The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES!!

EDITORIAL

The last month has not only been extremely busy for DOA staff but also for farmers involved in the sheep ET/AI programme on East and West Falkland. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this major sheep improvement programme and ensured that all went to plan. Damien's article this month on managing pregnant ewes is a well-timed reminder about taking action to maximise successful lambing.

It is particularly gratifying to read in this month's publication that Lafonia is free of bovine tuberculosis. Do read Sue Harvey's article on the subject. A great deal of work by Sue, FLH staff and farmers around the Islands has gone into testing cattle in order to declare farms free of TB which creates an excellent foundation for developing a beef industry. If you are breeding pigs, note Sue's article on a small burrowing mite that causes sarcoptic mange. Let's see if we can eradicate it from stock in the Falklands.

Thank you Peter and Shelley Nightingale from West Lagoons Farm for your article on your SRS project. We welcome articles from farmers willing to share their experiences and trials with new products and breeds so please remember to get the camera out and send in some photographs and your thoughts for future publications.

Mandy McLeod leaves us as the end of June after 16 years with the Department. Thank you Mandy for the considerable contribution that you have made to farming over the years. Her article outlines her travelling plans and we wish her all the best for the future. We also say good bye to Sue Harvey at the end of July and thank her for all her veterinary work over the last two years. Vic Epstein, her replacement from Australia will be here in late August. We welcome Sian Ferguson to the team while student trainees, Chester Crowie and Cathy Jacobsen, move on to pastures new and we wish them well.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Farmers' Week. The DOA, with farm participation, will be running two days of presentations on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 July in the FIDF Hall, so see you there.

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

GOOD BYE & FAREWELL

Cathy Jacobsen

Hello, just a little goodbye note to everyone in the Department of Agriculture. I have had a wonderful 5 months at the Dept, and will miss it greatly. I have enjoyed working with you all, and will miss the tasks - especially ones Damien decides to challenge me with! During my time I have covered a range of work including;

Scanning: Lucy has dragged me from place to place to do scanning. We scanned at Saladero, Goose Green twice, the Sound House - the very first time Lucy and I have scanned outside. Then The Wreck at North Arm, another outsider.

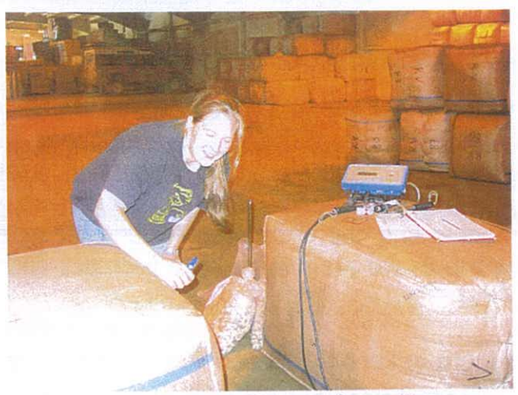
Scanning at The Wreck, North Arm

Coring: Again working with Lucy, at the wool warehouse, on FIPASS. Had a good time with everyone did their coring whilst I was there.

Weighting sheep at camp and the abattoir: Nearly every week I have travelled to Cape Dolphin to weigh lambs that are involved with the grazing project. At a later date I followed them through the abattoir to get the carcass weights, then I had the lovely job of finding the overall loss.

Grazing program: On my first day I was out and about with Gordon and Chester. We went to Fitzroy, Estancia, and Swan Inlet, for samples of grass. When we arrived back in town, we went straight to the lab to dry the grass out. Then we found out the dry weight, and compared the difference between moist and dry.

Veterinary Dept: I did this for a week as Sarah was off. Answering the phone, trying to sort appointments out was sometimes a nightmare. I give Sarah credit, as it isn't as simple as most would think.



Me core testing at the wool warehouse

Wool Classing Course: I did loads of work on this. As soon as Des Humphreys got here he gave me heaps to do. I also participated in the course, as many of you did. I enjoyed helping with the course and learnt a lot whilst typing it all up.

Artificial insemination and Embryo Transfer: I have been out to Saladero and Goose Green a few times. I've done a mixture of things: Scrubbing, Injecting, and transferring embryos from Saladero to Goose Green.

WHEN YOU GOTTA GO, YOU GOTTA GO...

Mandy McLeod

Its nearly 16 years since I started working at the Agricultural Department (as it was titled then) as the clerk / vet's assistant. That was back in the days just before we and ARC became one department, and had just changed from our old fashioned internal telephone exchange (one of those antique contraptions with plugs and leads – one step up from tin cans and string!), to the modern Cable and Wireless system.

The newly installed fax machine 'would never catch on', the FIG payment vouchers were all typed up on the 'golf ball' typewriter, and the concept of a 'Windows' environment for the two computers we had, wasn't even a twinkle in Mr Gates' Microsoft eye! Hasn't a lot happened in a short time (and how did we manage without email)?

The joys of working at the DOA!!

I've worked with 4 directors, seen 36 contract officers and their families come and go, and worked with 75 different people in all (that's assuming that I've remembered everyone). The old lab and pokey little vet surgery has been replaced in the new wing, and the main building had a re-vamp. I've seen a lot of changes in agriculture in the Falklands, both in the department and the industry. I've seen the highs and I've seen the lows (and the very, very lows), but altogether we have moved on a great deal, particularly in recent years with the acceptance of change and willingness to look at (not necessarily do, because not everything is right for us) differing methods and concepts.

I'm not going to go on and on, but would just like to say that I've had a good time and enjoyed most of the work (to say <u>all</u> would be lying as operating on a gangrenous dog isn't exactly pleasant, neither is handling subsidy and grant programmes during hard times). All in all though, it's been a progressive and fun department to work in, with a good team spirit, and I shall miss it. I've been involved in just about every edition of the Wool Press from the start, so it holds a place dear to me (those first crosswords used take me a couple of evenings to do with pencil and ruler, before I got one I could do on the computer).

What now? Well John and I have things we want to do that we put off 30 years ago in favour of a mortgage and family! The mortgage is over half way through and Louise has just completed her post-graduate training as an English Teacher, which hopefully means employment and independence (at last) and gets us off the financial hook in that respect, so in July we are off. We go to Australia for 3 months and call in to New Zealand for a few weeks on the way back (and it's not a shopping trip as we are just taking a rucksack each). We are returning to the Falklands on November the 5th .

I'll spend the summer doing odd jobs here and there to keep a few pennies rolling in (if you need a cook for shearing, give me a ring) and then we are going to St Helena for a couple of months next winter. By then the savings will have run out so I will have to look for a proper

full time job, but I'll tackle that when the time comes. It's this urge to go, to do something more and see a bit of the world before we're too old and decrepit, that has brought about the decision to leave.

I just don't see the point in working till 65 (even if you love the job) to watch the savings grow for retirement, and then possibly not be fit enough to enjoy it, so the decision is made and John and I shall take our chances upon return. We may not end up as 'well off' pensioners, but we will have a wealth of experiences that we otherwise wouldn't have without taking the plunge, and I do believe in the saying 'As one door closes, others will open'. You only live once!

I also want to give a big thank you to all the farmers I've worked with over the years, and the DOA staff. I'll not say goodbye though, as I'm sure we will cross paths again in the future.

HELLO...

Siân Ferguson

I was quite looking forward to my move up to the Department of Agriculture until I was told to write an introductory piece for Wool Press, but here goes nothing...

Since moving into town six years ago, I've worked at LMW, FIBS, spent a couple weeks at the DOA and BFBS on Work Experience and then headed off to Peter Symonds College for two years, studying Geography, Media Studies and English Literature and Applied Maths, managing to squeeze a pottery and sign language courses in between.

Then I moved home, spent a year at the FIC Flight Booking office, moved back to FIBS and now I'm up at the DOA and I don't think that everyone has realised yet what they have let themselves in for!! So far I've spent a couple of days at Saladero helping with the AI/ET programme, got to grips with the office side of things and even caught tonsillitis (although I'm blaming that on being crazy enough to enter the midwinter swim), so who knows what is coming next...

I've also taken over the duty of Wool Press Editor, so please feel free to email, fax or post articles to me on anything that you have been working on that might be of benefit or interest to others (and to stop me pulling my hair out in frustration when there's nothing to put in the next edition!!).

My email address is sferguson@doa.gov.fk or you can give me a ring on 27355.

ADDRESSING THE SHEARER SHORTAGE

Source: Scottish Farmer, as provided by Mike Allan

Contract shearers should be paid between sixty five and seventy pence a sheep, according to the Scottish Sheep Shearing Association, which was formed last year. This is due to an increasing shortage of shearers which not only exists in the UK, but also in Australia and New Zealand, where the average age of shearers there is more than forty years.

The shearer shortage is being put down to the job being seasonal and those wishing to take it up professionally having to work overseas to maintain employment throughout the year and other trades offer more appealing salaries and benefits.

Other factors are the physical aspect of the work and the years it takes as a trainee before you become skilled and proficient enough to earn a decent wage to live on.

The Association has decided that the best way to tackle these problems was to apply a headage rate, although this would not be the rate agreed between the contractor and farmer. As a result, a sub-committee was formed which found that the cost of each sheep was 17.3 pence, based on two shearers shearing 200 a day for an eight week season, although if a lesser number of sheep were shorn, the costs would increase proportionally.

SCRATCHING PIGS – SARCOPTIC MANGE

Sue Harvey

This parasite has been found on a pig in the Falklands. World wide it is a common problem of pigs (67% of pig farms in the UK were infected in 1990) but until recently I was unaware that we had a problem here in the Falklands. The last pig to be imported into the Islands was in 1997 and I would be extremely surprised if the parasite had made its way here by any means other than in the skin of a live pig. Falkland pig farmers need to be aware of this parasite; it can cause production losses and even death. It is easily treated, though it could be hard to eradicate under Falklands conditions where pigs do not live in purpose built accommodation that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Symptoms

Scratching is usually the first thing to be noticed. The first lesions often appear as small red spots around the eyes, snout and on the inside of the ears. The armpit and the front of the back leg can also be affected. With more scratching these areas become damaged with brown scabs. Later the skin becomes thickened, wrinkly and covered with crusts. Sometimes the pig can get a thick ear from bursting a blood vessel in the ear from excessive head shaking.

Cause

A small burrowing mite called *Sarcoptes scabei* var *suis.* This mite is thought to have a number of subspecies that are host (type of animal) specific. It is possible that this mite

could transfer to cattle (lesions seen on the inner thigh and under neck and brisket). In sheep the lesions do not normally spread to the woolled skin. As far as I know the mite we have here has only been found on pigs. Humans can become infected if handling infected stock but the lesions will disappear if further contact is prevented. The female mites can lay up to 50 eggs before they die with the eggs taking 2 weeks to become adult. The mite can only breed on the pig and may survive up to 3 weeks in moist places off the pig (important for control).

Diagnosis

The clinical signs of scratching and rubbing, along with broken hairs and crusts are highly suggestive of mange. Confirmation can be made in the laboratory by the examination of deep skin scrapings. The inside of the ear is a good place to look and sometimes the examination of the ear was can show mites when none are found in the skin scrapings.

Treatment

The easiest way to treat pigs is by an injection of Ivomec® (cattle worm and parasite injection) or other similar product. Ivomec needs to be given at a slightly higher dose rate of 1ml/33kg in pigs compared to cattle. The product is licensed for use with the specific pig injection being available in 50ml bottles. We have 200ml bottles in the vet section and can provide anyone with small amounts. The pig should be injected in the neck, under the skin away from the best cuts of meat. Injecting pigs can be a memorable experience. Ivomec will take 7-14 days to kill the mites so do not expect instantaneous results.

Before Ivomec became available the only way to treat the pigs was with a strong mange wash. The chemicals used in the wash are now difficult to get hold of and the treatment is not nearly as effective or easy to use as Ivomec. It is the only treatment mentioned in older pig husbandry books.

Control/Eradication

As the mite can not live off pigs for very long, in theory the mite can be eradicated by 2 injections 14 days apart. The pigs will however need to be moved to cleaned accommodation, which is not easy with outdoor pigs. Survival of the mite off the pig is shorter in warmer conditions so a warm summer would be the best time to attempt any eradication. Pre-farrowing treatment of the sow will prevent infection of the piglets. Boars should be treated at 2-3 monthly intervals.

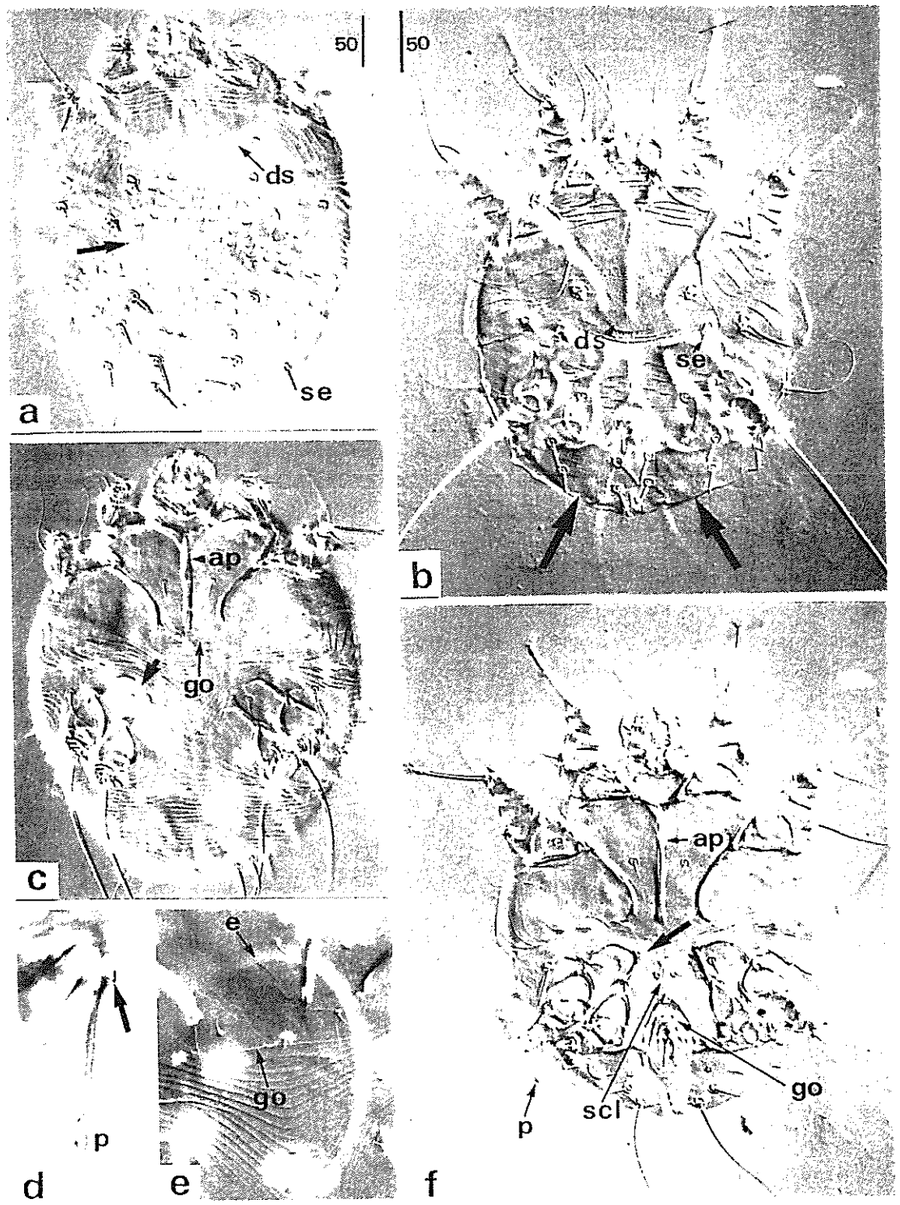
Falkland Situation

I suspect the mite has been here for a long time. The sow that we found the mites on might well have had her immune system compromised from another problem. However the other pigs that she was in contact with are now scratching. Many disease conditions, mites and worms being no exception, will only become a problem when animals are raised intensively and subject to stress. It could well be that the majority of Falklands pigs, with their healthy outdoor lifestyle and goose diet, may well fight off the clinical signs of the mange. Studies of regular treatment of pigs with Ivomec have shown an 8-10% improvement in daily live-weight gain and feed conversion efficiency under many different husbandry systems.

