



The Wool Press

ISSUE 145

JANUARY 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the January Wool Press. Yes, I know it's not January yet, but by the time my hangover has worn off after Christmas it will be February and you'll all be shouting that you haven't had a January edition. All the same I hope everyone has a good time. Should anyone need to contact me (Nyree) over Xmas week I can probably be found propping up the bar in the Victory!

A couple weeks ago we went across to the West and visited some of the farms in the Port Howard and Hill Cove areas. Major Jamie Hayward, the Civil/Military Liaison Officer, accompanied us allowing him to meet a number of farmers face to face. Thanks to Rodney and Carol for having him to stay for the night and the loan of your vehicle. Anyone wishing to contact Jamie can do so on 22293.

Mandy and I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all the Wool Press readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lastly the answer to the December brainteaser. I (not actually me okay) am 27, and my children are 9, 7 and 2.

Nyree and Mandy



"That's the laziest dog I've ever seen!"

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Organic Food

The demand for high quality organically produced food continually outstrips supply and many forward thinking, professional farmers are responding to this by converting to organic systems of production. It doesn't take a genius to realise that now is the time to become established as an organic producer to generate a premium price

More than 70% of the organic food eaten in the UK is imported, and as more and more people include organic food in their weekly shop this figure is set to rise. More UK farmers could be the beneficiaries of this demand.

By farming organically it is believed that you can provide the finest product to the customer, whilst maintaining the balance of nature which has evolved hand in hand over generations of natural, traditional farming methods.

Quite simply, organic food is produced in harmony with the environment without the use of unnecessary chemicals such as herbicides, insecticides or pesticides.

- Animals are fed on a completely natural diet, free of genetically modified organisms.
- Animal health and welfare is paramount, by farming in a traditional extensive way, the livestock feed and grow at a natural, healthy pace, which goes to ensure a superior end product.

Labelling of organic food is strictly controlled. Only producers who can demonstrate their commitment to producing healthy, high quality stock, without the use of harmful and manmade chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides and insecticides can officially be classed as Organic producers.

One of the UK's most prestigious bodies responsible for maintaining and regulating the classification of organic food producers is the Soil Association. This is closely followed by Organic Farmers and Growers. These producers meet strict standards laid down by themselves and are able to promote their products alongside the organisations logo. The Falkland Islands will be able to produce our own products with the EU logo which apparently has a much more prestigious market placing.

Ban on 24 Pesticides

A report was issued in November by Pesticide Action Network UK, that Britain's biggest farmer, the Co-op, was banning the use of 24 pesticides worldwide in crops that they purchase because of rising consumer concerns about health and environmental impacts. They believe that the government should start applying the 'precautionary principle' to existing and new pesticides to increase support for a safer alternative.

Residues in UK drinking water have been surveyed. According to a report from EUREAU, an organisation that represents the water industry association across Europe, the UK has some of the highest levels of residues.

QUESTIONS

Do you have any questions on Organics that you would like to ask. If so, please send it to me and I will print your question and answer in Organic News.

Ph 27211 Fax 27210
E-mail crowland@fidc.co.fk

Useful and interesting web sites:

- www.falklandislands.com
- www.fidc.co.fk
- www.pan-uk.org/piuform.htm
- www.edis.ifas.edu/BODY_VH019

Ideas on Establishing an Organic Vegetable Garden/Plot

Successful vegetable gardens are not accidental. They are the results of planning, constant care, and the will to make things grow. Amongst the many things a vegetable garden may offer towards a satisfying experience are fresh air, exercise, sunshine, knowledge, supplementary income, mental therapy, fresh food rich in vitamins and minerals and harvested at its best.

Organic gardening differs from "conventional" gardening mainly in the areas of fertilisation and pest control. The organic gardener prefers to use natural and organic materials and methods just like the sheep, beef and pig farmer, and avoids using practices and synthetic chemicals that may be detrimental to his/her health or environment.

Things to do:

- Assess the layout of your garden
- Look at the size of your family or market and the amount of canned, frozen or fresh brought in from overseas.
- Select a shadeless plot with well-drained soil, preferably near a water source.
- Erect some sort of fencing for shelter from the winds, so that seeds don't get blown away.

Adding Organic Matter to the Soil:

A major basis for organic gardening is the use of abundant quantities of organic material applied to the soil. Usually, it is in the form of animal manures, plant manures, cover crops, compost or mixed organic fertiliser.

Adding Organic Matter to the soil improves the condition and structure of the soil enabling it to withhold water and releases nutrients slowly. It helps to keep the soil from over-reacting and supports the life of the soil. The matter also helps the vegetables to survive stress from nematodes.

Under suitable conditions, the organic matter is decomposed by micro-organisms such as fungi, algae, bacteria, moulds and earthworms. In the process, insoluble and unavailable nutrients, such as nitrogen are gradually changed into simple usable products. For example, nitrogen is converted from unusable organic forms to a usable inorganic form through the process called nitrification. Nitrification is the breakdown of protein (organic nitrogen) into ammonia and then nitrate. Some of the organic matter becomes part of the soil humus.

Proper soil acidity (pH) should be about 7.0. Below 5.5 nitrogen ceases and the soil becomes acidic. Good aeration and proper temperatures of the soil (this should be above 50°F) with an adequate lime source for use by micro-organisms, will keep the soil from being acidic.

Animal Manures: Animal manures are an easy source of fertilisers and organic matter for your garden. The manure used must be at least 30 days old.

Before planting: For the best results use 25 pounds each of cow and horse manure mixed with 2-3 pounds of ground rock phosphate or raw bone meal. Use up to 1 pound of this mix per square foot of garden.

You should apply at least 12 pounds per 100 square feet (about 3 tonnes per acre minimum) or as much as 3-4 inches (20 tonnes per acre) of poultry or sheep manure.

After planting as a sidedressing if needed:

- Cow and horse manure use up to 5 pounds per 100 square feet of row.
- Poultry and sheep manures use up to 3 pounds per 100 square feet of row.

With all types of manure, when applying as a sidedressing, scatter a band of manure down each side of the row. Place each band at the edge of the root zone and work lightly into the soil surface. For individual plants, open a furrow encircling the plant and fill with manure, then cover.

Manure is not always a complete well-balanced fertiliser. It is advantageous to broadcast a complete organic fertiliser such as rock phosphate and potash in addition to the manure.

Seeds: Preferably all seeds that you put into your garden or plot should be certified organic seed.

Selling of Organic Vegetables:

Anyone wishing to sell vegetables that are grown by organic methods must be fully certified. Should you wish to embark on selling any produce from your gardens or plots as organic you must talk it over with me first. This is so that the process of converting to the Organic status can be implemented.

Source of this information is from Florida Cooperative Extension Service/Institute of Food and Agricultural Science/ University of Florida/Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean.

GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, YOUR ACCOUNTS & TAX

By Mandy McLeod

The old tax year has gone out and the new one is just beginning. I thought that this was an opportune time to raise one or two things that have been brought to my attention, mainly by farmers, in relation to grants, accounts and the subsequent filling in of income tax forms.

Tax forms will be arriving in the post soon and the task of transferring your income from your accounts to your tax form is looming ever close. In theory, this task should be straightforward, but as it is something that we only do once a year, we have the odd anomaly raise its head. It probably did the same thing last year, but because of the time lapse you have to work it out again, with some logical thinking required of how this or that needs to be entered. I cannot go into details as everyone will have a different kind of query, but if you do need another head to help with the thought process, give me a ring and I'll do what I can to help (two heads are better than one – or so they say). Alternatively, call your accountant if you have one, or the Tax Office if you are unsure and it is a straightforward query. Remember that although the Tax Office staff are happy to help with a person's tax affairs, it is not their main job to prepare accounts or give detailed tax advice.

One thing that has been pointed out to me (thanks Ted) is that if money has been paid direct to a supplier by the DOA or FIDC for a piece of equipment that you have been granted, it can make reconciling your bank statement difficult as the amount of the grant will not show as ever having been put into your account. However, you must still remember to enter this as an income on your profit and loss account. What I propose to do in the future is send you a copy of the payment authorisation that I send to the accounts department in FIDC or the Treasury. Should there be a query from the Tax Office or your accountant, you will be able to show how you were able to buy something that you did not have money for in your bank account. I have copies of all past transactions on your individual files, so if you need to get a copy of anything, please call me and I will oblige. Every year I send a list to the income tax office of subsidies and grants paid through this office, in the same way for instance that employers provide details on earnings. I will also send a list of earnings through the Labour Scheme.

The Tax Office and Pension Department staff have put their heads together and produced something for publication in our next Farm Management Handbook. However, that has had to be put on the back burner for a while due to seasonal work commitments. I have decided that this information will be invaluable for you when filling in your Tax Form, so have decided to send it out to you as a supplement to this Wool Press. It will still be included in the Farm Management Handbook when it is published.

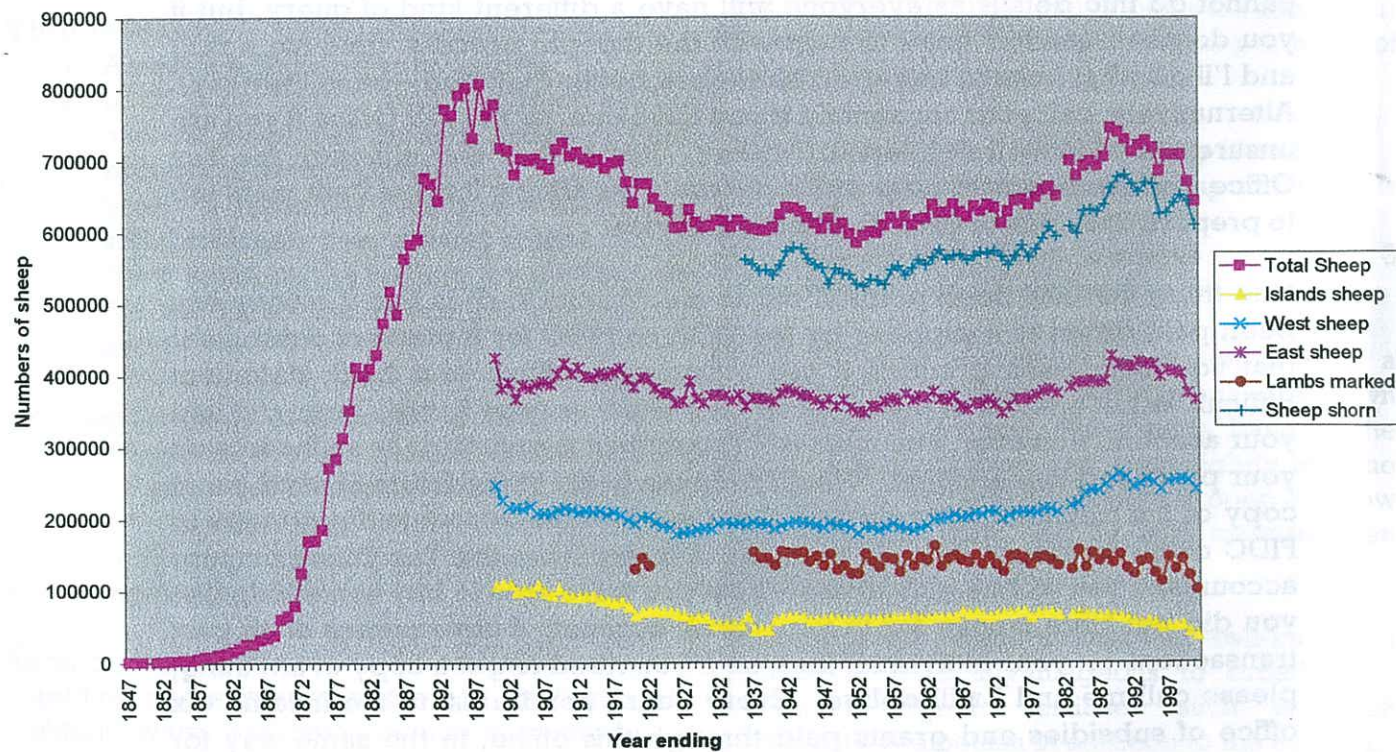
FARMING STATISTICS FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Derek Clelland

The following is a tabulation of farming statistics for the Falkland Islands. These statistics have been taken from the following sources.

1. Farming statistics by the Department of Agriculture
2. The Falkland Islands Gazette
3. Colonial reports
4. Gibbs, Report on the work of the Department of Agriculture, 1946
5. Middleton, Memorandum on the Sheep farming industry of the Falkland Islands, 1924

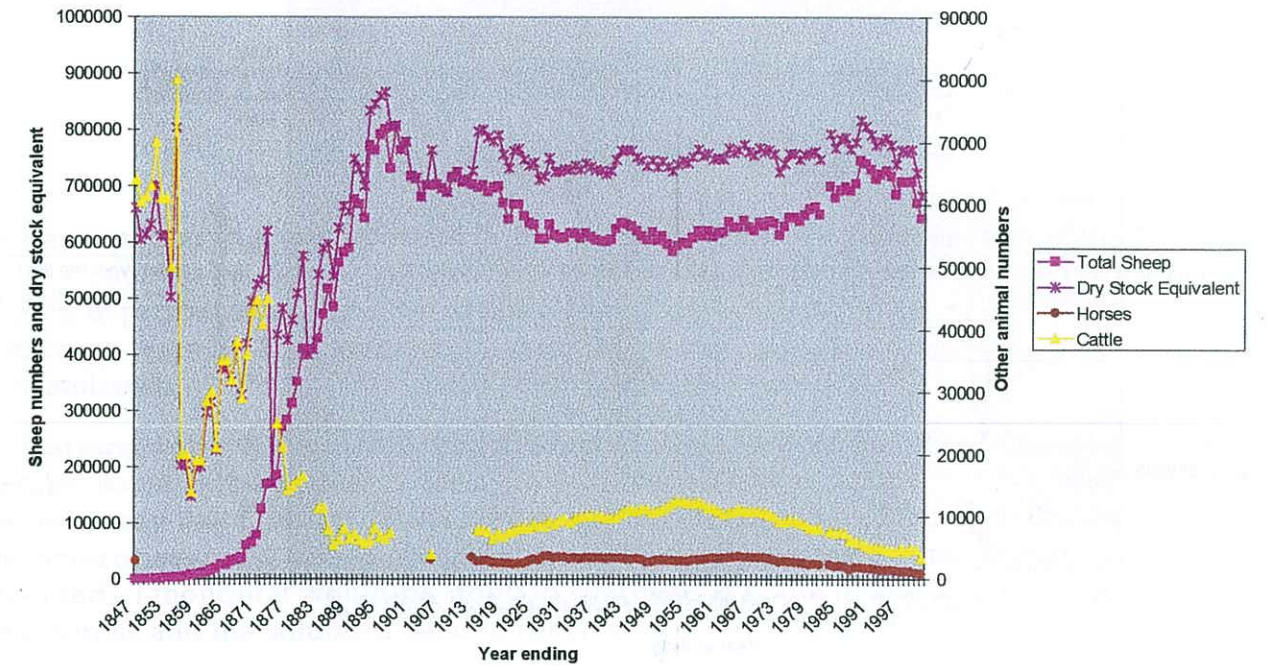
Sheep data for the Falkland Islands



As can be seen from the figures above. After an initial start in 1846, with only 200 sheep, sheep numbers rose to a high of 807,000 in 1898. This was obviously helped with many importations of sheep over the years to boost numbers and improve the genetics of the sheep in the Falklands.

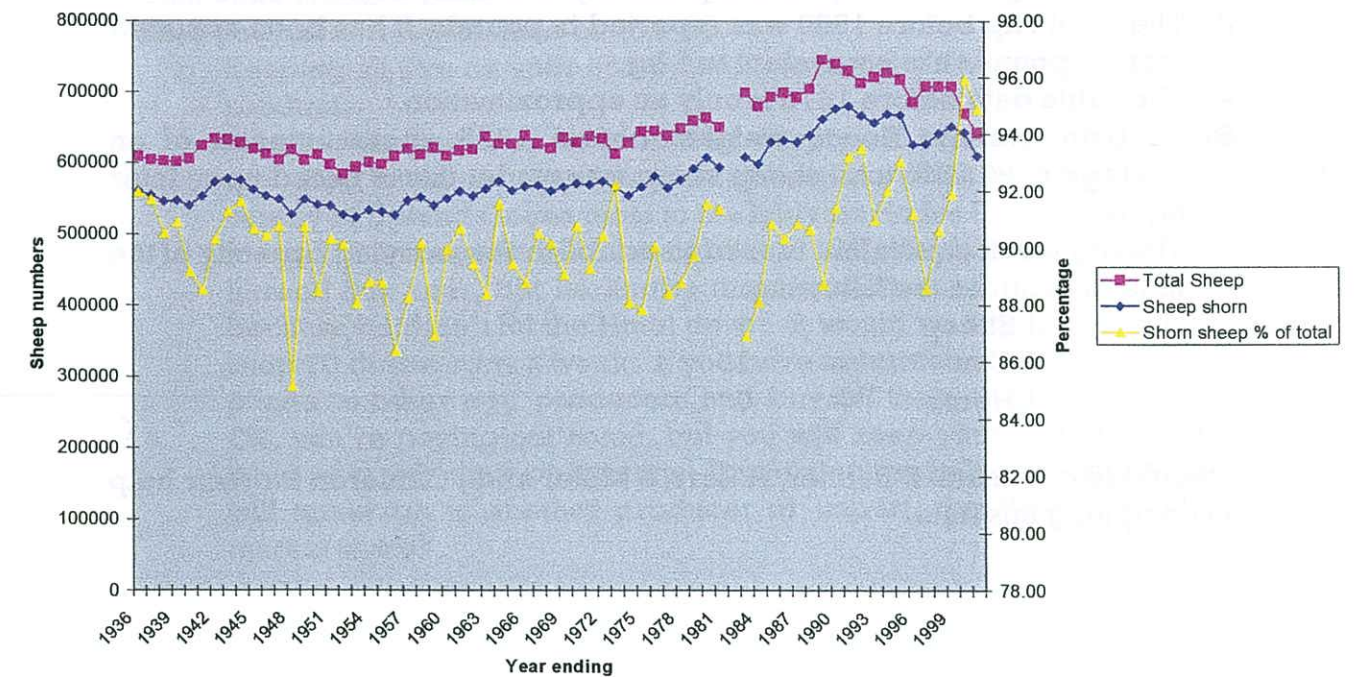
As can be seen in the graph below, sheep numbers have remained relatively constant for the past 100 years. The Dry Stock Equivalent figures show that the stock carrying capacity of the land has also remained, to a reasonable degree, constant for the past 100 years.

Animal data for the Falkland Islands

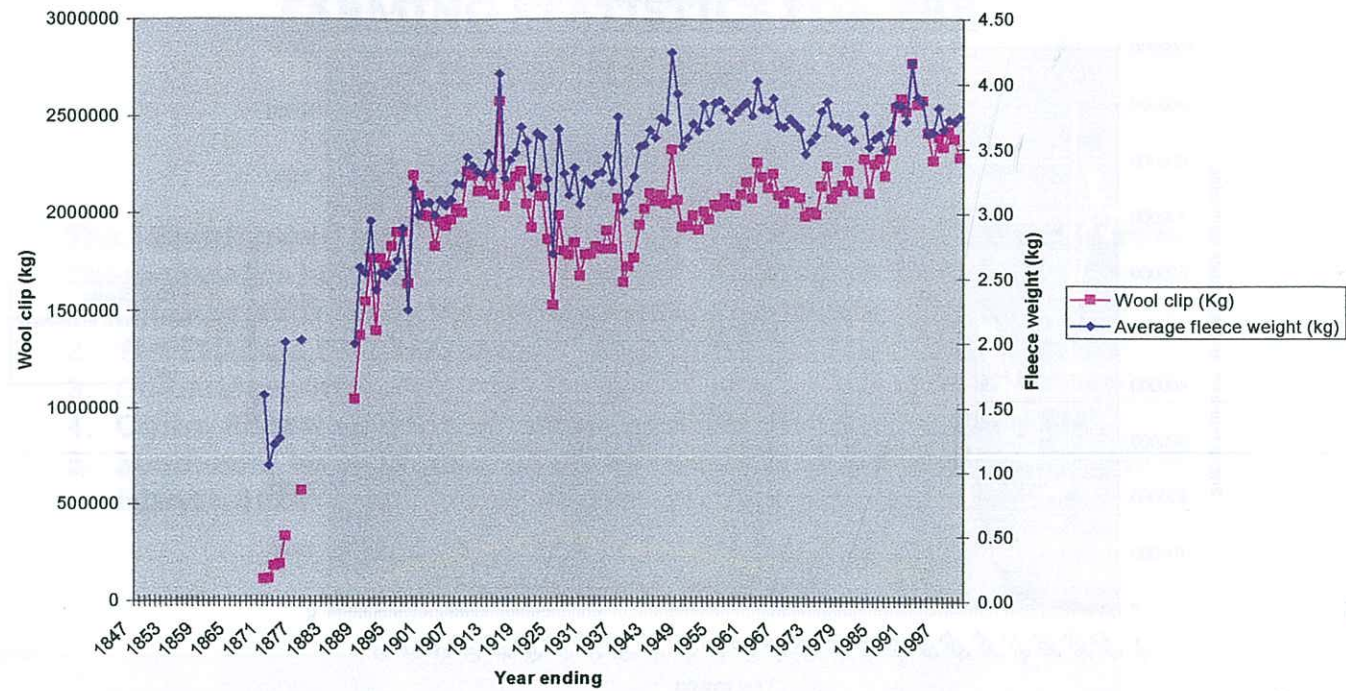


The percentage of sheep shorn in the graph below would indicate the quantity of young sheep in the flock is variable each year. This is determined by the assumption that they are the percentage of the flock that is not shorn. The graph would show that this proportion of the flock has been relatively steady in the time that data is available. There has been a rise in the number of sheep shorn since 1936, however, there has also been a rise in the numbers of sheep carried on the land also.

Shorn sheep



Wool data



The good news from this data is that average fleece weights have been increasing. This would however be influenced by the early data for this as it was based upon extrapolations, which may be highly inaccurate. The decline since the peak in 1992 is probably nothing to be concerned about as this peak was probably artificially induced due to Mt Hudson erupting.

Please note the following:

1. There are no farming statistics for 1982 due to the conflict.
2. Mt Hudson (volcano) erupted in the 1991 to 1992 season, therefore the fleeces may have been heavily contaminated for the 1992 statistics. Fleece weights for this year are probably artificially high.
3. The wool clip before 1980 was reported in pounds. It has been assumed that 2.2 pounds are equivalent to 1 kg.
4. The cattle data before 1875 is only an approximation.
5. To gain average fleece weights before 1935 an assumption of an average of 90.08% total sheep shorn was made, this is based upon later figures.
6. The dry stock equivalent is used to establish the carrying capacity of the land. It assumes the following:

1 Sheep	=	1
1 Cow	=	10
1 Horse	=	7

I would like to thank S Bonner, A Kerr, S Miller and J Cameron for their help in compiling this data.

GETTING YOUR MARKET – AND KEEPING IT

By Mandy McLeod

I've been talking to a few different farmers recently about how their farm plans are going and the success or failure of their diversifications. I think, in general terms that the majority of projects have had a reasonable level of success, but I must admit that the levels of success vary. The initiatives taken by some are great though and should be congratulated.

The learning curve is almost vertical in some cases, and everyone I have spoken to has had to make some adjustments to their project management in one way or another. I am pleased to say that I haven't come across anyone that is still on their farm that has quit their new enterprises. All are continuing in one form or another, some scaled down, some expanded. I thought it would be good to share some of the pitfalls that these farmers have come across and the solutions used to resolve their harder times.

I think it is fair to say that we all knew that wool income, even at the low prices of recent years, would still be the mainstay of farms in the Falklands for some years. What we were looking for in diversification was that bit of extra cash to help people in Camp have an acceptable standard of living. Many of you have achieved that, but, as I said earlier, many lessons have been learned along the way. We, by nature, do not identify negative things when working on an idea of our own. We want it work so we only see the good things. It is often beneficial to run an idea by someone else who does not have this 'bias'.

The main things that have been highlighted to me all boil down to marketing in one form or another. This includes advertising, keeping the market share and customer (and retailer) satisfaction. I am going to bullet point some of the issues:

- There is no point in having a product if no one knows what you have, what quality, what quantity, what price and how or where they can buy it. Make sure you (or your retail outlet(s)) advertise.
- Once you have a market, hold on to it by:
 - Keeping an eye on your competitors, especially the quality and price of their product.
 - Meeting the required or promised supply. If you can't do it, subcontract it out. Ted Jones did that this year to keep a valuable annual contract for the supply of Upland Goose meat to the Malvina House Hotel. He didn't have time to do it, so he gave it to a neighbour. OK, he didn't gain anything from it himself this year, but he knows that he will have the contract for next year because he didn't let the Hotel down. It would be the same if you promised a shop 10 dozen eggs a week. If you have a shortfall for a few weeks, get on the phone to other egg producers and buy off them to fulfil your commitment. OK, you're paying out some, but you will keep your contract. Shopkeepers have to satisfy their customers. If you won't supply on a regular basis, they will either go to another producer or import, resulting in your loss of the market share!

- If there is a problem with over production at certain times (glut periods), try and find an alternative use or preserving method for your product, or learn by your mistakes and adjust your production programme where possible (change breeding or planting programs for instance).
- Do not jeopardise quality for quantity.

Anyway, I've ranted enough for now and hopefully have given you food for thought. If anyone does want to talk about marketing their products give me a ring. I'm not an expert but a great believer that two heads are better than one (and I might just know a man who knows a man who.....).

CHILE OR BUST!!!!

Tentative dates for the Study Tour to Chile are 2nd or 9th March, depending on confirmation of the date of the annual Agricultural Show to be held in Punta Arenas.

To date 40 people have expressed interest in participating in the visit and all will be contacted in the next week or two with more details of the itinerary.

Doug

A few more labels.

- On an American Sears hairdryer:
Do not use while sleeping. (?)
- On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of the box):
Do not turn upside down. (Too late! You lose!)

BRAINTEASER

My 4 children, Richard, Daniel, Melanie and Joe, had a race across the yard. Daniel was as many places behind Melanie as Joe was ahead of Richard. Melanie was not first and Richard was not second.

What order did they come in?

TESTICLES AND WOLFEHOUNDS

By Zoe Luxton

The big event is looming, and I don't mean the booze fuelled, present giving frenzy that marks the birth of our Lord. This event is far bigger. It is soon C-day. Castration day. My fat, ginger baby boys (George and Harvey) are both the proud owners of a good pair of kitten making devices – and they're coming off!! For someone who quite happily whips the bits off other peoples cats with the very minimum of fuss I am doing quite a good job of making a very large mountain out of a very small molehill on this one. I have arranged for them to be done on a Wednesday morning as Wednesday is my half day so I can spend the afternoon watching my cats ex-testicle areas. There is a bit of a dilemma as to who is going to actually do the deed. There are four vets in on Wednesday morning, one of whom is me who will be of no use at all as I will be snivelling in the broom cupboard somewhere imagining their poor little ginger faces as someone looms at them with a needle. The other choices are Louise, who is very calm and quiet and bravely castrated her own cat the other day, albeit with full gaseous anaesthetic protocol and 3 nurses on resus standby. Mr Smith is actually on operation duty on Wednesdays but he has a habit of using sheep sized needles on everything including small ginger cats belonging to one's assistants. The final choice is Heather, who is extremely competent and actually knows everything there is to know about veterinary medicine and while I really like her and find her very good company, I have never actually seen her castrate a cat and suspect she does actually shrivel testicles from a hundred yards with one look. The boys as yet are blissfully unaware of what mean old mum has got planned and are downstairs busy fighting over a small stamp sized pouch of catnip, while ignoring the expensive cat play crinkly bag thing that it is attached to.

Last week was a bit of a skive to be honest as I was only actually at work for 2 and a half days! Because I was on duty all weekend before I had all Wednesday off and also an early finish on Friday. Tuesday was spent on a course learning to be a Local Veterinary Inspector which empowers me to go TB testing and sign pet passports – an obviously thrilling day. I was quite glad of a slower week as a whole 48 hours on duty does conk one out a bit even though the weekend was nowhere as busy as it could have been. I got the call that I have been dreading on Saturday night. One of my favourite patients, a large Irish Wolfhound called Finbarr Amey had been diagnosed with leukaemia and we were basically maintaining this quality of life with drugs until it was time to put him to sleep. I was at a fellow vets house having supper when the mobile rang on Saturday night, it was Mr Amey, "its time". Claire, the angel, offered to come with me as putting an animal to sleep with only 2 sad owners for company is not the best of jobs. She luckily had the presence of mind to pick up the stretcher as we left, and what a good job she did because unfortunately Fin was already dead when we got there. Luckily Mr and Mrs Amey are some of lifes lovely animal loving but sensible people because the answer to the question "how many people does it take to get a dead Irish Wolfehound in the back of green Ford Escort?" is AT LEAST 4!!! The more pressing question is

"how can 2 not very big female vets get a dead, stiff Irish Wolfhound out of the green Ford Escort and into a body bag and the freezer?????" Answer – WITH GREAT B***** DIFFICULTY. We did it though, but there was lots of sweating and swearing.

Anyhow, a very merry Christmas to you all: no doubt Nyree will bribe another ramble out of me in the New Year.

THE EFFECT OF pH ON BEEF EATING QUALITY

Source: Meat & Livestock - Australia

pH is a measure of the acid or alkaline level of the meat. Just as you might measure the acidity of the soil for optimum growth and productivity, MSA measures the acid level of the meat to ensure eating quality. MSA graders measure the pH of the carcass at grading using a pH meter. This measurement is known as the ultimate pH. pH can be measured from 0, which is very strong acid to 14, which is very strong alkaline.

Every animal has a certain amount of energy contained in its muscles in the form of glycogen. Once the animal is dead, the muscle glycogen is converted to lactic acid which causes the pH to fall. The more glycogen there is, the more lactic acid will be produced. This will enable the pH to fall to within the acceptable range of 5.30 to 5.70.

If there is not enough glycogen available in the animal, insufficient lactic acid will be produced and the pH will stay high resulting in dark cutting.

Glycogen levels are influenced by the amount and value of the feed that the animal has been eating in the month prior to slaughter. Cattle receiving high levels of nutrition from feedlot rations or first class pasture will have high glycogen levels. Restricted intake or low quality feed will significantly reduce glycogen, often below the critical level.

When the animal is exposed to a new environment, unfamiliar sounds or new animals in the social group, they become stressed. They will automatically try to act out one of two basic responses, "fight" or "flight". As soon as either of these responses occurs the glycogen stored in the muscles is rapidly mobilised to enable the animal to either run (flight) or attack (fight). In the case of sever stress or exertion much energy is lost. When this occurs it will take a minimum of 5 days on good nutrition before these energy stores can be replenished.

Poor mustering or handling during yarding and transport loading dramatically increases the rate of glycogen loss. As energy continues to be lost while animals are being transported and yarded, it is important to minimise the loss by making the transport to slaughter time as short as possible and paying attention to transport, lairage conditions and practice.

WEATHER NEWS

By Priscilla Halliday

Hi again folks. I thought you would be interested to see what the weather has been up to, especially as it has been so dry. In Stanley we had 10 days when we had a little bit of rain - the highest amount being 3mm. As for the temperature, the highest was 23.7 degrees and the lowest 0.7 degrees. The highest gust of wind we had was 60.9 knots. You will be able to see this for yourself if you take a look at the graphs. The spares for the stations that are down have still not arrived, so I'm hoping they will be here shortly. Once these are up and running again I will be able to give you some figures for the West. Also, in February's Wool Press I will be putting in some graphs for the East and West for 2001. I think that's about all for this month, so until next time, bye!

Day	Temp		Rain	Wind	
	High	Low		Speed	High
1	12.2	3.6	0	12.6	37.4
2	21.6	6.8	0.4	10	27
3	15.7	3.3	0.2	19	42.6
4	14.2	3.3	0	17.8	42.6
5	14.4	4.3	0.4	9.7	29.6
6	10.4	1.4	3	16.6	48.7
7	9.8	3.4	0.2	9.8	27
8	15	3.3	0.2	10.8	36.5
9	15.6	5.6	0	11.9	27.8
10	17.2	3.9	0	16.3	36.5
11	16.4	5.8	0	14.7	31.3
12	14.1	4.5	0	17.6	33.9
13	15.5	5.1	0	9.4	21.7
14	15.6	3.3	0	11.8	28.7
15	10	1.4	0	14.2	31.3
16	14.3	0.6	0	11.4	33
17	23.1	7.8	0	9	23.5
18	23.7	6.6	0	11.3	28.7
19	15.4	2.9	0.4	10.7	27.8
20	16.8	3	0	15.8	40
21	21.9	6.5	0	8	20.9
22	20.1	7.4	0	10.6	30.4
23	13.9	3.9	1.2	14.7	42.6
24	8.8	0.7	0.4	26.8	60.9
25	13.7	4.6	0.2	19.6	58.3
26	15.1	3.1	0	14.7	36.5
27	18.3	3	0	14.5	35.7
28	13.2	3.9	0	12.4	32.2
29	14.4	4.7	0	21.1	44.3
30	16.7	8.4	0	20.3	47

COMPUTER QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNS ANALYSIS

In looking at the establishment of a lifelong learning programme for the Falklands, and the possibilities of distance learning and interactive IT tuition, one of the first steps was to assess resources and needs.

Every household that had occupants on the Camp Electoral Register was sent a questionnaire in order to provide a basic assessment of current IT availability and use in Camp. People had about 6 weeks to return their forms and a reminder was sent in the November Woolpress. **We had 78 forms returned from the 162 that we sent out.**

We had returns from **23 homes** that do not have a computer. **6** say they would like one, **2** say maybe and the rest say no, they don't want one.

We had returns from **46 homes** representing **75 people** who had a computer.

18 East Falkland settlements / homesteads were represented.
23 West Falkland settlements / homesteads were represented.
3 Island settlements / homesteads were represented.

38 of the locations have 24-hour power.

Approximately **50%** have an Uninterruptible Power Supply unit.

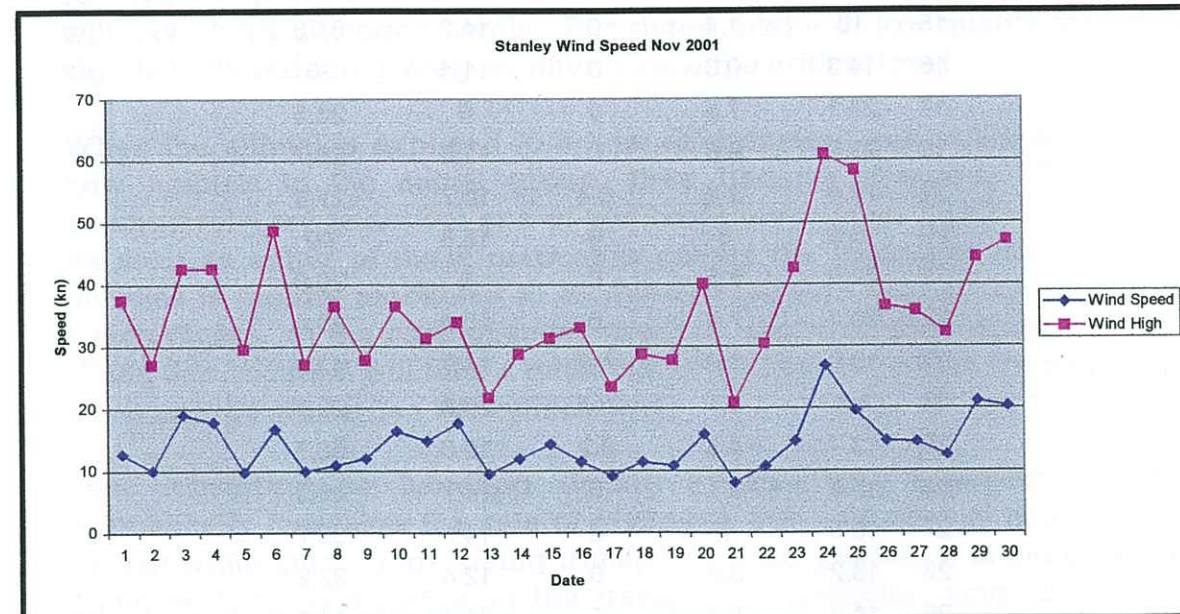
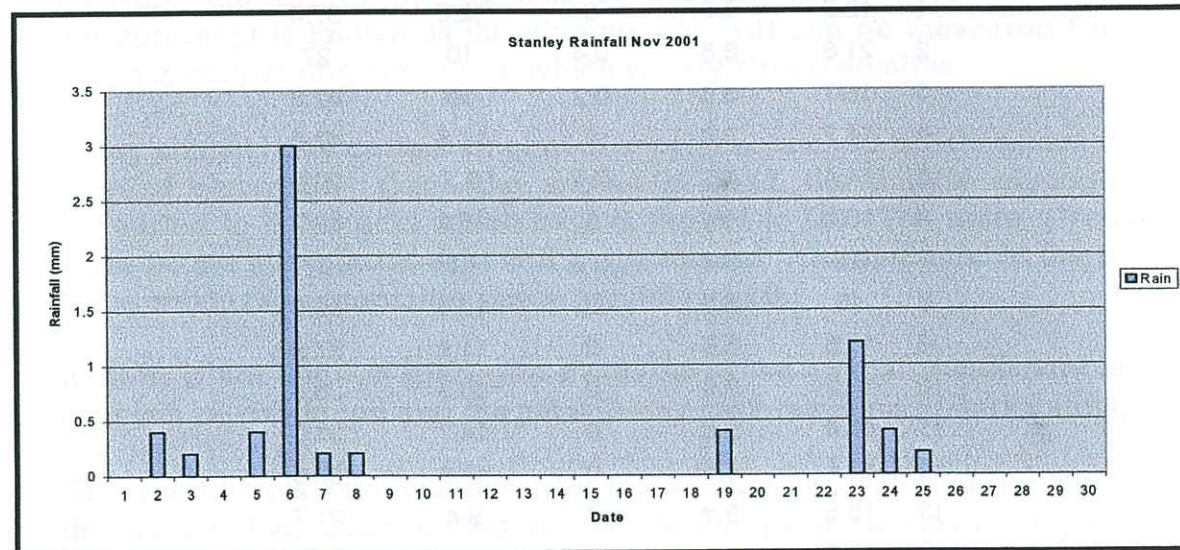
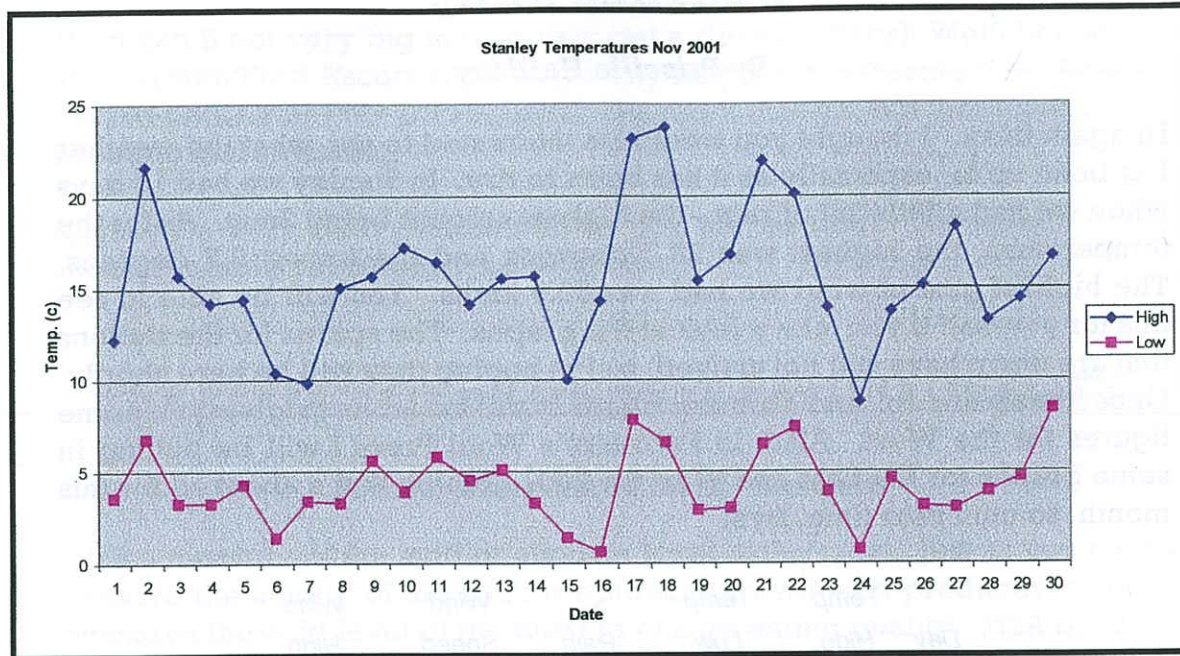
Approximately **60%** do their accounts on the computer.

40 of the 46 computers have Word and Excel with most having Windows 98 or Millennium as the operating software (a few with Windows 95 and three with 3.11)

This is reflected in the fact that **42** of the computers have modems allowing their operators ready access to the WWW and **4** even have their own Web pages with **2** others in the making.

Everyone who had a computer was keen for more IT training bar **3**.

Everyone who had a computer was keen for more training in other areas bar **3**.



NO FOOT, NO HORSE

By Steve Pointing

This is a very old adage but as true today as the first time it was said. One of the reasons horses are so admired by man is because of their graceful looks especially when running and much of this gracefulness is connected with the slenderness of their legs. All the power a horse needs to run and jump is transferred through these slender appendages ending with the hooves. So it is not surprising that if the hooves are not kept in a healthy condition there will be problems for the horse as a whole.

In most horse keeping countries it is normal practice to pick up horses feet on a regular basis to check for any defects and simply to clean the sole and frog and keep them free of muck and small stones. Horses are also routinely shod as this helps to protect the hoof rim and sole especially where horses are ridden on hard surfaces. None of this would be possible if horses resented having their feet picked up for inspection.

Unfortunately this is not usually the case with Falkland Island horses. Frequently horses here have to be sedated or even given a general anaesthetic just to perform relatively minor foot trimming operations. This really shouldn't be necessary in the majority of cases if horses were used to having their feet handled on a regular basis.

You can't start too soon. You should pick up the feet of foals and get them used to having their legs touched from the earliest possible opportunity. At this time you are not going to do anything unpleasant to them so they don't come to associate having their feet picked up with some unpleasant or painful experience. And **PLEASE** pick up all 4 feet. It is noticeable in the Falklands that you can often pick up the fore feet but you take your life in your hands when you try to lift the hind feet. It is important to get horses used to having all 4 of their legs and feet handled from an early age. You can start to do this with any foals born this season. However for older horses it is a more difficult problem as they are un-used to having their legs or feet handled.

It is with this in mind that I asked Len Yule to conduct a couple of hoof care courses when he is visiting the Falklands Islands in January and February 2002. As well as being a horse "whisperer" Len is also a fully qualified farrier having gained his qualification in Alberta, Canada. The last time Len was here it was mainly demonstration work that he did, whereas this time he is available to offer his services as a farrier, horse tamer and trainer.

Len is proposing to hold two 3-day hoof care courses (one in January and one in February) but this can be increased if the demand is there. The proposal is to charge participants £25.00 a day (total £75.00 for three days)

to attend the courses. The Dept of Agriculture Training Fund will subsidise the course so that Len makes a reasonable return for all his time and effort.

During the hoof care courses, Len says he will cover the following topics:

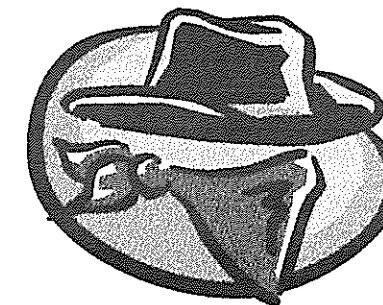
- 1) Proper tool selection and use. (Len will be bringing some top quality American equipment that will be offered for sale at the end of the courses).
- 2) Anatomy of the hoof and lower leg.
- 3) Proper stance for handling legs with minimum strain on the farrier and safety for both horse and handler.
- 4) The use of humane restraints for difficult horses and how to train horses to stand quietly for trimming.

He says it will be a lot to cover in 3 days and there will be as much information as you can absorb in the time allocated.

If you are interested in attending one of these courses or want to know more, please contact Sarah Forster on 27355 (email sforster@doa.gov.fk) or Mandy McLeod on 27211 (email mmcleod@fidc.co.fk or mmcleod@horizon.co.fk) at your earliest opportunity so that the courses can be arranged. At present it is envisaged that both courses will be held on East Falkland, but if sufficient interest came we would be more than happy to arrange for a course to be held somewhere on West Falkland. Once we have names of interested persons, venues and dates can be sorted. We will then contact all concerned to make the final arrangements. These courses really do represent very good value for money.

Also, anyone who would like to either learn for themselves how to tame and work with horses Len's way, or have a horse that they would like Len to work on while he is in the Islands, please contact Keith Whitney at Home Farm with your details and requirements, as he is organizing Len's itinerary.

I would also like to say thank you to the Shackleton Fund for providing financial assistance in helping to get Len down to the Falkland Islands in the first place.



RECIPE PAGE

By Ailsa Heathman

EARLYBIRD FUDGE

Ingredients

200g plain biscuits (digestive)
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
handful of sultanas
1 egg
4oz butter or margarine
4oz brown or white sugar

Method

Grease a swiss roll tin. Crush the biscuits (easiest in a plastic bag). Add the cocoa and the sultanas to the biscuit. Beat the egg in a small saucepan. Add the butter or margarine and the sugar to the pan. Stir all the time whilst this is melting. Once it is all melted remove the pan from the heat and stir in the other ingredients. Mix well and press into the greased tin. When it is cool ice with chocolate icing or cover with melted chocolate.

CHELSEA BUNS

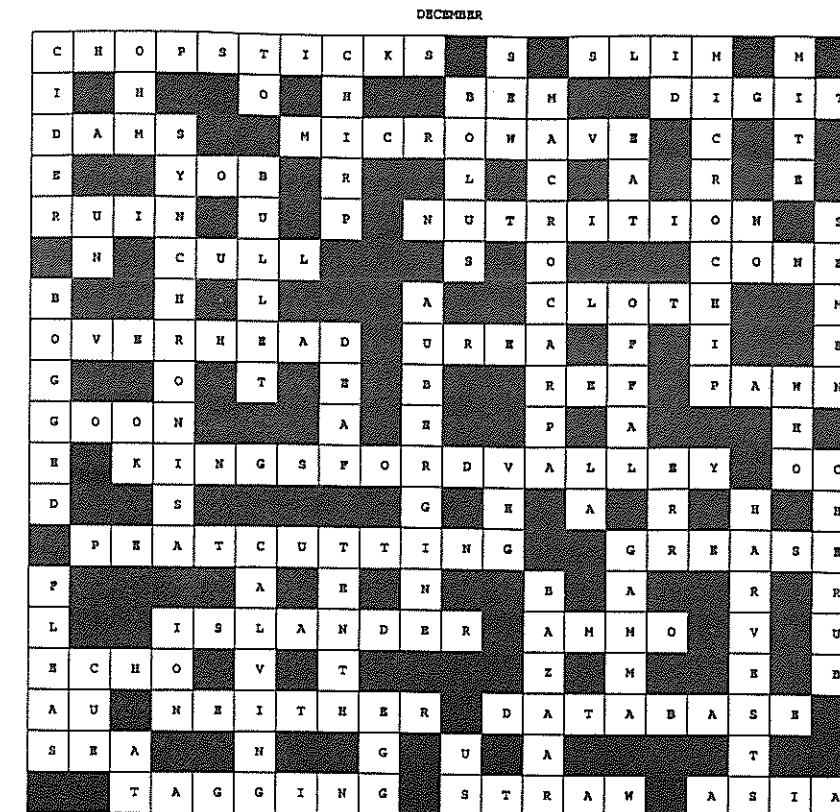
Ingredients

18oz flour
3 tablespoons of salt
3 tablespoons of sugar
3 tablespoons of yeast
1 egg
1 tablespoon of oil or a knob of margarine
¾ pint of warm water
9oz mixed fruit
6oz brown sugar

Method

Make a dough with the flour, salt, sugar, yeast, egg, oil/marg and water. Alternatively you could use a bread roll or pizza mix in a bread machine. When the dough has risen once roll it out and brush it with soft margarine or butter. Then spread the mixed fruit and sugar onto the dough. Roll it up like a swiss roll and seal the edges. Then cut it into slices and sit them on a baking tray. Leave the slices to rise and then cook then in a moderate oven for 30-35 minutes.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



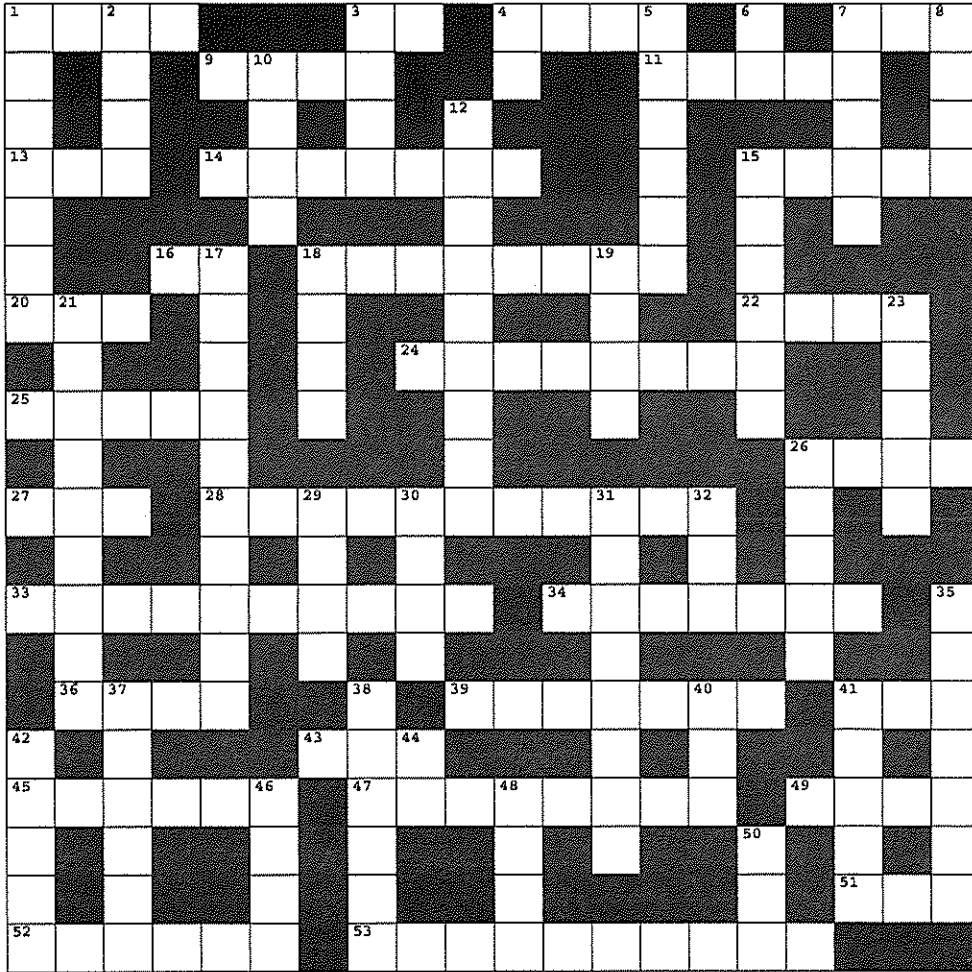
FARMING STATISTICS

Some of you more observant folk may have noticed that a few of the farm area (hectare) figures are not the same as last years. This is due to a proportion of farms GPS boundary readings being completed and changed for last year's statistics. In error I used a template that had the original figures on from the year before.

Most of the boundaries have now had GPS readings taken and new hectarages worked out. The new and correct figures will be used in next year's statistics. However, as soon as a comprehensive list is available, I will send it to all farms as an addendum to the 2000/2001 farming statistics.

It is worth noting that even GPS readings cannot give absolutely accurate hectarages for your properties. Flat surfaces are assumed in the calculation and farms are not generally flat!

Also, please amend the following cattle movement figures: West others 96; Summary table - West others 96, total others 365. *Mandy*



ACROSS

DOWN

1. DROP OF EYE FLUID
3. NEXT TO
4. MONUMENT TO THE DEAD
7. LARGE BREAD ROLL
9. COFFEE SHOP
11. VALUABLE PART OF A TUSK
13. TYPEWRITER BUTTON
14. FEMALE GARDENING CELEBRITY
15. MALE BEE
16. IN CASE THAT
18. NEW YEAR'S DAY EVENT (4,4)
20. SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER
22. FEELING OF GRUDGING
24. EXTREMELY GOOD
25. TO BECOME RIPE
26. MILD EXCLAMATION OF SURPRISE
27. FEMALE SWAN
28. THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE PAST
33. STRAP FROM THE REINS TO THE GIRTH OF A HORSE
34. BRIEFLY PLUNGING INTO LIQUID
36. THREAD
39. 1ST MONTH
41. AFRICAN ANTELOPE
43. SHORTENED NAME OF A PORT IN BRAZIL
45. OPPOSITE OF ALKALINE
47. SONS & DAUGHTERS
49. END OF A SLEEVE
51. EASILY FRIGHTENED
52. ON FIRE
53. AUTHORIZATION TO DO SOMETHING

1. XMAS BIRDS
2. WITH A SLANT TO ONE SIDE
3. TO SUPPORT OR HOLD UP
4. CHILDS THANK YOU
5. ONE UNDER PAR
6. ABBREVIATION FOR SOUTH
7. LOCAL SHIPPING COMPANY
8. FINELY MINCED LIVER, POULTRY ETC
10. DULL PAIN
12. LAMB DRESSING (4,5)
15. CONVERT FOOD
17. BUILDING BASE
18. BOULDER
19. WITHOUT WIND
21. PLAN OF TRAVEL
23. LILICEOUS PLANT OF AMERICA
26. BONY OUTGROWTHS ON THE HEAD
29. TEETH ON THE RIM OF A GEARWHEEL
30. WHEEL SHAFT
31. BIOGRAPHY OF A DEAD PERSON
32. DOG NOISE?
35. SLIGHTLY DRUNK
37. COW, SHEEP, DOG ETC
38. SHORT BREATH WITH CHARACTERISTIC SOUND
40. MOVE QUICKLY
41. SHORT LEGLESS LARVE OF SOME INSECTS
42. ANIMAL LIFE AT A GIVEN PLACE OR TIME
44. EXCLAMATION OF ASTONISHMENT
46. ENCLOSURE FOR PET BIRDS ETC
48. RICH SOIL MIXTURE
50. PROFESSIONAL



The Wool Press

ISSUE 146

FEBRUARY 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

15TH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

By Nigel Knight

EIGHT SUCCESSIVE MONTHS OF DROUGHT

By Aidan Kerr & Priscilla Halliday

FIFTH ANNUAL SHEEP SHOW

PASTURE QUALITY & ANIMAL PRODUCTION – PART 1

By Niilo Gobius

SHEEP WHO'S BEEN PUT OUT TO GAS

Source – Daily Mail

STORING EGGS USING WATERGLASS

By Gordon Lennie

PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT – LET THE SHEEP DO THE WORK

By Aidan Kerr

FRAYED TEMPERS AND FLYING AG ASSISTANTS

By Karen Marsh

VET IN AFRICA

By Zoe Luxton

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Hi All. Hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. It seems as though the Ram & Fleece Show went well anyway. Thanks for the write up and photos Nigel.

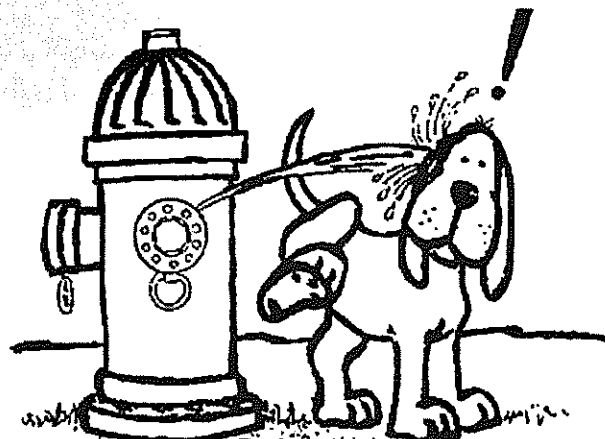
Hopefully I can persuade Doug or Kevin to write an article about how the A.I. and E.T. works for those of you who are left wondering what on earth Karen is on about when you read her article. All will be explained. I think I will have to write a page or two as well, just to tell you what really happened when Karen discovered she could fly!

Hopefully I will be out and about soon doing as many farm visits as I can fit in. These will be carried whenever I can spare a day or two away from the office. I am planning to start in the North Camp – Cape Dolphin, Elephant Beach etc so expect a phone call in the near future. We can then arrange a time that suits you for the visit.

No brain teaser this month. Lack of space. Sorry.

The answer to last month's brainteaser is 1st – Joe, 2nd – Melanie, 3rd – Richard and last but by no means least Daniel.

Nyree & Mandy



HAVE YOU EVER HAD ONE OF THOSE
DAYS WHEN NOTHING WENT RIGHT!

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However, such quotations are to be made in context and the Wool Press must be acknowledged as the source.

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PESTICIDES

With two new Conventions covering pesticides, and renewed efforts to dispose of the enormous quantities of hazardous obsolete stocks of pesticides leaking into the environment, over 50,000 tonnes in Africa alone, the new Code takes a 'cradle to grave' approach, guiding developing countries to implement tried and accepted standards, and establishing a vital link between disposal and prevention.

The fiasco followed an objection from Argentina, supported by all Latin America countries, to the guidance on the protection of a company's pesticide registration data package, in spite of wording that reflects the status quo in most countries, and which recognises the over-riding role of national legislation. The objection may have been influenced by Argentina's generic pesticide industry, threatened with a WTO dispute for using data packages from research-based agrochemical companies to register its own products.

The Code text had been through many government consultations and government-delegated expert-committee recommendations, and the eleventh hour rejection by Latin American countries took other governments by surprise. The FAO was requested to set up new meetings to find an acceptable solution by the date of its Council meeting in November 2002, and Authorised the Council to adopt the agreed version Code.

Source: Press Release 10/11/01 by Pesticide News Information

ORGANIC FEED LEGISLATION

If any organic farmer is intending to feed any of his livestock with conventional feed, I would suggest you first read the full Legislation (Organic Food Ordinance 2000 No 22) on 'Feed', page 16, before you give your cattle or sheep any hay, etc.

Feed is intended to ensure quality production rather than maximising production, while meeting the nutritional requirements of the livestock at various stages of their development. Fattening practices are authorised insofar as they are reversible at any stage of the rearing process. Force-feeding of livestock is forbidden.

All livestock must be reared in accordance with the rules set out. Preferably using feed from the farm or, when this is not possible, using feed from other farms providing you inform me first.

By way of a derogation that sheep and cattle must be fed organically produced feeding stuffs, a transitional period expiring on 24 August 2005, the use of a limited proportion of convenient feeding stuffs is authorised where the farmer is unable to obtain feed exclusively from an organic production. The maximum percentage of conventional feeding stuffs authorised per year is 10 percent in the case of herbivores. These figures are to be calculated annually as a percentage of dry matter of feeding stuffs from agricultural origins. The maximum percentage authorised of conventional feeding stuffs in the daily ration must be 25 percent calculated as a percentage of the dry matter.

All products used in animal nutrition must not have been produced with the use of *genetically modified organisms* or products derived there from.

UK is the Fastest Growing Organic Market in Europe

As reported through the AgraNet News, Sales of organic food in the UK are rising faster than in any other European country, according to a new report by the Soil Association, with UK food retailers such as Sainsbury, Waitrose grabbing a bigger slice of the sales.

The UK retail market for organic food reached £820m (1.29bn) in the last year, up from £605m in the previous twelve months. Only recently, Tesco added that it intended to boost its sales of organic food to £1bn within the next five years.

The Organic Food and Farming Report 2001 reveals that 75% of UK households made at least one organic purchase. In addition, the area devoted to fully converted organic land had more than doubled from 103,000 hectares to 240,000ha. The number of companies licensed to produce organic food has risen to 1,675, an increase of over 50%.

The Soil Association warns that although the organic market is booming, many farmers desperately need extra support from government, retailers and consumers. Imports still account for around 75% of the organic food sold in the UK.

Supported by Organic Farmers and Growers, Tesco's have pledged to generate £1bn (1.63bn) a year sales from organic produce by 2006. Organic Farmers and Growers are the official certification body for around 300 food manufacturers and 1,000 farmers and growers. They are presently the 2nd largest certification body in the UK next to Soil

Useful and interesting web sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organicseeduk.co.uk
www.organicXseeds.com
www.happymeat.com
www.cotswoldseeds.com
www.Soilassociation.org
www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth

A GARDENERS TALE!

A gardener informed me that his vegetable garden was truly 'organic'. Jokingly, I politely told him it was not until he had been certified. With that he told me he only uses washing up liquid to wash the bugs off his cabbage leaves etc.

"Washing Up Liquid" is not an organic substance it is made up of chemical substances. Have a read of the label!

Food and Mouth Statistics

Source: Autumn 2001 Organic Farming

Analysis of the first 1,706 cases of foot and mouth outbreak in the UK, show that:

- 81 per cent were caused by local spread;
- 5 per cent by infected animals;
- 4 per cent by people;
- 1 per cent each for trucks and inanimate objects capable of carrying the virus;
- Less than 1 per cent each for dairy tankers and the air;
- and, 8 per cent of cases are still under investigation.

THE LADYBIRD

Ladybirds are noted aphid eaters, however they are not very good at keeping aphid population from becoming a pest in the first place. Unlike some other predators and parasites, ladybirds have no special ability to locate their prey. They have to actually bump into it! They also have a short attention span—observations have shown that if they do not locate prey on a plant in two and a half minutes they leave. They often wander on the top of a leaf where there are no aphids and not underneath where there may be many. This means low aphid populations tend to escape their notice. When there are high aphid populations ladybirds do gather and are effective in cleaning up infestations. Unfortunately damage has often already occurred. Source: *BC Organic Grower (Canada) Vol 4, No 3, Summer 2001*

THE 15th WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

By Nigel Knight

After another spell of fine dry weather the day of the Fifteenth West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show was also pleasantly dry and warm although rather windy. The residents of, and visitors to Fox Bay Village on the 29th December therefore anticipated a good day out.

Justin and Keith had already been working hard transforming the woolshed although their work was not yet over. Justin started off by taking entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. Keith then took this task over helped by Neil who had arrived from Port Howard to give him a hand.

Once the entries were all in Bill Pole-Evans and Robin Smith set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the fleece having the Highest Commercial Value. They did this by working out the clean weight by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight. They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying this by today's prices for that micron of wool. Once this had been accomplished the next task was to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the rams exhibited in the Show. Not a job for the fainthearted!

By now the barbecue, which was this year in the capable hands of Griz and Bill helped by Tony, was in full swing. This fortified those who intended judging the three classes of rams and the three classes of fleeces which now awaited them back at the woolshed. Once this task had been accomplished the judging slips were added up by numerous volunteer manual-adding machines before Helen collated the results. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then relieved of its fleece and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. During the Show the highlights were kindly recorded on camera by Christine McKay.

A total of eighty two fleeces and twenty nine rams from sixteen different Farms were exhibited at this years Show. All carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of rams, every one a credit to its owner.

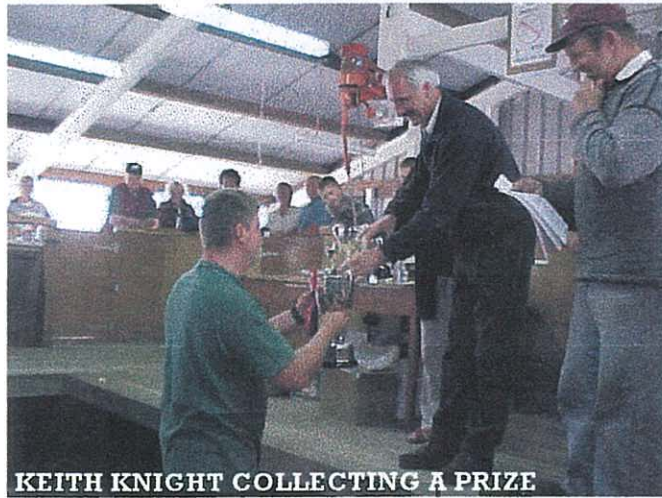
At six pm prompt a good crowd once again assembled in the woolshed for the prize giving. Councillor Mike Summers assisted by Councillor Norma Edwards presented the prizes this year. After this a Warrah sweater was auctioned, the money going towards Show funds. Councillor Roger Edwards did an excellent job in wringing a few extra pounds out of some very tight purse strings. This last event brought the Show to a close, so the focus of attention now moved to the Social Club for more drinking and dancing into the early hours of the morning, thus bringing to an end another successful Show and the first Ram and Fleece Show of the Twenty first Century.

A full list of winners and prizes was printed in the January 11 Penguin News.

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2001



CHECKING OUT THE ENTRIES



KEITH KNIGHT COLLECTING A PRIZE



WHAT D' YA RECKON COUNCILLOR SUMMERS?

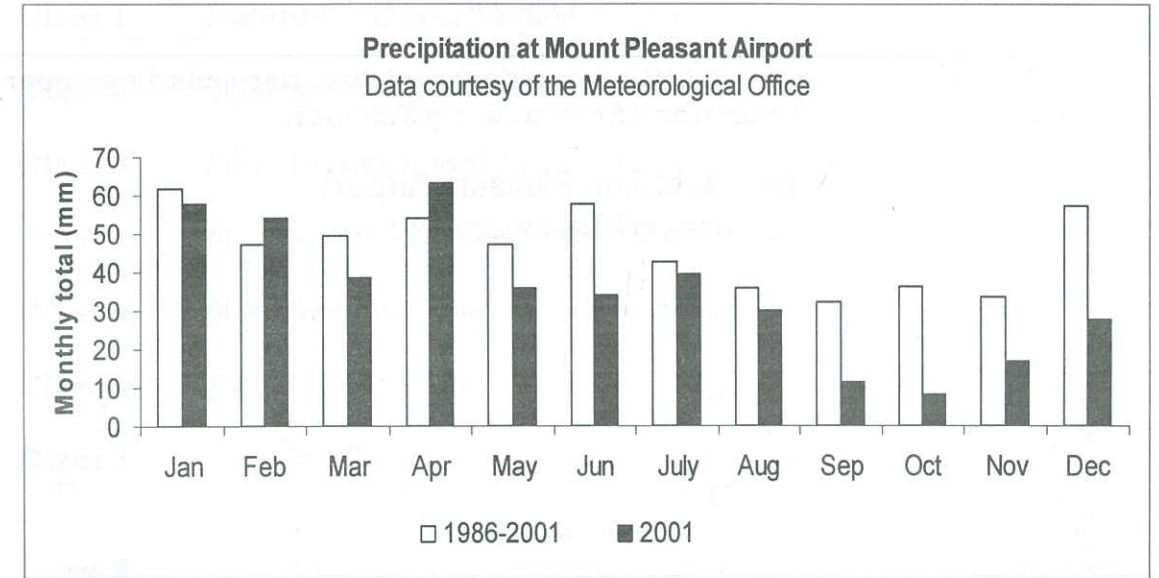
MARLANE MARSH CHATS TO HER WOOLLY FRIEND!



