The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

As I'm sure some of you will have heard by now, Mandy and I are going to be moving towards the end of the month. Not far, just back to the Ag Department. As all the Wool Press covers for this year were printed when I was in Oz they have our FIDC e-mail addresses and phone/fax numbers on them. I'm sure you all know the Ag Department phone/fax numbers and I will let you know our e-mail addresses as soon as we do!

This month we have a joke instead of a cartoon courtesy of Steve. It's quite an old joke but rather amusing all the same.

Lastly, Happy New Year to one and all.

When The Customer Doubts Your Experience

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary clinic. She lay her pet on the table and the vet listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, Polly has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet, having encountered disbelieving customers many times before, sighed, turned and left the room, returning a few moments later with a black Labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on it's hind legs, put it's front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot. The dog looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook it's head. The vet patted the dog and took it out, but returned a few moments later with a cat. The cat jumped up and also sniffed delicately at the ex-bird. The cat sat back, shook it's head, meowed and ran out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry but like I said, your parrot is most definitely 100% certifiably dead." He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, produced a bill and handed it to the woman.

The parrot's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "$150!" she cried. "$150 just to tell me my bird is dead?!"

The vet shrugged. "If you'd taken my word for it the bill would only have been for $20, but what with the Lab report and the Cat scan.....

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Falklands Organic News & Information

January 2003

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS FROM FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION STAFF

CONSUMERS BELIEVE ORGANICS IS HEALTHIER

Consumers are buying food because they believe that it is 'healthier' and better for them. It is also one of the main reasons why non-buyers would consider buying organic food.

The findings, in a reissued 2001 UK survey, appear to indicate that consumers believe that organic foods have clear benefits, despite the lack of hard evidence in many areas to back these up.

A workshop called the country's Food Standard Agency (FSA), will this month consider health claims for organic food. The FSA has up until now maintained a steadfastly sceptical view.

The researchers asked a series of searching questions to 600 shoppers in three parts of the UK. They found that, of organic food buyers, the overwhelming reason for purchase was that organic food had "no pesticides or chemicals" (90%).

This was closely following by organic foods being:

- Healthier-80%
- Better for the environment-86%
- Better for me-86%
- Better for animal welfare-80%

A massive three-quarters of existing buyers (76%) believed that organic food 'tastes better'. A similar proportion also believed organic food was safer, and that it was free of genetically modified food ingredients.

Most non-buyers backed the first four claims. Fewer (28%) supported the view that organic food tastes better, "presumably because they had not tasted organic foods and cold not make a comparison", says researchers.

Source:
World Organic News, Published by Agra Europe (London) Ltd.
Tel: 1892 533813

LONG ISLAND FARM

Organic Certification No. FI 009

www.fidc.co.fk

Long Island farm has been owned by Neil and Glenda Watson since April 1980, and is a very traditional 7100 ha farm. Traditions such as horseback gathering of their 3,000 sheep is still a major part of daily life also milking the morning cows for making butter, milk and cream, and their dedication to planting their vegetable gardens giving them a constant supply of organic fresh vegetables for their own consumption and family.

Long Island farm certified Organic in December 2002 has never had any pasture improvement, dipping, pesticides, or other chemical usage of any kind since the Watsons bought it.

The animals have a constant supply of good natural feed and clear running water streams through each 'camp' (another word for large field). Rotation of the flocks into spelled 'camps' is constant. Shearing of their sheep is done by a neighbouring farmer, and is done with maximum care so as not to stress or cut the animals.

Long Island farm is situated on the East Falklands and is a picturesque location of long white sand beaches. A small island off the main farm that holds sheep over the winter months has lush green natural grasses and small amount of tussac plantation. This gives any animal over the winter months shelter and plenty of food.

The Watson's are also introducing tourist parties to their beautiful farm who will have the chance to experience the traditional of Falklands culture and an organic experience.

Photographs can be sourced from : **www.fidc.co.fk**

Contact details: Neil and Glenda Watson, Long Island Farm, East Falklands.
Telephone/fax: 31117

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.agra-net.com

Email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

CORRECTION TO LAST MONTHS WOOL PRESS:

Crooked Inlet does not have Corriedale sheep they have 3300 Polwarth. Apologies to everyone who spotted my huge mistake.

NOTICE

Do you want to sell lambs as organic through the abattoir in 2003?

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

WIRRIBILLA WITH WARREN

By Nyree Heathman

As I mentioned last month, after my AI course was finished I stayed with Warren Nancarrow for a few more days to assist him with a programme he was running. Moona Plains, where the cows were, was right on the edge of the Tablelands. To look down and see a 2000ft drop is quite awesome, and a bit scary! It was also a good hour and a half away from Warren's house. Warren did his best to do this trip in an hour though and went flat out the whole way never looking where he was going. Charging around an 85kph corner doing 140kph in the middle of the road and coming face to face with a Ute, a Grader and a car definitely wasn't the highlight of my stay in Australia. Warren seemingly oblivious to the danger he was putting us in simply swerved across to our side of the road and carried on at exactly the same pace. By this stage my nerves were in tatters and I was doing my best NOT to look where we were going, or to scream every time we charged around another corner. The though of doing this trip twice a day for the next 3 days wasn't good to say the least.

Somehow we arrived in one piece and got on with injecting the cows. Warren does everything like he drives, flat out, and we had the job done in no time. Another hair-raising hour and we were back home. When Justin, Warren's son, asked how the trip had been I replied, "Quick." He then just about split his sides laughing and gleefully informed me that he never travelled with Warren as he was dangerous and couldn't see where he was going. Thanks Justin – only another 3 days to go.

Anyway, after we had finished one day we went to Wirribilla to visit one of the guys who had been on my AI course to drop off some semen for him. Either Warren is totally blind or he just ignores all road signs. We approached a steep concrete ramp that led to a little stream in the bottom with another concrete ramp on the other side. Huge SLOW signs were clearly visible before the ramp. Barely slowing up at all we flew down the ramp and through the stream. I'm sure the bumper nearly touched the ground on the other side. Miraculously the liquid nitrogen all stayed in the tank and we roared on down the road.

After half an hour of chasing cows we both completely forgot the reason for going to see Mick and hurtled off again with the tank of semen still in the back of Warren's Shogun. Once again we attacked the ramp as fast as our little wheels would carry us. This time we were well and truly airborne and came down to earth again with a bone shaking thud. Warren didn't even seem to notice this and carried on full pelt before suddenly slamming on the breaks and nearly sticking me out of the windscreen when he remembered the semen. Back through the stream twice more and we were off for home.

One of the most unnerving things that Warren does when he is driving is to steer with his knees whilst eating his sandwiches. Most people slow down, a little at least, whilst attempting this rather dangerous operation. Not Warren! After the first couple days I opted for staring out of the side window when he was doing this so that I couldn't see the on coming road. I spent a lot of time looking out of the side window. Lovely scenery though!

Eventually insemination day dawned. 0530 and I was sitting at the kitchen table eating my toast feeling well chuffed because I was actually up before Warren for once when Justin casually announced that he was actually outside Aling a few cows. ******! Out I wandered to find Warren with his arm up a very expensive cow full of the joys of spring. Does he not know what time it is???

0630 and we hurtled out to Moona Plains yet again to be met by a cheery faced Rob who, thankfully, already had the cows in the yards for us. Me, with two semen tanks and no idea who's cows were who's (some were Rob's and some Warren's) started thawing semen as fast as I could in an attempt to keep up with Warren, who as per usual was going flat out. Half way through the morning Kylie, Rob's wife, brought the kids out to see what we were doing. Daughter One stared straight at a couple of riding cows and said, "Mummy, why is that cow on top of the other one?" Kylie, without missing a beat simply replied, "So it can see over the fence Dear." Apparently that is what Kylie's Dad used to tell her when she was a little girl! Answers the question I suppose.

Anyway, cows all finished we trundled up to the house for a BBQ in the sunshine before another hair-raising trip back to Armidale. Thankfully the last. Time to start looking forward to another 5 hours on the train to get back to Tocal!

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTS OF PLANTS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) would like to remind persons intending to bring /import plant materials (e.g. vegetables, fruits or plants) to the Islands that they must apply to the DoA for a Plant Import Permit. This must be done before the consignment leaves the country of export e.g. U.K/ Chile. A permit is not required for an import of seed or processed plant materials.

The issue of a Permit is conditional upon;

□ the production of a Phytosanitary Certificate for the consignment. This certificate is usually issued by the government of the country of origin (e.g. DEFRA in UK, SAG in Chile) following an inspection to ensure the consignment is free from pests and diseases.
□ the consignment being free from soil,
□ the produce passing inspection by FIG plant inspectors on arrival in the Islands.

For further details and to make applications please contact the DoA on Tel: 27355, Fax: 27352 or email doa.fig@horizon.co.fk

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to maintain the relatively free pest and disease status of the Falkland Islands.

HYDATIDS – THE NEW ZEALAND SITUATION COMPARED WITH THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Stephen Pointing

New Zealand has finally declared itself provisionally free of hydatids in 2002, sixty-four years after starting a control programme. The rest of this article is taken from an extract from the NZ MAF Biosecurity magazine (Issue 38, Sept 2002) outlining the history of hydatid eradication in New Zealand. I thought it would be interesting to compare their rate of progress with ours in the Falkland Islands.

1965 – Tapeworm Eradication (Dogs) Order No 1; allowed for the purging of dogs with arecoline acetarsol (Tenoban) but did not mention any restriction on the feeding of offal.

1970 - Tapeworm Eradication (Dogs) Order No 2; Treatment changed to a new preferred drug (bunamidine hydrochloride- Scolaban) and for the first time restrictions were introduced on feeding, prohibiting the feeding of livers, lungs and hearts unless they had been stored in a dog-proof container for 28 days (Note from SWP – I'd be amazed if any self respecting dog would want to eat offal after being stored at ambient temperature for 28 days!). This order prohibited the presence of dogs during slaughtering, and imposed a fine of £25.00 for offences against the order.

1975 – Hydatids Eradication (Dogs) Order; this further specified aspects of offal disposal, dog control (dogs tied up when not in use) and the maximum penalties for offences against the Order increased to £500-00.

1977 – introduction of another new drug – praziquantel (Droncit) – this was used on a six weekly basis and has been continued up to the present day. Droncit and Drontal are the treatments still currently being used.

1981 – Hydatid Eradication (Dogs) Order 1981 – this is the Order currently in force. It tidied up some of the previous legislation and introduced yet stiffer penalties for offences against the Order.

So, as you can see, we have been actively trying to eradicate the disease since 1965 compared with New Zealand starting an eradication programme in 1938. I hope it won't take until 2029 (64 years from our starting point) to be able to declare the Falkland Islands free of hydatids. I'm sure we're almost there and data coming from the abattoir so far would indicate that this appears to be the case.

Since the abattoir began operating (in Sep 2001) the following numbers of stock have been killed (to Dec 3rd 2002):-

Sheep 5,081
Cattle 66
Pigs 19

No hydatids have been found in any of them so far!

HYDATIDS PROVISIONAL FREEDOM DECLARED

Source – MAF Biosecurity (Issue 38)

Although New Zealand is provisionally free from hydatids, continued controls and vigilance are needed to stop the disease coming back. A significant milestone had been reached with Dr Derek Belton, Director of Animal Biosecurity declaring New Zealand provisionally free from hydatids.

Dr Belton says surveillance results over the past decade indicate that hydatids has been all but eradicated from New Zealand. Given the long life cycle of the disease, however, it would be premature to declare full freedom. Instead MAF has chosen to declare provisional freedom. If after a further 5 years of surveillance, we find no evidence of any further hydatids, we will be in a position to make a case for full country freedom.

In the meantime, New Zealand will continue to look for hydatid cysts in animals at abattoirs and export meat works and the finding of any cysts will trigger a response just as it does now. In effect, over the last decade we have been managing hydatids as if it were an exotic disease. The obligations regarding home killing and dog feeding will be maintained. These obligations are contained in a controlled area notice under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

As long as live animals are imported, there will always be a risk of re-introducing the parasite because hydatids is widespread in the world. Import health standards will have measures to prevent the importation of hydatids and all imported sheep, goats, deer and cattle must be identified so we can distinguish between domestically acquired and imported infections.

- Hydatids is widespread in the world and eradication has only been attempted on Islands such as Iceland, the Falkland Islands, Cyprus, Tasmania and New Zealand.

- The disease is caused by the tapeworm Echinoccuccus granulosus which lives in the gut of dogs. It's life cycle also involves an intermediate host, which in the case of New Zealand is mainly sheep, and also to a lesser extent, cattle. Pigs and deer are rarely involved. Humans are also a host.

- The only way to detect infection in sheep and cattle is by examination of the offal of slaughtered animals.

- In 2001, seven human cases of hydatidosis were notified to MAF in New Zealand, in people aged between 44 and 72 years. Several of these people are considered likely to have become infected as children on farms where they grew up.

Hydatids – Countdown to zero in New Zealand:-

1830's: Hydatids probably introduced in imported sheep.
1862: First human case diagnosed in Dunedin.
1934: Department of Hydatid Research established at Otago Medical School.
1938: Dog Registration (Prevention of Disease) Regulations 1938.
- Arecoline tablets supplied to dog owners at registration.

1940: Regulations passed to make feeding of raw offal to dogs illegal.
1946: Peak human incidence of 7.2 cases per 100,000 per year.
1958: Up to 80% of sheep and about 10% of dogs (up to 37% of rural dogs) infected.
1959: Hydatids Act 1959 –
- hydatids defined as Echinococcus granulosus (true hydatids) and Taenia hydatigena (false hydatids).
- National Hydatids Council Established
- illegal to feed raw offal to dogs.
- beginning of national programme of arecoline testing dogs.
- 440 voluntary farmers' committees operating throughout the country.
- acceptance by local Gov't to administer the control scheme.

1968: Hydatids Act 1968 –
- Taenia ovis (sheep measles) included in the definition of hydatids.

1972: Introduction of treatment of dogs with niclosamide.
- 6-weekly for rural dogs.
- 6-monthly for urban dogs.
- Periodic check testing with arecoline maintained.

1978: Niclosamide replaced by praziquantel for dog dosing. No change to dosing regime.
1979: Post-mortem inspection of sheep by MAF to identify hydatids cases. Stock infection traceback scheme introduced.
1982: Dog Control and Hydatids Act 1982 –
- Restriction on feeding untreated sheep and goat meat to dogs

1983: Meat industry establishes Ovis committee.
1990: Last true outbreak of E. granulosus, movement control imposed on the infected farms.
1991: National Hydatids Council disbanded, responsibility for eradication passed to MAF.
1993: Biosecurity Act 1993 –
- T. hydatigena (false hydatids) removed from the definition of hydatids.
- end to compulsory dog treatments.
- movement control imposed on farms in 1990 lifted.

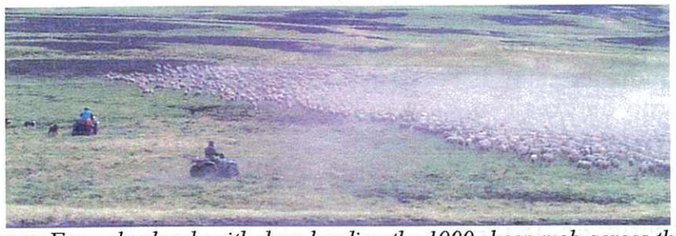
1994: Work begins on pest management strategy for E. granulosus (true hydatids).
1995: Fertile E. granulosus cysts found in three sheep from one property on Arapawa Islands – movement control imposed on the whole Island.
1996: Saved parts of the Dog Control and Hydatids Act 1982 and the associated 1985 regulations lapse.
Removal of restrictions on feeding of sheep and goat meat to dogs.
Controlled Area notice under Biosecurity Act 1993 for all of New Zealand continuing the restrictions on feeding raw offal (liver and lungs) of ruminants and pigs to dogs.
MAF decision not to progress pest management strategy, instead using Part VI powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Ovis stock infection traceback system becomes the responsibility of Ovis Management Ltd.
1999: First year that no hydatids cases were detected at slaughter in New Zealand – born animals.
2001: Movement control lifted of Arapawa Island.
2001: No cases of hydatids detected in any animals at slaughter.
2002: MAF declares provisional freedom, but Controlled Area notice under the Biosecurity Act remains in place for all of New Zealand, requiring offal of ruminants and pigs to be cooked before it is fed to dogs.

RECOVERING BURNT CAMP BY OVERSOWING AND SHEEP TRAMPLING – PROMISING BUT PATCHY RESULTS!

By Aidan Kerr

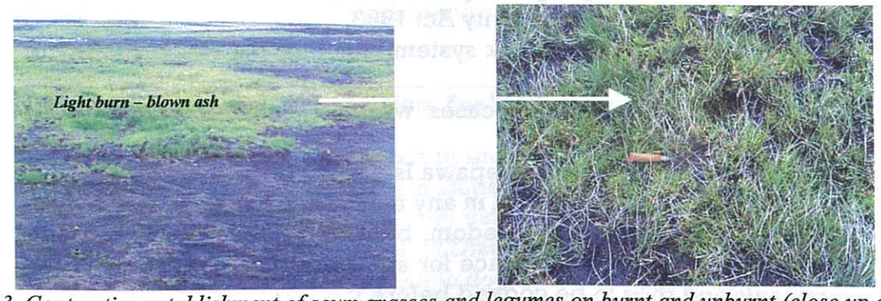
Regular readers will recall my reports (WP Jan. 2001 and Feb. 2002) on the promising results using simple low cost techniques for pasture establishment. This article reports progress on restoring burnt Whitegrass camp near Fitzroy using similar methods.

A demonstration trial was laid down on 15 ha of burnt (in 2001-2) camp on FLH Fitzroy Farm and on George Butler's adjacent plot. The purpose was to see if oversowing followed by sheep trampling would benefit pasture recovery. The site lies west of the '50-acre' plots on the west side of the Stanley-MPA road between Fitzroy Ridge and the former 'Great Britain Hotel'. The co-operation of the property owners, FLH staff and DoA's Andy Pollard and Tim Bonner is gratefully acknowledged.



1. FLH Fitzroy Farm shepherds with dogs herding the 1900 sheep mob across the trial site.

In February 2002 a mixture of grass and inoculated legume seeds was sown at 9.5 kg/ha on 15 ha using a tractor-mounted broadcaster. Additionally, Alan Eagle mowed about 2 ha of unburnt Whitegrass within the area to see if this and the resulting mulch benefited pasture establishment. Then in very dry and dusty conditions, two shepherds on quad bikes and their dogs herded about 1900 sheep around the 7 ha of the site for about an hour (photo 1). Consequently, this area was well trampled and good contact between the soil and seeds was achieved, particularly in the thick ash. Another 3 ha of the sown area was not trampled by the sheep. These 10 ha were then destocked. In contrast, the remaining oversown and trampled 5 ha was left open so that sheep could trample and graze the area as normal. Finally, in April, 'Triple Super Phosphate' fertiliser was broadcast over the site at about 25 kg/P/ha.



2&3. Contrasting establishment of sown grasses and legumes on burnt and unburnt (close up on right) Whitegrass camp.

4. Better establishment occurred where the fire was less intense and better soil remained.

Recently, Andy and I inspected the site and both of us were pleased with the promising results. Establishment of the grasses and Balansa Clover was very good in the thick ash that had accumulated in unburnt or lightly burnt Whitegrass (photos 2 & 3). In contrast few plants had grown on areas where the fire and subsequent erosion was most intense. The soil surface in these areas remains as hard as 'concrete' and establishment of any plant is likely to be slow in the next few years. If these areas do not become naturally covered in less preferred plants, such as Sheep's Sorrel, Diddle-dee or Christmas Bush, I would expect them to erode further and become clay patches. However in some burnt areas where the fire was less intense and where more soil and moisture remain, establishment of the sown grasses has also been promising (see photo 4).

Also, so far it would seem that the lack of trampling at sowing and the sheep grazing since then has adversely affected the sown grasses and legumes. However, there were some good patches particularly where sowing rates may have been accidentally heavier. To date the mowing and mulching has had no obvious effects. We will continue to monitor grass and legume establishment on this site, as effects of the various treatments may become more visible over the rest of this and subsequent seasons.

I have no doubt that the accidental fire caused extensive damage to the pastures and soils in this area. Their future ability to feed livestock for profitable wool and meat production and to cover the land would seem to have been greatly reduced. Recovery will not be easy nor quick and restoration using both seeds and fertilisers on such large areas would not seem to be economically justified. Obviously, better control of fires in camp is needed if such damage is to be prevented from occurring again. I hope that the new 'Grass Fires Ordinance 2002' will help achieve this aim.

ATTENTION ALL FARMERS

Stanley Services would like to inform farmers that there will be **NO North bound voyage in February.** Could you all please make arrangements to have your wool on the January or March voyages.

For further information please contact Chris Biggs at Stanley Services on 22622 or e-mail cbiggs@stanley-services.co.fk

WHO AM I? WHERE AM I FROM? WHY AM I HERE?

By Connie Stevens

That's part of what Nyree thought I might write about in this introductory article. So where do I start and is there really any hope for me? I am here on a two year contract (all contract worker jokes to Goose News please) AND on top of that I am Welsh (someone has to be) and I am well accustomed to jokes about sheep, shepherds, rugby players and generally being a 'Taffy'. So a contract worker and Welsh to boot!

The first part of Nyree's request is easy – why am I here? I am the newly appointed Marketing Manager for FIDC. Having arrived in the Islands with my husband in early October, I spent the first couple of weeks meeting people and finding my way around. I still have not seen as much as I need to, as my role involves the positioning, promotion, and selling of all that's good and marketable within these uniquely spectacular islands and the best way to learn about anything new is to experience it all first hand, which is what I am attempting to do.

In my very short time here I have enjoyed a number of Falklands experiences including ... Camp driving (the best bit - being bogged, has escaped me thus far, but I'm sure I will experience my fair share); I have thoroughly enjoyed the ace-skills of the FIGAS pilots; I have first-hand experience of FIDC's General Manager's driving skills (was that a handbrake turn Richard, or just a touch too much throttle - but then again, rumour has it that the Chief Exec's driving is THE most legendary – any informative tales to the Wool Press editor please); I have helped out with gathering; rickled peat; I have cleared the landing strips of both geese and sheep; I have hooked up the fire tender; transported the tourists - to name but a few of the everyday occurrences. What's even more perverse is the fact that I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

My marketing role will encompass so many aspects/products of the Falkland Islands – including meat, aquaculture, knitwear, yarn, tourism, Camp projects, PR; specialist foods, seafood; etc and also the marketing of the Falklands Finest quality marque, which provides an opportunity to promote the 'clean and green' attributes of the Islands.

There are so many aspects of life here that hold a great fascination to new arrivals to the islands, and these are often just everyday occurrences to those who live here. But we should not underestimate their value, especially to tourists, who are completely enthralled, especially by some of the daily routine of life in camp. Fresh eyes can be a good thing, and can serve to remind us not to take things for granted.

One of my immediate priorities is to sell our Falkland Islands meat for export, and I can say, that at the time of writing this article just a few days after we have received EU approval for the abattoir, there is much interest in what we have to offer. There are, naturally, some essential requirements from the UK meat importers – quality, sustainable, regular and consistent delivery of product, appropriate standards of packaging and professionally butchered meat to name but a few. Our first consignments to the UK must meet these minimum expected criteria and we must continue to deliver on all fronts if we are to receive repeat orders and are to establish the Falkland Islands as professional exporters of meat into the EU. Initially we are focussing on the boned-out mutton market, which goes predominantly into the processed/kebab trade. Our meat will be compared especially to the New Zealand exported meat within this commercial sector.

In this first season we are all on a steep learning curve, and we must ensure that we get the maximum benefit for the Islands. We have to form trading relations that will stand us in good stead in future years. I cannot hide the fact that shipping frequencies is a concern, as all the importers will demand regular deliveries, especially as we have such a short season. To be taken seriously as an exporter of meat we do need to ensure that we have the ability to get the meat out of the islands regularly.

Beyond this market sector, we can look ahead to the Organic Lamb market and here again, there is very stiff competition on the quality front from many countries worldwide, including not just New Zealand, but also my own native Welsh Lamb (our rugby may have deteriorated but our lamb is still among the finest). On a serious note, we have great potential is this arena, not just to sell to a commercial 'wholesale' market, but with some creative brand development and the provision of top quality meat, we could see Falkland Islands 'branded' Lamb in the consumer display cabinets of major retailers.

In addition to the meat, tourism also offers the Falklands great opportunities that provide island-wide benefits. The long-term viability of Camp is highlighted in the Islands Plan and with the development of tourism throughout the Islands, there is much opportunity in this area, and not just for international tourism, but also for the 'home' market. Early in the new year, I hope to get out to a number of areas in camp where I can see things first hand - and hear things first hand.

The potential for Falkland Islands branded produce and products is very positive and I hope that my commercial background, along with my own personal experiences, will help me to position the strengths of the Falkland Islands wherever and whenever appropriate. Having worked for large multi-national corporations, (including BBC and Virgin), I understand and appreciate the approach required at an international level, but I have also run my own business and have a clear understanding of the daily situations that a 'small' business can face. So I hope to combine the best practise of both areas of experience and apply this to my work here in the Falkland Islands. In addition, for the past four years I was Chairman (or Chairwoman if you prefer) of the St Ives, Cambridgeshire, Town Centre Management Initiative, a government initiative, working in a business development

capacity. During this time I worked with a wide range of companies, from small businesses to major, multi-national plc's - and marketed not just a diverse range of products and services, but also promoted the town as a destination.

I have worked in many industries including publishing, food and pharmaceutical - in one period of my career I had a lengthy involvement with babies as I worked first for Johnson and Johnson in baby foods, (I could have used the out of date milk for pet lambs) then a major pharmaceutical company who were manufacturers of the contraceptive pill (use your own imagination for that one), and then on to a brand-leading Italian company specialising in infertility (stands me in good stead for the embryo transfer programme). Did you know that some infertility drugs are derived from menopausal urine, much of which is sourced from nuns, especially at Italian convents, where large 'vats' are installed for the purpose of collection of this raw ingredient in large quantities? (I await a telephone call from one of the doctors – either to challenge this information or to carry me away in a straight-jacket).

On the personal front, I grew up in North Wales, in a small village in Snowdonia, with a population of approximately 800 people. I became accustomed to living in a 'goldfish bowl' from a very young age, but I also learnt to appreciate the many positive aspects of a close community spirit in a rural environment. My commercial career then took me to many parts of the UK, with a number of years being spent working in London. Latterly, we lived in rural Cambridgeshire for 11 years. For over 12 years, my husband and I have had connections with the Outer Hebrides, and in particular, a small island with a population of just 400. In fact, since we arrived here, we have met someone whos grandfather came from Scalpay and we are trying to get some family contacts from our friends in the Scottish islands.

So here I am in the Falkland Islands, as FIDC Marketing Manager and hoping to use all the positives of my experiences to date to help promote and establish a positive identity for the Falkland Islands and its products. I clearly have much to learn about the characteristics and diversities of these Islands and if I appear a bit 'green' on a local issue, I'm sure someone will soon put me straight - and any support and encouragement will be greatly received! Hopefully I have answered the questions Nyree put to me, of who I am, where I am from and why I am here? As an adjunct to why I am here .. a reliable source has informed me that people who come to the Falkland Islands are either Misfits, Madmen or Missionaries .. I will leave it to you to decide when you meet me, which category I fall into?

In closing, as this is the January issue of The Wool Press and we are currently in the midst of the Season of Goodwill – in my native language, *Blwyddyn Newydd Dda* – a Very Happy New Year!

NEW ELEMENT DISCOVERED!

Courtesy of Sue Halfacre

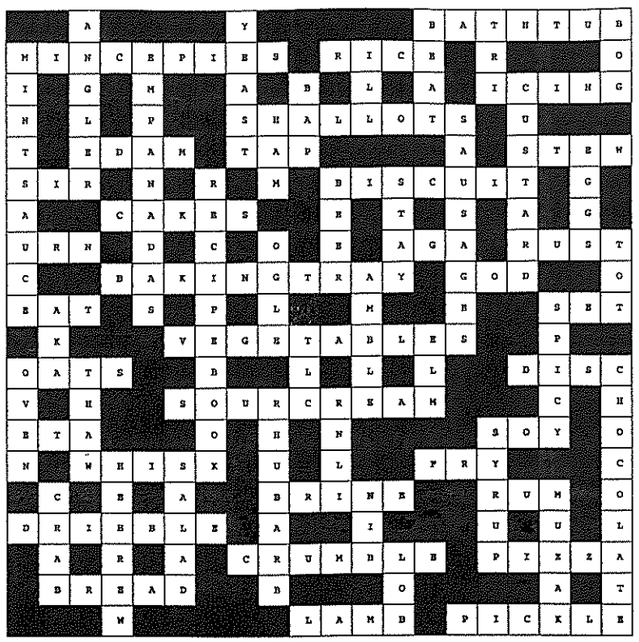
The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by researchers at the University of Fulchester. The element, tentatively named Administratium, has no protons or electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However, it does have 1 neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons and 111 assistant vice neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes in contact with. According to the discoverers, a minute amount of Administratium caused one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would have normally occurred in less than one second. Administratium has a normal half-life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which assistant neutrons, vice neutrons and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. Some studies have shown that the atomic mass actually increases after each reorganisation.

Research at other laboratories indicates that Administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points such as government agencies, large corporations and universities and can usually be found in the newest, best appointed and best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that Administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how Administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising!

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



BEEF CATTLE PERFORMANCE RECORDS

By Doug Martin

What is meant by performance recording?

Proper recording of performance records is very important for a number of reasons.
1.To measure overall efficiency of operations (production and economics).
2. Identification of superior animals for breeding stock.
3. Identification of inferior animals to cull from breeding herd.
4. Help identify management or health problems (i.e. 90% of cows pregnant, but only 50% wean calves - what happened?)

Types of records that are important to monitor in cow-calf operations are:
1. Reproductive performance of breeding animals and overall herd.
2. Growth and size traits of breeding and market animals and overall herd.

Types of traits that might be useful to monitor related to growth and size are:

- Birth weight Average Daily Gain (ADG) and feed efficiency.
- Ratio of weaning weight of calf to that of dam.
- Weaning weight hip height.
- Yearling weight scrotal circumference.

To identify good and bad animals, it is important to compare their performance to the average of the group from which they came - this is done with ratios.

Proper recording of contemporary groups is a must for accurate ratio information. Animals of the same sex and breed type that are similar in age and have been subjected to the same management conditions .

Adjusted (ADJ) birth weight - known differences due to age of dam. This is important due to the relationship to dystocia (difficult calving), but also related to other growth traits

For example:- a heifer calf weighed 38 kg, produced by 3 yr old cow.
ADJ birth weight = 38 + 1.1 or 39.1 Kg (figures taken from performance recording tables)
She is out of a group of heifer calves where the average ADJ birth weight is 36.6 Kg - her ADJ birth weight ratio is:
39.1/36.6 x 100 = 106.8
which means her ADJ birth weight is 6.8% above the calf group (CG) average.

ADJ 205 day weaning weight - differences can be due to age of calf at weaning and age of dam.

For example: Angus bull calf actual birth weight (BWT) 38 Kg
actual weaning weight(WWT) 251 Kg
220 days old at weaning
age of dam(AOD) 4 yr

ADJ 205 day weaning weight = (WWT - BWT)/220 x 205 + BWT + AOD ADJ
age in days
(251 - 38)/220 x 205 + 38 + 31 = 267 kg

This allows for a more fair comparison among calves - adjusted to same age and age of dam basis

ADJ 205 day weaning weight ratio:

Suppose this bull came from a group that averaged 241 kg. ADJ 205 day weight.

His ADJ 205 day weight ratio = 267/241 x 100 = 110.7 (10.7 % over the CG average)

Frame score
- convenient way of describing skeletal size in cattle
- estimates mature body size based on hip height

A Calf's hip height changes as the calf grows, but its frame score should stay about the same throughout its life.

Example: suppose a bull calf is 11 months old and has hip height (HHT) of 130.5 cm - his frame score is 7.0

How about a bull calf that is 14 months old and 132.7 cm ?
We have to determine exactly where between 6.0 and 7.0 he is by interpolation from a chart.

1. Find the difference in range between two boundary HHT values

136 - 131 = 5.0 cm (figures taken from chart)

2. Determine how far into range our observed HHT is (subtract bottom boundary value)

132.7 - 131 = 1.7 cm

3. Put this difference into percent basis (divide by range)

1.7/5 = 0.34 or 34% of the way from 6.0 to 7.0

Frame score = 6.0 + .34 = 6.34

To save working all this out, this data is put into software programmes (such as the Salt Bush Recording Programme) that do all this automatically.

The most important thing to remember is that although this looks complicated it is an important part of genetic improvement, therefore it is important to record the base data described above. This part is not that difficult and simply requires some basic observation.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

By Owen Summers

One of the conditions for gaining E U approval for the Sand Bay Abattoir was the introduction of legislation for monitoring livestock movements within the Falklands.

This legislation has recently just come into being and it is now a legal requirement to tag and record all live sheep that are moved off any farm for whatever reason. This would also include any sheep, which was moved from Farm A to Farm B then back to Farm A again.

The main reasoning behind this requirement is to provide trace-back to farm of origin, in the unlikely event that a problem occurs with meat sold through the abattoir. This system of trace-back is not just from abattoir to farm, but exists from point of sale, which can be anywhere worldwide, to farm of origin.

Given that the abattoir is only licenced for sheep this legislation only applies to sheep at present, the Department of agriculture will be sending copies of the legislation to each farm in due course.

The emphasis for recording livestock movements is through Movement Tags and an accompanying Waybill. The tags have unique lettering, FALK, followed by numbers. The letters FALK are not used as identification for any farms in the Falklands and the legislation now makes it illegal to do so. The numbers simply record the number of each sheep being moved, a record of each movement has to be recorded within DoA.

The effect on the farmer! When you decide to sell sheep to the abattoir, a fellow farmer or even to someone for a pet (Stanley will be treated as a farm) you need to ring the DoA and inform us of your intention to have sheep moved/sold off your farm. You will then be supplied with, a Waybill Book which you will retain, an appropriate number of tags for the sheep being moved and the tag pliers for putting them in. Once the sheep have been tagged you will return any unused tags and the pliers at the first possible opportunity. The Waybill is very much self-explanatory and requires information such as farm of origin, final destination etc.; it must be filled in on the farm prior to departure of the stock being travelled and should accompany the shipment. In hindsight my only criticism of this document is that little room has been left to record animals which might have been tagged prior to shipment and have disappeared from the paddock before the boat/truck got there. My advice would be, for example, to record tags 1 – 100 then put a note underneath to say e.g. nos. 51 or 63 missing etc.

The Waybill has three pages, one is kept on the farm, and the other two accompany the stock. If any sheep fall by the wayside during transportation this should be recorded on the farm, on arrival at the final destination one of the two copies accompanying the stock is retained by the new owners/abattoir the other is sent to the DoA.

In the DoA we will record tags sent out, tags used, tags returned, Waybill numbers and the sheep movements A to B.

In putting this together I have tried to keep it simple, but if anyone needs more information or just want to talk about the process, I suggest you contact the Veterinary Section DoA as it they who will be administering the process, or myself. You may also wish to call David on Saunders, Jimmy at Bold Cove or Rodney at Port Howard as they have already had first hand experience.

RECIPE PAGE

By Michele Evans

YUMMY MINCE

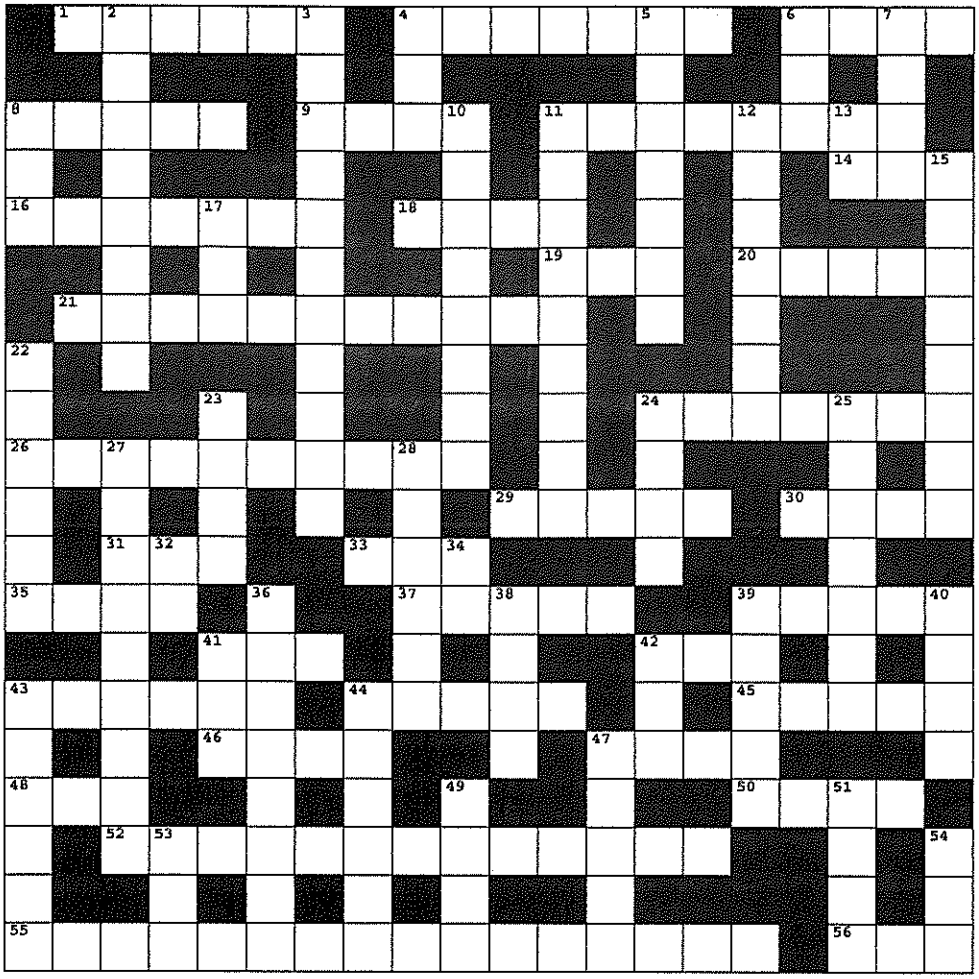
Ingredients
1 small packet of bacon
1 medium onion
1.5 – 2lb mincemeat
1 tin of chopped tomatoes
salt, pepper and mixed herbs to taste
1 oxo cube

Method
Chop up the onion and the bacon and fry them in a little oil for approximately 5 minutes. Add the mince, salt, pepper, mixed herbs and the oxo cube dissolved in about ½ a pint of boiling water. Stir all the ingredients together well and leave to simmer for about an hour stirring occasionally. Next add the tomatoes and leave to simmer for a further 5-10 minutes. Thicken with a little cornflour and serve with rice or mashed potato.

SHARON'S PUDDING

Ingredients
1 large tin of fruit (apples, pears etc)
4oz margarine
4oz sugar
4oz flour
1 egg
2tsp baking powder

Method
Place the fruit into a large oven proof dish and place in the oven at 180°C. Leave until boiling. In a bowl, cream the margarine and sugar and then add the egg. Next fold in the flour. Place the mixture on top of the fruit and bake until golden. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with icing sugar. Serve with custard of cream.



ACROSS

1. LOUD HIGH PITCHED SOUND OF TERROR
4. SMALLISH HUNTING DOG
6. HIT A DRUM
8. MIXED COLOUR HORSE
9. A THING
11. BURNED WOOD FOR DRAWING
14. VALUED THING
16. NOT PUBLIC
18. INFANT CARRIAGE
19. FEMALE SHEEP
20. CAPITAL OF FRANCE
21. FAMOUS CHILD WIZARD
24. ICE SPORT
26. NEW YEAR PROMISE
29. TALKING BIRD
30. BEWARE THIS DAY IN MARCH
31. MASSAGE
33. HOLE IN GROUND
35. MIDDAY
37. VENOMOUS SNAKE
39. SELECT FOR COMPUSORY MILITARY SERVICE
41. SHED TEARS
42. FAREWELL
43. ICE CREAM DESSERT
44. SWEEPER
45. REPEAT
46. PUS-FILLED SWELLING
47. PERFORMERS
48. FISH EGGS
50. TOUGH
52. NEW IDEA FOR EXAMPLE
55. LEARNING AFTER SCHOOL
56. LOCKING / UNLOCKING DEVICE

DOWN

2. HUMAN EATER
3. FIRST RACE OF THE MEETING
4. NECK GARMENT
5. ONE LEAVING WAR ZONE FOR SAFETY
6. SURPRISE CALL
7. WHEEL SHAFT
8. YOUNG DOG
10. LONG RACE
11. DISLIKES HAVING PHOTO TAKEN
12. HELICOPTER
13. SILVER
15. INFORMATIVE NOTES LEFT
17. WE BREATHE IT
22. RELIGEOUS LESSON
23. HIT WITH HARD THING
24. MODELLING MEDIUM
25. THE ADVENTUROUS MR JONES
27. BEGGER
28. HE ASKED FOR MORE
32. UNITED NATIONS
34. TEAL INLET
36. WOOD PRESERVE
38. PLAN
39. AFTER LIFE
40. CAMP HOUSE?
41. TAXI
42. CONSTRICTING SNAKE
43. LOOSE FLESH OF THE NECK
44. LADY'S SHIRT
47. BOAT
49. YOU CAN HAVE TIME OF IN THIS?
51. BABY'S BISCUIT
53. DEVOUR
54. 5TH MONTH

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EDITORIAL

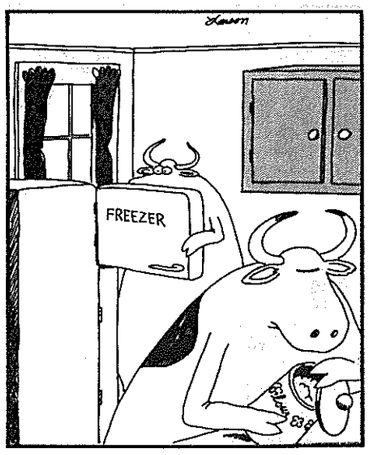
Hi All,

The big move has taken place and Mandy & I are now merrily working away in what used to be Owen & Andrew's office at the DoA. Andrew has been moved down the passage a bit & Owen is living it up in the comfort of FIDC with Greg in our old office. Contact details for Mandy & I are nheathman@doa.gov.fk & mmcleod@doa.gov.fk

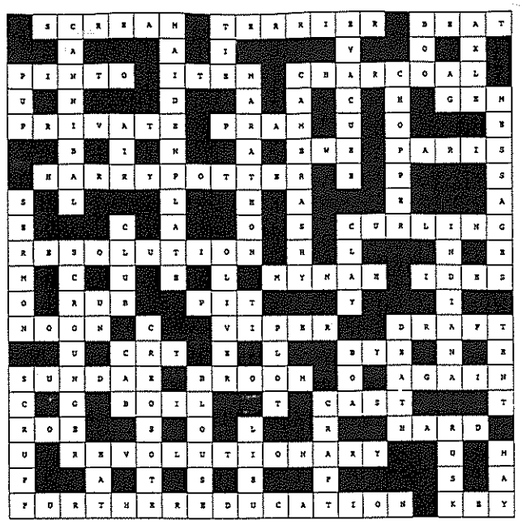
The AI and ET programmes are well under way for this year now. Most of you who are having cows done will have seen either Doug or Kevin or I at some stage by now. Hopefully we will get some more good calves this year. Next month we are hoping to do a write up on last years results including some photos. Comments from farmers who participated in last years programme would be appreciated and can be printed anonymously if you so wish. It would be appreciated if anyone wanting to have something printed could get it to me by February 21st please.

I totally forgot about the cross-word solution this month until Glynis reminded me that there wasn't one so I'm afraid it has had to be hastily stuck onto this page for a change!

Nyree



While Farmer Brown was away, the cows got into the kitchen and were having the time of their lives — until Betsy's unwitting discovery.



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FALKANDS ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

Organic Update

After a short spell at Christmas, a lack of room and work commitments mean that there is only a one-page brief update of the organic situation this month, so here goes.

So far nine farms have been certified as Organic. This means that they are all complying with the rules and regulations of production under Legislation No 22 of 2000. Periodical inspection checks are ongoing once a farm has been through a conversion period and certified.

Albemarle Station and Riverview have been certified for a year and Port Louis and Port Edgar are now into their second year of production and both have gone through the inspection process again to achieve their certificates.

I usually give three certificates to each farm – one for the farm records, and the other two can be used should the farmer wish to give original documents to Wool Growers, or anyone else who is interested in purchasing wool or meat products from the farm.

It was stressed to me at Farmers Week that a simple question and answer brochure should be made up so that farmers can see what may have to be achieved to obtain Organic Certification. I have duly put together a small brochure, which I hope will give farmers a better idea of what they should and shouldn't be doing. If for some reason I can't get it out with this Wool Press it will send it with the March issue. I have also started to copy the Standard and each organic farmer will be issued a copy in the next week or so. They are produced in a way that if at any time something needs changing all I have to do is send you the relevant page to be swapped. If anyone would like a copy please give me a call and I will send one out to you.

I do have a few farmers who are interested in achieving organic status for next season which means that they could sell their wool as organic and receive a 25% premium for any lamb or hogget that they sold to the abattoir. *For example: - an 18kg slaughter weight grade A hogget would give the farmer a price of £14.40 plus the 25% premium of £3.60 making a total of £18.00 per hogget paid direct to the farmer.*

Please give me a call if you are interested in achieving the organic status or would just like to have a chat. The choice is yours!

PORT HOWARD KITCHEN

The kitchen at Port Howard is all but ready to go into operation. The final outstanding works to be done are dependant upon the type of produce likely to go through it and the level of interest shown in operating the unit.

Whilst this has been an FIDC project to date, the intention is that it will eventually become a viable business, operated and owned by an individual or group of people, creating another industry for the Camp. If anyone has an interest in the future use of the kitchen, we would like to hear from you with an outline of your ideas (contact details below).

Once we have established the current level of interest and everyone has had an opportunity to be involved, we will be able to get together as a group and decide how this kitchen can provide the most benefit to the Camp community.
We need to hear from you by the end of February.

Mandy McLeod (Rural Development Officer) tel:27355 fax: 27352
Email: **mmcleod@doa.gov.fk**
Connie Stevens (Marketing Manager - FIDC) tel:27211 fax: 27210
Email: **cstevens@fidc.co.fk**

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RED TIDES

By Director of Fisheries

Most people will have seen references to red tides recently. It is one of the most likely causes of recent seabird mortalities, although that has yet to be definitively proved. The consumption of shellfish has also been banned as a precautionary measure.

Red tides consist of blooms of particular species of microscopic algae called phytoplankton. They are now more commonly referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), as they are not necessarily tide related and may not be red! Most phytoplankton are absolutely vital. They represent the primary production of the oceans and are the marine equivalent of grass. There are a few thousand species of which a few dozen produce very strong toxins. They are single cell plants, which range in diameter from 0.001 to 2 millimetres; most are smaller in diameter than a human hair. They are very different to the large red algae or seaweed, which occur on beaches.

It is quite common for phytoplankton to bloom, particularly in spring. HABs occur when the toxic species reproduce quicker than the harmless species. They take up the nutrients in the water; phosphorus and nitrogen, and outcompete the harmless algae. HABs have been known about from elsewhere since the 1840s at least. There may be particular conditions, which give rise to HABs; some events have followed periods of calm weather together with reduced salinity due to rainfall runoff. The conditions in the Falklands in November were like this. It was calm, dull, wet and cool. This was followed by a period of high light levels, increased temperatures and mixing of surface water due to wind. These were probably ideal conditions for a bloom.

Phytoplankton are the basis of the marine food chain. Hence if toxic algae are present the toxin will start to concentrate in anything which preys upon them. Phytoplankton are filtered out of the water by bivalves (mussels and clams), and consumed by numerous species of zooplankton (small aquatic animals); a common zooplankter seen around the Falklands is lobster krill. Herbivorous fish such as anchovies eat phytoplankton directly.

Most invertebrate consumers (bivalves, zooplankton) of toxic phytoplankton do not appear to be harmed by the experience. They usually clear the toxin out of their system in a matter of weeks. The toxin adversely affects vertebrates (birds, fish, and man). Fish can often take avoiding action unless they are in confined areas. Different HAB species produce different toxins; Paralytic, Amnesiac, or Diarrhetic (symptoms are as the names suggest), the first two can cause death. The highest concentrations of toxin are in the digestive system of the herbivore, which consumed the algae. Hence most cases of humans being affected occur where the whole animal is consumed. This typically involves shellfish; mussels, clams, etc. Problems are much reduced where the animal is gutted and only the flesh eaten, although there are some reports of toxin being found in fish flesh but at much lower levels than in the digestive system. Bans on consumption of shellfish elsewhere are quite common; bans on finfish consumption are rare. High density HABs can cause eye, nose and throat irritation to people walking on adjacent beaches.

Monitoring for HABs is complicated. Detecting the build up to a HAB involves sampling water and identifying and counting the phytoplankton. Toxic species will often be found in the environment at low densities and it is unlikely to have been something, which just arrived recently. It is only when they start increasing to thousands of cells per millilitre that it becomes a bloom. Shellfish can be tested for toxins. Until recently this involved injecting mice with shellfish extract and analysing the results. Biochemical tests have been developed which don't involve sacrificing mice.

Many areas of the world have major shellfish industries and live with periodic HABs. Blooms can be annual or more or less frequent. An effective monitoring programme has to be put in place and will need to be introduced here before aquaculture develops further. A programme to test water and shellfish has been set up by Falklands Fresh Ltd. and FIDC. The first sample of mussels (mid-Dec) proved negative for toxins. Water samples showed the presence of toxic phytoplankton although not necessarily in bloom proportions. The management of an aquaculture industry, particularly one based on shellfish has to take into account potential HABs. It may be a case of harvesting before they occur or after the toxin has cleared. In many cases HABs and their effects only last a few weeks and then things return to normal, although they can be more persistent. The right monitoring programme can successfully ensure that shellfish are safe to eat.

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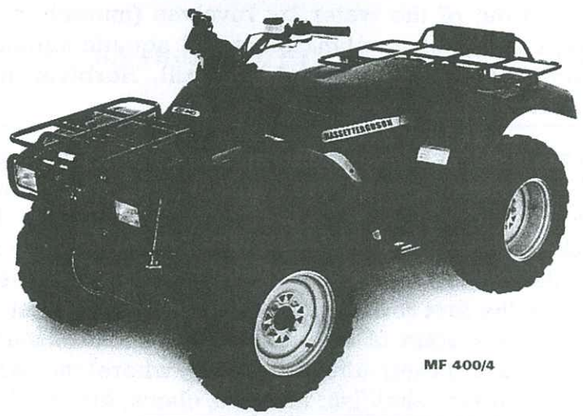

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GENETICALLY BRED GRASS AT RINCON GRANDE

By Andrew Pollard

Branching away from the Government incentive Pasture Improvement Programme, I have been informed of the success of a reseed located at Rincon Grande, East Falkland. Pushing aside, what I assumed to be an exaggeration, I then received this set of photos taken on the 17th January 2003.

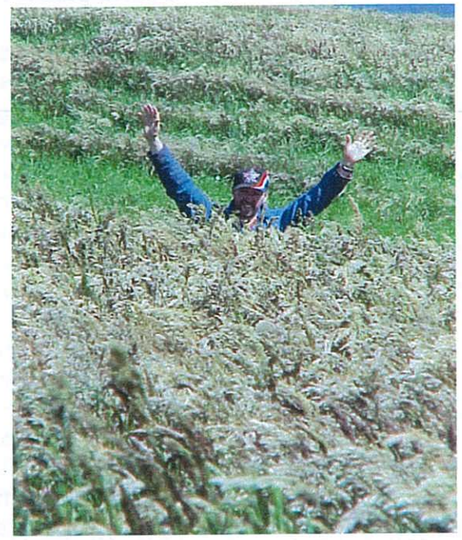


Photo 1
Early hours of the 17/01/03. Professor Turner with his substantial crop.

Photo 2
Taken shortly after lunch

Photo 3
Taken just before feeding the dogs!

CHRISTMAS AND KEBABS

By Zoe Luxton

I suspect I am not the only person muttering "Where the bleep did 2002 go?" our beloved Editor however is also muttering "Where the bleep did your January article go?" mmmm good question and I can't even make the excuse that December was stupidly busy because it wasn't quite frankly, it was a very pleasant month of tinsel and cups of tea/vodka. I guess I was too full of Christmas cheer and excitement at coming home to see the New Year in that I never got near a keyboard, plus the fact that it was pretty dull at work and there wouldn't have been much to tell you about. I was on duty on Christmas Day and had to see the odd abscess and lame dog and had a really nice time with my boss and his family for Christmas dinner. The only case of interest was a vomiting German Shepherd that Sue rang to warn me about on Xmas morning. She had seen it twice on Xmas eve and strongly suspected it had a foreign body that was causing a blockage thus the vomiting. With any vomiting animal we always do try 24-48hrs of medical treatment first as more commonly it is just a bad case of gastroenteritis which clears with some antibiotics and anti-sickness tablets. Sue had warned the owner however that surgery was more than likely on the cards for her dog as it did have a very tender abdomen also. I saw it in the evening on Christmas day and the poor dog was looking pretty rough, sudden weight loss and a very sore tummy and still vomiting so I re-iterated that a foreign body in the intestines was a very real possibility here and we really should be thinking of opening the dog up. Now, Mrs L is a true "Barry client" i.e. only ever wants to see Mr Hilliard (Barry) and thus thinks the rest of us mere assistants are pond scum, and I could tell that she would probably rather open the dog up herself than let me loose with a scalpel, so we reached a compromise that she would ring in the night if the dog got any worse and otherwise she would get it checked out first thing in the morning with Barry as, unfortunately for him, he was on duty on Boxing Day. Barry thus spent 4 hours removing reams of carpet from the dogs' small intestine! Now Barry had spoken to both Sue and myself before seeing the dog and both of us had voiced our concern re a foreign body and that we thought the dog certainly needed to be opened up, so he was a little taken aback when Mrs L piped up with "I knew it had a blockage of some sort Barry (simper) and those girls have just been messing around for 2 days trying to decide what to do with him"!! Sometimes you just can't please people!

So then it was much excitement for the next 2 days getting ready for a fab fortnight in the Falklands and I wasn't really much help to anyone on the Friday morning (was heading for Brize Friday afternoon) as I was pretty much like an over-excited 6 year old. So it was not with good grace that I saw my last consult of Friday morning which was a stupid Dalmatian that had eaten a whole wooden kebab skewer and now, not surprisingly, had a raging fever and a strange lump on its side. This is a perfect example of the phenomenon known as Sods Law – half an hour before you leave for the Falklands you have to do an ex-lap (exploratory operation)!!! And what we found was that, not only had the kebab skewer perforated the wall of the stomach, it had also kebabed the dogs stomach to the wall of its abdomen, thus the strange lump on its side and the raging peritonitis and fever! Now peritonitis is pretty life threatening but as far as I know the daft dog is rampaging around merrily looking for its next emergency-op. related snack.

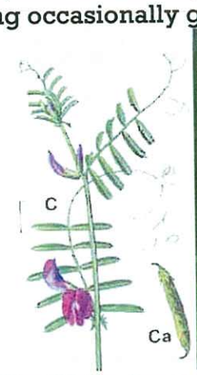
Now, I better go and weigh the cats, they were obviously very well looked after by friend Gemma while I was away, I hadn't noticed they had put on much weight but realised they are a bit on the porky side when sister looked at them yesterday and said "ahhh George, you are gorgeous, just like a little ginger.....warthog". Watch this space for Georges diet diary!!

WET WEATHER ENCOURAGES 'RARE' WILD LEGUME

By Aidan Kerr

The recent wet summer weather has produced excellent growing conditions for many plants. So much so that some unusual or 'rare' plants are being found, particularly as many people get out and about to places that were previously rarely visited.

On one such visit to Old Cattle Point House paddocks (SE of North Arm) Phyllis and John Willy Jaffray found the 'rare' Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) (see photos below). They think that this introduced 'bean-like' legume must have been sown there over 50 years ago as nobody has lived there since then. An annual plant, this vetch has persisted, grown and set seed in pods each year, despite being occasionally grazed by animals.



I thank Tim Blake for bringing the find to my attention. Phyllis and John Willy have kindly donated a sample to the FI National Herbarium for which they will be credited with the find at the new location. According to the new 'Plant Atlas' for the Islands (above, available from Falklands Conservation) Common Vetch had previously only been recorded at Goose Green. The new find suggests that it may have been planted more widely, particularly on the former 'FIC' farms. When it's identity is confirmed, herbarium curator Lillian Kidd will then store a dried specimen for safe-keeping and future reference in the collection.

Here at the DoA, agronomist Andy Pollard potted up the original plant so that seed can be collected from it later. We are particularly interested in it as it is a legume that has persisted well under local conditions for a long time. Consequently it may have a role to play in the pasture improvement program.

Finally, just a reminder that the herbarium is a national asset for everyone's use. It is temporarily located in the Falklands Conservation offices at the Jetty Centre. Anyone interested in looking at the specimens or adding to the collection should first contact Lillian at Government House on 21048. If you do find an unusual plant then please let Lillian, Falklands Conservation or I know about it and its location. Please note that it is an offence to pick a 'protected plant' unless you are either the land owner/ occupier, or you are licenced to do so. If in doubt then it might be best to leave it alone and tell us about it, particularly if there are only a few specimens. (Note: despite being 'rare' the Common Vetch is not a 'protected plant'). Your co-operation will help find, record and conserve the plant diversity of the Islands for everyone's benefit.

RED DATA LIST

By David Broughton and Becky Ingham (Falklands Conservation)

In July the first national Red Data List of threatened Falkland Islands flora was published in the journal Oryx. This is the culmination of three years of research, by Falklands Conservation and the Queen's University of Belfast, into the current status of our native wild flora. The red list identifies twenty-three plant species threatened with extinction in the Falkland Islands (see table).

Some of these species, such as Rock-cress, may once have been common while others, such as Leathery Shield-fern, may have always been rare. But all are now at a stage where their continuing survival is under threat. The threatened flora contains six of the thirteen plant species, found nowhere else in the world. This is of great concern as the Falklands have a global responsibility to ensure their continuing survival.

As the dominant land-use in the Falkland Islands throughout history, agriculture has been implicated in the decline of many of these plants. However, nowadays most farmers are sympathetic to conservation issues and many farmers actively protect plant populations. In many cases, threatened plant populations are at risk because people do not know what they look like, where they grow and just how important these species are. Sometimes these species are locally common and therefore not considered 'special' in any way by those who work and live on the land.

Without such knowledge it is impossible to take threatened plants into account when making management decisions. So instead of casting blame there is a need to tackle the biggest problem, which is informing people. The Red List is a first step in raising the profile of the threatened flora. Falklands Conservation is also well into the second step which is to produce action plans for each threatened species. However, to progress work on the flora requires, as ever, adequate funding. Falklands Conservation cannot meet these funds alone. FIG must also address these issues and accept the international responsibility to protect these species.

Finally, it is worth restating that the production of the red list is a significant and positive step forward. Whilst it is tempting to view the list with fatalism and to use it to criticise past actions, this is not productive. Instead the Red List should be viewed as a wake-up call. For the first time we now know which plants are under most threat in the Falkland Islands and where we should be targeting resources, i.e. which species are priorities.

No plant species has yet been proven to be extinct so there is still time to act. To successfully reverse the fortunes of the threatened flora will depend heavily on the cooperation and goodwill of landowners and the public, as very few populations of threatened plants occur within nature reserves and other protected areas.

PULL-OUT FIELD GUIDE

As many of these plants will be unfamiliar to land users a 'pull-out' pictorial guide has been compiled (see opposite). If you find any of the plants please make a note of the location and let Aidan or Becky know so that a record can be made in the database.

The 'endangered', 'vulnerable' and protected plants of the Falkland Islands – a 'pull-out' guide for land users

Compiled by Aidan Kerr (FIG, Dept. of Agriculture).