The veterinary section is happy to discuss any treatment/control on an individual farm basis. However I have no reservations in recommending that any scratching pigs are given an injection of Ivomec or similar product.

SARCOPTES SCABIEI (LINNAEUS)

Sue Halfacre



(a) Female dorsal view
(b) Male dorsal view
(c) Female ventral view
(d) apex & ambulacrum of tarsus
(e) female genital area
(f) Male ventral view

ap = apodemes I
ds = dorsal shield
e = egg
go = genital opening
p = pulvillus
scl = sclerite
se = seta

Common names
Itch mite, sarcoptic mange mite

Hosts
The mites infest a wide range of mammals including humans and domestic livestock. They occur in tunnels in the corneus layer of the skin, preferring sparsely haired areas such as the face, ears, hock, base of tail and inner surface of the limbs. If left untreated, the infestation may spread over the whole body.

Burrowing and feeding causes irritation, which the host normally reacts to by scratching vigorously. This leads to an inflamed lesion with serous exudation, which then becomes covered in a spongy encrustation. Eventually the skin wrinkles, thickens, the hair falls out and if left untreated leads to death.

Distribution
World-wide

Lifecycle
- Comprises of egg, larva, male and female protonymph and tritonymph and adult.
- Development from egg to adult takes 10 – 14 days.
- Fertilised females lay their eggs in 1-2cm long tunnels into the skin. The resulting larvae exit and moult to the successive stages on the skin surface.
- Protonymphs & tritonymphs do not burrow but use hair follicles for shelter.
- Males and unfertilised females make short tunnels of up to 1mm but mating apparently occurs on the surface of the skin.
- After fertilisation, females make the long burrows in which they will later oviposit.

RAINFALL TOTALS

Damien O'Sullivan

If you collect rainfall figures or would like to collect rainfall figures for us and provide the totals on a regular basis please contact us and DoA can supply you with a rain gauge.

Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Stanley	2005	**67**	**29**	**77**	**49**	**39**	**35**
	Average	*74*	*57*	*59*	*58*	*58*	*50*
MPA	2005	**77**	**33**	**48**	**56**	**48**	**22**
	Average	*61*	*47*	*57*	*49*	*54*	*58*
Head of Bay		**88**	**30**	**67**	**42**	**66**	**25**
Elephant Beach		**68**	**23**	**69**	**22**	**57**	**30**
Swan Inlet		**55**	**29**	**45**	**38**	**50**	**16**

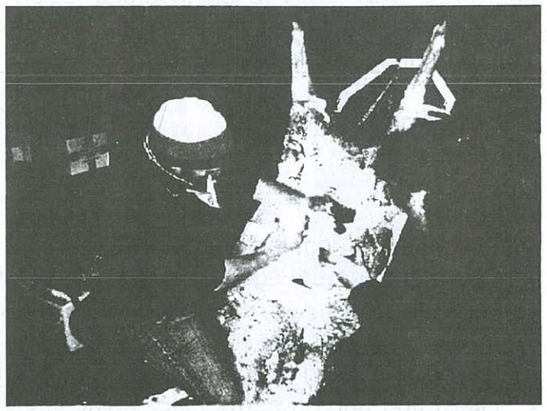
Thanks to Met office MPA, Andrez Short, Ricky Evans and Ted Jones for monthly data.

2005 AI/ET PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Nyree Heathman, Damien O'Sullivan and Michylla Seal

With the aim of giving Falkland farms the choice and opportunity to improve wool quality, wool quantity and meat characteristics, a team of three have been in the Islands to carry out this years AI and ET programme.

Work on the programme started back in January when the order forms were returned from farms. It has taken a great deal of preparation to ensure that the programme ran as smoothly as possible, bearing in mind the distance from suppliers and time involved to get goods to the Islands.



Mick and Lucy flush a ewe at Saladero

Vets Adrian Veitch and Michylla Seal from Adrian's Australian sheep reproduction company AllStock WA, along with embryologist Eliza Gravett (who was also mad enough to take part in the midwinter swim!) have been to Coast Ridge, West Lagoons and Cape Dolphin, in addition to three weeks spent at Goose Green and Saladero where the majority of the work took place.

Success rates with the imported frozen embryo's are usually in the region of 40%, and it is expected that the fresh embryo's will achieve a pregnancy rate of around 60%. We will have a good idea of likely success in a couple months once the recipient ewes have been pregnancy scanned.

Overall it is estimated that approximately four thousand embryo transfers have taken place with Dohne Merino, SAMM, Cormo, Poll Dorset, Polwarth, Merino and Corriedale breeds. Accurate numbers will be available once the programme is completed and the data analysed.

Eliza counts embryos at Saladero

Vet Michylla has been working for Adrian for five years and has spent the last three years doing reproduction work in sheep full time. During that time she has worked in China, New Zealand and throughout Australia, and she may be going to India later on this year.

There has already been a lot of interest in next year's programme which it is hoped will be mainly carried out "on farm", giving farmers individual breed choices and the option of using their own selected sheep.

Nyree will be helping all farmers with the plans for next year as soon as this programme is over.

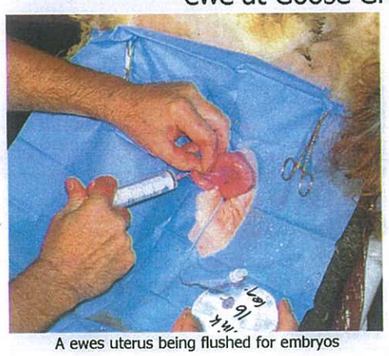
A big thank you must go out to all who were involved in the programme, especially Nyree, John and Viv at Saladero, Brian and his team at Goose Green, Sheena and everyone at Cape Dolphin and participating farmers for all their hard work.

Nyree with an embryo ready to transplant at Goose Green

Two ewes that have been shorn, shaved and washed in preperation for flushing

Adrian transplants an embryo into a donor ewe at Goose Green

The ewe next in line undergoes sedation



A ewes uterus being flushed for embryos

Chester shaves a ewe before flushing

Buggy prepares a donor ewe for an embryo transplant at Goose Green

INVESTMENT CHOICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PENSIONS SCHEME

All members (public and private sector employees, and the self-employed) of the Falkland Islands Pensions Scheme (FIPS) can now choose whether to invest their pension savings in equities, bonds, cash or any combination. This move to give members more control over crucial investment decisions follows the introduction of the new All Equity Portfolio which offers members investment exposure to overseas equity markets.

Investment managers Fidelity offer five investment funds – the equity-based Balanced Portfolio and All Equity Portfolio, the bond-based UK Gilt Fund and UK Corporate Bond Fund, and a Cash Fund. Members can split their future pension contributions between the five funds in whatever proportions they choose. They can also reapportion their accumulated personal pension account across the funds.

A default option – LifePlan – is offered for members who do not feel confident about taking direct control of their personal retirement saving strategy. However, Fidelity have produced a questionnaire called 'What type of investor are you?' which allows members to make investment decisions after assessing their investment aims, family and financial circumstances, and personal attitude to risk.

The Fidelity questionnaire, together with another Fidelity publication called 'Guide to investing' which explains more about saving for retirement, are being sent to every FIPS member along with information sheets on each of the five investment funds, and an investment instruction form.

Members are also asked to consider their individual 'target retirement age', as this can also have an effect on investment decisions as they approach retirement, when most individuals want to take a more conservative approach to protect their accumulated pensions savings from market volatility. All investment decisions can be amended at any time. The Pensions Board and Pensions Officer are not able to provide investment advice, but links to independent financial advisers in the UK can be found through the FIPS website – **www.fipension.co.uk.**

Members may also enjoy using the website to check the performance of their individual pension account, or to use the Pension Planner modelling tool which illustrates the impact of making changes to their retirement plan (be it altering their contribution rate, planned retirement age, or the amount they would like to receive once they retire.

If you are not a member of FIPS, but would like to find out more, contact the Pensions Officer Mr Nigel Dodd at Treasury.

If you have something like that you would like to share with the Wool Press community, then let us know. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

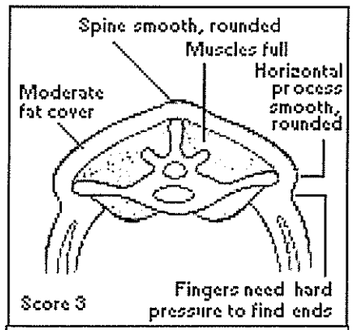
Telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for more details or to submit your article.

MANAGING PREGNANT EWES

Damien O'Sullivan

Breeding ewes provide the future for all farms and careful management of pregnant ewes can make significant differences to ewe survival, lambing rate and the lifetime production potential of the lambs. The ewe is pregnant for 145 to 150 days. There are three main stages of pregnancy:

Early pregnancy – first 28 days
Mid pregnacy – 28 to 98 days
Late pregnacy – 98 to 150 days



Ewes need to be at least Body condition score 3 during pregnancy

Early pregnancy – first 28 days

Ewes in the early stages of pregnancy need careful management to minimise embryonic losses. After mating the fertilised embryo does not attach to the uterus wall until the third week following mating. Ewes in the first 3 weeks of pregnancy should be handled as little as possible. All forms of stress such as movement, dogs, handling or change in diet etc should be avoided. The nutrition of the ewe at this stage should be the same as during mating. Remember a rising plane of nutrition is recommended at tupping with a body condition of 3+.

Mid Pregnacy – 28 to 98 days

During this period there is some foetal growth. At 84 days weight of the foetus and uterine membranes is only 25% of the final weight at birth. A 5% loss in body weight is acceptable during the period when the nutrient demands are not so critical but obviously maintenance of body weight is the aim.

Late pregnancy – 98 to150 days.

75% of foetal growth occurs in the final 50 days of pregnancy. Feeding and management during this period is critical to ensure adequate lambing rates and birth weights. A ewe needs a body condition score of at least 3. The rapidly growing foetus greatly increases the ewe's requirements for nutrients and in particular for energy. The ewe cannot produce her best lamb on a maintenance ration let alone on a below maintenance ration. Pre-lamb shearing does have advantages for the ewe, but most advantages from it is gained by eliminating stress related breaks in the wool fibre.

If we give our ewes the best nutrition possible we will:

- maximise the number of lambs born. Falkland Island research shows ewes 30-32kg = 20% marking, 40-42kg ewes = 60% marking.
- ensure a lamb stores an adequate supply of its own brown body fat which will help it survive cold conditions for several weeks after birth.
- maximise the number of secondary follicles the sheep will have, which will help to reduce overall fleece micron and increase wool production for the rest of the sheep's life.
- maximise the number of potential milk producing cells in the udder of female lambs to ensure they have adequate milk for their progeny.

A spelled camp with protection and excellent feed is essential for producing lambs that will have the best potential production for your farm.

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY UPDATE

John Ferguson, Operations Manager

Although Farmers Week is coming up soon, during which we will be giving a more detailed report, I thought I'd write a few lines now with a brief update.

2005 EXPORT SEASON

Production – Just over 23,200 sheep and lambs were slaughtered:

Sheep	20,117	20.2kg
Hoggets	1,269	13.3kg
Lambs	1,882	11.8kg

Meat - All of the export meat product has now been shipped, with 280,000kg being loaded into 22 reefers. The last shipment of 9 reefers contains approx 40% of the seasons total production. Approx 200 cartons of meat remain at Sand Bay to be sold into the local market.

Skins – Approx 22,000 skins are ready to be shipped to Chile, and will be sent next month in 11 containers. Samples have also been sent to 2 companies in the UK for evaluation.

The season itself went well following a 'settling in' period, with production being stabilised above the target of 400/day, with record days of 450+. There were some unexpected shortfalls in livestock supply, which at short notice, badly disrupted production. This is an area that we all have to concentrate on, and will be discussed more in-depth during Farmers Week and the run up to the 2006 season.

LOCAL MARKET

From 1st June FIMCo entered the local market, and is currently supplying the main retailers, some restaurants and other customers.

The Sand Bay team are adapting to this type of production, particularly the type of retail cuts and packaging required, which is quite different to the export season.

From a farmers perspective, one of the biggest changes is that beef (in particular) is now supplied live as opposed to part boned primals or ¼'s. This can cause difficulties with transport when the weather is bad, and we are working on a 'back-up' supply for these occasions.