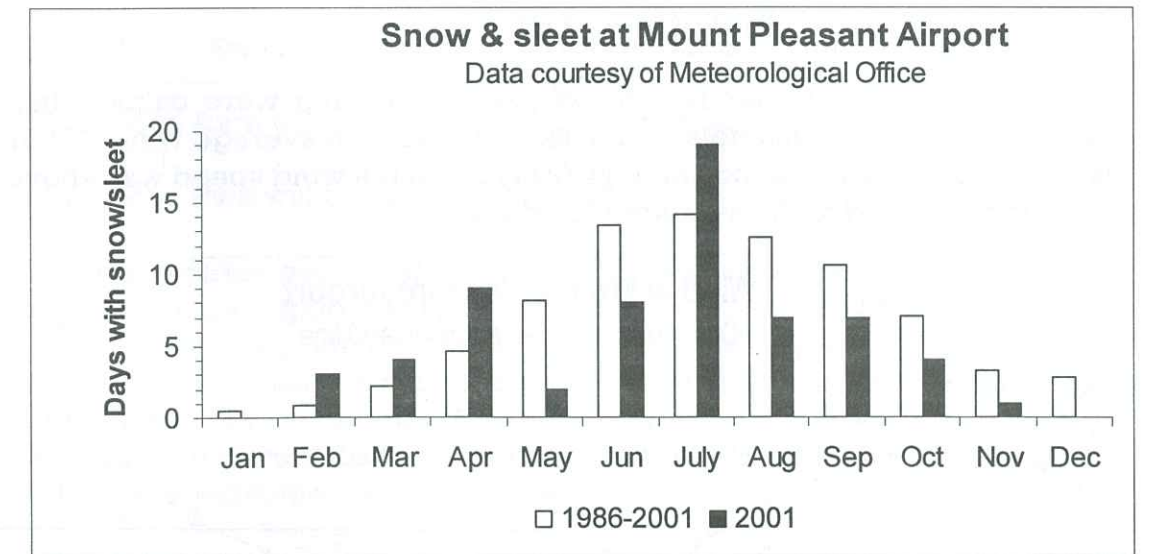
EIGHT SUCCESSIVE MONTHS OF DROUGHT!

By Aidan Kerr & Priscilla Halliday

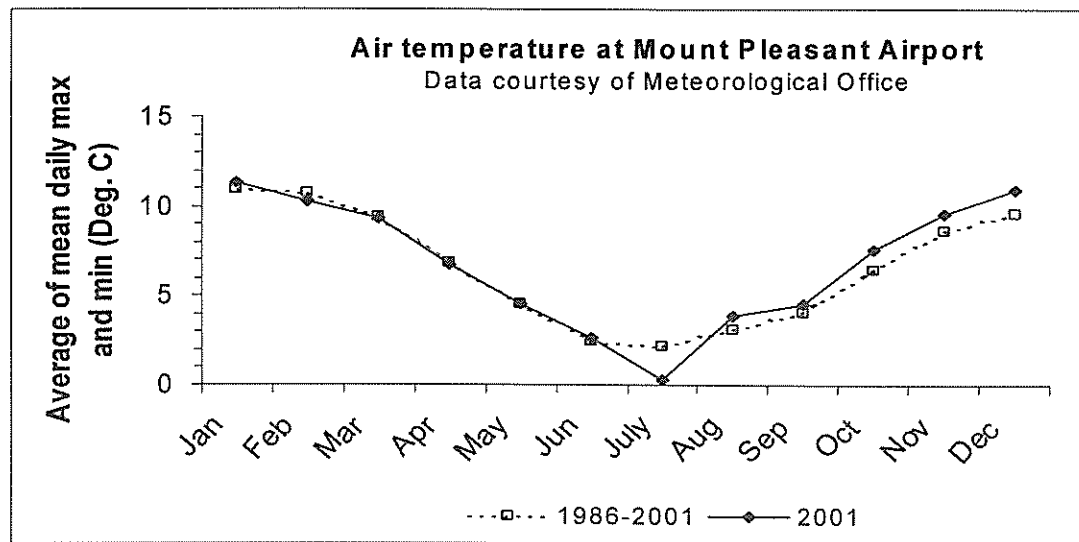
The graph below shows that since May 2001 monthly precipitation (includes water from rainfall, snow and sleet) has been below average for Mount Pleasant Airport. The total amount for 2001 (417 mm) was 25% below the annual average (556 mm), but more importantly the amount that has fallen since September has been 61% below average and October was the worst affected month (-78%).



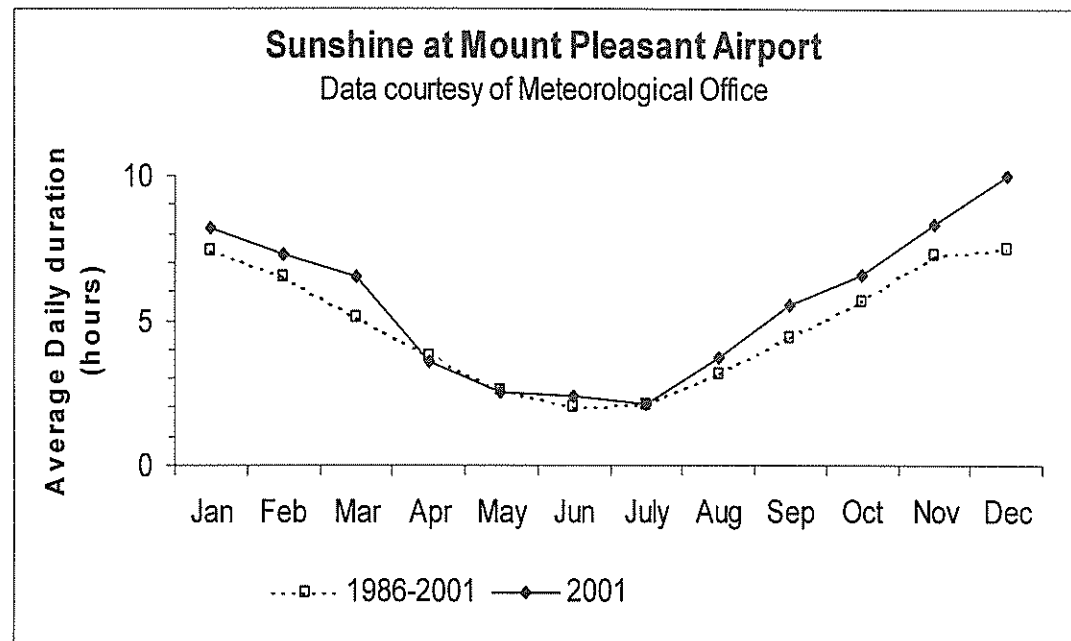
Snow and sleet fell most frequently in July but overall they fell less frequently in 2001 (64 days) than average (80 days).



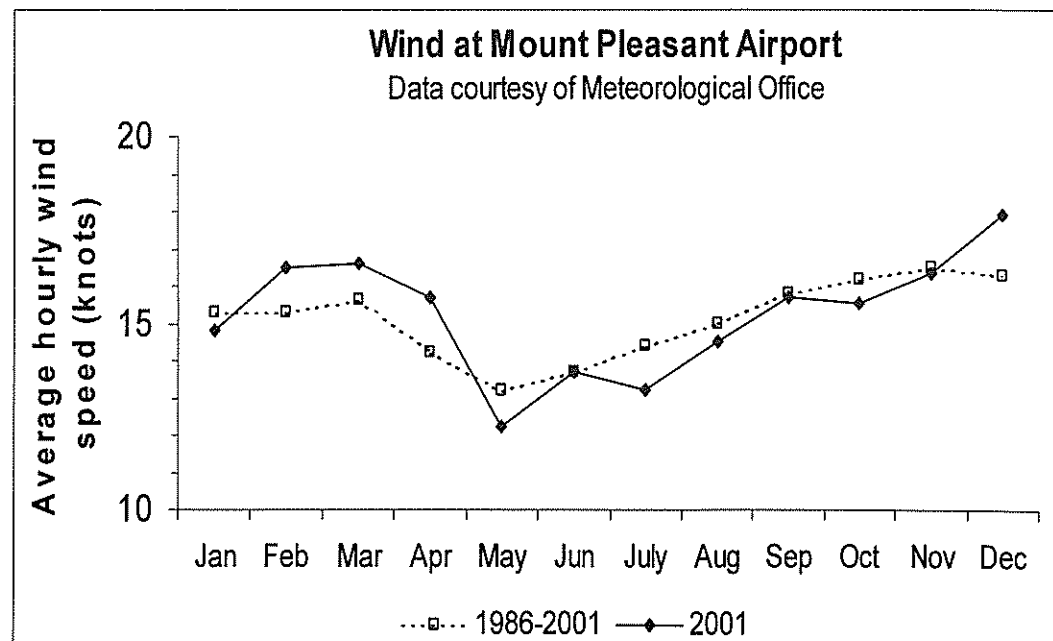
July 2001 was 2°C colder than average while air temperatures since August have been almost one degree warmer than average. Temperatures averaged over the whole year were 0.2°C warmer than 1986-01.



Overall 2001 was a sunnier (+0.8 hour/day) and had particularly sunnier days in late Summer/Autumn and Spring /early Summer.



Autumn 2001 was windier but the Winter and Spring were calmer than average. December was notable for its stronger than average winds. 2001 also had a greater frequency of days (214) when the wind speed was above 33 knots compared to the average (204 days).



RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FIFTH ANNUAL SHEEP SHOW TO BE HELD AT FITZROY FARM ON

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 2002

Schedule of Classes:

- Class 1** Mature Ram, over 24 months of age
- Class 2** Shearling Ram, over 12 and under 24 months of age
- Class 3** Ram Hogget, under 12 months of age
- Class 4** Mature Ewe, over 24 months of age
- Class 5** Shearling Ewe, over 12 and under 24 months of age
- Class 6** Ewe Hogget, under 12 months of age
- Class 7** Pen of three flock hoggets (male or female) under 12 months of age
- Class 8** Pen of three flock shearlings (male or female), over 12 and under 24 months of age
- Class 9** Ram of any age suitable for producing prime lambs
- Class 10** Ewe of any age suitable for producing prime lambs

Champion Ram will be chosen from classes 1, 2, 3 or 9

Champion Ewe will be chosen from classes 4, 5, 6 or 10.

Last year entries were a lot lower than the previous year, so as many entries as possible are required to spread the prizes around. You can't win and show off your breeding efforts unless you enter. If anyone holding challenge trophies could please return them to Leeann Harris at the RBA office in the Department of Agriculture. There will, as usual, be space for anyone who would like to have stalls to sell produce, again please let Leeann know on tel: 22660 (answerphone); fax 22659 or email rba@horizon.co.fk



PART 1 - PASTURE QUALITY AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION

By Niilo Gobius

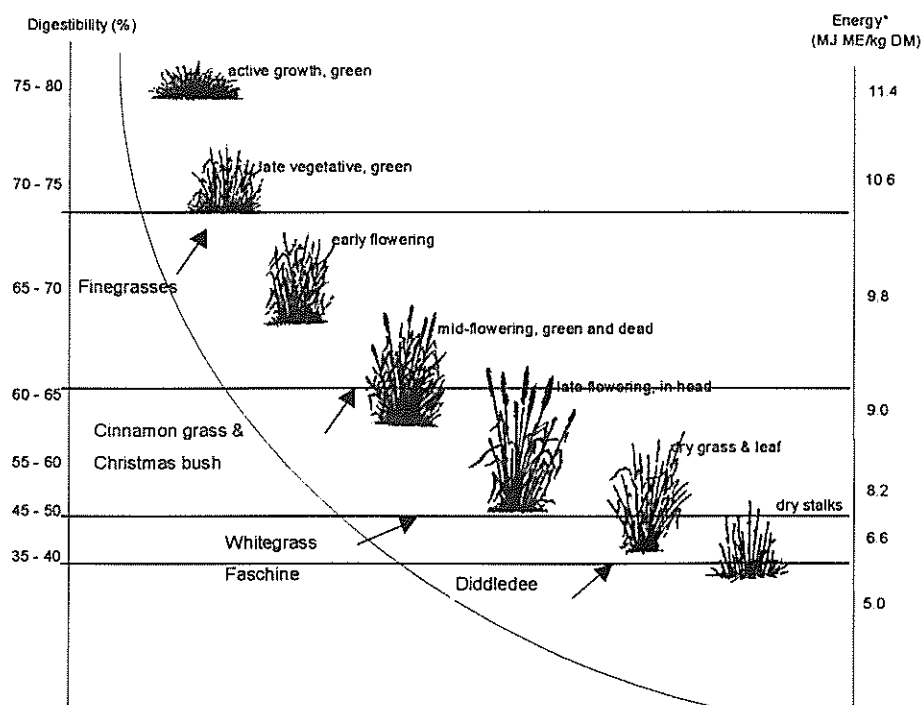
The effect of pasture quality on animal production is forever an issue. With some understanding of how they are related, it is possible to manipulate pastures to maintain higher quality. In two articles here I would like firstly to explain briefly how the pasture growth stage relates to quality and animal production (Part 1 – this month), and then outline how management can improve quality and animal production (Part 2 – next month).

The general relationship between growth stage and quality is shown in the figure below. The figure shows how a healthy, leafy, growing plant provides a highly digestible feed (therefore of high-energy value) for cattle and sheep. Basically, the faster the plant growth and the more young green leaf on a plant, the better the quality is. It follows that quality is usually at a maximum during the spring/early summer period.

You will notice a direct relationship between energy and digestibility. Younger, faster growing plants are of better quality because they contain less fibre. A plant with less fibre will be more digestible. Pastures that have gone to seed or have a greater amount of dead material are more fibrous and therefore are not so digestible. This means they take longer to pass through the animal's gut, blocking the system to the extent that the animals can't eat as much. So as well as providing less energy, the animal can't consume as much poor quality pasture and the problem to the animal is magnified.

Although the above relationship applies to all plants, certain plants have a quality ceiling which may be much higher or lower than others. For example, whitegrass will only ever reach a value of 50% digestibility. This means that for every kilo eaten, only 500 g can be digested and the rest is wasted. Compare that to the digestion of finegrasses (valley and coastal greens) with which about 25% is

How digestibility and energy values relate to general plant growth and specific plant species



wasted when they are in top condition. Other local examples can be seen below. Of interest is the relatively high quality of Cinnamon grass and Christmas bush compared to whitegrass – how much of these species are being grazed?

So how does this relate to animal production and pasture management in the Falklands? In the last 3 months we have measured cattle growth rates that average 1.1 kg/day, with one cow gaining 1.65 kg/day. We have also measured hogget ram growth rates of up to 2 kg per week. These sorts of gains can only be provided by highly digestible, high energy and protein diet – that can only be provided by the finegrasses, with very little, if any, whitegrass. This I can believe as it is currently the spring/summer period, the finegrasses are growing well, and in the case of cattle the grazing area was large enough to enable these animals to exclusively select and feed on finegrasses. The above-mentioned sheep were rotated rapidly around the paddock greens. So what happens during the winter?

I haven't been through one here yet but I have seen many reports. Both sheep and cattle lose weight rapidly, then seem to stabilise weight loss, before starting to gain weight from around October. As there is little feed available from finegrasses during winter the animals resort to eating lower quality grasses like whitegrass, that fill them up more but limits the amount they can eat and provides less energy. They then lose weight until they reach a body weight that can be sustained by the poorer quality grasses. I am currently working through many past reports on animal weight changes to try and calculate what sort of diet animals can select in the Falklands throughout the year.

So how can we manage feed quality to improve animal production? Wait for Part 2 next month.

FUNNIES

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:

Instructions – Open packet, eat nuts. (I'm glad they cleared that up!)

On a Swedish chainsaw

Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals. (What kind of consumer phone call let to this warning?)

On a Canadian child's Superman costume:

Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly. (That's right. Spoil a universal childhood fantasy!)

BRAINTEASER

Bob is as old as John will be when Bob is twice as old as John was when Bob's age was half the sum of their present ages. John is as old as Bob was when John was half the age he will be 10 years from now.

How old are Bob and John?

SHEEP WHO'S BEEN PUT OUT TO GAS

Source – Daily Mail

The latest battle against global warming in New Zealand is gas mask like device for sheep. There are 45 million sheep in New Zealand, all of which burp regularly. Combine this with wind passed by 8 million cattle and you have half of the country's domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

Scientists at an agricultural research firm are now trying to measure the exact amount of methane that the sheep generate, and have equipped trial animals with devices that monitor the belches as they graze. The scientists who are hoping to cut New Zealand's global warming emissions by more than 10%, have already come up with a natural food supplement that greatly reduces the amount of wind passed by the sheep.

Contrary to popular belief, all the methane emitted by ruminant animals is released through the mouth because of the way their digestive system is configured.

The problem is particularly pressing in New Zealand as sheep outnumber people. The government is considering taxes for greenhouse gas emissions – meaning farmers may have to pay for methane belched by animals.

In the UK, cows and sheep are thought to expel 1.1million tons each year, the second largest source of gas after landfill sites.

Q.F.W PAYMENTS

This is a reminder to all stencil holders. If you have not yet sent in your wool sale receipts to claim your incentive money, could you please do so as soon as possible.

Could you also make sure that the bale No's/ref.No's of fleece wool eligible for the 7p per kilo is marked differently from the wool eligible for the 2p per kilo, as there has been some confusion in the past.

Please also remember that the incentive payments apply only to **fleece wool**.

Thank you.

Lucy

STORING EGGS USING WATERGLASS

By Gordon Lennie

Farmers who keep chickens for their egg production often have a problem with what to do with surplus eggs during the peak laying season in summer.

Surplus eggs can in fact be stored for up to a year if they are preserved in a mixture of waterglass (liquid sodium silicate) and water.

The waterglass is used at a rate of 1 pint to 9/10 pints of water. This should be enough to preserve 75-100 dozen eggs at one time.

Eggs to be stored should be between 24 hours and no more than 4 days old. The older eggs don't keep as well. Eggs from hens with no rooster/ducks with no drake will keep longer than fertile eggs.

A plastic drum can be used to prepare and store all the eggs. The water should be boiled first then cooled before you add the waterglass. The container should be no more than a third full because you will be adding the eggs and the level will rise gradually. You should make sure that there is an extra 2 inches of solution covering the eggs. The container should be covered and kept airtight. The best place to store the container is in a cool dark place but not where it could freeze. If the solution level drops due to evaporation add more mixed solution (1:9) ratio.

The mixed solution will start out as a clear liquid but gradually turns into a milky coloured sort of jelly. When you come to use your stored eggs you will have to wash them so the jelly doesn't fall into the food. If you hard boil the eggs you will need to prick the small end so they don't pop in the boiling water.

The eggs should not be washed before preserving them because the egg is actually covered with a natural sealer and without it, it is more susceptible to bacteria/evaporation. Cracked and dirty eggs should not be preserved by this method.

The sodium silicate solution (waterglass) costs around £20 for 2.5 litres (4.4 pints) which works out around £4.50 per 75-100 dozen eggs.

HUNGARIAN PIG DEFEATS FARMERS!

Source – Farmers Weekly

An unlikely catalogue of disasters left two Hungarian farmers dead and a third seriously injured when they attempted to slaughter a pig. The first man tried to electrocute the pig but instead managed to electrocute and kill himself. The second was so shocked that he had a heart attack and died, while the third electrocuted himself trying to unplug the homemade pig stunner. Reports say that the pig remains alive and well!

PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT – LET THE SHEEP DO THE WORK!

By Aidan Kerr

In January 2001 Peter Johnston, Geds Ford and I over-sowed a mixture of Lotus, Alsike and White Clovers to three small areas on the former grazing trial near MPA. Sheep had grazed the pastures down prior to over-sowing, which was conducted using a small spreader specially mounted on the back of a four-wheel bike. The seed was inoculated and coated with lime. We also applied Rock Phosphate at c. 150 kg/ha. Finally about 500 sheep were herded back and forth across the areas and were then left there for about three weeks to chew the Whitegrass down further and trample some more of the seed in.

After the sheep were removed in late January I assessed seedling emergence and in March I examined plant establishment before winter set in. The latest assessment was conducted in December.

03-Jan-01	Ground conditions	Moist valley	Moist flat near stream	Dry
	Vegetation type	Greens & Bog Whitegrass	Bog & Lax Whitegrass	Rushes, <i>Poa's</i> & herbs
	Height grazed down to (cm)	10	20	10-20
	Area oversown (ha)	0.5	0.7	0.13
	Seed rate (kg/ha)	18	10	18
22-Jan-01	Emergence rating	Best	Good	Poor
03-Mar-01	Pre-winter establishment	Best	Good	Poor
21-Dec-01	Establishment (% frequency)	80	54	12

The table (above) and the photographs (opposite) show the preliminary results, which are very encouraging. Pink nodules on the legume roots indicated that the rhizobia were fixing nitrogen. Further work is needed to refine this potentially time and cost-saving technique for the establishment of improved pastures. While the results are not conclusive (as it was not a proper replicated trial) it would seem that emergence of seedlings and their subsequent establishment were favoured using high seed rates, on more moist and well grazed sites. Further work should determine the height at which the existing pastures should be grazed to, the proportion of ground that needs to be bared and the minimum seed rates, to achieve adequate establishment on a range of sites.

Additionally, future work on larger areas, of more commercial significance to farms, should examine the potential of the technique for establishing improved grass-legume mixtures. This follows the successful establishment of Cocksfoot grass through oversowing, mob-stocking and mulching of mown grass on both burned and unburnt areas near Bush Pass, Fitzroy (as reported in Wool Press, January 2001).



Numerous Lotus plants growing well among Whitegrass 'bogs' and Greens pasture, 11 months after seed was oversown and trampled in.

The general technique may also be a quick and effective way to recover the large areas of Whitegrass camp that have been burnt this season. Tom Davies recorded patchy establishment of such grasses when they and fertilisers were broadcast over an accidentally burnt (but not cultivated) area of the ARC experimental site at Fitzroy Bridge in 1985-86. The grasses established well in the hollows. He believed that the whole oversown area was later grazed more intensively by sheep and geese than the adjacent area, which had been rotavated, sown and rolled.



Flowering clover plants in moist Whitegrass pasture 11 months after seed was oversown and trampled in.

FRAYED TEMPERS & FLYING AG ASSISTANTS

By Karen Marsh

At first I thought it would be a good idea to write a diary with Nyree about all the work we have been doing synchronising the cows for the A.I (Artificial Insemination) and E.T. (Embryo Transfer) programmes. However, after thinking about it I came to the conclusion that it would probably be a good idea to get my side of the story heard first!

Nyree and I have been travelling to different farms, on both the East and the West, over the last couple weeks inserting CIDR's into, and injecting, cows. This is so that hopefully when the time comes all the cows will be at the right stage of their cycle at the same time.

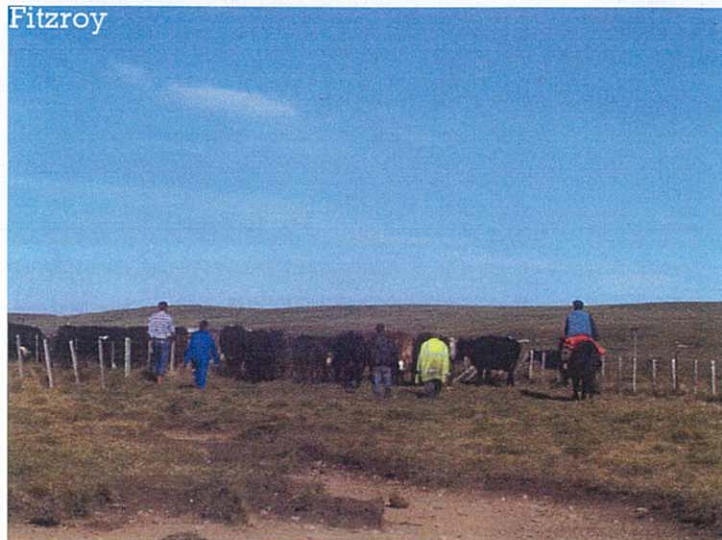
When we started out it has to be said that we were not the bravest of people around cows. Towards the end of the 2nd week though we were getting braver, though I'm sure there were a few cows who just knew they could scare the hell out of us, and it only took one cow to challenge us before we bailed out over the fence. Once she knew we were scared we had no chance of getting her to cooperate (no matter how many times you tried Nyree!). *(I was REALLY brave-Ed)*

Although the job we were doing was important, there was always something happening that would start the fits of laughter. Unfortunately, most of the time it was me being laughed at – whenever I got hurt *(not badly – Ed)* or on one particular day when I ended up dangling from the crush thanks to an extremely uncooperative cow! I'm sure that if Nyree has stopped laughing by now she will tell you the whole story, but I warn you it's not that funny. *(Oh yes it is – Ed!)*

Nyree and I hadn't worked together since we were at Bicton College of Agriculture in 1998/99. It seems that not a lot has changed – we still make the most out of the situation, although Nyree seems to have developed a rover language all of her own. "Ouch" and "Oops" mean HOLD ON!! Once I learnt to interpret this language we got along just fine!

I'll leave it there for now. I'm sure that partner in crime will tell you all about my misfortunes in detail in next month's edition, won't you Nyree?

Fitzroy



VET IN AFRICA

By Zoe Luxton

Unfortunately the title does not refer to me doing something worthy like neutering cats in Zimbabwe for 2p a month. It refers to the fact that my little friend Nina and I went to Tunisia for a few days to celebrate the New Year.

Still a worthy trip though as we were on a serious detox mission after overindulging at Xmas. On day one we walked, swam and did aqua-aerobics. On day two we walked into the town and successfully haggled for a few souvenirs, then we swam and jogged up and down the beach. On our last day we went for a lovely horse-ride and came back healthily wind burnt. We then had a relaxing afternoon siesta, an early, healthy supper.....then consumed sixteen gin and tonics, did our bit for international relations and flew home with a hangover. Luckily we managed to lose the bank manager who asked us if we wanted a Tunisian "friend"! Nina's main mission was to sell me for some camels but wasn't having much luck until our little horse-riding guide offered her 10 camels in return for me. She considered it very carefully but then decided that all those export/import certificates were a bit complicated and the one person who might have been a bit useful with helping with those was the one person she was about to leave with a small Tunisian who rode horses in a leather jacket, jeans and slip on black shoes (didn't see any white socks but I wouldn't rule it out!).

Back to normality now. On duty on Monday night I got the call that makes every veterinary surgeons blood run cold. "Hello. My bitch was spayed today and the wound is still bleeding a lot". Cue terrible visions of an ovarian stump waving randomly around an abdominal cavity with the ligature that was supposed to on said stump floating merrily around in the blood that is spurting uncontrollably from the unligated blood vessels. Although not a common complication it is rumoured that every vet has at least one bitch that bleeds to death following a routine spey. Fat Labradors are notorious for being difficult speys as you can't see anything through all the fat and everything is really deep in the abdomen. Unfortunately for me, it was I who had speyed the fat Labrador that morning.....PANIC!!!! I bolted down to the surgery with visions of a flat out dog lying in a pool of its own blood, and with me having to anaesthetise it and re-open it on my own as Tom the other vet was out on a 16 hour horse call or something equally terrifying for a newly qualified vet who has forgotten everything due to excess Tunisian boozing! Somebody up above was obviously looking out for me however, as the Labrador trotted into the surgery with a wagging tail and the pinkest mucus membranes I have ever seen rather than the blue tinged colour I was expecting that comes with internal haemorrhage. So after checking dog over for the 23rd time I finally reached the conclusion that it was just a bit of wound oozing and should be fine with a pressure bandage applied and a quiet night of rest for the bitch. The dog never reappeared at the surgery so she was obviously fine.....or dead, but I'm hoping we would have been notified of that!!!

RECIPE PAGE

By Sheena Miller

CHOCOLATE CORNFLAKES

Ingredients

6 tablespoons of butter
6 tablespoons of syrup
6 tablespoons of cocoa
Cornflakes

Method

Place the butter, syrup and cocoa in a large pot and melt it all together. Boil the mixture for approximately 2 minutes and then remove it from the heat. Add cornflakes to the pot, stirring all the time, until all the mixture is taken up.

Place in buncases, in bun trays, whilst still warm and leave to set.

KIWI BISCUITS

Ingredients

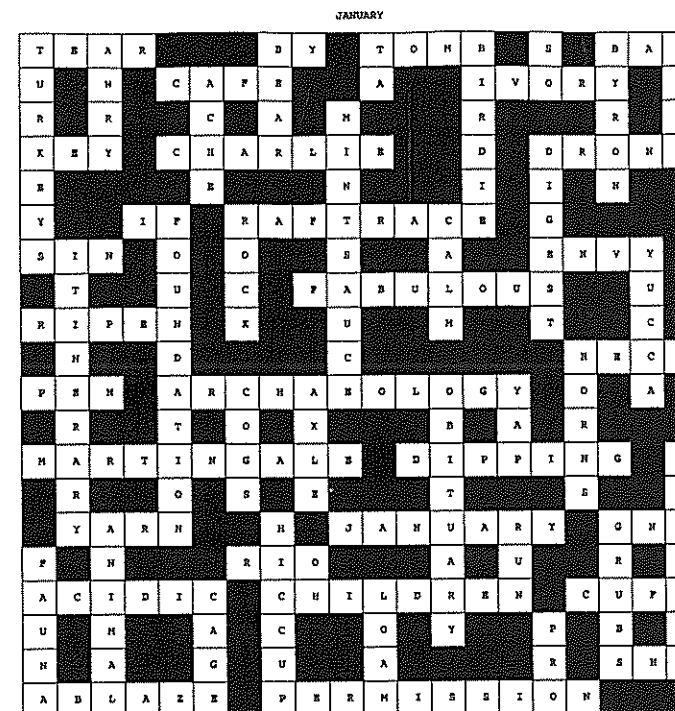
12 oz flour
8 oz margarine
4 oz sugar
6 oz chips of chocolate
2 teaspoons of baking powder
2 teaspoons of vanilla essence
4 tablespoons of milk

Method

Cream the sugar, margarine and milk in a bowl. Add the flour, baking powder and vanilla essence and mix in well. Lastly add the chocolate chips. The mixture should now be quite stiff. Roll into small balls and place on a baking tray. Flatten the balls out and cook in a moderate oven for 15 - 20 minutes.



LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



FOR SALE - FLAIL MOWER

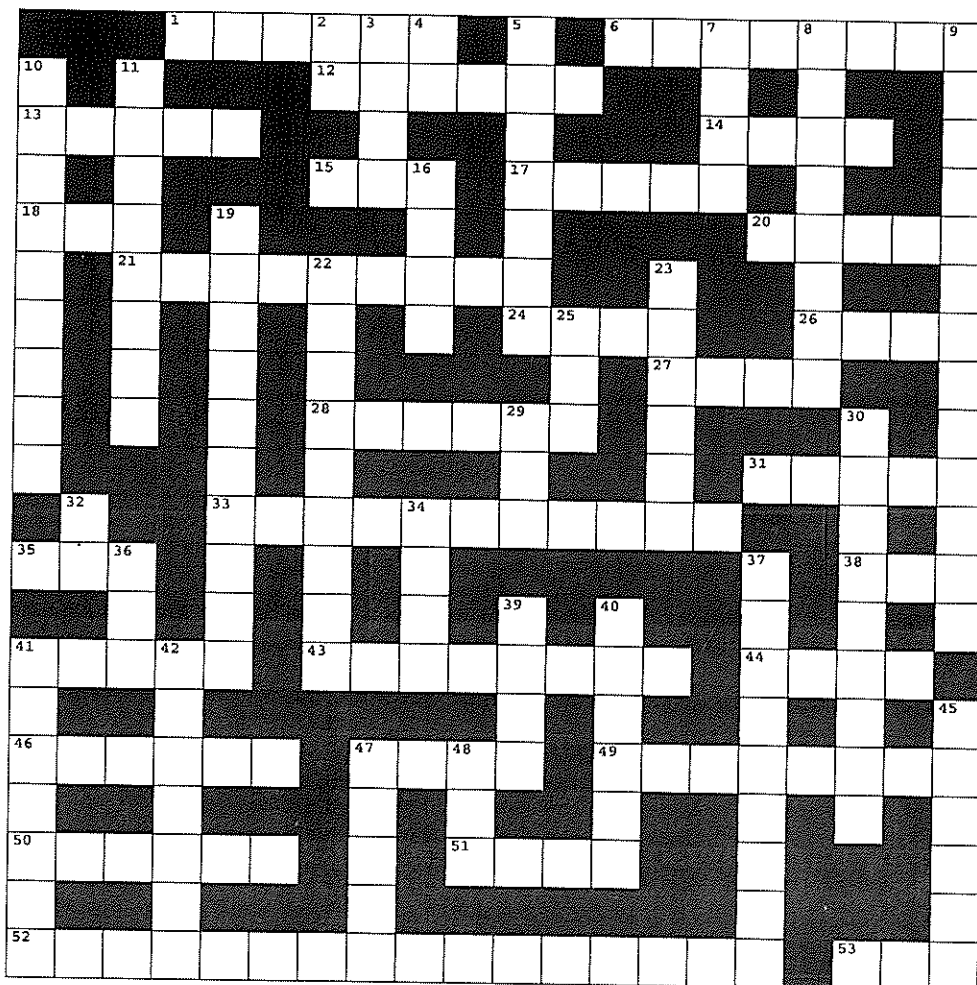
Bomford Turner Flail Mower. Bandit 1700 heavy duty 1995 model. In good condition. Price when new - £4200. Best offer around £1000 secures. Anyone interested please contact Tex at Port Edgar on Ph - 42010.

WANTED-OLD DEEFPREEZERS OR FRIDGES.

Could anyone who is thinking of throwing their old fridge or freezer out please contact **Sheena Miller at Cape Dolphin on Ph:-41015 or Fax:- 41014.**

FOR SALE-HOGGETS

Corriedale Comeback cross hoggets. Anyone interested in purchasing these sheep please contact Hew Grierson at Blue Beach Farm on Ph/Fax 32235 or e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk.



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PERSUADE BY FLATTERY 6. USED IN SHOTGUNS 12. BOVID ANIMALS 13. FATTY PART OF MILK 14. TUNE 15. CYLINDRICAL CONTAINER 17. PRESS OR SQUEEZE SO AS TO INJURE OR BREAK 18. CONSUME FOOD 20. YELLOWISH ROOT VEGETABLE 21. PLANT EATING ANIMAL 24. ERECT GRASS THAT PRODUCES EDIBLE GRAINS 26. SWEET DRINK 27. DENSE WOODY PLANT 28. AN ANIMAL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT 31. SHIPS BUM 33. AREA ADJACENT TO SHEARERS STAND 35. UNCOOKED 38. FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORITY 41. RELATING TO COUNTRY LIFE 43. COLOURLESS, ODOURLESS GAS 44. FRIEND 46. TREE SEED USED AS A SPICE 47. EAGER OR ENTHUSIASTIC 49. MOVE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY 50. PRODUCED FROM BREEDING BETWEEN CLOSELY RELATED ANIMALS 51. UNCLEAN SUBSTANCE 52. LOCAL FARM (9,7) 53. BUMBLE..... | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. OFFICER COMMANDING 3. MAGMA EMANATING FROM VOLCANOES 4. EMBRYO TRANSFER 5. SLOWLY MOVING MASS OF ICE 7. MONEY 8. BREAD AND FILLING SNACK 9. EASILY UPSET OR IRRITATED 10. EMITTING A SHARP PIERCING SOUND 11. BIRD COVERING 16. ANCHORS A PLANT INTO THE GROUND 19. MAN MADE 22. THE PROCESS OF INTRODUCING FLUID UNDER PRESSURE 23. SMALL SMOOTH ROUND STONE 25. SOUTH WEST NIGERIAN CITY 29. JAPANESE CURRENCY 30. SLICE OF CATTLE MEAT 32. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION 34. ENERGY TRANSFERRED BECAUSE OF A DIFFERENCE IN TEMPERATURE 36. OPEN ARMED CONFLICT 37. PRODUCED BY YOURSELF 39. SOFT FINE FEATHERS 40. WIN A VICTORY OVER 41. MOVING QUICKLY 42. PERSON WHO REGARDS YOU WITH APPROVAL! 45. SMALL SMOOTH ROUND STONE 47. AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIAL 48. FINISH |
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The Wool Press

ISSUE 147

MARCH 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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PREDICTING CHANGES IN WHITEGRASS PASTURES

By Aidan Kerr

FALKLAND ISLANDS BEEF INDUSTRY UPDATE

By Doug Martin

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY

By Amy Jonson

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March Wool Press.

Firstly sorry about all the mistakes in last month's edition. It wasn't until I had already taken it to the printers that we noticed there were so many. The largest of which has to have been in the editorial. How many of you noticed that I said we didn't have room for a brainteaser and then put one in? Woops!

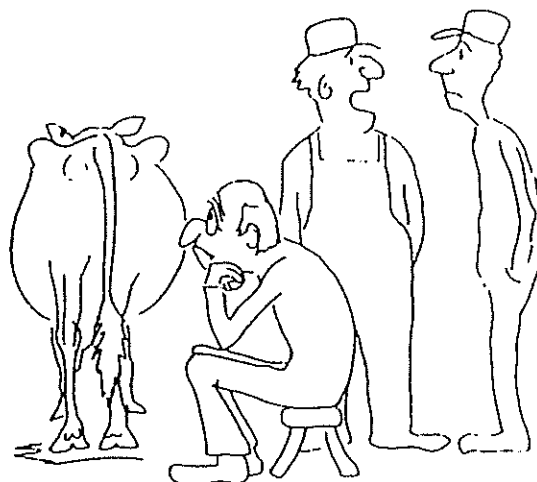
Did everybody have a good sports week? All the hangovers are gone by now I assume.

Hopefully we will see a good number of you at Aidan's open day at Fitzroy on the 7th as well.

With this Wool Press I have also included as a supplement a sheet from Peter about contacting the Agricultural Department. I thought that by making it a supplement you could all pin it up on the wall (or put it in a safe place) so that you don't have to dig out the March Wool Press every time you want to know someone's phone number.

Lastly, the answer to February's brainteaser. John is 30 and Bob is 40.

Nyree



"Doc lost his new digital watch while checking old thirty-two."

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However, such quotations are to be made in context and the Wool Press must be acknowledged as the source.

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ORGANIC NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE FALKLANDS AND AROUND THE WORLD



March 2002

**Are you interested in having
all or part of your farm
converted and certified
Organic or just want to know
more on the rules and
regulations.**

**Note: If you convert now you
could sell your next seasons
wool and lamb as organic.**

**Its up to you.....
give me a call on 27211 or
email: crowland@fidc.co.fk**

The cost of producing organic beef is about 20% higher than for conventional beef and the premium is 40% greater. As more beef farmers convert the organic premium is expected to level out to 20%.

Numbers of organic lambs rose by 20% from 30,000 to 39,000. With the farmgate of £2.08 million.

Organic arable production has also risen by 66%. Giving 17,970 hectares, up from 10,800 two years ago.

Wheat dominates the arable land area, accounting for 6,087 hectares, or 34% of the total.

Source: World Organic News

ORGANIC MEATS ARE STEADILY RISING

There has been a spectacular rise in pork, poultry, beef and lamb production in the UK. Total farmgate value of pork and poultry livestock rose to £10 million, according to the Soil Association.

Poultry production surged from 230,000 head in 1999/2000 to 1/3 million in 2000/2001, mainly the result of a clarification in EU poultry standards, which had been announced in the first quarter of 2000.

Pig numbers more than doubled from 15,000 in 1999/2000 to 32,000 in 2000/2001.

Beef cattle slaughtered rose by 11% from 4,500 head in 1999/2000 to 5,000 in 2000/2001. A more substantial rise is expected next year when more farm conversions are completed.

Thinking of Converting to Organic?

- You will have to comply with the 5 freedoms of Animal Welfare ;
- All farm record keeping must be kept up to date;
- No pesticides or chemical fertilisers are to be used;
- Ideally the whole farm to be converted but partial pockets can be kept in a longer conversion;
- Possible premium on wool;
- No antibiotic, chemical or hormone to be used;
- No genetic modification;
- Farm inspected by the inspector approx. every 6 months.
- Lamb marking to be done within 10 weeks of birth unless you are sending the lambs to the abattoir.
- 25% premium on lamb prices;

Want to know moreget in touch!!

Animal Welfare

The Organic Legislation objective is that animals that are passing through enroute to the abattoir either by sea, road or drove should be treated in a humane and caring way. It should be emphasised that I am determined that the best possible standards are maintained in order to achieve this.

Livestock are widely seen as the shop window of the industry, and animal welfare remains an issue of considerable public concern. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that high standards of welfare prevail. This requires both sympathetic, competent and informed handling, and well maintained equipment and facilities, designed with the welfare of the animals in mind.

Monitoring Compliance

I am intending to monitor all organic livestock, from your farm to the abattoir, when to time comes, to ensure that all animals are humanely looked after by staff involved. This can only be achieved if you inform me that your organic animals are going to Sandy Bay. Notice is of utter importance!

Animal Welfare Course

Would farmers be interested in a short Animal Welfare Course. If you think that it would help you to understand the plight of animals. Give me a call, if their is enough interest we could organise something for the future.

Telephone: 27211 or
email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

Pesticide Info.

The Pesticide Action Network (PAN) is calling for a pesticide reduction strategy for the UK in support of organic agriculture. PAN UK will join an Organic Rally calling on parliament to ensure that 30 per cent of UK agricultural land is organic by 2010, and that an organic action plan is put in place.

UK Organic farmers avoid using hazardous pesticides, while mainstream farming is still using many pesticides suspected of causing cancer.

The most widely-used herbicide in the UK (isoproturon), used to treat around 3.5 million hectares of farmland, is listed as a possible carcinogen by the European Union. Of the five most extensively used fungicides in the UK, three of them, chlorothalonil, tebuconazole and carbendazim, are possible or likely carcinogens.

Barbara Dinham (Director of Pan UK) said:

"We cannot achieve an organic target unless the government adopts a progressive policy to reduce the current levels of pesticide use. We need to prioritise and restrict high-risk pesticides at the same time as increasing support for the safer alternative that organic farming offers"

Source: PAN-UK

Useful and interesting web sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organicseeduk.co.uk
www.organicXseeds.com
[www.www. Soilassociation.org](http://www.www.Soilassociation.org)
www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth
www.banlindane.org

ROAD INSPECTIONS

THE HIGHWAYS SECTION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BE CARRYING OUT SCHEDULED INSPECTIONS ON THE CAMP ROAD NETWORK ON THE DATES SHOWN BELOW.

SHOULD ANYBODY WISH TO MEET A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PWD WITH A SPECIFIC COMMENT OR QUERY REGARDING THE CONDITION OF A SECTION OF ROAD, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THEY COULD CONTACT THE ROAD ENGINEER ON Tel - 27387 A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE INSPECTION DATE.

EAST FALKLAND

MARCH 26th & 27th

APRIL 23rd & 24th

MAY 21st & 22nd

JUNE 18th & 19th

JULY 16th & 17th

AUGUST 15th & 16th

SEPTEMBER 10th & 11th

OCTOBER 8th & 9th

NOVEMBER 5th & 6th

DECEMBER 3rd & 4th

WEST FALKLAND

MARCH 5th & 6th

APRIL 16th & 17th

MAY 28th & 29th

JULY 9th & 10th

AUGUST 20th & 21st

OCTOBER 1st & 2nd

NOVEMBER 12th & 13th

DECEMBER 16th & 17th

Regards

R J McLEOD
GENERAL FOREMAN

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED!

By Nyree Heathman

By now you will all have read Karen's version of events over the last few weeks. Most of you will be sitting there wondering what *really* happened when Karen learnt that she could fly. Well the time has come to tell the truth – the whole truth. If I can stop laughing for long enough that is. And yes, some of you won't even find it amusing but by God it was side splitting to see.

Karen and I arrived at the Fitzroy yards just before eight o'clock on a gorgeous sunny morning to be greeted with the sight we had dreamt of all night – the cattle *nearly* in the yards (sheep pens anyway). Maybe we should have hidden over the hill for a few more minutes because getting them from *nearly* in the pens to *actually in* took an awful lot of running and yeeeeehaaring. Mainly on everyone else's behalf, whilst Karen and I stood around (not too close though) going "Did that one (cow) look at me funny?"

Once they were (well, as many as we got in on any one day) actually in the pens though the next problem was keeping them there. The Fitzroy cattle (very much like the Estancia cattle) seem to have perfected the art of fence leaping, or even just walking through them! Thanks to a very patient Rex McKay and the aid of a large plastic bag we managed to contain most of the cows that we wanted though.

Next came the part where Karen and I got really brave. Not without a fairly long stick thingy to give the odd stubborn cow a gentle prod or two in the right direction or to wave frantically when they decided that they just weren't going to go into the yards. Believe you me, the stick thingy wasn't waved about much when one darling old cow decided that she didn't like either of us. It left the pens over the fence with me!

Anyway, once we actually had some cows to inject everything seemed to go so smoothly. Doug hadn't yet arrived as he had to go to Blue Beach but we were ably assisted by Niilo who was chasing the cows up for us. Karen by this stage was chief crush operator – and a darn fine job she was doing. She jammed their heads and I injected the cow. We let it go again and moved onto the next one. Sounds almost professional doesn't it? It was all just too good to be true.

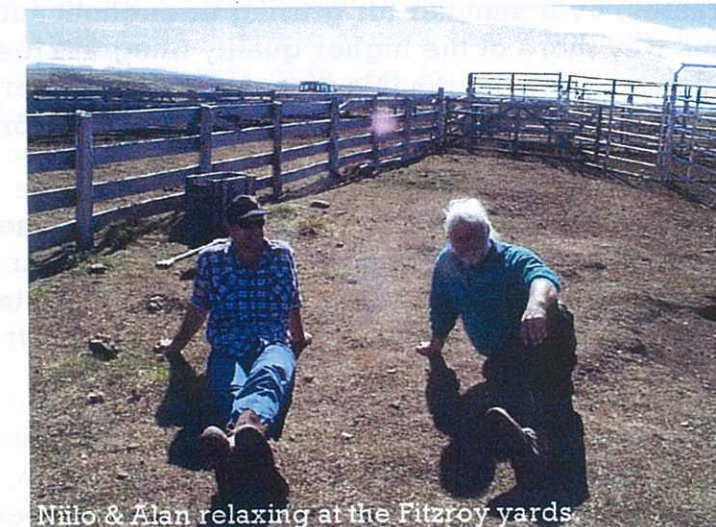
The sun was shining, Rex was whistling some tune or other, and then WHAM! The peace was shattered. A large black cow hit the crush at about 20 miles an hour and tried to squeeze out of a gap 10 times too small for her. Now this wouldn't have been a problem for the highly efficient Karen had she not still had hold of the release handle on the crush. Why she still had the handle in the release position I have absolutely no idea. Now, you will have to use your imagination for the next bit. Draw a sketch if you need to. Karen has the release rope in her left hand and the handle to actually operate the crush gate in her right hand. When the crazy great cow hit the crush and tried to squeeze out the tinsy weensy little gap she was able to force the crush open. Karen, determined that she wasn't going to get out at any cost, held on for dear life. By this stage I was getting a little worried for her safety and neither cow nor Karen was prepared to lose the battle. As the crush was forced open the handles shot up with Karen hanging on. The resulting

image of Karen dangling in the air whilst the cow took off across the pampas will stay with me for ever. **THE COW WON!**

I was now rolling around the grass, injection in hand, with tears running down my face. Karen, absolutely furious by this stage, was hurling expletives at the offending animal whilst Niilo, completely confused as he had missed the whole thing, just stood there staring at the pair of us.

It doesn't end there though! Doug, who had now arrived, realised what had happened, ran over and shut the paddock gate and leapt about waving his arms in front of the offending cow in an attempt to stop it escaping altogether. After another 10 minutes of waving and shushing the escapee was safely back in the yards. At this stage I was still rolling around the ground crying my eyes out whilst Karen stomped around swearing. Anyway, I eventually managed to get up and we carried on with the job in hand. Just as Karen was shutting the crush on a geriatric old slow coach the crazy black cow came charging down the race full pelt again. Unfortunately (and I am really sorry about this bit Karen) I couldn't get the gate to stop her shut fast enough and she hurtled into the crush and gave the first cow a pretty good poke in the bum. She promptly leapt in the air and out through the crush gate closely followed by the now hated cow and they both skipped off across the camp. We gave up. Enough was enough.

The rest of the week, and particularly that day, followed with me suddenly bursting into fits of laughter every time I thought of the look on Karen's face and her scowling at me going "It's not funny you know! And I've got a bruise. LOOK!" It still amuses me – in fact it has taken twice as long as it should have, and more than a couple strange looks across the office from Mandy, to write this as I keep sitting here giggling away to myself. Sorry Karen, but it just had to be done!



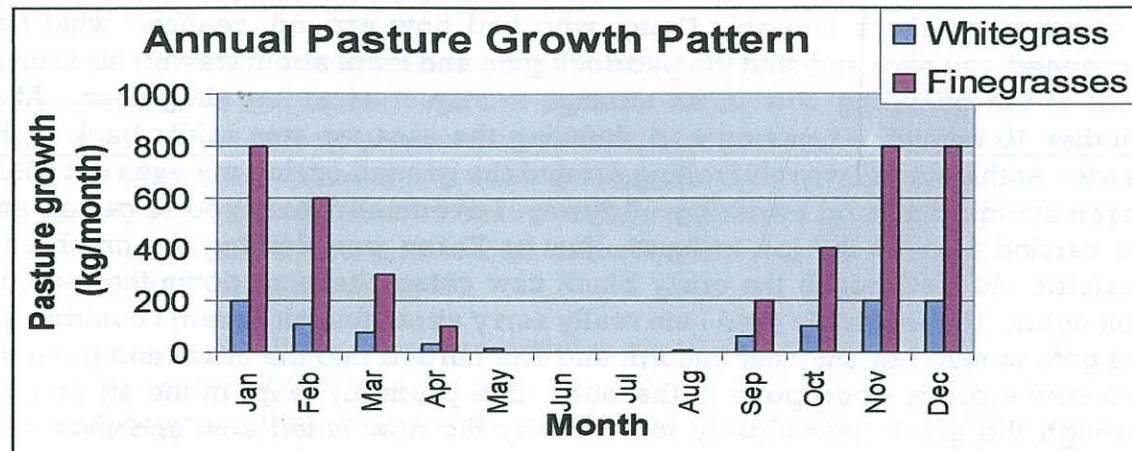
Niilo & Alan relaxing at the Fitzroy yards.

And just in case there are any sexist people out there who think she only escaped because a woman was operating the crush, ask our vet Kevin Lawrence exactly how long he managed to contain the very same cow in the crush for two days later. Half a second sounds about right doesn't it Kev?

PART 2 - PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION

By Niilo Gobius

Carrying on from *Part 1*, how can we manage our pasture, camps or paddocks to address the fact that we have too much low quality pasture in winter? There are a couple of options. They may or may not suit a particular farm or farmers circumstance.



1. Rotational grazing.

The cheapest form of feed is your own pasture. As can be seen from the above figure, most growth occurs in the summer, and believe it or not the finegrasses are more productive than whitegrass. There is just not enough of them and those that are there are preferentially grazed before whitegrass. If we can take advantage of the high summer growth rates and concentrate animals into a smaller area, we could set aside a larger area, which can then accumulate pasture (especially finegrasses) over summer for grazing throughout autumn, winter and early spring. In this way more of the higher quality finegrass feed is available in the non-summer months. Even though this grass will be of poorer quality because it is older than if grazed in summer, it naturally contains less fibre so is of higher quality (see Part 1).

This is called rotational or deferred grazing and could be done with 2 or more paddocks or camps. If you don't want to, or can't, split your camps why not combine the sheep from two or more camps into one concentrated summer camp so the other camps can grow for winter. Improved feed at no extra cost!

2. Increased stocking rate.

Higher stocking rates will keep the pasture in a better condition, in much the same way that a fire provides more green whitegrass leaf ie. more leafy and therefore of higher quality. But because more animals are competing for the same amount of feed, the overall diet of an individual will be of a lower quality because it is forced to eat more of the poorer quality grasses. Therefore, with higher stocking rates the production of an *individual animal will decrease*. To lessen this effect an increase in stocking rate should be accompanied by rotational grazing as above. Despite the lower individual animal production *whole farm production should increase* because of the greater number of animals per acre.

Consider the following example of two farms with equal area, shearing costs and returns per kg of wool (wool production per sheep is based on actual figures for some farms in the Falklands with the respective stocking rates).

Farm A – 5000 ha, 4000 sheep, stocking rate of 0.8 sheep/ha
Farm B – 5000 ha, 6500 sheep, stocking rate of 1.3 sheep/ha

Farm A – wool production is 4.25 kg/sheep
Farm B – wool production is 3.50 kg/sheep

Farm A – shearing costs = £1/sheep, wool return = £0.85/kg
Farm B – shearing costs = £1/sheep, wool return = £0.85/kg

Farm A wool income – £3.61/sheep or £14,440/farm
Farm B wool income* – £2.98 /sheep or £19,370/farm

Farm A shearing costs – £4000/farm
Farm B shearing costs – £6500/farm

Farm A Profit – £14,440 - £4000 = £10,440

Farm B Profit – £19,370 - £6500 = £12,870

* The wool return for Farm B may be even better than this due to slightly finer wool

Obviously some camps and farms are able to carry more stock than others because they grow more pasture than others, but are they stocked at their potential at present?

3. Fire

The use of fire has been 'hotly' debated recently and probably always will be. There is no doubt that a fire results in improved grass quality in the short term, it also allows the animals to find green shoots easily without fighting through the dead shoots. The improvements only last for a short while before the quality reverts back to the 'norm'. There are negatives to using fire though. The effects of fire on the finegrasses are not really well understood, but most reports agree that fire reduces the amount of finegrasses. Some whitegrass areas don't have any finegrasses anyway so why not burn? On a lightly stocked area a well-managed fire may be a reasonable option, but when stocking rates are higher burning the grass may reduce the amount of feed used for filling bellies during winter.

4. Mowing

Mowing large areas of land may achieve increased quality as a burn does. It is however, much more expensive, takes a good deal of time and still depletes the amount of feed on the farm. On the other hand it definitely won't kill off any finegrasses and on the contrary, may reduce the amount of whitegrass (as the whitegrass is more susceptible to having its leaves stripped).

There are other options to improve the utilisation of pasture by animals but they involve the use of feed supplements and I will write more about feed supplements and their value in a later Wool Press edition

If anyone wants to talk things over with me I am only too willing. Please phone 27358.

WOOL MARKET REPORT

By Neil Judd

VET IN SOCIAL LIFE SCANDAL

By Zoe Luxton

It is, unfortunately, a well known fact among vets, that new graduates are exhausted for at least 12 months after qualifying – and then you just slip into the routine known as working life and are just tired for most of it. You thought it was tough at college, but at least the final decision was never yours, now however, it very scarily is! Thus, due to exhaustion and overwork and knee trembling decisions regarding antibiotics, social shenanigans are somewhat limited. I am very lucky in the respect that I work in a very “young” practice; there are several of us twenty-something gurlies who generally socialise together even if it is not in the most interesting way. Louise and I often venture to the cinema but generally race out of work and get there with seconds to spare so that we catch the early showing. It is unthinkable that we would start watching a movie after 8pm because we’d probably be asked to leave due to the snoring.

Anyway last month I defied convention, beat the system etc. and had a whirlwind social calendar for a couple of weeks. It began with the arrival of small best friend from the Falklands (via Chile, Madrid, Bulgaria etc) and then the descent on Ipswich of a handful of her friends and a military policeman! A drunken weekend followed which culminated in us teaching Foxy how to quickstep to Shania Twain around my sitting room at 2am. Good job that old Mr Smith downstairs is as deaf as a post. Mr Smith downstairs is not Mr Smith my boss, but another old chap who for some reason has nothing to do with the practice but has lived in the other flat since time began and the partners rent him the flat for a fiver a month or something.

Anyway, as much as I was enjoying the weekend my poor boys were nothing less than traumatised. George coped quite well really all things considered but poor Harv' didn't move from behind the sofa for about 48 hours, poor little chap was delirious with relief when everyone finally left whereas George was quite disappointed as there was only boring old mum left to play with him and his tinkly ball!

The following weekend heralded the arrival of cousin and his girlfriend and a couple of other mates, back behind the sofa for Harv', back to pub for me. Luckily for my liver it was only a few beers and a game of badly played pool while everyone waited for the result of Pop Idol (SO pleased Will in all his blonde loveliness won!!).

Strolled into work Monday to be met by Heather who was hopping with excitement and squeaking “Come and look at this dog's x-ray”. This was strange for a start as Heather knows so much about Veterinary Medicine and surgery that very little excites her at all. So off I trundled expecting to be shown some very rare and exciting tumour that was obvious to Heather and not at all obvious to me!! Not so. The dog in question had been brought in over the weekend as it was off colour, vomiting occasionally and had a bit of vaginal discharge. The first question Heather asked was “Is she speyed?” as a vaginal discharge with an ill dog often points towards a pyometra (infection in the womb). “Oh yes – she was speyed 5 years ago” was the reply. Anyway Heather was still a bit concerned about the dog so decided to take an x-ray and found..... a pair of artery forceps attached to the uterine stump that had obviously been there for 5 years. So a swift op to remove the offending article and Rosie the dog was good to go. Don't fancy being the vet who speyed her though, although with me anything left behind in a dog is likely to be half a cheese sandwich or similar and that wouldn't show up on x-ray!!

It is proposed that in each edition of Wool Press a comprehensive report on the wool market will be provided. It is expected that the information will be valuable in assisting Falkland Island woolgrowers to negotiate with the buyers of their wool to achieve the best possible sale outcome.

It should be remembered that the information provided is typically drawn from actual auction floor sales of wool from the principal wool selling countries of the world (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) not from the sale of Falkland Islands wool in the United Kingdom. This has been done because of the ability to access the high level market reporting and product specification service provided by these countries. Such detailed information is not available in other countries.

In this first report considerable attention is devoted to the Australian market and the Eastern Market Indicator (E.M.I). The E.M.I is simply an average market price for each micron category in the key Australian markets of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria where the majority of Australia's wool is sold. The Australian market, through its dominance of the worlds supply of wool that is traded and exported, is able to be used as a clear “barometer” of the world wool market.

Key Points

- 1) There has been a massive increase in price for wool in all micron categories except the very fine range. The increase is greatest for wools in the 22-26 micron range.
- 2) Premiums and discounts exist in the market for colour, style, staple strength, vegetable matter and staple length. It should be noted that the Falkland Islands is highly regarded in all of these areas except for staple strength where some lots of ewes wool are known to have been part tender in the past.
- 3) An absence of a world wool stockpile has been associated with high wool prices on several occasions in the past few decades.
- 4) The population of woolled sheep in the world has fallen by approximately 10% over the last 15 years, with the decline being over 25% in the worlds five chief exporting countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Uruguay).
- 5) The Australian market dipped slightly at the end of last week (week ending 22/02/02), however the impact of prospective Chinese buying in the next few weeks and the larger auctions scheduled for this week (96,000 bales) still cause market uncertainty.
- 6) Other wool markets

The New Zealand wool market traded down slightly during the week losing the equivalent of approx. 2.5p/per kg/clean however it should be noted that the New Zealand market is currently still trading at levels close to 20% above the same period last year. No sales occurred in South Africa last week and currently no information has come to hand on sales conducted most recently by the British wool marketing board.

Eastern Market Indicator 22/02/01 vs 22/02/02 (p/kg/clean)

Micron	22/02/01	22/02/02	% Change
18	825	598	-27%
19	513	425	-17%
20	310	363	+17%
21	249	360	+45%
22	238	360	+51%
23	224	359	+60%

Micron	22/02/01	22/02/02	% Change
24	218	357	+63%
25	202	343	+69%
26	182	320	+75%
28	181	255	+40%
30	162	213	+31%
32	156	205	+31%

PREDICTING CHANGES IN WHITEGRASS PASTURES

By Aidan Kerr

Over the years I am sure some of you have wondered what I was doing crawling around on your land with my head in the grass and making notes! Here's my explanation, which might help you predict what happens when Whitegrass pastures are grazed, particularly by sheep.

The table and photographs summarise, since 1994, the vegetation changes I found in grazing trials on Coast Ridge and Fitzroy farms and of 30 fence contrasts around the Islands. The trials covered changes that occurred in less than four years while the changes along the fences occurred over periods over fifty years.

As expected heavier grazed pastures were shorter and had more dung on them than lighter grazed pastures and their soils were harder, barer and drier. However it must be stressed that the changes were not clear cut and other factors such as the length of the grazing history, location within Islands (East or West) and soil type affected the changes.



Despite a wide range of species being moderately or highly sensitive to grazing and decreasing in abundance in the short term (see Table) only Whitegrass, Small Fern and Christmas Bush were significantly less abundant when grazed over much longer periods. Similarly while a larger range of plant species tolerated grazing and increased their abundance in the short term, only Bent grass and Button weed were tolerant of prolonged grazing pressure.

Pastures that had been grazed heavily for more than 20 years were shorter and barer, had harder and drier soils than pastures grazed heavily for shorter periods. These effects did not increase beyond 50 years, which indicated that a 'stable state' had been reached from about 20 to 50 years of grazing and that few changes occurred after then. However, the results also showed that prolonged continuous heavy grazing reduced the numbers of plant species (diversity). Why is this important for sheep or wool production? Well, preliminary results from (Sean Miller's) sheep diet work show that sheep are eating a range of grasses, herbs and shrubs. Also, results from the Fitzroy grazing trial showed that where sheep had access to a wider choice of plants in rotationally grazed and 'spelled' pastures, they grew better in winter and produced more and stronger wool than continuously stocked sheep (more details in next months edition).

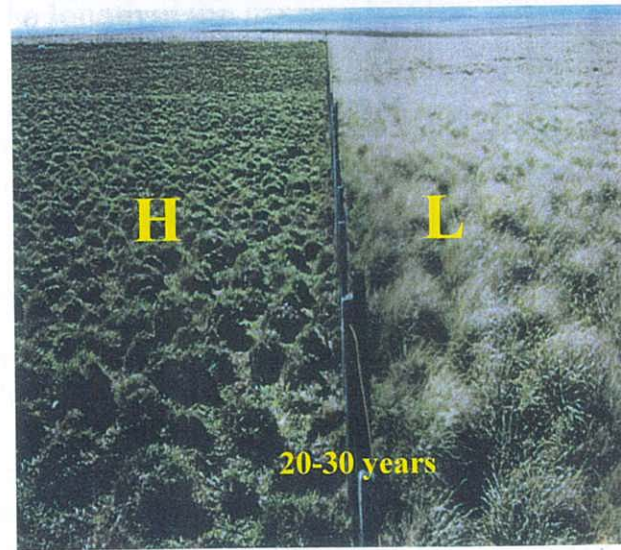
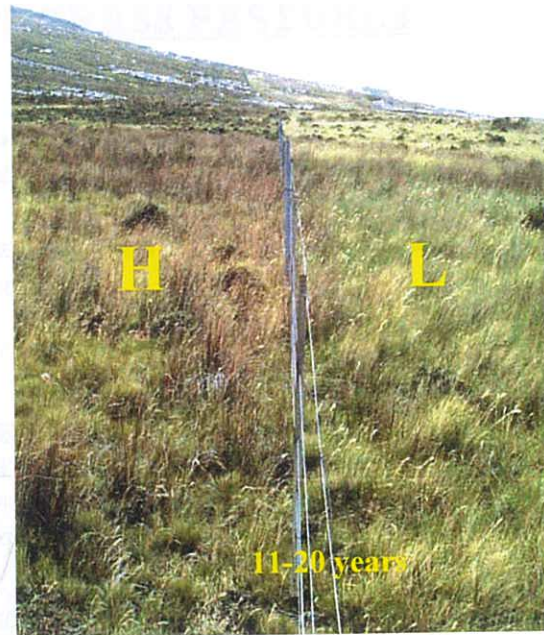
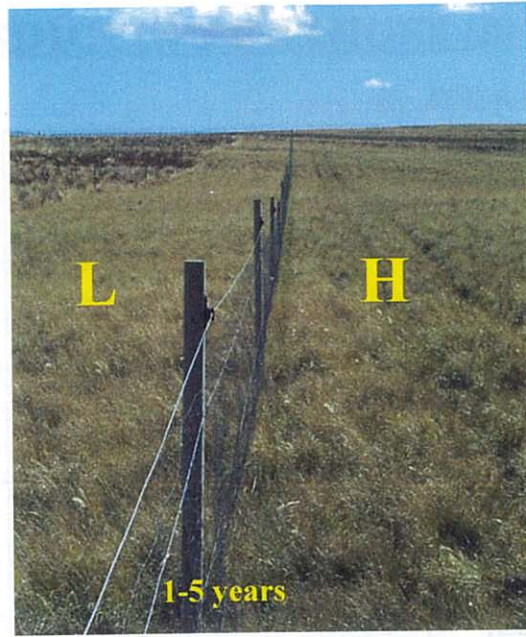
Generally, Eastern pastures were more diverse, contained more grasses and herbs than Western pastures. In particular Whitegrass and Pigvine were more abundant on Eastern sites, and Diddle-dee and Sheep's Sorrel were more abundant on Western sites.

Pastures on peaty soils contained a greater number of plant species than those on mineral soils. Bent grasses, Small Fern, mosses and lichens were more abundant on peats than on mineral soils. In contrast Fescue grasses and Christmas Bush favoured mineral soils.

Overall these changes in time are typically represented by the series of photographs shown. I would expect that, under current stocking management, large camps that contain such a variety of pastures and a wide choice of plants for sheep to eat would be the most useful for wool production. Your opinions would be much appreciated!

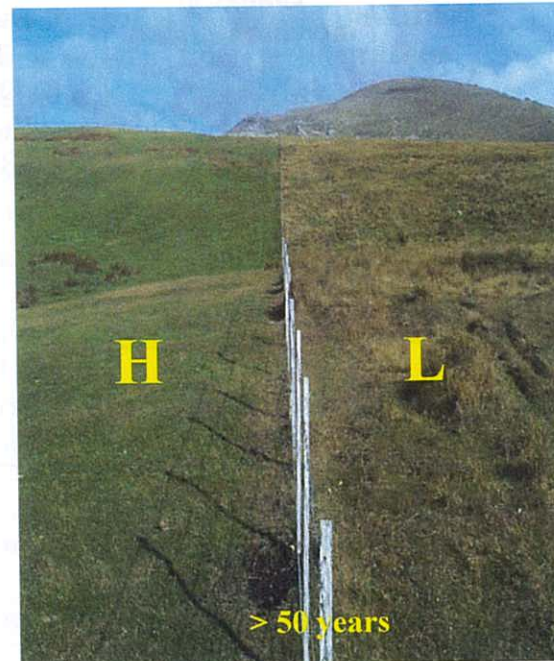
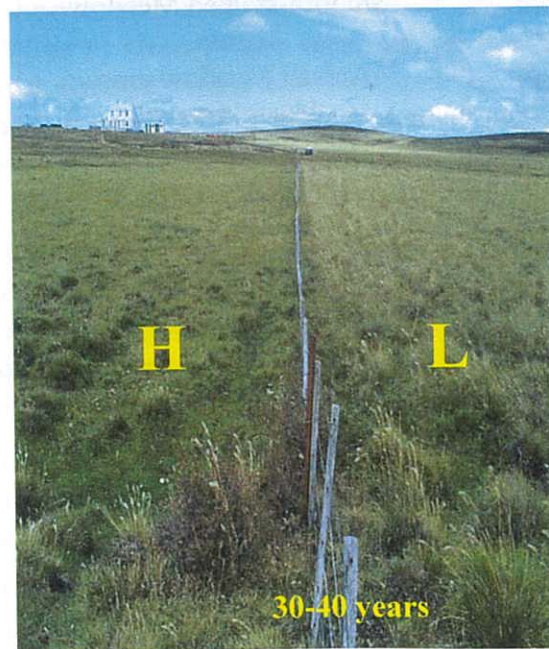
Sensitivity or tolerance to grazing	Short (<5 years) grazing history	Prolonged (6-50+ years) grazing history
Became significantly less abundant	Mountain Bluegrass Annual Meadow grass Pearlwort Oreob Mosses & Lichens Yorkshire Fog	Whitegrass Christmas Bush Small Fern 
Moderately or Highly sensitive	Native Fog Pale maiden Small Fern Christmas Bush Mountain berries Small Rush	
Became slightly less abundant Slightly Sensitive	Brown rush Whitegrass Carex Sedges Marigolds Fescue grasses Wavy hair grass Scurvy grass Lady's slipper Mouse-eared Chickweed	Wavy Hair grass Yorkshire Fog Native Fog Pigvine Tall Fern Diddle-dee Mountain berry Lichens
Showed no change or increased slightly Slightly tolerant	Smooth-stalked meadow grass Cudweed Button weed Tea berry Dog orchid Vanilla Daisy Buttercups	Goose grass Sweet vernal Fescue grasses Smooth-stalked Meadow grass Annual Meadow grass Sheep's sorrel Mosses
Became significantly more abundant Moderately or highly tolerant	Land Tussac Pratia Pigvine Diddle-dee Christmas Bush Goose grass	Bent grass Button weed 

Summary of the changes in plant abundance that occurred in heavily grazed Whitegrass pastures.