	'Critically Endangered'	'Endangered'	'Vulnerable'	Not 'endangered' or 'vulnerable'
Legally Protected	Felton's flower [4]  Yellow Lady's Slipper [1]  Fuegian Saxifrage [2]  Shrubby Seablite	Fir Clubmoss Leathery Shield Fern Chilean Maidenhair-fern	Adder's Tongue [2]  False Plantain [9]  Hairy Daisy [2]  Moonwort [5]  Rock-cress [3]  Pale Yellow Orchid	Native Yellow Violet [3]  Yellow Orchid [3]  Gaudichaud's Orchid [3]  Falkland Pondweed Yellow Pale Maiden
Not protected	Fuegian Whitlow grass Skullcap	Antarctic Cudweed Patagonian Hawkweed	Moore's Plantain [6]  Mudwort. Spider flower. Tasselweed. Chilean Tall Fern. Fuegian Violet.	All other plant species

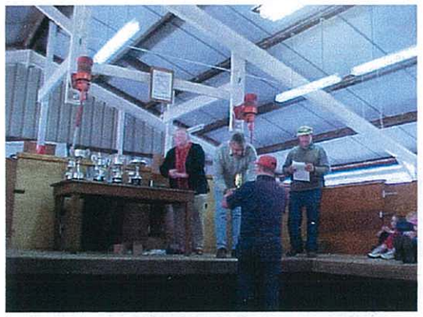
Notes: Protected species list from the FIG Conservation of Wildlife Ordinance 1999. 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' and 'Vulnerable' species from Broughton & McAdam, Oryx 36 (3) (2002). Original photographs by: 1. A. Kerr, 2. Falklands Conservation, 3. B. Summers, 4. R. Woods, 5. J. McAdam, 6. D.M. Moore, have been adapted to fit the table. New or better photographs are welcome so that the guide can be improved.

THE SIXTEENTH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

By Nigel Knight

After an overcast and windy night, the clouds cleared from the West and the wind died down. A fitting prelude to the forthcoming events of the Sixteenth West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show. The residents and visitors to Fox Bay Village on the 29th December therefore anticipated a good day out and would not be disappointed

Justin and Keith had already been working hard transforming the Woolshed although their work was not yet over. Keith started off by taking entries ably assisted by Chris, many of which had already arrived by FIGAS. When Tony and Susan arrived with their entries they also gave a hand.



Once the entries were all in, Leon Marsh 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 wool. Once this had been accomplished Robin was assisted by Gavin to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the Rams exhibited in the Show, not a job for the fainthearted.

A total of eighty-seven fleeces and twenty rams from eighteen different Farms were exhibited at this years Show. It was good to see Falkland Landholdings Farms sending fleeces again. All had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of Rams every one a credit to its owner.

By now the Barbecue which was this year in the capable hands of Tony and Lyn helped by Griz, 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 many volunteer counters added up the judging slips before the results were known. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully relieved of its fleece by Ally and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. It was also very satisfying to see an increasing number of under 21's entering the Sheep Judging competition. During the Show Christine McKay kindly recorded the highlights on camera.

Promptly at six pm a good crowd once again assembled in the Woolshed for the Prize giving. Bill Luxton a long time supporter of the Show assisted by Cllr.Norma Edwards presented the prizes this year. After this a Warrah sweatshirt with Ram Show Logo was auctioned, the money going towards Show Funds. Cllr. Mike Summers 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 back again to the Social Club for more drinking and dancing into the early hours of next morning. Thus bringing to an end another successful show.

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Gun racks or Gun scabbards.

Phone 31106 for more details & price quote.

TIPS FOR WORKING HARD

Courtesy of Pricilla Legg

1) Never walk down the hall without a document in your hands.
People with Documents in their hands look like hardworking employees heading for important meetings. People with nothing in their hands look like their heading for the smoko room. People with a newspaper in their hands look like their heading for the toilet. Above all, make sure you carry loads of stuff home with you at night, thus generating the false impression that you work longer hours than you do.

2) Use computers to look busy.
Any time you use a computer, it looks like "work" to the casual observer. You can send and receive personal e-mail, calculate your finances and generally have a blast without doing anything remotely related to work. These aren't exactly the societal benefits that the proponents of the computer revolution would like to talk about but they're not bad either. When you get caught by your boss – and you WILL get caught – your best defence is to claim you're teaching yourself to use new software, thus saving valuable training pounds.

3) Messy desk.
Top management can get away with a clean desk. For the rest of us, it looks like you're not working hard enough. Build huge piles of documents around your workspace. To the observer, last years work looks the same as today's work; it's volume that counts. Pile them high and wide.

If you know somebody is coming to your office, bury the document you'll need halfway down in an existing stack and rummage for it when he/she arrives.

4) Answer Machines.
Never answer your phone if you have an answer machine. People don't call you just because they want to give you something for nothing – they call because they want YOU to do work for THEM. That's no way to live. Screen all your calls through the answer machine. If somebody leaves a message for you and it sounds like impending work, respond during lunch hour when you know they're not there – it looks like your hardworking and conscientious even though you're being a devious weasel.

If you diligently employ the method of screening incoming calls and then returning calls when nobody is there, this will greatly increase the odds that the caller will give up or look for a solution that doesn't involve you. The sweetest message you can ever hear is: "Ignore my last message. I took care of it". If your mailbox has a limit on the number of messages it can hold, make sure you reach that limit frequently. One way to do that is to never erase any incoming messages. If that takes too long, send yourself a few messages. Your caller will hear a recorder message that says, "Sorry, this mailbox is full" – a sure sign that you are a hardworking employee in high demand.

5) Looking impatient and annoyed.
According to George Costanza, one should also always try to look impatient and annoyed to give your bosses the impression that you are always busy.

6) Appear to work late.
Always leave the office late, especially when the boss is still around. You could read magazines and storybooks that you always wanted to read but have no time until late before leaving. Make sure you walk past the boss' room on your way out. Send important e-mails at unearthly hours (e.g., 9.35pm, 7.05am etc...) and during public holidays.

7) Creative sighing for effect.
Sigh loudly when there are many people around, giving the impression that you are very hard pressed.

8) Stacking Strategy.
It is not enough to pile lots of documents on the table. Put lots of books on the floor etc... Can always borrow from library. Thick computer manuals are best.

9) Build Vocabulary.
Read up on some computer magazines and pick out all the jargon and new products. Use it freely when in conversation with the bosses. Remember: They don't have to understand what you say, but you sure sound impressive.

ARE SHEEP LEFT OR RIGHT HANDED?

Source – Farming Ahead (By Lui Marcelli)

Does it really matter that sheep are left or right handed? This is the question that animal behavioural specialist, Dean Anderson, New Mexico University, asked last month.

Not surprisingly, I did not have any idea nor was it a topic that kept me awake at night. Was it even important that people know?

As it turns out, yes it was and not only for sheep but for all livestock, especially as Rob McMiles and I were investigating the possibility of managing livestock electronically.

So what of the big question – are sheep left or right handed? Interestingly 70% of sheep are right handed. This is why some sheep are difficult to move through a set of yards. For example, the 30% of left handed sheep may be causing problems if you are trying to move your flock to the right s these animals are naturally inclined to turn left. This natural behaviour is being used in yard designing trends.

So sheep may not be so stupid after all. They may have just been misunderstood!

CHANGES IN COLOUR MEASUREMENT TO BE INTRODUCED IN NEW ZEALAND

The below article will be of interest to those of you who core test here in the Falklands.

Summary
During the 2002/03 season, a new series of colour measurements will be introduced in the wool industry, culminating several years of research into various aspects of the calibration and measurement processes.

Background

Wool Colour Measurement Standards

The measurement of wool colour began in the 1970's after several years of research at WRONZ. The first recognised standard (NZS 8707:1977) was introduced for scoured wool. By 1984, this standard was developed further to include greasy wool, and this was used as the basis for trading wool on colour measurement. In 1988, IWTO produced a Draft Test Method (IWTO-DTM-56) based on the New Zealand standard. This Draft Test Method was upgraded to full Test Method status in 1999.

Calibration of Colour-Measuring Instruments

When objective measurements of wool colour were first being examined in the mid 1970's, it was quickly recognised that it was difficult to achieve reasonable agreement between laboratories and even between instruments within any one laboratory. However these differences were largely overcome by the use of reference wools for calibration.

Standard Colorimetric Observers

Colour-measuring instruments (either colorimeters or spectrophotometers) use specific illuminants and observer angles to produce results. When WRONZ investigated colour measurement, they used the "CIE 1931 standard colorimetric observer", commonly referred to as the C/2°, where C was the Illuminant representing the current thinking as to the specification of 'standard light'. The observer angle of 2° was believed to represent a realistic simulation of a human eye when observing colour. CIE is the international company designed to monitor and produce colour standards.

Why is the Wool Industry Changing?

There are two main reasons why the wool industry is moving to a new system for colour measurement. Firstly, all other industries utilising colour measurement (eg paints and dyes) use the "CIE 1964 standard colorimetric observer", which uses a different illuminant and observer angle to C/2°. Since the late 1940's, the greater use of fluorescent dyes led to a realisation that colorimetry based on Illuminant C could produce misleading data when the materials normally fluoresce in daylight. A new Illuminant, D65, became the most appropriate form of 'standard daylight'. The new observer angle (10°) was introduced as it was generally believed that the 2° observer no longer represented a realistic simulation of a human appraising colour. Thus the move to the new D65/10° system brings the wool industry into line with other industries which utilise colour measurement.

The second reason for the change is due to the move in the material used to calibrate colorimeters and spectrophotometers, where ceramic tiles will be used instead of wool. The use of reference wools for calibration were successfully used to reduce the significant differences between colour-measuring instruments in the 1970's, and the advantage of wool as the calibration transfer medium was that it had the same optical properties as the material being routinely measured. However one disadvantage was the durability of wool as a calibration material. Because wools are prone to soiling and photobleaching, they can only be used once, even if stored in darkness. Problems were also discovered with differences between subsequent sets of calibration wools, leading to shifts in measurements immediately after a new calibration was performed.

Another problem with wool as a reference material is that the values assigned to them, and subsequent measurements performed on routine samples, were not directly traceable to the internationally accepted CIE standards. This created problems as almost all other industries that use colour measurement operate on the CIE scale and are required to relate measurements between the two systems.
The use of certified ceramic tiles provides for a much more stable, durable and reproducible material for calibrating colour-measuring instruments.

What will the New Values Look Like?

The new sets of colour values will still be reported as X, Y and Z (and Y-Z). However the Y values are likely to increase by 4-6 units (ie a poor brightness of 50.0 units on the current C/2° system would be ***approximately*** 55.0 units under the D65/10° system), while the Z value will reduce by 2-5 units. This will have a nett result of yellowness (Y-Z) values changing by approximately 8-9 units (eg Merino wool of -2.0 units will become ***approximately*** 7 units and very yellow wool of 10 units will become ***approximately*** 18 units.

When Will the Change Occur?

Although a specific date has not yet been set, the change to the new calibration and measurement will occur in the second half of 2002. However the new sets of results will not replace the old values immediately. There will almost certainly be a period (of, for example, two years) where both the new and old sets of results are clearly stipulated on certificates. This period will allow users of New Zealand wool (both NZ and overseas) to become accustomed to the new values.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Lucy Ellis at the Department of Agriculture on phone 27355.

FARM ACCOUNTS SUMMARIES

Anyone who has internet access and would like their accounts summary sheets e-mailed to them, please contact me on 27355 and I will send them to you. I forgot to mention this in my covering letter. Sorry!

Thanks to all of you who have already returned your summaries to me.

Nyree

ROAD INSPECTIONS

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

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

EAST FALKLAND		WEST FALKLAND	
JANUARY	8 & 9	JANUARY	15 & 16
FEBRUARY	5 & 6	FEBRUARY	26 & 27
MARCH	5 & 6	APRIL	15 & 16
APRIL	8 & 9	MAY	28 & 29
MAY	6 & 7	JULY	15 & 16
JUNE	3 & 4	AUGUST	27 & 28
JULY	8 & 9	OCTOBER	14 & 15
AUGUST	5 & 6	NOVEMBER	25 & 26
SEPTEMBER	9 & 10		
OCTOBER	8 & 9		
NOVEMBER	5 & 6		
DECEMBER	10 & 11		

RECIPE PAGE

Source – The Rayburn Cookbook

SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

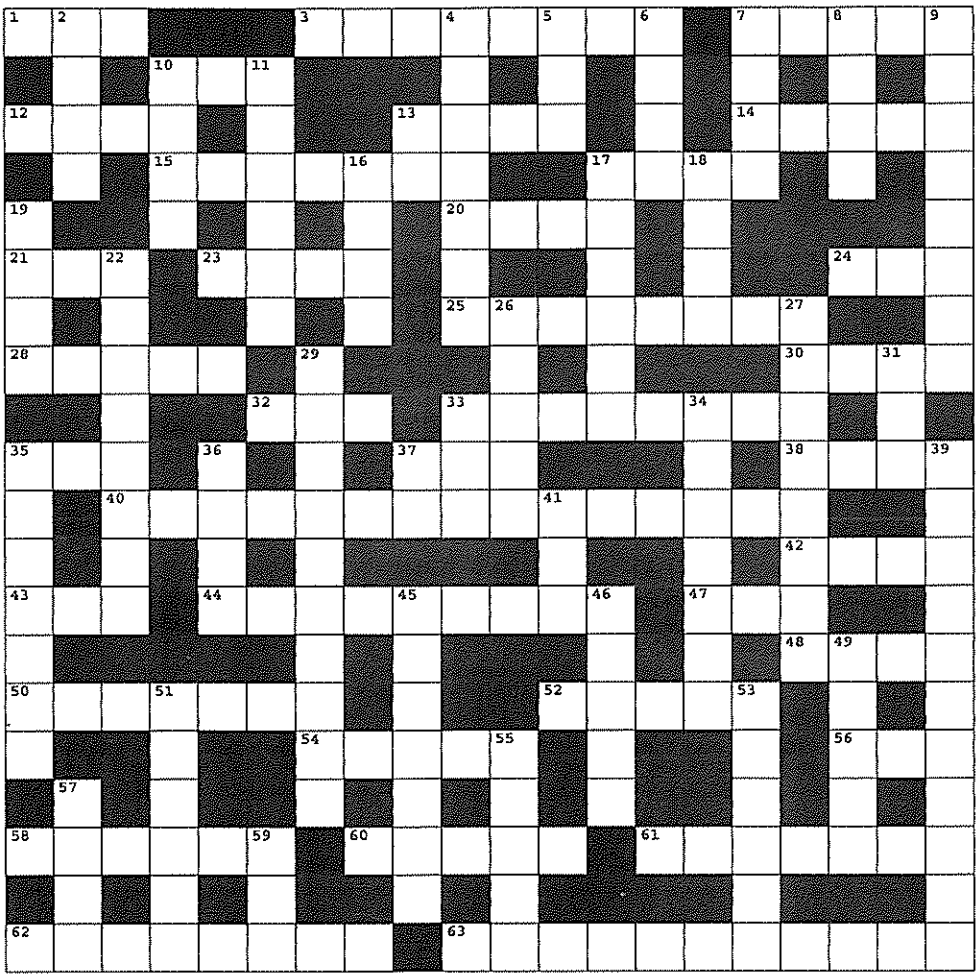
Ingredients
1 medium portioned chicken
6 tablespoons wine vinegar
6 tablespoons soy sauce
2 crushed garlic cloves
salt and pepper
1 teaspoon mustard
2 tablespoons tomato puree made up to ¼ pint with water
4 tablespoons honey

Method
Put the chicken into a 5 pint casserole dish and cover with a sauce made of the rest of the ingredients blended together. Cover and bake at 170°C for 2 hours, removing the lid for the last hour to brown the chicken.

TREACLE TART

Ingredients
8oz short crust pastry
grated rind of 1 lemon
1 lb of warmed golden syrup
6oz fresh breadcrumbs

Method
Roll out the pastry thinly and line a 9" flan tin with it. Prick the base with a fork. Mix together the remaining ingredients to form a soft paste and place in the flan tin. Use the pastry trimmings to decorate the top of the tart. Bake for about 50 minutes or until golden brown.



ACROSS

1. CHOPPER
3. CONFUSING THE MIND
7. SIMPLE
10. THE TWO P's PLACE
12. RING OF GOODNESS
13. WOOL PACK
14. FOURTH MONTH
15. SHEARING TROUSERS
17. RED STONE
20. TUNE PLAYED BY A SINGLE PERSON
21. FIRE RESIDUE
23. FLATULANCE!
24. NOT EVEN
25. CUTTING IMPLEMENTS
28. AFRICAN COUNTRY
30. HEAD COVERING
32. HAT
33. LETTER CASE
35. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
37. ROUND GREEN VEGETABLE
38. EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN RANGE
40. TEMPERATURE FIGURE THAT RELATES TO SHEEP (4,5,6)
42. BRAINWAVE
43. ATTEMPT
44. COMMUNICATION DEVICE
47. POSESS
48. AN AMUSEMENT OR PASTIME
50. TOOTH DOCTOR
52. COULD BE MACARONI FOR EXAMPLE
54. DRUG POPPY
56. VERY IMPORTANT PERSON
58. LOCAL ISLAND
60. NECESSARY FOR FLIGHT
61. KNEE CAP
62. AUSTRALIAN CITY
63. CHINESE NEEDLE TREATMENT

DOWN

2. SHORT CHRISTMAS!
4. YOU MAY NEED THESE TO HELP YOU SEE
5. OPEN USED FOR COOLING DRINKS
6. SPIRITUAL LEADER AND ADVISER
7. DONKEY CALL
8. PAINFUL TO TOUCH
9. TELLS YOU WHAT DAY IT IS
10. MAIL
11. LAPONIA SETTLEMENT
13. EXIST
16. EXTINCT BIRD
17. WOOL GIRL
18. PEN
19. FACE COVER
22. TYPE OF DOG
26. ARTIFICIAL WATERWAY
27. FLEECE REMOVAL
29. ADDING MACHINE
31. SMALL DEMON OR DEVIL
33. LONG FISH
34. REMOTE OUTLYING POSITION
35. DISCOLOURATION OF THE SEA AROUND SOME PARTS OF THE ISLANDS RECENTLY
36. MAKE THINGS OUT OF WOOL
37. MATHEMATICAL FACTOR OF 3.14
39. FAMOUS ENGLISH AUTHOR
41. MOVEMENT DEVICE OF A FISH
45. OCEAN
46. MESSAGE SENT VIA COMPUTER
49. BLACKSMITH'S TOOL
51. BIRTHSIGN
53. THE NORTH POLE IS HERE
55. MYSTERIOUS ACT
57. BREW MADE FROM HOPS
59. TIME

The Wool Press

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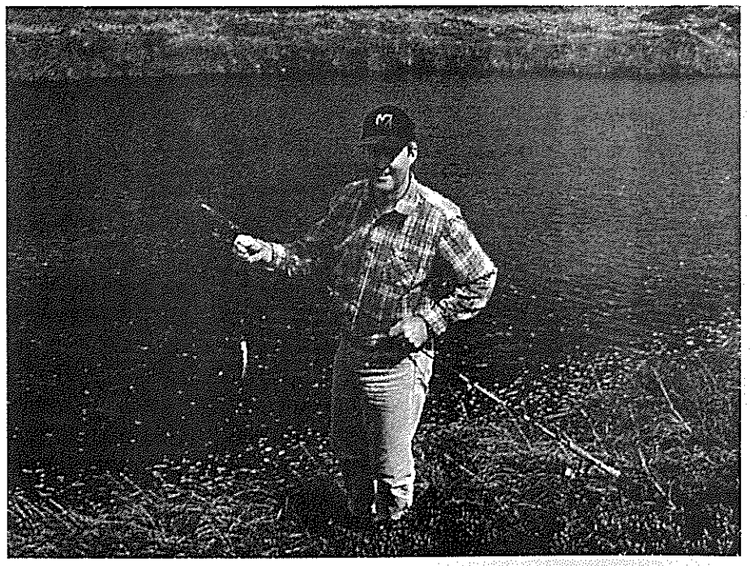
EDITORIAL

Hi All,

Apologies for the late production of this edition. I have been somewhat busy with other things – mainly chasing cows for one reason or another. Thankfully that is all over for another year. Fingers crossed for some more nice calves. As you will see Doug has written an article about what we have been doing over the last year. Due to lack of space and colour printing I have had to put the article near the back and the photos in the centre pages. Sorry.

Andy P took the below photo the other weekend. He is offering £5 for the best caption! All entries to be received by either Andrew or myself by Monday 24th March.



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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

WANT YOUR FARM CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Would you like your farm to be certified as ORGANIC?
Benefits to you would be as follows:

Receive an extra 25% for lamb slaughtered for export;
Your lambs will be treated with respect from transport through to the abattoir;
Display FIOCS logo on your bales of wool;
Possible premium on organic wool;
Free advertising of your farm on the Internet under www.fidc.co.fk;
A free set of Organic Standards and information;
Free inspection process of your farm;.
And dates to suit your needs.

If you would like more information or a chat over the kitchen table, give me a call.

RAMS FROM SALADERO SALE

With the next Ram Show Sale lurking on the horizon at Saladero, I felt it only appropriate to inform all organic farmers that the following must apply if you intend to buy rams.

- You are allowed to buy in rams for the purpose of breeding
- There is no conversion requirements but the rams must be introduced into your breeding programme
- You must keep all records of rams bought- in for traceability requirements i.e. all paper work that the Department of Agriculture issue to you with payment receipts
- All rams must be managed and fed in the same way as your organic stock
- Ear tags must be sought from the Department of Agriculture for traceability purposes
- All paper work will be inspected at the next farm inspection process.

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY

Please note – the Accounts Department in FIDC will make payment for your lambs/hoggets and mutton into your bank account 30 days after the kill date and not the collection date.

Could all farmers who have sold, or are proposing to sell animals to the abattoir please telephone Charlene Rowland as soon as possible and give her your bank account details. Failing to do so could lead to you receiving your payment later than the 30 days mentioned above.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RAM SALE, CATTLE SALE AND OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 21 AND SATURDAY 22 MARCH 2003

The Department of Agriculture will be holding its annual ram sale on Friday 21 March 2003 at the Saladero shearing shed commencing at 9.30 am. A sale of surplus cattle will be held on the same day. Livestock viewing will be in the morning with the sale to commence at 1pm. A BBQ lunch will be available at a small charge.

An open day showcasing agricultural developments at Saladero and Brenton Loch will be held on Saturday 22 March 2003 commencing at 8.45 am at the Saladero shearing shed. Lunch will be provided by the Department of Agriculture.

Programmes for the two days are available from the Department of Agriculture. For more information please contact the following:

Ram Sale: Neil Judd (27355)
Cattle sale: Doug Martin (27354)
Open Day: Peter Johnston (27355)

To assist those travelling from the west, the Tamar will sail from Port Howard to Saladero departing at 7 am sharp on Friday 21 March and returning on Saturday 22 March departing from Saladero at 4pm sharp. Please contact Byron Marine as soon as possible to book your passage (22245).

If transport is required between Stanley and Saladero please contact Glynis King by Monday 10th March (27355).

GAP STUDENTS

This year the GAP students will be arriving in early October and staying until the end of March 2004. Any farmers wishing to host a student are asked to contact Charlene Rowland at FIDC by the end of March 2003.

As per usual, host farmers are expected to provide accommodation and pocket money for the students.

Charlene can be contacted on: Phone 27211
Fax 27210
E-mail crowland@fidc.co.fk

NEW METHODS FOR GROWING TREE SEEDLINGS TAKE ROOT IN THE FALKLANDS

By Rodrigo Olave*

Farming is central to the Falkland Islands' economy and identity, and shelterbelts could assist the sustainability and improvement of pasture. Research results from trial sites in the Falklands developed by the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and UKFIT have demonstrated the viability of growing shelterbelts. While the economic and environmental benefits of shelterbelts have yet to be proven, there is a need to produce seedlings with better root systems and top growth to produce quicker growing shelter.

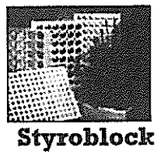
My study will investigate new methods of growing seedlings in the Islands. The aims of this are to:

- Produce a range of trees through the different methods for shelterbelts.
- Discover optimal nutritional conditions for seedling production from the different methods.
- Evaluate the cost and benefits of growing each species under the different techniques.
- Provide growers with advice on better methods of producing seedlings
- Provide shelterbelt programmes in the Falkland Islands, Chile and the UK with sound scientific information.

The growth of Lodgepole pine and Macrocarpa seedlings from bare-rooted nursery stock compared to seedlings in different types of containers is underway at the DoA and Stanley Growers Ltd. The bare-root seedlings are three-month-old nursery stock, whereas the containerised stock is grown from germinated seed. Root length, shoot heights and stem diameter were measured.


Rootrainer


Ray leach


Styroblock


Rigi Pots

Preliminary results after three months indicate that the containerised tree production system significantly improved growth of the seedlings. Of the five containers evaluated, the styroblock copper system produced tree seedlings with superior root quality and shoot vigour compared with bare rooted seedlings. Styroblock copper seedlings have shown continued accelerated growth (height & diameter) between October 2002 and January 2003.

The seedlings will be evaluated again this autumn to compare seedling quality and survival, growth and disease status. This will provide information on the potential uses of these systems and their economic viability.

The study is funded by United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust (UKFIT) The Queen's University, Belfast and Forest Institute (INFOR Chile).

I am grateful for the assistance provided by Dr. Aidan Kerr and Gordon Lennie in the DoA, Stanley, Ali and Marlane Marsh (Shallow Harbour), Alan and Sonia Eagle (Fitzroy) and Tim Miller of Stanley Growers Ltd.

*Rodrigo is a Chilean Government (INFOR) Forest Engineer and is currently completing his PhD study at Queen's University, Belfast, UK, supervised by Dr. Jim McAdam. Rodrigo soon returns to Chile as a Research Scientist to manage a forest improvement programme.

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EWE CUBES 25kg £9.10

CRUSHED CORN 25kg £10.95

Contact Pat or Dan Whitney
Phone/Fax 31003

MOVING POEM, BUT THE SENSE CAN BE A LITTLE WOOLLY

Source – The Daily Telegraph

A writer has received a £2000 grant to spray paint the words of a poem on to the backs of sheep. The money was handed out to Valerie Laws by Northern Arts, who said the project used "the basic framework of quantum mechanics: randomness, the influence of the observer and the observed, and duality". Translated, that means that the poem would be able to be read in many different ways as the breeding ewes selected for literary stardom at Whitehouse Farm, Morpeth, Northumberland moved around.

Originally the poem read:
Clouds graze the sky
Below, sheep drift gentle
Over fields, soft mirrors
Warm white snow

But Ms Laws, 48, admitted that, once the sheep had shifted around, "some of the time it won't make much sense". She explained that it was an artistic experiment designed to break down the boundaries between her two loves – literature and quantum mechanics.

Donald Slater of Whitehouse Farm, the owner of the breeding ewes, was sceptical about his flock's new-found status at the cutting edge of artistic endeavour. "Our shepherd is really embarrassed about it," he said. "He will never be able to hold his head up in the agricultural community. But the industry is very depressed here and we needed something to cheer us up."

WANTED

A set of milking machines. If you can help please contact Sue Smith at Blue Beach Farm on phone/fax – 32235 or e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk

Thank you.

FOR SALE

TWO STEEL DIESEL TANKS

APPROX SIZE: 1 X 1000 GALLONS
1 X 1400 GALLONS

£500 each or nearest offer.

Contact Hew or Sue at Blue Beach on phone/fax 32235 or e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk

NEW URGENCY FOR TREE PLANTING IN THE HILL COVE FOREST

By Aidan Kerr

In a recent visit Dr Alan Low (DoA Forestry Consultant) and I confirmed that the Spruce trees in the Forest have suffered serious damage to their foliage. Most of the trees along the eastern side have lost many of their needles, particularly on the older branches. Consequently they look brown and unhealthy (see photograph opposite). The Spruces along the west side of the forest still retain most of their needles although the damage is also occurring there.

The needle damage has been caused by an insect pest called the 'Green Spruce Aphid' (*Elatobium abietinium*). The aphids are present in very large numbers. They feed on the needles causing them to drop off the branches.

This pest, exclusive to Spruce trees has been in the Islands for well over 20 years. It survives well in the Island's relatively mild winters. It was probably introduced on imported Spruces and has caused serious damage to Spruces in other locations, particularly in Stanley. Damage to old trees is usually fatal. For this reason Spruces were deliberately not included in the DoA's shelterbelt trials. It must be stressed that this aphid does not affect other trees or plants. Hence the Poplars, Pines and Beech etc growing in the 'Hill Cove Forest' and the trees in the DoA trials are unaffected by it.

According to the UK Forestry Commission control measures against this aphid have never been recommended. This is partly due to difficulties in forecasting severe attack, and thus taking timely action, partly because of the probable high costs involved and because repeated insecticide applications would be ecologically unsound. Additionally, such applications would be quite impractical to conduct in a remote location such as Hill Cove Forest.

The prognosis for the Spruce trees is uncertain but it is likely to be poor given their already stressed condition and that they are about 80 years old, thus near the end of their expected life span here. The occurrence of the damage hastens the need for replanting so that this unique mature woodland site can be perpetuated.

In our view, the best site to ensure the quickest growth of new trees would be in a fenced 250m long x 30m wide strip immediately to the west of the stream that runs S-N in the 'Forest Paddock'. The growth of the new trees and hence the restoration of tree cover would be benefited very well from the shelter provided by the dying Spruces and also from the relatively moist and fertile soil in this site. The sheltered nature of the site would allow a greater diversity of tree species to be grown compared to that in more exposed areas around the forest. New plantings on the site are being considered as part of the proposed plans to designate the Hill Cove Forest as a national park.

Aphid damage to the Spruce trees

FAREWELL

By Michael Blanch

By the time you read this, I will have left the Islands, and Chris Simpkins will have taken on the mantle of Chief Executive.

For me, its been a very interesting three years, and in that time I have tried to give special attention to the needs of farmers and to find ways for Government to help improve business and quality of life in Camp. The Road Shows in particular, were extremely useful for me and my colleagues to hear your views, expressed with your usual candour and frankness! I am sad that I was not able to have a final Road Show to say goodbye, but I want, through the Wool Press, to thank all of you who gave me hospitality, took part in the Shows or who wrote to me.

I believe things are looking better now for farmers, with improved wool prices, the prospect of meat sales and improving tourism. The Goose Green project and the Way Forward programme point to future improvements. I do believe that the light at the end of the long tunnel is now brighter, and I shall follow the news from the Falklands with a great keenness. I leave you with my thanks, and my best wishes for a better and more prosperous future.

EMBRYO TRANSFER 2002/3

Photo 1 – Smylies Feb 2003

Photo 2 – West Lagoons 2002 Angus ET Calf

Photo 3 – Shallow Harbour 2002 Hereford ET Calves

Photo 4 – Cape Dolphin 2002 Hereford ET Calf

Photo 5 – Bold Cove 2002 Angus ET Calf

Photo 6 – Shallow Harbour 2002 Hereford ET Calves

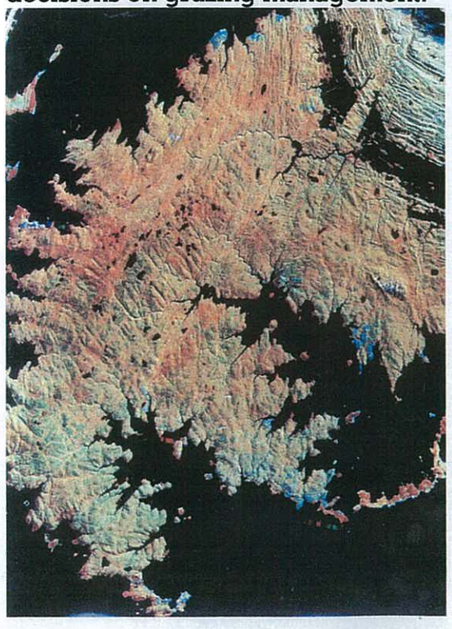
SATELLITE IMAGERY HELPS FARMERS IMPROVE SHEEP GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND PROFITABILITY

Information summarised by Aidan Kerr from an article by D. Henry in 'Farming Ahead' #129, p47-49.

Australian sheep farmers can now access accurate information on pasture growth and feed availability on the Internet. The information uses the amount of green leaf measured from satellite images combined with local rainfall and temperature data. The information is also made available locally on road signs and on the radio.

One grazier believes this information has helped him improve pasture use and overall fleece value by about £3 per sheep. Additionally, it allowed him to switch to strip grazing and increase his stocking rate three fold. Consequently his returns per hectare improved.

The novel information allows farmers to budget feed pasture so that it can be targeted more effectively to the sheep that need it – strategic grazing management. By controlling feed intake during winter and spring in Western Australia (WA) the sheep produced more wool per hectare with less variation in micron. As an alternative to visual measurements of pasture growth, which can be difficult and time-consuming in large paddocks, satellite imagery offers more accurate and ongoing assessments of the feed-on-offer and pasture growth rate. The system has been tested for over six years in WA and on-farm trials are continuing to assess the delivery of the information and its effectiveness in improving farmers' decisions on grazing management.



Part of a Landsat image of Lafonia, May 1987.
Red = 'green' pastures
Blue = bare ground
White (top right) = snow

How does it work?

Three satellites measure feed-on-offer and growth rates in 400m^2 areas every day and each fortnight. The technology measures the reflectance of both visible and near infra-red light from the pastures. This is converted into a 'greenness index' (NDVI). Using a proven relationship the 'greenness' is then converted into kilograms of feed per hectare. Pasture growth (kg/ha/day) can be estimated by combining the greenness index with rainfall and temperature data – the main weather factors affecting plant growth.

Farm maps produced using the imagery and weather data assist graziers to maximise pasture use and help free up land to generate alternative income. On the large sheep farms in WA the images allowed graziers to separate more productive areas from the less productive, so that these could be managed differently. Consequently productivity in the better pastures was improved by 20-30%. Such strategic management promotes more sustainable farming practices and improves the management of sensitive vegetation.

Following registration the information is provided free on the Internet on www.thefarmshed.com.au. Currently the system can only monitor pasture growth during the green growing season, July to November. In New South Wales CSIRO supply monthly satellite images through the growing season to two pilot farms. They then calibrate the images by taking pasture measurements along GPS-defined transects across the paddocks. However cloud cover often restricts the imagery that can be used. To overcome this problem, CSIRO hopes to use a satellite-based radar system that can 'see through' the clouds and measure feed-on-offer and pasture growth just as well as a cloud-free image.

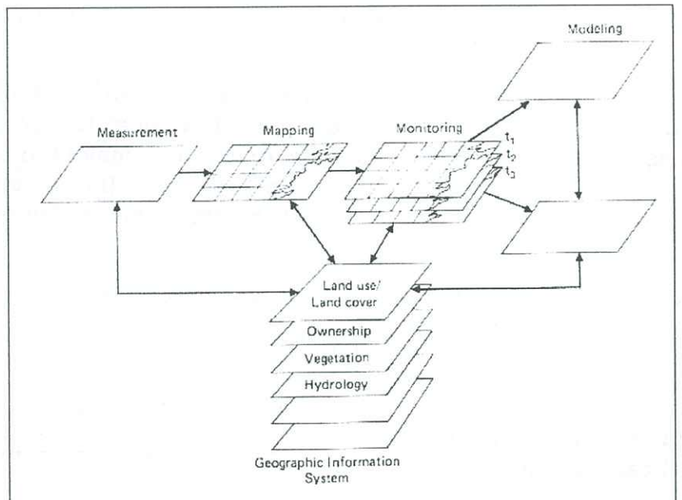


Figure 1.4 The four Ms. Measurement, mapping, monitoring, and modeling of environmental features and processes can be enhanced through the use of a geographic information system.

Recent Developments in DoA

So what's all this got to do with the sheep and wool production in the Falkland Islands? With recent improvements and further developments in DoA technology I am confident that we too can use satellite imagery to help producers improve pasture and land management, livestock production and farm profitability.

- Very soon we hope to have the first satellite imagery data that, when 'ground truthed', will allow us to accurately determine the vegetation composition of all land in the Islands. With the help of Jim McAdam and his colleagues in the Geography Department at Queen's University in Belfast cloud free processed images of West Falkland in March 2002 and of East Falkland in January 2001 from the Landsat-7 satellite will soon be available.
- The imagery will allow us to develop pasture maps for farms that want them. These can be then be used to improve grazing plans for livestock. The development will integrate well with Niilo Gobius's feed budgeting models. This will help farmers plan the conservation of camps, parts of camps and improved pasture to overcome the usual Winter and early Spring nutritional deficits for livestock.
- Those farmers that attend the 'Grazing for Profit' school in April will learn first-hand how to develop feed budgets and grazing plans for their farms.
- The farm maps could also integrate soil data (Gordon Lennie), weather monitoring (Priscilla Halliday) and farm economic data (Neil Judd) as part of 'The Way Forward' project. The 'complete picture' for each farm will be managed initially in DoA, using a Geographic Information System (GIS), like the one shown above. The specialist skills of the temporary 'Farm Mapping Officer' position will be essential to get the GIS working effectively, train staff in its application and produce maps that are 'farmer friendly'.

In conclusion, I am confident that all these developments are integrating very well and will improve the quality of advice to farmers here tremendously over the next few years. Its up to you to make the best use of it all! Finally, the next time you look up and see a satellite moving across the night sky just remember 'big brother' could be working for your benefit!

WORK

Hello Farmers. Are you looking for a table hand for next shearing season? Look no further. I will be available, so please get in touch if you would like my help. I can be contacted on phone 41098 or 22845.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Leona Whitney

REVIVALS AND REFERRALS

By Zoe Luxton

Interspersed with the normal routine of cat speys and vaccinations you do occasionally get a few excitements/disasters, and we have had a few such incidents this month. One morning here in Ipswich it was just a normal day.....dramatic pause etc etc... I was happily speying a cat when there was a squawk from Deirdre who was anaesthetising a St Bernard to take a wart of its leg. It had reacted to the anaesthetic and had stopped breathing and its heart was practically stopped also. Deirdre was starting to massage its chest, Kim was breathing for it using the machine and I tried to find a vein to get some adrenaline into it. Louise then arrived and we decided to go straight into its heart with the adrenaline. Given the size of a St Bernard a little one inch needle is not going to reach its heart and you need a longer specialised one – obviously no-one knew where they lived so I shouted to one of our less experienced nurses/receptionists to get Lindsy as she would know where they were. Good job Louise found them on her own as by the time Lins appeared we had the dog resuscitated and awake! When questioned on her absence it turned out the young nurse had stood next to her and waited politely until Lindsy had finished on the telephone! "Why didn't you interrupt me?" asked our Lins "I wasn't sure if it was an emergency" was the reply!! Note to everyone: when 3 vets are muttering expletives and frantically jumping up and down on a dogs chest IT IS DEFINITELY AN EMERGENCY!

We have had a few odd cases lately also. One was a dear little cat that couldn't poo! Convinced that there was a blockage or similar causing the problem we opened him up to find that from his anus to half way up his large bowel the wall was hugely inflamed and red and very odd looking. When I biopsied it there was huge pus leakage and it just looked like all the tissue was rotting. The only two options really were some sort of aggressive tumour or some hugely bizarre and equally aggressive inflammatory reaction – from something put up his bum??!! Each person that passed through the ops room had some more sick and lewd theory! But the bottom (excuse the pun) line was that this poor wee chap was very sick and probably going to die. So it was a very subdued me that woke him up and started stuffing him full of all sorts of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory to keep him comfortable until we got the biopsy results back, and the proof we needed to put him to sleep. I wasn't really looking forward to speaking to the owner. "Excuse me Sir. Are you a weirdo who puts things up his cats bum for fun?" "Yes dear I am actually. Do you think that's what caused it?" Suffice to say that's not how the conversation went but in a roundabout way I managed to ask if he knew of any strange happenings involving his cats butt - unsurprisingly he didn't!

Anyway, the great vet in the sky must have been looking after me and that cat, as he started improving and had a big poo (big excitement that day!)

and is now doing really well and the results just came back as massive infection.

The other strange one of late is a lovely little collie cross called Patch who came to see Claire in our Felixstowe surgery with a really high temperature. Some antibiotics and anti-inflammatory didn't seem to help and the next morning Patch could barely walk and he still had a raging fever. We figured it may just be his huge temperature causing him to be so weak but after 48hrs his temperature was normal but he was unable to walk properly and his hind legs were oddly rigid. We x-rayed every inch of that dog looking for spinal damage or some sort of bone infection in the spine but couldn't find a thing. Blood results just showed a slight infection. Every time he showed a slight improvement we got excited, then he went right down hill again so in the end we said "time to call in the experts" and packed him off to Cambridge vet school envisaging spinal taps, CT scans etc. The "experts" x-rayed every inch of him and couldn't find anything so sent him back with some more antibiotics!! He is better now but if you ever meet my friend Claire don't mention Cambridge Vet School Medicine Department to her, unless you like being held down and having needles poked in your eyes. They also had the cheek to suggest that if he became sick on a weekend again we should try treatment here until sending him to them on Monday!! I think the cleaner was handling that case, as usually the vets at Cambridge are very good and helpful!

Anyway, just as Claire's temper was finally starting to settle down over that, a lady bought her beagle in.....it had a very high temperature and very stiff back legs. I'd keep your dogs away from Felixstowe for a bit if I was you!

ORDERS

Will farmers requiring Leader, Allflex or Strong cattle/sheep tags, lamb marking rings, grinding papers etc. for next season, please contact me with their orders by March 15.

I will also be putting together orders for fencing and metal gates over the next few weeks for those who wish to take advantage of the savings that can be made by ordering in quantity.

My Australian supplier has access to an unlimited range of agricultural requirements; quotes/costs are only an e-mail away!

Contact Jimmy Forster on Tel: 42178. Fax: 42177 or e-mail: jimgin@horizon.co.fk

BEEF CATTLE BREEDING
ET / AI PROGRAMMES 2002-03

By Doug Martin

2002 AI/ET Programme

The results of AI/ET programme for 2002 are below. The ET programme commenced on the 26th January 2002 and was completed by 01 February 2002. The season was one of the driest on record, and many of the cows presented were in a condition score of 1.5 – 2 on a scale of 5.

One of the problems encountered was the lateness of the programme due to funding issues, and the fact that there was some opposition to the proposed ET programme. It was proven from research that the potential risk posed by the use of embryos was indeed less than that of artificial insemination, the embryos being washed 10 times in a solution of ethylene glycol. This process could not be carried out with semen.

Bryan Charleston from the United Kingdom travelled to the Islands to perform the transfers and did an excellent job. We were indeed fortunate to have this expertise for the cost of the airfare. Under the circumstances the results speak for themselves.

One of the issues that arose after the birth of a number of the calves was that of parentage (see photo 5, centre pages – a chocolate coloured Angus??). Whilst the Poll Herefords were true to type there was some doubt as to the parentage of the Angus calves. The result of this was that after some discussion with ArTech, New Zealand, the company who supplied the embryos, we agreed to receive a further 50 embryos of Poll Hereford origin for no charge. These arrived in the Islands this February and a number have been transferred already.

The programme resulted in 35 live ET calves. Five further ET calves were lost:- one due to a difficult birthing, two were born dead, and two more were lost when heavily pregnant cows died after falling in ditches. As some cows that were AI'ed late have yet to calf I do not have a full set of results for this yet.

Notwithstanding the problems encountered by some uncertain parentages the results were excellent, with some calves attaining 150 kg before reaching 3 months of age. It remains to be seen of course as whether these calves adapt to local conditions as they develop and how they handle winter in the Falkland Islands.

It was decided that for future programmes cows not suited for ET would be synchronised for AI, thus making more efficient use of allocated funding. In order to provide some direction a Beef Industry Development proposal, and projected funding arrangement was produced by the Beef Adviser in May 2002. The proposal was presented to the farming community with comments requested. These were generally favourable, with some reservation in relation to the proposed establishment of an ET/AI facility. FIDB agreed in principle, however it was decided that all future funding would need to be met from sale of cattle.

2003 AI/ET Programme

Funding was sought and was slow in forthcoming, leading to the inevitable delay. £13,500 was left from the two previous programmes. It was thought that to obtain an adequate amount of embryos and semen a further £20,000 was sought on the basis that the sale of surplus cattle would cover the additional amount. The sale of these cattle raised £18,000.

Three grades of embryos were available viz. from selected cows at slaughter without pedigree, but with known health status, from stud cattle and from stud cattle from the top 10% of the breed, identified by performance recorded figures as well as Breedplan. It was decided that top quality Angus would be purchased at a cost of £185, as well as Poll Hereford, Shorthorn, Red Poll, South Devon, Angus at a cost of £110 each, with the cost of the embryos processed from cows at slaughter being £65. Semen was purchased from New Zealand as well as Australia and included Angus, Poll Hereford, Shorthorn, South Devon, Red Poll, Murray Grey and Belted Galloway.

Eighteen farms participated in the programme this year, with 405 cows synchronised. 209 cow received embryos and 173 cows were inseminated. Rob Yelland from Australia was the technician chosen and again we were fortunate to have only to meet the cost of the air fare for the work to be carried out. He proved to be an excellent choice, and completed the work in two weeks, with the assistance of Nyree Heathman. Having completed training in AI and ET in Australia last year Nyree was able to complete some of the AI, along with Kevin Lawrence and Donna Minnell and myself.

One of the problems encountered this year was the higher than expected rejection of the number of cows presented for ET. This was due in part to some with ovarian cysts and also to the fact that in some cases as cows were brought closer to the settlement the diet changed to a higher protein content, thus leading to incomplete or poor follicle development. The first problem can be overcome by a change to the synchronisation programme, whilst the second can be alleviated by feeding a slightly poorer quality diet or by the inclusion of more roughage in the diet. This season of course has been in total contrast to the last.

The quality of the corpus luteum (the structure formed on the ovary after the release of the egg from the follicle and which secretes progesterone, a hormone critical for the establishment and maintenance of early pregnancy) was graded 1, 2 and 3 (one being the best). Therefore optimum use could be made of the various qualities of the embryos.

Stocks remaining are as follows: (These figures may vary fractionally from the actual amount stored as the semen/embryos require very careful handling so as not to damage the straw contents whilst still frozen. Thus, we have *roughly counted* the straws as quickly as possible in a nitrogen bath– Nyree.)

Embryos

Angus	50
South Devon	5
Shorthorn	6
Poll Hereford	19
Murray Grey x Charolais	11

Semen Straws

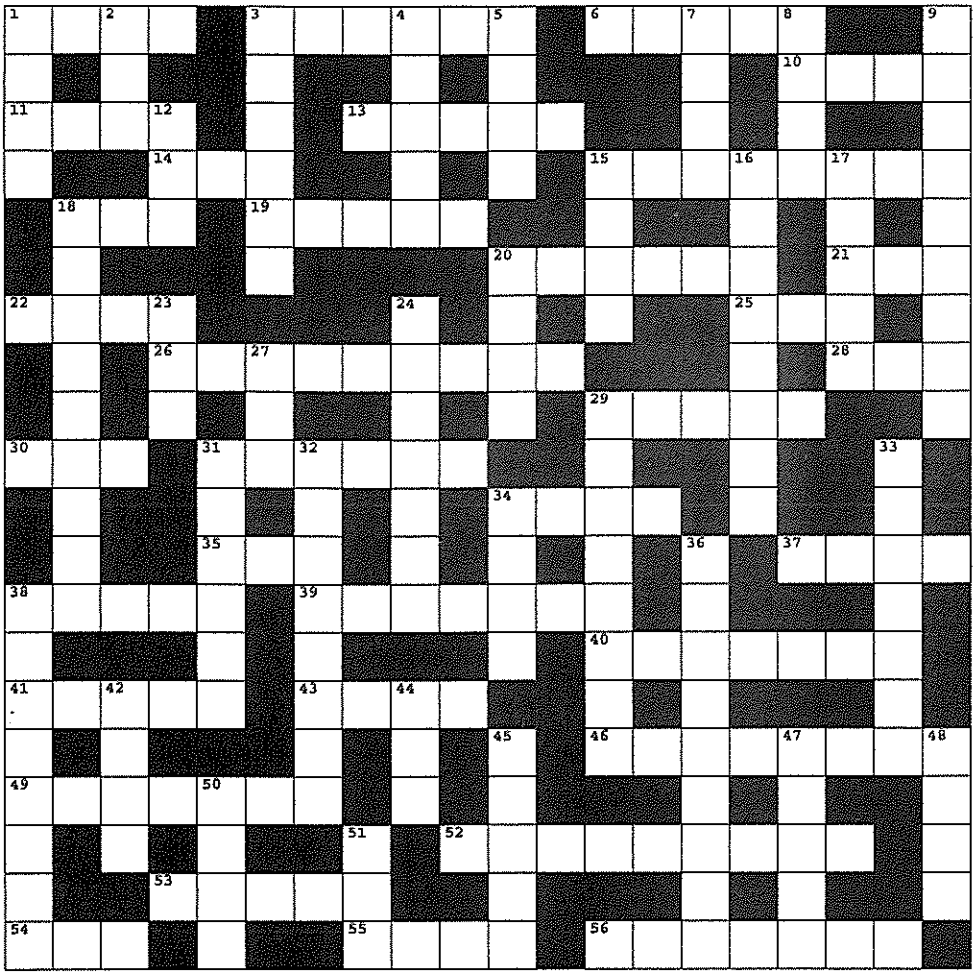
Angus	51
Hereford	30
Shorthorn	14
South Devon	21
Red Poll	190
Murray Grey	18
Belted Galloway	25
Jersey	6

Some embryos are still to be delivered from Australia, as problems were encountered at collection due to high summer temperatures (over 40 degrees centrigrade!). Full pedigrees of all bulls and cows used in the programme will be made available to all farmers. Any farmer wanting to be part of the next programme should contact Nyree Heathman at the Department of Agriculture as soon as possible. There should be adequate stocks for next season at this stage, however early advice will ensure a successful programme.

Embryo Production

With the conventional approach of embryo production, superovulation followed by artificial insemination and uterine flushing 7 days later, an average of approximately 5 viable and freezable embryos are obtained, resulting in 2 to 3 female embryos. The procedure can be repeated every 45 to 50 days. Another way to produce embryos is by in vitro fertilization of oocytes retrieved by puncturing the ovarian follicles in live females. Production of embryos following in vitro fertilization (IVF) is less expensive and less laborious and allows for the production of a large number of embryos within a relatively short time with minimal semen costs. Therefore, transfer of IVF-derived embryos has practical advantages. IVF programmes allow repeated collection of oocytes from the same donor cow on a weekly or biweekly basis using low-invasive ultrasound-guided transvaginal oocyte retrieval (TVOR), also known as oocyte pick-up or OPU. It is a difficult task to compare the TVOR-IVF scheme of embryo production, to the conventional approach of embryo production by superovulation and uterine flushing. The popularity of the latter technique amongst the ET practitioners could be attributed to its high success rate, both with fresh, as well as frozen-thawed embryo transfers. Moreover, it is a well-established procedure and is being performed in the field conditions. On the other hand, TVOR-IVF potentially makes possible the collection of as many as 1000 oocytes resulting in 300 embryos from a normal cow. It also makes possible collection of oocytes from prepubertal heifers.

For fear of confusing everyone I will leave this subject there. Please feel free to contact me on 27354 should you want to discuss this further.



ACROSS

1. Union Jack is one.
3. Floor covering.
6. Twenty.
10. Stumble over something.
11. Twelve to a foot.
13. Chooses.
14. A wicket taken.
15. Food strainer
18. Mountain
19. 'Ring of Bright Water' star
20. According to the saying, you ought to know these vegetables!
21. Small child
22. Mrs Beckham
25. You do when you are hungry.
26. Three under par on a golf course.
28. Yoko
29. Game played with a pointed ball!
30. Ova
31. An improvement
34. Fight
35. Secure with a knot
37. Bus / Train cross!
38. Flat headgear
39. New, unopened, fragrant flower.
40. Pain in the hearing area.
41. Paddle boat!
43. Gone
46. A man that gathers sheep.
49. Pale, soft colours
52. South West Farm
53. Greeting.
54. Used to unlock a door
55. Seven days.
56. Pull out of shape.

DOWN

1. Pale skin and hair.
2. Part of a circle.
3. Fine sugar.
4. Lion group.
5. Remove.
7. Not round cricket ground!
8. Posh public boys school.
9. Surgical procedure.
12. Jump up and down on one leg.
15. A fried potato stick.
16. To fit together.
17. The same again.
18. Say sorry.
20. Storage house for hops.
23. Dried grass.
24. Pals.
27. Buzzy insect.
29. Game played with ball and bat.
31. War fight.
32. Warm under garments
33. Not professional
34. Infant.
36. Person serving drinks.
38. Rucksack.
42. Smelling organ.
44. Upper limb.
45. Time teller.
47. Pumps blood around the body.
48. Proof of title.
50. First garden.
51. Pull.

The Wool Press

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

Apologies for the lack of solution to the February cross-word in last month's edition. I didn't even notice until someone rang and asked why there wasn't one - in the last week of March!

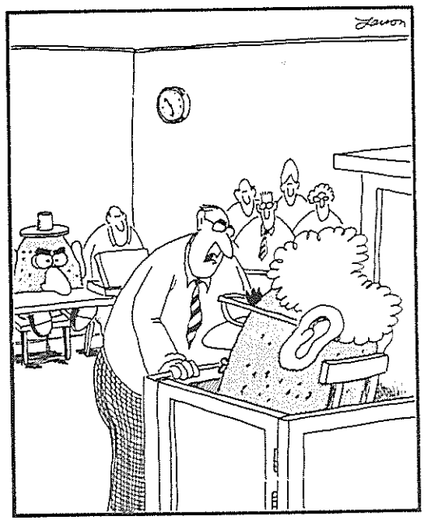
As you will notice there is a colour A4 page included with your Wool Press with 4 graphs on it. These graphs go with Niilo's Open Day presentation summary.

There will be a summary printed in each edition for the next few months to allow those of you who were unable to attend the Open Day to catch up on what has been happening.

Also in this month's edition is a centre page spread of contact details for the Department of Agriculture staff. This will hopefully make it easier for you to know who you need to speak to when contacting the Department.

Cheers,

Nyree



"So now tell the court, if you will, Mrs. Potato Head, exactly what transpired on the night your husband chased you with the Vegomatic."

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ORGANIC NEWS AND INFORMATION

By Charlene Rowland

ORGANIC FRUIT PROVES A HIT WITH ZOO'S CHIMPS

Source: World Organic News,
Published by Agra Europe (London) Ltd. +44 1892 533813

Animals at a zoo in Copenhagen are rejecting non-organic food left in their cages in preference for organic bananas and other fruit.

"For one reason or another, the tapirs and chimpanzees are choosing organically grown bananas over the others," keeper Niels Melchoirsen told the magazine *Oekologisk Jordburg.*

"If we give them organic and conventional bananas, they systematically choose the organic bananas, which they eat with the skin on. But they peel the traditional bananas before eating them. Maybe they are able to instinctively tell the difference, and their choice is not at all random."

The Danish zoo began to include at least 10% organic food in its animals' feed last year. It hopes to raise this level to 15% this year, rising to 33% by 2005. The keepers' findings could renew interest in animal feeding trials, an often neglected area of research into the benefits of organic food.

CHÉ MATÉ MAKES ITS WAY TO SUPERMARKET SHELVE

An organic brand of mate, the Argentinian national tea, is being repackaged and aimed at European supermarket customers. It already sells in health food shops.

Ché Maté's new 'funkier' packaging is said to be attracting strong interest from leading supermarkets. The Argentinian tea's major selling point for health fanatics is that it is stimulating, while not containing caffeine.

Please give me a call if you would like to talk over regarding your farm being certified as organic.

Charlene

MEAT INDUSTRY MARKETING BOARD

The minutes of the MIMB have now been circulated to all farmers from the last meeting.

As a reminder, your farmer representatives for this Board are:

Nick Pitaluga, Malcolm Ashworth and RBA Representative Ted Jones.

Agendas for future meetings will be circulated approximately one week in advance and was agreed at the last meeting that any specific points for inclusion in the next agenda should be submitted to Connie Stevens (Chairman) within 14 days of the next meeting. This will facilitate a workable agenda, and will allow time for any preparation of materials.

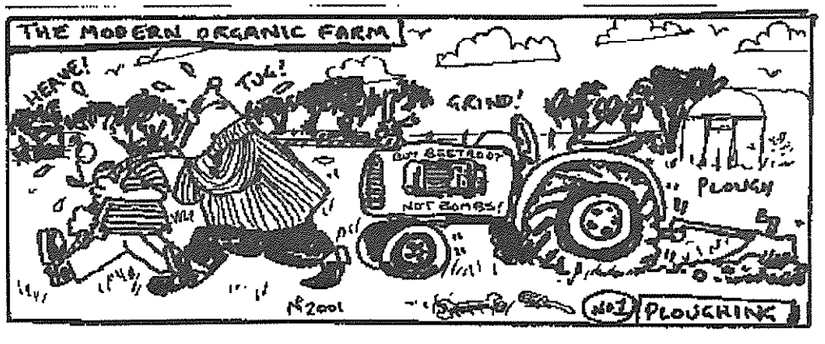
The next meeting will take place at FIDC
On Thursday 24th April 2003

EMBRYO TRANSFER (ET) ON YOUR FARM

Any antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth purposes or the use of hormones or similar substances to control reproduction is totally banned on an organic farm.

As a suggestion, if you are or thinking of having ET and also want your farm as organic, I would go ahead as soon as possible to implement ET and before applying to join FIOCS. This gives you a chance to improve stock and any breeding planning that you may want to do.

If you do decided that you want to ET, please may I ask you to keep a record of all of the details. I'm sure the DOA would give you all the necessary information if they don't already do so.



ST HELENA AND BABY MAKING

Priscilla Legg

Back to reality with a very big bump. Yes you guessed it I'M BACK! And after the rain we've been having all week I want to go back to the sunshine. I did miss you all really! Despite the weather it is nice to be home again, what is it they say? 'There's no place like home', although I do miss St Helena. Now I'm just waiting to win the lottery so I can give up work, have the house of my dreams here and in St Helena, get a nice big yacht, travel the world...Oh, sorry, I'm off on cloud 9 again!

Robert (the new husband) and I left for sunnier climates on the 12th December. After a nerve-racking first meeting with the in-laws on Ascension we started our holiday. I must add that I got on very well with Lynn and Brian (in-laws). The next part of the journey I was dreading. 2 days on board the ship from Ascension to St Helena. But, I am proud to say that I never got seasick at all, although it probably had something to do with the seasick tablets I had been taking.

After arriving we went out to Levelwood where we were staying and that night went to a disco at Silver Hill Bar. On the Sunday we went riding (it has nothing to do with horses, to us it is called spinning around!) We must have gone just about everywhere.

Over the weeks we went to a place called Horse Pasture for a picnic and also down to Ruperts for a cook-up. We went fishing out in a boat twice (even though it meant getting up at 3.30am), and shark fishing once. That was great to see! We got 2 sharks that weighed about 200 pounds and a sword/sail fish. One shark and a swordfish got away. It was the first time I'd seen a real shark before and it was quite fascinating. The guys killed it of course before they pulled it onto the boat, but Robert looked quite bewildered when I was peering into its mouth muttering "Ooh, look at all those teeth!" Once when we went fishing there were two dolphins swimming alongside the boat. That day we never took the camera with us. I was so cross. I kept saying to Robert "That is so typical, I knew we should have brought the camera".

We used to go to the seaside most nights to see if we could catch anything. The first time we did this Robert was teaching me how to cast my rod out. He told me to "Stand here" so I did. A wave came up and soaked me then he said, "You'd better move from there". He cast the rod out for me again and told me to reel it in slowly. Then it got stuck on a rock and I lost all the droppers. He cast it out again and said, "Reel it in quicker this time". I did as he said and it got stuck again. I could hear his breathing getting heavier and I said to him "I was only doing what you told me to so it's your fault not mine!" After that he didn't get involved when I was trying to fish!

As well as the fishing we did the usual holiday things like shopping, sunbathing, shopping, visiting the art gallery and museum, shopping, visiting friends and family, shopping.....Get the picture? It could explain why we were overweight on the way back. Robert swears he's never taking me shopping again.

The food was great. I've never eaten so much fish, curry and pumpkin stew in my life! Whenever you go to visit someone you are always offered something to drink and eat. Sometimes you feel a bit rude if you don't take it!

We renewed our vows and had a little party because Roberts family couldn't make the wedding. Everything was going fine until the priest forgot my name! He was saying "Robert and, and..." Robert was whispering to him "It's Priscilla, Priscilla". But the priest either couldn't hear him or was ignoring him and in the end Robert said loudly "It's Priscilla!" That set me off. I couldn't stop giggling although the fella didn't look very impressed!