FIMCo is keen to take livestock from all farmers, although the logistics of doing so does create difficulties for those on the West and Islands.

Although the risk to FIMCo is high (from stress, bruising etc) we have already undertaken one trial run with cattle being sent directly to the plant from the West, and have another run organised for the coming voyage. However, this can only work practically on a limited basis, and with cattle that are both in good condition and which have been handled. Options on ways to supply are needed – with a few mentioned below (some of which have been, or are currently being done):

(a) Directly to the plant, although we can only take a limited number at a time, and (as with those supplying from the East) they have to be in suitable condition.

(b) Indirectly, with finished animals being sent from the West & Islands to an East farm / facility for a settling or de-stressing period (a week or so??) This may allow a larger number to be sent in one go.
NOTE This may also be an option for some East farmers, with transport & holding difficulties.

(c) Weaners, being finished on the East.

(d) The above may also apply to sheep for the local market (although we can hold a limited number of sheep at Sand Bay during the winter, we are not able to keep cattle).

The local market is clearly a difficult and emotive issue which is going to take time to stabilise, and we certainly do not have all the answers. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has constructive comments or suggestions.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Mike McRae has just joined us as Logistics Officer, so no doubt will be in contact with you in due course. Although Mike has a number of responsibilities, his main role will be livestock procurement and co-ordinating the supply to the plant, according to the plants production requirements.

Mike is well known to most, (too well to some!!) and is an experienced farmer and has practical knowledge of livestock movements and shipping. He has also been the FIMCo livestock grader, during the 1st export season.

Please contact Mike directly on all aspects of livestock, although I can be contacted with any particular concerns or issues. His e-mail address is currently being set up and will be logistics@falklands-meat.com

I would urge those wishing to supply (but whom haven't yet done so) to return their planning sheets as soon as possible. We are particularly keen to hear from farmers who may be able to supply mutton over the coming months.

We look forward to seeing you at Farmers Week!

GAP'S CLOSURE OF THEIR FALKLANDS PROJECT

Becky Loring

It is with great regret that GAP has announced the closure of their Falkland Islands project. Since 1995, GAP has sent over seventy young people to volunteer on the Island during their GAP year.

A large majority of these came home having had an amazing and rewarding experience. However, in recent years, interest from our customers for the project has waned and, despite our efforts, we have been unable to increase this.

GAP would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the project over the past ten years. So many people's happy memories of their GAP year are as a result of your care and hard work. Thank you all so much for your support.

LAFONIA FREE OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Sue Harvey

A big thank you to all farm managers and workers in Lafonia who have made it possible to tuberculosis (TB) test all the adult cattle in Lafonia. I am pleased to announce that no cases have been found and anyone buying cattle from that region in the Falklands can be confident that they will not introduce TB into their herd. Now is a good time to give a brief description of the disease and explain why and how we test for it.

Epidemiology
Tuberculosis is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis,* it can infect all species with cattle, goats and pigs being the most susceptible and sheep and horses showing a high natural resistance. It has been found all over the world and is now under strict control in most developed countries.

TB is of importance for 2 reasons, infected animals can loose up to 10-25% of their productivity or more importantly they risk the transmission on to humans. A number of local Falkland Islanders have been infected in the past. Infections in humans often occur through the consumption of infected milk, this risk can be significantly reduced by pasteurisation of the milk.

Many countries have problems with TB having got into a wildlife population which then re-infects the cattle. The most notorious of these are Badgers in Great Britain and Possums in New Zealand.

Clinical Signs
Despite working in a TB "hot spot" in New Zealand I have to confess that I have only once seen a clinical case of TB. That was in a Wapiti (Elk) bull that had what appeared to be a nasty abscess on his back leg (this is not a typical lesion). The reason for not seeing more clinical signs is that with compulsory yearly testing animals were detected in the early stages of the disease and slaughtered.

However, left to run its own course TB will cause progressive emaciation. Cattle can be exceedingly hungry and have a fluctuating temperature. Depending on the site of the lesion some will have a soft cough. The TB bacterium lives in the lymph nodes which will become enlarged.

Treatment
Treatment is not usually undertaken in animals due to the chronic nature of the disease and the potential risk of spread to humans. Once infected animals are identified they are slaughtered.

Control and Testing
Control is achieved by testing and then eliminating any infected animal. Most developed countries in the world have a compulsory testing scheme. This is usually government funded but in New Zealand the deer farmers pay for the individual test themselves. This has the advantage of encouraging the farmers to have good handling facilities to get the test done cheaper and hence more economically. The length of time between tests varies depending on the status of the individual farm and the area the farm lies in. Farms in infected areas are

tested yearly. There are international guidelines as to the frequency of testing, the interval between tests increasing as the status (infected or not) of the farms becomes known. In the Falklands we have a policy of testing 10% of the farms per year. I am happy to say that we have managed to double that this year and have tested over 20%.

Testing Procedures
The basic principles behind the test are to inject a small quantity of tuberculin (an extract of the bacteria that causes TB) into the skin and return 3 days later to see if there has been a reaction and a lump has formed at the injection site. Sometimes there can be problems with animals reacting when they have been exposed to avian (bird) tuberculosis, in this case 2 separate sites are used, one injected with cattle strain and the other with bird strain and the difference in the size of the lumps measured. The theory being that if the animal reacts more to the bird strain then it hasn't got real TB.

New Zealand, Australia, United Status and Canada use what is called the caudal fold test. We have recently adopted using this test in the Falklands. A small amount of tuberculin is injected into the skin at the side of the base of the tail. The United Kingdom and Europe use a more complicated (comparative) test where 2 sites are clipped on the side of the neck, the skin thickness measured and then one site injected with bird strain and the other with cattle strain. The caudal fold method has the advantages of being much quicker and less stressful on both the animal being tested and the person (vet) performing the test. Any reactors (common name for animals that have reacted to the test with a lump but are not yet confirmed to have tuberculosis) can be re-tested using the comparative test.

Since we have changed to the caudal fold test 1082 cattle have been tested and only 3 (all from the same farm) have had to be re-tested using the comparative test. After I arrived, but before we changed the test, a steer reacted twice (both times to the comparative test) this animal was slaughtered, samples of all the lymph nodes taken and sent to the UK to see if TB could be cultured. No TB was found.

SHEEP SPARED THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AFTER BOND STUNT

Source: www.ananova.com

A sheep has been spared the slaughterhouse after a daring James Bond style escape from a Welsh farm. Myfanwy the ewe leapt into a lake and swam nearly 100ft to a small island where she survived on daffodils.

She made her bid for freedom as her owner tried to round her up to take her to market and on to an abattoir. Myfanwy spent six weeks on the island before farmer Philip Robinson, from Nannerch near Mold, managed to bring her back. He has now decided to adopt her as the farm pet.

Mr Robinson said, "I left her for six weeks because we were busy with lambing and I took a boat over the island. When I tried to reach her, it was difficult... she ended up trying to swim back again."

MY TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT COMES TO A CLOSE

Chester Crowie

My Time at the Department...
I'm coming to the end of my time here at the Department of Agriculture where I've been working for the last five months, which for me has gone past in a blur. Since day one the whole department has made me feel very welcome and part of the team which has made fitting in up there very easy indeed.

Allthough I was assigned to working in the lab with Sue and Gordon I've had plenty of opportunity to work outside the lab which was a very good experience and helped me to find out what other people at work do. As a Result of this I have learned many new skills such as being able to work out the micron of a fleece and how to decide on which sheep to buy if at a sale.

This does not include the methods I learned while working in the lab like the correct way to wash greasy wool and how to work out dry matters.

The Grass Trials
One of the projects I was involved in was the Grazing trials which took place at Swan Inlet, Fitzroy and Estansia, and before working at the DoA I knew next to nothing about land management, within a short time Gordon and Neil told me the purpose to these trials and the benefit of doing them which, as the weeks went by, I came to see when I constructed spreadsheets on the locations and inserted the raw data. With the formulas the I then placed in the spreadsheets I could see just how far every Kg/ha could go. The whole point of theses trials was to show that managing the land which you use for your livestock could create *'x'* amount more wool and/or meat to sell.

Wool Classing at Goose Green
I also attended one of the wool classing work shops that took place at Goose Green's community hall. The four day cause was the most interesting thing I've been taught, I went from knowing nothing about wool apart from the little I'd picked up while wool testing in the lab to being able to tell the micron of it.

I learned an immense amount on wool classing, the wool industry and the problems that it's facing, which enlightened me vastly and made me think why the school down here doesn't teach things like this.

Des Humphrey was a superb teacher managing to make even the most boring parts entertaining and very enjoyable for all the people that came along to Goose Green for the event.

The Ram Sale
This being the first Ram sale I'd ever attended made the entire experience an excellent opportunity to find out what to look for when getting a good Ram for your farm. I was not too sure what to expect when I got there and how the day was going to be run but it turned out quite straight forward and I enjoyed myself.

Neil gave Paul Sammon and I a quick crash cause in buying... what to look for and what aspects of the animal will be a big part in the over all factor in buying. He set us a task of choosing some animals to buy if we were in the market to get some rams.

At the end of the day after helping out with the barbeque and packing the relevant sheep in to there respective places to be taken away with the buyers I told Neil that it was a good job that I was not buying rams because the ones I had picked were all far to pricey in the end for the 'budget' I was allocated.

AI/ET Program
The last few weeks working up at the department I was invited to take part in the ET AI program out at Saladero. I was very interested on how the whole procedure went and learned that the operation for extracting the embryos is far less complicated and faster than I had originally anticipated.

Damien showed me how to prepare the sheep for the flushing and I pitched in and helped shave and clean the sheep. While I was out there I also helped take the flushed embryos along the road to Goose Green for the other half of the team to insert them back in to other ewes. With multiple embryos flushed out of good breeding sheep many more not so good breeding ewes could have good wool making lambs to help improve flocks

Brucella testing
Sue showed me the very precision job of Brucella ovis/abortus testing, the importance of these tests and how critical it is to be very cautious when testing because contamination could lead to false results.

After getting confident helping out doing tests like these Sue allowed me to test a few samples in duplicate to her as a precaution and my results were good. I'd done the test to the letter and I had gained new skills

...Comes to a Close
I've thoroughly enjoyed my self at the department and I thank everyone up there and everyone I encountered while out at camp. All concerned have been brilliant to work with and I'll take all I've learned to college to with me.

ARRIVING SOON !

2 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT
TO HELP YOU WITH BREEDING SELECTION

The WOOLVIEW 20/20 and PRATTLEY Weigh Crate

The 'Wool View 20/20' is a hand held portable device for the measurement and characterisation (comfort factor) of wool fibre diameter to within one micron, without removing the wool from the sheep. It measures, calculates, displays and records:

- mean fibre diameter
- minimum fibre diameter
- maximum fibre diameter
- comfort factor

In addition, we have arriving a 3 way drafting weighing crate. Weigh your sheep at the same time as testing their wool (at no extra cost).

The 'Woolview' has been designed as a farm management tool; we can come to your farm and *within minutes* give you the information to help you make breeding selection decisions.
Test the micron of your wool and weigh the fleece to determine it's greasy fleece weight.

Price per sheep : 50p

Minimum fee per day : £50

Maximum fee per day : £200 (sheep tested free thereafter)

Travel costs extra

ALL costs are negotiable by quantity and location

Call Andrez at Swan Inlet for more information: 32266

WHAT IS SO GOOD ABOUT ROCK PHOSPHATE

Damien O'Sullivan

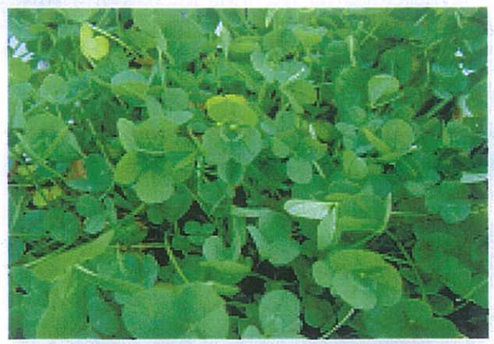
Some people have said "it looks just like gravel or sand" or "just some sort of soil/clay dug up and sold to make money". They are correct in some respects.. the Rock Phosphate is mined in Chile and graded with no further treatment. This is where some of its advantages lie.

The Rock Phosphate also known as Reactive Rock Phosphate reacts with acid soils and becomes available to plants. Legumes have a high calcium and phosphorous requirement and the addition of rock phosphate will, over time, encourage clovers and other legumes to increase in production. The breakdown process of rock phosphate occurs over a long time period. Do not expect to see a dramatic and quick change in pastures or crops with this fertiliser, it is not like urea. Often the benefits will be in more nutritious grass and better legume production.

Rock Phosphate

If we compare this cost on a unit basis to other phosphate fertilisers:

	Rate/ha	Cost/25kgs of Phosprous/ha	Other nutrients if spread at recommended rate/ha
Triple superphosphate	139 kgs	£46.5	19 kg Calcium
Reactive Rock Phosphate	309 kgs	£9.43	65 kg Calcium



Legumes such as clover respond well to Calcium available in Rock phosphate

Rock phosphate has the advantage over other chemical phosphate fertilisers of becoming available over a long period of time in very acid soils such as we have in the Falklands. In acid soils chemical phosphate fertilisers tend to bind to iron and aluminium in the soil becoming unavailable to plants. It is estimated that in some cases up to 95% of the phosphate applied in chemical fertilisers becomes unavailable after 21 days.

Rock phosphate is an excellent fertiliser and prices quoted for this product from Chile now exceed £260/tonne.

Farmers currently have the opportunity to purchase supplies of rock phosphate from the Department of Agriculture. The cost of the Rock phosphate is £30/tonne available at Stanley or Port on West Falkand. Transport to the farm is the responsibility of the farm. Remember though, rock phosphate must be spread to do any good, a pile in the paddock is no help to anyone.

NEW SHEEP GENETICS AT WEST LAGOONS FARM

Peter and Shelley Nightingale

Just thought we'd like to share with the farmers out there our plan for improving our flock. For the second year running we have just had 800 ewes inseminated with semen from Glendemar stud, Australia. This is about 2/3 of our breeding ewes. All went smoothly; I guess we were a little more organised than last year. Fingers and toes crossed for good weather in the spring. When we explain what we are attempting to do, the first question is usually:

Ewe Lambs from 1st AI cross at 5 months

What breed are you using?
The answer to that is that the same can be done with almost any breed; it is more a type we are aiming for.