A range of fence line contrasts showing how Whitegrass pasture typically changes with time under contrasting grazing pressure.

L = lighter grazing pressure,
H = heavier grazing pressure



FALKLAND ISLANDS BEEF INDUSTRY UPDATE

By Doug Martin

ET / AI PROGRAMME

Some 145 embryos and 200 straws of semen were used in the breeding programme this year. The majority of embryos came from Angus cows, with the remainder from Hereford cows.

ArTech at Hamilton in New Zealand was the source of the embryos, which were collected as oocytes from selected cows at slaughter, tested and fertilized in vitro (laboratory culture), then packaged and frozen at minus 196 degrees centigrade in straws in exactly the same way as semen is packaged.

The embryos were implanted 7 days post standing heat, as they were at the 7 day development stage when frozen. They were implanted using a similar instrument or 'gun' to that used for AI, the difference being that the operator needed to locate by feel the erupted corpus luteum in the correct horn of the uterus, so that the embryo could be deposited into that horn. Not every cow that was synchronized received an embryo, as this depended on the size of the corpus luteum. The cows that did receive an embryo were classified into 1 or 2 depending on the quality of the corpus luteum.

The vet who carried out the transfer was Bryan Charleston from the UK, who works with the Institute of Animal Health and who has had years of experience working in the area of Embryo Transfer in cattle. We were extremely fortunate in that Bryan, who incidentally trained in the UK with Kevin Lawrence of local fame (in spite of his adventure still remains a close friend of Kevin's), carried out the work for the price of the air ticket (this was almost as elusive as the embryos). We could not have been more fortunate as the cost of this work is generally £400-£600 per day, and as we worked on a shoestring budget, we may not have been able to complete the programme without this help from Bryan.

We don't expect better than 50% take as variables such as timing, condition of cow, nutrition and handling can have an effect, however it is worth noting some comments made by Bryan:

1. The reproductive function of the cows selected for the embryos was of a better quality than he would normally expect in the UK. In other words we had a lot of good CL's (corpus luteum).
2. The quality of stockmanship and handling was of a very high standard. He explained that whenever he ran a programme with farmers in the UK, invariably if the cattle were handled poorly then this reflected in the final result.

3. The quality of the cattle he worked with here was generally very good. Peter Chilcott from Supergene in Australia paid us a surprise visit and tagged a number of the cows that received embryos. The percentage of cattle that fell into the top two categories was greater than he normally finds in Australia. In this case the cattle were assessed on fertility and eating quality.

We will now keep our fingers crossed in the hope that the farmers involved will be rewarded with some pure lines of cattle, and that pure bulls will be available for use across the Falkland Islands in two to three years.

As we already have some good lines of cattle here perhaps it is now possible that we bring in more embryos of selected breeds such as Red Poll, South Devon, Poll Devon, Lincoln Red, Poll Shorthorn etc. besides Angus and Poll Hereford to improve these lines to pure status and perhaps establish a base for export of genetic material sometime in the future.

In the meantime there is much to be done to establish a viable beef industry here. It is essential first that a quality product be made available to the local market on a continual basis. This task lies ahead and I am sure will be completed successfully by the beef producers here.

Special thanks must go to Kevin Lawrence for his support and belief that pure bulls must be obtained as soon as possible. Kevin's dry sense of humour helped on occasions when it seemed that the programme might not get off the ground. Thanks also to the input from the Councillors as well as that of FIDC, as without this support the programme would not have been possible. Last but not least the efforts of Karen Marsh and Nyree Heathman, who gave invaluable help in the synchronization programme.

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY

By Amy Jonson

For this article I must firstly welcome two new members of staff to our team, Adrian "Bean" Minnell and Geoffrey Wells. At the beginning of the year we also had 6 Slaughter men/Boners/Meat Inspectors arrive at the abattoir which I mentioned in November's article. Three of them have now returned to the UK after working here for one month. Some of you may be familiar with the three who are staying with us for a little longer as I hear they are regular customers in the Victory! Matt Kelly, William Dobie and Stuart Moore. Also welcome to George Paice, the man in the hot seat, who has taken over from Brian.

Brian has now returned to the UK to take up a position as manager of a By Product Plant. We all owe Brian a vote of thanks for the job he did getting this plant up and running.

The EU Inspection was the major undertaking for the abattoir in January. Dr Joerg Niederberger spent about an hour looking at mutton and beef being slaughtered, and then for the rest of the day went through all the process controls. Several things surfaced which needed attention but overall nothing too dramatic. Most of his concerns were addressed while he was in the Islands and he was invited back to see this for himself on the way to the airport. He left well impressed!

Training has been going well and confidence is growing amongst the team, both in slaughtering and also cutting and packaging the different cuts. I feel I must mention Elvis who is really getting the hang of slaughtering, and also Henry who is coming on in leaps and bounds. Josie Larsen has been promoted to supervisor and woe betide anyone who dare disobey!!!

The abattoir was visited on Monday 18th February by the MP's who were visiting the Islands. Although work had finished for the day they still had a good look around and were impressed with what they saw. They even had a shearing demonstration from Tony Heathman.

Having a registered Meat Inspector (Matt Kelly) working in the plant means that offal can now be sold from the abattoir in the shops in Stanley for the first time for many years. Also the incinerator is running well and all waste has been burnt since early January.

Sales of both beef and mutton have been delivered to the FIC in many different cuts including offal, sausages and Stanley Slice, with thanks to Stuart who has been showing the team how it's done. Feedback seems to be good so we are delivering on a daily basis. Also thanks to Stanley Growers for lending us some extra trays!

Other places we have sold to are the Kelper Stores, Freshco, Stanley Golf Club, the Upland Goose Hotel and the FIC Shipping Agency.

On the Pest Control side of things I can say that no rats have been caught contrary to some of the rumours which have been circulating, and our resident Pest Exterminator Val Berntsen comes out twice a week to inspect the premises and outbuildings.

On the whole I think everything is going pretty smoothly and the staff are working well. I don't think George has too many complaints about that side of it!

Any way there will be another update next month.

RECIPE PAGE

By Jenny Anderson

DATE LOAF

Ingredients

1 lb of sugar
1 lb of dates
12 oz margarine
2 cups of water
2 cups of flour
 $\frac{3}{4}$ tablespoon of vinegar
1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda

Method

Place the sugar, dates, margarine and water in a pan and place on the heat. Simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from the heat and add the flour, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. Mix together well and place in a lined 11" x 7" x 3" loaf tin. Bake in a moderate oven until firm on top (approx 1 hour).

When cool slice and spread with butter.

CHOCOLATE NUGGETS

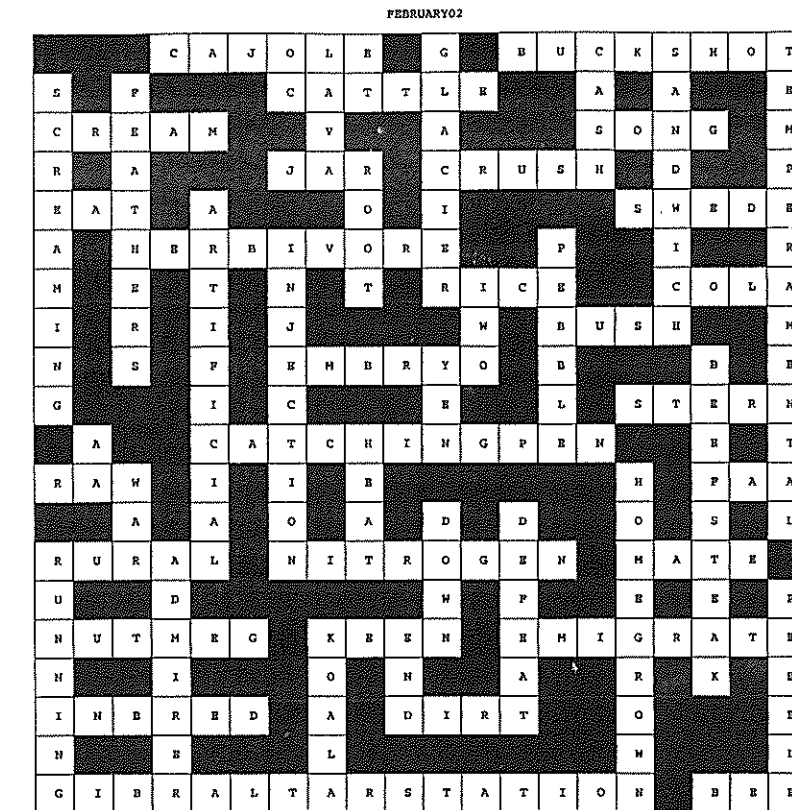
Ingredients

8 oz margarine
4 oz sugar
4 tablespoons of condensed milk
vanilla essence
8 oz flour
6 oz coconut
2 teaspoons of baking powder
4 oz cooking chocolate cut into small chunks

Method

Cream the margarine and sugar together in a bowl. Add the milk and vanilla essence to taste. Next mix in the flour, coconut, baking powder and chocolate. Once this is done roll small amounts of the mixture into balls and place them on a baking tray. Flatten the balls out with a fork and cook in a moderate oven for approx 15 minutes or until they have a 'dried out appearance'.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



AIDAN'S JOKE

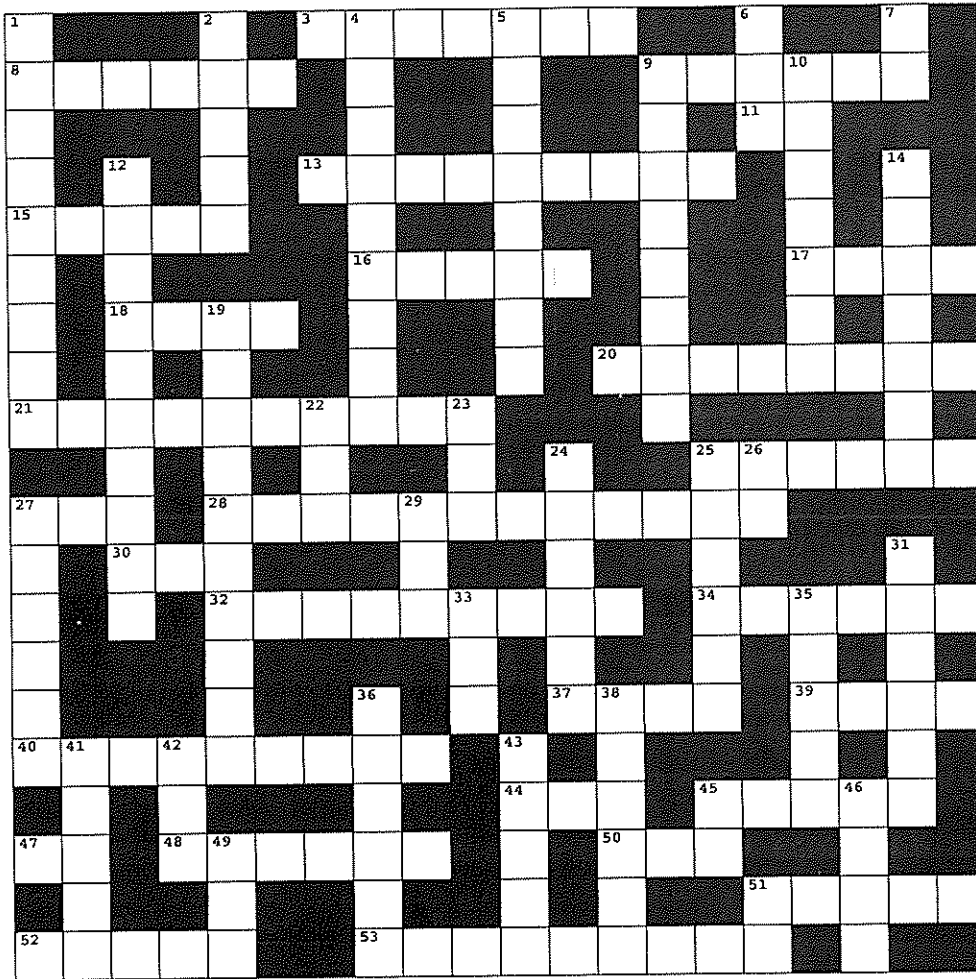
THE FISHERMAN

Two anglers are fishing in a boat under a bridge.

One looks up and sees a funeral procession starting across the bridge. He stands up, takes off his cap and bows his head.

The procession crosses the bridge and the man puts on his cap, picks up his rod and reel and continues fishing. The other guy says: "That was touching. I didn't know you had it in you."

The first guy responds: "Well, I guess it was the thing to do - after all I was married to her for 40 years."



ACROSS

DOWN

- 3. PILOT
- 8. APHRODISIAC MOLLUSC
- 9. PERIOD OF INSTRUCTION
- 11. PHYSICAL TRAINING
- 13. CHEMICAL THAT DESTROYS PLANTS
- 15. EGG SHAPED
- 16. DEADLY OR HARMFUL
- 17. CREAMY WHITE CHEESE
- 18. REFLECTED SOUND
- 20. BELONGING TO YOU (LAND)
- 21. AN ADDITION TO MAKE UP FOR A DEFICIENCY
- 25. WHERE TWO STREETS MEET
- 27. A COUPLE
- 28. GIVEN FOR A LOSS
- 30. OR NEAREST OFFER
- 32. RAISING TO A HIGHER RANK
- 34. FIELD
- 37. NOT ODD
- 39. DISLIKE INTENSELY
- 40. FIRST DAY OF SPORTS
- 44. PLUNGE BRIEFLY INTO LIQUID
- 45. ROW OF BUSHES
- 47. PROCEED
- 48. DUNG
- 50. NATURALLY OCCURRING MINERAL
- 51. MOISTEN MEAT DURING COOKING
- 52. NARROW INLET OR BAY
- 53. DAY BEFORE

- 1. MOUNTAIN BERRIES ARE SUPPOSEDLY THIS
- 2. STRUCTURE THAT ENCLOSES AN AREA
- 4. CARD OR GIFT EXPRESSING LOVE
- 5. BRINGING TO A STANDARD OF PROFICIENCY
- 6. KILLED CLEOPATRA!
- 7. NOT OUT
- 9. SMALL BRIGHTLY COLOURED BEETLE
- 10. BRISTLY GROWTH
- 12. RAINCOAT FOR EXAMPLE
- 14. FLOWER OF SCOTLAND!
- 19. AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF HOVER
- 22. MOTHER
- 23. SN PERIODICALLY
- 24. CONDITIONAL RELEASE FROM DETENTION
- 25. FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED
- 26. NOT OFF
- 27. FINE STRAND
- 29. IMAGE OF ONESELF
- 31. COURAGE
- 33. FOOT DIGIT
- 35. SMALL INSECT THAT FEEDS ON PLANT JUICE
- 36. LIQUID MANURE
- 38. VISIBLE PARTICLES OF MOISTURE
- 41. SMELL
- 42. MALE CAT
- 43. GROWN UP
- 45. HIS EXCELLENCY
- 46. BREATH IN SHARPLY
- 49. QUESTION
- 51. NEXT TO



The Wool Press

ISSUE 148

APRIL 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

YOUR LETTERS

OUR RESPONSE

GREAT DANES AND DISASTERS

By Zoe Luxton

COPPER, OTHER MINERALS & CATTLE GROWTH AT BRENTON LOCH

By Niilo Gobius

TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

By Matt Kelly

FURTHER THOUGHTS

By Stephen Pointing

WOOL PRODUCTION & QUALITY FROM CONTINUOUSLY & ROTATIONALLY STOCKED SHEEP

By Aidan Kerr

QFW UPDATE

FALKLAND ISLANDS STUDENT AT TOCAL

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April Wool Press.

It was good to see so many of you at the Mini Open Day that Aidan held and also at the Ram Sale/Saladero, Brenton Loch Open Day. It was a shame about the weather at the latter but you can't have everything I suppose.

Hopefully we will see you all at the Sheep Show at Fitzroy as well.

When I send out next month's Wool Press I will also send you your Livestock Returns. This way you will all have them in plenty of time so don't go and lose them!

Thanks to all those who have sent in letters for publication. Unfortunately we don't have room for them all this month so I will publish one or two a month.

Also, if anyone has any brainteasers that we could publish please send them in as my source has run dry. Thanks.

Nyree



"Can you give him something to relax his jaws?"

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Update on the Falkland Islands Organic Project

As many of you may know Port Edgar and Port Louis have become the first farms in the Islands to be organically certified. Crooked Inlet has had the first inspections and is now in conversion. Ten other farms have expressed consideration of converting once shearing and sheep sorting has finished for this season.

The recording of all activities, including stock movements, dog dosing, rotational field plans, animal welfare/medical plans, feeding regimes, fertilisers etc. are important aspects. If you are thinking of going Organic in the future, I would advise that you start to look at your recording details now. A simple daily diary is sufficient for the traceability.

A few points that you may wish to do or consider:

- Firstly, draw a map of your farm with all the fence lines, pasture improvement, buildings, animal rotations, conservation areas etc. Think seriously if you want the whole farm as organic straight away, if you have had chemical fertilisers for pasture improvement in certain paddocks - don't worry as this can be put into a longer conversion period.
- Consider the Department of Agriculture Pasture Improvement Programme and get some leguminous plant established. It's possible after you have been certified as organic to establish a pocket of land into pasture

improvement. This pocket would be taken out of the organic conversion until it's been established and then put back into a 2-year conversion plan. This is only if you want to use chemical fertilisers.

• Animals that are destined for the abattoir must have traceability recordings and have an individual number, colour or letter tag. Station mark and raddled animals will *not* be sufficient as other farms may have the same as you.

• Any Embryo Transfer (ET) programme that you have embarked upon must be completed before you put your farm into conversion as ET is prohibited. ET progeny can be obtained from non-organic farms where the offspring must be weaned before 6 months of age and then reared on the organic farm. The progeny must not be put through the food chain or used for breeding purposes for at least 12 months after which time they will be certified as organic.

- The Legislation says that the use of hormones for growth promotion such as hormones used in Artificial Insemination (AI) for synchronization is prohibited. Nevertheless AI is permitted if normal oestrus is observed. All practices on organic farms should be by breeding of natural means if possible.
- Sand Bay Abattoir has issued a 25% premium on lamb prices.
- Lamb marking must be done before the lamb is 10 weeks of age unless the lambs are going to the abattoir. Then there is no need to mark.

Remember, if you want to have organic status for next season.

Please give me a call as soon as possible.

Charlene (Organic Inspector)

PRINCIPALS OF ORGANIC FARMING

Key Principals of Organic Farming:

- Supports natural systems.
- Encourages biological cycles involving micro-organisms, soil, flora and fauna, plants and animals.
- Maintains habitat to ensure bio-diversity is encouraged.
- Animal Welfare.
- Avoids pollution and take into account the environmental impact of farming activities.

Benefits to the environment are:

- Soil fertility improved by adding organic matter and natural nitrogen fixations.
- No pollution to rivers, streams and drains.
- Natural predators are not poisoned and a balanced population of butterflies, birds and animals are encouraged.
- A better understanding of crop management and animal welfare.

Organic Products are more healthy:

- Farmers need no longer suffer from respiratory problems associated with the handling of farm chemicals.
- Absence of chemical, hormone and antibiotic residues make products safer to consume.

5 Principle Freedom Practices of Animal Welfare:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- Freedom from thermal and physical discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.
- Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Visiting the West Falklands

I will be on the West Falklands from 13 to 17th April 2002. If you would like me to call in and have a chat on organics over a cuppa, please get in touch so that a time/day can be arranged.

YOUR LETTERS

The following is a letter to Animal Nutritionist Niilo Gobius from Robin Goodwin regarding Niilo's articles about Pasture Management and Animal Production. We have published his letter (with Robin's permission) for all to read.

I have been reading with interest your instalments regarding Pasture management and sheep production and I have some further comments to the Increased Stocking rate section in this month's edition.

Firstly I agree that a higher stocking rate does keep pasture in better condition, but this is only while conditions are able to let one do this. We at Green Field Farm were very into increasing stock from the time we purchased Our Farm in 1984 right up to 2000 when we decided that drastic changes were needed to rebuild our fast declining stock and wool production.

Our Farm is a land locked one and is in the middle of the Mountains, we experience very hot summers and very harsh winters inland and we are in the middle of a frost zone. The country is covered in vast quantities of peats and mosses, much of which is considered unsuitable grazing for stock.

This is what happened.

To start with we received a total of 3,200 sheep with our Green Field Farm Section in 1984 which produced in the order of some 12,000 kilos greasy of wool or approx. 3.75 kg per sheep. Along with encouragement from one of our lenders and wool sellers, we agreed to introduce more sheep to our then 16,500 acre Farm.

We purchased some 1,500 ewes from Goose Green in 1985 and began the plan of increased numbers. The next shearing season we clipped some 14,000 kilos of wool from a total of 4,100 sheep sheared. or approx. 3.41 kilos per sheep. We were optimistic at having gained an extra couple of thousand kilos from the extra sheep. We were not over concerned at the losses at that time. We had gone from a stocking rate of 5.15 acres per sheep to 3.51 acres per sheep.

We continued at this level of stocking for the next few years, concentrating on getting lambing numbers up to a level where we could replace our own losses. However Lambing fell from the first year of 64% to a low of 23%. Some experienced Farmers believed that our Land was too harsh for breeding ewes, we agreed but continued to find better ways to get more lambs.

In 1989 we saw a great opportunity and purchased the Wiamea section, which offered good lowland for breeding and above all the wool prices were very good and interest was low. We now had a Farm of 32,500 acres with nearly 10,000 sheep or approx. 3.25 acres per sheep.

We sheared in that same year our best clip ever of over 31,500 kilos of wool. The newly acquired Farm had been moving into Merino crossed Polwarths, which seemed to be the way everyone was progressing, so we continued with these sheep for a couple of years more, but soon realised that softer finer sheep did not do well on the Green Field section of the Farm and we began to start loosing more stock in the winter and then lambing began to drop even further with just 800 lambs per year from 2,500 odd breeding ewes.

We struggled on like this until about 1998 when we were given an opportunity to purchase a large quantity of Corriedale sheep from Salvador Farm, about 3,500 animals were purchased and we were able to cull a large number of what was by this time very dilapidated stock to say the least. Shearing in 1999 was very good with an increased wool weight and some 28,000 kilos clipped from about 10,000 sheep.

But our problems were not over yet as the consistent heavy grazing of our Farm, coupled with a new problem of wild cattle hunting, we began to realise that we will have to drastically reduce sheep numbers to a level that we could sustain viably. So we culled everything that either had a fault in both body and wool, then we culled all the imports from Polwarth sources. We continued to take this angle right up to the present day and we now have a better looking flock than we started with all those years ago and while we only sheared 6,500 sheep this year we achieved some 21,800 kilos of greasy wool which is approx. 3.35 kilos per sheep. All this considering we finished shearing six weeks ahead of the previous year.

Now you might wonder at where this is all leading up to with regard to your report.

Take it from those who have been there, increasing stocks on existing Falkland Pasture is a very risky venture. We lost body weight, lowered our wool weight, reduced lambing, paid a heck of a lot more for the shearing and freight, had to put up with flak from the Department of Agriculture, had no ground in reserve to put sheep in winter, lost enormous amounts of wool revenue through poor quality sheep and wool, put terrible financial pressure on ourselves and nearly bankrupted the Farm. All this because I believed in Superfine wool and more stock.

Okay you might say we went to extreme stocking rates, maybe we did, but for whatever reason, was it all worth it? Definitely not. I would not recommend to anyone to increase numbers just because there is the prospect of a rise in wool prices. First priority must be Shelter belts and better feed for the Animals and above all be able to retain sufficient land to winter stock, unfortunately the new pasture re-seed only gives limited nourishment to a select few sheep and will not sustain animals all year round. Though I am sure that with Shelter belts in the future this could change.

There are a couple of pieces of good that came out of our project. Green Field Farm is just that, GREEN. We are much stronger and wiser now. We have reverted to a very hardy sheep, the Corriedale, which we continue to improve each year by purchases at the Saladero sheep sales.

We have never used fire to control grass. We are strongly against it. We are strong believers of using the stock to make the pasture greener. We are now more aware of our animals well-being.

The overall body weight of the flock is now improving and sheep frames are getting much bigger, which will in turn further increase the wool clip.

We are sure that many other Farmers have also had different experiences of increased stocking and it would be interesting to hear how they coped.

We believe that about 6,000 sheep (the target we are now aiming to sustain) for Green Field Farm is about right and will give us more freedom of pasture utilisation in the winter months.

Sometimes we wonder, had we have been given better advice on the suitability of our Land by those who farmed it before us, instead of the criticism we got for the changes we attempted, would we have been better off. That of course we will never know.

My late Father always believed that trees and vast shelter belts of hedges would be the only way to improve our stocking rates and the country as a whole. In hind site I believe he was right and it is now time for the Department of Agriculture to seriously look at hedges as shelter belts. They will greatly assist the new re-seed program and the subsequent stock that follow.

Robin Goodwin
Green Field Farm.

RESPONSE TO ROBIN GOODWIN'S LETTER

By Niilo Gobius

Robin,

Thank you for your letter. It is good to be able to discuss these things. Your letter and experiences highlight a number of points, the first of which regards advice in general. The others concern more technical aspects of pasture and animal management.

If only we could write in pictures rather than words, then we could say 1000 times as much in the same space. My article in the last Wool Press was meant

to be a general article about pasture management and animal production. Hence, I tried to be brief and to the point so as I wouldn't bore the socks off you all. As such, space didn't allow me to qualify my statements in detail and this is a danger when giving any written or verbal advice. In hindsight topics that may be controversial, such as this, probably deserve a stand-alone article.

With regard to your own experiences, you will understand it is difficult for me to comment in specifics because I wasn't here to have seen how everything operated. In the article in question I concluded the section on increased stocking rate with the line "Obviously some camps and farms are able to carry more stock than others because they grow more pasture than others, but are they stocked at their potential at present?". Determining what a sustainable stocking rate is going to be is very difficult at present because we know little about what an animal eats and how its diet changes with season, stocking rate, rainfall and temperature. Many farms are probably operating under an optimum regime already, some may be well below it and as you found out some may be too far above it. Many farmers have a good idea about the potential of their land.

Until we know more about the diet of Falkland Islands livestock, determining safe stocking rates may only be done through trial and error. Stocking rates in the Island's range from about 0.4 DSE (dry stock equivalent)/ha to about 1.6 DSE/ ha. This is a large range and surely not everyone is operating to his or her potential? Therefore, it is not surprising that you found the advice given to you unsatisfactory. I doubt that anyone could tell what is a good stocking rate for your land. I certainly will not extend my neck out and tell you to go from 0.4 to 1.6 DSE/ha just because another property is capable of carrying this much stock. This very question, however, is what my work program is concentrating on.

Over the next couple of years we will be monitoring the seasonal production of sheep, cattle and pastures on 8-10 farms around both East and West Falkland. Production will be related to rainfall, temperature, stocking rates and vegetation cover to find out what is driving animal production and what then may be a sustainable stocking rate for a particular farm. Ask me again in a couple of year's time.

Moving on, you related that your wool production, body weights and lambing percentage suffered greatly. I did warn readers in the last article that "..... with higher stocking rates the production of an individual animal will decrease. To lessen this effect an increase in stocking rate should be accompanied by rotational grazing...". As I said previously, I wasn't around to know how much extra management went into your farm when you increased stocking rates. Did you rotate your animals around the pastures, allowing areas to

recuperate? It may be that you did. An increase in farming intensity requires careful and greater management input and experience helps greatly. Animals need to be watched more closely than in a less intensive situation.

One thing I failed to mention was that if a farm is thinking about increasing stocking rates it should be done gradually so that the effects of the change can be monitored in order that animals will not suffer unduly.

Finally, you mention that shelter belts would be the only way to improve our stocking rates. I must disagree. Shelter belts will definitely help stock deal with the Falklands environment and may shelter the pasture to a small extent, but at the end of the day the stock still require good feed throughout the year. That will not be provided by shelter belts.

Thanks again for relating your experiences and starting some discussion on the topic.

Regards
Niilo Gobius
DOA Animal Nutritionist

FOR SALE

A QUANTITY OF MUTTON WEATHERS. THESE ARE ALSO MEDIUM-FINE WOOL ANIMALS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NICK PITALUGA ON PHONE 31193 (EVENINGS) OR FAX 31194.

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G & S Shearing Supplies will shortly be placing orders for shearing equipment. If anyone has any specific requirements for parts or motors please contact us.

We have shearing jeans, singlets, ½ sleeve sweats and jackets in stock. We also carry a selection of spares for shearing machines.

For more information contact Sue or Hew on Tel/Fax 32235 or e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk

GREAT DANES AND DISASTERS

By Zoe Luxton

Where did that fortnight go then? One minute I was excitedly sitting at Brize Norton en route home for a nice break, then next minute I was back on the Tri-Star, slightly sunburnt and wondering how long I should leave it before my liver was in a fit state to return. I had a lovely trip home, special thanks to Jenny and Tony for laying on the excellent weather the day the Luxtons went to Paloma! It was nice to be back up at the Department of Agriculture. I really enjoyed doing a few horse jobs as over here I don't get to do any unfortunately. I did get called to see a Great Dane the other day though that was bigger than some horses I know. It was one of those calls that began with a large sense of impending doom and dread and then turned out to be okay really. Lindsay, one of our nurses from the Ipswich branch, came running up to my flat Friday morning gibbering that "Hooch has got his jaw locked open and I don't know who is panicking more, the large dog or the large dog's owners!!" So after 3 minutes of blind panic as small vet couldn't remember how to reduce a locked jaw we were on our way. Luckily I had a flash of inspiration of how to fix the problem but was still a bit dubious of how I was physically going to wrestle with a panicking Great Dane to actually re-locate his jaw. We rushed (in school run traffic at approximately 14 mph) to the house and knocked on the door. Hooch attempted to woof at the visitors and put his own jaw back into place! Vet and nurse in sidesplitting hysterics while owners of said dog looked very sheepish and embarrassed!

Lots of exciting things seem to have happened at work while I was away, Alison is pregnant, Tom and Susan are leaving and Heather got squashed by a cow. There is quite an amusing tale behind the last story and Heather is laughing about it now that her cracked ribs have healed and it doesn't hurt so much. The lesson to be learned is 'always look down'. Heather was merrily casting a cow down with a rope to replace a prolapsed uterus. She didn't want to give it any sedation as the cow was in quite a bit of shock and any further cardiac/respiratory depression would not have done it any favours. The procedure was going well, the cow was lying quietly with its legs trussed up when the farmer ambled into the pen via the race and left the race gate open. The cow saw its moment and leaped up and headed for the open gate. Now Heather is tough but even she wasn't going to hold back a rampaging Friesian so she sensibly just let go of the ropes, then glanced down and in classic comedy moment realised the rope was well and truly tangled around her ankles. So unfortunately Heather went with the rampaging cow and decided that after bouncing off the ground and one fence, she sure as hell was not going to bounce down the race as well so somehow managed to untangle herself. Very lucky that she did otherwise we may

not have been treating the matter quite so lightly – so the other lesson farmers is, please don't leave the race gate open!

Finally, character building story of the week. Remember some time ago I was called to a bitch with suspected haemorrhage after being speyed? Luckily that was a false alarm and I didn't have to live on Valium for the next week. Unfortunately my bleed on Thursday afternoon was definitely not a false alarm. I had castrated a dog and been extra careful (or so I thought) as it was a really vicious dog and I didn't relish the thought of seeing it again that night, so I put 2 ligatures on each testicular stump and sewed the dog up well. He woke up fine, I took him out to his owner, not a drop of blood anywhere – until he sat down in reception and there was suddenly blood EVERYWHERE, and pumping out of his ex-testicle area like a geyser. I didn't see it happen but I could tell by the tone of Gemmas (receptionist) voice that the bottle of sedative was going to be needed very quickly once again. Luckily the dogs owner is a tough South African lady who just said "Oh s****" and handed the dog back to me. Seeing something that you have operated on haemorrhage like that is possibly the worst feeling in the entire world. I felt sick with fright and was busy deciding whether to anaesthetise the dog or cry when Barry (boss) wandered past and said "Oh dear – need a hand?" So Barry fixed it while I twitted in and out worrying that my period of employment at Smith Ryder-Davies was well and truly over. Realising that unfortunately everyone has cases like this at some point, Barry was busy regaling the story of one castrate he did haemorrhaging all over the owners kitchen but it was Mr Smith who spent all night fixing it while Barry had an uninterrupted nights sleep! So luckily the dog (and me!) survived my first disaster. Lets just hope it is a long time before the next one.

MARRIAGES ANIMAL FEED

PAT AND DAN WILL SHORTLY BE ORDERING MORE ANIMAL FEED FROM MARRIAGES. COULD ANYONE WANTING TO ORDER FEED PLEASE CONTACT THEM ON PHONE/FAX 31003 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU.

COPPER, OTHER MINERALS AND CATTLE GROWTH AT BRENTON LOCH

By Niilo Gobius

In October there was interest in investigating a suspected deficiency of copper in animals in the Falkland Islands. Soil and grass samples all indicate that copper, as well as a number of other minerals are likely to limit animal production in the Falklands. Selection of some species eg. Christmas bush, which has higher mineral concentrations, may alleviate the problem. So we decided to test whether copper does indeed limit production by measuring the weight gain of cattle over the summer period.

A group of 60 mature, dry cows at Brenton Loch were randomly split into two groups, with 30 cows receiving a slow release copper bolus while the others were left copper free. At the same time we took blood samples from each cow and hair samples from a random few. These samples were analysed for copper, along with a range of other minerals. If blood mineral levels are going to be low they should have been low in October as the cattle had just emerged from a long winter and there was little quality grass around.

So what did we find? We weighed the animals once, 86 days after the initial weighing and dosing and we've now got all the blood samples back. We should be weighing them again in the near future.

Weight gains and condition score

We found no difference in weight gains between the two groups of cows, both groups put on about 90 kg in the 86 days, or grew at 1.1 kg/cow/day - a very good growth rate. In short copper had no effect on growth at all.

This is not really surprising, as the major limitation to animal production is how much feed we can stuff down their throats. This depends on the extent to which it can be digested, which in turn depends on the amount of fibre, sugars and protein in the feed. Adequate amounts of minerals only affect production when these other components are non-limiting.

The condition score of both these animal groups after 86 days averaged around 3.25 (on a scale of 1-5). Pretty good considering what they looked like after winter!

As a side point I'll make a comment on the quality of the feed needed to achieve these growth rates. A lot of good quality grass (eg. finegrasses) can be put down an animal's throat but not much low quality grass (eg. whitegrass). To consume enough energy and protein to achieve these growth rates the cattle could not have been grazing any whitegrass at all, and probably only grazed finegrasses.

Mineral levels

Despite the low mineral levels in the soil and major grass species, the cattle at Brenton Loch seem to be able to select the right feeds to supply sufficient mineral levels. All the minerals we analysed for were found to be within the acceptable range, with copper and zinc being at the lower limit of recommendations. Although copper levels were marginal, the result of this experiment suggests that, in the short term at least, the levels are adequate.

Copper is required in many body enzymes, the nervous system, blood, bone, hair and cardiovascular formation. So, in the long term supplementation may have more of an effect than in the short term. Copper is important for wool production so in the future we may investigate copper deficiency in sheep.

The following table summarises the mineral levels in cattle involved in the experiment.

Mineral	Copper	Cobalt (Vit B12)	Manganese	Sodium	Potassium	Copper	Zinc
Tissue sample	Blood	Blood	Blood	Blood	Blood	Hair	Hair
Test unit	µmol/l	pmol/l	µmol/l	mmol/l	mmol/l	mg/kg	mg/kg
Recommended range	9-20	>125	78-168	132 - 152	3.9 - 5.8	4 - 8	75-100*
Recorded level	9.6	300	167	141	5	3	75

* Marginal band

ANIMAL FEED

TO ALL FARMERS

Please could anyone who import animal feed supply me with the following information each time feed is imported:

WHAT VESSEL THE FEED IS ARRIVING ON

QUANTITY OF FEED SUPPLIED

THE KIND OF FEED, INCLUDING CHICKEN FEED.

Your cooperation with this request is much appreciated.

**Charlene Rowland
Organic Inspector**

COULD ANY FARMS THAT HAVE NOT YET SENT IN THEIR ACCOUNTS SUMMARIES PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONCE YOUR ACCOUNTS ARE RECEIVED WE CAN THEN MAKE ANY SUBSIDY PAYMENTS THAT ARE DUE TO YOU.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT THEIR SUMMARIES IN.

NYREE

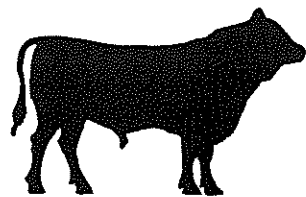
TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

By Matt Kelly

As the export licence for the FIDC abattoir in Sandy Bay becomes a closer reality, it is now important to remind people about how to handle and transport livestock carefully. As it has been proven that high levels of stress have a direct result on the quality of meat that is put on the table, it is important to reduce the stress put on the animals from the source. This is not really a major concern for sheep in the Falklands which are used to human contact, but it is more important where cattle are concerned. Cattle in the Falklands are not used to close contact with people and are wary from the minute they are approached. Until now cattle have been killed in Camp but with the building of the abattoir a small number of cattle have been transported for processing within the factory. When moving cattle the following rules need to be followed to help minimise the risk of stress or injury during transport:

- 1) Horned cattle must be penned separately from unhorned cattle.
- 2) They should have enough room to stand up, lie down and turn around but not too much room so that they will be thrown around and get bruised or in the worst case scenario break a leg.
- 3) Cattle should be loaded and unloaded with as little fuss as possible. The entrance ramp should not be too steep or slippery.
- 4) The trailer should be constructed of a solid material which is easy to clean.
- 5) Air flow into the trailer should be controlled by ventilation flaps which can be changed according to the weather conditions and all trailers must have a roof.
- 6) On long journeys it may be necessary to supply water (journeys exceeding 8 hours). (Welfare of animals (transport) Order 1997).
- 7) Care should always be taken when transporting livestock on the roads to avoid any unnecessary jolting which may throw the animals about and cause bruising to the body.

Most of the practices used in transporting livestock are common sense but if you have any questions or comments please contact the vet or Animal Meat Hygiene Inspector (AMHI) at the abattoir.



AND TONIGHT MATTHEW.....FURTHER THOUGHTS

By Stephen Pointing

Matthew works on the line at the abattoir as a meat hygiene inspector (MHI). He sees first-hand the damage that is sustained to carcasses between leaving the farm and being dressed – out on the kill line. In the case of heavy animals, such as cattle, the amount of muscle (meat) that has to be trimmed off as a result of injury and bruising can lead to significant losses. Occasionally a complete fore or hind quarter has to be discarded. How do these injuries occur and what can you do to minimise them?

As farmers your responsibility is with the animals on the farm and up to the point of departure to the abattoir. Your contribution to the overall welfare of the animals can be considerable and can be seen right down the line.

Generally speaking, up until now, Falkland Islands cattle have been handled very little and when they are handled the whole event has been treated rather like a rodeo. This is the exact opposite of what you should be aiming at. You should be aiming to rear and raise quiet, easily handled cattle. Even though the current breeds are not the most docile, you can help by handling them frequently, quietly and in a calm manner. The more often you run them through the race the more used they become to human contact.

In my opinion, all cattle should have their horns removed before they are transported to the abattoir. You have probably seen how they use their horns on each other when they are in your paddocks or in the yards – just imagine how much worse that can be when they are in a confined space on the back of a lorry, in a pen on the Tamar or in the lairage at the abattoir. Dehorning cattle really isn't a very difficult operation and it can be done relatively quickly and humanely by one of the vets or Doug Martin – so please give us a call some time in advance of selling cattle to the abattoir. In the future the type of cattle being produced will be of a beefier, more docile nature, ideally without horns. In the meantime you need to consider how best to handle the cattle you currently have. Obviously some injuries to animals can occur on the lorry and in the lairage BUT if the cattle loaded at the farm are already of a quiet disposition this has considerable benefits further down the line.

Please get into the habit of handling your cattle QUIETLY, CALMLY and FREQUENTLY. At the end of the day the loss will be yours in reduced payments for your animals and a possible visit from the vet on welfare grounds.

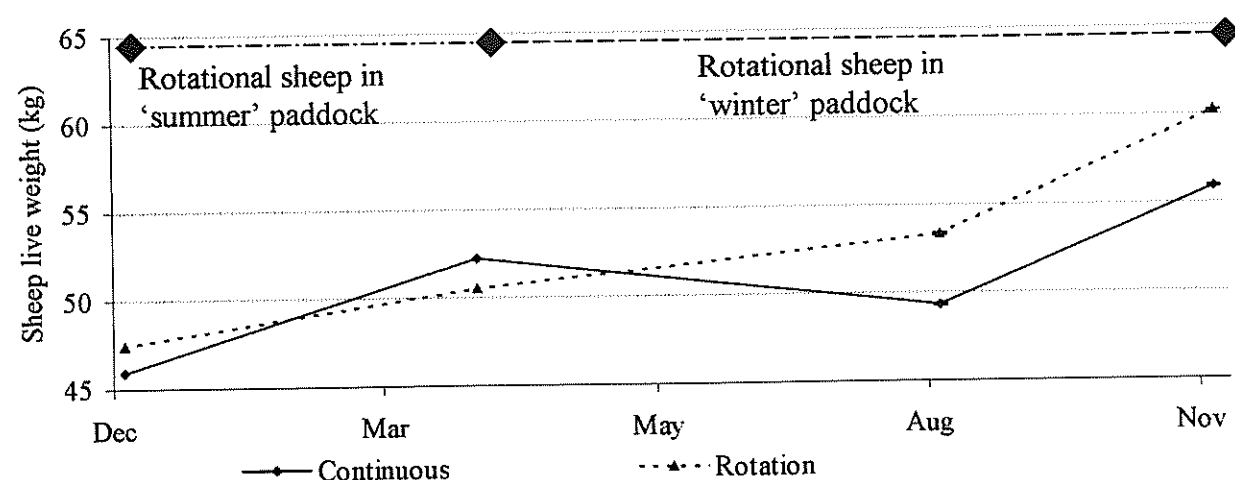
WOOL PRODUCTION AND QUALITY FROM CONTINUOUSLY AND ROTATIONALLY STOCKED SHEEP

By Aidan Kerr

In last month's edition I reported the changes in the composition of grazed Whitegrass 'camp' over time periods up to and over 50 years. Also in that edition Niilo Gobius (DoA Livestock Nutritionist) reported on the benefits of rotational grazing. As a follow up, this article reports the wool production and quality results from a sheep grazing trial that I conducted between 1995 and 1998 on Whitegrass 'camp' near Clements Corner/MPA, Fitzroy farm.

Wool production and wool quality of 2-5 year old, mainly Corriedale wether sheep were compared between continuous yearlong and rotational stocked systems. The year round stocking rates were the same between the systems (0.8 - 1 sheep/ha) and were increased by 10% each year. In the rotational system, the sheep were stocked in a 'summer' paddock (30 ha, predominantly lax Whitegrass) at c. 3.5 - 4.2 sheep/ha only between December and April. The sheep were then moved to a 'winter' paddock (90 ha, with more Bog Whitegrass and Greens) at 1.1 - 1.3 sheep/ha only from April to December. Thus the summer

Comparative growth of continuously and rotationally stocked wethers on Whitegrass 'camp' near Fitzroy, 1995-98.



and winter paddocks were not stocked for eight and four months respectively.

Averaged over all three years, the rotational sheep gained weight (+3kg) over winter while the continuously stocked sheep lost weight (-3 kg) (see graph) and this resulted in superior annual live weight gain by the rotational sheep. Similar differences in body condition of the sheep occurred between systems. Annual mortality rates in both systems were similar (2%/yr).

The superior performance of the rotational sheep over winter was attributed to greater availability and utilisation of the pasture in the winter paddocks and to greater diversity of plant species and abundance of grasses other than Whitegrass in the Greens. The accumulation of pasture and improvements in species composition in the winter paddocks occurred mainly as a result of the four-month spell from grazing.

Rotational sheep produced a 7% heavier fleece with about 3% greater yield of wool without significantly affecting fibre diameter. This fleece was worth 26 pence more than that from a continuously stocked sheep.

Additional wool measurements showed that staples from rotational sheep were longer and stronger. Also, the proportion of staples from rotational sheep that were 'sound' or 'very sound' was over double that of the continuously stocked sheep. Conversely, continuously stocked sheep had greater proportions of wool that were either part-tender, tender or very tender. While a greater proportion of staples from rotational sheep broke in the middle, their superior strength outweighed the position of break factor. Predicted Hauteur¹ of wool from rotational sheep was also greater than that from continuously stocked sheep.

Wool production and quality, 1995-98	Continuous	Rotational
% Yield	62.7	65.5
Clean Fleece (kg)	2.21	2.37
Fibre diameter (µm)	29	30
Staple length (mm)	111	116
Staple strength (N/ktex)	23	27
% of staples with middle breaks	13	36
Predicted Hauteur (mm) ¹	84	90
Total % of fleeces very tender, tender & part tender	80	62
% of fleeces sound * & very sound	4, 15	9, 29
Fleece value, (1996-97 average prices £ stg,.)	5.03	5.29

Generally, the trial showed that for typical low-lying Whitegrass 'camp', wool production and quality and the live weights, gains and condition of wether sheep were improved by rotational stocking the sheep between two paddocks per year compared to continuous stocking in just one. As Niilo suggested last month, at its simplest and cheapest (as no extra fencing would be needed), a rotational system could involve the sheep from two or more camps being combined into one camp during summer so the others could be spelled for winter. In this respect, the trial has shown that wethers could be stocked during summer at rates over four times higher than usual, without significant adverse effects on live weights, gains, condition and wool production. This management system assumed that after summer they were moved back onto 'spelled' camps.

'Spelling' native pastures may be a particularly useful strategy to boost winter feed for all sheep during drier growing seasons such as the current one. It may also have potential for improving the availability of feed to ewes and hence increase lamb birth weights, ewe milk supply and overall lamb survival and growth.

The heavier stocking of the summer paddock of the rotational system made greater use of the pastures than the continuously stocked system and opened up the pastures for later improvements. While no large changes in species composition occurred naturally, by 1999 the Whitegrass was suitable for improvement by oversowing. Those of you who visited the site during the Fitzroy Open Day will have seen that legumes have now been successfully established in a moist valley there using oversowing and trampling by sheep.

Finally, for the first time on Whitegrass 'camp', the trial demonstrated that clean fleece weight and staple strength (the second most important determinant of raw wool price, after fibre diameter) can be improved practically without a significant adverse effect on fibre diameter. Greater improvements in staple strength are potentially attainable from stocking systems that use improved pastures. Whether such improvement would be commercially valuable will depend on whether Falkland wool is sold with 'additional measurements' such as staple strength. Farmers here may benefit from knowing if stronger Falkland wool is financially more valuable to them than weaker Falkland wool and if so, by how much?¹

¹ Predicted Hauteur is the mean fibre length in wool 'tops' and is used to specify their processing potential during trading. It is calculated using an equation that combines fibre diameter, vegetable matter content, staple length and strength and the percentage of staples that break in the middle.

QFW UPDATE

Currently 32 farms are participating in the Rural Business Association's QFW scheme. It is believed that attention drawn to wool handling and clip preparation standards through the QFW scheme in recent years has led to an appreciable improvement in the overall quality of wool sold from the "Islands".

Wool buyers and processors are adamant that the highest standards of wool preparation need to be maintained. This is particularly the case for high value fleece wool, but also applies to skirting wool types.

Wool tops from the Falkland Islands have historically been highly regarded for their soft handle and whiteness, but only recently they have started to develop a reputation for low dark and coloured fibre contamination levels. This is particularly the case when compared to South American wools.

Attention to detail at all stages of the wool handling process will assist to perpetuate these very positive impressions about wool from the Falkland Islands

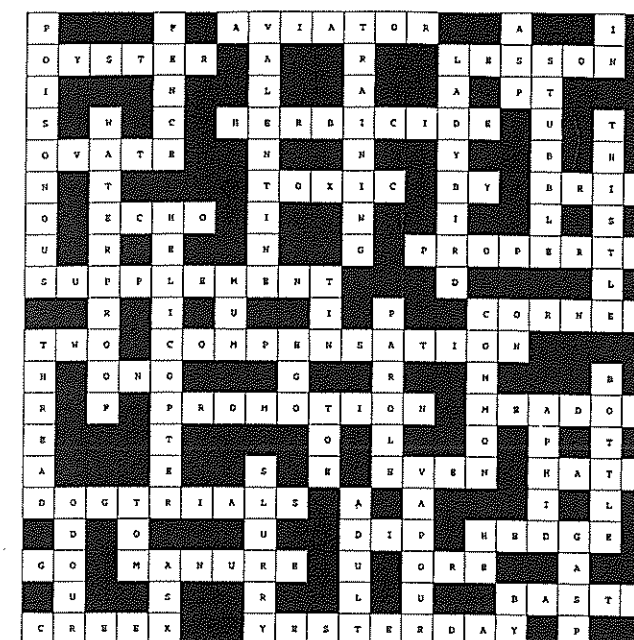
The QFW scheme is also believed to offer firms involved in selling Falkland Islands wool an important marketing tool that could assist them to achieve the highest possible price for "islands" wool, particularly during adverse economic times.

Important Note.

It should be recognised that while QFW conditions are intended to encourage improved wool handling and wool preparation standards, they do not over rule the general laws of the Falkland Islands. As an example, any woolgrower having difficulty with birds nesting in their shearing shed should understand that appropriate approval must be obtained to remove the birds from their shed if they are a protected species.

Any grower seeking more information about the QFW scheme can contact the Department of Agriculture for assistance.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



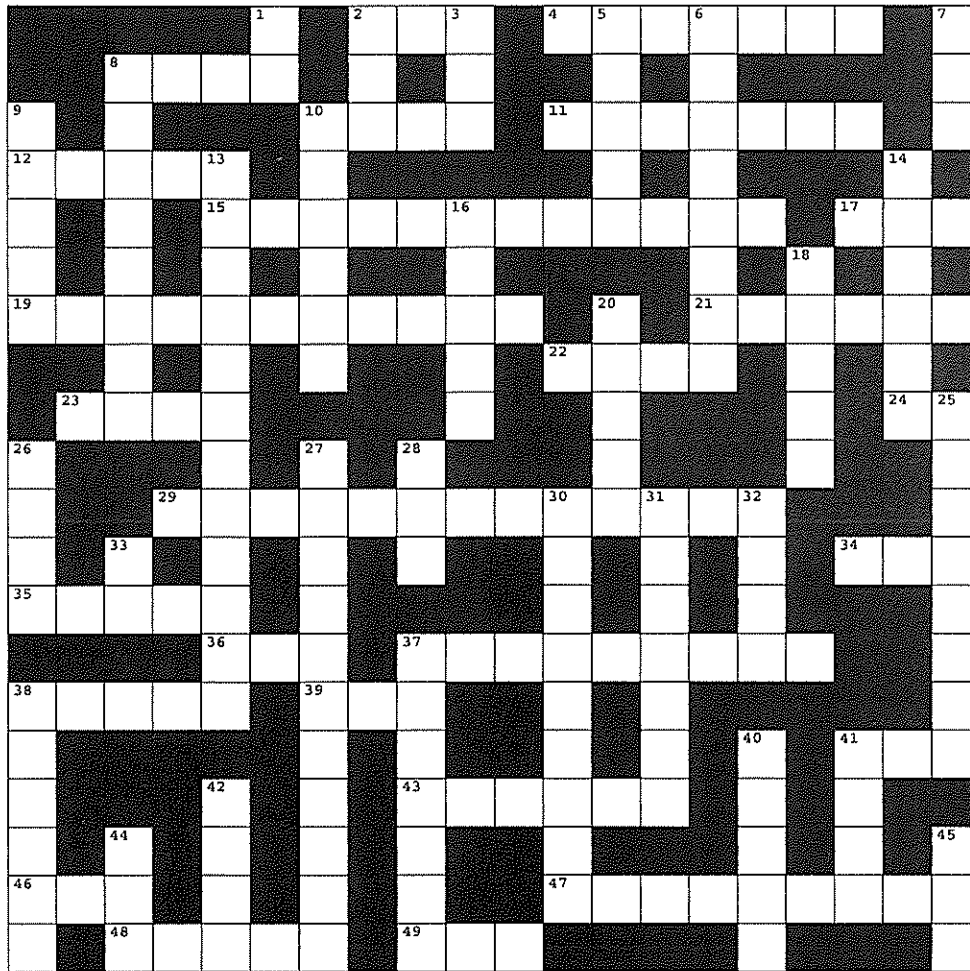
FALKLAND ISLANDS STUDENT AT Tocal

Falkland Islands farmer Donna Minnell has been studying at Tocal for the past three months and also doing work experience at local farms. Her time in Australia is part of an initiative by her government to enhance farmers' capabilities in agricultural production.

The Falklands has traditionally been a wool producer and exporter to Britain but because of low wool prices, there have been thoughts of increasing cattle production on the islands, which lie to the east of southern Argentina. The Falklands are governed by Britain and they achieved prominence in 1982, when they were invaded by Argentina and promptly liberated by British forces. Donna has spent most of her life in Falklands agriculture and during the war, she was working on a large property at Goose Green – an area which featured in the action to liberate the island group. She was imprisoned during this time in the local hall and her stories of life in the Falklands fascinated Tocal college staff and students.

Donna said her main focus at Tocal was cattle production. She commented on Australian hospitality, her welcome and what she had learnt here, on her first international trip. She said she will take a lot of learning back to the Falkands, having gained a Certificate IV in Agriculture and another student there is expected to replace her. However she said she will continue her studies by correspondence. "It has been a great challenge for me and I plan to continue to learn about agriculture," she said. "There are many similarities between what we do in the Falklands and Australia. Our properties are quite big, despite the Falklands being a group of small islands," she said.

Tocal principal Cameron Archer said it was a benefit to the college to have an international student passing through because the locals can learn more about their (the visitors') agricultural practices in their own countries. "When it all boils down, there are many similarities between Australia and most overseas agricultural production," he said. "Some Tocal students decide to travel after completing their course and gain wide experience before returning to work in Australian agriculture," he said.

**ACROSS**

2. SMALL EAST FALKLAND GUEST HOUSE
4. COOKING AREA
8. FERTILIZED PLANT OVULE
10. POTATO
11. 21ST MARCH THIS YEAR (4,3)
12. STORIES
15. ART OF CULTIVATING GARDENS
17. GRASS CUT & USED AS FODDER
19. VEHICLE FOR CARRYING SMALL LOADS!
21. LARGE YELLOW & WHITE EDIBLE ROOT
22. FORK PRONG
23. FLOWER
24. NON APPLICABLE
29. BLACK BEEF CATTLE (8,5)
34. I OWE YOU
35. SLUG WITH A HOUSE!
36. SMALL DRINK
37. PARALLELOGRAM WITH 4 RIGHT ANGLES
38. BILLIES AND NANNIES
39. UNFERTILIZED EGGS
41. PURCHASE
43. PLACE ON A SHELF
46. TOILET
47. SOLD FOR A BID
48. FEMALE DOG
49. SNAKELIKE FISH

DOWN

1. ANNO DOMINI
2. YOUNG DOG
3. FATHER
5. THE DATA PASSED INTO A COMPUTER
6. MATERIAL THAT HARDENS TO A STONELIKE MASS
7. A COUPLE
8. VIV & JOHN'S HOME
9. FOR SUCKING UP LIQUID
10. SMALL RIVER
13. TREES PLANTED TO STOP THE WIND (7,4)
14. FIXED FOOD ALLOWANCE
16. LARGE BLACK BIRDS
18. USED FOR BORING HOLES
20. FEMALE FOX
25. EACH YEAR
26. DENSE MATTED PLANT
27. WHERE THE NBH IS KEPT
28. FITS IN A LOCK
30. DOWN UNDER!
31. SMALL GRAIN
32. EARTH
33. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
37. LOCAL AUCTION (3,4)
38. TURKEY NOISE
40. LOLIGO FOR EXAMPLE
41. WHAT JACK PLANTED!
42. ANCHORS A PLANT TO THE GROUND
44. INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF WORK
45. VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT



The Wool Press

ISSUE 149

MAY 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office.

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By Mandy McLeod

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Hi All. Firstly, for any of you who don't think that this month's cartoon is funny ring Sarah at the vets to complain. I printed it especially for Miss Forster so blame her. It is her favourite. No, *really*.

As you can see we have an article from Falklands Conservation this month. And I didn't even have to ask for it - thank you Sarah.

Anyone else out there who has been considering writing a letter or an article please feel free to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard.

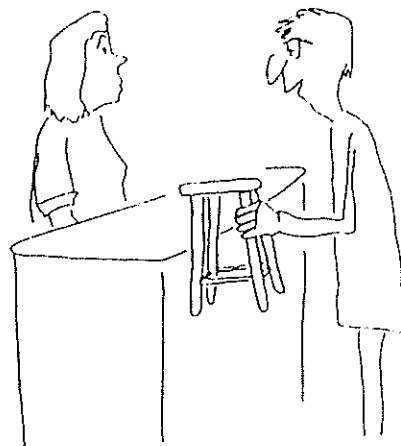
Farmers - by now you should have found your Livestock Ordinance Forms and covering letter in the envelope that you just pulled your Wool Press out of. I know the 31st May is the best part of a month away so if you do lose your copy just let me know and I will post you another.

Enclosed is also a shelter belt questionnaire from Aidan. Please take time to fill it in and return it as soon as possible.

Anyway, enough from me, time for the important stuff. The crossword! Who am I kidding, you've already done it haven't you?

Until next month.

Nyree

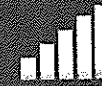


"I don't know why, but the vet wanted me to bring this in to help him figure out what's wrong with Spot."

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ORGANIC CHICKEN & EGGS

Increasingly, I've been asked about chickens and eggs on an organic farm in the Falkland Islands.

Firstly, I would recommend to the farmer that they keep their small amount of chickens as non-organic as there is much higher costs for feeding them etc. and suggest that they have free range hens and eggs if need be.

- Organic food is roughly £450 tonne which is much more expensive than ordinary food.
- You would not be able to feed them scraps from the kitchen table.
- You would not be able to feed them old scraggs anymore.
- Their houses would have to meet a set Standard including height of perches, floors, the square area of the floor and traps.
- Sterilisation of the houses and high hygiene standards would also have to be implemented.

These are just a few points why I have not taken into consideration the small hen runs when advising on an organic conversion.

This does not stop you having your hen unit as organic though. I am willing to put any hen house/yard into the conversion providing you abide by the Standards and cost!

Update:

As from 1 April 2002, 90% of Crooked Inlet has received organic status. Danny and Joy have a small area of the farm which is still in conversion for a year due to using Pasture Improvement chemical fertilisers. They will only put animals such as dogs meat in these paddocks until the full conversion period is over. All traceability recording and Animal Welfare is now in place.

Two other farms have started a conversion period of 3 months; Bleaker and Speedwell Island (as at the time of writing this article). More to follow.

There is a lot of interest and I am hoping that 3 more farms will start a conversion period sometime this month depending on their sheep work.

In the last month I have sent every farm a copy of the Organic Food Legislation No 22 of 2000. This is what I have to abide by. If you have read it and feel that you would like clarification on anything that you don't fully understand please give me a call. Hopefully, in the next week or two I will receive our Standard from our Organic Adviser in the UK. This Standard will give everyone a much better and clearer understanding of the Legislation.

I will let everyone know when it arrives and will probably visit all the Organic Farms to explain the do's and don'ts, and of course anyone else who would like to have a copy.

Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk

SNIPPITS!

Organic food is the fastest growing speciality foods category in the United States says organic food firm Acirca. With an average annual growth rate of 24% throughout the last decade, retail sales are estimated to grow from \$8 billion in 2000 to nearly \$20 billion in 2005.

The range of organic meat in the UK now includes goat from Graig Farm, the Welsh-based meat producers (who also import Saint Helenian fish). It is ideal for making authentic Caribbean curries, says the company.

Sainsbury's is stocking venison in its Scottish stores at £2.99 a kilo and Selfridges is selling royal venison from Prince Charles's Highgrove estate at £10 a kilo.

Organic meat is taking off in Australian supermarkets, with the appearance of meat from Cleaver's.

The company opened its first butchers shop specialising in organic meat in the Sydney suburb of Neutral Bay in September 1998.

It has contracts to sell its produce to over 80 Coles and Woolworths supermarkets in New South Wales and Victoria. The company hopes that its turnover will increase tenfold over the next five years.

Wiltshire-based Arkell's has become the second UK brewery to launch an organic honey beer.

The small independent Swindon brewer has around 100 tied houses and has recently announced Bee's Organic Ale.

Source: World Organic News

WHAT MAKES A GOOD STOCKMAN

Excellent stockmanship is essential for good welfare on ALL farms.

A stockman is a key factor on any farm because no matter how otherwise acceptable a system may be in principle, without competent diligent stockmanship, the welfare of animals cannot be adequately catered for. Stockmanship is the care of animals, and it includes the management and day-to-day welfare of the animals.

Technical knowledge of a stockman should include;

- Formal training (e.g. Agricultural College, specific skills' development courses).
- "Apprenticeship" by learning on farm.

Would you like a visit to discuss your farm in becoming certified Organic?

- No pressure will be a stowed upon you.
- It's entirely your decision whether or not you take the plunge.
- If you have decided and a conversion period has been started, and feel that you need more time to sort your farm practices out, then time will be given.
- There will be more paper work for the traceability of record keeping.
- You can get up to a 25% premium on your lamb and possibly a better price for your wool.
- Give me a call; Charlene

YOUR LETTERS

The following is a letter to the Agricultural Support Group from Michael Alazia. Michael has asked that it be published in the Wool Press for all to read.

21 February 02

In 10 years time the ages of the present farmers in the 2000/2001 statistics will be in the region of;

Under 40	only 2
40 - 50	only 9
50 - 60	21
60+	40

This would have to assume that in this period no younger folk were to purchase or inherit any of the present farms. It would be very negative to assume this, but how many new occupants have there been in the past 10 years? I can only find 8 by looking back to the 1990/1991 statistics, plus 9 farming families that left for Stanley not to be replaced and then there are all the other workers who have left and not been replaced.

What can be done to reverse this and where are the above 40 farmers plus wives/partners going to retire to - Stanley? Do they want to? Can they afford to? 10 years seems a long way off but Felicity is 10. It seems that last week we shored our ewes, two months ago we shored our wethers and the day before that she was born! Also when I help with farm plans cash predictions etc. I always say what do you want to have in 5 or 10 years time then work back to achieve it.

I have spoken to a fair number of people, mostly on their farms, through doing our hobby visiting and helping folk and going shearing etc. This is when people say what they really think, not so much at meetings with a room full of people, usually arguing on a subject that has got off track to what was originally being discussed.

The message I have received is, no, not all want to put all the profit from their farm sale into the purchase of a house in Stanley and in the interim period the help they most need is physical assistance in the main farm operation. i.e. a younger set of bones to bounce around a mountain, be able to go up a ladder and paint a high roof, hump bales into a sea truck etc. There are young people who would travel from farm to farm, but feel they can't make the commitment of setting themselves up without the certainty of regular work.

The present subsistence is soon to run out. We have a labour scheme, special fund etc. My dealings with the latter two are they are too rigid and if could be made more flexible with each case/farm looked at on merit then we could start to move forward with each particular farm and form a longer-term plan. Surely there must be enough pasture work to be done where someone could be set up with a base to live, bike, dogs etc. and when not freelancing work on the pasture/labour schemes.

Even just one on the East and one on the West to start with. Perhaps payment for the freelancing could be tied to future subsidies for farms wishing to participate.

I believe retirement homes are being looked at for campers in camp which is good but we must look after the older folk now as well as prove to the younger ones that the countryside is a profitable place to live for farming and other new businesses. I can vouch that diversification does make a financial difference as last year only 58% of our income came from wool, but if you are getting on and not in perfect health diversification rightly means extra work on top of the load you already have.

Michael Alazia

Port Edgar.

The following is a letter to the Wool Press editor from Mr Joe Booth of Stanley for publication. A second letter will be published next month.

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest, the item about the ban on the use of pesticide in your January issue, and one asks where do the pesticides come from? In the olden days when nature was allowed to naturally fertilize the land by the action of insects, grubs and worms, cornfields were usually divided and as one part was ploughed the other was rested for a year. Now modern agricultural methods giving the highest value from the investment resulted in abandoning the above, and by adding fertilizer to the soil, enable the whole cornfield to be planted every year. Mechanization replaced manual labour. But there was one snag. Bugs and worms were brought up into the bales and tainted the corn harvested. Without considering the health risk, pesticides were added to the fertilizer and eliminated the bugs and worms. The ground was now sterile and had lost the capacity to fertilize itself by natural means. I summarise that this is what had happened to the U.K. ie, pesticides every year being fed into the food chain and the underground water deposits.

It is hoped that this unnatural practice of fertilisers with pesticides that seems to be the modern trend is not used here in the Islands and sincerely hope that those now being used here including the phosphates imported from Chile are free of pesticides.

I hope I do not upset any one who considers that anything that does not meet a recognized value, as in the case of our soil to what he is accustomed to and adds an additional substance to meet the specifications is, in my opinion, and even that of the Shackleton report playing with nature and upsetting the fragile ecology that must not be changed if we are to keep the acclaimed condition of our wool that is attributed to a condition of "starvation fine".

As an item of information, when penicillin was discovered, to speed up the very slow process of relying on a culture to produce the medication, full analysis's were

made up of all chemical components of penicillin and a man made product that fully filled all the specifications was produced. Yet to everybody's surprise whereas the original effected a cure the man made substitute did not work. The factor of life was missing. When I was young (I am in my 85th year) corn flakes had taste and even Whisky tasted better than now. Corn flakes now need additives to better the taste. You cannot play with nature. Enough said on that subject.

Grass burning has been in the news for some time. In South America, where the soil is hard packed, burning is quite normal. A good wind will carry the flame across the top of the white grass and extinguish it as it gets to the bottom of the stem. Usually the new grass at the base of the plant is not even scorched. Sounds good but here in the Islands grass is usually in peaty soil. The flame hits the peat instead of the top of the plant and you have to wait for the next very heavy rain to extinguish the resultant grass fire. Thus burning in the Islands is not recommended.

