1.00 per sample):	£50.00
TOTAL COST	**£137.50**

Or an average cost of approximately **£1.38** per sample.

To test **200** samples, the total cost would be **£237.50**, or an average cost of approximately £1.19 per sample.

For any enquiries, please phone the Department of Agriculture.

SHEEPSKIN EXPORT TO URUGUAY - A FEASIBILITY STUDY.

by Tom Blake

Some months ago Michael Folb of Tempo Leather visited the Islands with a view to buying sheepskins for a Uruguayan tannery. A sample shipment was sent and this was processed in August. Based on the results of this sample Michael was able to suggest a price of US$3.00 for an air dried shin and $3.50 for a wet salted skin, with freight from the Islands to Uruguay to be paid by his company.

In order to assess the availability of these prices, a feasibility study has been complied which outlines the possible options involved in this opportunity and the likely returns. The report is not an end in itself but is intended to serve more as a basis for interested parties to further assess this opportunity, given their individual circumstances.
The study composed of three main sections. The first examines the costs and pros and cons of the two preparation options. Air drying is relatively labour intensive and the exact costs are difficult to identify and for small farmers the labour cost is perhaps irrelevant. However the logistics of the air drying option are far simpler than those for wet salting. The wet salting option does have the advantage of being less labour intensive.

The second section looks at the possible ways in which the skins could be collected from the farms and exported to Uruguay. The main point of note in this section is that there is no regular service between the Islands and Uruguay or Punta Arenas and Uruguay and therefore shipment would probably be on an opportunist basis.

The final section outlines options for development of the opportunity, that is to say who will actually take responsibility for establishing the necessary structure to allow the export of skins to take place. A number of options are presented, but one clear conclusion to be made it that if the opportunity is commercially viable, it must be taken up by a commercial body, be that an individual or a company.

If anyone is interested in reading the report, copies are available for Tom Blake, FIDC.

THE CONTROL OF GUT WORMS IN SHEEP

by Andrew Coe

I have spoken to a good few people recently about the control of worms in sheep and it's clear that there are a number of misconceptions that I thought I should try and clear up. Hopefully what I'm about to say will enlighten rather than confuse.

Firstly, all herbivores over a few weeks of age, be they sheep, goats, cattle or horses, will have roundworms. It is impossible to rear such animals under natural conditions and maintain them completely worm free. A few worms don't do any harm, particularly if the animals are well nourished. As animals grow to maturity and particularly sheep and cattle, they develop a natural immunity to the common species of roundworms. This ensures that in adult animals the number of worms living in the gut are usually kept low and certainly at a manageable level that will do the animals little harm. The main exception to this is the worm Haemonchus contortus in sheep which is fortunately not a problem here. Because animals develop resistance to gut worms with age and exposure, it follows that it is largely young animals in their first year of life that are most at risk of serious illness.

Life cycles

There are three main types of worm. Flukes, which live in the liver and are not a problem here. Tapeworms, the adults of which live in the intestines and whilst their frequent occurrence in the droppings of sheep causes concern amongst farmers, are rarely a cause of serious harm. Finally roundworms, the adults of which live, depending on the species, in the abomasum (the fourth stomach), the intestines or the lungs and which can cause problems ranging from reduced wool growth and weight gain, to ill-thrift and death in severe cases. These then are the 'bad-uns'. Eggs are passed out in the animals dung and the larvae develop to an ineffective stage on the pasture. When these larvae are eaten by a grazing sheep they develop into adults and the whole cycle continues. An added complication is that the larvae of some species, if eaten in the late summer and autumn, may not develop fully but instead become 'inhibited' in the wall of the abomasum. They continue their development the following spring and it is probably they that were responsible for all those mucky bottomed hoggs we saw around in October this year.
The important thing to grasp is that only a part of the life cycle is spent inside the sheep and that dosing a sheep will only kill the worms inside it, it won't effect the larvae already on the pasture.

Control

It goes without saying that all control of worms needs to be economic in order to make it worthwhile. However evaluating and/or proving the economic gains of worming sheep under extensive management systems is not particularly easy. Generally speaking there are two main control methods; grazing management and dosing:

a) Grazing management

Most roundworms, though not all, are host specific. In other words, worms that live in sheep don't live in cattle and vice versa. So, if only cattle have been grazing on a camp for a period of a few months then the pasture will be relatively 'clean' from the point of view of sheep parasites.

Pastures that have been simply 'spelled' of sheep for a few months will also be relatively 'clean' particularly if there has been a period of dry weather, since worm larvae need moisture on the pasture to survive.

b) Dosing

Dosing sheep with a wormer or anthelmintic kills the worms inside the sheep but can't do anything to the larvae already on the pasture. So, if a pasture is already heavily contaminated a dosed sheep will be rapidly reinfected. There are three main types of worming compound, which can be grouped as follows:

i) The Benzimidazoles (white drenches - although some are pink). These include trade names like Panacur, Valbazen, Systamex, etc.

ii) Levamisole, with trade names like Ripercol, Nilverm etc.

iii) The Avermectins with trade names like Ivomec.

All of the above are broad spectrum wormers. They will kill the whole range of roundworms providing that specific wormer resistance hasn't developed.

Wormer Resistance

In those parts of the world where wormers are used very frequently, e.g. Australia, New Zealand and parts of South America, resistance of roundworms to certain compounds has become widespread. Because of the extensive nature of sheep farming here and the relative lack of use of wormers I would not expect wormer resistance to be a problem in the Falklands. Lets keep it that way.

What is important to realise is that it is the worms that become resistant, not the sheep. So, if a small flock kept for intensive lamb production was dosed frequently against worms the worms could develop resistance to the wormer used. Those same resistant worms could then infect the main wool flock if it grazed the same pasture as the fat lamb flock at any time.

The speed at which resistance develops increases as the frequency with which sheep are dosed is increased. To try and avoid the development of resistance the group of wormer used should be changed from time to time. As a guide I would say that if sheep are dosed 3 times or more in a year then the group of wormer used should be changed once yearly. If they are dosed only once or twice a year then the group of wormer should be changed every 3 years. Swapping wormers too frequently tends to encourage the development of multiple resistance. It is very important to ensure that sheep receive a full dose of wormer appropriate to their bodyweight as underdosing also encourages resistance.

Practical Dosing

Giving farmers a hard and fast guide on when to dose sheep is not easy as there are so many variables that need to be taken into account. These include climate, season, age of sheep, nutritional status, stocking rate etc. What I am about to suggest is therefore a generalisation and is based purely on personal experience without any local data to support it. My recommendations are as follows:

a) **Adult sheep** - Don't worm/dose adult sheep unless you see clinical signs such as 'dirty bottoms'. The exception to this would be breeding rams which I would dose 2/3 months before tupping and then move onto 'clean' pasture.

b) **Sheep up to one year old** - Worm/dose them all at weaning and put them onto clean pasture. Dose all of them again in the spring if you see more than 5% of the hoggs with 'dirty bottoms'.

c) **Intensive lamb production** - If stocking rates are high it may be necessary to dose lambs at monthly intervals to maximise growth rates. Particular attention should be paid to avoiding the development of resistance in these circumstances.

Whenever you dose sheep check the following:

i) The weight of the sheep you're dosing. Always set the dose needed for the heaviest sheep in the group.
ii) The amount of wormer needed for the weight of sheep to be dosed.
iii)That the dosing gun is genuinely dispensing the amount it is set to dispense. Use a syringe to measure this.

Finally, if anybody would like more personal advice on worming sheep, please give us a call at the vet section of the Department of Agriculture. *And a happy new year to you all.*

RECIPE - BACON AND CHEESE SCONES

You will need
8 oz lean back bacon, rind removed, roughly chopped
8 oz self raising wholemeal flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder a pinch of salt
½ tsp dry mustard
1 oz low fat spread
4 oz reduced fat cheddar cheese, grated
approx ¼ pt skimmed milk and a little milk for brushing

Grill the bacon under a preheated grill for 5-6 minutes, turning, until crispy. Set aside. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and mustard into a bowl. Rub in the low fat spread until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the bacon and three quarters of the cheese. Stir in enough milk to mix to a soft dough. Roll out lightly floured surface to a 3/4 in thick, 7 in round. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet and mark deeply into 8 wedges. Brush with the remaining milk and sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Bake in a preheated oven at 220°C/425°F/Gas Mark 7 for 20 minutes or until well risen and golden. Serve warm, or cool on a wire rack.

THINK ELECTRIC

by Hugh Marsden

With the near completion of EDF fencing programme and the need for many farms to repair winter damage, this article aims to remind farmers of the value in electrifying fences.

1. The prospect of a revival in cattle numbers in the Islands will increase the necessity for more secure fences. The electrification of existing (sheep) fences is the obvious way to meet this requirement while also providing greater ease of livestock management and an enhancing the integrity of fencelines.

2. Remember that the EDF materials were provided to the Falklands in support of the Agricultural Grant Scheme to assist the sub-division process. (i.e. not as an ongoing programme of fence replacement.) It is extremely unlikely that the generous terms and conditions offered to farms will ever repeated in the future, we therefore recommended that insultimber fences be electrified to provide the best long-term value for money. It also needs to be recognised that non-electrified Insultimber fences should not be expected to perform as "traditional" conventional fencing regardless of the spacings used.

3. The decline in the forests throughout the world will inevitably lead to an escalation in the price of all timber products. Traditional sources of timber in Southern Chile are rapidly disappearing while competition from Far East markets in that region has led to substantial increases in prices. The availability of the semi-tropical insultimber "iron wood" causes considerable concern. Delays in the shipment of EDF materials to the Islands between 1991 and 1995 were partly due to the scarcity of the raw timber.

4. Furthermore, don't expect the alternative (treated softwood) conventional fencing material to provide the answer . These products have also escalated in price and certainly do not offer the life expectancy of insultimber or Sandy Point timber. If maintained, insultimber should provide excellent longevity. In the interest of the environment and your own financial future please plan and respect your EDF fences!

It is appreciated that a major drawback in electrifying fences is the physical effort and commitment required to keep the fences electrified. A number of recommendations are offered to farmers to minimise this draw-back. Many of these suggestions are based on the experience of several Falkland farmers that are making excellent use of energised fences.

1. To reduce the risk of short circuits, the lower wire(s) should not be energised.

2. Gateways need to be very carefully selected (in a dry location) It is often disappointing to see fences not electrified simply because of an undergate cable being ploughed up by vehicles in a wet gateway. Cut out switches are recommended for all gateways.

3. Care needs to be taken in securing fences. Several EDF fence inspections have revealed practices that would immediately short circuit a fence (if electrified.) The use of non-insulated strainer posts, wire droppers and metal tie-downs are obvious examples. Such practices are not recommended as they severely restrict the capacity of the farmer to electrify the fence in the future.

4. Try to ensure young sheep come in contact with electric fences at an early stage. This will increase the level of respect that animals have for all fences.

5. The use of an electrified "sin bin " or holding pen is recommended . These can be useful for older sheep /cattle have not previously been in contact with electric fences or animals that need reminding of there existence!

6. Try to energise as many fences as possible from the farm settlement (using a battery charger system) This not only enables greater reliability but also reduces the need to travel to check outlying solar panels or recharge batteries manually. Battery charger systems require less maintenance and are not affected by the lack of sunlight in the winter.

7. The use of offset brackets/undergate cable can assist in directing power from the farm to remote fences. Try to draw up an electric fence plan covering as much of the farm as possible. (The Department would be happy to advise if requested).

8. Select an energiser with enough capacity for the farm. Remember that battery powered energisers capable of electrifying up to 50 miles of fencing are available. (ex- Falkland Farmers) While a mains powered unit can energise a staggering 190 miles of single wire fencing! These energisers are effectively used in Australia and New Zealand where farmers have to overcome additional electric fence hazards, such as trees, bushes, ant hills etc.

9. Offset brackets are strongly recommended to rejuvenate an existing conventional fence. Offset brackets with one or two wires are being successfully used on several farms. They can be an extremely cost effective way to control the movement of rams in the lead up to tupping time.

10. To assist farms in identifying the source of shorts in the system, the use of a fence tester and the provision of multiple cut-out switches in a fencing system is recommended. The cut out switch enables the farmer to easily isolate different circuits and identify the source of any leak in the system . Gallagher now have a range of fence management tools that assist in the monitoring of voltage levels and the identification of faults. These include digital volt meters, livelights and neon testers.

The Department still has a considerable number of EDF cut out switches, insulators and other electrical accessories available for farms wishing to make greater use of their electric fences.

ATV PRODUCTS

By Charlene Rowland

With the ever more growing demands of the ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles) on farms, I thought I would give you some information on accessories that would go with your Quads. This information was obtained from The Sheep Farmer.

ATV Cab

Lempro, the professional products division of Lemken Tri-Ag, has launched 'QuadPod', a highly versatile cab for ATV's offering the driver several options of protection from the elements. It incorporates a tempered glass windscreen and sections of canopy at the sides, front and back. Any, or all, of the sections can be rolled up to offer a variety of cover including complete cab, windscreen and hood, or windscreen only. No tools are required to operate the canopy, and Lempro claims the conversion from windscreen only, to full cab, takes just a few minutes. The canopy fits over a steel tube frame and is still lightweight enough to maintain ATV stability. The 'QuadPod' is easily attached to the ATV with a specially designed base that clamps onto the from carrier, and it works with all popular models of ATV. Prices are: QuadPod cab £790; electric wiper £105.

Details can be obtained from: Mervyn Hutton, Lemken Tri Ag, Eleven Mile Lane, Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk.

ATV Winch

Impressive performance for size is claimed for the W2000 ATV winch from Ryders. The drum holds 15m of 5mm cable and has a maximum pull of 907kg. Has remote handle bar switch. Can be mounted on Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha ATV's.

Details can be obtained from: Ryders International, Knowsley Road, Bootle, Liverpool L20 4NW.

CALLING ALL CORMO BREEDERS

From Sally and Jerome Poncet, Beaver Island

How many purebred Cormos, both the original imports and their progeny, do you run? Are you satisfied with their wool results, their breeding success and their progeny? Have the original Cormos and their progeny given you any extra problems that you are still having to cope with?

For example, do you have to trim their hooves often, worm them regularly, are their lambs generally easy to rear?

Have they ever had orf? Do you hand-feed them in winter? Do the ewes lamb indoors?

What other problems have you had with your Cormos?

As Cormo breeders we would be interested to hear how the Cormos elsewhere in the Islands are doing, and in particular your views on:

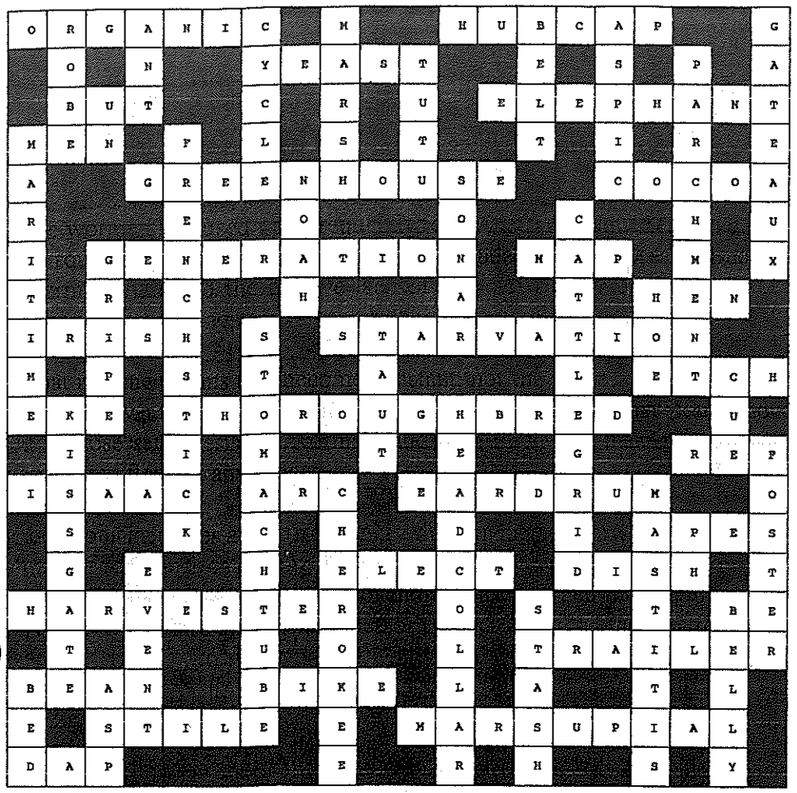
How you intend to keep the purebred Cormo line going on your farm and avoid inbreeding?

Now into our fourth year with our original Cormo ram and six ewes, we are looking for a way to keeping the purebred Cormo line alive, and of avoiding inbreeding in our flock. We can't do it with one ram and six ewes. No-one can, and yet the genetic potential to maintain and improve the flock of Falklands Cormo, of our Cormos and yours, exists within the Islands: 12 Cormo rams and 33 ewes were imported nearly 4 years ago.

This number presents a strong case against investing in another importation, in AI or ET. But only if the genetic potential of the existing Cormos is circulated between farms.

Which brings us to the heart of the matter: How many of you would be prepared to exchange purebred Cormo rams and ewes, either the original animals or their progeny? Short of agreeing to pool as many purebred Cormos as possible at a selected farm (and we would hand over our Cormos without hesitation to such a stud farm), this is the only way that full use can be made of the genetic potential of the purebred Cormos that are in the Islands today.

If you are interested in the idea of such an exchange,
please contact Sally and Jerome Poncet on 42316
or
Greg Scott at the Department of Agriculture 27355.



DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

THE RUN BEFORE BREAKFAST

by Dionne Jones (aged 12)

As you walk into the shed, the first thing that hits you is the strong pungent smell of eke and ammonia. The day usually starts at six thirty am sharp. If anyone still feels sleepy, they will soon wake up because at six thirty am its 'All Systems Go'.

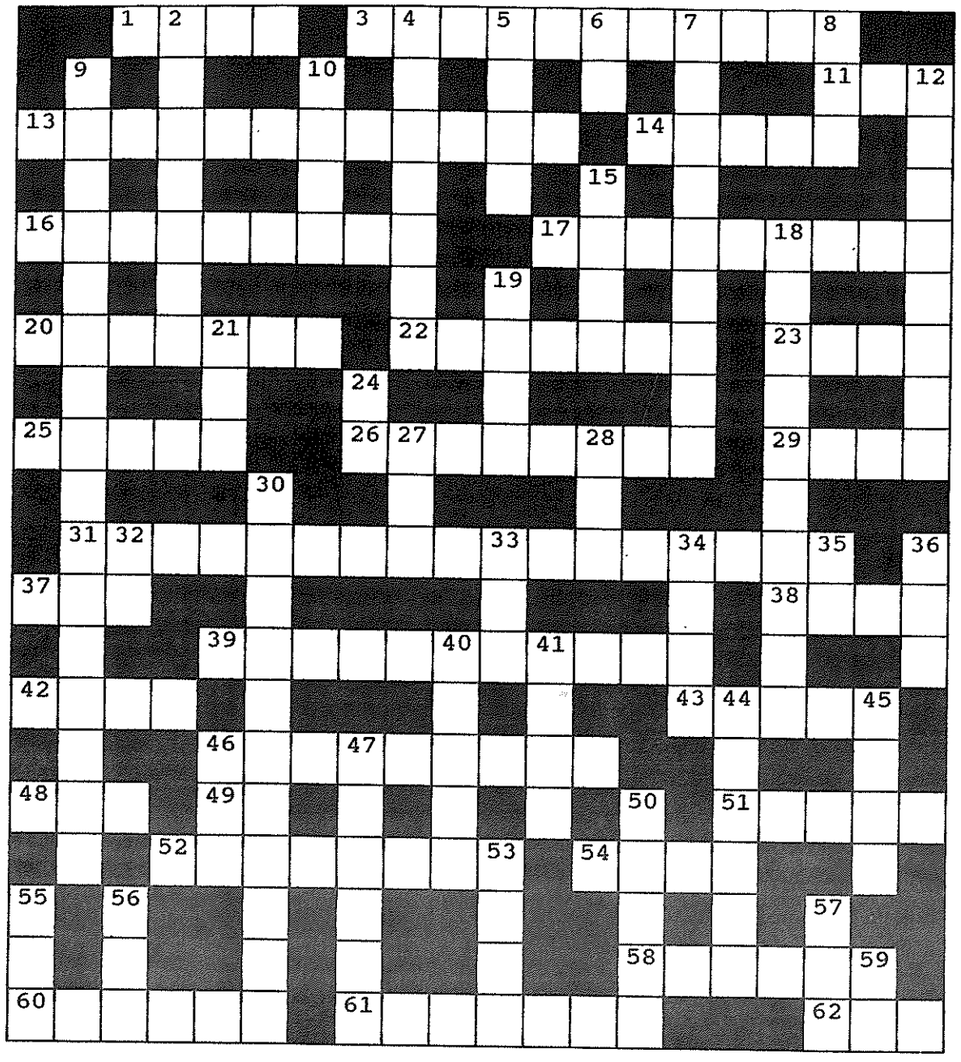
There are usually three to four shearers and a rousie to a shed. An average shearer can shear between 250 and 350 sheep per day, its not a job for the faint hearted. The rousie plays an important role in the smooth and sufficient running of the shearing shed. She/he has to keep up with the pace of the shearers and the rolling table with fleeces.

You suddenly hear a bang and the clatter of hooves as a sheep escapes from the catching pen. With a mad dash, a few pushes and a shove from the rousies, the 'roughie' is back in the catching pen waiting to be shorn. In the background you'll hear a faint whistling and shouting. One of the shed hands is filling the shed. It can be a highly exasperating job for the shed hand if the sheep do not run properly into the shed. As most people know, sheep are the most contrary animals 'if they don't want to, they wont'!

Meanwhile the shearers are quickly emptying the catching pens above all the din, you'll hear "sheep" and the shed fill has to come running from the back of the shed to fill the catching pens for the busy shearers that who have already broken out in a sweat about half an hour ago.

At five to eight am the bell goes for breakfast and the last sheep are shorn. The there is a mad rush back to the cookhouse for a big breakfast of chops and eggs. The first person back gets the pick of the best chops.

JANUARY CROSSWORD



ELEPHANTS IMPROVE SHEEP DIGESTION

Elephants and giraffe droppings are being collected by Australian scientists as part of research into ways to improve the ability of sheep to digest poor quality grasses and crop residues, writes Alan Harman.

What the researchers are looking for in the droppings are stomach fungi which are more efficient in assisting the breakdown of cellulose.

They have collected fungi from ruminants around the world and have already found some that are more efficient in increasing digestion. Success could leas to farm animals being able to more successfully survive drought and lead to increased food production in developing countries.

Dr Geoff Gordon of the animal production division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) said that the research has global implications.

CLUES

ACROSS

1. FIRST GARDEN
3. NOT SEA-GOING PEOPLE
11. SHEEP DISEASE
13. PART OF AXLE
14. DO EXTREMELY WELL
16. WHIRL ON THE TOES
17. ILLICIT SPIRIT
20. STIR UP OR IRRITATE
22. SPAT OUT A FIRE PARTICLE
23. LIST OF DUTIES SHARED - TIMETABLE
25. BELT
26. WAITING AREA FOR THE DEAD
29. LEAVE
31. YOU HAVE PROBABLY BROKEN IT ALREADY (3,4,10)
37. EACH
38. TIMBER
39. PRE 1982 NP8901 PERSONNEL (5,6)
42. STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
[illegible]. MAD HARE MONTH
46. WOOL CLIPPING EQUIPMENT
48. DONKEY
49. THAT THING
51. EXTENT
52. UNMARRIED WOMAN
54. IT BELONGS TO ME
58. YOUNG MAN
60. EQUINES
61. NEWLY PLANTED AND FERTILISED AREAS
62. NOAH'S TRANSPORTER

DOWN

2. THAW FRIDGE
4. REINDEER HORNS
5. DRINK MEASURE
6. ELEVATED
7. FIRST DAY OF STANLEY SPORTS (6,3)
8. SPANISH SUN
9. BRIGHT COLOURED FLOWER (11,5)
10. FUEL
12. PREDICT FROM OBSERVATIONS
15. PIG MEAT
18. A VEHICLE PERFORMANCE MEASURE
19. SOME ANIMALS DO THIS TO LOSE HEAT
21. ELECTRICITY MEASUREMENT
24. MORNING
27. ROWER
28. BE ILL
30. THESE SHOULD BE DOWN BY NOW
32. ROYAL INITIALS
33. MINERAL SPRING
34. THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE
35. DEFINATELY NOT
36. LYRIC POEM, USUALLY DEDICATED
40. CORN
41. STAPLE DIET OF INDIA
44. EVALUATE
45. A MAJOR INGREDIENT OF ALE
46. PELVIS / THIGH JOINT
47. CLEANING CLOTH
50. SHOWN AT CINEMAS
53. HEMP CORD
55. FIRE REMAINS
56. MOTOR VEHICLE
57. DRINK MADE FROM LEAVES
59. INITIALS OF THE SUPPOSED CREAM OF CARS

There are 2.4 billion ruminant grazing animals in the world and even a small increase in productivity would result in the largest single increase in the world's meat supply. The impact would be most dramatic in countries where there is naturally poor grazing.

Animals could be given the efficient fungi before a seasonal feed shortage and they would not be so likely to lose condition.

According to Dr Gordon, by introducing exotic fungi sheep's feed intake increased by 10% and it may be possible to improve it by as much as 15-20%.

Fungi from the stomachs of African eland and Oryx, elephants and kangaroos have been successfully transplanted into sheep. But researchers are moving with caution because the spores of the fungi are found in the saliva of host animals and can be spread by physical contact.

Source: The Sheep Farmer, May 1995.

WOOL SORTERS

by Robert Hall

Over the past two months, I have been spending some time with wool sorters in Bradford, which has been extremely interesting.

In the 1950's Bradford wool sorters numbered over 2000; now they number under 100. The change has been for several reasons, including better prepared wools becoming available (particularly from Australasia), the costs of employing wool sorters and the advent of modern large scale blending operations. The results is that although the remaining sorters can still make extremely high quality wool "types"; wools are more and more frequently handled in bulk.

Bulk handling of wool, means that a wool lot goes straight into the scouring bowls, without being handled and with merely a general quality control check. Alternatively wool is "trapped" where fleeces are quickly checked for contamination, dark fibres, stain, britch and kemp.

Traditional sorting involves not only checking fleeces for contamination, dark fibres, stain, britch and kemp, but also dividing up each fleece into different lines. The fleece divisions depend on the different wool qualities (fibre diameters) that can be identified or made and the suitability for different manufacturing processes. In general, sound wool with vegetable matter (eg. peat) may be combed, whereas clean, v.m. free wool can be used in the worsted process.

The main implications of sorting and its decline, to farmers in the Falklands, are two fold:

1. Good wool preparation is increasingly important, as some customers will undertake little sorting. Contamination avoidance is VITAL. Dark fibres and stain MUST be removed.

2. Improved sheep breeding has a major role to play in improving a clip. Sheep with dark (black/brown) fibres and bad hairy britch and kemp should be culled; whilst finer, heavy fleeced sheep without these faults should be identified and used for breeding.

In short, wool product specification and quality control has increasingly become the responsibility of the wool grower. Given the lead in quality control from Australia, these grower responsibilities will only increase.

1995 ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

Report by Ailsa Heathman

It was with some trepidation that we viewed the weather on the morning of Friday 29th December. We'd had a few rainy starts over the last 5 years but it always cleared. However, we were not so lucky this year and the rain lashed harder as the day went on. Despite the weather, a fair crowd turned up at Estancia for the shearing competition which seemed to progress with a good atmosphere.

There were 19 entrants in the Open Competition this year and one heat each of Intermediates and Juniors.

The Junior results were: 1st. - Michelle Evans with 41.1 points, 2nd - Gillian Phillips with 59.9 points, 3rd - Greg Scott with 89 points and 4th - Una Mckay with 103.1 points. It was good to see that Una, back in the Falklands for Christmas, had not forgotten how to shear a sheep after 4 years!

Ricki Evans made it a His 'n' Hers day by winning the Intermediate Competition with 52.9 points, 2nd - Keith Dickson with 63.1 points, 3rd - J. Wilson with 69.09 points and 4th - James Butler with 83.7 points. It might be worth mentioning that the Juniors only shore three sheep in their heat in case anyone starts comparing points!

In the Open Competition the following eight shearers qualified for the Semi-finals: - F. Parker, S. Clarke, M. Allan, P.McKay, H. Grierson, L. Ford and T. Kennedy from which the few finalists emerged. John Jones proved to be the champion once again with a total of 49.6 points. Hew Grierson stepped down into 2nd position this year with 50 points. Tom Kennedy was 3rd with 50.15 points and Peter Mckay was 4th with 50.35 points - a very narrow margin.

Being the two top scoring local shearers, Peter McKay and John Jones therefore qualified to represent the Falkland at the Golden shears competition in New Zealand in 1996 and were presented with F.I. mill sweaters for their achievements.

The Mowat Mug presented by Colleen and Biggles Mowat for the cleanest pen of sheep went to Tom Kennedy this year. Tom also took away a counter, 2 boxes of cutters and £15 for that triumph.

The winner of the Open Competition holds the Lister Challenge Shield for a year, plus a gold medal, a singlet, a pair of strides, 1 box combs and £20. 2nd prize consisted of a silver medal, a singlet, 4 combs and £15. 3rd prize was a bronze medal, a singlet, 3 combs and £10 and 4th prize was a singlet, 1 box cutters and £5.

The Intermediate Victor received a pair of strides, 5 combs, £20 and 1 box cutters. 2nd prize was a pair of shearing moccasins, 4 combs and £15. 3rd prize was a shearing belt, 3 combs and £10 and 4th prize was a shearing belt, 1 box cutters and £5.

The Juniors competitors got £20, £15, £10 and £5. Chris Clarke and Natalie Smith stepped in at short notice and took over the licensed bar to the relief of many and the barbecue was in the capable hands of Jeannie and Mike McKay again. We would publicly like to say a huge thank you to them this year for standing out in appalling weather conditions all day without a complaint or a hint of even giving up, despite a few changes of clothing!.

Keith Heathman, Joe Takapa and Dags were well in control of the 'Hangi' which has also become a regular feature of the competition. Unearthed from the deep were pieces of mutton, pork, fish, beef, turkey, chicken and potatoes for all to enjoy after the shearing was over. We were also pleased that Joe, a Master Shearer himself, agreed to present the prizes this year.

All that remains is for us to say a very big thank you to everyone for all their help, donations and shearing, all of which go towards making the competition what it is. Brook Hardcastle did his usual excellent job as co-ordinator and Sarah Allan diligently records the time of every sheep shorn each year. Judging was carried out by Keith Heathman, Stuart Morrison, George Smith, Owen Summers, Michael Clarke and Patrick Berntsen while Ron Binnie took up his judging position in the back pens. Many others helped in the pens which was made more difficult this year by not being able to let sheep outside, and of course there are the rousies and table hands who all come voluntarily.

Hopefully Shane Clarke van was not in too much of a mess after he kindly ferried the ewes for the finals from their holding shed to the shearing shed. Many willing hands soon rustled them up the steps and onto the shearing board on route to the catching pens. The final thanks go to the three lads of H.M.S. Westminster who spent the night here and did most of the cleaning up for us.

As usual, the Estancia Competition was sponsored by many kind donors for which we were very grateful. We would like to thank the following people for their donations:-

Port Howard Ltd, Mr & Mrs G. Smith, Stanley Services, F.I.D.C., Farmers Association, Mr & Mrs T. Phillips, F.I.C., F.L.H., Falkland Farmers, Mr & Mrs P. Goss, Agriculture Department, Mr & Mrs J. Jones, Mr & Mrs R. Short, Mr N. McKay, Mr & Mrs M. Clarke, Mr & Mrs R. Binnie, Mr R. Alazia and Lister Shearing Equipment Ltd., Colleen and Biggles Mowat.

Soon after the Competition ended between 5 and 6 pm, we recorded the highest gust of wind here since the F.I.D.C. energy project was installed in April 1994 - a gust of 79 m.p.h.

WINTER 1995 SHEEP LOSSES

by Hugh Marsden

The Department is grateful to all farms who contributed information for the 1995 winter sheep loss survey: Due to the nature of farming in the Islands it has not been possible to obtain a complete picture. however most farms have been able to supply young sheep shearing tallies and an indication of lambing performances. We will only get the true picture following compilation of the 1995/96 Annual Farming Statistics.

Having avoided the worst of the winter it is sad to return to yet anther substantial set-back to the wool industry. All experienced members of the farming community will recognise that the geographic location of particular farms and individual camps has been the major factor affecting losses.

In carrying out the survey, farmers have reported a number of distressing cases: Sheep frozen to the ground. Water sources being frozen for weeks without end. Entire Camps being covered with complete blankets of snow and denuded of all vegetation. Large numbers of sheep being buried under huge snow drifts. Sheep going onto beaches to feed on kelp and seek shelter only to be trapped by tides and snow drifts.

Under current systems of management Sheep losses are a fact of life for most farms. However, the statistics for the West give a clear indication of the scale of the problem in 1995

SEASON	HOGGETS PUT OUT	HOGGETS SHORN	SURVIVAL RATE %
1989-90	50,446	43,094	85.4
1990-91	42,789	38,241	89.3
1991-92	38,024	34,784	91.4
1992-93	42,454	38,387	90.4
1993-94	46,978	42,189	89.8
AVERAGE 1991-94	**44,138**	**39,339**	**89.1**
1994-95	38,953	28,186	72.3

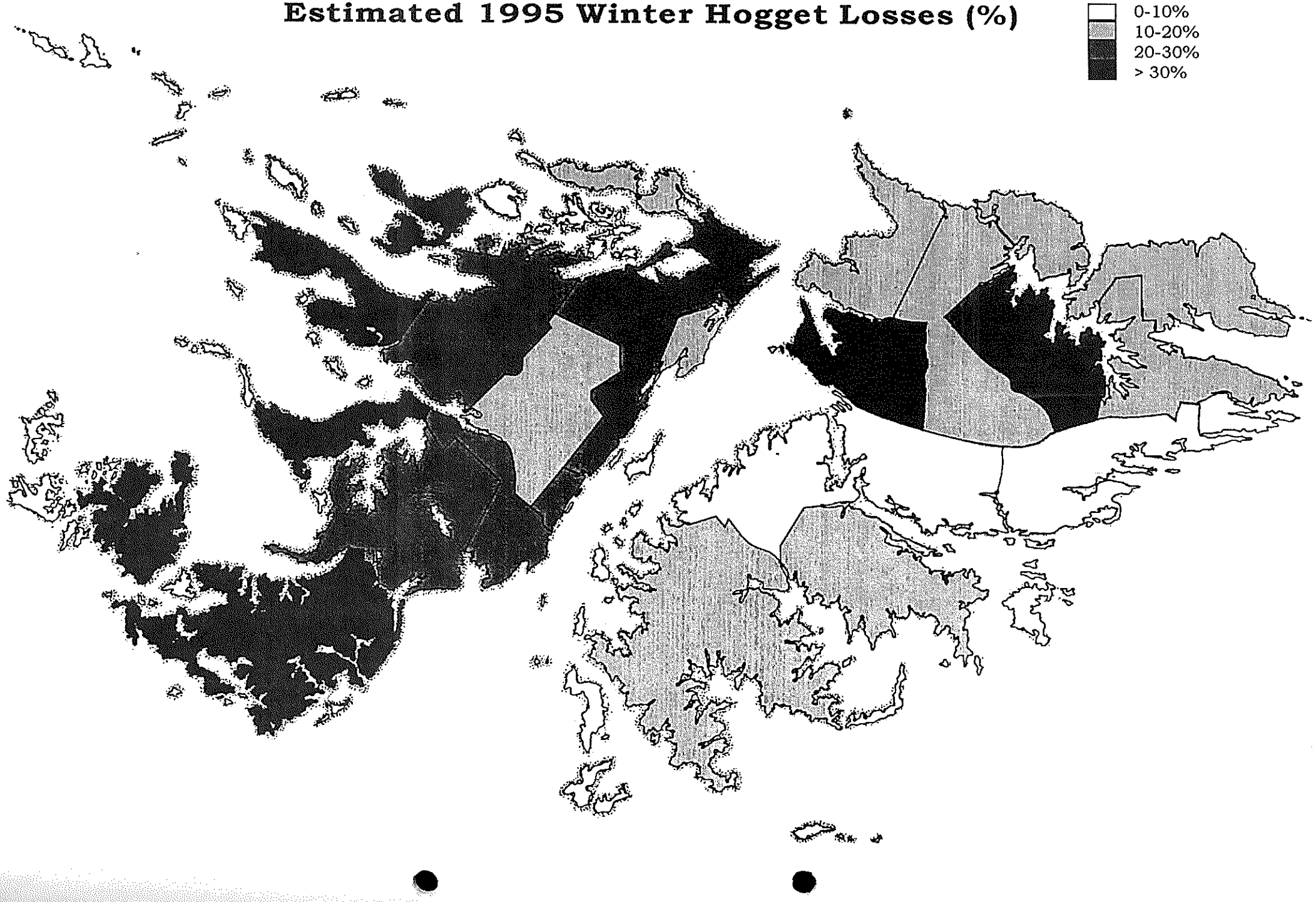
It is recognised that the actual figure for hoggets shorn will be higher. A number (2-4%) will have strayed across snow covered fencelines and frozen ponds and are still to be gathered.

The map of the Falklands showing the major farms is included to show the geographic spread of losses across the Islands. Farms have been grouped together to give a regional picture.

The West and Western Islands have undoubtedly been the worst affected although the San Carlos area on East Falkland also appears to have been hit. Losses on farms with flatter white grass camps have tended to be lower. Many farms have reported a high incidence of cattle losses, a worrying development given the proposed new abattoir. Perhaps the hardest hit group of farms will be those that depend on the importation of (mainly older) sheep. These farms have not only experienced the higher death rates, but also face extreme difficulties in obtaining replacement animals.

The winter of 1995 will undoubtedly have far reaching implications for the industry. The Islands flock structure will be distorted as farms will be forced to retain older sheep. Reported losses of breeding ewes is particularly worrying aspect as this will restrict the ability of farms to replace losses in the future. The National wool clip will inevitably be lower although it is still early to gauge the affect on farm incomes. Wool prices will have to rise considerable to offset the likely loss in the size of the clip.

Estimated 1995 Winter Hogget Losses (%)



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 75 FEBRUARY 1996 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

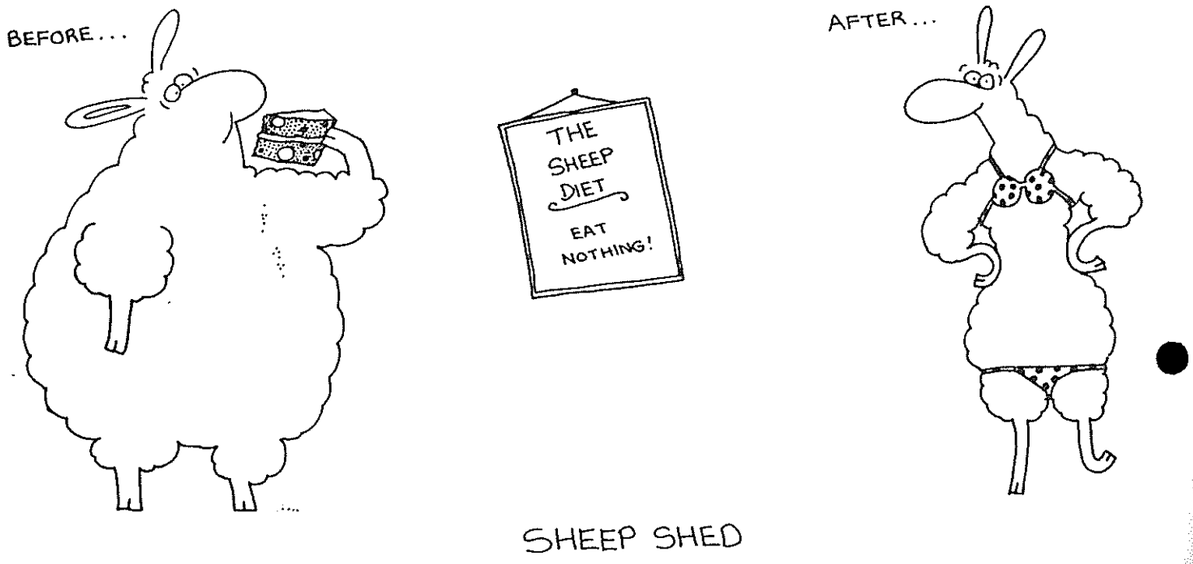
With sports week on the way, this is usually the time when most can say farewell to shearing for about 9 months. The majority of farmers that I have chatted to don't seem to have been thrown too far of schedule by this terrible run of wet weather since Christmas, but the land and livestock could certainly do with a little more sunshine than we've been blessed with.

We said farewell to Greg Scott, his wife Lisa and son Jeremy last week. We wish them well in the future. Greg has promised to send us some articles for the Wool Press on his new venture of sheep dairying.

Congratulations go to Jan Clarke for the successful completion of one year on the Agricultural (YOUTH) Training Scheme.

There are a couple of articles pertaining to the sheep losses due to the bad winter. We would be grateful if anyone having surplus sheep could contact the Department so that your names can be passed on to those making enquiries to us for sheep. Buyers and sellers can then make contact and come to an agreement and make arrangements for movement.

HAVE A GOOD SPORTS WEEK !



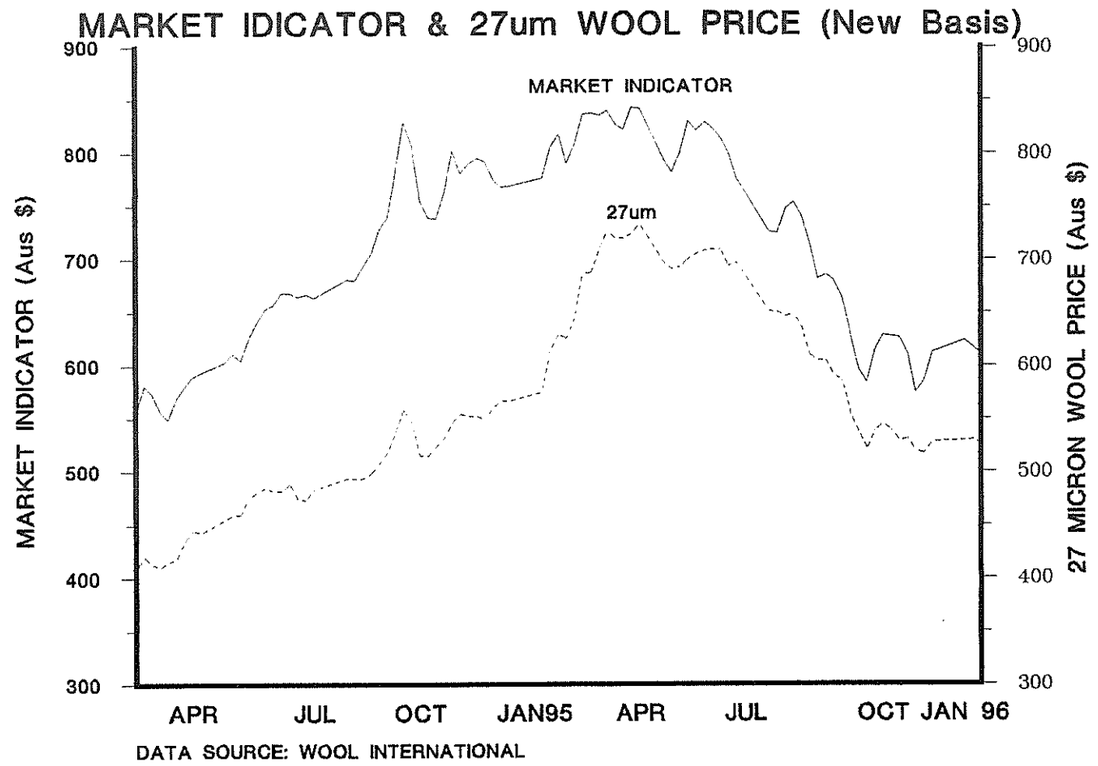
SHEEP SHED

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Nigel Knight	Coast Ridge Farm owner / manager, West Falkland
Owen Summers	Director of Agriculture, DoA
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics, DoA
Greg Scott	Sheep Scientist / Wool Adviser, DoA
Sinead Doherty	Research Assistant, DoA
Martin Cox	Ex N.Z farm manager now living in Stanley
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA
Caroline Lamb	Veterinary Officer, DoA
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd, Bradford

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden



Following an optimistic start to 1996, Australian wool prices have remained subdued throughout January. Prices have tended to weaken on last month's reported figure. The Market Indicator closed 2 cents lower at 610 cents per kg on the 26th January. The 27 Indicator was also 2 cents lower at 526 cents per kg.

The weakness in the market must be a reflection of increased availability of wool under the Wool International's pre-scheduled selling programme. To date, 150,170 bales (of 182,000 statutory bale requirement) have been sold for the March quarter. Since the 22nd December the Australian Stockpile decreased by 62,277 bales and currently stands at 2,650,479 bales.

The Sydney futures exchange prices have eased slightly with the April contract price for 21um wool closing at 683 cents for April and 684 cents for June delivery. On the 26th January the 21 um Indicator stood at 661 cents.

The Australian $ has weakened by 4 cents to stand at 209 cents/pound.

The table below provides an update on statistics published in the February 1994 Wool Press. These figures give an indication of the contraction (21%) that has occurred in the industry since 1989/90.

GLOBAL WOOL PRODUCTION
(thousand tonnes clean)

	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Australia	626	724	699	569	573	544	476
New Zealand	254	233	227	221	193	214	213
Former USSR	215	216	214	198	186	165	153
China	111	119	120	120	119	120	130
Argentina	98	89	82	73	68	59	54
South Africa	57	59	63	49	44	44	42
Uruguay	66	58	65	64	57	59	61
U.K	44	47	48	47	48	45	44
Other	404	427	419	406	403	387	384
Total	**1875**	**1972**	**1937**	**1747**	**1691**	**1637**	**1557**

Data Source: International Wool Textile Organisation

Over the same period, the production of merino type wool has declined by 28% to 666,000 tonnes. Crossbred wool production has declined by 23% to 395,000 tonnes and carpet wool by 7% to 496 tonnes.

It is interesting to note that the free market approach to New Zealand wool marketing has led to far greater stability in the coarse wool market. Whereas Australia accumulated almost 4.7 million bales in 1991, the New Zealand stockpile peaked at just 0.6 million bales in the same year. The New Zealand Stockpile has now been effectively eliminated. Hopefully the move to a free market conditions in Australia will decrease volatility in that country and also in the market for Falkland wool.

DARK FIBRE CONTAMINATION

by Robert H.B.Hall

Dark fibre contamination is a very important issue for quality wools. Dark coloured fibre problems arise from faeces, urine stained and (melanin) pigmented fibre contamination; problems which can be overcome by good wool skirting and sheep breeding.

Falkland wools are tested for dark fibres (df) at the tops stage, when the wool had been scoured, blended and combed. Earlier sampling, for the then discrete contaminant, such as a few staples of pigmented or urine-stained wool in a bale of greasy wool, is not practical.

"Tops will not be accepted by spinners who have specified a dark fibre limit, which the supplier has failed to achieve. The general trade limit for pastel products is 10 df/100 grams in the top, but for certain fabrics (particularly white woven), lower limits of around 5 df/100 grams is necessary. This limit also represents 100 dark fibres per 50 metres (approximately) of top, which is a parts per million problem that equates to only 10 dark fibres for every 1,000,000 white fibres. In terms of a greasy bale figure, it is approximately 6 staples or 1.5 grams per 240 kg bale". (Ref: Rottenbury et al. 1995).

The importance of dark fibres free wool to manufacturers is reflected in wool revenue returns to Falklands wool growers. Current dark coloured fibre incentives and penalties are as follows:

INCENTIVES:
All Falklands wool is sold on an international wool trading basis. Falklands wool is sold on the basis of being well prepared and classed, with micron, yield, vegetable matter results and dark coloured fibre guarantees that have been made for Falklands wool for several years. These include:- 26.5 to 28.5 microns: Under 15 dark fibres per 100 grams of Tops.
29 microns & coarser: Under 25 dark fibres per 100 grams of Tops.
The incentive for good wool preparation, is that the price levels currently obtained for Falklands wool are dependant on meeting such specifications. Failure to meet such specifications on a regular basis, will mean that current price levels could not possibly be maintained. Reputation has a value!

PENALTIES:
Farms that precipitate claims, because of very poor wool preparation (skirting) leaving quantities of "stained wool" on fleeces, do have such claims passed back - in 1994 one very large farm had a claim for £2,000, which was well publicised, if not well received.

This system has worked well for Falklands farmers for some years, allowing Falklands wool to be sold to advantage. If additional quality premiums are to be achieved, the fact that guarantees of 0 or under 5 dark fibres per 100 grams of tops cannot be given for the whole clip, suggests that much work on this front remains. Suggestions that "inadequate skirting pays" are ill founded; the financial rewards for good skirting are great; the rewards for poor skirting or reduced standards are much less. The removal of all stain and black wool must continue.

Reference: **Rottenbury, R.A., Burbridge, A., McInnes, C.B., (1995) Predicting the risk of dark coloured fibre contamination in sale lots.** ***Wool Technology and Sheep Breeding., 43(4), 328-337.***

XV11 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HYDATIDOLOGY

by Owen Summers

In November 1995 I attended the XVII International Congress of Hydatidology. The purpose of attending this congress was two-fold. The first was at the invitation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the organising committee to present a fifteen minute lecture on Echinococcosis in the Falkland Islands (an Historical Review), and the second was to see if other information / contacts could be gained to further the Falkland's programme.

The congress, under the auspices of the WHO lasts for one week and is held every other year. It covers human health as well as animal health, with the last half day being devoted to control programmes, and to a lesser extent, monitoring systems.

There are few areas throughout the world which do not have this disease, although the order of severity ranges widely. The most encouraging fact to emerge from the conference is that the Falklands is one of only five countries to have practically eliminated the disease.

Of the numerous scientific papers presented there were two which to my mind would be of most interest to the farming community in the Falklands.

The first was a paper presented by M.Lightowlers from the University of Melbourne, Australia, where he described the work they had been carrying out to develop a vaccine to protect sheep against the development of hydatid cysts. To date the vaccine has been shown to be highly effective and could prove to be a great asset. This vaccine is currently undergoing further experimental trials prior to its application in hydatid control programmes. It will only be after these trials, providing they are successful, that such a product is likely to become commercially available.

The second paper was presented by Dr M.Gemmell, who incidentally, visited the Falklands in 1975 and advised on our own hydatid eradication campaign. In this he discussed some of the means of Hydatid disease transmission and reported on recent research which suggests that flies may play a significant role in transporting eggs over considerable distances, therefore acting as transport hosts. Taken that eggs may take up to 24 hours to pass through the gut of a fly, together with their random interspersal behaviour, it suggests that there are opportunities for blow-flies to contact contaminated dog faeces and then human foodstuffs, therefore transporting infection. Similarly, blow-fly contact with dog faeces then grass which is subsequently eaten by grazing animals cannot be ruled out as a transmission route.

This paper highlights the importance of a strict dog dosing regime and stresses the importance of hygiene in and about your dog cages where concentrations of faeces are likely to occur.

As well as the two papers discussed above there were also may others of relevance to both the Department of Agriculture and the Medical Department who now have copies of the abstracts from the congress. In addition the Department has made some useful contacts where information and advice may be sought in the future.

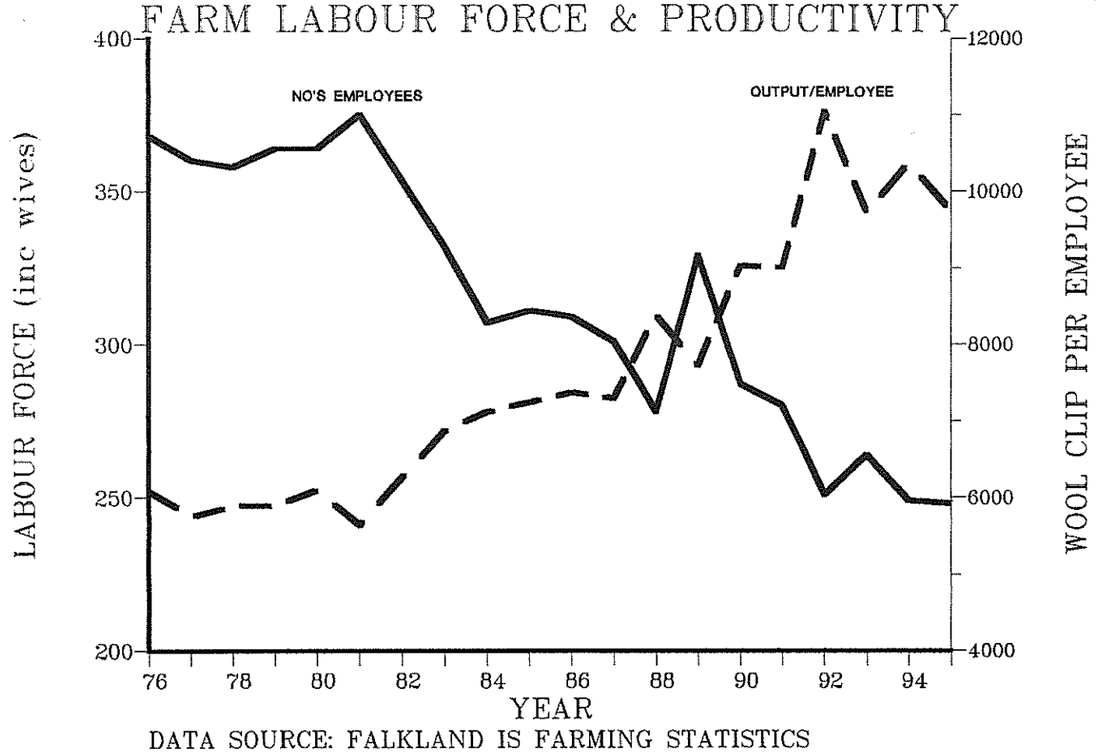
RURAL DEPOPULATION IN PERSPECTIVE

by Hugh Marsden

With the future of Camp and the role of agriculture coming under the spotlight, this article tries to counter a view that rural depopulation represents decline and lost opportunities within the farming industry.

Rural depopulation is not unique to the Falklands and can be found in many of the most successful agricultural nations such as Canada, Australia and the USA. It should also be noted that in these countries rural depopulation is a reflection of innovation and efficiency rather than one of poor performance or decline. The obvious example of this is the use of specialist machinery on large prairie farms. This machinery has substantially reduced the labour requirement on arable farms and been a major factor behind the decline in rural populations. Depopulation in these countries has also been associated with major improvements to living standards (and peoples expectations) both within and outside the industry.

With many agricultural commodity prices (such as wool) failing to keep up with rising prices, agricultural incomes are being maintained through greater efficiency and usually increases in production (a case of less people eating more of a slightly bigger pie!)



DATA SOURCE: FALKLAND IS FARMING STATISTICS

A simple analysis of the Wool Industry in the Islands draws the same conclusion: In the period 1975 to 1982 the camp labour force (including wives) was steady at around 370 employees. Today the figure stands at just 248. Over this period, the value of the National Wool Clip has risen from approximately £2.1 million to £ 3.4 million. In spite of the unprecedented slump in the wool market

(the worst this century) the value per employee of the wool has risen from £5,904 in 1975 to £13,680 in 1984. If the farm labour force had remained unchanged and the national clip not increased, this figure would today be just £7,265 (with farm expenses to pay.) No industry can afford to stand still !

The negative side to the problem is the decline in the social fabric of the Camp and the lack of maintenance carried out on farm assets (particularly on the larger farms.) In other countries rural depopulation often results in a decline in the rural facilities such as public transport, schools, medical and recreational facilities. In this regard we are better placed, with the recent improvements to Camp infrastructure tending to enhance the social fabric of Camp.

On the positive side, the farming community deserves more recognition for the gains in productivity that have occurred in the last 20 years (see Table .) This innovation has occurred during a period of unprecedented opportunities outside the agricultural sector. Once the Wool Market returns to a stable equilibrium price (as it inevitably will do!) we will hopefully see a return to Camp similar to that experienced during the more prosperous 1987/1988 seasons.

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR WOOL TESTING LAB.

by Greg Scott

Over recent months, the wool testing laboratory at the Department of Agriculture has been undertaking a range of tests to enable accreditation at an International level. The organisation involved (called Interwoollabs) is based in Brussels, and operates a quality control program in many of the major wool testing labs around the world.

Every six months, Interwoollabs issues a series of wool tops samples of which the fibre diameter is accurately known to only them, and not to any of the participating labs. Each lab must test the samples and report back to Brussels with the results. For accreditation to be approved, the results must be within the limits of acceptance set by Interwoollabs. In other words, there is only a very small margin of error allowed for a lab to be accepted. When reporting to Brussels, each lab must also supply information on the operating conditions of the lab (e.g. temperature and humidity, both of which are of critical importance in the accurate testing of wool samples), and of the equipment used, to ensure the lab is functioning in accordance with guidelines set down by the International Wool Testing Organisation (IWTO) Technical Committee.

I am very pleased to announce that the Department of Agriculture's Wool Testing Lab has successfully completed the latest series of tests, and has been accepted by Interwoollabs. We should shortly be receiving a stamp which will appear on all wool test results. The implications of this are that the results produced for farmers by the lab are now within error limits accepted at an international level. Farmers can now accept their results with confidence, knowing the lab is being monitored by an independent outside organisation.

Other benefits include further international exposure of the Falklands, and it is a great credit to the DOA that we can operate under guidelines often applied to larger, much more sophisticated laboratories. Well done!

BE PREPARED

by Caroline Lamb

Fairly often we have enquiries from farmers about medical conditions in their animals. In a lot of these instances we are able to make "over-the-phone" diagnosis or suggest possible remedies without the need of a visit. Problems do arise when we ask what medicines the farmer has handy - trying to estimate how many drops of an antibiotic suspension (that was prescribed for a child 5 years ago) that will be effective for a foal is no easy matter!

I would recommend that all farms have a vet-kit prepared to make matters simple. The following is a list of what I like people to have available. I am by now only too well aware of how difficult it can be to get things out to camp in a hurry!

Whichever way you look at it there is a cost involved, whether the items are purchased in advance or on specific requirement, but it is far better to have a 'kit' at hand to alleviate your animals suffering longer than necessary without treatment. It could also save you money in the long run if having the drugs on hand means that you don't lose that stud flock ram or fancy horse!

General

2 types of Antibiotic - e.g. Propen and Engemycin
Selection of syringes - 5ml, 10ml, 20ml
Selection of needles - 18G x 1½" 19G x 1, 21G x $^5/_6$"

For scours: Bimastat Ion-aid

For house cows: 3 tubes of intramammary antibiotic - e.g. Streptopen MC

Other things that may be useful :

louse powder
chicken antibiotic powder
eye ointment
vitamins?
horse wormer
poultry wormer
antibiotic spray

Specific to Lambing

Lubricant
Utocyl pessaries
Lamb tube feeder
Calcium/Mg preparation e.g. Calciject & large syringe to administer it with
Shoulder-length gloves
Ketol
40% dextrose

If you require any of these things please let us know, appreciating that we have only limited stocks and it may take a couple of months to obtain more if we have a considerable amount of interest.

If you would like lambing supplies, we would like orders in by the end of May to enable us to order the correct quantities in time for Spring.

May you never need any of it!

SHEEP POPULATION RECOVERY

by Robert H.B.Hall

At the risk of stating the obvious, this article attempts to discuss some aspects of repairing the Falkland Islands sheep population.

After one of the worst Falkland winters on record, huge sheep losses are being recorded for the Islands as a whole. Losses vary with some areas very much more affected than others.

All classes of sheep are of great importance. All successfully over-wintered sheep generate wool income; whilst ewes, rams, young sheep and lambs are also the vital replacement capability for future years.

The needs of badly hit farms are therefore threefold:

1. additional farm income to cover operating expenses this year and to purchase extra sheep over a number of years, e.g. proposed medium term F.I.G. assistance.

2. sheep capable of surviving to next shearing or beyond to generate income in future years, e.g. young sheep or wethers.

3. developing and mature breeding sheep to produce home grown lambs and replacements for future sustainability, e.g. extra young and mature ewes.

Viewing the Falkland Islands as one large farming system, there are several possible measures to help alleviate the affects of recent sheep deaths. **The farm system obviously requires more sheep coming in and fewer sheep going out:**

a) Farmers that usually run mature ewes dry, should consider mating them this autumn, producing extra lambs and selling any surplus young sheep to farmers short of sheep.

b) On some farms it may be possible to increase next years lamb crop by altering sheep and grassland management, e.g. by maximising the productivity of tussac plantations, reseeds and paddocks.

c) No sheep should be culled and dumped if it is capable of carrying a fleece to next shearing. Farmers and managers that are fortunate enough to have sheep that are surplus to their farm requirements, must (for the sake of their farming colleagues) offer them for sale to farmers in need of extra sheep.

d) The sheep killed for dogs meat should be the poorest and uncertain wool producers. Some farms might even consider minimising the number of sheep killed for mutton and dogs meat.

e) Farmers can try to minimise the annual number of sheep deaths, e.g. by more bridging or digging out dangerous ditches, ensuring sheep access to shelter, by preventing sheep access to dangerous beaches, by using better grassland to feed up vulnerable sheep etc.

A combination of these and other measures, will contribute to the much needed sheep population recovery. Every sheep will make a difference to someone: SAVE IT!!

DECIDING TO HAVE THE SNIP !

by Andrew Coe

Cats are a useful animal to have about the farm for keeping down mice and rats and a healthy fit looking cat can bring a lot of pleasure to its owner in its own right. Sometimes though, cat numbers can get out of hand. When that happens, all too often cat flu becomes a problem giving rise to cats with red runny eyes and discharging noses with frequent sneezing. Such cats often lose weight and have a poor coat and generally looked pretty miserable.

Tom cats, whilst looking impressive at a year old usually degenerate into scarred looking old warriors with torn ears and noses by the time they are three or four. Abscesses as a result of bites from other toms come and go with frequency and there's no doubt that Tom cat pee has a smell all of its own!

What I'm coming around to saying is: decide how many cats you want about the place and then decide to keep it that way by having the females spayed and the males castrated. Caroline or myself are quite happy to spend a morning or a day doing a job lot to get you started on the right foot, and it's cheaper than you think. All it costs is £10 for a girl, £7 for a boy, followed by a decent meal for the Vet!

FROM PENGUINS TO TUSSAC !

by Sinead Doherty.

Well a new face in the department, but I think I might have been spotted by those of you on the West who were kind enough to give directions to the 'Penguin counters' before Christmas, (Thanks, we made it!). Now back in Stanley I have been recruited by the department in co-operation with Queen's University Belfast to continue work started by Jenny Fuller, former research assistant, on the restoration of Tussac grass and on the prevention of coastal erosion by re-vegetation.

I come from County Donegal, Ireland, (or Daniel O'Donnel country as it's sometimes known!) and spent four years studying at University College Dublin where I graduated in 1994 with a degree in Environmental Science. I then continued on to do a Masters in Environmental Science at Aberdeen University, Scotland, where I managed to organise some funding to ship myself off to Finland for two months. Having gone so far north I decided it was time to head towards the south pole and so here I am in the Falklands.

The penguin colony locations on the West made for an interesting trip round many of the out-posts of the island. As far as our well/ over-loaded (??!) Landrover, that made it round with a bit of gentle persuasion and coaxing!. Despite the fact that we ourselves (and our tent) were battered by the rain, hail and gale force winds for seven weeks we enjoyed the trip thoroughly and would have been quite happy to continue on for another seven weeks!. I must take this opportunity to thanks all those who helped us out in various ways, from water to dinners to new door handles! It was all much appreciated.

So now I'm starting on a new task and will be visiting various places around the islands so you might spot me somewhere among the Tussac or the sand grass. At present I am familiarising myself with what has already been done and what needs to be done and will soon be in action myself. Well I'll finish for now and keep you posted, so till next time, Bye.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1995

by Nigel Knight

Thursday 28th December 1995 brought an overcast and foggy start to the day chosen months in advance to hold the 'ninth' annual West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show. There was however nothing that could dampen the enthusiasm of the visitors and residents alike, a great many of whom has spent a lot of time and trouble selecting and bringing to Fox Bay Village their choice rams and fleeces.

This years entries attracted by the Shows prestige and the many excellent prizes brought a record number of exhibits. Last year sixteen farms entered either rams or fleeces, this year saw an increase to twenty two participating farms. In Class 1 entries were up on last year from fourteen to twenty two. In Class 2 entries were down by one to five but in Class 3 were up on last years three to fifteen. This increased the overall total for rams from twenty three last year to forty two this year. The total number of fleeces also increased, in Class 4 there were thirty five last year increasing to forty six this year. In Class 5 entries remained at forty whilst in Class 6 there was an increase from sixteen to twenty one. The overall total increased from ninety one last year to one hundred and seven this year.

After the entries were delivered and before the serious business of judging commenced, came the mid-day barbecue. This year skilfully carried out by Lynn and Tony Blake with the assistance of many helpers.

Suitably fortified by food and drink attention reverted to the Woolshed where the ominous task of judging, which was once again by public ballot took place. I think everyone present would agree that this job is becoming increasingly difficult due to the continuous improvement in the quality of the entries. At last this task was completed and the final points worked out with the assistance of many helpful visitors. Lastly came the prizegiving. This year H.E. The Acting Governor kindly flew out to Fox Bay to present the prizes at 6.00pm in the Woolshed.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1995 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.

PRIZE:	WON BY:	POINTS:
CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGET:		
1st Prize: Engraved Challenge Shield Presented by Mr & Mrs A Davies + £100 Donated by Cable & Wireless Plc	Teal River	268
2nd Prize: £75 Presented by Standard Chartered Bank	Spring Point	259
3rd Prize: £50 Donated by Southern Cross Social Club	Chartres	256
4th Prize: £25 Presented by R M Pitaluga & family	Shallow Harbour	250
CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARLING RAM:		
1st Prize: Silver Cup Presented by Dunnose Head Farm + £25 Donated by Falkland Islands Development Corporation	Coast Ridge	261
2nd Prize: £75 Presented by F.I.D.C.	Main Point	235
3rd Prize: £50 Presented by Saddle Farm	Shallow Harbour	222
4th Prize: £25 Presented by The Farmers Association	Coast Ridge	221

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM		
1st Prize: Falkland (WoolSales) Challenge Cup + Replica + £40 presented by Falkland Landholdings Ltd	Coast Ridge	385
2nd Prize: Statuette presented by the Falkland Islands Co. Ltd	Teal River	284
3rd Prize: £50 Presented by Port Howard	Shallow Harbour	272
4th Prize: £25 Presented by Southern Cross Social Club	Coast Ridge	259
CLASS 4 HOGGET FLEECE		
1st Prize: Challenge Cup & Replica presented by Meredith Fishing Co. & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development Ltd	Spring Point	71
2nd Prize: £70 Voucher presented by Falkland Farmers	Shallow Harbour	63
3rd Prize: £50 Fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services	Spring Point	58
4th Prize: £30 Voucher also from Falkland Farmers	Shallow Harbour	51
CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGET		
1st Prize: 'Governors Cup' Challenge Cup presented by H.E. The Governor + Replica presented by Newton Investment Management Ltd	Shallow Harbour	70
2nd Prize: £75 from Newton Investment Management (FIG's Investment Managers)	National Stud Flock	54
3rd Prize: £50 from Newton Investment	National Stud Flock	46
4th Prize: £25 from Newton Investment	Dunnose Head	40
CLASS 6 ANY 'B' TYPE WETHER FLEECE		
1st Prize: Engraved Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge + Replica & £25 Presented by Ursula Wanglin	Rincon Ridge	60
2nd Prize: £50 presented by he Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association	Chartres	58
3rd Prize: £25 donated by Little Chartres	Port Edgar	40
4th Prize: £25 from Stanley Electrical	Bold Cove	38

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

- Champion Ram, won by Coast Ridge Farm with 385 points. Prize of Patricia Luxton Trophy & Replica from the Luxtons, Chartres.
- Reserve Champion won by Teal River with 284 points. £40 prize donated by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Ltd.
- Rosettes given for 1st - 4th places in all classes, except fro best ram overall where a supreme champion rosette is given. These were all provided by Jim McAdam, Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland.
- For 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize winners in Class 3, additional trophies are donated by Peter Short, Falkland Supplies.
- A Challenge Cup presented by Owen Summers for the farm with most points in all classes was won by Shallow Harbour Farm.
- Guess the weight of Frazzle, £25 prize from Southern Cross Social Club won by Bill Luxton.
- Guess the weight of ewe hogget fleece, £25 donated by Lake Sulivan Farm won by Alastair Marsh.
- Guess the Micron from mid-side sample, £25 donated by the Argos Fishing Company won by Karl Nightingale.
- Winners of the under 21's Sheep Judging Competition sponsored by the Department of Agriculture was won by Keith Knight.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

- Mrs Griz Cockwell and the Falkland Mill both knitted sweaters, these items were then auctioned for Show Funds by Roger Edwards.
- F.I.G.A.S. kindly agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.
- Tony and Lynn Blake and friends for the barbecue. With meat supplied by Coast Ridge Farm.
- Justin, Keith and Martin for transforming the Woolshed.
- The Committee of the South Cross Social Club.
- The residents of Fox Bay for being excellent hosts.