All too soon it was time to say goodbye. I've never been any good with goodbyes so I opted to just tell people "See you later". Although it didn't help at all because you're not really sure when later will be. All Lynn and Brian said was "Next time you come back we want grandchildren". We had been telling them that we didn't know the recipe whenever the subject raised its head.

A day after we got back to Ascension we decided to go to the Dew Pond. When Robert mentioned the word walking I asked him how far and he said, "It's only about a mile", so I thought that was OK, I could walk a mile. A mile my bloomin' foot. It felt like ten! Once we were about half way up I started asking "Are we there yet, how much longer, I'm thirsty, are we there yet?" Once you're near the top it gets very muddy because it is more shaded and the sun can't get to it to dry it out. I'm just glad I didn't go down on my backside otherwise you could have been seeing me on You've Been Framed! Although I have to admit, it was worth it when we got to the Dew Pond and signed the visitors book and got the stamp.

A few days after returning home I was looking at the recipe that Lynn had given me for pumpkin stew and at the bottom it read:

Recipe for making babies
Boys – Two socks on
Girls – One sock off
Roll head in vinegar

We haven't tried the recipe but if anyone is successful, let me know for future reference!

THE WELFARE OF FARM DOGS IN THE FALKLANDS

By Stephen Pointing

This subject has been raised once again and the time has come for the subject to be treated more seriously than in the past. The Welfare Code for dogs has been in place since 1997 so there has been ample time for farmers to implement its recommendations. The Hydatids officer has reported that there are still kennels around the islands that fall well short of the minimum desired standard and I will be visiting these in the next few months. The issue of farm dog welfare was raised at a recent RBA meeting and the farming representatives present agreed unanimously that there was no excuse after all these years for some farm dogs to be kept in substandard conditions. All parts of the islands are now widely visited by overseas tourists and they can easily see how farm dogs are housed and treated. Many of them are already concerned that dogs are tied up or kennelled for very long periods but when they see the conditions under which some dogs are kept they are justifiably indignant. Those who have substandard facilities are aware who they are. The time has now come for action. Look at your kennels and see what needs to be done. Can you repair the existing structures? Would it be better to start from scratch? Have your dogs got sufficient room in their run and in their kennel? Is it time to move tethered dogs to a new area? Can tethered dogs easily reach shelter if the weather turns bad? Does the kennel need a good clean out to remove all old faecal material and uneaten bones? I have written on this subject as recently as the Wool Press of June 2002 so you can't say that you haven't been forewarned and previous vets have also raised the issue on several occasions before me. PLEASE TAKE THIS SUBJECT SERIOUSLY AND HAVING READ THIS ARTICLE ACT NOW!

For all farm and domestic livestock (including dogs) the following five basic principles should be adhered to:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- Provision of appropriate comfort and shelter
- Prevention of, or rapid diagnosis and treatment, of injury, disease or parasite infestation
- Freedom from distress
- The ability to display normal patterns of behaviour.

Let's make 2003 the year in which all farm dogs in the Falklands get a fair deal for all the hard work and loyalty they show you throughout the year.

VETCH

The following was recently sent to me by Phyll Rendell.

My Dad has the following comments to make about vetch having read the article about a plant being found at old Cattle Point House Paddock in the February edition of the Wool Press. Dad, (John Oliver) was manager at Goose Green and later at North Arm in the 1950's and 1960's.

" In 1950's oats were sown for hay at Goose Green to feed the cows and horses on the farm. The seed was obtained from Punta Arenas and, as was common practise in UK, to improve the feeding content of late sown oats cut for hay, vetch seed was mixed with the oat seed. The vetch seed came from UK. This mixed seed was grown for 2/3 years running at Goose Green. Archie McLeod, manager at Walker Creek took some of the mixed seed and grew a crop on the farm. Some was also planted at North Arm after culls had been burnt and scattered on the ground before ploughing."

He goes on to say "shepherds' horses could well have carried the hard grey-black seed in their stomachs to outside houses".

There are a few anecdotal pieces in the letter about cutting the oats at Goose Green and one cold harvest they found hundreds of frozen mice in the cut crop! I remember warmer summers when we settlement kids caught the mice during hay making, kept them in tobacco tins and took them home, much to our mother's horror!

The good old days!

WANTED

One straight drawbar for a Zetor Tractor.

If you can help please contact Raymond MacBeth in the evenings on phone 42201 or e-mail r.macbeth@horizon.co.fk

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE TEMPORARY FARM MAPPING OFFICER

By Stuart Doyle B.man, PGC.Ru.Sc

Nyree strikes again, she is very persistent in her pursuit of material for the wool press as many of you would be well aware I am sure!!

A bit about my background before getting on to why I am appearing in the 'Wool Press'. I was born and bred on a mixed farm in central NSW, Australia, where my family ran a mixed enterprise farm of cereal cropping, merino sheep and poll Hereford cattle. In the height of the wool boom we were shearing 15000 wethers and farming about 8000 acres of cereal annually.

This background led me to pursue agriculture as a career, and after working on the family farm for a year I attended university and attained a degree in Farm Business Management. During my studies I was able to focus on an agronomy major and my interest in plant and soil science led me to pursue post Graduate studies in Rural Science.

I finished my undergrad studies in 1997 and went into the work force as a crop agronomist focused mainly on cotton (the other natural white fibre) and irrigated cereals and pulse crops. Initially I worked with a private consultancy company in Moree (Nth NSW) and after 2 years there I was recruited to a local agricultural retailer to implement a prescription-farming program focussed on advanced agronomy and precision agriculture. This experience greatly challenged ideas that I had taken for granted as truths, and allowed me to apply my skills to all facets of the farm, basically from the analysis of the soil right through to the analysis of the farm business as a whole.

So how did I end up in the Falkland Islands? I did not have much choice really, my wife had accepted a job in the Falklands as a Financial Controller and was taking my dog, Harry, to the other side of the earth so I thought I had better accompany them to ensure safe passage. Seriously though, when Amara was offered the position here in the Falklands, we both did a fair amount of soul searching, as we both had clients and responsibilities to consider, not to mention friends and family to be left behind. However, looking at the Falkland Islands web sites and talking to people here, a certain fascination set in and before we knew it we had resigned and decided that we had to come down and see what life had to offer in the Falklands.

I have been fortunate to be appointed as Temporary Farm Mapping Officer in the DOA for the next three months, so I hope to meet more of the people in camp that I have not yet met, and progress the mapping of the Falklands farms. As you will have read from last months issue of 'The Wool Press' the DOA has purchased some satellite images of the Falkland Islands and has had these images away for processing in Nth Ireland, at Queens University.

What is the benefit to you as a farmer? In my experience remote sensing enables the collection of information over a large area at a low cost in time and pounds. This information may be the location of farm boundaries, vegetation classification, an aerial view of the farm for planning purposes and the assessment of camp sizes. Don't be put off by the technical sounding jargon, if you want to be involved give myself or one of the DOA staff a call and discuss how this technology may be applicable to you on your farm.

I have seen all of your farms on the map and on satellite images, so I hope over the coming months to meet more of you in person.

CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As there have been a number of changes in the Department of Agriculture over the last few months it is timely to provide an updated list of our contact details.

Main Office: PO Box 583
Bypass Road
Stanley

Telephone +500 27355
Fax: +500 27352
General E-mail: doa.fig@horizon.co.fk

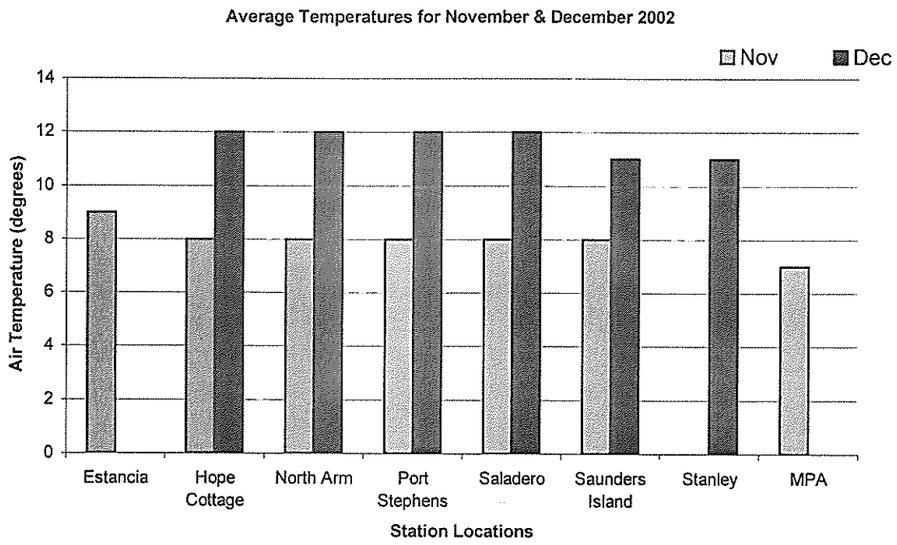
Veterinary Service:
Telephone: 27366
After hours – answer phone 27366

Officer	Title	Tel Number	Fax Number	Desktop E-mail address	Contact With Regard To:
Paz Blyth	Cleaner	27355	27352		Laboratory Cleaner
Ewan Bonner	Trainee Agricultural Assistant	27359	27359	doa.goosegreen@horizon.co.fk	
Tim Bonner	Agricultural Assistant	27355	27352	tbonner@doa.gov.fk	Shelter Belts, Reindeer Management, Common Fencing, Horse Movements
Sam Davies	Trainee Agricultural Assistant	27355	27352		
Manuel Sancho Domingo	Abattoir Veterinary Officer	27013	27113	abattoirvet@horizon.co.fk	Abattoir Meat Processing & Inspection
Stuart Doyle	Temporary Farm Mapping Officer	27355	27352	sdoyle@doa.gov.fk	Farm Maps, Areas of Camp, Land System Mapping
Lucy Ellis	Agricultural Assistant	27355	27352	lellis@doa.gov.fk	QFW, Core Testing, National Stud Flock, Ewe Ultra-Sound Pregnancy Diagnosis
Ellen Ferguson	Cleaner	27366	27352		Veterinary Cleaner
Ged Ford	Agricultural Assistant	27359	27359	gford@doa.gov.fk	Machinery – Pool, Operation, Maintenance, Pasture Improvement
Sarah Forster	Veterinary Services Officer	27366	27352	sforster@doa.gov.fk	Veterinary Accounts, Appointments, General Veterinary Enquiries, Livestock Movement Tags
Jimmy Forster	Veterinary Assistant – Hydatid Officer	42178	42177	jimgin@horizon.co.fk	Hydatids Inspections, Working Dog Husbandry
Niilo Gobius	Animal Nutrition Officer	27016	27016	sheepnut.fig@horizon.co.fk	Livestock – Nutrition, Husbandry, Management, Supplementary Feeding, Grazing Systems
Sue Halfacre	Senior Laboratory Technician	27355	27352	shalfacre@doa.gov.fk	Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics
Nyree Heathman	Assistant Rural Development Officer	27355	27352	nheathman@doa.gov.fk	Replacement Fencing, Subsidy Scheme, Farm Accounts, Farming Statistics, Wool Press
John Hobman	Farm Manager – Saladero	27357	27357	saladero@horizon.co.fk	Saladero & Brenton Loch, National Stud Flock, National Beef Herd
Peter Johnston	Director	27355	27352	pjohnston@doa.gov.fk	Complaints & Compliments!
Neil Judd	Wool Advisor	27355	27352	njudd@doa.gov.fk	The Way Forward, National Stud Flock, Wool Analysis & Marketing, Sheep Husbandry
Matthew Kelly	Meat Hygiene Inspector	27013	27113	abattoirvet@horizon.co.fk	Abattoir Meat Processing & Inspection
Glynis King	Senior Clerk	27355	27352	gking@doa.gov.fk	General Accounting & Departmental Enquiries
Kevin Lawrence	Veterinary Officer	27366	27352	klawrence@doa.gov.fk	Import Permits, Reindeer, Boat Inspections, Livestock & Pet Clinical
Priscilla Legg	Agricultural Assistant	27355	27352	plegg@doa.gov.fk	Weather Stations, Plant Imports
Gordon Lennie	Senior Laboratory Technician	27355	27352	glennie@doa.gov.fk	Soil & Plant Laboratory Diagnostics
Karen Marsh	Senior Agricultural Assistant	27012	27012	agtech.fig@horizon.co.fk	West Falkland Pool Machinery, QFW Inspections, Shelterbelts, Pasture Improvements
Doug Martin	Beef Advisor	27354	27354	beefspec.fig@horizon.co.fk	Cattle - Husbandry, Feeding & Breeding (AI & ET), Forage Crops & Pastures
Mandy McLeod	Rural Development Officer	27355	27352	mmcleod@doa.gov.fk	Incentive Scheme, Goose Green Development, Farm Business Analysis, Special Fund, Training
Steve Pointing	Senior Veterinary Officer	27366	27352	spointing@doa.gov.fk	Abattoir, Boat Inspections, Animal Imports & Exports, Livestock & Pet Clinical, Animal Welfare
Andrew Pollard	Pasture Agronomist	27359	27359	apollard@doa.gov.fk	Pasture Improvement Scheme, Forage Crops, Shelter Belts, Pool Machinery, Plant Imports
Owen Summers	Seconded to FLH	22697	27210	owen.flh@horizon.co.fk	
Margo Smallwood	Cleaner	27355	27352		Office Cleaner

WEATHER FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

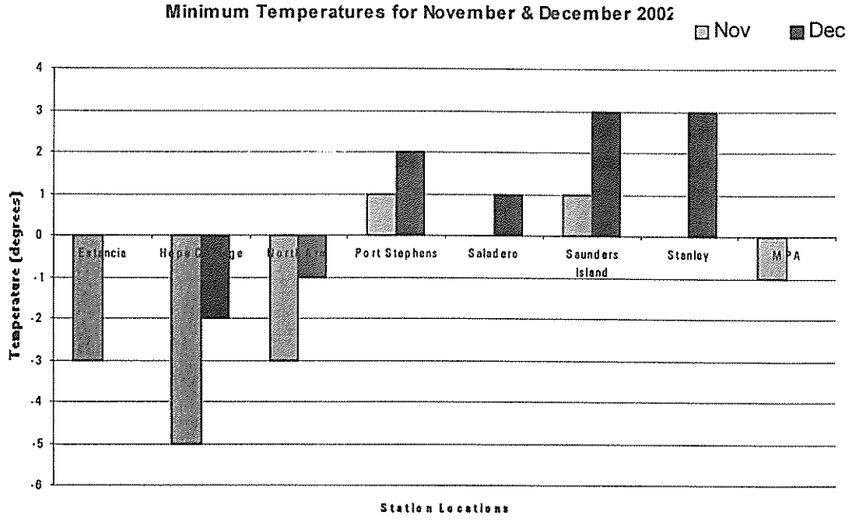
By Priscilla Legg

Now I'm back at work and back into the swing of things I thought I had better pull my finger out and write a weather related article. Although with the windy and rainy days that we have been having, I'm not so sure that you will really want to know! Here goes anyway.

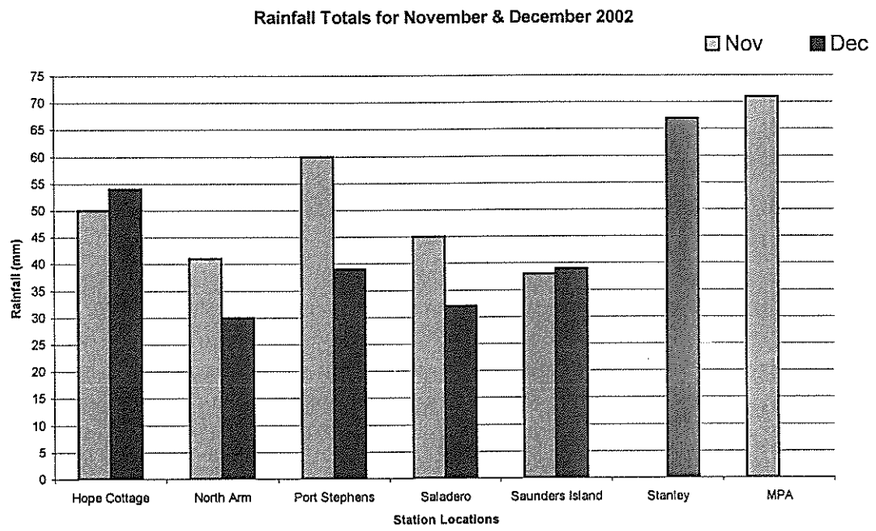


As you can see Estancia had the highest average temperature in November with 9 degrees celcius. Hope Cottage, North Arm, Port Stephens, Saladero and Saunders Island had the second highest average with 8 degrees. MPA was the coolest with an average of 7 degrees.

In December Hope Cottage, North Arm, Port Stephens and Saladero had the highest average temperature with 12 degrees, and Saunders Island and Stanley had an average of 11 degrees.

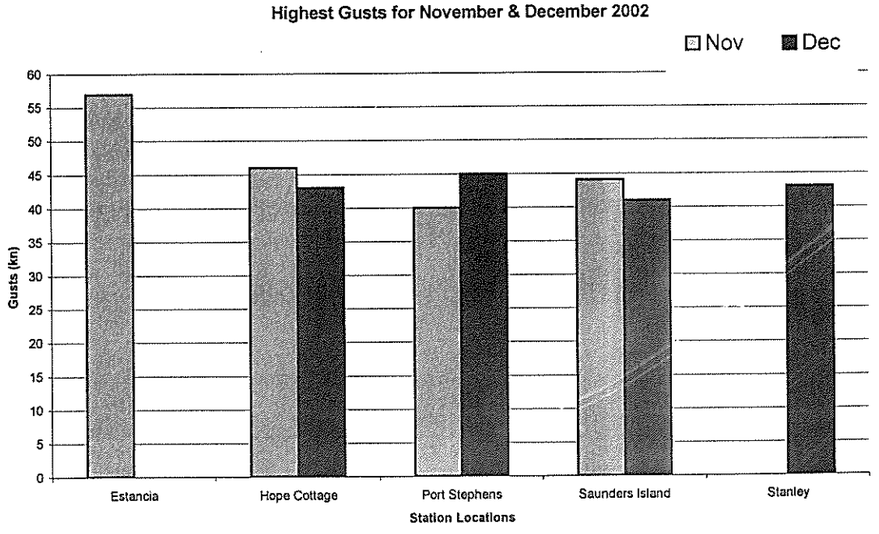


Hope Cottage was the coldest place out of these locations with the lowest temperature being –5 degrees celcius. Estancia and North Arm were the second coldest with –3, with the remainder of the locations varying from –1 to 1. In December Hope Cottage was once again the coldest place with –2, the rest varying from –1 to 3 degrees.



November was quite a wet month. MPA had 71mm of rain and Port Stephens was the second wettest having had 60mm. The rest of the locations varied from 38-50mm.

Stanley was the wettest place in December with 67mm. Hope Cottage was next with 54mm with the remainder varying from 30-39mm.



November was also quite a gusty month. Estancia seemed to be the windiest with a maximum gust of 57 knots. Hope Cottage had 46 knots, Saunders Island 44 knots and Port Stephens 40 knots.

December appeared to be a slightly calmer month. Port Stephens was the windiest out of the locations with a maximum gust of 45 knots. Hope Cottage and Stanley had 43 knots and Saunders Island 41 knots.

As you will notice, a month is missing for a couple of the locations. This is due to having insufficient data to give a true reading.

I will give you a weather summary for January through March next month.

NATURAL PESTICIDES

Source – The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect & Disease Control
(Collated By Aidan Kerr)

Here are two natural pesticides that can be made from readily available materials and would be suitable for use on greenhouses and polytunnel crops here. Follow the instructions and see what happens!

Garlic Oil

Herbal folklore recommends garlic for its antibiotic, antifungal, and insecticidal properties. When combined with mineral oil and pure soap, it becomes an effective insecticide with fungicidal properties as well.
Protection Offered:- Garlic oil kills insects, but not selectively. Use it to control aphids, imported cabbageworms, leafhoppers, larval mosquitoes, squash bugs, and whiteflies. It also works against some fungi and some nematodes. Some gardeners report that it has little effect against Colorado potato beetles, grapeleaf sceletonizers, grasshoppers, red ants, or sowbugs. Adult lady beetles seem unharmed by garlic oil sprays.
Precautions:- Since garlic is consumed daily in some cultures with no ill effects, we assume it is a safe product to use in the garden and that excessive precautions are unnecessary. Some follicular injury may occur when garlic sprays include oil and/or soap. Since it is non-selective, garlic spray can kill beneficials as well as pests.
How To Use:- Soak 3oz of finely minced garlic cloves in 2 teaspoons of mineral oil for at least 24 hours. Add 1 pint of water that has 1/4 oz of liquid dish soap mixed into it. Stir well and strain into a glass jar for storage. Combine 1-2 tablespoons of this concentrate with 1 pint of water to make a spray. Test your mixture on a few leaves to test for injury caused by the oil and soap; damage may not appear for 2-3 days. Spray plants thoroughly to ensure good coverage.

Tomato Leaf Spray

Tomatoes and potatoes have significant amounts of poisonous compounds called alkaloids in their leaves. Instead of acting as an insecticide, however, sprays made from tomato leaves appear to reduce pest damage by attracting natural pest enemies searching for their prey.
Protection Offered:- Use tomato leaf sprays to protect plants from aphids and to reduce corn earworm damage.
Precautions:- Since alkaloids tend to be toxic to mammals, use care in handling this spray and avoid getting it on your skin. Some individuals are extremely allergic to plants in the nightshade family. Don't use tomato leaf spray on other nightshade family crops because of the risk of spreading mosaic virus.
How To Use:- Finely chop 1-2 cups of tomato leaves, then soak them overnight in 2 cups of water. In the morning strain the slurry through cheesecloth, add about 2 more cups of water to the strained liquid, and spray, covering leaves thoroughly.

RETIREMENTS AND WAISTLINES

By Zoe Luxton

This month heralded the semi-retirement of Mr Smith of Smith, Ryder-Davies and Partners. Along with devastating the female geriatric population of Woodbridge it has been rather a sad time in the practice as well. Mr Smith is one of the proper "James Herriot" vets, hands the size of meat plates, a relative disregard for a sterile operating field and a genuine love of all animals from cattle to cats (although he has very little interest in rabbits and small furry medicine – far too modern!). We are still going to see him 3 mornings a week but we felt a small ceremonial occasion was still called for. The general consensus was that a raucous night out involving dancing girls and vodka would probably not be appropriate (and not allowed by Mrs Smith) so Dawnie (practice receptionist and chief organiser of all practice social events) arranged a lunchtime buffet while Martin hired a Zimmer frame for the humorous aspect. Now we had to make sure Mr Smith didn't disappear on a farm visit at the end of morning surgery and miss his own (semi) send off so Gemma wrote in the book 3 fake goat castrations for him to do at the surgery. The day arrived and Mr Smith wandered in and checked the book and noticed the goats. Unbeknown to Gemma Mr Smith also had a dentists appointment so he instructed Lesley (part time and not-in-the-know receptionist) to ring Mr F and arrange for him to come an hour later with his goats. Thus one very confused Mr F "I don't have any goats dear", a very confused Lesley, Gemma under the desk giggling hysterically and Dawnie wondering if she should liquidise any of the buffet. Luckily it was only a dental check up and we eventually had a very nice lunch with Mr Smith loving the Zimmer frame and slippers gag to the extent that he bought his old tatty slippers in to send off for cremation in a poignant like gesture.

Moving on to fat cat news. George's diet sheet has so far looked like this:
Week 1; 6kg – veterinary owner slightly embarrassed at largeness of cat. Food reduced.
Week 2; 6kg – owner surprised that cat is not down to required weight, food reduced further.
Week 3; 6kg – owner aghast at fact that as well as not reducing her own waist size she cannot even diet a cat.
Week 4; 5.96kg – a small but significant reduction I feel, hopefully not the result of the litter tray action that occurred before weigh-in.
Week 5; haven't got round to weighing him yet.....
There was a blip around week 2 when I was on duty and didn't get home until very late one night. I raced home worrying that my poor little ginger boys would be very sad and hungry indeed to find the bloaters both lying on the sofa completely full. They had managed to break into a very sturdy unopened sack of cat food that was minding its own business in the corner of the kitchen. I didn't know whether to be furious at the blatant bad stealing behaviour, guilty at the fact I am such a bad parent my boys had to forage for their own food or hysterical with worry that I was going to have

to spend the next day removing lumps of thick plastic bag from cat intestines.

I didn't feel such a weight loss failure when I met "Charlie" last week however. Charlie had to come in to the vets to have an abscess lanced. "He's a bit overweight" puffed his owner as he dragged him out of the (large) cat box. Out came the biggest cat I HAVE EVER SEEN. Charlie actually weighed in at 14kg!!!! Unfortunately he was also the most vicious swine I have come across in a while and sedating him involved the very technical procedure of Kim (biggest bravest nurse) hurling herself and a blanket at the lump of cat while I dived on its back end with a needle muttering a silent prayer that Kim wasn't about to receive a syringe full of sedative.

Now, although we were all open-mouthed and speechless at the size of the cat it has to be remembered that this cat actually had a much more serious problem - the abscess on its butt. Charlie is morbidly obese. The layer of fat on the outside of his body is matched by a similar layer around his heart and internal organs, he could barely walk, he couldn't groom himself at all and the smell of the abscess was mingled with the smell of old faeces matted around his back end. We sent Charlie home with a prescription diet food and the blunt warning to his owners that by not doing their very best to get the weight off Charlie they were in fact, killing him. You should be able to feel your cats' ribs and backbone without exerting much pressure on the skin with your fingers. Have you felt your cat lately?

DOG OWNERS: WHO NEEDS A WEATHER STATION?

Priscilla Legg

Each month I am e-mailed a newsletter from Davis Instruments. Davis is the company we bought the weather stations from.

In February's issue of the newsletter, there was a small article (below) with the title Dog Owners: Who Needs a Weather Station? It was anonymously posted on an online weather message board.

"To determine the weather, go to your back door and look for the dog. If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining. But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard. If the dog's fur looks like it has been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy. If the dog has snow on his back, it's probably snowing. Of course to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather. Sincerely, The Cat"

Saladero Open Day 2003

YEARLY FEEDPLANS

By Niilo Gobius

What time of the year is most limiting to your production system? Late winter/early spring is generally agreed upon. Unfortunately, this corresponds with the period immediately prior to lambing and calving. So instead of weight gain we have weight loss, deaths, low marking % and slow growth rates of young stock.

What causes this? In most camps there is plenty of whitegrass around! Whitegrass will barely maintain body weight when green. We think that by July/ August/ September there are no accumulated finegrasses and herbs left to supplement the animal so weight loss occurs.

How do we overcome this feed gap? Management!
What are the options?
The options are outlined in Table1 below, in order of least expensive to more expensive. The table also summarises the relative cost, effectiveness and effort involved with each option and points to which animals it is most cost effective to feed.
Later Lambing/Calving?
Pasture growth starts around October and really kicks off in November. Traditionally lambing in the Falklands is probably early October. By delaying lambing until mid-November the ewe's greatest energy requirements are matched with the greatest pasture growth. We should see more lambs and ewes survive and lambs grow faster. Graphs 1 and 2 show the difference between lambing in mid-September and mid-November. The light green colour is greens/finegrass growth, the brown/green is the amount of greens/finegrasses that are not grazed and hence accumulate from one month to the next, and the cream is whitegrass growth. The red line is the absolute maximum intake of feed that the flock can consume based on its body weight and very high quality feed. The blue line is the feed intake required by this flock. This blue line is based on acceptable live-weight gains and losses and the quality and quantity of pasture available at that time of the year. We want the blue line (requirements) to be below the red line (absolute potential) all throughout the year, otherwise heavy weight loss is likely to occur. We can see in Graph 1 that if lambing in September, weight loss is likely to be heavy in the last 6-8 weeks of pregnancy (the critical period), whereas if lambing in mid-November weight should at least be maintained, and probably gained, in the last 6-8 weeks of pregnancy.
Rotational grazing in any form?
One group of animals grazing two paddocks is better than continuously grazing one because the pasture has a rest from grazing and has a chance to grow. The more leaf area allowed to remain the greater the grass growth – up to a point. The more paddocks used, the longer the rest period between grazing and the greater the growth potential.
If we use supplements what animals should we feed?
Feed animals that have the greatest requirement and therefore will respond the most ie. young growing animals and breeding animals.
What type of supplements?
In the late winter/early spring period energy is most limiting, followed by protein, then minerals.

Home grown supplements – Fodder crops, particularly swedes, can last till late winter and be grazed by the animal. Home-grown is usually cheaper than bought in supplementary feed, provided they can be grown each year. Based on crops produced in the Islands, cost per kg of dry matter (feed) can be as low as 11 p/kg. If a crop fails in 1 year, the price doubles, if it fails for 2 years and the price triples. Animal growth won't be high but hoggs should gain weight and ewes may maintain weight! See Graph 3 where 50 ha of swedes have been fed out from June to September. If we follow the red and blue lines again, we can see that ewes will

probably gain weight in early winter (the blue line drops well below the red) but may lose some weight in August (blue above the red) before lambing in September.

Molasses blocks – These are sold in the Falklands cheaper than they can be made (considering labour and time). Blocks can provide concentrated energy, protein and minerals. However, their down-side is uneven acceptability over the flock or herd!

Urea ensiled whitegrass – An experiment conducted last year showed there may be benefits to making a type of silage from whitegrass. Ensiling whitegrass increased its protein percentage from 4.9% to 12.5% and increased dry matter digestibility by about 14%! The problem is that the digestibility is so low initially (~40%) that the increases may not have a dramatic effect on animal production. Therefore the cost of producing this silage may not be recouped. This should be investigated further before it is recommended!

Dry Mineral mix's – Usually provides urea for protein and minerals. The urea helps the animals digest more fibrous feed such as whitegrass. The main issues with dry licks and urea is ensuring the animals do not consume too much urea, which can be toxic in large amounts. If urea is wet, it may pool and animals could lick more than they should. It is possible that a dry lick may be used to supply a concentrated energy source called propylene glycol. I will be investigating this.

How much should we feed, when, how?
Anyone interested in feeding animals should contact me. Feeding supplements in extensive situations bring difficulties eg: transporting in winter, keeping supplements dry, feeding the right amounts per animal etc. Concentrated feeds can also have palatability problems that must be overcome.

Table 1: Options for filling the late winter/early spring feed gap

	Provide feed in August/September	Relative Cost	Effectiveness	Relative effort	Supplement type	What animals?
Later lambing/calving	✓ ✗	Nil	Moderate	Low	Nil	Breeding
Rotational/Deferred grazing using existing camps	✓ ✗	Nil	Moderate	Low	Nil	All
Rotational/Deferred grazing using new subdivisions	✓ ✗	Low (over time)	Moderate	Initially High then low	Nil	All
Fodder crops	✓	Low	High	High	Energy	Young/ Breeding
Molasses blocks	✓	Moderate	Good with some animals	Moderate	Protein/ minerals	Young/ Breeding
Ensiled whitegrass	✓	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Protein/ energy	Young
Dry Mineral Mix	✓	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Protein	All
Reseeds?	✗	High (from low production)	Low	Initally high then low	Nil	Young/ Breeding

Reseeds for the late winter feed gap?
Graph 4 shows the effectiveness of 100 ha of reseed in filling the late winter feed gap for 2000 breeding ewes. As can be seen there is not much difference to Graph 1. If there were only 200 ewes on the same reseed and lambing was in October/November benefits would be seen.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARIES

Dear All,

Just a quick reminder that your subsidy will be paid on the receipt of a copy of your annual accounts summaries.

All summaries must be received by Fri 30 May for processing. Farms sending in their accounts after this date will not receive their 2003 subsidy.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent their summaries in to me.

Nyree

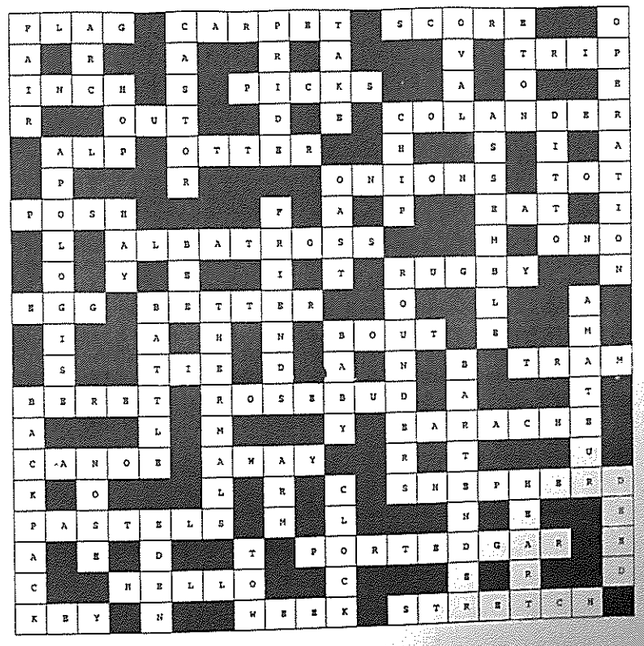
TELEPHONE COVER

Please note that as from Monday 14 April 2003, for a two-week trial period, both the Department of Agriculture reception and Veterinary Department **telephones** will be manned over the dinner hour (1200-1300).

This is to enable people to leave messages for Department staff that will be passed on immediately after the dinner hour.

Thank you.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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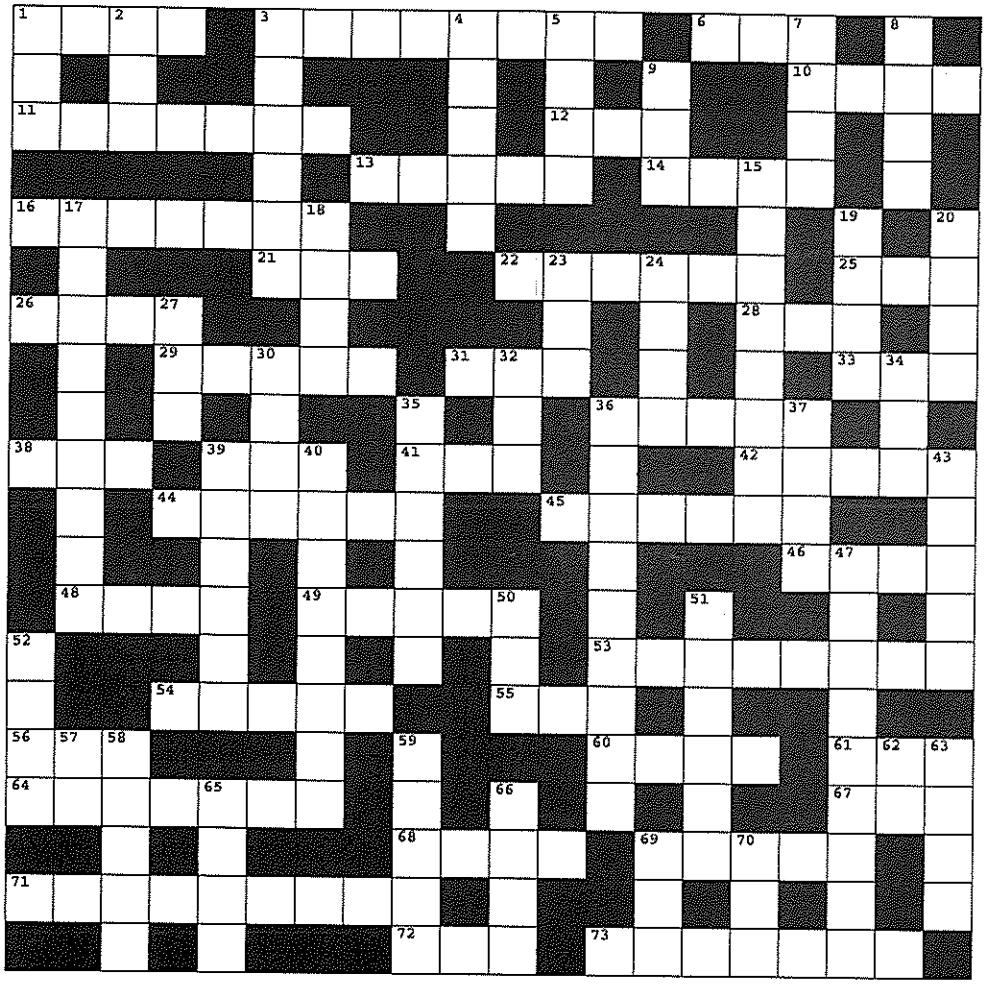

ACROSS

1. boast
3. item of clothing for upper body
6. raw iron
10. Norwegian God of Thunder.
11. truant, leave without permission
12. cat sound
13. cricket trophy
14. not fat
16. balcony or roof edge
21. stop colour
22. sacred song or hymn
25. three
26. the person in charge
28. Mrs Peron
29. eating platform
31. coconut stall
33. winged mammal
36. game played with odd shaped ball
38. yolk and white with a hard shell
39. insect or disease
41. creping plant
42. tool used to prise
44. ringed planet
45. pet pig?
46. chest bones
48. depart
49. motor race
53. not dangerous
54. animal
55. small
56. health fountain
60. closing word of a prayer
61. help
64. in the past
67. name before marriage
68. sure speed?
69. extra
71. plant holder
72. talk incesantly
73. elongate

DOWN

1. squeezing snake
2. donkey
3. lope
4. irritating (skin)
5. upper limbs
7. public school
8. male pig
9. night bird
15. fit together
17. say sorry
18. duck
19. impale with a knife
20. herb for mutton and lamb
23. vocalise
24. unpaid overtime is taken in this
27. pig house
30. fight (boxing)
32. Dried grass.
34. real beer
35. mix in the crowd
36. Oliver Cromwell
37. 365 days
39. war fight
40. channel island
43. fragrant flowers
47. of iceland
50. tree
51. A companion or mate.
52. eye hair
57. 3.141 theorem
58. UK racecourse
59. damp, moist and slightly foggy
62. for instance
63. deceased
65. 6 balls
66. secure fastener
69. appropriate
70. female rabbit

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

Where to begin? It's been a pretty hectic month with The Way Forward taking up the best part of the first two weeks. The last few days have been entertaining to say the least. With Doug in Oz it somehow became my job to get some cattle purchased on the Ram Sale day into the yards at Brenton Loch, into Stanley and onto the Tamar.

Day one went reasonably smoothly with only one disagreeable cow needing 'guidance' to the yards. Day two proved to be some-what more entertaining and involved Timmy and I trying to get 17 cows and 8 calves into Trigger's lorry. Two hours later we had 16 cows and all the calves safely confined in the lorry. By this stage my stomach was so sore from laughing it hurt to cough. One particularly awkward cow decided she didn't like the look of us, and that there was no b****y way on this earth she was going anywhere near the lorry. Despite Timmy and Trigger's best attempts, (I was safely outside of the yard by this stage rolling around in the grass laughing at Timmy legging if for the fence – sorry Timmy) we had to give up and let her out. She seemed to find chasing us (Timmy anyway) better fun than us chasing her. I didn't think the Tamar crew would be too impressed if they ended up getting chased around FIPASS first thing on a Thursday morning – or anyone else for that matter. Thankfully day 3 went smoothly and all the cows and calves are now happily munching grass at Fox Bay.

As some of you will probably know by now the Livestock Ordinance Forms are out! I look forward to their return in June/July. If you do happen to lose yours please just give me a ring and I will post you a replacement.

Nyree

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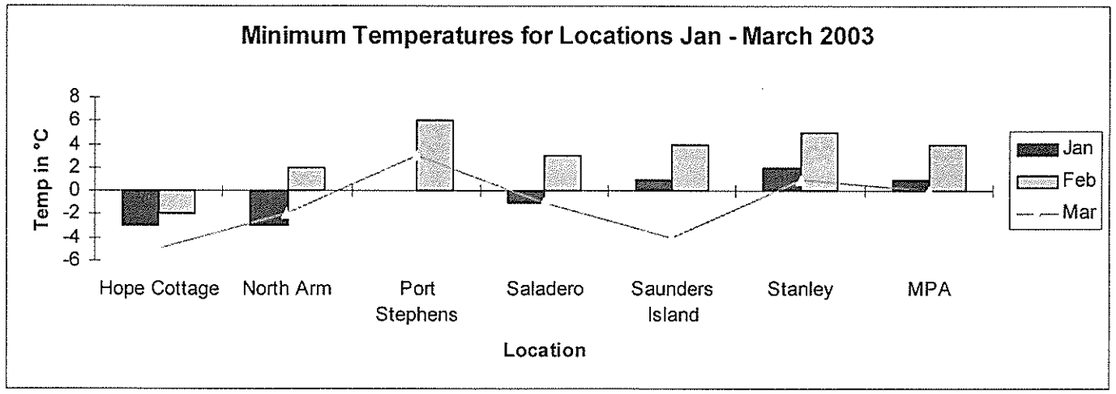
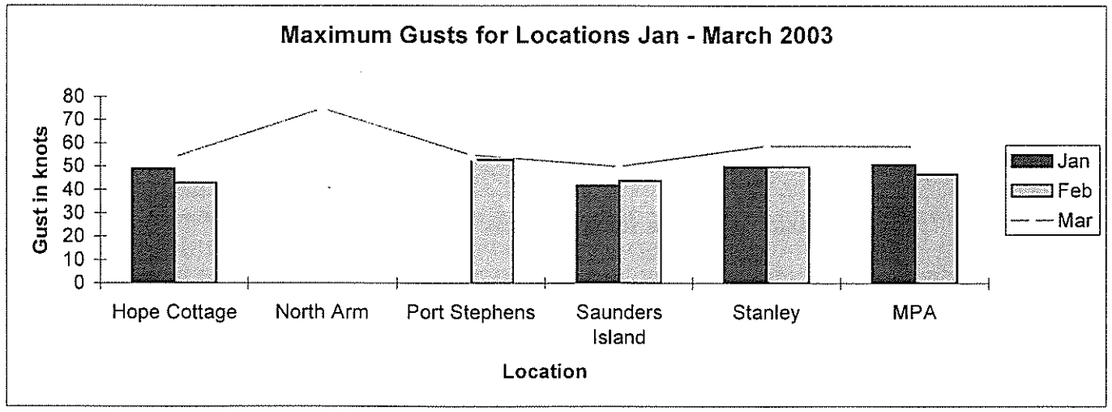
WEATHER FOR THE FIRST QUARTER JAN – MARCH 2003

By Priscilla Legg

Well according to the graphs I have below it has been quite a cold, wet and windy quarter. And winter isn't even here yet! When I was entering the MPA data (which the Met Office kindly supplies us with) I noticed there had been 120mm of rain in March. This is the most amount of rain for March that they've had since The Department of Agriculture started receiving data from the Met Office in 1987. The rainfall has tripled compared to some years when they have had 30mm of rain.





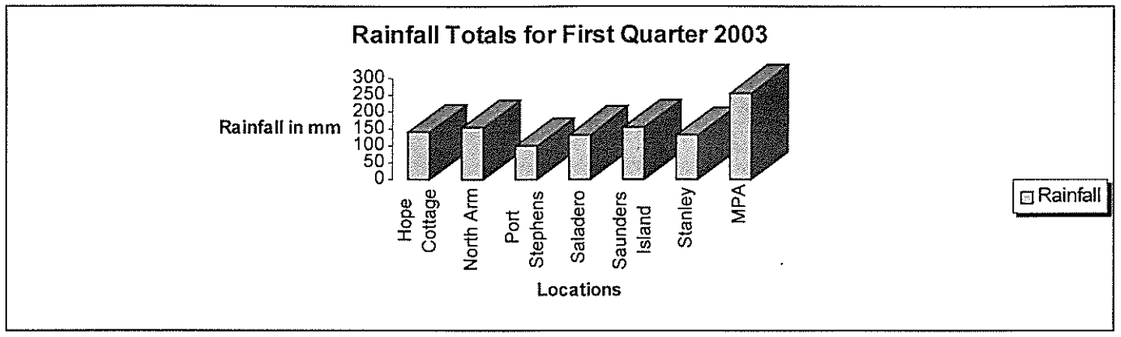
Hope Cottage and North Arm seemed to be the coldest places in January with the minimum temperature being –3. Saladero was two degrees higher with –1, Saunders Island and MPA 1 and Stanley 2 degrees.

In February Hope Cottage was once again the coldest with –2 degrees. North Arm had a minimum temperature of 2, Saladero 3, Saunders Island and MPA 4, Stanley 5 and Port Stephens 6 degrees.
March proved to be the coldest month. Temperatures at Hope Cottage went down to –5 and –4 on Saunders Island. North Arm, Saladero, MPA, Stanley and Port Stephens varied from –2 to 3 degrees.

As I said before, the first quarter of the year was a very wet one. In January MPA had 72mm of rain. North Arm had 59, Saladero 53, Saunders Island 52, Hope Cottage 50 and Stanley 47mm.

In February MPA had 65mm of rain. North Arm, Port Stephens, Stanley, Saladero, Saunders Island and Hope Cottage varied between 38 and 20mm of rain.

However, March was the wettest month. MPA got a soaking with 120mm of rain. Saunders Island had 81, Hope Cottage 73, Port Stephens 66, North Arm 58, Saladero 57 and Stanley 56mm of rain.

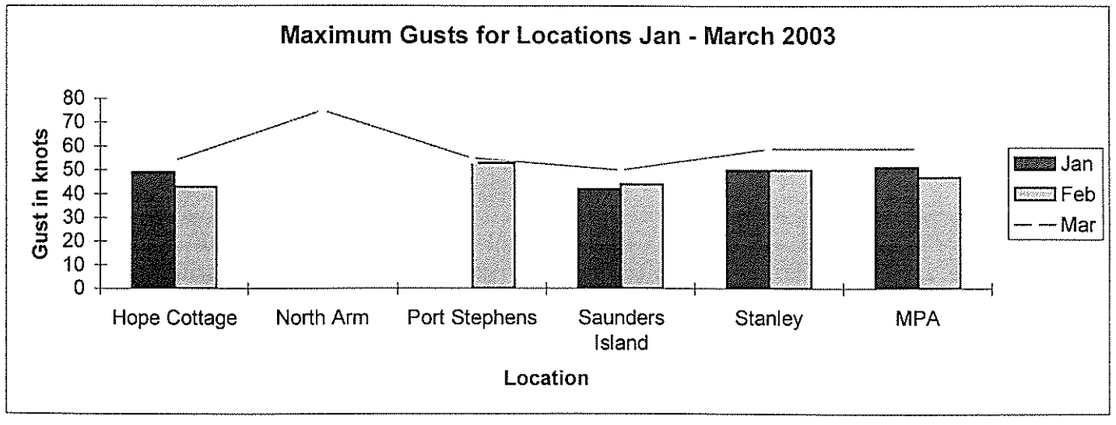


You can see the total amount of rainfall we've had so far this year from the graph above. MPA has had a whopping 257mm, Saunders Island and North Arm 155mm, Hope Cottage 143mm, Saladero 134mm Stanley 130mm and Port Stephens 100mm.

We have had some pretty gusty weather over the last three months. In January MPA had a maximum gust of 51 knots, Stanley 50, Hope Cottage, 49 and Saunders Island 42 knots.

In February Port Stephens was the gustiest with 53 knots. Stanley, MPA, Saunders Island and Hope Cottage ranged from 50 – 43 knots.

March was the gustiest month with North Arm being blown away with 75 knots. Stanley and



MPA had 59 knots, Port Stephens 55, Hope Cottage 54 and Saunders Island 50 knots.

Well that is all this time around folks. I will give you another weather report in July when I have all the weather data for the second quarter. So until next time, I hope you don't get too cold, wet or blown away!

* If some months for locations are missing, it is because there was insufficient data.

PIGS, BEES AND SAND BAY ABATTOIR

By Manuel Sancho

I wanted to be bullfighter but my father would not allowed me to, so instead I decided to become a veterinarian. I qualified as a vet at the University of Zaragoza (Spain) in 1985, specializing in Animal Production. I then started to work with pig farmers, developing health programmes and Swine Fever controls. These farmers were rearing pigs for private consumption, not for sale. Due to this the farm size was quite small and not big enough to implement new production techniques. After two years I became veterinary officer for the Agricultural Department, but only for a short period of time. I left that job, when I was selected as veterinary consultant for a sheep farmers association and at the same time, consultant for a beekeepers association (bee health status is under veterinary supervision in Spain). That job lasted four years. During that period I directed the field trials to test Melathonin implants in the Spanish sheep breeds.

The next step was to establish a company along with other colleagues. The purpose of this company was to give advice about health, nutrition, breeding and production to the pig industry. We become distributors for Spain of the PigCHAMP (Computerized Health and Management Programme) software for pig farmers from the University of Minnesota, where I spent some time learning how to use it and helping on the translation into Spanish (traditional). My function was to teach farmers and companies how to run the programme and help them to produce a good record keeping data system as well as to give advice on animal welfare, heating systems and farm environment in pig farms. During this time I spent some time in two Spanish abattoirs, one for pigs only and the other for ruminants. After six years I had the opportunity to come to the British Isles to work as an Official Veterinary Surgeon in some abattoirs in the Midlands after qualifying in Glasgow. It was something I had always wanted to do. There I learned how to improve the hygiene standards in cutting rooms, slaughterhouses and cold stores, as well as to develop HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). At the end of 2002 the company I was working for gave me the opportunity to come to the Sand Bay abattoir in the Falkland Islands. I did not think twice and came here to supervise the sheep export campaign. For me this has been one of the most exciting experiences of my life. The staff at the abattoir are very enthusiastic, so that helps a lot to keep high the hygiene standards required to produce safe and wholesome meat. Cleanliness, livestock policy and Animal Welfare are applied strictly and the slaughter line process is highly satisfactory according to the EU Standards. The same can be said about the cutting room, so this export season from the hygienic point of view has been a success.

WANTED - HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PLANTS?

By Philippa Thompson

Over a third of the plants growing in the Falklands have been introduced since humans first came to the islands. They all affect the native vegetation to a greater or lesser degree and many of them have benefited agricultural and rural development. Thistles are not so welcome. The Creeping Thistle has probably been around for many years. The Spear Thistle has been reported only since the 1990s and may still be spreading.

Why do we need to get rid of them?

Thistles thrive on disturbed ground such as building sites and road edges. This means that they can be spread easily by vehicles. In addition they produce seeds that are carried by the wind, a commodity of which we are not short here in the Falklands. They tend to do well on rich soils rapidly taking over good quality pasture.

The plants are invasive and alter the structure of the natural vegetation. They tend to be very vigorous. Most of the insects that control them in the UK are probably absent here in the Falklands. They have magnificent purple flower heads but they have very nasty prickles and rapidly form dense impenetrable thickets.

For the farmers, they are pests. They reduce the grazing quality of pasture. In addition, the prickles get caught in the fleeces and make them very difficult to handle. Thistle density can increase frighteningly fast. There is also evidence linking orf with a high incidence of thistles so lack of control may have an impact on animal health.

What do they look like?

There are two thistle species that cause a problem, the Spear thistle *(Cirsium vulgare)* and the Creeping thistle *(Cirsium arvense).* Both thistles can form plants up to a metre in height. They have very spiny, stiff leaves with indented margins. The leaves of Creeping thistle are less deeply lobed than those of the Spear thistle and tend to be shiny on the upper surface rather than downy. The stem of the Spear thistle has spines and ridges, whereas creeping thistle stems are smooth. Creeping thistle flower heads are about 1cm across and carried in dense clusters. Spear thistle flower heads are much larger at about 2.5cm across and there will generally be fewer flower heads on each flower stalk. The flowers of both are a rich purple. The flowering stems die back after flowering.

How do we get rid of them?

It is important to minimise flowering. Spear thistles can be cut at ground level, ideally in January just as the buds are forming, taking care to cut the stalk below all the leaves to prevent side buds developing. The plant is a biennial and will not produce a flowering stalk in its first year. It is the second year plants that are so noticeable. It is therefore necessary to cut the thistles for two years running and then follow up to check that the thistles have really been eradicated. If they are cut after they have flowered it is very important to destroy the flower heads by burning them.

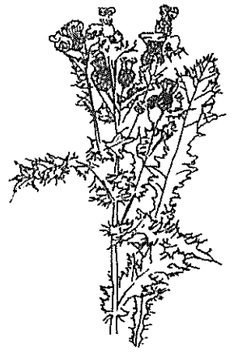
Cutting is less effective for Creeping thistle. It may reduce their vigour and will prevent spreading by seed but they can also spread through their root systems. Creeping thistles must be carefully dug up or treated with herbicide to eradicate them. It is essential to repeat control measures in subsequent years. Herbicide treatment must be applied whilst the plant is actively growing. Anyone wanting advice about appropriate herbicides should contact Andrew Pollard at the DoA.

What is being done?

Following initial trial work by Aidan Kerr from the DoA, Falklands Conservation has initiated a project in conjunction with the landowner to get rid of the Spear thistles at Elephant Point on Saunders Island. In addition, volunteers at this year's F.C. Beach Clean Day dug up Creeping thistles at Whalebone Cove. The military are investigating the feasibility of a thistle control programme down at Mare Harbour. Compared to other countries the spread of thistles in the Falkland Islands is relatively limited. Thus, total eradication could be achievable. The first step is to find out how widespread the problem is.

What can you do to help?

On West Falkland we know of Spear thistles at Saunders Island and possibly also on Keppel Island. In the East, Creeping thistles are flourishing in and around Stanley. Both species are found at Mare Harbour. We need to know if they occur anywhere else around the islands. If you have any information would you please let either Sarah Clement at Falklands Conservation (22247) or Andrew Pollard at the DoA (27355) know.



ATTENTION ALL THOSE FARMERS GETTING ET/AI AND THOSE WITH VALUABLE STUD SHEEP

From Main Point Farm

You might like to consider supplement feeding your valuable sheep .

Dodson & Horrell can provide 20kg universal mineral blocks. Also 25kg bags of Sugar Beat. Plus the following range of sheep feed in 20kg sacks (all feed contain non-GM ingredients, vegetarian formula, fully traceable raw materials)

Coarse Sheep Mix: Protein 16%, Oil 2.5%, Fibre 7.0%, Ash 7.2%
Feeding rates will depend on forage available and the stage of production but typically up to 1kg per day. Contains no added magnesium.

Ewe & Lamb (16%): Protein 16.0%, Oil 2.4%, Fibre 5.0%, Ash 7.0%
Feeding rates will depend on forage available and the stage of production, but typically up to 1kg per day, split into two feeds.

Lamb Fattener (14%): Protein 14%, Oil 2.5%, Fibre 7.5%, Ash 7.2%
Typically a 30kg lamb will consume 1kg per day.

Prices from £400 per tonne landed Stanley. No order too small. For more information contact Susie Hansen on telephone 41008 or e-mail shansen@horizon.co.fk

ATTENTION FARMERS

Stock Returns

At the time of printing your Livestock Ordinance Forms I was due to be absent from the Islands in August. This is now not the case so the differing dates on your form and covering letter aren't just a great big blunder on my part. Honest!

As the letter states, you now have until 30th June 2003 to get your completed returns back to me.

Thank you

Nyree

EXPORT OF ORGANIC WOOL FROM THE FALKLANDS

I have consulted UKROFS in the UK over this matter. Their initial feeling was that wool in a raw form being an unprocessed product of agricultural origin would need an Organic Import Authorisation. They have looked into this matter thoroughly and have decided that their initial feelings were correct, wool from the Falklands will require an Import Authorisation. This means that an Importer in the UK will need to seek authorisation (using a OB6 form) to bring the produce in.

The following are their findings as to the reasons behind the necessity for produce from the Falklands to be covered by an Import Authorisation:

In the EC measures must follow at least the requirements of Council Regulation 2092/91 (as amended). This regulation covers non-processed crop and animal products, to processed agricultural products intended for human consumption and to animal feed. A key requirement in order to maintain the credibility of organic farming is that organic food must originate from growers, processors or importers who are subject to the inspection measures laid down and gone through the correct conversion procedures set out in this Regulation. On imports it must be demonstrated that there is a system, which can demonstrate equivalence to these requirements.

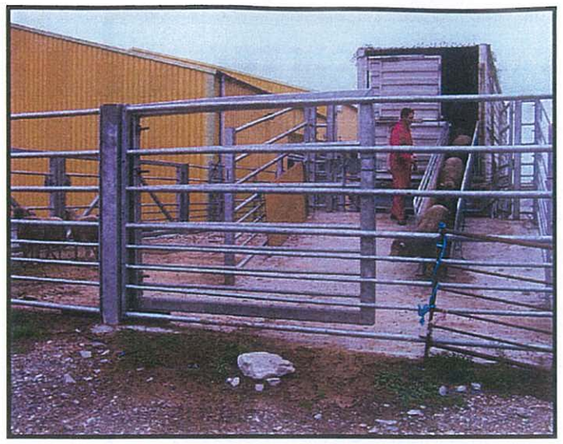
For imports outside the EC, equivalence to EC requirements must be demonstrated in order to maintain the credibility of the organic brand. In the UK this is currently carried out by UKROFS with a system of an approval process, which by way of appropriate documentation demonstrates this equivalence. It is also a requirement that inspection bodies have to demonstrate equivalence through evidence of compliance to ISO 65 or EN45011. For imports from the Falklands Islands, although they are special trade arrangements under the Treaty of Amsterdam, it is suggested that the OB6 procedure is followed.

This means that next year if you are going to sell your wool as organic or write organic on the bales. Paper work of the OB6 will have to be produced. I will source the necessary paper work for all organic farms so that everything is in place before the next shearing season commences.

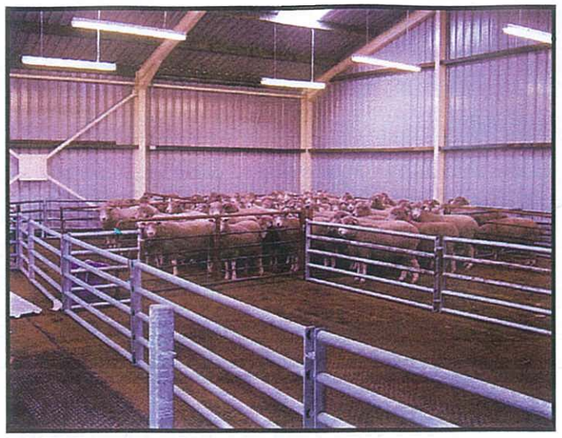
If you want further details they are on the following web site:
http://defraweb/farm/organic/imports/imports.htm

email: crowland@fidc.co.fk

Photographs showing the slaughtering process at Sand Bay Abattoir.

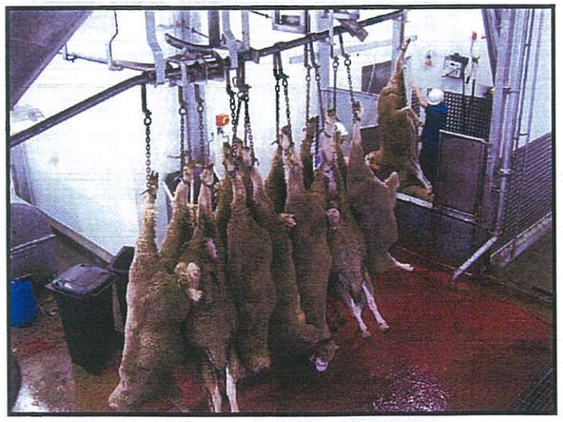


1. Sheep being unloaded into the lairage.



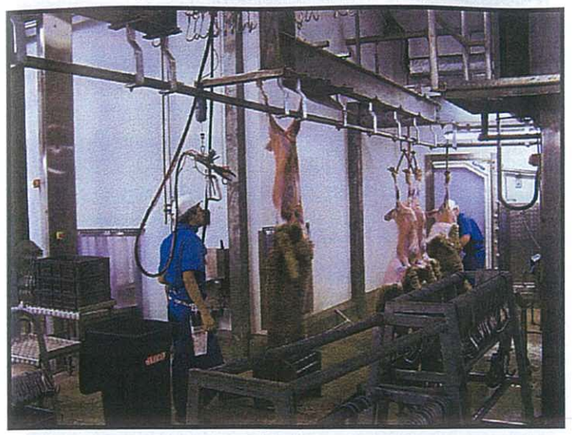
2. Sheep waiting in the lairage.