I understand that the Wool Press prides itself in that it will publish, within reason, the findings of subscribers that do not represent the views of the Department of Agriculture. You will have noticed by the above that I, in full accordance with the Shackleton Report that in 1976 advocated the study of native grass, and that only. To avoid upsetting a fragile ecology, with an estimated time for a grasslands trial unit to study this grass should be terminated in a two year period with an estimated cost of £4,500 per year, I am against anything that can be contrary to the above. In science it is known that it takes 1000 years to deposit one inch of soil on the surface of the earth. It takes one year of intense ploughing to remove that one inch. This was proved here in the Islands in the late fifties. I arrived in the Islands in 1955 and found that at Roy Cove Mr Miller had removed diddle-dee and in its place planted corn. Roy Cove was now called the corn fields of the South Atlantic. Yet four years later I was involved in selling all the equipment to S.E.T.F. in Punta Arenas. Why? Mother nature had decided to ensure drought here and by the fourth year the soft ploughed soil had blown away leaving clay. We are now in the second year, or is it the third, of drought. Last year the only recommendation was to dig drills deeper. How come? With the millions involved would it not be reasonable that water windmills be installed to ensure a water supply to all areas planted. The Agricultural Department, at a cost of millions, has been in existence for over 25 years and should be now have a full water plan of our underground reserves. If not I understand that Mrs A Pitaluga is a water diviner and as such I suggest that her services be contracted so that at every farm a knowledge of the underground reserves be known.

Hoping the above is of interest I remain.

Yours sincerely

Joe Booth

Mrs A Pitaluga would like it to be known that she is not actually a water diviner although she is presently learning the skills involved in divining.

DO MY WRINKLES LOOK BIG IN THIS?

By Zoe Luxton

And so another reasonably routine month has passed. The highlight being a visit from Sister, who was looking incredibly tall, blonde and tanned having spent the previous week of her Easter holiday languishing in Gran Canaria. So it was with trepidation I took her out on a works' booze up. The memory of taking her to a college party still fresh in my mind. Not that she misbehaved, quite the opposite she was charming. So charming that a mate, Tom, unfortunately blurted out "she can't be your sister, she's tall and good-looking". Maybe that should be ex-mate Tom. The works' booze up was in honour of Heather and Lesley's joint hen-night. The word carnage springs to mind but everyone had a good time and no-one commented on how young, attractive and completely different to me my sister was! Think everyone was minding their manners having heard the story of the Lady with the Clipboard. Said woman accosted sister and I on Ipswich High St one afternoon. The sun had come out so the number of cretins just wanting you to "spare a few minutes for some quick questions" had increased three-fold. Anyway we answered a few questions regarding holidays then the young witch looked at me, smirked and asked "and what age category do you fall into? 28-40?"!!!!!! She realised her mistake as sister collapsed in mirth and I peeled the skin from her scalp with one look. So, I marched into the nearest shop to buy something young and frivolous befitting to my mere 24 years – couldn't find anything that didn't make me look like a reject from the Lily Savage school of style and went home instead. At least no-one has commented on my weight lately. Dearest friend from college, Lisa, went to register with a new doctors surgery the other day having just started a lovely new job at a vets in Surrey. The nurse weighed and measured her ("humph, surprised she didn't give me a sodding lolly for being good") then asked her some questions regarding eating habits. Lisa, going for young healthy, tampax advert sort of girlie image started regaling the "lots of vegetables and fruit" thing when the nurse cut in and said "Well, yes, I can see you eat well". One stunned friend, one hysterical me. Do these things happen to anyone else?

Lowlight of the month was a short lived panic regarding my fat ginger George, who started throwing up on Saturday night, just as Gemma, Claire and I were tucking into a Chinese takeaway. One of the major perks of being in the veterinary profession is that you can stop mid-mouthful, clean up a pile of cat sick and go back to your sweet and sour without even feeling vaguely queasy. Anyway George was duly carted down for a second opinion on Monday morning and Mike could feel a lump in his abdomen, so after I'd finished rocking backwards and forwards monotonously muttering "he's too young for a tumour" we decided it must be a big lump of poo, possibly being restricted by a foreign body. Luckily the damn cat was happy enough and next morning duly produced a bit of white plastic. Goodness knows what he had chewed up.

On duty this weekend, which means I can't even have a wee without taking 2 phones, biro and notepad. It appears to have been a weekend of rabbits, which make me sneeze so I was not overly chuffed yesterday. I do not generally like rabbits however one patient yesterday restored my faith in them; he was a dear little fluffy chap with an abscess the size of his head on his shoulder. Rabbits do seem to develop these huge smelly abscesses for no apparent reason and they don't just burst and look a bit grim like cat bite abscess do. The skin at the point goes all necrotic and they take some serious flushing and the crater left behind is of geographical proportions. Most need a good sedation to sort this out but this wee fellas abscess was just about to burst so I just picked off the scab and released a flood of rabbit pus across the table. Highly satisfying. Nothing like a good abscess flush. Sadly the big chap that bought the bunny in did not share my enthusiasm and gagged and ran out the room! Anyway, whereas most buns would have needed quite stern restraint this small furry rabbit just cuddled a bit closer to me and let me squeeze and flush away with no help at all from Mr Nauseous in the waiting room. So maybe they are not so bad after all, at least they don't comment on the state of your wrinkles!

RAT ERADICATION WITH FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

By Sarah Clement

Rat eradication was developed in New Zealand in the mid 1980's. Since then it has been used successfully on over 100 islands world wide - Ascension Island, as an example, is one of the next islands being considered for rat eradication. Large islands have successfully been done, with the largest being 11,300 hectare Campbell Island last year.

It is almost certain that rats got to islands in the Falklands by 'human-assisted' means, either hitching a ride on boats (particularly with sealers or whalers), or from shipwrecks. They may even have been cast adrift on whale carcasses after processing, washed up on the tides, rats included, on nearby islands. There appears to be limited knowledge and documentation on the rat species present in the Falklands, and in particular their distribution within the islands.

The impact of introduced rodents in the Falkland Islands has effected the indigenous wildlife, but in known cases not to the point of extinction. Nevertheless, circumstantial evidence indicates that a number of wildlife species have suffered. Many indigenous Falkland Island species are today either only present on, or have populations centred upon rat-free islands.

Species of birds that have probably been the most heavily impacted and hence should benefit the most from the removal of rats are the smaller terrestrial species and smaller burrowing seabirds. These include:

- Cobb's wren – an endemic and IUCN 'vulnerable' species
- Tussacbird – an endemic race
- Falklands diving petrel – possibly an endemic race
- Grey-backed storm petrel
- Wilson's storm petrel
- Thin-billed prion
- Sooty shearwater

So far work has been carried out on Outer, Double and Harpoon Islands in Queen Charlotte Bay, and Top and Bottom Islands which are in Port William. Subsequent visits to these islands made during early summer, a couple of months after the eradication, showed signs that the Eradication had been successful. However these island will be checked again to ensure there really are no rats left. The islands in Port William will be visited within the next few weeks and those in Queen Charlotte Bay during the winter months. For this coming winter we hope to eradicate 1 or 2 more small islands. These will be slightly bigger than those done to date but not larger than we could cope with at this stage. We hope to build up more confidence in the methods and get more people involved, especially those who would like to see their islands eradicated and ultimately will try some larger islands.

Anyone interested in being involved with the programme or who would like more information please contact the office on 22247.



Darren Christie, a Falklands Conservation volunteer, checks a rat trap.

DOG HANDLING AT TOCAL

By Donna Minnell

On the 3rd of May there was a course on handling Kelpie dogs and pups and working them on sheep and cattle. It was held by Nevell King and Ken Mayberry who breed and sell Kelpie pups all around the world.

They brought 7 dogs and 4 six week old pups to Tocal. The pups were for sale to anyone who wanted one over the two days they were at Tocal. The dogs were of mixed ages. Some were working dogs and some had just started work. Others hadn't even seen sheep. This was to show us how the different aged dogs worked so that anyone who bought a pup would know what to expect. The youngest dog was 4 months old. Pups are sold at 6 weeks for \$300. Older dogs are sold for anything up to \$500. Should you buy a dog that you can't get on with they will swap it for another.

The two working dogs that they had with them were only 1½ years old. Before the course Nevell had lost one of his older dogs when it was bitten by a snake. Should a dog get bitten by a snake it will try and find water. If they can get into the water fast enough it will prevent the bite from killing them, but with water not always readily available this isn't always an option.

They worked the dogs at the sheep yards first. I found this very interesting to watch. They could get the dogs to fill the forcing pen and race, and to run over the sheeps' backs. This was so that when drafting if the sheep jammed in the race the dogs would back them out and start again. This meant that there was no need for someone to be on the race all the time. The younger dogs were working in the pens and were very lively. They would also bark on command.

We also watched them work some of the Tocal cattle that had never seen dogs. Nevell put out his trained dog first to get the cattle used to it and then Ken put out two of his younger dogs and they drove the cattle around the paddock and brought them right up to us.

The dogs were all fed twice a day with biscuits and meat. As anyone who has Kelpies will tell you, you need to have a firm hand with them as they are strong headed dogs but well worth it in the end.



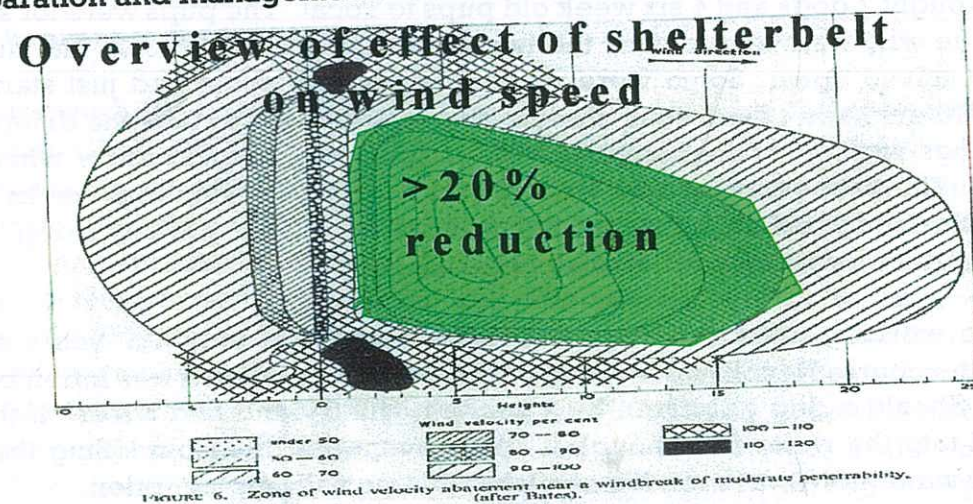
PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL OF FARM SHELTER BELTS

By Aidan Kerr

The main results from DoA/Queen's University/UKFI Trust trials.

- Shelter belts have been successfully established at a wide range of sites.

A 300m long 'belt', 10 trees wide and containing 2,000 trees would take less than 15 days to prepare, plant and fence and costs c. £2,500 including labour @ £5/hour. Costs would be reduced to c. £600 if farmers grew and planted out the trees. Practical and cost effective techniques for site preparation and management have been developed for most situations.



- High quality, robust and well-hardened off tree seedlings with as much roots as shoots are essential for high survival and vigorous growth.

Don't waste money on poorly grown, seedlings with insufficient roots or which have not been hardened off! These will not grow well. Ways of producing seedlings with improved growth and survival are being researched by QUB/UKFIT.

The Hill Cove 'Forest' was planted about 1925. It is expected to last about 100 years. The Spruce trees are now about 25 m high and shelter about 12 ha of pasture.



- Lodgepole Pine from coastal Alaska (ALP) is the best-adapted and most cost-effective tree.

ALP is particularly suited to sites with the deeper, wetter and peatier soils. Since 1997 the total losses of ALP averaged 9% across sites and ranged

from <1% to 22%. Growth rates averaged 20 cm across sites and ranged from 16 cm to 30 cm per year. Good quality, 'bare root' seedlings cost about 60p each and can be transported easily and cheaply but only planted in winter.

- Well-produced seedlings of 'Macrocarpa' have grown the quickest and are the tallest trees at Saladero.

Losses among less well-grown 'Macrocarpa' seedlings ranged from 20% to 39%. Macrocarpa are best suited to shallower, drier and less peaty soils. Well-grown containerised seedlings are necessary and cost about £1 each. However they are bulky and cost more to transport but have a wider 'planting window'.

The potential of shelter belts for livestock farms here and elsewhere.

- A well-positioned shelterbelt used by stock at critical periods could improve their survival and growth and the overall efficiency and output of your farm.

The shelter can double the amount of improved pasture available in Spring and enhance its nutritional quality. A reduced wind speed would lessen their energy requirement for keeping warm the chilly weather thus allowing them to make better use of the higher energy in the feed from improved pastures for lambs/calves, meat and wool production. For most farms the main benefits are likely to be the improved survival of lambs within their first two days of birth and of 'clippies' exposed to high wind-chill and wet conditions. With the huge variation in lamb marking here (29-113%) a significant number of lamb deaths must be due to weather as well as nutrition.

The costs of this long-term investment could be recovered within 10 years. This assumes that after five years the 1m high shelterbelt improves lambing of 500 ewes by 10%/yr and that the lambs are worth £10. After 10 years a well-managed shelter belt should be 2m tall and would shelter an area 40 m wide. It would be expected to last 100 years, grow to 25 m height and shelter a 500 m -wide area.

- Other benefits to pasture and livestock

	Exposed	Sheltered
Improved pasture yield FI (kg DM/ha)		
Spring	310	660 (+113%)
All year	6340	8080 (+27%)
Whitegrass pasture - Spring	210	330 (+54%)
All year	3820	5900 (+57%)
Lamb death (first 2 days after birth)	20%	7%
Death of single lambs	17%	9%
Death of multiple lambs	51%	36%
Growth rate - to 3 weeks		+7%
Wool growth rate	Lower	Higher
Milk production - cattle & sheep	Lower	Higher

- The 'animal welfare code of practice' requires that 'adequate...shelter is provided, particularly in early lambing flocks and in early shorn sheep'.
- Shelterbelts qualify for assistance under the FIG Incentive Scheme.

WEANING CALVES

By Doug Martin

The decision to wean depends on:

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

For example what is the likelihood of this season being colder than normal? Has any pasture been saved or camps set aside that haven't been grazed since early summer? Are fodder crops such as brassicas or oats available to wean the calves onto? Do you have any fodder reserves such as hay available?

High energy and protein feed in the form of pellets were purchased from Chile last month by the Department of Agriculture at a cost of 25p per kg landed in Stanley. The economics of using these will be evaluated this season. A rough guide to intake of this type of feed is 2.7% to 3% of body weight, so if say the calves weighed 150 kg they would eat 4 – 4.5 kg per day.

A better option may be to use hay, and from the recent Farmers' Study Tour of Chile lucerne hay is being used cost effectively in Region 12.

Danny Donnelly at Crooked Inlet has been using a similar management practice with great success for some time.

BODY CONDITION SCORE

This can be done visually or manually and doesn't require too much practice. The simplest method is to use the 1-5 scale although some countries use 1 – 10 or 1 – 8.

Using 1 – 5 means that you can use half scores and seems to be the easiest (1 being emaciated and 5 being in some cases over fat). Niilo will be doing more work on this aspect of management over the next year.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These are only a suggestion, however it is important to be able to produce as much meat per unit of feed consumed as possible and to make maximum use of resources. Therefore it would be ideal if these practices could be adopted on a routine basis.

1. Use yards if possible to separate the calves from the cow. If this option is not available then use hot wires.

2. Weigh the cows and calves. Record the percentage weight of the calf compared to the cow.

You will need to have the cow and calf identified, and if you don't already know which calf belongs to which cow perhaps do the following:

Keep calves locked away from the cows overnight. It is best if the calves are kept in the yards and the cows held in a small grazing paddock in close proximity to the yards. Calves that are not required to be mothered up can be let run with cows. Next morning let a few calves at a time in with the cows. As a cow mothers up to a calf, draft off the cow and calf unit. You will find that the cows will help you, as most of the cows without calves will be waiting near the yards.

Liberalily smear the muzzle of the calves with chin ball ink (or raddle) before letting them in with the cows. As the calf suckles, the paint will be smeared onto the udder of the cow. Go back an hour later and draft off the cows with paint marked udders and their calves.

By recording the weight of the calf and comparing to that of the dam it will be possible to use this information to select the most efficient breeders. Knowing the sire will make this selection procedure even more accurate.

It would be ideal to move the cows to an area where they can't hear the calves once permanently separated, however if this is not possible the cows will stop coming back to the yards after a week or so, which depends of course on the breed and distance to where they graze.

3. Pregnancy test all cows as if feed is likely to be short, which it will this winter, then it will be necessary to give priority to the cows that are in calf.

If you are feeding any type of supplement, particularly grain based, to the calf then it is important to remember to introduce it slowly, with small increases every second day over at least ten days until the bacteria in the rumen can adjust.

One important aspect of weaning using this method is that the calves will get used to being handled and if this is done quietly then they will be much easier to handle in future.

Cattle have excellent memories.

If you need assistance in identifying or weighing your cattle please contact me on 27354 or 27355.

THE END IS DRAWING CLOSER FOR THE RURAL INCENTIVE SCHEME

By Mandy McLeod

The scheme has been running since 1998. The funding was provided so that people could afford to diversify, change their management systems and start up new Camp based businesses. Many farmers have put forward farm business plans (approximately 60) and grants / loans or a combination of both have been awarded as an 'incentive' to development. We hope that the funding has gone some way in helping to generate more income so that Camp finance isn't wholly reliant on the wool price. The funds have assisted in a variety of 'alternative' enterprises including pigs, poultry (eggs), goats, horticulture, transport, tourism, crafts and aquaculture. It has even helped in aspects of training.

The Incentive Scheme was established to run in conjunction with the Agricultural Subsidy Scheme. The aim was to have alternative income sources, generated by the investments of incentive money into on-farm projects, by the time the subsidy scheme came to an end. Next year will see the 6th and final payment of the subsidy scheme.

Incentive Funds have been well utilised, with some investments being more successful than others, but the opportunity has been there for everyone to apply. All good things come to an end though and this scheme is no exception, so I want to make everyone aware that the final Incentive Scheme Panel will be held at the end of 2002.

**If you want to apply
you should send your plan to me by the last day in September 2002.**

This will give ample time to make any necessary amendments to any application or plan before it goes to the panel.

QFW PAYMENTS

Would all QFW farmers who have not yet submitted their 2p/Kg clean claim please do so by the end of May. Any claims received after this date will not be accepted. Contact Lucy Ellis if you require any further information.

THE CAMP ROADSHOW.....

..... is coming to a venue near you soon. Choose from Goose Green, Hope Cottage, Hill Cove, Fox Bay and Port Howard. You may even attend more than one!! You'd be surprised at the differences in priority and opinion from one area to another. This is an opportunity for you to catch up on FIG initiatives that may affect Camp and to contribute with your thoughts. Everyone who lives in Camp is welcome.

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

The Department of Agriculture will shortly be updating the Farm Management Handbook. We would welcome any suggestions as to what we should include in this edition.

Please post, fax, e-mail or phone your ideas to me at FIDC as soon as possible.

Thanks

Nyree

WANTED - A GOOD HOME FOR LIONEL

A new home is required for Lionel, a six year old Red Lincoln bull off the Hill Cove Lincolns. He is tame and trained to respect electric fences. He is also very good natured (like his owner) and is going free to a good home.

Anyone interested in offering Lionel a new home should contact Shirley Knight at Coast Ridge Farm on phone 42094 or fax 42084.

FARMERS RUGBY

The Agricultural Department has received an e-mail from a keen rugby player called Charlie Mann. In his e-mail he says that last year the farmers of Tierra del Fuego started a rugby team called "Retajos" (Teaser Rams) and played 7 tournaments. They are interested in playing a team from the Falklands and feel that it would be nice if our team was also made up of farmers!

As of yet I don't know where or when Charlie would like this tournament to take place. Are any of you interested before I ask too many questions? If so give me a ring at FIDC and for now I will just take names. If there is any interest I will contact Charlie and get details.

Nyree

RECIPE PAGE

By Ailsa Heathman

BROONIE

Ingredients

5 oz flour
5 oz porridge oats
6 oz sugar
4 oz margarine
1 egg
½ pint of milk
2 oz almonds

½ teaspoon of salt
2 teaspoons of ginger
1 teaspoon of cinnamon
2 teaspoons of baking powder
6 tablespoons of treacle
4 oz sultanas

Method

Sift the flour, salt, spices and baking powder together in a bowl. Mix in the oats and sugar. Warm the treacle and margarine in another bowl or pan until melted, then stir into the flour mixture and add the egg and the milk. Next add the sultanas and almonds and pour the mixture into a greased or lined tin whilst it is still 'wet'. Bake for 1 ¼ - 1 ½ hours at 350°F.

DERBY SQUARES

Ingredients

7 ½ oz flour
2 oz icing sugar
4 oz butter
2 egg yolks

Filling

8 ½ oz sugar
3 oz flour
¼ of a cup of chopped nuts
1 teaspoon of vanilla essence

2 eggs
4 oz melted butter
8 ½ oz chocolate chips

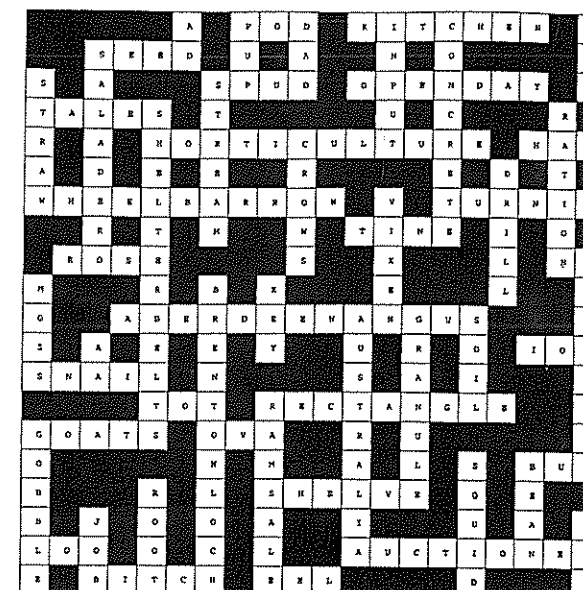
Method

Place the flour, icing sugar and butter in a bowl and lightly rub until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolks and continue mixing until the ingredients form a dough. Wrap this dough in clingfilm and place in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Whilst the dough is in the fridge line a swiss roll tin and make the filling as follows. Place the eggs and sugar in a bowl and whisk until light, white and fluffy. Fold in the flour and melted butter. Stir in the chocolate chips, nuts and vanilla.

Once the dough is removed from the fridge press it into the tin by hand. Place the filling inside the pastry lined tin and bake at 320°F for 40 minutes. Allow to cool before dusting with icing sugar and cutting into fingers.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



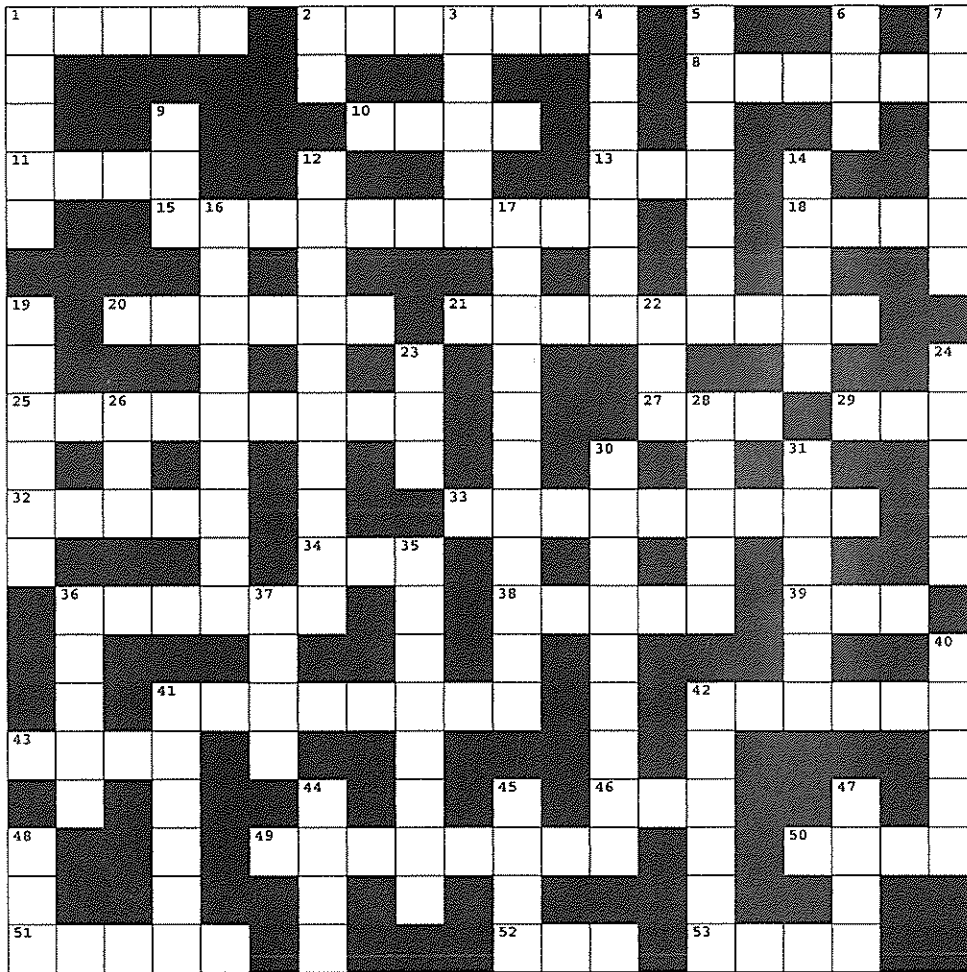
FOR SALE - WORK!

NEED SOME WORK DOING ON YOUR FARM? GENERAL FARM WORK, FENCING, MECHANICING, DOMESTIC ELECTRICS, PLUMBING ETC. JACK OF ALL TRADES - MASTER OF NONE. REASONABLE RATES. **ANYONE INTERESTED, EAST OR WEST, PLEASE CONTACT ME ON 31046 OR 22892.**

RIKI EVANS (FRUSTRATED FARMER!)

FOR SALE - ANGUS BULL CALVES

THREE A.I. ANGUS BULL CALVES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM WEST LAGOONS FARM IN APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS TIME. THE CALVES WILL THEN BE ROUGHLY SIX MONTHS OLD. ANYONE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THESE CALVES SHOULD **CONTACT PETER NIGHTINGALE ON PHONE/FAX 41194.**



ACROSS

1. FOURTH MONTH
2. NOT COMMON
8. BETWEEN GOOD FRIDAY & THE FOLLOWING MONDAY
10. PRINTED PAGES BOUND TOGETHER
11. SOLID MASS WITHOUT A DEFINITE SHAPE
13. CHOCOLATE VARIETY OF THIS IS EATEN IN MARCH
15. DEPRIVATION OF FOOD
18. MIDDAY
20. TYPE OF PEN THAT CAN BE PERMENANT
21. PM
25. PERSON INVOLVED IN PRODUCING BOOKS
27. BACON, LETTUCE & TOMATO ROLL
29. VIRAL INFECTION
32. SOUTHERN ASIAN COUNTRY
33. BENT WIRE USED TO HOLD PAGES TOGETHER
34. RESULT OF AN ADDITION OF NUMBERS
36. MILK PRODUCE
38. PERFECT
39. KNOT TOGETHER
41. HIGHER THAN A HILL!
42. YELLOWISH-BROWN COLOUR
43. JUMPING INSECT
46. FEMALE MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS ORDER
49. RAILWAY COACH
50. CHANGE POSITION
51. THIN SHEETS MADE FROM TREES
52. TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIR
53. SMALLEST OF THE LITTER

DOWN

1. LEG JOINT
2. UNITED NATIONS
3. TO FIRE A WEAPON
4. OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE GIVING PERMISSION
5. GENTOO FOR EXAMPLE
6. ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL
7. MATE
9. GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
12. GLASS BUILDING
14. SOMETIMES A TEARFULL PLANT
16. PUT AN END TO SOMETHING
17. ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE
19. FIX
22. STEAL FROM
23. LACKING MOISTURE
24. CAN BE LEAGUE OR UNION
26. NAUGHTY
28. TYPE OF ANAESTHESIA
30. ELECTRICAL SPEECH TRANSMITTER
31. YOUNG CAT
35. TINY
36. SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY
37. LIQUID FOOD
40. GIVEN FOR AN ILLEGAL GAIN
41. RELATING TO THE SEA
42. MALE GOOSE
44. POST
45. 50%
47. SMALL VESSEL
48. DRINKING DEVICE



The Wool Press

ISSUE 150

JUNE 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

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By Gordon Lennie

DOG CAGE AND KENNEL FACILITIES

By James Forster

WELFARE OF WORKING DOGS

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IMPORTANCE OF SHELTER TO FARMS

By Priscilla Halliday & Aidan Kerr

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

By Andrew Pollard

FEEDING FORAGE OATS

By Kevin Lawrence

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Falklands Conservation

KILLING FACILITIES ON FARMS

By Steve Pointing

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

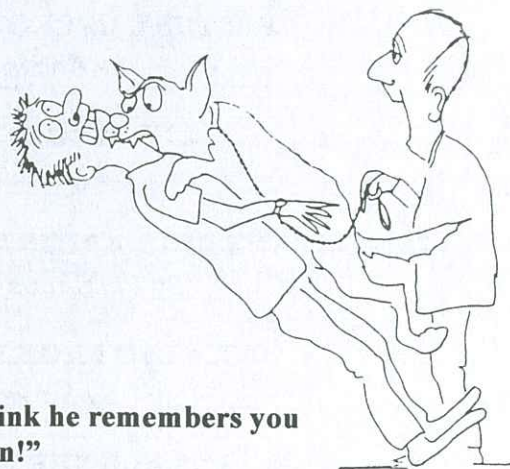
Hi All,

Farmers, enclosed with this month's edition are two forms. Please take time to fill them in and return them to the appropriate people. The first refers to cattle and is to be returned to Doug at Goose Green. The second refers to sheep and lambs and is to be returned to Charlene at FIDC. Thanks.

Also just a gentle reminder to you all that it is now time for you to return your livestock ordinance forms to me!

Something that I'm sure will be of great interest to a number of you is the article from Kevin on feeding forage oats. Most of you will have heard something about the lambs at Kingsford Valley by now I'm sure so I have made the last page of his article, the decision tree, into a supplement so that you can easily pin it up on the wall or put it in a safe place should you need to refer to it in the future.

Nyree



"I think he remembers you Kevin!"



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office

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The articles printed in the Wool Press do not necessarily represent the views of the DoA.

8 Trace Elements

After reading the Organic Food Ordinance No 22 of 2000, I have discovered that in PART 4 of A, 'Feed Additives, certain substances used in animal nutrition (Directive 82/471/EEC) and processing aids used in feedingstuffs' and B, Certain products used in animal nutrition states that the following trace elements are allowed with organic stock. After a lot of digging around and speaking to the Attorney General, I have discovered that this part of the legislation is where you are allowed to give 8 certain Trace Elements to your organic stock, as follows:

- E1 Iron:
ferrous (II) carbonate
ferrous (II) sulphate monohydrate
ferric (III) oxide
- E2 Iodine:
Calcium iodate, anhydrous
Calcium iodate, hexahydrate
potassium iodide
- E3 Cobalt:
cobaltous (II) sulphate monohydrate and/or heptahydrate
basic cobaltous (II) carbonate, monohydrate
- E4 Copper:
copper (II) oxide
basic copper (II) carbonate, monohydrate
copper (II) sulphate, pentahydrate
- E5 Manganese:
copper (II) oxide
manganous oxide and manganic oxide
manganous (II) sulfate, mono -and/ or tetrahydrate

- E6 Zinc:
zinc carbonate
zinc oxide
zinc sulphate mono—and/or tetrahydrate
- E7 Molybdenum:
ammonium molybdate, natrium molybdate
- E8 Selenium:
sodium selenate
sodium selenite

Please read the label before you give any of your organic stock these trace elements. If you are not sure, please give me a ring to clarify if you can use them or not.

Remember all trace elements must be written in your Animal Health Plan booklet.

BOUGHT-IN STOCK

Rams that you have purchased, say for example from Saladero, can be bought into your organic farm. The EU legislation 1804/99 allows for rams to be bought-in for breeding purposes. No conversion period is required, provided the animals are managed in accordance with our Legislation from the time of arrival on the organic farm.

Although a closed flock policy is preferable in organic farming, many farms may have to buy-in breeding hoggets or ewes. The annual allowance for replacement from non-organic farms is 10%. Most bought-in hoggets or ewes arrive in the period between weaning and mating, especially since ewes whose progeny are intended for meat production must be mated on the organic farm.

Feed Blocks

I know some farmers use feed blocks as a supplement for their breeding ewes. I found a very interesting site which may be of some interest to you.

This site has natural and chemical feed blocks but if you are an organic farmer and want to use feed blocks, I would suggest that this is possibly a good organic one to use as most blocks used are urea based which is a banned substance.

A new natural feeding block has become available on the market. The Rumevite Original range is now even more comprehensive to the addition of a non-urea feed block.

This natural feeding block is a high-energy formulation based on molasses and cereals combined with quality vegetable protein such as soya, rapeseed meal, prairie meal and potatoe protein. The new block also contains yeast as a natural performance enhancer to boost rumen microbial activity and improve forage utilisation.

Rumevite Natural is ideal for feeding with grass silage and because it is on offer 24 hours a day on a little-and-often basis it can help ruminant livestock maximise the value of home-grown forage, as well as cope with any variations in silage quality.

The 25kg block is fully balanced with high levels of vitamins and minerals and contains protected zinc and organic selenium to boost availability to the animal.

If you would like more information, I would suggest that you look at their site for more details and prices etc. Failing that I can give you some of the information.

www.rumenco.co.uk

ARE YOU GOING TO ANY AGRICULTURAL SHOWS THIS YEAR IN THE UK?

Hunting around for Press Releases on the net I found that Defra are reintroducing sheep and goats for the 1st time since the Foot and Mouth outbreak last year to take to Agricultural Shows from May 2002 under changes to the interim animals movement regime.

- Shows which take place on surfaces such as grass will no longer be required to remain free of Food and Mouth disease susceptible livestock for 28 days after the show.
- All animals will have to be individually identified and will either have to respect any standstill on the premises of departure or be isolated for 20 days before leaving for the show and that the same conditions will apply on return to the farm.
- Any sheep and goats sold at shows will have to return to their farm of origin for 20 days before they are allowed to depart to the purchaser's premises.

Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/news
www.rumenco.co.uk

BEACH SEAWEED AROUND THE FALKLANDS

By Gordon Lennie

Seaweed is probably the only natural resource still to be fully exploited by man.

For hundreds of years farmers living near the sea have collected unprocessed seaweed from the beach and used it as fertiliser, soil conditioner and as an animal feed. Indeed it is quite a common site to see Falkland's sheep and cattle grazing on the beach-washed up seaweed.

The seaweed contains many important trace elements and growth stimulants which benefit the animals who are often receiving low amounts of essential trace elements in their diet.

Much of the seaweed washed ashore in the Falklands consists of the brown kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*). This is by far the most abundant species found around the coastal waters of the Falklands. Estimates of the amounts of this seaweed around the Falklands indicate a potential harvest of around 1 million tonnes. Only a small fraction of this is actually washed ashore onto beaches and is available for collection.

In other parts of the world beach washed up seaweed is harvested for drying and processing. Ireland has around 500 people employed in the seaweed industry with a turnover of about £3.5 million.

The Falklands has many storm beaches where the large brown kelps such as bull kelp and the *Macrocystis* type are washed ashore.

However, on certain sheltered coves/beaches other unusual interesting species of red/brown algae are found washed ashore. One example of such a site is at Whalebone Cove near the Lady Elizabeth wreck in Stanley Harbour (see photo below).

These particular algae are rich in nitrogen (5% approx) and could potentially provide animals with additional protein and trace minerals.

Samples of the mixed algae collected from Whalebone Cove were separated in the lab at the Department of Agriculture and dried. The samples were posted off to a seaweed expert at Queens University Marine Laboratory at Portaferry (N.Ireland) for an accurate identification to be made of all the species present.

A total of five different species were identified. These were:- *Ballia callitricha*, a red feathery type algae *Asiphonia pacifica*, a green algae with fine filaments. *Rhodochorton purpureum*, a red thread like algae. *Ahnfeltia plicata*, a brown algae made up of small branches. *Cladostephus*, a larger brown algae.



Other coastal sites with these particular seaweeds probably exist around the Islands. one example is Goose Bay on Saunders Island which has accumulations on the beach, similar to that found at Whalebone Cove.

It is quite possible that other sheltered beaches /coves around the Falklands will have these same mixed red/brown algae.

To make use of this type of mixed seaweed on an agricultural basis, the seaweed would need to be collected and taken by trailer to the fields or paddocks. The seaweed would need to be incorporated into the soil by rotavating or trenching so as to bury the seaweed. These processes would allow the carbohydrates in the seaweed to rot down and encourage soil bacteria to multiply. Nutrients are then released into the soil in forms which plants can easily use.

To test this method out on a small scale, I used a large plant pot filled with virgin soil collected from a peat bank. Seaweed was placed approx six inches below the soil and 3 potato tubers were planted in the pot. The pot was kept in the glasshouse for the duration of the trial. Now two months into the trial the potatoes + seaweed have produced a good healthy stand of green top material 15 inches high.

I would be interested to hear from farmers who have seen this type of mixed (Whalebone Cove type) seaweed on the beaches around the Falklands.

DOG CAGE AND KENNEL FACILITIES

By James Forster

After starting the job as "Hydatid Officer" some 16 months ago, I have now visited all but two farms and, having had to comment on cages and kennels, it is more than apparent that the majority are what I would describe as average – my own included. Some are above average, a few are well above average and a number are well below average.

It seems only fair that working dogs, which are arguably the biggest asset on your farm, next to yourself, should be housed in decent kennels, have access to adequate sized cages that not only have fresh water, but are kept relatively clean, with old, rotting bones removed.

Take a look at your kennels and imagine being a dog, happy with them?

WELFARE OF WORKING DOGS

By Steve Pointing

I wholeheartedly concur with the views of Jimmy Forster in the article above. The range and condition of dogs cages and kennels in the Falklands varies widely but much of the dog housing is substandard and in need of improvement. All dogs should have access to a clean, dry covered area and a run in which they can get a bit of exercise. The provision of a run becomes even more important in the winter than in the summer. At least in spring and summer the dogs are often working for several hours each day and, hence, get plenty of exercise. In winter they are often shut up for days on end and the only exercise they get is when you let them out of their kennels. Please take the opportunity of the quiet time of year on the farm to take a look at your kennelling facilities. It is a good time to repair defective slats, fill in cracks in the concrete runs, repair doors and perimeter fences. Have your dogs got adequate space? If not think about building new kennel and run facilities. All dogs should be able to stand up and turn around in a kennel. The use of old barrels and crates scattered about the farmstead may be acceptable as a temporary measure to house dogs for short periods of time but should not become the sole form of accommodation. And please get into the habit of regularly cleaning out all the old bones and faecal matter that inevitably builds up over time.

Your dog serves you well throughout the farming season; you have a responsibility to ensure that he/she is adequately housed, fed and exercised throughout the whole year.

IMPORTANCE OF SHELTER TO FARMS

By Priscilla Halliday & Aidan Kerr

A few weeks ago we sent out a questionnaire on the importance of shelter to farms. We have now received 34% back and the responses have been analysed. We are pleased to announce that Joe Newell of Newans Station was the winner of the 100 pine trees. Congratulations to Joe and thanks to all who participated.

Below are the results and some comments that were made. Percentages are based on the number of farms that answered each question.

1) How many of your stock do you estimate you have lost to bad weather in the last 5 years? 28 farms answered this question.

	< 10	< 100	101-500	501-1000	> 1000
Lambs		22%	61%	13%	4%
Older Sheep	5%	32%	47%		16%
Clippies	17%	42%	33%	4%	4%
Cattle	100%				
Other					

2) What type of weather or weather combination killed these animals? 28 farms answered this question.

High winds	Cold temp.	Rain	Hail/snow/ sleet	Snow lying/drifts
39%	54%	96%	32%	29%

3) Had some form of practical shelter been present would these animals have survived? 27 farms answered this question.

Yes	No	Don't know
44%	11%	44%

4) Overall, how seriously did the losses affect your farm income over that period? 28 farms answered this question.

No effect	Small effect	Moderately	A lot
4%	39%	46%	11%

5) If those stock had survived how much more productive would your farm now be? 28 farms answered this question.

None	A little	Moderately	A lot
7%	39%	43%	11%

6) In order of cost effectiveness what type of shelter do you consider to be the most cost effective for your livestock, budget and farm plans? 25 farms answered this question.

The most cost effective were thought to be: Natural, shelterbelt, hedges, artificial, tussac grass

As we expected, people thought that natural shelter was the most cost effective, with tree shelterbelts, hedges, tussac and artificial shelter coming next. We also had some suggestions from people about other

potential types of shelter, such as making paddocks out of sheltered valleys, Flax and giant fern.

7) Given your potential need for shelter what priority do you give to such shelter in your planning? 29 farms answered this question.

High	Medium	Low	None
20%	57%	13%	10%

8) How cost effective do you believe shelter is for growing crops (e.g. vegetables and winter feeds) would be on your farm? 28 farms answered this question.

Very cost effective	Moderately	Not at all
43%	57%	0%

9) How valuable would you regard the timber from a tree shelterbelt e.g. for fencing, fuel or any other use on your farm? 28 farms answered this question.

Very valuable	Moderately	Not at all
29%	32%	39%

10) By how much do you estimate shelter by trees would reduce the heating costs of your house? 28 farms answered this question.

Significantly	Moderately	Not at all
25%	32%	43%

11) How useful do you regard the wind chill forecasts during the shearing season? 30 farms answered this question.

Useful most of the time	Sometimes useful	Not useful
73%	20%	7%

12) If "not or sometimes useful", do the forecasts under or over estimate the danger to shorn sheep on your farm? 12 farms answered this question.

Under estimate	Over estimate
42%	58%

13) Is the predicted time of arrival of "dangerous wind chill conditions" for your farm? 30 farms answered this question.

Too early	About right	Too late
0%	77%	23%

14) Are the forecasts broadcast on the radio at a useful time for you? 30 farms answered this question.

Yes	No
83%	17%

We also had some good feedback and comments from people as well. Some thought that the weather forecasts were not broadcast enough at the weekends and felt that some presenters were disinterested in reading it and leaving bits out, while others were perfectly happy with the presenting of the forecasts and said they were doing a "good job". We will pass the data onto the meteorological Office at MPA and to BFBS/FIBS for comment.

Some people felt that timber from a tree shelterbelt would be beneficial but it wasn't likely to happen in their lifetime!

Over the next few months we will be using this valuable information to make sound discussions regarding future research on shelter and the provision of shelter on farms.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who participated in filling in their questionnaires and returning them to us. If anyone still has an uncompleted questionnaire form please fill it in and return it to us.

CLEAN VEHICLES PLEASE

By Steve Pointing

When I issue health certificates to accompany wool back to the UK (or even further afield) one of the things the importing country usually asks me to confirm is that the wool was transported in a clean and hygienic manner (by land and sea).

Obviously I can't get round to checking every vehicle that transports wool bales each and every time so can I please ask you to make sure that vehicles are cleaned out before you move any wool bales. This is particularly important if you are using this vehicle for a variety of purposes - especially if the other jobs are messy or involve transporting live animals. Occasionally you may need to thoroughly wash down and disinfect the transport vehicle leaving it to dry completely before being used. Please check the cleanliness of your vehicle next time you use it.

WELFARE REMINDER

By Kevin Lawrence

Farmers are reminded that under the cattle welfare code of practice, castration with rubber rings is limited to calves under one month of age. Up to six months of age open castration with a knife or the use of a burdizzo is permitted without the use of a local anaesthetic. Over six months of age a local anaesthetic is required and is probably best left to the vet (saves you getting kicked as well).

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

By Andrew Pollard

This article was to be printed last month but unfortunately we didn't have enough space - sorry Andrew. Ed.

Sorry folks!! No more planting for this season. Apologies to those that we didn't get around to on this latest run but rest assured, you are on the priority list for next season. Those who did get some pasture in please keep me updated on how your reseed is progressing.

On returning to the Falkland Islands from Agricultural College I wasn't quite sure what to expect. One thing I did not expect was the summer that was in store. Fine for the tourists (who were still wearing their jackets by the way) but far from ideal from a pasture point of view. Lack of moisture prevented planting, then in a short turn around the soil became wet. Especially in the Whitegrass valleys which made getting machinery onto the reseeds difficult. I remember asking Aidan what sphagnum moss was, then at Moss Side I was introduced to the beauty of it. One bogging, two boggings etc. etc. and that was only Geoff (sorry mate)! The boggings seemed insignificant though, compared to being out staged by a Zetor (aaarrggghh).

Other eventful moments of the season included, Ewan's driving skills, or should I say diving skills at Hope Cottage, in the tractor and landrover, and Philip Miller's bridge building skills up at Cape Dolphin (he is rumoured to be holding a course shortly!). Mixing seed in Ajax Bay (hard hats are no good, a quick pair of legs is much more useful) and Ged's ability to get the air conditioned Massey on all of the hot days. I nearly forgot this one, Geoffrey's disappearing act at Home Farm when he wandered inside the pegs. Many thanks Michael and to your tractor (another Zetor!)

We did however manage to attain some positive crops this season. The turnips at Horseshoe Bay and Elephant Beach, the oats at Burnside and Kingsford Valley all produced or are still producing healthy yields. Areas of pasture at Brenton Loch and Hope Cottage are showing good establishment, and looking well even after the dry summer. In Aidan's trials at Fitzroy, and the legume site, it was clearly visible that Lotus is a legume worth pursuing. Also good results were seen with the white clover. After a poor growing season it is good to see some positive outcomes.

At present Geds, Geoff and Ewan are working hard on the maintenance, to ensure a quick start for planting in the forthcoming spring. Over the winter Geds is away training in Australia for several months (should be

prepared now, nearly got the accent to a tee) and should return October / November time.

Over the winter if anyone has any new areas cultivated or that they want cultivating please feel free to get hold of me and we can then organise a visit. At the same time if anyone is in Stanley please drop into the Department of Agriculture and we can discuss future plans. I can also be contacted by e-mail at apollard@doa.gov.fk

It is also intended soon to get over to the West and meet those I don't already know and discuss future plans, look at sites etc with everyone so that we can get a good plan of what has been done, enabling a more efficient planting season next time around.

WANTED

1: Seed Box off drill in working or repairable condition, (whole machine if necessary). Anything considered.

2: Damaged Suzuki Quad shocks, (Fronts/Rears), something with eyes pulled off perhaps?

3: L/R SWB truck cab canvas (damaged/repairable considered.)

4: Any L/R Capstan & Drum winch parts/units, drive mechanisms, rollers, fairleads, to help complete restorations for 2 separate vehicles.

5: I'm still looking for any scrap items & bits of 1 Tonne L/R's; absolutely anything is of interest & may have salvage use even if previously scrapped (damaged panels, castings, bent rims, shafts, etc.)

FOR SALE

Suzuki Quads from Stonemans in Devon are still currently available at 2000 prices.

If you can help with any of the above or would like more information on the Quads contact Nick Pitaluga on Phone 31193, Fax 31194 or e-mail cormocountry@horizon.co.fk

FEEDING FORAGE OATS

By Kevin Lawrence

This month there was a severe problem of rickets in weaned lambs grazing forage oats at Kingsford Valley Farm. The affected lambs were found cast, unable to stand or walking on their knees.

This is not a new condition in the Falkland Islands and this article is an attempt to bring together the available knowledge.

Rickets is a condition of growing animals where the bones fail to mineralise (harden) and remain soft. Rickets causes pain, fractures, poor growth rates, deaths and bent limbs in lambs that survive.

The major players involved in rickets are:

1. Sunlight
2. Calcium and phosphorus levels
3. Parasites
4. Nitrogen

Sunlight

Sunlight makes vitamin D in plants and in the skin of animals by the action of UV light. Vitamin D is an unusual vitamin it behaves more like a hormone.

All of us are aware how serious a hormone deficiency can be e.g. growth hormone – causing Dwarfism. Vitamin D increases calcium absorption from the intestine and hardens bone. Good levels of Vitamin D can to some extent compensate for poor calcium: phosphorus ratios.

Calcium and phosphorus

Calcium and phosphorus combine to make the mineral (hard) part of bone. They also have many other roles in the body. A good example is the role of calcium in muscle contraction, ewes low in calcium get milk fever, and are found weak or collapsed. The minimum level of calcium and phosphorus in feed for growing animals should be about 1% on a dry matter basis.

Not only should there be a minimum level but the ratio of calcium to phosphorus needs to be correct.

Ideally Calcium : Phosphorus

1 - 2: 1

Without the correct ratio the body struggles to make good bone. Low levels of calcium or phosphorus in feed also depress feed intake, which makes a bad situation worse.

Sean Miller has found that Christmas Bush, Fashine, Teaberry, Diddle Dee, Pig Vine and Mountain Berry are all good sources of calcium, whereas white grass is a poor source.

It could be argued that where a large area of diddle dee is cultivated for crop the soil may already be more depleted of calcium than usual. Calcified seaweed and Rock phosphate are good sources of calcium and by raising the pH of soil they also make more calcium available to the plants. Legumes are an excellent source of calcium in the reseed.

Parasites

Gut parasites can affect the absorption of calcium. Highly parasitised sheep, even with adequate calcium in the feed, can still get Rickets.

Nitrogen

The use of nitrogen will encourage more lush growth (green) ironically this will also raise the carotene content of the oats. Carotene blocks the Vitamin D in the grass.

A summary of factors at Kingsford Valley could be as follows:

1. The long overcast conditions reduced Vitamin D levels in the oats and lambs.
2. Calcium and phosphorus content of plants. The analysis of the oats by Gordon Lennie showed: Calcium less than 0.1%. Phosphorus about 0.4%. So the total is less than my target of 1% and the ratio of Calcium : Phosphorus, 1 : 4 is totally wrong.
3. Lush crop. This was probably one of the best oat crops grown in the Falklands. We can expect the carotene levels to be good so depressing Vitamin D (which already is low).
4. Although the lambs had been drenched 6 weeks earlier they had a moderate worm burden (FEC by Derek Clelland) which would have depressed calcium absorption further.

Action before grazing oats

1. At ground preparation try to put on calcified seaweed or rock phosphate.
2. Analyse oats before grazing.
3. Faecal egg counts (FEC) on lambs.

Gordon and Derek in the lab can quickly do these tests. The more crops we can test the better.

Put your results into the decision tree

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Falklands Conservation

Having visited the Falkland Islands on many occasions, Robin Woods has collected a vast amount of data and it is this data and other literature about bird species in the Islands that RSPB have been looking at. A representative from RSPB travelled down to the Islands and discussed with farm owners and other interested parties the importance of having Important Bird Areas (IBA's) within the Islands. RSPB along with Conservation are collecting data for a formatted database on IBA's in the Falkland Islands. Below is an article written by Chris Harbard, Head of Media for RSPB.

Important Bird Areas are internationally important places for the conservation of birds and their habitats. The IBA programme is a global initiative to identify the world's most important places for birds. These can then be monitored and given appropriate protection. The programme was established in 1981 by BirdLife International, and uses internationally recognised criteria to identify each IBA and an anticipated 20,000 IBA are likely to be described worldwide.

Cataloguing the Falkland IBA's is being undertaken by Falklands Conservation, with assistance from the RSPB (BirdLife partner in the UK). Information from certain sites on East and West Falkland, and from other islands and island groups, indicate that there are probably nine IBA's on Mainland Falkland and a further 22 islands or island groups.

Falkland Island birds fall into three of the categories:

1. Globally threatened species, some with declining populations: e.g. Rockhopper penguin, Southern Giant Petrel, Black-browed Albatross, Striated Caracara and Cobb's Wren.
2. Restricted range species found only in and near the Falklands: e.g. Falkland Steamer Duck, Tussac Bird, and Kelp Goose.
3. Congregatory species, with internationally important gatherings of seabirds or waterfowl: e.g. Thin-billed Prion, Dolphin Gull, Rock and King Shags.

An inventory of IBA's for the Americas is in preparation and will incorporate Falkland IBA's, as will a separate catalogue of UK Overseas Territory IBA's. These will clearly identify the Falkland Islands as ranking among the most important seabird sites in the world.



Photo by Richard White –
Cobb's Wren

KILLING FACILITIES ON FARMS

By Steve Pointing

You are all aware that killing facilities on farm have to meet certain minimum requirements with regard to offal disposal and denying access to offals by dogs or birds. This forms part of the strategy for controlling and eventually eradicating Hydatidosis from the Falkland Islands.

Recently it has been brought to my attention that many of you are killing lambs and mutton sheep for private sale to individuals in Stanley or for sale to restaurants or retail outlets. Obviously I have been aware of this practice for as long as I have been here but, a member of the public recently voiced concerns about the state of one of these killing houses that regularly supplies meat to an establishment in Stanley.

If you are supplying meat to private individuals in Stanley, catering establishments or Freshco you should observe normal and common-sense hygiene practices. Consider the following points and ask yourself whether you are observing best practice:-

1. **Keep the killing shed clean.** Ideally the killing house should be a purpose-built facility with easily washable walls and floors. If you have to use a part of the shearing shed make sure you thoroughly clean up after each killing session. Don't leave blood to dry on the slats or collect under them – this just attracts vermin or flies in the future. Dispose of all the inedible parts (offals, heads, feet etc) immediately. Don't leave them lying about for days on the shearing shed floor.
2. In order to keep everything clean you obviously need **ample supplies of CLEAN water**. Make sure you have an adequate supply before you start to kill.
3. **Keep all your instruments clean.** Clean your knives and steels regularly. If you are killing several animals on one day clean the knives thoroughly between each animal. To sterilise the blade you should immerse the knife in very hot water (>82°C) for several seconds or place it in a bowl full of chlorinated water (water with chlorine bleach added to it) for a short period of time.
4. **As well as keeping the tools clean you need to keep yourself clean too.** You should wash your hands regularly (soap and warm water) paying particular attention to finger nails and areas between the fingers. Wash your hands between dressing separate carcasses and particularly after removing the guts or contaminating your hands. Wear clean protective clothing when handling the carcasses.

5. If you kill on one day in order to send the carcasses off the following day **hang the carcass in a dry, cool, airy space protected from flies, birds and vermin**. Ideally they should be hung in a clean, airy meat storage area - designed for that purpose.
6. When sending in carcasses either in the back of a vehicle, by aircraft or on the Tamar **make sure they are adequately and hygienically covered**. Think about covering them in clean muslin or putting them in a large plastic sack rather than on pieces of cardboard or hessian sacks exposed to the elements where they can become covered by dust, dirt, oil, grease or anything else that might have been spilt in the back of the Land Rover.

Bacterial food poisoning is not a major problem in the Falkland Islands but this doesn't mean that you shouldn't observe the most basic of hygiene rules when killing lambs or mutton for sale to the public either directly or through one of the retail outlets. Please take this opportunity to review your current killing facilities and practices and make any necessary changes so that the end product is one that you can safely offer for sale to the general public.

SHEARING TENDER

The Directors of Twigworth Trading are offering for tender the shearing of approximately 4500 sheep at Wineglass Station, in a two stand shed, during the forthcoming season, 2002/2003.

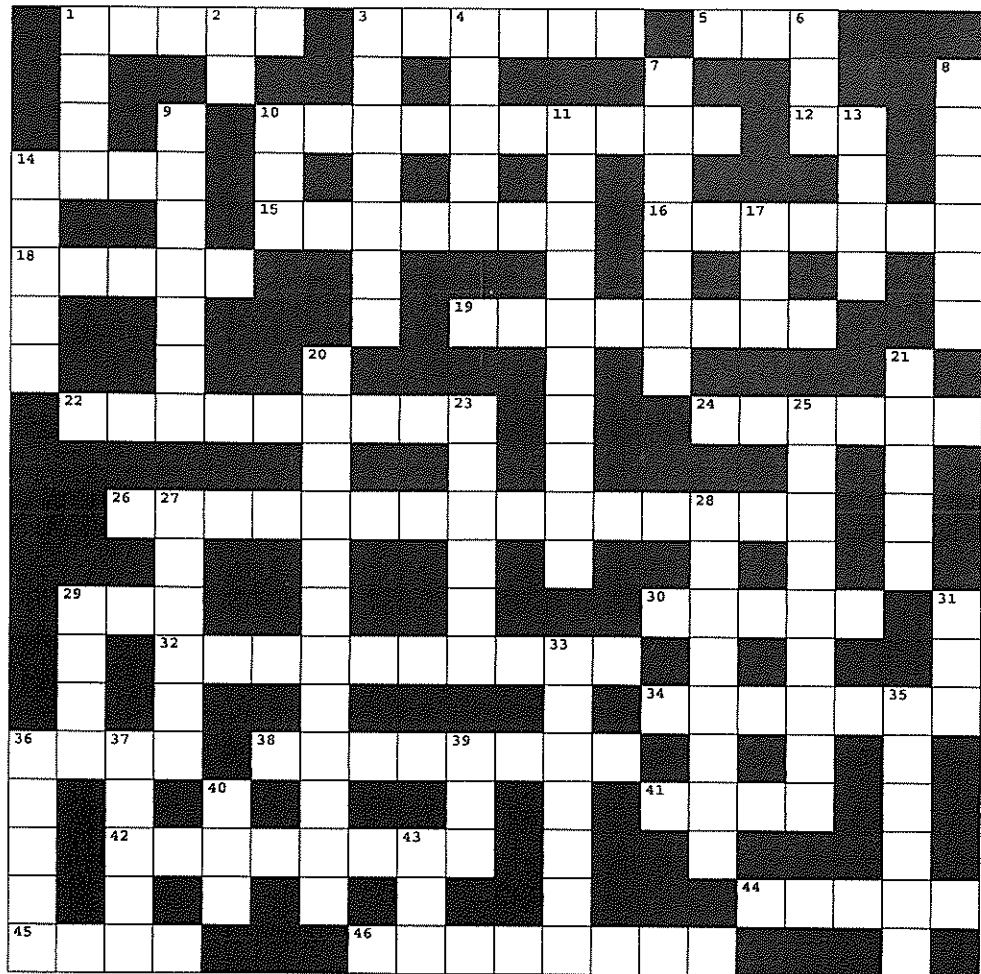
This tender is open to all contract shearing gangs and individuals alike who feel that they would like to shear this number of sheep.

We would also be looking at employing one wool handler during the shearing sessions, and also a casual hand for filling pens and other jobs. The possibility does exist that the casual hand could receive extra work during some of the time when shearing is not taking place.

Further details regarding the times shearing will take place can be negotiated with our Farm Manager, Bobby Short on telephone 32280. The best time to phone is in the evening.

Tenders to be submitted in writing and must reach our Stanley Office (at Falkland Supplies) on or before close of business on 30 June 2002.

**Peter Short,
Director**



ACROSS

1. SEASHORE OR DESERT
3. LICENSED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE
5. SHED TEARS
10. DEPRIVE OF MASCULINITY
12. YOU AND ME
14. TRAVELLING ENTERTAINMENT
15. TO MATE WITH A EWE
16. HOLDING AREA
18. DOCTORS ASSISTANT
19. LONG-TAILED BIRD
22. TYPE OF PEN
24. BIRD ENCLOSURE
26. FUEL DEPO
29. MALE OR FEMALE
30. EXHALE FORCIBLY THROUGH THE NOSTRILS
32. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
34. ARRANGEMENT OF STRAPS FITTED TO AN ANIMAL
36. LARGE BIRD
38. DRUG OR REMEDY
41. SNIFFING DEVICE
42. TO KEEP SAFE
44. SWEET VISCID SUBSTANCE
45. SQUID
46. OCEAN

DOWN

1. SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL ASSOCIATION
2. TO COMPLETE AN ACTION
3. HOODED SHOVEL
4. ROYAL DOG
6. NOT ME
7. ORGANIC RESIDUES
8. OPEN TOPPED CONTAINER
9. BRILLIANT TYPE OF GLASS
10. FELINE
11. TYPE OF GOAT
13. WINTER COVER
14. ORNAMENTED OR DECORATIVE
17. FOURTH SON OF JACOB
20. WWW (5,4,3)
21. TO PUSH OR PROPELL
23. PERSON WHO TRIALS THINGS
25. POLICY PROVIDING PROTECTION
27. COLLECTOR OF TAXES
28. TROPICAL ASIAN TREE
29. TO MAKE VISIBLE
31. LARGE PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLE
33. DEGREE OF TIGHTNESS
35. WEIGHING DEVICES
36. RAW FISH
37. FRUIT
39. SNOOKER STICK
40. LONG FISH
43. PET DOCTOR



The Wool Press

ISSUE 151

JULY 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

THE SHEEP THAT SHEAR ITSELF

Source - Daily Mail

YOUR LETTERS

STOCKING RATES & ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENTATION LEVELS

By Niilo Gobius

PORKY PIES & BUNNY RABBITS

By Zoe Luxton

RISK & UNCERTAINTY

By Mandy McLeod

GRASS SICKNESS - A HORSE OWNERS STORY

By Mandy McLeod

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

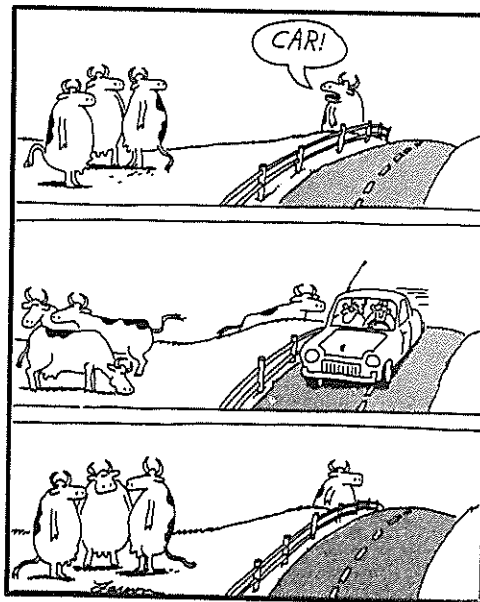
Hi All,

With Farmers Week nearly upon us I assume that I will see a number of you around Stanley within the next few days. I'm sure you'll all be attending the social functions as well as the meetings and other events throughout the day!

The 2002 statistics are coming along slowly and will be published this month as soon as I get all the forms returned.

Farmers – included with this month's issue is a leaflet telling you about the Way Forward project. I'm sure you will all have heard about the project by now so please take time to read through the leaflet and feel free to contact Neil if you have any questions. He is more than happy to hear from you.

Nyree



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FARM FIRES (*Animal Welfare*)

All farms are at risk of fire and each year in the UK there are over two thousand fires in agricultural buildings, many of them housing livestock. Most fires on farms can be prevented provided farmers and stockmen are sufficiently aware of potential fire hazards, and alert enough to recognise and remedy any hazard which do and can occur.

I am particularly concerned with Animal Welfare in Wool Sheds where animals are penned in. Thankfully, to the best of my knowledge, no fires have erupted in the Falklands killing stock, but that day could come.....so read on!

The welfare of both staff and animals is the farmer's responsibility. Fire prevention should therefore be part of the daily routine at shearing time to ensure the safety of workers and livestock alike, and to minimise injury should fire occur. In the majority of cases fires can very easily be prevented and tragedy avoided - **so consider your responsibilities extremely carefully.**

All farmers and not just the Organic Farmers should develop a fire safety strategy and make plans in advance for dealing with fire emergencies. These plans should include all possible measures to:

- Reduce any threat of arson;
- Control smokers - make them smoke outside and not in the shed and disperse their fag ends in a bucket of sand;
- Control "hot" work in the shed: i.e. welding, blow lamps etc;
- Maintain the machinery that the shearer's have to use including the press, grinders and the generator;
- Only use the shearing shed for shearing and not as a garage;
- Not burn any rubbish near the shed;
- Promote a good workshop practice, clean and tidy;
- Ensure the safe use of any flammable/combustible materials;
- Ensure escape routes and passages are kept free from any stored materials or equipment at all times;
- Ensure all wet fleeces are laid out properly so that they do not combust;
- Ensure that all shearer's, workers etc are aware of any risks;
- Ensure that staff members, family members etc are familiar with the appropriate emergency action including the releasing of animals, use of fire fighting equipment and raising the alarm etc;
- Ensure all power supply to the shearing shed is not in need of repair, and is checked regularly;
- Fire alarms are fitted or if already fitted are regularly checked.

I'm sure there are a lot more points to think about, if in doubt, call the Fire Department for some training and/or advice before shearing time starts. It's your livelihood!

A SINGLE-STEP OR STAGED!

Conversion to organic farming starts with a change in attitudes: the farmer has to be convinced that the new system is better than the old one and worth adopting, as commitment to finding creative solutions will be needed to overcome some of the problems which will be encountered. The early stages will usually involve looking at the Food and Organic Legislation No. 22 of 2000 and talking to the Inspector or Director of Agriculture or even both (the decision is yours). This information gathering exercise may then be followed by a trial phase, or by a full-scale conversion period. Each farm is taken on a conversion period of its merit.

Single-step conversion involves converting all of your farm at one time. This enables the farm to gain access to premium prices sooner, but means that all the risks, learning costs and financial impacts of conversion are concentrated into a short period of time.

Staged conversion involves the conversion of parts of the farm, a percentage, in successive years, using a fertility-building legume crop as an entry into organic management. The learning costs, capital investment and risks can be spread over a longer period, sometimes up to 10—15 years.

Careful planning of the conversion should allow choosing the best strategy for each particular farm. Both the staged and the single-step conversion involve compliance with the Organic Food Ordinance on the land that is being converted from the start of the conversion period.

During the conversion period, which may take several years, the aim should be to:

- Improve soil fertility by establishing a rotation with legumes so that crops can be produced without synthetic nitrogen fertilisers.
- Adjust the stocking rate to the natural carrying capacity of the farm, so that livestock can be produced without high levels of purchased concentrates and/or purchased forage. Our Organic Food Legislation No 22 of 2000 states 13 ewes per ha!
- Change the management of the system to maintain animal and plant health with the limited inputs acceptable to organic production standards.
- Work towards establishing a balanced ecosystem and maintaining species diversity to benefit the environment and agricultural production.

The time required and the difficulties associated with the necessary changes will depend on the intensity of conventional management and the condition of the farm before conversion.

After the required conversion period for a given parcel of land the farmer can then be given full organic certification .

THE SHEEP THAT SHEARS ITSELF – WITH THE HELP OF A PROTEIN JAB AND A FETCHING HAIRNET!

Source- Daily Mail

A simple injection could make sheep-shearing an obsolete skill after more than 5,000 years.

The fleece easily falls off in one piece a week after the jab, to be caught in special nets wrapped around the animals. The technique, launched commercially this month, makes harvesting wool as easy as taking off a jumper, say inventors from Australian firm Bioclip.

The animals are injected with a naturally occurring protein which causes a break in all their wool fibres simultaneously. Farmers will pay £1.40 for a packet containing the injection and a wool net, costs which Bioclip claim are comparable with the traditional method.

The new technique means an end to the back-breaking seasonal task but the main advantage is that it cuts cost by stopping pieces of skin getting into the fleece.