LETTER

from Martin Cox

I recently attended a one day course at the Community School run jointly by FIG and the Industrial Society titled ' Budgeting and Costing for Managers'. This was a worthwhile course which reinforced my university training and experience gained over my years as a small business manager.

I was disappointed to note that no farmers were in attendance at this or any of the other relevant courses held while the Industrial Society's tutors were in the Falklands. I wondered why this was so. Were Farmers not informed? Was it impossible at this busy time of the year to find time to attend a course? Or was no one interested? I decided to ask the people at the Secretariat if the had encouraged farmers to attend and was told that the private sector was allocated half of the available spaces and that the Chamber of Commerce was told of this availability. The Chamber told me that the information on these courses was passed on to the Farmers Association and I wonder if they in turn encouraged farmers to attend?

I have many years' experience as a farm manager, having finally left the industry in April 1993 when I sold my sheep and beef property in New Zealand. I have always regarded farming not only as a way of life but as a business. Without the business, the way of life cannot be comfortably sustained during times of commodity price downturns. Budgeting and business management skills are of vital importance to the modern farmer and courses such as those offered by the Industrial Society serve as a good reminder of the way modern businessmen are running their enterprises.

I am told that now that they have seem them. FIG are to take over the running of some of the courses. This will allow more flexibility of timing and accessibility to a wider cross section of the community. I sincerely hope that farmers will take advantage of the opportunity to attend these courses in the future.

Editors comments

Apart from my editorial role, I am also the Training Officer and I couldn't agree more with Martin's comments in regard to the necessity for the modern farmer to incorporate 'the businessman' in his role. The best stockman isn't necessarily the one getting the most out of his business.

The content of the course that Martin attended would have been as beneficial to managers of the farm business as any other business. Likewise, another two day course entitled 'Finance for non-financial managers' would have encouraged many farmer's to look at their business from a different angle and analyse 'how the business is doing'. From this analysis, changes can be made to improve problem areas.

The timing of the recent courses would have been inappropriate to the rural sector as you are all juggling your time around the weather, shearing, boats, lamb marking, fencing, etc.... It is likely that there will be similar courses organised during the winter month's. It would be beneficial for one of the key figures on the farm to attend. I will liaise with the persons involved and see what can be offered through the Agricultural Training Scheme, in terms of dates, locations and course content. All farmers will be notified accordingly.

In the past the Department of Agriculture organised accounts courses, concentrating mainly on using account books 1, 2 and 3. This was one of the first steps in the adaptation of new farm owners to become managers.

Since the initial courses, there have been occasions where a member of the DOA staff have worked on a one to one basis with farmers on request. Sometimes this work / instruction has been undertaken while farmers have been in Stanley, but most of the time it has been on the farm.

I have used the Wool Press over the years to encourage farmers to request courses of all types. I would be grateful for any feedback from you on the subject of the ATS and your requirements. We have been through a bit of a lull, mainly due to the fact that initially most people in camp attended the courses offered in the first year or two. It may now be time for some 'refreshers'!

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME

by Hugh Marsden

Background

Following the completion of the Agricultural Grant Scheme and the near completion of the E.D.F. programme , F.I.D.C. in conjunction with the Agricultural Management Committee initiated the Rural Development Assistance Scheme. A paper outlining the proposals has recently been approved by Executive Council.

Outline

The principal point to note is that unlike previous schemes, the R.D.A.S. is commercially orientated and will deal with applications on individual merit. (Special consideration may be given to environmental and new initiatives where benefits other than a direct return on investment can be demonstrated. Projects must therefore be able to clearly show an identifiable return on investment. Any project failing to meet this criteria will be rejected.

Where as previous schemes have been grant orientated the R.D.A.S. is designed to offer a farmer greater financial flexibility in the package of assistance provided. Consideration will also be given to initiatives from a wider cross-section of the rural community and will invite applications from other business interests such as agricultural contractors.

Terms and conditions

Ceilings on the value of grant will be set at 25% - co-operative ventures continue to be encouraged and will have a higher ceiling of 50%.

Grant assistance will not be provided on replacement items unless they are in direct support of a new business initiative.

To supplement the assistance package a farmer (where appropriate) would usually be offered preferential loans together with the grant.

Hire purchase agreements would be considered for replacement items: any loan would be restricted to 90% of the cost of the item with rates of interest being set at 2% below the prevailing base rates.

Applications should be submitted to the Department of Agriculture and will be subject to a vetting procedure after which they will be passed to the F.I.D.C. Board for approval.

Training
It is recognised that new ventures may require considerable technical back up and some cases the provision of formal training. Funding will be made available for this.

There are a number of key areas into which funds will be prioritised. These are as follows:

1. The protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
2. Cost reduction.
3. Diversification.
4. The establishment of specialist flocks.
5. Increased output from other livestock.

This list is by no means comprehensive and other projects will be given due consideration.

The application procedures for non-agricultural projects such as tourism and alternative power sources remain unchanged. These should continue to be sent directly to F.I.D.C.

This article provides a basic framework for the new scheme, a more comprehensive explanatory document will be forwarded to farmers shortly.

1996 WINTER LOSS PROGRAMME

by Hugh Marsden

Following the disastrous weather conditions experienced during the winter of 1995, the Department of Agriculture was formally requested to carry out a survey of winter sheep losses. The findings of this survey were submitted to the Economic Advisor who prepared a comprehensive paper for Executive Council recommending a programme of farm assistance. This programme has now been formally approved. .

The package has been designed to offer targeted assistance to those farms that have suffered substantial sheep losses during the 1995 winter.

To qualify for assistance, a farm will be required to demonstrate that the following pre-conditions are met.

1. That the figure for total sheep shorn during the 1995/96 season was lower than the minimum sheep shorn in the last 5 years and also 15% lower than the 5 year average sheep shorn figure.

2. In the event of a farm failing to qualify under section 1, discretionary assistance may be provided where the loss of sheep has been greater than 20%.

This % figure will be based on the total number of sheep declared as being on a farm on the 31st May 1995 and will be drawn from the annual farming statistics. Sheep disposed of for mutton etc. or sold will be excluded from this calculation.

Please contact the Department if you are not sure if your farm qualifies for support under the above criteria

Assistance will be provided in two forms:

1. To cover the cost of shipping sheep between outlying islands and the mainland or for the shipment of sheep across Falkland Sound.

Farmers will be required to make their own arrangements with the shipper. Assistance will not exceed the standard Byron Marine charge of £2.00 per head. Farmers that will require shipping assistance (and have not already contacted Byron Marine) are requested to notify that office as soon as possible so that the scale of the movement exercise can be assessed and any changes to the published itinerary considered. Farmers should be well aware of the constraints that the Tamar operates under and that goodwill will be required from both parties. It may be necessary to charter another vessel if the demand is too great for the Tamar.

2. Farmers may also recover 75% of the initial purchase price of the sheep subject to a maximum price as specified below:

Hoggets and shearlings:	£4.00 per head
Third year sheep	£3.00
Fourth year sheep	£2.00
Five years and older:	£1.50

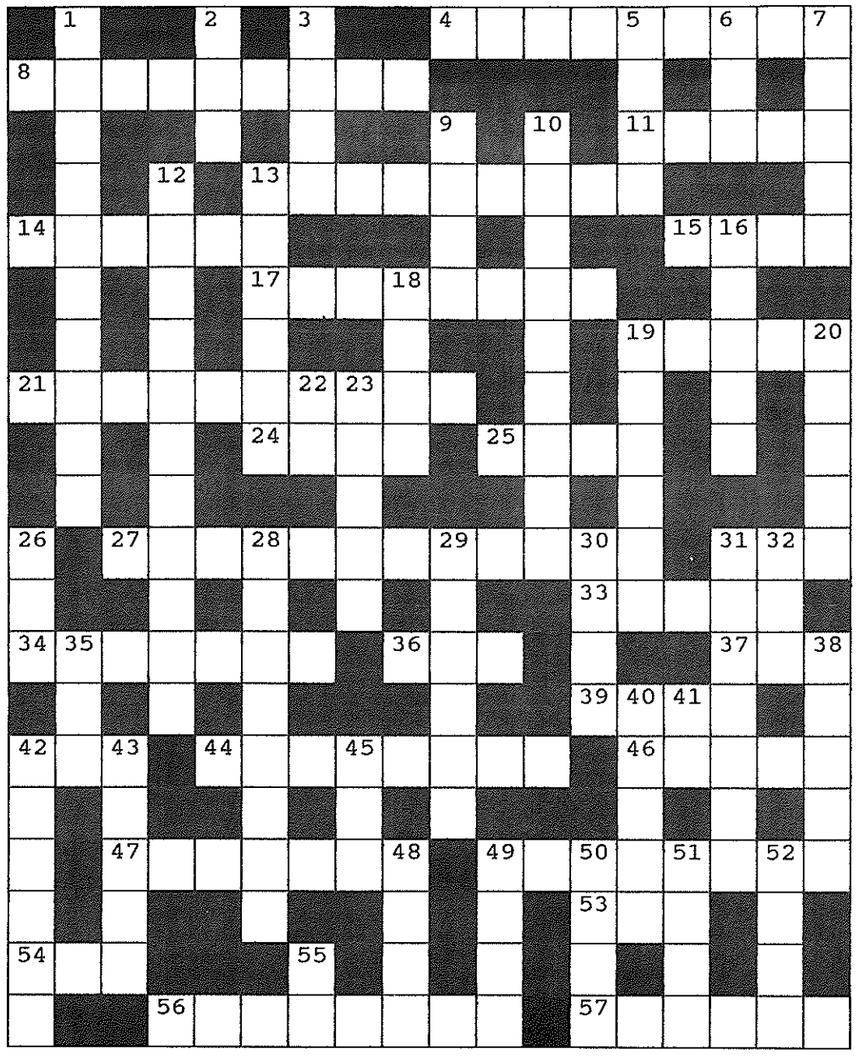
Farmers wishing to apply for assistance under the above framework are invited to contact the Department of Agriculture for an application form as soon as possible. Payments will only be made on receipt of a completed application form and all relevant invoices.

Farms that sell sheep will not be eligible to claim assistance under the scheme.

Please note that assistance will not be forthcoming until all relevant stock information has been made available to the Department of Agriculture. It is proposed to distribute the annual livestock ordinance questionnaire forms early to those farms seeking assistance.

Farmers are advised that this package of assistance is an interim measure designed to assist those farms with the purchase and transportation of replacement sheep. At this stage we are unable to gauge the financial impact of the winter, this will not be known until details regarding the 1996 wool sales have emerged. It is anticipated that if conditions dictate, an additional paper will be submitted to Executive Council recommending further assistance.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



HOT TUNA PASTA

You need:
4 oz dried wholemeal pasta 7 oz can tuna in water or brine 7 oz can sweetcorn and peppers, drained
5 oz reduced fat soft cheese black pepper

Cook the pasta in boiling water according to the packet instructions. Drain well and return to the pan. Flake the tuna and add to the pan with the sweetcorn, soft cheese and seasoning. Toss well and cook until the cheese has melted. Serve immediately with a side salad.

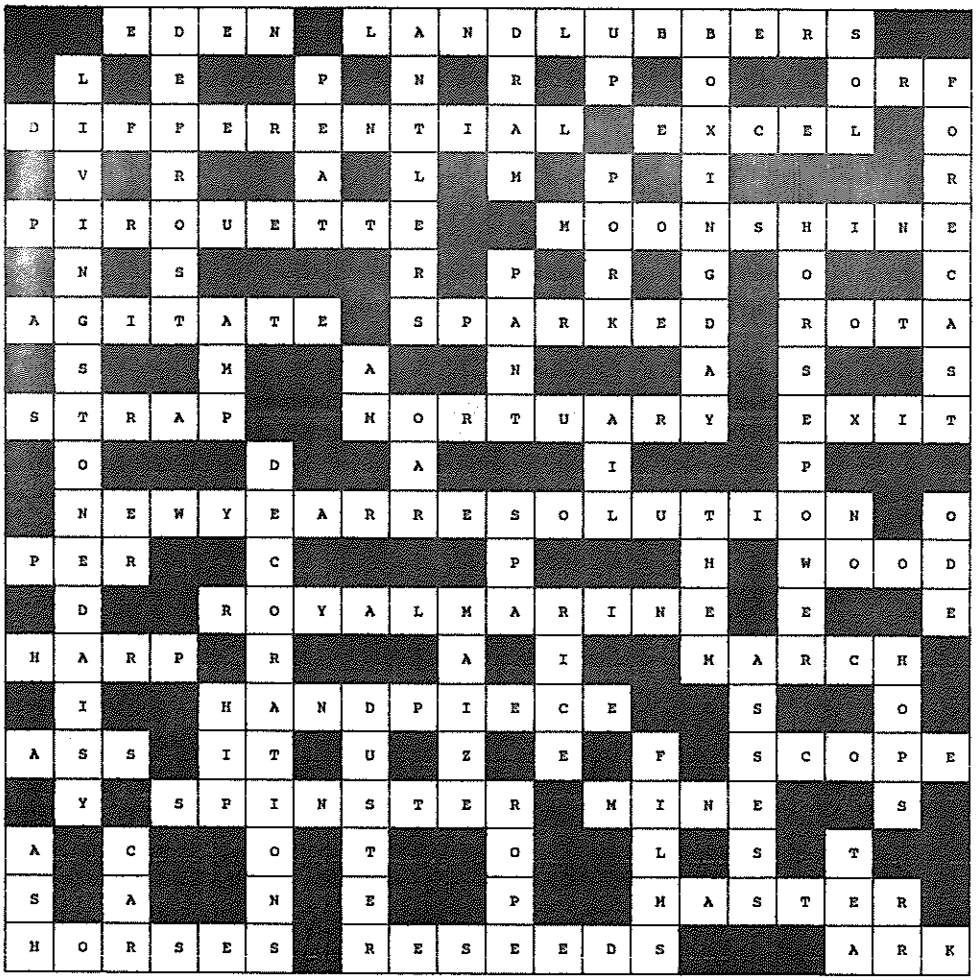
CLUES

ACROSS

4. SOUTHERN LAND
8. SHAG
11. JUST FED
13. DARK FLEECE FIBRES
14. TEN YEARS
15. LAND MEASUREMENT
17. WINNER OR DEFENDER OF TITLE
19. TRIM FLEECE
21. ROTORED AIRCRAFT
24. FREQUENTLY DRUNK REPTILE ?
25. VEGETARIAN SUBSTITUTE PRODUCT
27. FIRST ANNUAL GREETING
31. DRINKING PLACE
33. ROT
34. SEA GOD
36. OVA
37. COMPANION ANIMAL
39. MONEY FACTORY
43. SPEECH RESTRAINER
44. CAPITAL CITY OF CHILE
46. CLAMOUR
47. ITEMISED BILL
49. UNIFORM SHOULDER ORNAMENTS
53. POWER TAKE OF SHAFT
54. FAIRY REDUNDANT UNTIL NEXT CHRISTMAS
56. PINK WADER RECENTLY SEEN AT VOLUNTEER POINT
57. ARAB CLAN LEADERS

DOWN

1. 1996 SPORTS WEEK VENUE
2. PEAT CUTTING AREA
3. PRISON
5. SPOOL
6. SMALL DRINK
7. ESKIMO BOAT
9. LARGE RUBBISH CONTAINER
10. ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS
12. JUDO, KARATE, ETC.
13. CALL
16. A SERIES OF SMALL RIDGES
18. RENDEZVOUS
19. SHAPE OF FOUR EQUAL SIDES
20. FALKLANDS M.V.
22. PHYSICAL EDUCATION
23. CORD
26. FIREARM
28. U.S.GOVERNMENT BUILDING
29. INDIAN HOUSE
30. FIRST MAN
31. CHRISTEN
32. OLD AGREEMENT
35. TIME PERIOD
38. THERE ARE NOT MANY GROWING HERE
40. CONTRIBUTION TO
41. DEFINATELY NOT !
42. MALE GOOSE
43. ANGUISH
45. NERVOUS TWITCH
48. PARADISE GARDEN
49. REFLECTED SOUND
50. PRIMATES
51. SUFFER DEFEAT
52. ARMOURED VEHICLE
55. AFTER LUNCH



JANUARY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

WOOL PACKS

ANY FARM REQUIRING JUTE OR POLYETHYLENE WOOLPACKS,
TWINE, QUICKLINKS AND BALE FASTENERS
FROM US FOR THE 1996 / 97 SEASON,
PLEASE CONTACT US SOONEST WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

ALL COSTS WILL BE KEPT AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.

TEL: ALASTAIR OR MARLANE MARSH ON 42019

THOSE SHEEP - KNOW THEIR MINDS

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 76 MARCH 1996 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

Hopefully, all that had a break at the Camp Sports will have enjoyed themselves and are now ready to continue with all the jobs that are desperately competing for your time before the weather takes a turn for the worst and winter is upon us once again. Mind you, with the summer we've had to endure, it shouldn't be too much of a shock to our systems !!

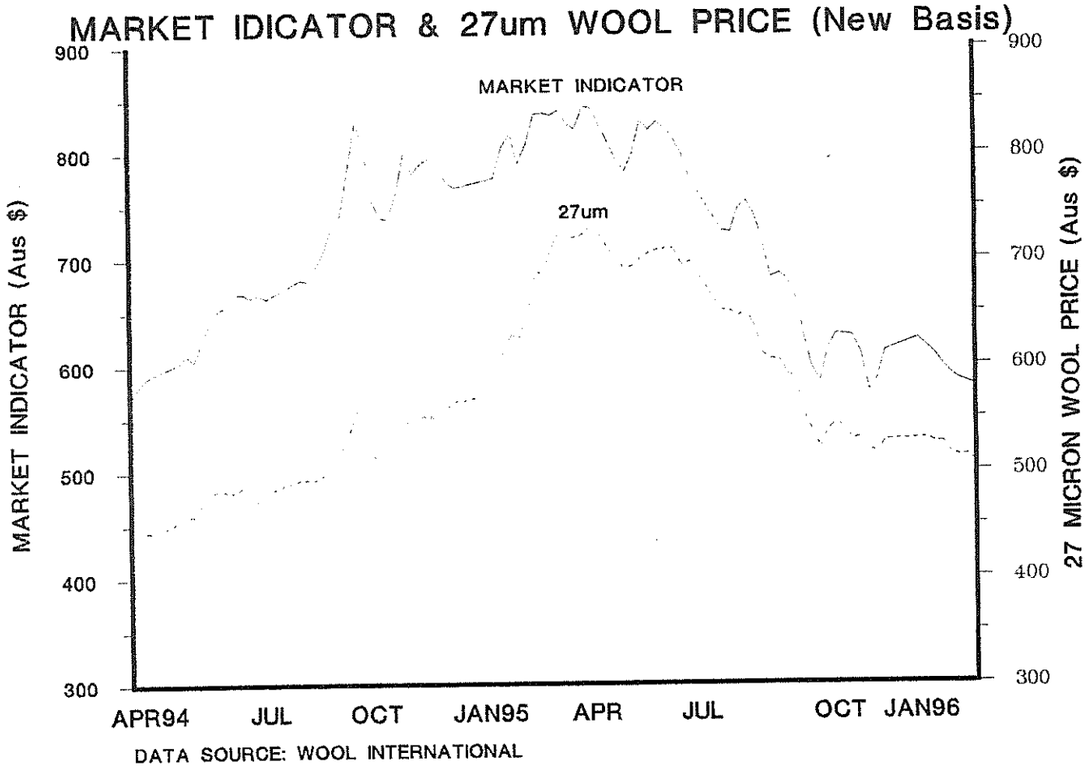
You will see that there is a stamped addressed envelope enclosed and a short questionnaire regarding Sheep dip (Organophosphorous Compounds). Chris Dowrick, the Health and Safety Co-ordinator, is hopefull that all farmers with stocks of sheep dip on their property will act responsibly and return the questionnaires to him, so that he can have a more accurate idea of the amount of dip in need of safe, organised disposal.

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Dowrick	Health & Safety Co-ordinator, FIG
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics, DoA
Jerome Poncet	Farmer, Beaver Island
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistance, DoA
Harriet Sale	GAP student, Blue Beach & Kingsford Valley Farms
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden



The Australian Wool Market has yet another disappointing month with prices remaining subdued. The Eastern Market indicator has fallen by 31 cents on last month's figure to close at 579 cents/kg on the 1st March. This decline represents a fall of over 5% . Yet again the Market Indicator is running well below the recognised farmer's break-even price of 600 cents/kg

Coarser wools have held their prices more favourably. The 27um Indicator having fallen by just 3.6% to close at 507 cents /kg. Prices in New Zealand have tended to firm in the last 2 weeks.

Wool International has already exceeded it's statutory sales target for the March quarter with 183,589 bales sold. A total of 28,019 bales have already been sold for the June and September

quarters. The Australian stockpile has declined by 121,683 bales over the month to stand at 2,528,796 bales on the 29th February.

As a slight hint of optimism, prices have risen on the Sydney Futures Exchange. The April contract for 21um wools rose by 2 cents during the week to close at 669 cents. The June contract rose by 8 cents at 671 cents. On the 1st March, the 21um Indicator stood at 632 cents

The Australian $ has continued to weaken. It is currently 3 cents lower standing at 206 cents/£

SHEEP DIP - (ORGANOPHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS)

by Chris Dowrick

In view of recently expressed concerns regarding the storage of sheep dips and container condition, it was suggested that farms be advised of the associated risks and recommended protective measures required when handling organophosphorous compounds.

Extracts from Croners Substances Hazardous to Health (1995)

* Organophosphorous compounds can slow down or even stop the action of a chemical which is essential for conducting signals along nerves to muscles.

* They are able to cross the skin barrier via the epidermal cells and can cause local symptoms of sweating and muscle twitching at the site of contact, followed by systemic symptoms.

* Skin previously damaged by cuts or burns will speed the systemic absorption of a chemical.

Protective Measures

The following personal protective equipment is recommended for handling sheep dips:

* Face shield.

* Bib apron (over boilersuit) or waterproof coat (PVC or nitrile).

* Gloves (non lined, PVC or nitrile heavy duty) gauntlet type (0.5 mm thick and at least 300 mm long).

* Waterproof trousers / leggings (PVC or nitrile).

* Wellington boots.

To ascertain the total amounts of sheep dip held and the container condition, a survey is needed of stock type held and the locations. ***Your assistance in carrying out the survey is requested by completion of the form (if any stocks are held on your farm) and returning it to me in the pre-paid envelope provided. THANK YOU.***

LETTER

from Jerome Poncet

Dear Editor

Hugh Marsden's article about rural depopulation in the February '96 Wool Press very clearly outlines the gain in productivity achieved by the farming community of the Falklands. From this, I can conclude that a certain degree of success has been achieved as a result of the subdivision of land.

It has been a great relief for me to learn this, having lived with the words of our Chief Executive Andrew Gurr ever since Farmers Week in July 1995, when he said that subdivision had been a failure (and therefore we should try forestry).

I should have been a bit suspicious about this statement because Mr Gurr's source of reference at the time was the 1982 Shackleton report, page 58 which says "in the newly created small units the method of farming has not changed...". Mr Gurr quite obviously overlooked the fact that Shackleton was talking about pioneer subdivision at a time when the cartel of company farm managers and the old system were still in power. As we all know, the large scale subdivision and the true freedom it offered happened well after 1982. To draw conclusion about the state of farming in 1995 based on a report that is 13 years out of date, is not really fair.

As mentioned in the same issue of Wool Press in a letter from Martin Cox, farming is both a way of life and a business, and the two should never be dissociated one from the other. Mr Gurr has seen for himself our way of life out in Camp, enjoyed its comforts, hospitality and lifestyle. These are all direct results of Subdivision, and as such, these small farm units can be regarded as a rare success in the history of the socio-economic development of the Falkland Islands.

PROGRESS ON GRAZING SYSTEMS RESEARCH

by Aidan Kerr

Regular readers of Wool Press will know about the Grazing Systems Trial which is underway on the Clements Corner area of Fitzroy farm. This article reports the expected trends and describes the vegetation and physical characteristics of the site and some of the work completed since 1994. Queries, comments and constructive criticism are welcome and should be directed to me. The SS/6 report should become a regular feature and the next report will summarise the sheep data.

For background to the trial see Wool Press issues 63 and 65. Briefly wool production, sheep and pasture changes will be compared on a sequence grazing system (similar to a rotation) compared to a set-stocked system. To gain greater confidence in the results two sequence grazing systems (called Felton and Pond) and two set-stocked systems (called

Peak Stream and Valley), each about 130 ha (320 acres) were established. About 25% of the area in each of the sequence systems has been fenced off for grazing in summer (December - March) while the remaining 75% will be grazed during the rest of the year. Since shearing, 2-5 year old wethers have been stocked on the summer paddocks at about one per acre while the set-stocked systems are stocked at one wether per three acres.

Expected trends

Wool production

It is expected that greater wool production per hectare will be sustained for longer in the sequence grazing system than in the set-stocked system. Better nutrition, particularly in winter, and a more balanced utilisation of the pasture in the sequence grazing system will allow stocking rates to be increased to a greater extent compared to the set-stocked system. The sequence grazing system should achieve greater utilisation of Whitegrass in summer and by spelling, make more of the better feed on greens available for winter grazing compared to the set-stocked system. In turn this should benefit sheep performance via better live weight gain and condition and increased survival of the sequence grazed sheep, particularly in winter. The superior wool production per hectare should provide significantly more income above the costs of the extra fencing and gathering than that of the set-stocked system.

Vegetation and soil

It is also expected that the pasture and soil in the sequence grazing system will improve to a greater extent than in the set-stocked system. Heavier grazing of Whitegrass from late summer and a spell from grazing the following spring should allow finer grasses to seed and establish more readily than in the set-stocked system where they are probably eaten all year round. The summer grazing areas were chosen for their good cover of Whitegrass, their deeper and wetter peats and their lower proportion of bare ground and erosion patches. Spelling in winter and spring should allow the recovery of these patches. In the long term, soil fertility may also improve on the summer area. In comparison on the set-stocked system heavy grazing pressure is expected to be exerted on the greens all year round resulting in increased bare areas. Likewise the eroded areas may not get a chance to recover. As the Whitegrass will remain largely ungrazed by sheep improvements in soil fertility are unlikely.

Wildlife

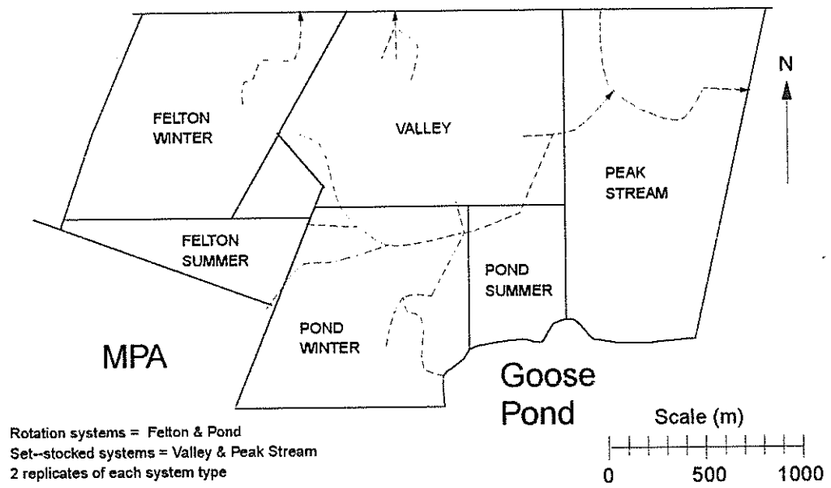
Like many other rangelands the effects of grazing on the wildlife are gaining considerable importance and require objective study. On the inland 'camp' the most conspicuous animals are birds. Consequently, we thought it prudent to find out how the expected relative changes in vegetation may affect, if at all, the bird population of the area. Thus bi-annual surveys of the bird population will be conducted in co-operation with Falkland Conservation. Thus it is conceivable that grazing and wildlife objectives may compliment each other. But the most important thing is to investigate these relationships.

Work completed 1994-6

Site

The trial site is 530 hectares (1310 acres) of Whitegrass dominated 'camp' adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of Mount Pleasant Airport, mainly on Clement's Corner camp (see diagram). The trial site is bounded roughly by Peak Stream to the north and the fence between Mt. Pleasant and Goose Ponds to the east.

SS/6, Clements' Corner, Fitzroy Farm.



So that the area could be mapped our Agricultural Assistants, John and Gillian, established a grid of one hectare squares by marking the four corners of each square with a fence stob. They also erected one of the boundary fences while contractors Keith Heathman and Rex McKay fenced the remainder. John established portable pens and a race for monitoring the sheep in the central 12 ha (30 ac) holding paddock.

Surveys

Vegetation

My main task was to survey the vegetation. In spring 1995 I visually estimated the proportion of area in each hectare occupied by the main plant communities. Whitegrass, particularly the lax type, dominated the vegetation and composed 82% of the area (see table). Shrubs e.g. Diddle-dee, Christmas Bush and Fachine occupied 11%. The high proportion of shrubs in the Felton paddocks was mainly due to the prevalence of Christmas Bush and Fachine in this area which was part of MPA base for eight years. Thus grazing pressures were negligible. Patches of greens and rushes and bare or eroded areas each composed 4 %. Bare areas and erosion scars were particularly common on the ridges.

PADDOCKS & SYSTEMS	HA	AC	LAX W'GRASS	BOG W'GRASS	SHRUBS	GREENS & RUSHES	BARE & ERODED
FELTON SUMMER	30	74	56	23	17	1	3
" WINTER	96	238	43	32	17	3	6
FELTON SYSTEM	126	312	6	30	17	2	5
POND SUMMER	32	79	4	36		6	2
" WINTER	98	242	45	36	9	6	3
POND SYSTEM	130	321	48	36	7	6	3
PEAK STREAM	134	332	41	42	8	4	4
VALLEY	127	314	49	33	11	2	5
All areas	*517*	*1278*	*48*	*34*	*11*	*4*	*4*

Topography

I also surveyed the ruggedness of the topography at each marker post (every 100m) by counting the number of the adjacent markers visible in the surrounding 4 hectares. Thus an index of ruggedness was established in which 1 indicates a relatively rugged terrain, while 8 indicates a relatively flat terrain. A more rugged terrain offers more opportunity for sheep to shelter.

Although more work is needed on this method particularly regarding the direction of shelter in general the data showed that Peak Stream camp was the most rugged and Pond Summer the smoothest with little difference between the Felton Summer and Winter paddocks. In support of this Sinéad Doherty, our temporary Research Assistant, surveyed the physical features of each square and found that Peak Stream had the greatest frequency of both steep and gentle slopes. She also found that (not surprisingly) Peak Stream had the greatest frequency of wide streams and Felton Summer had less ditches. The main aspects were Northerly or no obvious aspect. Peak Stream and Valley had the more Southerly aspects, Felton Summer and Valley the most Easterly aspects and Pond Summer the most Westerly aspects.

Birds

The first survey of birds on the site was conducted by Sinéad and Jeremy Smith from Falklands Conservation in February 1996. Only nine species were found and included Black-Chinned Siskins, Falkland Pipits, Snipe, Black Throated finch, Rufous-chested dotterels, and Upland Geese. Further data will be collected in Spring and it is too early to comment on the distributions.

The next report will feature the sheep monitoring part of the trial.

MAKE SILAGE WHEN THE RAIN POURS!

by Hugh Marsden

While most farmers will appreciate that the summer has not provided us with the best of shearing conditions, spare a thought for the Ashworth's who are still awaiting the onset of the hay making season !

Fortunately (for quality milk consumers in Stanley!) all is not lost. Since 1995 the farm has not had all it's eggs in one basket having made major investments in modern silage making equipment.

Although silage making is not new to the Falklands, the Ashworth's have broken new ground with the introduction of the "big bale" silage system into the Islands. Silage making carried out at Port Howard used the more traditional "clamp" silage system. Under the big bale system, the grass is baled in a big round baler and each bale is then sealed (ensiled) out in the field rather than in a clamp. The main advantage of the big bale system is that the bales can be left out in the field and transported to the storage area at the convenience of the farmer. The labour and tractor requirement is greatly reduced to just a single tractor and operator. Under the clamp system a minimum of three tractors and drivers is the norm, one for the harvester, one operating a trailer and one to roll the clamp.

Unfortunately the 1994/ 95 season was not a complete success. The farm decided not to over-stretch the bank balance and opted to manually cover the bales with plastic silage bags (giant bin liners.) Unfortunately these bags proved to be unsuitable to Falkland conditions with several of the bales being shredded by the wind.

For those who may not be familiar, the ensilage process is best described as the pickling of grass. The pickling process is carried out through the production of acetic and lactic acids formed through the fermentation of sugars in the crop. The bacteria that produce these acids require anaerobic conditions (no oxygen.) The damage caused to the bags allowed oxygen into the bale destroying the acid making bacteria and upsetting the ensilage process. The acidity of the bales was therefore diminished causing a number of bales to degenerate. Some of these subsequently became infected with the listeria bacteria which thrive under cold weather conditions.

Faced with this problem, it was decided to invest in a "wrapper" for the 1995/96 season. This is a machine that lifts the silage bale onto a rotating platform where it is automatically covered in giant shrink wrap material. This black plastic wrapping covers the bale under tension to produce an airtight seal. To reduce the risk of wind damage an extra layer of wrapping was applied to each bale. A chemical additive was also used to enhance the ensiling process and reduce the risk of infection by harmful bacteria (such as listeria.)

The indications are that the bales withstand the Falkland conditions extremely well and should insure that the 1996 silage crop is of a consistent and reasonable quality. Traditionalist will be pleased to learn that the farm's hay baler is not yet destined to the museum .The farm still intends to continue hay making albeit on a smaller scale, mainly for feeding to out-wintered animals. Let's hope for a better haymaking season next year!

As promised before Christmas, here is another short factual article outlining some of the basics of pig production for those interested in a future possible diversification with the coming of the new abattoir. Some of the facts will also be useful to the farmer who just wants to have pigs "small time" for the provision of weaners to families for home consumption fattening.

by Mandy McLeod

BOARS

Boars can be used for breeding from about 8 - 9 months of age. New boars should be supervised for at least the first few services to ensure vaginal entry takes place and that the young boar does not develope bad habits which will be difficult to cure later. Being there during these first matings will familiarise the new boar with human presence during his performance from the onset, making him more amiable natured. Provide novice boars with small sows fully on heat with proven farrowing ability.

Mature boars can be worked up to three times a week - preferably on alternate days. It is recommended that the number of boars kept should be equal to the number of sows served in an average week. In this way, cross-mating can take place so that each sow has three servings by three separate boars. Cross mating is associated with improved litter size and conception rates, as the boars with a lower sperm density will be balanced out by those with those above average density.

To check for fertility, each boar should occasionally do all three services on one sow without cross-mating. If any sow returns to heat, the pigman will be alerted to repeat the practice on two consecutive weeks again (with other sows) in order to ascertain the boars fertility. The reason for repeating on two consecutive weeks is because, if a boar has been rested for more than two weeks, he could be infertile at his first mating, regaining fertility thereafter. It would be criminal to label him infertile just because he hasn't been worked recently.

Only pigs in good health should be mated, this goes for the sow as well as the boar. Some signs to show that a pig is in good condition are that they are vigorous and alert with a springy tail, moist snout, warm ears and good skin (not scaly). They should have a good appetite, be breathing steadily with no coughing and pass firm dung. A normal pig will bark when surprised or disturbed, stretch when it gets up and will not be isolated from other pigs in its area. The temperature should average 39°C / 102°F and the pulse 70 - 80 per minute (taken inside the hind knee). Boars should not be worked within two hours of a feed, as problems with heart attacks or vomiting may be experienced.

Above all, it is important that good service records are kept with thorough details of performance for correct boar/s selection, ensure the boar is fertile and having a balanced workload.

NEW PRODUCTS

by Charlene Rowland

With the winter seemingly harder and the access to fodder being more and more restricted, the provision of hay on the farm can help to ease the situation over the winter months, particularly as many farmers are keeping their stud flock ewes closer to home and would then be in a position to supplement them with the extra nutrition during their pregnancy. In the light of this I have been looking into machinery and hay making implements that can be utilised with the tractors on your farms.

If you require any information, I have accumulated quite a range of product details on up to date farm machinery.

Seeders:

The Maxi-Seeder is the new generation of big trailed harrow/seed drill combinations with a working width of 5 and 6 metres. This seeder is unique in that it is easily foldable to a transport width of 3 metres. It can also be equipped with hydraulic front levelling bar ensuring flat seed beds without tracks. The levelling bar is followed by a cage front roller and S-tines in five rows a pitch of 66m. After the tines the seed bed is further prepared by a cage - or packer roller immediately followed by the seed coulters placing the seed in the required depth.

The Maxi-Seeder is equipped with a 1500 litre seed hopper mounted on the tractors three point linkage ensuring minimum slip on the driving wheels. From this storage hopper the seed is automatically conveyed to the distribution tank with dual Accord variable rotary seed valves on the back of the mixer. The mixer is also equipped with hydraulic coulter lift and pressure device, the markers are also hydraulic and can be stored inside the width of the machine.

The end results of this seed drill is: security in the job (what is harrowed is also drilled), saving of time in a busy season, and an excellent seed environment giving uniform and quick germination.

The Singulaire 785 metering unit includes a vacuum chamber divided into three separate galleries. When in operation a seed disc is fitted over the central drive turntable, the vacuum created in the chamber by the tractor PTO- driven fan, sucks seed from the base of the seed hopper onto a series of holes in the disc. Depending on the three different types of discs fitted, seeds are picked up in one, two or three lines. To ensure each hole retains only a single seed a singulator device removes any excess seed from the holes. This is very finely controlled by a large calibration wheel which is simply set by hand to the required position for spacing accuracy. The seed discs are thin and flexible, to ensure an airtight seal when in operation.

The Stoll Universal Haymakers

You yourself decide after inspecting the field wether the Stoll-Um should be made to grab the forage powerfully or wether the forage requires the gentle care ensured by the controlled tines. Conversion of the machine to 'Powerful or Careful' is extremely simple. It only requires a small number of easily carried out manipulations to 'transform' the Tedder into a crop-protecting swathturning or swath-spreading machine. The rigid tine carriers permit operation with full engine revolutions, comparing favourably with purpose-built tedders, even in green forage, when tedding the mowed

windrows or when turning heavy, rained down fodder. The rigidly positioned tines engage the fresh mowed wind rows, whirl up the forage and spread it uniformly and loosely. Stems, stalks and leaves are broken several times - the drying process can commence immediately.

Slightly wilted semi-dry sensitive forage which could lose valuable fodder components by rough handling is turned and aired extremely gently with the aid of the 'Gentel Turning' is carried out with reduced engine revolutions and controlled tine carrieers as carefully if 'by hand'

Straight, vertically positioned tines endure clear raking of the meadow and lay the crop in a loose, airy, unmatted swath. These cleanly raked unmatted swaths are ideal for rapid processing by the balers and loaders. Thanks to the loose, homogenous structure it is easily possible to re-spread heavy, wet swath following rainfalls without encountering any problem at all.

Taarup 750/751 rakes:

The Taarup Rotary Rake 750 has a 3.40 metre raking width, whilst the larger Taarup 751 has a raking width of 3.80 metres. The Taarup 751 is available with detachable rake arms, providing a convenient transport width of less than 3.0 metres, it is also available with tandem wheels for improved flotation and stable operation in uneven ground conditions. These rakes are each equipped with a sealed oil-bath gearbox. The gears receive constant lubircation whilst the machine is working, ensuring trouble free operation. They are also equipped with fixed wheels and a moving suspension system. The pivoting 3-point linkage frame quarantees flexibility and the perfect following of ground contours. Working around corners in no way reduces either the work quality, or the swath presentation and structure. The working height is easily adjusted by a handle on the top of the gearbox.

DAIRY OF A GAP STUDENT

by Harriet Sale

Tuesday 17th October: 33,000 ft up over the Atlantic and eventually my first sightings of the Falklands. Initially looked surprisingly flat. My baggage was the first off. Things are looking good!

Thursday 26th October: Unbelievable week. Has it really only been one week?
My arrival in San Carlos is a blur. Michelle and I are already great buddies and even 2 year old Tamara has grown accustomed to my presence.

The week started with no hot water. No worries, as Adrian soon got it sorted. No one told me about this limited hours of electricity out here. My alarm clock is a plug-in-the-wall one! I must have assumed camp would be wired up like town. Naive, I know. I hadn't a clue really!

Anyway, first attempt on the quad and rover just within the settlement mind! The rover's a luxurious 1.10 stood me in good stead for Ron's Series 3' (more about that later).

Drafted young sheep. Surprisingly good run actually. I think Adrian and Ben were interested to see how I'd cope with the hoggs as they normally act in the pens on a sunny day. How far could they push the student?

Three blisters so far! I obviously haven't done too much gardening or shed gratings. There's not much opportunity for that in Reading.

Also has my first penguin eggs and rum n' coke (though not together!) Both were an experience.

The weather's been typical of the Falklands, I believe. One minute I'm out in my shorts, the next the windchill factor is up to 103 and with hail stones that hurt!

Tuesday 14th November: First batch of shearing all over and the Tamar F.I. was in today to collect just under 60 bales of wool. It was great to wave good bye to all that work. Working on the tables was bearable for the first couple of days. Then there is a need to either switch off completely, sky lark lots or skive off regularly by penning up or picking up a few fleeces. Somehow, the work gets done and its weir'd to think that I'm unlikely now (as of end of February) to ever work on the tables again in my life - unless I end up marrying some Falkland Farmer!

Things like trips to town and receiving post off the fairly regular Islander, is cause for huge excitement. Going to town was a bit different to normal rather than a whirl down the M4 for 10 minutes, we spent 3 hours trying not to get bogged. Even I can now appreciate the difference these road are going to make - and I haven't seen the real bad winter weather yet!

Friday 17th November: I moved down the green to Ron and Riss last night and today did something I'd never forget. The three of us slaughtered a bullock after castrating and marking some calves. Ron and Riss weren't aware that I hadn't seen any kills to date - apart from the odd rabbit, bird or mouse! I wasn't too sure if I'd just crash out cold on seeing all the blood 'gush' so drastically, but it wasn't long before I was in there helping to skin the bloody mass . Will my parents ever want me home, I wonder?

Monday 20th November: Somehow I managed to make a simple task into a fiasco. Ron asked me to take the ash drums on the transport box on the tractor over to the dump. Admittedly it was my first time driving a tractor and on changing gear I hadn't anticipated the increase in speed I'd get. Anyway, it didn't take long before the first ash drum was 'a... over head' on the track. I'd only gone about 10 metres!

Lamb marking followed 2 days later, swigging back straight rum took a bit of getting used to! Actually this 'event' isn't so bad, especially if the weather is good and there's a decent crowd of people present.

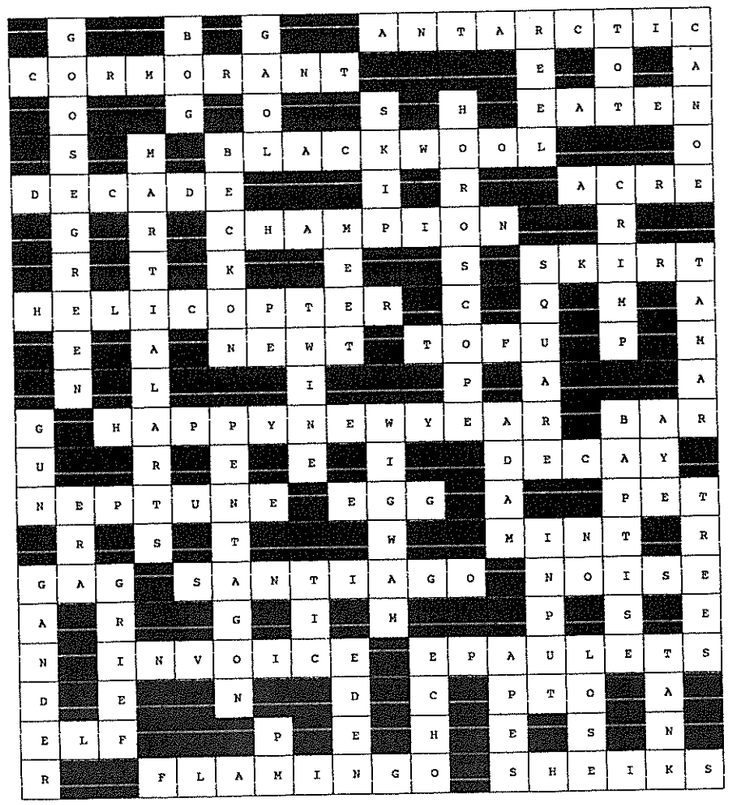
Thursday 30th November: The day I nearly died - and Riss for that matter!

Do you want to know anymore? OK, well I reversed backwards down the steepest part of the mountain. I then in my panic knocked the Series 3 out of gear - couldn't work the brakes (which had to be pumped) - and forget the hand brake! Being a young UK student I decided that the only way to stop would be to stop going so directly downhill - I turned the wheel ..... we didn't quite roll!

I'm one person Riss isn't going to forget in a hurry!!

More from Harriet in the next Wool Press.

FEBRUARY



FEBRUARY

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

THOSE SHEEP - KNOW THEIR MINDS

This article is based on a paper "Behavioural Principles of Sheep Handling", by Dr G D Hutson of the University of Melbourne.

There are four things about sheep that are the basis for all principles of sheep handling: Acute vision, flocking, following, and intelligence.

FLOCKING

A study of wild Soay sheep has found that ewes tend to form large groups with fairly well defined home ranges. Domestic sheep still form flocks, keeping a "social spacing" by eye. This habit makes best use of the feed supply and enables them to "flock and fly" if predators threaten. Flocking means long-term bonding between lambs and their mothers. The flock develop a group identity; separate one sheep and it will defy dogs to regain the flock. Introduce a strange mob and it will be weeks before you have one flock again.

FOLLOWING

A new-born lamb will follow its mother, although it is four to 10 days before the lamb recognises one ewe from another. Sheep imitate each other, whether it is walking, running, bouncing through a gateway, grazing or bedding down. Some sheep are "leaders", not deliberately but are then followed.

VISION, ETC.

Sheep have excellent eyesight, twice as good as a cat. They have a very wide field of vision - about three quarters of a circle. They can perceive depth very well, which helps on steep ground. They distinguish colours, particularly the reds and oranges. Measuring the electrical activity in their brains shows they can learn to distinguish between many shapes - and they respond quickly to images of dogs and humans.

They also have a good nose and good ears, more for warning sounds than day-to-day communication. You can't lure sheep up a race with sheep noises!!!

INTELLIGENCE

Dr Hutson says the popular idea that sheep are stupid comes from their flocking instinct. In fact, they learn quickly in a variety of tests and can be trained to new conditions.

They also have a long memory for anything they don't like. Measuring brain reaction, researchers found that if a sheep eats a food just once and likes it, it will recognise it a month or more later.

So how to put this to work?

From this profile, Dr Hutson has developed recommendations for handling and moving sheep. Wide, straight, flat and well-lit races are best, away from dead ends, and with an unobstructed view towards the exit.

Sheep will stop to investigate anything interesting or a change in the appearance of the race, so changes should be avoided. Wide races and ramps help because sheep flow better as a mob than singly. Inside a shed, movement should be across the grating so that the sheep can't see through.

Dogs should be used cautiously or not at all inside because sheep will turn to face then if they cannot escape.

Heart rate shows shearing is the most stressful operation, particularly if it is prolonged. It is not so much the noise and handling but the removal of the wool - and the fact that the sheep is isolated. Dipping, when the sheep is in the mob, cause less grief. Mulesing is also stressful. Trials have shown that sheep will shun the operator for more than a month.

So how do you get sheep up to the catching pen if they know what's coming? Generally it comes back to the humans handling them. "Some people have inappropriate personalities", writes Dr Hutson. The good ones, through close observation, understand the sheep's mind and can predict their responses.
They frighten as little as possible, avoid loud noises and use positive means to bring the sheep on. they act quickly and decisively. They know, for example, that you can often move sheep more easily by walking into then from the front than by chasing them from the rear.

Summing up

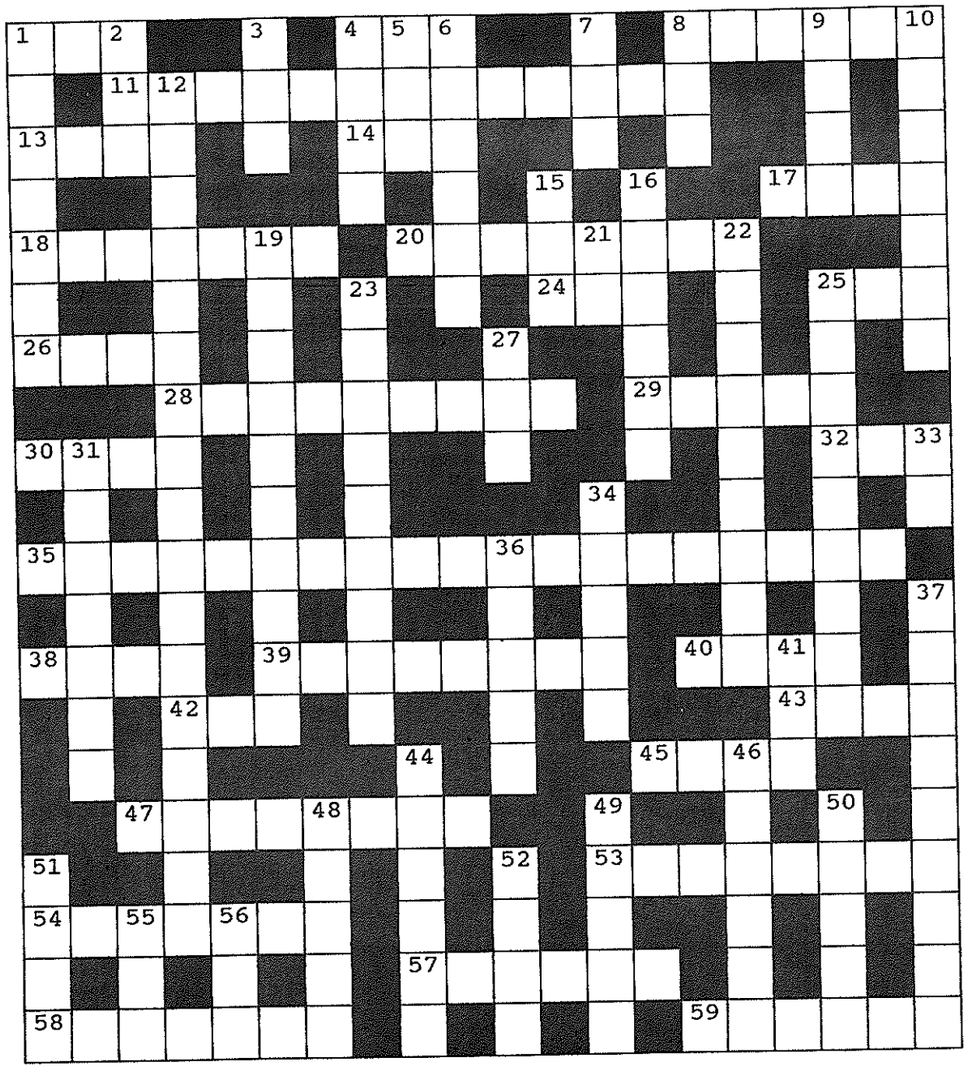
Dr Hutson's recommendations:

- Start gently with "painless" treatment before the more stressful ones such as shearing;
- Reduce the severity of the treatment if you can. Patience in penning up and smooth-running handpiece will help at shearing;
- Use food rewards to encourage sheep to run through handling races. Trials have shown that "aversions to even severe handling treatment will diminish";
- Keep things familiar, handling the sheep in the one place and using some methods;
- Don't expect that sheep will get used to an unpleasant treatment.
- After four "sham-shearings" in two weeks, the stress level was only slightly reduced;

Finally Dr Hutson suggests leaving the frightening and chasing of sheep to dogs and mechanical device as much as possible.

Source: Shearing Magazine, March 1995

MARCH CROSSWORD



BRAN FRUIT LOAF

You need:

4 oz All bran
1 oz caster sugar
6 oz dried mixed fruit
½ pt strong hot tea
4 oz self-raising wholemeal flour

Place the All Bran, sugar, fruit and tea in a bowl and mix well. Leave to stand for 15-20 minutes. Stir in the flour and mix well. Place in a lightly greased 2 lb loaf tin and level the surface. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4 for approximately 50-60 minutes. Allow to cool on a wire rack. Wrap well and store in an airtight container. Best eaten within 3-4 days. Suitable for freezing.

CLUES

MARCH

ACROSS

1. BABY BED
4. UNCOOKED
8. CONFLICT PRINCE
11. SENT OUT BY INLAND REVENUE(6,3,4)
13. COMPOUND EXCRETED FROM THE BODY
14. TRAWL
17. CENTRE OF SHIPS HULL
18. TABLE OF CHARGES
20. TRUNKED MAMMAL
24. JAPANESE MONETARY UNIT
25. MALE SWAN
26. SPUN WOOL
28. A SCORE OF 3 UNDER PAR
29. CONTEST AREA
30. IRIDESCENT GEM, USUALLY WHITISH
32. FLOOR WASHER
35. RECENT ROYAL VISITOR (3,3,8,5)
38. ELDERLY
39. NEW NSF SITE
40. GAS ELEMENT CREATING BRIGHT LIGHT
42. GREASE
43. MONSTER LOCH
45. ST VALENTINES MESSAGE
47. THE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT OF TREES
53. BURNT WOOD
54. PENGUIN COLONY SITE
57. REDDISH BROWN HORSE COLOUR OR PLANT
58. GRASSY, TREELESS CANADIAN PLAIN
59. MERCEDES LORRY

DOWN

1. RURAL
2. NECK GARMENT
3. UNMARKED MALE CAT
4. PAY FOR USE OF
5. DEVOURED
6. FOWL THROAT APPENDAGE
7. WEDDELL RESIDENT
8. UNIT OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT
9. DRESSING GOWN
10. SMALL KANGAROO-LIKE ANIMAL
12. STOCK IMPORTED FROM TASMANIA
15. 007 FOR INSTANCE
16. SMALL HEN BREED
19. WEST SPORTS SITE (3,3,4)
21. THAT MAN
22. COMMUNICATION ITEM
23. WINGED INSECT
25. BUBBLY
27. FIRE REMAINS
31. OLD GOOSE GREEN CAMP HOUSE
33. PUBLIC RELATIONS
34. FAMOUS RACE GROUND AND DAY
36. TOP OF THE MILK
37. LONG FACED AND MISERABLE LOOKING
41. SINGULAR
44. LUBRICANT
46. TROUBLESOME PESTS
48. DESIGN
49. THREADED FASTENER
50. COMPUTER CONNECTING DEVICE
51. FARM HARVEST
52. TREE COVERING
55. EGG
56. SEED PART OF CEREAL CROP

THE FOLLOWING 'SNIPPET' WAS TAKEN FROM A NEEDLECRAFT REPORT IN THE 9TH FEBRUARY 1996 EDITION OF THE FARMERS WEEKLY.

"Brian Paul and Annabel Spencer run the only Falkland Islands shop in the world - in Wells, Somerset. The pair lived in the Falklands for six years and Brian drove an ambulance during the Falklands War.

They import soft Merino wool from the Falkland Mill in Fox Bay, and fleec to spin here. Hand knitted sweaters are also available."

THE LAST FEW DAYS ON SEA LION ISLAND

by Charlene Rowland

Saturday 24th February: John and I flew out to Sea Lion Island to help Arthur and Rhoda get ready for the National Stud Flock sheep to be transported to Saladero by the Tarmar F.I. After a very bumpy flight John and I finally arrived. We set to with Arthur to get all the fencing up at the Gulch and sort a few other bits and pieces out.

Sunday 25th February: Andrew (the Vet) arrived. We gathered the ewes, gimmers and ewe hoggs up at the Gulch pens and drenched them for worms. In the afternoon we gathered up the rams and ram hoggs at the settlement and drenched them also. By the end of Sunday afternoon we were ready for the Tamar F.I. but we had an idea that she would not be able to transport the sheep due to such high winds.

Monday 26th February: No Tamar F.I. She didn't even appear at Sea Lion Island, the wind had subsided a little but the swell was high. Therefore we had to let the sheep out for food and water. John and I decided that we would have a day of pulling fences down i.e. the tupping paddocks fences. We had just spent a few days at Saladero putting fences up and now we were pulling them down.

Tuesday 27th February: We were up at 3 am, the Tamar F.I. was insight. The Gulch has a bit of a swell, but the Tamar F.I. decided they would work. We had a few more pens to erect together on the beach. By the time the pens were in place the Tamar F.I. had anchored.

Now it was time to start bringing the sheep down. First to go on board were the rams and ram hoggs. I was amazed at just how plain sailing it was. We had the rams on within 30 minutes. Next were the hogg ewes and gimmers and finally the ewes. The whole operation went really smoothly with no hic-ups or sheep falling in the water, although the swell at the Gulch was getting a hit high by the end of the move.

Andrew and I went on board as we were also going to Saladero. Hay has been laid on the floor of the Tamar F.I. and all the sheep seemed to be tucking into it.

We finally set sail at 10am after fuel, stores etc has been delivered. The trip to Speedwell was ploughing a bit, but after Speedwell it was calm all the way to Salardero.

The sheep were all loaded onto the sea trucks, which took approximately 3/4 of an hour. The National Stud Flock sheep has a good trip and apart from a few cramping up as they were being driven to their paddocks, all in all they faired very well.

John, Andrew and I would like to thank Rhoda and Arthur for their hospitality and also the crew of the Tamar F.I. for their help and providing an enjoyable (even if Andrew and I did feel a bit 'green') voyage.

WOOL PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

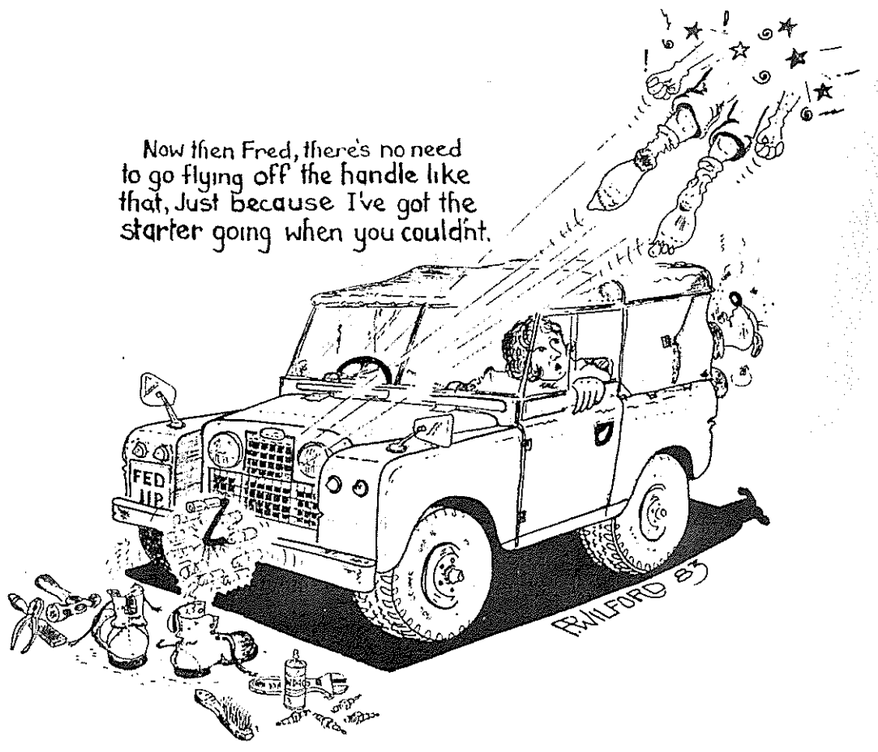
The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture.
Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

Firstly, I must apologise for the mis-spelling of Diary / Dairy in last months GAP student article. That is just the sort of thing that spell-checkers on computers don't pick up. Mind you, neither did the "proof Readers"!! Some of you may also have had a couple of blank pages. This was due to a fault "not in our control", as the machine at the printing office was in a funny mood and only doing every other copy. You should have received a reprint of those pages by now.

The NSF 1996 auction sale has been and gone once again and is covered in a brief article summarising the events of the day. The Agricultural Management Committee meeting will also be reported on in the Wool Press to keep you informed on topical issues and decisions being made on your behalf.

We (the department) have come under some criticism regarding communication levels with the farming community. I personally think that we communicate well (my phone is always on the go). Communication however is a double sided issue. We use this publication to put information across and welcome you to do the same. I don't intend that the Wool Press become a political voice piece or slanging arena, as that can often result in negative "vibes", but the Wool Press should continue to be a positive publication, communicating useful facts, information and ideas between us.



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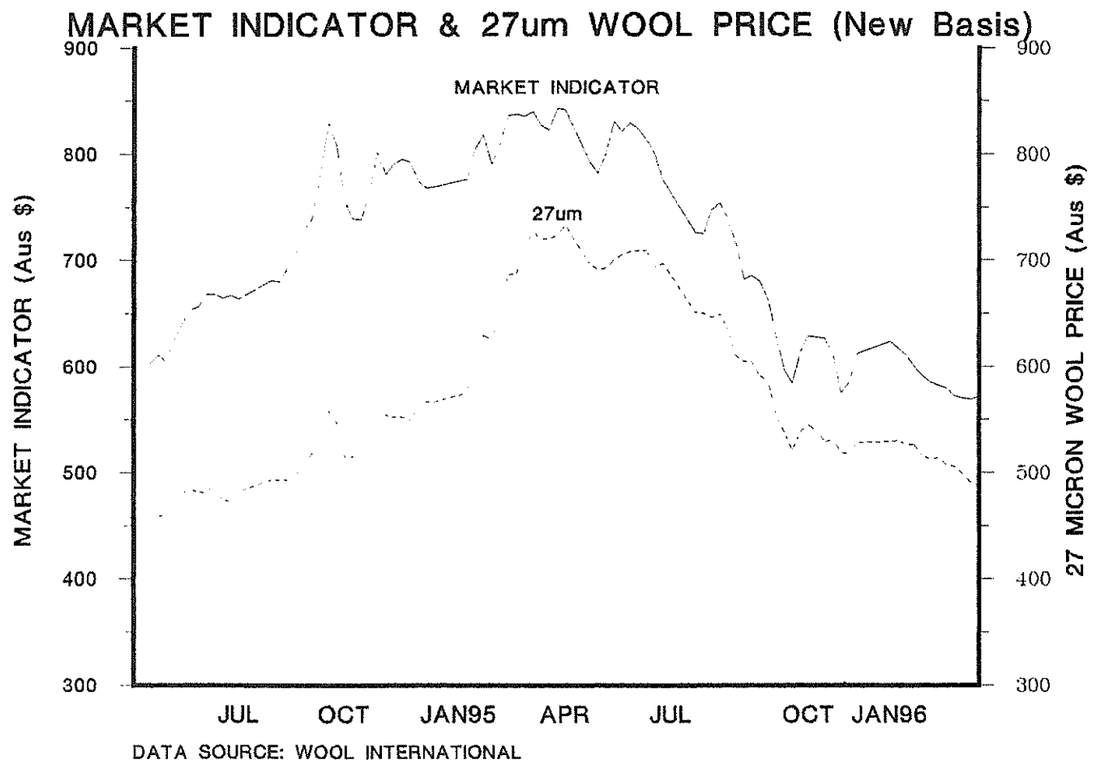
Gillian Phillips	Senior Field Assistant (acting), DoA

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden



Following 11 weeks of declining prices there was a slight recovery in the Australian market during the final week of auction sales prior to the Easter recess. The Australian Market Indicator fell slightly over the month closing 7 cents lower at 572 cents on the 29th March. Coarser wool had a disappointing month in Australia with the 27um Indicator closing 19 cents lower on the month at 488 cents.

The Aus$/sterling rate has continued to fall with the value of the pound slipping to 202 cents on the 1st April.

The Australian stockpile dropped below the 2.5 million bales during the month to stand at 2,464,429 bales on the 29th March

Part of the problem facing the industry seems to stem from a change in Wool International's selling policies. The organisation recently advised the industry that "it intends to sell forward aggressively." This is with an aim of completing its quarterly sales target before each quarter commences i.e. the September quarter sales target would be met at the end of June rather than the end of September. This policy statement explains why the volume of forward sales from the stockpile have remained high in recent weeks and also partly explains the decline in prices.

An indication of the severity of the situation is contained in an extract of letter sent to the Australian Minister of Primary Industry and Energy by the President of the International Wool Textile Organisation on the 7th December 1995.

"At it's meeting today, the I.W.T.O discussed the very serious and damaging market situation in Australia, which is causing major difficulties and severe financial losses to wool growers and wool users alike.

The fixed quantity disposal schedule which is enshrined in Australian legislation, following the Garnaught Report is having a major negative effect on market conditions and industry confidence in a period of poor overall demand. I.W.T.O was strongly opposed to this fixed schedule in 1993 before its introduction, but because it is now an essential element of Wool International's charter, we believe we cannot suggest alterations to Australian legislation, which might in any case cause more confusion and problems in the market place"

The letter followed the I.W.T.O meeting held in Nice. At the meeting the Australian Producer's representative expressed the view that Australian growers were committed to the free market and had no desire to return to market intervention schemes that are now widely recognised as the main cause of current problems in the industry .

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TELEPHONES

If you phone the general office at the department and the phone just rings and rings without being answered, it is not because there is no one in the main office, but due to both receiving telephones lines on our switchboard system being in use. Unfortunately, instead of giving the caller an engaged tone, it just rings as if there is no one around to answer it.

The main office is manned at all times during normal working hours (8 - 12; 1.15 - 4.30). So if the phone does ring and ring, please hold on or call back a few minutes later and you will be answered.

BSE - AN UPDATE

by Andrew Coe

As most of you will be aware, BSE has hit the news in a big way in Europe and we are at this very moment waiting for the dust to settle to see if the British Government is going to radically alter its policy. What is all the fuss about?

The Past

Lets look briefly at the history of the disease. BSE is one of the diseases known as spongiform encephalopathies. Others include Scrapie in sheep and Creutzfeld Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans. All these diseases are characterised by: long incubation periods (up to 40 years in the case of CJD); they are invariably fatal with no known treatment; they can only be diagnosed with certainty by microscopic examination of the brain after death.

BSE was first diagnosed in British cattle in 1986 and is thought to be a bovine variant of the sheep disease scrapie. It entered the cattle population through feeding cattle concentrate feeds containing meat and bone meal originally contaminated with the scrapie agent and later with the bovine variant. Because the incubation period tends to be 4 - 6 years, large numbers of cattle had been contaminated before the first ones started to show signs of the disease and large numbers of new cases have occurred long after control measures were introduced.

In July 1988 a ban on the inclusion of ruminant protein in ruminant feed was introduced to prevent new infections occurring. In 1989 there was a ban on the inclusion of certain cattle offals in human food. These Specified Bovine Offal's (SBO's) include the brain and spinal cord which along with the eye are the only tissues so far demonstrated to be infective to laboratory mice used to study the disease. Muscle (meat) and around 40 other bovine tissues collected from naturally occurring cases have failed to demonstrate infectivity for the mice.

The number of confirmed cases of BSE peaked in Britain in 1992 at 36,681, and has since declined to 11,858 confirmed cases up to 15th December during 1995. Small numbers of cases have occurred in several other countries in Europe and we have had one confirmed case in the Falkland Islands in 1989.