Using the SRS® breeding system our aim is to breed a larger animal with long soft positive wool, and a body suitable for the abattoir. Our aims are for more meat, better mothers and a hogget micron diameter of 17-18µ. Honestly, it is possible, we have seen the results! Normally this would take years, but in this case because of inseminating large numbers, and more importantly classing all ewes and rams it can happen a lot quicker. It will have to; as unfortunately time waits for no one...

Wally classes ewes at the West Lagoons Shed

Already the lambs from last year show a marked difference, not just in our own opinion but have also been seen and given the thumbs up by people such as Des Humphrey (wool classer) and Adrian Veitch (Straw Doctor) and of course our very own Doug. Next year will be really exciting as we shall be working with the second cross, breeding from our own first batch of ewes and rams. Anyway, I could ramble on and on, but the other question is a big one:

How can we afford it?
Not easily in these times of depressed wool prices, our belts are tightened to the last notch. Seriously, because we are a seed stock producer for OVIS 21 and Glendemar, we can get the genetics for an extremely cheap price. Our mentor sheep classer, Wally O'Connor, visits us each year to advise us on ram selection, and to class all our breeding animals.

What do we have to lose?
Our sheep weren't too great to start with. Anyway, if anybody out there is interested, when Wally comes over next year, we hope to have an Open Day of sorts. He will be accompanied this time by Ben Duxson from Glendemar, so it should be interesting. More info closer the time...

So that is it, but must say a big thank you to our AI team once again Adrian, Nyree and Tim, for being at what is becoming our annual 2 nighter, and not forgetting Dog and Farrah and Karl. Thanks to all for the hard work and the good company. Also thanks to Neil and his gang at the Dept. of Ag for their continued help and support.

SHEEP URINE CUTS POLLUTING EMISSIONS FROM BUSES?!

Source: The Guardian

A British bus company is testing a new secret weapon that it hopes will help forward its push to cut its polluting emissions – sheep urine. Stagecoach has fitted a bus in Winchester with a tank containing the animal waste, which is sprayed into exhaust fumes to reduce emissions of harmful nitrous oxides.

A spokeman for the company said that it is a very novel way or reducing pollution and they believe it will work. Hampshire County Council are backing the scheme as part of its effort to reduce pollution.

The first lot of passengers were carried on the bus in May, Urine is collected from farmyard waste and then sold to be used in green engine technology. Ammonia from the urea reacts with nitrous oxides in the exhaust fumes and converts them to nitrogen gas and water, which is released in steam.

EU regulations tightening restrictions on emissions are to be brought in next year.

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTHS PUZZLE

Horsey Wordsearch by Mandy McLeod

C	O	L	T	P	E	R	C	H	E	R	O	N	D	D	F
L	K	C	A	T	R	R	A	C	E	S	T	O	R	T	E
E	O	P	B	I	E	R	E	N	A	Z	Z	I	P	I	L
V	E	N	R	A	R	G	Z	U	S	T	A	B	L	E	L
E	N	E	E	L	I	E	Z	P	I	N	T	O	N	O	N
L	A	W	T	P	H	A	C	K	N	E	Y	P	T	N	O
A	M	F	O	P	S	R	C	L	J	U	M	P	D	I	I
N	P	O	N	Y	B	L	A	O	F	A	R	A	N	M	L
D	A	R	T	M	O	O	R	F	I	L	L	Y	A	O	L
B	R	E	E	D	C	R	O	P	K	C	O	D	L	L	A
A	A	S	A	D	D	L	E	U	H	U	N	T	T	A	T
Y	B	T	F	J	O	R	D	S	T	I	R	R	U	P	S
C	L	Y	D	E	S	D	A	L	E	S	L	S	J	Z	P
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	R	O	A	N	Z	Z
Z	S	T	O	C	K	H	O	L	M	T	A	R	I	D	E
C	O	N	N	E	M	A	R	A	L	I	O	F	O	O	H

WORDSEARCH

C	H	S	V	E	F	B	V	O	B	M	S	V	Q	P
J	M	I	A	U	N	R	F	B	S	I	N	G	K	L
D	N	R	B	T	K	R	O	N	L	D	E	T	X	J
D	A	R	K	E	E	C	O	S	Y	W	T	S	I	R
J	M	J	B	E	R	W	Y	Z	T	I	T	E	Y	I
G	W	F	Z	J	F	N	W	J	F	N	I	V	A	N
B	O	I	V	L	M	X	A	Q	F	T	M	O	H	F
H	N	V	A	D	P	N	R	T	T	E	E	L	J	L
G	S	K	Q	W	O	N	S	L	E	R	S	G	T	U
L	E	G	N	I	H	G	I	E	L	S	C	Y	U	E
C	R	P	J	B	I	C	E	E	R	W	A	I	D	N
O	B	W	H	I	T	E	S	S	L	I	R	Q	L	Z

SNOWMAN
SNOW
FREEZING
SCARF
WHITE
COLD
MIDWINTERSWIM
INFLUENZA
FROST
SLEIGHING
ICE
MITTENS
GLOVES
SKIING
DARK
HIBERNATE
SNOWFLAKE
ANTARCTIC

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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Neil Judd

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Zoe Luxton

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John Ferguson

DARWIN SHIPPING
Eva Clarke

DEALING WITH BOILS
Damien O'Sullivan

SHEEP NUTRITION – FEEDING OF SHEEP IN WINTER
Doug Martin

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES AND MORE!!

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

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EDITORIAL

I always feel sorry for the compiler of the Wool Press in August, as it is a very difficult month in which to acquire articles. Departmental staff are exhausted after the trials and tribulations of preparing their presentations for Farmers Week and many of them are now looking forward to a well needed break in sunnier climes during the August school holidays. Having to prepare an article for the Wool Press rather interferes with trying to clear your desk of all those little jobs that you'd been meaning to get around to for the past few months. However, Sian has succeeded and you now have something to read to help fill those remaining bleak winter evenings.

Wasn't it a good Farmers Week this year? I thought it had a really positive feel to it and was particularly impressed by the presentations made by farmers themselves. That is something that should definitely be encouraged for future years. In this month's edition of the WP you can read a summary of the Farmers Week session by Neil Judd and also peruse a FIMCo update by John Ferguson. Damien O'Sullivan has written a short but informative article on Boils and Doug Martin provides some useful information on feeding your sheep in the winter.

If any of you have willow cuttings to spare then Ron Reeves in Port Howard would be very keen to hear from you. I was also interested in the rainfall figures for the past four months – all well below average for Stanley – making it one of the driest winters for many years. Is this a worrying indication of what might be in store later this year? I hope not.

Best wishes to you all,

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

FARMERS WEEK SESSION SUMMARY

Profitability of Breeding Flocks versus Balanced Flocks

Neil Judd

During "Farmers Week" a large number of farmers were involved in an exercise to calculate Gross Margins (GM's) for a range of sheep enterprises considered possible in the Falklands Islands.

To assist with the exercise, participants were asked to determine the Gross Margin required for the example "Falkland Islands" farm business to function at a profit.

Through general discussion it was determined that a GM of approximately £25,000 each year would be required to cover all of the overhead costs (including farmers labour) for a farm shearing about 4,000 sheep (approximately 5000 dry sheep equivalents).

For the "Farmers Week" session, a GM of less than about £25,000 implied that the hypothetical 5000 DSE farm was making a business loss and that a GM in excess of £25,000 represented profit.

In addition to setting a threshold GM of approximately £25,000 for business profitability, group discussion also determined the basic levels of sheep productivity in the Falkland Islands.

Such productivity levels were required to complete the GM exercise. For the exercise it was agreed that reproductive rates of 60%, greasy wool production of 3.50 kg per sheep shorn, hogget death rates of about 20%, ewe cast for age of 8.5 years and wethers of 7.5 and so on would be used.

Existing lamb and mutton prices were used as the basis for examining the GM's of the various enterprises.

Groups determined the GM for the following two potential *types* of sheep;

(A) Corriedale type, farm average fibre diameter of 26 micron
(B) Polwarth, Cormo, Dohne, SAMM cross types, farm average fibre diameter of 23 micron

For each of the two sheep types, three options were evaluated. It should be clearly noted that for each of the options examined the same overall stocking rate was used (5000 DSE), as follows;

(1) Balanced flock – about 35% of the DSE's as ewes, selling wethers at 7½ year of age plus current Falkland Island productivity levels, 60% lambing, high death rates etc.
(2) Balanced flock plus improved performance – about 30% of the DSE's as ewes (fewer needed because of the better lambing %, lower deaths etc), selling wethers at 7½ years of age. Higher levels of productivity, 70% lambing, reduced death rates etc.

(3) Breeding flock plus improved performance - selling 75% of wethers as lambs and remainder as hoggets. Higher levels of productivity, 70% lambing, reduced death rates etc. Stocking rate maintained at 5000 DSE.

Group Results – Gross Margins of Enterprise Options

Option	26 micron type	23 micron type
I. Balanced Flock • 35% ewes (cfa @ 8½) • Wethers cfa @ 7½ • 60% lambing, existing death rates • Existing wool and meat prices	GM = £18,000	GM = £22,200 *Improvement + 23%
II. Balanced Flock • 30% ewes (cfa @ 8½) • Wethers cfa @ 7½ • 70% lambing and improved death rates etc • Existing wool and meat prices	GM = £19,400 *Improvement + 7%	GM = £23,700 *Improvement + 31%
III. Breeding Flock • 70% lambing and improved death rates etc • Existing wool and meat prices	GM = £27,000 *Improvement + 49%	GM = £30,500 *Improvement + 69%

**Improvement above 26 micron balanced flock's gross margin result*

Key Points

- Only the two breeding flock options achieved GM's above the £25,000 that was estimated to be required to cover the example farms overall needs.
- It was agreed that in the "real world" not all farms would be able to switch completely to a full breeding flock, but the shift towards *more* breeding ewes and lamb production would generally produce a positive result.
- Best results are achieved when increasing breeding ewe numbers; improved overall reproductive performance and reduced death rates are all combined. Other options produced less improvement to farm Gross Margin.
- Attention to the overall stock management system including rotational grazing management would be required in most cases to achieve higher reproduction rates and reduced death rates
- The full breeding flock (5000 DSE) with improved productivity as examined at Farmers Week, had the potential to sell about 800 lambs plus 175 hoggets each year.
- Even a slight increase in ewe numbers and lambs sold each year had the ability to significantly improve farm GM. For example if the farm had the ability to sell only 200 excess lambs each year instead of almost 1000 lambs/hoggets, its GM would still have been improved by thousands of pounds over the "balanced flock" starting point.
- If nothing changes on a farm it is not likely that farm productivity or profitability will change much in the long term! Unfortunately in most farming communities, it is productivity improvement that is maintaining farm viability/profitability NOT improved commodity prices (wool, meat, skins etc)

Do not hesitate to contact any of the DOA Agricultural Advisors (Andrew, Doug, Damien or myself) if you would like to discuss any aspect of this Farmers Weeks session or if you would to run your own farm through the DOA Gross Margin model.

DARWIN SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOOL DELIVERY SHEETS

Eva Clarke, Manager

The Wool Delivery note is to be completed and sent into Darwin Shipping Ltd on the day of delivery of wool to Stanley. If sending wool via the MV Tamar please fax, email or post the form to the office on the day of sailing by MV Tamar.

For farmers who wish to core test their bales, the wool delivery note is not needed until after the completion of the core testing. This acts then as an advice that the bales are completed and now delivered to our section of the shed for onward shipping. This should minimise any confusion as to whether wool is to be tested or shipped.

Once all bales have been delivered to Stanley for onward shipping on each UK bound vessel, Darwin Shipping Ltd requires a completed Specification. It is especially important that the paperwork is received by the closing date for the wool, this enables Darwin Shipping Ltd to collate and cross check all bale information before the ship sails.

Please note that it is intended for the two sailings northbound for wool to be approximately 12th February 2006 and 7th May 2006. The closing dates for northbound wool on both voyages will be 14 days before the ship sails. All wool that is received after that date will be sent on the next available sailing.

Please note the next closing dates for Southbound cargo is as follows:-

Voyage 341

Consolidated cargo receiving	7th Sep 2005 – 15th Sep 2005
General Cargo receiving	7th Sep 2005 – 21st Sep 2005
ETD Marchwood	29th Sep 2005
ETA Falkland Islands	25th Oct 2005

For any further assistance please contact:-

Eva Clarke, Darwin Shipping Ltd, Crozier Place, Stanley

Telephone 27629, Fax 27603, Email:- darwin@horizon.co.fk

NOTICE TO ALL FARMERS

The Department of Agriculture will not be acting as a direct supplier of seed and fertiliser to farmers this forthcoming season. If seed orders have not yet been placed, please get in touch with retailers ASAP as shipping dates are approaching

For any more information please contact the Department of Agriculture on 27355

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Zoe Luxton

Any publication, veterinary or otherwise, generally has a regular article or two waxing lyrical about the general thoughts and opinions of the author. The Veterinary Times has one aptly named "A Partner Ponders" and others often start "I heard something the other day that made me think....."

I don't think I can claim to have the same flair for pontificating (until perhaps now!) as my articles are usually fairly factual, diary like and are generally assembled in a rush from a scrappy piece of paper on which there are random words like Labrador/spleen/Wednesday scrawled.

Perhaps I should spend a little more time in peaceful thought rather than speeding from one job to the next with my main focus being lunch and whether I've got time to vacuum up the cat hair in the sitting room before meeting Claire for supper.

Anyway, the point I am trying to make is that the other day I did catch myself pondering, and because I suddenly realised I was doing it, did rather point out that it was probably the first time. I was in the sandwich shop (lunch being the focus of the day you see) and smiled at Mr F who works there.

I know who Mr F in the sandwich shop is because he has 5 Great Danes to whom he is much attached and I see him in the surgery quite often. I noticed the girl next to me noticing our smile (if you follow) and started wondering what she thought the connection was. The most obvious one, clearly, is that I love sandwiches, work in Woodbridge and frequent Mr Fs sandwich shop with frightening regularity. "Little does she know" I thought "that I know Mr F a bit more intimately than that - so there".