Bioclip says it can help sheep by reducing the stress, cuts and injury they suffer from mechanical shearing. The animals do not have to be penned up for several days while waiting for conventional shearing. After the fleece has fallen off, levels of protein in the sheep's blood quickly return to normal, allowing their wool to regrow. The process has been tested on more than 15,000 animals over the last 20 years, including one flock which has been treated annually for seven years.

One of the farmers in the trials was Liz Tomlinson, who has a 5,000 acre property in New South Wales. "We're very happy with it," she said. "It's an easy way of doing the job." Another, Simon Campbell, who raises 22,000 sheep in Queensland, said: "It's a great innovation." But he warned that care was needed to ensure that sticks and vegetation did not get caught in the nets.

John Le Breton, managing director of Bioclip, said 250,000 sheep in Australia's national flock of 110million are already producing wool with the technique. He hopes figures will rise to 80million within a decade.

The country is the world's largest producer of wool and has 6,000 shearers as part of a £1.5billion industry. Mr Le Breton said the shearers would still be able to find work, collecting wool from the nets and cleaning fleeces. He hailed Bioclip as a revolution in the industry which has been using mechanical techniques for more than 5,000 years.

In Britain, many farmers have traditionally hired New Zealand labourers who are trained as professional shearers to remove wool from more than half the 20million ewes and lambs here. The influx of New Zealanders – mostly Maoris – and some Australians to shear British sheep began in the 1950's.

Using electric hand-pieces, two shearers can clip up to 500 sheep a day. Britain's sheep yield around 44,000 tons of fleece each year, most of which is destined for carpet makers across the world.

When Mandy came to the Islands in 1973 chemical shearing was trialed at Goose Green. This was not a very successful trial but bear in mind that this was 30 years ago! I fail to see how getting a 'hairnet' on and off a sheep is going to be any less stressful (for the sheep) though, or very easy for that matter. - Ed

FOR SALE

Looking for top quality animal feed? **Dodson & Horrell Ltd** will cater for all your needs. An extensive range of horse feeds and also a variety of complete dog meals. Together with a selection of sheep and cattle feed, including universal blocks. Also hen and pig feed and even a mix for goats!

We usually have in stock some supplies of horse, dog and hen food but we are ordering every couple of months and can get anything you require, no order too small. We can cater for your needs with an order for just 1 or 2 bags and with large orders of a tonne or more we can offer you a discount. This offer even extends to a tonne of mixed feed. For discount orders you are required to pay when the order is placed.

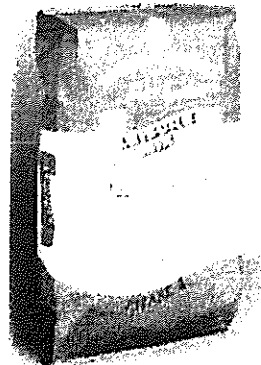
Prices range for all feed from £10 - £19 per 20 kg bag. This depends on the range of feed (dog feed being the most expensive). Please contact us for more information and price list. Also take a look at the Dodson & Horrell web site: <http://dodsonandhorrell.atolis.com/>

Ian & Susie Hansen, Main Point Farm.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Last year, in an editorial of a local newspaper I noticed a comment as to the opinion of many local farmers, in that they considered themselves as efficient, and in some cases more so, as that of experts brought in from afar, logically, not as volunteers, but with interesting salaries. I did not want to 'stir the pot' but as the Wool Press is dedicated to the farming world would like to tell you what happened to a farmer who was highly commended in the Shackleton Report (produced in 1976) long before the Agricultural Department existed for the efficient way in which he administered his "small island" farm – Mr J Lee, Sea Lion Island.

He sold his farm, that at that time was a profitable investment for any buyer, and decided to go to the land of 'Milk and Honey' (New Zealand), buy a small farm and enjoy his retirement while the sheep fended for themselves on excellent pastures. With his wife, married daughter and son in law they settled in the North Island near the town of Levin, bought a sheep farm and sat back to take it easy. To his surprise he received a visit from an inspector of the Agricultural Board of Administration and now found out that all was not as rosy as he had thought. His pasture was not natural but rather man made by constant fertilisation to specifications insisted on by the experts to ensure that the soil was complying with all the chemical substances to ensure that the seeds planted, which were also designated as best for the area, gave the best results. He now realised that he was not independent. Too late to change he worked that farm for a couple of years, and to help out, his son-in-law invested his savings in a small herd of cattle. Unluckily here they found that for no noticeable reason these started to die. Though experts were called in, with no treatment recommended correcting the situation, all the cattle died. He decided that enough was enough and put the farm up for sale with a view to living in Levin were he was assured of a job as supervisor in one of the large stores.

Standing at the gate a couple of days before the new owner was expected to take over the farm a car stopped on the road and the driver said that he was interested in hearing about the farm as years before he had been the owner. Mr Lee told him what had happened to his cattle and asked him if he had any ideas as to what was the cause of the death of the herd. The surprising answer was; "What! Did they not tell you? At the bottom end of your farm there is an area that is infected by a poison weed. As the sheep will not touch it, it was not considered anything of a danger so nothing was done to eradicate it. Unluckily in the case of the cattle it was a different story. They just lapped it up and died." Mr Lee worked until his retirement as a supervisor and when I visited him in Levin, recognised that here in the Falkland Islands he was independent but that in New Zealand this is not the case.

I remain yours sincerely

Joe Booth

**AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO DETERMINING
SUSTAINABLE STOCKING RATES AND ECONOMIC
SUPPLEMENTATION LEVELS FOR SHEEP
PRODUCTION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS**

By Niilo Gobius

Currently, little is known about the basal diet selected by sheep and cattle in the Falklands. Consequently, determining sustainable stocking rates or economically viable levels of feed supplementation is difficult without a lot of trial and error. Estimating the basal diet of sheep and cattle in the Falklands is made more difficult by the dominance of very low quality pasture (whitegrass and diddledee) interspersed with minor species of either medium or high quality (eg. finegrasses, cinammon grass, Christmas bush).

If we could establish the basal diet of sheep and cattle for each season, we could then use nutrition and pasture growth computer models, with local knowledge, to help determine what sustainable stocking rates are for certain camps and farms. The models would also help us to predict animal production and the effects and economics of various feed supplements. Models would also help us to make decisions about how much stock a farm should cull after a dry year or increase after a wet year.

The environment, low quality native pastures and present livestock management systems in the Falkland Islands limit overall farm production to low stocking rates, with low lamb marking percentages and biannually calving cows. Sheep and cattle populations are barely self-sustaining and consequently the enforcement of any selection policy is difficult. The new abattoir may stimulate change in production systems from wool production towards meat production. However, an increased kill of animals for meat (in excess of current cull numbers) will apply further pressure to the livestock population in the Islands. Improving the nutrition of animals will increase the weaning percentage of both lambs and calves, could enable the year-round provision of quality animals for slaughter, and permit higher stocking rates with resultant higher incomes per farm. The nutritional period of most importance is during winter and early spring, when quality feed is scarce and large liveweight losses are the norm. Improving nutrition during this period would most easily be achieved through improved grazing management, winter fodder crops and/or feed supplements.

I have started a research project that attempts to calculate the basal diet of free ranging, un-supplemented sheep and cattle by measuring the annual changes in live-weight, body condition score (BCS) and wool production. The pasture species composition of the diet will be deduced from knowledge of

the species present and their relative quality. All this information will be used to develop a nutritional model for Falklands conditions.

Nine farms from around the Falklands have volunteered to take part in this project (listed below), which will run for the next two years. These farms pretty much selected themselves from a larger group of farms that were identified as having the required variation in vegetation type, rainfall, stocking rate and grazing management required by the project. These farmers don't receive any financial compensation for being in the project but have first access to any outcomes of the project and regular feedback on the seasonal pasture and animal growth. The project will draw camp vegetation maps, provide supplements for a ewe flock and cattle for part of the winter of the second year and, ultimately, provide farmers with a better understanding of sustainable stocking rates for their camps and farms.

Table 1: Farm cooperators with the project

Owner	Farm	Dominant Vegetation type in study camp	Increasing finegrasses
Peter and Ann Robertson, Paul and Diane Robertson	Port Stephens	Lax Whitegrass	↓
Falkland Landholdings Ltd	North Arm	Lax Whitegrass	
Ben Berntsen and Violet Clarke	Elephant Beach	Lax Whitegrass/ Greens	
Rodney and Carol Lee	Port Howard	Lax Whitegrass/ Christmas bush/ Diddledee	
Peter and Maggie Goss	Horseshoe Bay	Lax and Bog Whitegrass/ Christmas bush/ Diddledee/ Greens	
Ted and Sheila Jones	Head of the Bay	Bog Whitegrass/ Greens	
Ali and Marlane Marsh	Shallow Harbour	Diddledee/ Greens	
Tex and Mandy Alazia	Port Edgar	Coastal Greens	
Mike and Phyll Rendell	Bleaker Island	Coastal Greens	

Project objectives in summary:

Under the conditions of varying rainfall, pasture species and pasture growth rates we will determine:

- Sustainable stocking rates that will deliver specific sheep and cattle production targets, and
- Cost effective, strategic supplementation regimes for ewes and cows.

The research will also:

- Provide a forum for learning by farmers and DoA staff,
- Improve the current understanding of animal requirements in the cold rangeland grazing systems of the Falkland Islands, and
- Develop and validate a ruminant production model for the Falkland Islands.

INTERNET GRANT SCHEME

Methods to be used:

Literature review

Review past experiments detailing annual or seasonal sheep and cattle weight and body condition score changes, and wool growth.

Initial modelling

Model the quality of the selected diets from animal weight, age, physiological stage and production details.

Farm monitoring Phase I

In Phase 1, the dietary intake and quality of sheep is estimated from ewe (live weight, body condition score, wool) and pasture (quantity and quality) production using a commercial model 'Grazfeed', which is modified with Falkland Island data.

Areas (ha) of the major pasture components are estimated from Landsat satellite images and photo analysis, while the amount of available pasture is calculated from growth in strategically sited exclusion cages (growth x area).

Soil temperatures and rainfall are monitored and linked to pasture growth.

Diet quality is related to the major pasture components assuming that higher quality species are selected before poorer quality species.

Farm monitoring Phase II

When a dietary supplement is added, the modelled animal and pasture production (per 100 mls of rain) will be verified against actual production. GPS tracking of sheep will validate the modelled diet composition by associating grazing sites with vegetation type.

Progress to date:

To date, the project has commenced on 7 farms out of the 9 farms. Bad weather has meant that I haven't been able to put out the pasture cages at Shallow Harbour, but the sheep and cattle have been weighed and condition scored and the GPS points have been taken. Port Stephens and Bleaker are the two farms that are still to be initiated into the project. In the next week, with Ross Chaloner's (PWD) help, we will have the basic camp maps drawn and areas calculated for the 7 farms.

If anyone wants to find out anything more about this project please feel free to call me on 27016 or 27358.

FIDC has set up a Grant Scheme to enable commercial businesses to invest in setting up of their own portal web site.

A grant of up to £150 can be awarded to your business which can be linked into the portal site www.falklandislands.com

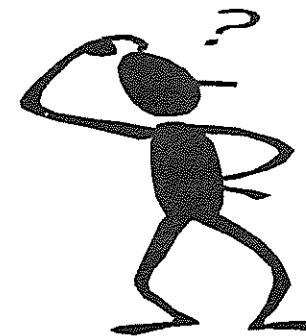
If you would like more information then please call Charlene Rowland at FIDC.

**A GRANT SCHEME to help to promote your
business on the Internet**

**Your farm is your business, so take up
this opportunity today!**

**It only costs approximately
£300 to set up a
web site locally.**

CRAFT INDUSTRY GRANT SCHEME



Contact:

Charlene Rowland,
Falkland Islands Development
Corporation,
Shackleton House,
Stanley

Tele: 27211 Fax: 27210
crowland@fidc.co.fk

FIDC has set up a Grant Scheme for you to invest in the setting up of your very own Craft Industry.

A grant of up to £5000 can be awarded to your Craft Industry Business.

If you would like more information and an application form please call Charlene Rowland at FIDC.

**GRANT SCHEME up to £5000 in
helping you to set
up a local craft business.**

PORKY PIES AND BUNNY RABBITS

By Zoe Luxton

At last I am free from the whole body cast which has encased me since my heroic attempts to rescue a kitten from being squashed by a lorry on the A14, thus rendering me unable to type.....what? Tell them the truth? Ok Nyree, the reason I didn't write an article last month is because I forgot. I would love to tell you that the reason I forgot is because I was having a fabulous social life involving yachts and the Wigan rugby team, alas that would also be a big fat lie. The reason I forgot is because I am a pillock.

Anyway, for most of this month I have been irritated by some of the morons that appear to be registered with our practice, for example:

Woman 1: "My cat is not well."

Me (looking at cats notes on the computer): "Ah yes, I see he has an overactive thyroid gland. How's he getting on with the medication?"

Woman 1: "Oh no. He didn't like the tablets so we stopped giving them to him."

Me: "That will be why he's still sick then."

Stupidly I assumed that most people would grasp the concept that an overactive thyroid will remain so unless lopped out!

Woman 2: "My cat has some nasty bites on his back legs can I bring him in later?"

Me (later): "Your cat does not appear to be able to walk."

Woman 2 (slightly indignant): "Told you they were bad."

Me (having suspiciously taken an x-ray): "Your cat has 2 broken legs!"

The above cases can be sniggered at now as both cats are absolutely fine, however some idiots don't deserve to have animals like the gentleman I saw today. He rang this morning to say he had noticed his rabbit was fly struck round the back end and could he make an appointment for tomorrow afternoon. The receptionist realising the severity of this asked him to come in immediately. This poor rabbit was obviously feeling awful and not surprisingly as his bottom was a mass of maggots. I could honestly hear them munching away. He looked somewhat surprised when I said unfortunately the rabbit would have to be put to sleep. He then suggested he take the rabbit home for the day so the children could say goodbye. I informed him that due to the fact his rabbit was in excruciating pain as he was literally being eaten alive, that under no circumstances was he going anywhere with the rabbit unless it had been relieved of its misery. I wish people would realise that although rabbits are traditionally 'children's' pets, they do need looking after with more responsibility than it is fair to expect from children. Rabbits MUST have their bottoms checked EVERY day and

they must be cleaned if necessary. If you notice your rabbit is not keeping himself clean then have him checked by a vet. Bad teeth will stop rabbits grooming and diarrhoea will also make them unclean. Rabbits are also prone to mucky eyes and abscesses which are also prime targets for blow flies, so good management of your bunny is imperative as within 12 hours one blow fly can kill your rabbit. Obviously this is much more important in summer - I haven't forgotten that Gods favourite southern pasture is under 6 feet of snow as I write!

Anyhow, I shall leave you with that small rant. Whew, got myself quite cross there. Must go and have another glass of chardonnay and perhaps a choccie chip cookie.

To round off today brilliantly, one of my favourite clients' cats scratched me quite badly and now my little finger on my right hand has swollen to twice the size. So next month if there is no article from me I may actually have a legitimate excuse!

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY

By George Paice & Matt Kelly

There is not a lot of news from the abattoir at the moment. The staff levels were cut down to a core manning level of five staff who keep the abattoir running. We are currently killing and processing around 100 sheep a week for Freshco with the occasional beef and pig kill. Evan Jones is off to the UK for further training in a multi species slaughterhouse in Blackpool. He is due to return to the Islands in December, by which time it is hoped that the abattoir will have obtained its export license.

LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

Can those of you who have not yet returned your Livestock Ordinance Forms 2001/2002 please do so as soon as possible.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already returned your copy for your speedy response to my request for yet more information. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Nyree

RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

By Mandy McLeod

Any attempt to plan ahead is subject to risk. This risk is due to uncertainty. The uncertainty comes in many forms and is broad ranging from politics to the weather!

Drought, Camp fires, heavy snow, a wet spring, and market changes (consumer trends) are just a few of the factors that come to mind when assessing risk in the Falklands. Disease is another risk and, although we are 'disease free' ourselves, the impact that the recent Foot and Mouth epidemic in UK had on us cannot be overlooked. We may not have had it, but it was certainly contributory to the delay in getting the abattoir certified and licensed, partly because the EU did not have the staff available to do the inspections as Foot and Mouth control took priority, and partly because the markets also took some convincing that just because we are British and Britain had Foot and Mouth, it didn't mean that we did! The human element is also not to be overlooked when calculating risk. The example of the EU staff is one thing, but what about closer to home? If you are planning to do a particular job and one of your workforce falls sick (it might be you), it can have a big impact on the profitability and success of your well laid plans!

I know that we cannot think of every eventuality (who would've thought we would have to suffer the effects of volcanic dust?), but there are some things that we can look at to reduce the 'uncertainty' and therefore make us think a little longer before making that 'risk' decision. All businessmen have to live with a certain level of risk. In order to survive they have to adapt and be flexible both in physical and financial management. You cannot adapt or change something if you don't know what is happening at the time, so your finances must be kept up to date and your plans reviewed on a regular basis. When you do farm planning, which many of you have done to various levels to apply for Incentive grants, the use of your plan should not end there. It should be kept handy, looked at to see if you are doing what you said you would, to see if you are on target with you tasks, your yields, your income and your expenditure. The regular use of both the physical and financial aspects of whole farm plans will be an important part of the Way Forward project.

The first line of defence against risk when planning should be meticulous attention to detail in the budgeting process, particularly in forecasting. I know it is not easy to say what the cost of diesel or the price of wool is going to be in the future, but an assumed figure is better than none. To get a starting figure talk to other farmers or Agriculture department staff, look back at the trends of recent years both in your receipts and your spending. You could then do the three scenarios:

Worst Case – This shows the highest estimated costs versus the lowest estimated income.

Likely Case – This shows average costs and income.

Best Case – This shows the lowest estimated costs versus the highest estimated income.

If your worst case scenario 'breaks even' (Zero profit – no loss / no gain), then I would say it was safe to go ahead as because even if everything was at its worst, you wouldn't be operating at a loss. The chances are that you will make a profit.

RECIPE FOR A GOOD HUSBAND

The following was printed in the Church Gazette around about 1896!

A GOOD husband, it has been wisely remarked like the hare, must be caught before he is cooked, he cannot always be told at a glance and sometimes one must be summered and wintered before his real character is discovered, but it is safe to say that when caught he should be found to be composed of the following ingredients in suitable proportions, mother wit, good nature, gentleness, strength, manliness, purity and courage. But even when the full measure of some of these necessary qualities is lacking, a good husband can often be secured by a persistent use of the following recipe :—

Wifely tact;	10 parts.
Wifely forbearance	” ”
Wifely good nature,	” ”
Good housekeeping,	” ”
Good cooking,	” ”
Wifely love,	50 ”

There are some brutes upon whom even such a precious mixture will be wasted, but they are very few, and a persistent application of it, morning, noon and night, for two years, is warranted, in nine cases out of ten, to make a man and a gentleman out of very common place material.

It is necessary to add that this recipe has been tried for many generations. In certain families it has been handed down from mother to daughter for many years and up to date no reliable substitute has been discovered for making a good husband.

GRASS SICKNESS – A HORSE OWNERS STORY

By Mandy McLeod

This story as it might be of interest to horse owners, and might even help if you have to deal with this disease in one of your own.

I didn't have much luck with my horses last year. First I lose an 8 year old to lightning strike, then his 9 year old mate got grass sickness! I can see most of you thinking 'What is grass sickness?' Well, there have been a few recorded cases in the Falklands over the years. In most cases the horses have died of the disease or the owners have had them shot because it is so debilitating. The cause is somewhat vague, but Vets around the world that have looked into it think that it is caused by an organism in the grass that becomes active during a sudden hot dry spell after a prolonged wet period (that's why it happens in the Spring). It basically stops the gut action by affecting the nervous system. It is most akin to motor-neurone disease in humans. When I say gut action, I actually mean everything from behind the teeth right through to rectum! There are three levels apparently. If your horse is unlucky enough to get the acute version he will be dead within a couple of days and there is absolutely nothing that you or the Vet can do about it. These horses often become very aggressive and can be dangerous. If he gets the sub-chronic version, he will either die within 14 days, or, if he is lucky, may pass on to the Chronic stage. At this stage, as I have discovered, you can help them get over it. Be warned though, it is a time consuming, costly, and at some times depressing.

CHESTER'S STORY

Chester is a 9 year old first cross Exmoor. Hardy as they come. Stocky, well muscled and in excellent condition. Had him from a foal. When he was suddenly moody (which he never has been before) I just thought it was because his pal was there one minute, gone the next. Little did I know that it was a red herring as sudden mood swings is one of the first signs of grass sickness.

(Saturday) I knew he wasn't right but thought he was just depressed after losing his lifelong companion. Maggie McLeod, who like a lot of people in her generation, spent most of her life with horses as a shepherds daughter. When she saw him (Tuesday) she said he looked 'all tucked up, like he's been hard ridden for several days'. I didn't take a lot of notice as he was grazing and had a nice shiny coat, etc. Next day she phoned saying that she couldn't sleep for worrying about him because she was convinced he was going to die.

I have a theory that you never ignore the wisdom of this level of experience, especially from our older Falkland Island Campers. I took her advice, got Steve (the Vet) to go out to where he was in Camp to get a second opinion (Wednesday). By then he really did look 'tucked' (like a whippet). We did his teeth (just in case that was the problem, although we knew it wasn't) and give him a multivitamin injection. He'd been wormed so we knew it wasn't that. He still seemed to be grazing though. Steve listened for gut movement but couldn't hear any.

(Friday) We went and stayed the weekend where he was. Still not right but still apparently eating. It wasn't until Saturday when we had time to observe him over a period of time that we realised that he was actually starving. Every mouthful of grass, oats or pony nuts ended up falling back out of his mouth. By then his body was twitching, particularly on the shoulders and flanks, and he had patchy sweating. He hung his head low and looked as if he was about to keel over. It was a long night, unable to do anything but hope he was still with us in the

morning. Steve kindly came out again to see him on the Sunday morning, by which time there was a change in him (and his symptoms). He had passed from the sub-chronic to the chronic I think. With the chronic stage comes the nose bleeds. It is almost an indication of the changeover according to the literature that I have read.

We decided to get him into town where we could give him care. Steve has a file on Grass Sickness and one of the main aspects of recovery cases (which were very rare) was that they had lots of TLC in the way of company and grooming (up to 14 hours a day). So, on Monday we horse boxed him in and had him in a yard next to our house. Our initial problem was getting food to go down. He still had an appetite (fortunately), but he had swallowing difficulties. Even if we tubed food to his stomach it would be no good as it would just sit there with no peristaltic movement to move the food along the digestive tract. We needed to stimulate the gut and introduce food slowly at the same time.

We found that he could manage to get some pureed food and water down if you held the bowl high so that gravity played a part in the swallowing. It was several weeks before he could keep food in his mouth from normal grazing height. Sometimes, if he got the action wrong, the food or water would come back out of his nose.

We persevered with painstakingly long small feeds and drinks every few hours for about 10 days day and night. The weight was just falling off him at this stage. We rugged him at night and on the odd wet day (which I had to make because he's only little and everything available to buy was full horse size). He went days at a time without passing anything, then when he did they resemble charcoal briquettes, and he strained a lot. His urine was like treacle so we were worried about infection and kidney problems. His breathing was often heavy and wheezy and he would sometimes choke on his food. There was no veterinary treatment (although he would've had antibiotics had any infection developed). The food we gave him consisted of anything that we could think of to get his gut going including apples, All-bran, carrots, porridge, seaweed extract, molasses, dandelions and cod liver oil I actually think that apples helped. They certainly gave him the most atrocious wind. In fact, I had to apologise to the neighbour on the other side of his paddock for the smell!!!! My food processor (the gadget you always want then sits in the cupboard for 10 years) was put to full use grinding everything to a pulp (including soaked whole oats which did nothing for the blades!).

The gut movement gradually increased, as did his food intake and the piles of manure! As he could manage it, we increased the size of the feeds and the consistency until the grinding was no longer needed. He looked like a toast rack, but the weight gradually went back on. The nose bleeds stopped after about 5 weeks and the twitching after about 8 weeks. He didn't lie down for at least 6 weeks that we know of. I think he was scared to in case he couldn't get back up. He eventually showed interest in grazing again but continued to lose weight for a while after this, but fortunately he hadn't reached the point of no return, but it was close!

Anyway, a happy ending (and I hope I'm not tempting fate). He's now back out with his troop, although he still has some muscle tone to pick back up. Initially he tired quickly and rested a lot, but not now. It cost a lot in both time and money but it was well worth it. In the latter weeks when we were trying to build his weight up, it was costing us about £50 a week for food. An average, lightly worked horse needs about 5 kg dry matter a day to maintain weight. He was having about 10 or 12. There were times when I felt so sorry for him because he looked so weak and pathetic that I almost called it a day.

RECIPE PAGE

By Sheena Miller

CHRISTMAS CAKE (8")

Ingredients

12 oz sugar	6 oz cherries
12 oz margarine	8 oz sultanas
6 eggs	8 oz raisins
14 oz flour	1 lb 6 oz currants
4 oz chopped/ground almonds	2 teaspoons of cinnamon
4 oz fresh lemon rind or peel	2 teaspoons mixed spice
Rum, whisky or sherry to taste	

Method

Cream the margarine and the sugar and add the eggs. Beat thoroughly and then add the flour and spices. Next add all the fruit and the rum/whisky/sherry.

Grease an 8 inch square tin or a 9 inch round tin and line with greaseproof paper and line the outside with tin foil. Spoon the mixture into the tin and cook for 1 hour at 300°C. Now turn the oven down to 250°C and cook for a further 2 ½ hours or to your own liking. When the cake is cool remove it from the tin and place it in a plastic bag with a little more rum/whisky/sherry and store for Christmas.

Marzipan (Makes 2 lb)

8 oz icing sugar	2 small eggs lightly beaten
8 oz superfine sugar	1 teaspoon almond essence
1 lb ground almonds	Lemon juice to flavour

Sift the icing sugar and caster sugar into a bowl with the almonds. Add the other ingredients and mix into a stiff paste. Roll out and cover the cake.

Royal Icing

1 lb icing sugar
3 egg whites
1 teaspoon of tartar

Thoroughly beat the egg whites. Add the icing sugar and tartar and mix well. Cover the cake.

I realise that it is only July (believe it or not) but if like Sheena you prefer to make your Xmas cake months in advance and store it now is the time to cook it.

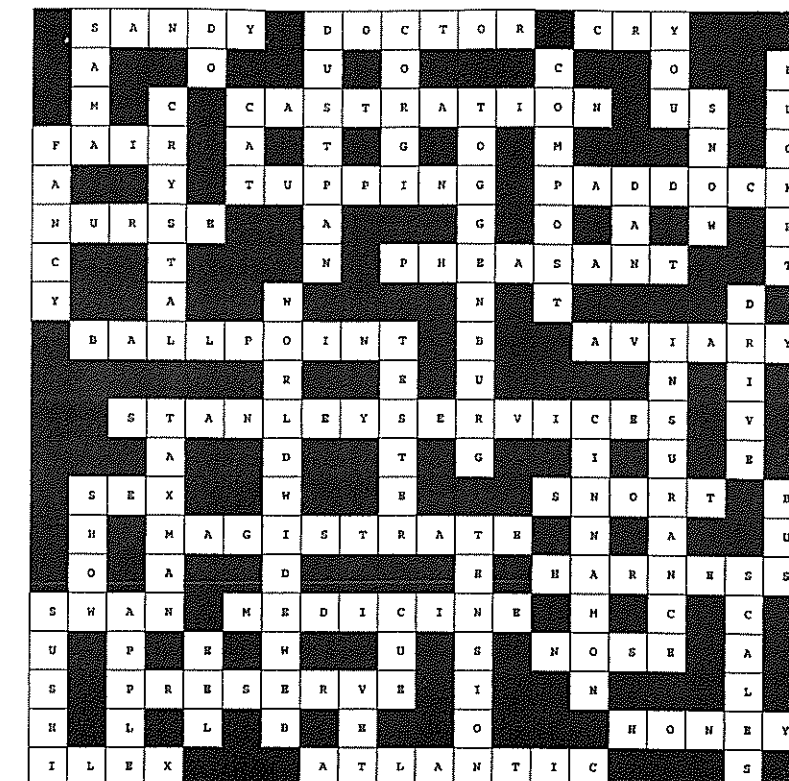
COMPUTER COURSES

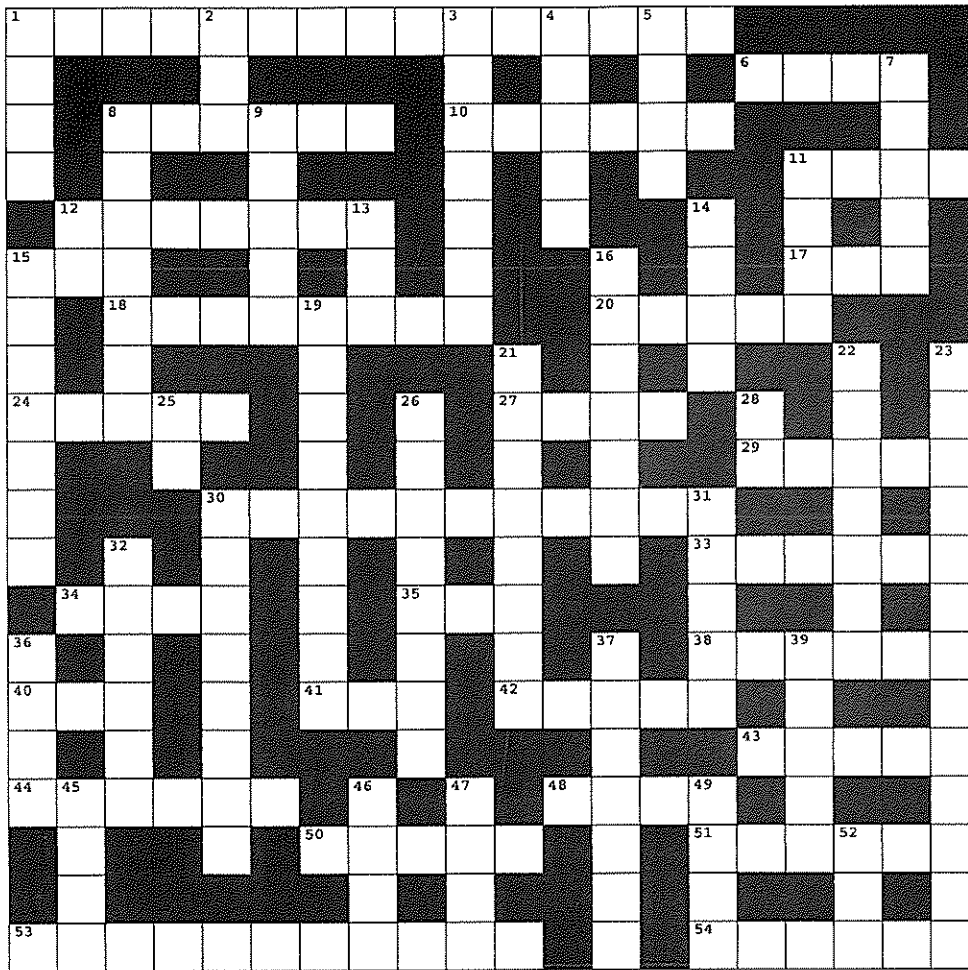
There was an excellent response to the computer course that I advertised a while ago. So much so that I am organising another course in August. This is a course for beginners only and will cover general computer use including how to find your way around Windows, mouse use and an introduction to Word and Excel. My aim is that by the end of the course you should feel confident and familiar with your computer (not scared of it!) and be able to write a letter and create a spreadsheet using basic formulas.

I have 4 places left for this 3-day course. So, if you are a beginner or are thinking of buying a computer and want to develop your skills and build up your confidence, contact me on 27211 for more information. I will be your tutor for the course.

Mandy

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION





ACROSS

DOWN

1. GOVERNORS RESIDENCE
6. WITHOUT WIND
8. FORTIFIED WINE
10. MESSY
11. THIN MESH CURTAINS
12. VIOLENT STORM WITH WHIRLING WINDS
15. A BLADE WITH TEETH ALONG ONE EDGE
17. FEMALE DEER
18. FLESHY FUNGI
20. HERBIVOROUS DOMESTICATED MAMMAL
24. POISONOUS FLUID SECRETED BY SNAKES
27. COCAINE CONTAINING SHRUBS,
NATIVE TO THE ANDES
29. SMALL PIECE OF BISCUIT ETC
30. 8TH TO THE 12TH OF JULY THIS YEAR
33. LINE ON A MAP CONNECTING PLACES OF EQUAL
ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE
34. KG
35. WHERE LIVE ANIMALS ARE EXHIBITED
38. SMALL AIR BREATHING ARTHROPOD
40. DOMESTICATED PIG
41. TO ACHIEVE FIRST PLACE
42. FOOT CLOTHES
43. COMMON GREETING
44. COLOUR BETWEEN RED AND BLUE
48. YOUNG COW
50. RELATING TO SHIPS
51. EDIBLE YELLOWISH BROWN SEEDS
53. NORTHERN MOST POINT OF EAST FALKLAND
54. FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

1. CAN BE WIRE, WOODEN OR METAL
2. WIDELY CULTIVATED ANNUAL GRASS
3. TOURIST TRAVEL INDUSTRY
4. FRESHWATER MAMMAL
5. LUMPS OF PEAT
7. 1.094 YARDS
8. MAN MADE MAN
9. EUROPEAN FRESH WATER FOOD FISH
11. THE POINT ON A PLANT STEM FROM
WHERE THE LEAVES GROW
12. CHILDS THANK YOU
13. OR NEAREST OFFER
14. TO DISCHARGE A WEAPON
15. AN ACT OF HELP OR ASSISTANCE
16. YOUNG DOMESTIC FOWL
19. EAST FALKLAND FARM
21. HAND HELD CUTTING DEVICES
22. BRISTLY GROWTH
23. 14TH JUNE (10,3)
25. EXPRESSION OF AGREEMENT
26. BELOW ZERO
28. ALTERNATING CURRENT
30. 11 FULLY GROWN MEN CHASING A BAG OF WIND!
31. NEW ZEALANDERS
32. FISHING BOAT
36. STORE
37. EIGHT SIDED SHAPE
39. WATER VAPOUR
45. TYPE OF FERTILISER
46. COUNTRYSIDE
47. YELLOW OR WHITE TRANSPORT
49. A TRACT OF LAND
52. NOT EVEN



The Wool Press

ISSUE 152

AUGUST 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

AVIAN INFLUENZA

By Steve Pointing

YOUR LETTERS

GROWTH OF AGROTOURISM IN SOUTHERN CHILE

Source – Mercopress

WATER SHORTAGES OR NOT

By Tim Cotter

BIG BROTHER & SOME BOTHER

By Zoe Luxton

ORGANIC POINTS FROM PORT EDGAR

By Mandy & Tex Alazia

ENVIRONMENTAL & MANAGEMENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF NATIVE PASTURES UNDER SHEEP GRAZING

By Aidan Kerr

CATTLE HORNS

By Kevin Lawrence

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Hi All,

It was good to see a fair few of you in for Farmer's Week. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. I certainly enjoyed the Friday afternoon do at the Ag Department, as did Timmy!

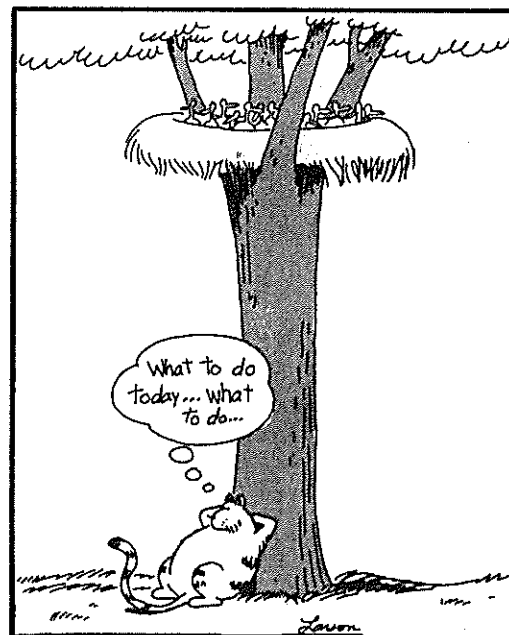
The farming statistics are out so you can have a few hassle free months from me.

As most of you know I am away to Australia by now anyway to finish my Diploma and do a few other courses. I just hope it all goes well and I make it back in one piece. At least the weather should be a bit nicer over there at the moment.

Mandy will be taking over Wool Press production for the next few months so please send any articles, adverts etc to her, otherwise they won't get published.

Should anyone need to contact me I can be reached at nyreeheathman@hotmail.com or alternatively through the parents. See you all when I return.

Nyree



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The articles printed in the Wool Press do not necessarily represent the views of the DoA.

Falklands Organic News & Information

August 2002

ORGANIC SEED

The EU regulation 2092/91 governing organic farming across Europe stipulates that organic seed must be used in organic production. However, there is a lack of availability across Europe, and as a result a derogation has been in place allowing growers to use conventional seed where no organic seeds exists.

Grass seed mixtures create some problems and the simple solution of a minimum percentage inclusion rate of organic seed has been adopted by Cotswold Seeds.

For 2002, the rate has been set at 35%. This means that any farmer buying a seed mixture with 35% or more organic seed will not need permission from me prior to purchase.

Any organic farmer who is buying in mixture with less than 35% organic seed will have to contact me before purchase.

SOME FACTS ABOUT UK FARMING

A Research Group, Strutt and Parker's Land have printed some interesting and staggering findings on the web, they claim that:

- More than one million hectares of UK's land are no longer being farmed. That means the equivalent of an area five times the size of Warwickshire being lost from the practice of farming since 1990.
- Economic indicators show the decline in farming over the last five years has been dire. Total income from farming per hectare in the UK has dropped from over £21,000 per annum to just £2,500.
- A staggering 5,000,000 hectares is now lying fallow as EU funded 'set-aside'.
- A further 200,000 hectares was irrevocably lost from farming in the ten years from 1990. Of this only 80,000 hectares went under to build industrial development areas.
- The area lost to housing development is about 27,000 hectares and probably matches the area acquired by conservation bodies for permanent nature reserve type purposes.
- More land had been abandoned to bracken encroachment then residential development in the last ten years. The total area under this carcinogenic weed now stands at 273,000 hectares. In addition, 26,000 hectares of farmland had been approved from the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme since 1992.
- In the ten years prior to foot and mouth outbreak, the dairy herd in England and Wales had already declined by 20% and the sheep flock by 500,000. The area of England under production in the arable, horticultural and livestock sectors had shrunk significantly.
- In 1998, no claims were submitted by farmers on 1.5 million hectares of the 5.3 million hectares estimated by DEFRA to have been originally eligible for Arable Aid payments. Much of this land is now neglected.

Source: www.westcountryorganics.co.uk/onews.htm

Do you want this seasons wool clip sold as organic?

This could be your last chance this year to have this seasons wool clip certified organic.

If you have no pasture improvement, live full time on your farm and are willing to comply with the rules and regulations of the Falkland Islands Organic Food Legislation, then give me a call within, or about, the 2nd week of August. An inspection of your farm will commence and a conversion period of approximately 3 months can be administered providing that all relevant compliances are acceptable.

Please ensure that you ring me at least 3 months before you start shearing!

6 ORGANIC FALKLAND ISLAND FARMS

As from the 1st August, 2002 the Falkland Islands have now 6 farms complying to the rules and regulations of organic development.

Port Edgar, Port Louis, Crooked Inlet, Bleaker Island, Speedwell Island and Albemarle Station have all complied with the animal welfare, and the traceability recordings. Riverview farm is in the conversion process.

All these farms except Crooked Inlet are fully organic. Crooked Inlet has approximately 650 hectares of land which is still in conversion. This means that the animals that are on this land are also in conversion.

I believe this has not hindered any of Danny's plan or caused him any problems. It will be another year before Crooked Inlet's whole farm will be organic.

As each farms is inspected, I have been making up a web page linked into www.fidc.co.fk, promoting the organic status as well as the farm. (Hopefully, at the time of writing this article and with Synergy's help the pages are on line).

This is a good time for you to advertise and sell your farm, including any diversification that you have embarked upon. If you are thinking of becoming organic and have taken some really good photographs, please keep them for Inspection day!

Article on Farm Fire's June 2002

I was very impressed to receive so many telephone calls regarding my article on Farm Fires. Some people were outraged that I put something like that in the Wool Press and others were very supportive.

At least it made people think about the possibilities even if they disagreed with the article. Some farmers even asked where the organic thing came into it and they were told of the Animal Welfare implications.

If you have views on how to keep your farm from any fire hazard practices, perhaps you should write an article and submit it to Nyree or Mandy for publication. I'm sure there are farmers out there who would be interested to hear what practices you apply?

**WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY OF THE ORGANIC STANDARDS ?
IF SO JUST GIVE ME A CALL**

Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com

www.fidc.co.fk

www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk

www.defra.gov.uk/news

email: info@cotswoldseeds.com

AVIAN INFLUENZA

By Steve Pointing

You may have read about the current outbreak of avian influenza in Chile from extracts from Chilean newspapers published in Penguin News recently. Do we need to be concerned in the Falkland Islands and why has the veterinary section banned the import of Chilean poultry products including eggs?

The Disease

Avian Influenza (AI) has been recognised as a highly lethal generalised viral disease of poultry since 1901. In 1955, a specific type of influenza virus was identified as the causal agent of what was then called "fowl plague". It has since been found that AI viruses cause a wide range of disease symptoms, ranging from severe to mild, in domestic poultry.

AI viruses belong to group A of the influenza viruses. Within this group there are a number of subtypes, some of which are highly pathogenic while others only cause mild symptoms. The subtype isolated from the current outbreak in Chile is one of the highly pathogenic varieties.

Natural Hosts & World Distribution

Domestic hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl and pheasants are all susceptible. Disease outbreaks occur most frequently in domestic fowl and turkeys. Many species of wild birds - particularly water birds and sea birds - are also susceptible, but infections in these birds are generally subclinical.

AI viruses are probably ubiquitous in wild water birds. Pathogenic strains could emerge and cause disease in domestic poultry in any country at any time without warning. In fact, outbreaks have occurred at irregular intervals on all continents. The most serious epidemic in recent times was that in the Eastern USA in 1983-84, in which more than 17 million birds either died or were slaughtered as part of the eradication campaign.

Epidemiology

The immediate source of infection for domestic poultry can seldom be ascertained, but most outbreaks probably start with direct or indirect contact between domestic poultry and waterbirds. Many of the strains that circulate in wild birds are of very low pathogenicity but more virulent strains sometimes emerge as a result of genetic mutation.

Once AI is established in domestic poultry, it is a highly contagious disease and wild birds are no longer an essential ingredient for spread. Infected birds excrete virus in high concentration in their faeces and also in ocular and nasal discharges. The disease generally spreads rapidly within a flock by direct contact.

The most important means of spread of AI virus from farm to farm is mechanical, by persons with contaminated footwear or clothing, or by dirty poultry crates, utensils and feed trucks.

Clinical Signs

The clinical signs are very variable depending on the subtype of virus involved in the outbreak.

In the highly pathogenic form of AI (HPAI) traditionally associated with fowl plague, the disease appears suddenly in a flock and many birds die either without premonitory signs or with minimal signs of depression, inappetance, ruffled feathers and fever. Other birds may show weakness and a staggering gait. Hens may at first lay soft shelled eggs, but soon stop laying. Sick birds often sit or stand in a semi-comatose state with their heads touching the ground. Combs and wattles sometimes appear cyanotic (bluish in colour) and swollen, and may have haemorrhages at their tips. Profuse watery diarrhoea is frequently present and birds are excessively thirsty. Breathing may be laboured. The mortality rate varies from 50% to 100%.

In the less virulent forms of AI, respiratory signs are often predominant but any of the above symptoms may be observed albeit to a lesser degree of severity than in HPAI.

Control

Control of this disease is usually achieved by following an eradication policy. Poultry on infected premises are generally slaughtered and after complete depopulation the buildings and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. A suitable period of time is then allowed to elapse before restocking takes place.

Prophylactic vaccination is not recommended as the use of vaccines confuses the disease picture and, in the case of HPAI, makes final eradication more difficult. Vaccination may have a role to play with the less virulent types of virus.

Other control methods include the banning of imports of live poultry, poultry products and eggs from countries that are experiencing an outbreak. This is now the case as far as poultry imports from Chile are concerned.

What precautions should you take as a poultry keeper in the Falkland Islands?

- 1) Read this article so that you know what the symptoms of avian influenza look like.
- 2) Keep a watchful eye on your hens and if you notice a sharp increase in sick or dying birds then report this to the veterinary service (avian influenza is a notifiable disease in the Falkland Islands meaning that, by law, you are obliged to report suspicious cases to the Director of

Agriculture, the Senior Veterinary Officer or a Police constable. Failure to do so could result in a prosecution!). At the same time I'd be grateful if you didn't phone up for every sneeze or cough that your prize hen may give forth!

- 3) For the time being keep left over poultry waste (e.g. egg shells, left over chicken, chicken bones etc) out of your kitchen scrap container to be fed to your back yard poultry. This is particularly important if the frozen poultry and eggs have been imported from Chile. If you can't bear seeing this material going to waste then make sure it has been heated up to boiling point before feeding it to the chooks – this is particularly important with egg shells which are commonly fed back to laying chickens (actually not a very good practice in any case because it can encourage a certain proportion of hens to attack their own eggs).
- 4) Take this opportunity to look at your hen house during the winter period and give it a thorough clean out, disinfecting those areas which become heavily contaminated during the year. This is good practice no matter what diseases are currently in circulation.
- 5) Discourage contact between your hens and wild birds. This is probably not absolutely feasible in the back yard situation but you should take care not to scatter chicken feed all around the place as this encourages wild birds to share in the feast (as well as being very wasteful!)
- 6) Take this opportunity and increase your egg production to help fill the gap in demand (although it's a pity this disease outbreak has occurred in the winter months when local hens are at their least productive).

For further information please contact the Veterinary Section at the Department of Agriculture on telephone number 27355 or 27366

WEIGH TAPES

In a recent trial in the UK comparing weigh tapes in horses the tapes made by Dodson and Horrell (feed manufacturers) were found to be the most accurate. Without weighing facilities the accurate guessing of weight in horses is a problem. Correct dosing by weight with anthelmintics is very important if we are to prevent worm resistance developing.

Dodson and Horrell make two tapes, one for ponies and one for horses. If there is enough interest the Veterinary Department could order some and pass them on at cost.

YOUR LETTERS

Thank you for publishing my two items in the Wool Press. I note your remark about protein jab shearing, and also remember Goose Green trying this idea. I remember that sheep treated died of pneumonia so the trial was not repeated.

Also if we are going to advocate organic farming, it would be sensible to avoid any tampering with the sheep's body functions by injecting an unnatural additive that can alter the sheep's organic system. I would not be surprised that many of our modern illnesses could in reality be caused by experimentation in the so-called magical drugs that are supposed to ensure a longer life span.

In both my items, the first with reference to the UK and the second New Zealand, fertilisers were mentioned, and as in the UK one could logically expect that pesticides are also added to ensure that the ground be sterile and free from bacteria that could affect any seed planted.

In an item published in Penguin News, mention was made of some of the rams imported from New Zealand having died. "Why did they die?" The item said that the rams were now taken to another farm. Is it not reasonable to consider that these rams fed and bred on New Zealand pastures, 'free from any bacteria' had no inborn immunity to the bacteria normally found in our pastures and therefore, unluckily the weakest could not cope with the new habitat and died.

The Shackleton Report (1976) states "fertilisation is too costly" and only advocates two years study of natural pastures.... By this we gather that the Islands were organic at that date. Therefore it is to be hoped that Charlene be given all the help needed to, at the earliest date possible, get all farms organic. For the betterment of stocks, artificial insemination be made available as thus the immunity bred in the ewe, health wise, is passed onto the lamb from the moment of insemination.

Pesticides out! I hope the above is of interest.

Yours sincerely

Joe Booth
Stanley

Reply from Peter Johnston, Director of Agriculture

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your letter to the Wool Press. Some rams imported from New Zealand have died. As the matter is subject to a police investigation it is not possible for the Department of Agriculture to make further comment at this stage.

Regarding organics, I welcome your support for the move towards producing organic products within the Islands. The use of artificial insemination has been underway within the Island's cattle herd for several years and is being discussed at the moment for use within the Island's sheep stud flocks.

Regards

Peter Johnston
Director of Agriculture

GROWTH OF AGROTOURISM IN SOUTHERN CHILE

Source - Mercopress (Translated by John Fowler)

Shearing is among the most traditional of jobs in the Magallanes region, but amazingly there are people living there who have never seen a shearer at work, stripping off a fleece 'live'. This is one of the experiences offered by 'agro' or rural tourism activities, which a number of local businesses have begun to develop in recent years.

The Rio Verde sector stands out as one which has favoured a co-operative approach in projecting its work to national and international visitors, through the web site: www.fantasticapatagoniarural.com This project includes the Rio Perez and Skyring Camp sites, Estancia Los Coipos, Los Pozos Agritourism and Nandu Park in San Gregorio, Hosteria Rio Penitente on the Puerto Natales road, Hotel Tres Pasos at Cerro Castillo, the Hosteria Rio Verde on the way to Isla Riesco, Agroturismo Ayelén at Rio Verde and the Hosteria Tunkelén at Cerro Sombrero.

These days, Estancia Fitzroy, situated on the Isla Riesco in Rio Verde is working on the local promotion of its product, "Estancia Fitzroy, Sheep Farming Museum". The idea is to offer a different day out, which will include a walk through an old shearing shed, transformed into a sheep-farming museum with 2,500 pieces, a look at the shearing and dipping processes, horse riding, a demonstration by gauchos and their sheep dogs and a launch trip on the Fitzroy Channel.

The Institute of Agricultural Development (Indap) has carried out studies of rural tourism to strengthen this activity, which is still in many cases in its early stages. Agua Fresca, Villa Tehuelches y San Gregorio, Dorotea and the south of Tierra del Fuego are some of the areas they have been looking at. Of these efforts, the one that has stirred up the most promotional activity, is the Shearing Festival which happens annually at Villa Tehuelches in the Laguna Blanca county. This event alone, which is organised by the local council and a group of 'sons of the members of the Cacique Mulato co-operative', attracts 12,000 visitors each year.

MEAT INDUSTRY MARKETING BOARD

As promised in the minutes of the 3rd and 11th July meetings the voting of farmers for the representation of sitting on the Meat Industry Marketing Board was voted as follows:

Place	Name	Votes counted	
1 st	Malcolm Ashworth	23	Represented by farmers
2 nd	Nick Pitaluga	12	Represented by farmers
2 nd	Ted Jones	12	Represented by RBA
3 rd	Paul Robertson	8	
4 th	Ben Berntsen	7	
5 th	Mike Evans	4	
5 th	Rodney Lee	4	
6 th	Raymond Evans	3	
7 th	Terrence Phillips	2	
8 th	Terence McPhee	2	
9 th	Chris May	1	

Total votes received: 82

SEAWEED AS AN ORGANIC FERTILISER

(REF : WOOLPRESS ARTICLE JUNE 2002 , ISSUE 150)

The Agricultural department would be keen to hear from farmers who may have beach deposits of the mixed red seaweeds as shown in the photo below.

These particular seaweeds are rich in nitrogen (~ 5%) and could potentially provide farmers with a relatively low cost organic fertiliser.

If you have seen any deposits of this particular type of mixed red seaweeds around your coastline then the department would like to hear from you.

It would be very useful if farmers could try and collect a sample from any potential areas (a few handfuls in a poly bag) and post these to the laboratory (Agricultural Department) for identification / analysis.

It would also be desirable to give a map reference (local beach name) where the sample was found , rough size of the area of beach etc.



CATTLE HORNS

By Kevin Lawrence

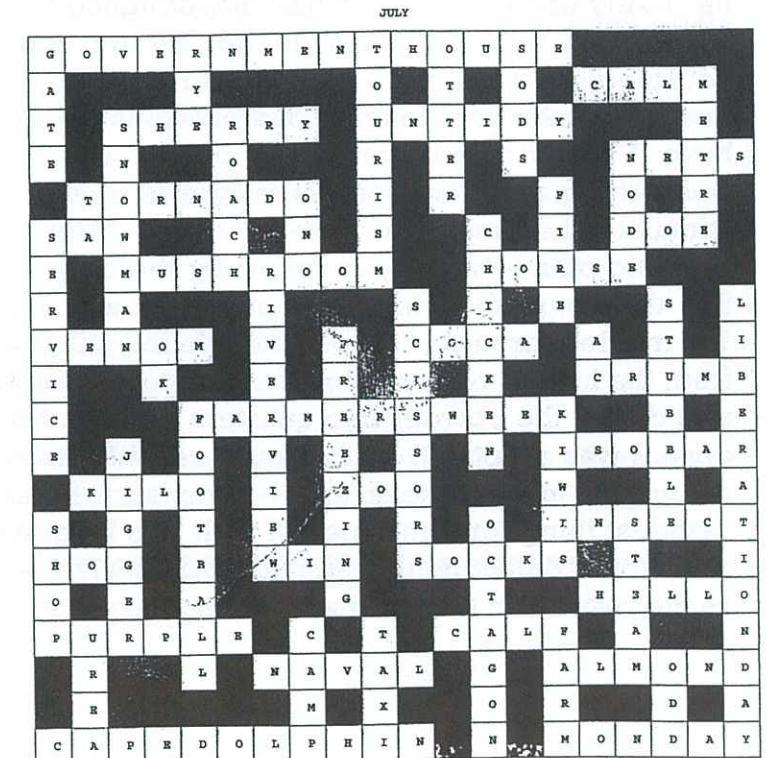
Recently some cattle were sent to the abattoir with horns that had grown back into their own heads. See photo below. The horns had grown into the flesh of the heads to the depth of 1 to 2 cm. These cattle would have been in considerable discomfort. Anyone who has had an ingrown toe nail will have some sympathy. Presenting cattle in this condition is against the Falkland Island's cattle welfare codes. If when checking your cattle you find a similar problem then it is possible to 'tip' the offending horn with either embryotomy wire or a butchers saw. This involves removing the end 3 to 5 cm of the horn, bleeding should be minimal and will buy enough time to either slaughter the beast or get the Vets or Doug Martin to remove the horn at the base.



With the selection policy of only importing semen from polled breeds then this problem should become a thing of the past. However you could become caught out, a polled bull bred from a horned cow may when mated with horned cows only leave 50% of the progeny polled. The polled purebred embryos should leave all progeny polled.

Anyone sending similarly affected cattle to the abattoir in the future can expect a prosecution.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



BIG BROTHER AND SOME BOTHER

By Zoe Luxton

This month my hectic (?) social schedule has been strictly curbed. Under no circumstances must I be out after 10pm.....why? I hear you ask.....because that's when Big Brother comes on! Not sure if BFBS has managed to air this channel 4 phenomenon but if you are not familiar with the programme a general synopsis is this: 12 people stuck in a house with no contact with the outside world at all apart from a voice (Big Brother) which gives them weekly tasks and who is there for them to talk to. Every week someone is voted out, the last one in wins about 75 grand. Not particularly thrilling viewing you would think - wrong! It is the most compelling, addictive, mind-boggling television programme ever! One episode and you are hooked. Ben, new vet at work, has got Cable TV that has an entire channel devoted to the programme, it is so addictive he has been known to get up early to watch them sleep. Luckily with only boring old terrestrial telly I only get 30-60 minutes per day which are the edited highlights, but I still refuse to blink even while it is on. It grips people you would not expect. Our head vet nurse, Chloe, is the most straightforward person in the world. She gets up at half five every morning to muck out and ride her horses rather than leaving them to livery like most people. She can single-handedly hold a cat down for one vet; monitor an anaesthetic for another, while handing the boss the stomach tube he wants out in the horse room. She can silence the most difficult client with one look. She knows things about veterinary medicine that I will probably never know. She doesn't know who Dot Cotton and Phil Mitchell are. She is SO addicted to Big Brother because she accidentally watched half an episode one night!!!

So what's been happening on the veterinary front this month? The good, the bad and the hilarious it seems. The good involves a stray-cum-tamed cat called 'Tiddles' Leighton who seemed to have trouble urinating in that he barely used to wee and had incontinence problems. I can only assume that in his wild old days he got hit by something that caused some neurological damage to his bladder, or, he was a stray because he had developed the problem and his previous owners couldn't be bothered to have it investigated. His kidney profile and urinalysis were all normal; I was getting a bit stumped. Mike (grown up vet) suggested a drug that may stimulate the smooth muscle of the bladder to work more normally, a fantastic plan - which was foiled by the drug company who informed me that there was manufacturing problems and a 3 month wait for the drug. We trawled through the books and found an alternative but we had to get it from the human pharmacy and poor Mrs Leighton had to open the capsules and divide the powder into quarters in order for Tiddles to get the correct dose. I was sceptical. I was nauseous with worry the morning Tiddles was coming in for his check up as I was sure I was going to have to do the "kindest thing for him" speech with Mrs Leighton who was devoted to the damn cat! Someone upstairs was obviously feeling sorry for me that day, as the result was that Tiddles is doing very well! Phew.

The bad refers to the client rather than the animal. Mrs Smith brought in her rather lovely Labrador 'Meg' as she had a sore eye. I had a good look, couldn't see a foreign body but the eye was obviously very painful. I put some dye in that shows up any damage to the surface of the eye and it showed up a small, ulcerated area near the corner of the eye. So I gave her some antibiotic cream and asked her to come back in 48hrs, as you need to keep a close check on eye conditions. When she came back it was Heather who called her in. In went the dye, "unfortunately that ulcer hasn't shrunk much" said Heather (a fairly common complication). Mrs Smith then proceeded to have a right go at Heather and said that the previous vet had not mentioned any ulcer blah blah blah. Heather was just launching the counter attack on my behalf as I had clearly written on the computer "2x2mm ulcer lateral cornea" when by an amazing twist of fate I wandered into the room to get something out of the fridge. Cue a new attack from Mrs Smith who then accused me of "not telling her about the ulcer as I thought she was stupid" (I was thinking this by then actually). I managed to grit my teeth and explain that I was very sorry if she had misunderstood but there was no way I would have not told her about the ulcer as she SAW me put the dye in the eye AND I had written it clearly on the computer, (AND she was a nurse so should have known about this sort of thing anyway! AND anyone who knows me knows that I am not the sort to keep quiet about anything anyway - even a corneal ulcer!). I was furious for the rest of the afternoon. Often if a client moans about something you have to admit that the vet may have been in the wrong (we are only human) but this particular time I KNEW I was okay. It was Mrs Stupid Smith that needed a smack with a stick. I doubt she will ever see me again but quite frankly anyone that irritating I would prefer not to see anyway!!

Lastly, the hilarious refers to Mr Hunt who rang with a question regarding the new kittens his cat had produced. He was worried that the umbilical cords were too long, except he persistently referred to them as unbiblical cords. I was in stitches with visions of kitten belly buttons sacrificing goats and blaspheming!!

FOR SALE

Two 7 ½ month old bulls.

1 Angus Cross - AI sire: Bon View Emulation
1 Shorthorn Cross - AI sire: Canadian Express

Anyone interested in either of these bulls please contact Donna Minnell at Moss Side on phone 31 128, fax 31 129 or e-mail minnell@horizon.co.fk.

ORGANIC POINTS FROM PORT EDGAR

By Mandy & Tex Alazia

Following a few points at the Farmers Week Organic Meeting, this is a brief outline of what we try to do.

Stock numbers/movements:

Details are kept as before in a book and on computer. That information is then e-mailed to Charlene once or twice a year, and each month an e-mail is sent stating the camps as previous months except X amount of sheep moved to Z camp, and Y amount of mutton/culls were killed. If stock were sold then the information would be passed on too.

Medicines:

Medicines are kept in a locked cabinet and records of droncit/drontal etc used are kept in the Animal Medicines Record Book. Check with Charlene what worm drench you use and as Cobalt is a mineral its use is permitted. Both worm drench and Cobalt are to be recorded as well.

Hens/Gardens:

We have approximately 2 hectares of hen runs, gardens, swedes, barley etc which are kept as non-organic. Organic hen food is about £100 a ton, thus making it more expensive so it would make the eggs dearer if we used this.

Happy Sheep:

What Charlene really means is, "What do your ewes look like chey?" "Good chey". In good condition, in the camp they consider home they should be happy. But perhaps not too chuffed at moving towards the catching pen listening to high decibels of music. We check most of ours just through everyday work; fencing, gathering etc. plus leisure trips fishing, egging etc. Most folk already do this. It's impossible to save every sheep or bury every dead one, but we try to keep camps reasonably clean by dragging dead ones to a natural hole (not ditches) or carting home ewes that may have needed killing at lambing for instance.

Shearing:

We do nothing different to before.

Lamb Marking:

Charlene can be flexible with your lamb marking, providing that you are honest and give her dates. She can arrange derogation for you to lamb mark a bit later. Of course any lambs for the abattoir do not need marking.

Wool Sales:

Our hogget's were shorn before certification so the wool was sold as non-organic, but 19 bales of shearling A wether and A ewe were sold with 6 bales of 27.9 micron wool from another organic farm as one lot averaging 26.5 micron, 70.0% yield and .2vm% described as choice organic fleeces. We received £3.096/kilo clean net to farm. This was marketing costs not

freight from farm to UK. At the time of contract this price was 10.4% below the benchmark. Neil says it was at the top of the range received.

David Midgley's reply to our question at the meeting seemed encouraging and next year we will do a trial of our hoggets, have the wool tested here and try to sell it as organic to the highest bidder.

Finally, it has been an obvious learning curve for us as well as Charlene. We do have concerns such as if legumes will provide enough nitrogen but fertiliser is expensive for its return at present so we will just plough on making more reseeds, rather than fewer of a higher quality.

If we can answer any questions on anything, please give us a ring on 42010.

FARMING STATISTICS

As all you farmers will have discovered by now the 2001/2002 Farming Statistics were enclosed with this edition of the Wool Press.

Thanks for getting your forms back to me so soon. Sorry to those of you I had to hassle but if the statistics hadn't been printed until my return in November you would all have been complaining!

Anyway, just a few quick notes to tell you about this years edition.

- Firstly, the farm hectarages have been changed back to the revised farm sizes, as they were the year before last. Obviously not all of the farm boundaries have been marked with the GPS so some of the hectarages have not changed.
- Secondly, the numbers of Stoney Ridge sheep held at Port Stephens, Leicester Creek and Spring Point are included in the sheep numbers for these farms. Their wool clip figures, and sheep shorn figures also include any sheep/wool from sheep from Stoney Ridge. The total amount of Stoney Ridge sheep held on these farms is also entered in the Stoney Ridge row although this is **not** included in the total number of sheep on West Falkland or in the summary .
- Lastly, as you will see the number of hoggets shorn at Goose Green also includes all the lambs that were shorn there.

If anyone has any questions regarding the statistics please feel free to contact Mandy as I am away now, I hope! See you all when I return in November.

Nyree

ENVIRONMENTAL AND MANAGEMENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF NATIVE PASTURES UNDER SHEEP GRAZING

By Aidan Kerr

Report completed

You may be interested to know that I recently completed my report to DoA on various sheep grazing experiments and studies since 1994. The studies were supervised through the DoA link to Queen's University, Belfast by Jim McAdam. The report passed examination by two internationally – renowned pasture-livestock specialists. These were Tom Nolan (Teagasc, Rep. Ireland) and Alistair Carson (Agricultural Research Institute, Hillsborough, N. Ireland). Consequently, I was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Northern Ireland.

Two hard-bound copies of the report (419 pages) are available for reference in the Department of Agriculture's library and in the public library. A description of each chapter and an overall summary follows. If anyone wishes to have a copy of all or just part of the report then I can either email it to you or print off a copy and post it.

Contents

- Chapter 1 provides a general introduction to the Islands, their agricultural environment and development.
- Chapter 2 reviews the reported knowledge of how grazing and its management affects pastures and livestock production in the Islands and in similar environments elsewhere.
- Chapter 3 compares the grazing management systems and associated farm characteristics that existed before and after the agrarian reforms of the 1980's and up to the mid-1990's.
- Chapter 4 reports the results of an Islands-wide survey of the effects of grazing on pastures and soils.
- Chapter 5 assesses the effects of short-term experimental increases in grazing pressure by sheep on plant succession in Whitegrass pastures and changes in their soils.
- Chapter 6 compares pasture, sheep and wool production from a novel grazing system with the traditional practice of continuous grazing.
- Finally, in Chapter 7, the main points in the earlier chapters will be discussed with information on socio-economics and recent improvements in other aspects of farming in the Islands.

Overall, I hope that my colleagues and other agriculturists will refer to the report regularly, and that it will provide sound guidelines for the sustainable development of sheep grazing on native pasture in the Islands.

Summary

'Wool is the main product from the extensively grazed native pastures. Poor soil fertility in a highly variable, cool, windy and increasingly semi-arid climate has resulted in poor pasture productivity and inadequate sheep nutrition. Additionally, historically poor investment in fencing, continuous grazing and the lack of pasture improvement has perpetuated uneven grazing patterns by free-ranging sheep. Consequently, inferior, unpalatable native shrubs and grasses replaced more productive and nutritious species, reduced carrying capacities and contributed to decreased wool returns. The decline has continued despite agrarian reforms and investments in farm infrastructure and rural development. Improved grazing management is needed to sustain farm productivity and regenerate the native pastures. This thesis provides such information in the following ways:

Firstly, a survey of farming practices in 1995 confirmed that, since 1970, grazing had intensified and rotational stocking was more commonly used. However, more efficient grazing management practices were needed to improve sheep nutrition and production.

Secondly, a grazing experiment and a vegetation survey showed that at least twenty years of intensive grazing of Whitegrass pastures grasslands were required to produce superior pastures. Despite degraded soils, the resulting short-grass and herb pastures remained stable for several decades.

Finally, a two-pasture rotational grazing system that combined intensive summer grazing with stocking of sheep during winter on rested pasture, improved forage supply and sheep performance then, compared to continuous grazing. Consequently, annual wool production, quality and value were improved. With local adaptations, the novel system should complement labour schedules and farmer knowledge.

Overall, it is concluded that sustainability of the native pastures under sheep grazing will be improved when profitable grazing and environmental conservation are balanced. '

Thanks

I thank all the farmers and landowners who gave me access to their land for the fence line survey and those who participated in the survey of their grazing systems. I thank the Knight family, Coast Ridge Farm for the provision of land, sheep, advice and assistance for the mob-stocking trial. I especially thank Shirley Knight for food and accommodation. I thank Ron Binnie, former Manager of Falkland Landholdings (FLH), Fitzroy Farm for the provision of land, sheep, advice and assistance for the grazing systems trial. I also thank Fitzroy farm staff for their assistance with sheep herding, shearing and wool preparation.

Comments welcome

If you have comments or queries about the report then please contact me on 27355 or on email: akerr@doa.gov.fk

WATER SHORTAGES OR NOT?

By Tim Cotter

Many thanks to the 56 people that returned their forms and to those who phoned and offered further information.

The point of this exercise is to establish if there is a problem with water supply in Camp and to identify which areas of camp life and business it might be affecting. Once we have this information we will see how we might be able to assist. Currently there are no plans or schemes in place to assist with water provision.

Brief summary of the survey

Out of the 56 who replied, 30 admit they do have a problem with last summer's water shortage but 13 think that that it was because the summer was exceptionally dry. 19 had a problem with water for agricultural use and 24 didn't have enough water for domestic use.

Over the summer, people resolved the short term water problem in the following ways;

Restricted water use	8
Moved stock	5
Water tanker	2
Used rainwater	2
Pumped from spring	2
New source of water	1
Prayer	1

17 people see the best long-term solution to be a new source of water (well or spring), with 5 preferring more storage. 2 are considering new ditches and water channels for camp irrigation, one wants a new pipeline and 3 believe more rain to be the only real solution.