A large amount of scientific research into BSE, much of it ongoing, has occurred since the disease was first recognised. So far all the results point to it being a disease that is not contagious. In other words it is not likely to spread from infected to susceptible cattle or from an infected cow to her calf.

Experiments with laboratory mice have failed to show any infectivity in bovine embryos and studies of the offspring of infected bulls have shown that there was no greater incidence of BSE amongst them than in the offspring of closely matched but unaffected bulls. Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer do not therefore seem to pose any risk.

The Present

CJD is a disease of humans that occurs throughout the world, usually at an incidence of about 1 per million per year.

Last week the UK Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) reported 10 cases of CJD in teenagers in the UK. These 10 cases do not follow the previous pattern of the disease in that CJD usually only occurs in people over 40 years of age. SEAC believes that the most likely but not definite cause was the eating of infected bovine offal prior to 1989 when the SBO's ban was introduced. It is this disclosure of a possible link that has caused all the panic in Europe and promoted the decision by the Standing Veterinary Committee in Brussels to recommend a world-wide ban on the export of all British Beef.

Actions

We at the Veterinary Department are in close contact with both MAFF UK and MAF New Zealand regarding BSE. Any recommendations we make with regard to future import policy will be based on the best possible scientific evidence available at the time.

DIVERSIFICATION & RISK

by Robert H.B. Hall

Diversification is the production of new products for sale in new markets. "Diversification" has become a rallying cry of late 20th Century agriculture: in the 1980's New Zealand farmers diversified into kiwi fruit, velvet from deer and cashmere goats; in the last decade some British farmers diversified into farm shops, golf courses, Christmas trees, vineyards and outdoor pigs; the Falklands have also initiated diversification projects such as wool processing, salmon farming and tourism.

Diversification however is only one of four pathways to growth, as illustrated by *Igor Ansoff's* product/market matrix (*Figure 1).* A farm or firm "can pursue its existing markets or enter new markets and can emphasise its existing products or develop new products. This provides four growth alternatives and the key question is the appropriate balance. What proportion of effort and resources should be devoted to each option? Each has different levels of risk and reward and short-run versus long-run benefits."

Figure 1: Pathways to growth: **The product / market matrix**.

	Present Products:	New to the Company Products:
Present Markets:	**1. Market penetration** Probability of Success = ***75%***	**3. Product Launch** Probability of success = ***45%***
New to the Company Markets:	**2. Market Development** Probability of success = ***35%***	**4. Diversification** Probability of success via organic diversification = ***25%***

Source: "Strategies for Diversification" Harvard Business Review.

1. Market penetration: "Here the objective is to generate additional turnover from existing markets. This is likely to be the most profitable alternative - in the short to medium term." Increased farm wool production (clean kg) would be in this category.
"Market penetration is not a static strategy. Customer needs evolve and innovation is required. Such innovation is best characterised as incremental or continuous innovation and involves a constant enhancement of product benefits. "e.g. The need to continually improve wool skirting and reduce dark coloured fibres in Falklands wool. "the probability of success when pursuing market penetration strategies is quite high and the odds of success are considerably higher than any other alternative in the growth portfolio."

2. Market development: "The objective is to take existing products into new markets - perhaps via geographic expansion or via expansion to new market segments. "D.S. & Co's wool export marketing would be in this category; as would extra farm sales of mutton to ships in addition to Stanley residents.

3. Product launch: "product development and launch are the lifeblood of the company of the future. "In a Falklands farming context the development of finer wool production for the manufacture of worsted cloth rather than hosiery would be in this category; as would the production of ostrich meat for Stanley. "As a strategy for growth, the odds of success when a new product is launched are estimated (in general) at 45 per cent. Of course most new products fail at some earlier point in the product development sequence - at idea generation, concept testing, prototype testing or test marketing. There is also tremendous variability in the new product launch success rate".

"As a generalisation the odds of success are higher for continuous innovations, which involve minor changes in established patterns of consumption" e.g. the growing of better quality wool. "By contrast the odds of success are much lower for radical or discontinuous innovations, which create new patterns of consumption, which still have to prove their value to consumers". e.g. Ostrich meat for Stanley.

"The odds of success may be one factor. But revenue potential is the other. Although incremental innovations have higher odds of success, they correspondingly have lower revenue potential. Discontinuous innovations are highly risky endeavours with huge potential payoff"; but "so many fail in their first incarnation and time to takeoff is so often longer than anticipated or desired".

4. Diversification: "The final route to revitalisation and growth is diversification. **This is by far the riskiest strategy.** Diversification, by which we mean entering new markets with new products, may occur based on acquisition or extension of the firm's existing resources and capabilities. Again it is the case that the range of success varies considerably. The odds of success decline precipitously the further the firm strays from existing competencies". e.g. Production of beef, to timber, to ostrich meat for export.

Conclusion: The Falkland Islands Economy should not be over confident of diversification (into oil etc.). Agriculture cannot rely on diversification into enterprises like beef or timber. An integrated strategy for growth is required, incorporating all four categories of the product/market matrix, scaled according to both the analysed rewards and notably to the risks. Such a logical conclusion has implications for many current Falklands debates, including those concerning development of Lafonia and the new Agricultural Grant Scheme.

Reference quoted: Robertson, S.R. 1996. In praise of revitalisation. *Financial Times Mastering Management 8.*

EXPORTING USED PARTS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD

This article will be of interest to all you Land Rover fans out there who have had to rob Peter to pay Paul where keeping a vehicle in working condition is concerned.

Abstract from the Financial Times - 20 January 1996

Peter Hobson had hardly spared a though for Land Rover before 1975, when the Royal Navy frigate on which he was an electrical engineer berthed at The Gambia for a brief courtesy visit. During the visit the captain was asked by the police force whether any of his crew could assist with repair of its fleet of 18 Land Rovers, only two of which were road-worthy. Within five days Hobson and a group of shipmates had 12 of the Land Rovers on the road. They achieved this mainly by a combination of experience - some of the team were qualified mechanical engineers - and cannibalising the other six vehicles in the fleet. "What was left was scrap, I was a bit surprised when this was pointed out to me by the Gambian authorities: after all we had restored 10 vital vehicles to working condition" said Hobson.

However, the experience set him thinking. "The Gambians were right", he said. "We may have done a good job, but we had reduced their fleet by a third. There was no way of getting hold of cheap, reconditioned parts that matched the residual value of the vehicles. I thought to myself: there must be a better way of doing this".

On his return to UK he contacted Land Rover, who informed him that they only sold new Land Rover spares, and there was no world-wide service for reconditioned parts. Hobson said "There was a market here waiting to be satisfied. I was convinced that most original Land Rover parts could be reconditioned to at least 80 per cent effectiveness and distributed world-wide".

In 1978 he bought an old transport yard and nearby house in the village of Donington-on-Bain in rural Lincolnshire for £28,000 and moved there with his wife and family. In 1979 Hobson had bought his first Land Rover and expanded his fledgling business restoring old Land Rovers with his wife Veronica.

When he left the Navy he wrote and published the first edition of The Land Rover Directory, at the same time building up the Land Rover Restoration Centre. Growth was rapid. Hobson used his network of overseas contacts to purchase large quantities of land Rover parts that had been written off as scrap. By 1993, the number of staff at the 4 ½ acre site had grown to 21 (it is now 32) and Hobson was a force in Land Rover world, with his operation approved by Land Rover as its vehicle reconditioned, and owner and dealers coming to him for parts and advice from all over Europe and farther afield.

Land Rover has become embarrassed by his success in supplying high quality reconditioned parts to owners in the UK. In 1993 Land Rover struck a deal with Mr Hobson to pull out of the UK market. He now solely concentrates on the overseas market, buying in scrap vehicles and spares from all over the world and running a world wide service supplying parts and complete engines and transmissions to the smallest bolts, all reconditioned, refurbished and in some cases remanufactured at his workshops to original equipment standards.

Business has continued to go well. Hobson, however, is a frustrated man. The switch to overseas markets has cost him dearly and caused problems with his bank manager. *Address: Peter Hobson (Louth) Ltd, The Land Rover Restoration Centre, Donington-on-Bain, Lincolnshire LN11 9TR. Tele: 01507 343401*

JUST FOR A LAUGH !

BUT THE SUMS ARE NOT SO FUNNY...

On a farm in the Falklands a couple of weeks or so ago, a sheep was re-shorn by a shearer directly after being shorn by another, with a fair amount of leg pulling going on. The second shear produced 5½ oz of wool.

Then the mathematicians present went into overdrive and the following calculations ensued:

On an average contract shearer tally of 300 sheep a day, that 5½ oz becomes 1,650 oz (300 x 5½). That equates to 103 lb 2 oz, or in metric terms 46 kg per day.

At a 60% yield this equates to 27.6 Kg per day, @ £2.50 kg amounts to £69 per day. (or 23 pence per sheep shorn)
If you were to hypothetically take that figure to a shearer's tally this season of 14,706. The value of that lost wool would be a staggering £3,382.38.

If you were to put that sum over to Falkland Land Holdings, you would have the following equation:

Suppose ½ of the FLH sheep were shorn to the same standard as above (210,000 ÷ 2 = 105,000)

105,000 sheep x **23** pence = **£24,171** wool revenue lost to FLH this season!

I would assume though, that what is left on the sheep this season would be part of the next seasons wool weight. I suppose the lesson is to shear your sheep clean if you can anticipate their death so that you get that last bit from their final clip !!

It's amazing what starts out as a bit of a joke, can develope into serious brain-work!

PRODUCTS

by Charlene Rowland

TRACTOR MOUNTED MIXERS

These tractor mounted mixers are an ideal piece of farming equipment, especially for those concreting jobs. There are five different models with the price ranging from £700 to £995.

The Spiromix 100 and 100H:

Mounted on the tractor 3 - point linkage and PTO driven. Rope operated reversing system controlled from the tractor seat. This concrete mixer holds half a bag of cement and a 6:1 mix of aggregate. The drum volume of 10 cu ft (280 litres), with approximate mix volume of 5 cu ft. (140 litres). This concrete mixer will fit on to a tractor size of 15 KW (20HP).

The Spiromix 100 H is identical to the Spiromix 100 but is driven by a hydraulic motor. Mixing and unloading controlled from the tractor seat using the tractor spool value.

The Spiromix 200 and 200H:

The Spiromix 200 is mounted on the tractor's 3 - point linkage and PTO driven. Lever operated reversing system controlled from the tractor seat. Holds a full 50kg bag of cement together with 6:1 mix of aggregate. The Spiromix 200H is identical to the 200 but driven by a hydraulic motor with mixing and unloading controlled from the tractor seat using the tractor spool valve. Both of these concrete mixers have a drum volume of 20 cu ft (560 litres) with approximate mix volume of 10 cu ft (280 litres) and both can be fitted to a 40 KW (50 HP) tractor.

The Spiromix 200F:

This mixer is identical in size and operation to the 200H, but mounted directly onto standard forks and retained in position by chains.

These mixers are easy loading through a wide mouth of the drum. With easy unloading the drum rotates in one direction for mixing and in the opposite direction for unloading. The deep spirals needed to give a good unloading action also give a quick thorough mix. The unloading height of the drum means they do not tip to unload, the discharge height is always good. In the case of the Spiromix 200F, the height depends upon the lifting height of the fork lift vehicle.

If anyone is interested in obtaining more information etc., please don't hesitate to contact me.

A.M.C. MEETING REPORT

by Mandy McLeod

The last meeting of the Agricultural Management Committee was held at the Department of Agriculture on the 18th March 1996. All the committee was present and several people were in attendance at various times when particular topics were being discussed. The AMC committee members are: Councillor Sharon Halford (chair); Mr Owen Summers (DOA); Mr Ian Dempster (FIDC); Mr Richard Wagner (Treasury); Mrs Judy Summers (Farmers Association); Mr Christopher May (Farmers Association); Mrs Carol Phillips (Farmers Association); Mr Neil Watson (Sheep Owners Association); Mr Peter Robertson (Farmers representative, Falkland Farmers).

The Veterinary Officer, Andrew Coe, distributed some amendments to the Code of Welfare. The main outcome of the discussion was that live exports would not take place until food and water facilities are made available to the livestock during transit. This was fully supported. The Attorney General, David Lang, was also present to discuss the Animal Welfare Code of Practice and it was recommended that a paper, supported by a bill, be submitted to the April Exco.

Mr Lang also clarified a few points of concern regarding the Hydatid legislation proposals, in particular section 2a(2) in the dogs legislation regarding Police Inspectors. He stated that this was put in with respect to the possibilities of a disease outbreak (i.e. Rabies) where large numbers of people would be required to help at short notice. It was not a Hydatid provision. The wording will be amended to " Every Police Officer acting with authority from the Director of Agriculture.

The Chief Executive, Andrew Gurr, joined the meeting when the future of the Department of Agriculture was discussed. Rumours of mergers of any government departments were quelled, at least until the Hay management package is complete. Future Department of Agriculture Director / Administrator posts were discussed, but with no decisions being made.

Criticisms from a minority group were defended by department staff with a submitted response paper. This created a lengthy discussion with the general feeling of support for the department and staff arising from the meeting. It was felt that the Department of Agriculture should no longer be the "whipping boy".

The control of pests, namely rabbits, was raised. There was some concern regarding the importation of new blood (pets), that are then bred and sold around the islands. The fear is that if any of these animals join their wild counterparts, this new genetic input could cause a growth in the rabbit population which is currently inhibited by inbreeding. It was suggested that a list of animals, that was felt should not be imported, be drawn up at the next meeting.

Richard Wagner (Treasury Economic Adviser) talked about sheep loss agricultural assistance, and the frustrations amongst those involved being under pressure to implement the scheme prematurely, as approximately one third of farmer do not have all this seasons wool baled yet. He is planning an information paper to be submitted this month.

AMC policy and terms of reference were discussed briefly. It was decided that an article summarising major points of each AMC meeting be put in the Wool Press.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 22nd April.

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

24 HOUR CAMP ENERGY PROGRAMME

The Plan so far: The Energy Advisory Committee through the medium of the FIDC Energy Advisory Officer, is investigating the provision of 24 hour domestic electrical power to farms without the need to continuously run a diesel generator.

The programme is designed around a standard range of equipment that has been well tested or has a good international reputation. A standard ready to run system installed on a small farm with 520 Amp-hour battery, 3 kilowatt inverter including all control gear, switches, cables, and other fittings would cost around £5,000. The additional wind turbine, mast, control gear cables and fittings would cost an extra £6,500.

The battery and inverter system: The battery system is comprised of a number of lead acid cells designed for heavy continuous loads. The inverter is the key part of the installation. It is an electronic device and produces 240 volt ac mains power from the battery. If the battery has run down, it can work in reverse and recharge the battery from the diesel generator. Some inverters can automatically control the entire system, which includes starting the diesel generator automatically when the battery is low or when the power demand exceeds the inverter output. As the diesel only starts when it is needed, it works more efficiently.

The wind turbine: The wind turbine isn't essential for 24 hour power but will reduce diesel hours to a minimum as it charges the batteries as long as the wind is blowing. To do this efficiently, the wind turbine must have an adequate power output capacity. During a long calm spell when the wind turbine is inoperable, the inverter will charge the batteries using diesel power.

With careful planning, a complete system could supply nearly all domestic electricity on a farm, but the diesel would still be required to power electrical equipment such as welders and shearing machinery.

Benefits : Apart from the sheer convenience of 24 hour electrical power, the main advantage is the saving in diesel fuel. This reduces the of storage and handling of both generator fuel and lubrication oil and possible problems with spillage and disposal. Wear and tear on existing diesel generators would be much less greatly extending their life. Time and money also spent on maintenance and spares would also be reduced. The operation of a wind turbine is much quieter and cleaner (waste oil, exhaust smoke) than a diesel. A more reliable source of electricity should also reduce faults to electric and electronic equipment caused by intermittent supplies and small poor quality inverters.

The EAC are currently evaluating what might be the best formula for the provision of a grant scheme within the Stabex allocation and would welcome a response from the farming community. It is likely that any grant would be in two tiers providing a higher level for the wind turbine which is a renewable energy source. A possible formula might be 50% grant for the inverter battery system and 70% for the wind turbine.

Further details For further information and to enable the Energy Advisory Committee to assess any interest in this possible grant scheme, please contact Tim Cotter at FIDC on 27211.

U.K. SHOW DATES FOR 1996

This list of show dates and contact numbers may be useful to anyone going to U.K. this year. A day out at a show can be a great outing for all the family, as well as being informative . The only part that I don't enjoy is trying to get out of the car park (field) at the end of the activities along with the rest of the visitors.

APRIL

13	Ponies (UK) Association Spring Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough. Tele/Fax: 01487 832086
21-21	Taunton Country Show, Living Heritage Country Fairs. Tele: 01889 500449 or Fax: 01889 500452
27	Ponies (UK) Association Welsh Show, Wales. Tele/Fax: 01487 832086
28	Muiravonside Country Fair. Tele: 01324 624911
28	Taplow Horse Show. Tele: 01628 603179

MAY

1-2	Ayr Show. Tele: 01292 266600 or Fax: 01292 610464
3-4	Nottinghamshire County Show. Tele: 01636 702627 or Fax: 01636 610642
4-6	The Aldershot Show. Tele: 01252 347318
5-6	Knebworth Country Show. Tele: 01889 500449 or Fax: 01889 500452
5-6	Leicestershire Country Show. Tele 01509 646786
5-6	Manchester Show, Showground (UK). Tele: 01704 833038
5-6	City of Portsmouth Heavy Horse Parade & Obstacle Driving Championships Show. Tele: 01705 834146 or Fax: 01705 834177
5-6	South of England Spring Show. Tele: 01444 892700
6	North Somerset Show. Tele: 0117 9643498 or Fax: 0117 9643298
6-7	May Sheep Fair & Sale. (Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset Sheep Breeders' Association) Tele: 01305 262126
8	Beef '96 Show Perth. Tele: 01738 623780/621206
8-12	Royal Windsor Horse Show Tele: 01753 860633 or Fax 01753 831074
9	Holsworthy & Stratton Agricultural Show. Tele: 01409 253979/253275
12	Derbyshire Show. Tele: 01773 715367
12	South Suffolk Show. Tele: 0168 750879
15-16	British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park. Tele: 01203 696969 or Fax: 01203 696900
15-17	Balmoral Show. Tele: 01232 665225 or Fax: 01232 661264
16-18	Devon County Show. Tele: 01392 444777 or Fax: 01392 444808
17-18	Shropshire & West Midlands Show. Tele: 01743 362824 or Fax: 01743 272597
18	Dairy Farmers' Society Show, Ayrshire. Tele: 01294 832112 or Fax: 01294 833350
18	Hadleigh Farmers Show. Tele: 01473 827920
18	Otley Show. Tele: 01943 462541
18-19	Garden & Craft Show, Ewell, Surrey. Tele: 01306 741302

19	Essex Young Farmers Country Show. Tele: 01245 362411 or Fax: 01245 360700
19	Lackham Country Day Show. Tele: 01294 443111 or Fax: 01249 444474
19	YFC Berkshire Country Fair. Tele: 01734 835025
21-24	Chelsea Flower Show. Tele: 0171 6307422 or Fax: 0171 2339525
25	Bucks YFC Country Show. Tele: 01296 631034
25	Heathfield Show, East Sussex. Tele/Fax: 01825 713369
25-26	Herts Country Show. Tele: 01582 792626 or Fax: 01582 794027
26-27	Braintree Country Fair & Festival. Tele: 01376 326802
26-27	City of Swansea Show Tele: 01792 302423 or Fax: 01792 302408
26-27	Hampshire Country Show. Tele: 01889 500449 or Fax: 01889 500452
26-27	Liverpool Show. Tele: 01704 873291 or Fax: 01704 833467
27	Duncombe Park Country Fair. Tele: 01439 788517 or Fax: 01439 788320
27	Great Harwood Agricultural Show. Tele: 01439 788517 or Fax: 01254 885176
27	Northumberland County Show. Tele: 01434 344443 or Fax: 01434 344644
27	Surrey Show. Tele: 01483 414651 or Fax: 425697
29-30	Suffolk Show. Tele: 01473 726847 or Fax: 01472 721973

JUNE

29-1	Royal Bath & West of England Show. Tele: 01749 822200 or Fax: 01749 823169
1	Central & West Fife Agricultural Show. Tele: 01383 860196
1	Oxon Young Farmers' County Show & Rally. Tele: 01865 820090
1-2	Deeping Agricultural Show & Country Fayre. Tele: 01778 560093
2	Midland Counties Show. Tele: 01530 271169
2	Travistock Country Show. Tele: 01579 350774
2	Wellingborough Country Show. Tele: 01604 790606 Fax: 01604 790433
3-6	National Hackney Show. Tele: 01985 850906
5	North Sheep '96 Show. Tele/Fax: 01388 832418
6-8	Royal Cornwall Show. Tele: 01208 812183 or Fax: 01208 812713
6-8	South of England Show. Tele: 01444 892700 or Fax: 01444 892888
8	Aberystwyth Agricultural Show. Tele: 01970 820030
9	Burnley Agricultural Show. Tele: 01282 699843
11-13	Three Counties Show. Tele: 01684 892751
15	Kilbarchan Agricultural Show Tele: 01505 614522
16	Knowsley Show. Tele: 0151 4432124
16	Salisbury & South Wilts Show. Tele: 01794 884355
18-19	Cheshire Show. Tele: 01829 760020
19-20	Lincolnshire Show. Tele: 01522 522900 or Fax: 01522 520345
20-23	Royal Highland Show. Tele: 0131 3332444 or Fax: 0131 3335236
21-23	Essex County Show. Tele: 01733 234451 or Fax: 01733 370038
26-27	Royal Norfolk Show. Tele: 01603 748931 or Fax: 01603 748729
29	North Bucks Show. Tele: 01280 815818 or Fax: 01280 813801
29	North Yorkshire Country Show. Tele: 01609 773429
30	Ullswater Country Fair. Tele: 01539 723531

More dates will be published in future editions of the Wool Press

1996 NATIONAL STUD FLOCK AUCTION SALE

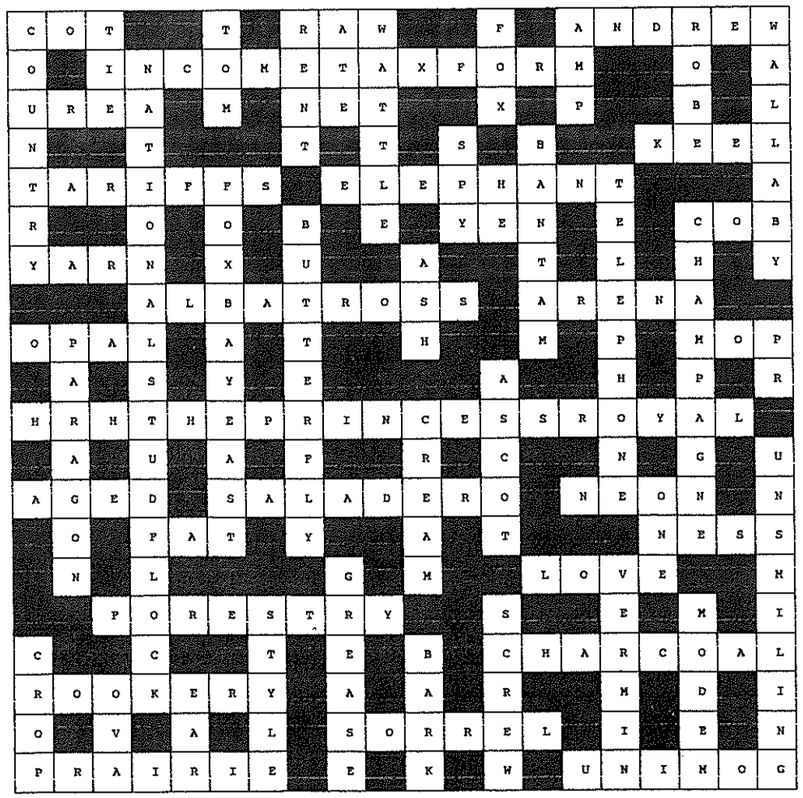
by Mandy McLeod

The 3rd National Stud Flock auction was held on the 28th March at Goose Green. Shed preparations were started the day before when the sheep arrived after the drive from Saladero. Each pen had the lot numbers on them together with a mid-side sample of each ram or ewe being sold. On the day, inspection of the sheep prior to the sale by potential bidders was much easier.

There was quite a turn out of visitors to the proceeding as well as farmers hoping to purchase. It was particularly good to see a group of GCSE level students from the school taking an interest, a fair proportion being sons and daughters of the farming community. This added influx of bodies made the vast area of Goose Green shed feel a little less cold (I think) and added to the atmosphere of the auction.

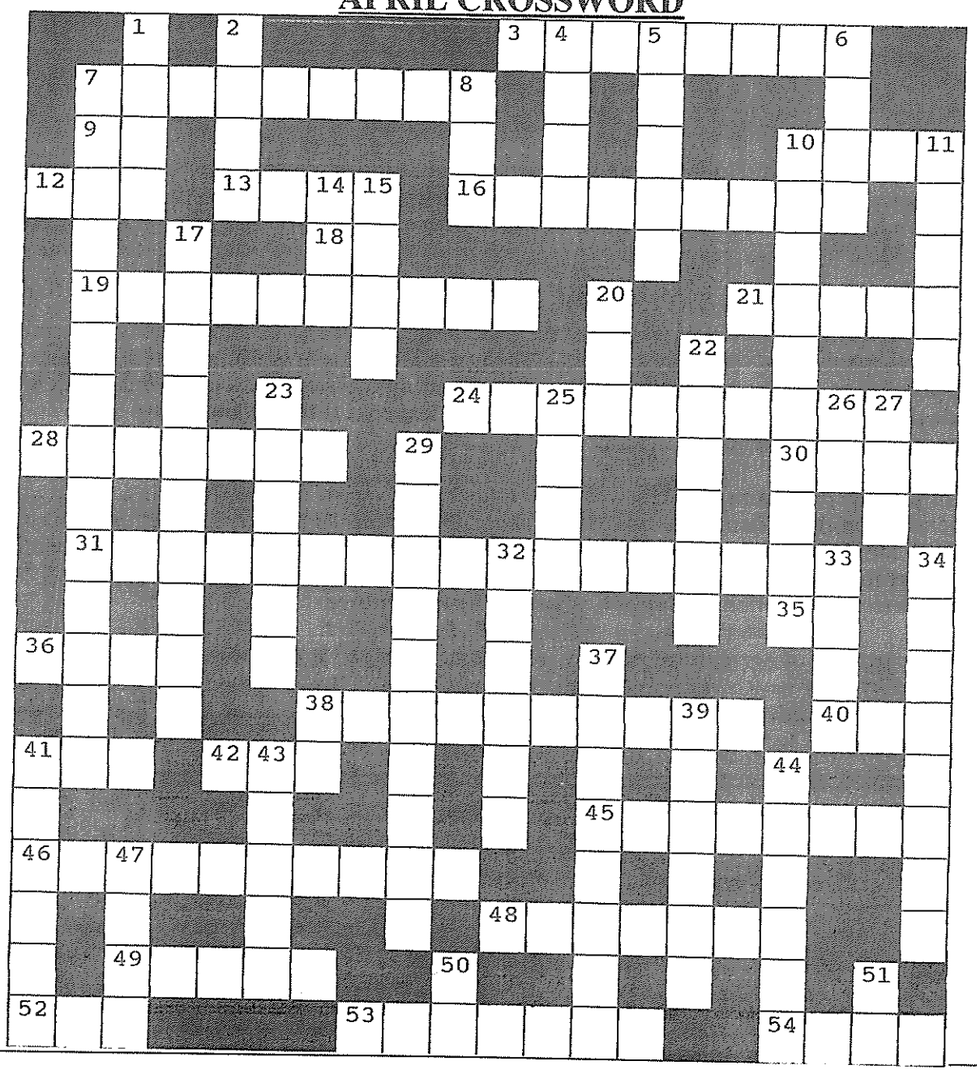
All of the sheep,36 rams and 10 ewes were sold. Prices varied between £50 and £220 depending on the various qualities of the sheep. Out of the 16 buyers, 5 were for farms on the West, 1 for an Island Group and the rest were for East Falkland. Bill Pole-Evans kindly offered to transport the sheep destined for the West. Those sheep are currently in Stanley and will be taken to Saladero for collection by Bill in his boat in the near future.

The Department of Agriculture transported several people to Stanley after the sheep had been collected by their new owners and all the tidying up done. It was a good and successful day all round. We, at the Department, would like to thank all those who came along and helped to make the event a social one too.



LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

APRIL CROSSWORD



ATV SAFETY

Over the past 10 years in the U.K. eleven people have been killed and many seriously injured in accidents on ATV's. According to the Health & Safety Executive, most of these accidents could have been avoided with proper training on how to ride ATV's. Many overturning accidents occur due to excessive speed when cornering and incorrect gear changing on slopes.

To improve this situation the HSE has launched a video called "A Ridge Too Far", which gives safety information on the correct way to ride machines in various conditions, such as when towing a trailer or carrying loads. It gives essential advice to those who ride ATV's when working on farms and upland areas.

The Department of Agriculture is placing an order for this video as an addition to our video library. We will inform you through the Wool Press of it's availability.

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

3. BRASSICAS
7. LADY ELIZABETH
9. LOS ANGELES (1,1)
10. DRINKINK VESSELS
12. HOLDALL
13. TEAL
16. CHAMPION JOCKEY (3,6)
18. NOT OFF
19. TART FRUIT
21. ITALIAN PLATTER
24. ROYAL POTATO (4,6)
28. OLD CAR
30. HORSE PACE
31. GARDENING EVENT (13,4)
35. NEGATIVE
36. SOLID OF SIX EQUAL SQAURE FACES
38. RACE MEETING AT THE END OF MARCH (4,6)
40. SCARE NOISE
41. HOMO SAPIEN MALES
42. FROZEN WATER
45. ARM-LIKE FENCE
46. HUGH'S MONTHLY REPORT (4,6)
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49. POTATO FOR INSTANCE
52. AMERICAN PETROL
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2. POTATO
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10. DRUG OR REMEDY TREATMENT
11. STALKS FROM THRESHED GRAIN
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26. CREAM OF ENGINES (1,1)
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39. SKIN CURING COMPOUND
41. ACT OF CUTTING THE GRASS
43. GABION
44. SPREAD MADE FROM CREAM
47. PORRIDGE CEREAL
50. COPPER SYMBOL
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"FOXY" LAMB COATS

I know it's far from lambing time, but with freight being the way it is sometimes it is never too early to start thinking about next seasons supplies if there is no problem with a product's shelf life. Lamb coats are not always a practical solution due to the location of some of our ewe flocks, but for those closer to the homestead (i.e. stud flock or A.I. ewes) these more valuable lambs could benefit from protection against hypothermia. These particular coats have a couple of added bonuses. Could they possibly deter our feathered predators as well as foxes.

Demand from hill farmers in U.K. for a product that would make their lambs more visible in poor weather conditions, saw the production of a bright red plastic foul weather protection coat. An unexpected bonus reported back to the manufacturer from the farmer was that foxes were repelled by the bright colour, reducing deaths by fox attacks by 90%.

These coats now have three uses: 1. Reducing the risk of hypothermia; 2. Making the lambs visible at a distance in poor weather conditions; 3. Reducing fox attacks. **Not bad for 16 pence each. (Supplier Net-Tex Agricultural).**

LAB NEWS

by Mandy Mcleod

Since the start of the 1995 / 96 season, Diana Roberts and her staff (Gordon Lennie and Isabel Short) have been kept busy processing and testing various samples. A rough breakdown is listed below.

WOOL

Regular calibrations and tests are carried out on the wool meter to ensure that the readings are correct . These are tested by Interwoollabs alongside other labs world-wide, with which we compare well.

There have been 827 samples from farms and 1623 for the Department of Agriculture tested for fibre diameter. This is quite a time consuming process as the mid-side samples have to be washed and prepared for testing.

AGRONOMY / SOIL

There have been 214 agronomy research samples for the department . There have also been 131 soil samples and 5 samples from Stanley gardens for analysis.

VETERINARY

Brucellosis: As a part of the monitoring programme there have been 9 farms that have had their rams tested for Brucellosis and 8 farms had their cattle checked. All were negative.

Tuberculosis: 8 farms have had their cattle T.B. tested. These were also negative.

Hydatidosis: So far there have been 55 dog faecal samples taken which are tested on a batch system. More samples are being collected to provide a large enough batch to test.

Pregnancy tests: Since the arrival of Thyer to the Falklands, the demand for mares to be tested for pregnancy has increased. This season there have been 10 tests, all of which were positive (9 were for Thyer).

The lab also provides an analysis back-up service to the veterinary section. These include microbiology, parasitology, chemistry and haematology (some of which are sent to KEMH). Histology samples are usually sent to New Zealand.

More lab news in future editions of the Wool Press

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WINTER LOSS SURVEY

by Hugh Marsden

Once again we are grateful to farmers for supplying additional winter loss statistics to the Department. Special thanks go to most of the farms on the West who suffered the effects of a computer operator malfunction! The wool information was requested at the March meeting of Legco to enable a second package of assistance to be formulated. Farmers will shortly be invited to apply for assistance on the basis of their 1995/96 greasy wool clip.

The findings of the survey support the findings of the December survey with the West and a minority of the Island farms being the hardest hit:

	West Falkland	East Falkland	Islands
Estimated 1995/96 Wool Clip	744,190 kg	1,270,393 kg	183,385 kg
Reduction on 1994/95 Clip	9.93%	8.19%	10.16%
Reduction on 1991-95 Average Clip	16.24%	12.99%	12.63%
Lambing %	46.80%	55.50%	59.03%
Hogget loss - Lambs marked-Shearing	31.05%	24.39%	34.61%
Hogget loss - Hogs put out-shearing	25.66%	16.20%	30.64%
Shearling loss (Shearlings put out)	7.54%	11.13%	9.71%
Breeding Ewe Loss	14.62%	11.07%	6.07%
Overall Sheep Loss (Sheep put out)	15.99%	12.74%	15.97%

NB Loss figures exclude cast sheep and other sheep slaughtered during the winter.

Please note that with many farms still carrying out stock work or unable to provide figures, these figures are a "best estimate" of the present situation.

To provide readers with an indication of the severity of the situation, the 5 year average for winter hogget losses (1991-1995) is 7.87% with an overall loss rate of 8.02% The average lamb marking percentage for the same period is 60.4%.

In carrying out the survey, it appears that a number of farms have already taken practical steps to reduce the incidence of sheep losses in the forthcoming winter. (particularly amongst young sheep) Given that experience is an important ingredient of agriculture, it is recommended that all farms take steps to pre-empt another severe winter. It is inevitable that many farms now face an ageing flock structure for several years to come. Farms that are capable of achieving high lambing percentages should seriously consider expanding the scale of their breeding flocks in anticipation of a strong demand for young sheep in the future. Where possible, informal contracts should be entered into between potential suppliers and recipients. The disastrous winter has also amplified the value of the larger farm's capacity to supply large numbers of surplus sheep to the sub-divided sector.

Assistance Programme Sheep Replacement Scheme Update

This programme was formally approved at the February meeting of Exco as an interim package that would be followed up by further assistance (when wool information became available.) As a winter loss programme it was naturally designed to help those farms that had suffered significant sheep losses. As farmers will be aware, the availability of quality replacement sheep (even in a good year) is limited and that following the disastrous winter it was inevitable that there would be a shortage of high quality young sheep .

The winter loss survey carried out in November identified those farms that experience difficulty in producing young sheep as being potentially the hardest hit group in the farming sector. Assistance was therefore targeted to this group and also at other farms hardest hit by the winter.

We appreciate the level of reluctance shown by some farms to obtain replacement sheep, however it should be regarded as a matter of individual choice and therefore reflect the severity of each individual farm's situation. Several farms have opted to run replacement sheep as dry flocks in an effort to minimise the negative impact on farm breeding policy.

Ceilings had to be set on the level of assistance provided otherwise suppliers would be at liberty to charge over the top prices with F.I.G footing the bill. The ceiling prices imposed under the scheme have turned out to be quite realistic, even in cases where young sheep have been sold.

Statistics indicate that 18 farms could qualify for assistance under the programme with a geographic spread as follows:

West Falkland	11 farms
East Falkland	5 farms
Islands	2 farms

To date, application forms have been sent to 11 farms.

RECIPES

We thought these recipes would go down well, especially coming up to that time of the year when beetroot and parsnip are in plentiful supply.

BORSCH

You need:

4 large beetroot	1 tin of tomatoes	6 carrots
1 onion	11/2 pints meat stock	1tsp Worcestershire sauce
salt and pepper	sour cream to garnish	

1. Peel and chop the beetroot. Peel and chop the carrots.
2. Peel and chop the onion then fry in a saucepan with a little fat. Add the beetroot, carrot, stock, chopped tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce and seasoning.
3. Bring to the boil and then simmer until the root vegetables are cooked.
4. Puree the soup in a blender or food processor for about 30 seconds. Aim for a slightly textured and not completely smooth soup.
5. Re-heat for 10 minutes and serve with a swirl of sour cream. To achieve this, place a teaspoon of cream in the centre of the bowl of soup and gently lead it in a spiral motion with a spoon.

PARSNIP BALLS

you need:

1lb parsnips	3oz bread crumbs	2oz butter
2tbsp cream	half an egg	seasoning
oil for frying		

1. Peel and chop the parsnips. Then boil for about 20 minutes until soft.
2. Drain the parsnips and add the butter, cream and seasoning. Mash until smooth.
3. When cool, mix in the egg. Shape spoonfuls of the mixture into small balls and roll them in breadcrumbs.
4. Heat the oil until it starts to smoke. It needs to be very hot. Place some balls into the oil and try for about 4 minutes, until golden-brown. Repeat this until all the balls have been cooked.

WOOL PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

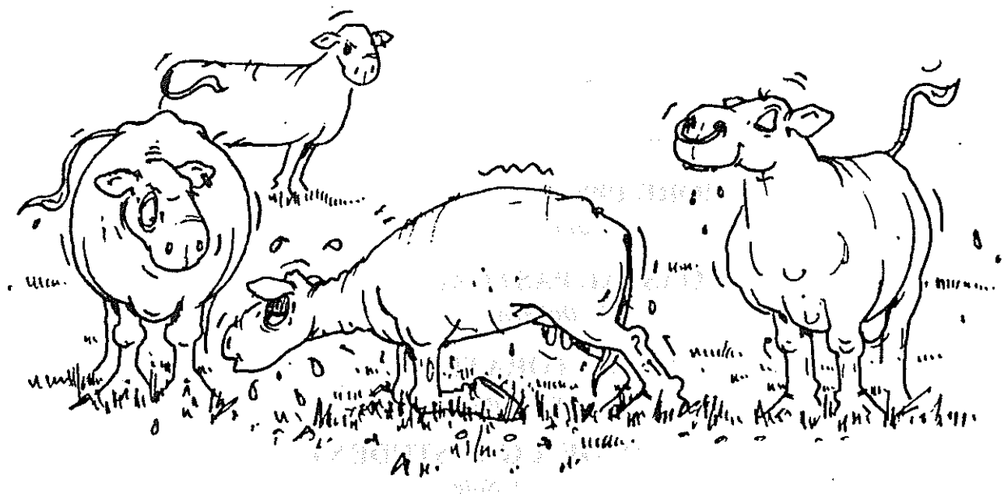
The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture.
Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

I don't know about you, but the months are flying by, bringing Winter around too soon for my liking. Hopefully, the next 4 months will move as fast as the last and we can welcome the warmer weather once again. I know that everyone will be with me in hoping that we have better weather this year than last.

We said farewell to Sinaéd Doherty who has been working with Aidan during her stay and we hope to see her again in the future.

The transition of the National Stud Flock from Sea Lion Island to Saladero is almost complete with the new house ready to be moved into. By all accounts the sheep have adapted and settled well into their new home with no major problems arising from their move. Arthur and Rhoda are no strangers to the area as they used to live at Brenton Loch when Arthur was a shepherd with the Falkland Island Company, and we wish them well in this new era with the National Stud Flock.



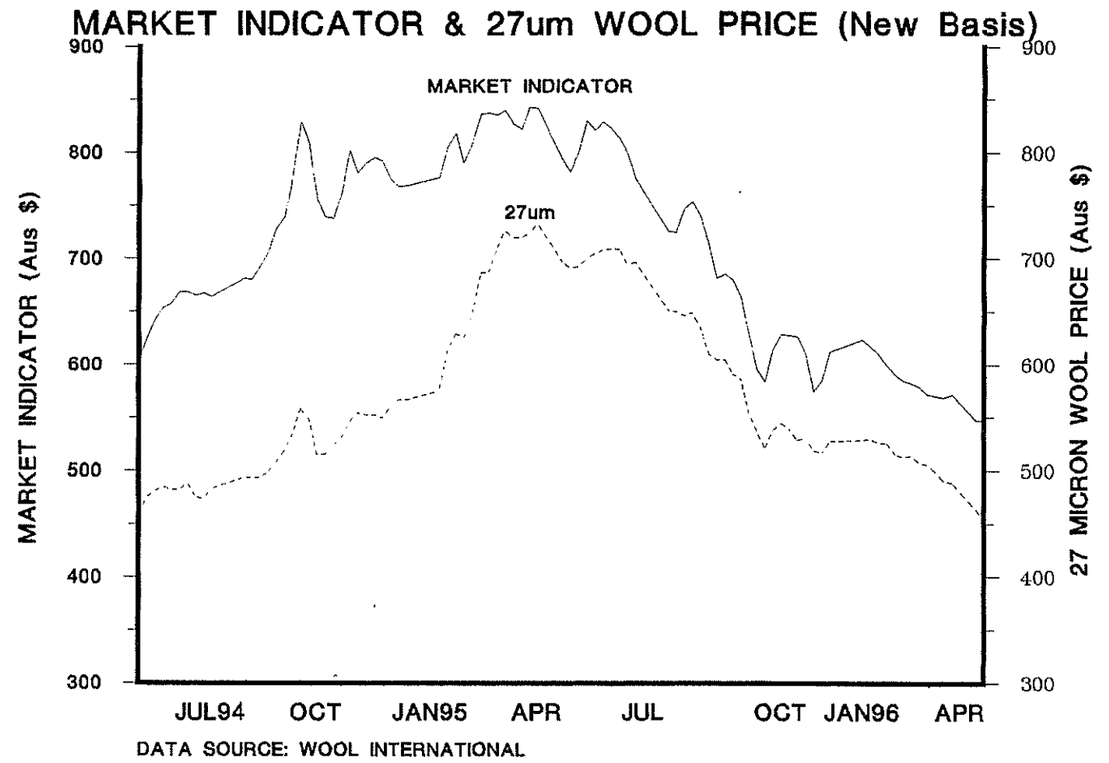
'I think I've been quite seriously harassed, Daisy ...'

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics, DoA
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA
Sinéad Doherty	Research Assistant, DoA
Caroline Lamb	Veterinary Officer, DoA
Harriet Sale	GAP Student / San Carlos
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford
Andrew Gurr	Chief Executive
Sally Poncet	Farm Owner / Manager, Beaver Island, West Falkland

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden



During the last week of April sales, the Australian Market Indicator remained unchanged at 547 cents/kg clean on the 26th April (down 25 cents on last months reported figure). Given that just 19,616 bales were offered for sale, this has been yet another poor week for the industry. (112,018 bales are rostered for sale in the 1st week in May)

Crossbred wools have also had a disappointing month with the 27um Indicator closing 35 cents lower on last month's figure at 453 cents/kg.

Sales from the stockpile during April were relatively low at just 40,067 bales suggesting that disposals may be have to be stepped up if Wool International's policy of "aggressive" forward marketing is to be maintained. On the 25th April, the Wool International Stockpile totalled 2,424,362 bales. It now looks unlikely that the stockpile will be below 2 million bales before the start of the next selling season.

It is disappointing to note that there has been no direct policy change to the disposal scheme initiated following the Australian elections. There can be little political value in the new liberal government adopting an alternative approach. It appears that the Australians seem set to continue the fixed disposal scheme regardless of the cost to producers.

The only positive factor behind the appalling situation is that part of the decline in the Australian market is as a result of a strengthening Australian $. The Aus $/sterling exchange rate has continued to slide. During April, the rate fell a further 4 cents to close at 198 cents on the 26th April. The strength of the $ increases the imported £ price of Australian wool in the U.K. Wool agents however are quick to point out that there is considerable reluctance for manufacturers to accept higher raw material prices.

Currency movements have also had a major impact on the South African market where political factors have led to a series of major devaluation's of the Rand and a dramatic rise in producer prices. Since mid February, the South African Merino Market Indicator has risen from 1,621 Rand to 1,824 Rand at the end of April.

On the negative side, it appears Australian wool brokers are holding considerable quantities of wool in store which can only impede the recovery in the market. At the end of February 889,266 bales were held in broker's store. Wool International statistics suggest that this volume is over 300,000 bales higher than the average for the past 4 years.

Following the proposal to privatise Wool International, the new Minister of Primary Industries has announced the elimination of the 4.5% wool tax at the start of the next season. The removal of this tax will effectively increase wool growers returns and help to streamline the Australian industry.

LETTERS

A letter from Mr Andrew Gurr (Chief Executive) to Mr Robert Hall of D S & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd in response to an article in last month's Wool Press.

I was extremely interested to read your article on 'Diversification and Risk' in the April issue of the Wool Press, especially as you have used Igor Ansoff's product/market matrix. I can well remember Ansoff as a guru of the late sixties and the contribution that he made to corporate planning during that era was immense.

As I in fact came from that background myself, having been a professional corporate planner for a while, I was very careful in my report "The Future of Falklands Landholdings Limited" to define diversification, and you will note on page 9, under f)i)1) the following: "By diversification we mean managed addition of new activities which hold the prospect of additional cash input." I defined the process in that way because I am well aware of the higher risks of evolving new products for sale in new markets.

A close examination of the report will show that the six major proposals on page 10, which are the clear favourites for development, are all related to sheep in one way or another. They are also closely related to existing markets in one way or another and I would agree with you totally that the prime objective is to "stick to the knitting" (a somewhat later management theme than Ansoff's). What Ansoff has in mind when talking about diversification being "new products in new markets" would be, for instance, the building of a microchip manufacturing plant somewhere in our Camp with imported expertise, a brand new technology and nor marketing skill - i.e. altogether new to us.

To set as an aim better grassland management has a very strong relationship with our present situation, as would the rearing of beef for slaughter in the local abattoir, especially as all acknowledge that such cattle can be run with sheep to mutual advantage. The main purpose of the proposals regarding trees is for shelter belts and not as forests: those shelter belts relate to sheep, cattle and the production of crops, all of which are strongly relevant.

The prime and recommended goal that you concentrate on of market penetration with existing products would in fact lead us into using other methods of marketing than those used currently, for example the setting up of a wool marketing board, or the branding of Falkland Islands wool to provide product differentiation, or the direct control over some of the manufacturing processes in which our wool may be used in the UK or other parts of the world - that would be true market penetration with our existing product and I suspect would not be particularly welcome to D S & Co. as it would create significant competition for you. However, as these are policies in which you clearly believe, I would be more than happy to discuss with you or indeed with Colin, ways in which we can set about providing more market differentiation and therefore a higher value for our products.

Thank you for opening up the debate yet further; I trust it will continue to mutual benefit.

Reply from Mr Robert Hall to Mr Andrew Gurr:

Thank you for your letter of 17.4.96.

We note your statement that there are "*other methods of marketing than those used currently, for example .. the branding of Falkland Islands wool to provide product differentiation, or the direct control over some of the manufacturing processes*". Contrary to your comment, Colin developed the branding of Falklands wool, a certified trade mark, and numbered Falkland retail brand labels & Falkland products, as far back as 1972!! Processing Falklands is most successful at leading British Manufacturers and a mill had been tried in the Falklands.

The Agency has long encouraged real market differentiation through continual efforts to achieve highest standards of wool preparation and by breeding sheep for lowest dark & medullated fibres, heavy even fleeces and targeting fibre diameters below 30 microns; as recommended to F.L.H.

WHO NOSE?

by Caroline Lamb

About a month ago someone in Town had 6 out of 9 of her horses show a cloudy discharge from their noses. This was 10 days after taking 2 of them on a trek with a group of riders to Long Island.

Of these horses one developed a very severe respiratory infection and despite intensive veterinary treatment and nursing from the owner had to be finally put down.

This caused considerable concern as most of her horses had been grazing on the Common, and the mini sports were fast approaching.

From the history and the clinical signs we assumed that the affected horses had contracted one of the equine respiratory viruses. There are 4 or so of these that cause similar symptoms which are: nasal discharge, transient fever and a mild cough. Treatment is usually not necessary as there is generally clinical improvement within 5 - 7 days although a cough may persist for up to 3 weeks. Unfortunately in some infrequent cases while the horse's lung defences are down a secondary bacterial or fungal infection may develop. In the horse that died this had resulted in an acute mycotic (fungal) pneumonia. Usually fungal infection in horses is from inhaling spores off mouldy feed, but in this case the source of fungus is unknown.

We decided that the sports should go on, following the assumption that the viral infection is endemic in the Islands. We know that after infection there is a short-lived immunity, and constant natural exposure should maintain this immunity, so theoretically most horses would not be susceptible anyway. Hence, while there was a risk of horses catching the flu at the sports, with horses being sent to camp for the Winter, mixing with farm horses was inevitable anyway, and it may have been preferable to mix the horses sooner rather than later to enable those that did catch the flu to get over it before the Winter.

As it happens there have been no further cases reported to us, so it remains a mystery as to where the infection originated and why only the 6 horses were affected. It just goes to show - Vets don't know everything!

FOR SALE

For Gear Box Series III except 1 ton, 109 V8: 1 x 218243 High gear wheel: £30
1 x 576686 Layshaft cluster gearbox suffix A: £50

For 2A Landrover: For gearbox up to suffix B inclusive: 1 x 235438 Lowgear Wheel : £10

For 110 Landrover: 1 x NTC 1165 Steering Damper: £20
2 x ETC 5158 Connecting Rod: £50

For Series III Brake System: 1x NRC 4282 P.D.W.A. Valve: £40

For further information, please contact Peter Nightingale, West Lagoons Farm, on telephone no. 41194

SUB-DIVISION MANAGERS

by Robert Hall

Farm management advisers recognise four main factors of production in farming:

Land ***Labour*** ***Capital*** ***Management***

It is interesting to study how these factors of production differ between large farms and sub-divided farm.

Land: For a given quality of land, its use tends to be more intensive on smaller farms, because land is more of a "limiting resource". (Reference stocking rates).

Labour: Large farms usually depend upon an available labour force. Family farms can use family labour, especially during times of peak labour demand (shearing).

Capital: All farms require capital for buildings, fencing, equipment, livestock etc. Well targeted injections of capital should increase production revenue.

Management: All farming businesses require decision-making and management. Sub-division in the Falklands has tripled the number of businesses being managed in Camp. Every farming couple is the management: a fact that is often overlooked. It is this management role of sub-division owner-occupiers which generally enables more intensive use of land, more frequent supervision of labour (often their own!) and intense scrutiny of capital investment.

By definition, any intensification of Camp will require more management. Fortunately sub-division has generated such increased management and many additional business managers.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

SHORT COURSES FOR WOMEN - ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Have you ever had that irritating situation when you are the willing "plumber's mate" and are made to feel useless because you don't quite understand some basic principal that you've never been told and are unlikely to be enlightened to "because you're a woman and wouldn't understand anyway"!!

THINK ON - It's time for change!

We initially had a request for a 'basic carpentry' course from a farming female on the West. After discussions with our regular tutor on this subject, Arthur Nutter, we thought that there may be scope for basic courses for women in Woodwork, Welding, Plumbing and Electrics.

Due to the need for equipment to run these pratical courses effectively, it would be best if they were held in Stanley at the community school. A minimum of four people per course is required.

Could you let myself or Charlene know by the end of May if you would like to learn more on all or some of the above subjects. Once we get an idea of the level of interest, we can phone around and try to organise times during the winter months and a course structure to suit the requirement

COASTAL PASTURE STUDIES

by Sinéad Doherty & Aidan Kerr

Over the past few months, work on coastal pastures has been carried out, with special attention given to the Sand grass planting trial set up in 1995, and to the effects of fencing and destocking on the restoration of Tussac grass. Here we present some of the preliminary results.

Three Sand grass trial sites were set up by Jenny Fuller and Aidan at Swan Pond (Smylies), Stevelly Bay (Dunbar) and at Beaver Bay (Beaver Island) as part of research to determine optimal planting techniques for Sand grass. The sites were chosen for a variety of reasons including their good geographical spread and their different types of sand erosion. The treatments and planting techniques were seed, tillers, tillers plus kelp, kelp alone and a blank control. Selected trial blocks were fenced off preventing grazing whilst others were left open. In March 1996 each site was revisited and the survival rate, effect of treatments and the influence of grazing was recorded. Sand accumulation was also recorded at each site as was the presence and cover of other plant species.

Overall results showed that after a year no plants had grown from sown or windborne seeds. The addition of kelp reduced the sandgrass survival particularly at Stevelly Bay, while grazing had little effect on survival at Swan Pond. Sand deposition/ erosion varied between sites and treatments, with the control plots having eroded by 1cm and the tiller plots remaining the same as at planting.

Work was also carried out on Beaver Island to assess the effects of fencing and destocking up to 20 years on the ability of the once degraded Tussac to regenerate naturally. At each site Tussac area, bare ground cover and the cover of other plants species were recorded. Results from this showed that significant regeneration only occurred 8-10 years after stock removal. Generally plant cover increases with time since stock removal.

In 1995 a survey of Tussac soils was carried out by Jenny and Aidan. Tussac and soils were compared between: 7 unsuccessful plantings, 6 successful plantings, 6 natural stands and 4 hen runs. The results showed that hen runs had the largest Tussac, had less acid (pH 5.2) soil than elsewhere (pH 4.0 - 4.5) and also had higher levels of phosphorous, zinc and calcium. There were no other significant differences between the types of Tussac.

The results will be presented in more detail during Farmers Week and your comments are welcomed.

From July 1996 a DoA - Queens University Belfast - UKFI Trust studentship will continue work on the restoration of degraded coastal pastures.

TUSSAC ISLAND RESTORATION GROUP PROJECT

by Sally Poncet for the Tussac Island Restoration Group

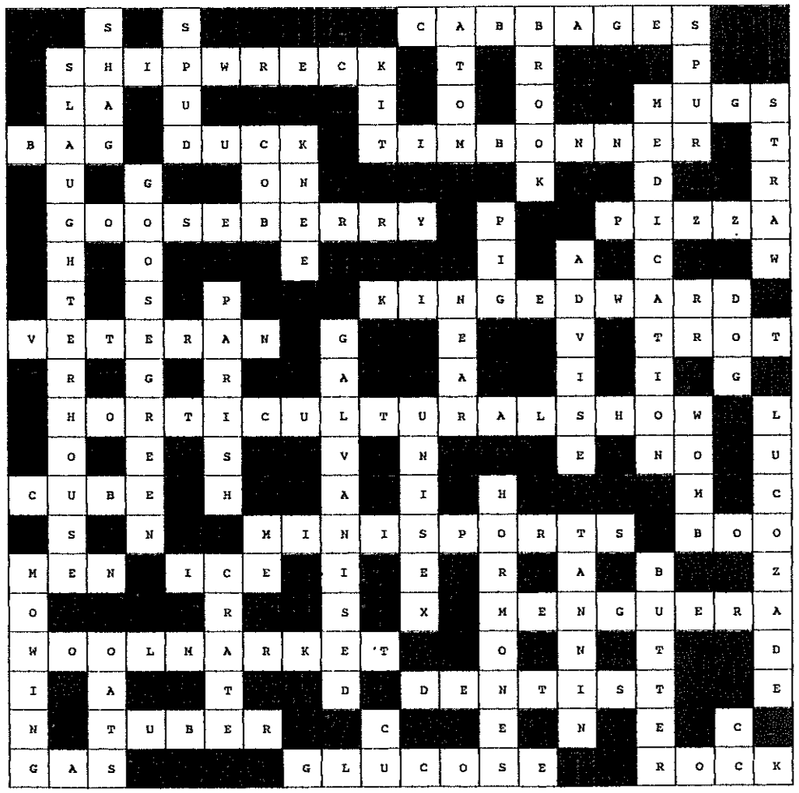
Work began on Beaver Island this summer on setting up a number of long-term monitoring plots to document the recovery of Tussac from over-grazing and erosion. The project encompasses the overall aim of The Tussac Islands Restoration Group, which is to encourage and facilitate the restoration of degraded Tussac Islands. With advice from conservation organisations, government and research bodies, we are working to counter the problems of erosion and introduced wildlife predators such as rats, and to restore Tussac and other natural vegetation.

The present project aims to monitor the annual changes in vegetation in 100 permanently marked plots, at 6 different Tussac 'plantations' on Beaver Island over a period of a minimum of five years.

Thanks to some trial runs in October/November 1995, carried out with the assistance of Aidan Kerr from the Department of Agriculture and Ingrid Schenk, a visiting Dutch researcher, we were able to establish a suitable method of setting out the plots, and to photograph and record the vegetation, using bamboo canes (one of the few welcome items of beach litter) as plot markers.

More recently, Aidan and Queens University research assistant Sinead Doherty began a project, partly funded by the UKFI Trust, that involved collecting additional data at Beaver Island from various sites whose stocking histories ranged from 20 years without grazing to still grazing sites, and also including a couple of sites on nearby Governor Island, thus occasioning an enjoyable day out on the 'Laura Jay'. I made the most of the volunteer labour and put in some very solid steel bars (courtesy of the DoA) as markers instead of bamboo. Aidan can no doubt testify to their durability, as he did most of the carrying!

The result from Aidan and Sinead's initial survey will be presented at this July's Farmers Week. For those farmers who are already managing both sheep and Tussac, some of the project's conclusions may seem familiar (eg, 'black ground' needs at least 10 years without grazing to allow Tussac to recolonise). But it is worth remembering that this is the very first time any systematic scientific analysis of natural Tussac regeneration has ever been done. We hope that our annual monitoring will confirm in more detail their findings, as well as giving us the pleasure of watching the Tussac return.



APRIL

CROSS WORD

SOLUTION

BONDING

by Mandy McLeod

I know that lambing is a long way off, with tupping probably being uppermost in our minds at the moment, but by the time lambing is upon us we are usually to busy to sit and read articles like this one. More to the point, plans have already been set in regard to lambing areas so a bit of forward vision is not a bad thing . Although these comments are general and are relevant to your main ewe flocks, I am thinking more towards your 'special' ewes (A.I's or NSF purchases and progeny), which are more likely to be closer to the homestead and under your watchful eye.

Ewe behaviour at lambing is the result of hormone activity. It is triggered by progesterone and oestrogen levels in the blood stream in late pregnancy which act on the brain to increase the number of receptors to another hormone, oxytocin. This hormone is released at lambing, allowing the birth and other associated activities such as milk let down and bonding.

Good maternal behaviour allows an exclusive bond to be formed between the ewe and her lamb and encourages early suckling. The following extract is from an article in Farmers Weekly where Cathy Dwyer (Project Leader of a lamb mortality study at the Scottish Agricultural College), points out some interesting findings, particularly in relation to gimmers.

- Inexperienced gimmers lambing for the first time have a different physiology at the moment of birth to experienced ewes and use different strategies to form a bond with the lamb. A gimmer will rely on the smell and taste of amniotic fluids on the lamb's coat to be maternal. Therefore, an experienced ewe that cannot smell would mother all lambs as she could not recognise her own, but the hormone actions will encourage her mothering instinct. A gimmer who could not smell, would on the other hand, not mother any lamb as it could not smell her own and the hormonal reaction is not as strong as in the mature ewe. However, only a few hours exposure to the lamb is sufficient for a gimmer to act in a similar manner to a ewe.

- Ewes that are thin at lambing are more likely to produce weak lambs and little milk, they will also be poor mothers and in extreme cases she will completely abandon her lamb. If she does stay with it the bond is weaker than that of a ewe with a good condition score at lambing. These lambs and ewes are also more likely to become separated and seem to maintain greater average distances from one another at grazing, resulting in the lamb missing out on suckling opportunities.

- Stress at lambing time should also be avoided as this may disrupt the hormones that help the ewe to be maternal. A difficult lambing can also affect maternal behaviour.

- Lambs do not appear to recognise their own mothers until they are at least 12 hours old.

- The birth site is also important. The longer the ewe spends here the stronger the ewe and lamb bond. Ewes are initially attracted to amniotic fluids rather than to the lamb itself, so moving the lamb away from the birth site may cause the ewe to return to the birth site leaving the lamb behind.

PRODUCTS

by Charlene Rowland

PRESSES

As the department is in the process of purchasing new presses from Australia for the National Stud Flock, I thought I would give you some details of the presses produced by Sunbeam, the manufacturer of the chosen press.

SUPERMATIC WOOL PRESS

The Supermatic produces bales (approx 2,000 Kg) to maximum weight on cycle times as low as 12 seconds.

In the standby mode, its powerful 2.2 kW, 240 volt electric motor continues running, but a magnetic clutch disconnects it from the high efficiency, three stage hydraulic gear pump. This gives real benefit in negligible power consumption, practically no noise, less heat generation, less wear and fewer stop/start cycles.

The Supermatic can be loaded and unloaded from either side, allowing it to be located anywhere within the shed; even against a wall where it occupies absolute minimum space. Three movable sides improve safety, make bale removal easier and enable the bale to be loaded vertically onto a trolley.

The Supermatic does not come with an electronic weight indicator (but it can be purchased separately) which has an accuracy of plus or minus 5 kg, so you get bales that are tight, but not overweight. The price for the Supermatic is approximately Aust $ 9,250 CIF Falklands, that includes the electronic weight indicator.

ELECTROMATIC WOOL PRESS (SINGLE)

This press is suitable for sheds with up to four stands. The electromatic is powered by a dual speed electric motor which runs at 1425 rpm on the down stroke, but on the lift stroke it automatically operates at 2850 rpm. This immediately cuts total operating time by a very significant 25 percent.

Motor and monkey drive assembly is fully enclosed and swings to either side to provide easy access for loading. A twin vee-belt arrangement increases efficiency still further. The big 750 watt motor simply plugs into any standard power point.

ELECTROMATIC WOOL PRESS (TWIN)

To further enhance shed performance the Sunbeam Electromatic wool press can be used with a twin box arrangement.

Because the overhead assembly is quickly and easily swung from one box to the other, you can be pressing one bale, while wool is being loaded into the other.

ANNUAL FARMING STATISTICS

by Hugh Marsden

With the 1995 winter assistance programme being based on greasy wool weights and sheep statistics, the importance of the Annual Farming Statistics has been aptly highlighted.

Given that there have been a few minor alterations to the questionnaire form over the last few years we have decided to update the guidance form accordingly.

In carrying out the winter loss survey we identified a few inconstancies in farmer's interpretation of sheep categories:

Maiden Ewes
Attention is drawn to the Maiden Ewe category. The term maiden ewe should only apply to those ewes 2.5 years and older that will not be mated in the coming season

Accuracy
Where possible, avoid the use of shearing tallies to represent sheep turned out figures. It would also be appreciated if farms could divide flocks by sex (as categorised on the form) rather than grouping males and females together. Remember that greater precision in completing the questionnaire form enables more effective use of the statistics for research and other administrative purposes. For example, any research into sheep mortality is dependent on the availability of complete and consistent data.

It is also clear that a number of improvements in the calculation of farm greasy wool weights could be made. This problem has been highlighted this season by a number of cases where rogue scales have been recording bales that are heavier than Bradford measurements.

It is recommended that farms with inaccurate scales should look into obtaining modern weighing equipment such as digital load bars. Farms could also cross check (and zero) existing scales with another set which is known to be accurate.

Beef Statistics
With the prospect of an enhanced beef industry in the Islands it is becoming increasingly important for farms to report reliable statistics relating to stock numbers and disposals. We should all try to look upon beef as a valuable resource that requires effective management.

Acreage's
It is the Department's policy to transfer farm details (such as acreage's) from one year to the next. Unless we have good grounds to question a farm's acreage or are notified of a land transfer, we assume that figures quoted are reliable estimates of acreage's etc. If any farm has any reason to question any information regarding the stock returns kindly highlight them when returning your completed form. We always welcome any comments regarding the Annual Farming Statistics, these should be addressed to the Economics Section.

ACCOUNT BOOK 3

by Hugh Marsden

Farmers are advised that there has been a slight modification to the Blue Account Book 3 but we promise that there is no need for alarm !

As a minor amendment, M.S.L has been removed from the annual wages summary sheet.

The depreciation tables have been changed to provide a more appropriate breakdown of assets. Whereas the original book had 2 tables for buildings, these have now been combined into a single table. A separate category for machinery and for fencing has been created to reflect the greater number of these type of assets on farms. (These last 2 items were originally grouped together)

The major change to the book is the addition of 3 depreciation tables specially for use in preparing the annual balance sheet. Changes to the tax legislation enables a farm to retain the value of assets for tax purposes. These "tax valuations" do not necessarily reflect the true market value of an asset which is required for the balance sheet.

Although many farms fail to keep annual balance sheets it is worth remembering that they are often required at short notice i.e. when negotiating a loan facility with a bank.

We have therefore inserted 3 additional depreciation tables that should be used to determine the actual depreciation that an asset incurs with everyday use etc. The actual depreciation rate that a farm uses for a balance sheet should ideally reflect the true loss of value for each asset. The following rates are taken from New Zealand and could be used as a guide to reflect Balance Sheet depreciation. The actual rate will largely depend on the level of usage, maintenance and the provision of storage etc.

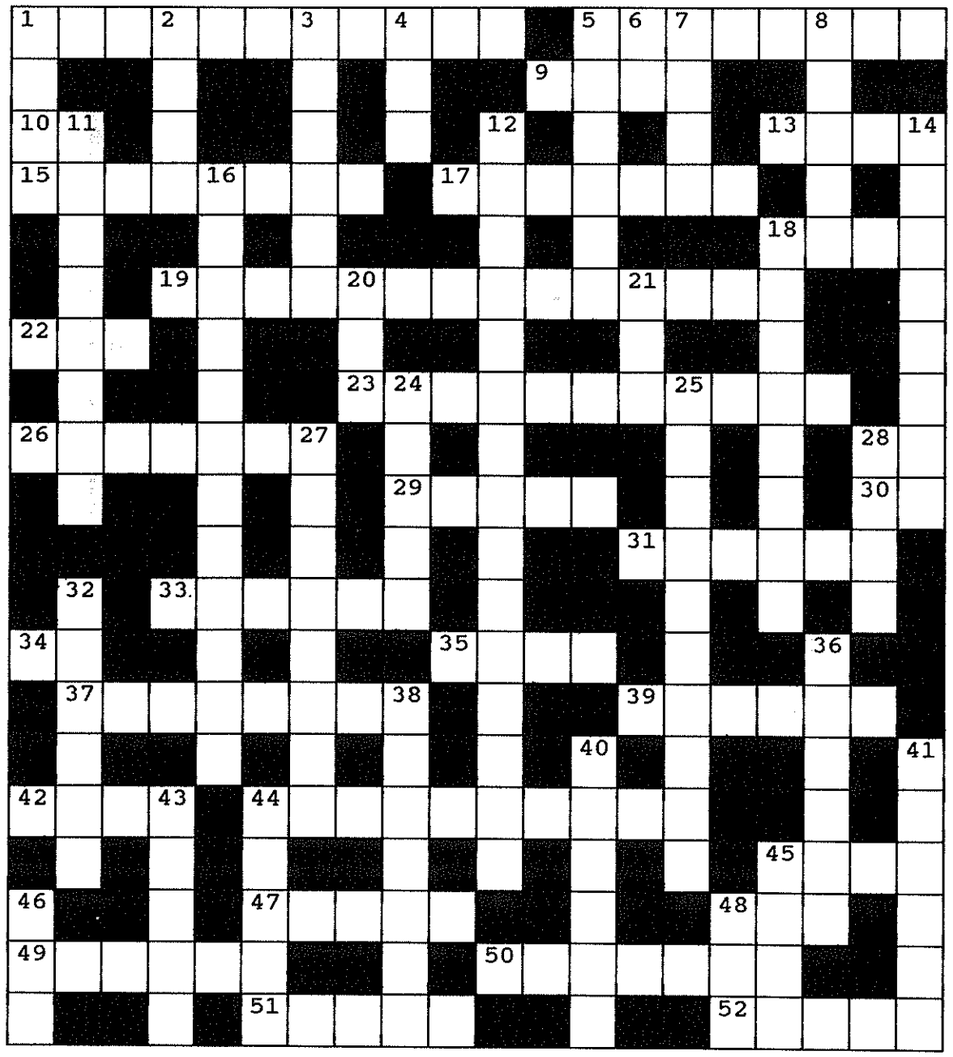
Tractor implements 10%
Self propelled implements 20%
Wooden bridges 10%
Permanent Steel Framed Buildings 1%
Wooden framed buildings 2.5%
Temporary buildings (portacabins etc) 10%
Chainsaws / Strimmers etc 50%
Mechanical Scales 10%
Electronic Scales 20%
Tractors / JCB's 20%
Vehicles 20%
Computers 20%
Concrete Mixers 15%
Electric Fencing 10%

It is often necessary to revise valuations on the Balance Sheet. Attaching values to sheep in the Falkland Islands is a notoriously difficult task due to the lack of a recognised market for sheep. Sheep values are also constantly changing according to the economics of wool production . It is important, to reflect theses changes when completing the balance sheet. As a general rule it is best to use a value that you could reasonably expect for an asset if you had to sell the farm or a particular asset in a hurry.