3. Stunning procedures, showing the stunner.



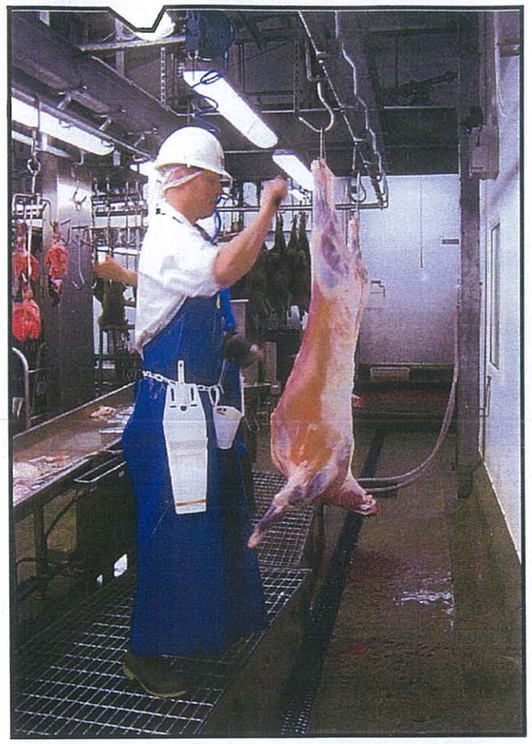
4. Sheep hung after slaughtering.

5 & 6 Showing sheep in the slaughter hall.

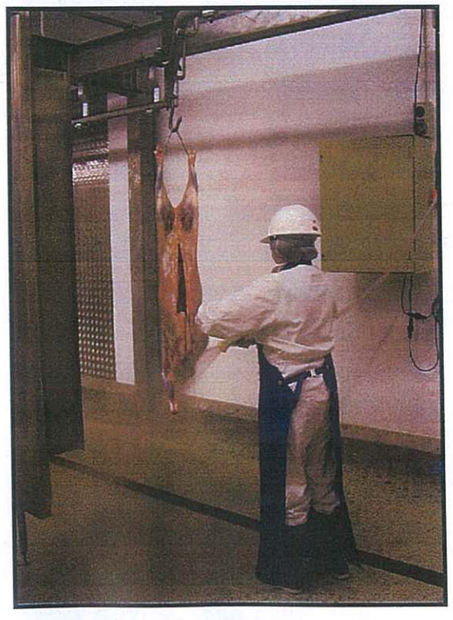


7. Pelting and punching.

9. Carcase being dressed.



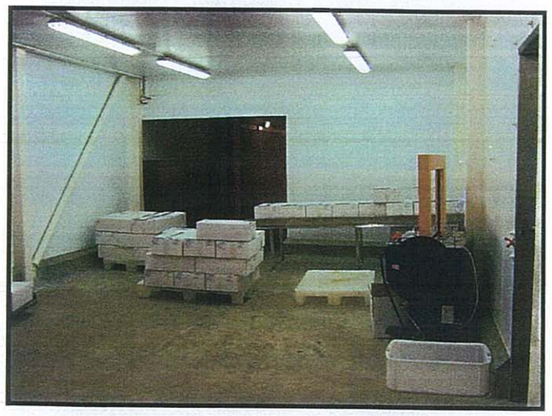
8. Carcase being inspected by the Meat Inspector.



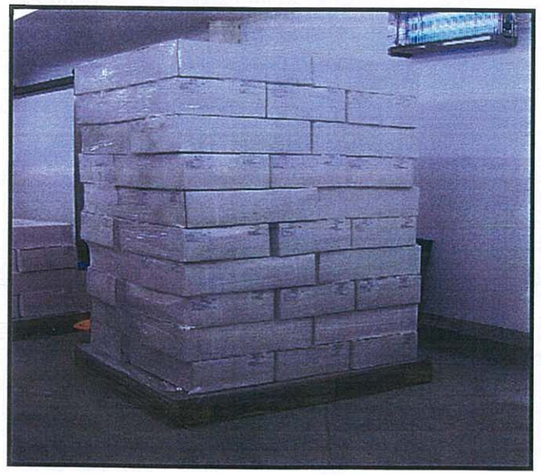
10. Carcase being washed.

11. Carcase weighting.

12. The cutting and preparing room.

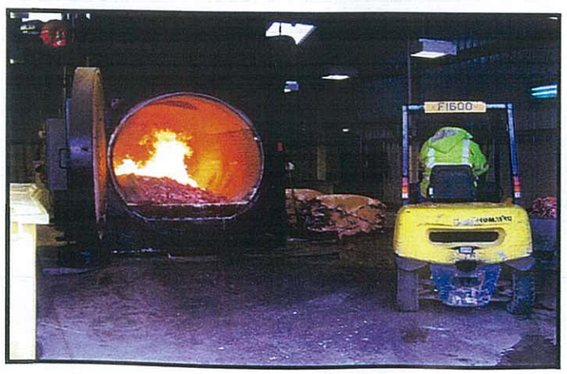


13. Meat boxed and ready for freezing.



14. Meat palleted and ready for the journey to UK.

15. Meat in the reefer containers being transported to FIPASS for loading onto a vessel.



16. Incinerator at work.

MINIS & MILK TESTS

By Susie Hansen

I thought some people might be interested in the technology we use when foaling the miniature mares.

Firstly the "Predict-a-Foal" milk testing kit. This is very useful and also very accurate or has been for us anyway. The only draw back is that it is very difficult to get samples from maiden mares as although their udders appear to fill well before hand it is very difficult to get milk out of them until just before foaling. However once a mare has previously had a foal you can easily get enough fluid for the test up to a few weeks before they foal. It is a very simple test. You only need a tiny amount of milk/fluid. Collect the milk in collection cup and draw up 0.6ml in a syringe. You then mix this in your test tube with the required amount of test fluid (which is just distilled water). You then have a test strip with 5 green squares on it which you dip it into solution and remove straight away, wait 1 minute and watch the to see the squares change colour (to pink). The more that change and the quicker they change the closer to foaling they are. Once they get to about 3 squares they can change rapidly to 5 over the next 24 hours but can sometimes take a week to change from 3 to 5. It is said that 5 squares mean a 90% chance of foaling within 12 hours. All but 2 of ours have foaled within 6 hours once they have tested 5 pink. We have used them for 2 seasons now and feel they are very useful for predicting the foaling time. I don't know if it is a coincidence or not but the 2 that read 5 pink squares for more than 24 hours both had problems foaling. One I helped deliver the foal and all was OK. Unfortunately we ended up loosing the other mare and foal. Because of the milk tests and breeder alert we were there when her waters broke but hours of struggling and more late night phone calls to poor Steve and still we couldn't save her.

The milk test kits are fairly cheap and have enough for 15 tests. You can cut the test strips in half to get even more value for money (tips from other mini breeders!) and you can also buy extra test strips and can use the tubes etc again as long as you wash them well and rinse with distilled water. The other device that is much more expensive but is what has been really instrumental in saving lives for us is the Breeder Alert System. This saves many sleepless nights trying to stay awake waiting for the mare to foal after the milk test shows she is near. If you only had one or two mares staying awake for a few nights watching them may not be a problem but with 8 or so all foaling in a row it can get a bit tiring! Also as we found out before we got the breeder alert you can check a mare and she is fine. No sign of foaling and a couple of hours later you can check again and find you have real problems and be too late to save the foal in distress.

So after having lost 2 foals through us not being there at the at the right moment and finding them a couple of hours later having trouble foaling we invested in a Breeder Alert system. This is a simple device. The mare wears a bleeper on her head collar and when she lays flat it sets off an alarm in the house (base station) and you leg it to see if indeed she is in labour or just having a sleep! Most mares do not often lay flat to sleep at night-time, preferring to lie flat out during the day when it is sunny. However we have had

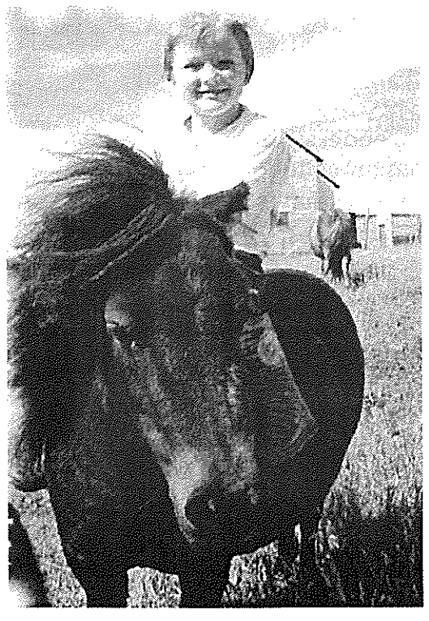
one that seemed to do nothing but sleep all night! You would just be dozing off when alarm would go off and this sometimes would go on all night!

This is when the third device comes in handy, most mini breeders have stable cameras rigged so they can view their expectant mare from the comfort of the living room/bedroom. Several even have them connected to the Internet so if you go to their web site at the right time you can witness the birth of their foal! Ours is nothing grand or expensive just a simple security camera which we have rigged to a telly in the house so that if bleeper goes off in the night you only have to look at the TV and see what is happening. Because it's a simple cheap device we were unable to get a long enough cable to go to foaling shed or paddock so we converted the front porch to a foaling box – in hind site perhaps it would have been easier to cut a hole in the sitting room wall into the porch omitting the need for a camera! I am sure the people who have lovely conservatories full of pretty flowers would be appalled to see mine-benches removed and full of hay/horse and cats (who also supervise the foaling!).

So that is pretty much how we get through foaling, I am sure the milk test kits would be really useful for anyone breeding big horses.

This year we were lucky enough to breed some really colourful and spotted minis. Have been told by breeders who have been breeding for many years that they spend years breeding various bloodlines and colours just trying to achieve the colour we have produced this year (the blanket spotted filly and pintaloosa colt – pintaloosa being black and white and having spots). One day we would hope to be able to export some of these coloured ones, or at least their offspring.

With the unpredictable economy of the last few years miniature horse prices like many other things dropped too. However at the American Miniature Horse National Show held in Texas in October 2002 a miniature horse gelding sold for $22,000! The top ten minis sold at the sales average $14,500 with the overall average price being $6,800. I often hear of stallions being sold for that kind of money with mares fetching thousands of dollars/pounds too but that seems an awful lot to pay for a gelding! Although at the same show another gelding picked up almost $2,000 in prize money. Anyone willing to sponsor me and a few minis to fly to the States for some mini horse shows?!!!!!!



We are still selling minis that we don't want for breeding from, at much reduced prices from those above! Deals offered on the purchase of two or more.

CARADON ENGINEERING

Generating Set Offer

Oferta para Grupo Electrógeno

Tetbury, April 3, 2003

ITEM 1 - LISTER "T" range powered CARADON Diesel Generating set Model **TS2SP** continuously rated at **7.4kW (9.2KVA)**, (continuous), and **8.14kW** standby rating for one hour in twelve, with air cooled **LISTER-PETTER TS2** engine. Output voltage **240 volts**, single phase, **50Hz**, **0.8** power factor, at **1500 rpm**. The outputs indicated correspond to 150 masl and 30°C. Set mounted Auto-start Control Panel with auto-start module incorporating low oil pressure shutdown, LEDs and "MANUAL/STOP/AUTO" selector switch, moulded case circuit breaker (MCCB), battery and cables, silencer, and base mounted fuel tank. Electric instrumentation and a static battery charger are included. This arrangement allows the set to be controlled by a single remote contact situated up to a distance of approximately 80 m.

Generating set and control panel price	£3,160.00
Accessories as for TR2 itemised below	£244.00
Total nett ex-factory, unpacked	**£3,404.00**
Export packing	£53.00 ea.
Delivery UK port	£45.00
Price, nett packed delivered UK port	**£3,502.00**

ALTERNATIVE ITEM 1 - LISTER "T" range powered CARADON Diesel Generating set Model **TR2SP** continuously rated at **8.7kW (10.9KVA)**, (continuous), and **9.57kW** standby rating for one hour in twelve, with air cooled **LISTER-PETTER TR2** engine. Output voltage **240 volts**, single phase, **50Hz**, **0.8** power factor, at **1500 rpm**. The outputs indicated correspond to 150 masl and 30°C. Set mounted Auto-start Control Panel with auto-start module incorporating low oil pressure shutdown, LEDs and "MANUAL/STOP/AUTO" selector switch, moulded case circuit breaker (MCCB), battery and cables, silencer, and base mounted fuel tank. Electric instrumentation and a static battery charger are included. This arrangement allows the set to be controlled by a single remote contact situated up to a distance of approximately 80 m.

Generating set and control panel price	£3,314.00
Exhaust air duct	£41.00
Oil pressure and engine temperature gauges	£87.00
Residential silencer	£59.00
Engine temperature switch	£24.00
Tool kit	£18.00
Starting handle	£15.00
Total nett ex-factory, unpacked	**£3,558.00** ea.
Export packing	£53.00 ea.
Delivery UK port	£45.00
Price, nett packed delivered UK port	**£3,656.00**

Delivery ex-works: 6-8 working weeks

TERMS: Unless otherwise agreed payment shall be by means of an Irrevocable Letter of Credit confirmed by a UK bank in favour of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller Ltd., High Street, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0AR, England, to be valid for the period of delivery plus four weeks and with all expenses for the account of the opener. Or as may be agreed. The FOB costs quoted are based on the use of our forwarding agent; if another agent is nominated the sale will be on an ex-factory basis.

Validity of offer: 60 days from April 3, 2003.

For further details please contact Tim Cotter at FIDC on 27211

PLANNING PERMISSION, BUILDING PERMIT. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, AND WHO NEEDS THEM ANYWAY?

By The Environmental Planning Department

The aim of Planning Permission is to ensure that land and buildings are developed in a way that is sympathetic to their surroundings and that considers the way it affects neighbours. In its crudest form Planning Permission should control unwanted development in a particular area. Planning Permission is just one part of the process of Development Control and should be seen not as a hindrance, but as a channel to guide development in the direction that best serves the community. A Building Permit is another part of the same process and is concerned with ensuring that buildings meet a suitable standard that will preserve the health and safety of people who use them.

Who needs them?
The simple answer is that everyone needs them, because uncontrolled development and badly designed or constructed buildings can affect the entire community. As for who needs to apply for them, anyone who is thinking about erecting, altering or changing the use of any building should be thinking about applying for Planning Permission, or Building Permit, or both.

"My property is in Camp so none of this applies to it". Not true
This is a common misconception and is incorrect. It is true that the rules about what needs Planning Permission are different in Camp compared to Stanley. Planning is required for many types of works in Camp and it is always safer to check with the Environmental Planning Department. A Building Permit is always required for relevant works regardless of whether it is in Camp or Stanley or even on a remote island.

What's the difference between Planning Permission and Building Permit ?
The two are different but they are interrelated. Planning Permission is derived from The Planning Ordinance 1991 and Building Permit is from The Building Control Ordinance 1994. It is possible that certain development or building work may need either or both. For example to erect a new house within Stanley will need both Planning Permission and Building Permit. Internal alteration of a building will normally only require a Building Permit. To site a caravan or mobile home on a plot will normally require only Planning Permission.

It is a common belief that a Building Permit is not required for internal alterations. This is incorrect as a Permit is required for internal alterations no matter how minor. There is a difference between alteration and replacement. Removal of internal timber wall lining and replacing with plasterboard is not considered as alteration and no Permit is required. Alteration means removal of a wall, forming a new opening in a wall, changing the use of a room to a different use like a kitchen to a bedroom, etc. Some people think that removing a wall does not need a Permit as long as it is not loadbearing. That is also incorrect. And anyway, just because a wall looks as if it is not supporting anything does not mean it isn't.

But let's be reasonable about this. The need for a Building Permit is not about "petty regulation", as someone said recently, nor is it about invading peoples homes to stamp authority on them. The Building Permit is to ensure that buildings are built to a satisfactory standard and that they will not adversely affect the health and safety of people who work or live in them. Most people want good buildings and most builders want to construct them. Sometimes, though, the temptation to reduce costs by cutting corners and changing specifications without thought is too great. The consequences of inappropriate alterations can be costly and their effects may not be obvious. Obtaining a Building Permit will not on its own ensure high quality buildings, but it will guarantee an independent assessment of your building project, provide free access to impartial advice and may offer an alternative design solution.

How do I get one?
There is no charge for Planning Permission or Building Permit which in UK terms is worth at least £350. To obtain either Planning Permission or Building Permit you must make a formal application to The Environmental Planning Department.
You must complete an application form in triplicate and include suitable drawings, also in triplicate. The form can be used to apply for either Planning Permission or Building Permit or both at the same time. Your application is assessed by the Environmental Planning Officer, and/or Building Adviser, then considered by the Planning and Building Committee and if satisfactory it is approved. This process takes time and you should allow for this

What about drawings?
Our aim is to deal with every application with minimum delay. The best way for you to help reduce delay is to ensure your application is clear and that you provide adequate drawings. Ideally plans should show sufficient detail to allow a stranger to find your property and build what you want to build, without asking you. This means a plan showing the location of the property within the surrounding area, a separate plan showing position of the proposed building within the site, then detailed drawings showing the actual building. The detailed drawings should include such items as dimensions, colours, types of materials, methods of construction and types of fixings and fittings. It is also important that the drawings only show what you want to build and the way you want to build it. People often submit drawings that show construction details that are required for building in other countries but they have no intention of building that way here. In this case who decides what is actually to be built? The permission is given based on information shown on drawings and includes every detail. If it is shown on the drawing and omitted on site it may lead to problems later and could be costly to rectify. It is recognised that architectural services are limited and that people may have difficulty obtaining appropriate drawings. With this in mind the Environmental Planning Department can supply copies of standard construction details which may be helpful.

Do I really need permission for everything?
No, not everything. There are certain types of work which do not require Planning Permission or Building Permit. Permitted Development is the term used for work which does not require Planning Permission. Work which does not require Building Permit is termed as exempt. Some work fits into both categories, i.e. is Permitted Development and is also exempt from the need for a Building Permit. The following table indicates the general types of work or building which are either Permitted Development or exempt from the need for a Building Permit. The table shows various limits on sizes or types of buildings, but that does not mean you are not allowed to build something bigger than that. The limit only means that if you want a bigger building then you need to obtain permission first. The table is only a guide to the general terms and does not

cover all aspects of what is allowed. For a fuller explanation you should check with the Environmental Planning Department.

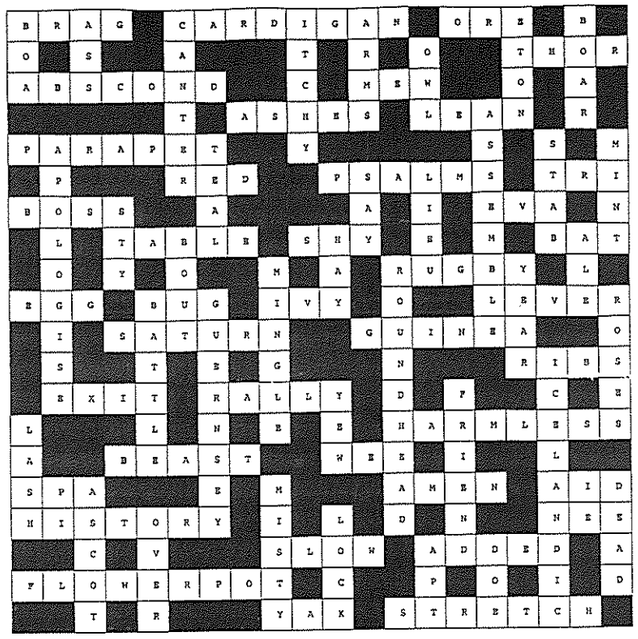
Help and advice
We recognise that many people have never dealt with Planning Permission or Building Permit and therefore the process may seem strange and put people off. Our purpose is not so much to control but more to guide you through the Planning system.

The table shows that some works need Planning Permission but don't need Building Permit and some need both and some need neither. The best way to be sure is to contact the Environmental Planning Department first before you see a builder.

This table compares some typical building projects and indicates which require Planning Permission or Building Permit or both. The relevant permission will not be required provided the proposed work meets the limits stated in the table.

Description of work or type of building	**Permitted Development (Planning Permission not required)**	**Exempt from Building Regulations (Building Permit not required)**
Extension to house	Maximum volume of extension 70 cubic metres and other limitations depending on position of boundary.	Maximum floor area 20 square metres and may only be a porch, greenhouse, conservatory or covered way. A car port of 35 square metres.
Detached building within the grounds of a house, e.g. garage or shed.	Maximum floor area 25 square metres for a shed or similar building. A container, prefabricated building or a building containing sleeping accommodation is not Permitted Development and does require Planning Permission.	Maximum floor area 25 square metres for a shed or similar building, or 35 square metres for a garage or container.
Mobile home	Planning Permission is required for a mobile home.	A mobile home does not require a Building Permit but the drainage must comply with the Building Regulations.
Detached building that is not in the grounds of a house	In certain circumstances buildings up to 30 cubic metres in volume may be permitted in connection with the provision of electricity or water supply.	A building that contains only fixed plant and is only occupied intermittently for maintenance.
Erection or replacement of fences walls or gates	Replacement of an existing fence. A new fence adjacent to a road up to a maximum height of 1m. A new fence not adjacent to a road up to a height of 2m.	There are no specific rules relating to these, but generally where Planning Permission is required then Building Permit is also required.
Cladding, re-roofing and the fitting or replacement of doors and windows.	These are permitted as long as the work does not increase the volume or height of a building.	The replacement of these is exempt, but, no work should be done that could cause a breech of the Building Regulations.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



FOR SALE

2nd hand Ford tractor parts

Injection Pump, Engine Block etc.

For more information contact **Hew at Blue Beach on phone/fax 32235 or e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk**

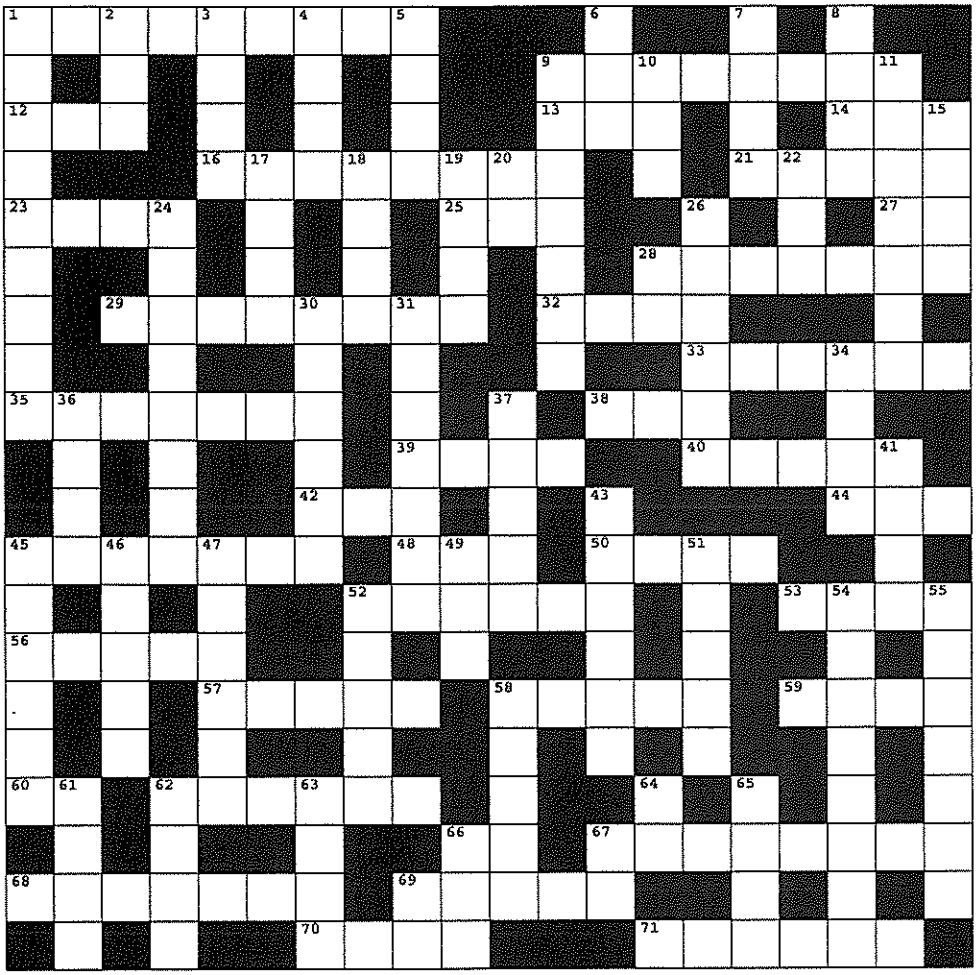
WANTED

A set of hood sticks for a high capacity land rover back box.

Will swap for 5 bags of feed oats or hen food or similar.

Please contact **Nick Pitaluga at Salvador on phone/fax 31193 or e-mail cormocountry@horizon.co.fk**

MAY03



ACROSS

1. HEAD COVER
9. EDIBLE FUNGUS
12. AUSSIE PICK UP
13. TO MIMIC
14. NOT IN
16. LARGE DOG OR ISLAND
21. WETLAND
23. CRY
25. WRITING LIQUID
27. TEAL INLET
28. MOBILE HOME
29. SOMETHING THAT LIVES OFF ANOTHER
32. THUNDER GOD
33. GONE OFF, GREEN
35. THIS ? IS WOOLPRESS 161
38. HONEY MAKER
39. REMOVE HORNS
40. MAJOR WATERWAY
42. FIRST LADY
44. A GREEK ISLAND
45. COLOURED FERRET
48. FEMALE PARENT
50. SOMETHING TO SCRATCH
52. ICE WITHOUT THE CREAM??
53. EMAIL JUNK
56. TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
57. STRIPED CAT
58. MOVE
59. WAY THROUGH A RIVER OR STREAM
60. TUBERCULOSIS
62. SMALL BREED OF CATTLE
66. SAINT
67. HIGH LAND
68. DENNIS THE MENACE'S DOG
69. MORAL VALUE OR PRINCIPLE
70. CONSERVATIVE
71. PUTTING SEED IN

DOWN

1. LARGEST MAMMAL
2. TELL UNTRUTHS
3. NOT COLD, BUT GETTING THERE
4. HORSE TYPE
5. LARGE CONTINENT
6. YOUNG DOG
7. BUS ON LINES
8. DOWN IN CONDITION
9. TRADITIONAL SELLING AND BUYING PLACES WITH STALLS
10. LEAVE TO GO FIRM
11. HOT SAUCE
15. NARROW
17. WATERLOO GROUP
18. LIFEBOAT CHARITY
19. EAT
20. POWERED UP
22. RANGE
24. REPEAT FOR IMPROVEMENT
26. AGRICULTURAL WORKER
28. COMPANY OR COUNTY
30. THE END OF THE DAY
31. SUBMARINE WEAPON
34. WELSH ONION
36. DEAD DUCK
37. GET TO THE TOP
41. PLAN WHERE PEOPLE TAKE TURNS
43. INSIDE PERAMETERS
45. MOTHER OR FATHER
46. DEPART
47. BOVINE ANIMALS
49. OLD DOA
51. SPANISH COAST
52. FORAGE VEGETABLE
54. COOKING BANANA
55. WILD HORSE
58. SLOW MOVING ANIMAL
61. MUSICAL GROUP
62. FLOPPY, HARD OR COMPACT
63. FILLED PASTRY CASE
64. READY STEADY .....
65. WINTER WEATHER
66. EYE INFECTION
67. SON OF
69. EMERGENCY ROOM

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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EDITORIAL

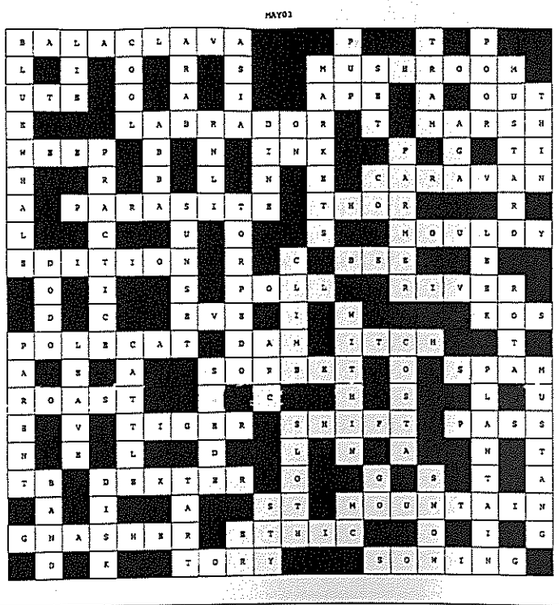
Hi All,

A very short editorial this month as it is Saturday afternoon and I have to head off to Goose Green shortly to get ready for the sheep AI & ET programme. I think I'll be glad when it's all over and normality resumes. Lets just hope it all goes well.

Everyone within the Department of Agriculture would like to express their deepest sympathies to the families of Ben Minnell and Lyn Blake who we lost this month. I'm sure the thoughts of the whole farming community are with you at this sad time.

Nyree

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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INSURANCE ISSUES

By Mandy McLeod

I know I always seem to be raising boring issues, and I don't like writing these articles anymore than you like reading them, but often **THE BORING STUFF IS IMPORTANT!!**

It is up to you to be covered by insurance for farm property and machinery, and most importantly, yourselves and others undertaking farming activities on your land. Forget the 'it will never happen to me' line, because if that were the case, there would be no such thing as insurance would there? Insurance is important and it is your responsibility to know what you are covered for and keep your policies up to date.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE COVERED FOR?

If you don't, I suggest that you find out. Set aside one of these cold winter evenings and drag out those policies. Read the small print and, if you can't understand it (they don't make it easy) contact the insurance agent and ask them to explain it. While you're at it, check that the policy provides adequate cover for today's prices if you have to replace something (house contents for instance). Also, make sure that you are not paying too high a premium for a depreciating asset. Find out from your agent what you need to increase or decrease.

For instance, you should re-assess the value of a vehicle at least every other year. The Landrover you had insured for £15,000 five years ago is not worth that now, yet you are paying a premium for that 'brand new' value. The fact is that the insurance company will only pay you the 'book price' (and there is nothing taken into account for the cost of freight). I had a Ford that I was insuring for £4,000 (cost £3,000 when I bought it the year earlier, plus £1,000 to ship it down here). When it got written off in transit from UK to FI, I got £1,700 for it – the 'book price. I may as well have been paying a lower premium!

DO YOU HAVE LIFE INSURANCE OR MORTGAGE PROTECTION?

I know that some farmers do not have cover for either of these. It is impossible to get a mortgage now without at least mortgage protection cover, but many of you will have bought your farms before it became compulsory. Mortgage protection does just what it says and ensures that the lender will get the money if the person or one of the persons who have borrowed the money dies, taking that financial burden off remaining family or partner. Life insurance policies ensure that those left behind are provided for. There are many types of policy (Endowment, with profits, without profits....). If you want to know what is available, contact a broker, and shop around to get the best deal!

DO YOU USE ANY CO-OPERATIVE OR GOVERNMENT OWNED BUILDINGS?

If you do, than you need to be aware that FIG's public liability insurance protects FIG against any claims that may be lodged for loss or injury arising from the state of the premises. However, FIG's insurance arrangements do not extend to cover loss or injury arising from activities carried on within that building. For instance, if we are talking about an FIG owned/co-operative shearing shed, farmers using it should make their own insurance arrangements to cover any claims arising out of injury within the shearing shed. It may be that such cover exists as part of their farm policies (whether arranged privately or through FIDC). Alternatively, it may be that farmers require the shearers to arrange insurance and indemnify the farmers against any claims arising during the shearing season.

I know that during the prolonged period of low farm income due to depressed wool prices, insurance premiums were some of the first cuts that farmers made. It was relatively easy to do and painless, and will continue to be so providing 'it never happens to you'. But it might, and it's a big risk! Don't push your luck! Now is the time to reassess insurance cover. Please, just spend a little time looking at your policies and understanding what you are covered for and that you are getting the best deal. Insurance brokers are not just there to sell you insurance, but also to advise. Ask questions and find out what policies are best for you, your family and your business. If you don't have any policies, I strongly advise that you look into it.

WE ARE NOW OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTORS FOR BOTH IFOR WILLIAMS AND HERBST TRAILERS

As of now we are able to import Ifor Williams stock trailers and pickup canopies in flat packed form, ready to be assembled here at Cape Dolphin. This method of importing trailers means that people may be able to save £1000 or more on one trailer, and £200 or so on the price of a canopy.

With the ever increasing problems we are faced with finding good drums suitable for fuel, we have found farmers a good alternative. This alternative is in the form of either a 250 gallon bunded, or 300 gallon unbunded fuel bowsers, both sizes are easily towable with a Land Rover or similar size 4 x 4.

Both bunded and unbunded features include;
12 Volt Piusi transfer pump.
6 metres of flexible hose complete with trigger nozzle
In line filter.
Fuel indicator
Dual filler points for pressure filling and nozzle filling.
A high gloss enamel paint finish over primer is applied electrostatically.
Fuel tank is mounted on a hot dip galvanised chassis and is cushioned on a 6mm rubber anti vibration strip to prevent stress on the tank.
Robust hot-dip galvanised chassis and mudguards.
Comprehensive lighting system with rear lights contained in bumper with grills fitted to prevent damage.
Running gear consists of two galvanised super ride suspension axles for smooth towing loaded or unloaded.
Braked hubs all round with 50mm auto reverse hitch coupling, hand brake and jockey wheel.
High performance and high load rated tyres 165 x R13 x 8ply.

Unbunded bowsers only;
Fire extinguisher
Lid overlaps tank body to prevent water contamination.
Shroud hangs over lock preventing vandalism.

For leaflets and other information on these products and a wide range of other trailers etc please call **Philip and Sheena at Cape Dolphin on tel; 41015 fax; 41014 and email phil.miller@horizon.co.fk**

KILLING FACILITIES ON FARMS – A REMINDER

By Steve Pointing

Last June I wrote an article for the Wool Press on the subject of farm killing facilities. Some of that article is reprinted below but I also want to raise some new issues that have come to the fore in recent weeks. The abattoir is about to stop production as far as exports are concerned and how it will operate during the "off" season has yet to be decided. This will mean that meat for sale to the public in Stanley will most likely be sourced direct from Camp. This will apply to the retail outlets, some restaurants and hotels and guest houses as well as what private individuals purchase for their own consumption. Over the past few months most of the meat on sale in Stanley has come via the abattoir where it has been subjected to meat inspection and passed fit for human consumption. Until the next export-killing season begins this will cease to be the case and I think it is important that there is no major decrease in meat quality just because the meat comes from a different source. My main concern is connected with public health and the issue of food poisoning. With this in mind I would ask all farmers who intend supplying meat to town to read the following points and comply with them as closely as they can. With your co-operation there is no reason why the supply of camp-killed meat to Stanley should not continue for many years to come.

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 you 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 plane 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.

Most of what is written above applies mainly to the killing of sheep or lambs. Traditionally winter is the time when **beef animals** are killed. These are obviously much larger than sheep and would normally be killed outside before being partially dressed and hoisted up on a "palinkey" or more commonly now on to a fore-end loader. This is acceptable provided that great care is taken to keep the carcass clean when removing the hide and particularly when removing the guts. Ideally the carcass should then be protected from the elements in some way while setting. After the carcass has set it should be quartered and any further cutting up should take place in a suitable building (ideally the killing house) and on surfaces that can easily be cleaned. All the points outlined above apply equally well to beef being cut up as to mutton.

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, mutton or beef 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.

During the winter period I intend visiting many settlements to inspect the current state of the killing facilities as well as looking at the condition of dog kennels. You have been warned!!!

FALKLANDS VETS

I'm trying to write a short (but comprehensive) article about the Veterinary profession in the Falkland Islands which I hope to have published in the FI Journal. However, it's difficult to find out all the information. I'd like to ask any farmers or anyone living in camp whether they have any information on any vets that have visited or worked here in the past (as far back as anyone's memory can go). In my research I've come across some names that I'd never heard mentioned before such as:

Mr J Morton - vet officer between 1929 -1933. Working alongside two stock officers (Mr R W Carter and Mr W Faithful)

E.T.F - is this Mr Fern, definitely here in 1956 but for how much longer? Did he leave under a cloud?

Dr Ronald Crosby - here in Feb 1968. Carried out a post mortem on a horse at Port San Carlos. Was he a vet or a Dr? How long was he here for?

Does anyone know anything about the people listed above or have any other useful information relating to vets in the Falkland Islands? If so please contact me at the Agricultural Dept.

Cheers,
Steve

IRELAND AND IDIOTS

By Zoe Luxton

Ho-hum another month, another missed deadline.....sorry Ed. I do have a legitimate excuse though, I have honestly been rather busy and there may have been a long weekend in Dublin with Irish vet Avice that also put me out of action for a while. We had a fantastic time, we stayed with Avices granny and Avice showed me all the sights of Dublin and the inside of a fair few bars. Suffice to say I am horribly aware that I am not 18 anymore as it is taking me longer and longer to recover from such weekends! It was lovely to have a long weekend off with no duties at all though as the animals of Suffolk seem to be on a bit of a roll lately. Luckily, nothing too weird and wonderful (or not wonderful as the case may be!), but a good few surgical emergencies. At the end of one morning surgery a chap rang and asked to speak to a vet "what seems to be the problem?" said I, in best polite veterinary voice. "I think my dogs just eaten the remote control battery" the chap said calmly. My mind immediately went into overdrive imagining a desperately ill dog with acid burns all down its throat, probably with gastric tears from all the bits of chewed up remote that went down also. I was just mentally tossing a coin to decide between heroic surgery and the nearest referral centre when he added, "he seems fine I was just wondering what to do". Back to reality with a bump, no heroics today. But we decided that an x-ray to establish site of said battery might be a good idea and if it was in the stomach a quick op to remove it would be best just in case it was leaking anything noxious. Unfortunately for the excitable surgeon, but luckily for the dog, all we could see on the x-ray was a small bit of wire that would be fine to be left and pass out on its own. But we did suggest the chap had a better look under his sofa for the missing battery.

Other emergencies have been a few caesareans and a poor little dachshund that got bloat but unfortunately we had to put him to sleep, as he never really recovered from the operation due to his advanced years.

We have had the usual mix of lovely/mad/completely stupid clients. I am always grateful to the poor drivers that ring to say they have hit a cat on the road. One such gentleman rang one Friday night when us girls were out, and told Claudia that unfortunately he had hit a cat, which was dead, but it was obviously a pet as it had a collar but no phone number on it. Not much point calling the vet out in the middle of the night for a dead cat so Claudia thanked him and said would be mind just wrapping it up and popping on the back doorstep of the practice and we would deal with it in due course. He was obviously a very literal man as when Claire, Avice and I returned home there was a suspicious package on the door step of my flat, which is right around the back of the practice passed the actual back door of the vets. Being a little worse for the wear the conversation went something along the lines of:
Me: hello, someone's left a bag of leaves on my doorstep
Claire: actually I think it's a bag of soil

Avice (horse vet): actually, small animal vets, it is a dead black cat in a bag
Stunned silence.
Claire: is there a Mafia in Ipswich?
So I went upstairs to check there wasn't a severed horses head in my bed while Avice put the cat in a more dignified position in the surgery.

Claire unfortunately got the monthly thick client the other day. A lady bought her 2 dogs in for a check up and vaccination. While checking the female Claire noticed she was in season so mentioned it. The lady looked a bit vague and after checking with Claire what "in season" meant went out to get her other dog. In she comes with an entire male, completely uncomprehending regarding the facts of life it seems. After Claire had painstakingly pointed out that a bitch on heat and an entire male dog quite possibly meant a litter of puppies the woman looked horrified and said, "Oh, I don't think so, they are brother and sister".

And finally, the worst type of client – vets with pets!! I am STILL trying to diet George, he was doing well and was down to 5.8kg from 6kg when I went to Ireland and left a non-vet friend looking after them. When I got back she said "Oh the cats are absolutely fine, but they didn't seem to get much food so I just kept their bowls topped up". Result – 2 smug looking, fat, ginger boys and George is back up to 5.9kg.

TB TESTING OF CATTLE

By Stephen Pointing

The veterinary section is making a concerted effort at present to test as many cattle as possible for TB. We've tested almost 1000 cattle this year and they've all been negative. We're pretty sure that the Falkland Islands are free from cattle TB but we'd like to be able to prove it categorically by testing all the cattle in the Islands. In the past we've tested lots of animals but in a rather ad hoc fashion. Certain properties have been tested several times and others not at all. We've got access to much better cattle handling facilities than in the past and it makes the whole procedure so much easier to carry out. At the same time as carrying out the TB test we also take blood from the breeding cows and bulls to check that they are free from bovine brucellosis and it is a good opportunity to carry out a whole range of other management procedures such as dehorning, ear tagging, castrations, PDs, de-lousing etc. I am also using the opportunity of getting all the cattle in to observe them for any strange nervous signs which could be indicative of BSE. We have to prove to the EU that we are BSE free (which I think we are) and one way of doing this is to have actually observed every cow, bull, heifer and steer in the Islands. Of the animals tested so far none have shown symptoms typical of BSE. TB testing is a good job to do in the quieter winter months so please get in contact with Doug Martin or I to arrange a suitable date later this year.

NATIONAL PARKS FOR THE FALKLANDS?

By The Environmental Planning Office

The idea of having National Parks in the Falkland Islands has been around for some time. As long ago as the late 1980's it was recognised by some residents that parts of the Islands had particular landscape, conservation and perhaps cultural interest, that these were largely open tracts of land and that they may also have a recreational value. The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) gave credence to this approach in 1998 with the introduction of the National Parks Ordinance. This allowed for designation of National Parks for areas of land, which met the criteria above.

Three areas, all in FIG ownership, were identified as being suitable candidates for consideration. These were the high hills of West and East Falkland based around the Mount Adam massif and the Mount Usborne*/Wickham Heights area respectively and because of its uniqueness in the Islands, the Hill Cove Forest. (*Mount Usborne was later excluded pending resolution of a boundary issue).

In 2001 Falklands Conservation were commissioned by FIG to undertake surveys of all three areas and to produce Management Plans in anticipation of the areas being put forward for designation as National Parks. These plans have initially been prepared as Consultation Drafts, modified through the Government's Environmental Committee and issued via Executive Council for public views on the desirability, or otherwise, of proceeding to designation.

The Management Plans' deal with a wide range of issues, which include amongst other things: access to and within proposed parks, grazing, conservation issues, definition of boundaries and publicity. It is also likely that designation of National Parks would add an extra dimension to the Islands attractiveness to tourists although further work would be needed to quantify this.

Objectives for the Wickham Heights

1) Formally designate the Wickham Heights as a National Park.
2) Maintain and promote native species diversity, and ecosystem integrity in the Wickham Heights range.
3) Develop and initiate a strategy for the recovery of Fachine scrub.
4) Determine the current status and impact of the wild cattle population. Devise and implement a strategy for their management.
5) Maximise public use of the site for recreation. Provide literature to maximise public appreciation of the site.
6) Formally designate a government National Parks Officer with responsibility for the site.

Objectives for the Hill Cove Mountains

1) Maximise public use of the site for recreation and provide literature to enable public appreciation of the site. Within this prescription access routes and safety issues should also be addressed. Some form of liaison with tour operators on West Falkland should also be established to ensure that the use of the Park is promoted.

NB. Outside the scope of this report there are wider implications for marketing and developing tourism connected to the National Parks. This could be a primary responsibility

for the National Parks Officer in conjunction with local landowners, the Tourism Board, FIDC and tour operators.

2) Maintain and promote native plant species diversity and ecosystem integrity in the Hill Cove Mountains National Park; prevent the spread of non-native plant species.
3) Maximise the use of the site as an educational example of how site management for conservation and recreation can enhance the 'value' of land to those who use it and live around it.
4) Ensure livestock are excluded from areas of the site not licensed for grazing or considered of high biological importance, by maintaining all fences and gates in good condition. Should grazing be allowed in certain areas, these high value sections must be identified and protected prior to commencement of stocking.
5) Ensure management practices are in accordance with National Park legislation i.e. no camp burning. Ensure that some long-term monitoring occurs to investigate the effects of grazing on species, vegetation and landscape, and provide data against which to measure good practice and sustainability. Review and, if needed, modify management practices in the light of this research.
6) Formally designate a Government employee with responsibility for overseeing the site. This should be a government 'National Parks Officer'. Part of the duties of this person should be to ensure that a 'management group' based on West Falkland undertakes the majority of maintenance and monitoring, creating an involvement with the local population and a sense of ownership.
7) Further study the lower plant flora, the invertebrate fauna and those areas considered of high potential (for example the area around 'The Hole')

Objectives for the Hill Cove Forest

1) To maintain the mature trees in the Forest in a healthy state for as long as possible.
2) To prolong the site's wooded nature and ensure continuity of tree cover by replanting which will replicate the existing species mix of the Forest.
3) To ensure livestock are excluded from all areas of the site, except the Forest Paddock. This will require all fences to be kept in good condition.
4) To ensure active management of certain areas of the site, including the grazing of the Forest Paddock and, pruning of the Gorse hedges.
5) To ensure management practices are in accordance with National Park legislation e.g. no camp burning. Ensure that some long-term monitoring occurs.
6) To maximise public use of the site for education and recreation. This site is unique to the Falkland Islands and it should be used as an educational example for all. Literature should be provided to maximise public appreciation of the site. Access routes and safety issues should also be addressed.
7) To designate a Government employee with responsibility for the site. Someone from with Environmental Planning, Tourism or the new National Trust should ensure that a 'management group' based on West Falkland undertake the majority of planning, maintenance and monitoring, thus involving the local population and providing a sense of ownership.

Copies of the Consultation Drafts have been widely distributed to interested parties and stakeholders. Meetings have already been held with the Rural Business Association, residents of the east at Hope Cottage, BFFI and a meeting is to be arranged for Hill Cove during June. A number of meetings with other interested organisations and individuals are also being held.

It is fair to say that feedback so far has been mixed reflecting a wide range of interests and concerns. What is sure is that the views received during the consultation period will be placed before Executive Council for consideration of the best way forward.

Should you wish to receive a copy of the consultation reports or make representations on their content please contact: Antony Lancaster, Environmental Planning Officer, PO Box 611, Malvina House Gardens, Stanley, tel 27390.

Table Rock and Mount Usborne viewed from the Wickham Heights

View north from the summit of Mount Adam

Hill Cove Forest looking north across to Saunders Island

EFFICIENCY VERSUS EFFECTIVENESS

By Mandy McLeod

I recently attended the Grazing For Profit workshop as part of the Way Forward Project. It was a real 'brain opener'! By that I mean that we all have knowledge gained from experience, but we have so much else going on in our busy lives, and our own priorities, that the important stuff often gets tucked away in the grey matter where it is kept for prosperity, rarely used. A large part of the course was bringing that knowledge out of storage and making us aware of it so that we can use it!

One of the main things that I became aware of and will stay with me was how we can be highly efficient but not effective. I always thought they were the same thing! Didn't you?

The dictionary says:

Efficient Functioning with the least waste of effort.
Effective Productive or capable of producing a result.

Isn't that what farmers are? They work from dawn till dusk and are ingenious and innovative when it comes to inventing labour saving devices. They also produce results (the wool off the sheep's back, the milk from the cows udders, the crops from the fields).

We often prioritise our lives and work by selecting what we like to do and leaving the not so nice things till tomorrow, or the day after..... Farmers are 'hands on' people and are happy to do the physical graft, whilst such things as 'doing the books' are put off as long as possible, often till the tax form arrives in the post, or a reminder from a supplier that your last 3 invoices are overdue. We ought to be looking at the business before we select what we do; otherwise there is a danger of being efficient but not effective. If I'm busy, I must be a good farmer (accountant, builder, hairdresser, agricultural adviser), right? WRONG! It is important to look at the business we are in so that we can select the activities that are going to make us money!

Imagine the mountaineer spending weeks getting to the summit of a mountain, only to find that if he'd done his homework and looked at the business of climbing rather than the climbing itself, he could have earned a fortune in sponsorship if he'd climbed the one next to it! Working **on** the business before working **in** the business will alleviate the stress from worrying **about** the business. If you know 'the business', you will have a solid foundation from which to work. If a house foundation has cracks in it that are not attended to, then it doesn't matter how pretty you make the inside, outside or gardens look, because it will more than likely fall down as soon as the ground starts to shake. It's the same with a business, whether farming or otherwise, if the foundation of the business is flawed, then as soon as the market begins to shake, those foundations start to crumble.

How often have we done that 'temporary fix' to a gate or fence, to get the job of the day done, and then had to do the same thing every time we went through it for the next 3 years, wasting hours, losing stock and getting cross, when the permanent fix would've saved us so much time, stress and more than likely, money!

IT MADE ME THINK ABOUT MY 'EFFICIENCY'
(now in very big inverted commas)!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

How much time do you actually spend looking at and managing critical issues that affect farm profitability per sheep or hectare, such as turnover, cashflow or overheads, when it is these foundation issues that impact on how well you really do!

GRAZING FOR PROFIT WORKSHOP

Wake up the old grey matter! Shake off that winter apathy!

As a part of the WAY FORWARD project,
the Department of Agriculture is running
the last GFP workshop
starting on Tuesday 2nd September
and finishing on Monday 8th. (Venue Stanley)

The April workshop had great farmer participation
and we hope this one will too.
It is being run for you, so make the most of it and
put your name down for this exclusive offer (and last chance!)
It's fun, thought provoking, very useful, FREE and.....
IT'S NOT SCARY!!

If you want to know more, you can ring either Mandy or Neil
at the DOA. But don't take our word for it,
ask those that can really tell you if it's worth doing.

So pick up that phone and call
Ted Jones, Nancy Poole, Richard and Toni Stevens, Ann Robertson, Bobby Short, Andrez Short, Mike Rendell, Tim Blake, Henry Boughton, Basil Faria, Ian Jaffray, Brian Aldridge, Alan Eagle, Keith Alazia, Riki Evans, John Hobman,
or anyone else that I may have missed, but you know have done GFP

FOR SALE

SIX FOOT SEMI OFF-SET FLEMING TOPPER (GT60)

NEW £1,300 o.n.o.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE PAT AND DAN AT MOUNT KENT FARM ON ☎ 31003

FOR SALE

The owners of Greenfield Farm are offering for sale "Freehold" 24,000 acres of their sheep farm.

For full details please phone 00500 21456, fax 00500 21478 or e-mail corridale@horizon.co.fk

SHEARING TENDER

The Directors of Twigworth Trading are offering for Tender the shearing of approximately 4000 to 4200 sheep at Wineglass Station , in a two stand shed, during the forthcoming season 2003/2004.

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 when shearing will take place can be negotiated with our Farm Manager, Bobby Short on telephone 32280.The best time to phone is in the evenings.

Tenders to be submitted in writing and must reach our Stanley Office (at Falkland Supplies) on or before close of business on 30th June, 2003.

Peter Short,
Director

FARM EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Daniel Wykes
8 Eye Lane, East Rudham
King's Lynn, Norfolk
PE31 8RJ
Ph – 00 44 1485 528079
Fax – 00 44 1485 528451
E-mail – barrybye@aol.com

Age:	23 Years
Qualifications:	City & Guilds in Agricultural Skills
Experience:	Sheep, cattle, deer husbandry
	England: Several years with sheep. This year just completed lambing work with 1500 ewes.
	New Zealand: 12 months experience on a 700 ewe, cattle and deer holding in South Island.
References:	Available from the UK, New Zealand and Falkland Islands.

Please respond to Daniel with details of job descriptions, dates required and conditions.

RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST QUARTER

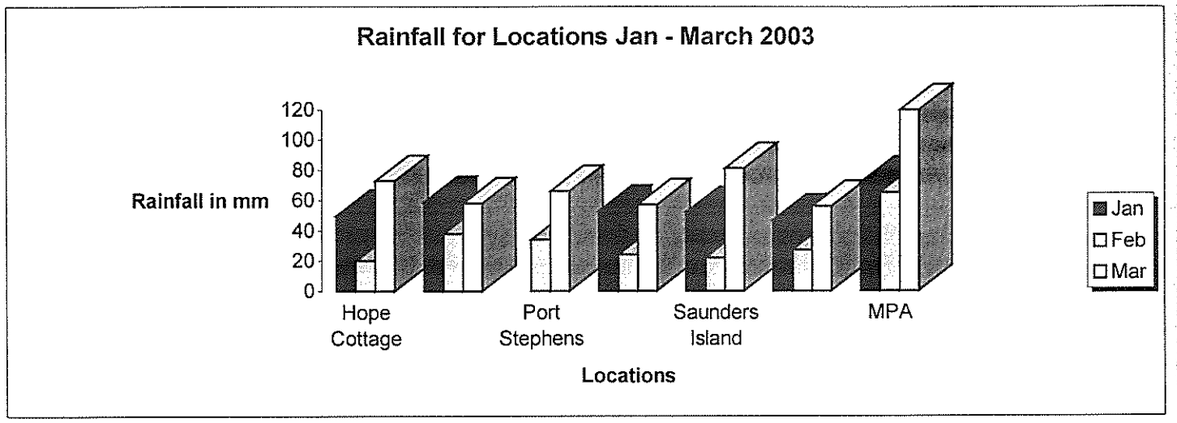
Priscilla Legg

Something went wrong with my article in the last Wool Press. There appeared to be two graphs which were the same (Maximum Gusts) and the rainfall graph for locations from January – March was missed out. I don't quite know what went wrong.

So, overleaf is the graph that was missed out. The first three months of the year were very wet. In January MPA had 72mm of rain. North Arm had 50, Saladero 53, Saunders 52, Hope Cottage 50 and Stanley had 47mm of rain.

In February MPA had 65mm of rain. North Arm, Port Stephens, Stanley, Saladero, Saunders Island and Hope Cottage varied between 38 and 20mm of rain.

March was the wettest month. MPA was drenched with 120mm. Saunders had 81, Hope Cottage 73, Port Stephens 66, North Arm 58, Saladero 57 and Stanley 56mm of rain.



So now I've set the record straight, I'll leave you with a poem that I got off the e-mail. Unfortunately, the author is unknown. It is called "The Value of A Smile".

It cost nothing but creates much.

It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash, & the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business and is the countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad & natures best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen for it is something that is no earthly good to anyone until it is given away.

And if in the course of the day some of your friends should be too tired to give you a smile, why don't you give them one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.

SMILE!!!

PARASITES

By Kevin Lawrence

All over the world internal parasites are outsmarting scientists and anthelmintic (drench) resistance is on the increase.

This is a particular problem in sheep but there is also some cattle worm resistance emerging too.

How does this affect the Falklands? At first glance you appear to have one of the most extensive grazing systems in the world, but as everyone knows the 'greens' and smaller areas of improved pastures are where all the action is.

There are three main types of internal sheep parasite:

1. **Trematodes** – liver fluke – not seen in the Falkland Islands.
2. **Cestodes** – tape worms – moniezia seen in the Falkland Islands, but of questionable impact. In New Zealand they are linked to an increased incidence of pulpy kidney in lambs.
3. **Nematodes** – the round worms. The real thieves in the tussac.

All nematodes have a broadly similar lifecycle.

Varying numbers of worm eggs survive on the pasture over winter, depending on the severity of the weather.

Always assume some eggs survive. These hatch in the spring and infect late pregnant or lactating ewes. Lactating ewes have a reduced ability to fight parasites so a small number of worms become established. The egg output of these ewes is never that great but is the most crucial step in the parasite life cycle. Without this the majority of eggs (except possibly for Nematodius) would be dead before the lambs were old enough to ingest them with grass.

The lambs eat the eggs put out by the ewes and after 2 or 3 cycles of eggs – adults – eggs (with an increased burden of worms being established with each cycle) there is a high enough worm burden for the lambs to scour. This is usually late summer/autumn.

Dry summers do kill eggs on the pasture but seldom eliminate problems with a tendency to see quite severe problems in later autumn after a dry summer.

Low burdens of worms stimulate a protective immunity. High numbers cost you money in reduced production and deaths.

Given the significance of egg output by lactating ewes it is not hard to see how effective long acting boluses given to ewes prior to lambing can be. They remove the source of eggs for the lambs and effectively keep pasture clean. Unfortunately they have now been shown to be an important cause of drench resistance in sheep.

What can we do in the Falkland Islands?

1. Get into the habit of doing faecal egg counts (FEC). When you gather a mob of sheep collect 10 faecal samples, bagged separately, and send them to the lab together with a description of the mob age, numbers and weight.

2. Look at weaning drenches for the lambs. However this should be based on the results of the FEC. Remember if you drench the lambs and leave them on the contaminated camp you may only be delaying the inevitable. Drench and move to uncontaminated pasture is better.

3. Drench correctly.
   i) Weigh 10 sheep and drench to the heaviest one.
   ii) Check the drench gun is delivering the true dose.
   iii) Drenching is a skill – ensure the drencher knows what he/she is doing.

4. Rotate the drench types. This needs to be cross-island co-ordinated.

5. A quarantine FEC check prior to stock entry onto the improved pastures to keep them clean.

6. Should we fence half the 'greens' off each year to rest them?

7. Look at nutrition. Better fed sheep get less problems with parasites.

8. Purchase only reputable drenches. A lot of South American drenches may be no better than coloured water.

9. If you have a mob of sheep not performing think worms. Do an FEC.

10. Get into the habit of mentally considering whether a pasture is clean or contaminated. A clean pasture can be one that has not been grazed by sheep or alternatively only grazed by cattle in the previous 6 months. A clean pasture can then by used for weaned lambs and a contaminated pasture can be used for cattle or wethers.

11. Don't be afraid to ask!

LYN

She loved Camp and her own enthusiasm for it and everything related to it was infectious. This open enthusiasm often reminded us of the good things about farming and Camp life, even when things were economically bleak. Lyn didn't unduly criticise or condemn things happening around her. In our experience, she questioned, listened and got the facts straight in her own mind before passing comment or opinion. Then, if she had something to say, she did, making her contribution valid and constructive, whether for something or against. She didn't hold back on speaking out in defense of something she believed in and gave praise where she thought praise was due. She had an amazing knack of being able to put herself in your shoes and showing understanding.

Lyn Blake has left a legacy to agriculture in the Islands in the form of the Quality Falkland Wool Scheme, of which she was a pioneer. Lyn will be sadly missed by all those fortunate to have known her.

All the staff at the Department of Agriculture

RECIPE PAGE

ORANGE POPPY SEED CAKE

Ingredients
(cake)
4 large oranges
70g black poppy seeds
500g butter, softened
660g caster sugar
8 eggs
450g self raising flour
150g plain flour

(icing)
360g icing sugar
1 ½ tsp butter
60ml orange juice

Method
Preheat oven to 160°C. Grease and line a 30cm round cake tin. Finely grate off the rind and squeeze the juice out of the oranges. Combine the juice and poppy seeds in a small jug.

Beat the butter, rind and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time beating until just combined.

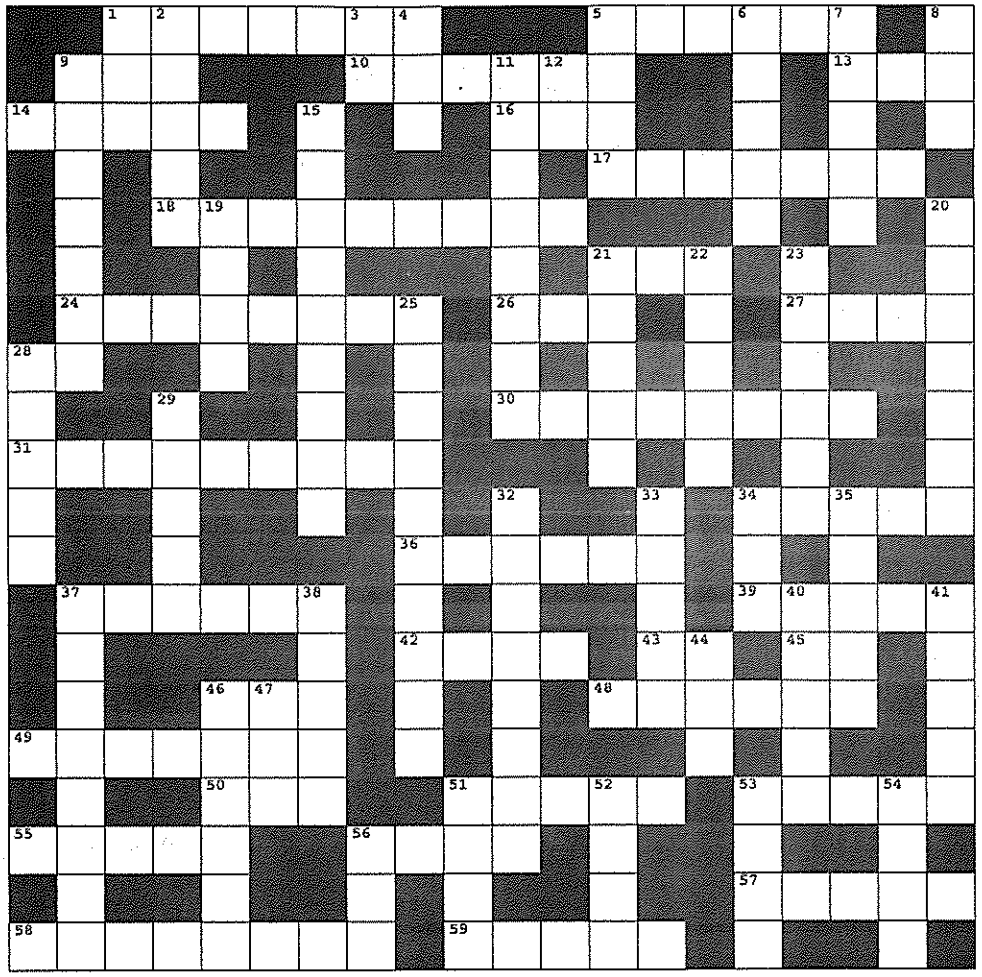
Sift the flours together and fold in with the orange juice in two batches. Spread the mixture into the cake tin.