But, we have been covered with spit and sweat together as we wrestled to examine the ear of Dog 1. We have been covered in blood together when Dog 2 cut his foot. We have discussed the penis and anal gland problems of Dog 3 quite deeply. We have seen each other with 'bed hair' and bleary eyes when Dog 4 was really ill in the night.

I was there when he sobbed and sobbed when ex Dog 5 was put to sleep. And he was there when I was so crippled with a stomach bug that my boss had to come and take over the work on new Dog 5 for me. It is certainly fair to say that he has seen me in some fairly unflattering positions and I have seen him at his weakest, saddest and most vulnerable which I think does add a certain intimacy to a vet/client relationship.

You certainly do end up in fairly close proximity to some clients. My friend Tom recalls with horror the time he was trying to listen to a wriggly small dog's chest. The owner had the dog clutched to her and as Tom moved the stethoscope to listen to the other side of the dog he slid the instrument right up her t-shirt.

Luckily she saw the funny side. Claire absolutely hates people who kiss their animals while she is trying to examine them and I had to agree the other day when a client unfortunately timed a show of affection for her cat at the same time I was holding its head and she planted a big smacker on the back of my hand! We laughed it off but it was a bit unfortunate for her that it was my thermometer holding hand.

FIMCo UPDATE

John Ferguson – General Manager FIMCo

Farmers Week was intense but very interesting this year, and it was good to catch up with a lot of the excellent work currently being carried out in the agricultural sector – very encouraging in the presently difficult economic climate. I hope that those who saw the brief DVD of the plant in export production found it informative, we plan to show this again sometime soon as it gives a good insight to the effort and systems involved with export meat production.

The importance of spreading the financial risk (and rewards) for farmers has never been more critical, and there is a tremendous amount of work and capital expenditure being invested by Farmers, FIG - DoA & FIMCo etc to try and redress this imbalance. As FIMCo develops and becomes more established in both the export and local markets, it becomes a key instrument in providing an alternative source of income for farmers. Farmers are already receiving cash payments at a critical time of the year (normally within 2-3 weeks of their animals being slaughtered)

As we progress from a 'cull for age' scenario, which has limited growth and higher sales risk, to becoming lamb orientated, the benefits are better for all. No one pretends that this will be easily achieved and there are many obstacles in the way, but the consequences of not trying are greater.

There was a 35% increase in sheep supplied by privately owned farms during 2005 export season, showing the effort being put into meat production. FLH has responded positively and taken critical (and far reaching) steps to increase the number of sheep and lambs available for the 2006 Export season, with 10,000 sheep and 10,000 lambs committed. This will equate to 86% of the total 2005 export production, which is a major increase.

As explained during Farmers Week, ***lamb*** is the key for a sustainable export meat industry, (we are already having to work much harder to cut, pack and sell mutton fore-quarter meat, with indications that this will be even more difficult for the coming season) but in order to improve our sales price, (and thereby the livestock purchase price) increased lamb volume is required.

⇧ VOLUME = ⇧ SALES PRICE = ⇧ PRICE TO FARMER

Whilst the 3100 lambs & hoggets produced during 2005 did not provide this key lever, the lambs committed by FLH along with increased numbers indicated to date from private farmers is extremely encouraging and modest changes can have a vital overall impact.

With many private farmers also dramatically increasing their efforts in preparing livestock for meat production, it is now ***essential*** that farmers intending to supply livestock communicate as closely as possible with us here at FIMCo (in particular – Mike) so we are fully up to date with potential production numbers, as this is critical for our season planning. We need to ensure that the season length (and start / finish dates) are timed as well as possible, seasonal staff to organise and recruit etc - in order to both maximise the plants efficiency, and be able to co-ordinate livestock movements.

Mike has written a few lines on logistics, and please do not under-estimate the importance of letting us know your plans – which can be revised as your season progresses. One quick request: as I have already been down this road for the past few years and know the effects of spending hours on the phone each evening - I would ask that whenever possible, you contact us during working hours. With e-mail / fax and ansa-phone this is much easier these days. Many thanks!

FALKLAND ISLANDS
MEAT COMPANY

SHEEP AND LAMB PURCHASE PRICES – 2006 EXPORT SEASON

SHEEP				LAMB		
		Bonus				
Weight	p/kg	(per carcass)	Sheep £	Weight	p/kg	Lamb £
Under 15kg	*Not paid for unless suitable*		*£0.00*	*Under 9.0kg*	*0.75*	
15.0	0.32		£4.80	8.0	0.75	£6.00
15.9	0.33		£5.09	8.9	0.75	£6.68
16.0	0.34	**1.00**	**£6.12**	9.0	1.00	£9.00
17.0	0.35	**1.00**	**£6.44**	10.0	1.00	£10.00
18.0	0.36	**1.00**	**£6.76**	11.0	1.00	£11.00
18.9	0.37	**1.00**	**£7.05**	11.5	1.00	£11.50
19.0	0.38	**1.00**	**£7.08**	12.0	1.00	£12.00
19.5	0.39	**1.00**	**£7.24**	12.5	1.00	£12.50
20.0	0.40	**1.00**	**£7.40**	13.0	1.20	£15.60
20.5	0.41	**1.00**	**£7.56**	13.5	1.20	£16.20
21.0	0.42	**1.00**	**£7.72**	14.0	1.20	£16.80
22.0	0.43	**1.00**	**£8.04**	14.5	1.20	£17.40
22.5	0.44	**1.00**	**£8.20**	15.0	1.20	£18.00
23.0	0.45	**1.00**	**£8.36**	16.0	1.20	£19.20
23.5	0.46		£7.36	18.0	1.20	£21.60
Over 23kg - Flat Rate			*£7.36*			

NOTES: ***All prices subject to change***
We do not have export sales for lambs under 9.0kg – care must be taken when selecting/grading/weighing livestock

1. **REVISED PRICES – SHEEP & LAMBS**
   - The purchase price for sheep and lambs have been revised - to take account of **smaller, good condition sheep and lambs.** This includes good condition ewes, either run dry or following weaning. It is essential that lambs are live-weighed, to ensure they are up to the required weight
   - It is not intended as a means to dispose of lighter, poorer quality animals. *All involved – must ensure that only suitable livestock are presented and sent to Sand Bay*

2. **LIVESTOCK / CARCASE CONDITION**
   - The minimum carcase standard (which remains unchanged) is **FAT CLASS 2** – please refer to the MLC Carcase Classification Guide, of which all farmers have been supplied a copy.
   - It is the **FARMER'S** responsibility – to present livestock in the correct condition for grading. The approved grader will indicate those animals that they believe will meet FIMCo's requirements.
   - If any farmer is unhappy about how their livestock has been graded – they should immediately contact the FIMCo General Manager, and follow this up in writing.

3. **GRADING**
   - All animals will require live grading before transportation – unless the General Manager gives dispensation to a (named) farmer, or farm employee. In those cases, FIMCo reserves the right to:
   - (a) Reject any or all, unsuitable livestock on arrival. The removal of these animals from the plant is the farmer's responsibility.
     (b) Should there be a number of unsuitable carcases in a particular lot following slaughter, FIMCo reserves the right to re-grade the affected carcases, and reject (or) downgrade the carcase(s) to £2.00 each. Should this occur, the farmer will be notified immediately.

From
PICKTHORNE POULTRY

Contact: S Bonner
Port Howard – Tel/Fax: 42159 E-mail: susiesimonb@horizon.co.fk

Over the past 10 years we have been importing hatching eggs of pure bred hens from the U.K. We now have over 20 different breeds of large, light fowl and bantams. This year we will be offering for sale a selection of these breeds as hatching eggs. We will also be selling pullets and cockerels at 18 weeks of age and day old pullets.

If anyone would like to place an order we would be most grateful if this could be done shortly for pullets to be ready from December 2005 to April 2006. Hatching eggs will be sold subject to availability, also whilst we make every effort to ensure the fertility of hatching eggs we are unable to make refunds or replace eggs that do not hatch.

Breeds Available:

Heavy breeds:
White Wyandotte
Gold Laced Wyandotte
Silver Laced Wyandotte
Light Sussex
Rhode Island Red
Barred Plymouth Rock

Light breeds:
Gold Leghorn
Black Leghorn
White Leghorn
Red/Black Araucana
Andalusian
White Silkie
Lakenfelder
Gold Campine
Friesian
Gold Appenzeller
Gold Fayoumi

Bantams:
Silver Sebrights
Gold Sebrights
Buff Rock

Prices

All pure bred eggs £1.20 per egg (UK price £1.60-£1.85)
Pullets £15 each (UK price from £28-£38)
Cockerels £20 each

Black rock chickens £2.50 at day old £10 at 14 weeks

Light sussex/Rhode island red sex linked £2.50 at day old £10 at 14 weeks

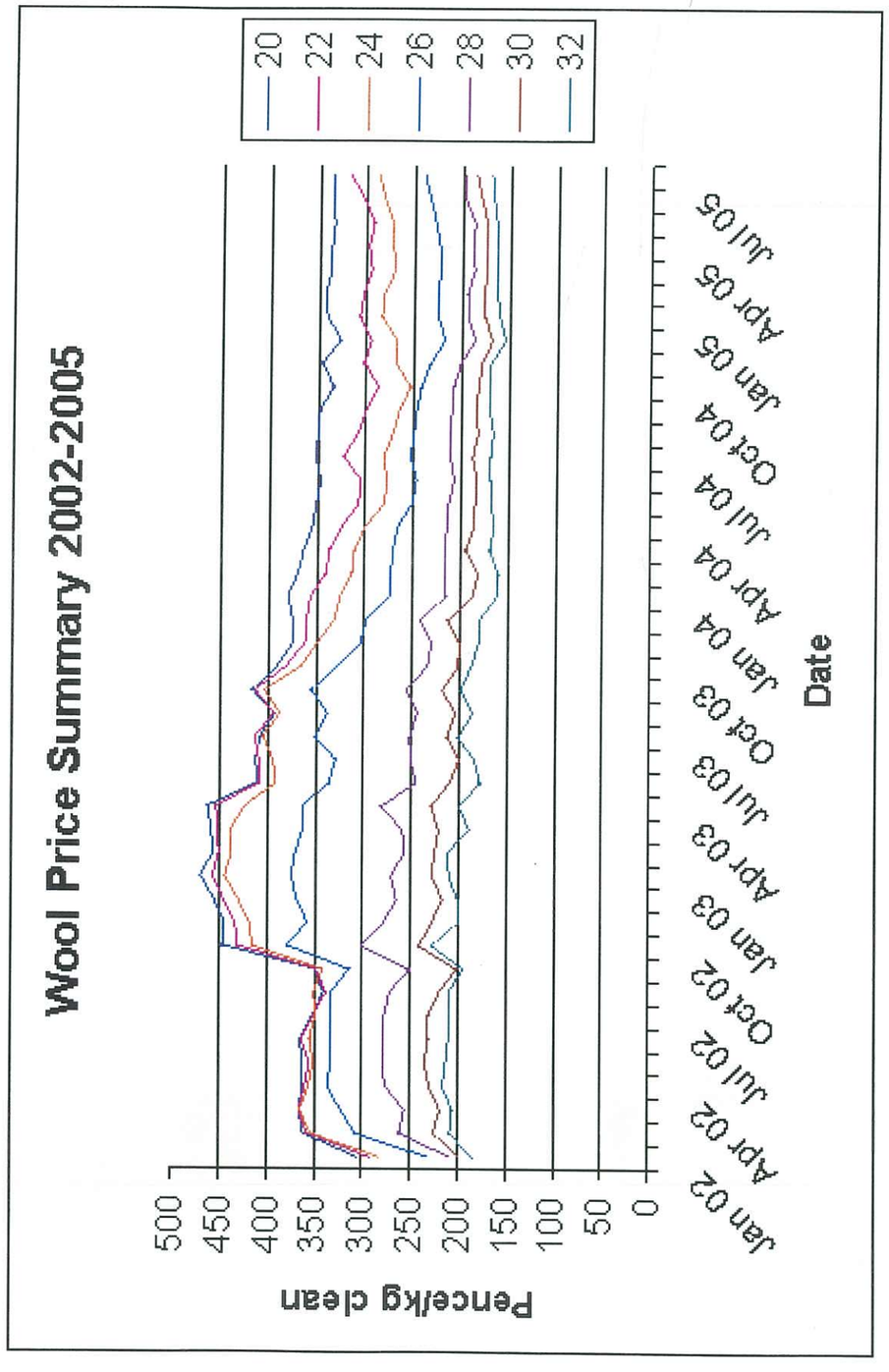
Hatching eggs of Black rock and Light sussex/Rhode island red crosses 75pence each.

Black Leghorn rooster

Red/Black Araucana rooster

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



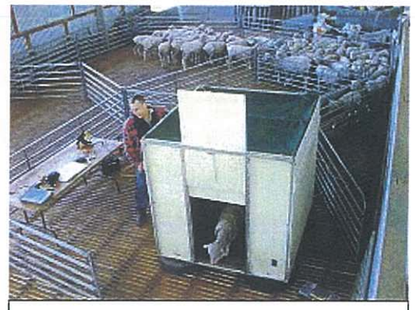
LAMB SURVIVAL LINKED TO CALM EWES

Agribusiness Sheep Updates media release: 8 July 2005

The temperament of ewes has the potential to impact on bottom line profit with a calm temperament increasing lamb survival and reproductive rate. The Updates are presented by the Australian Department of Agriculture, with support from Australian Wool Innovation and Meat and Livestock Australia.

Dr Blache said individual sheep had their own temperament and emotional reactivity and studies have shown that calm ewes are better mothers and that lamb survival can be increased by selection for calm temperament.

She added that the quality of maternal care received by the lamb can influence the capacity of the mother to cope with the stress of parturition and isolation from the flock.



Sheep were evaluated using the Isolation Box Test

Dr Blache said there was a significant difference in lamb mortality between breeding lines that had been selected for low (calm) or high reactivity (nervous).

He said 6000 sheep from four breeds were evaluated using the Isolation Box Test, where individual sheep are isolated from the flock for a short period of time and their reactivity is measured with preliminary results showing that temperament is moderately heritable and that there is some variation between breeds of sheep.

Calm sheep have displayed a 10-20 per cent greater reproductive rate compared to sheep with a nervous temperament. Most of this difference can be attributed to increased lamb survival with the calm ewes.