If a realistic balance sheet is completed annually, the information can be used to gauge the health of the business on an annual basis using the performance indicators at the back of the book.

With many farms now at the stage of completing their 1995 accounts, we urge any farm that requires assistance with book keeping to contact either Mandy or myself. We also take this opportunity to remind farmers that the new accounting system is far simpler and should be well within all farmers capabilities.

THE MAY CROSS WORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. FEEL FOR
5. FOOD OF THE GODS
9. LAZY
10. MORNING
13. MEDICINAL PLANT
15. PLANT OR ANIMAL LIVING ON ANOTHER
17. HENS
18. FOOD
19. ESSENTIAL FOR OFF-ROADING (4,5,5)
22. REGURGITATED COW FOOD
23. WATER AREA NEAR GOOSE GREEN (7,4)
26. MORNING MOISTURE DROPLET (3,4)
28. OPPOSITE TO N.E. (1,1)
29. TALK
30. SWITCHED TO GO
31. SMALL HOUSE OR SHED
33. AIRCRAFT TAKE-OFF STRIP
34. SECRETARY TO ONE (1,1)
35. FRIED POTATO STICK
37. MAY PRINCESS (6,2)
39. POLICEMAN
42. CARRY AWAY (LIKE PEAT)
44. LARGE RETAIL PURCHASES
45. POST
47. CATTLE FARM
48. KNIGHT
49. DEVONIAN
50. MAY BALL ENTRY AGE
51. OFF-SPRING
52. PAIN

DOWN

1. EXCHANGE
2. WINGED SOLDIER
3. HEAD COLLAR
4. EAR IDENTIFIER
5. ROTTEN (EGG)
6. MILLILITRE
7. GRIZZLEY CREATURE
8. WINTER VEGETABLE
11. BALL BEAUTY (3,5)
12. THE GOVERNOR'S ABODE (10,5)
14. GIRLS MAY DANCE ATTIRE (4,4)
16. THESE SHOULD BE SENT IN BY THE END OF MAY (5,7)
18. RETAILER
20. SPIDER'S TRAP
21. POULTRY SPACE
24. NOT A SURE THING
25. CAPE PEMBROKE BUILDING
27. NSF BREED
28. HIGH PROTEIN CEREAL
32. LASSO
36. BUSY DAM-BUILDER
38. BIG BILLED BIRD
40. STEEP SHORES
41. FILTERING ORGAN
43. TWO BORN AT THE SAME BIRTH
44. BAD DOGS DO IT
45. SPEAK MUSIC
46. HUMAN BSE (1,1,1)
48. OCEAN

DIARY OF A GAP STUDENT - PART 2

by Harriet Sale

Thursday 21st December
Shearing well and truly over till the New Year. This last week has been mostly preparations for Christmas and today we selected the 32 doomed lambs. The weather was fantastic over that week and one afternoon was spent in a huge water fight. Michelle and I against her little brother, Jason and of course Adrian. Inevitably I was always the wettest and ended up under the cold water tap in the cow shed. Three months later I'm still trying to get Adrian back!

Monday 25th December
Unfortunately I still haven't received my Christmas box from home, but had a fair few prezzies all the same. Stunning day, I therefore ended up in another cold water situation - in the bath this time thanks to Adrian and Pat Short.

Spent the following few days visiting friends and relatives in KC, Cape Dolphin and then Stanley for the steer riding. There had been threats of my name being put in for a steer. I had nightmares of it, being this huge horny beast, red eyed and blowing steam out its nostrils!

Thursday 4th January
Michelle and I were up by 5.30am and by 8am we had all the cakes and buns needed for the shearers who are to arrive on Friday evening. It was easy with no children around.

On the last day of the shearing I decided to get my revenge on Freddy Parker for various evil tricks he'd played on us three girls in the shed (Mandy, Michelle and myself). We decided to cover him with blue water paint from a squirty bottle. I was the official `squirter' of course. Unfortunately, we'd forgotten the strength of your average shearer and I quickly discovered I was the bluest person in the shed!

Saturday 13th January
I made my first and probably last ever swim in the South Atlantic today. It was freezing! Once you're in under the water it's surprisingly bearable. Stayed in for about 20 minutes but had to get out as my toes were numb and it was boring as no one else would attempt to come and join me!

Monday 15th January
Michelle and I spent hours transplanting turnips and swedes to the poly tunnel today and it was less than a week before the cows got in. They generously left us two plants. Started ignoring my alarm. Adrian reckons he's listened to over an hour of `bleep bleeps' before I've appeared. Any suggestions other than what I read in ..`500 Useful Facts For the House Wife'?

Wednesday 17th January
The Tamar FI eventually departed having been left grounded in the bay. Ron and I made our way up Sussex mountain in the most famous series 3 on the islands with 5 or 6 honking dogs in the back. Our main for the day was to drive 915 sheep from Goose Green to Ajax Park. Unfortunately we didn't quite get there. Instead we had a fire in the rover. The impossible happened. The live terminal of the starter battery was earthed by a spanner between the 2 front seats. I must be a jinx with series 3's.

It did however, mean we were back in time to meet the Governor and his wife, visiting the settlement on their tour of the Islands.

Tuesday 23rd January
It was today that Ron and Riss had Ted and Sheila Jones plus Paul and Karl came out to help with the lamb marking. Also a day of excess quantities of rum and we all ended up at Adrian and Michelle's' into the early hours of the morning. Keith had also turned up at home that afternoon. Anyway, at some point, everyone had this odd impulse to weigh themselves in front of everyone else and compare weights. Personally I have a phobia of scales and when my friends?.. realised this, they had great delight in forcing me onto the scales. I am proud to say no one knows yet, how much I weigh! At one point I had six men trying to get me on those blasted scales and it was only due to the faithful females amongst us that I escaped the frightening reality of my weight being discovered by all!

Wednesday 31st January
Finished shearing the ewes at last and at 12.15, HRH The Princess Royal arrived in San Carlos. A brief 3/4 hour later and she was en route for Goose Green.

Friday 2nd February
I spent 10 hours sitting on a horse trying to ride Falkland Islands style today. My rear end lost all feeling at some point which is probably a good thing. After riding for about 1 1/2 hours we reached KC face which Adrian (on a quad), Ron and myself (on horse) were going to straggle. Ron went on down along the coast with his dogs and I was in the process of mounting `Fleetwing' as the horse was called. I took the reins, caberesta and some mane and tried to be light and springy footed. Something went wrong as seconds later I was sitting on the down hill side of the horse with the horse almost lying on my foot. Adrian carefully asked if I was OK and said he thought I may have had the reins too tight. Admittedly I was a bit shaky voiced, but probably only my pride hurt and hopefully the horses mouth! (I heard later that Mike McRae suggested that the horse may have sneezed!)

Swore at the horse a few times and successfully got on and was told to stay between Ron and Adrian as they made their was along the face. Things were going fine when it turned out that `darling Fleetwing' wouldn't turn downhill, but instead bucked and pranced round in circles at the top of this slope.. what seemed likes years later I got this beast to the wire gate. I joyfully swapped for Ron's mare, as to put it mildly, the horse had taken the complete lend of me. I have ridden heaps in UK riding schools, but this was a slightly different story! A few hours of Fleetwing had been plenty.

On appearing the next morning I was asked if I could touch my toes. For some reason, I could !?

Friday 16th February
It was my last day ever in a shearing shed today, unless I get my act together in 4 years time or marry this Falkland Farmer! It's been a mad last 5 days having had the shearers arrive late on Sunday evening. I think they'd had a less then pleasant journey over - ask Lenny!

Anyway, another good cause for celebration today, including it being exactly 4 months since I left home. Ron, Riss, Adrian and Michelle endured an evening teaching me how to dance Country and Western style. They say I'll need it for the approaching week of sports when I visit the West.

Saturday 17th February
Got bogged a couple of times on Sussex mountain. That road is so nearly finished.

Today was the day of the record breaking tallies at Port Howard with Fred Parker getting 433 and Paul Phillips and Peter MacKay getting 429 sheep shorn.

Friday 23rd February
Foul day and unfortunately one of my tasks was to collect 17 dead ewes from one paddock with Michelle. Earlier, Adrian, Ben and myself had drafted ewes out for different camps around `Head of the Bay'. It was freezing and wet but we got it done just as the weather improved.

Saturday 24th February
Flew out to Cress at Port Howard for the weekend and saw how and where she's lived for the past months. On the Sunday we went for a horse ride over to the cemetery and around. Sugar was the one I rode. I'm feeling more confident with my riding here. I've now just got to watch I don't put bits in upside down etc!..

At 11.30am I got a lift to Dave Dunford's with Murph's and from there to Fox Bay East, with the shearers. I was staying at Gavin and Deidre's for the week. Name's galore to remember. Unfortunately I didn't survive too late into the evening on Sunday, but woke fresh as a daisy on Monday determined to make a better effort for the week, which I did.

Monday 26th February - Sunday 3rd March.
The days sped by during this amazing week and I met heaps of new people and managed to enjoy myself most adequately. Make your own minds up about any gossip you've heard, as I'm sure you will. There's no hints from me!

Landed back in San Carlos at lunch time. Feel in need for a holiday surprisingly, though maybe a good nights sleep will do the trick.

More next month!!

NEW LAMB BLOCK - A BREAKTHROUGH

A new feed block to improve daily liveweight gains in all types of lamb rearing and finishing systems has been launched by Rumenco. The Quality Lamb Block, specifically designed to replace traditional trough fed concentrates contains starch and digestible undegradable protein for improved utilisation of forages, Diamond V 'sp' yeast to enhance performance and organic selenium and protected zinc for bone and tissue development.

According to Rumenco, feeding blocks with stubble turnips or swedes also proved highly beneficial, especially once the teeth start to change.

Trial work carried out by Keith Miller MRCVS at Herriot-Watt University, indicated a number of benefits of feeding blocks in the winter period to ewe lamb replacements.

"As a result of better mineral nutrition for example, ewes keep their teeth longer, later in life and ate more readily than unfed, untrained ewe lambs, making management easier." said David Thornton, Rumenco's technical product manager..

Rumenco's own trials have also shown that shy and timid lambs accept the product more readily, even though they have never been fed before.

Source: The Sheep Farmer (January / February 1996)

MORE U.K. SHOW DATES

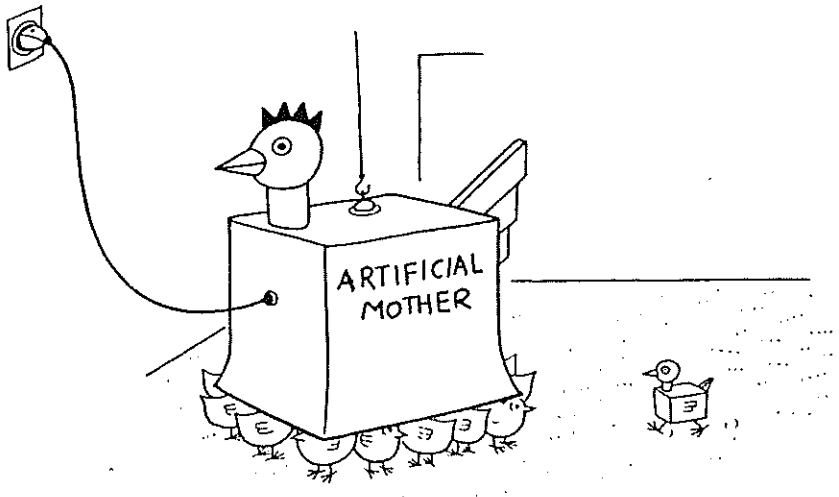
JULY

1-4	Royal Show at the National Agricultural Centre. Tele: 01203 696969
6	Doune & Dunblane Agricultural Show. Tele: 01786 841082
6	United East Lothian Show. Tele: 01368 862376 or Fax: 01368 864748
6-7	Nottinghamshire Country Show. Tele: 01889 500449 or Fax: 01889 500452
6-7	South Beds County Show. Tele: 01525 875170 or Fax: 01525 874555
7	Castle Ashby Country Show. Tele: 01604 696521
9-11	Great Yorkshire Show. Tele: 01423 561536 or Fax: 01423 531112
10-14	Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Tele: 0171 6307422 or Fax: 0171 2339525
11-13	Kent Show. Tele: 01622 630975 or Fax: 01622 630978
12-14	Northampton Town Show. Tele: 01604 233500 or Fax: 01604 29571
13	Liskeard Country Show. Tele: 01579 343125
13-14	Bridgend Agriculture Show. Tele: 01656 659437
16-18	East of England Show. Tele: 01733 234451 or Fax: 01733 370038
20	Caithness Country Show. Tele: 01847 83614
20	Cumberland County Show. Tele: 01228 560364
21	Bridlington Sheep, Rare Breeds & Goat Show. Tele: 01262 851052
22-25	Royal Welsh Show. Tele: 01982 553683 or Fax: 01982 553563
26-28	Arab Horse Society National Summer Show. Tele: 01672 20782 or Fax: 01672 207880
26-28	Royal Lancashire Show. Tele: 01254 813769 or Fax: 01254 812522
27	Abergavenny & Border Counties Show. Tele: 01873 853152
27	Mid Devon Show. Tele: 01363 83166
31	Sheep '96 Show. Tele: 01203 696969 or Fax: 01203 696900
31	Stranraer Agricultural Show. Tele: 01776 870207
31	Yealmpton Show, Plymouth. Tele: 01463 233957 Fax: 01463 243777

AUGUST

1	Honiton Agricultural Show, Devon. Tele / Fax: 01404 891763
2-3	Perth Show, Scotland. Tele: 01738 623780 Fax: 01738 621206
3	Brecon County Show. Tele: 01738 623780 Fax: 01738 621206
3	Cockermouth & District Show, Cumbria. Tele: 01946 692798
3	Dumfries & Lockerbie Show, Annan. Tele: 01461 203551
3	Lanivet, Cornwall. Tele: 01208 72748
3-4	Dudley Show. Tele: 01384 863755
3-4	York Racecourse Summer Craft Show. Tele: 01423 868057 Fax: 01423 863755
4	Wayland Agricultural Show. Tele: 01953 882917
5-6	Turriff Show Banff. Tele: 01466 780267 Fax: 01466 780612
7	Bingley West Yorks. Tele: 01274 564400
7	Nairn Agricultural Show, Scotland. Tele: 01667 453368
7	North Devon Show. Tele: 01769 560205
7-11	Kerrygold Dublin Horse Show. Tele: 01 6680866 Fax: 01 6604014

8	Isle of Islay Agricultural Show. The Secretary, Islay Jura & Colonsay Agric Association. C/o Main Street, Bowmore, Islay, Scotland.
8	Lake District Sheep Dog Trials. Tele: 015394 33721
8-9	United Counties Show. Tele: 01267 232141 Fax: 01267 221884
9	Okehampton Agricultural Show. Tele: 0183 7861322
10	Chepstow Show. Tele: 01291 627655
10	Dalston Show. Tele: 01228 23034 Fax: 01228 28732
10	Orkney Agricultural . Tele: 01856 77441
10-11	Ashfield Show, Nottingham. Tele: 0123 755755
10-11	Sussex Game & Country Show. 01243 544181 Fax: 01243 544068
11	Painswick Rare & Traditional Breeds, Gloucester. Tele: 01453 883646
13	Taunton Agricultural Show. Tele: 01823 421860 Fax: 01823 421898
14	St Melons Agricultural Show. Tele: 01633 681344
16	Dunster Show. Tele: 013984 490
17	Mid Somerset Show. Tele: 01749 880494
17-18	Doncaster Show. Tele: 01704 877324/833038/873291
18	Heavy Horse Spectacular in aid of CLIC UK, Hants, Tele: 01705 378026
20	Hawkshead Agricultural Show, Cumbria. Tele: 015394 36609
21	Egton Horse & Agricultural Show. Tele: 01947 895281
21	Gillingham & Shaftsbury Show. Tele: 01747 823955
22-24	Ayr Flower Show, Scotland. Tele: 01292 282842 Fax: 01292 267813
24-25	Scottish Kennel Club Show, Edinburgh. Tele: 0131 577 2877
24-26	Audley End Festival of Gardening, Beds. Tele: 01525 405771
24-26	Derbyshire Country Show. Tele: 01663 732750
25	Wentworth Show, South Yorks. Tele: 01709 875747
25-26	Fenland Country Fair. Tele/Fax: 01989 768771
25-26	Manchester Show. Tele: 01704 833038
26	Moorgreen Show, Nottingham. Tele: 01949 836566
26-27	Lammas Fair, Co. Antrim. Tele: 012657 62225
29	Monmouthshire Show, Gwent. Tele: 01291 691160 Fax: 01291 691161
31	Burnham Town Show Essex. Tele: 01621 783321
31	Ipstones Agricultural Show, Staff. Tele: 01538 266481
31	Llanddarog & District Agricultural Show. Tele: 01267 275279



WOOL PRESS

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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

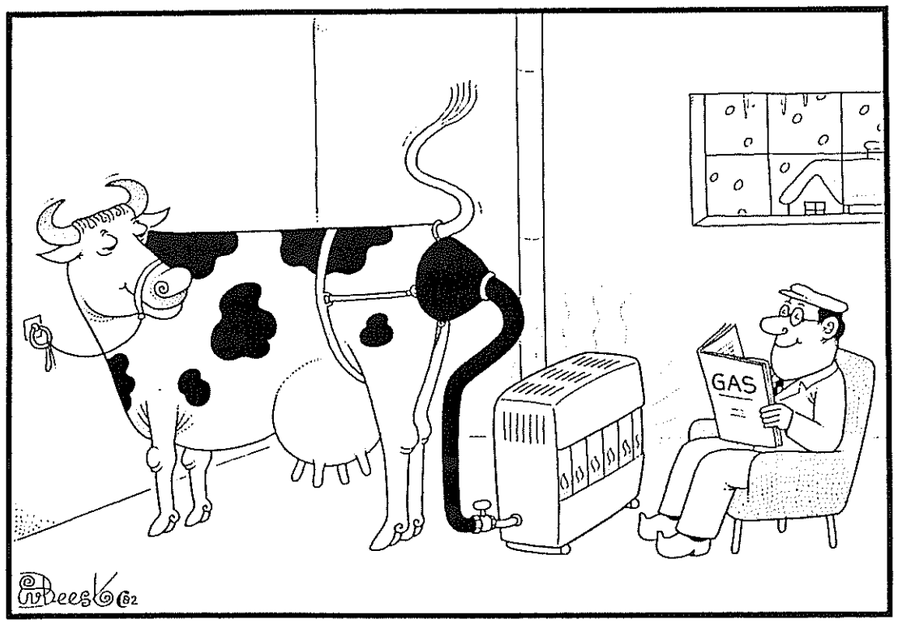
Every farmer should have received a Livestock Return Form in the same envelope as the last issue of the Wool Press. I would be grateful if all forms could be returned by the middle of June. The sooner we get them all in, the sooner we can distribute the Annual Farming Statistics. If any farmer has not received a form, please can you notify the office and a form will be sent to you.

Farmers week is almost upon us again. Let's hope that we won't be impaired by such bad weather as we had to contend with last year. If the weather stays like it is today (clear blue sky, hardly a ripple on the harbour) the outdoor visits should be pleasurable as well as interesting.

The report on 'Beef Production in the Falkland Islands' by Mr Gibson makes good reading and I advise anyone with an interest in cattle farming to get hold of a copy. It can be obtained from FIDC on Tel: 27211.

Finally, in this 'publication of all things agricultural' it is appropriate to say to Owen:

Glad you're staying.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY?!?

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics, DoA.
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA.
Caroline Lamb	Veterinary Officer, DoA.
Lyn Blake	Farmer Owner/Manager, Little Chartres, West Falkland.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.
Judy Summers	Secretary, Farmers Association.
Michael Alazia	Farm Owner/Manager, Port Edgar, West Falkland.

THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

by Mandy McLeod

In last month's issue of the Wool Press, I asked if any women would be interested in doing some basic courses in plumbing, electrics, woodwork and metalwork. I thought that running courses specifically for women on the farms on those subjects was a brilliant idea (not mine to take credit for). So far, apart from the person who made the initial suggestion, I have had a positive response from only one other keen lady. Saying that, I haven't had any phone calls to the negative, I just haven't had any phone calls on the matter!!

I need to have at least 4 peopie participating to run a course. This is not merely for economic purposes, but also for interactive group learning. Some parts will need to be done in pairs, each pair can learn from each others achievements and mistakes.

In light of the fact that I have had such a poor response from the 'fairer' sex, I am opening the course to anyone who would like to participate. I will try and organise a date to suit all concerned.

There are many local talented people who can give instruction on various skills. If there is a specific skill that you would like instruction on, please let me know and I will be happy to make arrangements. If there is a skill that a large amount of people would like to learn that we do not have anyone local to instruct, we may be able to bring someone in to do the job. I won't know if you don't ask.

A lot of time and effort has gone into establishing the Agricultural Training Scheme. It was set up for you. Make use of it.

discover

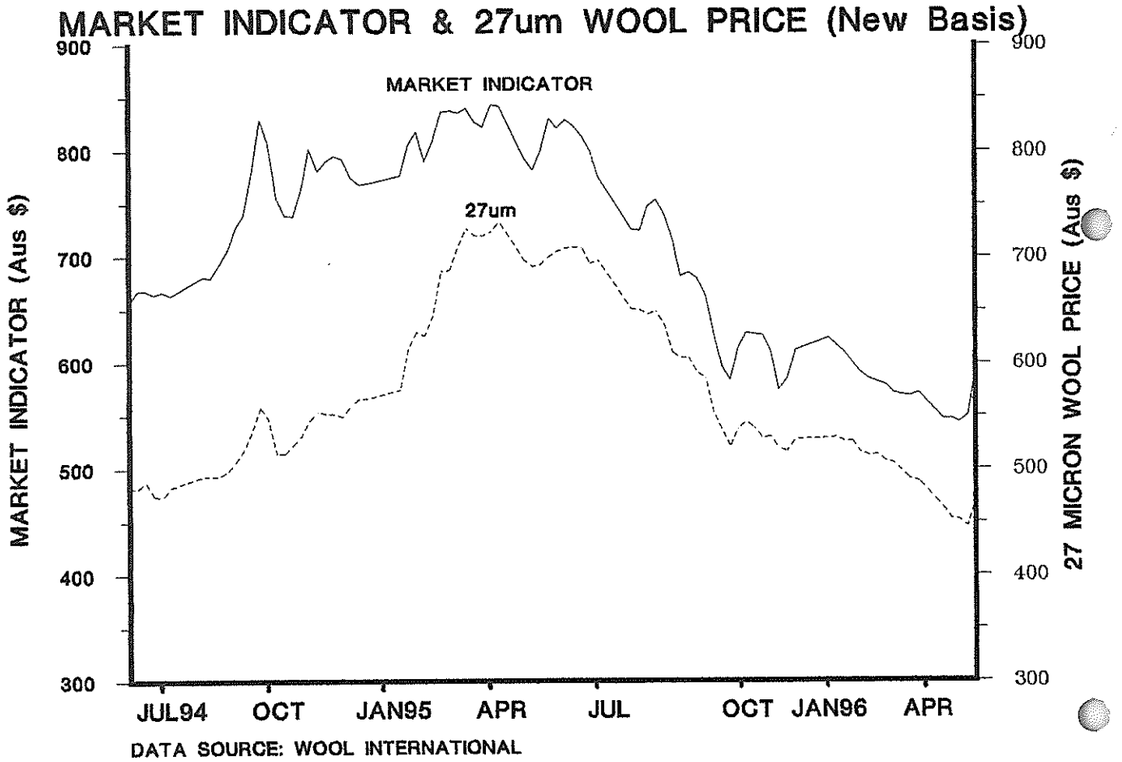
new

skills

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

Following 20 weeks of market decline, Australian prices made a strong recovery in mid-May sales but fell back slightly at the end of the month. Currency movements continue to exert negative pressures on the Australian market, while prices in South Africa have continued to soar largely as a result of political uncertainty and a continued weakness in the rand.



The Australian Market Indicator rose by 42 cents on last month's reported figure to close at 589 cents/kg on the 31st May (the highest figure since early February) The 27um Indicator also rose, closing 17 cents higher at 470 cents/kg.

Wool International achieved it's legislated sales volume for the June quarter in mid month and has already forward sold 33,682 bales for the September quarter. With just 4 weeks to the close of the 1995/96 season, it is likely that disposals will increase in June and be maintained throughout the market recess. On the 30th May, the Wool International stockpile totalled 2,336,961 bales.

The Australian $ appears to have stabilised against the pound on the 31st May the $ had weakened by 1 cent at 199 cents to the pound. The Australian $ also fell slightly against the U.S.$ but continued to rise against the basket of wool traded currencies.

PROFITABILITY OF BREEDING YOUNG SHEEP FOR SALE

by Michael Alazia

This Autumn has seen probably the biggest transfer of sheep between farms for many a year. Even after the dreadful winter, some of the better farms still had surplus sheep for sale. We have always purchased sheep annually rather than try to lamb on poor wether ground and run too many geriatrics. I believe that more farms should have been buying in young sheep previously on a regular basis, provided the young sheep could have been obtained, and the better farms educated enough to realise the benefits of rearing lambs for sale rather than running so many wethers for the sale of wool.

To make this profitable to the seller and the buyer brings into question: What is each class worth and how better off would a farmer be by changing a flock structure from running x amount of wethers to running x amount of extra ewes to sell x amount of lambs or shearlings, etc.?

I have tried to base the following tables on the average statistics of the Falklands, i.e. lambing at 60%, death rate at about 10% rising to 12% for hoggs. I also used 100 lambs as a baseline as it shows the mortality rate better through the years rather than being left with 88% of one sheep and 88% of a fleece, etc.

Expected productivity of 100 wether lambs.

OUT PUT	AGE	SEX	DEATH RATE %	FLEECES
100	1	W.HOGG	12	88
88	2	W.SHLG	11	78
78	3	WETHER	7	73
73	4	WETHER	7	68
68	5	WETHER	7	63
63	6	WETHER	7	59
59	7	WETHER	8	54
529			**8.43**	**483**

483 ÷ 100 = 4.83 fleeces

Prices differ from year to year and farm to farm as do direct costs, but using our own figures for the 1994/95 season, each fleece would be worth an average of £5.75 gross, less £1.42 per fleece for direct costs (marketing, freight, shearing, etc.) = £4.33 net.

483 fleeces x £4.33 = £2,091.39 ÷ 100 sheep = £20.91

Therefore, it could be said that a wether hogg can produce £20.91 if it was shorn 7 times at the above prices and expenses. .Also, a 4 year old wether shorn a further 3 times would be worth:
176 fleeces x £4.33 = £762.08 ÷ 68 wethers = £11.20

Expected productivity of 100 ewe lambs.

OUT PUT	AGE	SEX	DEATH RATE %	FLEECES	PUT TO RAM	LAMBS REARED	MARKING %
100	1	E.HOGG	12	88			
88	2	E.SHLG	11	78			
78	3	YOUNG EWE	12	69	78	36	46
69	4	EWE	10	62	69	44	64
62	5	EWE	10	56	62	41	66
56	6	EWE	10	50	56	36	64
50	7	EWE	12	44	50	31	62
503			**11**	**447**	**315**	**188**	**60.4**

I noticed in an ARC report of the 80's that a Falkland ewe produces 4 lambs in her lifetime. If we divide 188 lambs by the 44 ewes left alive we get 4.27. I say that this is misleading when calculating a ewes worth, if say purchasing it as a hogg, because some lambs reared would be off ewes that later died. Using the above death rates and F.I. lambing average, 100 ewes could be expected to rear 188 lambs in their lifetime, assuming that they were culled or sold at 7 years.

Therefore, 188 ÷ 100 = 1.88 lambs in 5 lambing seasons per one ewe lamb. If you were to buy 56 five year old ewes, shear them and put them to the ram twice, you would be left with 44 ewes that have reared 67 lambs. Divide 67 lambs by 56 ewes = 1.19 lambs per ewe in 2 years, which could be used to calculate the future productivity of a 5 year old ewe and the original 100 ewe lambs.

100 ewe lambs:
447 fleeces x £4.33 = £1,935.51
188 (at say) x £6.00 = £1,128.00
£3,063.51

÷ 100 sheep = £ 30.63 productivity value of ewe lamb.

56 5 year old ewes:
94 fleeces x £4.33 = £407.02
67 lambs x £6.00 = £402.00
£809.02

÷ 56 sheep = £ 14.44

Given a wether lamb being worth £20.91 and a ewe lamb £30.63 gives an average per mixed lambs of £25.77. We are currently purchasing lambs at £6.00 per head plus £2.00 shipping.

Cost = 23.28% of its net worth and 31% with shipping added.

Finally, I'll attempt to show the financial difference of a hypothetical farm between breeding lambs as replacements for its own wether and ewe flocks and if the same farm was breeding lambs for sale and its own ewe flock replacements, which is what I was originally asked to do.

Farm A

45 rams
1,500 breeding ewes achieving 67% lambing
1,600 wethers
880 shearlings
1,000 lambs / hoggs
100 cast
5,125

Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,021
death rate at 8% = 4,715 sheep shorn at 4 kg
= 18,860 greasy clip

Our 1994 / 95 net income per greasy kg
£1.31 x 18,860 greasy clip
= £24, 706 farm net income.

Farm B

90 rams
3,000 breeding ewes achieving 67% lambing
880 shearlings
1,005 lambs / hoggs
150 wethers / dry ewes / cast
5,125

Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,328
death rate at 11% = 4,561 sheep shorn at 3.5 kg
= 15,964 greasy clip

x £1.31 = £20,912 net income from wool
1,005 lambs sold at £6.00 = £6,030
= £26,942 farm net income.

Farm B could sell more lambs if the death rates were lower than 12% for hoggs and 11% for shearlings. Also, the wool clip weights may not drop by as much as 0.5 kg from farm A with its wethers. Speedwell Island ran 475 wethers and 2,566 breeding ewes, plus young sheep in 1988, shearing 4,453 sheep and clipping 21,171 kg (4.7 kg per sheep). In 1994 they ran 1,705 wethers and 600 ewes (breeding), plus young sheep, shearing 4,399 and clipping 22,508 kg (5.1 kg per sheep). This is an increase of 0.4 kg per sheep.

Part of this could well be due to wool improvements and not solely to increasing the wether flock. I calculated farm A mortality at 8% given that it would be an above average better breeding type of farm. Farm B was set a mortality rate of 11% given that it only has young sheep and breeding ewes. Also, there is a small increase in farm B's ewe equivalent stocking rate.

Farm B could also increase its net income by running its best 7 year old ewes to lamb again at 8 years and so be able to sell a few of its ewe lambs kept as replacement sheep, obtaining a net income of £6.00 a head a year earlier than obtaining £4.33 net income of wool from the same animal providing it was still alive.

LETTER

Lyn Blake asked if we could print this letter that she sent to D.S.& Co Ltd. on the subject of a Quality Assurance Programme. Robert Hall sent Lyn a reply and an article containing the points of his reply entitled "STAIN FREE CLIP CAMPAIGN" follows Lyn's letter.

Dear Colin and Robert

Thank you Colin for yours of 10th April with the explanations of "Tally Hi" and "Prolana" programmes. I am sorry neither of you can come down in July as I would like to have continued this discussion.

Basically, is it time (or is it too late) for the Falkland Wool Growers to organise themselves a quality assurance scheme?

For years producers have competed on price but that is impossible now (and for the foreseeable future). So what else can be done to catch the buyer's eye? Can we attempt to gain recognition by presenting an exceptionally well prepared clip? This may sound old hat but speaking from the growers' point of view we are unlikely to employ extra shed hands if we cannot expect a higher price than the chap next door who leaves his necks on, britch in and all the other little delights intact. It is felt by some, that by skirting properly all that is being done is reducing the weight of the fleece and filling up the oddment bins. It is also thought that some manufacturers may be happy with poorly skirted fleeces because they can pay a lower price and sort it themselves. Could "earning" a quality approved ticket be enough incentive to get things moving?

I see mention of a quality sign in New Zealand now, the Fernmark, and wonder if it isn't time we did something along these lines. The Australians have had "Clip Care" in for quite a few years now.

I wonder about the mechanics of such schemes?

* Would we need someone to set it up?
* How would standards be set and monitored?
* Who would do shed inspections?
* Do your buyers look for quality assurance marks?
* I wonder if processors know whose wool they are processing at any one time?
* Test house certificates do not tell all.

I wonder if there is a point to any of this? In theory I know the answer must be yes, but in practice.....?

Perhaps one rainy afternoon when all the invoicing is done and it is too early to go home, you might find time to jot down some thought on the matter.

Hope you are both fine. Keep up the good work.

Lyn Blake, Little Chartres, West Falkland. 14th May 1996.

STAIN FREE CLIP CAMPAIGN

by Robert Hall

Major wool producing countries are continually attempting to improve the quality of their wool production. **To stand still on wool quality, is to go backwards** relative to competing wool growers.

Farmers must deliver choice snow-white Falklands fleeces, which by definition cannot contain stain and contamination. Wools containing coloured fibres cannot be used in white and pastel shade yarns, thus manufacturers will not tolerate high coloured fibre counts. Dark or coloured fibres are therefore a major disqualifying component of wool quality and are regularly measured throughout first stage worsted and woollen processing. Dark or coloured fibre contamination mostly comes from inadequate skirting, leaving urine and faeces stain on fleece wool.

Dark or coloured fibre contamination (stain derived from inadequate skirting) is currently one of the pre-eminent problems facing Falklands wool growers, with a reported test this season of 60 dark coloured fibres / 100 grams of tops on a 23.5 / 24.5 micron wool contract being an unexpected and backward step: penalties rather than premiums being due. In this light, further dark or coloured fibre contamination must be prevented, being the sole or primary target for immediate improvement.

Meanwhile, competing woolgrowers are implementing improvement schemes: Clipcare & Dalcare (Australia), Fernmark (New Zealand), The Wool Preparation Plan (Uruguay), Prolana (Argentina), etc., with every intention of their farmers getting ahead. Many of these assurance schemes insist that dark or coloured fibre contamination is avoided by crutching sheep: *"Clipcare registration procedures insist that all sheep must be crutched within three months prior to shearing and that when they enter the shearing shed they have to be visually free from stain as well. This ensures no urine dark fibre stain."* Given that this practice is unlikely to be adopted in the short term in the Falkland Islands, even greater emphasis must be put on the need for especially careful skirting of stains.

In practical terms, not crutching sheep in the Falklands is a handicap to exporting quality wool; as such, special efforts are needed to prepare wool from un-crutched sheep. Above all else, skirting must remove stain. In sheds with raised shearing boards, much stain can be removed by the rousie during shearing. In all sheds the skirting **priority** is the removal of all stain, dark and coloured fibre contamination: nothing on the wool table is more important. *(Efforts to remove a neck are entirely undermined if any stain is left wrapped in the fleece instead).*

The threat to each individual Falklands farmer is that other wool growing nations overtake us. With the enthusiasm of Australian wool growers to improve their product, achieving relatively good wool quality is a moving target, which requires continual improvements by competitors like us.

"Farmers must not lose heart in the battle to maintain and improve established standards". Given the concern and market value of achieving zero or low dark and coloured fibre levels, now would be an ideal time for wool growers to initiate a **"Stain Free Clip Campaign"** as a base for future quality assurance.

R.H.B. Hall, June 1995, Ref: Wool Record.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Farmers are advised that an explanatory leaflet outlining the new scheme has been prepared by FIDC and is available from the Economics Section at the Department of Agriculture or from FIDC. This leaflet has been modelled on proposals submitted to Executive Council by the former FIDC General Manager in December.

The scheme will be subject to normal FIDC operating procedures with projects being presented to the FIDC board for approval. It is therefore important for applicants to recognise that FIDC or Department of Agriculture staff are unable to short circuit FIDC board meetings or pre-empt any board decisions regarding funding.

Finance required for the scheme will be drawn from FIDC resources. Loan repayments will be administered by the financial controller at FIDC.

The new scheme will be open to rural businesses outside the traditional farming sector. Applicants with projects related to agriculture are invited to contact the Department of Agriculture for an application form in the first instance. All businesses will be expected to provide the FIDC board with sufficient financial information to ensure that any assistance is targeted effectively. Any project that is presented to the board meeting with insufficient background information is liable to be rejected. The Department of Agriculture will make every effort to assist applicants where necessary.

TOUGH WINTER BRINGS FALKLAND HARDSHIPS

Article from Farmers Weekly April 19-25, 1996

While we in Britain recover from what for us was a hard winter, farmers 8,000 miles away in the Falkland Islands are still reeling from their worst winter since 1902. Week after week of snow and unrelenting Antarctic winds during July and August caused losses of up to 40% in the Island's chief farming industry, sheep ranching.

With 700 islands making up an archipelago 160 miles across, the Falklands are larger than most people imagine. However, places on the map that look like towns and villages are generally no more than farms and isolated settlements.

Travel between Islands is by Falkland Islands Government Air Services (FIGAS), a sort of flying, nine-seat taxi arranged daily according to need. Land travel is by 4 x 4, with Land Rover taking the biggest slice of the market. Astonishingly, there are said to be 4,000 4WD vehicles in the Falklands, two for each of the islands' 2,000 inhabitants.

Nearly everyone is of British descent, originating from people who came to ranch sheep or from sealers and other seafarers who decided to settle.

The landscape is reminiscent of the far north of Scotland. The air is indescribably pure and its clarity unprecedented. The climate is temperate, not dissimilar to the UK, though slightly warmer in winter.

The low population density means that farms are big. The smallest farm is 880ha (2180 acres) the largest, North Arm, is a horizon stretching 150,000ha (369,000 acres). Many farms used to be a lot bigger even than this, but were bought by the Falklands Government in the '80s and then subdivided. Even so, the average farm size is still a staggering 12,000ha (30,000 acres).

Wool is the lifeblood

Climate and soil make for a very limited range of farming types. There is little arable, and only small numbers of beef animals, mainly kept for home consumption. There didn't appear to be any discernible dairy herds either, though again some farmers will keep an animal for their own use. Though sheep are numerous, farmers only slaughter for their own consumption; there's no formal meat industry at present and no abattoir. In fact some lamb comes in from New Zealand .

Instead, wool is the lifeblood of most farm steads, with 727,000 sheep, mainly Polwarth and Corriedale, producing 2.5m kg of wool annually. Most is shipped to Bradford , Yorkshire, though a small amount goes to the newly-opened, single shed mill at Fox Bay to provide wool for Island knitters.

In fact the Islanders are developing their own distinctive style of knitwear which they hope will put them on the map alongside Guernsey, Arran and Fair Isle. The first wool is taken from hoggets, then shearlings, but wether wool is the bulk product.

With no electricity supply system to outlying areas, most farmers have to rely on a diesel generator. Farm machinery generally is notable by its absence and even tractors are a relative rarity. Instead 4WDs and ATVs do the bulk of the work.

The underlying clay means drainage is usually poor and the ground is often waterlogged for long periods in winter. The tracks between settlements begin to dry out in September, allowing easier overland travel by 4WDs and ATVs during the summer months.

Most of the Islands are covered by what is known as oceanic heath, with white grass (*Cortaderia piopilosa)* dominant on damper ground with associated sedges, rushes and mosses where the underlying peat is saturated.

Alongside ponds and streams and around settlements there is often better quality grassland, generally dominated by introduced species such as Yorkshire fog. The tallest and most spectacular native plant is the giant tussac. Growing up to around 3.6m (13ft), it looks for all the world like a giant dune marram grass and provides an important supplement to ewes' winter diet.
On 12,000ha (30,000 acres) Saunders Island, David and Susan Pole-Evans run 10,000 Corriedale sheep which produce about 115 bales each of 150kg. Business has been bad over the last few years, especially last year when many farmers lost large numbers of stock in the exceptionally long winter.

Knock-On Effect

On Nigel Knight's 16,000ha (40,000 acres) farm at Coastridge in Fox Bay, three shearers were working through his 9,500 Polwarths. Like most sheep producers he suffered considerable losses last winter, especially among the young stock.

"Normal hogg mortality would be 10%. This winter we lost 35%. That's five bales of wool down which represents a market loss of £2,000 and which will have a knock-on effect for the next six years. We didn't lose too many ewes, but they became so low in condition that they lost lambs at birth or didn't have sufficient milk. The older sheep are more wise. They are used to the cycle of summer and winter, whereas hoggs are less streetwise and don't realise there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Raymond Evans who farms 10,000ha (25,000 acres) at Pebble Island, wasn't as badly affected. Due to the narrowness of the island, snow doesn't lie for long and relatively few of his 11,000 Corriedales suffered. He expects to bale 38,000-42,000kg of wool this season.

Sea Lion Island holds the National Stud Flock of 314 breeding Tasmanian Polwarth ewes which came over at the end of 1991. They are shepherded by the Department of Agriculture man, Arthur McBain. A small flock of Corriedale/Merinos is kept for eating and this year 30 Polwarths will be put to a Comeback ram to improve fleece and meat.

Bad weather isn't a problem on windy Sea Lion Island, but predatory birds called Striated Caracaras, are. They will not hesitate to attack a ewe when it is down. In six weeks this season alone he has lost up to 40 lambs and ewes to these bold predators. Since he gets a bonus for lamb numbers, his income has been seriously affected.

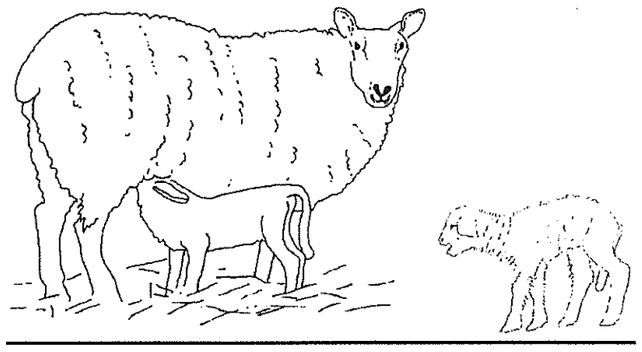
"Some days there are as many as 14 around the settlement. The adults are not too bad; it's last year's young birds which cause the most damage".

Because Sea Lion Island is also a nature reserve of international repute and the caracara is one of the world's most endangered birds, he isn't permitted to retaliate. However, he is hopeful that the law will permit him to take out rogue individuals.

Tourism is in its infancy in the Falklands, but sheep farmer George Smith has already diversified into the lucrative market. Penguins means profit and his 20,000ha (50,000 acres) spread which supports 17,000 Polwarths also hosts a colony of king penguins.

Not only do these large birds improve his land with their guano, he receives £5 for each Land-Rover tourist and $5 from each of the 5,500 visitors arriving from Cruise ships.

- A further article, covering the uses Falkland Island wool is being put to, will appear in Farmlife in the next few weeks. *We will endeavour to get a copy of Farmlife and will reprint in the next Wool Press.*



PLAYING GOD?

by Caroline Lamb

A few months ago, splashed across the front page of most British newspapers was a picture of 2 sheep. Clones. It may sound like something out of a science-fiction story, but genetic engineering is a major research field.

The applications are potentially vast and hence commercial considerations can be a real driving force. There have already been numerous beneficial contributions such as the production of markers to identify defective genes, or expression of foreign genes inserted into bacteria or yeasts to produce safer vaccines.

The professed benefits from producing cloned animals are as follows:

- Produces uniform animals. These may be used in experiments as there is no genetic variation, meaning cheaper, quicker research requiring fewer animals.
- Can copy elite animals.
- Could be ideal in cattle as they do not require surgery for embryo transfer. Hence with a procedure similar to that of AI., animals can be produced that could be slaughtered at the same age with uniform carcasses.
- May be possible to add in useful genes. For example genes for economically desirable characteristics such as low fat milk or fast growth rate are of interest as are genes that code for proteins that may be used in a therapeutic application.

Currently the technique is far from perfect. In this experiment three out of the 5 clones born died within 10 days with malformed internal organs. It still remains to be seen whether the 2 survivors will be fertile or not.

Another aspect of genetic engineering is the creation of transgenic animals. This involves insertion of a gene (piece of DNA that may be coded for a particular protein) into the genetic material (genome) of a different species.

An animal's genome is made up of many pieces of DNA. Some segments code for a specific protein while others have a regulatory function. There are promoter segments, which determine the cell types in which the protein can be made and hence determine which tissues the protein is found in. Other segments may be 'enhancers' or 'silencers', which help to regulate how often the protein may be made.

In the transgenic animals the foreign gene is usually inserted into the genome next to a particular promoter so that the resultant protein is only manufactured in a particular tissue. For example, in current research a human gene was inserted into a sheep's genome so that the human regulatory protein for Cystic Fibrosis was produced in the mammary gland and accumulated in the sheep's milk. Theoretically this protein could then be extracted and used to treat sufferers of Cystic Fibrosis.

In the agricultural field of research, because natural selection provides only very slow genetic gain, this technology is being used to try to introduce economically significant traits in a much more rapid manner. Both transgenic sheep and pigs have been created that over-expressed bovine growth hormone. In both species the result was animals that had much faster growth rates and greater

efficiency of feed utilisation. However, they also had a much greater number of undesirable effects such as reduced reproductive performance, arthritis, impaired renal function and premature deaths. So it is imperative that scientists develop a greater understanding of the level to which they can interfere without disturbing an animal's natural delicate physiological balance.

Another application of transgenic technology is in xenotransplantation, which is the transplantation of tissues from one species to another. With the large demand for heart transplants, pigs are being looked at as a suitable donor species due to the facts that they have similar sized organs to humans, breed rapidly and it would avoid the use of primates. It has been suggested that if genes of human origin could be inserted for some of the proteins it is known that recipients react to most strongly, then this would greatly reduce the immune reactions post transplant. Of course there are numerous concerns:- feasibility, ethics, risks to patients and the wider population, and animal welfare.

Of these concerns, the hardest to evaluate is the risk to both the patients and to the wider population. With the relatively recent intensive investigation into prions and diseases caused by them (Scrapie, BSE) it is now thought that prions are normal cell proteins that have folded into a different configuration from usual. They then seem to be able to interfere with further protein synthesis by inducing new protein molecules to have the altered structure - simply by coming into contact with them.

This raises the possibility of whether, in producing transgenic animals, scientists may unknowingly produce new prions. Consider: where a sheep cell is artificially programmed to produce a human protein, a situation is created where there is possibly the presence of very similar, yet structurally different, proteins within the same cell. This is equivalent to the normally rare conditions of the sort known to be needed for the multiplication of infectious prions.

In assessing the risk of such a scenario, not only do you have to take into account whether or not a prion-like agent (and an infectious one at that) may be produced, but also what natural barriers to transmission may exist.

Britain has learnt to her detriment the possible consequences of removing such natural barriers when the BSE epidemic was initiated by the feeding of animal-derived protein to farm species. When you consider that many proposed pharmaceutical uses for human proteins derived from transgenic animals involves the administration of large quantities of these proteins to patients, thereby breaching normal barriers, it is cause for concern.

In addition, it is known that all prion diseases have lengthy incubation periods, so it may take some time to recognise any problems, in which time a new agent may end up being transmitted via a common route. For example, a protein administered as a treatment for Cystic Fibrosis may result in a prion that can be spread in air from the lungs.

However, the theoretical possibilities expressed above are definitely a worst-case and possibly far-fetched scenario. Our concept of prions is still hypothetical only and it is unlikely that any randomly modified protein would be infectious. Additionally, in the process of extracting and purifying proteins there are many steps involved, which should remove most undesirable elements, though in the past hormones extracted from pituitary glands couldn't be guaranteed free of the CJD prion.

So, who knows what the future will hold? It hasn't taken long for a huge increase in breeding technology to be taken for granted, with AI and embryo transfer now commonplace. It is quite feasible that in the near future genetic modification and cloning will be equally accepted as everyday technology.

SUMMARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on 23rd April 1996

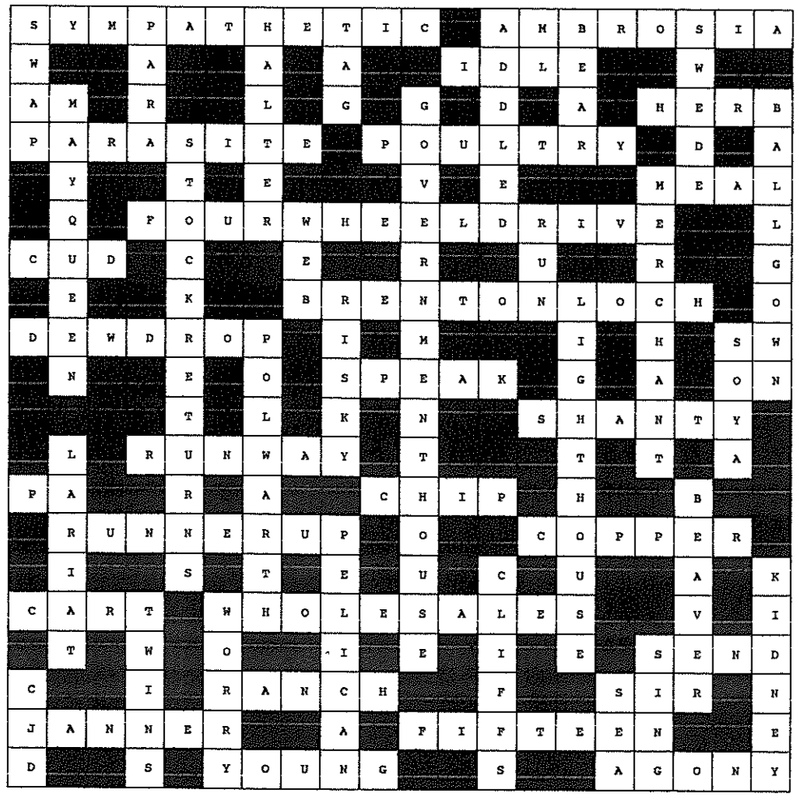
* It was agreed that the Animal Welfare Code of Practice be incorporated into legislation.

* The general structure of the Department of Agriculture was discussed at some length with new posts being agreed for an Agricultural Development Officer, Beef Adviser, Tree Specialist, Sheep Husbandry Officer and Legume Agronomist, plus some additional Field Assistants.

* A recent advert in the Penguin News lead to a discussion on the importation of animal species that could become pests. A representative from Falklands Conservation was present at the meeting to voice their concerns as they are against such importations.

* A number of new wool presses are to be ordered shortly and will be in the Islands in time for them to be operational this coming season.

* Finally, it was agreed that Andrew Coe (Vet.) would attend a seminar in Paris from 20th - 24th May on the organisational recording and reporting of animal diseases around the world. Pending approval from Exco, Aidan Kerr is to attend the 97th International Grassland Congress in June 1997.



MAY

CROSS WORD

SOLUTION

RECIPE - STICKY CHOPS

by Mandy Mcleod

This is a basting sauce that is used on mutton chops for the final half hour of cooking.

Basting sauce ingredients:
4 fluid ounces of Soy sauce
2 tablespoons of honey
2 tablespoons of brown sugar
a little chile powder (depending on your taste)
1 clove garlic, finely chopped or crushed (optional)
1/2 teaspoon ginger paste or ground ginger (optional)

Cook chops (singles, not as a side) with no seasoning in a covered roasting pan. Drain off all juices. Spoon the basting sause over the top and return to oven for final half hour or so. Baste and turn chops several times to ensure they all get a good coating and can absorb the flavours.

With this amount there is very little "gravy" left as the chops take it all up (hence the name "sticky"). If you like the flavour but would like some of the gravy, try leaving some of the juices in the pan instead of draining it all off (not much though or you will lose the sticky effect and the chops themselves will not be so good). Either way, these are delicious served with any vegetables.

PRODUCTS PAGE

by Charlene Rowland

Recently I wrote off for information on Milking Machines and Milk Seperators, and received quite a lot of literture. If anyone is interested I would be happy to supply the information. For the time being I will give you some basic facts.

Mobile Milking Machines
The Handi Milker is a powerful milking machine that can be used as a mobile or a fixed unit linked to a vacuum line. This milker is available in petrol or diesel models, with a large capacity vacuum tank fitted with a servac regulator and gauge.

Their is also a mini mobile milker which is an easy to manoeuvre robust unit. The carriage is designed to hold one milk bucket as standard, and also can be fitted with a separate rack to carry two buckets. The mini mobile is also operated with either petrol or diesel. It is very handy especially if your cow shed is not in a very good state or even just for the milking in the summer months. I would say it was a very handy piece of equipment that can be tucked away over the winter without too much bother.

Price range: £356.00 to £612.00

Milk Seperators
I also have litrature and catalogues on Milk Seperators. These seperators can handle up to 275 gallons of milk in an hour with a price range of £7,395.00 (ouch!) down to £700.00

FOWL BELIEFS

by Charlene Rowland

Have you ever heard that eggs should never be set when the wind is blowing from the north; if eggs were set under such conditions, they would not hatch. Also, there is the tale that if eggs were placed under a broody hen in the morning that the chicks that hatched would all be roosters, and if in the afternoon, all pullets.

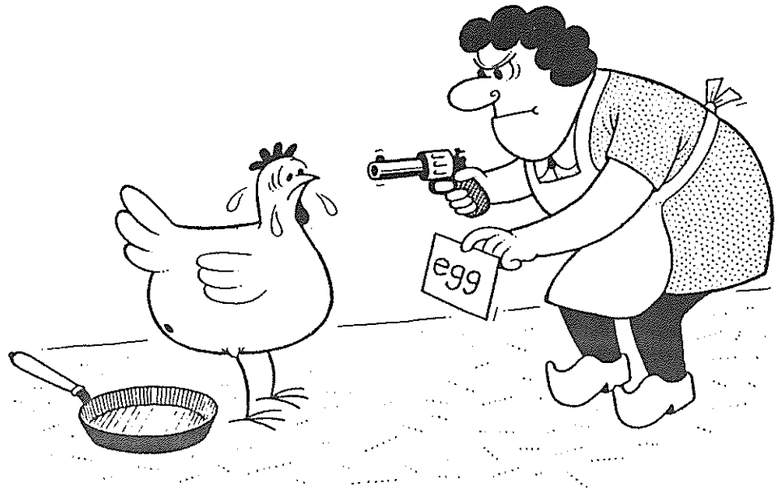
I have come across a book called "Sexing all Fowl, Baby Chicks" and have found some very interesting beliefs. Even today, you still hear the same stories.

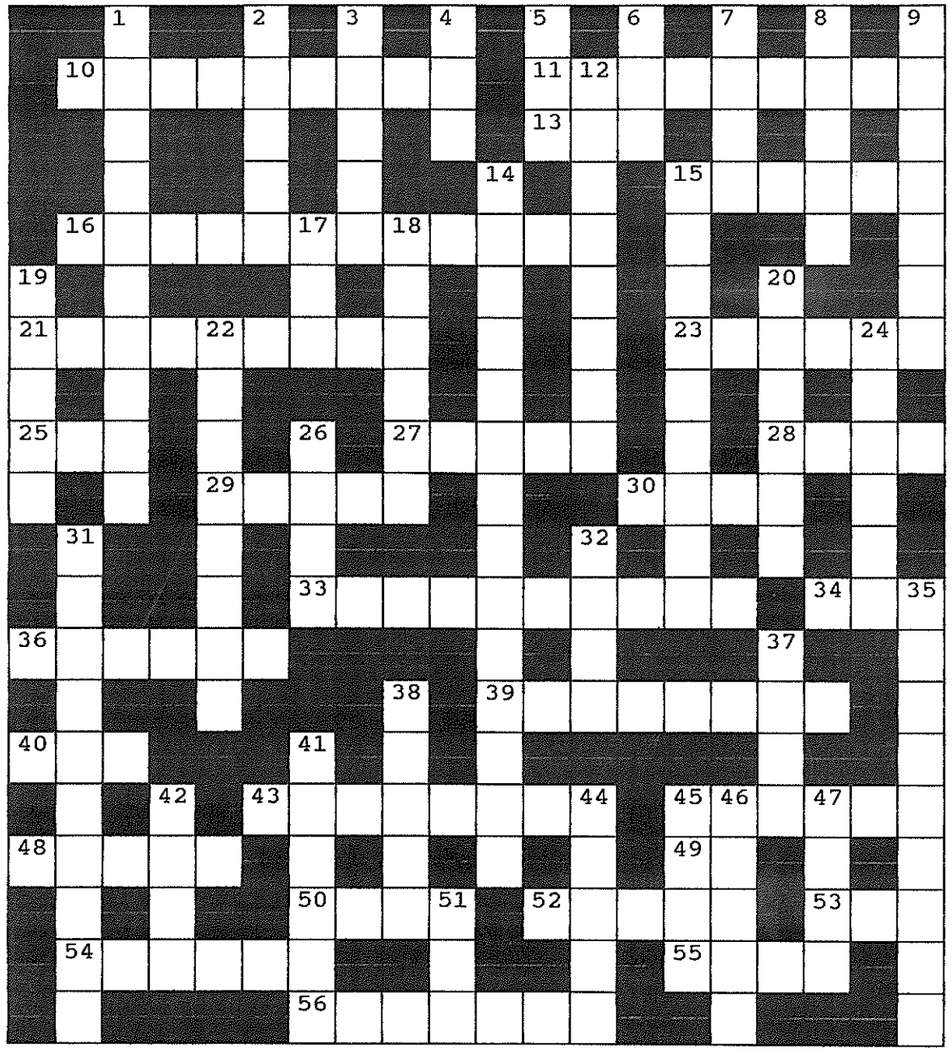
There is a prevalent belief that all sharp pointed eggs would hatch rooster chicks while the more rounded ones would produce pullet chicks.

Another story that is just as silly and unfounded (this one even prevails with some folk today) is the one whereby eggs will be adversely affected when hatching if a thunder cloud blows in. In other words, the heavy thunder supposedly jars the unhatched chicks and kills them in the shell.

Perhaps the most silly belief of all is the one in which some breeders cling to saying that to tap eggs lightly together to ascertain if they are cracked before setting, will kill the embryo instantly. Nothing could be further from actual facts because the mother hen rolls and bumps her eggs almost continuously throughout the incubation period.

In next months Wool Press I will be giving you information on how to sex your chicks. If anyone is interested in determining the sex of other fowl i.e. ducks, geese etc., please give me a call, and I will send you information on how to go about it!





THE JUNE CROSS WORD

GAP STUDENT PLACEMENTS

A GAP student is a young person (Around 17 - 19) that is taking a break from education, usually between 'A' levels and University. It is often the first time that they have left home for anything longer than a holiday and their experience during their GAP placement is a valuable start to their adult life. There are opportunities to go all over the world and some choose to come here for their 6 months work programme.

This year we have had two young women on placements. Cressida Langlands has been at Port Howard and Harriet Sale has been at San Carlos working with Ron & Iris Dickson and Adrian and Michelle Minnell. If Harriet's diary is anything to go by, it looks like their time here has been a worthwhile experience, and they will return to the UK as excellent ambassadors for the Falkland Islands.

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

10. EAST RADAR SITE (5,4)
11. PROGENY
13. MINE
15. ROUND TABLE MEMBER
16. CATHEDRAL NAME
21. GRASS CUTTER (4,5)
23. ROYAL RESIDENCE
25. CONFLICT
27. PERFECT FOR PURPOSE
28. VIOLENT DISORDER
29. FINNISH BATH
30. THICK CORD
33. A BELOW THE SURFACE SAILOR
34. UPPER APPENDAGE
36. SINGING CAGE BIRD USED BY MINERS
39. BAND OF LIGHT CONSISTING OF MANY HEAVENLY BODIES (5,3)
40. ANIMAL KEPT FOR THE SAKE OF IT
43. FATHERLY
45. INFECTED WOUND
48. ENERGY ABSORBING PANEL
49. BEFORE LUNCH GENERALLY
50. DECORATED LIKE A CAKE
52. PLENTY
53. WOMAN OF RELIGIOUS ORDER
54. POPULATION COUNT
55. HORSEBACK JOURNEY
56. EXECUTIONER

DOWN

1. WEST "FERRY" TERMINAL! (4,6)
2. BOOK OF MAPS
3. A VERY OLD MOMENTO
4. EYELID SWELLING
5. RABBIT MOVEMENT
6. NAUTICAL REAR
7. FAST TURN
8. LOTTO
9. STIR UP
12. ANGLING TRAP (4,4)
14. MAY QUEEN'S "BEST MAN" (6,8)
15. BLACK AND WHITE FEMALE, WHITE MALE (4,5)
17. PULL BEHIND
18. ABDOMINAL RUPTURE
19. FUNNY PERSON
20. RED WINE
22. SLIGHT WETNESS
24. THREE LEAFED LEGUME
26. BARS
31. WESTERN TRAVEL (5,5)
32. CLOCK FACE
35. HEALING OR THERAPEUTIC
37. FALKLANDS COUNTRYSIDE
38. WINTER VEGETABLE
41. CHURCH DISTRICT
42. FARM STORAGE BUILDING
44. SOUR FRUIT
45. SODIUM CHLORIDE
46. ABRASIVE PAPER
47. ARMOURED VEHICLE
51. CANINE

It is likely that there will be GAP students to find placements for during the coming season. It is not known at the moment whether they are male or female (we usually find out more details around August).

The young people pay their own way down here. Once placed on a farm, the farmer is expected to pay them (£70 a week assuming there are no general wage increases in the Islands between now and then) and supply full board and lodging.

If you are interested in hosting a student, could you contact the Editors so that we can discuss the details.

With so many of our own young people going away to do their 'A' levels and on to University, there may be a time when some of them choose to GAP for a year, either in the UK or elsewhere in the world. It would be good to think of them being welcomed.

FARMERS WEEK

Judy Summers has sent the following information regarding the proposed arrangements for Farmers Week. A detailed timetable of events has been sent to members.

The week starts with the Annual General Meeting at 5 pm on Sunday 30th June in the Town Hall Refreshment Room.

During the week we will be meeting the following people:

* The Chief Executive

* Mr Hugh Normand, the new General Manager, FIDC to discuss the new abattoir and other projects.

* Mr Ian Chivers, the General Manager, Cable & Wireless PLC.

* Mr Peter Marriott.

* Representatives of The Falkland Islands Company Ltd.

* Mr Mike Summers to discuss the Standring Report on Conservation. Mike is Chairman of the working group looking at new legislation which could affect landowners.

Visits are planned to:

* The Department of Agriculture and new laboratory.

* The Market Garden.

* Stanley Dairy to see silage feeding and baling.

* The Community School for a demonstration of communication by computer / modem, etc.

There will be the usual round of social events including a variety show put on by FIODA and a gathering of DOA staff, farmers and other invited guests at the Malvina House Hotel.

We hope to see as many of you who can make it to Stanley for Farmers Week when there is ample opportunity to exchange and share ideas and views to promote a high standard of farming in the Falklands.

The Farmers Association welcome new members.

Contact Judy Summers. Tel: 22660 Fax: 22659

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 80 JULY 1996 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

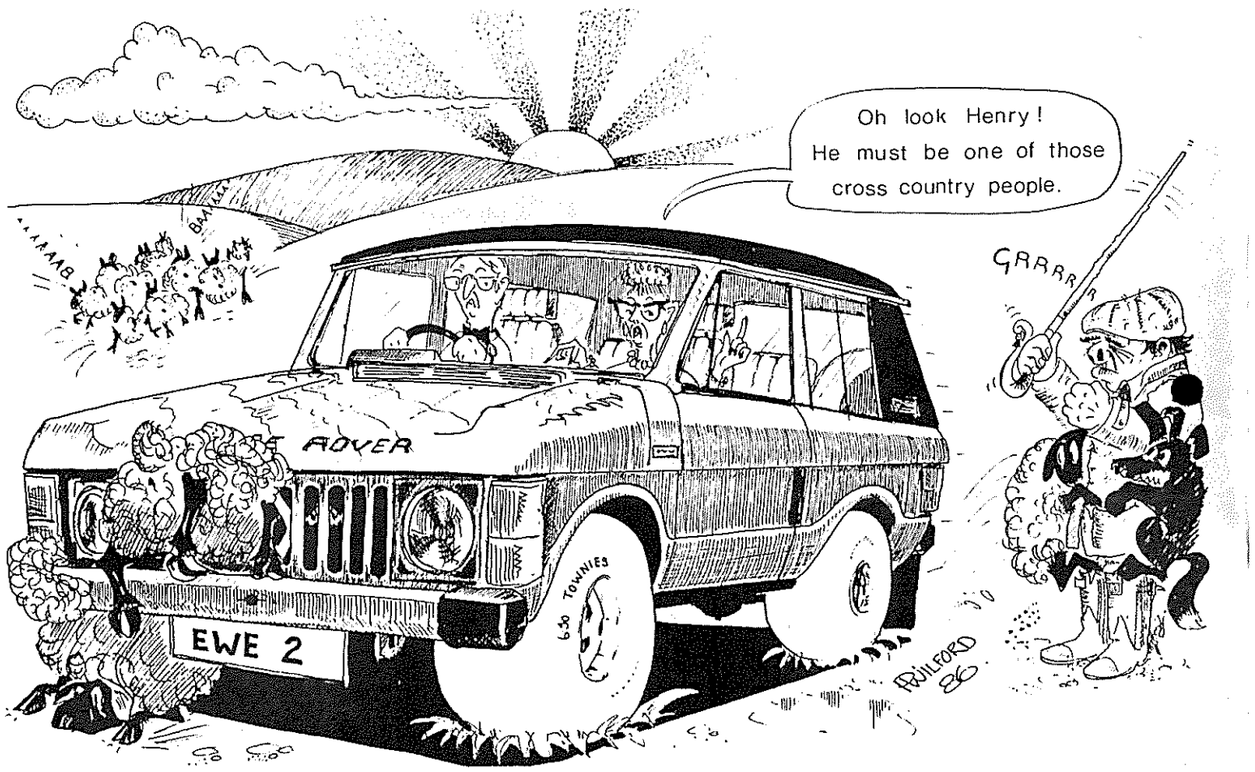
Well, the shortest day has been and gone. I would like to think that it goes hand in hand with Winter being on the way out too, but I think I may be a little over optimistic on that one! Nice thought though. At least the livestock (and us) have had a reasonable spell of weather so far. Long may it continue.

Farmers week is here again. Having missed last year's, it will be good to see you after such a long time. We all look forward to the social evening (this year at the Malvina House Hotel) as it gives us a chance to talk in groups rather than in isolated phone conversations.

There are still one or two livestock forms to come in. On the whole the return response has been good and prompt. Remember that all forms should have been in by the 30th June.

I am waiting in anticipation (as the saying goes) for lots of replies to my Agricultural Training Scheme courses questionnaire. No one is so clever or good at everything that they don't need to be shown how to do something every once in a while!