Cook for approximately 1 ½ hours. Stand for 20 minutes before turning out and leaving to cool.

Sift the icing sugar into a bowl and stir in the butter and juice to form a paste. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and stir until the icing is a pouring consistency. Spread the icing over the cake.

Eat in big fat slices.

JUNE03



ACROSS

1. IN THE PROCESS OF BEING MOVED
5. ROBBER
9. FEMALE RABBIT
10. EAT
13. ROWING DEVICE
14. EFFEMINATE WALK
16. WOOD GLUE
17. NOVELTY DEVICES
18. GREEN NUT
21. GROUP OF SHEEP
24. FISH TANK
26. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
27. COMPASS POINT
28. VEGETABLE MATTER
30. 12 O'CLOCK
31. ALMOND BISCUITS
34. EXTERNAL PARASITES
36. STORY TELLER
37. AREA DEVOID OF VEGETATION
39. A DISPLAY OF COWBOY SKILLS
42. A SMALL PARTICLE
43. MYSELF
45. EXIST
46. EDIBLE LEGUME SEED
48. DESCRIPTION OF WOOL WEAKNESS
49. LOUD PIERCING CRIES
50. YOU COULD GET STUCK IN ONE
51. BEAVER HOME
53. BLOOD PUMP
55. LONG, SHARP WEAPON
56. SKINNY
57. POINTER GUIDE (COMPUTERS)
58. PART PROCESSED PHOTOGRAPH
59. SMALL LOCAL FISH

DOWN

1. IMPERIAL WEIGHT
2. GO OVER AGAIN
3. IDENTIFICATION
4. METRIC UNIT
5. BOAST
6. WILD AUSTRALIAN DOG
7. PART OF A COG OR GEAR
8. RUGBY SCORE
9. EXPLANATORY DRAWING
11. LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE
12. HARMFUL SUN RAYS
15. THE CONVERSION OF FOOD TO TISSUE
19. GULF COUNTRY
20. MEASURE POINT ON A HORSE
21. COVERED IN WET SOIL
22. PLAIT
23. DEADLY
25. A RELIGIOUS CONVERTER
28. SICK
29. FERTILE DESERT AREA
32. FRENCH EMPEROR
33. SET SOMEONE UP FOR A CRIME
34. ANIMAL COVERING
35. SHRUB OR TREE WHOSE BERRIES MAKE GOOD WINE
37. A FOLLOWER OF JESUS
38. BREAD BROWNED WITH HEAT
40. OVERWEIGHT
41. CIRCLE AROUND
44. FINALE
46. BIRD KNOWN FOR ITS TALKING TALENT
47. VERY LARGE BIRD
51. SOFT TISSUE AROUND THE MOUTH
52. BLADDER THAT PRODUCES BILE
53. CANNABIS ROPE
54. GET UP
56. FOOT DIGIT

The Wool Press

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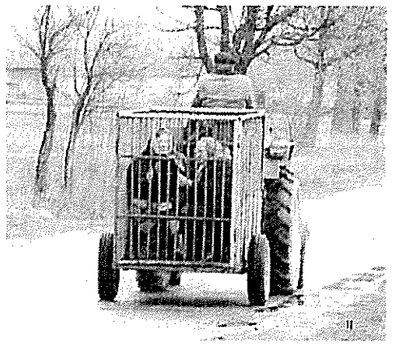
EDITORIAL

Hi All,

With the sheep programme now over it's back to the office to try and catch up on the mountain of paperwork that seems to have accumulated on my desk. Hopefully the statistics will go out with next month's edition of the Wool Press – fingers crossed.

Next month I will also try to bully someone into writing an article about the sheep programme and include a few pictures so that those of you who didn't get to witness it first hand can see what went on. Unfortunately I don't have any pictures of Kevin's four (yes 4) boggings en route to Walker Creek. I do have a photo of him being towed back to the road after the 130 gave up the ghost though that I might include. Good fun had by all – and quite a bit of rum on those cold winter nights!

This month's cartoon is courtesy of Malcolm Ashworth.



Farmer grabs bargain at market!

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SHIVERING AND SIZZLING

By Zoe Luxton

My thermoregulatory mechanisms are not sure what is going on this month. The start of the month saw me under 6 layers and a padded boiler suit in Goose Green shearing shed trying to avoid cold burns from the liquid nitrogen (being involved in the AI/ET programme) and the end of this month has seen me sizzling in a bikini somewhere on the Costa Brava. The first event, though chilly and busy, was extremely interesting and enjoyable but I will not go into detail as I expect you will hear all about it from Nyree and the others.

The second event was a week of peaceful sunbathing with the rest of the Luxtons – not slightly related to anything veterinary at all. I decided that Spanish vets must have an easy life; every dog we clapped eyes on had mammary tissue to suggest several litters, or a conspicuous pair of swingers between its back legs. Considering most of a British vets day is spent speying and neutering anything that moves, I did wonder what Spanish vets spend their day doing as all animals seem to be entire on the continent. Maybe they spend all day doing caesareans considering all the extra breeding that must go on!!

Nothing much seems to have changed in my couple of recent absences from work. Usually in my absence at least one of my ongoing cases has some sort of crisis and one of my poor colleagues has a nightmare in the middle of the night trying to sort it out.

One case was at the back of my mind while I was away. An old ginger cat called Marmalade had disappeared for a few days and was very lethargic and dehydrated when he returned. Suspecting that he had snuck off because his kidneys were packing up, we ran some bloods and discovered that his liver enzymes and bilirubin were raised instead. He also had a high temperature and developed a slightly yellow tinge along with some foul diarrhoea. He was one miserable puss cat.

Happily after a few days of fluids and antibiotics he was considerably better and was able to go home having recovered from what must have been a nasty hepatitis rather than the large liver tumour that old pessimistic me was predicting. Marmalades' owner was a very nice lady indeed but I feel she may have overestimated my abilities somewhat. On the day that I first saw Marmalade I asked Mrs M to ring the next day with a progress report and, if there was no obvious improvement in Marmie then we would probably have to hospitalise him. She rang several times during a busy morning surgery and asked to speak to me, even though the nurse took her number and said I would ring back as soon as I could and asked if she wanted to leave a message.

"No, no" said Mrs M, she would ring me later as she really wanted to speak to the vet. When I finally got to speak to her, I expected a lengthy and complicated report.

"Hello Mrs M, its Zoë at the vets, how's Marmalade doing?"
"Well dear" came the reply, "I'm dreadfully worried, he's disappeared again and I was just wondering if you might have any idea where he was and if I should be concerned about his condition?"

The essentials of every veterinary bag – euthanising agents, sedatives, painkillers and a crystal ball.

Avice, one of our equine vets, had a horrible emergency call a while ago. She was called to one of our main Stud clients to see to a foal that was in a very poor way as someone had unfortunately put it in a loosebox with the wrong mare, i.e. not its mum. I guess some mares would not be too bothered by this small intruder but this particular one most certainly was and had seriously beaten up this poor little foal that needed a lot of stitches and treatment. As far as I know the wee chap is doing well now but it was a really nasty case that could have easily been avoided.

Finally with the heat in UK at the moment, I am pleased to say that I haven't had to see a single case of heat stroke in poor dogs being left in cars etc this year. My friend Lisa down in Surrey had to see a rabbit however, that had been left in a conservatory and unfortunately the air conditioning had broken while the owners were out. When they rushed it in the poor things core body temperature was so high it was fitting violently and when Lisa took its temperature within the first few seconds of the thermometer being in its rectum the mercury had shot right to the top of the thermometer until it couldn't register any higher. Not such a happy ending for this one, it died shortly after as it had just got so so hot. Usually I like my stories to have a small point or suggestion for you but hearing current weather reports from home I don't think there is much point warning you about being aware of your animals in hot places. Sorry!

FOR SALE

The owners of Greenfield Farm are offering for sale "Freehold" 24,000 acres of their sheep farm.

For full details please phone 00500 21456, fax 00500 21478 or e-mail corridale@horizon.co.fk

POWER SENSE

By Clive Wilkinson

I have recently received several phone calls relating to battery condition and performance, hence the following...

Batteries have a hard time during winter months with less wind for re-charging, increased demand for power, and lower temperatures.

Several factors affect their performance:

1. **Temperature:**

A battery's capacity (Ah) is measured at 25 deg.C. The chemical reaction that takes place within a battery being charged or discharged becomes sluggish at cold temeratures, so much so that at 5 deg.C a battery has lost 20% of its capacity.

The lower the temperature, the greater the loss.

We can compensate for this when recharging by increasing the charge voltage; the inverter will do this by sensing the battery temperature. We cannot compensate when discharging at low temperatures other than by increasing the size of the battery.

So during the summer months your battery may discharge down to -330Ah, but only to -250Ah in the winter - at which point the inverter shuts down, or the genset starts.

However there are other factors to consider...

2. **Rate of Discharge:** (Peukert exponent) i.e.

How quickly is the battery being discharged?

The faster the discharge rate, the smaller the battery's effective capacity.

In any R.E. system the rate of discharge is not constant; loads are being switched on and off throughout the day and night. In order for the battery meter to give as accurate a reading as possible, the Peukert exponent helps it to calculate how fast the battery capacity shrinks under a heavy load. This cannot be achieved by only recording Ah readings and battery volts.

3. **Rate of Charge:**

During low wind periods, when you use your genset to recharge the battery.

CHARGE IT UNTIL IT IS FULL!!!!!!
There are several reasons why you need to do this:

- Firstly, your battery will last longer.
- All the active materials will take part in the chemical reaction.
- Accurate battery meter calculations **depend** on the battery being cycled properly.

A good way to ruin a battery is to stop charging with a genset *before* the battery is full, just because the wind's got up. That is false economy...
That couple of hours' charging, and the subsequent hours discharging from a low state of charge, kills a battery. So you might have saved some diesel, but you'll pay later, when you have to replace that battery prematurely.

4. **Equalising charge:**

The 2 volt cells that make up your battery are not identical, even when cycled perfectly; over time cells will differ in their state of charge. A fully charged battery will still have sulphate on some plates, but if a battery rarely gets a full charge, sulphate will build up on all the plates. This sulphate will harden over time and seal off part of the plate area, reducing the battery capacity. An equalising charge will break down this sulphate and restore the battery to its full capacity.

So when should a battery be equalised – every six weeks, every two months, six months??? ?

The answer is: only when the voltage difference between several cells is more than 0.05 volts, or the specific gravity is wide ranging ie +/- .015 on a **FULLY CHARGED** battery.

How do you equalise your battery?

a. Fully charge the battery.
b. Check voltage between cells or specific gravity.
c. Equalise charge battery for 2 hrs. if required.
d. Check electrolyte levels, top up if necessary.

NB: DO NOT top up a battery *before* a recharge, as the electrolyte expands during this process.

General Routine Maintenance for your system....every 6 weeks - mark it on your calendar to remind yourself if necessary (dog dosing day?!)

- Check electrolyte levels .....use only distilled water and don't over fill!!
- Check wind turbine tower bolts
- Clean battery cell tops
- Check for any corrosion

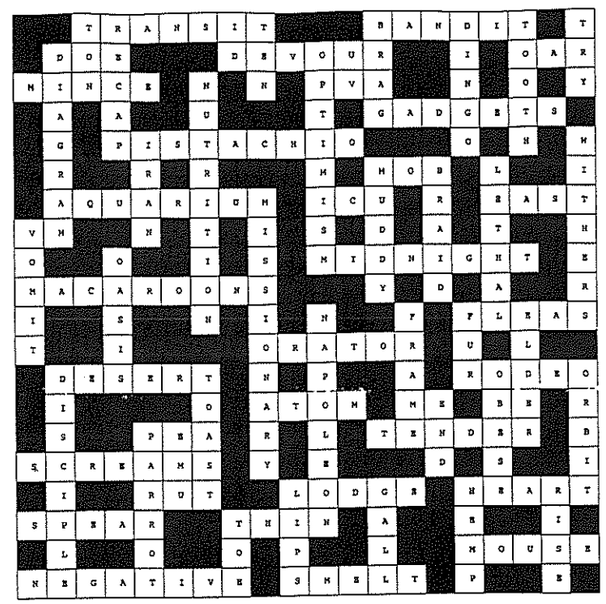
When battery has received a full charge check the cell volts.
(Stop the wind turbine if necessary to get an accurate volt reading)

And finally – I can't emphasise this enough as it is vitally important -

Remember that wind turbines depend on Mother Nature for energy input and cannot charge batteries at will.

So use your genset to FULLY recharge your battery during low (no) wind periods.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



FOR SALE

High sided ATV trailer. Steel with timber floor and rear ramp. New and unused. Extremely strong.

Bargain at £485

WANTED

Set of canvas hoodsticks for a high capacity Land Rover 130 rear body. Late Series IIA, mesh radiator grilles (fullsize ones).

SELL OR SWAP (for something useful [sheep feed etc])

4 bags of feed oats.

FOR SALE

Tyre vulchanizer – never used and brand new. Complete with patch kit. Will take light truck tyres through to ATV type. **£375** (cost a hell of a lot more than that)!

ALSO FOR SALE

Large reinforced plastic canoe. Only used 3 times. As new. Ideal for stock work in current weather!! Twin outdrives. Variable pitch. Cost over £450 but will sell for **£385.**

For more information on any of the above please contact Nick Pitaluga on phone – 31193 or fax – 31194.

EWE ENERGY AND PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS

By Niilo Gobius

I have compiled a chart of ewe requirements in response to requests by several farmers. Here I will attempt to explain how to read it.

Making sense of Table 1 and 2
Table 1 shows the requirements for energy and protein of a 50 kg ewe. The Table shows the requirements of a ewe that only needs to maintain her body weight, a ewe that is in the early and latter stages of pregnancy, and a ewe in the early and latter stages of lactation (providing milk to the lamb). Table 2 shows the same requirements but for a 50 kg ewe with twins.

Many ewes at this time of the year have reached a weight of 50 kg, some are heavier and some are lighter so showing the requirements of a 50 kg ewe is a good starting point. If your ewes are heavier or lighter you can adjust up and down accordingly.

To show how to work Tables 1 & 2 I will go through a couple of examples. When reading these Tables, your judgement is required to assess whether your ewes are currently maintaining weight (there is sufficient available pasture [or energy] only), losing weight (insufficient available pasture [or energy]) or gaining weight (excess available pasture [or energy]). In each of these 3 situations energy and protein requirements for increased production or weight gain will, respectively, be equal to, greater than, or less than:
" the required energy and protein levels for either *pregnancy* or *lactation* **MINUS** the required energy and protein levels for *maintenance*".

Example 1: Ewes (averaging 50 kg) are going to be Embryo Transferred this month. There is still a bit of feed out in the paddock where these ewes will be living but I want to make sure they are getting everything that they need.

From both Tables 1 and 2 we can see that for the first 15 weeks of pregnancy the ewes energy requirements increase from 8.4 to 10.6 megajoules of energy (MJ ME)/day and protein requirements increase from 95 g to 112 g/day in order that she gains weight at 30 g/day. If we think that the ewes will maintain their weight in the paddock but no more perhaps we should feed these high value animals a little. How much do we feed?

The tables have shown we need to supply **an extra 2.2 MJ ME and 17 g of crude protein (CP) each day**. Below Tables 2 you will see I have already calculated how much energy and protein will be provided by 200, 500 and 1000g of several example feed types. We see that either **12% protein beet pellets OR cracked corn will provide this**.

Therefore, **either of these feeds would be appropriate** to use so that the ewes will increase weight at 30 g/day (other feeds not on this list may provide similarly).

Example 2: It is now 4 weeks until lambing and the same ewe has been scanned by Lucy Ellis and declared as carrying twins. There is still enough feed in the camp to maintain the ewes weight but she needs 18.6 MJ ME/day now, **an extra 10.2 MJ ME/day** over maintenance requirements (Table 2). She also needs **an extra 101 g of protein** each day (196 minus 95).

1000g of 12%CP pellets per day will provide 10.9 MJ ME and 104.4 g of CP, enough to fulfill the 'extra requirements' for a growth rate of 225 g/day.

However, the ewe cannot eat 1 kg of grass as well as 1 kg of pellets. She can only eat 1.7 kg per day. The ewe will consume the 1000 g of pellets but reduce grass intake to 0.7 kg or less. Probably less than 0.7 kg of grass will be consumed because sheep become lazy-grazers when they are spoon-fed. **Consequently, the ewe will most probably fall short of the target growth of 225 g/day, unless a higher energy density feed supplement is used.** A more energy-dense feed than is available in these examples would be needed to pack the required 10.2 MJ ME into 0.7 kg of feed so the target weight gain of 225 g/day could be achieved.

In this case though, the ewe should still gain somewhere in the region of 150-200 g/day, which is considerably better than losing weight as is the 'norm' under Falkland Island environmental conditions.

The quality and the quantity of grass available at the time of lambing determines how close we can get to achieving the target of the ewe growing at 225 g/day for 4 weeks prior to lambing. The higher the energy and protein density of the supplements and pasture at this time of the year, the easier it is to feed to requirements.

Other feeds are available and are being used around the place so if you need any further advice please do not hesitate to call. Hopefully this has given you the basics about ewe requirements

Tables 1 and 2 present the target weight gains/losses, and the daily requirements for feed (DM), metabolisable energy (ME) and crude protein (CP) to satisfy a 50 kg ewe in various production stages.

Table 1	Ewes with a single lamb		50 kg Mature Weight	
	Ewe daily weight gain/loss target (g/day)	Daily DM Intake with single lamb (kg)	ME Req'd for single lamb (MJ/day)	CP Req'd for single lamb (g/day)
Maintenance	10	1.00	8.4	95
Pregnant Ewe - Ist				
15 weeks	30	1.20	10.6	112
Last 4 weeks	180	1.60	15.6	175
Lactating Ewe -				
1st 6-8 weeks	-25	2.10	23.5	304
Last 4-6 weeks	45	1.60	15.6	175

Table 2	Ewes with twin lambs		50 kg Mature Weight	
	Ewe daily weight gain/loss target (g/day)	Daily DM Intake with twin lambs (kg)	ME Req'd for twin lambs (MJ/day)	CP Req'd for twin lambs (g/day)
Maintenance		AS ABOVE		
Pregnant Ewe - Ist				
15 weeks				
Last 4 weeks	225	1.70	18.6	196
Lactating Ewe -				
1st 6-8 weeks	-60	2.40	27.2	389
Last 4-6 weeks	90	2.10	23.5	304

200 g as fed of these supplements provides:	DM%	DM (kg)	ME (MJ)	CP (g)
Beet Pellets - 12%CP	87	0.17	2.2	20.9
Beet Pellets - 18%CP	87	0.17	2.2	31.3
Cracked Corn/Maize	89	0.18	2.0	17.8
Oaten Hay	87	0.17	1.6	15.7
Oaten Silage	50	0.10	0.7	11.0
Molasses	75	0.15	1.9	12.75

500 g as fed of these supplements provides:	DM%	DM (kg)	ME (MJ)	CP (g)
Beet Pellets - 12%CP	87	0.44	5.4	52.2
Beet Pellets - 18%CP	87	0.44	5.4	78.3
Cracked Corn/Maize	89	0.45	4.9	44.5
Oaten Hay	87	0.44	4.0	39.2
Oaten Silage	50	0.25	1.9	27.5
Molasses	NOT RECOMMENDED TO FEED AT ABOVE 200 G/DAY			

1000 g as fed of these supplements provides:	DM%	DM (kg)	ME (MJ)	CP (g)
Beet Pellets - 12%CP	87	0.87	10.9	104.4
Beet Pellets - 18%CP	87	0.87	10.9	156.6
Cracked Corn/Maize	89	0.89	9.8	89.0
Oaten Hay	87	0.87	7.9	78.3
Oaten Silage	50	0.50	3.7	55.0
Molasses	NOT RECOMMENDED TO FEED AT ABOVE 200 G/DAY			
Swedes/Turnips	11	0.11	1.45	12.7

ME = Metabolisable energy	DM% = Dry feed % (100 minus DM% = Moisture %)
MJ = Mega joules (energy)	CP = Crude protein

A CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Dr. Andy Douse

This article sets out what the production of a Conservation Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan means for the Falkland Islands, why it is important and how this is going to be done.

What does a Conservation Strategy actually mean in practice?

There is a commitment to writing a Conservation Strategy in the Islands Plan as well as the Environmental Charter that FIG (and UK Government) signed in September 2001. In essence the Conservation Strategy will put flesh on the bones of what was written in the Islands Plan and the Environmental Charter and will look at a wide range of environmental and conservation issues, bringing them together into one document (or group of documents) setting out priorities for action over the next ten years. More specifically, a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Falkland Islands will be written, which will focus to a greater extent on habitats and species (protection, conservation and where necessary, restoration) as well as closely related issues such as integrating biodiversity conservation into the need for sustainable development – the increasingly familiar agenda coming out of the 1992 Rio Convention and the recent Sustainability Summit in Johannesburg.

The challenge as I see it, is to successfully ensure that the Falkland Islands unique environment is protected while at the same time promoting the necessary economic and social development that the Falkland Islands so urgently needs. It is important to remember that the Falkland Islands economy is almost totally dependent on living natural resources (whether it is the vegetation on which sheep subsist, the fish and squid in the sea or the wildlife that tourists come to see) and that sustaining this living resource is essential if the islands wish to remain a viable economic entity. Ensuring these resources are maintained in the long term is an enormous challenge to all yet its importance cannot be denied.

What is biodiversity and why is it so important?

Biodiversity is a widely used term, and while unsatisfactory in some ways (it can mean all manner of things to different people), it has come into wide use and is broadly accepted if not always understood. While in ecological science it has a very precise meaning, in the context of the project that I am developing, it simply refers to the broad range of species and habitats that are found through the Falkland Islands and the marine waters that surround the Islands. Importantly it also implies recognition of the complex interactions between the biological components (the species and habitats), the physical environment (soils and geology) as well as the environment (climate, geographical locations etc.) As a group of relatively isolated islands set in temperate southern latitudes, Falkland Island biodiversity is much less varied than that of mainland South America, especially the tropical and sub-tropical regions which are known to host several key global 'hot-spots' for biodiversity, but the Falkland Islands host many unique species and habitats that reflect the environment in which they occur.

There are several good reasons why biodiversity is important and why it is worth conserving. Firstly, it forms the basis of all the plant and animal communities that occur here and as argued above, the principal economic activities depend on sustaining the living natural resources on land and at sea. Secondly, it provides the cornerstone of habitats and biological communities that perform what are known as *service functions*, such as regulating water levels, storing carbon or providing a means for regulating concentrations of pollutants. In the US alone it has been estimated that *these service functions* would cost the equivalent of billions of dollars to replicate artificially, yet we take many of these systems for granted expecting them to be delivered whatever the state of the environment and the pressures exerted on it. The reality is very different. Finally, and not to be under estimated there is an aesthetic (non-utilitarian) function – most of us appreciate the value of wildlife around us for its beauty, its stimulation of the senses and its strong cultural and historical associations.

The Council of Europe has summarised a useful overview of the value of biodiversity, which goes as follows:-

> *"Conserving biodiversity is of great importance to humanity in many aspects, both because of its various 'utilitarian' benefits for human beings, and because of its apparently 'non-utilitarian' value. Biodiversity is useful to humanity for economic, recreational, cultural and ecological purposes. Not only do we take many primary materials and draw great benefits from it, but it also regulates the biosphere. While biodiversity represents unimaginable riches from a 'utilitarian' point of view, it is no less impossible to quantify its aesthetic, intrinsic and ethical value."*

Biodiversity and its maintenance is not just an important environmental objective in its own right, it is also a key indicator of sustainable development. The environmental consequences of development need to be assessed along with economic and social aspects in what has been termed the three legged stool approach.

Why do we need another strategy

The Falkland Islands is going through a period of enormous change and the focus on increasing development opportunities is both understandable and necessary if the population is to be maintained and to develop further. I have no doubt that this can be done sustainably, but that does not mean that environmental objectives can be side-lined or treated as being subservient to the economic or social aspects. I see them as being integral to the whole development process and we ignore them at our peril. A good example of this is the current parlous state of the world's fish stocks: more and more effort is being put into catching fewer and fewer fish, quite clearly an increasingly unsustainable approach to exploitation of a natural resource. Some commercially important species are on the verge of extinction, while others are critically endangered so that what has been one of the world's most important sources of protein is fast disappearing. The promise of aquaculture has been demonstrated and is often argued as being a long term viable solution to this problem, but what is often forgotten or ignored is that many (though not all) farmed species depend on wild caught fish for their own food so as aquaculture expands, even greater pressure is put on wild capture fisheries.

There are many other examples that illustrate this fundamental truism that development cannot be isolated from consideration of the environmental consequences. However this does not mean that development of any sort is untenable because of perceived or real environmental 'constraints' but it does mean that we need to understand the consequences better, adapt our plans to either limit adverse impacts or at least provide some sort of mitigation, and ensure that where there is uncertainty in terms of impacts, that this is not used as a basis for arguing environmental affects are trivial or non-existent. Taking a precautionary approach in the face of uncertainty is a prudent approach to development, not a charter for obstruction.

When is all of this going to happen?

The intention is to have a strategy in place by late 2004 or early 2005 at the latest, with the actual implementation running for ten years until at least 2013. The process has started and I will be meeting many more folk in government departments, industry and conservation in over next few months. There will be periodic articles in the press (including the *Wool Press*), on the radio as well as public talks in Stanley and the Camp. I hope to get out into Camp and meet as many people as possible and maybe participate in one or more of the Camp Road-shows.

What is the Strategy going to Cover?

In short it will cover a wide range of issues from species and habitat conservation, through to wider issues such as pollution, waste and energy use. There will be a specific plan to conserve key species and habitats though which species and which habitats has yet to be determined. In addition there are a number of international agreements to which the Falkland Islands are either signatories or bound up in UK ratification. Such agreements include the Convention on Biological Diversity (the CBD) arising out of the Rio Convention, as well as the Ramsar Convention (named after Ramsar, a place in Iran where it was signed) as well as broader agreements on issues such as that on ozone depleting chemicals (implemented through the Montreal Protocol) and the Climate Change Convention (implemented through the Kyoto Protocol).

The strategy will touch on broader, global environmental issues. The Falkland Islands is not isolated or immune from global environmental change and the impact of global climate change (also known as global warming) is something that could, in the long term have enormous impacts on both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, changes that we simply do not understand or cannot quantify at present. The need for the Islands to have a role in action to limit some of the more damaging impacts of such changes is clear: there is an argument to say that we cannot expect others to take action if we are not prepared to take action ourselves.

....And finally

Some folk will remember me as the one-time goose officer in ARC. Since leaving the islands in 1987 I have been working in Scotland with a long period in Shetland followed by a period in Edinburgh, where we currently live. Since leaving I have been working for an environmental organisation, yet I have continued to deal with geese (different species, same problem...), as well as a host of other issues, many of which have a strong resonance here, such as working with the oil and minerals industries; dealing with international conservation agreements on seabirds and cetaceans, and crucially, working on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

I am delighted to return to the Islands after so many years, and I'm looking forward to working on such a challenging project. I do hope to get out of Stanley as much as possible, something that is going to be so much easier than it was 16 years ago!

Contact

Anyone wishing to contact me on any of the issues raised here or anything else can find me in the Environmental Planning Department in Stanley, the address, e-mail and telephone number are given below.

Dr. Andy Douse
Conservation Strategy Officer
Environmental Planning Department

Tel.: *(500) 27390*
E-mail: *adouse.planning@taxation.gov.fk*

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The OIE has finally agreed to recognise FMD free zones at this year's General Session held in Paris at the end of May. The wording was as follows:

"Recognition of a foot and mouth zone during or after a FMD outbreak in a free country without vaccination

The above resolution was adopted unanimously. It provides for rapid recognition of disease freedom in epidemiologically distinct parts of previously FMD free territories which have suffered an outbreak. This will be particularly applicable to the overseas territories of some OIE member countries, including the UK."

This would mean that in the event of another FMD outbreak in the UK exports of wool or meat from the Falkland Islands would not automatically be included in the ban on the trade in these products that would be imposed on the UK.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAMB GROWTH RATE AND LAMBING DATE IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Niilo Gobius

As many of you know, over the past season I have been investigating the relationship between lambing date, lambing % and lamb growth rate. I have monitored the lambing % and growth rates of lambs in a number of flocks around the islands and I now have a few results to share.

Many of you have been concerned that lambing later in the year, rather than earlier, will not give the lamb enough time to grow to its potential. Evidence is showing that later born lambs actually grow at a faster rate so that at the end of March, weights of later born lambs will be quite similar to early born lambs, if not slightly heavier.

I have used the lambing dates and weights of lambs from 13 camps (12 farms) around the Falklands to produce Figures 1 & 2 and Table 1, which summarise the effect of lambing date on lamb growth and marking %. The farms used include Bleaker Island, Head of the Bay, North Arm, Port Stephens, Goose Green (High Hill and Egg Harbour), Port Howard, Shallow Harbour, Port Edgar, Fitzroy (1/4 Poll Dorset), Elephant Beach, Horseshoe Bay and Walker Creek. These farms have been noted down in the same order as they have lambed ie. Bleaker Island lambing was earliest (24/9/02) while Walker Creek lambing was the latest (10/11/02).

To calculate lamb growth rates I have assumed that all lambs from a particular flock were born on the same date, the date when lambing was estimated to start. Obviously they are not all born on the same date, but most flocks will have a similar spread of lambing. Another assumption I have used is that all lambs born, on each farm, weighed 3.5 kg at birth. Once again there are going to be differences amongst flocks and farms but this is the only fair method of comparing growth rates without actually weighing each lamb as it is born.

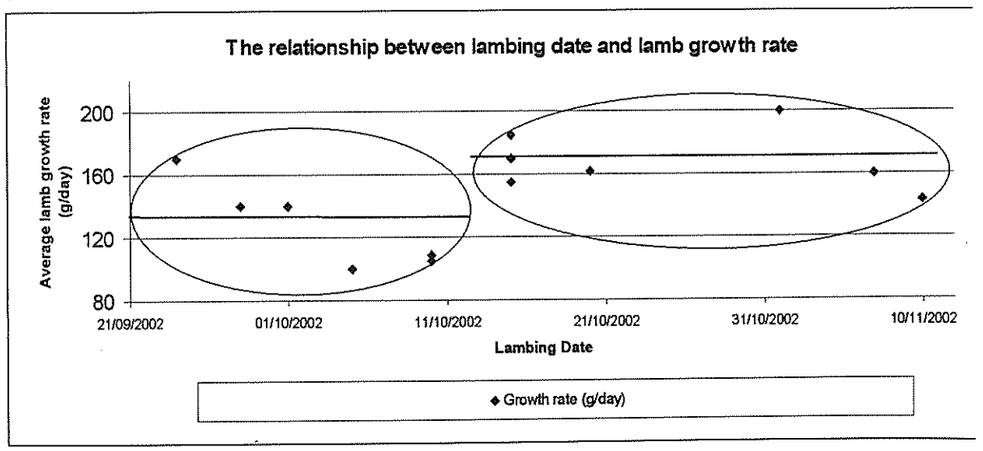


Figure 1: The growth rate lambs in relation to lambing date in the Falkland Islands.

As can be seen from the Figure 1, lambs born after mid-October generally grow at a faster rate than early born lambs. There is not a nice linear relationship because the quality and quantity of grass in different camps varies so much. However, the fact that later born lambs tend to grow at a faster rate supports the evidence that grass growth doesn't really start to motor in the Falklands until November.

Table 1: Lamb average growth rates from birth (3.5 kg) and their resultant estimated live weights on the 31/3/2003.

Lambing Period	Average Growth rate (g/day)	Average weight when weighed (kg)	Average age when weighed (Weeks)	Estimated weight (kg) @ 31/3/2003	Number of flocks weighed
Sept 24 - Oct 10	127	20.2	19.26	26.4	6 Flocks
Oct 15 - Nov 10	168	22.3	16.71	29.9	7 Flocks

For Table 2, I averaged the weights of the 6 early lambing flocks (lambing between 24/9/2002 – 10/10/2002) and compared that against the average for the 7 later lambing flocks (lambing between 15/10/2002 – 10/11/2002). The table shows a 40 g/day advantage in growth rate from later lambing which translates into a 3.5 kg advantage in weight by the end of March. This is despite some lamb flocks in the later born group being 6-7 weeks younger than those in the early born group. The weight differences may not be as great as in Table 1 every year, but I feel that they should be at least as good as early born lambs. The greater quality and quantity of feed in the camp allows later born to grow faster. The advantage in later lambing should come from decreased lamb losses due to better nutrition and weather conditions around lambing, and hence greater lamb marking %. However, this does not ***appear*** to be so this year (Figure 2).

I believe there are at least 2 reasons why lambing % does not appear to have increased this year. *Firstly*, the summer of 2001/2002 was the driest on record and pasture production was very (s)low. The eggs in the ewe, which are fertilised by the ram in the autumn, are formed 6 months prior to conception. That puts us back into the period prior to Christmas 2001, when good quality pasture was almost non-existent, the ewe was trying to produce milk for a lamb and also trying to maintain her own body condition. This period of immense stress would result in low numbers of poor quality eggs being formed for conception in the following autumn. A fact supported by the low numbers of dead newborn lambs seen last lambing. *Secondly*, lambing % is closely linked to the weight and condition of the ewes, which is heavily influenced by the feed type and quantity in a particular camp. Therefore it is difficult to compare the lamb marking % of camps that may be very different. A true indication of the positives or negatives of later lambing would come from comparing the past average of a particular camp with it's average lamb marking % for the next few years following a change to later lambing.

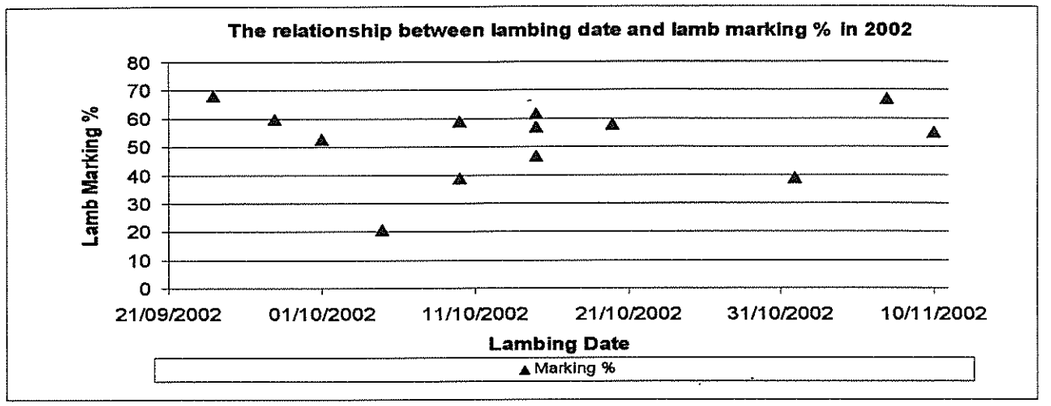


Figure 2: Lamb marking % in relation to lambing date on 13 Falkland flocks in 2002.

In summary, the evidence to date indicates that there are positives to later lambings. The fact that lambs are growing at a faster growth rate indicates that there is more feed on the ground when they are born. I believe this will eventually lead to better lamb marking percentages as the ewes will not lose as much weight, will be in better condition, produce better quality eggs for conception and produce more milk to be more able to rear a lamb. Weather conditions are also much less likely to kill a newborn lamb in November than they are in September or early October.

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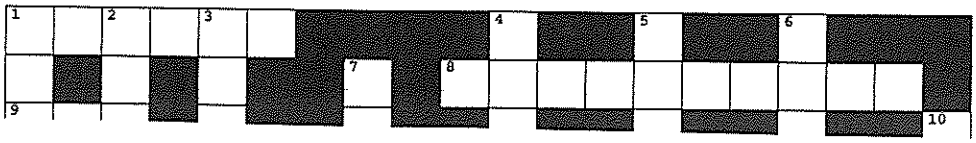


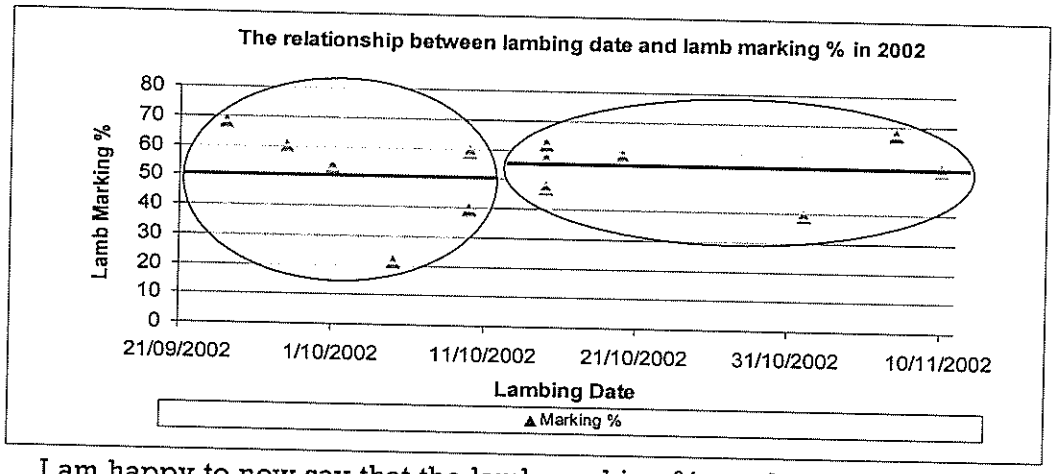
ADDENDUM TO THE ARTICLE "The relationship between lamb growth rate and lambing date in the Falkland Islands"

By Niilo Gobius

In the article of the above name, in this current issue of the WoolPress, I wrote that "the advantage in later lambing should come from decreased lamb losses due to better nutrition and weather conditions around lambing, and hence greater lamb marking %. However, this does not ***appear*** to be so this year (Figure 2)".

I must apologise because, having looked at the figures in more detail there ***does appear*** to have been a slight improvement in lamb marking %. The lamb marking % for the 6 'early lambing' flocks averaged 50%, while the lamb marking % for the 7 'later lambing' flocks averaged 55%. The original article had already been printed, hence the need to attach this addendum.

Figure 2: Lamb marking % in relation to lambing date on 13 Falkland flocks in 2002.



I am happy to now say that the lamb marking % results are supporting the theory that later lambing should increase lamb marking %, even though the improvement is only slight. The reasons I put forward for the apparent lack of improvement in lamb marking % in 2002 I still stand by. I firmly believe that, given more 'normal' years and a few years lamb marking % results to compare with past results, improvements will be greater. Ultimately, an improvement of only 10% may be reached but that still equates to a lot more lambs on the ground.

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

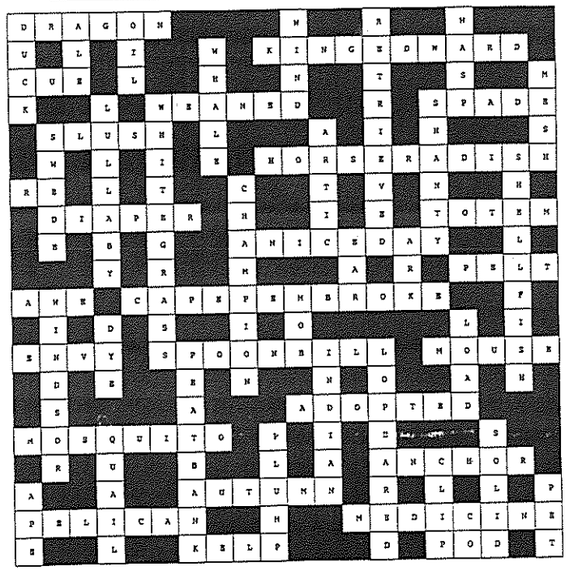
As I'm sure most of you are aware by now Geds has left to go and do something with roads leaving Andrew on his own for a while. Andy seems to have been bitten by the writing bug and wrote me a two page article for the WP – the **four** pages that follow are what he produced!!

The bug must be catching because Lucy is writing an hilarious article for next month's WP on the AI and ET programme. Thanks Lucy.

Anyway enough from me. Time to let you get on and read the rest of the WP – after you've looked at the mountain of numbers that is the statistics.

Nyree

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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FORAGE OPTIONS

By Andrew Pollard

To maximise benefit to the farm from growing forage crops it is vital to carefully plan ahead. Last season there were many good forage crops around the Islands. However, a lot of that bulk and also quality feed went to waste, one of the main reasons for this was a lack of **planning!!** A forage plan is not a complicated task, it just requires a little time and communication between the Department of Agriculture, farmers and contractors. The key planning steps are as follows:

(a) Choose the **most suitable** crop for the farm's needs based on:

1. What animal type do you want to feed?
2. What quantity of animals do you want to feed and for how long?
3. When do you want to feed these animals? (examples shown later)
4. What crop has a suitable maturity period to match these needs?

(b) Identify a number of potential cropping areas based on the following guidelines:

1. **Soil Depth** – At least one spades blade depth. Shallow soils reduce the ability for roots to develop properly and also the soils moisture holding capacity, therefore a crop is more likely to suffer from drought problems in a dry summer.
2. **Stock Water availability** – Just as important as for the forage, animals need water
3. **Shelter** – Animals on small areas of crops, still need shelter. Shelter could come in various forms, including valleys, leaving areas of vegetation (cinnamon grass, fachine, whitegrass strips etc), these plants may also be able to supply trace elements to the animals.
4. **Aspect** – North facing slopes to catch sunlight, results in warmer soils, more growth.
5. **Drainage** – Most important when feeding brassicas in Autumn and Winter.
6. **Access** – Ease of access for machinery, calcified seaweed and rock phosphate, stock and goose control. The best options are close to the settlement, a road or both, however the need to have a site with a high yield potential cannot be overstated.

(c) **Soil test** – This important process is normally carried out at the same time as site selection. By comparing different sites we could possibly save dramatic costs on calcified seaweed or (unlikely on Falkland soils, but there has been the odd case!) rock phosphate if soil has high phosphorous content and potash (normally high in local soils, but once again cannot be relied upon) and various other elements. By getting the correct balance of nutrition to these plants we can greatly reduce the possibilities of crop failure or low yields. The need for fertiliser

becomes even more likely when the crop is cut and fed elsewhere as there is no nutrient cycling occurring. Soil testing early leaves more time for sourcing the best value fertilisers from a variety of markets.

(d) **Fertiliser application** – Different fertilisers need to be applied at different times. Calcified seaweed and rock phosphate are slow releasing fertilisers and hence need to be applied as the very earliest opportunity. As soon as that site has been selected, there would be a benefit from having calcified seaweed and rock phosphate applied and rotavated in. Any alternative phosphorous fertiliser should be applied at sowing. Nitrogen fertilisers could be applied at same time or up to 3 weeks post sowing.

(e) **Seedbed preparation** – cultivation needs will vary with the type of land that you are working with and also the urgency of your preparation. Different seedbed preparation strategies are being used by farmers in the Falkland Islands as follows:

1. **Whitegrass camp.** Rotavate then burn followed often by a second rotavation. Seedbeds can be prepared in just a few months provided weather conditions are favourable. It is common to rotavate after the burn to:
   (a) Create a fine, firm seedbed. This is important for brassica seed as it has a small seed, it creates better seed to soil contact.
   (b) Create better water infiltration. Moisture levels must be adequate for germination to occur.
   (c) After a poor burn to break up trash further, increase chances of drilling.
   (d) To create a flatter seedbed, important when growing hay/silage crops. These seedbeds are more machinery and operator friendly, also allowing harvesting with less wastage.

2. **Diddle-Dee Camp.** Discing (once or twice) or rotavating are the main initial cultivation's when working up diddle-dee country. This is followed by either a burn or a spell. The spell is normally a year. It is then common to rotavate once more for the same reasons listed above. There are people in the Falklands operating a system that does not require burning. The alternative to burning is spelling, which means planning in advance.

(f) **Sowing** – Seed should be sown according to seed size. A depth of 1cm is common for most brassicas. The implement chosen is also important, - using the direct drill normally shows the best results however there are alternative implements that often show good results. Direct drilling allows the seed rate to be reduced (cost saving) due to the precision placing (most people plant in rows in their garden, this is no different). Taking the time to **calibrate the machine** properly is also essential, get this wrong and the results can be devastating (thinning a garden takes time!).

(g) Grazing the forage crop – I will cover this subject in a later woolpress.

When do you want to feed your animals?

I have already had at least a dozen enquiries about forage options for the forthcoming season. I hope the following helps people to plan and understand these forage crops to provide maximum benefits both physically and financially. The dates listed below are for a typical sheep operation

1. **Feed at Pre-Joining for improved sheep ovulation rates (March-July)**

- **Barkant Turnips** (could yield up to 7-8 tonnes DM/Ha), Early maturing – 60-120 days from sowing, high proportion of leaf resulting in high levels of protein, these would be strip grazed to reap maximum utilisation. Best fed March-May.
- **Appin Turnip** (could yield up to 9 tonnes DM/Ha), Mid maturing – 60-150 days from sowing, very high leaf proportion, is multiple crowned which means it can be grazed lightly early to promote tillering from the crown. Best fed May-July after this period leaves tend to disappear.
- **Forage Oats**, two options with oats. The first is to graze. The second is to feed out as hay, normally cut Jan-Feb time. It is worthwhile pointing out that sowing perennial grasses/legumes with the oats should be considered, to provide some annual feed whilst establishing a pasture.
- **Tama Annual Ryegrass**, an alternative to oats, can be grazed or baled in exactly the same manner, ryegrass is a little more susceptible to a dry summer than oats
- **Pasja**, this is a brassica hybrid cross that has excellent regrowth potential, meaning it can be grazed several times per season. It should be ready for its first grazing 6-8 weeks post sowing and then left for this same period to regrow. It is even more important to plan well for this crop as management is essential to prevent bolting (the plant going to seed, losing its quality).
- **Lupins**, as to date I have not heard of many attempted crops in the Islands, but these would follow the same grazing principles as the barkant turnips. It is important to also point out that a short burst (flushing) of sheep onto lupins can increase the ovulation rate (eggs released) per animal.

2. **During pregnancy sheep (Winter)**

- **Highlander Swede,** a late maturing (180-250 days), high yielding (8-9 tonnes DM/Ha), large proportion of leaf swede, winter hardy (could still lose leaves in a bad winter!).
- **Oat/Tama ryegrass Silage**, in Falkland Island conditions there can be major problems in gettting hay dry and then stored, silaging (not new to the islands) in the form of round bales can make use of a crop that

could otherwise be wasted. However, it is important that Silage suffering from mould problems is not fed to pregnant animals. Silaging allows the farmer to have the bales in the field, where it is known that animals will be when feed is required. This reduces the impact on tracks and gateways during the wetter winter periods.

- **Oat/Tama ryegrass hay**, same as Mar-July period.

There are other crops that could be grown that the Department does not have seed in stock. At Brenton Loch we intend to further trial as many brassicas as possible this coming season to see which may be the best-suited to the Islands. It is important to keep trialing these crops for several reasons; seasonal variety (rainfall, warmth and winter hardiness) and to get results from new varieties. If any one would be interested in more information regarding alternative foraging cropping feel free to contact myself at the department.

***Once the planning has been completed seed, fertiliser and machinery need to be organised. Do not leave these till the last minute.**

Seed: Some seed is available from the Department of Agriculture. Contact us soon if you are planning on obtaining seed from the Department.

Fertiliser: The Department will supply calcified seaweed and rock phosphate. Forage crops also need nitrogen fertiliser. The Department will not supply nitrogen fertiliser. This needs to be organised by the farmer; the Department can offer advice on the different types of nitrogen fertiliser.

Machinery: If you do not have the necessary machinery this needs to be organised in advance with someone who does. The Departments' pool machinery has been leased to contractors in the private sector. Farmers need to liase direct with the contractors regarding using the pool machinery.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PASTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Please contact Andrew Pollard or Karen Marsh at the Department of Agriculture ASAP if you are planning Pasture Improvement (Reseed, semi-improvements and forage cropping) for this coming season, 2003-04. This will assist the Department and contractors in planning for these works.

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE

By Peter Johnston

Background

The national pasture improvement scheme commenced in 1998/99 as a government grant of fertiliser, seed, machinery use, fuel and fencing with the aim of improving returns from grazing on farms across the Islands.

Review

The initial proposal for the scheme included a review after 5 years (in July 2003). The Department of Agriculture has initiated this review to determine whether the scheme is providing a worthwhile return on the investment by Government and farmers. It is expected that workshops will be conducted on the East and West over the next few months to ensure that everyone with an interest in the programme has an opportunity to contribute to the review.

A number of changes to the programme have already been implemented. These are discussed below. The review may also result in some additional changes.

Machinery pool

As part of the scheme, tractors and implements were purchased by FIG and were made available for farmers to use as a machinery pool. Since its inception the pool has not run well. Farmer's regularly complain to the Department on a range of issues regarding the availability, condition and inefficient use of the pool equipment. The reality of the situation has been that machinery in the pool has not been used to its full potential and therefore some farmers have been forced to delay their reseeding and forage cropping programmes. From a Departmental perspective managing the pool to meet everyone's needs has been difficult and has occupied a considerable amount of time.

In 2002/03 the out-sourcing of the service and maintenance of the pool relieved some of the pressure on the Department. From a Departmental perspective, this has worked well. Feedback from farmers has also been positive. However, the inefficient use of the pool still existed. Tractors and implements sat idle for weeks at a time waiting for either Department of Agriculture staff or farmers to collect and use the equipment. This situation is compounded by the summer season being the peak period of activity for both livestock and pasture work.

In January 2003 the Rural Business Association requested the Department examine methods by which this could be improved. A meeting between RBA representatives, machinery contractors and Councillors Summers and Cockwell was held in January 2003 to address this issue. This meeting recommended exploring the possibility of leasing the pool to the private sector. The concept was presented to the Falkland Island Development Board (FIDB).

The FIDB meeting of May 2003 agreed to the leasing of the agricultural machinery pool to camp-based businesses. The purpose of the lease was to assist the development of contracting businesses in camp and to improve the efficiency of use of the pool equipment. The Department aimed to establish one lease on East Falkland and one lease on West Falkland. The lease includes the management, operation and maintenance of the pool equipment. Invitations to tender for the lease of the pool equipment were advertised on 4 July.

Based on the information presented to the tender board, Mr Philip Miller was awarded the lease on East Falkland and Mr Justin Knight was awarded the lease on West Falkland.

The new arrangements will not alter access to the pool equipment or to having pasture works completed. The main difference will be that farmers wishing to use the pool equipment or wish to have works done using the pool equipment will need to contact either Philip or Justin directly, not the Department. Priority for works will go to those farmers who have not yet completed 50 ha of highly improved pasture. It is expected that Philip and Justin will manage the use of the pool machinery in a professional and fair manner to all farmers. This expectation is part of the lease arrangement.

In addition, the new arrangements do not exclude other farmers or contractors from carrying out work under the pasture improvement programme. Any farmer wishing to carry out approved pasture work themselves or who want to use the services of another contractor, simply need to ensure that the planning steps shown below are followed.

New rates for machinery use

The FIDB meeting of May 2003 also supported a review of the rates paid to agricultural machinery operators under the pasture improvement programme. The revised rates reflect the different classes of tractor being used in the pasture improvement programme. These rates do not include fuel and are effective from 1 July 2003. Unfortunately, the rates do not cover tractor work with your own tractor on your own farm.

	Tractor < 90 hp	Tractor 91-120 hp	Tractor > 121 hp	Implement	Labour
Contractor or farmer supplying tractor and implement (£/hour)	11.00	13.00	16.00	3.00	5.00
Travel between farms: • by road (£/mile) • over camp (£/mile)	1.50 2.00	1.50 2.00	1.50 2.00		

How it should work

If you planning on carrying out pasture improvement / forage cropping works the steps to follow are:

1. Develop an approved plan several months in advance with Andrew Pollard or Karen Marsh. This plan will set out the works to be implemented, who is responsible for the work and who pays.
2. If you do not have the necessary machinery to complete the works yourself, contact Philip, Justin or another contractor directly as soon as the plan is approved to organise the machinery required;
3. Oversee the work and keep records of the tractor hours and fuel used; and,
4. Complete the necessary worksheets to enable payment to either yourself (for fuel) or the contractor. Payment for work will be made directly to the contractor based on the figures authorised by each farmer and then submitted to the Department.

For more information contact Andrew Pollard, Karen Marsh or Peter Johnston on 27355

NEW VETERINARY OFFICER

By Sue Harvey

Growing up in the South of England it was not my child hood ambition to be a vet. Far from it, so I secured a place at university to read engineering. The idea of going to some far-flung corner of the globe and building a dam appealed to me. I took a year off after completing my A Levels, did my required minimum of 4 weeks at an engineering firm and then went farming. That opened up a whole different world to me and sometime over the next 9 months I realised that, as it was unlikely that I would ever have a farm of my own, I wanted to become a vet. The pressure was on to start my engineering course. Two weeks into it I set the ball rolling for a transfer and a year later saw me having successfully transferred onto the vet course.

I qualified in June 1986. At that time, it was hard to get work, especially with farm animals for a new vet. I was very lucky to get my first job in the Scottish Highlands. However, it did not take me too long to find out that the reason no one else wanted that job was, that the boss was more than just a bit eccentric. It was interesting times, great experience and after 6 months the neighbouring practice offered me a job.

3 years later I was ready to work abroad. I headed off to what I thought was going to be a year or, if I was lucky, 2 years in New Zealand. 7 years later I found myself a New Zealand citizen and regarding The Westcoast (of the South Island) as home. The travel bug then hit again and it was off to Canada. I wanted to spend some time with my Grandfather, my father having come from northern British Columbia. I had 3 amazing (long) summers in Canada heading back to England in the winter for locum work to finance the next trip.

I then look a VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) position in Nepal. Living there was a fascinating experience, even if nothing much happened at work. Working with Indian trained local (male) vets, with no budget was never going to be productive.

With the advent of Foot and Mouth I made a quick exit from Nepal to spend 6 months on the front line around the Yorkshire Lancashire border. I met vets from all over the world and when I was offered a job in Zimbabwe I just couldn't say no. With Robert Mugabe "winning" the latest election, that job crumbled around me. That was enough of the 3rd world for a while so I headed back to New Zealand to do a "calving/mating" season at my old practice. It was there I found out about the position in the Falklands.....

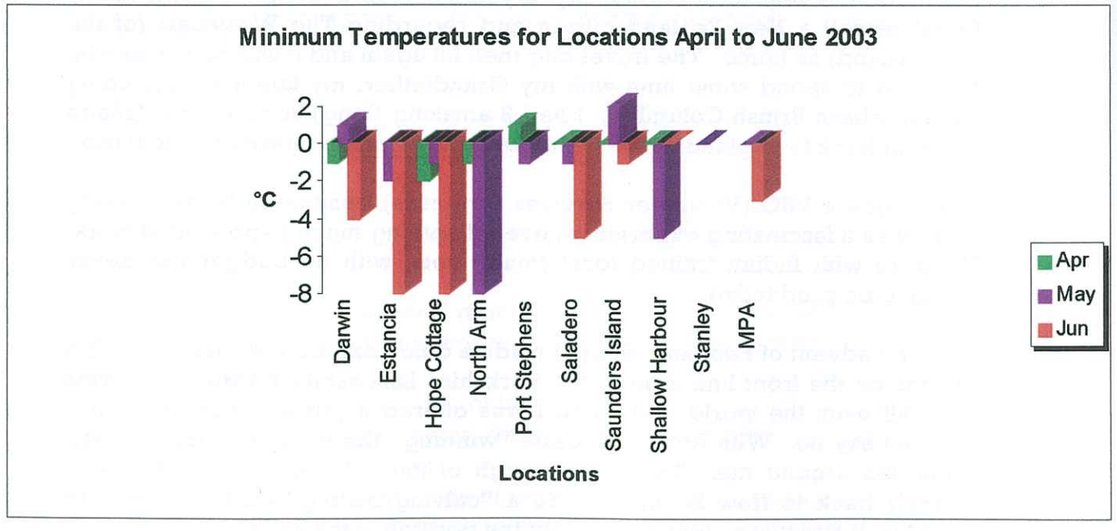
WEATHER & RAINBOW HOUSES FOR THE 2ND QUARTER

By Priscilla Legg

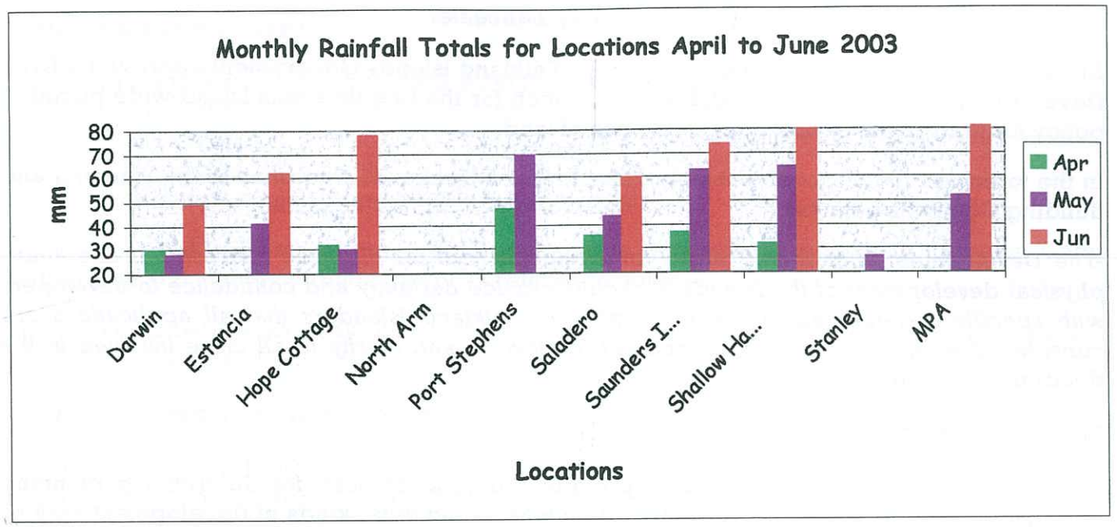
Halfway through the year already. Where does the time go? I suppose before we know it everyone will be frantically buying and wrapping Christmas presents, baking and decorating the cake and mince pies and fattening up the lambs. Hopefully by that time our house will be under construction if not finished. So instead of decorating cakes I can decorate the house. It's not even here yet and Robert is cringing at the colours I am imagining in our new home. I've told him, "There will be no magnolia." I'd like yellows, blues, purples, oranges and greens. I even suggested that the outside of the house could be a nice shade of green, but I'm afraid he put his foot down and told me if I want him to live in a green house, he's leaving! Lord I'll miss that man!

As you will see below, there's a weather update on what's been happening over the previous three months.