16 people (including some who have no immediate water problem) believe that water will restrict their ability to develop or diversify in the future and feel they need to think about extra water.

14 suffered in some way or had extra work last summer because of the poor rainfall. (No water for gardens, greenhouses or polytunnels, poor reseed or grass growth, continuous stock movement to follow the water.)

Overall, out of 56 sites, only 11 sites are aware of their water ever being tested.

If you have a point of view on water provision in the Camp, please contact Tim Cotter or Charlene Rowland at FIDC. Phone 27211, Fax 27210, email: tcotter@fidc.co.fk or crowland@fidc.co.fk

RECIPE PAGE

By Sheena Miller

As I said last month I am printing a Christmas Pudding recipe to go with your Xmas cake as now is the time to make them.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Ingredients

2oz ground or chopped almonds	2oz suet or fat (nor margarine)
2oz fresh orange or lemon peel	9oz brown sugar
1 medium apple grated	8oz raisins
8oz fresh white bread crumbs	8oz currants
2oz flour	8oz sultanas
1 large tablespoon mixed spice	4 beaten eggs

Method

Place all the ingredients into a bowl and mix together thoroughly. Leave the mix to stand for approximately 3 hours. During this time you need to heat a large pot of water – ensure the pot has a lid. Grease a 3 pint basin well and place a round piece of greaseproof paper in the bottom. Place the mixture in the basin and put another piece of greaseproof paper over the top. If you have a lid for your basin place this on top now, if not place a piece of tinfoil over the basin. Steam in the large pot of water for 6-7 hours.

To reheat at Xmas place the pudding in a pot of boiling water again for 2-3 hours.

Brandy butter

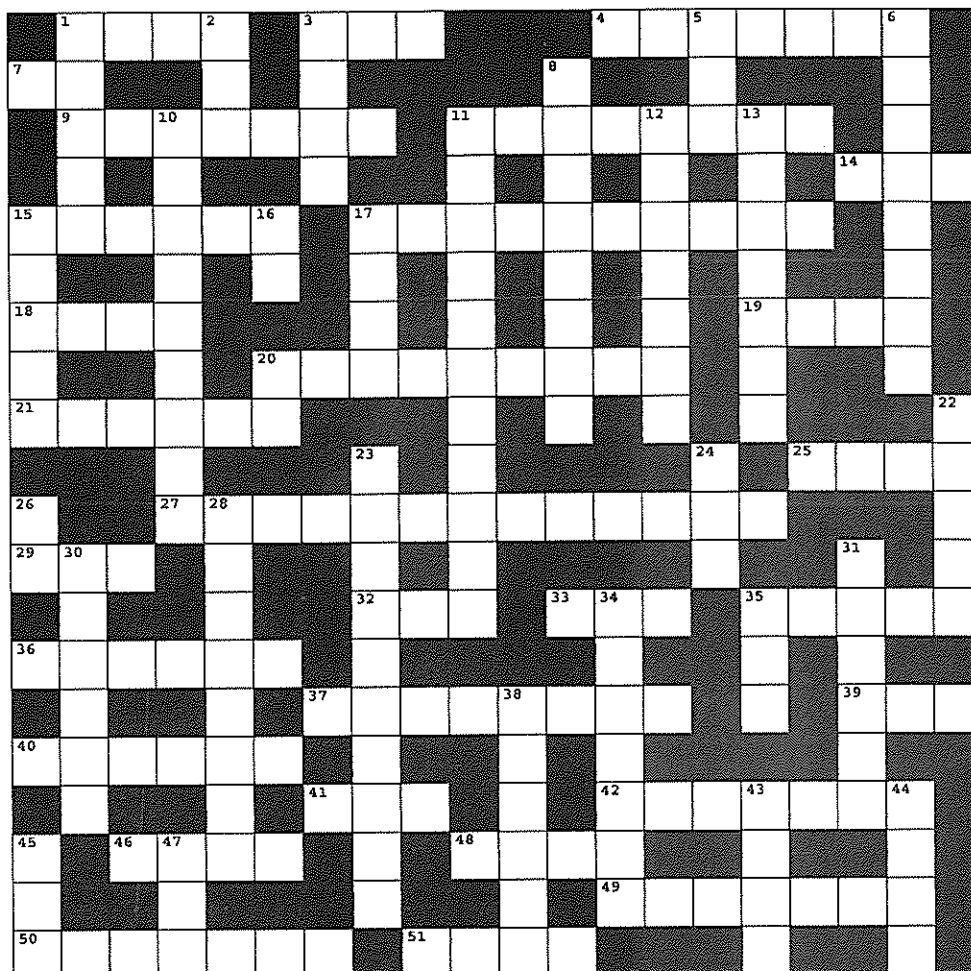
3oz unsalted butter	3 tablespoons of brandy
3oz brown sugar	drop of lemon juice

Beat the butter until it is really fluffy. Add the sugar and beat well again, then add the brandy and lemon juice. This is best made the day before and chilled well overnight.

Custard (the easy way)

4 well-beaten eggs	2oz sugar
1 pint of milk	4 drops of vanilla essence

Place milk, sugar and vanilla essence in a jug and warm it in the microwave until all the sugar has dissolved (or in a pot on the stove). Next add the beaten eggs to thicken. Couldn't be easier!



ACROSS

1. BAMBI FOR EXAMPLE
3. MIST
4. WHAT I 'M TRYING TO ACHIEVE
7. HIM
9. GRASS COVERED LAND
11. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AT THE END OF A BOOK
14. FIFTH MONTH
15. MILK PRODUCT
17. UNUSUAL AIRSTRIP
18. COVERED IN ICING
19. FISH
20. DEEP BROWN COLOUR
21. MATE
25. INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC IN THE SW PACIFIC
27. LOCAL WRECK
29. AMPERE
32. TREE TYPE
33. LYRIC POEM
35. LOCAL BOAT
36. WHISKEY
37. MONEY GOING IN & OUT
39. ENCLOSURE FOR MANY ANIMALS
40. MANURE FOR SPREADING
41. HORSE MOUTH PIECE
42. CASTRATED HORSE
46. REPLICIA
48. TUB
49. FISHING BOAT
50. HELICOPTER
51. LOCAL PUB

DOWN

1. DISTANCE DOWNWARDS
2. DECAY
3. PRINTED DOCUMENT WITH SPACES FOR ANSWERS
5. PART OF A PAW
6. TYPE OF DOG
8. EYE TESTER
10. ISLAND FARM
11. WHAT JOHN' S ARTICLE IS ALL ABOUT
12. WHERE YOU GREASE
13. CAUGHT FIRE
15. HIGH ROCK FACE
16. MEDICAL TV SHOW
17. MINTY SWEET
20. COMPACT DISC
22. ALCOHOLIC APPLE JUICE
23. PLANT' LIFE AS A WHOLE
24. PIGS HOUSE
26. LOS ANGELES
28. LANDING AREA
30. SMALL ROUND GLASS BALL
31. LARGEST RIVER IN THE WORLD
34. LONG PERIOD WITHOUT RAIN
35. FIGAS PILOT
38. LOCAL PORT
43. START OF THE DAY
44. MICROORGANISM THAT PRODUCES DISEASE
45. BRITISH BROADCASTING SERVICE
47. TO HAVE AS YOUR POSSESSION



The Wool Press

ISSUE 153

SEPTEMBER 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office.

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PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Well, you've got me back in the main editorial seat again for a few months whilst Nyree is away in Oz doing her Diploma in Agricultural Business Management. Life for me therefore is pretty busy without my trusty helper. Any articles or letters from you will be greatly appreciated.

Lucy has just returned from her trip to New Zealand doing her 'Wool' and 'Scanning' things. I'll get her to write an article for the next Wool Press telling us all about her experiences. We have a new Lab Tech (Derek's replacement) who has provided us with an introduction article.

I ran a couple of computer courses in August that were good fun and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. I would like to run some more, but I'm a bit pushed for time over the next few months, and after September I'll have no chance of catching your attention to participate anyway as you will all be far too busy. In the computer mode though, I thought the little 'TECHNOLOGY' cartoons quite amusing.

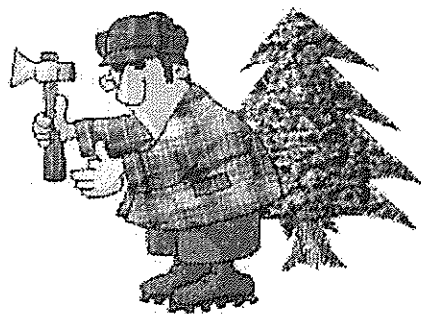
Mandy

TECHNOLOGY



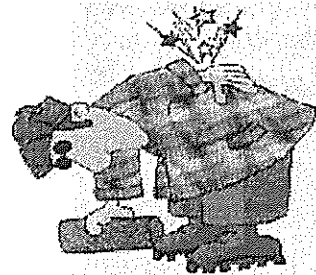
Download

Gitten the farwood off'n the truck



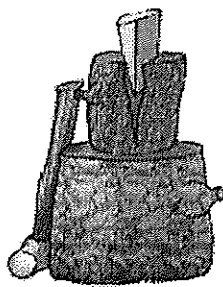
Mega hertz

When yer not keerfull gitten the farwood



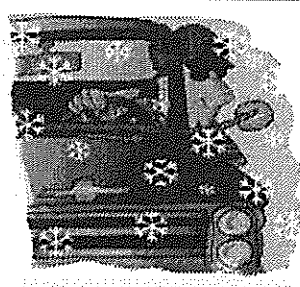
Floppy Disk

Whutch a git from tryin ta tote too much farwood



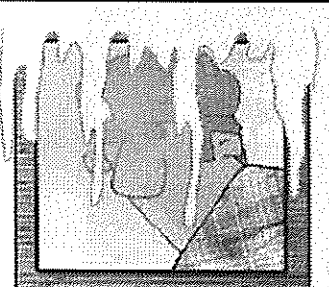
RAM

That thar thang what splits farwood



Hard Drive

Gitten home in the winter time



Windows

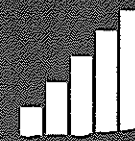
Whut ta shut when its cold outside

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However, such quotations are to be made in context and the Wool Press must be acknowledged as the source.

The articles printed in the Wool Press do not necessarily represent the views of the DoA.



Falklands Organic News & Information

September 2002

BRIEF ORGANIC UPDATE

The Falkland Islands Organic Certification Standards (FIOCS) have finally arrived and with a few legality problems. Firstly, some parts of the Standards don't reflect our legislation No. 22 of 2000 and will need clarifications and secondly, I will be doing a lot of weeding as a good amount of the Standards relate to the housing of animals and poultry. Although the whole of the Standards will have to be kept on your farm I may just change the relevant page colours for ease of reference. I will inform everyone once they are corrected and ready to be given out.

The 1st of August saw Albemarle Station complete a conversion period and they are complying with the rules of organic production. Another two farms have also decided to take the plunge. Blue Beach Farm and Long Island have started a conversion period and are recording any stock changes and pasture implementations.

When I gave my presentation to farmers in Farmers Week, a suggestion was made that an easy to read leaflet should be compiled. I have started to make one and would like you to suggest some fitting questions that need answering in this leaflet. I have 24 questions and answers so far, but a few more would be useful. Hopefully, www.fidc.co.fk will also be displaying each organic farm profile.

If you are interested in joining the FIOCS, please give me a call to make an arrangement to come and visit. You are not bound to joining the scheme when I arrive, just a chat in the

UK'S BIGGEST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ORGANIC FOOD AND DRINK!

Are you going to be in the UK around 14-20 October? Be aware that it's Organic Week 2002. If you are a farmer, in the UK and may be interested or thinking about joining the FIOCS, then this week could be for you!

The week is packed with events, promotions and activities that everyone can be involved in. This is to let people know about the benefits of organic farming and how it respects the soil, animals and the environment whilst delivering health benefits—not to mention the taste! The Soil Association who are organising this special week are holding the following activities:

- Holding an organic dinner party;
- Visit an organic farm;

You can visit their web site for more information and details; www.organicweek.org

Other Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/news
www.soilassociation.org

MIMB/MLC BOOKLETS & MINUTES

As you know I am on the Meat Industry Marketing Board as the Organic Inspector. I also take the minutes to keep everyone informed on what we are trying to implement and achieve. All farmers by now should have received copies of the minutes of the last three meetings.

If anyone else is interested in receiving a copy of the minutes and would like to be included on my mailing list, or, similarly if you don't understand something or my minutes are difficult to read, please give me a call — our aim is to keep every one interested and informed!

In the first paper I reported that each and every farmer would be receiving two booklets showing sheep carcass classification and male lamb meat production. If my order arrives in time you will find a copy of two booklets in this Wool Press for your information. If they don't get here by the time the Wool Press goes in the post, I will send them to you separately. Some of you will have already received the same booklets a year ago along with other booklets in the same series (Brian Corner sent them out). If you find yourself with spare copies, please could you send them back to me at FIDC.

LIVESTOCK PLANNING SHEET

All farmers would have received a Livestock Planning Sheet to enable us to plan for the beginning of the season's meat production. We have only receive a few forms back. It is important that you return this information to us so that we can plan visits and count numbers. It will also help Brook Hardcastle and John Ferguson in their roles as livestock inspector/coordinators, not to mention coordinating Tamar FI transportation.

Would all those farmers on East/West and Islands who want to send lamb/hogget/mutton/culls to the abattoir please let me know as soon as possible or before the end of October. I realise an estimation at this time of the year is a hard one, but

5 Good Reasons to Eat Organic!

Organic food tastes extremely good — people love our unique meats and vegetables;

Our organic system does not use any artificial chemicals, pesticides, fertilisers and is GMO free;

Animal Welfare places a great emphasis on animal upbringing;

No routine use of antibiotics;

Our organic system is more sustainable and friendlier to the environment and wildlife;

Email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

By Tim Cotter

Most of us do, but not all the time, that's why we take out insurance. However, most insurance certificates are only valid if the policyholder fulfils their part of the deal. An important part of this deal is:

Electrical safety

Buildings insurance

Most policies usually state that electrical systems should be inspected at least every 10 years. In the case of most commercial installations including farms, electrical tests are expected every 5 years or less. A qualified electrician should always check an electrical system after any changes or modifications however trivial.

Employers' liability insurance

The Royal Insurance Company says; "The Insured shall take reasonable precautions to prevent accidents and disease and shall comply with all statutory obligations." This can also apply to any contractor employing other workers using the building, not always the building owner.

In Camp, there are no electrical safety laws, but any UK based insurer would reasonably expect that all electrical installations and appliances should comply with current UK electrical standards. Appliances and power tools in the workplace or any commercial property usually have to be checked annually. This test even applies to table lamps in rented houses.

Earth safety

About 35% of the cost of any wiring system is not concerned with power distribution at all and in normal use it doesn't do anything. It's the earthing circuit and it is purely there for safety reasons to protect property and people in case of a fault.

Unfortunately, if there is a problem with the earthing circuit, there are usually no obvious signs or symptoms as the main power system will continue to function.

A faulty earth system may not give the protection expected when it is needed. That is why all electrical systems should be regularly inspected and certified professionally.

Electrical testing

The free electrical test that FIDC offers targets building that have domestic accommodation and does not cover commercial buildings. There are no FIG or FIDC grants for wiring improvements to commercial buildings nor are there plans for any.

Anyone who has no insurances or electrical test certificates in these days of heavy litigation must feel very, very lucky or be very, very rich.

Any of the local electrical companies will give you a quote for a farm buildings electrical check. If you aren't sure, give me a call.

**Tim Cotter
Energy Advisory Officer
FIDC**

GOOSE GREEN DEVELOPMENT – an update

By Mandy McLeod

Since being given the go ahead by Executive Council in late June, development has been going ahead steadily at Goose Green. Various works and purchases have either been put out to tender or are in the process of being tendered. The main thrust at the moment is to improve the quality of accommodation for the current residents, with the aim of making more houses or building plots available in the future. Work in some houses is already underway and a survey of works required to all of the dwellings has been done.

The most exciting aspect so far is that several new people and families have already made the choice for 'the good life' and have moved or are in the throes of moving to Goose Green. In fact, the population has increased by ten people since the project was approved. These people will be fundamental to the development. Without people and families, you can't create a thriving community!! It looks at Goose Green as though things are heading in the right direction, and we have had enquiries from other people thinking of making the move. Watch this space!

An important part of the development is the provision of 24 hour power, looking at future power needs, and sourcing a new water supply that will serve both Goose Green and Darwin, who have been suffering ever increasing drought each summer. We have some ideas of where to source new water from, mainly based on information and advice given by people who live there now or have done in the past. This information is a great help and we are always grateful for any snippets of knowledge or ideas that anyone has that might help us to do the job to the best possible value and standard. If you have knowledge that could contribute to our efforts, please contact me (Mandy McLeod) on 27211, Greg Bradfield at the FLH office on 22697 or Brian Aldridge at Goose Green on 32270.

HOME COMFORT FOR PIGS IN OZ!

Source: Farmers Weekly

A tribunal in Australia has ruled that three pigs can continue to share a house with their owners in Melbourne, despite protests from neighbours. Residents complained that the pet pigs should be removed because they were smelly and noisy. But the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal dismissed the complaints.

Owner Maggie Park said the pigs were no worse than people and confessed that one of the pigs sleeps on her bed. "She burps, farts and snores – does everything my husband does."

FALKLAND LANDHOLDINGS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By Greg Bradfield

Falklands Landholdings Corporation has had a very active year. The new General Manager Greg Bradfield took over from Colin Horton in December 2001. There have been a number of achievements made by the Board and the staff this year. These include:

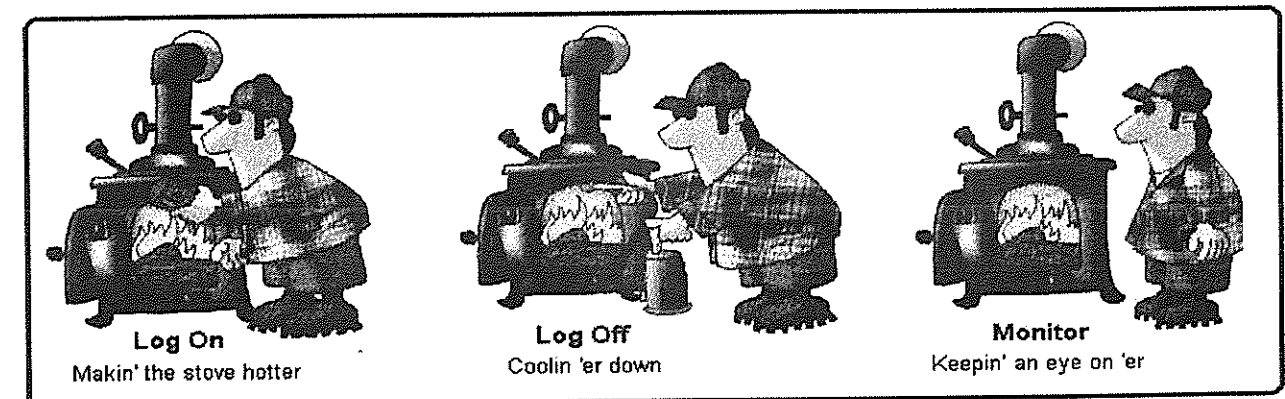
- An improvement in the preparation and marketing of the wool clip
- The increased level of teamwork by all staff
- The implementation of the Way Forward Project
- The Goose Green Redevelopment Project
- Participation by managers in planning and budgeting
- The management of Becks Farm
- A renewed emphasis on profitability

The Board has overseen a number changes during the year including the impact of the new statutory entity and a number of staff changes. FLH now has a well-balanced workforce working in an organisation that has a structure that can accommodate innovation.

The commissioning of the abattoir will impact significantly on the profitability of FLH. If FLH can produce sheepmeat efficiently and the abattoir can process and market the product efficiently then the alternative enterprise of sheepmeat production is very promising. A viable sheepmeat industry will reduce the reliance of FLH on wool and the global wool market. There are challenges though, particularly in the reproductive rates that are apparent. An improvement in the weaning percentage is critical for efficiencies to be gained.

Business planning is going to be a continual challenge for FLH. The whole organisation, but particularly the Farm Managers are going to be required to participate if a business plan is going to be successfully implemented. The Way Forward Project will be instrumental in providing the support for these plans to be implemented.

TECHNOLOGY?



WIND-CHILL FORECASTS - STILL A 'USEFUL' SERVICE FOR FARMERS

By Aidan Kerr & Priscilla Halliday

With the risk of repeating part of our 'shelter' article in the June edition we thought it important to highlight the continued success of the wind-chill prediction service that is provided by the Meteorological Office at MPA and broadcast daily on FIBS/BFBS during each shearing season. This free service for farmers, which Aidan initiated and co-developed in 1987-88, is financially supported by FIG.

Recently, the Department of Agriculture surveyed all farms in the Islands about the 'Importance of farm shelter'. The survey included four questions about the effectiveness of the wind-chill prediction system. The results (updated from the June article) from the 31 respondents i.e. 37% of farms confirm that this 14 year old service is, generally, a very worthwhile one. We have passed the results onto the Met. Office at MPA and FIBS & BFBS for their comments and progression.

1. How useful do you regard the wind chill forecasts during the shearing season?

The locations of the respondents were distributed well across the islands except for southern East Falkland where there are only a few large farms.

Useful most of the time	Sometimes useful	Not useful
74%	19%	6%

Obviously most of the respondents were satisfied with the service, particularly those in the North-west and those close to Mount Pleasant Airport.

2. If "not or sometimes useful", do the forecasts under or over estimate the danger to shorn sheep on your farm? 12 farms answered this question.

Under estimate	Over estimate
38%	62%

These responses differed widely across the islands and no spatial pattern was present. On the contrary farmers operating close to each other (e.g. sometimes using the same shearing shed and paddocks but at different times) responded differently to each other. Thus it would be reasonable to conclude that the responses were largely subjective, although differences in topography between nearby locations may be important. One farmer believed that the forecasts both under and over estimated the wind-chill conditions.

3. Is the predicted time of arrival of "dangerous wind chill conditions" for your farm?

Too early	About right	Too late
0%	77%	23%

Again, the majority were satisfied with the predicted time of arrival for dangerous conditions. However there was an indication that the timing may be too late for farms in the south and west of West Falkland, with 4 out of the 5 respondents from this area recording 'too late'. With the co-operation of the Met. Office we hope to develop ways in which the service can be improved for farmers in these areas.

4. Are the forecasts broadcast on the radio at a useful time for you? 30 farms answered this question.

Yes	No
84%	16%

Again the majority were satisfied with the timing of the 'Wind-Chill' broadcasts on FIBS/BFBS and 2 farms made complimentary remarks about the service. The few criticisms included that the predictions were 'very poor at week ends' and that some BFBS presenters seemed 'disinterested' in reading them and left bits out. When asked to suggest suitable broadcast times 6.30 am., 4pm, and 6pm were the only times given. Alternatively, one farm frequently used the pre-recorded forecast available on 32500.

If anyone has any further comments on the service then please contact Aidan on 27355.

THANK YOU

The Annual Falkland Island Farming Statistics were sent out last month to all farmers in the Falklands and others on the statistics mailing list. This information is valuable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all farmers for providing the information through filling in their Livestock return forms. You will notice that some of the more detailed information requested is not published, but it is kept on file and is used regularly (but keeping anonymity and farmer confidentiality) by agriculture department staff in their work on your behalf.

However, I do on occasion have a level of discontent from some farmers in the area of the ordinance where wool clip and financial figures are requested. I need these figures, as I have to present to Customs what our wool exports and value are. The figures I give them are totals so no individual farm's figures go outside of this office. I similarly require those figures for international organisations such as the IWTO (International Wool Textile Organisation) and STABEX from whom we are the recipients of substantial funds. If we do not provide this information, it is likely that we will not continue to receive these funds. Again, I would like to assure you that any information given is in total anonymity.

The statistics were out in record time this year. I put this down to Nyree's persuasive (or is that pestering?) skills!

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Mandy McLeod

WHAT IS AN E-METER AND WHO IS PEUKERT??

By Tim Cotter

Every 24-hour power system comes with the E-meter, which is a bit like a fuel gauge, but it's a little more exciting than that. Unfortunately the owner's manual is an awkward work of literature and difficult to follow. This is another attempt to simplify that book and extract what you might need to know.

The E-meter's main purpose is to provide a guide as to the battery's recent performance and give early indication of possible shortcomings.

The battery supplied with a 24-hour power system is a costly piece of equipment designed to last at least 8 years if discharged to 50% of its capacity every day. These batteries are made for hard industrial use so they should last longer but they must be equalized periodically and topped up with de-ionised water regularly.

As more people are aware, the battery is the fuel tank of the system, but charging a wet lead acid battery is like pouring a draught Guinness. You can't rush it. The battery must be allowed to absorb the charge into the plates and this takes time. Cutting this absorption time short because the voltage has reached the preset value will not charge the battery properly. Don't give it short measure.

The Easy guide to the E- METER

To work properly, the E-Meter needs to know 3 things about your system, which would have been programmed in when it was installed.

1. **The Charged Voltage Parameter (see below)**
2. **The Battery Capacity in Amp hours (Ask your supplier)**
3. **The Ambient Temperature (Take as 8C)**

The meter must be set up fairly quickly as it jumps back to normal operation.

Once you have made the setting, just wait a few seconds for the meter to accept the reading and it will revert to normal. The meter will automatically switch off the display after 10 minutes so don't worry if the numbers suddenly disappear.

E- METER Initial set up

1. To set the Charged Voltage Parameter. (CVP)

This figure is normally just below the float charge voltage for your system.

24 volt system CVP = 26.7 48 volt system CVP = 54

Press and hold SET until **SEL** appears. Then press SEL and the V circle should light up. The display should indicate the correct CVP for your system. If it is incorrect, press SET until the voltage is correct. If you overshoot keep pushing the button until it comes around again. Once it is set, just wait a few seconds.

2. To set the Battery Capacity.

This will be given in Amp-Hours (Ah) to the nearest 20Ah and would have been set up on installation. If you have two batteries in series you don't add the capacities together.

Press and hold SET until **SEL** appears. Press SEL and the V circle should light up. Press SEL twice more and the Ah circle should light up. The display should indicate the correct battery capacity for your system. (330 or 660 in most cases).

If it is incorrect, keep pressing SET until the figure is correct. If you overshoot keep pushing the button until it goes up to **1980** and starts again at **20**. As before, just wait a few seconds.

3. To set the ambient temperature,

Use F3 to set 8C as a fair all year round temperature. Press and hold SET for 3 seconds until **SEL** appears. Press the SEL button and the V circle should light up. Press SEL 12 more times until the red FUNC light comes on and the display reads **F03**. Press SET and the display should read **8** but will probably read **20**. To change it, keep pressing SET. The figure will go to **40** and restart at **0**. Stop at **8**. If you overshoot, keep pushing the button until it goes up to **40** and starts again.

In use

The meter occasionally needs to be synchronised with your system. This occurs automatically when the battery is fully charged and all the green lights will come on with the right hand one flashing. (Page 9 in the book) Press SEL 3 times to light up the Ah light. It should read **0**. If it shows a positive number, it should automatically reset to **0** when discharge starts. It can be reset manually with care but this is not really necessary.

Battery history -This is the important bit

After a few weeks, the meter's data store should be able to calculate important information about the state of the battery.

1. The Charging Efficiency Factor (CEF). Around 90% (**E90** on the display). If this figure drops too far then it is time to equalise the battery. This compares the energy flowing into the battery to the energy flowing out. In a perfect world these should be the same but as the battery plates build up a layer of sulphate, this factor decreases.
2. The number of times that the battery has been discharged more than 10% and fully recharged.
3. The deepest discharge since factory reset in Amp Hours
4. The average discharge since factory reset in Amp Hours

These figures are very important and can be used to work out how hard the battery is being used and to estimate how long the battery will last.

These numbers have to be read off fairly quickly as the meter jumps back to normal. It is useful to have someone handy to write them down.

To extract battery history data.

Press and hold SET until **SEL** appears. Press SEL and the V circle should light up. Press SEL about 5 more times until the red DATA light comes on. The display will read something like **E98**. This is the Charging Efficiency Factor (CEF).

Press SEL again for something like **+027**. This is the number of times that the battery has been discharged more than 10%. (Ignore the plus+)

Press SEL again for something like **-213**. This is the deepest discharge. (Ignore the minus -)
Press SEL again for something like **120**. This is the average discharge.

If the meter reverts to normal, start again.

The SEL set up sequence

This is for those who really want to know the menu sequence of the E-meter. I've underlined the key ones mentioned above.

1. V 26.7 or 54 Float charge voltage.
2. A 2 Charged Current %
3. Ah 360 or 660 Maximum Battery Capacity
4. t 1 Interval used to work out time remaining.
1 = 4 minutes
5. RESET AH Reset just the Ah or everything
6. DATA E99 E90=90% CEF
7. DATA +1999 CEF recalculations
8. DATA -1999 Deepest discharge
9. DATA 1999 Average discharge
10. LOCK LOC
11. FUNC F01 OFF Auto display
12. FUNC F02 ON Display turn off (10mins)
13. FUNC F03 8 Ambient temperature
14. FUNC F04 OFF kWhr instead of Ah
15. FUNC F05 OFF AE defaults
16. FUNC F06 A90 Manually set CEF
17. FUNC F07 0.5 Temp. coefficient
18. FUNC F08 1.25 Peukert's exponent
19. FUNC F10 Special options for 48volt systems.
20. FUNC F11 Special options for 48volt systems.
21. FUNC F12 Special options for 48volt systems.
22. FUNC F13 Special options for 48volt systems.
23. FUNC F14 Disused
24. FUNC F15 Software version no.

Sequence restarts

As for Peukert, who cares???

**Tim Cotter
Energy Advisory Officer**

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER

SHEEP BREED & RAM SURVEY

Neil Judd would be very grateful for all completed survey forms to be returned to him at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you

A READER'S LETTER

Dear Editor

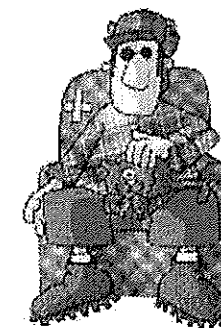
With the renewed interest in seaweed, has the wheel turned full circle? But why is there never a mention of the culinary uses for seaweeds; many societies, including the Welsh and the Far East, eat some varieties. When can we expect to see seaweed featuring on your recipe page?

Yours, etc.

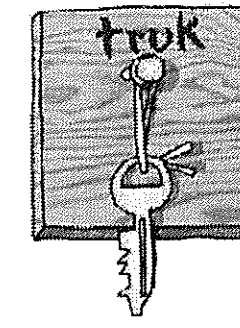
Jim Elliott

I'll go on the recipe hunt Jim. Thanks for the suggestion. Have any of our readers got anything interesting on seaweed to share with the rest of us? ED.

TECHNOLOGY



Laptop
Whar the kittie naps



Keyboard
What ya hang the dang truck keys



Software
Them thar plastic forks 'n knives

NEW SENIOR LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Introduction by Suzanne Halfacre

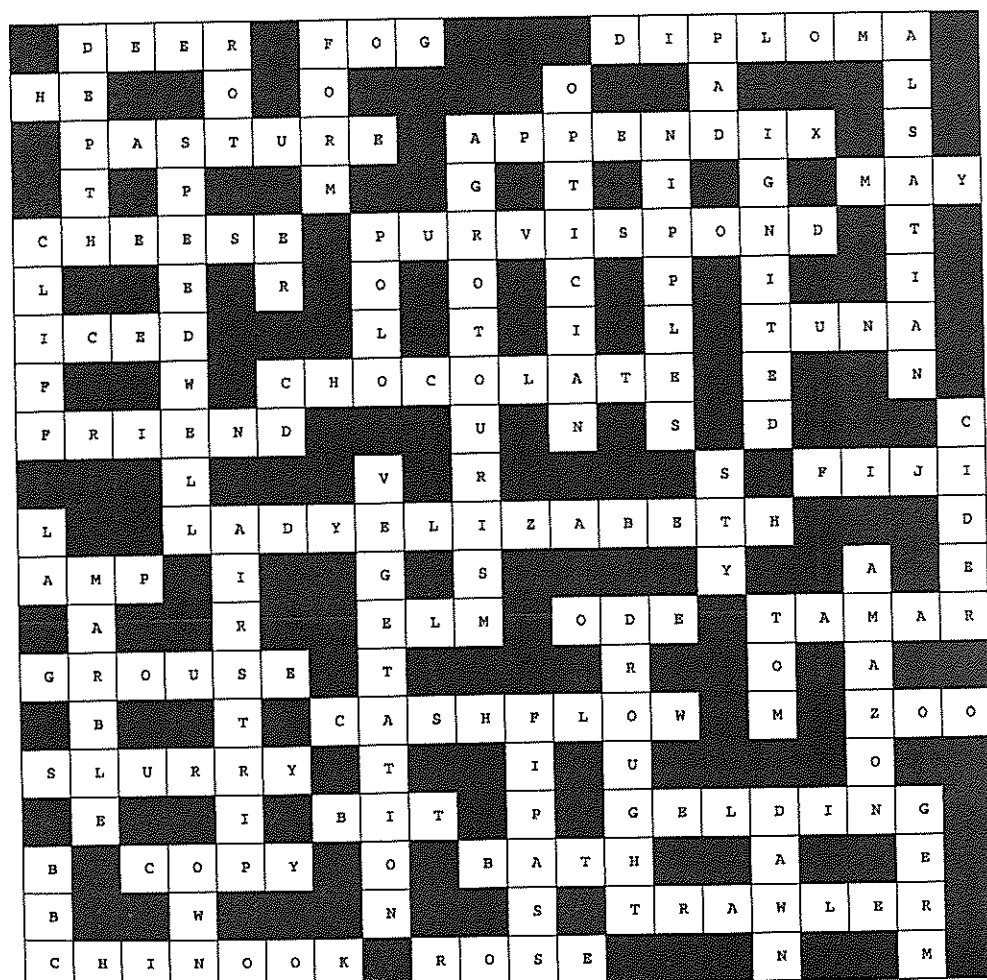
On leaving school I worked in a local (Berkshire, UK) Equine/Large animal practice in their accounts department. While here I gained the necessary qualifications to train as a Veterinary Nurse and successfully qualified in 1988. I subsequently became a Head Nurse and chief Rottweiler wrestler at a small animal practice for a while. The success of which can be measured by the number of digits you retained. In my case ten.

I joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Foods' Veterinary Investigation Centre at Reading, Berkshire in 1992 as an assistant scientific officer. This involved testing farm animal samples and aiding the Veterinary Surgeons in a diagnosis re cause of death or disease. (I'll never complain about a baby's nappy ever again).

In my time working in Veterinary Centres I gained experience in Haematology, Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Virology, Parasitology, Histology and how to send maggots in the post for aging. Due to government rationalization, Reading was shut and the workforce amalgamated with the VIC at Winchester, Hants. The VIC's were re-named as the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and became part of DEFRA.

In order to purchase a house I moved to VLA Sutton Bonington in the Midlands in the year 2000 where I was promoted to Scientific Officer. This involved managing the Main Laboratory, Culture Bay, Sterilization Lab, Post Mortem Room and Incinerator area. Are you still with me? Then finally I signed up with F.I.G and here I am.

I hope to make the most of my stay in the Falkland Islands and hope you will make the most of me. (In a professional capacity of course!).



THE
AUGUST
SOLUTION

CELEBRATIONS, KIDNEYS AND COINCIDENCES

By Zoe Luxton

Aha – usually I have to make up some elaborate lie about my hectic social life but this month I actually have been all over the place seeing lots of different people, and Sarah Forster can back me up – she was there too!!

I was very pleased to see my red-haired visitor from the Department of Agriculture, unfortunately for Sares the first weekend she was here we had a large leaving do for one of the vets, so she had to meet almost everyone who I work with and pretend to find their drunken antics amusing. Mind you, she seemed to have a can of Heineken clutched in her paw all afternoon and I think she had a good time. At the end of the evening my boss took me aside and whispered “who IS that girl over there?” “My friend from home” I informed him – slightly worried that I wasn’t actually allowed to have people to stay and no one had told me. “Oh thank God,” he said, “I thought it was someone who worked here who I had forgotten that I had employed”.

So then we were off on our travels. We drove up to Manchester, as Chris and Doug were due to be playing badminton in the Commonwealth Games. Almost a slight panic as half way up the M6 the traffic news informed us there had been a crash further on and there was a traffic jam. Sares, however, did me proud and we successfully navigated around the crash and back on to the M6 beyond the crash. I was a bit worried when she said, “So what are these big blue lines on the map?” “Motorways Sares”, “oh, OK”. We managed though! Caught up with a few other Islanders at the Games and supported our chaps very loudly. Then it was back down country for Ian Pole-Evans’ wedding, which was a fantastic do! The sun shone, everyone behaved, we taught some of those English chaps a thing or two about dancing – then we walked home in bare feet and stood on slugs – YUK (actually I think that was just me). I have never seen Bill Pole in a tailcoat or Shirley in a hat before but they scrubbed up darn well and I have some very nice photos to prove it! The bride and groom also looked smashing and we all had a lovely day.

So what with all the gallivanting not much veterinary has been going on, especially as I have had more time off lately to amuse the parents while they are on their hols. It was sods law though, that my first duty after I returned, (exhausted and smelling of stale alcohol with the odd bit of slug still between my toes) that I got called out at 2.30am. Having my sleep disturbed never amuses me anyway but if you are duty vet you are inevitably going to get some real emergencies. Unfortunately this was an ‘emergency’ case of gastritis (i.e. not life threatening) but I did go to it as the old dog did sound in a bad way. The owner was terribly embarrassed that the dog had perked up no end by 2.45am and by way of consolation informed me that he had seen 5 shooting stars on the way to the vets which he was pleased about as he thought he wouldn’t get to see any of the meteor shower that was forecast! I hadn’t seen a single damn shooting star so thought I would have a look when I got home because of course I couldn’t get back to sleep. All I saw was the milkman.

The only case that sticks in my mind at the moment is a lovely cat called Barney who was losing weight and was off his food. I could feel a large lump in his abdomen, which is never good news as abdominal tumours usually involve all the intestines and you cannot successfully remove them. This one felt like it was more in the kidney area so we opened him up and I removed his very knobbly, abnormal left kidney. I was terribly chuffed, as you don't often get to remove a kidney. I was even more chuffed when the cat came round, had a small snack and went home successfully the next day. Sadly he took a nasty turn 2 days later and we had to put him to sleep, which was really sad as I hoped that he was going to be OK for a few months at least.

Finally, I referred a small dog with a broken leg to another vet's in Ipswich that deals with difficult orthopaedic repairs. Shane, the vet with the orthopaedic skills, fixed the wee chap up and wrote a reply to my referral letter. On the bottom was a P.S. that read, "Zoë, I believe you may know one of my good friends - Cameron Bell". Small world innit?

EXPLOSIONS, CAT BITES AND TEARS OF JOY!

By Priscilla Halliday

I thought it was about time that everybody had an update on the weather stations. As some of you are aware, I have been having a lot of trouble with them regarding getting them to connect with the modems so that I am able to download data. A few of the modems were pretty old and tired, which meant they played up most of the time, in the end it was decided that I could get some new ones.

When they finally arrived, I hooked one of them up to a weather station, went on to the computer and made a new directory for the 'test line' and pressed 'Download'. However, the computer/modem/weather station had other ideas. Failing this a few times I decided I would try and download one of our other stations we had set up in camp. So, after setting up the modem in another room I hit the 'Download' button for the hundredth time. **BANG**, up went the modem in smoke!!!

Now it was time to beg. Off I trundled to the Computer Department to beg for some of the old style modems that still work, but alas, returned to the Department of Agriculture empty handed. None were available.

After another week of trying to figure out my weather station problems it was time for me to go up the corridor to the Vets Section to cover for Sarah while she went away on her holidays. Actually, I am sure this probably did me the world of good, having a break from the weather stations. I was able to think back and reflect on what had happened and what else could be done. If I hadn't been tending to animals, I think those modems could be in little pieces on the floor by now!

This was a very therapeutic time for me, especially when the animals came round from anaesthetic having had surgery, you could guarantee that they all wanted

some TLC. They cottoned on to the fact that if they meowed / barked long enough I would go and give them a cuddle and some company. There was one little cat that squealed so much each time I walked out of the cage room, that in the end I had to take her into my office until her owner came to collect her! She definitely had me wrapped around her little paw!

There were other not so therapeutic times when dealing with temperamental cats that thought it was fantastic to bite and scratch whoever was trying to get a pill down their throats. Some also decided they could do acrobatics when they saw a needle, but all too soon the month flew by and Sarah was back refreshed from her break away.

Having left the Vets Section it was back to facing weather station problems again.

AT LAST!! I have an answer to my problems, I have decided on direct connections, this being that the weather station is connected directly to a computer, which will download the data, rather than data downloaded through a phone line to a modem. Feeling very keen to test this out I phoned Viv at Saladero to arrange a day to go there to do the test.

I set off through the thickness of fog a couple of days later. Once there I set up the programme on the computer and made a directory, then hooked the station up to it. Viv and I tested it after half an hour (it takes that long for anything to register in the memory) and BINGO! I'd cracked it! YIPEEEE! How proud I was, after months of trying to make things work, I had succeeded with my new theory first time around. I could have wept tears of joy. To celebrate I had a huge helping of the delicious feast Viv had cooked up, 10 out of 10 to the chef!

I will report back in a couple of months time with regard to how the direct connections are going at other places around the Islands.

INCENTIVE SCHEME

This is just to remind everyone that all applications for funding (grants and loans) for projects under the Incentive Scheme must be in to me by the end of September.

This does not have to be a full whole farm plan at this stage, but an indication of the costs and timings of your requirements, assuming that your application, when submitted, will meet the approval of the panel. This is required so that the panel can budget the remaining funds in a fair manner.

A panel will be held in October for the approval of completed applications and an overview of pending applications. The last Incentive approvals panel will be in January / February 2003.

Mandy McLeod
Rural Development Officer

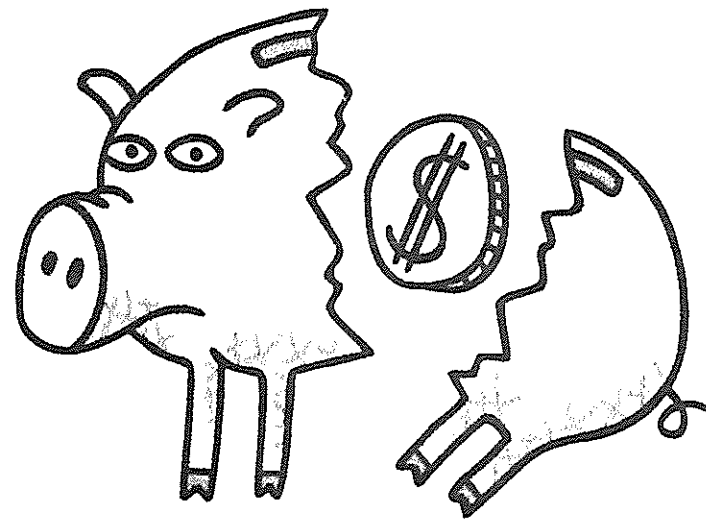
INCOME TAX - MYTHS AND REALITY

By Andy Finch

Whether you like paying Income Tax or not, and of course most of us don't want to pay too much, it is a fact of life worldwide, and it has an important role to play in maintaining minimum standards in society. If done fairly and openly, a tax system can help a general feeling of well-being. If done badly it can foster discontent and social division. It's important, then, to get it right.

Earlier this year I travelled around East and West Falkland talking to people in settlements throughout the Islands about Tax. I found people genuinely interested in taxation issues, and not just from the point of view of trying to get out of paying it! Some felt that paying tax was even an important thing for them to do, giving them direct involvement in decisions which affect us all.

At the various meetings we held we discussed a lot of the big themes of taxation - its role in wealth redistribution, maintaining the viability of Camp settlements etc, but since then I have become aware that throughout the Islands, in Stanley and in Camp, there are many issues of detail around Income Tax on which people are unsure. Just what is taxable? How much? What deductions can be claimed? And other matters which affect everyone with any income - in fact every adult on the Islands.



There are many myths, it seems to me, about Income Tax. I have heard some good ones: -

- "I get paid in cash so I don't have to declare it".
- "I'm a farmer so all my living expenses are tax-deductible".
- "No-one outside Stanley pays tax".
- "I can claim for my new 4x4, even though it's not used in the business".
- "Interest on my overseas bank account is exempt".
- "Gambling / Lottery wins are taxed".
- "What I do at weekends doesn't need to be declared".
- Oh, yes, and Father Christmas only comes once a year!

To be serious, though, it is important that all of us on the Islands have some idea of basic tax principles. This is because if we get some of these things wrong it can be

very expensive indeed for us, and can cause a lot of stress and worry. You may be interested to hear a few facts that you may not have been aware of before: -

1. With a very few exceptions, all income is taxable - from jobs, businesses, savings, etc. Even a favour done for a friend is taxable if he pays you for it. Gambling wins aren't taxable though.
2. If you don't have a return sent to you but do earn any money in the year you still have to tell the Taxation office about it.
3. If your return is wrong, and you don't pay enough tax, the fine can be as much as £12,500 or twice the amount of tax you underpay - and in some cases both!
4. I can still make assessments up to 20 years afterwards, if you have under-declared your income. This is in addition to fines and, of course, interest.
5. If you run a business, you can set off expenses only if they are 'wholly and exclusively' for business purposes - not for private expenditure.
6. On the other hand, there are a lot of deductions available which you may also not know about, for example for assets you buy to use in the business. Some people might be paying too much tax simply because they don't know about these.

It won't be long now until the end of the year and next years Tax returns landing in your postbox. I'd like to dispel some of these myths before then. My aim, and the aim of the tax office here in Stanley is to help you pay the right amount of tax, and if everyone does so then things run much more smoothly - no need for lengthy enquiries and then fines when things have gone wrong.

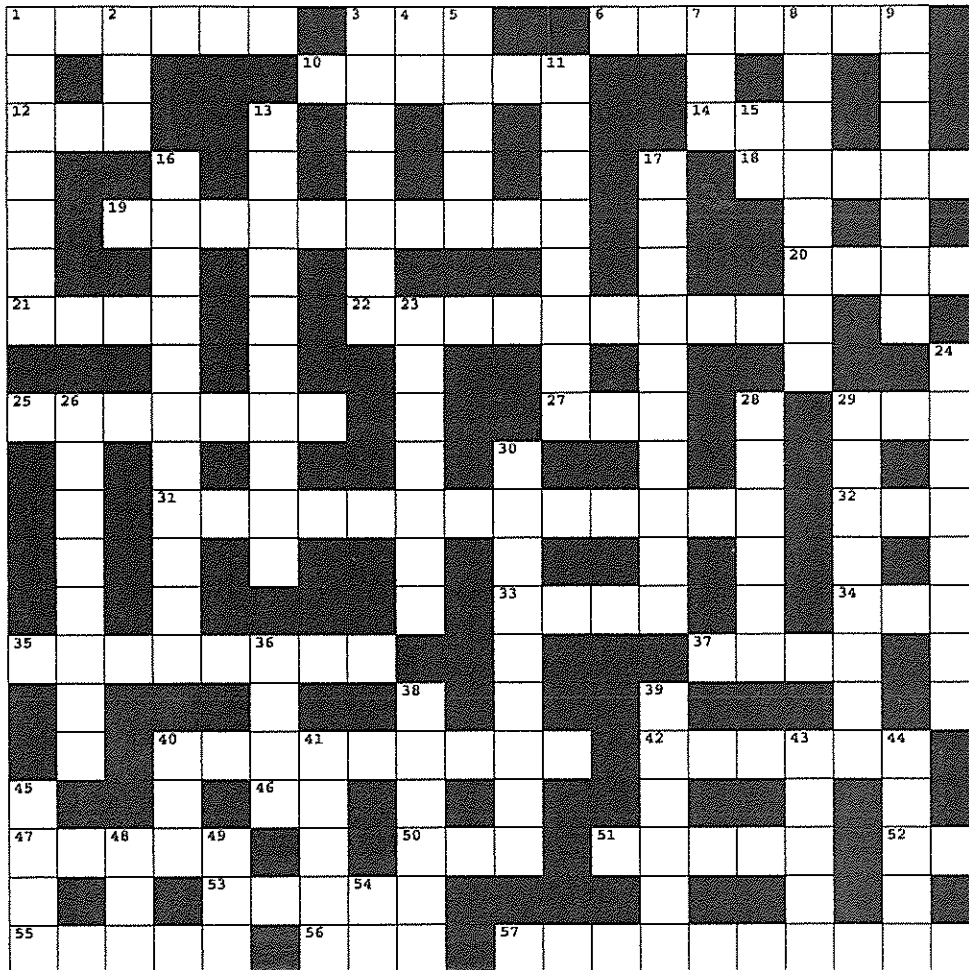


I'm going to write an article in next months Wool Press giving some more information about the sort of tax issues I think will be interesting to people in Camp, including what can and can't be included in farm accounts.

If there's anything you particularly want me to cover, do either ring me (27288), email me (afinch@taxation.gov.fk) or write to me in the Taxation Office in Stanley.

I'm quite happy to address particular concerns you might have - and I'm happy to take these anonymously if you think you need to do that. Certainly if I answer your questions in print I won't publish your name if you don't want me to.

YOUR SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. PROOF OF POSTAGE PAYMENT
3. SOIL AND WATER
6. COMMON BRASSICA
10. OF RELAXED APPEARANCE
12. UPPER LIMB
14. END
18. WATER VESSELS
19. ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT
20. EDGE OF A RIVER
21. BIRD'S HOME
22. YOU NEED TO GET YOUR NOSE TO THIS IF YOU WORK HARD
25. ARTIFICIALLY MADE TO HAPPEN
27. BRAZILIAN CAPITAL
29. LARGE AREA OF WATER
31. NEW DOA INITIATIVE WITH FARMER PARTICIPATION (3,3,7)
32. EGGS
33. MODELLING MATERIAL
34. HOMER'S FAVOURITE WORD
35. LARGE MARSUPIAL
37. RUSSIAN EMPEROR
40. LARGE SOUTHERN CONTINENT
42. PERFORMED WITHOUT DELAY
46. PUBLIC RELATIONS
47. MORE THAN EXPECTED
50. WRATH
51. ISLANDER DRIVER
52. NEXT TO
53. CLIMB UPON
55. SAG
56. PLAY THING
57. ENDOWED WITH THIS, ONE IS CALLED "SIR"

DOWN

1. POINT A PENCIL
2. GET TARGET IN SIGHT
3. ORIENTAL TILE GAME
4. ME AND YOU
5. BED COVER
7. ON THE CONTRARY
8. A TO Z
9. RUNNING AWAY TO GET MARRIED
11. LARGE NORTH ATLANTIC ISLAND
13. SCARED
15. EXISTING
16. REASON FOR OCTOBER PUBLIC HOLIDAY
17. LARGE GLOSSARY OF WORDS
23. TRANSMITTED OR CARRIED INFORMATION
24. LONG RUN
26. SOUTHERN SETTLEMENT
28. LONG LEGGED WATER BIRDS
29. EARLY FLOWER
30. PRICKLY MAMMAL
36. FILE
38. SPACE
39. SEASON BEFORE SUMMER
40. WHAT WE BREATHE
41. GAME FISH
43. FIRE LIGHTER
44. FORBIDDEN
45. UNWANTED PLANT
48. A PAIR
49. UNIT OF ELECTRIC CURRENT
54. REFUSAL



The Wool Press

ISSUE 154

OCTOBER 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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**ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION
FEATURING BLEAKER ISLAND**

By Charlene Rowland

HOW NOT TO GET STUCK IN TAXATION

By Andy Finch

THE WAY FORWARD

By Neil Judd

**SHEEP-CHILL FORECASTS
TO BEGIN EARLIER THIS SEASON**

By Aidan Kerr & Andy Page

SLEEP DEPRIVATION & SILLY PEOPLE

By Zoë Luxton

SEMEN & CED

By Nyree Heathman

WRESTLING, FORECASTS & MORE DIRECT CONNECTIONS

By Pricilla Halliday

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

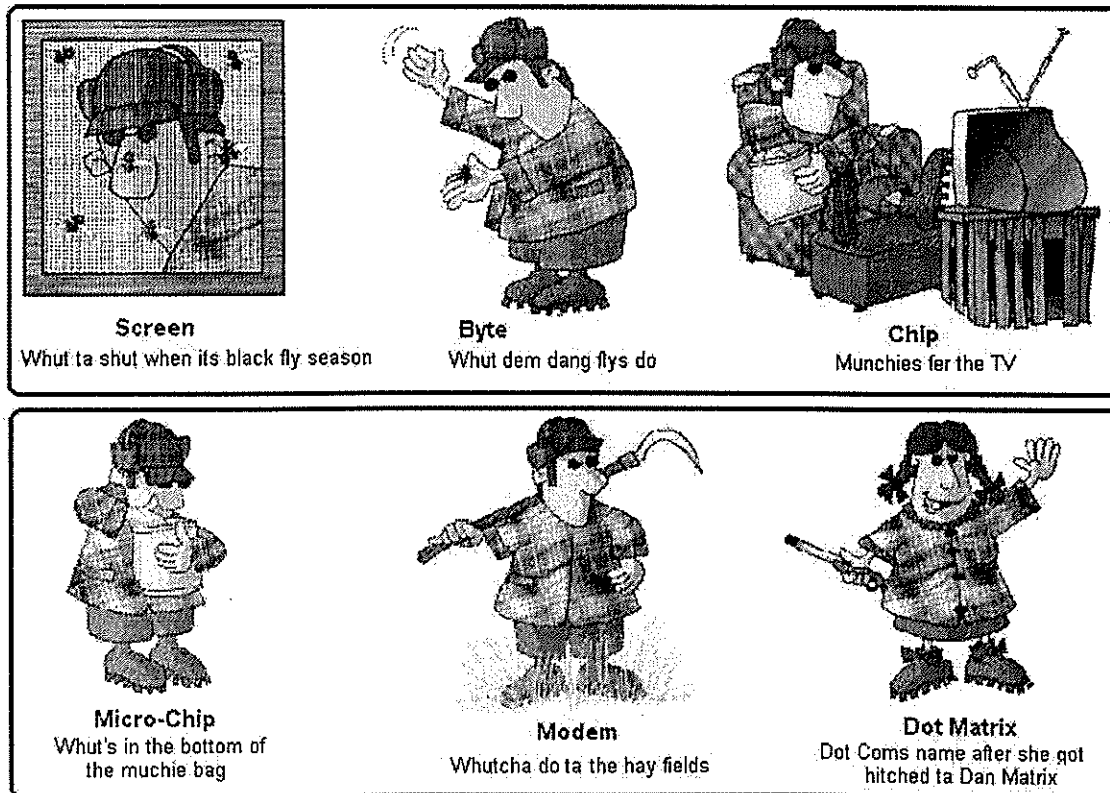
EDITORIAL

This month has gone by so quickly that the production of this edition has been one mad panic to gather articles, do the crossword and try and keep it interesting. My absent co-editor has sent us an amusing but informative article of some of her experiences so far in OZ, mainly to do with a strange man with a disappearing arm and banana shaped bulls!!! Actually, I've had quite a few sniggers and giggles to myself whilst writing up the various articles this month. It's either the most humorous Wool Press I've done in the past 12 years, or I am finally cracking up? Probably the latter you all cry!

Onto some more serious stuff, the Way Forward workshop was a great success from what I can gather from the various participants that I have spoken with. I didn't make this one, but I'm definitely going on the next. Just give Neil a call if you want more information on the Way Forward and the workshops. Enquiring or even attending the workshops does not obligate you to anything at all, it's quite painless and Neil doesn't bite!!

Andy Finch (the man from the Tax Office) has provided us with another interesting and informative article. It clarifies some of the 'grey areas' and clearly explains the logic behind why you can and cannot claim certain things. Lucy's promised article on her training experiences has not materialised, probably because she has been busy putting what she learned into practice, doing lots of scanning. Hopefully I will get one next month. I know it's a long shot, the season starting and all, but all articles with your news or views will be greatly appreciated. *Mandy.*

TECHNOLOGY



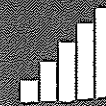
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Falklands Organic News & Information

October 2002

www.fidc.co.fk

I've finally got some of our organic farms on the web site. Instructions to find them are as follows:

Log onto www.fidc.co.fk

Click on **PROJECTS**

Click on **ORGANIC**

Where you will find information regarding the legislation etc. This information is updated constantly.

Top right hand corner there is a **map of the Falklands**. Click onto this and it will take you into Speedwell Island, Bleaker Island, Port Edgar, Albemarle Station and Crooked Inlet. Port Louis, Blue Beach, Riverview and Long Island will be shortly installed.

For those farmers who don't have a computer or have not got access to the internet. I will be publishing a farm each month on the other side of this page for you to view.

Each farm will be updated occasionally and I hope that you feel that I have done justice in promoting these farms to the best of my ability. Should the farmer not be satisfied, please tell me and I will get the site updated appropriately.

I omitted last month to inform you that Riverview Farm have now been given Organic Status and are complying to the rules and regulations.

The Standards are still not sorted out but hopefully they will be shortly. If you want information or interested in just a chat, please give me a call and I will come and visit you.

I'm always being asked who has become organic. Perhaps each month I will give you a list so that you will know who has started or completed.

List of Organic Farms:

Port Edgar; Albemarle Station; Crooked Inlet; Speedwell Island;
Bleaker Island; Port Louis; Riverview Farm.

Farms that have started a conversion period:

Blue Beach; Long Island;

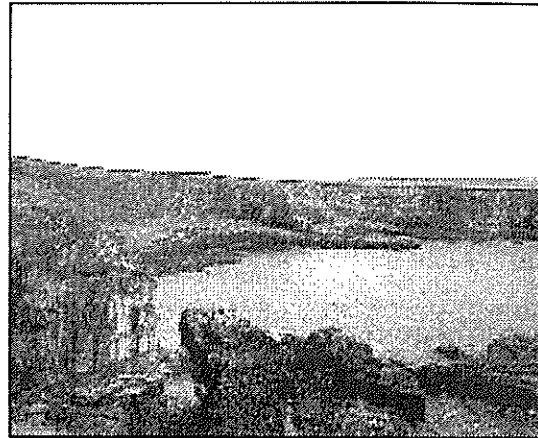
www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk

BLEAKER ISLAND FARM

Organic Certification No. 004/02

Bleaker Island Farm, owned by Mike and Phyllis Rendell, is situated just off the southeast coast of the Falkland Islands. This long thin island, rich in wildlife, holds approximately 1150 sheep and 56 head of cattle.

Bleaker Island Farm is home to penguins, sea lions and thousands of nesting birds. The coastline is ringed by large tussac areas, interspersed with natural 'greens' which were created as the penguin colonies move from site to site.



The settlement is situated in the middle of the island where Mike and Phyllis have opened two new self-catering cottages.

Bleaker Island Farm has never used inorganic fertilisers or pesticides and was officially certified as organic on 1st July 2002.

Lamb, beef and vegetables from the farm are supplied to the Malvina House Hotel in Stanley, which is also owned by the Rendells. This allows both local people and visitors to enjoy Bleaker Island Farm organic produce.

SHEEP CHILL FORECASTS **TO BEGIN EARLIER THIS SEASON**

by Aidan Kerr & Andy Page (Principal Met. Officer, MPA)

The Met Office MPA will continue to provide this service for the benefit of the Falkland farmers during the coming season. The service normally commences on 01 November and runs through until the end of February, but during the forthcoming shearing season it will commence on October 1st so that those farmers undertaking pre-lamb shearing of ewes can have access to wind chill information.

In order that farmers can better understand the forecasts here is a quick resume of the process and some of the problems that can be encountered. The sheep chill forecast is issued 3 times per day, along with the general weather forecast for FIBS and BFBS at 5-30 am, 11 am and 2-45 p.m. Both the 5-30 am and 11 am chill forecasts refer to the current day, whilst the 2-45 p.m. issue refers to the 24 hour period ending at midday the next day. Both the general weather forecast and the sheep chill forecast are also placed upon answer machine - telephone number 32500.

The forecast is based upon forecasted wind speed, air temperature and the occurrence of rain, hail etc. at sea level during 4-hour time slots through the forecast period. Once the data is input, a "Sheep Chill Factor [X]" is calculated and a forecast statement will be issued. These are as follows:

If the value is less than 70, the issued forecast will carry the following statement: "The sheep chill factor is [X] and the risk is low to newly shorn sheep".

If the value is greater than or equal to 70, but less than 80: "The sheep chill factor is [X] and there is a moderate risk to newly shorn sheep".

If [X] is greater than or equal to 80, but less than 90: "The sheep chill factor is [X] and at danger level for newly shorn sheep".

When [X] is 90 or more, then the statement will read "The sheep chill factor is [X] and at a critical level to newly shorn sheep".

The main problem surrounding the forecast is that one value is calculated for all of the Islands and thus the onset of danger/critical conditions may be slightly earlier in one location, whilst being delayed for some time in another. For the coming season, it is proposed that if the forecast conditions vary significantly across the Islands, when at danger or critical levels, then an additional statement will be provided, as to which areas will be affected first and which at a later time. For example the statement might read "The sheep chill factor is 89 and at danger level for newly shorn sheep. Dangerous conditions will initially affect the south of West Falkland, whilst East Falkland will remain at moderate risk until dawn tomorrow." Amendments to the forecast conditions can be made at any time by a fax message to FIBS and BFBS with the request that it be transmitted at the earliest opportunity. In addition, amendments

Contact: Mr & Mrs M Rendell, 8 Ross Road West, Stanley, Falkland Islands
Tel: 21084, Fax: 21086,
email: mrendell@horizon.co.fk



MEETING NOTICE

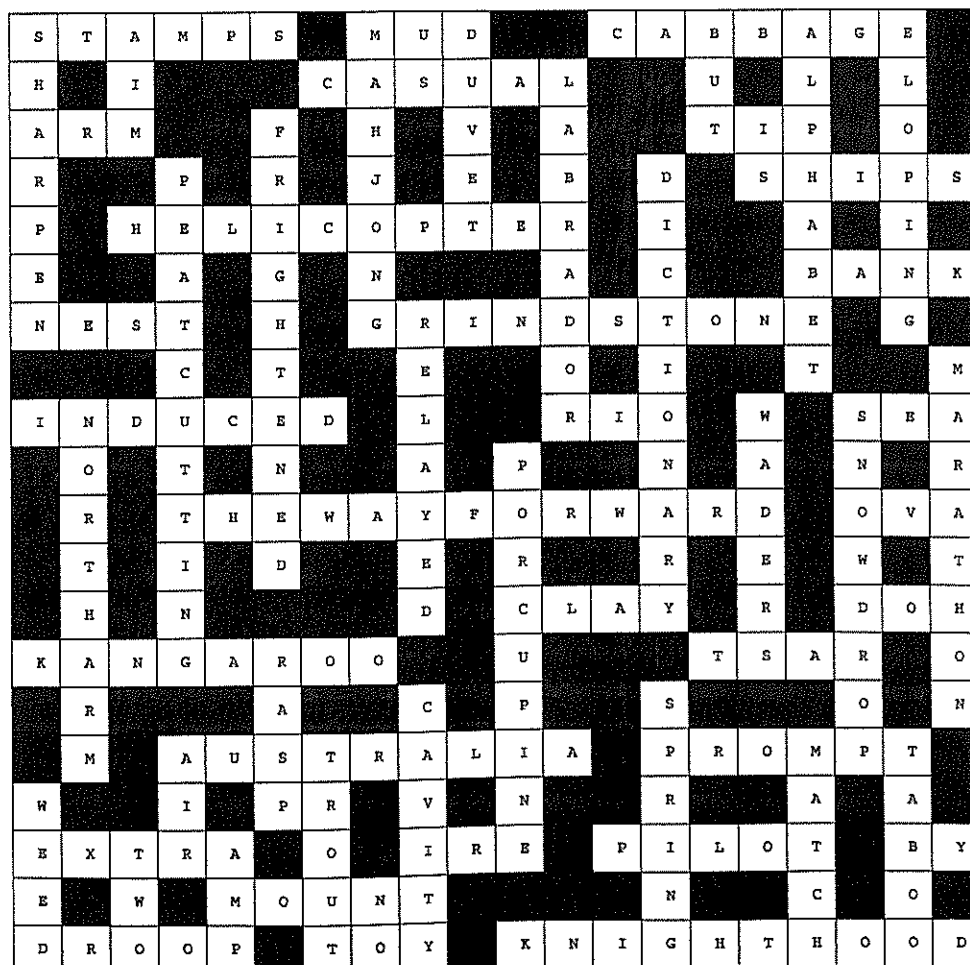
will be recorded on the answer machine and we encourage farmers to phone 32500 to avail of the up to date forecast.

In terms of the accuracy of the forecasts, it is the forecast of precipitation amount and duration that can cause the largest errors. As you are probably aware, observational data is limited, with manual observations only available from MPA, Stanley Airport (daytime only), Mounts Alice, Byron and Kent (3 hourly intervals during the daytime) and from the settlement reports at 8 am. We have no rainfall radar to detect, for instance, how widespread shower activity may be, and thus frequent showers at one location may give danger levels of wind chill, whilst isolated showers at another may be moderate at worst.

The forecast team look forward to providing a forecast wind chill service during the coming season that continues to aid the local farming community. We would also welcome information from farmers regarding the occurrence of prolonged heavy rain that was not forecasted. Also regular feedback from farmers on the accuracy of the forecasts could help improve the service for you. We look forward to your co-operation.

If anyone has any queries about the service then please contact Aidan on 27355 or Andy on 73557.

Remember the recorded forecasts on 32500



LAST

MONTH'S

SOLUTION

A SERIES OF WOOL INDUSTRY MEETINGS ARE PLANNED FOR OCTOBER. THE MEETINGS, TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- WOOL CLASSING STRATEGIES TO MAXIMISE WOOL INCOME. WHAT PREMIUMS ARE BEING PAID FOR WHAT WOOL??
- WOOL PRICE BENCHMARKING.
- CORE-TESTING OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.
- WHAT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR WOOLGROWERS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS A RESULT OF THE GLOBAL SHORTAGE OF WOOL.
- CLIP PREPARATION.
- OTHER "WOOL" ISSUES RAISED BY GROWERS.

DATES AND VENUES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Fox Bay social club.
Sunday 13th October at 2.30pm.
2. Goose Green social club.
Thursday 17th October at 2.30pm.
3. Hope Cottage
Friday 18th October at 2.30pm.
4. Port Howard social club
Tuesday 22nd October at 9.30am.
5. Hill Cove
Tuesday 22nd October at 2.30pm.

People are invited to attend any session that suits them. Do not hesitate to contact Neil Judd at the Department of Agriculture for more information. Telephone 23755

Email: njudd@doa.gov.fk

SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND SILLY PEOPLE

By Zoë Luxton

The social whirlwind of last month has, unfortunately, given way to a tidal wave of exhaustion this month. My good deed of the month was swapping a weekend with Mike who wanted to go fishing in Scotland. Not a problem I thought, I have got to work a few weekends close together but that will be made up by the fact that when he does the weekend for me I will have lots of weekends off. When you work the weekend you don't have any duties the following week but because it wasn't actually my weekend on the rota I ended up being on duty Thursday night, all weekend and then Tuesday night. A bit of a bummer but possible.....what I didn't bargain for was 2 duties from hell on the Thursday and Tuesday nights!! Resulting in very little sleep - which generally leads to an extremely grumpy vet. As I finally crawled into bed on Tuesday night I thought "oh well - day off tomorrow since I worked the weekend", ones lie-in however was rudely shattered by a

hysterical nurse calling me down to the surgery at 7.20am to sort out "Rolo" Clark, a cat whose broken leg we had fixed the day before.