ENJOY FARMERS WEEK IF YOU'RE IN TOWN



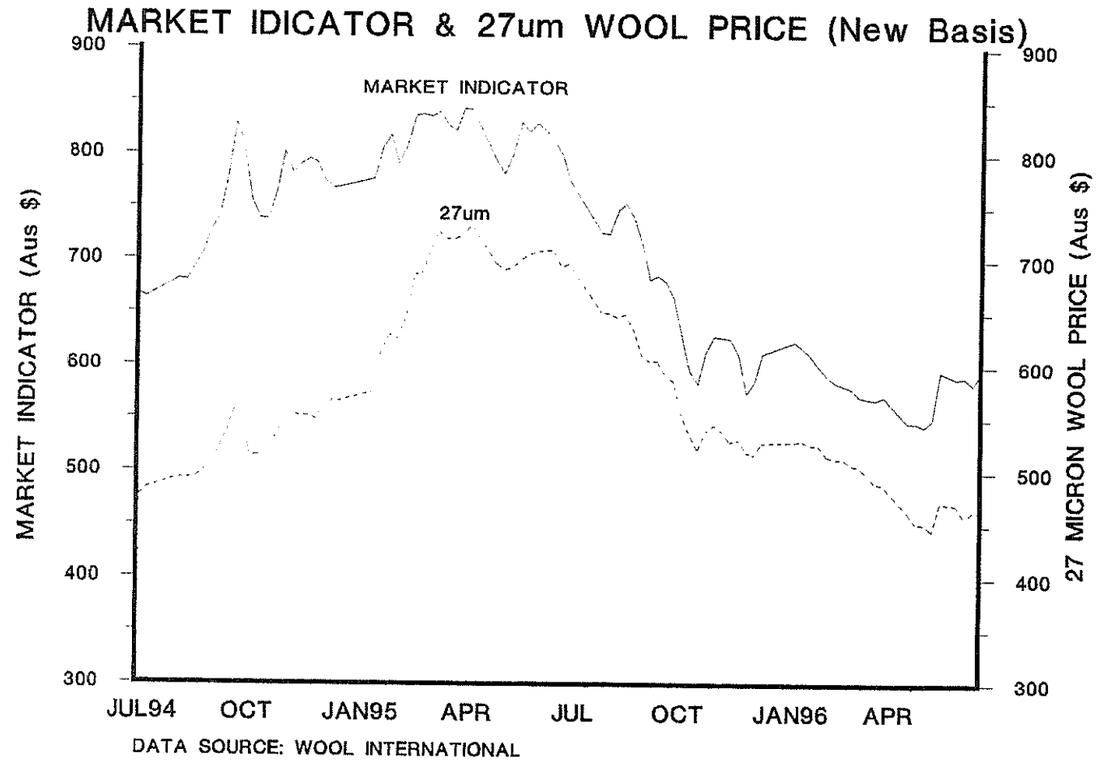
THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics / Training Officer, DoA.
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA.
Lilian Wallace	Clerk, DoA.
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA.
Gillian Phillips	Senior Agricultural Assistant.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.

WOOL REPORT

by Hugh Marsden

The Australian market has continued to display a degree of optimism in the run up to the 1995/96 season close.



The Market Indicator has risen by 6 cents during the month to close at 595 cents on the 21st June. The 27um Indicator has fallen by 7 cents to close at 463 cents/kg clean. Fine wool categories appear to have made modest gains suggesting that underlying factors could at last be a little more positive.

Economic indicators suggest that the Japanese economy could also be emerging from a period of severe recession. As a major importer of wool, the Japanese economy is central to any sustained improvement in the wool market. Exports of Australian wool to Japan during the 1995/96 season have been extremely sluggish at just 42 million kgs for the first 9 months of the season compared to 70 mkg in the previous year. This represents a 40% reduction on the 1994/95 export level.

A further component of the recovery is the continued weakening of the Australian $. During the month, the Australian $ has weakened by 4 cents against the £ to close at 203 cents on the 24th June. The $ also fell against the U.S $ and other wool traded currencies.

Recent production forecasts produced by the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee suggest that the 1996/97 greasy wool production in Australia will be 641 mkg. With the forecasted production for the 1995/96 season being 646 mkg, this represents a 1% reduction on last year and the lowest level of Australian production since the 1982/83 season.

FARM BUDGETING

by Hugh Marsden

With new application procedures being introduced for the Rural Development Assistance Programme there is greater need for farms (like all other businesses) to carry out an investment appraisal for new business initiatives. Applications that are not accompanied by detailed financial analysis are liable to be rejected or deferred until sufficient information is made available to the F.I.D.C Board. There are a number of appraisal techniques that may be applied, the principal ones are outlined below:

1. Cost Benefit Analysis

This is a rather complicated accounting procedure that is perhaps better suited to major projects such as the construction of a factory. The technique relies upon the availability of precise and complete information on cost and forecasted benefits. The resulting income flows are also usually discounted to reflect the future value of money. Cost benefit analysis is particularly useful for large scale and longer term projects particularly where the annual returns from any capital investment is not fixed .

2. Partial Budgets

This technique is probably the simplest approach for carrying out an investment appraisal of small scale projects typically carried out on farms. As it's name suggest, the exercise does not require a complete reappraisal of the farm's finances, but focuses more on the individual project being considered. It is normally applied to compare different production systems, however the technique may be also applied to the project appraisal exercise.

The basic principal is that any new initiative may have up to 4 distinct financial effects on the business, these are as follows:

A proposed change might...

1. ..... reduce farm revenue.
2. ..... incur additional costs on the farm.
3. ..... add additional revenue to the business.
4. ..... reduce farm costs.

For the technique to be applied properly it is vital to ensure that all of the above affects are carefully identified, considered and quantified. The table below gives a hypothetical example of how to approach the exercise.

For a project to be selected, be the value of points 1 and 2 should be less than the value of points 3 and 4. Should the converse occur, the project should be rejected.

Proposed change: Reseed 29 acres		**Estimated cost £3,356**	
COST OF CHANGE	**£**	**BENEFITS OF CHANGE**	**£**
REVENUE LOST		**EXPENSE SAVED**	
		PURCHASE OF 68 SHEEP @ £5	**340.00**
EXTRA EXPENSE		**EXTRA REVENUE**	
FERTILISER @ .39p/kg (cif)	**565.50**	**ADDITIONAL WOOL SALES**	**152.00**
DEPRECIATION (RESEED 10yr)	**211.37**		
DEPRECIATION (FENCING 25yr)	**49.68**		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 8%	**268.45**		
TOTAL COSTS	**1,095**	**TOTAL BENEFITS**	**492.00**
BALANCE - LOSS	**£603**		
CONCLUSION: There is no advantage in this change			

3. Cash flow analysis.

With any new venture it is often more important to test the proposal against the farms financial position to see if can fit alongside financial constraints (such as a bank overdraft ceiling.) Farmers must recognise that a project can often fail (and create a bankruptcy situation) due to the fact that it does not fit into a farm's cash-flow. Such a situation often occurs where a project requires a major initial capital outlay with little immediate return. It is therefore imperative that a farm should carefully consider it's own financial circumstances during an investment appraisal phase to see if a project is actually in it's best financial interest.

Cash flow forms are available from the Economics Section for any farm wishing to carry out a cash flow forecast. These forms are relatively simple to complete and are based on the farm account book series. See November 1993 edition of Wool Press for further details.

Cash flow forecasting should not just be seen as an investment appraisal technique it is equally useful for the day to day running of the business, particularly for enterprises that are operating under tight financial constraints (such as an overdraft ceiling.)

MAD RUSH

by Robert H.B.Hall

Shearers in the Falkland Islands are shearing sheep quicker than ever: shed records have been broken and personal best tallies increase along the board. The number of sheep shorn per day per shearer could be up nearly 20% from a few years ago, however, this has not generally been matched by a 20% increase in shed hands, particularly table hands. Wool quality is thus at risk, especially through the incomplete removal of stained pieces by table hands under pressure to do the job more quickly than can be done well.

Assuming that both sheep and fleece leave the shearing board in good condition, high shearing tallies are indeed impressive, however, they must not be at the expense of wool quality. There is no chance of a shearer slowing down, therefore, on farms where the table hands are too rushed to skirt properly, farmers must consider two alternatives:

1. Increase the number of wool tables and table hands to cope with the increase in fleeces which are shorn by the shearers.

2. Decrease the number of shearers shearing in the shed, but allow them to still operate at their chosen speed.

The first option means more people to organise, feed, pay or give reciprocal help to, but achieving high sheep throughput. The second option means asking the shearer ganger to operate smaller gangs. Both options would enable higher standards of wool quality to be achieved, which is so important when dark coloured fibre levels threaten the clip.

The improved efficiencies of today's shearers is commendable, but they must be integrated with the rest of the "harvesting" operation. Speedy shearers necessitate a new strategic thinking for wool preparation.

The cowboy image of the "gun" shearer is fine. A cowboy image for Falklands wool quality is not so cool and must be avoided.

July 1996

PARIS IN THE SPRINGTIME

by Andrew Coe

Owen looked a little aghast when I told him I had been invited to attend the 64th General Session of the OIE in Paris during May of this year and that I would like to accept the invitation. But, several weeks later, after approval by the Agricultural Management Committee and Executive Council I was off on my way for a first time visit to arguably the worlds' most beautiful city. So why was I going?

The OIE is the Office of International Des Epizooties or the World Organisation for Animal Health. It is an international organisation created in 1924 in response to a serious outbreak of Rinderpest (Cattle Plague) in Europe. Its main functions are:

1. To inform Governments on the cause of diseases and control methods.

2. To promote and co-ordinate research activities of National Veterinary Services on animal diseases.

3. To standardise rules and procedures for the international trade of animals and animal products.

The OIE works in close co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It has a current membership of 143 countries. The Falkland Islands are represented at the OIE through the membership of the United Kingdom.

The General Session is the annual forum for international veterinary co-operation, in which the Directors of Veterinary Services from over one hundred countries participate. A wide range of technical items were covered which had both direct and indirect relevance to the Falkland Islands as follows.

1. Of particular interest is that the whole of the southern part of South America (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay) is now considered to be free of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and no longer vaccinates against FMD. Argentina is currently seeking official OIE recognition of this fact. Foot and Mouth Disease was also discussed in relation to the role of carrier animals as the cause of spread and new outbreaks of the disease.

2. BSE was a widely covered topic with numerous questions and objections from delegates which became quite heated at times. The implications of BSE for the international trade of live cattle, semen, ova and beef and beef products were the main issue and it may be some time before we have definitive answers to some of the questions posed. One of the difficulties at the meeting was trying to establish a set of criteria whereby a country would be able to declare itself BSE free.

3. The OIE publishes an International Animal Health Code which lays down procedures that will enable animals and animal products to be traded internationally with the minimum risk of transmitting disease to the importing country. The OIE is recognised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the international standard setting agency in this respect. An importing country may lay down more stringent requirements than those set by the OIE if it can scientifically justify the need for this but it cannot do so merely to inhibit trade.

OK you might say, but what is the relevance of all this to the Falklands?

Firstly I discovered that the Falkland Islands is not on the OIE list of countries that is officially free from FMD. This in spite of the fact that to my knowledge FMD has never been present in the Falklands. The reason for this is that the Falklands are not permitted to join the OIE in its own right being officially represented by the UK. With the new abattoir, it is essential that our FMD free status is recognised and I have written to the UK Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to ask how we can achieve this.

A similar state of affairs exists with BSE as we have had one case in an imported animal. Once again with a view to the abattoir I have written to the UK CVO to try and clarify the position.

Secondly, international trade of animals and animal products is on the increase. We can either bury our heads in the sand or we can try to keep abreast of new developments and current trading patterns so that we can develop our own certification requirements based on good science. By attending a meeting such as this it allows discussions to be held and contacts to be made with senior veterinary surgeons who are at the sharp end of shaping import and export policy in their respective countries. This helps to develop a 'feel' for what is both acceptable and sensible, and I am better equipped to give advice to the Falklands Islands Government on our own import policy as a result.

Thirdly, attendance at meetings such as these helps raise the profile of the Falkland Islands on the International stage. Most people I spoke to, including those from friendly South American countries were surprised to learn that the vast majority of Falklanders were of British descent and spoke English. There is obviously a lot of PR work left to do on this front. Argentina fielded the largest team of any country with over 20 delegates and were shocked to find the Falklands represented at all.

All in all I found it a fascinating week which I like to think gave F.I.G. good value for the cost involved.

And was it all work and no play? Well of course it wasn't. I met up with several old friends, made a lot of new ones, and I landed at MPA with gout in my big toe. Bon apetit!

RAM HARNESSES

Source: The Sheep Farmer

When the harnesses are taken off the rams after tupping do not be tempted to throw them in a corner and forget about them until next year, writes David Hall.

If the harnesses are good quality leather, wash them thoroughly and let them dry naturally. Then massage the leather with a good quality saddle soap and cover any metal parts - such as buckles - with a thin layer of vaseline or similar grease to prevent rust. Nylon or cotton harnesses must be washed thoroughly and dried naturally and the metal buckles greased.

When the harnesses have been cleaned and treated put them in individual plastic bags - pierced for air circulation - and hang them in a dry place ready for next season.

Remember that if you choose a good quality harness in the first place, and look after it, it will have a much longer life than a cheap first buy.

DARK COLOURED FIBRES

by Robert Hall

The presence of stain and dark coloured fibres in Falklands wool creates significant problems. Such contamination reduces the value and flexibility of wool because it cannot be used like "snow white" wools (Ref. Wool Press 79: *Stain Free Clip Campaign*)

Manufacturers identify stain, dark coloured fibres and badly skirted fleeces either on a visual basis when bales are first opened or by frequent laboratory testing during first stage processing. In recent years, both procedures have identified problems with both small and large Falkland Island farms precipitating complaints (eg GI & NA). No farmer has been wrongly penalised for dark and coloured fibres. Within the Falklands context, buyers understand that Falklands fleece wools are skirted properly: thus it is not a question of producers getting more for doing the basic job correctly, but of losing revenue for unaccepted wools.

Unfortunately, average Falklands wool dark coloured fibre levels have always been higher than those in Australia. The recent complaint concerning wool sampled from 14 farms across the Falkland Islands suggests however, that average dark coloured fibre levels have typically risen from lower levels achieved only a couple of years ago. In addition Australian wool experts now consider crutching to greatly assist farm efforts to minimise dark fibre levels, which is a practise not undertaken in the Falklands. This implies that the dark coloured fibre problem extends throughout the clip to a greater or lesser degree; hence the Agency's current wish not to narrow the focus on improving fleece skirting to merely 14 farms, since all farms need to undertake meticulous skirting next season.

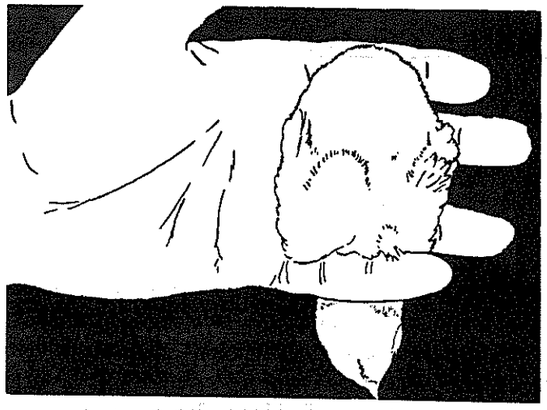
Wool growers elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere are volunteering to participate in Quality Assurance Schemes, making improvements to their shearing operations and subjecting themselves to shed inspections. The backbone of such schemes is the prevention of contamination and minimisation of dark coloured fibre levels. The suggestion that a campaign against stain be implemented, could initially be anything from a code of practise to shed inspections, depending upon how close to a Quality Assurance Scheme farmers wished to start.

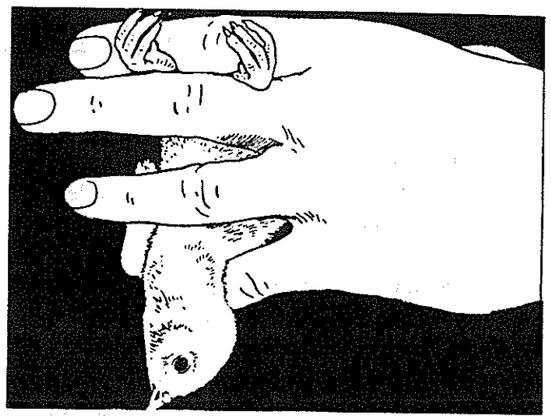
In short, the issue of stain contamination concerns all those involved in the Falkland Island wool industry, especially given the increasing overseas competition

SEXING BABY CHICKS

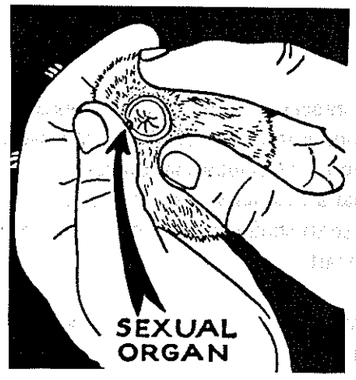
Source: Sexing all fowl, baby chicks, game birds & cage birds.

Examination of the chick to determine its sex may be done in the following manner: Grasp the chick in the left hand so that its legs are held gently but securely between the first and second fingers and its head lies toward the little finger side of the hand. The chick's legs should be grasped as close to its body as possible so that the under side of the body of the chick is firmly pressed against the inside of the operator's left hand. The chick's head may be held between the third and fourth fingers of the left hand. This reduces the struggling of the chick but the beginner must be very careful lest he strangle the chick by applying too much or too long sustained pressure on the neck.





With the chick held firmly in this position, place the thumb of the left hand on the abdomen of the chick, between the forefinger of the left hand and the vent of the chick. Direct the vent of the chick toward a container placed beneath it, then press with the left thumb upon the abdomen of the chick. This manipulation will usually cause the chick to void a mass of excrement from the vent. If the chick does not void, place the thumb and second finger of the right hand to the right and left, respectively, of the chick's vent and gently press on its abdomen, at the same time applying pressure with the left thumb, until the vent is opened. This will cause voiding. Some skilled operators do not cause the chick to void but the beginner is advised to do so.



Continuing to hold the chick as described, turn the left hand so that the vent of the chick is in full view, about six to twelve inches from the operator's eyes. If the chick's vent is excessively moist, wipe the forefinger of the right hand gently across the vent to remove the moisture. Now apply pressure with the thumb and second finger on the abdomen at both sides of the vent until it is fully opened but not prolapsed.

In prolapse the insides of the chick stick out through the vent. If the chick is badly prolapsed, put it inside for a few minutes to recover and try another chick. Very few chicks are killed or even seriously injured in the operation of sexing.

It is often helpful to reduce slightly, then to increase, the pressure of the thumb and second finger of the right hand on the abdomen of the chick so that the vent is successively opened a little less, then a little more, and to repeat the manipulation several times. Organs may be brought into view in this way that would be overlooked otherwise. Never pinch the sides of the vent together; pull them apart. Sometimes covering all of the vent except the lower or abdominal edge with the tip of the forefinger of the right hand, then pushing the lower edge of the vent outward with the nail of that forefinger, makes the penis (male organ) or clitoris (female organ) stand out more prominently.

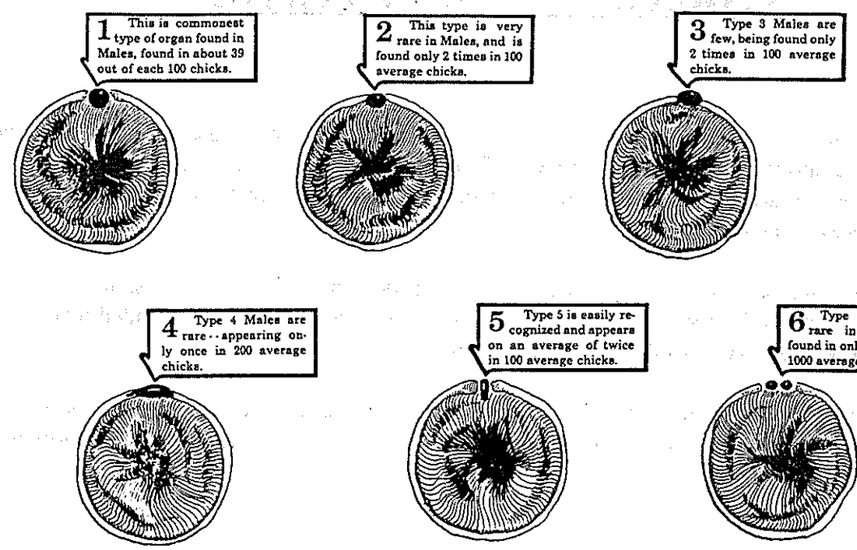
The penis of a male chick, held with its vent opened but not prolapsed, will be found at the inner edge of the vent at the side next the operator's left thumb. The penis varies in size from the size of the head of a common pin to about twice that size. In white Leghorn chicks, the penis is a glistening pale to dark pink. In most it is usually darker than the surrounding tissues. It must be emphasized that the penis lies in the exact center of the abdominal side, just at the inner edge of the vent. Tiny bumps of tissue produced by manipulation may confuse the beginner.

The clitoris of the female chick, if visible, will be seen at a spot corresponding exactly to the location of the penis in the male. The clitoris varies in size from that of the smallest penis down to organs so small that their existence is questionable. The clitoris is likely to be less distinct in outline that the penis or, if distinct, much smaller that the penis. In coloured breeds the clitoris and the immediately surrounding tissues may be quite dark in color. The beginner must guard against mistaking a dark spot for a fairly large organ and consequently classifying the chick as a male instead of as a female. Good light is very important for accurate chick sexing. Direct sunlight is best. A two hundred watt daylight bulb makes a fair substitute.

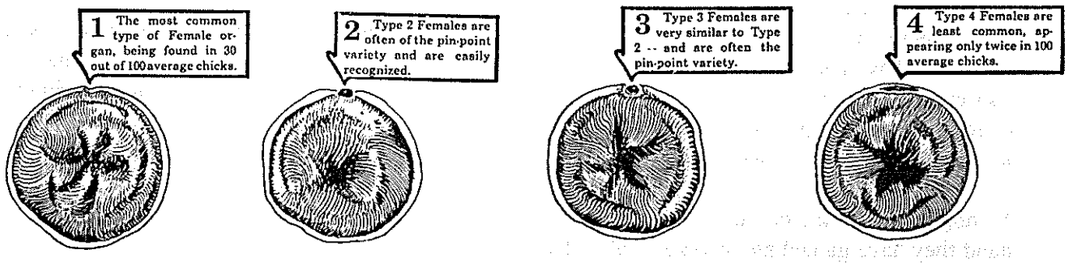
While male and female chicks may be separated at any convenient time after hatching, the best time to handle the chicks is when they are from twelve to thirty-six hours old. Chicks less than twelve hours old are more apt to suffer prolapses than older chicks. Unfed chicks more than thirty-six hours old are likely to have a vent a little harder to open, the penis or clitoris a little harder to see than in younger chicks.

Guide to Determining the Sex of Baby Chicks

MALES



FEMALES



No difficulty should be experienced in recognizing Male Chicks with types 1,3,5 or 6 organs, as there are no female organs resembling these types.

Now look at the Female types. The type 1 Females are easily recognized at once and comprise by far the largest group of females. The type 2 and 3 Females are of the pin-point variety, and with a little experience, will be as quickly recognized as the type 1 Females. When type 2 and 3 Females have organs nearly as large as the smallest of the Males, look closely to see that they do not stand up as well as the Male organs. Also, they do not have a distinct boundary line and they have a tendency to disappear when stretched or flattened with the tip of the fingers. Type 4 organs will probably present the greatest difficulty - but there are few of them. The operator must be able to determine the sex by the consistency and firmness of the organ. If it is a large, thick, elongated organ that stands up well and has a quite definite outline, the operator will determine it to be a Male. But if the organ appears like a thickened, inflamed fold, or fails to have one distinct Male characteristic, the chick is a Female. A safe guide will be to classify as Females, all chicks in which the operator cannot be certain that an organ is really present.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK UPDATE

by Gillian Phillips

General

The Saladero house was completed and handed over from the contractors on the 1st May 96. Arthur and Rhoda moved into the house on the 15th May. The house was erected by Buster Summers and Terrence McPhee who are to be congratulated for their speed and high quality workmanship throughout the entire contract.

The shearing shed shell has also been completed by Ian Stewart which also deserves similar recognition. The contract for the interior works is to be issued very shortly. It is intended that the shed will be a three stand chute shed with a raised board.

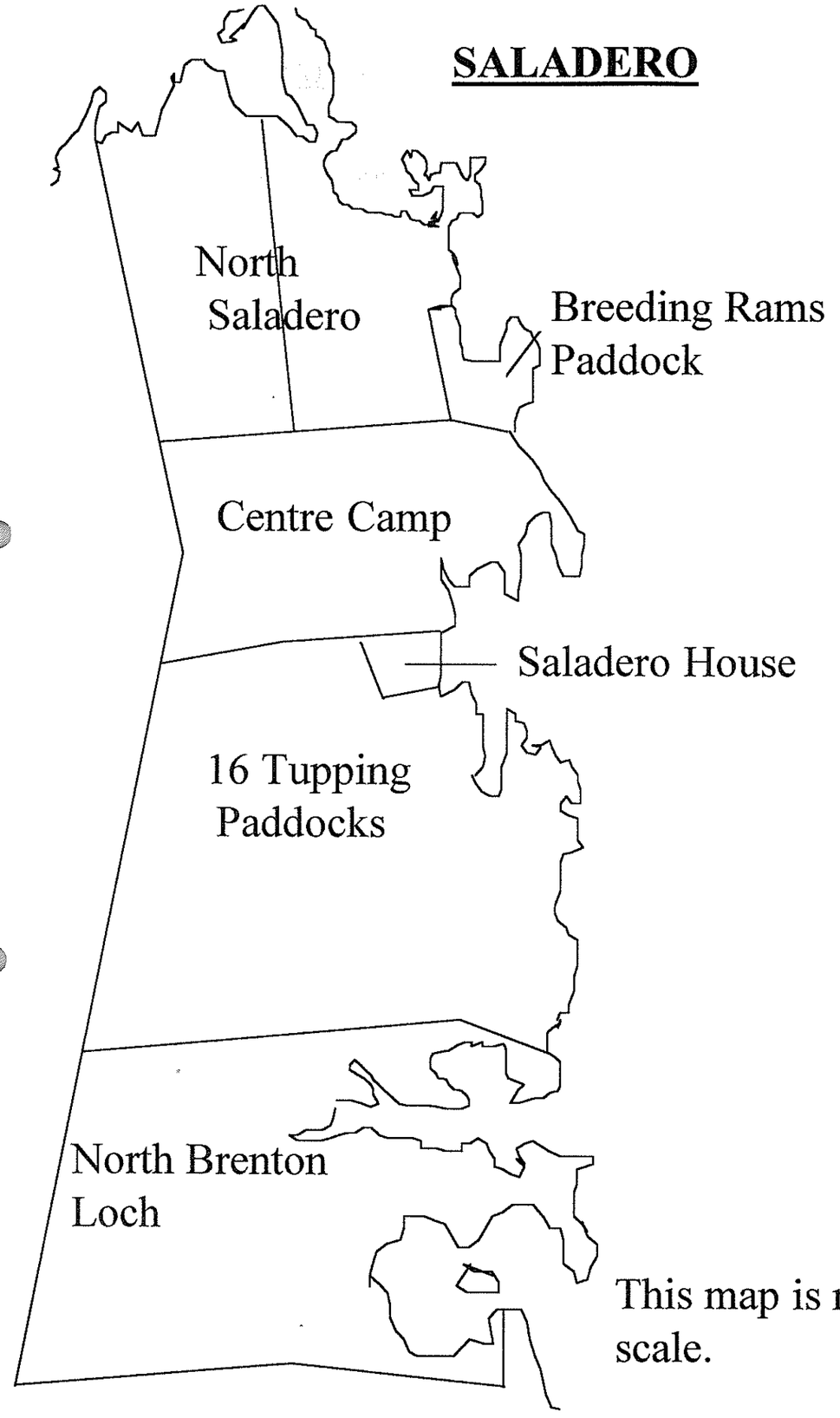
All the fencing has been completed, some by Department of Agriculture staff and some by Keith Heathman. Two beach fences remain to be completed at a convenient tide. In all about 15 miles have been erected.

Livestock

The shearling ewes are in excellent condition and are situated in the north end of Brenton Loch for the winter.

At present all breeding ewes and rams are in their tupping paddocks. A number of the original Tasmanian ewes have lost some body condition since leaving Sea Lion Island in February. This was to be expected due to their age (six year old) and generally settling into the different ground. Energy feed blocks have been placed in some of the tupping paddocks, and at the end of tupping some of the older ewes which are found to be in poorer condition will be separated so that they can continue to be fed over a longer period. It is thought that most of the flock will need supplementary feed later in the winter. The maiden ewes that joined the breeding flock this year are in excellent condition.

The hoggs have come on very well since leaving Sea Lion Island, during the first 2 months off the Island they have gained an average of 6kg. They will be weighed at 2 month intervals (approx) during the winter months and spring to keep a check on any weight gains or losses.



This map is not to scale.

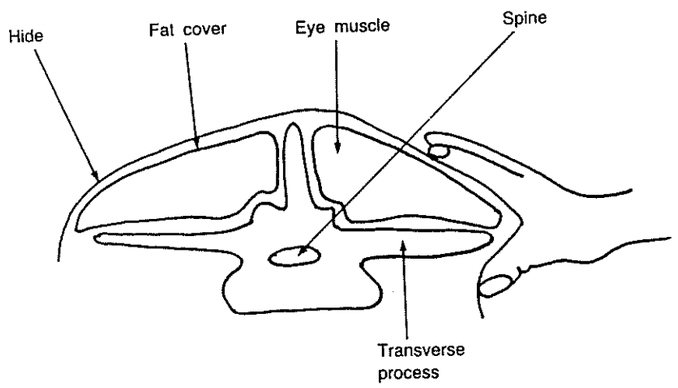
CONDITION SCORING IN COWS

Source: Suckled Calf Production

As with sheep, condition scoring should be used to assess the nutritional needs in cows at the critical stages of their reproductive cycle. Initially, scoring should be done by handling the cows individually, but when sufficient experience has been gained it should be possible to score them by eye.

When handling the cows the procedure is to grip the loin halfway between the last rib and the hip bone. The hand is placed on top of the loin with the fingers pointing towards the spine, the thumb is pressed round the transverse processes of the spine to feel the fat cover over the tips of the processes. (see diagram below)

Condition scoring



Body condition is scored on a six point scale from 0 (very thin) to 5 (very fat) as follows:

Condition score	*Decription of loin*
0	The spine stands out and the ends of the processes feel very sharp.
1	The spine is still prominent but the transverse processes feel less sharp.
2	The spine is less prominent and the transverse processes feel cushioned by the increased fat cover.
3	The transverse processes can only just be felt.
4	The transverse processes cannot be felt.
5	The transverse processes cannot be felt under a thick layer of fat.

Target Condition Scores

The table below shows the target condition scores for autumn and spring calving cows at different stages of the reproductive cycle.

Stage of reproductive cycle	*Autumn calving cows*	*Spring calving cows*
At calving	3	2.5
At mating	2.5	2
Mid-pregnancy	2	3

Autumn calving cows

Calving cows in the autumn at a condition score of 3 reduces the need for good feeds after the calving and allows half a score drop in condition up to the bulling period. If the cows were to be calved at a condition score of 2, large amounts of feed would have to be given to provide sufficient nutrients for lactation in addition to allowing an increase in body weight. After mating and successful implantation of the embryo, cow condition can be allowed to drop to a score of 2 in mid pregnancy.

After turn out, which occurs during mid-pregnancy, body condition should increase to score 3 during the grazing season. A higher score than 3 could lead to calving problems, especially in herds where heavy sires are used. Very tight stocking of cows after weaning may be necessary to stop the cows putting on too much condition prior to calving, especially in a good year for grass growth.

Spring calving cows

The advantages of spring calving over autumn calving are lower winter feed requirements and the utilisation of nutritious grass to achieve good conception rates. The target score for calving is 2.5 and, because a high intake of nutrients from spring grass results in a rising plane of nutrition, cows should conceive at condition score 2. During the grazing season the condition of cows should gradually improve to score 3, which allows subsequent savings in feed due to the use of body reserves throughout the winter, prior to calving at score 2.5.

Condition scoring helps to:

- ◊ Maximise conception rates.
- ◊ Allow economic use of feeds.
- ◊ Identify thin cows which can then be given preferential treatment.
- ◊ Avoid calving problems.

FALKLANDS IN STYLE

Source: Farmers Weekly/Farmlife

A scattered group of Polwarth ewes and their sturdy, half grown lambs grazed the turf above a beach backed by a low bluff covered with whitegrass. It was flat but far form featureless. The sheep has been attracted by the unusually green bit courtesy of 700 King penguins. This is volunteer Point, part of shepherd George Smith's 19,433ha (48,000 acre) ranch in the Falkland Islands, where he runs a 17,000 ewe Polwarth flock.

In an area about the size of Wales the Falklands has a population of 2000 islanders, with a similar number of military personnel and 0.75m sheep which produce 2.5m kg of some of the finest wool in the world. The only meat marketed is that consumed by the islanders.

Before the Falkland Islands were wrenched form relative obscurity into world headlines by the conflict with Argentina most people knew little of this far-flung British colony. Now, with help from Geoff Banks and BBC TV's Clothes Show, knitters have developed the Falklander sweater made of squares produced by knitters all over the islands. Selling at about £150 it is aimed at the top end of the market. But this specialist item is by no means the only type of knitwear made.

Falkland wool has long been underrated and undersold. Now the islanders are pushing their wool, which they claim is rather special. With good crimp and long staple, it is remarkably warm and soft.
The white wool is so clean and bright that it is difficult to imagine that is hasn't been bleached, such is the clarity and purity of the island air.

In Fox Bay Richard and Grizelda Cockwell never doubted that setting up a woollen mill in the Falklands was the right thing to do. Back in 1980 the board of directors of the farm that Richard had managed for the past 20 odd years decided to realise their assets, and after the 1982 conflict they sold the farm. The Falkland Islands Government bought it for sub division, though the village was retained for development. "We had decided that we would not stay in farming and that someone ought to be doing something with the wool", says Grizelda. "That was a golden opportunity to put our money where out mouths were. We travelled to Cleakheaten near Bradford, Yorkshire, and bought some second-hand machinery".

The Falkland Islands Government funded their training at the Scottish College of Textiles, Galashiels, where the system was designed. "We had six very intensive weeks and Richard covered all the spinning side of it. It is a sort of semi-worsted. I do not think there is anything else like it in the world", she says. The entire process of carding, gilling, drawing and spinning takes place in what is arguably the smallest mill in the world - a converted World War II Nissen hut. In terms of a modern spinning mill its processing capability is small. The Cockwell's buy their Polwarth wool once a year and try not to over-stock, as the market is limited.

"The Falkland Islands Development Corporation is looking into the possibility of selling wool abroad bit it is a very specialist product. Fox Bay machines are old fashioned and labour intensive," She explains. The mill specialises in natural colours, blends produced at the carding stage and marle made by twisting different colours together. Surf Bay, South Atlantic, Goose Green, Thrift, Pebble and Kelp are some of the words used to describe the yarns.

The small hamlet of Port Howard in West Falkland is the location of A & E Knitting, which, like the mill, set up business shortly after the Falklands War. The move into textiles marked a real change of direction for farm workers Eddie and Ann Chandler. They could not keep up with the demand for their hand-knitted hats. Then came requests for sweaters and jumpers, so they bought a could of domestic knitting machines and sold almost everything that they produced.

"Shortly after, we has a visit from the textile college at Galashiels at the invitation of FIDC", says Eddie. "their visit was perhaps the most influential. They got all the local knitters together and suggested different way to develop the industry".

The ordinary domestic knitting machines were adequate but they do not stand a lot of hammering. Now they use a couple of industrial Morretto hand flat machines, the Rolls Royce of knitting machines and much more robust and able to cope with the large amount of work thrown at them.

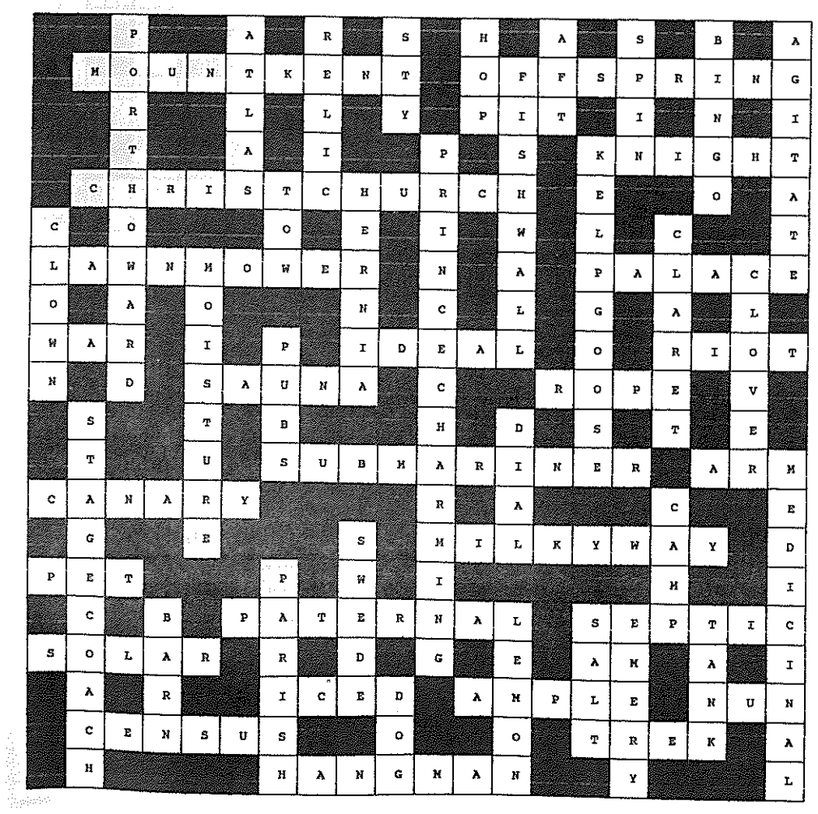
"We actually went to Tyneside for three weeks to learn how to use them. When we got back we developed out own style", says Eddie. "As far as I know we are the only Falkland knitters producing sweaters with raglan sleeves".

They can produce six sweaters each day, eight at a push. They knit a five-day week, keeping Saturday for packing and dispatch. Most of their current output goes to Mount Pleasant Airport, which has 6,000 military personnel passing through it every year.

One of the advantages of a plain sweater is that the sleeves or body can be shortened, so that should a client try something on and it isn't quite right it can be altered to produce a made-to-measure garment ready for them to take away.

"The most difficult aspect of this business is marketing", says Eddie "You can have ideas, set your machines up and knit. But, at the end of the day, you have to get it to the customer." To this end they will also sell through an outlet in Devon. "A gentleman who runs Windmill Dried Foods in Devon came to Fox Bay with a view of selling here. When he saw out knitting operation he immediately offered us an agency deal, which we have now finalised".

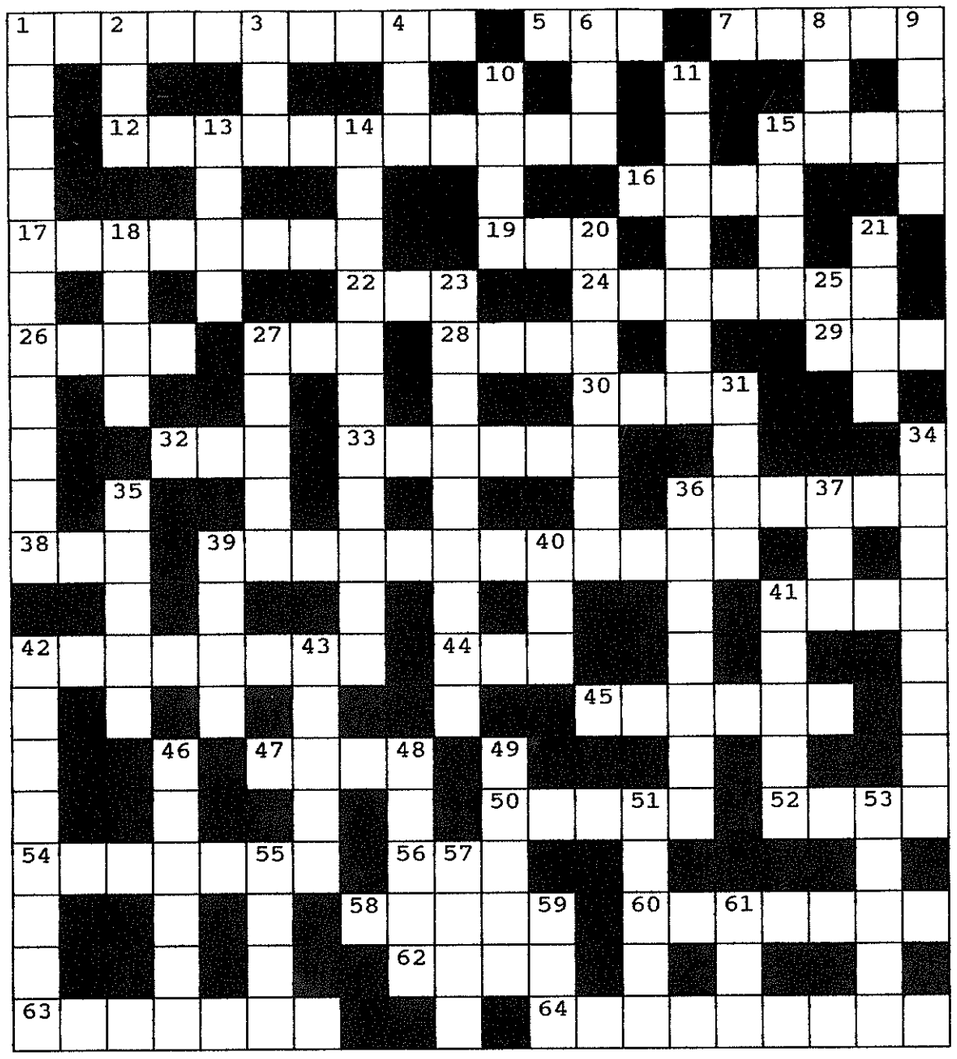
Those people who cannot wear wool have found Falkland knitwear to be user-friendly without the annoying itchiness when wool is worn next to the skin. The secret of caring for wool products is not to subject the yarn to shock, says Eddie: "Always wash and rinse in water of the same temperature, but I actually prefer dry cleaning."



JUNE

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION



THE JULY CROSS WORD

DON'T BEEF ABOUT!

a message from Ben Berntsen

I would like to hear from any farmers that have any beef animals for sale. If you are in Stanley during Farmers Week (or at any other time), I would be happy to discuss the future of these animals with you and determine both your requirements and mine.

Arrangements can be made between us for collection / delivery / slaughter depending on the individual situation. If you have stock surplus to your requirements, put them to some use and get something back from them in revenue. A bullock shot /disposed in camp and not butchered for its meat earns you nothing at all. Even if you wouldn't select it as a beef animal yourself, it would still be dog and cat tucker in Stanley.

I can be contacted on 21685 (home) or 22677 (abattoir). Alternatively, you can fax me on 22736. I look forward to hearing from you.

CLUES

ACROSS

1. CAR
5. OPTICAL ORGAN
7. ASPIC
12. DUG OUT AREAS
15. SAIL SUPPORT
16. CIRCLE OF LIGHT
17. CUD-CHEWING ANIMAL
19. DUMP
22. POORLY
24. INCOME
26. EXTREMELY SMALL PARTICLE
27. BAR
28. AS WELL
29. METHOD OF COLLECTING GOLD
30. GREEN SEMI-PRECIOUS GEMSTONE
32. EVERY
33. ANGLE OVER 90 DEGREES
36. PASS AWAY
38. ELECTRIC OR CONGA PERHAPS?
39. CAR NUMBER
41. SADDLE, BRIDLE, REINS, ETC.
42. INORGANIC MATERIALS
44. ON ITS OWN
45. RESTRICTED AMOUNT
47. SHIP'S BOTTOM
50. MILK PROCESSING PLANT
52. WHISKEY INGREDIENT
54. BILL
56. PEA SHELL
58. LARGEST ORGAN IN THE BODY
60. NOT FALSE
62. ROMAN EMPEROR 54 - 68 AD
63. TRAINED FIGHTER
64. SPOTTY DOG

DOWN

1. CHOICE
2. NECK GARMENT
3. EGG
4. RENT
6. AFFIRMATIVE
8. MEADOW (POETIC)
9. ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
10. PRICE
11. KEPT WITHOUT FOOD
13. RAW SUGAR
14. PROPEN, STREPTOPEN, ETC.
15. NIGHT LIGHT
18. OPEN COUNTRY
20. A TASK UNDERTAKEN
21. REMOVE FROM FEMALE PARENT
23. PERIOD OF MILK PRODUCTION
25. ALOFT
27. HEART RATE
31. LEVEL
34. THE ONE WITH THE LEAST HEIGHT
35. LENGTH OF WOOD
36. DOMESTIC FOWL
37. FROZEN WATER
39. UNCOMMON
40. DEVOURED
41. HORSE HAND
42. INFECTION OF THE UDDER
43. PARASITE
46. COPIED EXACTLY (GENETICALLY)
48. COUNTRY GARDEN FLOWER
49. MILK SAC
51. OF THE KIDNEYS
53. SOUTH AMERICAN PACK ANIMAL
55. FIGURE OF 6 EQUAL SIDES
57. 6 BALLS
59. PART OF DRAIN OR CHIMNEY CLEANER
61. HERBAL DRINK

RECIPE

from Lilian Wallace

CARAMEL SQUARES

Ingredients: 1 tin condensed milk, 4 oz butter, 4 oz sugar, 1 egg, 1½ cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 desert spoon cocoa. Vanilla essence.

Method: Boil milk unopened for 2½ hours, cream butter and sugar, add egg then dry ingredients and vanilla. Chill until firm. Press half into greased tin. Spread caramel over this. Roll the other half to fit tin. Place on top. Cook at 350 for 30 minutes. Ice when cold with chocolate icing and cut into squares or any other shape you like.

FORTUNA LTD

Waverley House, Philomel Street, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

PRICES w.e.f. 22nd May 1996

Description		*Price*		*Stocked lengths*		
# 4x4	Sawn carcassing timber	3.56	a metre	4.2	4.5	metres
# 2x9	" "	4.00	"	5.4	5.7	
# 2x6	" "	2.70	"	4.8	5.1	
# 2x4	" "	1.78	"	4.8	4.5	5.1
# 2x3	" "	1.36	"	5.1		
# 1x9	" "	2.10	"	4.8		
# 1x6	" "	1.40	"	5.1		
# 1x2	Sawn battens	0.50	"	3.6	3.9	
# 1x9	Finished timber (20mm)	2.75	"	4.8		
# 1x6	" (20mm)	1.70	"	3.9		
# 1x6	T & G flooring (20mm)	2.05	"	5.7		
# .75x4	Architrave/skirting	1.40	"	3.6		
# .75x2	Architrave/moulding	0.80	"	3.6	3.9	4.2
# .5x4	Matching (internat T&G)	0.76	"	3.9	4.2	

# Ply, Sheating, 9.5mm	14.75	per 4x8 ft sheet
# Ply, Quality, 4mm	9.90	"
# Ply, Quality, 9mm	18.70	"
# Ply, Quality, 12mm	22.00	"
# MDF, 6mm	10.90	"
# Blockboard, FE, 25mm	44.50	"
# Hardboard, 3.2mm	5.40	"
# Supalux/Tacboard 6mm	30.00	"
# Flooring chipboard 22mm 600x2400mm T&G WR	12.15	per sheet
# Contiboard 6ft x 9in 15mm White	3.60	per length
# Contiboard 6ft x 15in 15mm White	6.00	"
# Contiboard strip 15mm 2.5m White	1.05	per roll
# Flex/corner tape	12.77	per roll (25mm)

 # In stock

Camp orders - free delivery to warehouse.

Metric to Imperial conversion. (Metres / Feet)

3.00	3.30	3.60	3.90	4.20	4.50	4.80	5.10	5.40	5.70	6.00	6.30
9.85	10.82	11.81	12.80	13.78	14.76	15.75	16.73	17.72	18.70	19.69	20.67

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 81 AUGUST 1996 RETAIL PRICE £1.00

IN THIS ISSUE:

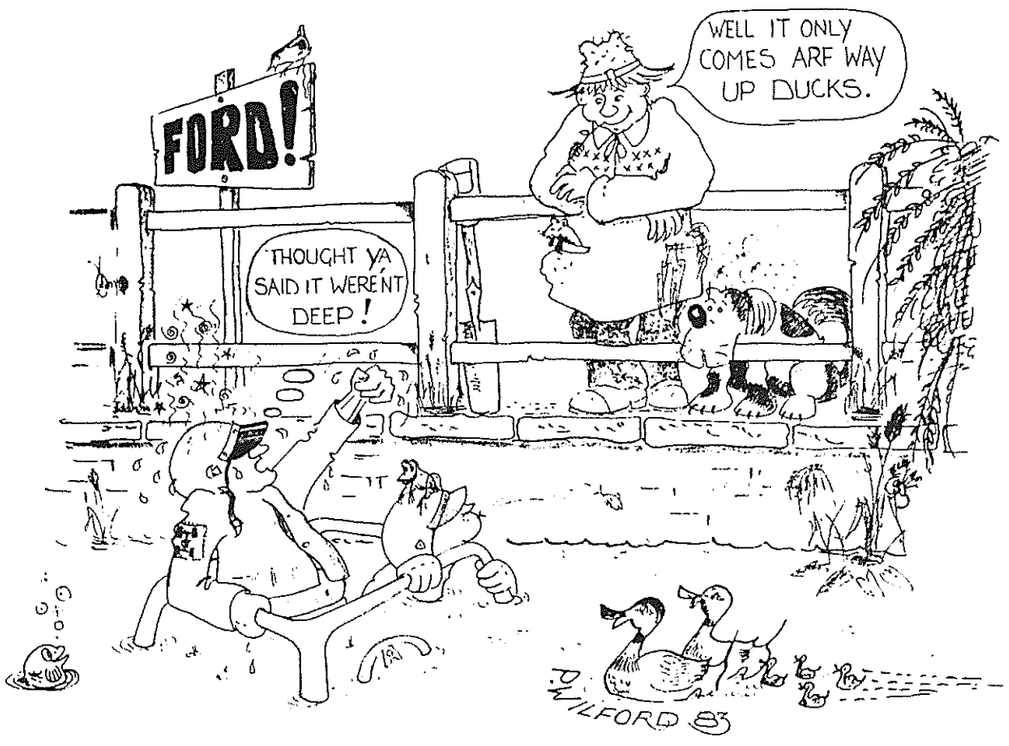
PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture. Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

I hope all that attended Farmers week found the activities and visits, organised so well by Judy, to be not only interesting, but beneficial. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to show you around the Department of Agriculture. Many people showed great interest in what was going on. Unfortunately, due to a busy schedule, people were pretty rushed, particularly the last party of people to whom we offer our apologies (it was a choice of see the rest of the tour or have lunch before visiting Beckside Dairy). We hope you take the opportunity to come up to the Department any time you are in town. For the benefit of those who did not get to view the poster display in the conference room, I have attempted to put the main part of it in the centre of this Wool Press (somewhat reduced in size).

We have a new member of staff in the role of Wool Adviser (Doug Cartridge), who has contributed an introductory article. We also have two Falkland Island students working with us prior to going on for further education after finishing their 'A' level studies. Zoe Luxton is working in the Veterinary Section and Andrew Pollard is working mainly within the Land Development Section.



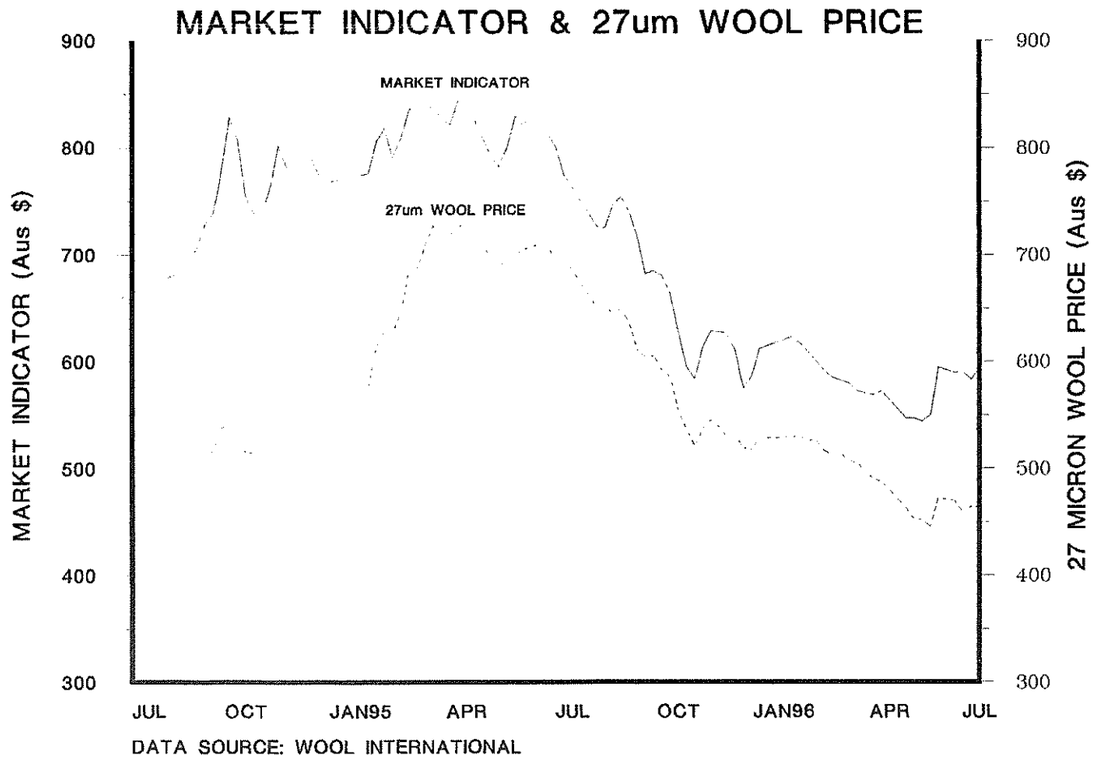
THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics / Training Officer, DoA.
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA.
Lilian Wallace	Clerk, DoA.
Zoe Luxton	Trainee Agriculturalist, DoA.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.
Doug Cartridge	Wool Adviser
Clive Wilkinson	Farm Owner/Manager, Dunnose Head Farm

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

The Australian 1995/96 selling season closed on the 28th June with the 1st week of the 1996/97 season being held prior to the winter recess. The second week of sales in the 1996/97 season will resume on the 30th July.



In mid-week sales, the new season opened with prices slightly higher. The market Indicator was 3 cents higher than last months reported figure closing at 598 cents/kg clean. Falkland-type wools had a positive start to the Australian season with the 27um Indicator advancing by 9 cents to close at 472 cents on the 5th July.

In the U.K. 27.5 um wool tops rose by 4 p/kg (dry combed) during the month to close at 392 pence on the 4th July. It is our intention to provide farmers with regular updates of the wool top market as it is probably the best available indicator of trends in Falkland producer prices. Naturally, the wool top price also includes a substantial processing margin.

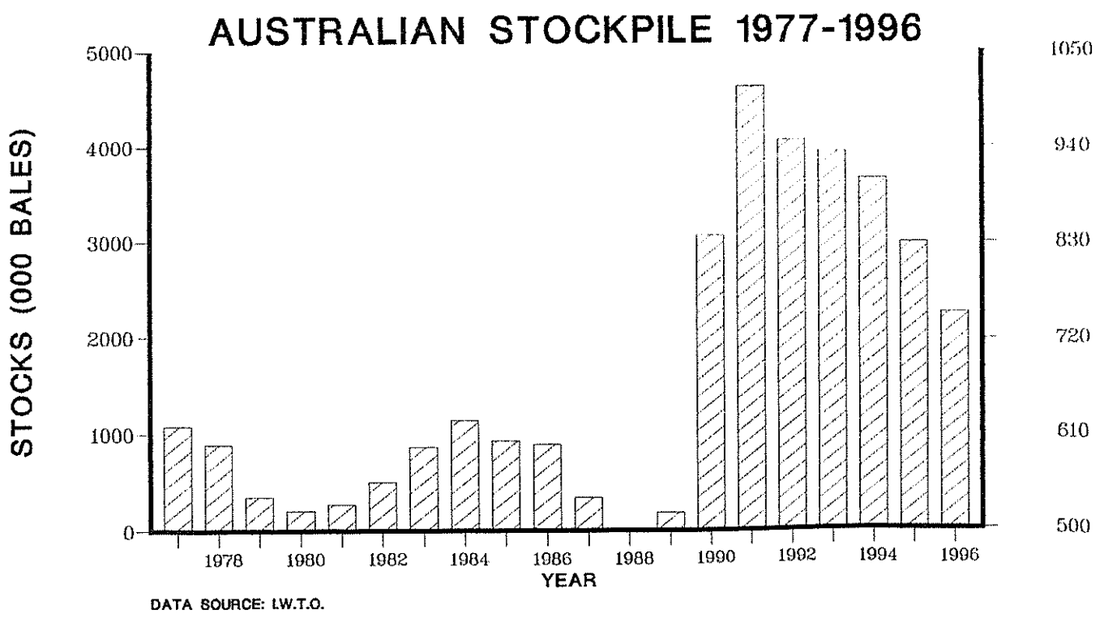
Following a request for sheep information made during farmers week the following table has been included in this month's report along with other summary information on the 1995/96 selling season.

World Wooled Sheep Population 1981-1995 (Millions)

	Average 1981- 85	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Argentina	32.4	29.3	23.7	23.7	23.3	23.7	21.2
Australia	132.9	164.9	148.2	148.2	140.0	132.0	120.4
China	104.8	110.6	110.9	110.9	109.7	115.5	126.7
Falkland Is	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
New Zealand	70.0	60.6	52.7	52.6	50.3	49.0	48.6
South Africa	27.3	25.9	23.2	23.2	22.3	18.5	18.1
Soviet Union	143.0	141.0	129.6	129.6	122.9	112.1	74.7
United Kingdom	22.8	29.0	28.9	28.9	29.5	29.3	29.5
Uruguay	20.6	24.9	25.7	25.7	23.9	22.1	21.8
Others	539.0	555.9	553.6	553.6	546.4	541.3	538.3
World Total	1,093	1,153	1,133	1,097	1,069	1,044	1,000

Data Source: I.W.T.O

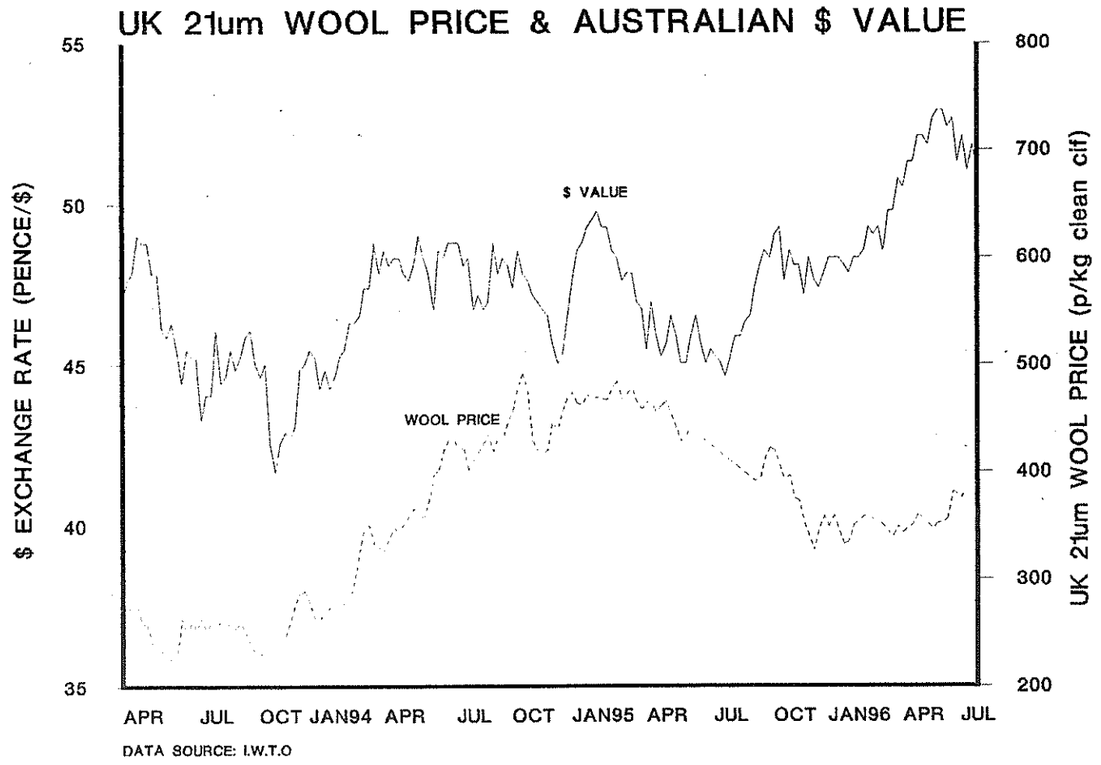
The Australian Stockpile declined by 716,622 bales during the 1995/96 season, a decline of almost 24% on pre-season levels. The graph below gives a comparison with previous end of season stock levels. There is effectively no wool being held in store by the New Zealand and South African Wool Boards.



The Australian stockpile continues to be concentrated in the medium merino type category. 12.5% of the stockpile is in the broad Falkland wool type category (24.6 um & coarser) with just 5.0% being in the main Falkland wool-type category 26.6 um and broader.

Throughout the 1995/96 season the Australian $ soared to exceptionally high levels in the run up to and immediate post election period. The strength of the Australian dollar (in relation to wool traded currencies) tended to exert negative pressure on Australian producer prices.

The graph below demonstrates how the strength of the Australian $ helped to stabilise the U.K raw wool market during a period of deteriorating prices in Australia.



SAFER HANDLING OF ATV'S

Source: What's New In Farming

Eleven people have been killed and many more seriously injured in accidents during the past 10 years due to the lack of proper training on how to ride ATV's according the HSE.

To improve this situation, it has launched a video, *"A Ridge Too Far"*. This programme gives safety informaltion on the correct way to ride machines in various conditions such as when towing a trailer or carrying loads.

The Department of Agriculture has a copy of this video. If anyone would like to see the video, please contact Charlene or Mandy.

CAT FLU

by Zoe Luxton

There are two main viruses that cause our feline friends to become aching, feverish, sneezing and salivating and possibly also suffering from conjunctivitis, ulcerated mouths and tongues and discharging from their eyes and nose.

Feline Calicivirus (FCV) is the milder of the two with weaker strains causing slight ulceration only without other flu like symptoms. More virulent strains can cause pneumonia but with death being uncommon unless the victim is a young kitten.

Feline Herpesvirus (FVR) leads to more copious discharge from the eyes and nose and is of one strain only.

Unfortunately there are no anti-viral drugs available to combat cat flu, the only treatment possible is the use of antibiotics in the case of secondary bacterial infections. In the case of severe anorexia or dehydration the cat can be rehydrated or fed via a tube.

Unfortunately both viruses are pretty contagious. Eye and nose discharge can be ineffective for up to 3 weeks and the viruses can also live on food/water bowls, cat bedding etc. for up to 10 days. The viruses are not airborne however, the only way they can be spread via the air is if your cat is prone to particularly vigorous sneezing!! The good news is that a flu-like moggy cannot infect other animals or you as cats are the only hosts of the virus.

More bad news however, is that even if puss seems 100% fit, he or she may still be carrying the virus and be able to infect other cats. FVR (herpesvirus) is usually carried in a latent non-infectious form. However a period of stress such as mating or change of environment can cause the animal to shed infectious viruses in nasal or eye discharges.

FCV (calicivirus) however is excreted for long periods of time. 8% of individual household pets excrete the virus thus cats within large populations such as catteries, may be more likely to contact the disease. It is of utmost importance to keep your cats regularly vaccinated, perhaps even giving them boosters if a stressful situation is imminent such as giving birth, especially if the she cat has been prone to infection previously. Her offspring must also be vaccinated as soon as possible after the acquired immunity from their mother is at a non-interfering level, this is when the kittens are approximately 8 - 10 weeks old.

In some cases infection due to FCV or FVR may develop even if cats are regularly vaccinated. This is due to the reaction or breakdown of the vaccination. Situations like this arise in cases where the cat is already incubating or carrying the virus, which is why healthy kittens are jabbed as soon as possible. The mild stress of vaccinating may cause infectious FVR particles to be shed. In rare cases some weaker individuals may develop flu following the injection of a modified live type of vaccination.

Remember: a disease free cat is not necessarily a virus free cat so follow basic management procedures to keep the spread of viruses at bay: keep all feed bowls and bedding as clean as possible. Try to isolate ill cats and thoroughly clean and cages or baskets that sick cats have been in and GET ALL CATS VACCINATED.

DIVERSIFYING INTO NEW SHEEP ENTERPRISES

by Robert Hall

The excellent article by Michael Alazia in the June Wool Press entitled "Profitability of breeding young sheep for sale" provides much encouragement to farmers for diversifying into new sheep enterprises, within the proven frame work of sheep production.

The original article demonstrated the case for farmers with good land to develop into lamb breeder suppliers:

FARM A Today (Good Land)	**FARM B Future (Good Land)**
45 Rams 1500 Breeding ewes achieving 67% Lambing	90 Rams 3000 Breeding ewes achieving 67% Lambing
1600 Wethers 880 Shearlings 1000 Lambs/hoggs 100 Cast 5125	880 Shearlings 1005 Lambs/hoggs 150 Wethers/dry/ewes/cast 5125
Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,021 Death rate at 8% = 4,715 sheep shorn at 4 kg = 18,860 greasy clip.	Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,328 Death rate at 11% = 4,561 Sheep shorn at 3.5 kg = 15,964 greasy clip
1994/95 net income per greasy kg: £1.31 * 18,860 greasy clip.	15,964 kg * £1.31 = £20,912 net income from wool 1005 lambs sold at £6.00 = £6,030
= £24,706 from net income.	**= £26,942 farm net income.**

Source: M Alazia

Such specialism within a sheep industry is well recognised albeit for differing reasons. In Australia sheep are traded eastward to integrate with the meat industry. In Britain, Hill farmers produce pure-bred ewe lambs for sale; these are bought by Upland farmers who produce cross lambs and the cross ewes are finally bought by lowland farmers for mating to terminal sires.