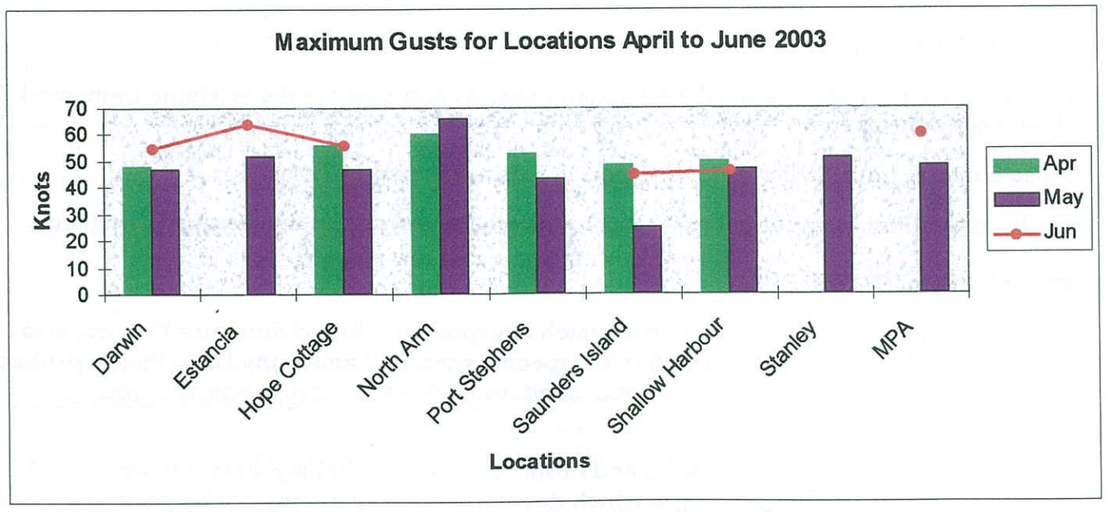
April was pretty mild with temperatures going no lower than 0°C. May and June on the other hand, were quite nippy, with temperatures sinking to –8°C.



In April the highest rainfall was 47mm. This was the lowest reading over the previous three months, in May there was 70mm and in June 103mm of rain.



No wonder garage roofs and so forth have been flying off with some of the gusts we've been having! In April the highest gust was 60 knots, in May 66 knots and in June 64 knots.



Thanks to Ken & Bonita Greenland for their Darwin weather.

A NEW APPROACH TO FORWARD PLANNING
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2001-2016

By Antony Lancaster

At the June meeting of Executive Council the Falkland Islands Government approved a Draft Development Plan for the Falkland Islands, which for the first time sets Island-wide planning policy for guiding development and the use of land.

In the foreword to the document Councillor Richard Cockwell, Chairman of the Planning and Building Committee states:

'The Development Plan should prove an invaluable tool for all those interested in the future physical development of the Islands. It should provide certainty and confidence to developers with specific development interests, comfort to Falkland Islanders that all applications are considered within a clear and transparent framework and clarity to all those involved in the decision making process'.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The Development Plan is intended to provide a consistent basis for determining planning applications and to introduce certainty about where and what kinds of development may or may not be allowed over a number of years; otherwise know as the 'plan period'.

All planning applications are judged against planning policies set out in the Development Plan. Planning law requires that Development Plan policy is generally adhered to in determining planning applications, although other important circumstances can affect the final decision.

The Government is required to produce a Development Plan for the Falkland Islands. This is in two parts: the Falkland Islands Structure Plan and the Stanley Town Plan. Both plans have a timeframe from 2001 to 2016.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS STRUCTURE PLAN

The Structure Plan applies to all the Falkland Islands and sets out the strategic framework for all planning decisions.

It also contains policies that are more local in nature relating to Camp.

The Structure Plan is important as it establishes the framework for the Stanley Town Plan

THE STANLEY TOWN PLAN

The Stanley Town Plan is a 'Local Plan' which interprets the broad Structure Plan policies at a defined local level in great detail often for specific sites. In Stanley, the Local Plan is probably the most important document you will need to look at before preparing your planning application.

The Plan contains a detailed 'Policies and Proposals Map' for Stanley, linked to written policies in the Plan, which specify the way in which development may or may not be permitted. Some policies may prohibit development in certain areas or circumstances altogether, whilst others will establish detailed criteria which must be satisfied if development is to be allowed. This is the same format as in the Structure Plan.

HOW CAN I SEE A COPY?

CD and printed versions are available from the Environmental Planning Department.

- Write: PO Box 611, Malvina House Gardens, Stanley
- Tel: 27390.
- Fax: 27391
- Email: alancaster.planning@taxation.gov.fk

CD and printed versions of the Draft Development Plan will be placed in the main Camp settlements and Stanley Public Library as reference copies.

The Development Plan may be viewed via www.falklands.gov.fk or www.horizon.co.fk courtesy of Cable and Wireless.

INTERPRETING THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

If you have a development proposal it is best to check with the Environmental Planning Department to see if it requires planning approval. If it does, then it is a good idea to read the Development Plan from cover to cover.

Many policies are inter-related, so avoid the trap of targeting your particular area of interest.

Consider the specific wording of the policy you are reading and any accompanying comments. It is important to fully appreciate exactly how the policy has been arrived at. The explanatory comments are often more revealing than the policy itself.

Do not ignore the Appendices at the back of the Plan. These often contain useful detail that could help or hinder you application.

Where the policy contains a number of criteria, establish how many you can satisfy and those that you cannot. Does your proposal need adjustment to better fit the criteria the Government requires?

Do speak to the staff in the Environmental Planning Department for explanations of their intentions. This may assist you in understanding how the Government has arrived at the policy and whether they have properly considered all the issues.

Review your position. Are you seeking something that is plainly out of the question or are the policies favourable? Probably you will be somewhere in between, but that's life!

WHAT NEXT?

During the next two to three months it is planned to hold meetings in Stanley and Camp to explain in more detail aspects of the Development Plan. If after reading the Plan you have concerns about certain aspects or alternatively wish to support specific policies please do so using the response form available on the CD, from the web or from the Environmental Planning Department.

All responses should be received by the Environmental Planning Department by 26 September 2003.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Final Grazing for Profit (GFP) workshop

The third and final GFP workshop will be held in the ARGOS building from Tuesday 9th Sept (8.00am) through to Monday 15th Sept (5.OOpm).

All farmers and interested people are invited to attend.

GFP workshops provide an opportunity to discuss the main factors affecting farm profitability in the Falkland Islands in an open, friendly and informal manner.

The opinions and views of all in attendance are welcomed. In fact the power of the workshops comes from the active participation of all participants. If you are keen to attend, but prefer not to stand and talk in public, DO NOT WORRY. Anyone who does not want to participate in any aspect of the workshop, does NOT have to, no questions asked.

As everyone involved in farming clearly knows, farm profitability has been under pressure for the last thirty years or so. Commodity prices have fallen in real terms but input costs have risen dramatically. It is unfortunate that there is little in the global economy to indicate that this trend is about to change for the long term.

At GFP workshops, farmers critically examine the key factors that influence farm profitability. Actions undertaken by farmers elsewhere in the world that have led to a fundamental improvement in short and long term profitability are reviewed to determine the relevance to farming in the Falkland Islands.

The workshop and follow up programme will give you the ability to examine animal productivity and profitability on your farm.

Do not miss the final opportunity to participate in this important workshop. All that is required is an open mind.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Glynis King at the Department of Agriculture on 27355 as soon as possible. For more information please contact Neil Judd or Mandy McLeod, or better still talk to someone who has already attended a workshop.

FEEDING YOUR DOG AND CAT

By Stephen Pointing

This article is not going to be an exhaustive list of what you should or should not feed to your cat or dog but is going to attempt to highlight those problems that we often see in the surgery as a result of poor dietary intake.

Cats and Kittens

With kittens an all fresh meat diet is not as desirable as it may seem. Young kittens are growing quickly and this includes the bones. It is important for healthy bone growth that the ratio of calcium and phosphorus is correct (about 1:1) whereas fresh meat has a much higher level of phosphorus than calcium. Over a period of time this can lead to demineralisation of bones and abnormalities in bone growth causing bones to become weak so that they may bend or fracture easily. The best source of food for a growing kitten is its mother's milk but this usually has to be supplemented by the time the kitten reaches 4 or 5 weeks old. This depends on how quickly the kitten is growing, how much milk the mother has and how many kittens were born in the first place. Some form of milk supplementation should continue for the next two to three months – cows milk is usually fine but if it causes periods of diarrhoea then it may need to be watered down slightly. The important thing is NOT to transfer immediately on to an all fresh meat diet. I am not here to advocate the virtues of commercial cat or dog food but at certain times in an animal's life they can be useful. Commercial pet food is scientifically formulated to meet the needs of the growing cat or dog and, even if you don't want to use it forever, it is probably a good idea to feed some of this to a young growing animal. I can hear some of you saying that lion or cheetah cubs grow perfectly well without the aid of a commercial pet food. Well, this is true but they often remain with their mothers for much longer periods than do domestic kittens thus having access to milk during this time and when large cats eat their prey they eat everything (bones, guts, intestinal contents etc) and not just the flesh. This is also true for domestic cats when they catch a mouse or a bird especially if they are truly hungry.

If you want to feed an all meat diet to your cat when it is fully grown then this may not cause too many problems but I would urge you to consider feeding the meat in the form of small chunks rather than as mince. One of the most common conditions encountered in middle-aged cats (and sometimes quite young cats) is tooth disease and gingivitis. Much of this could be prevented if the cat was fed a better diet. It is important for dental cleanliness and gum health that a cat should have to chew its food. This is one of the main drawbacks of commercially prepared tinned food and feeding minced meat has a similar effect. Again I am not advocating commercially prepared diets but the occasional use of the dried biscuit type cat food is probably beneficial to dental hygiene.

As any cat owner knows cats can be very fussy eaters. If you can encourage your cat to eat as wide a range of foods as possible when it is young then you will be doing both yourself and the cat a service. Once a cat develops a

passion for only one type of food it can be VERY difficult to persuade it to eat anything else.

Dogs and Puppies

Much of what has been discussed above would apply equally well to puppies and growing dogs. However, in reality, in the Falkland Islands we tend to see fewer problems with dogs than we do with cats. This is probably because dogs have a much more catholic taste than cats and, given the opportunity, would eat anything they could get hold of! It is still true, however, that puppies and growing dogs should be given a well balanced diet to meet all their needs. Again these might best be met by the feeding of a commercially prepared diet but, if you want to make up a home produced diet, this should include milk and meat and a wide range of other foods such as bread, cooked vegetables, eggs (raw or cooked) and other kitchen scraps. Dogs, by nature, are opportunistic feeders and will eat a very wide range of different foodstuffs. They are NOT exclusively meat eaters. The practice of feeding a shoulder or leg of mutton to farm dogs in the Falklands is not ideal as far as the dog's dietary needs are concerned. They would almost certainly benefit from a higher carbohydrate component and this could be supplied in the form of left-over bread, cooked vegetables or commercial dog biscuits. Even if these were fed on an occasional basis it would help to correct the nutritional imbalances that almost certainly occur on an exclusively meat based diet. It is very noticeable, for example, when we have farm dogs in for extended periods recovering from surgery how much their coat condition improves during their period of convalescence. For convenience we feed a diet of tinned dog food and biscuits and it would appear that this type of diet is supplying the dog with nutrients that are lacking in a meat only diet. The improvement in coat condition is something that can easily be seen and felt but is only a surface manifestation of improved condition throughout the whole body.

As stated at the outset this is not supposed to be a comprehensive account of all aspects of feeding your dog or cat. For further advice on this subject please contact one of the members of the veterinary staff at the Department of Agriculture (tel. 27366).

OFFALS

Offals (liver and hearts) cannot be sold to the public if they have not been meat inspected. Only meat inspected offals can be offered for sale.

Thanks

Steve

CHANGES TO THE CATTLE AI/ET PROGRAMME

By Doug Martin

Invoices for cattle born from the embryo transfer programme have recently been issued by The Falkland Islands Development Corporation on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

Due to the lack of clarity over the charging structure for these animals the Department will waive the charges for cattle born under the 2002 and 2003 programmes. A credit note will be shortly issued by FIDC.

Participation by farmers in the 2004 cattle artificial insemination and embryo transfer programme (scheduled for January 2004) will be on a commercial basis. Fees will be charged for each cow programmed and the quantity of semen and embryos used. All animals born under the programme will be the property of the farmer. Participation in future semen and embryo collection for further cattle improvement will be at the discretion of the farmer. However, it envisaged that on-farm collection would be at-cost to the farmer.

It is imperative to start planning for this programme now. Please contact Doug Martin to discuss breed selection and to plan your programme for the coming season. The number of cows booked into the programme will determine whether or not the Department will invest in bringing in a specialist to carry out the work. Depending on the demand the Department will rationalise the number of centres for the work to be conducted.

The schedule of fees for the January 2004 cattle AI/ET programme will be:

Item		
Portable yards (if supplied by FLH)		£50 / day
Synchronisation		£10 / cow
Semen – Breed	**Identification**	**£/straw**
Angus	Future Direction	40
Angus	Vwemillion Yellowstone	32
Angus	Bushwacker	24
Angus	SAF Fame	20
Angus	Pinebank – Waigroup	10
B Galloway	Dundrennan Macadam	10
Hereford	Otawapa Dr Jekyll	10
Hereford	Braxston Banner	10
Jersey	Corona Roberto	10
Jersey	Starstream Nero	10
Murray Grey	Oakview High Regard	10
Poll Hereford	Carlsons New Idea	20
Red Poll	Yongerellen Emanuel Yen	10
Shorthorn	Maerewhenua	10
South Devon	Owairangi Double	10
Embryos – Breed	**Identification**	**£/Embryo**
Angus	W75 x Perry Power Design	220
Angus	W68 x Classic Rock	220
Angus	W4 x Te Mania Ultra	220
Angus	T45 x Kapp Corner Post	220
Angus	New Frontier	100
Charolais x Murray Grey		65
Poll Hereford	Toronto	65
Poll Hereford	Nibbs/Koanui	100
Red Poll	Derrilan Dale	100
Shorthorn	Enforcer	100
South Devon	James	100
South Devon	Hanibal	100

Please contact Doug Martin (27017) to plan your programme for the coming season.

HEATWAVE AND HAMSTERS

By Zoe Luxton

The heat we have been having lately, as well as bringing out the great British public in various ensemble of beach wear, has also been bringing out the great British idiots it seems.

Barry was called out to a mare one evening that hadn't passed its placenta after foaling. This is generally more serious than a cow not cleansing as mares can go toxic much quicker causing all sorts of laminitis, colic and general death problems! Arriving at the farm Barry found a lady more fed up with the appearance of the (perfectly healthy bay mare) foal than the condition of her mare. Apparently she had decided she wanted a piebald colt so had crossed her bay mare with a painted stud, convinced she was going to get the foal of her choice. The boss, Mr Ryder-Davies, had obviously been to PD this mare in one of his more jocular moods, and had said that he could feel that she was pregnant with a boy foal that was black with white legs!! "And he bl***y well got that wrong and all" the lady in question spat at an open mouthed Barry. Now Barry swears that this lady was not having a joke and seemed very serious. Lets just hope she hasn't been allowed to produce any offspring of her own.

Friend Lisa was equally speechless when she got a phone call about 1.30am one duty night. The conversation went a bit like this:

Lisa (with impending sense of doom and dread known to weary vets worldwide):"Hello."
Man: "Oh hello. I'm terribly worried about my dog. She just came upstairs and jumped on the bed and now there is fluid everywhere?"
Lisa: "Is it blood?"
Man: "I don't know"
Lisa (sighing): "How's the dog in herself?"
Man: "Oh she seems absolutely fine"
Lisa (suspecting some disaster):"So is the fluid dark red or bright red?"
Man: "No, it's not red actually. It looks quite clear"
Lisa (gritted teeth now): "Could it be urine?"
Man: "Oh yes, I suppose it could be"
Lisa (very gritted teeth): "And the dog is absolutely fine?"
Man: "Oh yes"
Lisa: "So, you're ringing me at half one in the morning to tell me that your dog wee'd on your bed?"
Man: "Ummm, yes, what should I do?"
Lisa (covering back in case of court case): "Bring me a urine sample from her in the morning", pause, "and in the mean time change your sheets you idiot and never ever ring me at this time in the morning again with such inane drivel unless you wish your entire family to disappear one by one and be subject to hideous torture"

Obviously she didn't say the last bit but you get the general gist of how she was feeling.

Now you can generally divide people in 'animal' categories. Myself, Lisa, Claire etc are firmly in the "cat people" section – as you will probably have guessed from much rambling on about the two most beautiful ginger boys in Suffolk (i.e. mine). Lots of people fall nicely into the "dog people" or "horse people" categories and Mr Smith does love a Friesian or a nice saddle back and so I guess we have to make space for "cow people" and "pig people" too. You also get "rabbit people", which is quite beyond my comprehension as I generally find rabbits about as interesting as athletes foot. Really quite irritating and we could well do without it. I am open to conversion however so all you bunny owners reading this don't send me any nasty letters. You very rarely come across "hamster people" however (excluding 10 year old boys that really just like rolling the small unfortunates around in their exercise wheels). So it was with surprise that Claire examined a small hamster watched by his very worried owner, who was indeed a good few years older than 10. It didn't look too good for the hamster so Claire was about to launch into the "I'm very sorry but it doesn't look like we can do much for him" line when the large masculine owner welled up and said, "Can you please just try something. He's not just a hamster you know – he's one of the family!" Well, I guess the world would be very dull if we all liked the same things!

PLANNING FOR NEXT SEASON

I hope to have a reasonable quantity of good hay (Red Fescue) for sale next January time. If anyone is interested in purchasing some I would be grateful to hear from them. Also it would be good to know if people want the big round bales or small rectangular ones a both can be supplied.

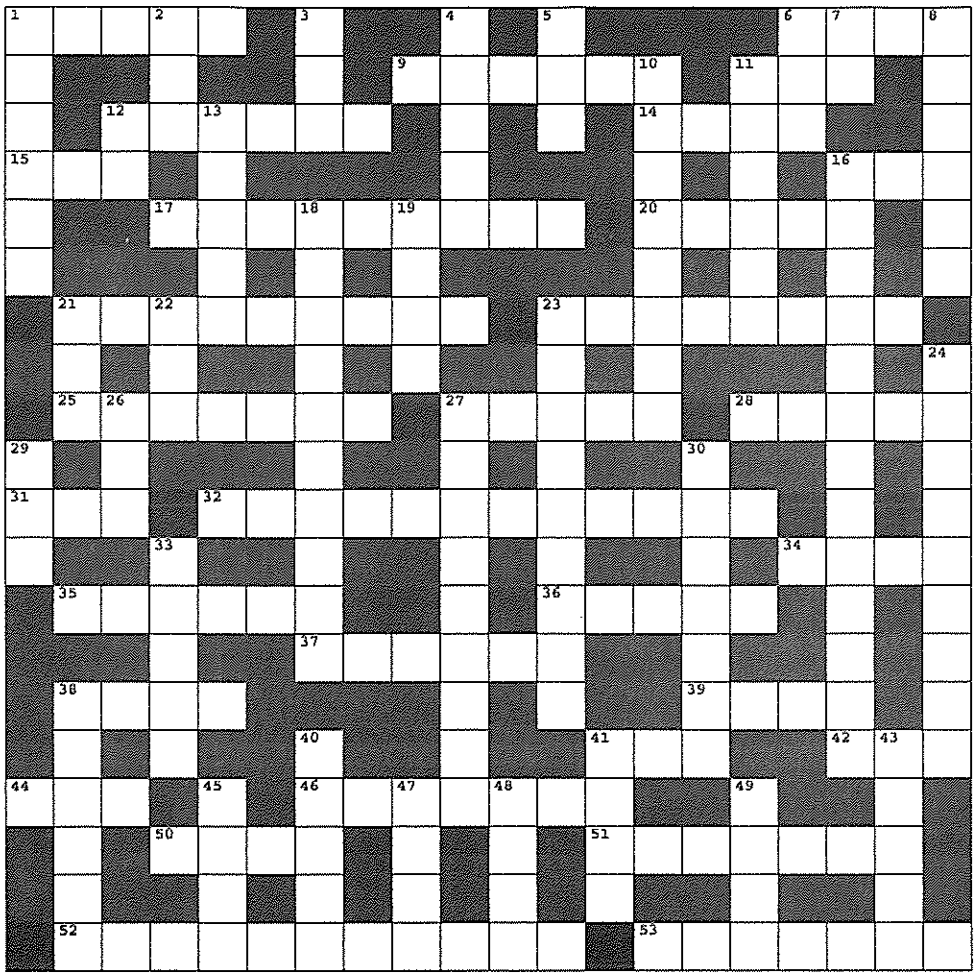
Prices are £24 for big ones, and £3 for small ones.

Some bedding straw may also be available later in the season @ £10 per big bale.

Delivery to the surrounding area @ £4 per big bale and 50pence per small bale.

Interested contact Riki Evans at Coach House on 31046 or track me down!!!

AUGUST 03



ACROSS

1. SLIGHTLY OVERWEIGHT
6. LOCAL DUCK
9. INFECTIOUS DISEASE
11. WEATHER CAUSING POOR VISABILITY
12. HUMBLE IN SELF OPINION
14. STORY
15. APPLE SEED
16. CHILD'S BED
17. WOOD WORKER
20. NOT A GOOD PLACE TO BE IN GOLF
21. HEADWEAR OF THE CITY GENT (6,3)
23. CONDENSATION
25. ROOT VEGETABLE GOOD ROASTED
27. APOLOGY
28. UPLAND BIRDS
31. AUTOMOBILE
32. MONEY TO MAKE AMENDS
34. CHICKEN HOUSE
35. FIRE BREATHING MONSTER
36. FOURTH MONTH
37. PUT COTTON THROUGH EYE OF NEEDLE
38. YOUNG HORSE
39. IMPERIAL LAND MEASURE
41. SMALL FISH
42. LARGE RODENT
44. HORSE COLOUR
46. INSTRUCTOR
50. ROE, RED, ETC.
51. OF THE EYE
52. AMERICAN NATIONAL PARK
53. CHRISTEN

DOWN

1. A REDISH BLUE COLOUR
2. COW SOUND
3. PRE-FIX FOR A NAVAL VESSEL
4. LAMB CRY
5. HEN PRODUCT
6. YOU'VE GOT 10 OF THESE
7. FOR EXAMPLE
8. PORTABLE COMPUTER
10. FOR EVER
11. SHOW OFF
12. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
13. ELONGAGTED SPEECH
16. STANLEY WRECK, NOW MOVED (7,6)
18. COMMONS AND LORDS
19. ON ITS OWN
21. BREAD ROLL
22. CONFLICT
23. ORANGE JAM
24. A FALKLAND ISLAND (4,4)
26. ATMOSPHERE
27. ARTIFICIAL
29. THE BEST
30. BREAK FROM WORK
33. END OF HOUSE
38. AREA DIVISION IN UK
40. BEDDING MATERIAL
41. HOPPING AMPHIBIAN
43. BOOK OF THE WORLD
45. WATER MAMMAL
47. MY MOTHERS SISTER
48. HOOTER
49. DROOPY

The Wool Press

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REPORT ON THE ROYAL SHOW
By Charlene Rowland

POOR PUPPIES & PRONOUNCIATIONS
By Zoe Luxton

THE DOA'S AI & ET PROGRAMME
By Lucy Ellis

CHB VET FLIES FLOCK TO FALKLANDS
Source – Hawke's Bay Today

RAINFALL OVER 7 DECADES
By Priscilla Legg

THE BIOLOGY & FISHERY OF THE FALKLANDS MULLET
By Paul Brickle

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES

EDITORIAL

Hi All,

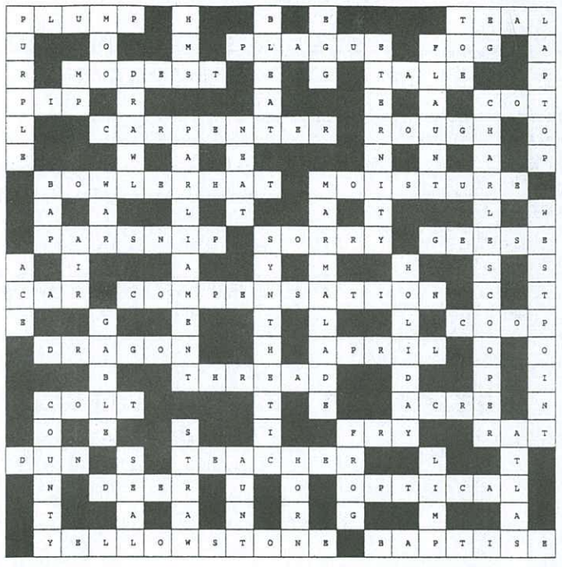
Lucy and Priscilla have now had a chance to scan a fair few of the ewes that were AI'ed or received embryos. Hopefully next month we can publish a list of results. All seems to be going very well so far though with some outstanding ET results. Lets hope it keeps up.

Doug is well on the way to organising the 2004 cattle AI/ET programme. We are hoping to commence synchronisation straight after Christmas so can anyone wishing to run a programme please contact Doug by Friday 19 September 2003.

Thanks

Nyree

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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REPORT ON THE ROYAL SHOW

By Charlene Rowland

I realise it has been quite a while now since the Royal Show 29 – 2nd July, but I took some time out in Chile before coming back home and missed the dead-line for Nyree's August Wool Press but better late than never.

I was extremely proud and honoured to be allowed to join the FIGO team, Debs and Sukey at this year's event in Stoneleigh to promote the awareness of Falkland Islands, tourism, farming links and sourcing new and old contacts.

The stand space was in an ideal placing and there was a constant flow of enthusiastic visitors. Information was generally well received all visitors were briefed with general Falklands facts combined with a tour of our information boards. MP's, friends, Falkland Island farmers and families, people looking to emigrate, past teachers, doctors, members of the Parachute Military Band and Pegasus the pony, Judges and 2 Argentine visitors all took the opportunity to update themselves on the progress of the islands with eagerness, curiosity and interest, which was furthered by the fact that we were not selling anything specific.

The main question on everyone's lips was - *How do we get there*?
All our visitors gladly received tourist information packs. Having three Falkland Islanders on the Stand seemed crucial and was greatly appreciated by all. Discovering and raising awareness, but not selling anything specific only added to people's curiosity with interest.

Of course there was also time to go and look at other displays from local crafts, International cuisines to Limousine bulls – you name it, it was there!

Several operators did take my eye – Particularly Watercare Systems Ltd. (involved in processing safe drinking water from rain). This small, simple, effective safe water treatment plant could be of benefit to farms with annual water shortages. To my knowledge no farm has any form of water treatment plant. It may well be a necessity in the not too distant future to obtain safe drinking water avoiding clostridia diseases. Detailed investigation will be required to establish if this would be a viable project.

FoodBarn Smokers was another stand with promising interest for fishing and the abattoir. On display was a small cabinet size mobile food factory for smoking various different foods such as mutton/lamb, fish and shelled, pork etc. The initial cost of around £4950 would easily allow a small start up business in smoked produce locally. They also advertise small and simple Fish Harvesters.

An invitation was also given to Overseas-based visitors for a presentation entitled 'Buyers and Consumers Expectations and developing products to satisfy them'. This 1-hour presentation was based on skills gained in marketing, production, technical and scientific aspects, operations, logistics, commercialising new products, retail, supply chain and distribution based on overseas marketing into the UK/EC.

Our Stand at the Royal Show was well placed in the International Village with neighbours from Nigeria, Morocco, Cuba, Texas and the Ivory Coast. The Stewards of the Royal Show were impressed with the quality of stand and consequently awarded the Falkland Islands with a Certificate of Agriculture's Finest International Business Show, which was presented by the Duke of Gloucester. The Certificate commended the pleasantness of the staff (us) as well as the overall set up of the stand arranged by Fuchsia Exhibition & Conference Services of John Coleman. It was a good job they didn't look for flags as Debs had forgotten to pick up ours from a Falkland photography promotion in Guernsey only the day before! Nice one Debs!

Top photo: Sukey and the Duke of Gloucester.
Lower photo: Debs and Sukey with Steve Whitley and his Angora goats.

On the 2nd evening we were invited to sit in the Royal Box to watch show jumping, here it was announced during the commentary that Falkland visitors were present; this was very exciting, as it had never happened at previous events. Interviews with the Times, Farmers Weekly, the BBC and Calling the Falklands were all arranged and taken up. The questions they were asking were why we were at the Royal Show, how we were received and interest of the progress of the islands.

I have loads of brochures if anyone is interested in water, milking machines, smokers, pigs, cattle etc. or would like more information on anything, please give me a call and I will endeavour to try and help. This was an experience of a lifetime and I'm still buzzing. I would like to thank FIDC staff & Board Member, DOA and FIGO for all their help in giving me this experience.

Inset photo: Part of the Stand showing A & E Knitwear wool and information boards.

POOR PUPPIES AND PRONUNCIATIONS

By Zoe Luxton

I have had a rotten morning. I was on duty last night and was very smug as I didn't get called out at all.....until quarter to seven this morning.....not so smug then. I had to see a puppy that had been attacked by one of the households other dogs. A 3kg puppy versus a 35kg German shepherd leaves only one outcome really. A very beaten up pup! The poor little thing was really shocked and it was white as a sheet and really struggling to breathe. The Alsatian had had hold of it round the chest and really shaken it so we were pretty concerned about broken ribs, punctured lungs etc, plus there was some horrible bloody fluid coming from its mouth which I don't think had anything to do with injured teeth. So we got a couple of IV lines in to boost its blood volume and try to combat the shock and got a load of painkillers into it and x-rayed his chest. All the ribs were fine but there wasn't a square centimetre of normal lung tissue visible there was so much contusion (bruising) and there was a lot of air surrounding one of his lungs. So basically after a horrible morning of chest x-rays, chest draining and administering vast amounts of oxygen we finally had to admit defeat and put the poor wee thing to sleep as he was obviously bleeding into his lungs from somewhere, and he was just getting worse and worse and was about to die anyway. So, sorry to have depressed you all! Will attempt to cheer you up again now!

One thing that does make us giggle quite often is owners' pronunciation of various terms veterinary. This does not imply that they are stupid but obviously in the pets household things are referred to quite simply as "the dogs tablets" or "his bad leg" and there is no need to get too technical. Some of my favourites recently involve dogs' cruciate ligaments, one of the diagonal ligaments that support the knee, and if a cruciate ligament is ruptured then the mechanics of the knee don't work and the dog is lame. Mrs R was worried about her collies "crucial" ligament the other day and Mrs F dashed in and exclaimed that she thought her chap had done his "excruciate" ligament. Incorrect but quite relevant pseudonyms I suppose! The other thing that owners seem to struggle with is Fuciderm cream for irritating rashes and similar problems. "We've been using the fundyderm/funckydoom/fusiondem/facidem" is a common line. The other thing which can be VERY rewarding is loudly using the correct anatomical terms for the genitalia when the client is obviously rather embarrassed and referring to such areas as bits/front bottom/winky etc etc. Loudly exclaiming, "do you mean the discharge is from his PENIS" can often produce visible squirming. Tee hee. I should possibly consider getting a life. It did backfire once when I was behaving as there were small children in the room so I was discretely mouthing "willy" to the owner/mother, but obviously not discretely enough as a cute 5 year old dissolved into fits of laughter exclaiming "Mummy, the lady said WILLY! Ha ha ha ha she said WILLY". Obviously the door was open and the waiting room was full so millions of people could observe said vet blushing like a tomato.

The ginger boys are still not the svelte streamlined felines that I aspire them to be, but I think they are getting more exercise as at dinner time George proudly marched into the sitting room with a dead mouse in his mouth! I was very proud but a little suspicious that the mouse had been dead before being "caught" by George, so rang Claire for her opinion. She reckoned he just tripped and landed on it thus rendering it dead immediately.

FIMCo WORKING GROUP

Notes from a meeting held at FIDC on Monday 7th August 2003

These people met : Mr Julian Morris, Mrs Connie Stevens, Mr John Ferguson, Mr Keith Alazia, Mr Ben Berntsen, Mr Mike Evans, Mr Rikki Evans, Mrs M Williams, Mr Ted Jones, Mr Rodney Lee, Mr Philip Miller, Mrs Donna Minnell, Mr Stephen Poole, Mr Paul Robertson, Mr Owen Summers

Apologies : Ag Dept (will attend the next meeting)

1. Responsibility of FIMCo Working Group

1) FIMCo to be a business decision making forum
2) Establish a Management Team who are to report to the FIDB regarding actions being carried out.
3) Funding to be sought by the Management Team from FIDB or SFC.
4) FIMCo to act as a collective and therefore have united responsibility for decisions made.
5) To disseminate information discussed at meetings via individual contacts, through the RBA and Sheep Owners Association and finally via articles in the Wool Press.

2. Meetings are to be held on the first Friday of every month at 1.30pm in the FIDC Board Room. Farmers outside the Working Group should contact members before the meeting with any points they would like to raise.

3. Election Of Chairman

Chairman of the Working Group would be – Mr Rodney Lee
Deputy Chair of the Working Group would be – Mr Ben Berntsen

4. Short Term Issues for FIMCo

Transfer of business and assets with short-term ownership under FIDC to be arranged before the start of the next export season.

4.1 A proposed Joint Venture with Nicolas Simunovic is to be investigated.

4.3 Requirements for exportation to South America

- Shipping Link
- Country permissions

4.4 FIMCo Staff

'Hands on' management at Sand Bay needs strengthening and as such an advert has been placed in the Meat Trades Journal as well as in New Zealand.

5. Maintenance & Improvements

John Ferguson issued members with a list outlining all the works required for the abattoir.

5.1 Sheep Numbers

An indication of farms able to supply sheep for the coming season is required to aid planning.

JF to send out a questionnaire and then follow up with individual phone calls.

5.2 Grading & Sheep Prices

A sub-group is to be formed so that the pricing structure can be adjusted.

6. Marketing Update

September is the ideal deadline for arranging any deals with UK buyers.

THE D.O.A'S A.I AND EMBRYO TRANSFER PROGRAMME 2003

By Lucy Ellis

For many months various members of staff at the Department of Agriculture were observed scratching their heads, muttering and swearing, blocking all outgoing international phone lines and letting out the occasional shriek of glee. Why?

There was a huge island wide sheep A.I and E.T programme in the offing that was gradually coming together. Both the National Stud Flock and private farmers were to benefit from the new genetics and as such both invested heavily in the programme.

In total there were 1924 ewes booked in to be inseminated and a further 515 booked for embryo transfers. It had taken months to track down, around the globe, the wide variety of top quality semen from ten selected breeds of sheep and embryos from five selected breeds of sheep that farmers here had requested.

Richard Lee from Hawke's Bay Vet Services, New Zealand was contracted to come across and perform all of the Embryo Transfers and the bulk of the A.I along with teaching various members of the team the A.I procedures. (Richard is the vet who trained me in the art of ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis in ewes last year).

The next headache we faced was making sure all the semen and embryos arrived safely, sorting them out (Zoë had ear defenders on so didn't look permanently stunned at the "poetic" language issuing forth from Nyree!!) and then putting the actual programme together – so many farms, so little time! I'm sure I used up half a rainforest with the continual changes that had to be made!

The reason, we found upon advice from Richard, that the programme was so protracted and exacting was due to the amount of A.I's and embryos transferred in one day. Richard recommended that we aim for 60 inseminations or 15 embryos per hour.

Once we had the programme sort of mapped out we could get on with the actual ewe synchronising. Sounds easy, eh? Utter chaos! At least it was to start with. Once we got into the swing of things it went smoothly enough. To ensure no mix-ups and minimal confusion (enough of that already!) we decided to slice the farms into three areas with one person taking complete responsibility for each area oh, and Jimmy doing all the West farms.

As not one of us had been involved with a programme such as this before there were the occasional hiccups – weren't there Karen?!!
I have to admit to being utterly gobsmacked at the enormity of the job before us – it wasn't just a case of trundling out to a farm, shoving a few CIDR's in the odd ewe, waiting for Richard to turn up and bob's your uncle.
It very quickly transpired that the timing of absolutely everything was vitally crucial to the success, or failure, of the whole programme. No allowances could be made for sloppiness in any one area or it all would fall flat on it's face in a nanosecond – b****y scary I can tell you!

So, three teams tearing about the countryside, at very silly times in the morning, inserting CIDR's into poor unsuspecting ewes, handing out ram harnesses, checking with the farmer that all procedures were clear, concise and understood, then disappearing. A couple of weeks later those same folk would reappear

(again in the middle of the night!), whip the CIDR's out, jab them with mare serum and disappear in a splash of mud.

At this time the Islands had a lot of very confused wethers (in fact I've heard that there were some **very**, **very** confused ewes too – can this be right?!) as we were pumping them full of testosterone to encourage them to behave like rams. All participating farms were required to provide teaser wethers as they are used to encourage the ewes to start cycling and then the teaser "covers" them and leaves the tell - tale mark of the ram harness crayon on the ewes rump. This then enables the farmer to draft up his ewes into three different mobs, which is crucial to the timing of A.I.

This synchronisation of ewes and teasers started on May 13th and eventually finished on June 18th. Sometimes only one team was out but at other times all 3 on the East and Jimmy on the West were flat out at the same time. Meanwhile there was a huge amount of activity at the DoA building with Kevin, Sue and just about everybody else helping out getting the monster amount of necessary kit together. We had to ensure that we had enough fit vehicles as well as hiring some extras, negotiating times and planes and places with F.I.G.A.S, sorting out accommodation on both East and West. Also we had to get extra vehicles from the West road gang to get us around over there and most importantly keeping a weather eye on Richard Lees' progress on getting here.

He did eventually arrive – at 4am on Sunday June 1st, only about twelve hours late. By 8 am he was in the Saladero shearing shed showing us how to set up all the kit and getting stuck into it. Of course the weather had to take a nose - dive at this crucial stage! Exactly what we didn't want was snow and frozen roads with the amount of travelling involved. After a few teething problems at Saladero the team had settled down, knew their jobs and we were steaming along. Goose Green was next and that's where the fun really started. Kevin and Nyree, newly trained in thawing embryos were suddenly faced with exploding embryo straws. Every now and then there was a shriek from the thawing area followed by hysterical laughter from Nyree – another straw had blown and scared the living bejeezus out of Kevin who was getting more and more nervous with each 'pop'! We soon realised we had a serious problem and stopped using those particular straws and carried on with the rest. After there it was the San Carlos area, a lovely and slippery road so I hear. I wasn't there as I was elsewhere synchronising ewes ahead of the team. Horseshoe Bay and Elephant Beach were next, followed by Race Point where we stopped the night. An early start here was necessary as we had planes to catch across to Port Howard the next day. As it turned out we ended up with plenty of time to get our mountain of kit packed up, sort out what was needed for the West and get to the airstrip in time. Steve and Ella said that it was the first time in, I think, 14 years of their being there that they had seen two Islander aircraft on the strip at the same time. I'm pretty sure too that this was the first day since his arrival that Richard got to travel in daylight – and what a bonus too, going across to the West! (And yes, I am biased!)

After an uneventful day at Port Howard we packed up once again and trickled very steadily off to Hill Cove. The road was extremely slippery and there was a good covering of snow everywhere. The good people of Hill Cove put us up for the night and after another early start and successful run we packed up and headed off for Chartres. The weather hadn't been that flash so far but that day it took a real sulk. We had almost continuous white outs all along the way. We met Bill Pole-Evans who'd taken a little "detour" off the road a bit down the track and he warned us that the road got worse so we just crawled along. Amazingly enough just as we got to Chartres the clouds parted, the sun came out and Richard was treated to a stunning view of the hills across from Chartres, and in the distance the Hill Cove mountains – just beautiful.

Tex and Penny gave us a very tasty but novel lunch – Upland Goose sausages and mash. I'd recommend them to anyone – except Kevin or Richard! Once we'd finished there we headed back to Port Howard for the night as we were flying across to Goose Green the next day. Carole looked after us superbly and after supper we had a darts match – Internationals V Locals – surprise, surprise the locals hammered the internationals, cheats, the lot of them!

We landed on a frozen solid Goose Green airstrip the next day and then had to wade through legions of soldiers on a 'Pink Spot' or something exercise. Most of these lads looked horrified at what we were doing with the sheep. I think they considered us total barbarians and this wasn't helped by Richards' comments about comparing the sheeps' innards to their wives innards!

We had a very, very long day at Goose Green. Apart from the 150 A.I's we also had to tackle the exploding straws to see if we could possibly implant a further 50 embryos. Thawing the embryos for implantation is an exacting and time consuming job, unlike the A.I straws. Due to the straws exploding we had sedated sheep on the trolleys ready to go and were then having to put them back in a pen for later when a straw went pop as they were starting to come around. Then we had to wait until Nyree and Kevin eventually found a 'non-popping' straw and Nyree went through the long process of getting the embryos ready for implantation before we got another ewe ready. Therefore it was a weary bunch that trundled back to Stanley that night, apart from Kevin and Richard who'd taken up the generous offer of supper and a bed from Brian and Diana.

The next and final day we all met up at Fitzroy with a mixture of feelings – relief that the long slog was nearly over but also with a tinge of sadness. We'd been through some tough stuff as a team, got to know each other well, had some mighty fine laughs and it would all end shortly. As it was we had a relatively short day as we ran into problems and a decision was made to pack up and head home.

So that was that. All that was left to do was to give Richard a going away party that he wouldn't forget in a hurry and I think I can confidently say we did rather well on that score – wouldn't you team?!

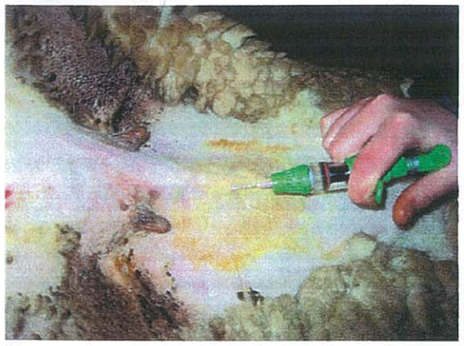
Oh, I've just remembered.... if you want to know why it's unwise to ever feed Richard or Kevin on goose sausages give Simon Bonner at Port Howard a ring!

With all these types of things there are loads of people to thank who helped us out enormously. All the farmers involved did a splendid job especially those who ended up having to draft sheep with a torch at midnight! Thanks to all those who fed, watered and lodged us including the scud-inducing sausage makers of Chartres!

Thanks: to all involved at FIGAS for getting us to and from the West in not the best flying conditions: West road gang for the loan of your wagons: Allan Cruikshank for the hiring of Pool vehicles for so long: Everybody who loaned us equipment to help us through when ours broke down and a very big thank you to Brian and Diana for your exceptional generosity, enthusiasm and endless offers of help and assistance without which this programme would have been so very much more difficult. And lastly to all our mates at work who dropped everything to help out when asked – huge thanks and who's getting the beers in?

Stage 1; Timmy removes half the belly wool.

Stage 2; After being loaded into the cradle the skin in cleaned.



Stage 3; The local anaesthetic is injected under the skin so that the ewe does not feel any pain.

Stage 4; A hole is punctured in the ewe's abdomen through which Richard inserts his laparoscope so that he can see the uterus.

Stage 5; The semen is injected into the uterine horns through another small puncture wound.

Richard examines an ovary to see if the ewe can receive an embryo.

An embryo being transferred into a uterine horn.

A quick lesson in AI

Now..what's this bit??

I'm going slightly mad....

What do you think Jack?

CHB VET FLIES FLOCK TO FALKLANDS

Source – Hawke's Bay Today

A Waipukurau vet has just spent three weeks in the Falkland Islands working on a project to improve the Islands' wool quality.

Richard Lee, of Vet Services Hawke's Bay, specialises in sheep genetics and his work on the Islands is part of a project to use artificial insemination and embryo transplants to improve the wool clip of the largely merino flock.

He artificially inseminated 2500 ewes and transplanted embryos into another 500 of the Islands' best ewes to introduce fresh genes into the isolated flock.

The semen and embryos from merino, Corriedale, Cormo and Polwarth sheep were sourced from Central Otago, Western Australia and Tasmania.

He said he was asked by the Falklands' Department of Agriculture two years ago and it took that long to arrange and collect the material and complete the necessary health checks, quarantine procedures and paperwork before he left in late May. The genetic material collection was arranged through a genetic broker and was chosen from Sheep Improvements Ltd's breeding records, stud records and by reputation.

The Islands' have tried to improve their flock before by importing live sheep. The last time was about three years ago when 140 rams arrived at a cost of about $2million. However, they failed to acclimatise and most of them were dead within months.

The advantage of using semen and embryos to produce live lambs is that their mothers can teach them to forage, what to eat and how to find shelter.

He said the indigenous sheep knew where to find the best grass, which happened to be around penguin colonies. The penguin guano fertilised the soil and their walking and nesting scratched the topsoil and opened it up for better grass species. "The rams didn't know any of that and couldn't cope."

Mr Lee was invited to the Islands because he had already done similar work in Africa, Canada and the US.

He was one of a team of seven; a shearer, two prep nurses, sheep handlers, an embryologist and himself.

The Falklands sheep are farmed mainly for their fine wool clip which is sent to mills in the UK. The wool, mostly in the low to mid-20's micron range. The fresh genes were chosen to improve that without sacrificing the toughness that sheep need to survive in a harsh, inhospitable climate.

Mr Lee said the Corrriedale breed was "a bit more productive than the Merino" and could cope with the conditions, although their wool was a bit stronger than the other breeds.

The ewes will be scanned next month by an Islander trained at Vet Services' Waipukurau clinic last year. They are due to lamb in November.

The team hope for conception rates of 50 percent for the embryos and 60 percent for the AI. Mr Lee said this year was the first year of a five-year, multi million dollar plan to improve the Falklands' flock and he hopes to return to the Islands to see the result of his work. "Once we get the results from this, then we can plan for next year."

He came away with many impression of the Islands and their 2000 people – and 2500 military personnel at the Mount Pleasant Base.

The landscape of snowgrass, a fine tussock, resembles Central Otago or the country around the Central Plateau/Kaimanawa area, he said. The farms are vast; anywhere from 4000ha to 200,000ha. The sheep run at roughly one per 4ha and the climate and their diet keep them to about 50-55kg, compared with a New Zealand ewe of 65-70kg.

The soils are acidic, which means no footrot despite the rainfall. When he was there ice and snow were everywhere and ice on the roads was a constant hazard.

One of the team's Land Rovers rolled and was written off after hitting ice. Fortunately no-one was hurt.

The sheep improvement plan goes hand in hand with a pasture improvement programme on the Islands under the supervision of a newly trained agronomist. However that programme is handicapped by a lack of suitable machinery. "There are only two seed drills on the Islands and everyone wants them at once." The cold weather means seed germination can be patchy and the new grass is eaten by the native Upland Geese.

A feature of the livestock on the Islands is the way they supplement their diet with dried kelp from the beaches. The sheep and the few cattle kept for domestic consumption come to no harm and probably receive extra iodine and protein from the kelp, he said.

The climate might be cold and unwelcoming but not so the people, he said. The team was billeted with farming families for their stay, which meant they could get immersed in Island life and culture. "I was the captain of an international darts team which lost miserably to the locals."

Reminders of the 1982 was with Argentina and everywhere in the form of wrecked planes and helicopters, war cemeteries and memorials and private collections of war memorabilia. The Islanders no longer live in fear of invasion but the war is very much a part of their collective memory.

The team got used to eating mutton twice a day. "Seven or eight year old wether tastes very nice."

The population of the Islands is concentrated in the capital, Stanley, where 1500 people live. Another 500 or so are scattered on farms around the rest of the Islands. There are more than 200 islands in the group, most of them uninhabited. The military base at Mount Pleasant is a self contained small town of army, navy and air force personnel on surveillance duties and exercises. There are remote radar bases staffed by two or three people doing stints of a week at a time. The international airfield is at the base and receives one flight every five days from the English Midlands.

The Islanders supplement their income from the sale of fishing licences to the rich Atlantic Ocean fishing grounds. The Islanders don't fish themselves but Stanley has a port offering a limited service to the boats of the fishing fleets from Spain, Taiwan and Korea.

Mostly the fishing boats are serviced by enormous mother ships which berth in the Islands' many inlets. "They look like small towns all lit up."

The other big earner is the tourist ships which last year brought 30,000 people to the Islands on their way around the South Atlantic and Antarctica.

Mr Lee almost didn't make it to the Islands. He flew from Auckland to Santiago in Chile. From there is was down the west side of the Andes to Punta Arenas and then a three hour flight through Argentinian air space to the Islands.

The Argentinians open their airspace for this flight just once a week and he almost missed it because a scheduled 12 hour flight from Santiago took 20 hours. He arrived on the Islands at 0430 and began work at 0800. "If I had missed that flight I would have been stuck for a week in Punta Arenas."

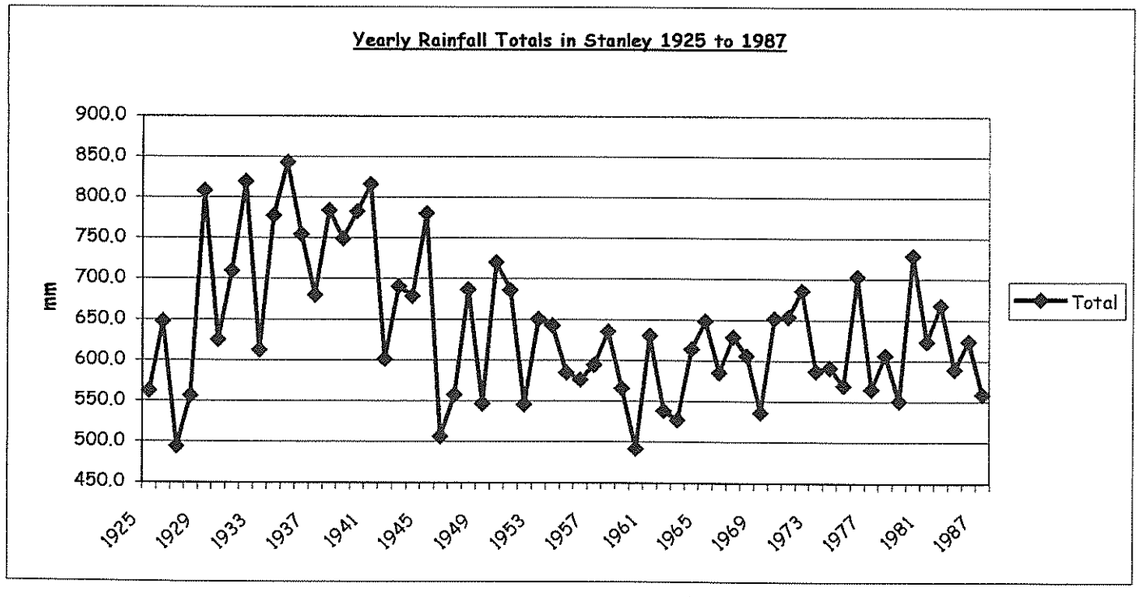
His time in the Islands brought home to him sharply just how far ahead New Zealand farming is. "Going there was like a trip back in time. We are so far ahead in every way. New Zealand farmers are right out there in front of the world in quality, sheep genetics, productivity, pasture improvement – in every way."

RAINFALL OVER 7 DECADES

By Priscilla Legg

We all know how unpredictable the Falklands weather can be, but when seven decades worth of rainfall data is graphed, the result is still quite shocking. There appears to be no obvious trends apart from up, down, up, down, up, up, down etc. From 1925 to 1987 we haven't had less than 490mm of rain or any more than 850mm. Although the graph below appears to be up and down, really when you think about it, from the figures I gave you above, it is pretty steady. At least we have an idea about how much rainfall we can expect. So over seven decades, we haven't had any floods or droughts. I'd say we were pretty lucky compared to some countries. Maybe I'll think twice before cursing the weather again. Mind you saying that, I bet that tomorrow I'll be saying to someone "Lord I wish it was summer again!" I guess old habits die-hard!

Hopefully next time, I will show you some temperatures for the same decades.



HUMANE KILLERS

Falkland Supplies have obtained several consignments of spare parts for the Humane Killer (Cash Special) which is used at Wineglass Station. When we ordered our last consignment the suppliers (Accles & Shelvoke Limited) were concerned of the small size of our order and have indicated that in order to make invoicing worthwhile we need to increase our orders.

We believe that there are a number of these Cash Special Humane Killers in use through-out the Islands and thought that perhaps other users may wish to order replacement parts for their Guns through us, in order to increase the volume of parts ordered.

Accles & Shelvoke Limited have suggested that we should act as their agent in the Falkland Islands and we thought that perhaps we could make one or two orders per year depending on demand.

If there are any Farms who do require spare parts for their Humane Killers, and would like to combine their order we would be pleased to hear from them. Just contact Falkland Supplies on Phone/Fax 21297 soonest and see if we can make up a reasonable order.

We are also in a position to offer a service to any owners who may require their humane killer serviced and cleaned. This service would only be offered to a point recommended by Accles & Shelvoke Limited.

Peter Short.

FOR SALE

We have Marriages animal feed in stock at the moment. This includes corn at £9.55 for a 25 kilo bag. We hope to place a further order in the near future so anyone requiring any particular animal feed please contact us. Also for sale small bales of hay surplus to requirement.

Pat and Dan Whitney,
Mount Kent Farm,
Phone/Fax 31003

SPECIAL FUND

The Special Fund was set up initially for a period of 3 years. During this time we have been able to assess the merits of the fund and have assisted a number of farming families in various ways during difficult times. At a recent meeting of the Standing Finance Committee a decision was made to cease the operation of the fund. However, any outstanding commitments promised to people through the fund will be honoured, and advisory help will continue.

Mandy McLeod, Rural Development Officer

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 was enough interest the Veterinary Department could order some and pass them on at cost.

Sue Harvey

WHITE ROSE FARMING

YES – We are back!

YES – We had a good holiday!

YES – We are ready to start!

For all your machinery and general farm work contracting requirements contact Malcolm, Iain or Glennis on 32277.

ANYTHING ANYWHERE ANYTIME

THE BIOLOGY AND FISHERY OF THE FALKLANDS MULLET (*ELEGINOPS MACLOVINUS*)

By Paul Brickle

The Falklands mullet is a relatively large member of the rock cod family quite closely related to the Patagonian toothfish. Mullet inhabit coastal waters around the Falkland Islands and in estuaries and rivers along the South American coast as far north as Uruguay on the east coast and Talcahuano, Chile on the west coast. A specimen has also been recorded from Tristan da Cunha in the Atlantic Ocean.

A small, experimental beach seine fishery for mullet was started in October 2000 by the local company, Falkland Fresh Ltd. The Falkland Islands Fisheries Department (FIFD) set up a regular sampling program to study the biology of the species and to examine its population dynamics as very little was known (Figure 1). Many aspects of a fish's biology need to be elucidated before any attempt can be made in assessing biomass or stock size. Studies undertaken included, reproductive biology, age and growth, a tagging experiment, a parasite tag study, a study of their population dynamics and finally a study of the environmental effects (salinity and temperature) on the mullet's local abundance. In conjunction with this programme Falkland Fresh Ltd were asked to provide accurate catch and effort data in order to examine changes in the relative abundance on the fishing grounds over time.

Figure 1

The only previous reproductive study on *E. maclovinus,* found that a population in the Beagle Channel area exhibited a type of sex reversal called protanderous hermaphroditism. Histological examinations of their gonads revealed that the fish started life as males and then turned into females (Figure 2). Therefore within one individual, testicular tissue develops, degenerates, and is replaced by ovarian tissue. Our study in the Falkland Islands revealed the same reproductive strategy, suggesting that this phenomenon is wide spread and not restricted to the population in the Beagle Channel. The fecundity (reproductive potential) study on mullet in the Falkland Islands represents the first of such studies on this species. It was found that mullet produce the smallest eggs of any fish within the suborder Notothenioidea and have the highest fecundity. We concluded that mullet probably facilitated this increase in fecundity by becoming a protanderous hermaphrodite to fit the size advantage model enabling better reproductive success with an increase in size.

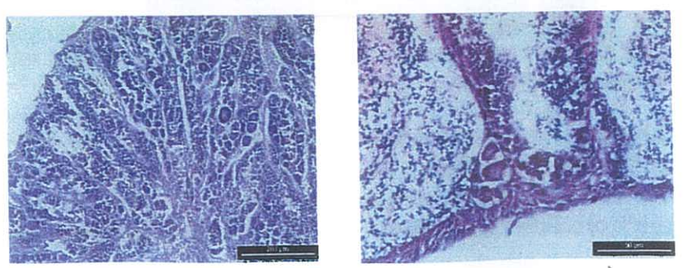


Figure 2: Maturing testes with previtellogenic and protoplasmic oocytes (eggs).

To date only one other age and growth study has been conducted on the mullet. The present study was the first to use otoliths (ear bones) to study the age and growth of mullet. Our study revealed growth rates and von Bertalanffy (a mathematical growth model) parameters similar to those found in Southern Argentina. However, our data indicated that Falkland Islands mullet had a slightly higher growth rate than the population in Southern Argentina.

The von Bertalanffy growth parameters calculated in this study revealed that mullet are a relatively fast growing fish reaching a maximum age of approximately 10 years and 90 cm in total length.

Three previous studies have been conducted on the parasites of mullet. Our study revealed a high diversity in the parasite fauna of the mullet (26 species). Six species represent new geographical, and four new host records for these parasites. The aims of this study were to catalogue the parasite fauna of mullet in the Falkland Islands, to provide a base line for future studies, and to examine whether multivariate statistical techniques could be used to provide information on the discreteness of populations. The hypothesis being that smaller male fish were more resident in the creeks they were caught in. The results from this study were surprising and indicated that the smaller male fish were resident in their creeks and surrounding areas and did not migrate any large distance. Figures 3~5 illustrate some of the parasites found during this study.

Figure 3: *Lepeophtheirus* sp. (Copepoda)

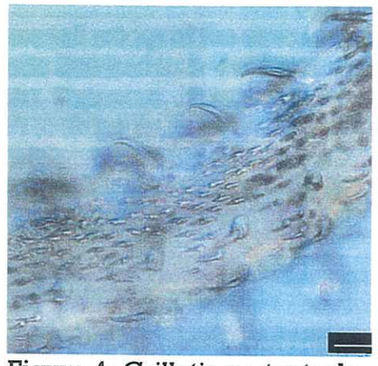
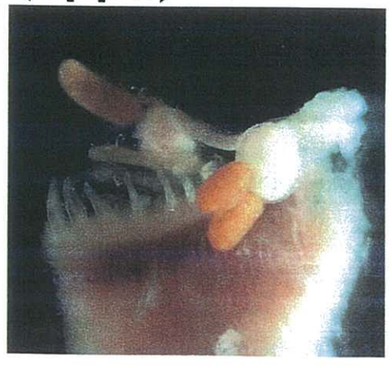


Figure 4: *Grillotia* sp. tentacle (Cestoda)



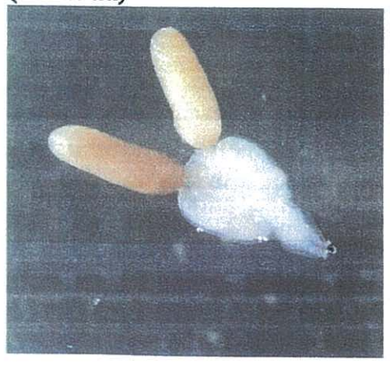


Figure 5:*Clavella chiloensis* (Copepoda) in situ on the gills

The results from the tagging data provided some interesting preliminary results in which the movement data showed some contradictory trends. The smaller animals seemed to be resident in the creeks in which they were originally caught. One fish, a 53 cm individual, migrated a distance of at least 28 nm from Port Howard to Camilla Creek, suggesting that some older fish may travel over larger distances. The growth rates calculated from the tagging study were similar to those calculated in the age and growth part of the study.

Although there were some indications that salinity and temperature play a role in affecting the relative abundance in the creeks and other inshore waters of the Falkland Islands it was concluded that more data would be needed to confirm this hypothesis. Examinations of the length frequency distributions of *E. maclovinus* gave some interesting insights into the population dynamics of the species.

From the data collected to date the stock would seem to be in a healthy condition. The scale of the fishery is small and we have not noticed any depletion even in the Choiseul Sound area where most of the effort is concentrated. The length frequency distributions and Landings per Unit Effort have not changed in such a way to cause concern. A high fecundity in conjunction with relatively fast growth rates will act as a buffer for future generations. At the present level we feel the fishery is sustainable.