Dr Blache says the next step was to quantify the impact of selection for temperament on lamb survival in a variety of commercial situations. For further information on the 2005 Agribusiness Sheep Updates at the Parmelia Hilton Perth go to www.agric.wa.gov.au/sheepupdates

If you have something like that you would like to share with

ool Press community, then let us know.

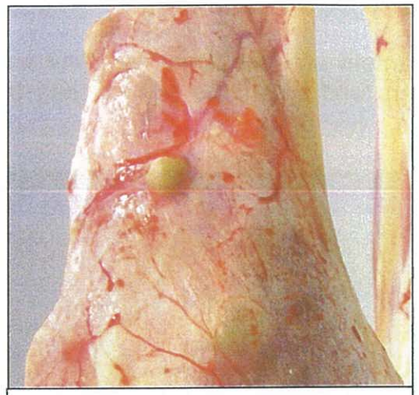
ne 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk
ore details or to submit your article.

contributions are greatly appreciated.

DEALING WITH BOILS

Damien O'Sullivan

In the 2004/05 season at the abattoir 10% of sheep were infected with boils reducing the carcass value and increasing boning costs. As a result there will be £1 reduction in price paid for carcasses infected with boils.



Hindquarter at Sand Bay Abattoir with boils

Boils or Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) are caused by the bacteria *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis.* It causes abscesses in the lymph nodes, lungs, meat tissue and other organs of sheep and goats. The boils have pale green pus in early stages but they turn cream as the abscess hardens and becomes 'cheesy' or 'caseous'. CLA has a world-wide distribution and has only recently become a problem in the UK.

In the USA it is estimated that more than 40% of adult sheep have the infection. In Australia the infection rate is between 26-50% and productivity losses to individual producers are estimated at over A$18 million. Condemnation of carcasses at abattoirs and the need for inspectors to detect boils indirectly costs producers over A$14 million/year.

Infected sheep with lung lesions or with lesions discharging externally cause spread of boils. Lung-infected sheep are probably the most important source of new infections. The organism can survive for several weeks in faeces and particles. The prevalence of infection rises dramatically after the first and second adult shearings, as a result of the close contact between susceptible, shorn sheep and sheep with lung lesions excreting organisms by coughing. Flocks in which sheep were held together after shearing for more than 1 hour had three times the risk of having high incidence of boils.

Infection with boils has resulted in 7% lower clean wool production compared to unaffected sheep but did not significantly decrease bodyweight. In the US *thin ewe syndrome* caused by boils is associated with low reproductive rates. A vaccine is available but is only 25% to 90% protective. In one study, sheep vaccinated against boils had a 74% lower infection rate than unvaccinated sheep and infected sheep had 96% fewer lung abscesses. 2 initial vaccinations are needed with boosters recommended at least 2 weeks before shearing. Lambs should be over 10 weeks before vaccinating. The full benefit of vaccinating will not occur until all sheep in the flock have been vaccinated for several years and the prevalence of chronically infected sheep is low.

To reduce the incidence of boils a combination of the following where practical is needed:

- clean holding pens and shearing boards before and after shearing.
- shear young sheep first
- reduce time during which sheep are held together under cover off-shears
- avoid holding sheep in small pens after shearing
- clean shearing gear and board with disinfectant if boils discharge pus
- consider the economics of vaccinating if losses at abattoir are high

Given the increasing significance of the abattoir as an income earner for farms and the possibility of production losses from boils it is important that we all review how we can put in controls measures for this disease.

AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION FROM THIS YEAR'S ABATTOIR DISEASE RESULTS

Steve Pointing

One of the lowest levels of boils seen in the last export season was in sheep from Port North on West Falkland. When asked whether he could give any reasons as to why the level was so low at Port North, Roy McGhie came up with the following suggestions;

1 He does all his own shearing and takes care that he keeps all his shearing equipment as clean as possible, and
2 Nearly all his shorn sheep go straight from the shearing shed into large paddocks or straight back to the hills. This means that newly shorn sheep are not held in crowded counting-out pens minimising the risk of spread of disease from already infected sheep to uninfected sheep.

Obviously following this system wouldn't be possible on every farm in the Falklands but it does indicate that improvements can be made if the root causes of spreading the disease are identified and then addressed.

PASTURE SPECIES COMMONLY SOWN IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Source – AgResearch, New Zealand

Species	1000 Seed wt (g)	Seeds/kg	Seeds/m2 at 1kg/ha	Average sowing rate in mixture kg/ha
Grasses				
Perennial ryegrass	2.0	500,000	50	10-20
Hybrid ryegrass				
- tetrapliod	3.9	255,000	26	10-20
- diploid	2.0	500,000	50	10-20
Italian ryegrass				
- tetrapliod	4.0	250,000	25	25-30
- diploid	2.0	500,000	50	20-25
Cocksfoot	0.9	1,000,000	100	4-10
Tall fescue	2.6	400,000	40	12-18
Timothy	0.4	2,500,000	250	3-5
Yorkshire fog	0.3	3,300,000	330	1-5
Poa pratensis	0.4	2,500,000	250	3-4
Legumes				
White clover	0.71	1,400,000	140	3-5
Red clover				
- tetrapliod	3.4	295,000	30	4-6
- diploid	1.9	500,000	50	2-4
Lotus				
- tetrapliod	0.8	1,200,000	120	1-5
- diploid	0.5	2,000,000	200	1-3
Birdsfoot trefoil	1.2	870,000	90	6-10
Alsike clover	0.7	1,500,000		2-3
Subterranean clover	6.7	150,000	15	2-6
Herbs				
Sheeps burnet	6.5	154,000	15	10-20
Plantain	2.0	500,000	50	2

SHEEP NUTRITION - FEEDING OF SHEEP IN WINTER

Doug Martin

From August to October the majority of sheep, particularly ewes lose both body condition and weight. Little weighing and body condition scoring is carried out, however from research carried out in the past weight losses can be as high as 20% of body weight. In a 40kg ewe this amounts to a loss of 8 kg, whilst in a 50 kg ewe this equates to 10kg.

It is estimated that one body condition score is equal to 7kg of weight, therefore sheep can lose up to 1.5 BCS in the next two months. (This is based on a BCS system of 1-5, with 1 being emaciated and 5 being fat).

Trial work done by Niilo Gobius whilst working on the Farm Monitor & Model Project with nine farms showed that increase in weight as well as increase in BCS was strongly correlated to an increase in lambing %.

In the two years of work on the participating farms the following was demonstrated:

Liveweight kg.	Lambing %
30.0-32.5	40
37.6-40.0	60
47.6-50.0	75

BCS	Lambing %
1.75	40
2.00	50
2.75	70

Management strategies currently employed are as follows:

1.If the weather in the August – September period is not too severe then weight loss can be minimised by having a new camp on which to move sheep. Preferably a new camp for each month until several weeks prior to lambing. This practice has been commenced by several of the participating farms in the managed grazing trials; therefore results will be available over the next three years.

2. Provision of a crop such as turnip for the early part of winter and Swede and/or kale for the critical period leading up to lambing.

3. Feeding of silage or hay, providing feed quality is good. It is easier to make good quality silage in the Falkland Islands compared to hay.

4. Trials carried out by Niilo demonstrated that ammoniated whitegrass was an option for feeding cattle, however the technique needs to be refined for feeding sheep as the length of cut should be no longer than 3 cm.

5. Trials will shortly commence on manufacture of fish silage. This is a cheap form of feed, however it may be difficult to feed out on a large scale.

6. Work carried out in Australia demonstrates a cost-effective benefit in feeding lupins as a grain to sheep at critical times of the year.

Other vegetable protein meals such as canola (rapeseed), soybean, copra, cottonseed, peanut, linseed meal or pellets can be fed, however lupin can be fed whole. Lupin is classified as a pulse crop.

How much?

Research carried out by Davies in late 1970 early 1980 as well as Miller in early 2000 showed that the digestibility of the species on many farms utilised by livestock was just sufficient at 50-55% to maintain stock, whilst on other farms digestibility was so low as to cause weight loss. The main problem appeared to be low protein of the diet, and as protein levels fall to 7% and lower the rumen bacteria decline to the extent that weight loss occurs.

Link between digestibility and energy

Feed Quality	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Digestibility %	<55	55-70	70-80	>80
ME (MJ/kg DM)*	<8	8-10	10-12	>12

**Metabolisable Energy – Megajoules per kg. Dry Matter*

Ideally ewes in their last six weeks of pregnancy have an average energy requirement of 9.5MJ/ kg dry matter, so an intake of 1.2.-1.3 kg dry matter per day means an energy intake of 11.4-12.4 MJ per day is required. This is for maximum growth rate, therefore for a lower growth rate or even maintenance a lower intake will suffice. An increase in protein in the form of a supplement such as lupin should enable the stock to better digest the feed on offer in the critical 6-10 weeks prior to lambing. Typical feed value of lupin is 13.5 MJ/kg DM and 30% protein.

It is recommended that a rate of no more 50 grams per head per day is fed and this need be no more than twice per week, therefore say for 1000 ewes feeding 175kg twice per week should suffice.

It is important to remember that the aim is to supplement the rumen bacteria and not the sheep itself. Once the rate of feeding is increased then a substitution effect will take place and the sheep will eat less of the feed on offer.

Potential cost
At say £300 per tonne or 33p per kg then the cost for feeding 1000 ewes over, for example, 70days will be as follows:
350kg x .33 = £115.50 per week x 10 weeks = £1155.

Potential benefit
Better lambing %, more milk produced, better survival rates and at a price of say £13 per lamb it will take an extra 90 lambs to break even. This does not take into account that heavier lambs may result, and perhaps losses of hoggets and ewes will be lower.

Practical Aspects
Although it may not be possible to feed lupin on all farms it would fit in well with some management systems. Some stock will not eat them and it will be easier to train young stock as compared to ewes to eat them.

Trailing out 3 ½ bags weighing 50 kg each twice per week for each 1000 ewes may not be such a difficult task. It may also be cheaper to do this on an annual basis than to try to provide a fodder crop. Trials on a small scale will commence shortly and efforts are being made by the Department of Agriculture to either secure a quantity for further trials. Based on the outcome of trials in the Falkland Islands, such concepts as having lupins grown under contract in the UK, Chile or Uruguay could be explored.

It is interesting to note that Lupins are grown to feed livestock in Chile and can also be incorporated into a compound feed. It is also used to feed salmon.

FIMCO LOGISTICS OFFICER

Mike McRae

As most of you know me anyway I won't go into any long and boring introduction.

I have recently taken over the logistics at FIMCo, and to assist in finalising planning, could those farms that have offered beef please re-confirm numbers and ages, along dates when they will be available.

Could those farmers intending to supply beef and other livestock for the local market over the coming year (but haven't yet contacted us) please get back to me ASAP with numbers, ages and dates.

Whilst we want to give everyone the opportunity to supply - we also need to plan ahead, to ensure farmers know in advance when we shall be taking their livestock. This gives the farmer the best chance to ensure that their livestock is in the optimum condition for sale.

If there any farmers who would like to supply lamb for the local market particularly for the Christmas period, we need to know very soon as we don't want you to lose out. We are presently contacting our customers (and potential customers) to gauge the demand.

Looking ahead to the 2006 Export Season, could all those farms that have not yet returned their livestock planning sheets, please contact me with indications of sheep & lamb numbers that you intend to provide, in order for us to plan the season length and start date.

You can contact me on 27013 or email logistics@falklands-meat.com

RAINFALL TOTALS

If you collect rainfall figures or would like to collect rainfall figures for us and provide the totals on a regular basis please contact us and DoA can supply you with a rain gauge.

Location		**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**
Stanley	2005	**67**	**29**	**77**	**49**	**39**	**35**	**29**
	Average	*74*	*57*	*59*	*58*	*58*	*50*	*46.5*
MPA	2005	**77**	**33**	**48**	**56**	**48**	**22**	**23.1**
	Average	*61*	*47*	*57*	*49*	*54*	*58*	*45*
Head of Bay		**88**	**30**	**67**	**42**	**66**	**25**	**28**
Elephant Beach		**68**	**23**	**69**	**22**	**57**	**30**	**31**
Swan Inlet		**55**	**29**	**45**	**38**	**50**	**16**	**28**
Port Howard		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**42.75**

Thanks to Met office MPA, Andrez Short, Riki Evans, Ted Jones and Ron Reeves for monthly data.

WILLOWS WANTED

Jim McAdam, UK Falkland Islands Trust

Many people in the Falkland Islands are interested in tree planting whether it be for shelter, products from trees or simply to improve the appearance of their property.

Since the late 1980s the UK Falkland Islands Trust has been encouraging tree planting through publications and trials at Fitzroy, east Stanley and Keppel Island among others. The Department of Agriculture followed up with a substantial series of shelterbelt trials in the 1990s underpinned by excellent advice from Alan Low ex Forestry Commission. Trials mainly using lodgepole pine, were established at Estancia, Shallow Harbour, Saladero, Port Howard and Bold Cove and if you have not seen any of these you soon will as the trees are growing really well!

One type of tree which already grows quite well in parts of the islands and more use could be made of are willows. There are many types of willows and they have great genetic diversity which we could make more use of ...they are easily planted from cuttings, grow fast, are hardy, can tolerate a wide range of soils and be coppiced or cut down to re sprout with many stems. Some willows have been introduced in recent years – some of you benefited from the expert advice, which Malcolm Dawson from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (who came down under the Shackleton Scholarship Fund) gave and a Chilean Student (at Queens University Belfast) Rodrigo Olave (supported by UKFIT and DoA) investigated the best way to establish willows from cuttings.

Rather than introduce more trees- which can have problems-, we think it would be a good idea to try and find out what willows are actually growing in the islands and which offer the most potential for the type of use outlined above. The best way to do this would be to collect cuttings of willow (new trees grow easily from short lengths of stem) from across the islands and grow them together under similar conditions where they can be fairly compared. We would then be the able to select which willow type would be best for local use.

The UK Falkland Islands Trust has a small piece of land at Port Howard – the Alexandra wood (named after our patron, Princess Alexandra) where we have been experimenting with different types of trees, method of ground preparation and suitability of tree species to soil type.