Using as many of Michael Alazia's original assumptions and data as possible, the case for farmers with less good land, altering their sheep enterprise and buying all their lambs is also strong. The case is even greater for farms with declining numbers, lower "Ewe numbers as a percentage of Total Sheep" and lower lambing percentages than the example used:

FARM C today (Harsh land)	FARM D Future (Harsh land)
45 Rams 1500 Breeding ewes achieving 40% lambing 1600 Wethers 880 Shearlings 600 Lambs/hoggs 400 Lambs/hoggs bought-in 100 Cast 5125	1000 Wether hoggs all bought-in each year 880 Wether shearling 780 Wethers aged 3 730 Wethers aged 4 680 Wethers aged 5 630 Wethers aged 6 590 Wethers aged 7 5290
Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,021 Death rate at 11% = 4,561 Sheep shorn at 3.5 kg = 15,964 greasy clip.	Stocking rate ewe equivalent = 4,232 Death rate at 8.7% = 4,830 Sheep shorn at 4 kg = 19,320 greasy clip.
1994/95 net income per greasy kg: £1.31 * 15,964 greasy clip.	19,320 kg * £1.31 = £25,309 net income from wool 1000 lambs bought at £6.00 = - £6,000
= £20,912 farm net income. = £ 2,400 bought-in lambs. **= £18,512 farm net income**	**= £19,309 farm net income**

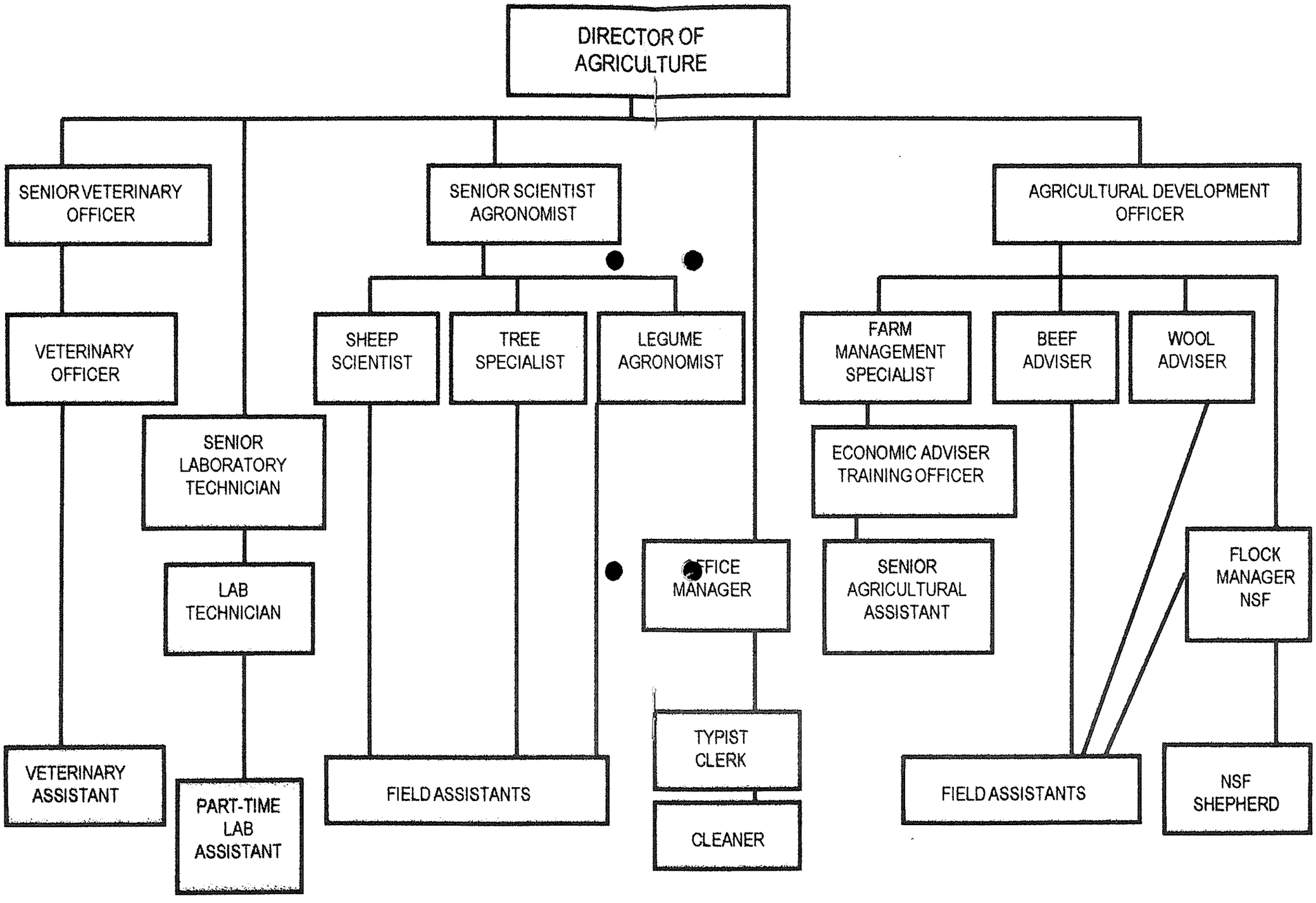
Assumptions: *A conversion from a mixed flock to a wether flock would reduce death rates from 11% to 8.7% and raise the greasy fleece weight average from 3.5 kg to 4.0 kg. sheep numbers remain at similar levels.*

The case for the Falklands as a whole is equally good (i.e. for FIG, DOA & FIDC), since the net revenue from the pair of farms A & C is £43,218 whilst the net revenues of farms B & D is £46,251. The total benefits would obviously be even greater, if the results on the lamb breeder/supplier farm were better than described and if production on the farm with harsh conditions were less good than the example. (Better estimates would be achieved by analysing specific paired farms.) Much greater benefits would result, if Harsh Farm sheep numbers could rise to the higher numbers they could run as solely dry sheep areas: 50% increases in sheep numbers are quite possible: increases in income would be DRAMATIC!!

The matching of sheep supply and demand could be established by negotiation of a supply contract pairing the farms concerned, Such structural reorganisation would necessitate an initial exchange of ewes and wethers. Presumably RDAS assistance could be available to help such development and innovative changes within the sheep industry, particularly as the abattoir would also benefit from such diversification, expansion and specialisation of the sheep industry?

Such proposals encourage the flow of sheep around the Falklands, increase production and are financially sound because they potentially increase revenue all round.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



SPIKED BLOCKS IMPROVE ACCESS

Source: What's New In Farming

Rumenco has tested a novel approach to feeding blocks recently at Plumpton Agricultural College.

The blocks were fed to sheep on a spike, which was found to not only improve access to the blocks by allowing more than 10 lambs to feed at the same time, but also reduce the hassle of feeding in troughs.

Even in bad weather conditions, the spike ensured that the blocks were kept off the wet ground.

This not only kept the wastage down to a minimum, but it also maintained an intake level of 380g per sheep each day, at a cost of only 13p per head a day.

LETTER

From Clive Wilkinson to Robert Hall, regarding his article in last month Wool Press entitled "Dark Coloured Fibres".

Dear Robert,

1. Do SGS core every bale, or 30% as they test other imported raw materials?

2. Who is the claim made against - D S & Co. or the Farmer?

3. Has the farmer been paid in full for wool's that are involved in claims?

4. Why is there a 20p - 80p difference between Bradford delivered prices and Aussie price auction?

As agents, you are the only people who can stop this situation getting worse. You should penalise farmers responsible, warning them in advance of season that heavy penalties will be levied on contaminated bales. You should also promise to name those who are letting down their fellow farmers. Vague mention of "all farms" DHF? - being guilty is unfair, untrue and does nothing to help the situation. It is time you named the 'Dirty' bale brands - with supporting written evidence from manufacturers.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE "NEW" WOOL ADVISOR

by Doug Cartridge

It is truly pleasurable to have such a friendly welcome from everyone we have come into contact with since our recent arrival on the 17th July. My family and I have ventured from New Zealand primarily for me to take up the position of Wool Adviser with the Department of Agriculture and secondly for our family to experience and enjoy the different culture and environment. Our family consists of myself Doug Cartridge my wife Liarne and three children, Alexandra 6 years, Katherine 4 years and Mollie 18 months. Alexandra has settled into school life very quickly after only two days, reflecting the friendship displayed by everybody.

So, what about our past? Some I will tell you, some I won't and some you won't be interested in. I was born and bred (as far a I am aware) in the South Island of New Zealand (North Canterbury). My father is a vet in the farming community dominated by sheep and most of them being Corriedale. I was educated in Christchurch before attending Lincoln University. There I gained a degree (Bachelor of Agricultural Commerce, majoring in Farm Management and Wool Science). This was a 4 year degree which included practical work for a 12 months period on a sheep and beef farm and two 12 weeks practicals (during summer holidays) one dairying and the other intensive cropping.

From Lincoln I gained a job as Wool Store Manager for a private wool brokering firm in Masterton (lower North Island). This involved the day to day management of a warehouse processing approx. 20,000 bales/year. I was also responsible to our clients for advice on all aspects of sheep breeding, production and the sale of their wool clip. I held this position for 6 years before deciding a change of career would be beneficial to my long-term goals.

From here I took up a position with a Chartered Accountant as a trainee farm accountant (as I had completed several accounting papers at Lincoln), there I was responsible to advise on mainly financial matters including budgeting, finance proposals and family succedence matters.

One person said to me many years ago " Once a wool man always a wool man". He was so correct. I was approached by an established and innovative stock and station company to set up a wool business in Masterton, only 6 months after embarking on my supposed change of career. After a lot of deliberation I tool up the challenge (as I enjoy a challenge) and had my third job within 7 months. I was starting to think I was becoming some what transient. Anyway I took up the challenge and swore to myself I would retire under the employment of that company. Two years later I am in the Falkland Islands!! I had achieved what I wanted in those two years, taking a market share of almost 15% from the opposition companies (7,000 bales).

My main interest are: my family, a small stud Romney sheep flock (and also previously Corriedale stud), golf (but the family aren't that keen on that at times), scuba diving and many other outdoor activities.

That's about my brief history, I hope to interrogate your history at some stage in the near future and look forward to my experience in the Falkland Islands. Having only had 2 days at work so far I can't give you any perils of wisdom but I will say my goal is, while here, "to be able to look back at the end of my contract and say that each and every farmer has had the opportunity for financial gain due to my presence in the department".

INCINERATORS

Simon Bonner has passed some information on to us for small incinerators that he thought may be very useful on farms. If anyone should be interested, please contact him on telephone: 42159.

These small incinerators are the best solution for the disposal of small animal carcasses (sheep) or even just the offal. Incineration is fast, clean and eliminates disease. They are very easy to operate and efficient. The lower burners are for incineration and the top burners reduce the smoke emission.

The incinerators are designed for outdoor use but can be placed in a well ventilated and fire proof shed, well away from dwellings, wooden buildings and any inflammable materials. Incineration is considered the most hygienic method of disposal of animal carcasses.

These incinerators :

- ◊ are propane fired,
- ◊ are simple to operate,
- ◊ have a safety flame cut off valve,
- ◊ have an after burner to reduce emissions,
- ◊ are constructed from 5 and 6mm hot zinc sprayed steel plate,
- ◊ have full refractory lining,
- ◊ have an automatic burn time control (optional).

An example on the smaller incinerator with the Propane consumption of 1.8 Kg/hour and Typical burn rate (subject to water content) kg/hour 18/20 - we have worked out that the incinerator could burn a sheep carcass in two hours per 45kg (1 large container of gas).

The dimensions of the smaller incinerator would be packed for shipping in approximate 1/2 cubic metre square.

The price before freight is £1280 for the smaller incinerator and obviously the larger and super size are £1420 and £2500 respectively.

DIARY OF A GAP STUDENT - PART THREE

The last chapter from Harriet Sale

Thursday 7th March:
Having unbogged a loaded trailer of peat, Ron and I each drove a tractor down the mountain. I remember asking Ron if he trusted me with the tractor and he replied that if he didn't he wouldn't let me drive it down in the first place. Unfortunately I didn't have so much faith in myself, but by the time I was on the flats my pulse was back to normal and I was enjoying myself!

That evening Ron tried to teach me how to start the generator. We soon gave up as I forgot to take the winch handle off, having got the engine going and I can appreciate the danger of out-of-control winch handles.

Thursday 21st March:
Shore some skins for the first time. Couldn't believe how hot the hand piece got. I also suffered a blister on my first finger knuckle. Riss was an expert beside me and no blister either!

Wednesday 27th March:
Riss's back is still bad having done something to it on the way out to get peat in from the flats on Monday. It's a nuisance with all this packing to be done.

It's odd to think that the other GAP students are already home. I wonder what they are all up to. On Thursday, Riss and I made a start on clearing out under the shearing shed. Unfortunately buckets were required this end. Had to get a photo for the album of me up to my knees in muck. (Wellies only just high enough!)

Monday 1st April:
Vile weather and the day started bad. On parting the cows I left a vital gate open and ended up having to part the cows for a second time, after first herding them back in with the quad, which I always have fun with! Ron asked how on earth had I managed a place at University? I haven't a clue - nothing to do with cows or gates, obviously! My little brother has apparently bought a mini for fifty pounds and is planning on bribing me to buy it in June - probably will suit me down to the ground by then.

Wednesday 5th June:
It was Amy's 1st birthday yesterday. She did well opening her presents! At 7.30pm all of us were out at Head of the Bay helping a poor cow give birth to a huge bull calf. It's the first birth I've ever seen and it's put me off having children - ever! Adrian and I ended up having a calf fore leg each and pulling and keeping the strain on whenever she wasn't straining. I think it was a close thing, but both mother and calf survived and she's accepted it, thankfully. Went back for seconds of ox-tail stew!

Tuesday 11th June:
I was up till 1.30am trying to pack, but ran out of strength to do the zip up on the case, so went and had a cuppa. Michelle was also up because of one of the girls, so we ended up talking until 2.30am. Slept until 8am and had the honour of getting the peat in for the very last time. It was the most strange feeling. Everything seemed in slow motion that morning. We left San Carlos just before midday. I'm sure I'll be back.

Spent the following four days in town with everyone, including a day out at Douglas with Mandy and Tyrone. Went out to KC and met Jenny and Tony for the first time, also Leona and Keith at Douglas, of course. Still meeting people eight months later!

Never went to bed on Liberation Day and Cress and I were flying by 10.45am on Saturday 15th June, home to England, after one unforgettable experience in the Falklands.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I knew in the Falklands for making my time there so good. An especially big thank you to Ron and Iris Dickson, now at Goose Green, for the months I spent with you at Kingsford Valley. A mixture of very amusing, yet some scary Rover memories from there! Thank you for being so kind and patient with me.

Not forgetting Adrian and Michelle, Tamara and Amy for a fantastic life at Blue Beach Farm. You are all such good friends. You would be flattered to know how much I miss you all, still! I will hopefully see you in the not too distant future and I will stay in touch in the meantime.

I have to say it is easy slotting back into life near Reading. The clubs and pubs haven't changed! I would be interested to see if I could cope as quickly, going back into life in camp, in 8 months time! Lucky for you I will be stuck in London studying for my end of term exams. What a daunting thought!

RECIPES

from Lilian Wallace

NUTTY BISCUITS

Ingredients: 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup Quaker Oats, 1 cup coconut, 1/4 lb. butter, 1 tablespoon syrup, 1 teaspoon bi-carb, 1 egg .

Method: Mix all dry ingredients, slightly warm butter and syrup. Mix all well together. Roll into balls. They flatten on their own. Cook in moderate oven.

CREAMY CUSTARD BISCUITS

Ingredients: 4 oz margarine, 6 oz castor sugar, 2 eggs, 1 lb. flour, 1 teaspoon vanilla essence, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 4 oz custard powder. Gill of milk.

Method: Cream margarine and sugar, add vanilla essence. Sift flour bi-carb and custard powder, beat eggs well into creamed mixture, add sifted ingredients altogether with milk. Roll into small balls and press onto a baking sheet with a fork. Cook in moderate oven.

Filling: 2 level tablespoons cocoa, 1 level tablespoon of honey, 2 oz of castor sugar, 2 oz of margarine, 1 tablespoon milk, 3 teaspoons water. (Mix together and sandwich between to biscuits).

FRUITIES

Ingredients: 1 tin condensed milk, 2 1/2 cups cornflakes, 1 cup raisins, 1 cup coconut, 1/2 cup walnuts.

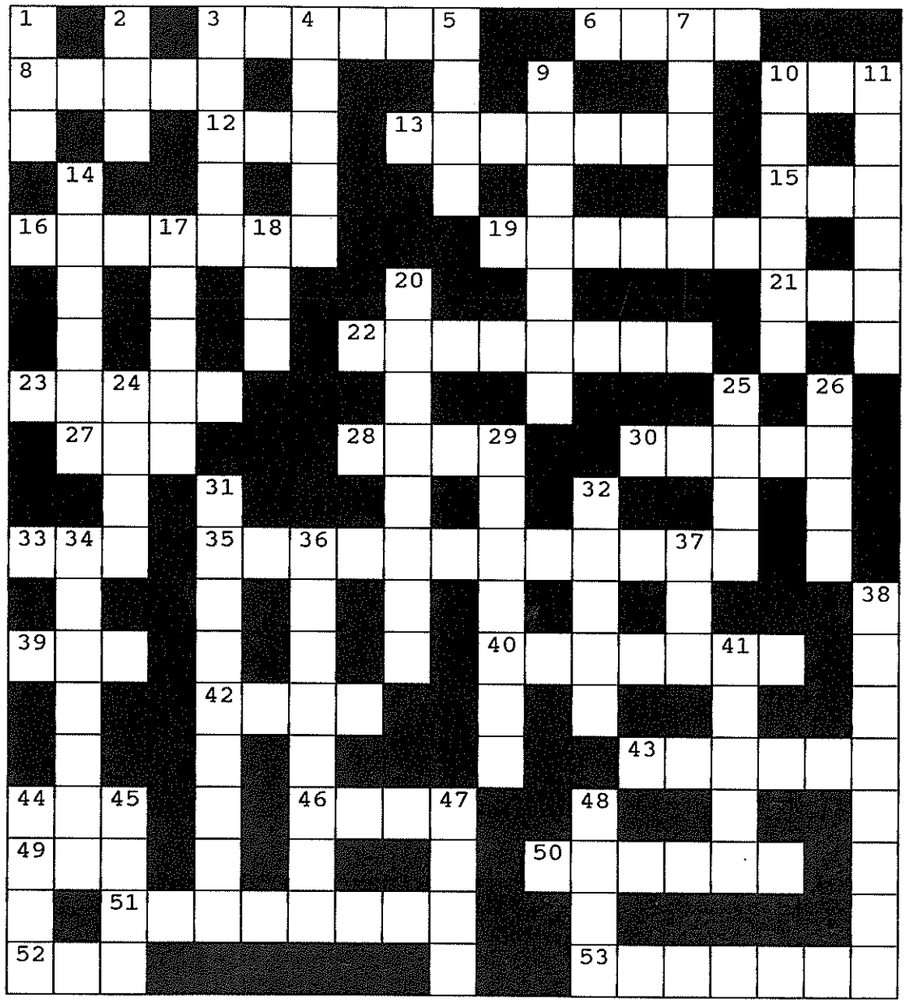
Method: Mix all together well. Put teaspoon lots in cold greased trays. Cook 10 minutes at 325. Remove quickly from trays to cooler. Makes about 60.

GAP STUDENT PLACEMENTS

WE WILL BE RECEIVING TWO GAP STUDENTS AROUND OCTOBER TIME.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A WORKING PLACEMENT ON YOUR FARM,
PLEASE CONTACT MANDY OR CHARLENE AT
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WHO WILL DISCUSS IT WITH YOU.

WE HAVE ALSO HAD ENQUIRIES FOR AN AGRICULTURAL WORK
PLACEMENT FROM ANOTHER STUDENT BETWEEN COURSES
FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER.

AUGUST CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

3. SHALLOW WHEELED BOX FOR CARRYING LOADS
6. REFLECTION OF SOUND
8. THE THIGHBONE
10. SHOWS THE GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF AN AREA OF LAND
12. FINISH
13. A CONE-BEARING TREE
15. SHORT FOR LABORATORY
16. PIECE OF FRIED FOOD IN BATTER
19. A WEST FALKLAND ISLAND WERE FOXES ARE FOUND
21. SNAKELIKE FISH
22. PLANT OF THE CABBAGE AND TURNIP FAMILY
23. A HERON
27. THAT WOMAN
28. LARGE SEAWEED COMMON IN OUR COASTAL WATERS
30. THE ORGAN THAT PUMPS BLOOD AROUND THE BODY
33. ESPIONAGE AGENT
35. ART OR SCIENCE OF CULTIVATION
39. LAYED BY A CHICKEN
40. A CASE OR ZETOR PERHAPS
42. METHOD OF MAKING A SWEATER
43. PLANT GROUP SUCH AS CLOVER
44. SEARCH INQUISITIVELY
46. HORSE BREED OF THE SHEIKS
49. SIGHT ORGAN
50. NUTS OF THE OAK TREE
51. PLUS
52. AVERAGE
53. CASTRATED BULL

DOWN

1. TOWARDS THE REAR OF A SHIP
2. MISCHIEVOUS CHILD
3. SMALL BREED OF GEESE
4. RADIO WAVE DETECTION
5. A PRODUCT OF SHEEP
7. WAS MORE COMMONLY USED BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF MOTORBIKES
9. FOOT AND MOUTH FOR INSTANCE
10. FISH CAUGHT FREQUENTLY AROUND THE ISLANDS SHORES
11. SMALL ROUNDISH STONE
14. BOX USED BY ANIMALS FOR FEEDING
17. FLESHY UNDERGROUND ROOT
18. FEMALE SHEEP
20. TYPE OF COW
24. DEPEND
25. LARGE BUNDLE OF WOOL READY TO BE TRANSPORTED
26. THE MAIN AXIS OF A PLANT
29. DOMESTIC FOWL
31. UNWANTED TYPE OF PLANT FOUND IN THE GARDEN
32. THICK SLICE OF MEAT THAT GOES WELL SERVED WITH CHIPS
34. WERE PIGS ARE KEPT AND BRED
36. A COW, SHEEP OR DEER
37. DECOMPOSE OR DECAY
38. HORSE-RIDING WITHOUT A SADDLE
41. HEART, LUNGS OR BRAIN FOR EXAMPLE
44. LOOK SECRETIVELY
45. TWELVE MONTHS
47. NOT FAT
48. A DISEASE OF SHEEP (BUT NOT IN THE FALKLANDS)

WANTED

Did anyone get from the F.I.C. tender sales
some L/H Corner Glass for L/R Truck cab, part No. MTC 3462,
which they might be prepared to swap for a R/H one.

Does anyone have Truck cab sliding glass No. MTC 3463?
I would be willing to buy.

Telephone Nick Pitaluga on: 31199 or 31197.

FROM THE VETERINARY OFFICE

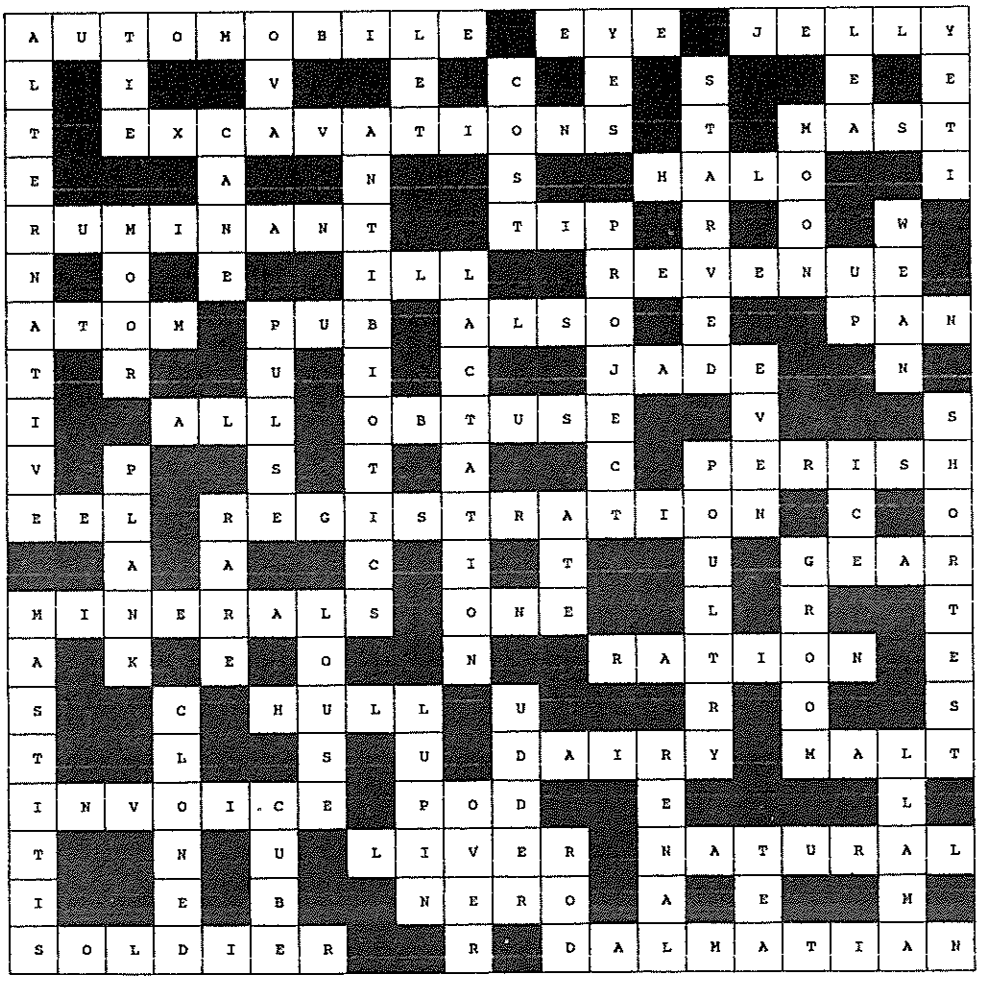
DRONTAL PLUS IS NOW IN STOCK

CHOICE FRUITS FARM SHOP
LOOKOUT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Fax/Tel: No. 500 22263 Shop hours: 9.00 - 12.15, 1.30 - 5.30pm, Monday to Saturdays
We have the following animal feeds now in stock for farmers.

Product:	Bag size:	Unit cost
Mid Lay Mash	25 kilo	£11.75
Whole Corn	25 Kilo	£12.10
Sheep Energy Blocks	20 Kilo	£11.50
Wheat	25 Kilo	£12.20
Feed Oats	25 Kilo	£11.50
Grass Nuts	25 Kilo	£10.50
Horse/Pony Nuts	25 Kilo	£11.75
Layer Pellets	25 Kilo	£11.75
Crushed Corn	25 Kilo	£13.10
Molichop (Hay Replacer)	18.5 Kilo	£12.75
Dengie Alpha - A	20 Kilo	£13.00
Ewe Nuts	25 Kilo	£12.99
Pollard	25 Kilo	£12.30

The shop is located on Lookout Industrial Estate, immediately behind Calibres Gun Shop.
Car parking is available to customers to the front of the shop.



THE JULY SOLUTION

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 82 SEPTEMBER 1996 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

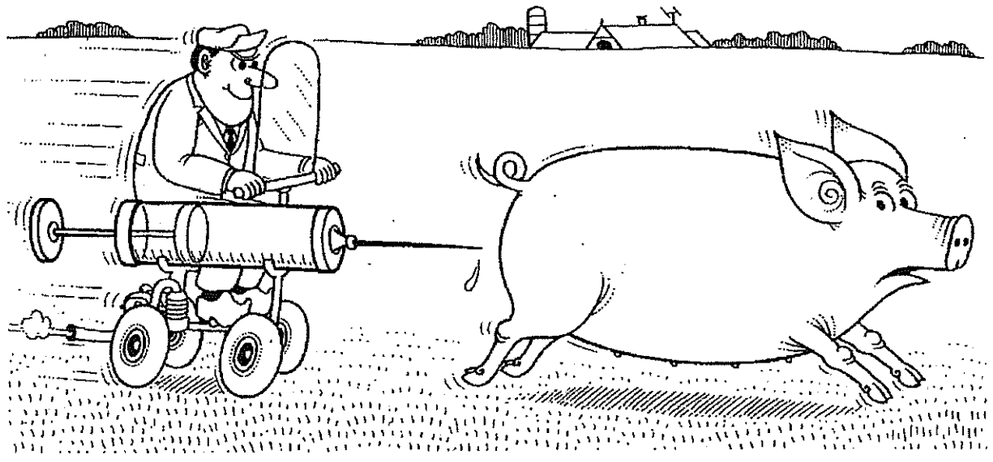
During my recent visits to various farms doing project inspections and the beef survey, I've had the opportunity to have a good look at the land and livestock from both land and air. I don't think I have ever seen the stock and grass looking so good for this time of year, particularly amongst the hogget population. With this good start in life, it will be interesting to see the difference it makes to their future performance, both in wool production and, in the case of the ewe hoggs, lamb production.

Likewise, I'll be waiting eagerly for the lambing percentages this year, as the ewes carrying lambs through this winter should be in a good, strong condition to have their lambs and produce plenty of milk for them. Robert's article 'Better Lambing' reminds us of some seemingly obvious but very good points, which could enhance our lambing even more.

The Department congratulates the students who have recently received their 'A' level results, particularly Zoe Luxton and Andrew Pollard who are working with us at the moment. We wish Zoe every success in the pursuit of her veterinary career. Also, Fiona Wallace is going to study for a degree in agriculture, we wish her well.

I have tried to contact most people over the last few weeks in regard to the beef survey questionnaire. If I have not yet spoken to you, but you are interested in giving your views and ideas on beef production and would like someone from the department to talk to you about it, please contact Owen, Hugh or either of the vets (Caroline & Andrew) to arrange a visit as I will be away for most of September.

I thought of Caroline and her 'pig moving' drama when I saw this cartoon.



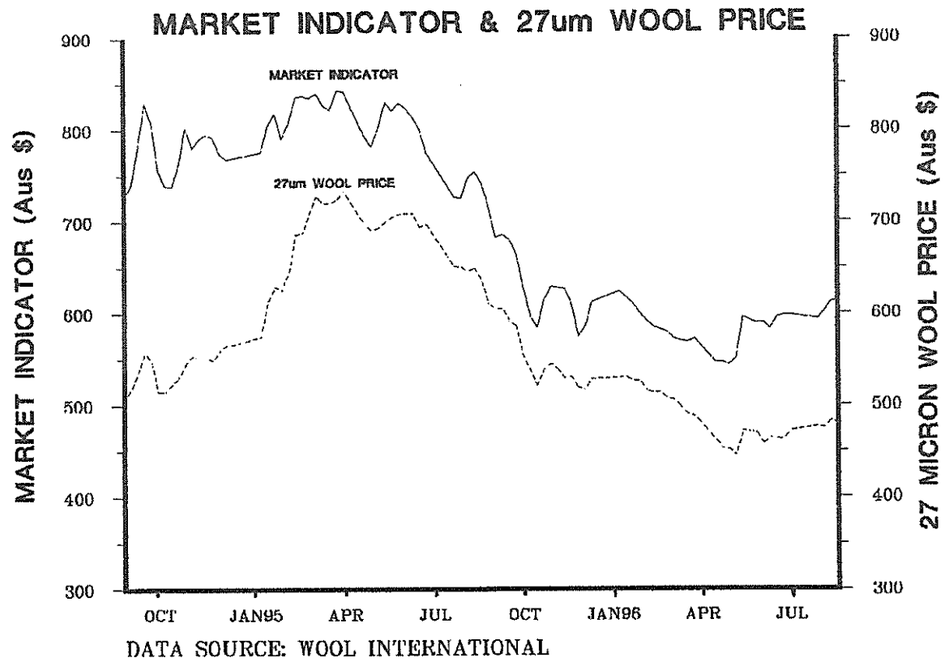
THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Lyn Blake	Farm Owner / Manager, Little Chartres, West Falkland.
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Mandy McLeod	Adviser Economics / Training Officer, DoA.
Zoe Luxton	Trainee Agriculturalist, DoA.
Caroline Lamb	Veterinary Officer, DoA.
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA.
Doug Cartridge	Wool Adviser, DoA.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

The Australian market has made steady progress following the start of the 1996/97 selling season with fine merino and crossbred wools making modest gains. This is in contrast to the price of medium/coarse merino wools (21- 25um) which have weakened since the start of the season. It is interesting to note that over 79% of the Wool International stockpile (main fleece wool) is contained within this micron range.



The Market Indicator has strengthened by 16 cents (2.6%) since the first week of sales to close at 614 cents/kg on the 22nd August. The 27um Indicator has made a modest gain of 7 cents (1.48%) since the start of the season to close at 479 cents/kg.

Early season sales in Australia have been characterised by an improvement in the clearance rates and the return of Japanese and Chinese buyers to the market place. The clearance rate measures the amount of wool that is actually sold at auction compared the amount of wool that is offered for sale. The average rate for the 1995/96 season was 83.1 %. Since the start of the 1996/97 season the rate has increased to 88.9%.

The Australian dollar has remained reasonably stable against the pound. On the 26th August the exchange rate stood at 2.04 cents/£.

Wool International achieved it's legislated disposal target of 182,000 bales for the September quarter just 6 weeks before the end of quarter deadline. Disposal rates have recently been stepped up, presumably in an attempt to meet the December and March sales targets as early as possible. On the 22nd August, the Wool International Stockpile of unsold wool stood at 2,161,374 bales

Since the start of the season, the New Zealand market has strengthen by 8 cents (1.7%) to stand at 472 NZ cents/kg. The South African market has also opened positively. It is currently 6.6% higher at 2,114 SA cents/kg.

THE D.O.A. OPEN EVENING

by Mandy McLeod

Following the success of the 'open morning' held during Farmers Week at the Department of Agriculture, it was decided to extend the invitation to Stanley residents and an 'open evening' was held on the 13th August.

There were several poster displays around the building depicting topics including various research trials (cover-comb use and tussac planting), statistical data (winter losses), training programmes, farm account books, hydatid and brucellosis monitoring and control, to name but a few.

During the tour around the department, visitors had the opportunity to enquire about services available and the various roles of the staff. The popular belief that the department of agriculture is a service provided solely for the benefit of 'farmers' is not so, as it provides information and advice to anyone in the islands (including military persons) that has a requirement for the services available.

Apart from the research, advisory and statistical duties of the staff there are many wide ranging tasks and services undertaken including: Veterinary surgery and consultation; Mare pregnancy testing; Soil testing and analysis; Issuing of import and export permits, and many more.

The open evening was successful and informative for those who took the time to have a look around this under-estimated government department, although the level of attendance was poor considering the preparation that evenings of this sort require. Those people that did visit know who they are and their time was greatly appreciated by all of the Department of Agriculture Staff.

SHEARING SHED TIME AND MOTION

by Robert H.B.Hall

Time and motion studies aim to increase the labour efficiencies of doing work tasks; for an individual this means achieving more work for a given amount of effort (and sweat!). Time and motion studies identify the essential productive tasks and then strive to minimise the time required to do them. Unessential tasks are omitted, whilst job methods or the working environment are possibly altered to make essential tasks more efficient.

The effects of time and motion thought have influenced Falkland Islands shearing sheds more than might be imagined:

- There is the obvious impact of mechanising shearing and pressing.
- Shearing sheds have been converted from across the floor designs to raised boards, thus saving the rousies miles of running per day.
- The gradients and directions of floor gratings are used to turn sheep and minimise resistance by sheep to being caught by shearers.
- Self tramping presses are the order of the day.
- Round tables are used to reduce walking if skirting is done by a single person per wool table.
- Fleece bins and oddment baskets are usually arranged to minimise "travel distances".

Farmers will undoubtedly have other time saving designs and methods, which concentrate on essential productive tasks and then minimise the time required to do them. Unfortunately implementing time saving concepts can be prevented by cost. Before next season, Falkland farmers can still consider methods for improving their own shearing shed's operational efficiency; especially given the dark coloured fibre problem, which possibly requires a greater allocation of labour time per fleece.

Amongst the tasks to review is that of keeping catching pens fairly full. Full pens are great for the shearer, but time consuming for farm staff to maintain. In Australia and New Zealand the catching pens need not be filled until the last sheep is caught; with the idea being to ensure individual sheep move swiftly through the shed and allow shed staff to undertake other more essential work, e.g. pressing or skirting.

UNNECESSARY DEATHS THROUGH REPAIR WORK

Source: Farmers Weekly - July 1996

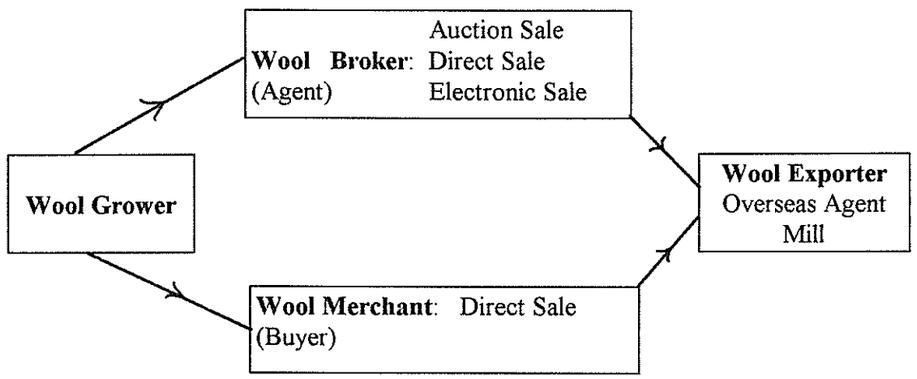
Few things are more tragic than accidents that could have been avoided. One area where there is still too many accidents is in the farmyard. Not enough farmers take proper precautions when working on roofs or within buildings, according to health and safety executive statistics. A quarter of the 48 farm deaths (UK) in the 12 months before march 1996 occurred while repairing farm sheds or machinery. Of those, eight people died while maintaining buildings. Falling through skylights, off catwalks and out of loader buckets are all accidents which could have been avoided. So think safety and don't let you or your staff become another statistic.

WOOL MARKETING IN NEW ZEALAND

by Doug Cartridge

The New Zealand wool marketing chain has been under serious criticism over the last five years. Producers believe the chain has too many participants and does not provide quality information back to the wool grower. Within N.Z. there are several different selling methods, each having advantages and disadvantages.

The Chain



There are four main systems of selling wool in N.Z;

1. **The Auction System**.(55% North Island Clip)

Growers select a woolbroker, of which there are at least three in each area. Thus there are competitive costs and services. The broker is responsible for grab sampling, core sampling, weighing, warehouseing and selling on the wool grower's behalf.

Full objective testing is carried out by either N.Z. Wool Testing Authority or S.G.S, tests which include yield, micron, v.m. %, colour, and in some cases, staple length and strength, and bulk. The grab sample is subjectively assessed by the broker to measure other characteristics such as handle, character, freedom from shed stain, evenness, and freedom of stained fibres. This information is collated in a wool sale catalogue and supplied to the wool exporter. The grab samples are sent to a central warehouse for viewing by the exporter three days prior to the sale. (i.e. Sale by Separation)

Prior to the sale the broker contacts the grower with test results and a market valuation. The grower has the options of selling, placing a reserve, or brokers discretion. Eleven days after the sale the exporter pays the broker and the broker pays the wool grower. From this point the brokers' responsibilities only lie with the exporter. Wool is not delivered before payment has been made to the broker. Bales are branded to the exporter's request and delivery instructions are carried out.

- The broker also supplies additional services such as: in shed preparation advice, ram and ewe selection, advice on shearing policy, and quality control. The cost of all the services provided above including testing, insurance, storage and stationary is approximately 7p/kg.

SPLINE DRIVES
THEY WORK - IF YOU GET THEM RIGHT

Source: Shearing magazine

There are more spline drives in use - and naturally more stories of lock-ups when they failed to jump free. The spline is a lot safer than a pin drive but you can never be 100 per cent sure.

If you want to improve your chances, these are the things to watch:

The overhead gear
If the spline is to jump out, there has to be a reaction when the stock hits the overhead drive. If the drive is too tight it will grind on - and so will the handpiece. The best check is to hold the cone steady and push the driving drum past it. It should be tight - but not too tight to push. The same goes for the wheel on a shafting plant. (It's a common mistake to screw everything up too tight, from the cutter to the drive. It only increases wear and vibration.)

On the other hand, if there is too little pressure between the drive cone and the friction wheel, the cone will slip too soon, and again the spline won't jump out. Either way you adjust the gear.

The hook and eye joint
If the hook and eye are not in good condition, the short gut could be out of alignment and cause a failure

The spline sleeve
If this is not screwed on dead straight, you have the same risk. Most short guts will have been machine-threaded for a pin drive. If you unscrew that and screw on the sleeve, it should be OK - but take care. If you are threading the gut yourself - probably better not!

The short downtube.
The bottom outer casing should be adjusted so the bayonet sticks out about 4mm from the end of the tube. This allows for a smooth connection and avoids any binding or locking. You should also check that the tube is in good condition. It could be worn thin or have the end cut by the pin drive. If the end of the tube has been distorted, the ferrule can bind onto the tube and prevent the drive releasing.

The spline.
There has been talk of a faulty batch but the distributors say all are being checked before despatch. The problem is slight variations between brands. They recommend you carry matched spline and short gut. You can check by taking the short gut in one hand and the spindle in the other and engaging them right to the shoulder. They should lock without binding. (The top edge of the spindle should be ground to a slope. If it is not, do it on a grinding wheel.)

Maintenance.
Clean the sleeve and spindle regularly, especially in dusty and dirty conditions. Wipe the spindle with a clean rag and wash the sleeve out with kerosene or petrol. Minimum lubrication as oil will make dirt stick in the spline.

Checking.
Before each run, switch the handpiece on and off, then check that you can remove it easily. Another test is to grasp the elbow and pull the handpiece off while it is running.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEMES
FOR FALKLAND ISLAND WOOL

A report of a meeting sent to the Wool Press by Lyn Blake, Chairperson for the sub-committee investigating Quality Assurance Schemes for Falkland Islands Wool.

The first meeting of the Farmers Association sub-committee investigating the possibility of setting up a quality assurance scheme for wool in the Falkland Islands took place at Fox Bay on the 29th of July. The sub-committee are Lyn Blake, Ron Binnie, Nigel Knight, Ann Robertson and we were very pleased to welcome Doug Cartridge, the Sheep Scientist/Wool Specialist from the Department of Agriculture. Other interested persons present were Sharon and Leon Marsh and Fiona & Ron Rozee.

It was agreed there is a need to establish a code of practice that will be a required minimum standard for quality assured wools. When the programme is set up farmers will be able to join voluntarily. We went through a typical quality assurance programme and discussed it point by point. The consensus was that we should study several more that are on their way to us, to get a good over all view. In this way we will benefit from the experience of others and be able to draft a code of practice that is practical for the Falklands.

One of the important aspects of a quality assurance scheme is the requirement for setting standards of wool presentation, the maintenance of standards and the reliability and assurance of those standards. The meeting thought that the Agricultural Department, because of their independence, would be the ideal agency to do the pre-shearing shed inspections and the random checks during shearing.

It was agreed to invite both Robert Hall and Peter Marriot, as they represent the two main wool buyers, to visit and hold workshops while shearing takes place. From them we would expect advice on how preparation and presentation can be improved to better meet the needs and expectations of the buyers. Peter Marriot of Falkland Wool Sales has already indicated his willingness to come and we have yet to gauge interest from DS & Co.

It was also agreed to invite Heidi Blake who is able to teach woolhandling, wool classing and shed management and could stay on after the workshops to complete the season. She has attended numerous courses and most recently a course run by Wools of New Zealand that focused on the two main quality assurance schemes in operation in NZ and the procedures for setting them up.

These proposed visits will make available to innovative farmers the opportunity to refresh and update their own skills and information and this will assist in the formulation of a code of practice. As well as benefiting themselves they will be able to confidently and authoritatively guide and teach others.

As wool growers we think it is important that we are aware of how other countries who have high standards and good reputations prepare and present their clips for sale. With low wool prices and serious competition from other wool producers and from synthetics we feel everything that can be done must be done.

SICKLY SHEEP

by Zoe Luxton

With lambing not all that far away it is that time of year again when we must look into the main afflictions of pregnant ewes. The main problems are those of deficiencies, especially of glucose, Magnesium and Calcium

One such disease is KETOSIS, otherwise known as Sleepy Sickness or Twin Lamb Disease. It occurs when the ewe cannot make enough glucose to fill the requirements of her lamb(s) and her own body. Instead of having many glucose molecules in her blood there is a build up of other substances known as ketones, hence the name of the ailment.

Ewes carrying twins are more susceptible to Ketosis than those carrying only one lamb as they obviously need to manufacture more glucose, but it can be equally common in ewes carrying singletons if there is a lack of feed.

The disease can be induced by stressful interruptions to normal grazing, such as storms, transportation, lameness and dental problems. Early signs of the disease are varied and can be difficult to detect. The symptoms get progressively worse over a period of 2-5 days and are those such as listlessness, loss of appetite, unusual wandering and stationary positions, teeth grinding, shallow breathing, muscle twitching and blindness. As the disease progresses liver and kidney disorders also occur and the sheep becomes comatose before death. Unfortunately the symptoms are not often noticed until the advanced stage when treatment is of little help.

Supplementary feeding may be sufficient for ewes in poor condition to survive, and feeding them molasses, ketol, glycerol or propylene glycol is also a successful venture. Post mortem will reveal pale, fatty liver and kidneys.

HYPOCALCAEMIA (Lambing Sickness) is a similar disorder but, as the name suggests, is the result of a Calcium deficiency. It can occur from 6 weeks before, and up to 10 weeks after lambing. As with ketosis, the onset of hypocalcaemia is stress related and the symptoms are very similar. Slight bloat and regurgitation of food through the nostrils may also be observed.

The main difference is that ewes suffering from hypocalcaemia will die within 2 days, (quicker than those suffering from sleepy sickness) and if caught quickly enough, ewes suffering from hypocalcaemia will respond well to Calcium injected under the skin, and will be up within the hour. Thus the disease can be distinguished from Ketosis as ewes suffering from this will not respond to calcium. Reccurence is possible however, so any recovering ewes must be carefully watched. Green crops such as grass and legumes have good Calcium content and supplementary feeding of these feeds may be necessary in older ewes. Hypocalcaemia is probably more likely to occur in older ewes, and those suffering from it must be handled with care in case of heart failure.

HYPOMAGNESEMIA (lack of Magnesium), also known as grass staggers, can occur within the first 4-6 weeks after lambing while grazing ewes are lactating. As above, one symptom is muscle trembling, especially around the face. Affected ewes will also seem overly sensitive to light, noise and touch and will be completely immobile or walk in a very uncoordinated manner. Ewes will collapse into spasms on their side with legs and neck rigid. Death occurs suddenly within a few hours without the ewe lapsing into a coma first.

Hypomagnesemia occurs when the absorption of Magnesium is disturbed either by a lack of Sodium in the spring grass being consumed or by stressful situations. Feeding your flock concentrates is a sure way of increasing Magnesium levels. Ewes in the advanced stages of the disease can be treated successfully with a subcutaneous injection of Calcium and Magnesium. Recovery is quick but as with hypocalcaemia, relapses are possible.

It is very difficult to distinguish between the diseases, here are the main differences.

<u>Ketosis</u>

- occurs before lambing and possibly in the week after.
- ewes become very slow and lethargic.
- symptoms worsen over a 2-5 day period.
- ewes finally fall into a coma and die.
- Calcium/Magnesium injections are of no use.

<u>Hypocalcaemia</u>

- can occur from 6 weeks before and up to 10 weeks after, lambing.
- ewes display more violent muscle twitching than the slight trembling seen in ketosis.
- ewes can be over sensitive to stimuli.
- ewes fall into a coma usually within 2 days.
- Calcium injections usually bring the ewe around.

<u>Hypomagnesemia</u>

- occurs 4-6 weeks after lambing.
- ewes collapse and have violent muscle spasms with neck and legs rigid.
- ewes do not fall into a coma but die quickly, often within a few hours.
  good response to Calcium/Magnesium injections.

TREES FOR SHELTERBELTS

by Mandy McLeod

Technical information source: The Hillier Book Of Tree Planting & Management

Trees are fundamental to many aspects of our lives. Without trees in the world, life would be very different, timber would not be available for house construction or for the manufacture of paper, the landscape would be changed, with less scale, variation and shelter, even ourdiet would be more constrained! The reasons for planting trees will alter from site to site. The different attributes of trees and their level of importance changes in any given situation, when only one or two reasons may be of paramount significance

A shelterbelt will need to be fairly constant in the barrier it gives, if there are large gaps in it, the wind may howl through these areas as if there were no shelter on the site, but large dense areas will make the belt behave more like a solid barrier and decrease the efficiency as well.

The belts should be aligned at right angles to the wind direction for optimum effect. As it is unusual for the wind to blow consistently from only one or two directions, this means either a series of belts effectively 'boxing in' the area, or accepting a lower standard of shelter from certain wind directions. Care is needed for the choice of trees for the belt.

Evergreen trees are essential in most belts. Some broad-leaved trees are evergreen but these tend to present too dense a canopy of foliage and are difficult to associate well with other trees. Conifers are likely to form the majority of the evergreens used in shelter plantings. They have the advantage of being generally narrow and upright in growth and tolerating a wide range of sites and exposure. The commonly planted conifers, such as Lawson and Leyland cypresses (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and *X Cupressocyparis leylandii* respectively), tend to be rather too dense for best effect when used on their own and need associating with other trees to achieve the desired density of foliage.

More open trees, such as Scots (*Pinus sylvestris)* or other pines, make a more effective belt. Mixtures of pine with a deciduous trees can make an effective all-year-round shelterbelt. Shelterbelts are best started by the planting of small trees, rather than isolated larger trees.

In the Falklands shelter is a major practical benefit of tree planting. The purpose of such planting is to reduce the wind speed passing over an area. Wind is both uncomfortable to humans and animals and damaging to many plants. The difference in feel and temperature between a windy site and a sheltered one is obvious to us. Equally, plants are affected by exposure and this can cause significant losses of yield; for example, in a windy situation, the provision of suitable shelter may give an increase in yield from potatoes of twenty per cent or more.

A solid barrier, such as a wall, will reduce the speed of the wind but the effect is short-term and limited to a few times the height of the wall. The wall deflects the wind, forcing it to go around and over the top of it and this increases its speed and creates eddies or turbulence. At around a distance of eight times the height of a wall, eddies start to bring the wind back towards the wall from the opposite direction, creating a zone of turbulence at a distance of between 4 and 8 times the height of the wall; in very windy conditions, the eddies may extend right back to the wall. Walls are, therefore, only of benefit to the plants growing immediately beside them. They are ineffective at providing shelter on a larger scale.

The most effective form of shelter is not a solid barrier but one which will slow the wind down without making it go faster somewhere else. The ideal is a screen which is fifty per cent porous, i.e. half is solid and half isspace in some even arrangement. Such a screen will have a significant effect upon wind speed for a considerable number of times its height, both downwind and upwind without creating back currents. The reduction in wind speed immediately behind a porous shelter belt will be less than that achieved within a metre or so of a wall, but will last for much further, both downwind and also for a distance upwind of the barrier.

Reduction of Windspeed with a 50%	**Porous Shelterbelt**
Distance from Windbreak	*Percentage reduction in Windspeed*
5 x height of belt	50
10 x height of belt	25
20 x height of belt	10

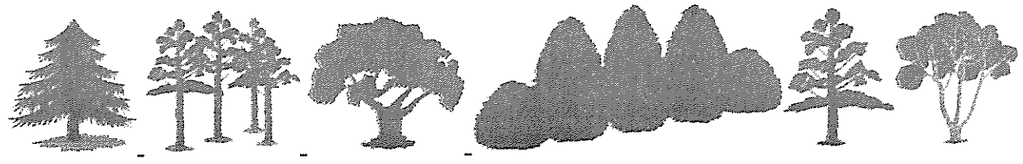
Trees are very suitable for a sizeable shelterbelt, as they can make a belt of sufficient height to give useful wind reduction both at a distance and for taller structures.

Trees can be very useful for binding soft soils together. Willows (*Salix*) and alders (*Alnus*) are specially useful on wet sites, other species can also be valuable. The presence of trees on a site tends to lead to an increase in the soil stability and, except on certain soil types, an improvement in the soil structure and the recycling of nutrients. The depth of rooting and the annual cycle of leaf fall (even from 'evergreens') provides a regular source of material for earthworms, insects, fungi, bacteria and small mammals to feed upon. In most situations this will lead to a slow build up of the soil fauna and flora, which in turn leads to an improvement in soil structure.

On difficult sites where the quality of soil and other site factors may require extra attention, the planting of nitrogen-fixing plants, such as alder (*Alnus*), or tree lupin (*Lupinus arboreus)* may be used to add nitrogen and organic matter to the soil.

From my own experience of tree planting and growing in the Falklands the process of establishment is relatively slow, although once the trees get going the rewards are plentiful. The conifer / deciduous mix provides shelter while the slower growing trees establish themselves. Tree lupins are fast growing and easily started from seed. Willows grow quickly from cuttings and tend to bend well with the wind without breaking or growing with a 'lean' to one side. Poplars are also fast growing and they spread quickly through runners, although this is not always desirable.

To me, one of the natural beauties of the Falklands is the rugged, un-treed landscape, so care must be taken in the siting of shelterbelts to ensure that the natural look of the Falklands is not impaired and that 'individual' quality of beauty retained.



The potential benefit to hogget survival of shearing with cover combs was tested in a trial established by former Sheep/Wool Scientist Greg Scott with the kind co-operation of Estancia Farm. Hoggets were stocked together in their traditional camp for the period mid-November until about early May, over which survival was monitored.

The hoggets were shorn on the 16th November 1994 and 20th November 1995 after which dangerous wind-chill conditions occurred during the following week e.g. the 20th November 1994 storm mentioned above. In 1995 'critically dangerous' wind-chill conditions were recorded by the Met Office at MPA on the first two days after shearing. The trial results are shown in Table 2 below. Two important conclusions emerged;

a. **7-10% of hoggets shorn with either comb died before winter, and**
b. **3% more of the hoggets shorn with a cover comb survived compared to those shorn by conventional comb.**

TABLE 2. Comparative survival of hoggets shorn with either cover or conventional combs over two seasons.

	COMB TYPE	NO. SHORN (NOV.)	NO. SURVIVED (MAY)	% ALIVE
1994-95	**COVER**	138	129	93
	CONVENTIONAL	140	127	91
1995-96	**COVER**	83	77	93
	CONVENTIONAL	86	77	90
1994-96	***COVER***	*221*	*206*	*93*
	CONVENTIONAL	*226*	*204*	*90*

Table 3 below shows the costs and benefits associated with shearing hoggets using Cover Combs. It is **financially beneficial.**

Table 3. Costs and benefits of shearing 100 sheep with Cover Combs.

	Costs	**Benefits**
Survival of 3 more sheep for 3 years	--------	£45.00
Extra price of Cover comb	£0.50	--------
Extra shearing costs	£6.15	--------
Totals	£6.65	£45.00
Net Benefit		**£38.35**

Assumptions:

a. a fleece is worth about £5.00.
b. the reduction in hogget fleece shorn with a cover comb is compensated by an increase in shearling fleece shorn with a conventional comb.
c. cover comb cost about £10 more than a conventional comb and will shear the same number of sheep e.g. 2,000..
d. shearing costs from SOA rates for flock sheep increased by 15%.).

Finally, we plan to confirm the benefits to hogget survival by testing a much larger number during the forthcoming shearing season.

SHEEP PREFER TRUFFLE FLAVOUR

Source What's New In Farming

A Truffle flavour has been added to all Primeflock ewe feeds from Bibby, following trials which revealed that sheep and goats find the smell and taste of truffles irresistible.

The trials, carried out at the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Aberdeen, gave ewes and goats a choice of two feeds: an unflavoured compound feed and a feed containing a number of different flavours.

The results showed that more sheep preferred the truffle flavoured feed to any other, and intakes of it were higher. The second favourite was garlic.

The company has also introduced caramilla flavour to its lamb feeds after trials showed lambs preferred sweet or milky tasting flavoured feeds, such as caramel and vanilla, to other flavours.

SAY BAA-BAA TO BAD DRIVING

Source: The Sunday Telegraph, 29.07.96

It may not be enough to put off the most determined speeding motorists, but drink-drivers are sure to think they are hallucinating. A busy Dutch city is planning to introduce live sheep to its roads as an obstacle to speeding, *writes Jane Szita in Amsterdam.*

Culemborg, some 250 miles south of Amsterdam, struck on the bizarre solution to its traffic problems after studying the experiences of drivers on Britain's country roads. "After all, it's impossible to speed past the sheep if you drive in the Yorkshire Dales" a city council spokesman said.

The project which starts in September will involve 5 or 6 sheep being released onto roads in a district plagued by speeding motorists. If successful, the number of sheep will be increased to more than 100. Cattle grids are being installed to keep the sheep from wandering off designated areas to busier roads, such as the motorway linking Culemborg with Utrecht, where they would face certain death.

The council insisted that the project was absolutely serious, but it has come in for heavy criticism from animal lovers who fear carnage on the roads.

It is not the first time that Culemborg has gone back to nature to solve a problem. An earlier project involved replacing lawn mowers with a force of 40 sheep and 10 cows to keep the municipal grass short. "It's a more environmentally friendly solution." said a spokesperson for the council.

The life expectancy of the first woolly speeding bumps has yet to be established, but animal rights activists agree that the creatures will be in grave peril. In Scotland and Yorkshire there is a tradition that the Dutch planners may be unaware of ..... Certain wily locals have been known to target sheep with their cars, aiming to carry off a years free supply of chops in their boot!

BIODEGRADABLE LIFE JACKETS

Source: What's New In Farming

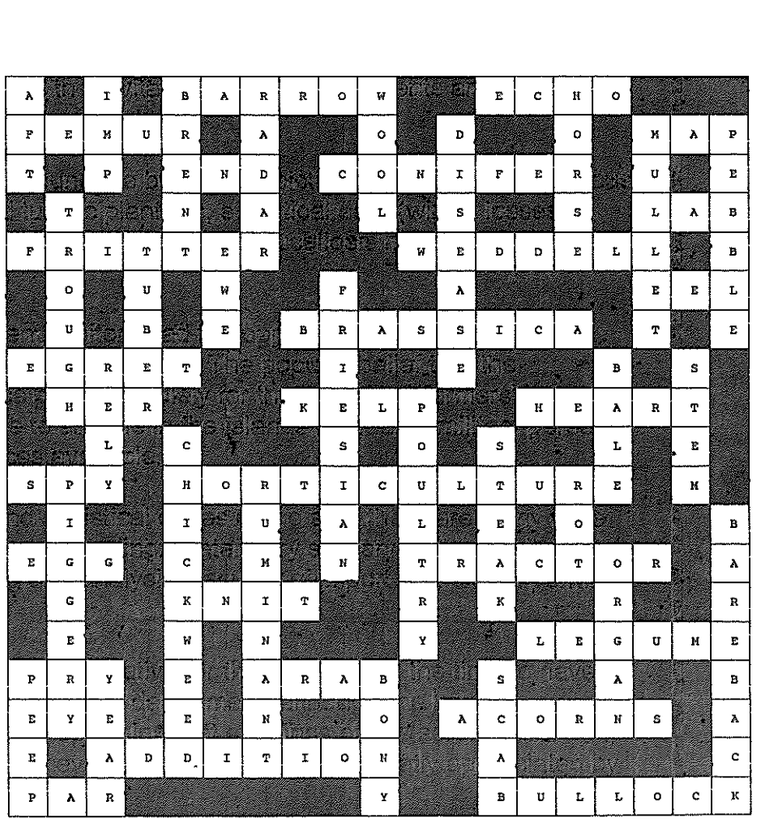
Lammac polyethylene lamb jackets, originally designed and marketed in New Zealand, provide protection against the elements for a newly born lamb.

Available in two sizes and three colours, they are ultra-violet light degradable. They help prevent hypothermia which is the major cause of lamb mortality in the UK.

Lambs usually shed their Lammacs after about three days and the jackets will then dissolve under natural light over a period of five weeks.

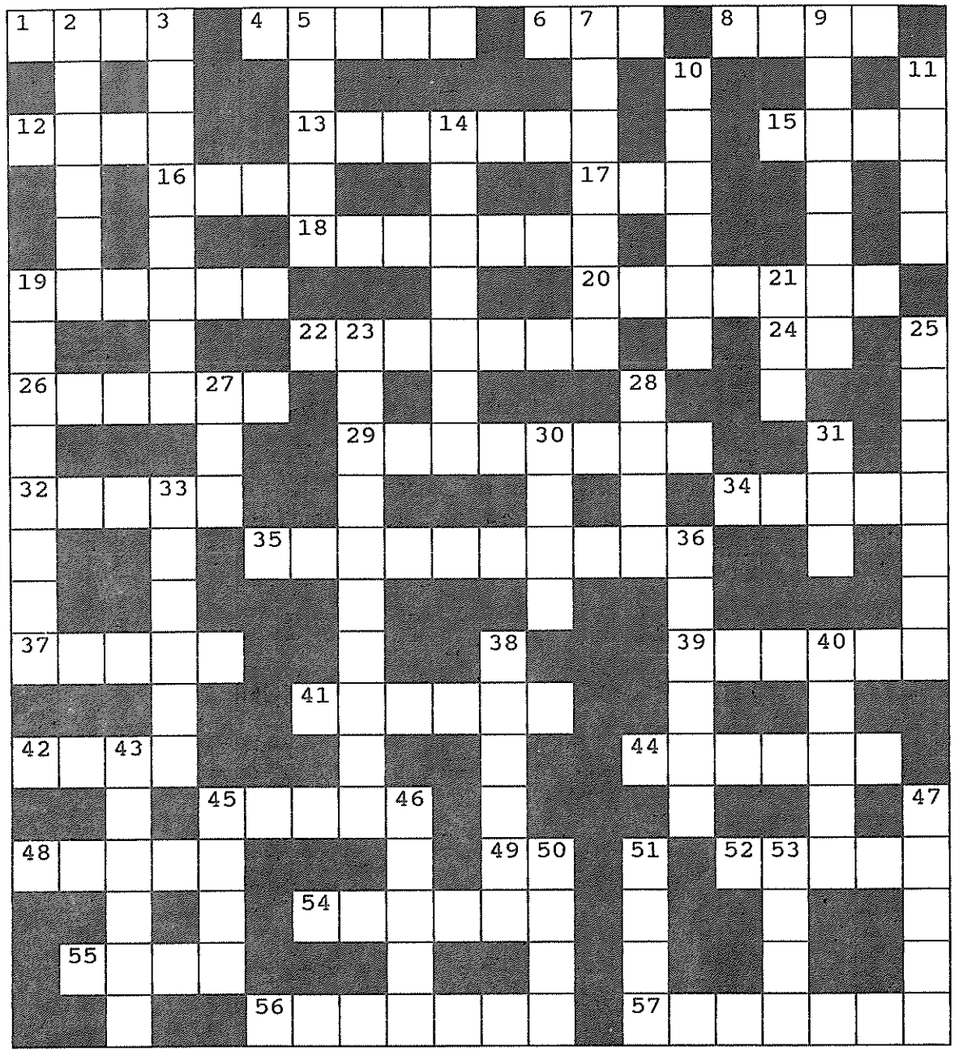
They are packed in boxes of 50 to 100, and each box contains an indelible black marker so that farmers and shepherds can put their own numbers or markers on each jacket.

Research has shown that the use of the jackets can reduce lamb losses and some farmers also claim that lambs wearing the coloured products are less likely to be taken by foxes.



AUGUST SOLUTION

THE SEPTEMBER CROSS WORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. GOES WELL WITH YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS
4. LIGHTENING STREAK
6. RECEDING TIDE
8. PLANT THAT GIVES BEER A BITTER FLAVOUR
12. SIMILAR TO A JETTY
13. MAKES SOMEONE IMMUNE TO A SPECIFIC DISEASE
15. TOP LAYER OF EARTH
16. FEMALE HORSE
17. NOTHING
18. NEWLY ENLISTED SOLDIER
19. EWE OR MARE FOR EXAMPLE
20. PRODUCED FROM ANIMALS OR PLANTS
22. HAS EIGHT SIDES
24. PEACE-ENFORCING BODY
26. CLIMBING DEVICE
29. PERSON WHO LOOKS AFTER THE FLOCK
32. CITY OF NZ SOUTH ISLAND
34. SIMPLE
35. SOIL NUTRIENT
37. THE AMOUNT PRODUCED
39. THE WAY BEER IS MADE
41. AN EAST FALKLAND ISLAND
42. HEN HOUSE
44. YOUNG SWINE
45. TWO BORN FROM THE SAME PREGNANCY
48. DESERT PLANT WITH SPINES
49. CUBIC CAPACITY
52. USING BOARDS MAY HELP YOU GET OVER THIS
54. TYPE OF DAIRY COW
55. PRODUCT OF COWS
56. AN ILLNESS
57. LARGE HELICOPTER

DOWN

2. NOT POISONOUS TO EAT
3. RURAL AREA AND ITS BUILDINGS
5. AN ORGAN WHICH IS OFTEN EATEN WITH BACON OR ONIONS
7. A LOCH ON EAST FALKLAND
9. COMPOUND ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH AND REPAIR
10. FODDER CROP
11. AN EXAMPLE IS THE GEORGE CROSS
14. DEAD BODY
19. A SPORT ASSOCIATED WITH BIRDS OF PREY
21. WOMAN OF RELIGIOUS ORDER
23. CAN BE DONE WITH A KNIFE OR RUBBER RINGS
25. DRY
27. SELF IMAGE
28. TALL PLANT WHICH IS FAIRLY RARE IN THE ISLANDS
30. THREADLIKE GROWTH ON SKIN
31. SUBSTANCE LEFT AFTER SOMETHING IS BURNED
33. HORSES FASTEST PACE
36. LONG EARED ANIMAL
38. WHAT COMES OFF A SHEEP AT SHEARING
40. GRAIN USED IN MAKING FLOUR
43. A FANCY FLOWERING PLANT
45. BLOODSUCKING PARASITIC ANIMAL
46. A LIQUID FROM COAGULATED BLOOD
47. A YOUNG HEN
50. FLUID FILLED SAC OF HYDATID
51. FLAT CIRCULAR OBJECT
53. METTALIC ELEMENT KNOWN FOR ITS STRENGTH

HELPFUL COOKING TIPS

Taken from an old cookery book that belonged to Charlene's Grandmother.

Lard is better to grease cake-pans with than butter. The salt in butter causes the cake to stick.

When icing a cake, an excellent plan is to dust a little dry flour over the top of the cake before putting on the icing. If this is done, the icing is not so likely to run off.

An apple kept in the cake box will keep moderately rich cake moist for a great length of time, if the apple be renewed when withered.

Cut new bread with a hot knife.

BETTER LAMBING

by Robert Hall

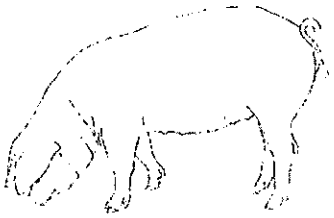
Falkland Islands sheep numbered 685,656 (*Ref: F.I's Statistics*) at the end of May 1996, which is the lowest "stock taking" figure since 1985. A good lambing this Spring will do much to help sheep numbers recover. Farmers can influence their lamb production by providing ewes with hazard-free camps, good nutrition and shelter. Those who shepherd ewes can obviously prepare their lambing kits and facilities in the near future.

Farmers might also consider pre-lamb crutching of ewes. Pre-lamb crutching involves shearing the dirty excess wool from around the ewe's rear end and from around the udder. Such crutching enables shepherds to more easily see whether ewes are trying to lamb and importantly helps lambs to find the udder quickly in the crucial first hours of life. Crutching has the added advantage at shearing time of making skirting easier.

Given the high value of stud sheep, their lambs and fleeces, perhaps careful pre-lamb crutching in September is worth undertaking, for stud ewes at least?

PIGS *CAN* FLY!

by Caroline Lamb



Nessie is, for a pig, well known. She was bought in last years Wireless for the Blind radio auction, as a tiny piglet, by the airmen on Byron Heights radar site. She was to be their mascot - certainly a novel idea, and at that stage a pretty cute one. She even made it onto "Scene Here".

However, 8 months on and Nessie has grown into a good sized sow, weighing somewhere between 200-250 Kg. Not quite as cute as she used to be and certainly not suited to a mountain site where for long periods this winter the temperature has not risen above freezing.

Despite every effort (a shelter and full time blow heater) it was obvious that the climate was not ideal for a pig and the decision was made to relocate her.

It was decided to send her back to the Market Garden (from whence she came) and arrangements were made.

The Seaking departed MPA in cold, wet weather and dropped me off on Byron around midday. All I had to do was sedate Nessie and see her loaded into the crate the boys had knocked up for the job.

Problem number one: The crate was at the helipad, Nessie was 30m away over rough ground and the mobile lifting device didn't exactly have bimble tyres on it! Problem number two: After administering the sedative it was recommended to leave the pig as quiet as possible so the drug could take full effect.

So, the plan was to herd Nessie down to the crate, jab her in it and leave her in peace and quiet. Great plan!! I know now why airmen are not farmers! Their pig handling skills were not exactly fine-tuned and Nessie was not exactly co-operative in entering the crate. So after a few attempts at loading her and watching the side panels bulge before she made a break for freedom, we decided to hold her steady with a couple of palettes held together in front of her with several chaps behind while I gave her a decent dose of sedative. Ten minutes later she finally began to succumb, and was able to be steered gently into the crate. Once the side panel had been screwed back on, I noticed the crate was too low for Nessie to stand upright in - we had to wait for her to lie down before the lid could be placed back on top.

She had just sunk to her haunches when the chopper returned to drop off some cargo it had picked up - and up popped Nessie again. Another ten minutes and she looked out for the count, so the lid was screwed on and the crate man-handled onto the forks of the lifting device to be moved toward the helicopter.

The whole procedure was beginning to go smoothly. The crate was loaded onto the chopper, all passengers were aboard and we began to take off. Then the lid started to bulge in a most alarming fashion. Fortunately she must have settled down again but I was extremely relieved to see the crate fork-lifted off after landing at Stanley's rugby pitch (the lid again bulging!) and hence into Tim's tender care.

A new experience for me, and I can still see visions of a pig running rampant in a flying helicopter with me chasing it around with a hypodermic needle! Dare I say "never again?"