Heather had spent a difficult 2 hours putting an external fixator on this cats broken leg. Ex-Fixes basically involve pins entering the bone either side of the fracture at right angles to the bone, they are then supported by a bar outside of the leg running parallel to the limb, rather than the fracture being stabilised by an internal pin or plate. Anyway, the op went well, the cat seemed fine. However at some point in the early hours of the morning Rolo obviously decided she wasn't happy with the ex-fix and completely trashed her kennel, ex-fix and leg. How she actually managed to remove pins I have no idea, but unfortunately her leg was so badly damaged that I spent the first part of my well earned day off amputating it. The worst part was ringing Mrs Clark to get her permission. Her response is proof that there are some wonderful people in this world! Most people understandably would be a little angry or upset that the expensive work on their cat now just had to be chopped off - Mrs Clark however said, "oh that damn cat- you are an angel to try and fix it but I always thought it would have to come off in the end!!!!!!!"

A further awful night duty on the following Monday had almost finished me off quite frankly, to the point where Mr Smith looked at me the other day and suggested I might need a blood test because I looked so 'tired' (i.e. rough as guts). Rich from the man who had chronic bronchitis for 3 weeks and was probably near death but still didn't go to the doctor and just decided to treat himself with a basic antibiotic. Oh well, they say laughter is the best medicine and recalling the following events has certainly given us a laugh - at the time however none of us were laughing - we were all wondering how much we could batter a client and get away with it.....

Mrs L (to me while on duty): I need to make an appointment, my cat has a tic on it and it has made it terribly sick on my white duvet cover, I don't know how I am going to get it off.

Me: Ring and make an appointment in the morning and we will remove it with a special tic fork

Mrs L: no, I mean the mess on my duvet cover,

Me (through gritted teeth): see you tomorrow

Louise (next day in surgery): Where is the tic?

Mrs L: Here

Louise (struggling to keep composure): that is a nipple.

Ms W (dumping kitten on table): Its got fleas and worms

Claire: OK, we can sort out some treatment for that, I would advise that it is vaccinated also.

Ms W: How much is that? I haven't got any money.

Claire (suspecting an exaggeration in poorness): About £30. It is recommended for the cats own good.

Ms W: That's far too much.

Claire: Well just take the wormer and flea treatment for now and think about it.

Ms W: I haven't got any money today, I'll have to come back and pay

Claire: I'm afraid if you haven't got any money then I can't let you take anything today

Ms W (indignant): But the cat needs it.

Claire: Well, you can't take it without paying; it is not a life-threatening emergency.

Ms W (quite irate now): How rude and annoying.....

Claire (equally irate but managing to not shout): Well, you wouldn't expect to just take things from a shop and not pay would you???

The client then stomped out in a huff leaving us all appalled at the barefaced cheek of the woman, certainly with some equine clients we have an account running but we hadn't even seen this woman before! It makes you feel like putting a notice on the front door saying "If you can't afford to care for your pet you shouldn't have one". Finally.....

Miss E: I've noticed these lumps underneath the cat.

Me: Looks like some mammary development, is she pregnant?

Miss E: Good gracious I shouldn't think so!

Me: Is she speyed?

Miss E: no.

Me: Does she go out?

Miss E: Oh yes, all the time.

Me (poking cat): She certainly feels like she is in kitten

Miss E: Surely that's impossible, she's only 2!

A sign to go under the one above: "if you are stupid you shouldn't have a pet either".

WRESTLING, FORECASTS AND MORE DIRECT CONNECTIONS.

By Pricilla Halliday

The last few weeks have been hectic to say the least. Since the last Wool Press article I wrote I have been up to all sorts. Some of the time I have been out scanning sheep with Lucy. Well, she's been scanning and I've been the spray master (spraying sheep the appropriate colours for one lamb, twins or dry)! I've also had a chance to brush up on my wrestling skills as some of the sheep didn't want to co-operate when it came to going into the crate! All I can say is I'm glad no-one had a camera! I'm sure it would have looked very amusing to some to see me (I am not the heaviest of people) trying to pick up some fat sheep and turn it around the right way and then getting carted off on the damn things back! My excuse is that I was just recovering from the cold so I was still weak.

I attended the Grazing for Profit Workshop, which was great fun. I'll admit that at first I wasn't so sure about it, because with not having any qualifications in Agronomy I thought it would be way over my head, but it wasn't like that at all. I won't lie about it, some things you did have to think about, but it was all good fun and it was excellently taught.

I have also been busy working on the weather stations and trying to organise getting four of them hooked up to direct connections. I'm flying to the West next week to do two of them and when I get back I'll hopefully get the rest done that same week. When I've finished there will be eight weather stations with a direct connection. There will still be two that I have to download each month, but I'm not too concerned about that because we have had hardly any problems with those two, so for the foreseeable future they will remain as they are.

In the main office in the DoA I have a little display of weather forecasts. This includes a weekly forecast, an extended 10-day forecast and a daily rainfall record. For those who are interested in weather <http://uk.weather.yahoo.com> is the website that you can download the local weather forecast from. If you choose South America, Falkland Islands and then Mount Pleasant you will get the forecast. It is definitely worth a look. Quite a few people in the Department find it interesting to look at and like to see what the forecast is for the day they have something planned, especially now the fishing season is here again! That's about it folks, so until the next time, I'll say cheerio.

THE WAY FORWARD PROJECT

By Neil Judd

The Way Forward project has progressed considerably over the last few months. While there is still a very long way to go with the project, some key issues impacting on farm profit are already starting to emerge. They are as follows,

- The massive effect that wool production per hectare and farm average micron have on farm gross margins.
- The lack of a strong relationship between stocking rate and productivity per animal.
- The large variation in animal death rates on farms and the high cost of death rates on potential farm profitability.
- The large range in the performance of wool marketing on individual farms over the last two seasons relative to the "benchmark deviation" and the high potential cost of this variation to farm profitability.
- The very large range in farm stocking rates that exist in the Falkland Islands (once the effect of variation in rainfall and different classes of sheep on each farm are adjusted for)

To illustrate the effect that stocking rate and micron can have on the Gross Margin of a wool producing enterprise, consider the following example.

Note: the following assumptions, based on actual Falkland Islands examples, have been used to generate Gross Margin estimates of enterprise profitability.

1. **Stocking rate of 0.5 and 1.0 sheep per hectare.**
2. **Clean wool production of 2.5kg per sheep.**
3. **Micron of 26 and 28 used for comparison.**
4. **26 micron wool worth £2.65 per kg clean & 28 micron wool worth £2.20 per kg clean.**
5. **Direct costs of shearing, veterinary, casual labour, lamb marking, wool selling costs, feed, crutching etc total £2.00 per head (equals either £1.00 or £2.00 per hectare depending on stocking rate).**
6. **Animal numbers are quite stable, hence no big changes in the value of animals on the farm between years.**

Example 1.

Stocking rate of 0.5 sheep per hectare and wool 28 micron.

Gross Margin per hectare = (Gross income per hectare less direct costs per hectare).

GM/ha = (2.5kg/0.5 sheep per hectare) x £2.20 less (£2.00/0.5)

GM/ha = £2.75 less £1.00.

GM/ha = £1.75

Stocking rate of 0.5 sheep per hectare and wool 26 micron.

Gross Margin per hectare = (Gross income per hectare less direct costs per hectare).

GM/ha = (2.5kg/0.5 sheep per hectare x £2.65 less (£2.00/0.5)

GM/ha = £3.31 less £1.00

GM/ha = £2.31

Example 2.

Stocking rate of 1.0 sheep per hectare and wool 28 micron.

GM/ha = (2.5kg wool per hectare x £2.20) less £2.00 direct costs per hectare.

GM/ha = £5.50 less £2.00

GM/ha = £3.50.

Stocking rate of 1.0 sheep per hectare and wool 26 micron.

GM/ha = (2.5kg wool per hectare x £2.65) less £2.00 direct costs per hectare.

GM/ha = £6.60 less £2.00

GM/ha = £4.60.

NOTE.

This example has been compiled using figures believed relevant to many farms in the Falkland Islands. It is certainly not intended to imply that a stocking rate of 1.0 sheep per hectare or 26 micron wool will suit all farms in the Falkland Islands. These figures have been used to illustrate the principal of enterprise Gross Margins and also to demonstrate the importance of carefully scrutinising the decisions that impact so heavily on farm profitability.

The combination of information contained in the Annual Farming Statistics, details from each individual's farms Wool Invoices plus the financial details collected by most farms in the yellow "Farm Account Books" provide a wonderful source of information that can be manipulated to assist farmers with on-farm decision making.

For farms wishing to be involved in the **Way Forward project at level 1**, the opportunity exists to pull together all of the information mentioned above, in just a few hours, over the kitchen table, at a time that is convenient to you. Total confidentiality is assured.

The purpose of the **Way Forward project level 1** is not to compare farms to find the "best" or the "worst" or the "average" farm in the Falkland Islands. It is not to generate a mass of statistics, data and paperwork that will gather dust in a bookshelf, but rather the Way Forward level 1 is about providing information that can be used regularly by individual farmers to make improved business decisions on their own farms. From the Department of Agriculture's viewpoint it is also about ensuring that appropriate resources are also available to assist farmers with this process.

Farmers who have already expressed a desire to be involved in the **Level 1 Way Forward project** will be visited in the next few weeks to have the necessary information collected. Any other farmer wanting to be involved, or who would like more information on the project, can contact me at the Department of Agriculture.

Farmers wishing to be involved in the **Way Forward project at the higher level 2**, are advised that another opportunity will exist in early/mid 2003 to participate in a **"Grazing for Profit" workshop.**

The "Grazing for Profit" (GFP) workshops, which are a central component of the Way Forward level 2, provide participants with one of the worlds "Best Practice" adult learning processes. The workshops equip participants with the skills and knowledge required to comprehensively review their farms economic, ecological and grazing management performance at the highest level.

The GFP process has been used in South Africa, America, Australia and now the Falkland Islands to assist farmers to,

- Define where their businesses are going.
- Identify dead wood in the business.
- Determine if the farm's overheads are excessive?
- Determine the gross margins for the various enterprises that could be carried out on the farm.
- Determine if farm is output too low! (productivity per head or per hectare).
- Improve livestock health and performance.
- Manage for productive pastures and healthy soils.
- Maintain happy and contented family relationships.
- Use valuable time more effectively.

GFP workshops provide a holistic insight into all of the factors that affect the profitability of farming enterprises and also provide participants with the necessary skills to regenerate the ecological health of their farms.

Any farmer wishing to participate in the Way Forward project at the higher level 2, (including the GFP workshops) or who would like to obtain more information on the process can contact me at the Department of Agriculture. As an alternative they could talk to anyone who participated in the first workshop about it and whether they thought it was worthwhile. If they are still keen they could give me a call at the Department of Agriculture after that.

NEIL JUDD / Wool Advisor / Way Forward Project Leader

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HOW NOT TO GET STUCK IN TAXATION

By Andy Finch

This article is aimed at farmers running their own farms on a self-employed basis, who need to draw up accounts each year and submit tax returns. I'll cover those running farms through limited companies, and employees and self-employed contractors, next month, along with answering any other questions you might have. The following covers some of the same ground as does the piece in the **Farm Management Handbook**, (soon to be published) produced by the Department of Agriculture, but I'll look at some specific points in more detail.

Farm accounts.

Although the Tax Office staff is happy to help with a person's tax affairs and let you know just what tax law says, it is not FIGTO's job to prepare accounts or give tax planning advice. **It is your responsibility to keep the records you need, prepare accounts from these and enter the correct figures of profit or loss on your tax returns every year.** If you do not feel comfortable doing this yourself then you should consider obtaining professional advice, to make sure that your Returns are correct. This will avoid possible penalties for incorrect figures and ensure that you claim all you are entitled to. I expect most farms will in fact employ an accountant to draw up accounts, or you might do it yourself in more straightforward cases. However you do it, you do need at least to be able to tell just how much profit or loss the business is making, for various purposes. Simple accounts are drawn up by listing Income on one side of the paper and Expenses on the other side. Add up each side, and the difference in the totals is the profit, or loss. The profit is what you pay tax on. It's as easy as that.

Income.

Having said that drawing up accounts sounds simple, one of the main problems people have is knowing just what to put on each side of the paper. Income is normally straightforward – it's everything you get paid for what you sell. This can include wool, mutton, eggs etc – everything you sell from your farm.

Own consumption - What you might not realise is that it should also include everything you take from the farm to use yourself. For example, if you take mutton or beef from your own livestock then you should account for this as if it was a sale to anyone else. If you haven't been including these things in the past then you should from now on. This is a long established principle of law.

Grants - You should also include grants or subsidies you receive, whether general or towards the costs of specific expenses. If you get a contribution towards capital expenses this should be deducted from expenditure when you calculate your depreciation allowances (see below).

Expenses – business or private?

On the other side of the accounts goes your expenditure. For tax, the law says that you can only count as expenses things '**wholly and exclusively incurred for the purposes of the business**'. Expenses not **wholly and exclusively** for a business can't be deducted in calculating profits – this might include your own clothes, food, household expenses, leisure costs, holidays etc. It sounds obvious, but it is sometimes difficult to separate business costs from private living expenses. I wrote on this recently in the Penguin News, but I know this is a particularly difficult area for farmers.

For example, **what about the costs of running your farmhouse?** It can be hard to distinguish what parts of your expenses are part of running the farm, and what is just your

own living costs. Clearly, it is not fair on everyone else that farmers should have their living costs subsidised through tax allowances when nobody else does, so we do need to identify what's allowable and what isn't. If any expense can't be split between private and business then none of it is allowable. Business expenditure is that spent **solely with the object of promoting the business or its profit earning capacity.**

If you have a room set apart for carrying out farm business, then you can claim a proportionate part of your household bills – that is, heating, lighting and insurance costs – for that room. If your house has 10 rooms and one is an office, you can claim one-tenth of these bills as tax deductions. If you do all your farm paperwork on the kitchen table and manage the farm from there then no allowance is due for this. It might be possible to identify part of a telephone bill used for farm business. If so, then those calls can be allowed. Private calls and the phone rental (unless you have a line used exclusively for business) cannot.

It goes without saying that costs of your own food are not deductible, nor of your clothing – with the possible exception of anything which could *only* be used in farm work. We all need food and clothing to live and keep warm, so these expenses can't be said to be 'wholly and exclusively' for the business.

Another cost often discussed is of **travelling** – and the same rules apply whether you're flying to Stanley from the West or to Chile. Unless the trip is wholly and exclusively for business purposes you will not get a tax deduction for it. If you are coming to Stanley partly for farm business and partly to do your monthly shopping and meet up with friends then you can't claim the cost of travel. On the other hand, if you have a business meeting in Stanley and incidentally you meet up with a friend for lunch then the costs can be claimed.

These are not easy questions to deal with, and each case depends on its own particular facts. But there are lots of examples over the years where the Courts have given us guidance on how to decide things. If you have any doubts do ask either your accountant or staff at the Taxation Office in Stanley. If you get things wrong and claim expenses you're not due then it could be very expensive for you in penalties!

Depreciation Allowances.

Usually when you prepare accounts, as well as thinking about receipts and expenses, you'll also have to decide how much your assets have depreciated over the year. Most assets reduce in value (or 'depreciate') over their lifetime and you need to take this into account to know how much your business is worth. For tax, you are not allowed to claim the amounts of depreciation which will be in your accounts. Instead you must claim only what is specified in the law. In fact, the allowances are generous, giving more than normal commercial depreciation rates.

We generally have three types of Depreciation Allowances –

- 1 **Initial allowances** are available when you first buy an asset. If the asset is plant or machinery, or in other words the tools of your trade such as a tractor or cattle-handling machinery, you can claim **100%** of its cost as an allowance. Yes, even if you only depreciate it by 10% in your books! If you buy agricultural property (or otherwise incur capital expenditure on agricultural property) you can claim **50%** of the cost in the year you spend the money.

- 2 **Annual allowances** can be claimed in subsequent years, depending on how much Initial allowance you've claimed. Clearly, if you've claimed the full 100% in Year 1 you can't have any more afterwards. But if you haven't claimed the full allowance in Year 1, and there may be good reasons you might not want to, you can claim up to **25%** of any remainder in Year 2, and so on for later years. That's for plant and machinery. For agricultural buildings the annual allowances are **10%** of whatever is left after your Initial Allowance claim.

- 3 **Balancing Allowances or Charges.** These work in the same way whatever type of asset you have, in that the aim of the system is to give you, over the life of an asset, an allowance for what that asset has cost you. So if you've claimed the full cost of an asset and then sell it, you will be charged on the disposal proceeds. On the other hand, if you've only claimed, say, half the original cost and you sell the asset for a quarter of the original cost, then the difference is a further allowance to you. This way you've had the allowance for what it's actually cost you over the time you've owned it.

You do have some choice in this – you don't have to claim the full allowance due to you, and there may be cases when it might suit you not to. The calculations can be complicated, and you might find it worth getting someone who knows about this to help you. However, I must make it clear that **it is not the job of the Taxation Office to offer advice as to how much you should claim.** We will not work out your depreciation allowances for you, **that has to be your decision having taken into account all of your own personal factors.**

Business or private?

I said above that you can't claim tax deductions for personal expenses. The same applies for Depreciation Allowances. **You can't claim allowances for assets – cars for example – which aren't used in your business.** However, if you do use an asset partly for business and partly for private purposes, you can claim the right business proportion. For example, if you use a car half of the time for business, you can claim half the normal Depreciation Allowances. That makes sense. I must however, point out the one exception to this rule, which concerns **Farmhouses.** However much or little the farmhouse is used for business as opposed to private purposes, then as the farm owner you are permitted to claim depreciation allowances on all the capital costs of the house - its purchase and any improvements. This could appear unfair in that no-one else can claim allowances for private accommodation, but the law has been interpreted this way ever since the farms were sold off and we continue to operate this practice.

FIDC/FIG loans.

Many farms were originally bought with the aid of loans from either FIG or FIDC, ten or twelve years ago now (or more). Depreciation Allowances have been given as appropriate, depending on the allocation of the purchase price between buildings, land, livestock etc. However, in many cases parts of the loans are being forgiven, so that, for example, the farmer only has to repay in total 80% of the original amount borrowed. If this applies to you, you may have claimed allowances on expenditure you have not really incurred, as FIDC or FIG are effectively contributing to the cost by writing off this part of the loan. In these cases we will seek to amend your allowances in the Tax Return you complete in 2003 to put things right. We have discussed this arrangement with several local accountants and the Rural Business Association, who agree that this is the easiest way to resolve this problem. We will contact those of you without accountants who are affected by this well in time for you to include the right figures with your 2002 accounts when you send them in next year. Do ask the Tax Office or your accountant if you need more advice on this.

Any other business?

Diversification has become something of a watchword lately, and if you have another business as well – maybe for tourism, or imports of goods – then you should keep separate records for this trade, and produce separate accounts, as they are not strictly farming activities. They should be included on your tax return as a second business.

The principles of accounts and what can and can't be claimed apply equally to your business of letting out holiday accommodation or importing goods as they do for your farm.

The Farmer as Employer

All employers in the Falkland Islands must by law follow the **Payment On Account of Tax (POAT) Regulations**, whether companies, individuals or partnerships - or indeed the Government. These apply equally to farmers employing anyone on your farm.

The Regulations set out in law what you must deduct from your employees wages and pay over to the Tax Office. **You must complete a return of all payments by the 14th of every month, and pay over to us the tax (and RPC's) deducted at the same time.** At the end of the year we will send you a form to total up all the monthly payments and summarise the position for the year.

I must stress that we take seriously the collection of POAT – after all, it is the employees' tax, not the company's money. I must also stress that **this is not an optional scheme**, either for the employer or the employee. An employee cannot choose to have his wages paid in full, and an employer cannot choose to opt out of the POAT system. There are serious penalties in law for failure to comply with the regulations.

One question which can arise is whether a person you engage to work for you is **employed or self-employed**. **Again, this is not a matter of choice, but one of fact, and the Tax office will advise in any case of doubt.** Just because someone only works for you for a short time does not mean they are self-employed – an employment can last from a day to a lifetime, and many people have more than one employment in each year. In general, if a person works where you tell him, when you tell him and how you tell him, and cannot hire someone else to do the work for him he is an employee. If he is in business for himself and is risking his own money in the job he does for you then he may be self-employed. If you are in any doubt you should ask for advice – **you have the legal responsibility for sending in correct POAT forms**, and if you do not deduct POAT when you should then your Returns will be wrong and you could end up being penalised for this. Better safe than sorry....

And Finally...

We will be very happy to let you know just what the rules are on any matter, and if you don't understand how to do anything we will be very happy to show you. Not all of our forms are perfect, we know, and if you want anything explaining, or need someone from the Taxation Office to come and show you how to fill them in, then just ring and ask and we'll come and help you out. We won't do it for you, but we'll do what we can to help you do this for yourself.

Navigating the Tax system can be a bit like Camp Driving. Some bits are easy going, and the track is simple to follow. Some sections are difficult, and can trap the unwary. And you can't always see the boggy bits before you get to them. Sensibly you don't go into this alone, and get an experienced guide unless you are thoroughly familiar with the terrain yourself - which most people aren't. At the Taxation Office we are determined to do what we can to make sure that you don't get 'bogged', by making it as easy as possible for you to get things right.

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The ATV's range from Scramblers to 2 x 4's, 4 x 4's through to 6 x 6 vehicles.

For more information and a comprehensive model and price list, contact Ady and Lisa on phone/fax 31001 or email allowe@horizon.co.fk

GAP STUDENTS 2002 / 2003

There are 9 students coming to the Falklands this month (October) Under the GAP placement scheme.

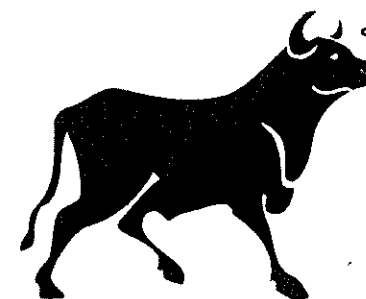
6 students (David, Graeme, Richard, Greg, Duncan and Laura) will be working for Falkland Landholdings.

Amy is going to be based on the West working between Philomel Farm and Port Stephens.

2 other girls will be working in Tourism. Clare will be at the Visitors Centre in Stanley, and Alice will be at Darwin Lodge.

I am sure you will get to know many of them during their time here (approximately 6 months).

URGENTLY WANTED FOR FRESHCO'S



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**If you have any ready to supply
Please tell the Freshco's Manager.**

SEMEN AND CED

By Nyree Heathman

Four days (which was only three if you take away the one I lost), 22 hours in an aircraft, an hour in a taxi in manic Chilean traffic – including a near collision with an oriental gentleman in a little white car who waved at us with one finger, 2 and ½ hours on the slowest moving train I have ever been on, and I arrived at TOCAL College. First impression – someone please cut down some trees so I can see where I am. Anyway I was now in New South Wales, Australia. Within ten minutes of arriving, and in true Aussie fashion, I was tucking into a BBQ in glorious sunshine! I am here to study – honest!

Within a week I was out on a 4-wheeler hurtling around a paddock chasing cattle with Brice Whale at Glenliam Farm. At this point I have to confess that I also spent a few rather embarrassing minutes bogged in a rather large ****hole. Fortunately Brice took pity on me and I was towed out double fast with a precariously thin looking piece of rope. I did only have two-wheel drive though, well that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it!

We eventually made it back to the farmhouse after chasing some of the biggest bulls I have ever seen. Brice seemed to find it strange that I wasn't over keen to chase them, and while they were charging around trying to knock each other over he kept reassuring me that; "They're only playing. They won't hurt you – just don't get too close in case one falls back onto your bike!" Not a chance mate. Just what I wanted to hear when I was stuck in a paddock with 20 of them.

After dinner the vet arrived to carry out some ET. I have honestly never set eyes on anyone quite like it. Ced was his name and accompanying him was a young fella called Mick. Now poor old Mick had had a little bit of an accident somewhere along the way and was sporting a lovely bloody scab on his forehead, and another along the majority of the length of his top lip. Something to do with a set of yards I believe. Seemingly oblivious to his war wounds though he gabbed away that fast that I couldn't understand a word he said, so I opted for the nodding frequently and smiling occasionally approach to conversation.

Ced has to be the most unvetlike vet I have ever seen. I have no idea why I thought this because there's not exactly a set of rules saying - must have a neat and tidy appearance at all times or anything, but he was a shock all the same. Six foot and as thin as a match with the wood scraped off, and more patches on his jeans than original material. Great guy though. In the middle of flushing (collecting eggs from) a cow he stopped for a yarn about the weather. At this point he was up to his shoulder in a cow, wearing a cowboy hat and sipping from his coffee cup which he was waving about – in his other hand obviously! By now I was biting my lip to stop myself laughing out loud as no-one else present, Mick, Brice, Brice's wife Diane or the dog, Sac, seemed to find this sight even vaguely amusing. Anyway, coffee finished he carried on with the job in hand. Literally!

Next – semen collection. I had never seen semen collected before. Do not go there. Poor animals. For those of you who don't know what goes on, here's what happened. They decided to try it the 'nice' way first. Ced shoved his arm up the poor bulls bum and did unmentionable things to him whilst Diane expertly attempted to catch the little

semen that the offending animal managed to produce in a sort of cup thingy on the end of a stick. Not happy with the way they were swimming around when under the microscope Ced ordered a rerun – just with a slight difference. Instead of inserting his arm he inserted a large sausage shaped object attached to a lead that was plugged into a mysterious little box. One little twist of a knob on the box and the bull was banana shaped with an extremely unhappy look on his face. Diane was again waving the cup thingy under the bull desperately trying to keep it in the right place whilst the poor animal bucked around the crush. All quite normal apparently! I'm sure Zoe would never do nasty things like that to innocent little bulls!

Anyway, onto the transfers. Ced does ET surgically so again this was a new experience. So many in one day! After checking which side the cows had cycled on so that he knew which side to put the egg in, he was set. Mick shaved a patch on the cow's side, squirted a great deal of disinfectant over the shaved area, and held a white tape measure looking thing up to the cow's side for a second. When he took it away my jaw nearly hit the floor. There was a 6" hole in the cow's side! He then squirted a bit of something in the hole and Ced shoved a gloved hand into the cow's insides. Out came the ovary he was looking for and in went the egg. A couple of quick flicks and the cow was sewed up and on her way. All this took about 2 minutes. They were true experts. When working together Ced and Mick can do up to 27 transfers an hour! By doing the transfers surgically Ced reckons that he can achieve 15% more pregnancy than by non-surgical transfer. It was awesome – that's all there is to say. I'll tell you more about my new experiences when I get back in November!

STUDENT ERRORS!

The following are a few phrases that were written by students. They obviously knew what they meant, but their tutors and examiners found their misspelt words and bad phrasing put a whole new concept to what they were trying to say. Very amusing.

"A mangold is 99% water and 14% dry matter."

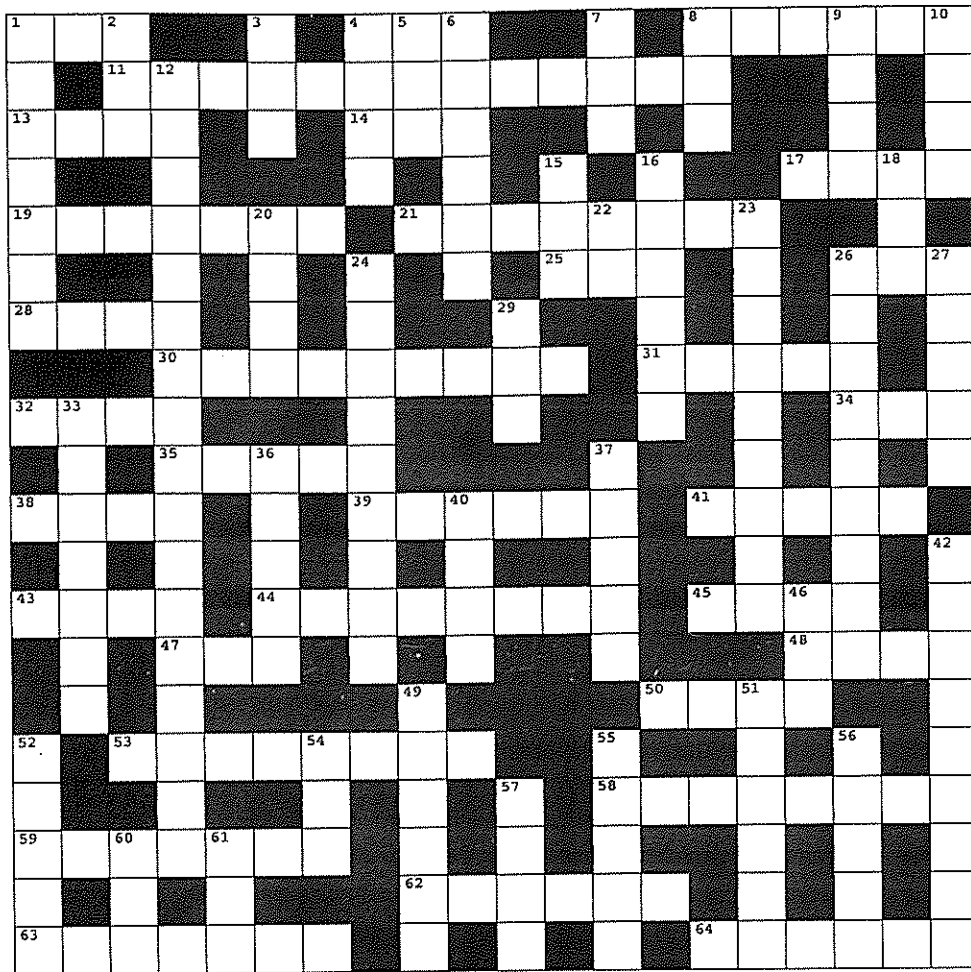
"Sometimes, when on cow duty, I help milk the cows as there's nothing else to do."

"To calve a heifer, I bush my nails, roll up my serves and put my hand up the verger."

"Barley should be ready in August when the colonels are yellow in colour and about 18% moisture in them."

They remind me of the two little girls I overheard (and this is true) playing a bit of one-upmanship as to who knew the most about the tropical fish they were observing in the tank. In final desperation to impress and not be outdone, one said, "Well, I know about all the orgasms that live in a fish tank"!!!! At which point the adults present disrupted the battle of wits by choking on their efforts to control their laughter!

THE OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. FELINE
4. DRINKING PLACE
8. OAK SEEDS
11. SENT OUT BY INLAND REVENUE (6, 3, 4)
13. CAN'T USE THIS IF YOU ARE ORGANIC
14. TRAWL
17. REMOVE THE SKIN
19. TABLE OF CHARGES
21. TRUNKED MAMMAL
25. JAPANESE MONETARY UNIT
26. YOUNG BEAR
28. SIGN OF TIREDNESS
30. A SCORE OF 3 UNDER PAR
31. SEVERE CONSTIPATION REMEDY
32. WHITE SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE
34. PLAN OR CHART
35. DESIGN
38. SPOILT CHILD
39. ALCOVE
41. MARINE ORGANISM FORMING REEPS
43. ELDERLY
44. NSF SITE
45. GAS ELEMENT CREATING BRIGHT LIGHT
47. GREASE
48. WHERE EGGS ARE LAID
50. BIRD OF PEACE
53. THE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT OF TREES
58. BURNT WOOD
59. PENGUIN COLONY SITE
62. REDDISH BROWN HORSE COLOUR OR PLANT
63. GRASSY, TREELESS CANADIAN PLAIN
64. MERCEDES LORRY

DOWN

1. RURAL
2. NECK GARMENT
3. UNMARKED MALE CAT
4. NOT STRAIGHT
5. DEVoured
6. PLAYTHING FOR A BABY
7. REDDISH SLY CREATURE
8. UNIT OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT
9. DRESSING GOWN
10. AQUATIC MAMMAL
12. STOCK IMPORTED FROM TASMANIA
15. 007 FOR INSTANCE
16. TWO PERSON BIKE
18. VERY LARGE BIRD
20. DIETERS FIGHT THIS
22. THAT MAN
23. COMMUNICATION ITEM
24. WINGED INSECT
26. BUBBLY
27. ROUGH
29. FIRE REMAINS
33. OLD GOOSE GREEN CAMP HOUSE
36. BREAD MAKING INGREDIENT
37. FAMOUS RACETRACK AND DAY
40. SYSTEM OF ACCEPTED RULES AND LAWS
42. ACTIVITY OF EXPLORING UNDERGROUND CAVES
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The Wool Press

ISSUE 155

NOVEMBER 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Falkland Islands Government Printing Office.

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**ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION
FEATURING ALBEMARLE STATION**

By Charlene Rowland

**EFFECT OF EWE BODY CONDITION, TEMPERATURE AND
RAIN ON LAMB SURVIVAL UNDER AVERAGE WIND
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ARE YOU LAMBING OR CALVING AT THE BEST TIME

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**GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND MANAGEMENT OF TUSSAC GRASS**

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By Becky Ingham and Sarah Clement

HUMOUR WITH HEDGEHOGS

By Zoe Luxton

CREEPY CRAWLIES AND CHOPPERS

By Nyree Heathman

FARMING WITHOUT SUBSIDIES – A BETTER WAY

Source – European Voice

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

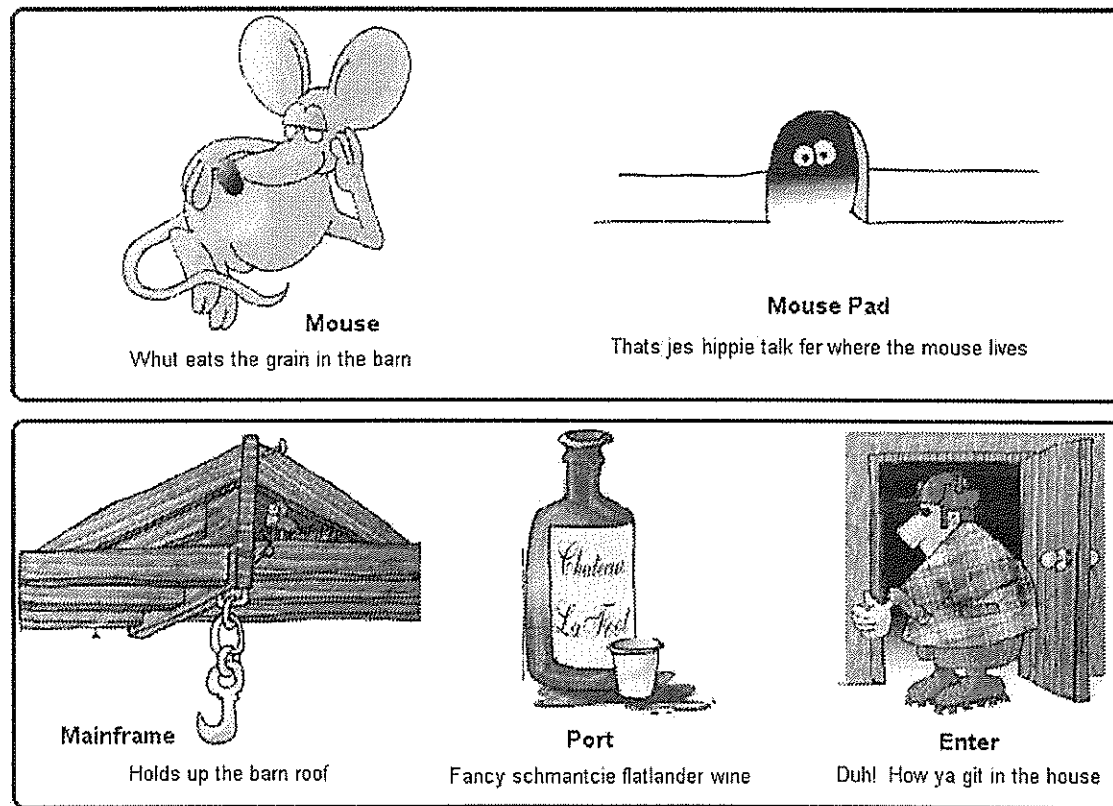
Well, Nyree is back this month, so I will be handing the Wool Press back to her capable hands. I must admit that I have enjoyed compiling it for the past three months, but the novelty is starting to wear off again. I think that I've done my share after more than 10 years in the editors seat.

I don't know about you, but I'm more than ready for some good weather. It seems a long time ago that the weather turned (during Sports Week if my memory serves me well). I know the significant rise in wool prices over the last year has brightened up our lives, but a bit more physical sunshine wouldn't go amiss!

Developments at Goose Green are moving steadily along. I will do an article next month to keep you up to date. Lucy promises to do her report on her training trip to New Zealand. I know it was supposed to be this month, but she's been up to her eyes with studying and is currently taking exams on the Wool Industry, by distance learning with Massey University, Australia. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her success. This edition also has the last of my 'TECHNOLOGY' cartoons. I hope you found them as amusing as I have.

Mandy

TECHNOLOGY



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A BRIEF FARM INSPECTION PROCESS

The inspection of a farm is a very important part of investigating compliances towards organic standards. The following are just some points of the inspection process which may help you to adjust if you are interested in taking the plunge to becoming organic.

- To check that all your animals have sufficient water, food and shelter, by inspecting your 'camps', streams and natural shelters. If your 'camp' is well eaten out or no clean running water you may be given a non-compliance report to move the animals into a 'camp' with sufficient food and water by the end of the conversion period or given date.
- To check that all your animals are running well and no signs of sick or injured animals. If any animals were to be found then the farmer would have to bring them into the settlement for treatment.
- A Veterinary chest should be made up and kept locked at all times with a list of drugs. If none is found at the time of inspection then the farmer is expected to make one up in the conversion time. The Veterinary Medicine booklet must be kept up to date at all times.
- All fertilisers will be checked whether in a secured shed or in the 'camp'. If the fertilisers are chemical based (other than rock phosphate or the local calcified seaweed) no animals should be in the same paddock for at least 2 years unless you properly fence it off and can prove that you have not used any of this fertiliser anywhere else in this 'camp'. Check all usage and storage is recorded.
- All reseeds are checked. The majority of reseeds in the Islands have not used any chemical fertilisers for several years and do not pose any problems. But if a chemical fertiliser has been used within the last two years, you are not to put any animals that are in organic production on it. However, if the reseeds need to be eaten, then the organic sheep can be fed for a limited period. Advice will be given at the time of inspection. Horses, cattle or any cast sheep are acceptable providing that they are on your land that you are not going to convert.
- Checking of seed will also apply the above. Seed can be non-organic only if it cannot be sourced as organic.
- All animal food will be checked for any contamination of GM's and chemical usage.
- Checking any signs of pesticide usage.
- All paper work including accounts are inspected. The importance of traceability recording is paramount on any organic production farm, whether here in the Falklands or anywhere else in the World.
- All machinery hired, borrowed or begged must be cleaned thoroughly before and after usage so that no contaminated material will enter into your land.

The farmer should be applying all the organic production which is in the Falkland Islands Organic Food Legislation No: 22 of 2000. If you are not sure and can't find what you are looking for, then give me a call and I can put you on the right track, if need be.

www.falklandislands.com

www.fidc.co.fk

Email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

ORGANIC FARM PROFILES ON www.fidc.co.fk

Mandy and I have made the decision not to include any of the photographs of the farms in the Wool Press due to the poor quality of the images. If you are interested though you can see them on the website.

ALBEMARLE STATION

Organic Certification No. FI 006

Albemarle Station Farm is situated on the southern coast of West Falkland. The farm extends to 15,366 hectares and runs 8,900 Corriedale sheep. It is a typical Falklands farm with White Grass 'camps', green valleys and a constant supply of fresh running water from springs high up in the mountains.

Leon and Pam Berntsen, with their two daughters Sarah and Erica, have built the farm settlement themselves; erecting a shearing shed and other farm buildings, putting up large quantities of fencing and rebuilding a four-bedroomed house moved from another settlement.

Pam makes compost for her home kitchen garden and produces wonderful tasting vegetables all year round.

Albemarle Station once included a factory for processing seal oil and there are still some relics of that awful trade around the settlement. Today, it is a naturally organic farm with large colonies of Gentoo and Megallanic penguins situated in this very quiet corner of the world.

Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/news
www.soilassociation.org
www.organicweek.org

Email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

Do you have any useful organic information web sites

Contact:

*Mr & Mrs Leon Berntsen, Albemarle Station,
West Falklands, Falkland Islands.*

Tele/Fax: 42309

email: l.p.berntsen@horizon.co.fk

SHEARING ON ORGANIC FARMS

All shearing contractors have been informed that your farm has Organic Status.

They have been advised that your sheep are organic and have been asked to treat your animals with respect.

If you are concerned about shearing, cuts etc. give me a call and I will advise you on what to do.

Charlene

GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF TUSSAC GRASS

By Aidan Kerr

A summary of the main points from research results and farmer experience.

Why grow Tussac?

- Good growth in winter – unique feature!
- Leaves are highly digestible winter feed.
- Excellent shelter from adverse weather.
- Important wildlife habitat – potential tourist attraction.
- Free fencing available from Falklands Conservation's 'Tussac Appeal'.

Where is it best planted?

- Near to existing Tussac – good access to planting stocks.
- Former Tussac areas that still have deep 'Tussac peat'.
- Plant where sites can be easily fenced and livestock controlled.
- Avoid areas with competitive grasses e.g. reseeds and greens.

When is the best time to plant?

- When ground is usually wet e.g. May-September.
- And when site can be accessed.
- And when labour is available.

How is it best planted?

- By planting sets of tillers (minimum 3).
- Prefer sets from younger (2-3 year old) 'bogs'.
- Chose sets from bogs that are not 'rusted' or damaged by insects.
- Plant older, taller tillers about every 10 rows to shelter younger tillers.
- Soaking sets in a pond / stream water for a few days encourages root growth.
- Plant sets about 2 m apart.
- Seed from healthy vigorous Tussac produces quicker-growing seedlings.
- 1 year old seedlings transplant and grow well.
- No fertiliser needed for at least 18 months.
- After then, Nitrogen fertiliser applied in Spring will benefit regrowth.
- 'Pesticides' can control Tussac 'rust' and 'insect' pests but check costs : benefits and compatibility with organic status.

Stocking density and periods

- Plants should be at least 1m tall (3 years old) when first grazed.
- Early Winter grazing allows Tussac to recover better than grazing later on.
- Check/estimate feed availability and quality before and during stocking.
- Stocking rates – up to 30 hoggets or 12 ewes or 1 steer/ha on good mature Tussac for up to 6 months.
- Remove livestock when most leaves about 10 cm i.e. before stock begin to eat the leaf bases as these contain the growing points.

Measure, Monitor and Manage!

FALKLANDS CONSERVATION 'TUSSAC APPEAL'

By Becky Ingham and Sarah Clement, Falklands Conservation.

Over the last two years Falklands Conservation (FC) and the Department of Agriculture (DoA), notably Aidan Kerr, have been working closely to assist farmers with their management of Tussac Grass. Practical and financial assistance has helped them to manage existing areas better and create new areas for the benefit of both farming and conservation.

The importance of Tussac has long been recognised as a good food and shelter livestock, particularly cattle, but also as a unique and specialised habitat for Falklands' wildlife. In particular, areas of Tussac provide breeding grounds for seals and penguins, Tussac birds, Cobb's wrens and as yet unknown populations of insects.

The emphasis on Tussac has long existed, with several projects being initiated in the past and many individual farmers actively planting it on their land. The main difference with the *Tussac Appeal* is that for the first time funds from FC are directly available to farmers to fence these areas for better management for Tussac.

The emphasis on fund-raising was directed overseas and Ann Brown, FC's secretary in London, raised the money. Donations were received through UK members of FC, notably from Lady Scott and through the raffle of an original book of art by Mandy Sheppard. Consequently, 5 km of fencing was purchased. The DoA donated a further 5 km of fencing, giving plenty of scope for the selective management of important 'Tussac' peninsulas and points around the Islands. Most of this has already been distributed to farmers to help in



Planting Tussac at Port Harriet Farm

the management and renewal of new or revived Tussac land. Cape Dolphin, Black Point at Elephant Beach, Port Harriet and Barren Island farms has so far benefited from the scheme.

This is an ongoing project and further areas are being

considered for fencing. FC would welcome advice or input from anyone experienced with Tussac planting. If you have an area of Tussac that you would like to fence off and manage better or if you would like to know more about the project then give us a ring on 22247.

WANTED - Sheep for Narrows Farm.

Polwarth preferred, but will consider others. Wethers or Ewes, 7 years or younger. Very open to any reasonable offers.

Please ☎ Raymond on 42201 in the evenings
or email r.macbeth@horizon.co.fk

EFFECT OF EWE BODY CONDITION, TEMPERATURE AND RAIN ON LAMB SURVIVAL UNDER AVERAGE WIND CONDITIONS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Niilo Gobius

Once again, I have used a computer spreadsheet 'SheepExplorer', developed by CSIRO in Australia, to assess the impact of weather conditions in the Falkland Islands on lamb survival. The spreadsheet model calculates the proportion of young lambs dying soon after birth from exposure and the factors we need to know are wind speed, rainfall, air temperature and ewe relative body condition.

The effect of these variables on lamb survival is summarised in Figure 1 where a constant average wind speed for the Falklands (8.6 metres/second) is used. The Figure presents 6 curves which represent the proportion (0.5 = 50%; 1.0 = 100%) of lambs that are expected to die when the wind speed is 8.6 m/sec and:

1. the temperature is 0°C without any rain (pink line)
2. the temperature is 0°C with 5mm of rain (yellow line)
3. the temperature is 5°C without any rain (blue line)
4. the temperature is 5°C with 5mm of rain (green line)
5. the temperature is 10°C without any rain (black line)
6. the temperature is 10°C with 5mm of rain (red line)

Each point on each curve represents the predicted proportion of lambs that will die given the above weather conditions and a relative ewe body condition. A ewe with a relative body condition of 1 is in average condition, whereas a ewe with a relative body condition of 0.6 is in very poor condition. Likewise a ewe in relative body condition of 1.4 would be very fat and would equate to a ewe at the end of summer on a tussac island.

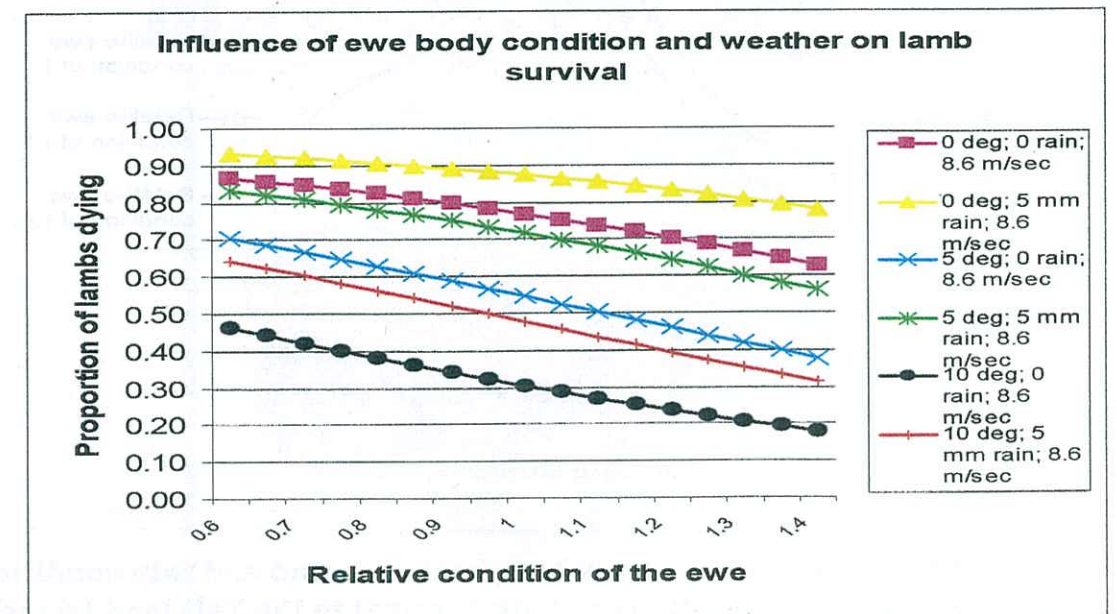


Figure 1: Effect of ewe body condition, temperature and rain on lamb survival under average wind conditions in the Falkland Islands.

As the curve goes to the right the proportion of lambs dying reduces greatly because a ewe in better body condition can produce more milk (drawing from her own body reserves), providing energy and warmth to the newborn lamb.

The effect of temperature and rain is dramatic. If we just look at the pink (0°C) and black (10°C) lines we can see that a temperature drop of 10°C can result in 40-45% more lambs dying i.e. With a flock of ewes averaging a relative condition of 1.0, we could expect 30% of lambs to die when the temperature is 10°C, but roughly 75% if the temperature dropped to 0°C.

Similarly, any rain that falls compounds the hazards and greatly increases the risks of death. See the differences between the red and black lines for example, or the blue and green lines.

So what? you may ask, we already know that these are problems.

Being able to quantify these risks allows us to look deeper and quantify the risks of lambing in the different months of the year. For Figure 2 I have plugged in the average hourly wind speed, rainfall per day and air temperature for each month in Stanley (McAdam, 1980). Although Stanley weather data, and anywhere else, is different to your farm it does provide us with a good starting point.

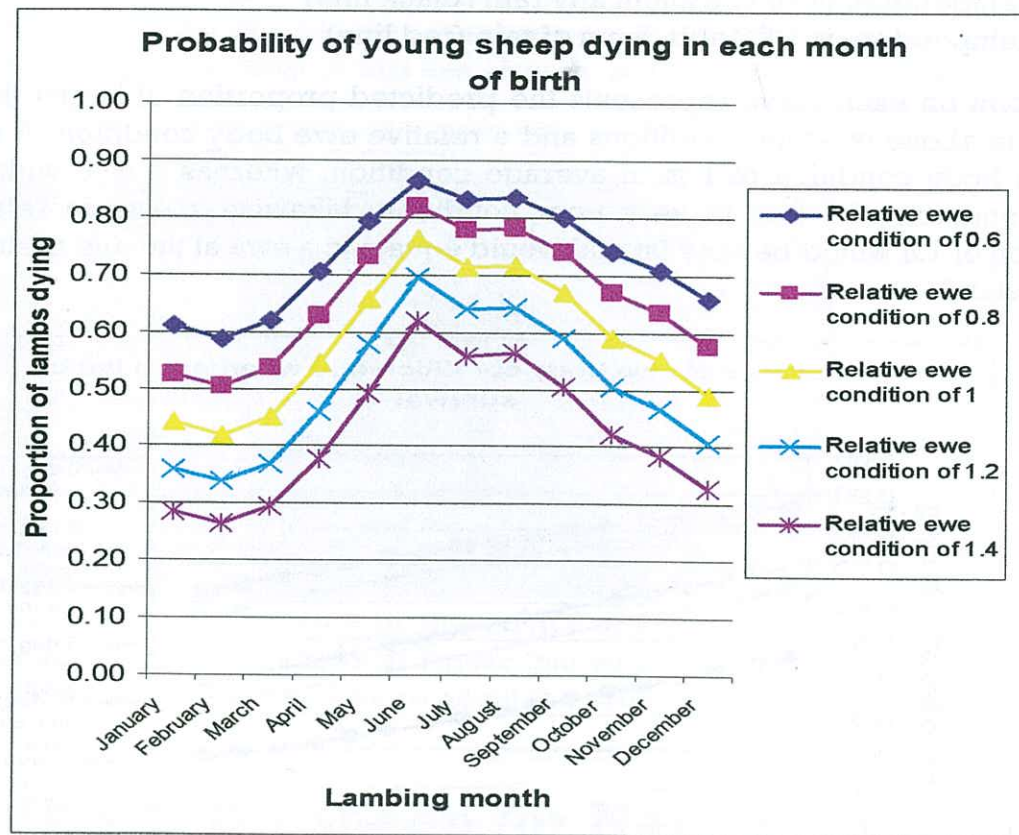


Figure 2: Effect of average monthly temperature, wind and rain conditions, as well as ewe body condition on lamb survival in the Falkland Islands (Stanley weather data, McAdam, 1980).

We can now see the effect of average monthly weather conditions on the proportion of newborn lambs dying from exposure in the Falklands.

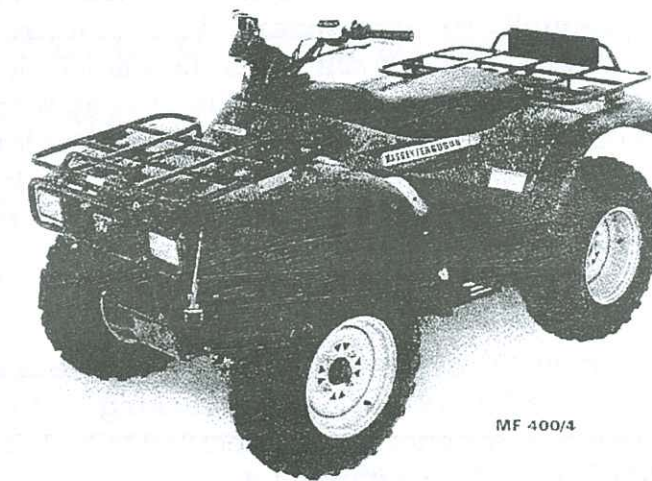
We can also see again the effect that ewe body condition has on lamb survival. A ewe flock that is in very poor condition is pretty much guaranteed that whichever month they lamb in, a minimum of 60% of the lambs that are dropped will be lost. If lambing in September, 80% of lambs could be lost if the sheep were exposed to these conditions. This would drop to 70% if lambing took place in November. However, if in good condition (i.e. Relative condition 1.0) a flock lambing in September may lose 67% of lambs, or 55% in November.

These are theoretical predictions and actual losses here in the Falklands are probably not quite so high because they can find shelter and reduce the effect of the weather that we record. However, the figures still give us a good indication of the risks involved with lambing in different months.

So what can we learn?

- Better weather conditions closer to summer result in greatly reduced risks to newborn lambs.
- The better condition ewes are in when lambing, the greater the chances of lamb survival and growth, regardless of the weather.
- Lambing in November would greatly improve chances of lamb survival when compared to September
- When coupled with increased feed availability (see previous article) lambing in November should result in more lambs marked, greater lamb growth rates and improved ewe recuperation rates.

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HUMOUR WITH HEDGEHOGS

By Zoe Luxton

Does anyone have Noah's' email address? I was just going to check with him the best way to begin assembling an ark. The beginning of the week was, quite frankly, torrential. The middle has been very frosty – my brain cells are only just recovering from the result of inhaling too much de-icer last winter so a new assault yesterday was not what they needed. Now it is raining again. Winter has arrived. The upshot of the very wet weather on Tuesday was that I only saw about 6 consults all afternoon. Apparently the condition that Rover/Tiddles/Spike had that was rendering them near death on Tuesday morning had miraculously become much less concerning by the time Tuesday afternoon and 4 inches of rain had come around. I wasn't actually particularly keen to see the hardy souls that had battled in because they were invariably accompanied by damp, stinky dogs – and because they were soaked through and a bit miserable and hacked off, they were not in the frame of mind to stop Rover climbing up the vets leg with wet muddy paws.

I had one particularly sad case last week. Mrs F bought in Poppy; a very lovely black and white fluffy cat that she thought had been hit by a car. Poppy seemed ok but was very painful around her hips so we sedated and x-rayed her and found that in the area of the spine where the last back bones become tail vertebrae, there looked as if there had been some bone damage, a very small amount, but enough to cause considerable pain. Unfortunately it looked as if there was nerve damage also as Poppy's tail was completely flaccid and she couldn't feel me pinching it. If that was the extent of the damage then we would have cheerfully lopped off her tail to stop her catching it in doors and sent her on her way, unfortunately that is also the area of the spine where the nerves to the bladder leave the spinal cord and we were worried that Poppy would have no bladder control so we kept her in hospital to monitor the situation. Over the next couple of days we got any pain under control and Poppy was a happy, lovable, cheeky little cat. We were continuously expressing the urine out of her bladder for her and it slowly became less bloody, but there was no improvement in bladder tone. Her brain and bladder unfortunately were no longer connected and the owners had to make the heartbreaking decision to put her down, as having to be constantly nursed and helped to urinate is no life for an animal that is naturally so independent. I am all for relieving the suffering of animals by euthanasia but it is very difficult when the animal in question is bright and non-painful and doesn't really realise there is anything wrong with it. The benefit of this I suppose is that they also don't realise their impending fate as their bladder has let them down. To prove the fickleness of nature, the following day a black fluffy cat was bought in with a similar injury. 24 hours later he had a big wee on his own and went home – shame our x-ray machine cant give us some hint as to the extent of actual neurological damage in such cases.

Claire thought she was going to have to do a bit of euthanasia on Thursday also as someone bought in a very small, very weak and ill looking hedgehog they had found in their garden. Feeling particularly generous she decided to tuck it up with a heat pad and give it some treatment on the off chance it didn't die in the next half hour. Mike, who was on duty, was expecting to find it dead when he went in to do the evening check but instead found it gone completely!! Closer inspection found it tucked up with a slightly bemused Labrador 4 cages down! The only explanation we can think of is that the hedgehog felt better and was small enough to fit out the wide grid of the kennel door, tumbled to the floor, scuttled up the corridor and fitted back into Bonnies kennel. The hedgehog was duly returned to a more secure unit and the Labrador could relax without worrying about getting a stab in the bum.

Lastly a bit of humour for you, the desired and not-desired responses to ones joke of the moment are documented below:

Me: Knock knock

Idiot friend L Chalmers: who's there?

Me: the interrupting sheep

Lisa: the interrupting shee.....

Me: BAAAAA!

Cue hysterical laughter from said friend and a smug me setting off to work to wow colleagues with newfound comic wit.

Me: Knock knock

Mr Smith: who's there?

Me: the interrupting sheep

Mr Smith (confused pause): what?

Head nurse also present trying to suppress howls of mirth

Me: you have to say 'the interrupting sheep who?

Mr Smith: ok ok start again

Me: knock knock

Mr Smith: who's there?

Me: the interrupting sheep

Mr Smith (quick response this time): who?

Head nurse under table clutching sides

Me: you have to say the whole sentence so the joke works

By this time all three of us were laughing so hard the joke was completely ruined but possibly the complete misunderstanding was actually funnier than the joke but I didn't bother trying it out on anyone else.

WANTED

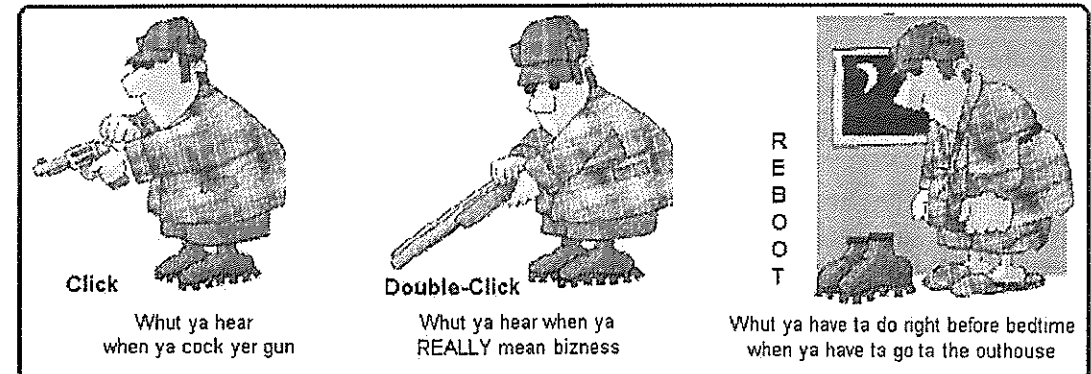
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TECHNOLOGY



A READER'S RESPONSE

Is it just my twisted mind or did anyone else find it strange that in the October issue of the Wool Press the article by Neil Judd on how the Way Forward could make your farm more efficient and profitable was followed by an item from Andy Finch saying that the Tax Office was only too willing and able to relieve you of any profit you might make?

Malcolm Ashworth
Riverside Farm

GOT ANY OLD HANDPIECES?

Lucy Ellis passes on a request

I have received a letter from a Mr Richie Gould of Pleasant Point, New Zealand who is a collector of old handpieces. In his letter he says that he is a shearer of 45 years and is now putting together a collection of shearing combs, cutters and handpieces, for future generations to see. So far he has 150 different handpieces, dating from 1890. Apparently he has spoken to a shearer who has sheared here and that shearer told him he had used a rotary handpiece and that it went quite well! He would like to know if anyone has one and he's also after one called the "Argentina" which was brought out in the early nineties. He would like to know if there is anyone who has either of these models or any very old handpieces that they would like to sell to him.

If you would like to contact him his address is : Mr Richie Gould, Shearing Handpiece Collector, P.O.Box 23 (Hammonds Road), Pleasant Point 8772, New Zealand. Tel: 03 6147 466 He has sent some photos of his current collection that he tours the shearing shows with. If anyone would like to have a look, drop into the Department of Agriculture where they are on the notice board by the Library room.

Is This You?

- Books in a muddle
- Worried about Tax Office requirements
- Too busy running your business to sort out your accounts and tax
- Think you can't afford a professional accountant

Cut out the stress - I could make your life easier for a realistic price.

I have lots of experience of working with farming clients and other businesses in Camp.

Alison Roose
Chartered Accountant

PO Box 658, 7 Brandon Road, Stanley. Tel/fax: + 500 22955 E-mail: will.and.ali@horizon.co.fk

ARE YOU LAMBING OR CALVING AT THE BEST TIME?

By Niilo Gobius

How do you know when the best time to lamb or calve is?

The simple answer is when there is enough feed on the ground to support the lactating mother and the newborn.

By 3 weeks after lambing a ewe with twins requires 3 times as much energy as a dry ewe. A ewe with a single lamb has over 2 times the energy requirement. Similarly, by 4 weeks after calving a cow requires over 2 times as much energy as when she only needs to maintain her weight.

This is a huge and rapid increase in energy demand. If this energy can be supplied, it would improve lambing/calving, marking and weaning percentages, as well as the growth rates of the newborn and recovery rates of the mother.

(From this point I will refer to lambing but what is discussed is also relevant to cattle).

So how is this energy supplied?

A large amount of good quality, young pasture is the cheapest way to supply energy to the grazing animal. The easiest way to ensure a good supply of this feed is to lamb when the pasture is growing fastest. This would give the mother a chance to build up some condition before dropping a lamb. When the ewes' requirements are greatest a few weeks after giving birth, the pasture would be growing rapidly and in abundance.

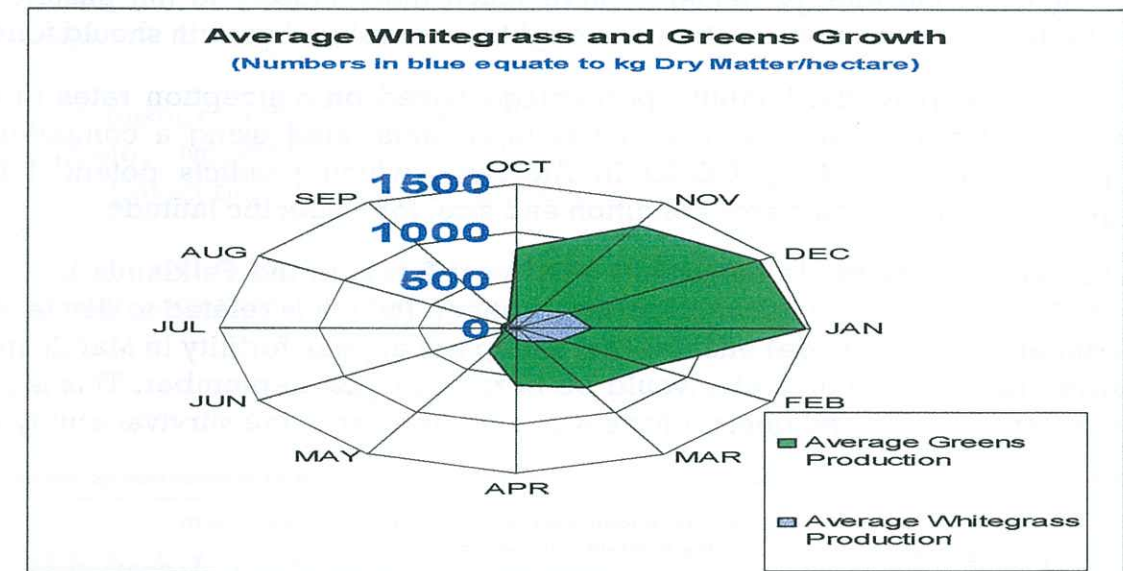


Figure 1: Greens and Whitegrass growth in the Falkland Islands

Figure 1 shows the growth pattern and extent of growth of greens and whitegrass in the Falklands. The green represents the average rate of greens growth per month while the blue represents that for whitegrass. Obviously greens grow more than 3 times as much as whitegrass. It is a pity that the greens only occupy 10% (let's say) of a camp. So I have calculated the amount of growth in a camp if it contains 10% greens and 90% whitegrass (Figure 2, the green area).

(Obviously there are other species that also grow in the camp at different growth rates eg. Christmas bush, Diddledee, other areas of finegrasses etc. but I am sticking with these two communities to illustrate the point).

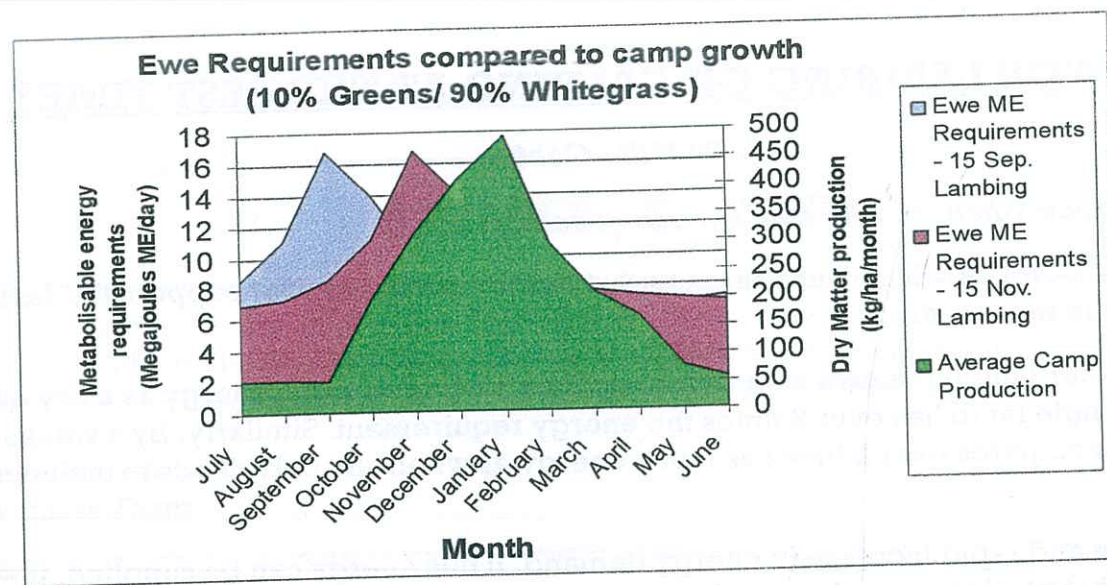


Figure 2: Camp pasture growth and ewe energy (or feed) requirements

The amount of energy required per day by a ewe undergoing a yearly cycle of being dry, pregnant and then lactating has been added to Figure 2. The requirements for a ewe lambing in mid-September is represented by the blue area, and requirements for a ewe lambing in mid-November is represented by the maroon area. Similar energy demand curves could be produced for cows.