If you have a willow hedge or tree in your garden or on your farm, the Trust would like you to send a bundle (of about 80) of willow cuttings to Ron Reeves at Port Howard. The cuttings should be about 30cm (1foot) long and about as thick as your thumb. If you have different types, take a bundle from each and label them with your name, where they came from and anything else you know about your sample. If you have a length of willow hedge, one bundle from along the length of the whole hedge will do fine. Take your cuttings over the next few weeks. i.e. before they start to sprout and send them to Ron.

These will then be planted in thoroughly prepared ground , grown and assessed under proper comparative conditions. After 2 -3 years we will know which types have performed best and will be able to take cuttings from them. Cuttings will then be re-distributed freely (and in subsequent years) to all those who have sent willows to participate in the trial.

So, if you have willows, please get out and take cuttings and send these to Ron over the next few weeks. If you want further information and have queries please send to Ron Reeves at phfarm@horizon.co.fk or me at jim.mcadam@dardni.gov,uk

RECIPE SPOT

Beef Steak with Parmesan Grilled Vegetables

Ingredients
2 beef T-bone or Porterhouse steaks, cut 1 inch thick (about 2 pounds)
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
2 medium red or yellow bell peppers, quartered
1 large red onion, sliced (1/2 inch)

Seasoning
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 tsp dried basil
1 tsp pepper

Instructions
Combine seasoning ingredients.

Remove 4 teaspoons; press onto beef steaks. Add cheese, oil and vinegar to remaining seasoning; mix well.

Place steaks in center of grid over medium, ash-covered coals; arrange vegetables around steaks. Grill steaks, uncovered, 14 to 16 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness, turning occasionally.

Grill bell peppers 12 to 15 minutes and onion 15 to 20 minutes or until tender, turning once.

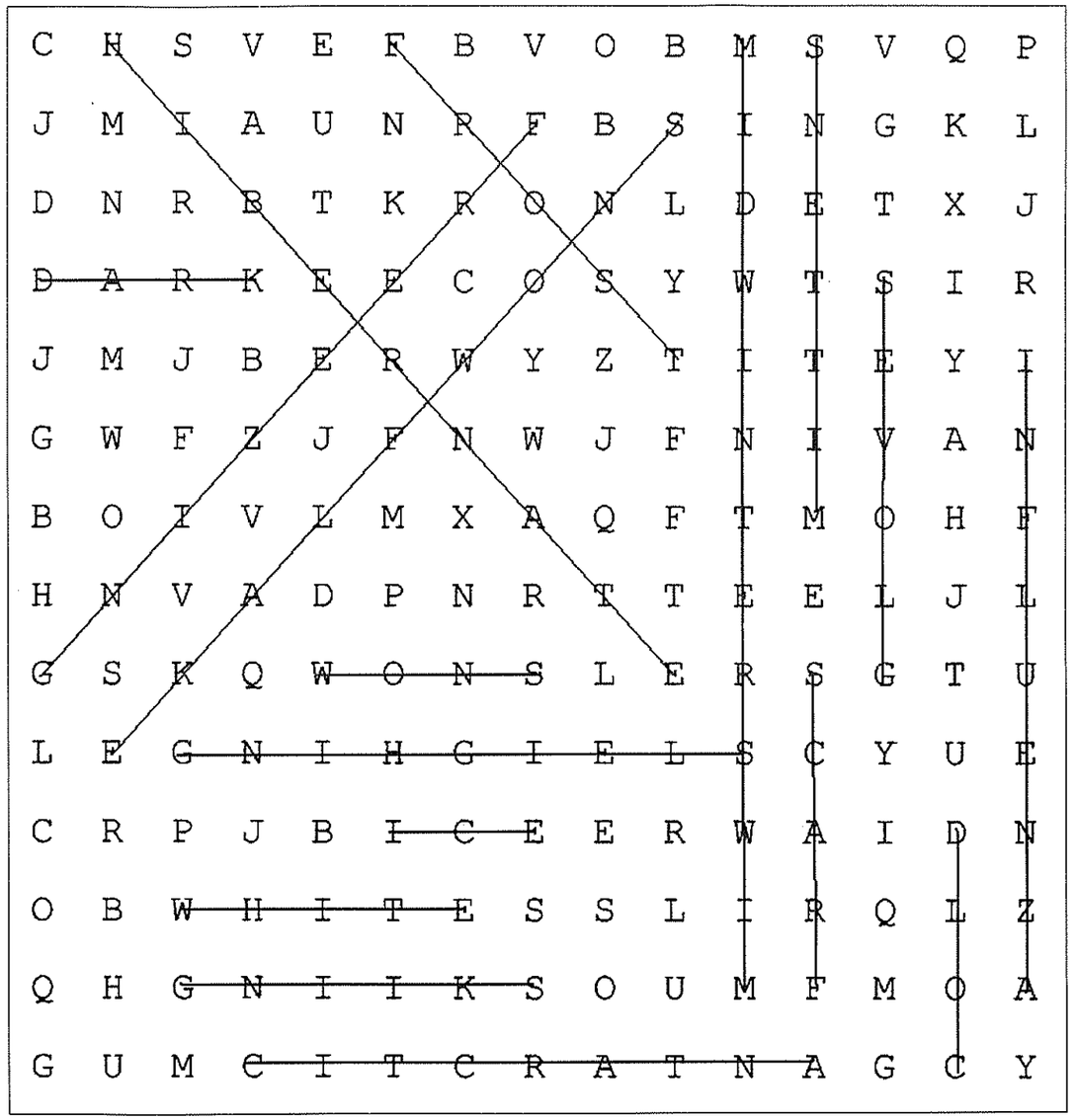
Brush vegetables with cheese mixture during last 10 minutes.

Carve steaks. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with vegetables.
Makes 4 servings.

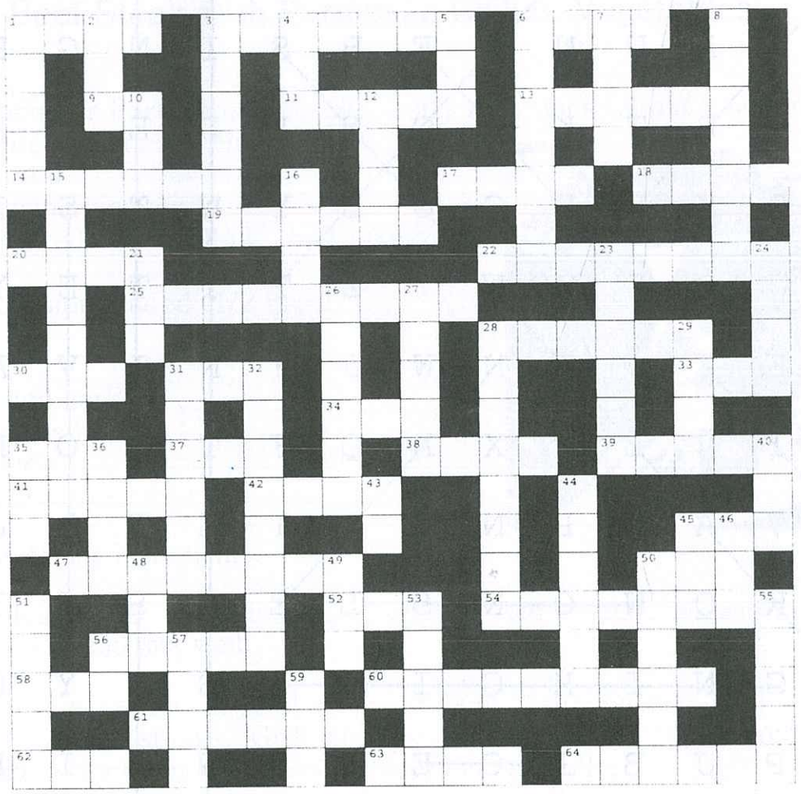
Recipe sourced from www.beefitswhatfordinner.com

If you have a recipe that you would like to share with other readers, then please send it in to the usual address to appear in the next Recipe Spot.

SOLUTION TO JULY WORDSEARCH



Crossword



ACROSS

1. Bath bung
3. A wool process
6. Apple center
9. Negative
11. Blood suckers
13. Wrinkly neck sheep type
14. Panda food
17. Small rodents
18. Drink made from the vine
19. Question of confirmation
20. Up market
22. Small Channel Island
25. Large seabird
28. Small long eared mammal
30. Poultry product
31. Clump of grass
33. Posses
34. Carpenter's tool
35. Employ
37. Golf ball rest
38. Join
39. Award level
41. Large meal
42. Product of what you sow
45. Rejuvenating resort
47. WWII air raid shelter
50. Large expanse of water
52. Old DOA
54. A man that gathers sheep.
56. Tale
58. Adam's partner
60. South West farm
61. Loud low roar
62. Bone of the chest area
63. Sea bird
64. An Englishman's home

DOWN

1. Straight line
2. Ashes pot
3. Someone who captures a person or animal.
4. A large rodent
5. Cooking fuel
6. Funny
7. Uncommon
8. Young guide
10. Sphere
12. Animal marked for disposal
15. To be sorry.
16. Down and can't get up
21. Cured pig
23. Insignia
24. Spun wool
26. Tsar Country
27. Deep frown
28. Game played with ball and bat.
29. Planned trip
31. Fight
32. A Woolly jumper or Island
35. Alien spaceship perhaps?
36. Work for reward
40. Afternoon beverage
43. Personal Assistant.
44. A companion or mate.
45. Look
46. Under or over in golf
48. Small spot
49. Short sleep
50. Wool cutting tool
51. Pointed weapon
53. It tells the time.
55. Sheep breed new to the FI
56. Compass point at 4.30?
57. Six balls
59. Corny horse?

The Wool Press

ISSUE 189 SEPTEMBER 2005 PRICE: £1.00

All the regular features and more!

NEW VETERINARY OFFICER
Vic Epstein

FIMCO – CATTLE SUPPLE AGREEMENT
John Ferguson & Mike McRae

PROJECTS AND CARS
Sam Davies

COLLEGE AND SHEARING
Kimberley Steen

FARM MAPPING
Alex Blake

SHEEP AI AND ET
Nyree Heathman

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE
Glynis King

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES AND MORE!!

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

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EDITORIAL

It really is quite disturbing how quickly the time seems to disappear between each request for an editorial comment for the Wool Press – three months, it really seems like three weeks!

September again, shearing season about to begin! At least spring brings with it the promise of longer days and it is hoped, enough warmth and sunshine for a good flush of early grass growth.

As most people would already be aware, late August saw the arrival of Vic Epstein to the Falkland Islands. Vic's wealth of experience and skill, accumulated over quite a few years, is sure to be an important addition to the Veterinary Section of the DOA. Please do not hesitate to say hello to Vic as the need arises over the coming months.

This edition of the Wool Press contains an update from FIMCo on how trading has progressed over the last few months and a copy of the Livestock Supply Agreement – Beef Cattle.

It is also good to hear what Falkland Islands students have been up to when they are away studying. Thank you to Sam and Kimberley for their contributions.

Thank you also to Glynis for highlighting her role in the DOA and for the run-down on what has been going on over the last couple of months. The efficiency with which Glynis carries out her duties is certainly appreciated by all of the staff in the department.

In case farmers had forgotten about farm mapping, Alex has provided an informative overview of the whole mapping process. He has also offered assistance to anyone with a question or who requires details on what is involved to complete mapping of their farm.

Finally the comprehensive article on Sheep AI and ET by Nyree is commended to you for close attention. Have a good read, make a note of anything that is not clear and then please give Nyree a call to discuss the process. The 2006 programme is fast approaching, so it is important for everyone to fully understand what is involved so that risks can be minimised.

All the best for another season,

Neil Judd
Senior Agricultural Advisor

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW VETERINARY OFFICER

By Vic Epstein

It is with great pleasure that I join my colleague Steve Pointing and members of the Department of Agriculture here on the Falkland Islands.

Allow me to introduce myself…

I'm a member of the grey brigade having spent my last 30 years in veterinary practice. I have spent some time in private practice, government services and the last 4 years in the University of Queensland veterinary school teaching undergraduates about sheep and beef cattle production. Still I am always surprised by things I have never seen and I always learning new things. I'm sure the Falkland Islands will be no exception in surprising me and teaching me.

On a personal note I have 3 children, all boys and now all grown up. One is an avid historian and his aim in life is to study South American revolutions; he has just returned from Mexico to Australia after spending a year there with the aim of learning Spanish.

I think he is on his way in achieving that goal as he related a story to me on how when being robbed at one time he successfully negotiated with a robber to split the contents of his wallet. My next son is a commercial diver and the third is studying science at University in Australia. My wife Coralee will be joining me in about 2 months after finishing some work in Australia.

FIMCO – SALES & CATTLE SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

By John Ferguson, General Manager & Mike McRae, Logistics Officer

Local Market Production
In the 3 months since we entered the local market, the following livestock have been slaughtered at Sand Bay. The pigs include a number of contract killed animals. Considering that this is a traditionally quiet period of the year, the throughput has been very encouraging, and can only improve as seasonal based activities increase within tourism and fishing etc.

Type	Sheep	Lambs	Beef	Veal	Pigs
No Killed	485	52	78	2	34

Sales & Potential Markets
We have been pursuing potential outlets in addition to the retailers whom we currently supply, and will continue to do so. The overriding response from the catering trade is: QUALITY & CONSISTENCY and to a degree, price. Many have had bad experiences with locally produced beef, and need convincing things have changed.

Fishing and cruise industry vessels - are facing difficult times, and do not currently purchase anywhere near the amount of provisions they used to (we hope this will change, and we have been making some steady progress lately). They re-provision in South America where

possible, both for quality & cost reasons. Despite appearances, fishing vessels demand a good product - they can currently get top quality at low prices in S America etc. We are working with the Agencies to see what can be done, which has shown some progress already.

Catering – Some establishments have agreed to try more beef cuts in the coming weeks - but in order to agree to ongoing purchases, they too require consistency & quality – always. Many purchase imported rumps - just to dice & mince (its cheap enough, and they get excellent quality that way - not easy to compete with!!)

In order to progress the beef industry in the Falklands, and increase throughput to the levels requested by producers, the catering and service industry is the way forward – however we have to supply to the specifications they demand. This is one of the main reasons for establishing Livestock Supply Agreements for cattle, as in addition to security for the farmer, FIMCo also needs the re-assurance of a consistent supply in order to obtain sales orders / contracts.

Pet Food - This will be limited, unless some sort of processing / packaging takes place, as a lot of folk are happy to buy top quality processed Pedigree Chum / Whiskas etc. The viability of this would require careful evaluation.