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IN THIS ISSUE:

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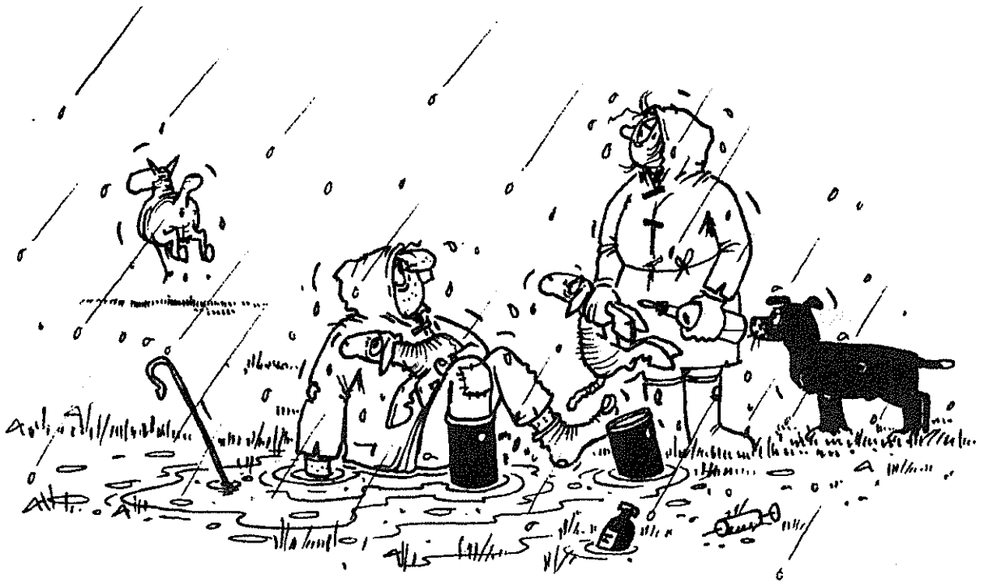
EDITORIAL

Charlene and I are back from our respective periods of leave feeling refreshed and full of enthusiasm for the coming season. It has been such a good Winter and subsequent Spring, that it is hard not to be optimistic about such things as lambing percentages and higher wool yields.

The appointment of the new Director of Agriculture has been confirmed with a 'Press Release' from the Chief Executive. Mr Bob Reid will be joining us later in the year.

We have had a few Agricultural Training Scheme courses in the last month consisting of plumbing, welding, carpentry and lambing. The feed back is that all who attended found the courses interesting, beneficial and fun. If anyone has a course requirement, please let me know and I will see if I can organise something to accommodate it. I already have a few computer courses being worked out in my mind.

This ones for those that did the lambing course. At least "Blue Bertha" couldn't run away after your efforts!



.. was it the Bishop of Durham who said he didn't believe in Hell? ... Well quite obviously he never did a lambin'!'

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

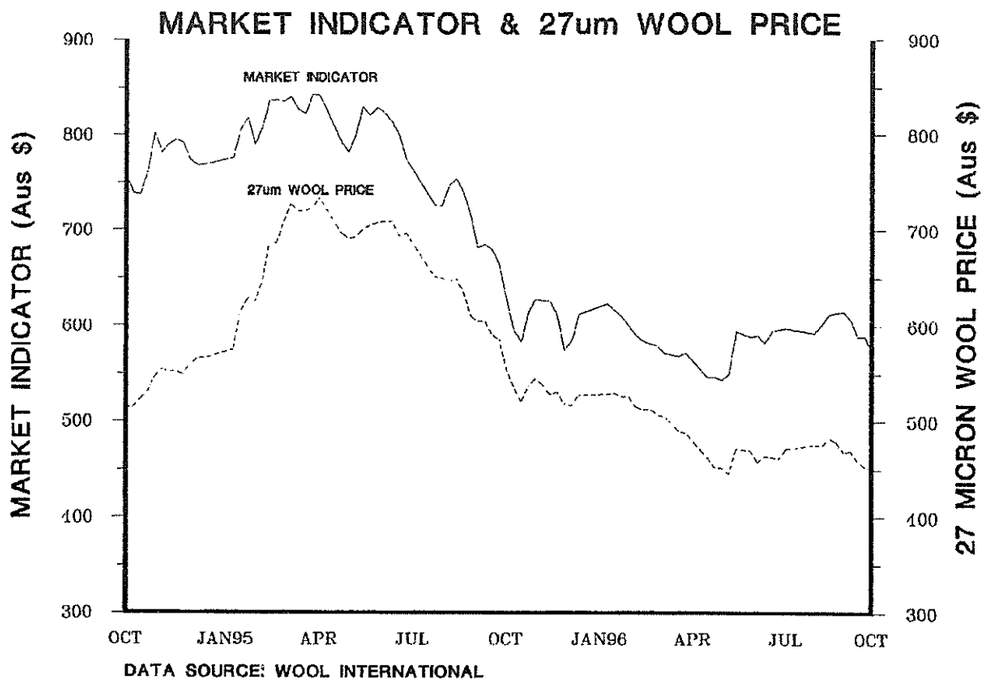
Lyn Blake	Farm Owner / Manager, Little Chartres, West Falkland.
Judy Summers	Secretary, Farmers Association.
Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Zoe Luxton	Trainee Agriculturalist, DoA.
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA.
Doug Cartridge	Wool Adviser, DoA.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.
Sinéad Doherty	Reasearch Assistant, DoA.
Sharon Halford	Chairperson, Agricultural Management Committee.

WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

Following a period of steady recovery, the Australian Wool Market has suffered a substantial set-back during Septmber to dip well below the critical 600 cents/kg break-even point.

On the positive side, it should be noted that the stockpile disposal rate has been well above the old statutory requirement of 11,300 bales/week. We now eagerly awiait the arrival of the sub-2 million bale stockpile (as an early Christmas present perhaps!) History has shown that the wool market is capable of achieving a sustained recovery once stock levels drop below 2.0 - 1.75 million bales.



During the end of September sales the Australian Market Indicator closed 40 cents lower (on the reported figure for August) at **574 cents/kg clean**. The 27um Indicator also declined by 28 cents to close at **451 cents/kg clean**.

The Australian $ has continued to weaken against the pound. On the 30th September, the rate was 1 cent higher on the August figure at **2.05 cents/£** (The higher the figure means a weaker currency/£.)

As reported earlier, disposal rates from the stockpile have been relatively strong (and well ahead of schedule.) Since the start of the season the disposal rate has been 17,518 bales per week (forward sales during September averaged 14,987 bales/week.) The legislated disposal rate for the September quarter (182,000 bales) was met in mid-August. The forward sold position for the December quarter is already 114,572 bales and for the March. On the 26th September, the Wool International stockpile of unsold wool stood at **2,071,840 bales**.

The New Zealand markets closed virtually unchanged on last month's figure, the Market Indicator was just 1 NZ cent lower at 471 cents/kg. The South African market was 144 cents lower at 1,970 SA cents/kg.

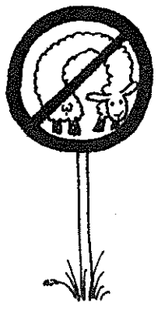
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

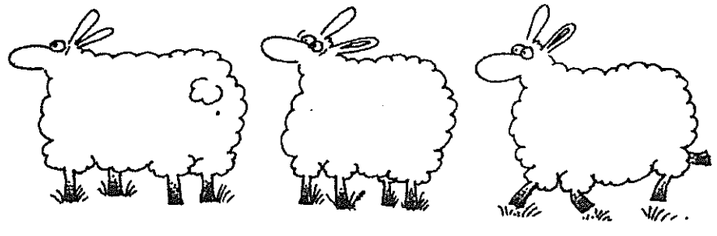
a report by Sharon Halford on the meeting held on 17th September 1996

Wind Chill Statements were discussed with Mr Barnard from the Meteorological Office at MPA. It was agreed that these statements would be broadcast three times a day after the weather forecast, i.e. morning, noon and evening. It was considered advantageous to have an answerphone with a telemessage enabling people to check on the weather at any time. The Acting Director of Agriculture is pursuing this matter.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting to discuss the main topics contained in his Agricultural Policy. The idea of this paper is to promote agriculture in the Falkland Islands and encourage rural economic development. It is hoped that this paper will be presented to the October Exco.

The "Quality Assured Wool" checklist was discussed. It was emphasised that the idea of emtying sheep out prior to them being put in the shearing shed was to stop the situation of them being taken from lush feed directly to the shed; this merely reiterated general good practice.





SS/6 GRAZING SYSTEMS TRIAL.

by Aidan Kerr

Progress report No. 2 - Sheep performance, Summer-Winter 1995-6.

Those of you interested in optimising wool production per acre of Whitegrass camp without significant detriment to the sheep and the land will be interested in the latest results from this ongoing trial.

For background to the trial see Wool Press issues 63 and 65 and 76. Briefly wool production, sheep and pasture changes will be compared between rotation and set-stocked grazing systems. To have more confidence in the results two rotation systems (called Felton and Pond) are compared with two set-stocked systems (called Peak Stream and Valley) (see map in issue 76). Each is about 130 ha (320 acres). About 25% of the area in each of the rotation systems has been fenced off for grazing in summer (mid-December - early April) while the remaining 75% will be grazed during the rest of the year.

Since shearing in December 1995, about 108 2-5 year old wethers have been stocked in each system. During selection a few sheep were judged by the Vet to be unhealthy were not selected. as were some which were much bigger or smaller than the rest. Apart from these animals the sheep were randomly selected from FLH's Fitzroy Farm flock. They are predominantly Corriedale and 30 of the youngest sheep are Cormo (as per current Fitzroy Farm's breeding policy). Equal numbers of sheep from each age group and breed were randomly allocated to each system. Also all sheep were tallied, weighed and condition scored in mid-December 1995. Thus there were no significant differences in either their initial body weights or condition scores between systems. Tallying, weighing and condition scoring were conducted again in early April (after Summer) and early September (after Winter). The results are compared in the summary table below. After shearing sheep in the rotation systems were stocked only in the summer paddocks and after the April measurement they were moved to the winter paddocks. Sheep in the set-stocked systems are grazed there all year.

Results so far.

Comparative stocking rates and performance of sheep between set-stocked and rotation grazing systems since mid-December 1995.

DECEMBER TO APRIL

SYSTEM TYPE	CAMP NAME	STOCKING RATE (AC/S)	SURVIVAL (%)	BODY WEIGHT (KG)	GAIN (KG)	BODY CONDITION FINAL SCORE	GAIN
SET-STOCKED	PEAK STREAM	3.1	97	49	10.3	3.3	0.5
" "	VALLEY	3.0	98	49	9.7	3.5	0.7
ROTATION	POND SUMMER	0.7	100	47	8.8	3.0	0.2
"	FELTON SUMMER	0.7	98	45	5.6	3.0	0.1

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER

SET-STOCKED	PEAK STREAM	3.2	100	50	0.2	3.0	-0.3
" "	VALLEY	3.0	100	47	-2.9	2.9	-0.6
ROTATION	POND WINTER	2.3	100	51	3.2	3.2	0.2
"	FELTON WINTER	2.2	95	50	5.0	3.3	0.2

(Note: For those not familiar with Condition Scoring it is assessed by feeling the top and sides of the sheep's backbone immediately behind the last rib and over the kidney and awarding a score on a 1-5 scale, where 1 = no fat with sharp bones etc. and 5= very fat, bones difficult to detect).

- Survival during summer was similar between systems.
- By March, 'set-stocked' sheep had gained more weight and condition than 'rotation' sheep. They were also heavier and in better condition. This was probably due to the much lower stocking rates in the set-stocked systems for this period.
- During winter sheep performance reversed. By early September 'Rotation' sheep had gained more weight and condition and were slightly heavier and in better condition than 'set-stocked' sheep. This was probably due to the greater availability of grass in the winter paddocks following their 'spelling' from grazing during summer.
- Survival in winter was 5% lower in Felton Winter due to drownings in a ditch. The losses are more likely to be related to the more dangerous type of ditch rather than the grazing system. Thus for comparative purposes the losses should be ignored. In the future the worst parts of the ditch may be fenced off.

It must be stressed that it is TOO EARLY TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS as the trial has not completed its first full year and has another two full seasons to run. The sheep will be assessed again in December after shearing when fleece weights (greasy and clean), fibre diameter, production and income will be compared between systems. In this first year stocking rates are moderate and the real test will come when they are increased significantly over the next two seasons. It is also acknowledged that the past winter was one of the mildest on record and a great contrast to the winter weather experienced during 1995!

All comments or queries are welcome. WATCH THIS SPACE!

BE WISE..... ADVERTISE!

by Hugh Marsden

As a reader of the Wool Press who is also heavily preoccupied with the task of writing informative articles, I can sympathise with the views of the editors, namely that farmers could make far greater use of the magazine both from an individual farmer's perspective, but also to benefit the farming community as a whole.

While we do not expect every farm to contribute stimulating articles on subjects such as the global wool market or farm accounts I feel that there is more scope to use the wool press as a means to promote greater initiative within the farming community and also provide an additional dimension to the Wool Press. Remember that the original intention was that the wool press would foster debate and exchange between farms.

One of the main problems facing the Agricultural Industry is the lack of market information. In the U.K it is possible to determine the price of most traded commodities through reading the farming press. While I think we are a long way from being able to do this in the falklands, perhaps the editors of the Wool Press could waive advertising rates if farmers were to quote prices in adverts, say for the sale / purchase of surplus sheep?

I feel that the Wool Press could be more effectively used to advertise a farm's products (both agricultural and non-agricultural) Machinery, surplus sheep and contracting services are things that quickly spring to mind . As an example it is extremely frustrating to see bags of potatoes being shipped into Stanley from a port and then a few weeks/months later see imported potatoes being shipped out to the same port ! (with the retailer and shipping agent being the main beneficiaries!)

Machinery

Another frustration is to see useful items of machinery rapidly tuning into scrap on the green while at the same time a similar machine is being imported into the Islands at vast expense. (Who is it that gains from this?) If you have no use for a piece machinery (ie McConnel arm because you have converted to oil or use a peat contractor) why not advertise it in the Wool Press?

Contracting Services

I feel that there are a number of opportunities for farms that own specialist items of machinery to generate extra cash through hiring out the machine or better still, using the equipment to provide a contracting service. A good example might be a farm that owns a flail hedge trimmer and only uses it to cut a couple of miles of hedges. Surely this trimmer could also be used to provide a contracting service to the other 70 farms which have rampant gorse hedges and no trimmer!? With better communications throughout the Islands, there has never been a better time for farmers to capitalise on this type of opportunity.

Beef

With the construction of the abattoir almost upon us, it seems likely that new opportunities will emerge for farms to establish specialist commercial beef herds. The preliminary findings of the beef survey suggests that a large number of farms have little interest in running a beef herd and yet still have a significant number of cattle. Could those farms who have surplus cattle for sale not advertise them as being available for sale/transfer to those farms who have a genuine interest in beef? It is also essential that a significant pool of breeding cows are retained within the Island and that they should command a premium over other cattle being slaughtered.

Other businesses.

Contrary to public perception, a quick count suggests that there are more than 43 farms undertaking "alternative ventures" on Falkland farms. (and these are just the ones that I know about!) I feel that it is important for farms to actively promote these initiatives (not just in the Wool Press) for them to make a significant additional contribute to the farm income.

Make good and full use of the media available to you, in particular

"THE WOOL PRESS"

as it is your paper

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEARING SHEDS TO PRODUCE "QUALITY FALKLAND WOOL"

by Lyn Blake

Since the information went out in last month's 'Wool Press' on the assurance scheme for quality assured Falkland wool, I have received a number of phone calls (as we hoped for) seeking clarification on various points. It is great to know so many people are thinking the scheme over and working out what *they* need to do to become accredited.

To those people who feel their pens are too old or their sheds a bit scruffy, take heart as I do not know of anyone who had everything in place before the information went out. The age of pens and sheds is not the important thing, it is the *condition* they are in. The outline in the check list says that the workplace in general should be in good order, clean and safe. An application of elbow grease can do a lot to help here, the cost is time and effort.

Nearly everyone that I have spoken to is concerned about their lighting and this looks like the area where expenses will be unavoidable. It would seem that lighting has generally been inadequate and probably contributing to the dark colour fibre problem more than we realised. Inadequate lighting has been discussed from time to time and as recently as the meeting between the SOA, GEU, Farmers Association and the Contract Shearers.

I have spoken to the Falkland Islands Company who will do a 'special order'. What is suggested is that individuals speak to Mrs Marina Jaffray at Homecare and place orders with her.

I have also spoken with Burned Peck at the Philomel Store who is the acting representative for Kim Peck, he is also happy to do a special order.

orders to either of these stores by 31st October

(orders placed by this date will come down on the charter boat in December.)

Please note that the required lighting is for double tubes.

Apologies if the diagrams in the Quality Assurance handout are misleading.

A WOOL STORE IN THE FALKLANDS?

By Doug Cartridge

Everyone involved in the wool industry is aware that when wool prices are low marketing methods come under criticism, this is common for many agricultural commodities. One thing must be understood, marketing methods do not solely dictate the value paid in a commodity market. They can provide an efficient means of delivering quality products to the market by maximising the value to the customer while minimising the costs to the producer. Like most marketing methods the Falkland Islands wool marketing method has its strengths and weaknesses.

Question? **How can we capitalise on the strengths and minimise the weaknesses of the current marketing method?**

An answer could be: **A wool store in the Falklands!**

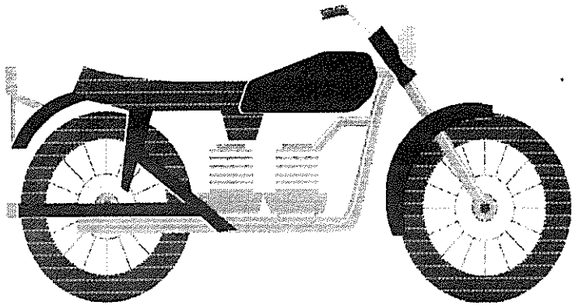
A warehousing, sampling and grading facility in the Falkland Islands could eliminate many of the weaknesses of the current marketing method while capitalising on the strengths.

What could a warehouse in the Falkland Islands provide which is not already available in the current marketing method?

a) A cost efficient means of sampling wool.
b) A comprehensive objective and subjective evaluation of individual wool clips.
c) Opportunities for wool producers and wool handlers to visually compare the results of differing standards of clip preparation and to be able to better understand the need for quality preparation.
d) A method of quality control to minimise the chance of making bad deliveries to processors.
e) A means of combining subjective and objective assessment for lotting and grouping of wool's.
f) A binning facility for small lots of wool to enhance the value of the lower end of the clip.
g) The capability of incorporating procedures such as opening or blending to increase the average value of particular wool types.
h) A reclassing, sorting facility to increase the value of the clip, given the difficulty of getting competent wool handling staff during the shearing season.
I) A means of ensuring Falkland wool retains its premium image in the market place by delivering the wool to the market in a quality fashion.
j) A base to establish an integrated marketing system incorporating the farmers ability to produce quality wool and the expertise of the organisations selling our wool.
k) An opportunity to refine the way in which Falkland Islands wool is sold.
l) An all year round training ground for residents interested in improving their wool preparation skills and knowledge of Falkland Islands wool.
m) An ability to channel promotion funds for Falkland Islands wool to the market in an organised manner.
n) The opportunity to develop more competition for Falkland Islands wool if required.

This is possible in the Falkland Islands and would cost effectively eliminate many of the weaknesses the current marketing method has while still maintaining the very important strengths.

This method could only be successful with farmers support and involvement. Thus I would appreciate comments on this idea and would be happy to discuss how the wool store might operate.



SUZUKI BIKE SPARES

Anyone wanting SUZUKI spares might be interested to know that we have been dealing direct with an agent in U.K. for the past 2 years who has proved to be very reliable.

Using a U.K. credit card, small parts can arrive within 10 to 14 days.

Regards Ann Robertson

HAVE YOU SEEN FELTON'S FLOWER ?

by Sinead Doherty and Aidan Kerr

During July and August Sinead attended the International Diploma Course in the Propagation, Cultivation and Conservation of Threatened Plant Species at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. The course was attended by representatives from five UK Dependent Territories and was sponsored by the Darwin Initiative Fund. Other participants came from St Helena, Cayman Islands, Monserrat and Hong Kong. The course involved theoretical classes and practical experience within the gardens. The practical sessions included propagation by seed, cuttings, layering and grafting.

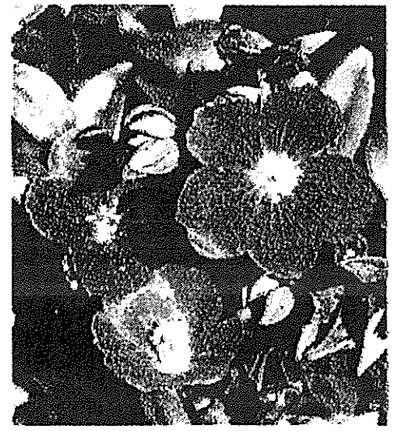
Propagation of threatened species is best achieved from seed. This ensure that a larger genetic variation is passed than would occur through vegetative methods which do not involve sexual reproduction e.g. using cuttings. However when seed is not viable or in low abundance then vegetative propagation is necessary. Thus Native Box and Fachine are best propagated by cuttings while transplanting tillers has traditionally been the best method of propagating Tussac and Sandgrass. Seed propagation may be the best method for threatened plants such as Feltons's Flower.

Felton's Flower Recovery Plan

The classroom studies concentrated on management plans for threatened species and a recovery plan was drawn up for the re-introduction of Felton's Flower. This native plant is thought to be extinct in the wild since around 1910. It was common in the Roy Cove area and was found in porous, dry and warm subsoil at the base of stone runs, and also on the north sides of dry (Diddle Dee) slopes.

The causes of its decline are thought to be overgrazing by sheep and introduced pasture grasses and associated weeds with which it cannot compete well. As far as we know it survives only in gardens on West Point Island and Carcass Island. It is also grown in gardens at Kew, UK, France and Denmark. It's isolated and small population means that Felton's Flower is highly susceptible to extinction by fire or by weed competition.

Felton's Flower (see diagram and photograph) is a low growing prostrate annual. It is highly attractive, with brilliant magenta flowers which open their widest in bright sunshine. The seeds, which are small, shiny and black usually germinate in late summer, and the plant overwinters as a small seedling. In spring it grows rapidly and the flowers often appear by October, a time when little else is in bloom. The plant stems may reach up to 35 cm or more in length while the basal leaves can be up to 1 cm long. It's nearest relatives occur in South America between 35°- 50° South.



Upper leaf and flower (Natural Size)

At present the Department, in conjunction with Falklands Conservation (and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) are hoping to re-introduce this flower into the wild, but we need your help! It is hoped that suitable sites can be located where grazing will not be a threat and were competition from weeds can be controlled. If seed stocks can be built up they may be distributed to all interested growers.

To help increase seed supplies for its propagation we would like to know if anyone has seen it growing in the wild or has it in their garden. If you have any information please contact Jeremy Smith or Hay Miller at Falklands Conservation, Tel. 22247.

With a joint effort the future of this attractive plant could be improved and its extinction prevented with benefits for everyone.

MORE HELPFUL KITCHEN TIPS

(taken from Charlene's Grandmother's old cookery book)

To beat butter to a cream, scald the pan, and dry well before putting in butter and sugar. It will beat it much more easily.

A bowl of water in the oven will prevent pies, cakes, etc., from burning.

In baking, a moderate oven is one which will brown a teaspoonful of flour while you count thirty; a quick one is when only twelve can be counted.

Never wash a gridle or omelette pan. Instead, rub over with kitchen paper and salt.

HORSE PARASITES

TREATMENT & CONTROL

by Zoe Luxton

The time of year seems to have come when our horse wormer stocks take a good bashing and I can usually be found elbow deep in a 15 kilo tub of louse powder trying to measure out 1.5 kg without inhaling/touching/ ingesting the stuff. Thus I thought a few words on equine parasites might be appropriate.

There are 2 main strains of louse found on horses, those that suck blood and those that merely bite. Louse infestations are more common in winter as the thick animal coats are more accomodating than sleek summer coats.

The sucking lice cause more trauma than biting lice and infestations begin on the head and neck and the head of the tail. Light infestations are noticed as animals are restless, biting and rubbing themselves frequently. They may also be in poor condition. Heavy infestations can cause animals to become anaemic and weak and stunt the growth and weight gain of younger horses.

Lice are passed directly from infected horses to clean ones, but will not infect other animals that may be sharing the paddock. The reverse is also true, cattle with lice cannot affect a troop of horses.

Some horses are highly susceptible and should be routinely inspected. Treatment with a wash, spray, dip or dust should be repeated after a fortnight to combat any lice that have hatched recently as the previous treatment will not have killed off any eggs that were present.

Blankets, brushes and any gear used on lousey horses should also be treated.

Horses can also suffer from a number of internal parasites with younger horses being affected most. The first common parasite to mature in young foals is the intestinal thread worm *Strongyloides westeri.* Diarrhoea is the most common sign of infestation but other factors may cause foals to have diarrhoea as well as thread worms.

Ascariasis is the infection with *Parascaris equorum* and again, does not clinically affect mature horses. The eggs of the worm are very resistant to adverse weather conditions, thus can be deposited on pasture by previously infected foals and remain infective for a number of years. Stables can also be a source of infection if poor management has allowed a build up of infected bedding. The larvae hatch in the small intestine and are carried in the blood stream to the lungs. They are then brought up the oesophogus and swallowed back into the digestive tract where they grow and develop. Large infestations result in severe lung damage and foals begin coughing and have a nasal discharge. Other signs are general unthriftiness, decreased growth rate and weight gain, a pot belly and rough coat.

Tape worms (cestodes) are also more common in younger animals and are picked up by eating mites on the pasture which have eaten the eggs of the worms which are found in horse manure.

Oxyuris infection is an infestation of pin worms and is found in younger, mainly stabled horses. The eggs dry out easily in pasture thus foals that are kept mainly outside should not be at much risk. Intense anal irritation is the main sign of Oxyuris infection and hair may be lost around the tail area due to the animal scratching and rubbing a lot on feed stands etc. in the stable. As the eggs are sticky they adhere to the stands and this is how other equidae pick them up.

The most common horse parasites which affect all ages are the STRONGYLES, also known as round worms and red worms. These come in 2 main classes, large and small strongyles. The small roundworms are more common but are much less harmful than the large strongyles which are the most damaging to the large intestine. These worms can cause clinical signs of parasitism in horses of all ages.

Here at the department we have 3 types of wormer, all with different active ingredients and it is a good idea to alternate the wormer you use so no resistance to the drugs can develop.

STRONGID-P paste and granules contains *pyrantel embonate* which removes the large and small strongyles, ascarids, pin worms and tape worms if the dose is doubled.

PANACUR paste contains *fenbendazole* which also removes strongyle eggs and threadworms as well as those mentioned above.

Ivermectin is the active ingredient in **EQVALAN** and this removes strongyles, ascarids, pinworms, stomach worms, threadworms and cutaneous worms as well as lung worms and bots (bots are not found in the Falklands). Severe coughing over a number of months is usually an indication of lung worms but horses and ponies are not as susceptible as donkeys are to this parasite.

To control worm infestations adult horses should be treated **AT LEAST twice a year**. Once in autumn and once in spring. Foals should first be treated at 6-8 weeks of age and every 6-8 weeks after that until they are over 8 months old.

MERINO MYTHS

by Robert H.B.Hall

It is surprising how many myths are perpetuated in the late twentieth century: How has the notion been fostered in in the Falklands that "Australian Merino and Australian / New Zealand Merino-Cross sheep are more inclined to grow pigmented dark fibres than other sheep breeds"? There is no commercial or scientific support for this belief.

Commercially, Australia has the largest population of Merino sheep in the world. Australia also produces wool with the lowest dark coloured fibre specifications in the world, often achieving 0 to 5 dark coloured fibres per 100 grams of tops. As a whole, Australia's Merino and Merino-Cross wool clip is unsurpassed.

Scientifically the Australian Merino has undergone many centuries of genetic manipulation with farmers selecting for wool production traits, including selection against dark or coloured fibres; no other breed has been subjected to such work. (The reason that dark coloured fibre problems are researched and written about concerning Australian Merino sheep , is not because of a high relative problem with the breed, but because Merino sheep are almost the only single purpose wool breed, in which the problem has been really tackled to achieve lowest dark fibre levels.) The success of Australian Merino breeding is illustrated by research by Dr Burbridge of CSIRO, who found high levels of pigmented fibre in non-Merino sheep namely 191.9 pigmented df/100 grams of tops, whereas Merinos achieved 3.7 pigmented df/100 grams of tops. Thus in that trial non-Merino sheep had 52 times more pigmented dark coloured fibres than Merinos!!!

Taking national sheep populations as a whole, the Australian Merino has the lowest dark coloured fibre level compared to any other breed commercially farmed today. From a wool point of view therefore, pure Merinos might be ideal for Falkland farms due to their high fleece weights, fine wool and wool quality including relative freedom from dark coloured fibres, however debate and trials would rightly focus upon their suitability in terms of survival, lamb weaning rates, growth rates etc. In any event, our wool industry is already based upon the Merino breed, with Corriedales owing half their original parentage to Merinos and Polwarths identifying three quarters of their parentage to Merinos.

Last season's problems with dark coloured fibres were due to stain dark coloured fibres (urine and faeces). The problems were not identified, nor reported as being due to pigmented dark coloured fibres; thus the problem was not due to sheep breed and most certainly not due to sheep of Merino blood!! Last season's dark coloured fibre problems were due to inadequate skirting. As such the problem is thankfully very much easier to solve, than changing the breed for 90 percent of the Falklands sheep!

Reference: Rottenbury a., Burbridge A., McInnes C.B. (1995) Predicting the risk of dark coloured fibre contamination in sale lots. *Wool Technology and Sheep Breeding.*, 43 (4) 328-337.

NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE FARM WORKSHOP

Source: What's New In Farming

A range of six axle stands have been added to the list of farm workshop equipment offered by Pan Anglia. With capacities from 2.5 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes, most of the stands are made in heavy duty steel with four feet and an easily operated locking lever. Price Starts at £17.95

A Pistol type air grease gun to reach the parts other lubricating equipment cannot is also now available from Pan Anglia. The easy-to-load pistol can deliver 1200psi to 6000psi when supplied with 30psi to 150psi from a compressor. Used with a standard or flexible nozzle, the pistol takes a standard 14oz cartridge and costs £19.50 plus VAT.

LIVESTOCK RECORDING SERVICE.

by Doug Cartridge

We have developed a sheep recording system, which will be run as a bureau service from the Department of Agriculture. The program is designed to be simple but most importantly produce reports that are easy to understand and practical. It is capable of recording all sheep in "stud flocks" and producing reports and summaries for lambs, hoggets, shearlings and adult sheep.

A simple index is used to rank animals, the composition of the index can be altered to suit the breeding objectives of individual flocks. The index incorporates liveweight, birth / rearing rank, age of dam, fleece weight, yield and micron. Three generation pedigree's can be printed as can individual ewe production histories. Sire summaries can be generated which are useful for evaluating an individual sires progeny and making informed decisions on the future potential of that sire within your flock.

The recording process will involve you supplying the raw data to us for entry on to the program, we will then report back with a processed copy of the information supplied and a summary.

Our wish is for all ram breeding flocks to be using some sort of performance recording, this will enable more informed selection of sires and will provide better knowledge of the expected performance of the progeny.

As an initial incentive to join the bureau service, we are prepared to give a 10 % discount on fleece testing charges for animals recorded on the bureau. Initially the bureau service will be run free of charge, though this may change in the future. This service is available now, so the sooner you get the background information to us the sooner you can make use of performance recording.

If you are interested in making use of this service please contact the Department of Agriculture.

Here are a couple of sayings that I thought were well suited to the Falklands:

"Remember, whatever the weather's like..... it's better than nothing."

"Once the map of your life unfolds, it's very difficult to re-fold it...
.... especially in the wind!"

IT'S A "WANNABE A VET'S" LIFE

Since mid-July some of you may have noticed an extra body in the Veterinary department. Well, that's me, Zoe Luxton! I came home at the start of July after finishing my A-level courses in biology, chemistry and maths, and grovelled for a job at the Department of Agriculture as this is where I want to end up one day! Luckily for me it was decided that some work experience with the vets was a good idea in case my A-level results were good enough to get me a place at the Royal Veterinary College in London. Luckily again, I must have had my nose close enough to the grindstone all through college as my grades were good enough and on the 26th September I'll be starting my very first day as a veterinary student.

The course lasts 5 years and at the end of it I'll be able to put BVetMed after my name which stands for Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. The first 2 years are "pre-Clinical" which means I don't get to stride around in an operating gown or a white coat very much at all, but I get to attend lots of lectures about how an animals body *should* work when everything is running normally.

Once a week during these 2 years we spend an afternoon at the university farm, which is just outside London, being instructed on animal handling.

The final 3 years are spent on rotations, i.e., if I'm not attending lectures at the farm I'll be out 'seeing practice' with a vet. Hopefully I'll be able to do one of these stints with the Vets here at home.

My ultimate aim is to come home and work but I want to see a bit of the world first and gain plenty of useful experience, so give me 10 years and I'll be back!!

BYE FOR NOW..... ZOE

WANTED

We wish to purchase during the forthcoming 96 / 97 season

approximately 600 young sheep under 3 years

Contact Port Edgar Farm, Tel: 42010

FOR SALE by TENDER

ONE BEDFORD Hi-ab

ONE TRACTOR TRAILER WITH TIPPER
(12'5" X 7' X 1'9")

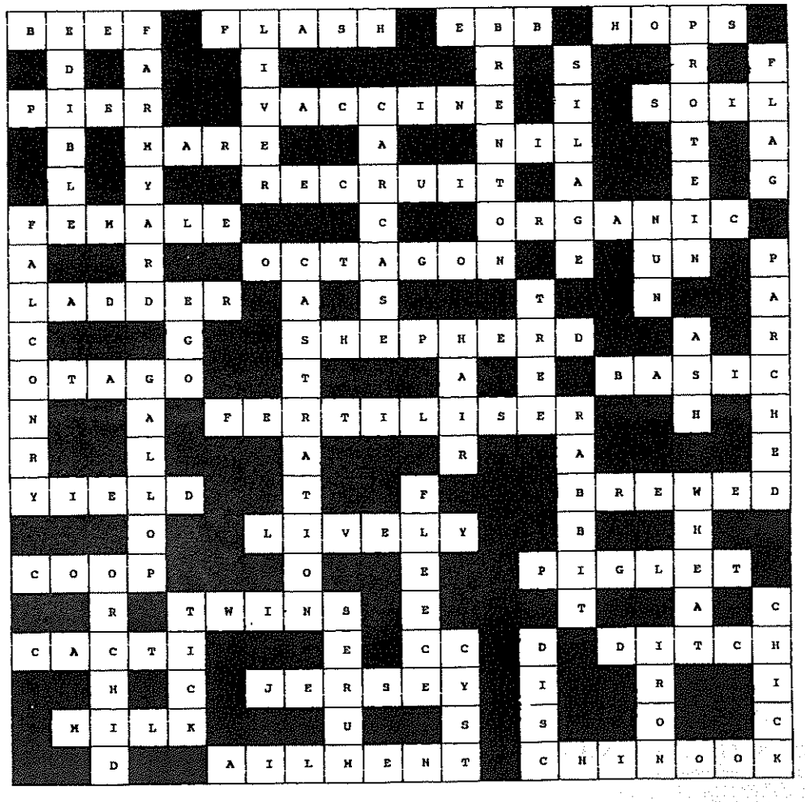
ONE BIG ROVER TRAILER
(7' X 4'3" X 1'9")

The seller does not bind himself to the highest tender.

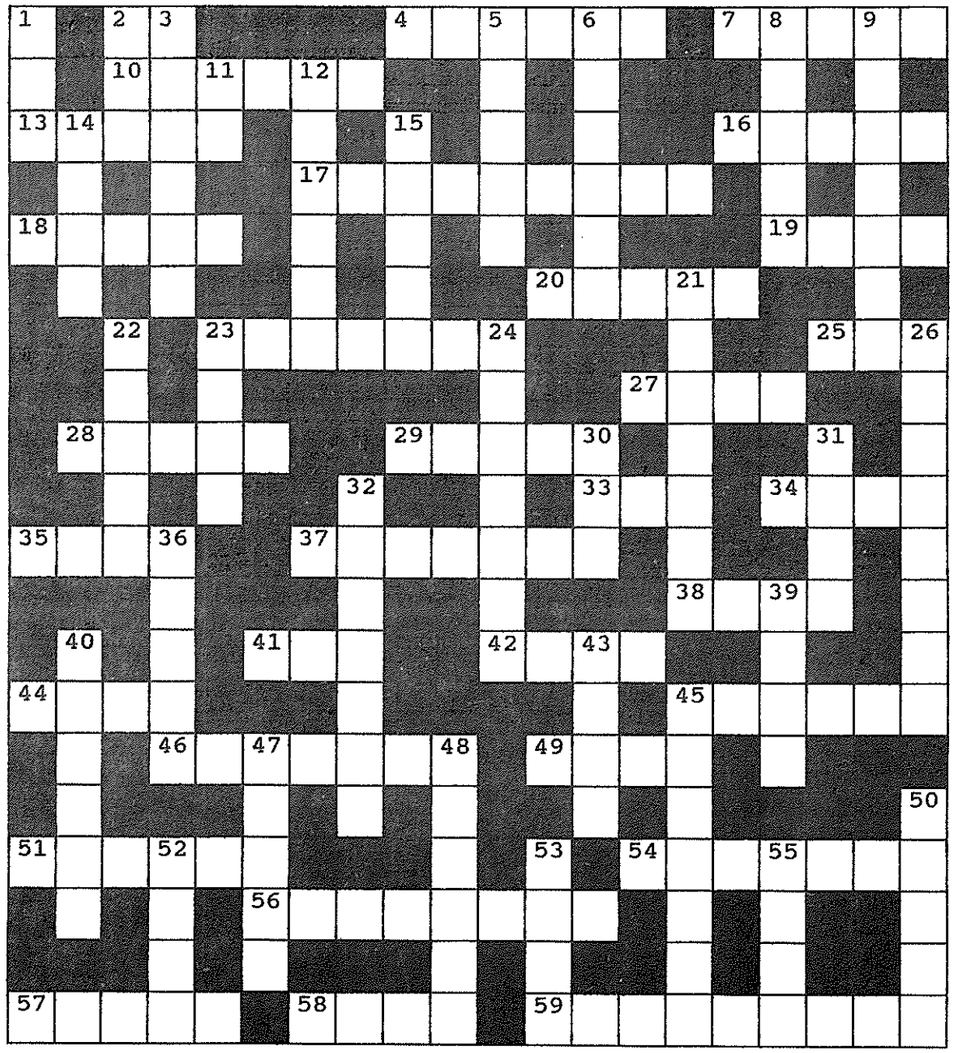
Closing date for tenders : 20th October 1996

Offers to Pat Whitney, Mount Kent Farm, TEL: 31003

THE SEPTEMBER SOLUTION



THE OCTOBER CROSSWORD



E.D.F. PROJECT INSPECTIONS

COULD ANY FARMER THAT HAS OUTSTANDING FENCES OR BUILDINGS YET TO BE COMPLETED/INSPECTED FOR WHICH THEY WERE SUPPLIED WITH E.D.F. MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT MANDY, CHARLENE OR HUGH TO ARRANGE FOR INSPECTION OF THE PROJECTS.

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO GET VISITS DONE BEFORE THE SHEARING STARTS SO AS NOT TO INCONVENIENCE FARMERS AT THIS BUSY TIME.

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

2. PERSONAL COMPUTER
4. FINANCIAL PLAN USUALLY CARRIED OUT AT START OF YEAR
7. BOOK CONSISTING OF MAPS OF THE WORLD
10. JUICY RED FRUIT
13. LARGE HORSE
16. ODOUR OR FRAGRANCE
17. YOUNG SHEEP
18. TINY PARASITIC INSECT
19. PLENTY OF THIS ON SURF BAY
20. PUBLIC, GOVERMENT OR FIC
23. REMOVAL OF A SHEEPS TAIL
25. ESSENTIAL IN VARIOUS METHODS OF WELDING
27. F.I. COUNTRYSIDE
28. HORSE NOISE
29. A FARMS TRADEMARK
33. LONG FISH
34. DROOP
35. TRAVEL ON A HORSE
37. TALL BUSHY PLANT FOUND IN THE ISLANDS
38. HANDY FOR SECURING A LOAD
41. COULD BE USED TO IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC SHEEP
42. A SPORT THAT IS GROWING IN THE ISLANDS
44. INCINERATE
45. HARVESTED
46. AN ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE
49. COLLECTED INFORMATION
51. A CROP SUCH AS BARLEY OR WHEAT
54. AN INFECTED NAIL PERHAPS
56. OUTSIDE
57. VAGABOND
58. WATERY PART OF MILK
59. DONE WITH KNOWLEDGE

DOWN

1. LARGE PEOPLE TRANSPORTER
2. PHYSICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTOR
3. A DEAD BODY
5. A COW USED FOR PRODUCING MILK
6. MACHINE WHICH CONVERTS ENERGY INTO MECHANICAL WORK
8. MOUNTAIN LAKES, THE BLACK ..... ON MOUNT USBOURNE
9. PUNGENT GAS
11. MYSELF
12. TALL GRASS FOUND OFTEN AROUND OUR COASTS
14. THE HARD PART OF SOME ANIMALS FEET
15. LIKE COCA-COLA
21. USEFUL FOR CARRYING LOADS
22. A ROUGH WOVEN FABRIC
23. USEFUL ON A GATHER IF WELL TRAINED
24. A TERM DESCRIBING LIVESTOCK FEEDING ON GRASS
26. A BREED OF PONY
30. DIDDLE ... (LOCAL SHRUB)
31. FENCING STRANDS
32. REMOVAL OF DUNG-CAKED WOOL
36. INCIDENT
39. A SOLID FUEL
40. A YOUNG HEN
43. PLANT OUTGROWTH
45. A TYPE OF LOCAL TROUT
47. A MACHINE THAT SENDS MESSAGES
48. THIS GRASS WAS SUPPOSE TO STOP DISEASE DUE TO ITS VITAMIN C CONTENT
50. DIPLOMATIC MESSENGER
52. TEST
53. THE YELLOW PART OF AN EGG
55. HORSE COLOUR

LAMBING KITS

The department of Agriculture has lambing kits available. The kit is small enough to carrying in your pockets to assist a lambing should you come across a ewe having difficulties.

The kit consists of:
2 lambing ropes; 6 sachets of antiseptic; 3 small bottles of lubrication jel; 6 uterine pessaries.

(enough for three lambings)

COST PER KIT - £3

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT WITH YOUR ORDER WHICH WILL BE SENT OUT IMMEDIATELY.

QUALITY ASSURANCE WORKSHOPS

from Judy Summers and Lyn Blake

The farmers association is very pleased to announce that in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, FIDC and SOA they have been able to arrange two weeks of WORKSHOPS commencing in early November.

The team who will visit eight locations in two weeks are:

Doug Cartridge, B Ag.Com.(F.M. W.Sc.), Wool Adviser, Department of Agriculture.
Peter Marriot, Falkland Islands Wool Marketing, of D.B.Holdsworth Ltd.
Heidi Blake, Certificate in Wool Studies, Lincoln University, New Zealand.

The purpose of the Workshops is to improve preparation and presentation of Falkland Wool. We feel that we have in the team a balance of expertise in the fields of production, presentation and marketing and we hope that as many of you will take this unique opportunity to up-date your skills and information. With low wool prices and serious competition from other wool producers and synthetics, there is a very real need to do everything possible to improve. This has to be;

"THE WAY FORWARD"

As is routine with any courses run like this in Stanley, there will be a fee of £10 per person to help with the expenses incurred in establishing Quality Assured Falkland Wool. Please send cheques to Lyn Blake (made payable to F.I.D.C.) See you there with your lunch box or your sleeping bag. Transport and accommodation to be arranged by the individual, and would intending 'students' please inform their nominated hosts. It would also be helpful if persons could inform Judy Summers of their intended venue, so that the organisers will have a better idea of participating numbers.

The Itinerary for the Workshops commencing 7th November 1996

DAY	DATE	VENUE	MOVEMENTS
Thursday	7th	Fitzroy	Overland to Estancia in the evening
Friday	8th	Estancia	Overland to Port San Carlos in the evening
Saturday	9th	Port San Carlos	
Sunday	10th		Fly to Hill Cove
Monday	11th	Hill Cove	
Tuesday	12th		Fly to Port Howard
Wednesday	13th	Port Howard	Overland to Fox Bay in the evening
Thursday	14th	Fox Bay	
Friday	15th		Fly to Port Stephens
Saturday	16th	Port Stephens	
Sunday	17th		Fly to Goose Green
Monday	18th	Goose Green	
Tuesday	19th	Goose Green	
Wednesday	20th		Free day
Thursday	21st		Depart the Islands

Any enquiries to: ***Judy Summers, Secretary, Farmers Association.***
Lyn Blake, Little Chartres.

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 84 NOVEMBER 1996 RETAIL PRICE £1.00

IN THIS ISSUE:

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES AND MORE!

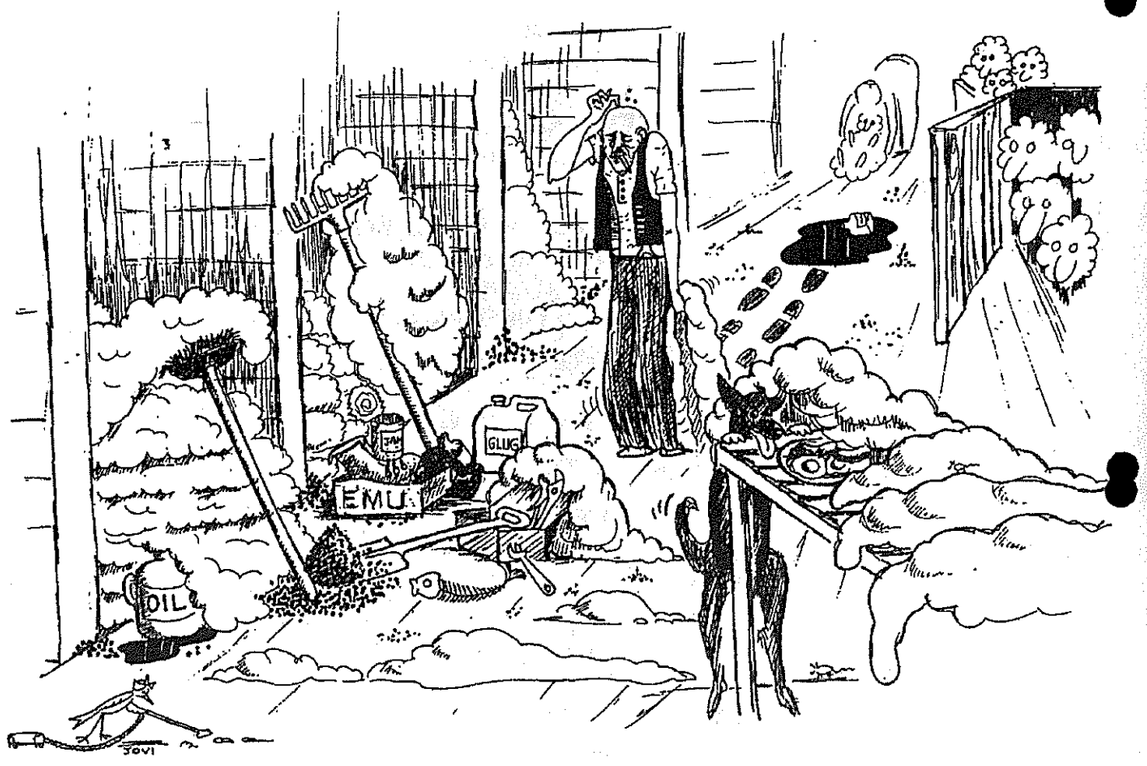
The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture. Editors: Mrs C.Rowland & Mrs M.McLeod

EDITORIAL

I am willing to take part of the blame for the recent run of cold, wet and wind after being so optimistic about the good weather we had generally throughout the winter and early spring. Some people that lost early lambs last year decided to delay their lambing a bit and got caught again. I suppose it's the sod's law in farming... ..no matter what you do, you won't get it right all of the time, so I suppose there has to be an element of optimism to keep people pressing on!

The 'Wool Workshops' will have begun by the time you receive this issue of the Wool Press. Many farmers will have been putting a fair amount of time and effort into up-grading their sheds to meet the criteria required for the 'Quality Falkland Wool' accreditation scheme. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend the workshops at the various venues (see the change in itinerary below Lyn's article "Quality Falkland Wool"). I am sure that all who attend will find them beneficial.

Now that the scheme is underway (after much hard work and effort from organisers and farmers alike), your enthusiasm to produce a product to be proud of that can compete in the world market, is what is needed to ensure that the scheme has a successful and fruitful future. Hopefully, there'll be no sheds in the Falklands resembling this!



THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Hugh Marsden	Farm Management Specialist, DoA.
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assitant, DoA.
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA.
John Barnard	Pincipal Meteorological Officer, M.P.A.
Doug Cartridge	Wool Adviser, DoA.
Lyn Blake	Farm Manager / Owner, Little Chartres, West Falkland
Mandy McLeod	Adviser (Economics) / Training Officer, DoA.
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.

ARE YOU MAKING FULL USE OF YOUR WOOL STATEMENTS?

by Hugh Marsden

Following several weeks of administrative duties associated with the 1996 Assistance Programme, it appears that there are a number of farms that have considerable difficulty understanding the layout of farm statements.

Given that these statements have the potential of providing producers with a lot of valuable information regarding the price and characteristics of wool sold, it is imperative that all farms should aim to make effective use of them. It should also be recognised that U.K. selling agents devote considerable time and resources to prepare these statements and additional summary information on your behalf.

Should you be unsure of whether you are getting the most from your statements, I would suggest the following questions might provide the answer:

1. Are you able to calculate your farm average micron?

2. Are you able to calculate the average price received for your wool?

3. Do you know how to calculate your gross wool receipts for tax purposes or for completion of the annual farming statistics?

4. Are you able to calculate the annual marketing costs for your farm?

I feel it is essential for all farms to be able to calculate these (and other) "key area" statistics. This exercise is particularly useful if you are interested in monitoring the effectiveness of farm breeding programmes and essential if you compile your own farm accounts. It should also not be seen as good management practice to simply rely on an accountant (or other institution) to prepare such essential information on your behalf. There can be no substitute for working out the figures yourself!

Should any farm have difficulty with their wool statements I am certain that Colin/Robert and Peter would be more that happy to assist you. The Department of Agriculture would naturally be willing to do likewise. Perhaps we could be particularly well placed to assist any farm that was unable to grasp the basic mathematical concepts involved?

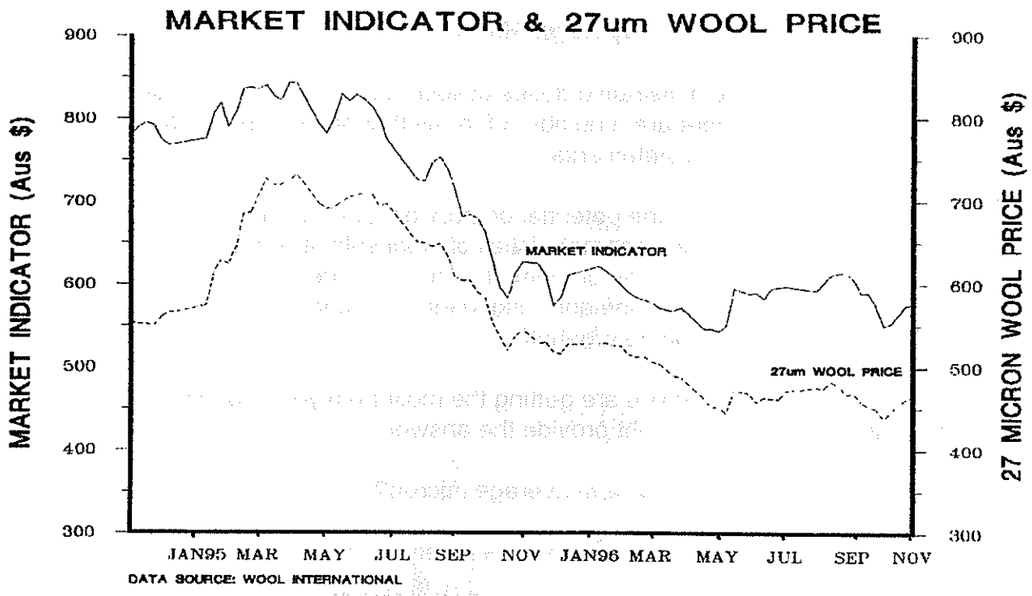
WOOL MARKET

by Hugh Marsden

Weak wool prices continued to dominate the Australian wool market during October, with only a modest recovery being reported following the September slide in prices.

The Eastern Market Indicator advanced by just 2 cents during the month to close at **576 cents** on the 31st October. The 27 micron indicator advanced by 14 cents during the same period to close at **465 cents/kg** clean.

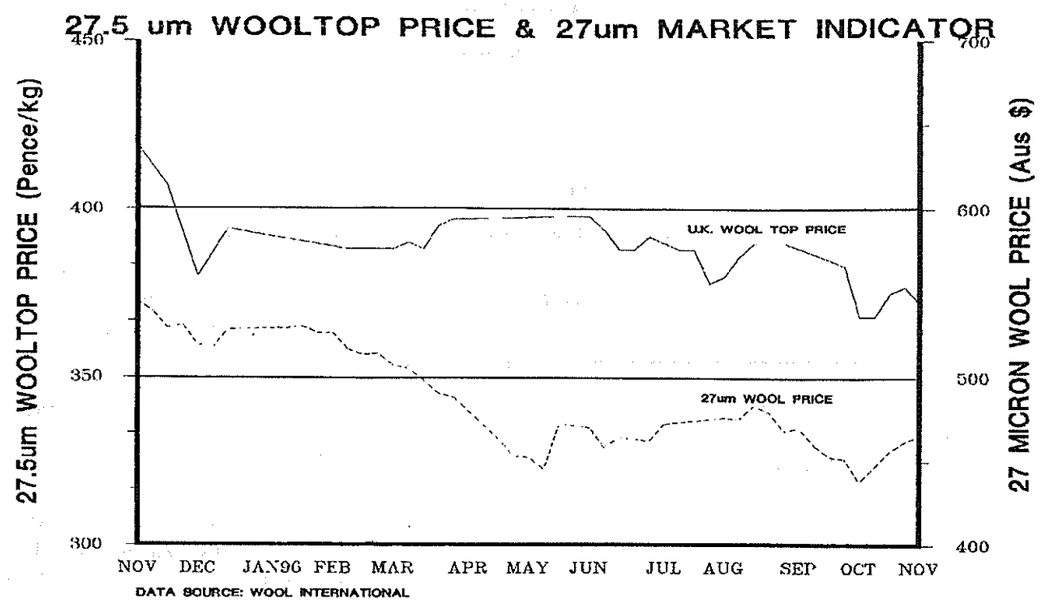
The Australian $ remained unchanged over the month closing at **205 cents/£** on the 31st October. The pound has strengthened considerably against other major currencies following the recent increase in the base interest rate (up from 6.75% to 7.00%.) It remains to be seen if this increase will have a negative effect on consumer confidence and cause a reduction in the U.K. demand for woollen garments.



Stockpile sales eased during the month to just 7,222 bales/week, (well below the statutory sales requirement of 11,375 bales per week.) On the 31st October, the Wool International Stockpile stood at **2,035,702 bales**.

The level of 1996/97 auction sales in Australia is currently 300,000 bales higher than was achieved over the same period last year. This represents a 44% increase and comes at a time when raw wool production for the 1996/97 season has been forecasted to fall by over 28,000 bales (5 million kilos.) We would therefore expect statistics to show a significant reduction in the "alternative" stockpile held on farms and in broker's stores. This type of stock-holding increased dramatically during the previous season rising to over twice the normal level seen in the past 4 years.

In the October edition of Wool International's "Insight" publication continues to forecast an average Market Indicator for the 1996/97 season of 620 cents/kg clean . Should this forecast prove to be true, prices would need to rise significantly during the second half of the selling season to achieve this average price. To date, the Market Indicator has averaged at just 588 cents/kg since the start of the 1996/97 season.



The graph above tracks the weekly value of 27.5um wool top in the Bradford market. This analysis shows that the market for Falkland type wool top (semi-processed wool) is currently well below the level seen at this time last year. Other quotations for wool tops are listed below:

Quotation for Wool Tops (pence/kg dry combed basis)

Micron/length	October 31st	October 24th	October 17th	3 months ago	1 year ago
19.0um / 66	650	670	665	675	685
21.0um / 70	500	515	510	500	516
21.0um / 65	465	478	470	471	486
22.0um / 65	455	465	460	463	487
23.0um / 68	405	416	414	418	465
23.0um / 64	400	407	405	412	455
25.5um / 70	384	390	390	388	442
27.5um / 70	360	370	370	376	422
27.5um / 80	372	377	375	386	419
28.0um /78	345	355	355	367	395
29.5um	354	356	356	365	390
31.0um	342	345	345	354	378
34.0um	325	330	330	332	

Data Source : Wool Record

SHEEP - CHILL FORECASTS.

by Aidan Kerr and John Barnard.

The shearing season has begun and with it the sheep-chill forecasts and warnings. The aim is to provide sheep farmers with information about wind-chill conditions likely to be dangerous to freshly shorn sheep. Husbandry practices to reduce potentially high mortality of newly shorn sheep due to hypothermia could then be implemented.

The forecasts will be provided daily until February 28th 1997 by the Meteorological Office, MPA at 05.40, 09.30 and 16.30 (Stanley times!) and updated as necessary throughout the day. These along with the appropriate warning will be broadcast by BFBS/FIBS i.e. just after the news at 06.00, 07.00, 08.00 and 12.00. On Saturday and Sunday the first broadcasts will be just after 07.00 and 08.00 respectively.

The message will be "The sheep farmer's wind-chill figure for the next 24 hours is ?? and .....", (if <70), " ....the risk is low", or (if 70-79) "....there is a moderate risk", or (if 80-89) "....this is at danger level", or "....this is at critical level (if >89)".

In response to the Agricultural Management Committee (AMC) an 'Answer-phone' will be installed at the Met. Office before Christmas, onto which the forecasts and warnings will be recorded as they are issued. This will enable farmers to access the forecasts at any time. It may also enable forecasters to build-in either regional variations or difficulties with the forecast. When the installations have been completed the phone number will be announced. The DoA will probably pay for the costs of installation and maintenance of the 'Answer-phone'.

As many will know the DoA, in co-operation with the Met. Office, has been monitoring the accuracy of the predictions over the last two seasons both at MPA and on farms across the islands. The conclusions were presented to the September meeting of AMC for their consideration. The main ones are described below.

Firstly, AMC supported the continuation of the service in its present format i.e. using the 60-120 scale with the above-mentioned modifications to its presentation.

The pattern of occurrence of 'sheep-killing weather' (as subjectively assessed by farmers at five locations) across the islands during the last two seasons was generally similar to that at MPA. The number of potential occurrences on farms during 1995/96 varied from 6 to 49 for the 121 day season. We suspect that this may be more a reflection of differences in farmer subjectivity regarding the possible effects on shorn sheep, than of regional variations in weather.

In the 1994/95 season, if 80 was used as the threshold value for 'dangerous', its observance at MPA matched the occurrence and non-occurrence of 'sheep killing weather' on farms on 64% and 69% of days, respectively. The 1995/96 analysis for MPA tended to under-forecast dangerous conditions. Of the 61 'critical' events, 46 (75%) were forecast to be either 'critical' or 'danger'. Of the 72 'danger' events, 38 (53%) were forecast to be either 'critical' or 'danger' and 31 (43%) were a 'warning'. Of the 65 'No warning' events, 60 (92%) were either correct or 'warning'. Thus on average over both years, 2 out of 3 forecasts of dangerous wind-chill were generally correct.

The under-forecasting may have been due to difficulties in forecasting rain here and to the method of wind-chill calculation. In particular, it seemed that missed rain during the earlier part of a forecast period affected the accuracy for the rest of the period. Thus it will be accounted for more accurately, as the duration of sheep wetness is very important for their survival.

Forecasting rain critically influences the accuracy of the wind-chill forecasts. As many of you know freshly shorn sheep rarely die in dry (but cool and windy) conditions whereas large mortality after shearing is frequently associated with the occurrence of heavy rain. Rain is often accompanied by strong winds and cool temperatures rather than vice versa. Thus the key to better predictions of dangerous wind-chill conditions for freshly shorn sheep lies mainly in forecasting the rain.

We will continue our efforts to improve the system. In the meantime, please contact either of us for further information and your suggestions.

DEARER THAN FALKLANDS

Source: Farmers Weekly 11 October 1996.

Expenditure on BSE is costing the British Government more than the Falklands war campaign, according to a former top civil servant.

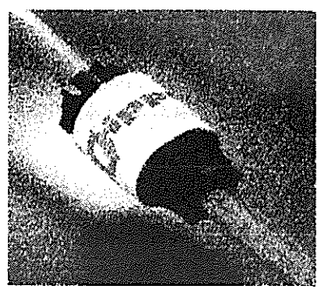
As such, the crisis had so far been a "big shot in the arm" for many sectors of the meat industry, Geoffrey Hollis, who headed MAFF's livestock division until March, told this week's Agra Europe Meat '96 conference in London. In particular, pig and sheep producers have seen stronger demand and prices, renderers had benefited from government cash injections while abattoirs had "never had it so good".

Even dairy farmers had benefited from "generous" handouts, he claimed, which had enabled many to get rid of older milking cows and replace them with heifers. "That is why the poor government is struggling," he said.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH BURST PIPES

Source: Farmers Weekly, 11th October 1996.

Why is it whenever a pipe bursts, you invariably never have the right-sized fitting to hand?



Talbot Pipeline Products says its Grippa universal adaptor is a quick-fit solution, suitable for use on a variety of pipe types and sizes - lead, galvanised iron and copper, ranging in diameter from 15 to 34mm (0.6-1.4in).

The Grippa comes in three sizes within the 15-34mm range, which is said to cover most eventualities. Prices are £10.45 for the two smaller versions and £12.29 for the 27-34mm model (01962-705200).

FIRST SELECT YOUR MARE..

by Andrew Coe

The horse breeding season is coming round and once again mares of all shapes and sizes will be whizzing round the Islands on route to their favourite stallion in their owners hope of producing the Governor's Cup winner at the 2002 Christmas races. For the less ambitious it will perhaps be with a view to producing a pretty riding pony for their grand-daughter. So with all this activity in mind I thought I'd say a few simple words, nothing too profound, about what sort of mares should be the chosen few. It is worth remembering that however good a stallion is, son of Nijinsky or not, he is only half the equation.

Contrary to popular belief, the offspring are no more likely to look like dad than they are like mum. Mum, has a very important role to play. All too often in camp I hear the comment that a mare was too wild or her feet were too brittle for riding work, ' so we decided to put her to the stud'! This is a recipe for long term decline, it is only the BEST mares that should be selected for breeding.

No Foot No Horse!

Horses are kept primarily for riding and in the Falklands, providing mutton and beef remains readily available, it is likely to stay that way. They stand on the tip of a single toe and in an evolutionary sense are perfectly adapted for running, providing, and only providing, they have good sound feet. There is nothing wrong with feet of a good shape that need frequent trimming simply because they grow fast. After all, most of the best horses in the world will have their feet attended to every four to eight weeks. However, misshapen feet or feet that become very brittle and crack easily are a serious handicap in the Falklands where expert farriering skills are not instantly to hand. Foot shape and foot problems are inherited and if a mares feet are not good enough for general use then they are not good enough to be breeding from her.

The same is true of other leg conformation traits. The front legs should be straight up/straight down, not pointing outwards from the knee or the fetlock. The back legs shouldn't have hocks that point excessively inwards like a cows when viewed from behind. The mare should be completely sound at all paces, only if the unsoundness is due to a known injury should breeding still be considered.

Temperament

I have enough children to know that temperament is a combination of upbringing and genes as we have all sorts in our family. Fortunately most of them take after me and not their mum! 'Crazy' mares that refuse to be tamed should be discarded and not be given the chance to pass on their wild ways to their offspring.

Condition and Age

Mares for breeding should preferably be in 'good' condition, neither fat nor thin. If they haven't been wormed in the Spring then it makes sense to worm them a few weeks before going to the stallion. The age at which mares are first bred does not, according to most books, seem important with mares sometimes having their first foal in their late teens. I think if I had a good mare I would breed her for the first time between 6 and 10 years of age.

In countries like Britain where good quality feed and pasture are available it is common to breed mares every year. In the Falklands situation I think breeding every 2 or 3 years is more appropriate depending on the age of weaning and the condition of the mare.

In summary, when selecting a mare for breeding, ask yourself whether you would be satisfied if the foal turned out more like his mum than his dad. If the answer is yes, then go ahead.

POINT OF LAY - WHAT DOES IT MEAN & HOW TO RECOGNISE IT.

Source: Smallholder magazine, October 1996

Point of lay is the name given to 18-week old pullets who if they are Hybrids, will generally start to lay between 20-22 weeks of age.

Pure bred hens from the heavy breeds will not usually start to lay until 22 to 24 weeks.

To check that the birds are 18 weeks of age, inspect the last two to three feathers nearest the tip of each wing. These should still be pointed and not rounded at the ends as are the other wing feathers called the primary and secondaries.

If these pullets have been reared outside on range then the combs, although small, will already be red unlike those birds reared inside on deep litter.

The eye colour surrounding the pupil should be well coloured and if reared on range will be brown to orange unlike those reared inside where the colour will be paler.

This soon changes when they are moved to an outdoor environment. The eye colour alone is not critical provided it is uniform up to the pupil.

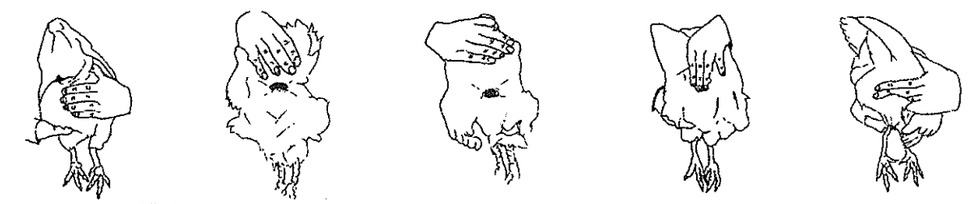
Observe the colour and shape of the pupil. It should be completely round and black. If the pupil is distorted, for example, if it is oval or split, then this bird will not do well and will probably die during the laying period.

If there is a bright, thin, green ring surrounding the pupil, beware. This is also a signal of internal problems and weakness.

The distance between the pelvic bones and the end of the breast bones should be approximately four fingers width. At this stage, the pelvic bones will be closed and rigid.

As the pullets are nearing lay, the pelvic bones will gradually open so that you are able to lay one or two fingers between them. The illustrations show how to tell whether a bird is in lay or not.

If pelvic bones are surrounded fat, and although opened, are not supple and elastic, then that bird is not laying.



■ Measuring the abdomen. Fullness of the abdomen of a bird in laying condition. Four fingers can be placed between the pubic bones and end of the breast bone

■ The vent of the layer is large, moist and crescent-shaped

■ The vent of the non-layer is small, dry and rounded

■ Measuring the abdomen: This bird is in full lay and shows the three finger span between the pubic bones

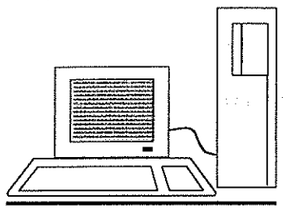
■ This bird is not laying and shows only a two finger 'capacity.'

If buying Point of Lay birds remember to check the wing tip feathers which is the safest way to tell if they are older than stated.

COMPUTING SENSE

by Mandy McLeod

Many of us now have computers at home. We have them for a multitude of reasons. We justify the purchase by convincing ourselves that it will be a useful time saving tool that will speed up such tasks as book-keeping and letter writing. It will also be useful for the children or grandchildren to do their schoolwork on, or keep them entertained with computer games on rainy days. All of these facts are true, although I think most will agree that during the learning process there are times when it is tempting to go back to traditional tools such as pen, paper and rule!



The kids of course have no problems. Their ability to grasp computer concepts can make a newly introduced adult feel intellectually inadequate. After all, aren't adults supposed to be the teachers and children the pupils? How many of us have said at one point or another "I'm too old to start learning about computers". The fact is that compared to children we are slow to learn, but definitely not too old. What frightens off most adults initially is a combination of 'the moron factor' (having to ask someone who is probably a lot younger than you how to do what the book says is a simple task!) and 'fear of the unknown' (if I press the wrong key, will I damage the computer or lose everything?).

It is not unusual though for some people who are introduced to computers as adults, to become so engrossed in this new learning concept, that rather than the computer becoming a time saver, it actually becomes a time waster! The operator wonders why they suddenly feel so tired... ..and then realise that it's 2 a.m. and they haven't even had their supper yet!