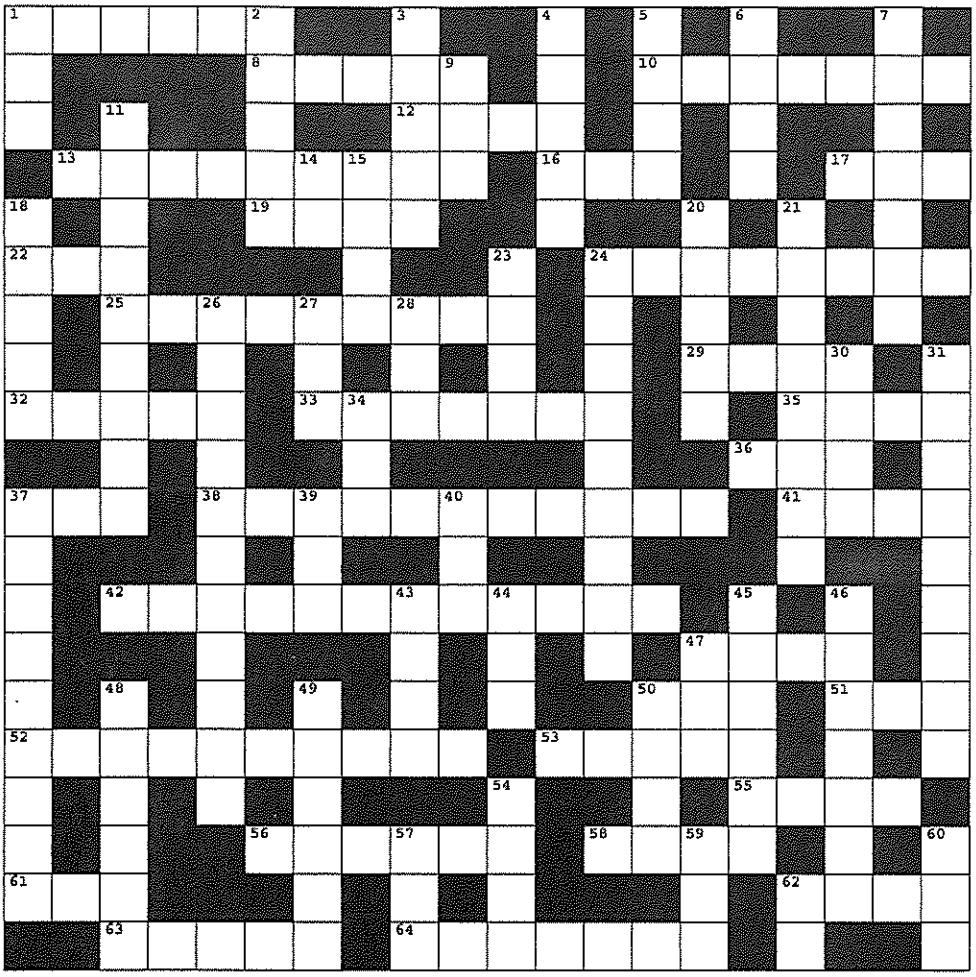
Taking the above into account there are however some concerns. A large-scale fishery would effectively reduce the potential fecundity of the population especially in light of the protanderous (sex change from male to female) nature of this species and the fact that commercial landings are above 50 cm total length. Also smaller animals seem to be resident and may be depleted in a larger scale fishery. Fishing practices such as the use of static gear, particularly "net setting" should be monitored closely and only be allowed under strict conditions as there is likely to be an increased mortality in juvenile fish and the adults that are not utilised.

In summary, the fishing effort at present would seem to be sustainable even in Choiseul Sound. The fishery should continue to be monitored on a regular basis for indicators of over exploitation and depletion so conservation measures can be implemented in time.

Finally, one of the main questions arising from this study is one of natural history and has to do with the reason why the Falkland Islands mullet has done the opposite to other species within its suborder? It is a large species within the suborder and has taken advantage of what would seem to be an empty niche in the inshore waters (< 30 m depth) of the Falkland Islands and other parts of the continental southern South America. The inshore marine waters of the Falkland Islands have a poor diversity of fish fauna dominated by small sculpin like rockcods (this does not include the pelagic smelts and pejjarey) and is probably not a favourable environment for fish. The reasons for this may lie in the periodical changes in salinity and temperature due to rainfall. The effects of rainfall and runoff on the survival of the juvenile stages of mullet have been studied in south-central Chile and maybe one of the reasons why mullet spawn in deeper waters. Mullet are omnivores, taking advantage of a wide variety of inshore invertebrates, juvenile fish and even macroalgae without any competition. This would explain their relatively high growth rates. In the absence of competition and predation, being a protanderous hermaphrodite facilitating an increased fecundity, would seem to be a very successful strategy. The only other relatively large fish that inhabits the inshore waters of the Falkland Islands is the trout (*Salmo trutta*) which was introduced recently by man.

The results of the studies conducted on the mullet fishery are presented in a report produced by the Fisheries Department. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Paul Brickle at the Fisheries Department.

SEPTEMBER 03



ACROSS

1. SMALL TILE ART
8. SCOTTISH LAKES
10. LANDING PLACE FOR AIR TRAFFIC
12. SQUID
13. RESIDENCE OF MONKS
16. LARGE DEER
17. PERFORM
19. COLLECT (LIKE MONEY)
22. USED TO BE
24. JUMPER
25. CHANGE FROM ONE LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER
29. REFRAIN FROM EATING
32. A SMOULDERING REMAIN
33. SHELLFISH
35. NATURALLY PRODUCED BY PROTEIN METABOLISM AND EXCRETED IN URINE
36. SINGULAR
37. AMAZEMENT
38. WRITING ART
41. TEASED OUT
42. INHABITANTS OF VOLUNTEER POINT
47. TWO
50. METAL ROD
51. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
52. CENTRAL SETTLEMENT ON THE EAST
53. DUTCH CHEESE
55. ANTI-FLOODING DEVICE
56. THIEF
58. ISLE OFF WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND
61. THE NIGHT BEFORE
62. ACTIVE VOLCANO
63. EDIBLE STOMACH LINING
64. NORTHWEST EAST CAPE

DOWN

1. FLOOR CLOTH
2. GROUP OF STUDENTS
3. LARGE HEAVY HORSE
4. FEMALE FOX
5. MONEY LENDER
6. DONKEY SOUND
7. BISCUIT
9. SNEAKY
11. POLICEMAN
14. CHILDISH THANKYOU
15. WICKED AND BAD
18. STRING
20. HIGH COASTAL LAND
21. EX COASTAL SHIPPING VESSEL
23. LIST OF FOOD
24. PRICKLY MAMMAL
26. PARROT KNOWN FOR BEING A GOOD TALKER (7,4)
27. MOBILE MEMORY CARD
28. EVERYTHING
30. LONG HORSE RIDE OR WALK
31. MANACLES
34. USED FOR FRYING
37. EGG PLANT
39. EDGE
40. STOP FROM TALKING
43. SNIFFER
44. LARGE VASELIKE RECEPTACLE
45. MILITARY SHOW
46. SOUVENIR ORNAMENT PERHAPS
47. PART OF THE PAW
48. SPACE SHIP
49. CHANNEL CUT IN A PEICE OF WOOD
50. MALE RABBIT
54. SPOKEN OR VERBAL
57. PLACE TO SLEEP
59. JAPANESE CURRENCY
60. STUDENTS TAKING A YEAR OUT
62. EMBRYO TRANSFER

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

If you are wondering what the cartoon is all about, read the rest of the Wool Press and all will become clear!

I guess things are pretty busy with most of you now and I know that some farms have started shearing. Lets hope the weather continues to improve.

No X-Word this month. Glynis did make a cracking one but then her computer ate it and we didn't have time to do another so you'll have to make do with a Brainteaser.

Nyree

"Talk sense woman – I didn't pay that much for him to be left outside!"

This month's cartoon is courtesy of Malcolm Ashworth.

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MINERALS AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS TO BE COMBINED

FIG is pleased to announce that, with effect from 1st January 2004, the management of the Departments of Agriculture and Mineral Resources is to be combined under the leadership of Mrs. Phyllis Rendell. This represents the first stage of a review of senior management structures of the civil service that is being undertaken by the Chief Executive with councillors.

Cllr. Mike Summers, who holds the agriculture portfolio added:
"I congratulate Phyl on her appointment. Combining the departments does not signify any reduction in FIG's commitment to agriculture or indeed the continued exploration of minerals. There are no plans to reduce project budgets. It's merely a slight repositioning of management arrangements that enables us to achieve a reduction in public expenditure by improving efficiency. I am sorry that we will be losing Peter. He has led an important business planning process which enables us to move forward with confidence."

Chief Executive, Chris Simpkins commented:
"The current Director of Agriculture, Peter Johnston, has done an excellent job and has earned the respect of government and the farming community. However, he has to return to Australia at the end of the year and his departure gives us the opportunity to review this particular sector of government activity. Under Peter's leadership the Department of Agriculture has made huge progress in implementing a strategy for improving farm incomes and the impact of agriculture on the economy. I am delighted that Phyl Rendell will continue lead that process and look forward to working with her in her new role."

Report to: Executive Council
Date: 28 August 2003
Paper No: 215/03
Subject: Falklands Landholdings – Re-justification of the Post of General Manager
Report of: Chief Executive

Purpose

To agree arrangements for the appointment of a new General Manager and consider associated changes to the management structure of Falklands Landholdings.

Recommendations

1. That the current General Manager be offered a new contract to expire on 31 July 2004.

2. That the current Operations Manager be appointed General Manager with effect from 1 August 2004 on local terms to be negotiated by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Falklands Landholdings.

3. That, with effect from 1 August 2004, the post of Operations Manager be deleted from the establishment of Falklands Landholdings.

Background

At its meeting on 15 July 2003, the Board of Falklands Landholdings considered a report that I had prepared in my capacity as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Board approved the recommendations contained in the report and hence Executive Council is invited to endorse those recommendations.

EARTHING AND OVERLOAD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

By Tim Cotter

Protection of electrical equipment used to be the job of fuses, These have been replaced by miniature circuit breakers (MCB), which can be quickly reset, so are less hassle than fuses.

Power flowing to an appliance from a generator will travel through two or three circuit breakers or fuses. Fuses and MCBs should be "discriminated" or "tiered" so that the one nearest the fault trips first.

Faults in domestic equipment should cause the fuse in the plug to blow before tripping the MCB of the consumer unit. (Assuming the correct fuse has been fitted in the plug in the first place.)

A wiring fault, a fixed appliance fault or a circuit being overloaded should cause the appropriate MCB to trip on the consumer unit. (On older unit this will be a wire fuse.)

Moving to the generator shed, there should be a circuit breaker roughly equal or less than the generator's maximum rating fitted to the live conductor. The purpose is to save the alternator if there is a major fault on the distribution board or on the power lines.

Different sized alternators should have their own correctly sized circuit breaker. A Lister TS2 generator is highly unlikely to trip a 60A breaker as it can only manage 30A on full output. It'll burn out its alternator before it trips the circuit breaker. This also means that there is no point having a house incoming circuit breaker or fuse of a rating any higher than the smallest generator in use.

Oversized breakers are false security.

Protection of people

If you grab the Live and Neutral conductors together, no fuse or MCB on earth will save you. You'll get fried first. Personal safety is the joint job of the earth wire network and a clever switch called a Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB). The RCCB looks for small amounts of leaked electricity usually due to poor insulation, dampness, and people touching live wires. If the leakage rises above a preset level, usually 30milliamps (30mA) then the RCCB will switch off the power. Each consumer unit should have an RCCB as part of its make up.

RCCBs are very sensitive fellows and are subject to nuisance tripping from time to time. In most cases this is a symptom that there is something that needs attention or replacement. Electric kettles are the usual suspects followed by leaks in the roof or hidden plumbing faults dripping water on to electrical fittings.

To make the safety system and RCCB work properly, the Neutral conductor has to be linked to the Earth conductor. This is usually done at the generator but in the case of two generators or more, this can be done ONCE at the generator distribution board.

Parallel Earth to Neutral paths can give rise to other problems and are likely to cause the RCCB to trip frequently.

Some generators from industrial applications may have a centre-earthed generator. It will work but is incompatible with domestic wiring systems and inverters and will give problems.

The condition of ALL earth connections should be tested regularly.
This should never be skimped as it can also lead to expensive inverter problems.

Do you know the difference between an MCB and an RCCB??
The RCCB always has a test button and 4 terminals. It will be marked in two ways:

1. The maximum current it can interrupt (Usually 20A to 50A)
2. The maximum leakage current it will trip at (30mA or 100mA)

The MCB usually has two terminals and is marked with a maximum current rating only. There is no point fitting a generator with a RCCB, as it offers no overload protection at all.
It will nuisance trip frequently, usually when the generator is taken off load.

FART

"NZ is introducing a methane tax on ruminants - to pay for research into ways of reducing belching. This is all part of NZ's attempt to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases - methane is 21 times as warming as carbon dioxide. Not surprisingly NZ farmers are not very pleased with the new tax and have formed an action group called FART - Farmers Against Ridiculous Taxes."

WOOL 96.5p/kg

Source – Farmers Guardian

The British Wool Marketing Board offered 2,479,584kg of wool at their third sale of 2003/04 season at the Wool House, Bradford, last Wednesday. Bidding peaked at 96.5p per kg twice for Cross wether and Med Radnor cross cast wool. Following at 92.5p/kg was Cross cast wool. Halfbred wether cast wool and Med wether disc wool sold to 92p/kg.

DISCONTENTED

Courtesy of Gail Steen

I have just given birth to a heifer,
and of pride and milk I am full.
But it's sad to relate
that my lactical state was not
brought about by the bull.

I have never been naughty I swear it,
in spite of the calf I have borne.
By farmer Doug's tractor I'm virgo intacta
and have not had the bull by the horn.

Now we all know the farm is a business,
in which we must all pull our weight.
And I'll pull and I'll pull for a nicely built bull
but this phoney arrangement I hate.

How lonesome the camps and the paddocks.
The cowpen seems dreary and grey.
For one bit of fun in a years dreary scene
has by science been taken away.

Now it must not be thought I am jealous,
there are things that a cow should not say.
But those DOA tarts who handle our parts
still get it the old fashioned way!

LAMBING, KITTENS AND PREGNANT LADIES!

By Steve Pointing

This is just a seasonal warning to any ladies out there who might be pregnant and might be called on to give a hand with a difficult lambing. In your delicate state it is best not to get involved with lambing at all. Some ewes can become infected with a small protozoan parasite called Toxoplasma gondii and this is most likely to be spread around at the time of giving birth. The organism is not likely to cause you too much harm but it can adversely affect the developing foetus. So don't handle pregnant sheep and be careful when handling work clothes that might have become contaminated with birth fluids.

It is almost certain that Toxoplasms are all around us for much of the time. Young kittens are particularly likely to be a major source of infection (both to sheep and to us) so it is best for pregnant ladies to avoid contact with kittens and young cats, especially their faeces. If you are cleaning out their litter trays then wear gloves and this goes for gardening in areas where the soil might be heavily contaminated with cat pooh. Don't get too paranoid about the problem – just take sensible precautions.

VETERINARY DRUG IMPORTS

By Steve Pointing

I am becoming a little concerned about what drugs farmers might be importing into the Islands. I'm all for the free market and don't want to stop entrepreneurial farmers from making a bit of spare cash but I would like to keep tabs on what you are bringing into the country. The two most common animal treatments are likely to be worm drenches and ectoparasite preparations (for lice etc) but there may be others as well.

I'd be really grateful if all of you who import such items on a regular basis could let me know what you are importing, from where and how much. I'd like to keep a copy of the data sheet for all such products in a file in my office for ease of reference.

FIMCo WORKING GROUP Notes for a meeting held at FIDC on Friday 5th September 2003

1. **Staffing** - Two potential abattoir managers have been identified for the coming season. One is part of an agency business who would supply a manager and possibly a team of boners. The two principals from this company will be visiting FIMCo at the end of the month. Another prospective plant manager has been referred by the plant manager at Simunovic.

2. **Organics** - The speculation that organics is to be 'scrapped' is unfounded. The intention is to develop an island-wide scheme. Charlene Rowland is currently working on creating a Falklands standard with Falkland Islands legislation. The title for the scheme is yet to be addressed

3. **Export Pricing** - A proposal would be prepared for the next meeting so that provisional sheep and lamb numbers could be obtained from farmers for the next season. The GM is keen to increase the amount paid to farmers and therefore increase volumes beyond simply processing cull sheep.

4. **Skins** - Positive feedback has been received which indicates that a net contribution after costs of between £1 and £2.50 may be achieved.
   Demand for our skins is good at the moment as there is currently a worldwide shortage of this particular type.

5. **Local Market/pricing** - One of the sub-groups is currently working on calculating suitable pricing for meat so that a reasonable return can be made to the farmer. A proposal will be brought to the next meeting for group discussion.

6. **Plant Improvements** - These are underway and progressing well with the Cold Store and autoloader on schedule. Advice to be sought on 3 key areas.

7. **Joint Venture Proposal** - This was discussed at some length and the GM stressed that Simunovic was only acting as sales agent for FIMCo. The potential advantages are :

   - Increased selling price
   - Provision of technical expertise
   - Assistance with Import Regulations (skins, casings)
   - FIMCo has 100% control over the product
   - FIMCO has 100% control over the selling price
   - It is **our** brand
   - Payment is made upon receipt of documents
   - Access to experienced and qualified staff
   - Simunovic has a good reputation and is successful

   Risk of Simunovic route :

   May need to find another customer as the relationship may breakdown etc. Will buy our meat but typically the more forward sold the better the price.

8. **Results of Vote regarding Simunovic Proposal** - 9 for 3 against. This was confirmed after the FIMCo Group had spent a week seeking opinions from other members of the farming community. The FIMCo Working Group will approve the agreement with Simunovic.

9. **Winter Pricing** - To account for wool clip it was agreed that FIMCo would pay 35p during the winter season only.

10. **Transport Sub-Group** - RL to organise ASAP. Collective meetings in Stanley may not be necessary - contact can be made by telephone.

FIMCo Working Group Members

Mr Julian Morris	Mrs Connie Stevens	Mr John Ferguson	Mr Keith Alazia
Mr Ben Berntsen	Mr Mike Evans	Mr Riki Evans	Mr Ted Jones
Mr Rodney Lee	Mr Philip Miller	Mrs Donna Minnell	Mr Stephen Poole
Mr Paul Robertson	Mr Greg Bradfield	Mrs Amara Doyle	Mr Doug Martin

REMINDER!!

This is a reminder to all farmers that they are required by law to keep a record of all medicines used on their farm livestock (cattle, sheep and pigs). Please get into the habit of filling in the details in the Animal Medicines Record Book that was distributed to all farmers last year. If you cannot find the safe place in which yours is "hiding" then please contact the veterinary section of the Department of Agriculture for a replacement copy. All animals treated should be recorded including injections, worm drenches and topical applications to kill lice etc.

Thank you

Steve

?!

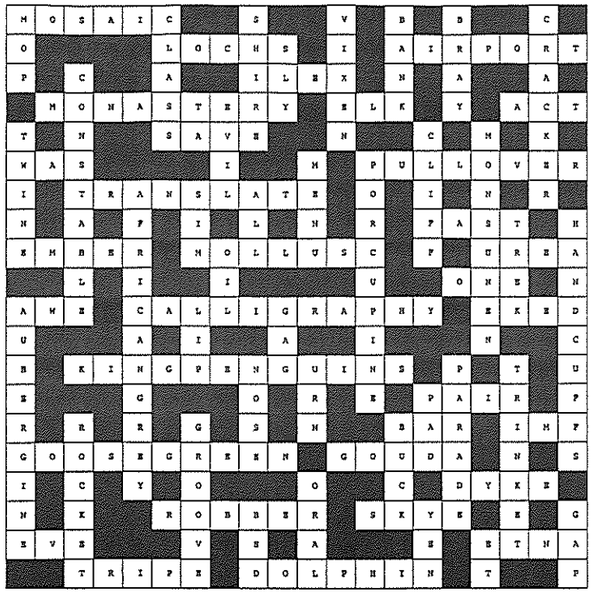
Veterinary Officer Kevin Lawrence looks for Teaberries – although deemed early in the season Kevin eventually found 2 Anson Teaberries

Zoe Luxton watches on what she sees as an oil change or sump inspection.

Assume your own interpretation of what is going on!

The above photographs and captions were supplied by Mr Eric Goss.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



HYPOTHERMIA OF NEW-BORN LAMBS

By Sue Harvey

The purpose of this article is to give you an awareness of some of the techniques that can be used to save young lambs, (however I do not guarantee success). With the valuable Embryo Transfer and Artificial Insemination lambs being born this spring, some of you could well be interested, others will not. I am happy to explain any of the techniques in further detail or demonstrate them – please supply your own lamb!

The normal temperature of a lamb is 39-40°C, 102-104°F. When the temperature drops below this the lamb is hypothermic. This is best assessed with a thermometer (it pays to practice reading one), the digital models can make life a lot easier.

There are 2 causes of hypothermia

A) **Exposure** – especially wet new born lambs and in bad weather
B) **Starvation** – the lambs energy reserves have been used up, more common in twins or lambs from ewes in poor condition. The ewe has not been able to provide enough milk for the lamb

Lambs that have starvation hypothermia, will have a low blood glucose. If this glucose level is not corrected before the lamb is warmed it is likely that the lamb will die from a fit during warming. Lambs suffering from starvation hypothermia tend to be weaker than those suffering from the exposure type of hypothermia.

All hypothermic lambs should be first dried. There are then 3 options to be considered: -

A) **Warming** –

Ideally with warm air of 35-37°C, 95-99°F. Infrared lamps are not ideal, as there is a serious risk of skin burns and overheating. A wooden box of not less than 1.5meters square and 1 meter high (to prevent overheating), with a domestic fan heater (1-3kW) will work well. Don't forget to provide insulation (i.e. paper sacks) underneath the lamb. Monitor the temperature of the box with a household thermometer, (clinical thermometers don't measure a fall in temperature). Check the lamb's temperature every 1/2hour and when it exceeds 37° remove the lamb from the warmer. Lambs will die if warmed to 41°C, 106°F.

B) **Stomach Tubing** –

This should always be used when feeding new-born lambs. A bottle and teat is suitable only for strong orphan lambs. The technique is safe to use on lambs that can lie on their brisket and hold their heads up. It is best to get a stomach tube especially designed for this job with a 60ml syringe. This should be rinsed after each lamb and cleaned with detergent daily.

The Feed

By far the best food is ewe colostrum. Colostrum can be collected (from a ewe with a single or dead lamb) and frozen in small containers. Boiling destroys the essential antibodies, the colostrum should be warmed by placing it in a bucket of warm water.

Cow's colostrum is the next best thing and much easier to obtain. Commercial colostrum substitutes are available in some countries. Milk replacer or cows milk is not a substitute for colostrum.

Routine

3 times daily

Large lamb 5kg	200ml each feed
Medium lamb 3.5kg	150ml each feed
Small lamb 2.5kg	100ml each feed

Technique

Sit down with lamb on your lap, or between your legs.

Gently introduce the tube via the side of the mouth. If the lamb show signs of discomfort, start again. The tube can be felt with there now being 2 tubes in the neck – the stomach tube and the wind pipe. However, if the lamb shows no sign of distress the tube *will be in the right place.*

Now either a) Attach the filled syringe and empty slowly (20sec)

Or b) Use the syringe as a funnel and allow gravity to let the colostrum flow

Remove the syringe and tube together.

C) Intraperitoneal Glucose Injection –

Equipment

Sterile 50ml syringe

New 1 inch 19g needle (cream colour)

Glucose solution 20% or 40%

Terramycin spray or other disinfection for the injection site.

Dose – 5ml per kg

Large lamb 5kg	50ml of 20% solution
Medium lamb 3.5kg	35ml of 20%solution
Small lamb 2.5kg	25ml of 20%solution

If using 40% solution withdraw one-half dose and dilute with recently *boiled* water. This will bring the solution to about the right heat. 20% solution needs to be warmed.

Technique

Shake the syringe to mix the contents and evenly distribute the temperature, check it is at blood heat.

Hold the lamb up by the front legs.

Prepare injection site by spraying with the Terramycin spray. This is half an inch to the side of the navel and 1 inch behind the navel.

Fully insert the needle with syringe attached aiming at the lamb's rump.

Empty the syringe

Dispose of the needle and boil the syringe before reuse.

Which treatment when?

Consult the following table

Temperature	*Age*	*Treatment*
37-39°C 99-102°F	Any age	Dry the lamb Feed by stomach tube Give shelter with the ewe Check temperature again soon
Below 37°C, 99°F	0- 5 hours	Dry the lamb Warm the lamb in a warmer until the temperature recovers to 37°C Feed by stomach tube Return to ewe or transfer to 'weak lamb unit'
Below 37°C, 99°F	More than 5 hours and able to hold up its head	Dry the lamb Feed by stomach tube Warm the lamb in a warmer until the temperature recovers to 37°C Feed by stomach tube Return to ewe or transfer to 'weak lamb unit'
Below 37°C, 99°F	More than 5 hours and not able to hold up its head	Dry the lamb Give intraperitoneal injection of glucose Warm the lamb in a warmer until the temperature recovers to 37°C Feed by stomach tube Return to ewe or transfer to 'weak lamb unit'

Prevention is far better than a cure. Ewe condition is extremely important. Prompt use of the stomach tube will prevent many problems.

When dealing with twins consider removing both lambs from the ewe even if only one is weak. If they can be returned together it will avoid rejection problems.

Some Further Lambing Time Conditions

Dystocia – this article is not intended to be a guide to lambing. The Veterinary Department would be delighted to assist with any difficult births. In order to get your ewe attended to as soon as possible we suggest that you bring her to the Department rather than asking us to come out to your farm.

Umbilical Hernia – Occasionally the guts of the lamb will come out from a hole at its umbilical cord. Sometimes excess licking from the ewe can cause this. These lambs *can* be saved. Loosely wrap the lamb's abdomen with a clean towel and bring it down to The Department straight away. If the guts are broken it is unlikely we will be successful.

Watery Mouth / Rattle Belly – Lambs suffering from this condition are miserable. Some will drool saliva (watery mouth) and others will have an enlarged stomach (which rattles if they are gently shaken). The condition is associated with intensive husbandry. Again these lambs can sometimes be saved. Contact the Department for advice.

If you intend to use any of the above techniques please prepare now. Cows colostrum should be collected and frozen and the equipment purchased.

NOTICE BY-ELECTION CAMP CONSTITUENCY NOVEMBER 2003

Sometime during November 2003 a Camp By-Election will take place on both East and West Falkland. No date can be given as to when the By-Election may take place until the Writ of Proclamation is received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands on Tuesday 30 September 2003.

Polling Stations will be in place at the School at Goose Green, East Falkland where Miss Myra M Pitt has been appointed a presiding officer, and on the West Falkland at Fox Bay where Mr Ken W Halliday has been appointed presiding officer.

Electors on Islands and areas where no roads exist may receive a plane (but please check a little nearer the time). Further mobile polling teams may also be allocated to cover areas covered by roads. It should be noted that mobile polling teams will not be going off road or searching for people to vote who may be in fields etc.

No polling station will be operating in Stanley as the Electoral Ordinance does not make provision for one.

Electors will be advised at a later date when the polling will take place and where the mobile teams will be in the settlement – for example the Manager's House or Shearing Shed.

Electors may wish to take advantage of either a Proxy Vote/Postal Vote or Postal Proxy Vote. Should anyone wish to have one of these then please contact the Registrar General on tel: 27272 or fax: 27270 who will send an application form to them.

If you have any queries then please contact the Registrar General on one of the above numbers.

JC Rowland
Registrar General

DoA WEBSITE

Dear Farmers,

I have currently been given the task of building the Department of Agriculture website. As a farmer what would be useful to you online? If you have any suggestions that you feel would make your life easier, please contact me on 27355 or email doa.fig@horizon.co.fk

Thanks very much

Sam Davies

RURAL ENERGY GRANT SCHEME

By Tim Cotter

Frequently asked questions

Q.1 Why doesn't my battery seem to last as long as it used to??

A.1 There are 4 possible answers:

1 Your battery isn't being recharged for long enough.
During a calm spell, a battery discharged to 80% on 3 kilowatt system will need around 7 hours of diesel generator time to fully recharge. (11 hours for a 4.5kW system.)

During the recharge time, the inverter will be consuming up to 3.5 kilowatts from the diesel generator. If you overload the diesel generator, the charge time will increase.

2 The battery has been cycled at a low charge rate and requires equalising.
This follows on from the above. Equalising cleans up the battery plates and the inverter does this automatically. The technique is described in Clive Wilkinson's recent Wool Press article.

3 Your electrical loads have increased since you have installed the inverter.
The system was designed to provide the domestic power requirements of a typical family house. Commercial and industrial applications were specifically excluded. The Grant Scheme conditions stated

> ".....industrial equipment must not be operated through inverters.
> *While a modern inverter may survive an attempt to abuse it, any failures will not inspire confidence in this initiative. The purpose of this scheme is to provide 24 hour domestic power and it is the initial intention that farm and commercial equipment must continue to be operated from the diesel. Use of industrial high consumption devices will exhaust batteries quickly, possibly shortening battery life and increase dependence on the diesel".*

While some have had success using wind power to shear sheep and provide power for diversification projects, these must be considered spin-off bonuses and there are no plans or funds to extend the scheme for commercial applications.

4 Your inverter has been reset to default settings.
If this happens, the inverter will half the charge rate which will double the recharge time. The inverter will have to be re-adjusted as per the manual (Heading 10, Battery Charging)

Q.2 Are there grants for repairs and upgrades?

A.2 In a nutshell – No, but this is being considered by the Energy Advisory Committee.

The original intention was clear about this, the grant scheme said:

> *"Battery life is variable and it is not the intention of the grant scheme to provide a future replacement battery. Farms will have to budget for renewals and repairs once any warranties have expired."*

The reason is that the Grant Scheme is funded from Stabex funds, which are intended for initial capital expenditures only and not for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

Any future upgrade scheme would hinge upon funding being available from FIG.

Q.3 How can I improve performance of the system?

A.3 There are number of ways this can be achieved.

1. Let the inverter automatically control the generator.

The inverter has all the sensors to switch the generator on and off as required. This will start the generator to cover calm periods and periods of high power demand. It will automatically switch it off when the battery is fully charged, equalisation has finished or the peak load has passed. Most Listers can be configured to work with the Trace Inverter; the newest ones are very easy to link up.

2. Don't let your battery voltage run down too low. At 44V (or 22V) the inverter shuts down and will only restart when the voltage has been restored to a higher level.

3. Reduce unnecessary loads. The Grant Scheme details gave the following advice.

How to get the best out of the complete system.

1. Turn off unnecessary lights and other equipment when not required.
2. For external lights use timers or automatic switches.
3. Replace light bulbs with energy saving types.
4. Turn the freezer and fridge controls to a normal setting and not superfreeze.
5. Try to site the fridge and freezer in a cooler area and make sure the airflow around the compressor and radiator is not obstructed or clogged.
6. Try to use high power devices (washing machine with heater, tumble dryer, etc.) only when the wind is blowing and avoid their use on calm days.
7. Don't use electric heaters.
8. Avoid use of two or more high power devices simultaneously.
9. Follow manufacturers' instructions and advice.
10. Keep in contact with the local agent.

Freezers are the biggest energy consumers in the house. If you have additional freezers then it may be advisable to set them to super freeze and connect them to a socket powered from the generator output so they are powered only when the diesel generator is running. Even though they are not powered through the inverter, you can program the inverter to start and stop the generator automatically so they are not forgotten.

Q.4 Will adding batteries improve the calm weather performance?

A.4 No, probably not.

The battery sizes were based on a regular daily 24 hour operating cycle and sized to handle a day's worth of energy storage for a typical modern family house. Batteries are not a bottomless and free source of energy so in calm periods, the energy will always come from the diesel generator.
The inverter will recharge batteries at a rate of about 30 -35 minutes per unit.
If you double up the battery bank of a 3kW system to give 25 units a day capacity, you will have to run the generator for about 15 hours to fully recharge them.

This doesn't make operational or economic sense so it's probably better to forget about more batteries and just to run the diesel generator for a bit longer.

Q.5 Will adding batteries improve the windy weather performance?

A.5 No, and it will probably cost you more in the long term.

On a windy day, the Proven Turbine will probably take about 10 hours to recharge the battery bank from 80% on a 3kW system. (It will take double that time on a 4.5kW system) This assumes that you are using minimal power during the recharge time.

In very windy weather, there will be power dumped through the wind turbine dump loads. It might seem a good idea to store this dumped power and expand the battery size to cope but there are hidden costs to this.

As mentioned before, battery capacity was all designed around a natural 24 hour operating cycle, so any extra battery storage to offset diesel fuel consumption is unlikely to be cost effective unless you can do the following to maximise your increased battery storage.

1. Put together a different length charge discharge cycle. (48, 60 or 72 hours)
2. Exploit all your battery storage regularly.
3. Accurately predict the wind and your energy consumption over the duration of your cycle.

All this is too complex and a waste of time and money.

A larger battery bank will require extended calm weather diesel charging times (as described above in A.4) unless you have the ability to switch seamlessly the wind turbine and the inverter from one battery bank to another. This concept has added complications, can cause the inverter to reset, adds extra costs and could result in higher overall energy costs.

In both cases, the battery charge time is always going to be extended increasing diesel generator hour. Therefore increased battery capacity is probably going to result in deficit charging, which shortens battery life. The best option is to save the money up for when you really need a new battery.

ADVERTISE ALL OVER THE FALKLANDS & EVEN WORLDWIDE!

By Susie Hansen

Promote your business with the option of colour photographs or sell all those unwanted items that sit gathering dust by posting details at http://www.falklandsadvertiser.co.uk

Also you will find an Information page; very useful for letting people know about events or what you have been up to! A personal page for posting the more personal messages plus photos, **as well as** a holiday page where you can advertise your self-catering accommodation etc or book yourself a relaxing weekend break!

If you have anything at all you would like to post on the site we can arrange it and if we don't have a suitable page we will add one that is appropriate, or you can have your own page added to our site. If you are wondering what all this will cost there is a "price list" on the site. We are very flexible and we will post ads for your approval before you are invoiced. If you are not happy with the ad it can be changed or removed before you pay anything.

We also have a free charity page that anyone can make use of. You don't have to be a registered charity to use this page. We will be arranging a prize draw most months raising money for charity. Any prizes for these draws would be greatly accepted. Please enter in the competitions, as well as raising money for a good cause you could well win yourself a prize!

All proceeds from the September draw will go to the Steven Jaffray Memorial fund. All proceeds from the October prize draw will go to the Cancer Support and Awareness Trust. In the October draw among other things you can win a Fuji IX-100 Digital Camera very kindly donated by Saddle Computers. Also many thanks to Eileen Jaffray for her kind donations for future draws. Anyone kind enough to donate prizes for any of our draws please contact me by phone or e-mail.

We need people to use the site to make it successful, we would especially appreciate small "for sale" ads on a frequent basis. We will be offering deals on ads etc quite regularly so keep coming back. Bookmark the site and check what is new when you are browsing the Net.

For further information please feel free to contact Susie on 41008 or e-mail shansen@horizon.co.fk

Or send your adverts to: adverts@falklandsadvertiser.co.uk

RECIPE PAGE

BUTTERY BANANA CAKE WITH LIME CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Ingredients
500g softened butter
400g brown sugar
6 eggs
2 cups of mashed over-ripe bananas
600g of sifted self-raising flour

Method
Pre-heat oven to 160°C. Grease a 25cm x 35cm baking dish and line with baking paper.

Beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until well combined. Add the eggs one at a time. Stir in half the flour and half the banana, and then add the rest of the flour and banana. Spread the mixture into the dish.

Bake for about 1hour 10minutes or until cooked. Stand in the dish for 20 minutes before turning out.

LIME CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Ingredients
50g softened butter
250g cream cheese
2 teaspoons grated lime rind
200g icing sugar
2 tablespoons lime juice

Method
Beat the butter, cream and rind in a bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually add the icing sugar and then the juice.

Spread over the top of the cake.

BRAINTEASERS

I have 3 children all boys. One is the same age as the first number in my age, another is the same age as the second number in my age and the third is the same age as the sum of the two numbers in my age. None of the children are the same age and the total of our ages is 45. How old am I?

Four prisoners want to cross a bridge on a dark stormy night in order to escape. Because it is too dark, they have to use the one and only flashlight they have whilst crossing the bridge. Furthermore, the bridge is constructed, for security that a maximum of two men may cross the bridge at a time, or a loud siren will go off.

How will the four prisoners cross the bridge without sounding the siren n 17 minutes or less, if each one takes a specific time to cross the bridge, as shown in the following table.

"Prisoners crossing the bridge must always use the flashlight.
The time needed by the prisoners to cross the bridge is:- A=1 min, B=2 min, C=5 min and D=10min."

A man travelling lost his way and came to a fork in the road. Standing at the fork were two brothers. One brother always told lies and the other always told the truth. Assuming it was not known which brother was which, how could the man ask just one question that would give him the information he need to choose the correct way?

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

Yet another month has gone by. Hopefully by the time you receive this most of the ET lambs should be on the ground. It still only seems like yesterday that we were out and about synchronising. Hopefully next month we will be able to put in some photos of the lambs – especially the Dohne Merino's as most people have not seem them. If anyone has any pictures that they would like printed please feel free to send them to me and I can put an article together.

Nyree

FOR SALE FROM NEW HOUSE FARM

One proven boar (approximately 18 months old)
Two sows, experienced mothers, (approximately 3 to 4 years old)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAVE LEWIS
on ☎ 21844 (Stanley) or 41021 (New House)

VISITORS and TOURISTS - ACCIDENT CLAIMS

REDUCTION OF RISKS

An advisory letter has gone out to all farmers from Charlene Rowland (FIDC) with information on the above.

If you have not received a letter but would like one, or require any further information, please contact Charlene on ☎ 27211

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TERRIBLE TUMOURS

By Zoe Luxton

Well, more of a depressed than a delirious month this month I am afraid! More tumours about than you can shake a stick at.

Mike merrily anaesthetised a middle aged bitch a while ago for a routine spey, started guddling round and thought "hang on – this doesn't feel quite right". With his heart plummeting to his boots as he thought he had made the mistake of opening up a pregnant bitch, he enlarged his incision to reveal.....a huge intestinal tumour! The scariest thing is that this dog had been absolutely fine, no vomiting, eating well, bright as a button. The tumour unfortunately was inoperable. Too much involvement in just about everything in the abdomen so the owners made the difficult decision to have her put to sleep on the table.

The second such case was one night I was on call. A lady rang to say she was a bit worried about her friends' dog that she was looking after. It had had a small fit in the morning but seemed to have recovered okay but now was "very quiet, just not herself". Stupidly I made the mistake of yelling to Claire "Don't bother taping Eastenders. I'll just quickly see this dog and be over". Silly vet. Saying that sort of thing instantly lets you in for a long night. Anyway, the lady carried in the collapsed "not quiet herself" dog and I was a bit suspicious that all was not well when I noticed its gums were grey! A quick check over revealed a large tumour in its tummy, which I figured must be bleeding as the dog looked so anaemic. Typically the owners were away and they had no contact number for them so although the prognosis was fairly grim we had to go all out to save this dog so at least the owner then had the choice to put her to sleep if she wasn't improving. So with fluid lines and tubes and heat pad cables (and blood!) everywhere we set about removing the biggest splenic tumour I have ever seen! We actually had to resuscitate the poor dog twice and were rather chuffed with our emergency medicine knowledge until Claire pointed out that we were relying on procedures watched on ER and Casualty rather than anything learned at vet school...but if it works.....unfortunately she was dead by morning.

A bit of light relief from the recent dramas was a small local dog show which needed someone to judge some of the more light hearted classes. I wasn't sure if it was a good idea that the organiser introduced me as "my local vet" as I had visions of Smith, Ryder-Davies losing a pile of clients as Mrs Jones and Bruno the Pitbull didn't win fluffiest dog in the show etc etc.

At least I know who would have won most vicious dog in the show if he had been there - a large black Great Dane who I had to attempt to castrate last Tuesday. Now admittedly, if there was a person threatening to remove my vitals I wouldn't be overly enamoured with them either, but on the day this

chap first came in it was just for a pre-op check and he was supposedly none the wiser that within the next few days I could well be using his testicles as cats toys. I figured I might be going to have trouble with him when I had to place the muzzle on the ground in the car park, and retreat before the owner could safely come towards me to retrieve it. Despite giving the owner enough sedative tablets to deck an elephant, to administer to the dog BEFORE coming to the vets he was still a bit to alert and hungry looking for my liking. I had been worrying about this whole thing all weekend and finally found a way of coping like any self respecting small veterinarian.....I got Mr Smith to knock it out for me.

CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION COURSE

Interest is sought from farmers/farm workers who would like to participate in a cattle artificial insemination (AI) course in late January 2004.

At the moment the course is expected to take 2 full days to complete and would probably be held at a location on East Falkland, although I must stress that nothing has been decided for definite yet.

Please note that there are only 8 places available on this course and that participation will be on a first come first served basis. The course fee is expected to be in the region of £200 per participant.

If you are interested or would like further information please contact myself, Nyree Heathman, at the Department of Agriculture on phone 27355, fax 27352 or email nheathman@doa.gov.fk by Friday 14th November 2003.

Could those people that Doug or I have already spoken to about this course please contact me again to confirm your interest.

Thank you

Nyree

BACK IN GOD'S OWN COUNTRY.....

By Karen Marsh

Well, as most of you will know I am now back on the West for a few months. I will be doing much the same as the last two years I have spent out here, although the headache of the pool machinery is gone, (thanks Justin) I will still be doing some inoculating of the legumes. Any farmer wanting to be shown how to do this can contact me by phone/fax 27012 or email me at agtech.fig@horizon.co.fk.

I thought that as I have just come back to the West I should really write and tell you what I have been up to in the office for the last 6 months. There were lots of things to do in the office like covering for Sarah in the vets and lots of computer work, however two things really stick in my mind when I think of the time I spent in Stanley - the sheep AI and ET programme and scanning ewes. As these are both big programmes I thought I would just write a quick report on what I was actually doing.

For the sheep AI and ET I was one of the many who got up at silly hours of the morning to travel out to be on the farm by the times that were given to us. Sam Davis came with me on most of my trips out and we soon got used to each others ways, for example she knew that it was totally pointless to ask me questions for at least half an hour into the trip as quite often I just wasn't in the mood! Sam is a lot the same as me in that if she goes quiet you know it is best just to leave her alone.

One thing I learnt very quickly into the programme is 'if something can go wrong it quite often will'! Most of the problems though I have to point out were sorted out quickly and didn't affect the programme in any way. When it came time to join the rest of the team things were starting to run a little more smoothly. As all the worries of the weeks before had affected us all in different ways from sleep-walking, talking, screaming and fighting the killer duvet it was also a very entertaining couple of weeks (wasn't it Lucy?)!

The ewe scanning took part just before I returned to the West and I went out with Pricilla and Lucy for this. As always the first day started badly and after getting just past Swan Inlet we got a puncture. No problem for 3 strong women! Apart from the fact that we had a bumper jack that didn't really want to work and our spare wheel was also flat! We had to be rescued by a man, that was the pride dented already.

With things after that running pretty smoothly I don't think there is much more to say about it, apart from that its not as easy as it looks, and after lots of bruises I decided sheep can kick (yes kick) and a lot harder than you may think. I really enjoyed doing the scanning though and look forward to doing more next year. I may need to build up some muscles before we start again though.

Now I guess all there is left to say is thank you to all those people I have worked with over the last 6 months. I will be back in the office in January but until then if anyone has any questions for me, you can give me a ring. If you can't get me through to me during the day I will be home in the evening.

SOIL TESTING – A FEW BASICS

By Stuart Doyle

Soils are the basis of all we do as farmers. This statement will no doubt raise argument from many, yet soil is the medium that affects the production of all agricultural products (except hydroponics). Despite this fact, little attention is often given to this most precious resource. With more and more farmers pursuing forage cropping and expecting more from their soils I thought it may be a good time to touch on soil testing and in particular the collection of soil samples.

Why sample soil? This question is critical in the soil testing process, as it will determine how, when, and where you will take soil samples. The four main reasons for considering sampling soils are as follows:

- **Predictive** – A sample taken to predict the suitability of land for a particular crop, and to try and predict its performance in the future. This would typically be a full range test (pH, Macro and MicroNutrients) giving a nutritional starting point to work from.

- **Monitoring** – This type of sampling is a check-up type sample to assess how the crop or management practices currently used has affected nutrition since last sampling. This may be a more targeted group of nutrients rather than full range.

- **Diagnostic** – This type of sampling is the trouble-shooter. These would be taken from specific problem areas and particularly good areas to ascertain which nutrients or soil condition is causing the production problem. The problem may appear as poor crop / plant growth / yield or animal health symptoms. Typically a full range test to look at all variables would be advisable.

- **Fine-Tuning** – This final type of sampling is used when things are on track, and maximum yield is being pursued. This may be a targeted group of nutrients (N (nitrogen), P (phosphorus), K (potassium), S (sulphur) and important MicroNutrients).

Now that you have worked out why you are sampling how do you go about taking a sample and where do you take it from?

- Predictive samples are to be taken from soil that represents the paddock being tested, the aim is to be representative of the paddock as a whole. Therefore avoid stock camps (nutrients accumulate here from animal waste), waterlogged areas, or any small areas that are greatly different to the paddock as a whole.
- Monitoring and fine-tuning samples should be taken from a similar place every time (year). This is to be a site (marked by GPS or a post or similar marker) that is representative of the paddock and will allow results to be compared from year to year.
- Diagnostic samples should be taken from areas representing poor growth, and simultaneously taken from areas showing good and consistent growth as a comparison. If the poor growth is variable you may want to sample good, medium and poor growth – this may provide more insight to the problem.

When taking samples from the paddock there are some important things to consider:

- Hygiene – It is important to be careful not to contaminate the sample. Don't use a galvanised bucket (zinc in the galvanising will distort Zinc levels), don't smoke whilst sampling (phosphorus in cigarettes may affect Phosphorus levels), avoid using fertiliser bags, or buckets (obvious but you would be surprised). Readers may find this far fetched, However, I have had personal experience with several contaminants giving severely distorted test results. This makes a test useless.

- Handling – Try to get the sample to the DOA or testing lab of choice as soon as possible. (Don't sample on Friday afternoon and leave the sample in the kitchen for the weekend). Talk to the DOA and sample as near to testing as possible. Place the sample in a sturdy plastic bag – heavy zip top ones are best. Again don't let the sample come into contact with fertiliser or contamination (oil, grease etc) in the back of the rover.

- How much to sample? You should take at least 25 samples from the area in question and put them all in a clean bucket and mix thoroughly before taking the sub-sample of about 1kg of soil to send to the lab. This amount allows soil to be kept for re-testing if an anomaly is found or an unexpected result is received.

- Sample should be taken with a clean soil probe – the DOA will have these soon. If the soil is not suitable for a probe or one is not available a clean shovel can be used. Scrape away surface debris (if fluffy from cultivation tap firm with your boot). Dig a hole to the required depth (effective rooting depth of the crop – the zone of soil where the crop will extract nutrients from the soil). Cut a vertical slice about 3 cm wide from the face of the hole. Trim the sides away so you are left with a strip of soil 3cm x 3cm. Simply place this in the bucket. This then gives the sample some soil from the whole profile that the plant will be using. For pasture and forage crops a surface sample should be the top 10-cm as the depth of sampling. (10 cm is recognised as the zone from which most nutrients are extracted by plants – it is not much is it? – think about this depth in relation to erosion)

- Now you have worked out why and how to sample, when should you take the samples? Again that depends on why you are sampling. Predictive samples should be taken with plenty of time to allow for management decisions to be made based upon the results. Finding out that your paddock has a pH too low for the planned crop after paddock preparation can be disappointing & costly. Therefore it may be best to take samples as part of the planning process when determining cropping lands suitability. Fine-tuning and monitoring samples should be taken the same time each year, preferably after the breaking rain of the season, but again with time to allow for the results before planting time. Timing diagnostic tests is going to depend upon the problem that arises, this may be best determined after talking to the DOA.

In summary soil sampling is a simple process, however some attention to detail during sampling can greatly improve the usefulness of the test results. Knowing the why, how, when and where of soil sampling is all that needs to be done to get results that will help you to make better decisions on ground preparation and fertiliser application.

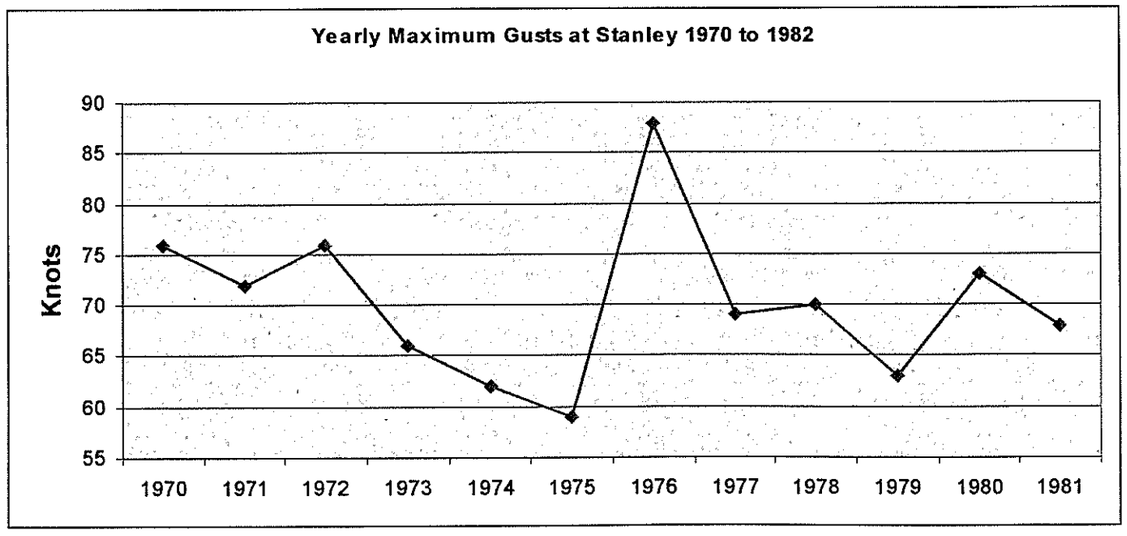
WEATHER & PRISCILLA'S WORLD

By Priscilla Legg

The last few weeks have been very busy what with going around with Lucy while she was scanning, covering for Sarah in the vets and then catching up with all my work. Although it has been a great laugh along the way, especially when we were out scanning. But I did have to come to terms with the fact that I will never be a "Handy Andy" like on the DIY shows. My last experience with a hammer ended when I whacked myself on the leg as I forgot to move it out of the way!

I also decided to delay motherhood for a few more years because when my mum asked what size our friends baby was, I quickly responded "Mmmm, baby size mum". Then I went into a spiel comparing my cat Cuddles to the size of the newborn baby. Robert was not impressed and told me I couldn't compare a baby to a cat. "Why not?" I demanded. After all, the cats are my babies but he just didn't get the point. If only he knew what it was like to live in the Priscilla world...!

Well, better get on with the graph I suppose. Below there are some wind speeds for you to look at. With all of our old weather records there seems to be a huge gap from 1982 to the 90's. If anyone out there does have any old weather records I'd love to have a copy. I would like to fill in some of these gaps so we have records right up to the present year.



Thank the lord this article is over! For the last few days I've kept telling myself to do something for the Wool Press but when I tried putting pen to paper (or in my case finger to key), my mind went blank. But now it is over with for another month I can safely go back into my little world and dream of cats and DIY and all the things that make Priscilla tick! I might see you next month if I haven't been carted off in a straight jacket by then!

FARMING INPUTS!!!!

YOUR OWN PURCHASING CONTACT IN AUSTRALIA

RICHARD KEOGH HAS BEEN SUPPLYING PRODUCTS TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND NOW OFFERS HIS SERVICE TO ALL FARMERS.

WE CAN SUPPLY FENCING, BOTH ELECTRIC & STANDARD, GATES, CATTLE AND SHEEP YARDS, ELECTRONIC SCALES, TAGS (MOST TYPES), ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ITEMS AND MUCH MORE.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS ASK AND I'LL SOURCE IT FOR YOU. ALSO, BY CONSOLIDATING GOODS FROM A NUMBER OF FARMERS, I CAN ARRANGE BULK FREIGHT RATES SO THAT YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM CHEAPER FREIGHT COSTS.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT **RICHARD KEOGH** AT:
rjkeogh@bigpond.com

OR MY AGENT **JAMES FORSTER** AT: jimgin@horizon.co.fk

WORK WANTED

To introduce myself, my name is Paul Sammon. I am a Canadian citizen and am currently studying agriculture at the University of Guelph. I work as a ranch hand and break horses. I am interested in working in the Falkland Islands on a ranch, or, some facet of the ranching/wool industry. I am also fluent in Spanish and am very familiar with agricultural terminology in English and Spanish.

I would appreciate it if you could send me some contact information for ranches on the islands if you are interested in employing me.

I can be contacted via e-mail at the following address

paulchsammon@yahoo.ca

Sincerely,
Paul Sammon

BETTER, BUT THE DEATH TOLL IS STILL APPALLING

Farming's death toll (in the UK) between April 1st 2002 and March 21st 2003 was 38. That's lower than for several years, but – given that every death brings unimaginable grief and suffering for the family involved – still appallingly high

Source – Farmers Weekly Oct 3-9

The HSE'S annual Fatal Injuries in Farming, Forestry and Horticulture booklet, which carries brief details of every farm accident that results in a death, always makes sobering reading. Most of these happen in mundane circumstances, when a lack of thought or a moment of inattention caused disaster. Almost all could have been avoided with a little forethought or more attention to machinery maintenance.

WALES

- Farmer, 67, was crushed between the mast of a materials handler and the fertiliser spreader hopper.
- Contractor, 30, was killed by the unsupported boom of a loader as he did maintenance work to the cab.
- Child, 12, became entangled in the unguarded pto shaft connecting a tractor and roller mill.
- Farm worker, 51, was killed when the tractor and trailer he was feeding sheep from drove over the edge of a gravel pit.

SOUTH WEST

- Farm worker, 65, was found unconscious next to an ATV and trailer. It appears it overturned on a bank.
- Farm worker, 64, was killed when the runaway tractor he was attempting to climb on to overturned on a slope.
- Farmer, 60, was crushed between two lorries in the sloping yard.
- Farmer, 76, was hit on the head by a slurry lagoon gate in high winds.

SOUTH AND EAST ANGLIA

- Farm worker, 21, and contractor, 27, both died when they became entangled on a rope being wound on to a fleece-winding machine.
- Farm worker, 48, was crushed against a mobile seed-cleaning unit by a forklift truck.
- Farmer, 45, drowned when his telescopic handler overturned into a dyke.
- Farmer, 45, jumped over a gate and fell on to a metal rod, causing fatal brain injuries.
- Farm worker, 46, was removing timber expansion strips from newly laid concrete when a telehandler reversed over him.
- Farm worker, 31, was hit on the head by a large branch while felling a tree.

HOME COUNTIES/SOUTH EAST

- Farm worker, 20, was crushed when a forklift truck being driven by another employee fell over on to her.
- A member of the public, 60, died after falling from the rear of a trailer.
- Farm worker, 44, was killed when the mower he was operating on a slope fell on to him.

EAST MIDLANDS

- Member of the public, 66, was found at the base of a ladder with head injuries.
- Farmer, 63, was found unconscious at the base of a ladder that was in poor condition.

YORK AND HUMBERSIDE

- Farm worker, 58, was found trapped between two trees that had recently been felled.
- Farm worker, 19, was kicked in the head by a horse in a paddock.
- Farmer, 55, was believed to have been crushed by a bull.
- Farm worker, 24, was killed when the ATV he was driving struck a tree. Helmet had been provided but was not being worn.
- Self-employed worker, 28, was killed when he became trapped in a tree that had caught fire from a nearby bonfire.

NORTH-WEST

- Farmer, 56, died as a result of slipping and fracturing his tibia on a concrete floor.
- Farm worker, 57, was found drowned after being sent to bring in cattle across a ford for milking.

SCOTLAND

- Farm worker, 29, was trapped in the rollers of a potato harvester while trying to clear a blockage.
- Farm worker, 29, died when the gun he was carrying accidentally discharged.
- Self-employed worker, 42, died when he was struck by the tree he had just felled on a steep hillside.
- Farmer, 68, became impaled on the forks of a front-end loader that had rolled forward on a slope.
- Farmer, 68, suffered fatal head injuries after falling from a trailer on to a concrete floor.
- Farmer, 77, suffered multiple injuries after a cow attacked him while he was feeding her calf.
- Farmer, 67, was crushed when the tractor he was driving overturned on a slope.
- Farm worker, 35, drowned when the boat he was using to carry feed to fish cages overturned.
- Farm worker, 22, and farmer, 62, were killed when they entered an underground slurry store to rescue a heifer.
- Self-employed arborist, 56, died when he fell from a ladder leaning against a tree.

CORE SAMPLING IN THE WOOL WAREHOUSE FOR THE 2003 – 2004 SEASON

By Lucy Ellis

As most of you know the Department of Agriculture supervises core sampling in the Falkland Islands for the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority.

The process for farmers wishing to use this service is as follows:

Once you have decided to have some or all of your bales sampled, 'phone myself, or Neil if I'm not available, at the Department to inform us of your decision. We will then need to know when your bales will be in the wool warehouse, how many bales there will be, how many you require to be sampled and the break up of the Lots.

You will need to send us a copy of your bale specifications beforehand so that we can sort out Lots to be core sampled with you, if not already done by yourselves, or if you have not done this before and are unsure of the process. A copy of the bale specs on hand on the day of sampling is necessary as any problems arising i.e. duplicated numbers, different descriptions on the bale to the specs etc, can be discussed and sorted out with you on the day.

Once we have all of the above information we can set a date to meet at the wool warehouse and do the core sampling.

Requirements:

The Department of Agriculture provides a person accredited to supervise the entire sampling operation plus associated paperwork.

The farmer is required to provide a minimum of two (more if there are 50+ bales to be sampled) fit and reasonably strong individuals to move bales and do the coring (coring is a lot more strenuous than you might think – ask someone who's had a go!). One person must be an experienced forklift driver. Please remember to bring your own bale hooks and something to drink as the work is strenuous and the wool warehouse tends to get very hot in good weather.

The coring operation itself runs like this: the scales are set up and tested for accuracy and the relevant paperwork is sorted out and set to go. The bales for a Lot are identified and brought to the scales, either by rolling or with the forklift. Each bale is rolled onto the scales where its' weight and Lot No are written on it. The bale No and weight is also recorded on the paperwork. Once all bales in that Lot are weighed and recorded they are then cored.

With a tool, designed for the job, a circular hole is cut out of the tops or butts, or both ends if required, of each bale. This is to reduce contamination of the sample. Then the core tube, which is a two foot steel tube with a very sharp tip, is pushed into the bale right to the handle, removed, and the sample is pushed down the tube, with another special tool into the sample bag, which is affixed to the tube handle. Once the required amounts of cores have been taken from each and every bale in that Lot, the sample bag is removed from the handle. A card describing all Lot details, bale No's, weights, the farm name etc is placed in it, it is sealed and all the samples go to the D.O.A for the rest of the paperwork to be finalised. All the samples are then parcelled up following precise guidelines and sent to NZWTA for testing.

Within a few weeks we receive the core test certificates, which then get forwarded to you to assist you in selling your clip.

To return to the wo/man-power needed, we have, over the last couple of years, had farmers who have employed individuals in and around town to assist in their coring when, for some reason they are unable to attend themselves or need the extra help. We keep a list of all those who have been employed in the past and who have expressed an interest in doing so again, and we are keen to hear from anybody who would like to add their name to the list.

If any farmer finds him or herself in a position of not being able to attend or needing extra hands and would like to employ somebody for a day or so of work, please contact Neil or I and we will pass on the names we have been given.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of core sampling or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Neil or I on 27355.

ACCOUNTS PACKAGE

FIDC have access to a computerised accounts package called Phoenix. This program is designed for agricultural businesses and incorporates a number of Grazing for Profit principles. The program allows comprehensive reports to be produced for both tax and management purposes.

If anyone would like information about the program please contact either Mandy at the Department of Agriculture or FIDC.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING WOOL SAMPLES FOR MICRON & %YIELD TESTING

As the number of samples being submitted for testing is increasing I thought it might be helpful to provide a few pointers for sending in samples.