Peak energy (or feed) demand for the September lambing ewes is going to be pretty hard to fulfil as pasture growth does not peak until November/December. Lambing in mid-November matches the energy demand curve much more closely to the pasture growth curve and better ewe condition, lamb birth-weights, survival and growth should follow.

Figure 3 shows the potential lambing percentage based on conception rates in a given month in the Falklands. The information has been generated using a computer model 'SheepExplorer', developed by CSIRO in Australia, which predicts potential lambing percentage based on a specific ewe condition and size, for a specific latitude.

Figure 3 probably explains (to an extent) why most farms in the Falklands lamb around September/October. The biological clock within sheep (which is related to day length that, in turn, is dependent on latitude) ensures that sheep are at peak fertility in March and April. So, if allowed, the majority of lambs would be born in August/September. This is a natural tendency for fertility only and doesn't have anything to do with the survival ability of these lambs.

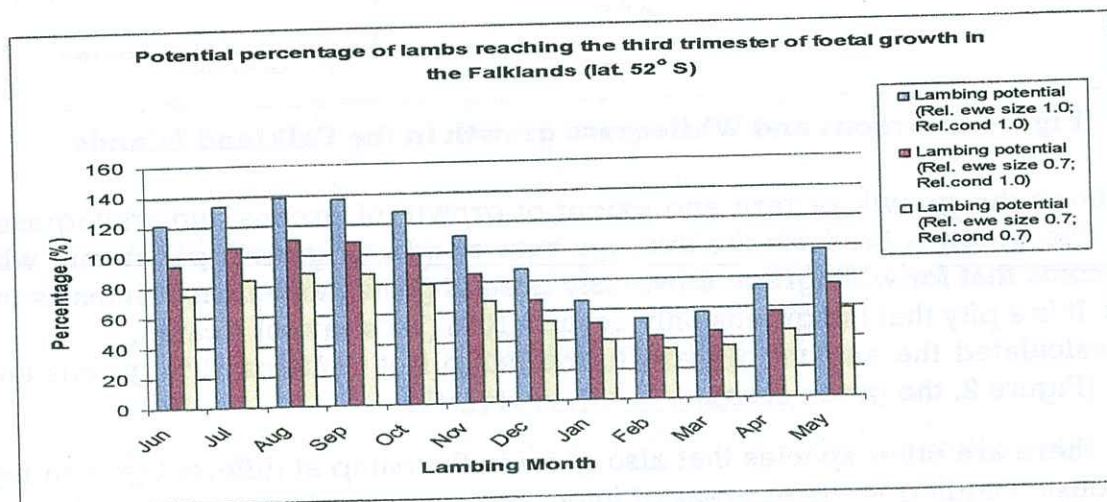


Figure 3: Potential lambing percentages in the Falklands, on a monthly basis.

Figure 3 refers to ewes in terms of relative size and condition. A fully grown sheep that has achieved its mature weight has a relative size of 1 (say 42 kg in the Falklands). A mature animal with a condition score in the middle of the range has a relative condition of 1. So, using a condition score of 1 to 5 (5 being rolling fat and 1 being very skinny) a group of animals may have a range of scores from 2 to 4. The middle of the range is 3 = relative condition of 1.0.

A ewe of relative size 1.0 and relative condition score 1.0 (blue columns) we can see that the maximum in the Falklands is only ever going to be 130+ percent lambing. These are theoretical figures derived through the use of a computer model but it is interesting to note that they correspond nicely with figures presented by Steve Whitley as the conception potential in the islands of 129% (recorded in very well fed ewes on Pebble Island).

If we look at a ewe of poor relative size and condition score (cream columns) we see that the maximum in September is only ever going to be 85% - a figure which also corresponds well with maximum figures recorded in the mainland Falklands.

So a trade-off must be made between optimum lambing times for lambing % and optimum lambing times for survival, growth and ewe recuperation. If lambing in November we could expect a slightly lower lambing potential. However, the ewes may be in better condition because there is more feed available and so we could still reasonably expect 90% lambing (maroon column, November). If the ewes were in poorer condition we may only expect 75% lambing.

To summarise:

- In general, pasture in the Falklands doesn't really start to grow quickly until November.
- Lambing before November will probably result in restricted feed and energy intake.
- Lambing in November would match the feed supply and ewe energy requirements much more closely
- There is a natural tendency for more lambs to be born in August/September but later lambing will probably result in higher marking percentages because of better feed supply.

FOR SALE FROM FALKLAND SUPPLIES

White and Coloured Plastic Wall Cladding 3.80 meters long 0.20 meters wide with all fittings like Outer and Inner cornering, J Channels, Starter and Ending Channels, F. and Union Channels, Moulding, etc.

OBS Wool Panelling 1.22 x 2.44 6mm and 11mm thick Covertech (Corrugated Fibre Roofing)

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CREEPY CRAWLIES AND CHOPPERS

By Nyree Heathman

How many of you have ever showered with a tarantula? I have! I don't recommend it - especially if, like me, you are terrified of spiders. Obviously my daily bathroom check for bugs and creepy crawlies wasn't good enough that morning. I had already been in the shower for a few minutes when I turned around and there it was looking at me. All hairy and huge. I don't think I have ever moved so fast.

Ten minutes later I was still hovering in the passage, (fully dressed by this stage) trying to work out how I could get rid of this thing without actually looking at it when the College Principal walked in. Why he was wandering around college at 0700 I really don't know but he was dispatched to kill it. Two minutes later he emerged claiming that he couldn't find it. It was gone. Aaaaagh. **WHERE??????** A couple fearful minutes later Mark, a staff member who lives in the same building as me, emerged from his room and was sent off to hunt the thing down - this time with a broom. A few minutes later he re-appeared triumphant with the spider firmly embedded in the broom, well and truly dead. My hero!

The next adventure was a trip to AG QUIP at Gunnedah. Ag Quip is a big agricultural field show, similar to the Royal shows in the UK. Leaving college in the pitch black at 0530 definitely wasn't the highlight of the day but it was an enjoyable trip nonetheless.

We arrived at Gunnedah at about 10.00 and armed with a list of things to look at from Doug I set off around the paddock. I have never looked at so many sets of yards in my life. Some of these yards were fiercely protected by little ladies that objected strongly to me photographing their wares. One in particular gave me a stern talking to about how I wasn't to take pictures because I would just go home and copy the design instead of buying from them. She was more than happy to give me a copy of their brochure though with an excellent picture of the crush I had been looking at on the front cover, and all the dimensions inside!! Saved me getting my tape measure out and the cost of getting my film developed I suppose!

Later on Geds and I decided to go for a flight in a helicopter. For \$35 you got 10 minutes or so in either a little red number or a slightly larger yellow and black one. I wanted to go in the red one so that I could look down through the clear floor but Geds refused claiming that it was far too small and there was no b****y way he was getting in it. We settled for the larger (but not that big) yellow and black helicopter and a few minutes later we were looking down on the show from 2,000ft. Quite a spectacular sight I have to say.

Anyway enough time-wasting by me. Work to do or I'll never get home.

FOR SALE

1 Lister TS3 Diesel Engine - Good Condition
No Alternator - Price £600

Call Carl on 31112 - evenings

FARMING WITHOUT SUBSIDIES - A BETTER WAY

Source: European Voice 18 - 24 July 2002

WHY NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURE IS A WORLD LEADER

By Tony StClair

Uniquely among developed countries, New Zealand farmers are almost totally exposed to world market forces. They receive no subsidies from government and have to compete with subsidised production from other producing countries. This policy is the result of major government reforms in the 1980s driven by Federated Farmers of New Zealand, which have transformed the country's agricultural sector into a world leader in terms of productivity and the quality of its products.

New Zealand's small economy is heavily dependent on overseas trade and agriculture remains its backbone, contributing around 17.2% of gross domestic product. Agriculture accounts for about one in every eight jobs in New Zealand. In 1999-2000, the island accounted for around 55% of the world's trade in sheep-meat and 31% of world trade in dairy products, even though New Zealand only accounted for 7% of world sheep-meat production and less than 2% of world milk production.

In 1984 nearly 40% of the gross income of New Zealand sheep and beef farmers came from government subsidies. Our farmers were receiving so much assistance that overseas competitors were talking about taking action against our exports. A year later all of these subsidies were gone. The long-term damage to New Zealand's agriculture by those subsidies was significant. Land prices were driven high, which made it very difficult for young people to get into farming. Yet young farmers are always vital to innovation within agriculture.

Subsidies restricted diversification and change by muting market signals and new ideas. Subsidies encouraged over-production. In the early 1980s New Zealand produced 39 million lambs for export, most as frozen carcasses. In one year, six million lambs had to be rendered down because there was no market for them. Subsidies encouraged resources to be moved into areas where New Zealand did not have a traditional comparative advantage, in many cases under protective arrangements from outside competition. By the early 1980s, economic performance was not improving, with inflation and the fiscal deficit having substantially increased.

The removal of subsidies didn't really bite until 1986 and 1987. By then, sharply falling world prices and increasing farm costs had the country's agriculture in crisis. Land prices plummeted, especially for poorer land. With the value of farms collapsing, some farmers were reduced to having no equity in their properties at all. Yet financiers soon realised that there was little point in forcing farmers off their land, as they would continue to be the best managers available.

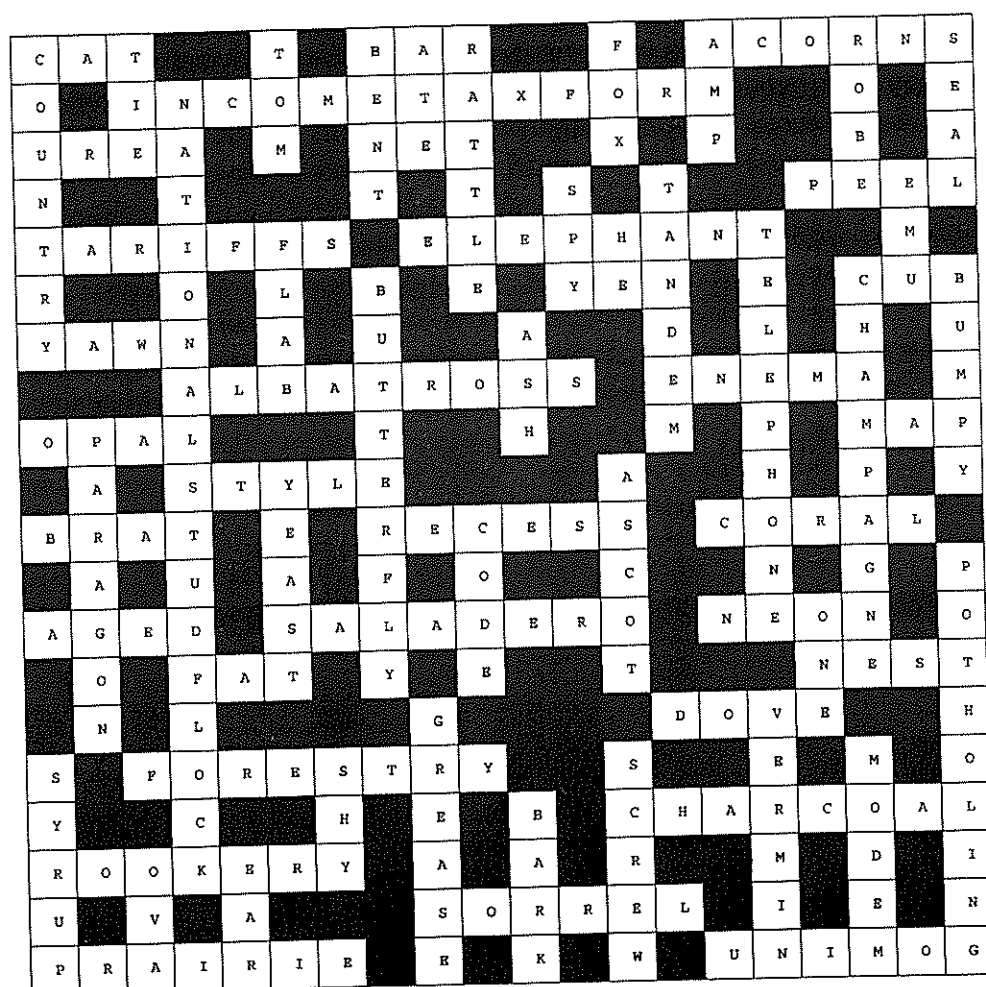
Farming practices adjusted. Previously, there had been fertiliser subsidies. Often the result was wasteful indiscriminate fertiliser application. That all stopped. All investment decisions became subject to strict commercial and good farming disciplines. Productivity

has increased significantly. Total factor productivity growth in agriculture averaged 1.8% per annum from 1972-84. This jumped to 4% average annual growth between 1985 and 1998. During that latter period, growth in the island's economy was only 0.9%. New Zealand farmers are now more efficient and competitive. They maintain cost structures that more closely reflect the real earning capacities of their farms. Land prices are now based on genuine earnings capacity.

Farm servicing sectors have become more effective, as farmers insist on value for money. And New Zealand has gained environmental benefits. Water quality has improved, as wasteful practices fuelled by subsidies have stopped. Farming of marginal land unable to sustain agricultural activity has declined. The initial declines in fertiliser use saw some erosion problems, but as truly marginal unstable or infertile land went out of production, so subsidy-driven land management problems ended.

Duties paid on €36.7 billion of New Zealand exports to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) founding nations were €1.1 billion lower in 2000 than they might have been because of the Uruguay Round Commitments. However, New Zealand exports still attracted tariffs of €1.84 billion in 2000. The fact that the island's agriculture has continued to prosper without subsidies illustrates how trade liberalisation through the WTO system is a viable strategy for agricultural producers.

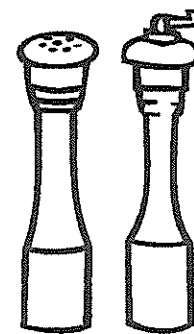
Tony St Clair is chief executive of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand. A full report, Life without Subsidies, is available on www.fedfarm.org.nz.



LAST

MONTH'S

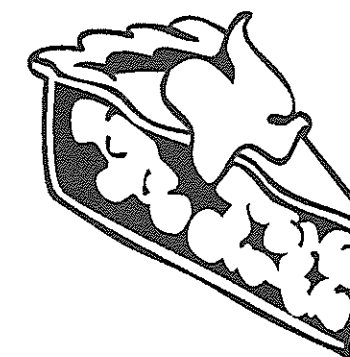
SOLUTION



RECIPE PAGE

Thatched Chicken Pie

- ¾ - 1lb Cooked chicken
- 1oz. Flour
- 1 oz. Butter
- ½ Pint milk
- ¼ Pint dry cider
- 1 Small onion, finely diced
- Salt and pepper
- 8 oz. Shortcrust pastry



4 oz. Cheddar type cheese, grated

Set oven to 400°F, 204°C or Mark 6. Melt the butter in a pan and add the flour. Cook for 2 – 3 minutes, stirring all the time. Remove from the heat and stir in the milk and cider, a little at a time. Return to the heat and continue stirring until the sauce thickens. Add the onion and cook for 5 minutes. Next add the cheese and lastly the chicken and seasoning. Place the mixture into a pie dish. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface and use to cover the dish. Cook for approximately 30 minutes, until the pastry is golden in colour. This is an excellent way of using up cold roast chicken.

Upcott Pork

- 2oz. Butter
- 2lb Pork tenderloin, sliced thinly
- 6oz. Curworthy cheese (or Cheddar) grated
- 1 Small onion, peeled and finely diced
- 2 Medium eating apples peeled and sliced
- ½ Pint dry cider
- ¼ Pint double cream
- Salt and pepper

Melt the butter in a frying pan and sauté the thin slices of pork for 5 or 6 minutes until cooked through. Place on a hot dish and interleave with layers of grated cheese; set aside and keep warm. Sauté the onions in the same pan, add the apples and cook until soft. Add the cider and, when bubbling, stir in the cream. Cook for 3 or 4 minutes. Season. Pour the sauce over the pork and cheese, and serve, with vegetables of your choice.

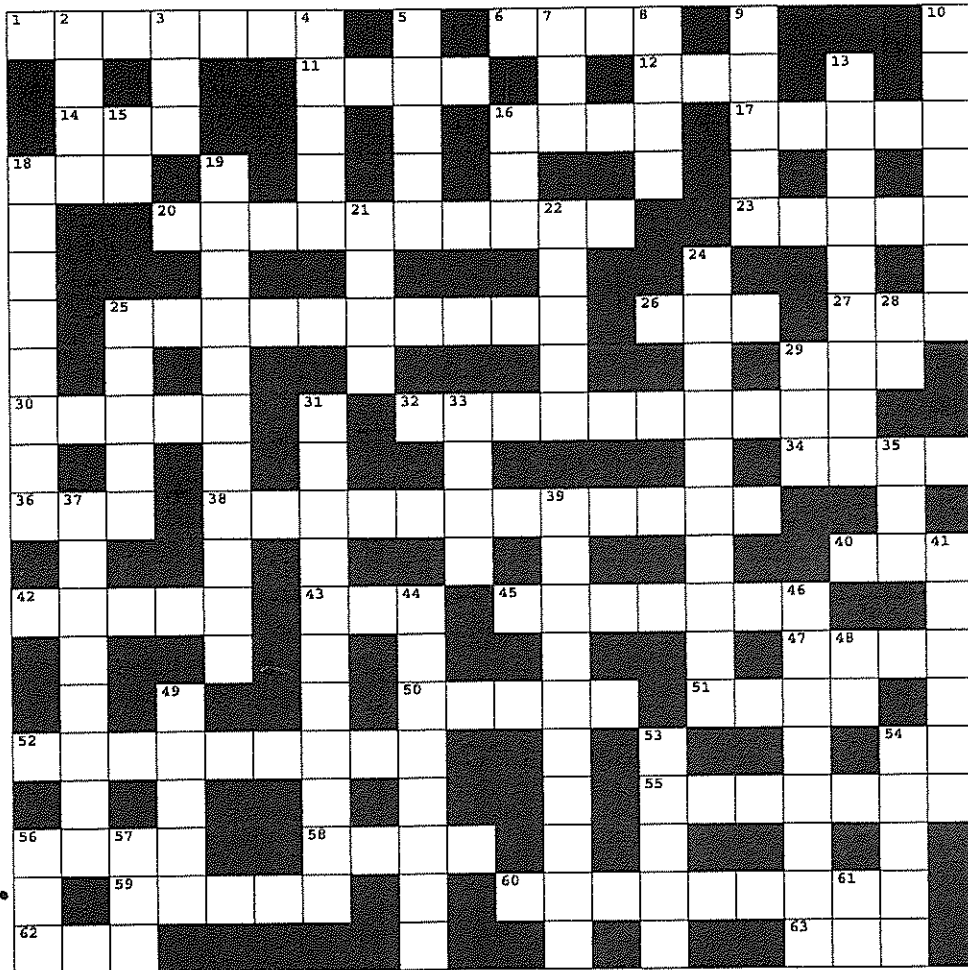
Apple Scones

- 8oz. Wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 Teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 Teaspoon baking powder
- 4 oz. Butter
- 2 oz. Soft brown sugar
- 2 Medium sized cooking apples, peeled, cored and finely diced
- 1 Medium egg

Set oven to 375°F, 190°C or Mark 5. Mix the flour, cinnamon and baking powder together in a large bowl. Rub in the butter, stir in the sugar and apple and lastly stir in the egg. Mould into 10 or 12 heaps (as you would for rock buns) and place on a floured baking sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before transferring to a wire rack. Serve with butter.

All recipes this month provided by Glynis King.

THE NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. NATURAL FARMING
6. SETTLEMENT SOCIAL CENTRE
11. TWELVE MONTHS
12. DONKEY
14. DOROTHY
16. AIM
17. PUT IN THE GROUND TO GROW
18. HUMAN MALES
20. EFFECT OF POLLUTION
23. POWDER FROM CACAO SEEDS
25. BRA
26. FAUCET
27. COMBINE TOGETHER
29. DOMESTIC FOWL
30. FROM IRELAND
32. LACK OF FOOD
34. ENGRAVE WITH ACID
36. WOOL EXTRACT
38. TYPICAL RACEHORSE BREED
40. FOOTBALL UMPIRE (abbreviated)
42. MR NEWTON - RELATIVE MAN
43. A PREDECESSOR OF THE DOA
45. TIMPANIC PART OF HEARING ORGAN
47. TAIL-LESS MONKEY
50. CHOOSE
51. SATELLITE RECEIVER
52. COMBINE
54. EXIST
55. TOWED LOAD CARRIER
56. EDIBLE LEGUME SEED
58. TWO WHEELED CYCLE
59. A STEP OVER A FENCE
60. POUCHED ANIMAL
62. DUNK
63. PIG HOUSE

DOWN

2. SIT ON A MOVING HORSE
3. SOLDIERING INSECT
4. REGULAR TURN OF EVENTS
5. LOW WET GRASSLAND
7. TOILET
8. SPHERE
9. MEAT JELLY
10. RICH CAKES
13. TYPE OF PAPER ORIGINALLY MADE FROM GOAT SKIN
15. NOT OFF
16. WILDBEEST
18. AFFAIRS OF THE SEA
19. LONG EUROPEAN BREAD
21. HIS ANIMALS WENT IN TWO BY TWO
22. UNDERWATER SOUND RANGING DEVICE
24. ROAD CROSSING TO STOP LIVESTOCK
25. MIXTURE GIVEN TO INFANTS FOR WIND AND COLIC
28. NOT OUT
29. GARDEN TOOL
31. HANDY FOR FEEDING WEAK LAMBS
33. PULLED TIGHT
35. POOL STICK
37. LATCHLESS OPENING
39. BOSAL
41. GIVE TO ANOTHER MOTHER
44. INDIAN TRIBE
46. UDDER INFECTION
48. ACID / ALKALINE MEASUREMENT
49. HAPPENING
53. STOW AWAY
54. STOMACH AREA
56. FLOWER AREA
57. SNAKE
61. SPECIFIC TIME OR PLACE



The Wool Press

ISSUE 156

DECEMBER 2002

PRICE: £1.00

**All the
regular
features
and more!**

The Wool Press is
published by the
Department
of Agriculture
and
printed at the
Falkland Islands
Government
Printing Office.

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

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DRAMA AND SELF DIAGNOSIS

By Zoe Luxton

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING IN ARMIDALE

By Nyree Heathman

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

By Pricilla Halliday

REPORT ON TRAINING IN NEW ZEALAND

By Lucy Ellis

EQUINE DENTISTRY

By Elaine Turner

DAIRY HYGIENE

By Steve Pointing

THE GREEN MACHINE HAS LANDED

By Malcolm Ashworth

EFFECT OF AVERAGE TEMPERATURES ON LAMB MARKING % IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Niilo Gobius

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Hi All,

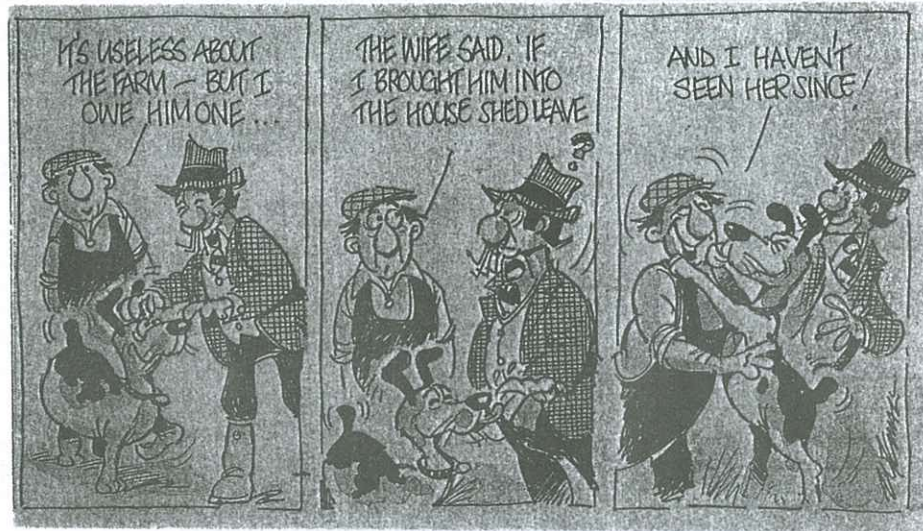
As I'm sure you are all aware by now, I have returned!! Not to the best of weather it has to be said, especially after the lovely summer we had last year. Lets hope it bucks up soon.

It almost looks green here compared to parts of Australia that I saw. It's so dry in parts of Victoria now that there have been huge holes dug for farmers to take their cattle along to be shot and buried. It makes you appreciate the rain, even if I have been complaining that it hasn't stopped since I got home.

The crossword is mainly food and drink related this month. There are a few words that aren't though as I ran out of words to fit the spaces.

Finally, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

This month's cartoon is courtesy of Malcolm Ashworth.



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Falklands Organic News & Information

December 2002

HOW TO INTRODUCE SHEEP ONTO AN ORGANIC FARM.

As a principle, all livestock must be obtained from organic flocks on a certified organic farm. Conventional breeding stock which have been converted to organic management may be included. Once converted to organic management, this must be continuous for the rest of the animal's life with no periods of grazing on non-organic land permitted. Ewes must be tugged on organic land and defined as animals converted.

1st Derogation:

Sheep existing on the farm prior to its conversion can be converted to organic production. A livestock management/conversion plan must be supplied when the application is made to becoming an organic farm.

2nd Derogation:

When a flock is constituted for the first time and organically reared sheep are not available in sufficient numbers, non-organic sheep not intended for meat production may be brought into the organic livestock production unit, subject to the following conditions:

*Ewes must be reared according to the organic rules and the progeny must be weaned not less than 45 days old.

There are no restriction to breeding animals provided that every effort should be made to source organic animals from an organic farm.

3rd Derogation:

Reconstituting an existing sheep flock shall be authorised by the inspection body when organically reared animals are not available in the following:

* High mortality of sheep caused by health or catastrophic circumstances.

4th Derogation:

Replacements subjected to a maximum of 20% of adult livestock sheep which may be brought in, as female animals, from non organic-production stock farms per year, for supplementing natural growth and for the renewal of the flock, when organically reared animals are not available, and only when authorised by the inspection body.

5th Derogation:

Rams for breeding may be brought in from non-organic production stock farms provided that the animals are subsequently reared and always fed in accordance with rules laid down in the organic legislation.

Ram can be brought in from a conventional non-registered source for breeding purposes. Rams can be introduced for short periods as part of a breeding programme and whilst on the farm they must be subject to organic management.

Should you want clarification on any information, please give me a call.

CROOKED INLET

Organic Certification No. FI 003

Owned and managed by Danny and Joyce Donnelly, Crooked Inlet Farm once called 'Roy Cove' is situated on the west of West Falklands.

They currently run 3300 Corriedale sheep and nearly 100 head of cattle. The cattle are extremely tame. 600 hectares of this farm is still running in conversion due to pasture improvement and running a non-organic flock. 4728 ha have been certified as organic as from 1st April 2002 and they will be supplying the Sand Bay Abattoir in the next season with beef and lamb.

Areas of Pasture Improvement on this farm are evident from the 1960's and 70's, giving this farm a good range of leguminous plants, greens and natural pastures for their animals.

Danny and Joyce also have a self catering cottage at their farm where they supply fresh organic meat, trout, milk and vegetables to tourists.



Contact: Mr & Mrs Danny Donnelly,
Crooked Inlet Farm, West Falklands,
Falkland Islands. Tele/Fax: 41102

NOTICE

Do you want to sell lambs as organic through the abattoir next year?

Did you know that you will receive 25% extra on what we already offer for your organic lamb.

Please give me a call if you are interested, before February 2003.

Charlene

Useful Web Sites:

www.falklandislands.com
www.fidc.co.fk
www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/news
www.soilassociation.org
Email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the staff of the
**Falkland Islands
Development
Corporation.**



FAIRYTALE FOR THE MODERN DAY PRINCESS

By Priscilla Halliday

Once upon a time in a land far away
a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess
happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues
on the shores of an unpolluted pond
in a verdant meadow near her castle.
The frog hopped into the princess's lap and said,
"Elegant lady, I was once a handsome prince,
until an evil witch cast a spell upon me.
One kiss from you, however,
and I will turn back into the dapper young prince that I am.
And then, my sweet, we can marry
and set up housekeeping in your castle,
with my mother, where you can prepare my meals,
clean my clothes, bear my children,
and forever feel grateful and happy doing so."
That night, as the princess dined sumptuously
on a repast of lightly sautéed frog legs
seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce,
she chuckled and thought to herself:
I don't bloomin' think so.

DRAMA AND SELF-DIAGNOSIS

By Zoe Luxton

Bonjour! You have caught me nosing through a French phrase book in preparation for a trip across the channel with Claire (fellow vet) and her parents on Saturday. The day entails an unmentionably early start, followed by a rough ferry ride to Calais, a spot of lunch then off to the nearest supermarket to stuff as many bottles of French plonk as possible into the boot of 2 cars. Father of Claire being especially chuffed that I am going as well as it means they have to take 2 cars as Claire's sister and sisters' boyfriend are also coming. Trying to find a tenuous link between France and something vet like but am failing miserably.....

On the vet front, I passed a small but personally significant milestone this month in the form of resuscitation. I think some of Joe Public think that vets spend half their time cuddling kittens and puppies and the other half performing life saving operations in fields, and sewing legs back on dogs and removing exciting foreign bodies from Labradors stomachs in one room, while doing mouth to mouth on a gerbil in the next. Well, the first bit is kind of true (or is that just me?) but the other half usually involves a mundane round of routine ops, chopping legs OFF things and praying that the vomiting Labrador DOESN'T have a foreign body that needs fishing out in a fiddly and smelly manner. As for artificial respiration and the like, that is something, in my world, that is tried half heartedly on a 17 year old dog that was going to die regardless of what you were doing to it, heroic or otherwise. I often have a small panic about what would happen if one of my otherwise healthy patients stopped breathing during a routine op, but so far have toddled along without the panic becoming reality – until a while ago. I was just starting to spey a bitch when the nurse that was watching the cat that had had an anaesthetic and dental squawked that it wasn't breathing and had no heartbeat (i.e. dead I suppose!!). Realising that I was the only vet about and the responsibility was actually all on ones small shoulders was terrifying, but we got on with it and put a tube back down its trachea so we could breathe for it, and started chest compressions. Nothing. Grabbed the crash box and injected adrenaline into the heart – result!!! A beating heart and then it started taking breaths on its own, came round and was fine. Older vets, I expect, will just airily accept that this sort of thing does happen occasionally but I don't reckon much beats the feeling you get when you successfully resuscitate something for the first time! I realise that maybe reviving a ginger hairy cat isn't quite as worthy as reviving a person but I am pleased to say the owner of said cat was very pleased and bought me a bar of fruit and nut – which is about the best thanks you can get in my book.

In contrast to the above drama...about half twelve one day a lady marched into our Woodbridge surgery and demanded to see a vet as her cat was "very ill with an ear infection". All us small animal skivers had gone for lunch but Avice our new horse vet was around and said she would take a look. Indeed, the cat had a very nasty pus filled ear canal and was in some pain and felt pretty rotten, so Avice gave it the necessary painkillers and antibiotics and advised that a check up in a week may be in order. Gemma our receptionist handed over the tablets and asked for the payment. The lady looked most affronted and said, "Well, I'm not paying that consultation fee!" When asked why not she insisted she shouldn't have to pay for our vets' time, as she already knew that the cat had an ear infection!

BAGS FOR CRAFTS

Do you make or sell crafts made with Falklands wool? Do you need high quality packaging for them?

Just arrived on the MV Anne Boye and available from the Falklands Arts, Crafts and Textiles Association (FACTA) are new stocks of 50mu clear polypropylene bags with 50mm self seal flaps in two popular sizes:

"Large Sweater Bags" (380 X 450mm with 35/70mm bottom gusset) at 21pence each.

"Hat and Scarf Bags" (230 X 360mm with 25/50mm bottom gusset) at 15 pence each.

Printed on the bottom gusset of all bags is: ALL PURE FALKLANDS WOOL in gold lettering.

Small quantities of the bags may be requested at Reflections on Dean Street courtesy of Marj Adams and invoices paid into the FACTA account at the SCB. For full boxes (500 large bags/1000 small bags) please contact Margo Smallwood on 21031. There is a limited quantity of "small sweater bags" (300 X 380mm with 25/50mm bottom gusset) still available at the old price of 8 pence each. Membership in the FACTA is not required to purchase or use the bags.

The bags are imported as a service to craftsmen from Pioneer Packaging in Scotland by FACTA with assistance from FIDC. Prices, regrettably up to twice as dear as our last stocks received in 1997, reflect increased costs of manufacturing and shipping, and the addition of a 15% mark-up to help us cover ancillary costs and to assist in the self-finance of future replacements.

Anyone needing more information can contact Margo Smallwood on 21031.

WANTED

TWO WORKING DOGS:- ONE PEN DOG AND ONE HEADING DOG.

***IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT MARK GLEADELL IN THE EVENINGS
ON PHONE: 32083***

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING IN ARMIDALE

By Nyree Heathman

"Is this our stop? Are we getting off now? Are we? Are we?" That was how my 5 hours on the train from college to Armidale went one Monday afternoon, with some delightful little boy in the same carriage as me who was obviously desperate to get off. If only he had known how close to getting off he was, with the toe of my boot up his bum! I'm sure he was a lovely child really.

Anyway, arrived at Armidale in one piece and wandered into the Inn that was to be my home for the next few days with my wellies tied on to the top of my rucksack. The whole place fell deathly silent as every single pair of eyes in the place stared at me. Never before have I so desperately wanted the floor to open up and swallow me. Ten minutes later I was still standing there whilst the barmaid and the cook ran around like headless chickens trying to find a room to put me in. What the hell am I doing here? Eventually got given a key and send off upstairs to find that the key they had given me was for another room. A lot of swearing on the barmaids behalf and I made it to the right room.

After summoning up a great deal of courage I ventured downstairs again to ring Warren Nancarrow, Managing Director of the New England Artificial Breeders (NEAB) where I was to do my AI course over the next few days. Warren promptly send me off up the road to look for a lady called Michelle who was also doing the course to see if I could bum a lift with her in the morning. Half an hour later I had to ring him back and confess that I couldn't find her. I later discovered that she was actually still in Melbourne and that I had been wandering up to complete strangers like a right banana asking if they were Michelle for no reason whatsoever!

Warren picked me up the next morning and introduced me to the vet who was going to be our teacher, Dennis Boothby. Dennis was a real character and informed us that as far as he was concerned s**t was s**t and that he was sure none of us were going to let him down by failing the course. He also stripped off to his underwear every time he put his overalls on which provided a great deal of amusement for the NEAB staff. I then met a gentleman with an extremely large, curly moustache who informed me that several years ago he had put in for the job of senior laboratory technician with the Department of Agriculture in the Falklands only to receive a letter telling him that his application for the job of taxation officer had been unsuccessful! Never mind.

There were quite a mixture of people on the course, including one very loud balding gentleman from Victoria, who stood up on the first morning and proudly announced that he had come from further away than anyone else. I don't think so! There was also a rather 'interesting' lady called Debbie who looked like she would have been much more comfortable

arranging dried flowers, and got a fit of the giggles every time someone said semen. She kept the rest of us amused anyway even if she did try Dennis's patience.

Anyway, it was down to business as we all donned a pair of gloves and tinkered with reproductive tracts acquired from the abattoir before we were allowed near a real live and kicking cow. Day 2 and we fronted up to the rear end of a number of large Angus cows that had been on some good feed somewhere. Poor old Dennis ended up looking like he had been walking around under a cow's tail all day. The offending goo even managed to run down his overalls and into his pockets before running right down his leg. One other unfortunate gentleman came back from the yards a lovely shade of green and reaching after he had left his mouth open at just the wrong moment. He didn't see the funny side of the situation at all.

If anyone ever tells you that cows won't kick when you have your arm in them don't believe a word of it. According to Dennis he's had his arm up thousands of cows and never been kicked. Poor little Daniel wasn't so lucky. He had one arm in the cow and was just putting his AI gun in when she booted him fair and square on his shin. The expletives that came out of this placid little guy shocked even me.

Course over, and we all passed, even dizzy Debbie, and I was enlisted to help Warren for a few days. More about that next month.



New England Artificial Breeders (NEAB) centre, Armidale, NSW

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

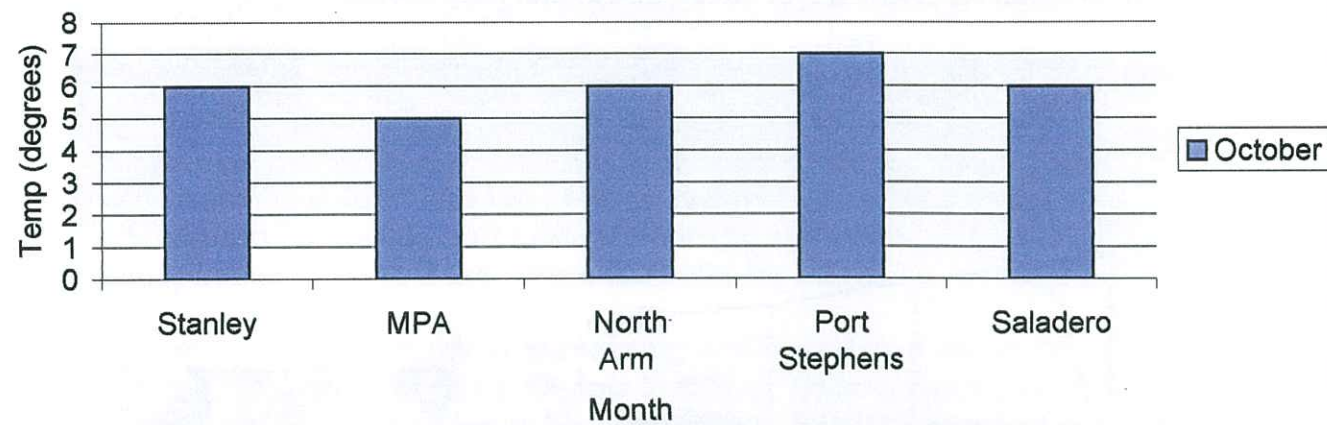
By Priscilla Halliday

Well folks this will be my last Wool Press article until next year because in three weeks time I will be jetting off to sunnier climates. While most in the Falklands will be eating lamb and new potatoes with mint sauce I will probably be eating fish and working on my suntan in St Helena!

The only thing I ask for when I go is that I come back very brown. I've never seen myself with a tan before so it could be quite amusing. When I do return I will have a new name; Priscilla Legg. No jokes please! If you have no idea what on earth I'm harping on about Robert and I are getting hitched 5 days before we go. Well that's if I survive the hen night, I could possibly die of sheer humiliation as the theme is bad taste! From what my chief bridesmaid is hinting at I think she might have a few tricks up her sleeve as well!

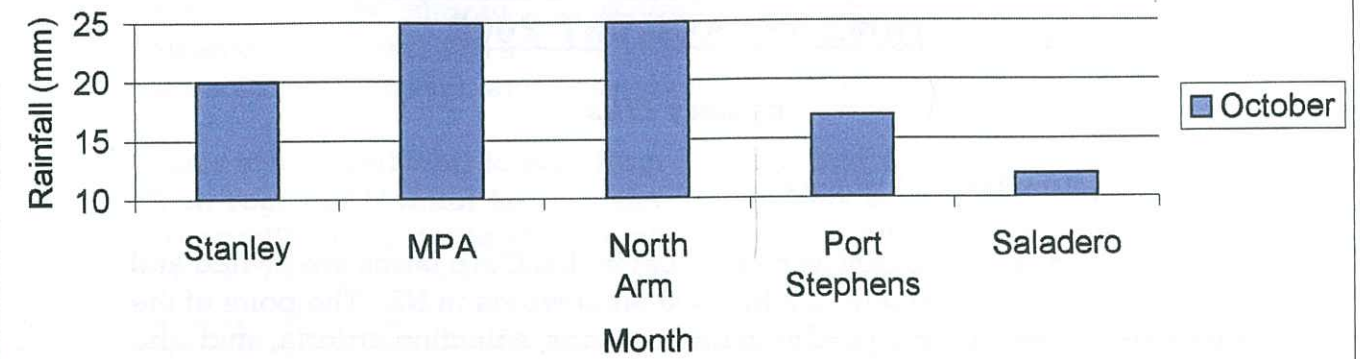
Enough about all that the actual point of this article is to give you some weather news.

Average Temperatures Around the Islands in October 2002



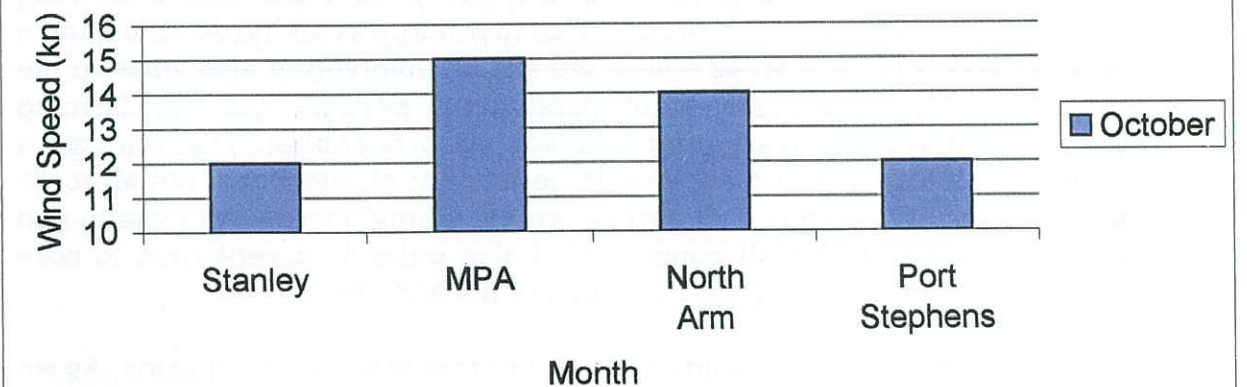
As you can see, MPA was the coldest place out of the five locations with a mere five degrees. Stanley, North Arm and Saladero were the second coldest with six degrees. Port Stephens was the warmest place with an average temperature of seven degrees in October.

Total Rainfall Around the Islands in October 2002



Saladero was the driest place out of the five locations with 12mm of rainfall in October. Port Stephens was the second driest with 17mm and then Stanley with 20mm. MPA and North Arm were both the wettest with 25mm of rain.

Average Wind Speeds Around the Islands in October 2002



MPA was the windiest place with an average wind speed of 15 knots. North Arm followed with an average of 14 knots and Stanley and Port Stephens were the calmest places with an average of 12 knots.

So, in summary, MPA was the coldest, wettest and windiest in October out of the five locations graphed. Stanley was the calmest and Saladero was the driest in October. North Arm was one of the wettest and windiest places and Port Stephens was the warmest.

I would like to take this opportunity to say I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a great new year. I hope the weather warms up and I'll see you all when I get back.

REPORT ON TRAINING IN NEW ZEALAND **JUNE TO AUGUST 2002**

By Lucy Ellis

Arrived in Auckland – 11th June

First off a 2-day visit to LanCorp farm, Levin. LanCorp farms are owned and run by the NZ Government, the biggest landowners in NZ. The point of the visit was to familiarise myself with the methods, selection criteria, stud and commercial animal selection and breeding programmes of this top Stud Boer Goat breeding unit. LanCorp was the chosen venue for this as FIG/Ag Dept have just purchased 2 Boer Goat bucks from this farm to genetically improve the goat herd currently at Saladero.

16th – 21st June: This week was spent with New Zealand Wool Testing Authority in Napier. I was instructed in the use of the OFDA, Laserscan, and Shirley wool measuring units in their newly done up, state-of-the-art laboratory, as well as being given a thorough grounding in the why's and wherefores of the IWTO rules and regulations covering manual and mechanical core sampling. At the end of the week I attended a meeting with all the senior members of staff. This meeting was an introduction and a familiarisation of core areas where we are all involved. It also allowed me to explain the Falklands wool production system, general farming practices, and wool marketing and selling procedures. The staff were extremely interested and asked a huge amount of questions, not all to do with farming. We covered all sorts of areas. I think it was a very useful and beneficial meeting for all concerned. I also gained accreditation to core sample wool in the Falklands on behalf of the NZWTA.

During the week I also attended the last of that seasons' wool sales. As we were not bidding for the wool we were not allowed into the auction room but sat in an observation room. Before the actual auction Doug Cartridge took us around the show room where the samples were on display and explained where the wool had come from and why that particular type of wool was being sold that day.

In the Napier area there are quite a few wool scouring plants and I was shown around a couple of these. Both were quite different. The first was a large operation with up-to-date equipment and all the latest technology, and a specific client base. The other place was huge and sprawling and seemed to do everything. Apart from the usual scouring plant it had a whole section devoted to cott removal and processing. At one end of the scour there was a Lanolin extracting plant. This, I was told, was the most lucrative part of the scouring plant!

Another big money earner was the Dag-crusher. Dags sent in for a pittance by the farmers get put through a dag crusher that pulverises the dag from

the wool. The wool then goes through the scour and eventually gets mixed back in with the other wool and nobody's any the wiser. The crushed dags meanwhile, go through another process and end up as fertiliser pellets and are sold to gardeners, and possibly back to the farmer!

I was also introduced to staff from WoolPro and went with them on one of their regular "Monitor farm" visits. This project is very similar to our "Way Forward" one and was of immense interest. It was also useful to see how similar or otherwise to our set-up it was. I also went out to a farm on a quality wool inspection with the WoolPro guys. It was interesting to notice the difference in levels required between what we expect of our farmers and they theirs. I've a feeling ours is higher.

23rd – 29th June: I attended the compulsory week at Massey University to complete the practical part of the 2 year Wool Handling Certification that I am currently studying. The course consisted of hands on identifying the wools from the huge variety of NZ sheep and in depth look at why those wools are grown, to what use they are put and the different industries involved. This was a very intense week and I had what is called a 'steep learning curve'! The New Zealand wool, as a rule, is a lot coarser than ours as the majority of sheep there are dual-purpose meat breeds. A lot of the names for various parts of the fleece are the opposite of ours, plus there are a lot of diseases and natural problems that affect the wool that we just don't have here. I almost had to clear my mind of all that I knew about our wool and start again from scratch! At the end of the week we took a practical exam. We were not told what marks we had achieved as that will go towards the final exam in a years time. I do know however that I achieved a high score as our course supervisor hinted so in an e-mail!

July: Hawks Bay Vet Service, Waipukurau. I joined a team of 8 scanners in this Hawk's Bay Veterinary Service learning to scan ewes using various types of ultrasound scanning machine. My main tutor was Dr Richard Lee who is the senior vet at this practice, but I also got the chance to go with some of the other scanning teams to learn how to use different set ups and different machines. My main training was on the BCF Oviscan4, which is the machine we (D.O.A) now have. I also did some training on a Vetscan which is the earlier version of the Oviscan.

The Oviscan4 is a multi-purpose scanner capable of detecting pregnancies in sheep, goats, cows, deer, pigs, horses, cats and dogs.

The benefits to having someone in the islands with the capability to successfully scan sheep, and possibly cows and deer too are huge. A scanning operator cannot only tell if the ewe is pregnant but can also determine the foetal numbers. The implications of this new technology is, for the farmer, wonderful: once he knows the % of lambs scanned he can budget accordingly, he can dump the dry ewes and concentrate on feeding the twins and singles appropriately. Pasture use and implementation of crops can be much easier sorted out. It also points out

anomalies e.g.; the odd huge lamb, which indicates his or his neighbours, ram got to the ewes early. Problems with the pregnancy, re-absorption of the fetus and condition of the ewe. All extremely handy tools for the farmer.

At the conclusion of this training I was presented with a Certificate of Competency and Completion of Training which explains that I am now capable of scanning ~350-400 sheep/hr at an acceptable accuracy of >95%. I learnt and understand the necessary parameters to achieve accurate scanning, basic ewe anatomy and reproductive physiology/anatomy of the uterus and pregnancy/ies, the reasons for scanning and how to use the information it gives – ie; differentials on feed management of singles versus multiple pregnancies.

I was also lucky enough to spend a couple of days with Doug Cartridges sister and husband who run an extremely intensive bull/red deer and sheep farm. My main interest in this visit was to learn about the new "Techno-System". This is a grazing/fencing system that is taking off over there, mainly with the bull and dairy growers but also being picked up by the sheep industry. It's an extraordinary system that has to be seen to be believed! The fencing is all laid down in precise grids using GPS. Electric fencing is laid out and moved without having to get off the quad, which includes not having to open gates, you just drive over them as there's a special attachment running under the bike/rover/tractor. The grazing is worked out to the tiniest detail on how much grass is available, how old the bulls are, how bad the weather is, how much grass per day they get and it all relates to what time of the year it is so will the bulls be on "maintenance" levels or "get fat" levels to get ready for sale. Oh, and there's even special insulated wellies so that you don't get zapped with huge shocks all the time!

On my last night, in Auckland, I met up with Quintin Lichtwark, the accountant with Pacific Basin Exports Ltd. We send all our core samples to New Zealand with this firm and they courier any other materials we require. The meeting was basically just to meet up and form introductions and we had a few items to discuss on our present payment system.

EQUINE DENTISTRY

By Elaine Turner

Things are really hectic up here. I get up at 0600 and go and have coffee and then get to class for 0800, then I don't get out of class until after 5pm. Sometimes later. I love it here. The instructors are great and really know their stuff and everyone is really friendly. The first week we spent 2 half days in class and then half a day in the wet lab (a big building with 15 stalls in for doing the dentistry) getting our first glimpse of horse dentistry and

then on Thursday and Friday we were in the wet lab all day working on horses. I was in a stall with Liz Fletcher, an American qualified equine dentist and Jose, a Spanish second time student. Liz is our stall leader and is really patient and explains everything really well.

I have worked on 5 horses so far and have floated some teeth, pulled two incisor caps (milk teeth) and burred down 4 canine teeth with the electric dremel. That was a bit scary. I really enjoyed pulling the teeth as they were right at the front so I could see what I was doing. I am still a bit nervous about floating the teeth as it is hard to keep the float at the right angle and on the teeth all the time.

I have only had my hand squashed so far, no fingers bitten. I don't think anyone has been bitten bad so far but I guess it would be hard to be bitten good! I love it and truly think I have found my calling. I can't wait to get home and check all our horses teeth. One of the horses we had to work on was a little white pony called Granite. He was 27 years old and hardly had any teeth as the last time he was here they pulled 6 of them out. We sedated him as we thought we had to pull one out but decided to leave him as the sedative hit him really hard and he looked drunk when he left. The guy that owns him feeds him a special mash and he is really fat. All the horses that we work on are sedated which is good as when they move around it is quite dangerous, especially if you have your hand right in their mouth.

On Monday or Tuesday we have to stand up in class and give a case review of the horses we have been working on in front of everyone which I am not looking forward to at all. On the first day we had to stand up and introduce ourselves and I just said, "My name is Elaine Turner and I am from the Falkland Islands. I have been around horses all my life and I love them and want to do what I can to make their life comfortable". The place where I am staying is so nice. It is right on the Snake River and the scenery is beautiful. I am staying with a lady called Joanne Lanham. It only takes me about 10 minutes to walk to school. There are another 2 people staying there as well so I usually get a lift in the morning as it is still dark when we leave the house and quite cold.

I have only got one more week of the course left now so I want to take in as much as possible. The equipment is really good. The burrs are awesome, especially for getting rid of hooks and ramps and putting bit seats in. Doing the incisor work takes no time at all with a dremel. One of the horses we worked on had a slight parrot mouth so we just cut the teeth down and gave them a better angle. It only took five minutes whereas it would have taken ages with a float.

Well, I had better go and leave it there for now. More another day.

DAIRY HYGIENE

By Stephen Pointing

Milk from the dairy at Beckside Farm is routinely tested at the pathology laboratory at KEMH to make sure that it is fit for human consumption. With the start of the cruise ship season it would seem sensible to check that milk being provided for "cream teas" at some of the settlements around the Islands was also checked to make sure that the milk supplied is "wholesome".

I would ask all of you who have your own dairies supplying fresh milk to cruise passengers that you review your current practices and ensure that milk is produced in a hygienic fashion. Pay particular attention to the cleanliness of any equipment and storage vessels that are used. I can hear many of you saying "I've drunk that milk all my life and never had a day's sickness". I don't dispute that that may be the case but your body has had time to adapt to the local "bugs" whereas visitors may be coming into contact with them for the first time. So please don't be too complacent and don't feel you've been "picked on" if you are asked to supply a milk sample for analysis.

RAM FETCHES £100,000 AT AUCTION

Source - The Daily Mail

A ram has proved that some animals are more equal than others by selling for a record £101,000 at auction.

Brackenber Bronco, an 18 month-old Swaledale, was sold by a farmer who lost 4000 sheep during the foot and mouth crisis.

The auction was held at Kirkby Stephen, in Cumbria, the county worst affected by the outbreak. It is thought to be the first 6 figure fee ever paid for a ram. Richard Hutchinson, who bought the ram with another farmer, said: "It's like thoroughbred horses. Arabs pay millions for the best blood and it is the same with sheep. Prices have shot up since foot and mouth. The compensation payments do not cover how much we are having to pay to restock."

Arthur Slack, 61, who sold the ram, said it was lucky to survive the foot and mouth cullings. "It's a fantastic feeling to sell a ram for that kind of money," he said. "We lost 4000 sheep during foot and mouth but luckily this ram's mother survived while she was carrying him."

THE GREEN MACHINE HAS LANDED

By Malcolm Ashworth

As many of you will know I have been saying for a long time to anyone who would listen that if farmers want to get on with pasture improvements they need to stop messing about with 80HP tractors and 70" rotavators, and get stuck in with some big kit. I've now had to put my money where my mouth is and after many weeks of hints and speculation it's here. I've taken the plunge and bought a 120" rotavator and a 165HP Deutz tractor to drag it along. By the time you read this I will hopefully have already left my mark on some areas as early test runs indicate that I should be able to cover almost a hectare an hour. I think the biggest problem will be making sure I have enough fuel for the brute!

For the technical minded it's a Deutz Agrotion 165 with a 6-cylinder turbocharged engine. It's got a 6 speed gearbox with 4 Powershift ranges and Powershuttle giving 24F and 24R gears, plus a creeper box taking the total to 40 gears in both directions. Top speed is 50kph. Like virtually all big tractors nowadays it's got lots of electronics to go wrong but I've got the diagnostics kit which I'm hoping I won't need. I've had a front 3-point linkage fitted to allow me to take a transport box of fuel with me and I've fitted a reversible fan to blow back through the radiators to try and prevent them clogging up with dust and debris. The cost - ask your local Deutz dealer!

The rotavator is a 120" Standen (formally Dowdeswell) model 180 and is fitted with a heavy duty gearbox and gear drive to the rotor.

No doubt you'll see me around but if you're really interested I'll come and do your pasture improvements for you!

You probably also know by now that I do the DoA pool machinery repairs/servicing on East Falkland, so if you have any problems with pool machinery please give me a ring on 32277 and I'll come and try to get you mobile again pdq. By the way, if you hear of a company called White Rose Farming it's me!!



EFFECT OF AVERAGE TEMPERATURES ON LAMB MARKING % IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Niilo Gobius

Recently, I have been analysing some weather data obtained from MPA with the aim of relating weather to animal production in the Falklands. Given the dryness of last summer, I wanted to investigate whether the climatic conditions of the previous summer could be related to marking percentages in the islands.

Using the annual Farming Statistics and only going back as far as 1993, marking percentages were calculated from the number of ewes mated and the number of lambs marked in the Falklands. I then investigated the relationship between marking % and average measurements for temperature, wind, rainfall, sunshine, hail and snow at different times of the year.

Poor relationships existed between marking % and the weather conditions of the previous summer. However, a very good correlation exists between marking % and the 'temperatures in late winter' before lambing.

Surprisingly, there was little relationship between marking % and any of the other weather variables, except for 'hours of sunshine' and the 'number of days that wind speed reached 33 knots'. The relationship of the latter two were not nearly as strong as with temperature.

The best variable to correlate with marking % was a combination of the average temperatures for the July to September and the July to October periods, the average maximum temperature for the July to September period and the average minimum temperature for July to October period. I will call this the 'Combo' temperature. A correlation coefficient of 87.6% was found to exist marking % and the Combo temperature. This means that the annual change in the Combo temperature between July and October can explain nearly 88% of the annual change in marking %. If the data from months either side of the July to October period is included the relationship falls away.

The closeness of the relationship can be seen in Figure 1 below. The orange line shows the annual change in the Combo temperature for the July to October period and the light blue line represents the annual change in marking %.

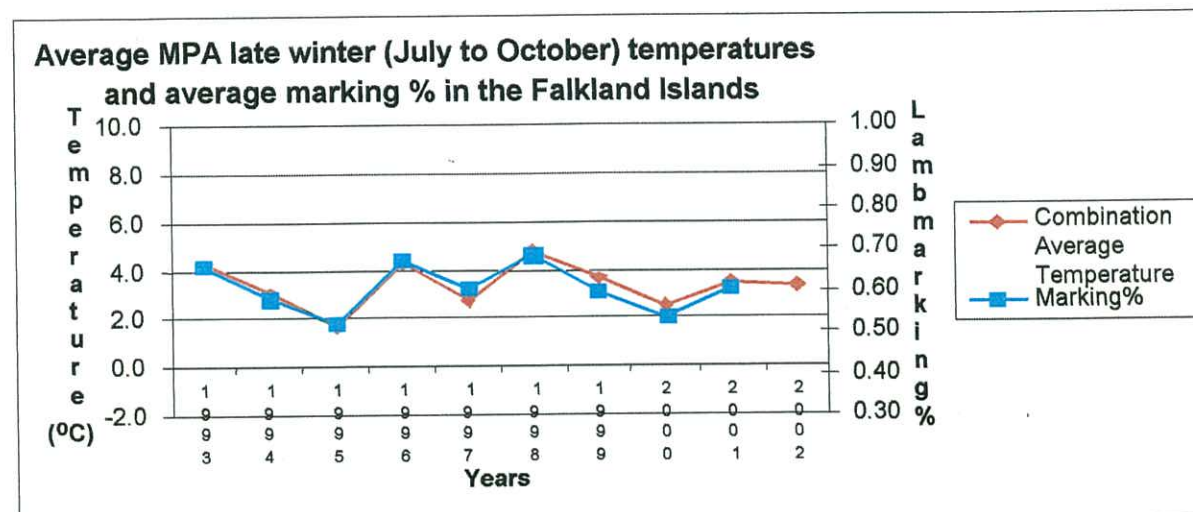


Figure 1: The relationship between average lamb marking % and late winter temperatures.

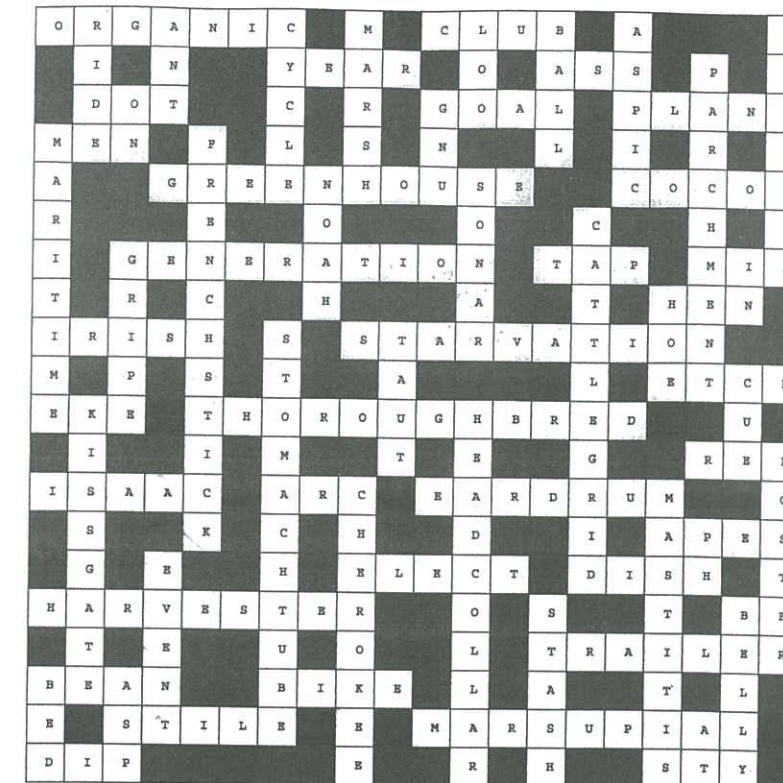
We can calculate from the data that a one-degree change in the Combo temperature between July and October is associated with a 6% change in marking %. What this means is that by knowing what this years Combo temperature is for the July-October period I could attempt to predict what the marking % will be for this year. Talk about sticking my neck on the chopping board! Anyway here goes. Given that the Combo temperature stayed the same this year as last year (Figure 1) we could expect the same marking % as last year - around 60%.

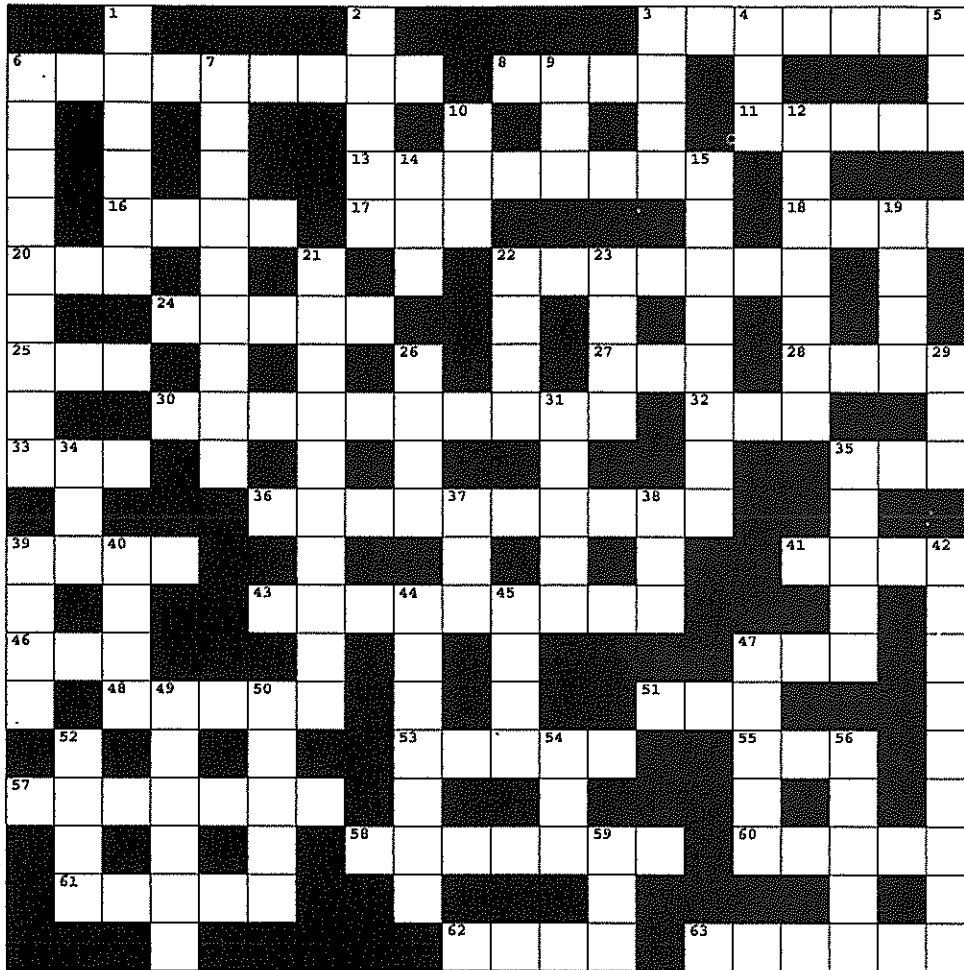
Because the correlation coefficient is 87.6%, I should be about 88% sure of my prediction. However, given last summers dryness and lack of pasture growth, as well as talk of low marking %'s already in some areas I am a bit nervous. We'll have to wait until next years Farming Statistics to find out.

I must qualify that the effect of temperature is not just a direct effect on the ewe and lamb, but also has a major effect on the growth of pasture. Pasture growth will keep the ewe in good condition and milk production, with follow-on effects on the lamb.

As mentioned previously, when including data from either side of the July to October period the relationship between temperature and marking % is much lower. This most likely means that if lambing was delayed until November, as I suggested in last months Wool Press, the effect of temperature on marking % is going to be less severe. This will be through warmer temperatures providing greater pasture growth and a reduction in the direct impacts on sheep survival.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION





ACROSS

3. THE PLACE FOR A GOOD SOAK
6. USUALLY EATEN AT XMAS(5,4)
8. GRASS THAT PRODUCES EDIBLE GRAINS
11. SWEET TOPPING FOR CAKES
13. SMALL ONIONS
16. TYPE OF CHEESSE
17. LONG THIN ROOT
18. TO COOK BY LONG SLOW SIMMERING
20. KNIGHTED TITLE
22. MADE TO BE DUNKED
24. BAKED FOOD, USUALLY IN A LOAF OR LAYER
25. VASELIKE VESSEL
27. TYPE OF COOKER
28. METAL CORROSION
30. SURFACE FOR COOKING BISCUITS ON (6,4)
32. THE ALMIGHTY
33. CONSUME
35. WHAT A JELLY HAS TO DO
36. CARROTS, POTATOES ETC
39. SEEDS OFTEN FED TO HORSES
41. FLOPPY OR HARD MAYBE
43. NOT SWEETCREAM!
46. ISLANDER DUE TIME?
47. TYPE OF SAUCE
48. KITCHEN BEATER
51. COOK IN OIL
53. SALT WATER SOLUTION
55. DARK ALCOHOLIC DRINK
57. A THIN STREAM OF LIQUID
58. FRUIT PUDDING TOPPING
60. BAKED DOUGH COVERED WITH CHEESE AND TOMATO
61. FOOD MADE FROM A DOUGH
62. TRADITIONALLY XMAS DINNER FOOD
63. PRESERVE IN VINEGAR

DOWN

1. FISHERMAN
2. RISING AGENT
3. MIX VIGOROUSLY
4. PERTAINING TO THREE
5. PEAT AREA
6. USUALLY EATEN WITH LAMB
7. ENVELOPES OF MINCEMEAT ETC
9. UNWELL
10. LARGE BREAD ROLL
12. BAKED MIXTURE OF EGGS AND MILK
14. PIG LEG
15. LONG MEAT TUBES
19. COMMON COOKING INGREDIENT
21. COOKING INSTRUCTION MANUAL
22. ALCOHOLIC DRINK
23. REMAIN
26. TO STARE
29. SMALL DRINK
31. WALK LEISURELY
34. ALTERNATIVELY KNOWN AS
35. HEAVILY SEASONED
37. SPECIAL ATTENTION
38. TREE TYPE
39. BAKING SPACE
40. DEFROST
42. SWEET DEEP BROWN COLOURED FOOD
44. GREEN OR RED ACID TASTING STALKS
45. RESCUE BOAT CHARITY
47. DISSOLVED, FLAVOURED SUGAR
49. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF ISRAEL
50. CAN BE GREEN, PASTA, RICE ETC
52. MARINE CRUSTACEAN
54. POINT OF A PEN
56. BACKGROUND AND PHONE QUEUE RECORDED MUSIC
59. THROW