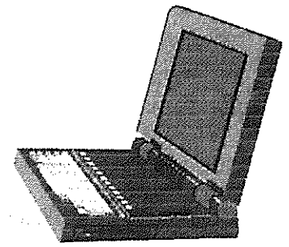
In our household the three of us slot into three categories. I'm the one who can understand the programmes capabilities and use them to produce what I want. Daughter uses the computer for games and some school work (if permitted), has no real interest in it, but is probably the most capable of us all. Hubby will spent hours totally engrossed, changing strange things called 'bat files' and 'cards' and 'memory storage', but I don't know if he's ever actually produced much from the actual programmes, (but I have a very colourful screen!)

Computer technology must be one of the fastest growing things around (I reckon it even beats chickweed and nettles in the carrot patch). Due to this fact, people are 'upgrading' constantly, and someone looking for their first computer can quite often pick a second hand one up quite cheaply. The problem can then arise that the computer is not capable of doing what you may ultimately require of it.

It may be sold to you complete with this spreadsheet and that word processor, but you may still have to invest in a new programme to be compatible with other users in the Falklands, particularly if you are learning and may need to ask others for advice when stuck. In a small community like this, general uniformity in programmes used is an advantage.

Last year, Government realised the need to 'upgrade' so the existing computers were replaced with a model that had enough memory to run the 'WINDOWS ®' operating system. The old computers were sold to the public relatively cheaply. These computers are perfectly adequate to write letters and produce spreadsheets to a high standard if required, and if that was all that the buyer wanted and was not expecting to be able to run 'WINDOWS ®' applications or advance above that level in computer use, then those computers were a good buy. The problem is that probably about 95% of computer users now use 'WINDOWS ®' and are rapidly forgetting how to use the old programmes such as 'WORDSTAR ®' and 'SUPERCALC ®', which run through the older operating system 'DOS', so the beginner is having difficulty getting started because every time there is a problem and help or advice is required, it is not so readily available.

When entering the realm of computers, ask yourself what you intend to use it for. It may be worth paying that bit extra and getting a new computer. I think it's fair to say that most people do get 'hooked' (if only a little) and end up wanting to use 'WINDOWS ®' applications eventually. Even the long time 'DOS' person will find a need to familiarise themselves with 'WINDOWS ®', if only to allow conversation with other computer buffs and know what they are talking about.



In next month's Wool Press we will take a brief look at the two operating systems that I have mentioned ('DOS' and 'WINDOWS ®') and the programmes commonly used in the Falklands. I will also attempt to squash those computer fears with a few words of advice and simple rules to follow.

NOW PET LOVERS CAN STROKE THE CAT SITTING ON THEIR LAPTOP

Source: The Times, 16.09.96.

People who are allergic to cats are being given the chance to pet and foster a kitten of their own. A new CD-Rom, to be released during National Cat Week this week, introduces virtual reality cats as interactive computer pets.

Kept within the confines of the household PC, the computer cats are pre-programmed to grow on a daily basis, and are provided with artificial intelligences which give them distinct personalities. Yet they are guaranteed never to soil the living room, tear the curtains or get stuck up trees.

Catz: Your Computer Petz from Mindscape International costs £14.99 and is a rarity in an interactive CD market dominated by games of violence and mass destruction. Mindscape says it should prove the ideal way of introducing children to good pet care.

The CD-Rom provides computer users with a choice from a basket of five kittens. Once adopted by clicking the computer mouse, a cat can be named or changed to a different colour and can be stroked, petted and brushed. It will stretch, roll, arch or preen and emit purrs or pleasure or yowls of indignation. The cats must also be fed but if overindulged they will grow too fat. If undernourished they become thin and miserable. An electronic cheese can also be dangled in front of a mousehole to coax out a remote-controlled rodent which the cat will chase round the screen.

And, when so minded, computer cats will, like their living equivalents, wander off and do their own thing.

"QUALITY FALKLAND WOOL"

by Lyn Blake

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR SHED INSPECTIONS

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS to Ron Binnie and all at Fitzroy Farm on being the first shed to be made ready for inspection and to be successful. Fitzroy shearing shed is now an accredited shed. This means that it complies in all respects with the checklist for the work place. Checklist 2 covers the practices during shearing and the responsibility for seeing they are carried out and maintained is with Ron.

If you are working in an "ordinary" shed you would be familiar with what is required of you in your job anyway. In an accredited shed good practices are essential throughout. Read the information which will be on the shed notice board. BE INFORMED. The information is in the booklet "Guide to Clip Preparation in the Falkland Islands" and on the two checklists. Congratulations Ron and best wishes for "Quality Assured Wool" from Fitzroy farm.

Now to Application Procedures for Shed Inspections....
.... There was a "deadline date" printed in the September Wool Press for those farms who were immediately ready. This is now in hand and Doug Cartridge, Wool Adviser at the Department of Agriculture who is doing the inspections, is in touch with those concerned.

What about farms not quite ready?
What about farms who are not sure?
What about farms who would like to know more about the scheme?

At the "Work Shops for Wool" Doug will be talking on these points. Discussion and questions will be the name of the game. Come, listen and ask. You could have Julius Caesar blood in your veins!

If the work shop team are going to pass near your shed, ring Doug and see if an advisory visit is possible. A brief visit at this stage could be very helpful for you. From now on applications for shed inspections can be made anytime, this year, next year, whenever, and the actual inspection will be made at a time mutually convenient to the Department of Agriculture and the farmer. This is...

.... THE WAY FORWARD.

WOOL WORK SHOP NOTICE

THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE ITINERARY FROM THAT STATED IN THE LAST WOOL PRESS. DUE TO SHEEP / WOOL AVAILABILITY, HILL COVE WILL NOW BE VISITED **AFTER** PORT HOWARD.

THE NEW ITINERARY WILL BE:

SUNDAY 10th	FLY TO PORT HOWARD
MONDAY 11th	WORK SHOP AT PORT HOWARD
TUESDAY 12th	FLY TO HILL COVE
WEDNESDAY 13th	WORKSHOP AT HILL COVE. OVERLAND TO FOX BAY IN THE EVENING.

WOOL WORKSHOPS

***Theme*: Production, Preparation, Presentation and Marketing.**

Agenda.

Start Time 9.00 am.

(Doug) Welcome and introductions.
Falkland Quality Wool Accreditation.
Wool Production- Breeds.
- Correlation's between traits e.g. Fleece weight, micron etc.
- Nutritional effects.
- Hybrid vigour, black spots.
- Breeding plan - fleece weight, micron or combination ?

(Peter) Processors requirements.
How can farmers attract premiums for their wool ?
Falkland wool's advantages over competing fibres.
Can we improve the quality of Falkland wool ?
Wool market prospects.

(Heidi) Wool shed management.
Co-operation between shearers, rousies, table hands, presser and farmer.
How can the farmer ensure the shearing gang carries out a quality job ?
The way it should be done !! (demonstration)

Hands on guidance to wool handling, classing and clip presentation.

Finish

FIRE APPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION

by Charlene Rowland

When anyone from the Department of Agriculture is in camp, they are sometimes called upon to assist with the plane / airstrip duties. Should anything happen, we would be expected to help with the fire appliance.

The Aviation Department arranged a fire attendance training session for Department of Agriculture staff. Unfortunately, due to previous arrangements (meetings, farm visits, etc.), only Mandy and I could actually make it.

It was a very informative and important lesson. We were shown how to operate the fire appliance and understand how it worked. Each of us then had ago at putting out a fire, which we managed to do.

The afternoon left us feeling much more confident in our abilities to assist should the occasion arise (hopefully not!). Our thanks go out to Andrew Newman, Fred Ford, John MacDonald and Simon Ford for their time.

STRONG SHEEP TASTE PROBE

source: Farmweek, 06.09.96

Naturally seasoned sheepmeat bred to taste is to be the next step in New Zealand's search for an edge in world markets...

Researchers at the Agresearch station in Palmerston North have been given funding to find ways to breed sheep to taste such as garlic, thyme and coriander.

"Our sheep taste too strong for many customers, particularly in Asia, because of their grass diet," said plant breeder Bill Rumble.

The researchers already have evidence that feeding programmes work when it comes to flavouring meat. When cattle in Marlborough in the South Island escaped into a garlic field hours before they were to go to the slaughterhouse, the meat was condemned because it did not smell right.

"So we already know that the garlic flavour can be obtained virtually overnight," Rumble said. "We are reasonably confident many other flavours will involve special grazing of only up to three weeks," he said.

Once the researchers have worked out the flavouring routine for sheepmeat they will turn their attention to beef, with similar feeding programs for cattle.

THE OCTOBER SOLUTION

RECIPES

Both of these recipes have been taken from "The Rayburn Cookbook"

THICK OVEN CHUTNEY

This chutney makes use of the oven, doing away with smells and spills. Use an earthenware or ovenproof glass casserole dish with a lid.

INGREDIENTS

2½ lb. apples (peeled and quartered)
1 large onion (chopped roughly)
1 lb. stoned dates
1 lb. raisins or sultanas
1½ lb. demerara sugar
2 teaspoons ground ginger
salt and pepper
2 pints vinegar

Mince the apples, dates, raisins/sultanas and onions into the bowl. Add the sugar, seasoning, spices and enough vinegar to cover. Cook covered in a moderate oven for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally when boiling point is reached. Remove to a saucepan and add the remaining vinegar. Boil gently on the hotplate until the excess liquid evaporates. Put into pre-warmed jars and cover.

LETTUCE SOUP

INGREDIENTS

1 large lettuce
1 medium sized onion
½ lemon
a little grated nutmeg
1 pint of chicken stock
salt and pepper
¾ pint of milk

Wash the lettuce. Shred it and put into a saucepan. Grate the onion and add it to the lettuce. Leave them on a gentle heat on the hotplate to sweat. Grate in the rind of half a lemon and squeeze in the juice. Add the nutmeg, stock and seasoning. Bring to the boil and cover the pan. Reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Sieve or liquidize the soup. Return to the pan and pour in the milk. Gently re-heat and serve with croutons.

RAM 2000

by Robert Hall

November is the time for farmers to consider my proposal for "Ram 2000": The idea being that "All rams used in the Islands be of known hoggett or shearling fleece weight and objectively tested fibre diameter, by the year 2000" (Wool Press 71). A sheep flock's future revenue capability is largely determined by the RAM POWER a farmer uses within his / her flocks. Make sure your farm uses superior rams, by selecting from animals with known fleece weight and micron information.

Ram 2000 is practical and a worthwhile target for all farms. Do not miss the opportunity to take mid-side samples and weigh fleeces this season.

(Farmers thinking of using sheep recording and selection programmes such as 'Flockmate' or the D.O.A. bureau service, definitely need such information.)

"PIGS PICK PEAT"

Source: The Irish News, 07.09.96

We humans think there is nothing like straw bedding to improve the welfare of pigs. But what do the pigs think? Dr Violet Beattie has been investigating this question at Hillsborough and has come up with a surprising answer. Straw, even first class barley straw, is a long way down the animals list of preferred bedding materials.

This was tested with small groups of 12 week old pigs. A total of 360 pigs were needed to ensure the results are statistically valid.

Each group was housed in a passage 25 metres long with an ad libitum wet and dry feeder half way along and the passage opening out into sleeping areas at both ends. Sleeping area number one was bedded with one of the materials under test e.g. straw, while sleeping area number two was bedded with a different material e.g. mushroom compost.

Pigs go to ad lib feeders about 20 times a day and each time after feeding they must decide whether to go to sleeping area one or two. They soon learn which bedding materials are in these areas and will return to the one most strongly preferred. The time spent in each area was recorded by video cameras and the pigs indicated which material was preferred by the amount of time spent rooting or sleeping in it.

A league table of pigs' preferences was drawn up from these results and shows that good barley straw is bottom of the list of materials - next to bare concrete! All materials were dried so that wetness did not influence the choice.

Bedding Material used	Percentage time spent in bedding
Peat	70
Mushroom compost	63
Sawdust	46
Sand	45
Forest bark	43
Quality barley straw	34
Bare concrete	11

TO ALL FALKLAND FARMERS

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW.

The 'Tenth' West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show will be held this year on Sunday 29th December 1996 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 woolled ram hoggett.
Class 2 - Full woolled shearling ram
Class 3 - Full woolled mature ram.
Class 4 - hoggett fleece
Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hoggett.
Class 6 - Any 'B' wether type fleece.

With the large number of high class sheep imported in the last few years we expect to see some outstanding rams and fleeces.

Most of the west flocked to Fox Bay last year, but there were still a few who were a bit sheepish.

We will keep you all up to date on details of Prizes and Sponsors as the event approaches nearer.

This is all for now, good luck with the start of shearing.

N.A.Knight
Chairman W.F.R.&.F.S.

COMPRESSORS FOR ALL SORTS OF USES

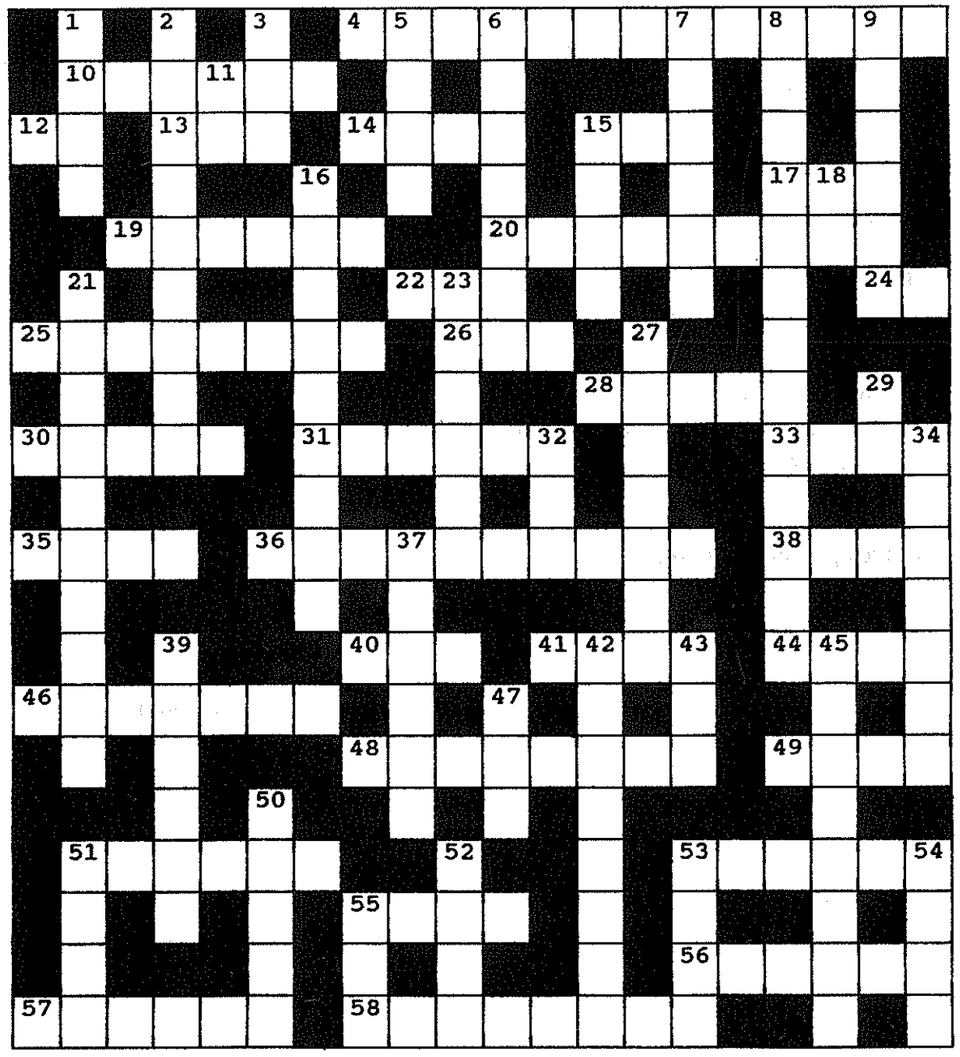
by Charlene Rowland

Compressors from 1.5 to 30hp have been introduced by Ecoair UK. The entry-level, 1.5-10hp utility range of Conqueror reciprocating models is suited to light workshop use and comes with a choice of drive systems- electric motor, diesel or petrol engines.

Every model is supplied with a built-in aftercooler, and two-staged units are provided with an intercooler and relief valve. For heavier duty work, the Executive Conqueror has models up to 30hp. Built from a cast iron frame, these two-staged compressors come with intercoolers and stainless steel finger and concentric ring valves fitted as standard. Auto stop/start is supplied as standard on models up to 7.5hp, whilst larger machines are supplied with a dual control where the unit can be operated in either the stop/start or constant speed mode.

Utility compressors prices start at £445.

THE NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



THE BEST SHEARER HE HAD EVER HAD

by Charlene Rowland

While I was on holiday this year, we stayed on a Dairy farm renting a flat. The farmer and his wife informed me that a farming neighbour had just been in for coffee (can't remember his name).

He was singing the praises of a "Falkland lad" that had been shearing his sheep, claiming that ... " he's the best shearer I've ever had... Funny name though ... Critter?!"

There can only be one "Critter"!

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

4. THE PROCESS OF MAKING GERM FREE
10. NET GAIN
12. GREEN LIGHT
13. TATTY CLOTH
14. EXPENDED
15. MALES
17. MECHANICAL WHEEL
19. A DEVELOPED EMBRYO
20. MODERN PIPE MATERIAL
22. ANIMAL DOCTOR
24. NOTE WELL
25. FALKLAND BIRD
26. OBTAIN
28. MICRON MEASURES ITS DIAMETER
30. PROCESS OF BEING BORN
31. GROUPS OF HORSES
33. MILD MANNERED
35. RECREATION AREA
36. WEST PEAK (5,5)
38. MIDDAY
40. NUMBER ONE
41. PAYMENT FOR WORK DONE
44. AUCTION
46. HORSE BIRTH
48. INTERNAL PARASITE
49. MONSTER LOCH
51. FINE WOOL SHEEP BREED
53. GOAT OR RABBIT
55. WHEEL SHAFT
56. FINE PARTICLES
57. MADE FROM MILK
58. EXPENDITURE

DOWN

1. GLOUCESTER OLD (PIG BREED)
2. SHAG
3. TYPE OF WELDING
5. JOB
6. GIVE OUT FROM A CENTRAL POINT
7. SOUNDNESS OF THE MIND
8. COPPER, SELENIUM, COBALT
9. A GAS (BREATHABLE)
11. FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
15. CREATE
16. FOOD ABSORBTION PROCESS
18. READY FOR USE
21. CLEAN MEASURES
23. WATER BETWEEN SAUNDERS AND KEPPEL
27. TICK TREATMENT
29. US
32. MINERAL SPRING
34. DOG HOUSES
37. SWEET LIQUID
39. EFFLUENT / MUD LIQUID
42. TERMINATION
43. TREE
45. TISSUE AT THE BACK OF THE NOSE
47. FLY TRAP
50. SMALL LONG BEAKED BIRD
51. LAYERS FEED
52. MODELLING MEDIUM
53. MEASUREMENTS OF ELECTRICITY
54. LAND MEASUREMENT
55. SMALL SNAKE

The Falklands Need YOU to SKIRT PROPERLY

The PRIORITY objective is for the export of **STAIN FREE** fleece wool. All faeces stained and urine stained wool must be skirted from all fleeces. Farmers should ensure that training is given to all workers or helpers on their wool tables as required. Responsibility for Quality Control ultimately lies with farmers and farm managers, therefore they should ensure that Classers are given the appropriate authority and table hands the necessary training and motivation.

(Note: Remains of wether hoggett testes should go in the BIN !)

R.H.B.Hall

E.T. JAMES & SONS

MID WALES YAMAHA ATV SPECIALISTS

EAST STREET
RHAYADER
POWYS
WALES
UK

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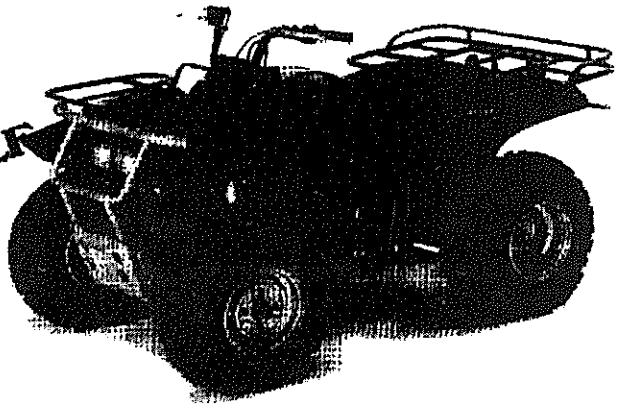
044 1597 810481

Fax: 044 1597 811387

YAMAHA

BREEZE
TIMBERWOLF
BIG BEAR



KODIAK BEAR
WOLVERINE

FULL RANGE OF YAMAHA 2WD & 4WD FARM BIKES IN STOCK

STOCKISTS OF:

LOGIC **ATV EQUIPMENT**	CABS, WINDSCREENS TRAILERS, MULTIFEEDERS LIQUID MOLASSES BOWSERS
LEMPRO **C-DAX ATV EQUIPMENT**	WEED WIPERS SPOT SPRAYERS BOOM SPRAYERS

QUALITY USED QUADS IN STOCK

FULL SPARES BACK UP

ANDREW NEWMAN HAS A COLOUR BROCHURE WHICH HE CAN LEND TO INTERESTED PARTIES. CONTACT HIM FOR MORE INFO.

WOOL PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

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EDITORIAL

Bob Reid, the new Director of Agriculture, arrived in the Falklands on the 19th November after a long flight from Australia. The staff would like to welcome him back to the Falklands. Another new face has also appeared at the department. His name is Jonathan Sear and primarily his role is to look at the establishment of Tussac. He is funded by Queens University, Belfast.

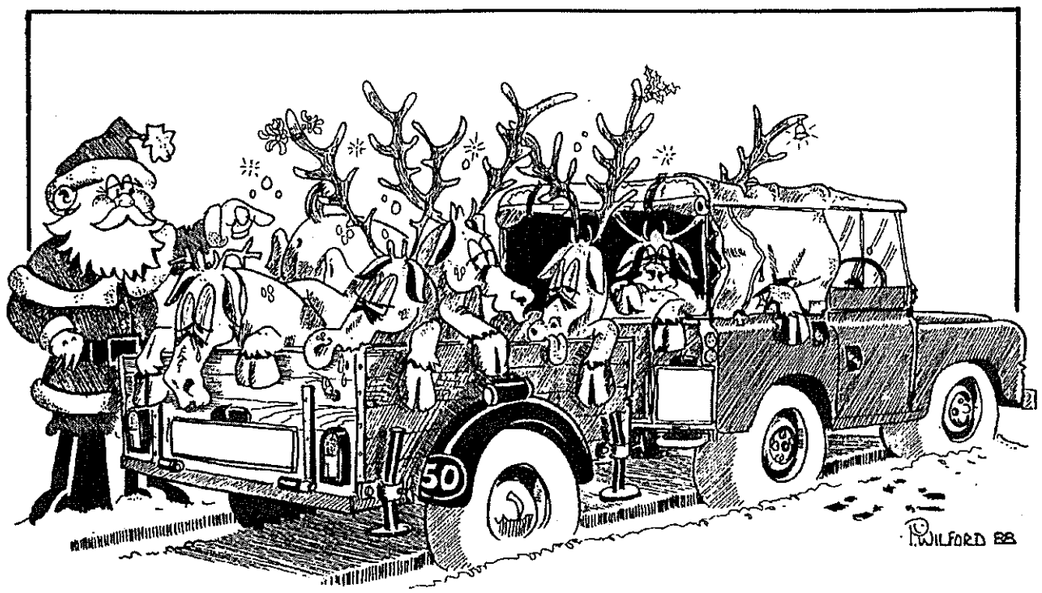
You win some, you lose some, and we say good bye to Sinead Doherty, and we wish her all the best in her new job.

As Editor, I am pleased with the support that the Wool Press has had lately in the way of 'reader contributions'. It makes far more interesting reading (not to mention the editing) when there is a wide variety of topics from a broad range of people. It is good to see the Wool Press being used to 'discuss' issues that could make great differences to Agriculture in the Falklands. We're on a roll, keep those articles coming in!

Christmas is a time of celebration and good will - we trust all our readers have an enjoyable break from the rigors of farming, if only for a few days. I know not everyone gets a break (the cows are still milked at the dairy), but we hope you enjoy the usual Christmas events like the ever popular West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show, the Estancia Shearing Competition and the Stanley Sports.

WIND-CHILL 'HOT LINE'

The Department, in conjunction with M.P.A. Met. Office, is pleased to announce that a pre-recorded weather forecast and wind-chill message may now be obtained by phoning 32500. This service is available 24 hours per day and will be updated as appropriate.



That's the last time I let you lot go to a Christmas Stag Party.

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Reid	Director of Agriculture, DoA.
Nigel Knight	Farmer/Owner, Coast Ridge Farm.
Charlene Rowland	Senior Agricultural Assistant, DoA.
Aidan Kerr	Senior Scientist / Agronomist, DoA.
Gillian Phillips	Stud Flock Manager, DoA.
Jonathan Sear	Resarch Student from Queens University, Belfast.
Doug Cartridge	Wool Adviser, DoA.
Mandy McLeod	Adviser (Economics) / Training Officer, DoA.
Andrew Coe	Senior Veterinary Officer, DoA.
Robert Hall	D.S.& Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Bradford.
Murray Christie	Contract/Training shearer.
Falkland Islands Farmers Association	Secretary, Stanley.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, AN INTRODUCTION

from Bob Reid

This will be the first of many communications that I will have with the readers of the Wool Press and over the coming months I will endeavour to keep you fully informed, in more detail, of the activities of the Department of Agriculture.

Firstly, by way of introduction a little information about myself. I have come to the Islands for a second time having been here thirty plus years ago when I was employed as a travelling teacher, so the physical environment is well known to me. In the intervening period I have spent most of my time in Australia working essentially for two organisations, namely the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO), Tropical Pastures Division and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR). In both my work has involved me in a whole range of research and development activities but mostly concerned with, the improvement of pastures, looking for new and novel crops, and issues relating to maintaining sustainable agricultural systems. For both organisations I have undertaken a series of plant collecting missions, mostly in Central and South America, Spain and Portugal, Tunisia, Morocco and South Africa, and these have resulted in the release to industry of a number of new pasture cultivars. For nearly four years (1987-91) I was seconded to the United Nations, based in Rome, Italy, where I was responsible for the operation of the collection of global plant genetic resources. This experience has given me the opportunity to develop an international network of pasture research workers which will be most useful as we progress the pasture improvement programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Secondly I would like to pay tribute to the many Departmental Offices, both in research and extension, who over the years have laid the groundwork for current and future work. For example, it is most heartening to come here and find that we now have a good understanding of the basic biology and utilisation of White Grass. This is a resource that we will have to continue to base our animal industries on for some time yet and the more productive use we can make of it, the more sustainable and competitive we will be.

Thirdly the Department will be undertaking a series of new initiatives of which I wish to mention three, namely, a pasture legume introduction program, the investigation and development of windbreaks and shelter havens and the evaluation of new (and very much cheaper) sources of phosphorous fertiliser. There have been some very exciting developments in pasture legume agronomy in recent years, particularly in Australia and New Zealand. New species are growing productively on soils previously thought to be too acid and/or too cold, and where the better

known white clover invariably fails. Just about every report commissioned on Falkland Island pastures has advocated the need to find an adapted legume and I am now very confident that when our new Legume Agronomist joins the team we will make some rapid advances in this area.

Days of severe wind, rain and cold temperatures often result in the death of large numbers of livestock in the Islands each year. Wind chill can be devastating to newly shorn sheep and young lambs. Wind chill is the loss of body heat from wind passing over the skin. At an air temperature of 5 degrees Celsius, wet livestock exposed to a 30 kilometre an hour wind, will be chilled as if they were in an air temperature of -5 degrees Celsius.

A low cost answer to the problem is the provision of windbreaks and livestock havens. Trees and shrubs selected for their ability to grow under Falkland Island conditions will be evaluated as a high priority, as experience in other parts of the world have demonstrated their almost incalculable value. As they say - watch this space!

Phosphorous is probably the key element in the drive for pasture improvement but currently available phosphate fertilisers are unlikely to be cost effective under the prevailing economic conditions. Initial work with ground phosphate rock (found in many countries) as a substitute for superphosphate was not very promising. The phosphorous in the rock was released too slowly to get quick and economic responses and as such further development was slowed. More recently however, with the increasing cost of superphosphate, research has indicated that in acid soils the availability of phosphorous from the rock is quite acceptable, and in some cases there is a longer residual effect. A cheap, long lasting (and wholly organic) source of phosphorous would greatly facilitate any pasture improvement in the Islands and as such the Department will be investigating this issue as soon as possible.

Finally I would take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Owen Summers for his past work in leading the Department. We are most fortunate in being able to retain Owen's knowledge and expertise as he has agreed to lead the farm development and extension program and he will provide a vital link in the future between the Department of Agriculture and its clients.

ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

From Ailsa Heathman

The Estancia Shearing Competition will be held this year on Sunday, 29th December, starting at 0930 Stanley time. The usual £2.00 entrance fee will give shearers and their families access to the McKay's barbecue and surplus food will be available to the public. A licenced bar will also be in operation.

If anyone wishes to shear in the novice or junior classes, they are asked to advise us in advance, please to enable the sorting of prizes. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a day out, whether shearing or just spectating.

A QUICK FIVE HUNDRED WORDS ON QUALITY FALKLAND WOOL.

by Nigel Knight

As a member of the Sub-committee of the Farmers Association specifically set up to explore ways of improving the presentation of Falkland Wool, I have been very pleased by the interest that the QFW Assurance scheme has generated.

As with any innovation, some feedback has been very positive whilst some has not unexpectedly been negative. What has surprised me has been the amount of very negative correspondence from D.S. & Co., (Falkland Farming) Ltd.

Most farmers will be aware that it was D.S. & Co., that precipitated this initiative in May/June/July of this year by telling farmers that we had a serious problem last season with dark coloured fibres in Falkland wool. D.S. & Co. said that it was not just confined to a few problem farms, but that no Falkland farm was reliably achieving low coloured fibre readings.

The sub-committee were not given a specific remit, but were more or less left to get on with the task as quickly as possible.

Where to start?

I for one thought that Robert Hall of D.S. & Co.'s article in the July, 96 'Wool Press' entitled "Dark Coloured Fibres" was a good away as any. The fourth paragraph said:

"*Wool growers elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere are volunteering to participate in Quality Assurance Schemes, making improvements to their shearing operations and subjecting themselves to shed inspections. The backbone of such schemes is the prevention of contamination and minimisation of dark coloured fibre levels. The suggestion that a campaign against stain be implemented, could initially be anything from a code of practice to shed inspections, depending upon how close to a Quality Assurance Scheme farmers wished to start.*"

This seemed quite sensible to me. We considered formulating a **'Code of Practice'** but decided that the **'Falkland Islands Guide to Clip Preparation'** produced by the Agricultural Department after wide consultation with those involved and published in October 1992, with text by Colin Smith of D.S. & Co. should be incorporated in its entirety into our QFW Scheme. We decided that the other recommendation of shed inspections should also be adopted, the argument being that without suitable facilities, doing a good job becomes so much harder. We also decided to organise Wool Workshops, to fine tune farms wool handling skills. D.S. & Co. were invited to participate in these, they were also as usual, invited to the winter meetings of the Farmers Association.

But also, as usual, they declined.

So, after all this effort was the QFW initiative welcomed enthusiastically by D.S. & Co.?

Definitely not, what did follow was a deluge of negative, critical correspondence on the whole scheme, which still continues. Not exactly the best way to inspire farms to work towards better, on the farm, presentation of wool.

Surely, the way forward is one of co-operation between all those involved in the wool production process, from wool growing, harvesting and shipping to final marketing, with the eventual aim of improving consumer confidence.

WOOL WORKSHOPS *a great success.*

by Doug Cartridge

The workshops run recently at various locations around the East and West were very well supported by keen and interested farm owners, farm managers, farm employees, woolhandlers and shearers. Heidi Blake, Peter Marriot and myself spoke briefly on production, preparation and presentation of wool. The formal presentation was valuable for many reasons in that it developed group discussion on many wool related (and some non wool related) matters and bought out some of the concerns the participants of the Falklands wool industry have with the current system. Heidi, Peter and myself have summarised the major points conveyed to us during our tour around the different locations as follows.

1. Shearers came under a lot of criticism (but to be fair were not present to defend themselves) for the quality of their job and their general co-operation with farmers. A question that was raised was " Does the farmer employ the shearer or the shearer employ the farmer?"

2. The need for a general rule within the shearing agreement that enforces a minimum woolhandler (rousie, tablehand) to shearer ratio. The Quality Falkland wool requirements are currently a ratio of 1:1. A system where a minimum number of woolhandlers is required per sheep shorn/day (e.g. one woolhandler per 250 sheep shorn (or part there of) may be a better method of allowing for the differing speed of shearers.

3. A two tiered payment method for woolhandlers may be required to encourage experienced or qualified woolhandlers to work in Falkland sheds. This would also encourage presently inexperienced or unqualified woolhandlers to attend training courses prior to the start of the season.

4. There were several comments relating to the lack of wool price differentials currently being paid to either reward the farmers who are preparing their wool well or penalising farmers who are not. There is currently very little financial incentive for individual farmers to prepare their wool any better than the less conscientious farmers.

5. Farmers require positive comment on the product they are producing to give them confidence in the industry and to develop willingness to improve, not broad public criticism of a product that they believe is a quality product.

6. There was a positive attitude to the Quality Falkland Wool assurance scheme and a general willingness of most farmers to upgrade their sheep handling, shearing and wool handling facilities. It became aware on our visits the need for much better lighting in many sheds which allows the tablehands to better differentiate between stained and unstained wool. Once the reasoning behind setting the pre-shearing standards was explained and all attending became aware of the need to put these in place before a stencil should be issued. The use of the stencil from this point is up to the individual farmer to decide. The stencil must only be used if the farmer can confidently say that all the 'during shearing' requirements have been met. The system does rely on honesty and the willingness of the individual to supply a quality product for sale. Random audits by the Department of Agriculture Wool Advisor will take place.

7. Following Peter Marriots talk on processors requirements and his display of cloth and knitwear made from Falkland wool everyone became aware of the high class products that could be made using Falkland wool. An idea was put forward to make up a display of finished products made from Falkland wool to be displayed in Stanley (maybe the bank) to lift the general publics awareness of the quality of wool that Falkland farmers are producing.

After the presentation and discussions we moved on to the 'hands on' part of the workshop which involved everybody actually preparing and classing wool under the guidance of Heidi, Peter and myself. This was very worthwhile and we felt happy at the end of the days that we had shown many people reasons why the standards of preparation need to be tightened up.

We had approximately 115 people attend the courses over the eight workshops and estimate that 80 percent of farms were represented. All in all it was a very successful exercise and on behalf of Heidi, Peter and myself I would like to thank FIDC, Farmers Association, Sheep Owners Association, Department of Agriculture and all the farmers involved for making it all possible.

150 YEAR PREPARATION FOR ABATTOIR

By Robert Hall

In 1990/91 the Falklands sheep population and its distribution was reported as follows:

Table 1: The distribution of sheep by main breed.

	Romney	Corriedale	Polwarth
West Falkland	0%	62%	38%
East Falkland	22%	62%	16%
Islands	0%	48%	52%
Total of all Falkland Islands	12%	61%	27%

Some changes will have occurred since then. Insignificant sheep numbers from other breeds (e.g. Perendale, Jacob, Suffolk, Merino etc.) can also be identified in the Falklands, with some Cormo and Comeback influence being noticeable since their 1992 importation.

At the time I wrote: "The dominance of the dual-purpose Corriedale breed, plus the significant number of Romneys, was surprising for a country historically dedicated to wool production; greater numbers of the specialist wool breeds would have been expected, as found in Australia". Unsurprisingly however sheep survival, reproductive success, growth rates etc. have influenced this distribution of sheep breeds.

When plans for a new abattoir are about to be implemented, perhaps the sheep breeds and their distribution are about to give the Falklands extra financial reward. Luckily both the Corriedale (dual-purpose New Zealand breed) and the Polwarth (dual-purpose Australian breed) are well established throughout the Falkland Islands. In addition to this, both the Corriedale and Romney (arguably a dual-purpose/meat breed) are concentrated on East Falkland, near where the abattoir is being located. Greater utilisation of the Falklands' three dual-purpose breeds may be possible.

Despite the genetic base of sheep already in the Islands, the importation of more meat sheep is currently being considered: in such a context, the difficulties of producing suitable ewe replacements medium term, the potential of dual-purpose enterprises and the fact that the greatest determinant of lamb growth rates is grassland quality rather than breed, should be clearly remembered.

There may be proposals for various kinds of exotic sheep breeds to be imported (with amazing colours black, bleu and rouge, muffled faces or horns); yet it should be recognised that the sheep breed ingredients of New Zealand's huge meat industry are already in the Falkland Islands. If the Falklands are serious about a meat enterprise, the logical basis should be the ideal sheep genetics on site and the best means would be by developing pure breeding dual-purpose ewe flocks as per Tex Alazia's recent proposal.

References:

Alazia M. 1996. Profitability of Breeding Young Sheep for Sale.
Wool Press, 79, 5-7.
Hall R.H.B. 1995. Sheep Breeds, Wool Preparation, Wool Classing and Management Practices in the Falkland Islands During 1990/91.
*Wool Technology & Sheep Breeding, **43 (3)**, 202-211.*

HYDATID UPDATE

by Andrew Coe

At the beginning of November, thanks to the vigilance of the farmer concerned, a hydatid cyst was discovered in a sheep's liver during the routine slaughter of mutton and dog meat. This is the first hydatid to be discovered since June 1995. The sheep was approximately 6/7 years old so it is difficult to know for how long the cyst had been present.

As soon as we confirmed that the cyst was indeed a hydatid the farmer was informed and Caroline and Diana visited the farm to review the killing and offal disposal procedures and also inspect the offals of approximately 60 sheep killed that week. No cysts were found in any of these. Caroline and Diana then blood sampled all the dogs on the farm and with the permission of the owners implanted them all with microchips to make for easy and permanent identification of the dogs should any prove to be positive and re-sampling become necessary. The records of our offal inspections at Stanley abattoir were checked and we found that 921 sheep from this farm were slaughtered at the abattoir between Jan - Nov of this year. All the offals have been inspected by this Department and no hydatids have been found. Everything then points to this incident being an isolated case of hydatid infection rather than a warning of a more generalised problem but the farmer and ourselves will monitor the situation closely over the next few months. It is worth pointing out that co-operation from the farm concerned has been excellent.

So why am I telling you all this?

Firstly, to remind you that although Hydatid disease has been substantially reduced over the last ten years there are still sheep out there that are infected and which can infect your dogs if you let them eat sheep offal.

Secondly to tell you that we really want you all to take offal inspection seriously on your own farms and that if you do find anything suspicious in the liver or lungs then please phone us because we want to know about it. We are <u>not</u> going to throw the book at you! However, we will certainly want to investigate and ensure that all measures are taken to stop the problem multiplying if it really turns out to be a Hydatid cyst.

Thirdly to raise the profile of Hydatid disease once again so that it remains in the forefront of every farmers mind. Discuss it with your neighbours and friends. Remind each other on dog dosing day. Ask each other how you dispose of your offals and culls and contact us for a chat if you think your system needs improving.

Many of you will now have been visited by either myself, Caroline or our predecessor Ian Saunders with a view to checking that your killing facilities and offal and cull disposals are satisfactory. For those of you who haven't yet had that pleasure, rest assured that it is not far off. We have been trying to help farmers comply with the current hydatid legislation and with any new legislation that may be in the pipeline. We have tried to be practical about this and where there are obvious deficiencies we have agreed measures to correct them. The sole purpose of this is to ensure that the efforts made in the past which have been so successful are continued until eradication is achieved.

As a reminder to you all, please check that everyone on your farm with any responsibility for dogs, killing sheep or inspecting offal is fully aware of the following.

- Dogs must be tied up or caged when not being worked.
- Killing of sheep for mutton and dog meat must be done in a dog proof area.
- All the red offals i.e. Liver, Heart and Lungs must be disposed of in one of the following ways.

  a) Burning to ash. b) Storing in a dog proof container for a minimum of 28 days prior to disposal.

- All the red offals should be CAREFULLY inspected for the presence of Hydatid cysts. If you are at all suspicious then place the piece of liver or lung in either a jar or in two polythene bags and keep it somewhere cool. Give us a ring and we will arrange collection. DON'T cut into a suspected cyst. Leave that to us.
- If you're no longer sure what a hydatid cyst looks like then contact Charlene Rowland to borrow one of our videos.
- Please fill in your offal inspection forms and return them to us on a regular basis. It at least lets us know that you're inspecting the offal. Maggie our Veterinary Assistant can supply you with these.
- All dogs must be pilled with either DRONCIT or DRONTAL PLUS at 42 day intervals on the correct dog dosing day. These dates are announced on the radio and a list of dates is available from Maggie. Make sure SOMEBODY is responsible for the pilling so that there is no confusion.
- Any sheep that die within ½ mile of the farm dwelling should be disposed of in a way that denies access to dogs.

I know that most of the above is obvious but there's no harm in putting it in black and white.

Don't forget, the eradication of Hydatid disease is in everyone's interest not least in the interest of you and your children. If you want to discuss the matter further or want more specific advice then please don't hesitate to contact me.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1996

This will be held in Coast Ridge Farm woolshed at Fox Bay village on 29th December 1996. All times are on Stanley times. Entries may be sent to Fox Bay c/o N Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day between 9.00 am - 1.00 pm. Judging will commence at 2.30 pm and be by public ballot. Prizes will be presented at 6.00 pm in the woolshed by His Excellency the Governor.

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 and Wireless Plc.
2nd prize	£75 donated by Standard Chartered Bank.
3rd prize	£50 donated by Southern Cross Social Club.
4th prize	£25 donated by R.M. Pitaluga & family.

Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram

1st prize	Silver cup presented by Dunnose Head Farm plus £25 donated by F.I.D.C.
2nd prize	£75 also presented by the Development Corporation.
3rd prize	£50 presented by Saddle Farm.
4th prize	£25 presented by Farmers Association.

Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram

1st prize	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup. A replica plus £40 presented by Falkland Landholdings Ltd.
2nd prize	Prize donated by The Falkland Islands Company Limited.
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 & 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 & replica donated by Newton Investment Management Ltd.

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.
2nd prize £50 donated by Falkland Islands 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 replica from the Luxton family, Chartres.

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 were all provided by Jim McAdam, Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland.

The Development Corporation will also be presenting a silver challenge cup plus £50 for the fleece with the highest commercial value.

For 1st; 2nd & 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 Sulivan 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.

The fleece with the highest commercial value will be judged on the day by two experienced **'Wool People'**. It will be selected from all fleeces exhibited at the show using the following criteria:

- Actual greasy weight x estimated yield x estimated micron x current clean price.
- The judges decision will be final.

F.I.G.A.S. 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.

Due to the ever increasing number of entries, would all intending entrants please indicate the probable number of rams or fleeces to be exhibited to the organisers before 25th December 1996, so that sufficient pens/tables can be prepared.

N. A. Knight
Chairman W.F.R & F.S

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RESTORATION OF DEGRADED COASTAL SITES.

By Jonathan Sear

Hello. I'm Jonathan Sear and I arrived in the Department of Agriculture on 6th November as a research student looking into the above topic. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and what I shall be doing.

I started at Queens University in Belfast in September and spent some time reading about grassland restoration and related issues in the Falklands and elsewhere, before flying out to the Islands. I am originally from North Bedfordshire where farming is very different to the Falklands, but have lived in Lancaster (north-west England) for the past four years, where I studied for my degree in Ecology. I have been involved for several years in a wide range of practical land management work (mostly voluntary) across Britain for organisations such as the National Trust. Hopefully I shall be able to apply some of what I have learnt to the problems affecting the coastal areas of the Falklands.

I shall be based in the Department of Agriculture during the summer months, but will be returning to Belfast in order to do some laboratory work during the winter each year. I expect to be working on the project for three or four years.

It is my plan to spend a large proportion of my time working on Tussac, hopefully discovering why plantations are not always successful, and investigating whether seeding methods could be developed which are less labour intensive than planting tillers, enabling larger areas to be restored. I am sure that there is a wealth of experience out on the farms and would be interested to hear from anybody who has new ideas about what is necessary for successful Tussac establishment. Equally, I would be keen to hear from anyone who has tried planting Tussac without success - I hope to be able to find similarities between failed sites or methods which can help us understand how the success rate can be increased.

My work will doubtlessly involve the setting up of a number of trials and surveys, so I may be in touch with farmers with Tussac and/or eroded land about this. I am looking forward to speaking to as many of you as possible over the next few months.

Unfortunately, Tussac is unlikely to be the solution to revegetating all degraded coastal sites. With the exception of the use of Sand Grass to stabilise sandy sites, our knowledge of other methods is very limited. I would like to come up with an economic method of returning the bare clay sites, which are a problem on many farms, to productivity. This is certainly going to be challenging, and again I am very interested to hear from people with ideas or experience.

I will keep you informed of any developments through the Wool Press, but in the mean time please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the Department of Agriculture with any information.

MORE COMPUTING SENSE

by Mandy McLeod

For those of you who are fairly confident with computers, many of the statements in this article will seem common sense to you now, but I am sure that if you think back to your early computer days you will understand why I am stating the obvious. As I have said before, a lot of problems that beginners have come through 'fear of the unknown', so I am going to provide some background information which may help newcomers to understand how computers work.

You have probably heard people refer to computers as HARDWARE. Computer hardware is similar to a stereo system. It's only a machine. Just as you play CD's and tapes on a music system, your computer runs programmes called SOFTWARE such as word processors, spreadsheets, databases, art and graphics packages, educational packages, games, etc.

When you want to tell your computer something you use a mouse or keyboard to enter the instructions.

The Central Processing Unit or CPU is the brain of the machine. It interprets the instructions you send and displays what is required on the MONITOR. The CPU stores information in its MEMORY. While your computer is on, everything you tell it is held in temporary memory, also called Random Access Memory (RAM). As the information in the computer memory is only temporary, you need to move it from the RAM to a storage area (DISK) if you want to keep the work you've done. When you turn off your computer, any work not saved on a DISK will be lost.

Information stored on a disk can be retrieved. There are three types of disk: FLOPPY, HARD and COMPACT. You can use HARD or FLOPPY disks to store your work.

- HARD disks hold the most information which is quickly retrieved, but they are fixed within the main body of the computer (usually).
- FLOPPY disks don't hold so much information but they are portable, so if you need to take a piece of work to another computer half way around the world, you can. They are used by inserting the disk in to the FLOPPY DRIVE slot in the main body of the computer.
- COMPACT disks always come with information already on them. They can hold masses of information (a whole encyclopaedia for instance), and they are portable, but you cannot store or save your own work onto the disk. COMPACT disks are always used in the CD-ROM DRIVE slot on the computer.

You can't do anything on your computer without SOFTWARE. There are 2 main types of software:

- APPLICATION software is programmes that you use to do your work and produce documents such as spreadsheets and letters. Some names you may recognise that come into this category are: SUPERCALC, WORDSTAR, MS-OFFICE, WORD PERFECT, WORD, PAINT, ACCESS and MONEYMAKER. The list is endless. Games also come under this category.
- SYSTEM software gives your computer the instructions it need to use APPLICATION software. The two system software names that are commonly used are: **DOS** (Disk Operating System) and **WINDOWS** which combines with DOS to make your computer more powerful and 'user friendly'.

More about DOS and WINDOWS

Anyone who has purchased a new computer in the past 5 years will probably have the WINDOWS environment (as it is called). The beauty of Windows (once you've got over the initial frustrations) is that:

- It can be mouse operated.
- It provides WYSIWYG (pronounced wisiwig) meaning 'What You See (on the screen) Is What You Get' (printed).
- Once you have mastered one WINDOWS application (or programme), it doesn't take long to learn another WINDOWS application, even if they produce totally different end results. i.e. A word processor, art package, database or spreadsheet are all operated by giving similar instructions.
- You are presented with 'pull down' menus at the opening window from which you can browse to find the right instruction for the task in hand, and ICONS (pictures) depicting programmes installed on the computer.
- You can have several programmes running at once so that you can do things such as copy parts of documents from one to the other.

If you bought your computer a few years ago it will probably have the DOS environment, although most people who started computing that early on have probably 'upgraded' to WINDOWS by now. Any newcomers that bought the ex-FIG computers last year will also have DOS.

Although the computers were sold at a reasonable price, the majority of people who bought them were new users. When FIG went over to WINDOWS, the expertise that could've been called upon by the beginner with problems became few and far between. I used to teach Supercalc and Wordstar, but I soon became very unfamiliar with the programmes and therefore of little help to anyone phoning with what I used to term 'a simple problem'. Although the purchases were 'value for money' in equipment terms, the result was one of people new to computing having to learn on dated technology.

As I said before, if your requirement is basic spreadsheets and word processing, then those computers are brilliant. DOS operated programmes have been heavily relied on in the past and performed well. Some 'old-timers' in the computer world would be seen using nothing but DOS because their knowledge of it is so great now, that to learn something new would slow them down. You can produce equally as fine a report with a DOS programme as a WINDOWS programme. The only problem as a new user still learning the basics, is the lack of people to teach you or help you out if you get stuck (especially if you don't have the manuals for the old programmes)!

Having made a reluctant change over to WINDOWS, I am glad I did. My awareness of computer capabilities has grown so much. I don't have to remember all the different DOS commands for all the different DOS programmes. I can do all the tasks like copying and formatting disks with a click of a button without having to remember what to type in.

next month - do you use your disks well?

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ADVICE.

by Robert H.B. Hall

Increasing staff numbers at the Department of Agriculture should have a beneficial impact on Falkland Islands farmers and their farms:

To resolve some of the most serious practical needs of farmers, integrated research, development and advisory work should place much greater emphasis upon devising sustainable grassland systems which recognise the **key animals** (ewes, lambs, hoggets), at the **critical times** of year (early winter through to late spring), concentrating upon **major factors of production** (nutrition quality and quantity). Pioneering work by the Hill Farm Research Organisation still implies that the Two Pasture System should be adapted, to improve utilisation of all native pastures and reseeds.

Scientific investigations have been undertaken but generally they have had insufficient impact upon stock and grassland management. Sadly, few biological/economic research conclusions have been developed into integrated policies for farmers and the emphasis of FIG investment has turned to diversification.

The investment in personnel represents an excellent community for the publication of practical sheep and grassland management advice, which draws together all Falklands research to date. Such interim conclusions should encourage greater prominence of the important factors of production, key animals and critical times of year, in improving farm profits.

References:

Baughan J. (1993) Review of Literature 1975 - 1993. Department of Agriculture, Stanley. Farmlink Series. Agricultural Research Centre, Stanley. Maxwell T.J., Eadie J., and Sibbald A.R. (1976). The economic implication in the application of new techniques to Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland. Hill Lands, Proceedings of an International Symposium.

INTEGRATED RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND ADVICE ON WOOL PRODUCTION

by Aidan Kerr

I agree with Robert Hall in his article 'Integrated agricultural research, development and advice' that the current investment in Department of Agriculture personnel represents an excellent opportunity for publication of practical advice to farmers. The 'extension' or the 'transfer' of research results and advice has been and remains an ongoing priority for the Department. The new personnel will allow greater emphasis in this area by freeing up staff who were involved in other areas e.g. research and management.

Robert will of course be well aware that such investment in the Department's staff is long overdue. I believe that, despite the relatively small population here, the islands agricultural, scientific and economical challenges equivalent to and sometimes greater than have more populated countries of similar area and resources. Thus the staff and associated resources needed to work effectively on these challenges and provide practical solutions and advice is probably as great as those countries.

Contrary to Robert's opinion regarding FIG investment, the main emphasis of the Department's work remains on wool. The new investment will allow many of the promising lines of GTU and ARC research of the e.g. legume introduction, improved production of young sheep etc. to be revitalised, refined and hopefully communicated to the wool industry. It will also allow new areas of research for the wool industry to be initiated and integrated with other forms of agriculture.

Much of the research and advice was, is and will remain targeted at improving 'major production factors' for 'key animals' and 'critical times of the year' e.g. improved quality and quantity of nutrition for lambs in Spring and hoggs over Winter. Improved pasture systems based on 'reseeding', as promoted by HFRO, have been researched, developed and adopted here. Unfortunately, commodity and freight costs make the economics of such 'reseeding' questionable and the techniques need further refinement. Nevertheless the biological improvements to sheep production have been proven. Additionally, the current grazing trial near MPA and the research on restoration of Tussac are prime examples of research and aimed at 'devising sustainable grassland systems'. Without a sound scientific base such systems will never be sustainable. The long running FISAP project enters its final phase of analysis and write up and will provide valid conclusions for 'integrated policies' on sheep and wool production.

Finally, the wool industry and the Department's research and advisory work will benefit from continued and improved 'integration' from all parts of the wool industry e.g. from grassland scientists to marketing agents. The Department will continue to play a major role and we trust that Robert will also continue to play his role in that 'integration'.

RECIPES

Sunny days are here again, so I have put together some great barbecue salad and punch ideas to set your taste buds alight!

Cucumber Salad

1 cucumber
1 bunch of spring onions, sliced
1 bunch of radishes, thinly sliced

Dressing:

1 tbsp honey
1 tsp wholegrain mustard
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
1 tsp dried dill

Halve the cucumber and remove the seeds. Slice thinly and lay in a colander, sprinkle with salt and leave to stand for 30 minutes to remove the juices. To make the dressing mix all the ingredients together. After 30 minutes rinse the cucumber well in cold water and pat dry with kitchen paper. Place the cucumber, radishes and spring onions in a bowl and pour over the dressing.

Curried Coleslaw

9oz carrots, peeled and grated
2 oz raisins
1 tbsp Korma paste
12 oz white cabbage, finely sliced
1 green pepper de-seeded and chopped
6 tbsp mayonnaise

Mix all together.

Caribbean Rum Punch

1 pt fresh orange juice
1/2 pint dark rum
1 pt fresh pineapple juice
crushed ice

Pour the fruit juices and rum into a large jug over the crushed ice. Grate fresh nutmeg into the punch and stir. Garnish with sliced oranges and nutmeg. Enjoy!!

Next months recipes are from Ailsa Heathman.

WOOL QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME

From Falkland Islands Farmers Association

A big thank you to the farms which hosted the wool workshops, and all those people who came along to take part. Because of the interest in the Quality Falkland Wool brand it might be worthwhile going over some of the background, and pointing out that the hardest bit is yet to come.

In May and June D.S. & Co. Ltd., reported an unacceptable level of stained fibre in Falkland wool, and urged farmers to begin a 'stain-free clip' campaign.

During the Farmers Association meetings at the end of June the problems of stain and the idea of having some sort of quality assurance for wool was discussed. Many farmers were worried that they were not skirting fleeces properly, and it was suggested that Heidi Blake be asked to come and do a refresher course. Peter Marriott, who was present, indicated he would be willing to come down as well. After working hard to raise farmers awareness of the stain problem it was a pity that Robert Hall was unable to take up the telephoned invitation to come down at this time. Farmers at the meeting were asked if they wanted research into quality assurance to go ahead, or to wait until after the refresher course, but the vote was to proceed.

The basic problem of most farms not being able to crutch sheep before shearing was discussed. As Colin Smith pointed out, this is the key to removing most of the stain, and with strict skirting procedures, forms part of quality assurance in other wool producing countries. Farmers at the meeting were keen to see a local version of quality assurance go ahead anyway.

A sub-committee was set up by those present at the meeting, to examine quality assurance for wool. Schemes from Australia and New Zealand such as Fernmark, Clipcare and Dalgety's Dalcare were looked at by the committee. DelCare, kindly sent by Colin Smith, provided the guide-lines.

Although some Farmers Association members were not present at the meetings, and might not have agreed with the quality assurance scheme, it is important to remember that this decision was made **by** farmers **for** farmers. The Association is not funded by Government, but depends entirely upon subscriptions from independent farms and they collectively make the decisions.

The DelCare guide to clip preparation includes the following:-

1. How to clean up sheep yards and holding areas.
2. How to prepare the wool shed.
3. How to improve shearing conditions.
4. How accurate classing and clip preparation can help maximise your returns.

At the moment farms cannot comply with all the requirements in a scheme such as DelCare, but it was used as a model. Any scheme must be viable in Falkland conditions. DelCare has the following statement which certainly applies here:

"The use of the DalCare stencil and identification in the sale catalogue are an assurance that ALL REASONABLE STEPS have been taken to avoid contamination and wool has been prepared to trade requirements. DalCare however, is not a guarantee".

Quality Falkland Wool

- The scheme is voluntary.
- Old sheds can qualify - they only need be clean, tidy and well lit.
- Sheds will be checked by a qualified person.
- Spot checks during shearing will be made by a qualified person.
- The Quality Falkland Wool stencil and stamp will be awarded to farms which meet the local standards.
- The stencil and stamp will be removed if the farm cannot maintain standards.
- The use of the Quality Falkland Wool logo is to try and establish buyer confidence.
- Wool must be prepared to the standards set out in the Falkland Islands Guide to Clip Preparation.
- Copies of the Guide, written and complied by Colin Smith, Robert Hall and the Agricultural Department are available on request.

The farm owners or managers must take full responsibility for ensuring that skirting is done to the best possible standard.

The inspector doing spot checks cannot be in all sheds at all times, and although the farm owner may not be on or near the tables all the time, it is still his or her responsibility to make sure that the workforce do the best possible job.

If anyone has any questions, or would like to just discuss the QWF scheme further, please contact Doug Cartridge at the Department of Agriculture.

PREPARATION OF FALKLAND WOOL'S

TO THE FARMERS AND FARM MANAGERS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

From Murray Christie.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the shearers and shedhands who harvest your wool, to reply to the criticism, both verbal and written, being circulated around the Islands.

On my previous visit to the Falklands, I travelled to a great number of sheds training shearers and also taking the time to watch what is being done in the preparation of your wool. The same arguments have been put forward each year I have been here about stained wool.

As we all know, crutching would solve this problem to a certain extent, but the main problem is the placement of staff in the woolshed. There is too much emphasis on preparing the fleece on the table, instead of the work being done on the *board* while the sheep is being shorn. In many of the present shed operations it is impossible for the rousies to be able to do this. It has been proven time and time again, by the worlds leading wool producing countries, that board work is the most important part of wool preparation.

By having more staff working on the board this big problem can be overcome, i.e. a minimum of 2 rousies to 4 shearers. They will have the time to remove the crutch, (the major source of stain), top knots, black spots, skin pieces and most importantly - keep the board clean. The fleece can then be presented to the table where tablehands can remove other oddments not possible to remove on the board.

You could put together a team of the best shearers and wool handlers in the world but if this work is not done on the board, even they won't be able to guarantee what goes into the bale.

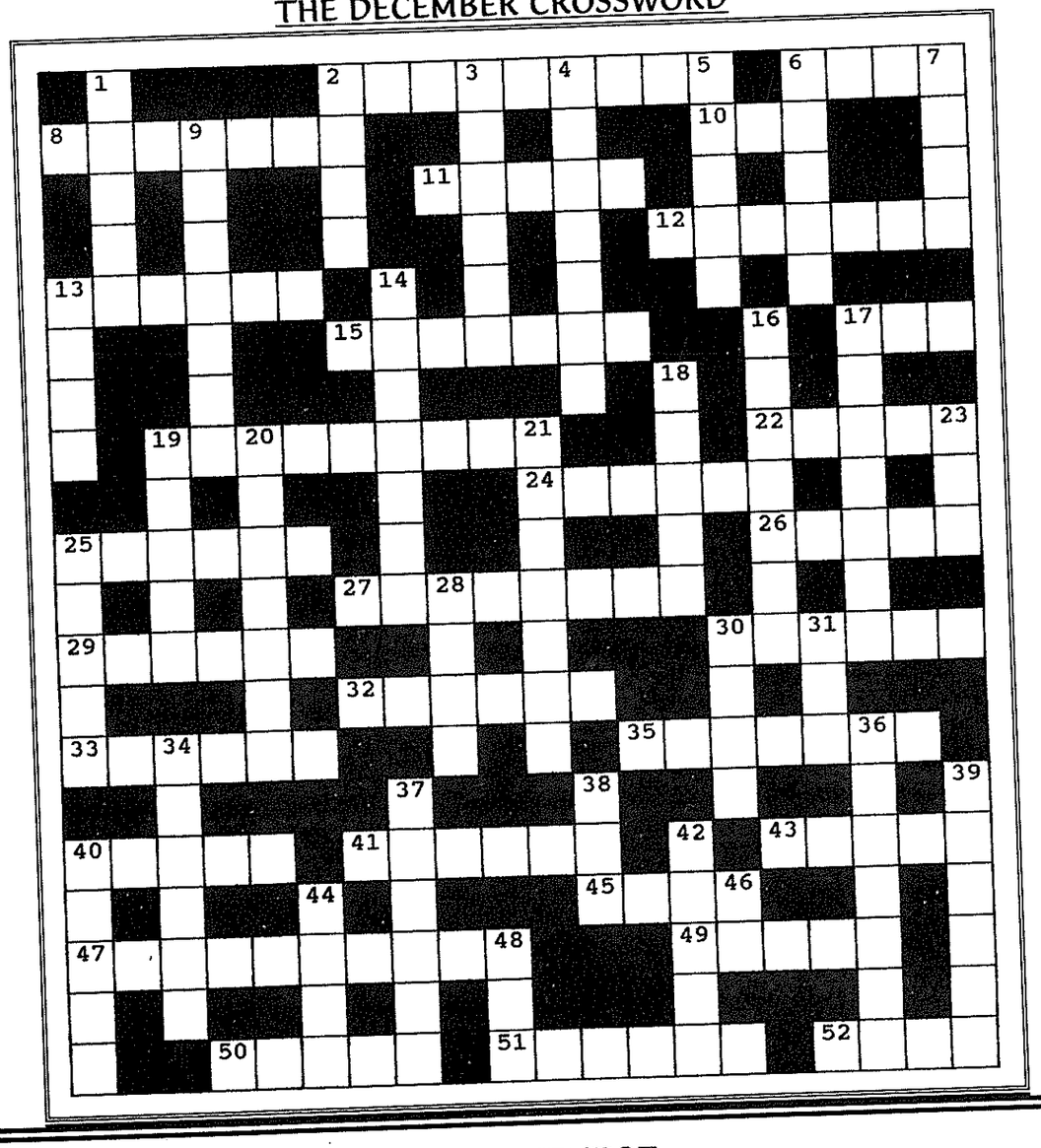
As you have one of the best shedhands in the world here at the moment I would suggest that you talk to her, Heidi Blake or Doug Cartridge about ratios of staff needed for you current setup. Some sheds need more staff on the board then others i.e. long boards as against raised boards. The number of sheep being shorn per stand also needs to be considered.

I see the criticism of the shearers not regularly calling black spots as unwarranted, as I know myself it is very easy to miss the odd one, I don't think whether a shearer is going for a tally has anything to do with it, but as pointed out in one letter that I read this is a minor problem, so maybe the shearers need congratulating on their co-operation to date.

With regard to the criticism of the shedhands, I think the writer is being far too harsh. I am sure they are all trying to do their best in difficult circumstances i.e. not enough of them or bad placing. ***I do think that the Falkland Farmers have their sheep shorn by a very competent work force.*** While talking about shedhands, I think the time has come for a different system of payment. In the top wool producing countries they are paid by the hour, the more experienced earning the most.

In closing, I also support the QFW scheme being introduced to the Falklands but it is going to take a great deal of co-operation between the farmer or farm manager and the team involved in harvesting your wool, to make it successful.

THE DECEMBER CROSSWORD



PRODUCT SPOT

by Charlene Rowland

LONGHORN 12 VOLT SHEEP SHEARING MACHINES

Longhorn 2.8 12 volt sheep shearing machines are portable, safe and can do a full day of shearing run off a 12 volt ordinary Land Rover battery. The fittings are standard and can take any type of handpiece, and starts with a pull cord switch.

If anyone would like more information on these portable shearing machines, I can let you have a copy of the brochure.

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

2. FERTILE EGG FOR INSTANCE
6. CRUSTACEAN
8. DOG COMMAND
10. FEMALE RABBIT
11. DESTRUCT
12. SHIP'S VOYAGE
13. SEED OR NUT
15. YOUNG GOOSE
17. ANTELOPE FROM AFRICA
19. LOOKS FOR GOLD
22. FILTER
24. HAND GUN
25. HOLLOW BETWEEN HILLS
26. DEVOURED
27. SOIL AND CROP SCIENCE
29. SKIMMED MILK
30. PASTURE
32. CASTRATED SHEEP
33. MOLLUSC
35. FLH FARM
40. PEAT CUTTER
41. YOUNG EWE
43. GREEN _____, EAST SETTLEMENT
45. PRODUCE FROM THE LAND
47. BACTERICIDAL AGENT
49. COX, PIPPIN, DELICIOUS
50. MAMMARY GLANDS (COW/EWE)
51. BEAST OF BURDEN
52. EMPEROR OF RUSSIA

DOWN

1. COUNTY OR LARGE HORSE
2. MEDICINAL OR CULINARY PLANT
3. CATTLE OR HORSE ENCLOSURE
4. OLD
5. WEST PORT
6. STOP
7. NAKED
9. NUTS AND BOLTS TOOL
13. LARGE PENGUIN
14. FRONT LIMB
16. FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE
17. TRANSPLANTED TISSUE
18. PIER
19. ELECTRICITY TOWER
20. MAKE WORK (MACHINERY)
21. LURE
23. DOMESTIC EGG LAYER
25. POISON
28. PACE
30. BROAD WINGED INSECT
31. ATMOSPHERE
34. SMALL HOUSE
36. SHOPS (RETAILERS)
37. ANIMALS OF A SINGLE BIRTH
38. DISEASE OF SHEEP
39. RESTRICTIVE DOG CHAIN
40. LOWER LEG BONE
42. FRUIT OF THE VINE
44. MALE DEER
46. ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
48. FISH (GOOD WITH CHIPS)

Ailsa Heathman sent in this snippet of interest. There was also a photo, but it was too poor in quality to reprint. I guess he must've been wearing a Newcastle football jersey!

SHEARER IS TOP SCORER!

SOURCE: SUNDAY POST 18 SEPTEMBER 1996

He's not out to fleece anyone, but Geordie Bain reckons he has as much right to wear a jersey as a certain striker. He's just been crowned King of Scotland's sheep shearers, and has taken to wearing the star shirt to celebrate. Unlike his namesake Allan, of Newcastle United, Geordie - from Hawick is unlikely to command a £15 million transfer fee. But he's a hot property in the sheep shearing market, wanted by farmers in Norway, New Zealand, Australia and even the Falklands.

Geordie (42) can guarantee a successful strike every minute. He's one of the few who can shear a sheep in under 60 seconds. His skills have brought him a string of trophies and awards.

"Shearing may seem a strange way to travel the world", says Geordie, "but it has certainly worked out well for me".

"When things are quiet here, I simply move where the work is. Being Scottish Champion means I'm sought after abroad".

His personal best of 10 sheep in 8 minutes 45 seconds came close to a world record.

THE NATIONAL STUD FLOCK

by Gillian Phillips

LIVESTOCK

On the 5th September all ewe and wether hoggets were drenched with panacur as a small number were showing signs of scouring.

On the 18th September all the breeding ewes were crutched ready for lambing to begin on the 3rd October. In the early stages of lambing 16 ewes died of Pregnancy Toxaemia (Twin Lamb disease). The Veterinary Officers' were consulted and their advise was to give the ewes more supplementary food, i.e. ewe nuts. This was kept up for approximently 3 weeks with no more problems occurring. The older ewes fell back in condition in the spring (September in particular) but have picked up well now that there is plenty of grass. This loss of condition was not entirely unexpected given their age and their move from Sea Lion Island where they had tussic at that time of the year.

Lambing has gone well with the lambs birth weights being better this year with less sets of twins and more singles. In the middle of November 212 ewes had lambed with 202 live lambs.

On the 18th-19th November all the sheep were drenched with panacur except the breeding ewes. They are all strong and healthy except from showing signs of scouring. The shearling ewes are in excellent condition. They are been run in the North Brenton Loch area.

GENERAL

Colin Smith has the contract for the interior works of the shearing shed and began work on the 4th November 96. The majority of the cement work has been completed and some of the wood work ready to lay the gratings.

SOLUTION TO THE NOVEMBER CROSSWORD