- Provide at least 50g of sample in order to do micron and % yield testing
- Select mid-side samples as this gives the best overall average micron of the sheep
- State whether you want micron testing only or micron & % yield testing
- Use permanent marker pen on the outside of the individual bags of samples to indicate the tag number and where necessary total fleece weight (needed for yield testing for clean fleece weight). Pieces of paper put in with the samples are more likely to get lost and delay the general process of testing.
- If you choose to use pieces of paper in with the samples, please use pencil as this is less likely to run if moisture gets in.
- Ensure the tag number and fleece weight is easily distinguished from each other
- Underline digits that may get confused if the number was read the wrong way up eg 6 and 9
- Please indicate whether you are keeping any sheep back while awaiting test results
- For those sending samples in rather than having them hand delivered, please make it clear where they are from and what tests you want
- All results are sent by e-mail where possible. If this is not convenient please state that you would prefer the results to be faxed or posted. Please leave a fax number.
- The best bags to use to hold wool samples are transparent zip 'n' seal bags used for freezer food.

Please feel free to e-mail me on shalfacre@doa.gov.fk if you have any further queries or wish to send me details of your samples.

Suzanne Halfacre
Senior Laboratory Technician
(& Wool Testing Team Supervisor)

FOR SALE

1 x 1 year old Hereford ET Bull
10 x 1½ year old oxen

Tel Marsh Shallow Harbour 42019, fax 42018, email a.m.marsh@horizon.co.fk

MUTTON PRICES **Export & Local Market)**

WEIGHT	P/KG		SHEEP £
Below 17 kg	Flat Rate		3.00
17.00	0.32		5.44
17.50	0.32		5.60
18.00	0.32		5.76
18.50	0.32		5.92
19.00	0.32	+50p	6.58
19.50	0.32	+50p	6.74
20.00	0.32	+50p	6.90
20.50	0.32	+50p	7.06
21.00	0.32	+50p	7.22
21.50	0.32	+50p	7.38
22.00	0.32	+50p	7.54
22.50	0.32		7.20
23.00	0.32		7.36
Over 23kg	Flat Rate		7.36

Please note
1. A bonus payment of **50p per carcase** will be paid for all carcasses between 19-22kg
2. Please note the 23 kg ceiling price, and that the min flat rate has changed

LAMB PRICES **Export**
(Includes Hoggets - until permanent incisors have broken through - They will be independently checked by the Vet/Meat Inspector at time of slaughter)

WEIGHT	P/KG	LAMB £
10.0	0.55	5.50
10.5	0.55	5.78
11.0	0.55	6.05
11.0	0.55	6.05
11.5	0.55	6.33
11.9	0.55	6.55
12.0	0.77	9.24
12.5	0.77	9.63
13.0	0.77	10.01
13.1	0.77	10.09
13.5	0.77	10.40
14.0	0.77	10.78
14.5	0.77	11.17
14.9	0.77	11.47
15.1	0.85	12.84
15.5	0.85	13.18
16.0 +	0.85	

Please note
Hoggets with permanent incisors that have erupted will be classed as mutton

LAMB PRICES **Early Local Market - December**

WEIGHT	P/KG	LAMB £
8.0	1.00	8.00
8.5	1.00	8.50
9.0	1.00	9.00
9.5	1.00	9.50
10.0	1.00	10.00
10.5	1.00	10.50
11.0	1.00	11.00
11.5	1.00	11.50
12.0	1.00	12.00
12.5	1.00	12.50
13.0	1.00	13.00
13.5	1.00	13.50
14.0	1.00	14.00

Min Weight - 8.0 kg
Price applicable from 1st Dec - 31st Dec only
The above is very much dependent on both local retail demand and availability of early lambs

FIMCo WORKING GROUP

Action Notes for a meeting held at FIDC
On Friday 3rd October 2003

General Manager's Report
Members approved the format of the agreement with Nicolas Simunovic and agreed that both parties should sign the document.

Marketing Report
Brand names – Connie Stevens presented members with examples of the product names labelling format that have been developed for Falkland Islands meat export. They are

Tussac Lamb – all lamb
Sand Bay Lamb – lamb size mutton, for sale to processing company
Premier Select Mutton – all remaining mutton

These were used at the Anuga Meat Exhibition which Connie Stevens attended with Nicolas Simunovic. A report regarding the exhibition will be provided by Connie Stevens at the next meeting.

Pricing 2003 – FIMCo is aiming to pay £7.00 per target weight mutton, which is an increase of 40% from last season. 77p per kilo will be paid for lamb over 12kg.

Beef Pricing – Members agreed that the time of year that beef is being supplied should be reflected in the price. Between the months of August and December it is slightly more difficult to process beef due to weather conditions and other priorities. It was felt that the price structure should encourage holding animals until different times of the year to improve the availability of this product.

A marketing campaign was suggested for meat and that it would be beneficial to produce labels indicating the originating farm. It was also suggested that an application be made to FIDB for gaining funding for such a campaign.

Any Other Business
Grading West Falkland – Efficiency and costs could be improved if a person could be sourced on the West who is experienced and trusted to grade animals on the mainland on some of the outlying islands.

Grading East Falkland - Additionally, it would be useful to have a person on the East such as an ex farmer who would also be impartial.

An advertisement needs to be released in order to find a replacement for a stockman/maintenance fitter.

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REPRODUCTION
LOW MAINTENANCE
LINEAR MEASURING FOR STANDARDS

Mr. Fry has spent his entire 60 years in the cattle industry and has made his living raising cattle. He and his wife developed a reproductive center 25 years back. Mr. Fry was the owner-operator and manager with the assistance of his wife Margie. The center collected processed & stored semen. The center collected & transferred embryos from donor cows. He does all types of reproductive procedures.

Mr. Fry gained the reputation of being able to take donor cows (any cows) and bulls that others could not get pregnant or viable semen from and through a proper balanced mineral & management program return the animals to normal reproductive and functional life.

Through the process of semen evaluations and study of the phenotype & hair (physical, frame structure, testicles, & masculinity) of bulls Mr. Fry has developed a standard to evaluate a bull at 10 months of age for rugged-use and ability to service & settle large numbers of cows in the first 21 days of the breeding season. The early selection allows for sound management decisions at weaning. The process works on adult bulls also.

Mr. Fry uses the process of linear measuring, which has been around as far back as the 12th century. Dr. Jan Bonsma introduced linear measuring to America in 1960. The knowledge of linear measuring allows you to evaluate a cow or bull on the animal's own characteristics and merits and not against another animal. Upon grasping just a small part of the concept an animal can be evaluated in the pasture. The process works on calves at weaning (also adults) so selection can be made at that time for replacement or for slaughter. Greater economic decisions can be made before extra time, money and expectation is placed on the animal.

Mr. Fry has consulted and spoke extensively across America and other countries.

Mr. Fry is the technician who will be visiting the Falklands in January to carry out the bovine ET and the possible AI course – Ed.

THE WORLD'S WORST JOBS!!

Source – The Times

BARNYARD MASTURBATOR
Do you really love animals? Are you prepared to take the idea of animal husbandry extremely literally? Thanks to a recent staff suicide, we are delighted to announce a vacancy for the position of Barnyard Masturbator.

Intensely rewarding for the suitably minded, the BM will be working in a fully hands on partnership with compliant livestock, seeking to facilitate both reproduction and emotional well-being. The successful applicant should be exceedingly fond of cows, horses, sheep and pigs, and have previous experience in the field (or the barn, or the sty), but no convictions.

A thrusting self motivator, fully able to grasp the point and cling on until results are inevitable, you will need a certain level of manual dexterity to stimulate the members of our farm. In return, you will become a part of our community at a stroke, enjoying the kind of intimate relationship with our livestock that Dr Doolittle could only dream of, and you will be paid the minimum wage. If desired, employees must provide their own rubber gloves.

Applicants should call at the Office, Lower Field, Handle Farm, Wales.

Don't worry about the bull. He's very, very friendly!

DYSENTERY STOOL SAMPLE ANALYSER
Hey! Yes, you! Are you prepared to look below the surface? Where others see decay do you see new life begin? And are you FUN? If the answer to these three questions is yes, and you're also an experienced bacteriologist with a strong stomach, then the DSSA Organisation wants to hear from you.

Our wacky team of analysers live and breathe the dark mysteries of the nether regions, but we also like to foster a strong sense of camaraderie in the workplace. After all, when you've spent a day up to your arms in diseased Bournville goo you'll be happy for an excuse to crack a smile. That's why novelty ties are a must in our labs (but keep them tucked into your shirts when you're at the vats, eh?) and oh, you should have seen the cufflinks we gave Norm for his last wedding anniversary! We're LOOPY, us. We just laugh SO MUCH. So hey, you don't have to be MAD to work here, but it helps! Come along and join the FUN!

(Temporary staff are required ASAP after a spate of resignations over an unwise prank involving the drinking chocolate in the coffee room. Apply today!)

FLATUS ODOUR JUDGE

Olfactory distinction is rare, and those who possess it often fall into the predictable careers of perfumery and wine-tasting. Now, for the connoisseur of smell, there is a third option. The Gastroenterologist United Flatus Fellowship (GUFF), in partnership with the Flatus Association Research Team (FART), is seeking to establish a team of ten flatus odour judges to categorise the three million specimens of bowel gas we have in our olfactory archive.

This is a process that we expect to take three years. As part of the application process, candidates will thus be required to demonstrate willingness and ability to smell an average of 423 gaseous specimens a day, every working day, until September 2006. Our odour judges will be able to grade flatus in egginess and general eye-stinging, all-out hideousness and should be able to discern traces of curry, beer, garlic and all 57 varieties of baked beans.

(Applications should be delivered in person to GUFF Towers, Bedford, because the postman hasn't come near here in years.)

BRAINTEASER ANSWERS

1. The woman is 27. Her children are 9, 7 and 2.

2. The Prisoners
   A and B cross and B comes back
   C and D cross and A comes back
   A and B cross

3. "Which would your brother say was the correct way?"

Easy peasy huh?

RECIPE PAGE

STICKY DATE CAKE WITH BUTTERSCOTCH SAUCE

Serves about 20
Preparation 20 mins
Cooking 1hour

STICKY DATE CAKE
3¾ cups (600g) coarsely chopped dates
3 cups (750ml) water
2 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
180g butter, softened
2¼ cups (450g) firmly packed brown sugar
6 eggs, beaten lightly
3 cups (450g) self-raising flour
½ cup (60g) coarsely chopped walnuts
½ cup (60g) coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to moderate (180°C/160°C fan-forced). Grease a 25cm x 35cm rectangular baking dish. Line base and sides with baking paper, bringing paper 5cm above edges of dish.

Combine dates and water in a medium saucepan; bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, add soda, stand for 5 minutes. Blend or process until smooth.

Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until well combined between each addition. Stir in the sifted flour and spread mixture into prepared pan; sprinkle evenly with the nuts. Bake in a moderate oven for about 1 hour or until cooked when tested. Stand cake for 10 minutes before turning onto a wire rack.

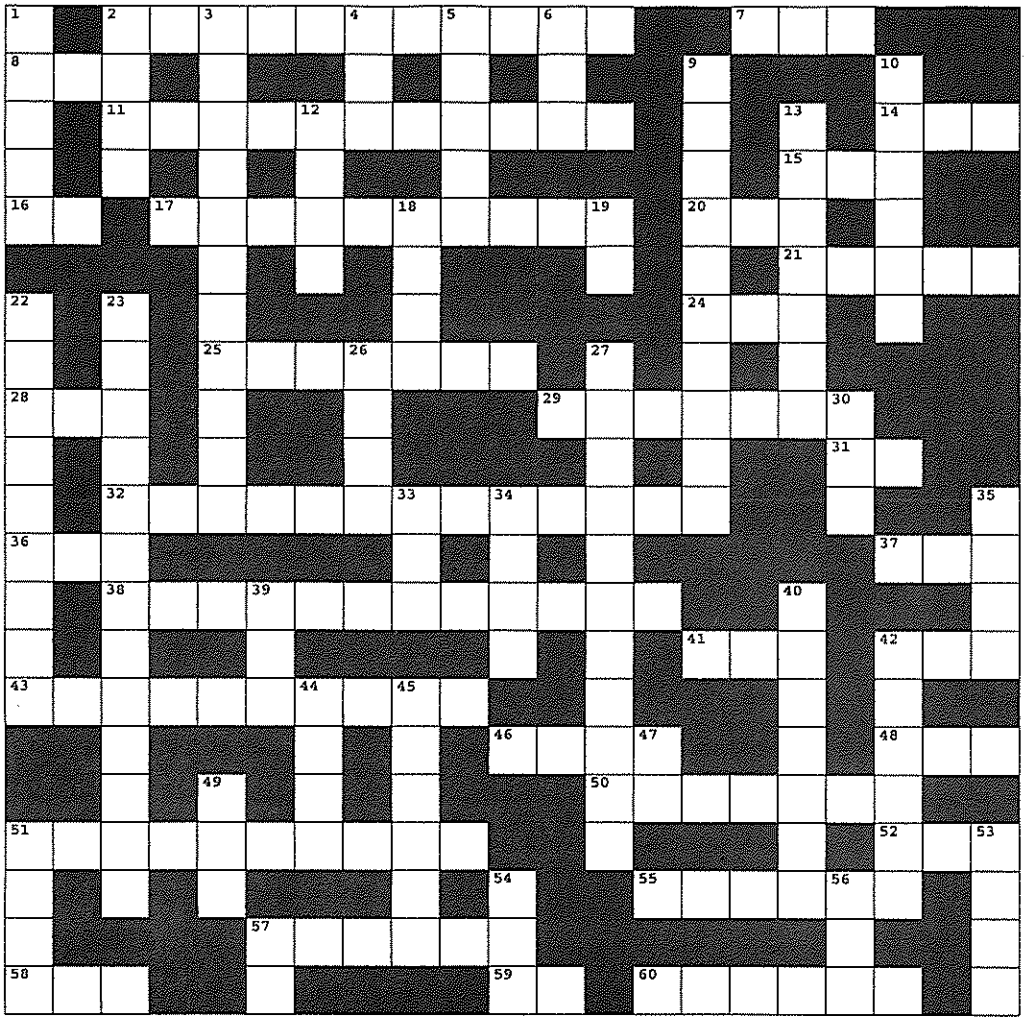
BUTTERSCOTCH SAUCE
2 cups (400g) firmly packed brown sugar
600ml thickened cream
375g butter, chopped coarsely

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan; stir over heat, without boiling, until sugar is dissolved. Simmer, stirring, for 3 minutes.

Brush surface of hot cake with ¼ cup of Butterscotch Sauce, then serve with remaining sauce.

Suitable for freezing
Butterscotch Sauce suitable to microwave

NOV 03



ACROSS

2. SHEARERS GET EXCITED WHEN THEY GET ONE OF THESE! (4,7)
7. MALE ANIMAL IN WHICH ONE OR BOTH TESTES FAIL TO DESCEND
8. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
11. PARTS OF A SHEARER'S HANDPIECE (7,4)
14. LIMB
15. AN ORGAN OF SIGHT
16. HECTARE
17. UNDERLYING SOIL OR ROCK THAT REMAINS PERMANENTLY FROZEN
20. ORGAN OF HEARING
21. ROT
24. REFER TO A PERSON
25. CHEMICAL FREE FARMING
28. OVA
29. SHEARER'S PANTS?
31. CHILD'S THANK YOU
32. BSE? (3,3,7)
36. GRASSY FIELD
37. TO GLIDE OVER SNOW
38. SHEARER'S BEST FRIEND (5,7)
41. AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
42. SMALL GREEN VEGETABLE IN A POD
43. SOME SHEARER'S CREATE SNOWSTORMS WITH THESE (6,4)
46. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
48. ARID
50. OF LLAMA AND GUANACO FAMILY
51. A VERY YOUNG FISH
52. EDGE OF MOUTH
55. A PEAR SHAPED FRUIT
57. SMOOTH HAIRED AUSTRALIAN DOG
58. GEOGRAPHICAL DIAGRAM
59. GREEN SIGNAL
60. CALL FOR MORE SHEEP

DOWN

1. THE ACT OR PROCESS OF TILLING LAND
2. MALE DEER, GOAT OR RABBIT
3. ELEVATED SHEARING PLACE (6,5)
4. FEMALE SHEEP
5. A PRISONER SENTENCED TO A LONG STAY IN GAOL
6. DAY BEFORE AN EVENT
9. DIED IN A DITCH? (6,4)
10. SHEEPS COAT?
12. THE MEDULATED WOOL FIBRES
13. FLOURISHING GREEN VEGETATION
18. WITH GLADNESS OR EAGERNESS
19. TUBERCULOSIS
22. WINNERS OF THE 2003 WINTER QUIZ (3,6)
23. CHEEKBONE (9,4)
26. IN A DIFFERENT WAY
27. BIRD THAT IS HOT ON THE WATER! (7,4)
30. SWINES HOUSE?
33. A PAIR OF PERFORMERS
34. FOUND ON THE SEASHORE OR IN THE DESERT?
35. CAPITAL OF PERU
39. TOOK THE LEAD
40. SUBSTENCE EXTRACTED FROM WOOL
42. ROUSIES BROOM?
44. RINGLET
45. BRASSICA ROOT CROP
47. SHORT FOR MOTHER
49. ENGLISH VERSION OF A RAM
51. TRACT OF LAND USUALLY WITH A HOUSE & BUILDINGS
53. THE SKIN OF AN ANIMAL
54. A CONTAINER FOR BEER
56. DRINKING VESSEL
57. KNOCK OUT

The Wool Press

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EDITORIAL

Hi All,

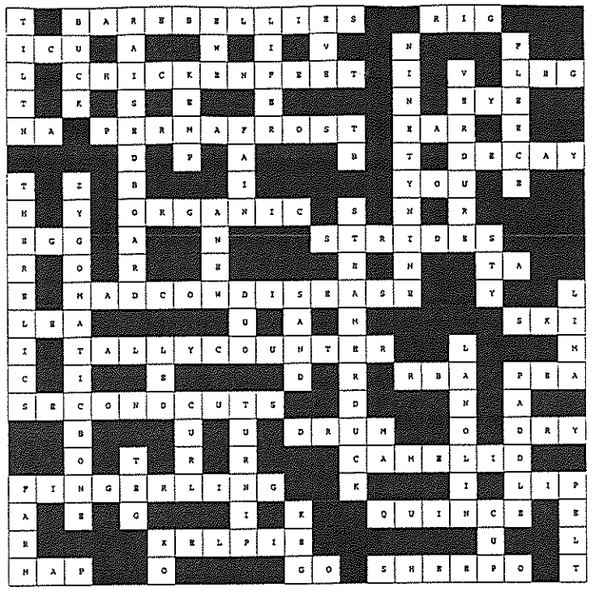
Time to apologise I'm afraid. Last month I promised to do an article on the AI/ET lambs – well I haven't! Things have been a little more hectic that I though they were going to and the weather hasn't exactly tempted me outside with the camera. Next month eh?

I hope to have the January Wool Press out just before Christmas again as things are going to be rather busy afterwards.

If there is anyone out there who is considering participating in the AI course please get hold of me ASAP. There are still a few places available.

Nyree

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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Thinking of Cladding or Roofing your buildings?

Perhaps you require a Septic Pit or Fuel Tank.

Are you thinking of erecting a new yard fence or perhaps even a conventional wire fence on your farm?

We can offer all the ingredients at very competitive prices.

Telephone or Fax Falkland Supplies
on 21297 or call into the shop to learn more.

The following letter was sent to us from Mr Nigel Knight for publication in the Wool Press.

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

I feel compelled to write to you about the imminent transition of the above position for two reasons.

Firstly, with the appointment of Phyl Rendell to the Director of Agriculture's job, I suppose that events have gone almost full circle. By this I mean that it will be fifty years since Phyl's father came to the Falklands as an Agricultural Officer. After leaving Government employment he then went to work for the Falkland Islands Company as Section Manager. Incidentally he was my first boss at North Arm when I came to the Falklands in the late sixties. How times have changed since then.

I know Phyl pursued a different career to her father but I doubt Agriculture is as alien to her as some would like to think. Anyway I wish her well in the new job.

Secondly, we are about to loose Peter Johnston. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts in the Department. I think he has been an excellent Director and certainly the most approachable that I have had dealings with, which has been quite a few over the years. His help and advice, particularly with the Pasture Improvement Scheme, has been much appreciated and freely given.

I wish him well for the future in whatever that may be.

Nigel Knight

NEUTERING OF FARM (AND OTHER) DOGS

By Sue Harvey

When I first started practising as a vet in the 80's I was doing as many emergency speying of bitches as I was normal ones. The situation has been reversed now with the pet owning population generally neutering all their dogs at 6 months old. There are several conditions that un-neutered dogs suffer from in their later life, all of which I have seen in the last month or so here in the Falklands.

The purpose of this article is for your information and hopefully by being better informed more working dogs will be neutered at a younger age.

BITCHES:

Pro Speying

Convenience Reasons

When a bitch is speyed both her ovaries and uterus are removed. The ovaries are removed to prevent her from coming into season and the uterus is removed so as not to act as a reservoir for infection. As you know she will not be able to have (unwanted) puppies. She will be available for work all year around and there will be no distractions to the male dogs in the team. For house dogs there will be no bleeding on the carpets and furniture.

Medical Reasons

1. Pyometra - This is a condition where the uterus fills up with pus. Normally it occurs in older bitches though I have seen it as young as one year old. Classically it occurs shortly after a season. Sometimes the cervix is open in which case pus is seen to be coming out of the vagina, in other cases the cervix is closed. These are a lot harder to diagnose. Signs include general lethargy, drinking a lot of water and maybe vomiting. This is an emergency condition and the bitch needs to be speyed as soon as possible. With her being so sick there is a greatly increased anaesthetic risk.
2. Mammary Tumours – Mammary cancer in un-speyed bitches is more common than in women. It is often a particularly nasty form of cancer, having spread before it is noticed. It is very difficult to treat. Surgery is long and involved and the tumours have usually already spread to the lungs where they can't be treated.

Anti Speying

Convenience Reasons

Obviously once the bitch is speyed she will no longer to be able to have puppies.

Some bitches do become overweight after they have been speyed. This should not be a problem with proper dietary control (they do need less food). Working breeds are less prone to obesity than say Labradors at a young age.

Medial Reasons

A very small proportion of bitches become incontinent and leak urine. This is more of a concern for house dogs. If large amounts of urine are being leaked the bitch will need to be treated. This is easily controlled by the use of tablets or syrup.

MALE DOGS

Pro Castration

Convenience reasons

Castrated male dogs are less likely to fight or wander. Ideally castration should be done at a young age before these vices become a habit.

Medical Reasons

1. Prostate gland – Older un-castrated male dogs frequently have enlarged or even cancerous prostate glands. This can lead to various problems like severe constipation.
2. Anal tumours – These are frequently seen in un-castrated male dogs.

Anti Castration

Apart from not being able to breed from the dog and a slight tendency to put on weight if the diet is not controlled there are none.

Summary

I strongly recommend that all bitches are speyed for medical reasons. It is quite disheartening treating the older bitches for mammary tumours or losing them from infected uteruses because either the condition has not been picked up or the bitch was not able to get to the surgery in time. With a potentially good working bitch that you might want to breed from I would recommend having puppies early in her life and then speying her.

Male dogs with undescended testicles should be castrated. There is a high risk of cancer in the undescended testicle (as it is kept too warm). The condition is hereditary so the dog should not be bred from. The decision to castrate other male dogs is entirely up to the owner.

Speying a bitch is a major operation, The ovaries lie deep inside the abdomen with a large blood supply. The operation is best performed at the clinic where we have trained staff to monitor the anaesthetic and ideal operating conditions. It is far far safer for the bitch to be operated on in Stanley. Dogs can easily be flown in from West Falkland by FIGAS.

GLANVAC 6 VACCINE FOR BOILS

This vaccine provides protection against:

Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA/Boils)
Clostridial Diseases (Pulpy Kidney, Tetanus, Malignant Oedema, Blackleg etc.)

The vaccine can be given to lambs any time after 3 weeks of age. A 2nd dose is given 4 weeks later and then yearly boosters. The yearly boosters should be given within 6 months of shearing to provide maximum protection against boils at shearing time. For management purposes the 1st dose can be given at lamb marking, the lamb will not need protection from boils until before shearing, but it will be vulnerable to the clostridial diseases until after it is vaccinated. Adult sheep can also be vaccinated.

Boils are widespread in the Falklands and undoubtedly can cause economic losses in both wool yields and carcass quality. However, the profitability of commencing on a full blown vaccination programme in the Falkland Islands is yet to be determined. It could also effect fertility.

Clostridial diseases are thought to occur here. Pulpy Kidney may contribute to early lamb mortality. It causes sudden death in well-grown young lambs.

It may be worthwhile considering vaccination for high value sheep such as your stud flock or AI/ET lambs. The Department of Agriculture has a number of doses excess to requirement. This vaccine is available to farmers at a cost of £36 per 500 doses. Anyone wishing to purchase some vaccine or requiring more information should contact Sue Harvey, Veterinary Officer on 27366 or ask any member of staff for a vaccine brochure.

I thought you might like some of these sayings that were e-mailed to me the other day - Prill

Behind every successful woman is herself

A woman is like a teabag, you don't know how strong she is until you put her in hot water

Coffee, Chocolate, Men, some things are just better rich

Don't treat me any differently than you would the queen

Warning: I have an attitude & I know how to use it

Do not start with me, you will **NOT** win

All stressed out & no one to choke

I can be one of those bad things that happen to bad people

How can I miss you if you won't go away?

ULTRASOUND IN CATTLE AND SHEEP

During the last 35 years, a considerable amount of research effort has been directed at developing non-invasive, non-destructive techniques for assessing composition and quality of live beef animals and beef carcasses. Real-time ultrasound (RTU) has emerged as a cost effective and reliable method of estimating composition and quality of live beef animals.

How the technology works
Sound waves are generated by a vibrating crystal housed in the ultrasound machine and sent through an animal's body. The waves travel through different types of tissues at different speeds depending on the tissue density. For example, sound waves pass through muscle quickly, but their transit is slower through fat. The waves bounce off different tissues and are picked up by a recorder which displays a complete on-screen picture of the animal's carcass traits.

Several approaches identified by various researchers to develop RTU technology range from simple prediction of carcass fat and loin eye area to using RTU to estimate intramuscular fat. Most of these technologies have used an off-line computer image interpreting system for composition and muscle quality. However, recent advances in RTU technology have made this technology available to a trained technician. Estimates are made in a cattle crush without any additional equipment. Besides the scanner the only other accessories required are a contour-fitting standoff or contact pad necessary for use in loin eye muscle area determinations and a calibration phantom for machine standardization for muscle quality assessment along with a quality ultrasound index programme.

Applications
Those producers and researchers involved with the food animal industry are well aware of the applications of RTU for food animals. However, most veterinarians have normally thought of RTU in terms of injury diagnosis and reproductive physiology applications. Some of the uses of RTU in the beef industry alone include:

Reproductive Physiology
1. Pregnancy detection
2. Foetal sexing

There are several uses of RTU in reproductive physiology. One specific use is to monitor ovarian activity to increase the number of cyclic cows and heifers to aid conception. This might include evaluation prior to the breeding season or toward the end of the artificial insemination (AI) breeding season This can then be followed by pregnancy detection as early as 9 days. Foetal sexing is also possible as early as 48 days. This is of particular importance to the purebred beef producer in that male calves are generally of greater economic value than female calves.

Carcass Composition and Quality
1. Backfat (subcutaneous fat) determination
2. P8 fat determination
3. Loin eye muscle area

4. Muscle quality by intramuscular fat estimation

Composition and quality of beef carcasses are the driving forces behind interest in a value-based marketing system. RTU offers the ability to accurately assess subcutaneous fat which is a prime contributor to variation in lean composition of animals of similar weights. The Australian P8 site fat measurement may also be used to estimate composition in the live animal, especially for leaner cattle. Loin eye muscle area (LEA) is of particular importance to feedstock producers selecting for muscling in breeding animals as well as to estimate composition in market animals. Intramuscular fat is highly related to market quality.

Performance Evaluation

1. Sort feeder cattle into uniform production groups
2. Estimate quality potential of young cattle
3. Estimate days on full feed required for quality endpoints

Cattle finishers are continually seeking ways to increase the efficiency of production of beef. RTU can be used to sort cattle into uniform groups based on subcutaneous fat and muscling so that these cattle will finish at a uniform weight with consistent composition. Research indicates that ultrasonic measurement of backfat measurements for feeder cattle are more highly correlated to carcass fat than visual estimates.

Sheep

In sheep, genetics play an important role in determining fat content. In fact, about 35 per cent of a sheep's fat content is heritable. That makes it important to select for sires with higher lean muscle-to-fat ratios that will pass on these carcass traits to their progeny.

Traditionally, selecting optimal sires depends on post-slaughter carcass trait measurements of progeny from different sires. But waiting for progeny can take time.

That's where ultrasound comes in. It measures the fat content of young animals directly and can give a quick estimate of a sire's potential for passing on lean meat traits. That's important to breeding associations which could benefit by using the technology to boost the reputation of their breed and sell more stock. Ultrasound is also non-invasive and less expensive than post-slaughter measurements.

Ultrasound measurements are usually carried out on marketplace lambs, the stage when the animals begin to fatten. A lamb's total fat content is estimated from the amount of fat covering the rib muscle.

TEXEL RAM LAMB SETS NEW WORLD RECORD!

Source – Farmers Guardian

There has never been a sale quite like the event at Lanmark when cream of this year's crop of Texel ram lambs was on offer. Trade was staggering and by 0945 a new world record price had been set when a five-month old ram from David and Jean Houghton, Isherwood, Bury, Lancashire, sold for 122,000gns – or £128,100 – a new world record for a sheep.

The buyers were the Turriff consortium. The ram was sired by the 12,000gns Knock Impulse and out of a ewe by Clougher Gigolo.

After the sale Jean Houghton who runs a flock of 90 ewes with her husband said: "We knew we had a good one, but never expected a price like this. It's like monopoly money."

The Houghtons minutes earlier sold another ram by the same sire out of a dam by Baltier Freddie for 36,000gns. Overall the Houghtons' pen of 5 grossed £171,256. In all 18 ram lambs sold for 10,000gns or more.

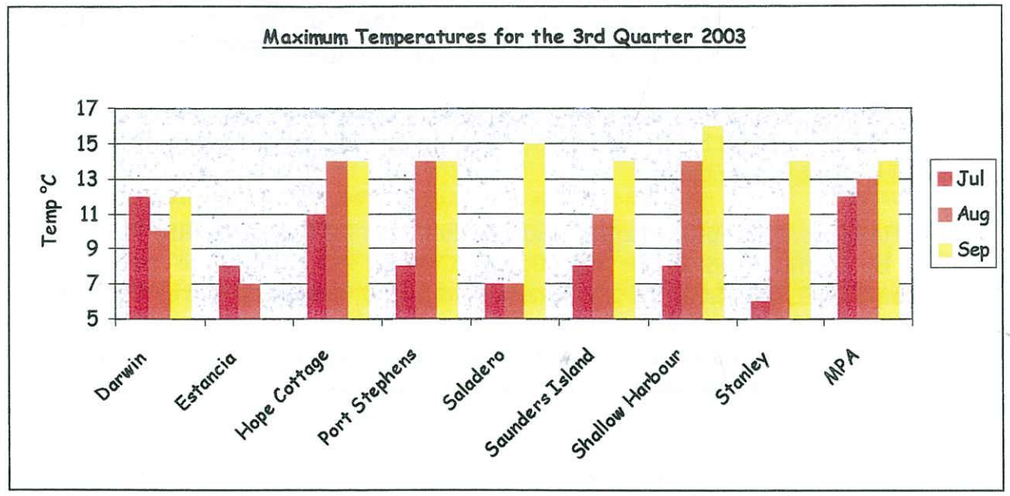
Stephen McLean, chief executive of the Texel Sheep Society, said: "This is the very best of the breed and it is clear that we are now the leading terminal sire breed in the UK. I would also say that UK sheep genetics are the very best in the World. Scrapie resistance is obviously a factor, but that will be less of an influence in the future."

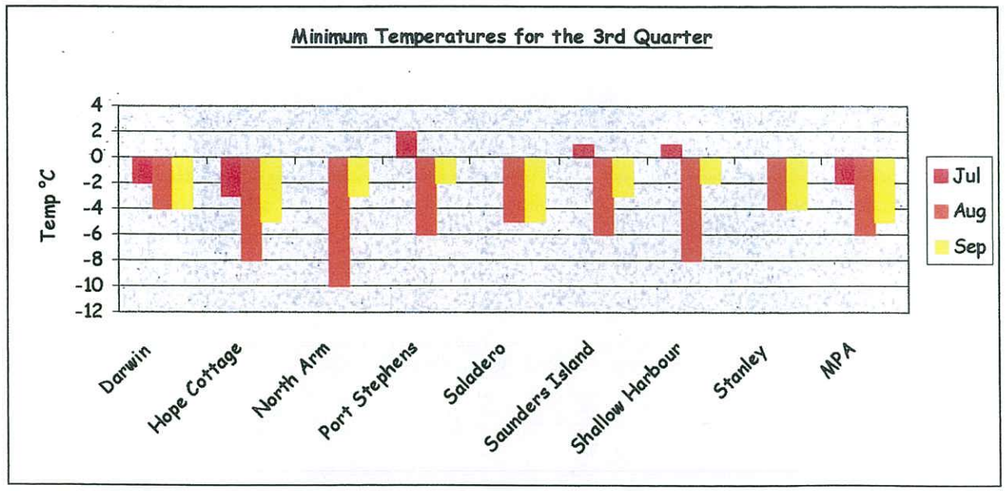
Sorry everyone, but I forgot to print this 2 months ago when the sheep cartoon was published – Ed.

WEATHER FOR THE 3RD QUARTER

By Priscilla Legg

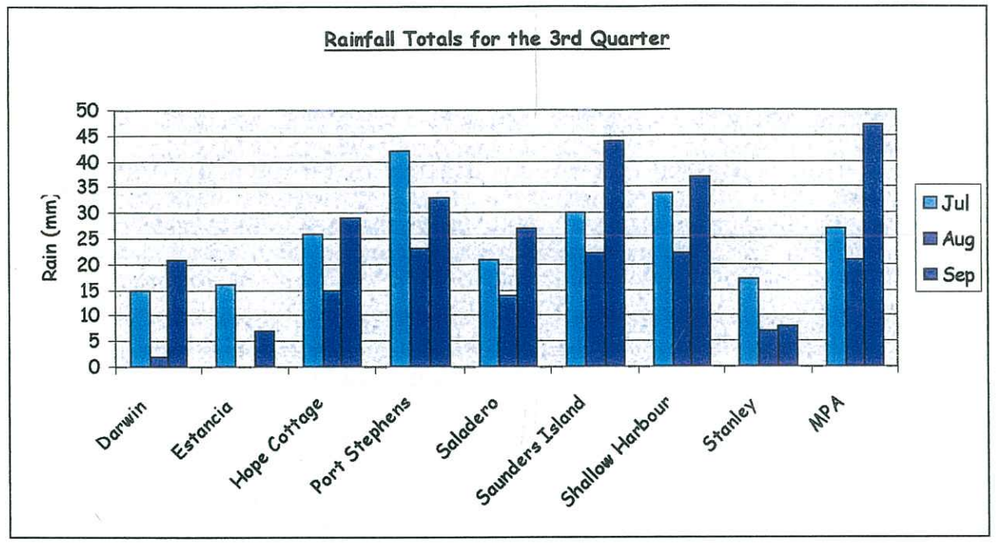
For most places the temperatures seem to have been positively climbing since August. Shallow Harbour even hit the 16°C mark in September! But although the weather was warming up over the previous three months we still couldn't climb out of the minus's in the minimum temperatures graph. I'm sorry to say that it got as cold as –10°C at North Arm in August.



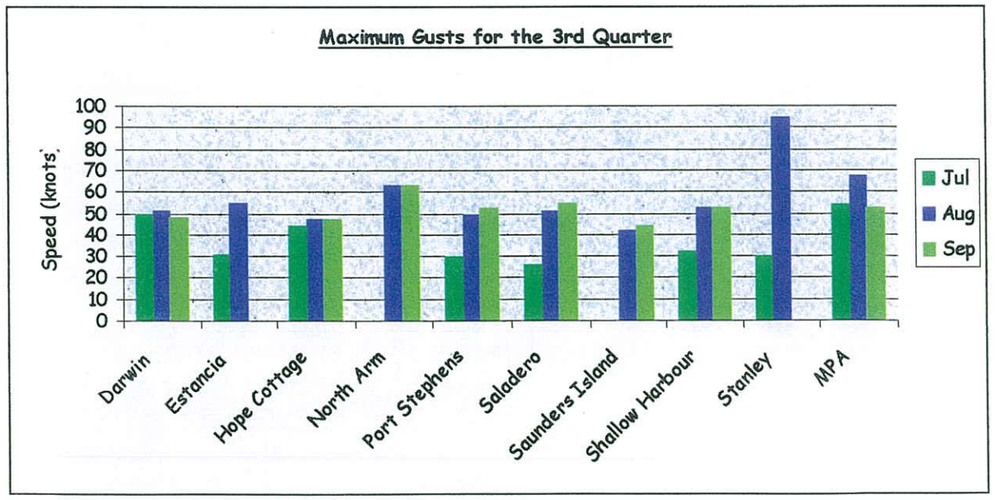


There was also quite a lot of rain over the previous three months. MPA got the gold medal for having 47mm of rain in September and Darwin got the booby prize for having 2mm of rainfall in August.

As far as the gusts go, it hasn't been all that bad apart from Stanley getting 95knots in August. But apart from that gusts of wind seemed to remain below 60 with the lowest being 26 knots at Saladero.



So, in summary, it seems that it has been warm and wet over the last three months. Hopefully this is a good omen and a taste of what's to come in the summer. It would be nice to think that Christmas day is going to be a scorcher and when we're all watching the races it would be good to whip out the sun screen instead of the waterproofs!



AGRI-ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGES IN COUNTY ARMAGH

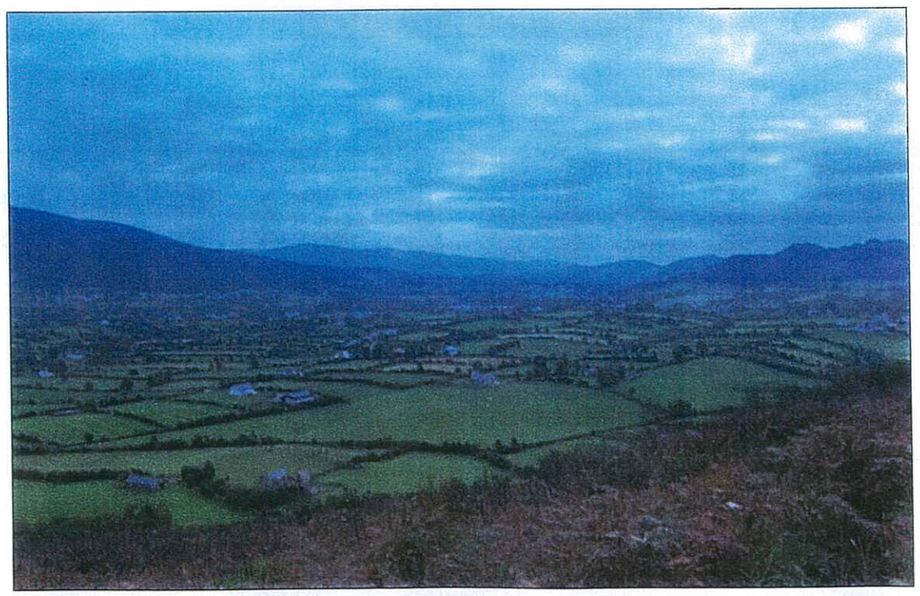
By Aidan Kerr

Having just received the latest edition of Wool Press I thought I would write and let you know how we are getting on here in Northern Ireland.

As you may remember we left the Islands in March after nine most enjoyable years living and working there. We spent most of April travelling in Chile and Argentina and visited Madrid before returning to Ireland in late April. (If anyone wants information on the places we visited please email me on *aidankerr@hotmail.com*). We lived in Armagh City until September when we moved to Newry, on the south-east coast of Northern Ireland. Pauline began nursing in a local hospital and Fergal started in a new school that he seems to enjoy very much.

From Drumcree to Crossmaglen!

Since April I have been working for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a Countryside Management Adviser. I am based in Newry and travel throughout county Armagh – the smallest but perhaps most well known in N. Ireland! I have visited farms in the 'notorious' areas of Drumcree and Crossmaglen! The countryside (see photograph) is a beautiful patchwork of green fields bounded by hedges and woods. The land ranges from the hills and moorlands of south Armagh to the wetlands of Lough Neagh. It is a great place to visit despite what you might read or hear in the media. All the people I've met have made me welcome.



Typical countryside in South Armagh (Crown Copyright ©)

Agri-environment schemes

So what am I working at? As part of the county team I am responsible for increasing the numbers of farmers participating in agri-environment schemes. In these 10-year, EU-funded schemes farmers voluntarily agree to farm in more environmentally sensitive ways. In return, they receive management payments, worth on average about £2,000 per year per farm. Nearly 7,000 farms (about 22% of all farms in NI) are participating in a scheme. The schemes address the serious environmental problems here, such as pollution of rivers and lakes by farm wastes, loss of wildlife habitats due to land 'improvements' and poor farming practices. Finally, the schemes help to conserve the unique landscape and historical features of the region.

Farm wastes

So what do I do? As part of the application process for the schemes I have to visit farms for two purposes. Firstly, to help the farm comply with farm waste leglisation I examine its waste management facilities. All waste must be collected and must not enter the drains or rivers, where it is a major cause of pollution. The main sources are slurry from housed animals contained in tanks and effluent run-off from silage stored in silos. Very few farms are 100% effective at collecting and disposing of their waste. Thus in most cases I offer advice on how to rectify the problems. This could be as easy as diverting clean rainwater from roofs and yards away from tanks thus reducing the volume that needs to be stored. Or it could be as significant as building a new concrete slurry tank costing many thousands of pounds. Needless to say the latter advice is not a popular one! After assessing the farm's pollution risk I move on to the second purpose of my visit.

Habitat	Premium (£)/ha/yr
Wetlands	110
Lapwing breeding sites	130 –160
Enhanced breeding wader e.g. Snipe	150
Heather Moorland/bog	10 – 50
Acid grassland	20 – 70
Coastal farmland	80
Land adjacent to lakes	40 – 45
Planting native trees	750
Hedgerow/ stone wall restoration	Up to £8 /m

Payments and Habitats

Not surprisingly this is the more popular bit - as I now begin to talk about money! Walking the farm with the farmer I classify each field into different land or habitat categories. I explain the management required by the schemes. In county Armagh most of the land is improved pasture with orchards and arable land occurring mainly in the north of the county. In the schemes a farm can receive up to £1500 per year to ensure that such 'non-habitat' land is managed using agriculturally and environmentally responsible practices and that all landscape, habitat and historic features on it are protected. The practices include restricting stocking rates, applying a nutrient management plan and keeping the farm tidy. Features to be retained include ponds, ditches, trees and traditional buildings.

The main wildlife habitats are wetlands and moorlands for breeding birds and wintering areas for migrating swans and geese. As a priority these habitats have to be specially managed within the scheme. So how much is each habitat worth? The table shows the annual payment rates for some of the habitats and the enhancement works that are available. I am sure that similar habitats occur on farms in the Islands.

A 'Camp Management Scheme'?

Do such schemes have a place on Falkland farms? I believe they could have. With good thought, participation in planning and adequate funding, perhaps some from the EU, a 'camp management scheme' could help conserve sensitive habitats such as Tussac and enhance sites for breeding penguins and wetland birds. There may even be financial rewards for not shooting Upland Geese!

If, as in much of the EU, general society regards farmers as stewards of the countryside and expects them to manage it in more environmentally sensitive ways, then I believe that farmers and land owners should be helped and encouraged to do so. Indeed it seems that improved environmental management will be essential for those farms applying for EU subsidies. Here the agri-environment schemes seem to be the best compromise that bridges the gap between the loss of production income and the cost of improved environmental conservation.

Finally, I hope the article has got you thinking. However it is really up to you to consider and progress the idea. If you need further information or advice then please email me.

ITCHY & SCRATCHY

By Suzanne Halfacre

A dog was presented in the surgery with signs of severe itching in May this year. It was discovered the animal had been bedded down on hay six days previously. Free-living mites were suspected and appropriate advice was given with this in mind.

In a separate incident, the vet was called out to some calves with severe itching. Again hay featured in the case. A piece of clothing was left on the hay and when the owner went to pick it up it was covered in mites. These were quickly scooped up and transported to the laboratory for identification. This proved difficult and the mites were sent to VLA Weybridge in the UK for i/d who in turn sent them to Dr Anne Baker at The Natural History Museum. I hoped it might be a new previously undiscovered species that I could name Halfacrus lawrenceonii but it was not to be. Here is what the specialist wrote:

> "I have identified them as *Tyrophagus longior* (Gervais) (order Astigmata, family Acaridae), a species that is considered to have a worldwide distribution. It occurs in habitats such as poultry litter in broiler houses, corn stubble, and stored grain and hay, and has previously been associated with allergic skin and respiratory reactions in humans and other animals. In my opinion, it is a good candidate for causing the eczema reported".

Bearing the above in mind it would be prudent to keep all fresh cut hay stored separately from last year's hay as the longer the hay is stored the more mites would build up. Alternative bedding might be considered for dogs especially if they begin to show signs of skin problems. People who suffer from asthma may wish to avoid handling hay altogether or take sensible precautions.

THE SEVENTEENTH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2003

This will be held in Coast Ridge Farm woolshed at Fox Bay Village on 29th December 2003.

Entries may be sent to Fox Bay, C/O Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm, before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day between 0900 & 1200.

Judging will commence at 1430 and be by public ballot.

Prizes will be presented at 1800.

All the usual classes/events/prizes.

All times are in Stanley time.

G & S SHEARING SUPPLIES

G & S Shearing Supplies has in stock:-
Combs:- Pro legend, Wicked, Warrior, Scud, Xpress, Supa Charged, Charger, Topaz, Quazar, Contour, Mercury, Meteor Mentor
also Blizzard & Typhoon cover combs.
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Handpieces
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Shed extendable paddles & raised board sweeps
Warrie backaids, replacement chest belt & springs
Cutter dispensers, comb pouches & comb brushes
Comb strops
Shearing belts 32" to 44" and Shearing backwarmers
Fagan shearing trousers large selection
Fleecy singlets & cotton singlets
Sweatshirts, long & half sleeve
Check wool jackets half zip and front opening
Moccasins - felt & leather
Grinders and Shear motors to order.

We have distributor accounts with Tru-Test, Heiniger, ACTO & Warrie.
We are also agents for Longhorn 12V machines.

Southern Imports holds a good selection of our stock in Stanley. For information contact Hew or Sue on phone/fax 32235, e-mail hew@horizon.co.fk or contact Michelle East at Southern Imports

Helpful Hints

When a worm drive will not let go, give the ferrule on HP a light tap with something, ie brush, screwdriver or whatever you can reach.

When grinding combs and cutters, the grain of grind paper, on comb or cutter, should be going straight up and down in the middle of the comb or cutter. The middle should be the most hollow ground part of the gear, so all tips of the cutter touch the teeth of comb with little tension.

A comb and cutter after grinding, if rubbed together, should sound crisp and cut a small staple of wool with finger pressure.

Most problems with HP are due to combs and cutters not being well ground. Grinding is very important, even experienced shearers still have problems with gear not cutting from time to time.

FALKLAND ISLAND MEAT COMPANY - DEVELOPING ORGANICALLY

Meat exports from the Falkland Islands are about to enter an exciting stage as the newly formed Falkland Island Meat Company Limited, is to take over the development of the abattoir business from FIDC. This recognises the importance of developing a successful meat exporting industry run by the private sector. FIDC will continue to provide financial and management support but the directors of FIMCo will be responsible for the commercial development of meat exports from The Falkland Islands. Julian Morris, the General Manager of FIDC said, "It was always the intention to move the project into the private sector as soon as possible and the start of the second export season is a good time to make the transition." FIDB needs to ensure that the strategy is implemented, within the approved funding limits, whilst delegating the detailed commercial implementation to a board of competent individuals with a vested interest in the success of the project – the farmers.

Rodney Lee, Chairman of the Farmers Working Group, said "This is a huge vote of confidence in the work that the Farmers Working Group has been doing. The RBA and Farmers Working Group have been consulted with regard to the composition of the board and they are keen to see the FIMCo board be a manageable size (6 to 8) and come from the farming community." FIDB will appoint the relevant directors and it is envisaged there will be at least 1 representative from the West and 1 from the East but also include GM FIDC, an FLH representative, Chairman of the RBA and a representative from the wider business community. Rodney Lee added, "Any farmer wanting to get involved in FIMCo should contact myself, Paul Robertson or Julian Morris."

At the last FIMCo meeting, Connie Stevens made a presentation on the development of the 3 new FIMCo products (Tussac Lamb, Premier Select Mutton and Sand Bay Mutton) and her promotion of FIMCo at the Anuga trade show. A lot of interest was shown in the "Organic by Nature" strap line and this highlighted the potential benefits for an 'islands-wide' scheme. John Ferguson reported that plant improvements were on track and that initial post-grading sheep numbers indicated approximately 15-18,000 would be available.

Falkland Island Meat Company Limited
Non-executive Directorship

Meat exports from the Falkland Islands are about to enter an exciting stage as the Falkland Island Meat Company Limited, is to take over the development of the abattoir business from FIDC. This recognises the importance of developing a successful meat exporting industry run by the private sector. FIDC will continue to provide financial and management support but the directors of FIMCo will be responsible for the commercial development of meat exports from The Falkland Islands. FIDB is looking to appoint a board of directors largely made up of the farming community with representation from the RBA and FIDC.

FIDB believe that this board could be strengthened by the appointment of a successful member of the business community who believes in the importance of developing a meat exporting industry and who would ideally have broad commercial experience, gained in farming, meat, retail, shipping or commerce.

Interested? To find out how your expertise could contribute to this important project please contact Julian Morris at FIDC, tel: 27211 or email julianmorris@fidc.co.fk. Directors will not be paid a remuneration but will be reimbursed expenses.

SHEEP ABORTIONS IN THE FALKLANDS

By Sue Harvey

This year as a result of the AI/ET program there has been increased observation and improved husbandry of selected ewes prior to lambing. Throughout the world farmers have problems with ewes aborting, occasionally in so called 'storms' with devastating consequences. It came as no surprise, that this year that was some low-level abortion observed on a few farms in the Falklands.

There are many causes of abortion in sheep, however to date the only cause that the veterinary department believes that we have here is **Toxoplasmosis**. For a definitive diagnosis (that is a diagnosis beyond doubt) we need to find infected material either from an aborted lamb or aborted afterbirth. It doesn't appear to be easy to collect that material here! However, what we have demonstrated, is that all the aborted ewes that we have blood sampled in the Falklands this year, show in their blood, that they have met the disease toxoplasmosis at some time in their life. The fact that all the ewes had good levels of the toxoplasma antibody would indicate that they have met the disease recently and we can thus presume that toxoplasma caused them to abort.

Toxoplasmosis is caused by a protozoon called *Toxoplasma gondii*. It interferes with the passage of nutrients and oxygen across the placenta. **Cats are the source of the infection** for sheep and other animals (including man). **It is not spread by sheep,** either ewe to ewe or ram to ewe. It is usually the young cats that excrete the infection, passing it on to sheep through their faeces. Feed can be contaminated either at the merchants or in the farmer's own store. Hay and straw make ideal nesting sites for pregnant queens and can also be a source of the infection. Older healthy cats are not usually a source of the infection. Having a neutered cat population around your yard is more likely to prevent infection than trying to eliminate young cats as they appear.

Sheep can be infected at any stage of their life and unless they are pregnant the infection will pass with very little effect. These sheep will then be immune to the disease for the rest of their life. If a ewe first meets the disease in early pregnancy the foetus will be reabsorbed and the ewe will be empty. Infection later in pregnancy can lead to abortion, a mummified foetus or the birth of a weak lamb. It is when a flock is exposed to the disease for the first time during pregnancy that the results can be catastrophic. Later pregnancy is the time when ewes are likely to be given supplementary feed and kept around or in barns, so it is much more common than you might think.

Ewes that have aborted from toxoplasmosis should be kept for future breeding, as they are now immune. A vaccine is available that gives protection for at least 2 lambing seasons. As any vaccinated ewes are likely to meet the infection within this time and hence have their immunity boosted, it is often given as a once in a life-time dose. The vaccine needs to be given at least 3 weeks before mating. Once the Veterinary Department has a cost of this vaccine we will let it be known to farmers.

There are many other causes of ewe abortion. Blood tests on Falkland Island ewes show some low-level antibodies as one of these causes. At the moment it is thought this is likely to be due to a cross-reaction with a similar disease in birds. We are investigating this and will keep readers informed of any further developments.

RASPBERRY AND ALMOND MASCARPONE CAKE

Serves about 25
Preparation 45 mins.
Cooking 2 hours
Can be made a day ahead. Split and fill cake on the day of serving.

500g butter, softened
3 cups (660g) caster sugar
8 eggs
2 cups (300g) plain flour
1½ cups (225g) self-raising flour
1 cup (110g) almond meal
1 cup (250ml) milk
1cup (140g) slivered almonds, toasted, chopped finely
400g fresh or frozen raspberries
400g Vienna almonds

MASCARPONE CREAM
750g mascarpone
300g sour cream
1 cup (160g) icing sugar mixture
1/3 cup (80ml) Cointreau or Grand Marnier

Preheat oven to moderately slow (160°C/140°C fan-forced). Grease a deep 30cm round cake pan. Line the base and sides with two layers of baking paper, extending 5cm above edge of pan.

Beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating until just combined between additions (the mixture may appear curdled at this stage).

Transfer the mixture to a very large bowl; fold in sifted flours, almond meal and milk in three batches. Fold in chopped almonds and raspberries, then spread the mixture into prepared pan.

Bake in a moderately slow oven for 1 hour, then reduce the oven temperature to slow (150°C/130°C fan-forced) and bake for a further 1 hour or until cooked when tested. Stand cake for 20 minutes; turn onto a wire rack to cool.

MASCARPONE CREAM: Beat mascarpone, sour cream and icing sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until soft peaks form; stir in liqueur.

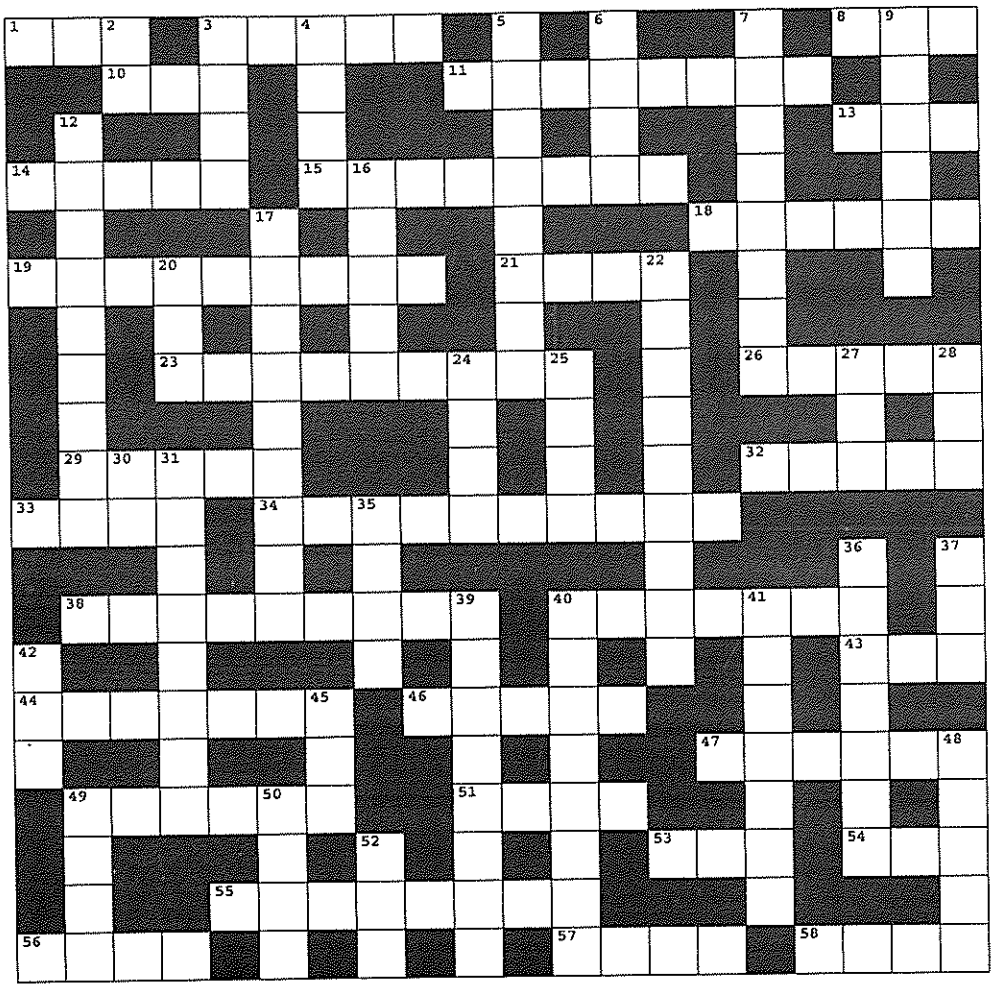
Using a large serrated knife, split the cake into three layers. Place the base layer on a serving plate; spread with a third of the Mascarpone Cream, repeat the layering, ending with the Mascarpone Cream.

Decorate the top of the cake with Vienna almonds.

Unfilled cake suitable to freeze
Not suitable to microwave.

COOKS NOTE: If you are using frozen raspberries for this recipe do not thaw them. Frozen berries are less likely to "bleed" into the cake mixture

DEC 03



ACROSS

1. INLAND MARSHY AREA
3. UNITS OF LINEAR MEASUREMENTS ON LAND
8. NUMBER OF TEETH WANTED FOR XMAS!!
10. LARGE SNAKE
11. GAME PLAYED AT END OF RACE DAYS (3,2,3)
13. COLOUR OF SANTAS SUIT
14. TRADITIONALLY FOUND ON TOP OF XMAS TREE
15. GRILL FOOD OUTDOORS
18. A CAVE WITH INTERESTING NATURAL FEATURE
19. HANG THESE OVER THE FIREPLACE
21. WADING BIRD
23. O LITTLE TOWN OF ????
26. SANTAS LITTLE HELPERS
29. SHRUB WITH FRAGRANT YELLOW FLOWER
32. ATTIC
33. DRY AND WITHERED
34. FRUIT FOUND IN STOCKING??
38. CHILDREN MAY LEAVE THESE OUT FOR SANTA??
40. HE HAD THE RED NOSE!
43. THE HOLLY AND THE?
44. TRADITIONALLY PLACED ON THE HEARTH FIRE ON XMAS EVE
46. RABBITS HOUSE
47. ADEQUATE
49. BIRD EATEN AT CHRISTMAS
51. LOSE COLOUR
53. THERE WAS NO ROOM HERE?
54. JAPANESE CURRENCY
55. SCOTTISH NEW YEARS EVE
56. PLENTY OF THESE WILL BE PLACED AT THE RACES
57. SANTAS BAG?
58. SHORT FOR CHRISTMAS

DOWN

2. NOTE WELL (1,1)
3. MOTHER OF CHRIST
4. EATEN IN THE FI FOR XMAS LUNCH
5. THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
6. MADE FROM SOYA MILK
7. THIS IS HELD ON NEW YEARS DAY (4,4)
9. OUTSIDE DOOR DECORATION
12. ONE IN A PEAR TREE?
16. MESSENGER OF GOD
17. KISS UNDER THIS!!
20. BABY BEAR
22. THEY WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS
24. CONCEAL
25. SMALL CAR!
27. A VEHICLE WITH REAR OR SIDE DOORS
28. NUMBER OF TURTLE DOVES
30. OREGON (abbrv.)
31. USED TO PULL SANTAS SLEIGH
35. STRONG METAL PIN WITH FLAT HEAD
36. IT ALLOWS SMOKE TO ESCAPE
37. CUT AND DRIED GRASS
39. FOUND INSIDE THE TURKEY!!
40. FI 2 DAY EVENT AFTER XMAS (4,4)
41. SANTAS HOME TOWN!!
42. CHEST FOR NEWLY MINTED COINS
45. MERRIMENT
48. PULLS HARD
49. YOU DECORATE THESE IN DECEMBER
50. PUBLIC SCHOOL
52. FLIGHTLESS BIRD