General - there is a lot of background work being done, although unfortunately things do not always happen as quickly as we'd all like. We are steadily building the stocks of further processed lines - but we need to make sure we can sell what we produce.

Beef Grading

At a recent FIMCo Board Meeting, it was highlighted that difficulties have recently been experienced with the quality of some beef supplied/processed at Sand Bay, although the general quality has shown an improvement. It was felt that both the graders and staff at the plant would have to be stricter in future to avoid low quality beef being accepted, but farmers also have to take more responsibility for presenting/supplying beef of an acceptable quality.

The board also felt it was necessary to amend the original plan to only send the grader to visit each farm once, as some farmers were in need of more assistance. To make grading practically possible, in future (as with sheep) cattle must be in a corral / pen and ready for inspection at the agreed time, otherwise farmers may be charged for the grader's time.

Beef Supply Agreements

Approval was also given for a form of written Supply Agreement which is intended to provide security and commitment by both FIMCo and Supplier. The aim is to improve the longer term livestock supply chain and provide certainty of sales for the farmer whilst growing the local market, based on consistent quality.

This will be particularly important for those farmers involved in breeding and/or finishing beef cattle. There will be no 'minimum' quantity at this stage, although we think that less than 5 or 6 over a year will be easily accommodated without any agreement. At this time, there will be no price difference involved, but an Agreement will provide some re-assurance of sale, and allow for advance planning by all. In the event that there are more animals offered (meeting the required criteria) than planned production / sales, a form of quota may be required.

Please find following, a copy of our Livestock Supply Agreement. Would those farmers wishing to take part (or require further information) please contact Mike soonest on telephone 27013, fax 27113 or e-mail logistics@falklands-meat.com

LIVESTOCK SUPPLY AGREEMENT – BEEF CATTLE

Between: **FALKLAND ISLANDS MEAT COMPANY Ltd (FIMCo)**

And **..... FARM** **Dated.....**

1. Description of Service to be provided:

FIMCo is seeking to increase long-term livestock volumes and provide certainty of sales for farmers by growing the total local market, based on consistent quality.

2. Period of Agreement:

Initially 1 year: From: .....2005 to 2006

3. Conditions:

FIMCo undertakes to purchase live beef cattle from the above supplier - subject to the following:

3a.	Age	Under 3 years
3b.	Condition	Ideally 5 – 12mm fat depth (minimum 4mm)
3c.	Temperament	Must be easily handled, to avoid the effects of stress and bruising on eating and keeping quality.
3d.	Notice of non-supply	In the event that there is a problem with supplying / accepting the agreed number (or condition) of livestock at any time, a minimum warning period of 21 days is to be provided by either side.

4. Supply Details

4a Total beef cattle to be supplied in during the Agreement period - as per the attached schedule

4b Livestock will not be 'on-farm' graded – it is expected that animals will be supplied according to specification

4c Actual day of delivery will be advised by FIMCo staff

4d. Livestock to be delivered to the plant during normal working hours on the day before slaughter (except in exceptional circumstances)

4d Practical issues and difficulties with regard to actual delivery date & time will be taken into account where possible.

5. General

5a. Should the supplier be unable to provide in the quantity / condition etc agreed (3b-3e) then the total quantity may have to be adjusted accordingly, with the balance passed to other supplier(s).

5b. It is the intention of both parties to work together, to ensure that the quality of locally produced meat improves. Both parties should maintain good communications, to ensure that when problems arise the effects are minimised.

5c. Suppliers are asked not to sell meat carcases or cuts directly to commercial operators as this will undermine FIMCo's efforts to develop the total local market for the benefit of the wider farming sector.

6. Notice to withdraw

Either party may give notice, of not less than 6 months.

COLLEGE AND SHEARING

By Kimberley Steen

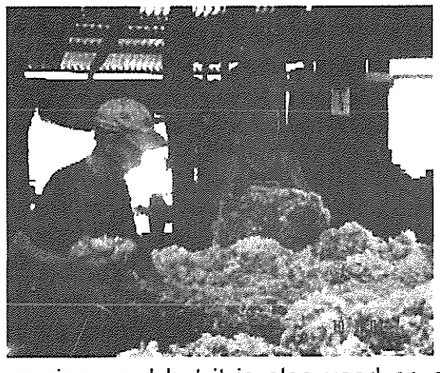
Well, Sian's managed to track me down and has asked me to write an article for the Wool Press about my Diploma Course in Longreach.

On my return to Longreach in March after spending Christmas in the Falklands, the college told me that I had arrived too late to do the Certificate IV - my first experience of 'Admin Error'! Fortunately I could still do the Diploma of Agriculture in July. So, for the best part of four months I was on my own!

Luckily for me rousies are in demand so I had no trouble picking up work with the many shearing teams in Longreach; it was a really good experience and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them. I met a lot of new people, made some good friends and gained loads of experience in practical work. I even met a couple of people who had worked at home a few years ago, I don't know if anyone remembers Forty Bush, but I worked with him in Barcaldine, while he was training for the Blade Shearing competition for the Golden Shears.

A couple of the highlights of my time while working in the sheds were being able to meet and work with David Fagan and Grant Smith (the two kiwi champs). I was also able to go to Toowoomba to watch the Golden Shears. It was definitely worth going and I had a great time there. It was nice to see a few people from home that had come over to show their support for Paul and Jan who did a fantastic job in representing the Islands.

Sadly, not all of my time in the sheds was fun and games; it was hard work, pretty hot and a bit rough at times! The merino fleeces are a lot bigger than the fleeces at home so you can imagine it was a bit of a struggle trying to pick up a double one, let alone throw it, the worst day was when we had almost an entire run of doubles to pick up! All of the sheds I worked in were old, closed-in, six to eight stands, and long flatboards making working in them a little difficult.



Roustabouting for five shearers on my own for eight days sounds pretty impressive (to me anyway), but the sheep were merinos, so the shearers would average on a count of 180-200 a day. Perhaps it's not too impressive after all!

After four months of shed work I learnt a lot about merino wool and a fair bit about dohnes. A few of the woolgrowers around Longreach are breeding away from the merino and bringing in the dohne.

The dohne is said to have the same value of wool as merino wool but it is also used as a meat sheep. Basically it's a more versatile breed of merino. I feel lucky to have worked with really good people who were more than happy to spend some of their time helping me to learn more about wool and about shearing.

Now, after being out of college for roughly seven months, it has been a bit of a struggle adjusting to the classroom again. The diploma is 90% theory so most of my time is spent in front of a computer and studying. It is pretty full on, but interesting and I'm learning a lot of valuable things from feedlotting lambs to marketing fundamentals.

As part of our course we have to write a hypothesis based on feedlotting lambs, at the moment the DPI is running a trial so we get to go out and get involved with the research. A lot of it is mostly weighing the lambs, but we were very lucky to be able to go out and help with the more hands on approach. It involved rumen testing and faecal testing. Everyone was keen to get involved, so I volunteered for the faecal testing, little did I know that for half of the day my fingers would be up 150 sheep's bums'. Not meaning to sound too ecstatic about the whole process, but I did have a really good day, and it made a great change to get out of the classroom.

The main part of the diploma, which will account for most of the marks, is the business plan. We are able to choose any property in Australia to base our business plan on. I have chosen a property owned by the Department of Primary Industries in Longreach (DPI), which run both sheep and cattle. This diploma is only a six-month course, so putting a hold on most of my social life for this period seems a small price to pay for the end result. Although I am looking forward to the end!

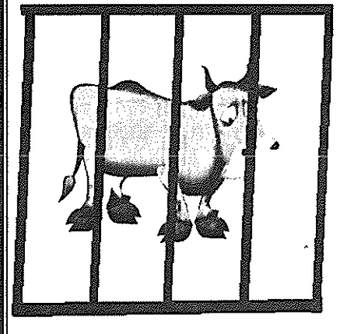
I'm really enjoying my time in Australia. I have been offered work with a shearing team in South Australia, so I will be spending Christmas down there this year. I won't be returning to the Falklands until February 2006. After a short time at home my plans are to return to Australia or New Zealand and get my woolclassing stencil, which I'll be doing through my own funding. Then I'd like to stay in Australia and also New Zealand for a few more years, before I return home for good.

Sam and I have had a few visitors from home this year, and it has been really nice to see them all. So, if anyone is planning a trip to Australia remember to call in and see us, you're more than welcome to swag it on my sitting room floor!

This may be the only opportunity I will have to write in the Wool Press until my course finishes, but you may hear from me again when it's all over. Although it's still a few months off Christmas, I'd just like to wish all the Wool Press readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope the coming season is good to you all. Good luck and see you all again in February.

WHATEVER NEXT?!

Source www.ananova.com



A cow has been put in prison after it was blamed for a road accident in Colombia. The cow was wandering along a road in Giron when was hit by a woman on a motorcycle.

The woman was not badly hurt but police decided the cow was a danger and 'arrested' it. Officers were unable to find out who owns the cow and are keeping it in the town's prison.

A police spokesman said "If it was a person who caused the accident, he or she would be behind bars, so why not a cow?"

FARM MAPPING

By Alex Blake

Many farmers are already aware of the farm mapping project, and have had maps produced for them by the department. As a refresher, Stuart Doyle first produced maps in 2003. These maps use 5 different sources of data.

1. Scanned and digitally rectified copies of the 1952 1:50,000 Ordinance Survey Maps.
2. Satellite Images, acquired from United States Geological Survey LandSat7, which have been processed to show vegetation type (1 for the East, 1 for the West). The processed images were then converted to vector data
3. Farm Boundary information collected using PWD DGPS which has an accuracy of greater than 1 meter.
4. Topographical data including roads, streams and ponds.
5. Hand Held GPS data collected using hand held GPS (accuracy c. 4m).

The department has acquired all the data sets except the GPS data. GPS points need to be taken at where fences change direction, or meet other fences, and this is very simple to do. The department has Garmin E-Trex hand held GPS units that can be lent to farmers who want to have maps created, or who want to update maps that have already been done.

Although Doug and Damien have collected some GPS points for projects that they are working on, in most cases the farmers need to do this. Some farmers have purchased their own GPS units as well. These are relatively cheap and if farmers are thinking of buying their own GPS I can give advice in the choice of unit and where to buy.

The collected data is all stored in GIS software ArcGIS. This program allows various data sets of varying size to be plotted so they overlay each other in the correct geographical position. In general at least 2 maps are produced for each farm each show camps and fence lines, 1 with the vegetation as background and 1 with the scanned Ordinance Survey maps as background.

In the past maps have been printed on A4 or A3 paper. However we have just taken possession of a large format plotter, which will allow us to print on A0 paper (84.1 cm x 118.9 cm).

Some maps have already been printed on paper this size, the only option for larger farms where there are many camps. Farmers who would like larger scale copies of their maps should contact me on 27322.
The maps allow:-

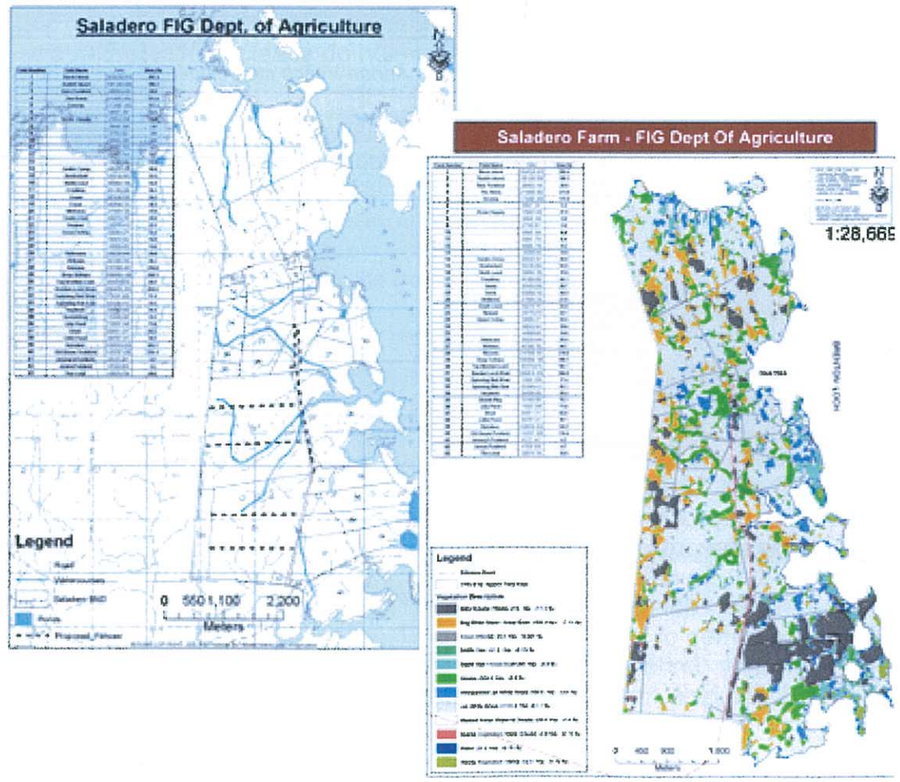
- Accurate areas to be calculated. (A 4 meter error on a square kilometre equates to 0.75 % of the total area).
- The information in conjunction with the other data sets displayed will allow better planning of new fences. It is possible to split camps “on the computer” and as a result budget for the quantity of materials required.
- The current managed grazing trials all use the information that was created from the mapping project. The camps were split up to ensure that camps were of a fairly even size, all contained water etc.

At present the department is only scratching the surface of ArcGIS. It is an extremely useful and versatile piece of software, as it allows other information to be attached to the maps and statistical analysis to be carried out on information from databases and spread sheets.

In the future GIS could be used to monitor and analyse:-

- Sheep productivity in small parcels of land, (either wool growth or meat production).
- Changes in vegetation that may lead to soil erosion or that demonstrate improvement as a result of a management change etc.
- Tracking areas where losses make the land uneconomic to farm in the current fashion so leading to changes in land use.
- The planning where to put re-seeds to ensure they receive enough sun and water and are going to have sufficient soil for growth.
- Fertiliser requirements to ensure that the mineral balance remains the same.

Examples of Maps Produced



Anyone requiring assisting with any aspect of mapping their farm or who would simply like more information on what is involved please contact me at Mineral Resources on telephone 27322, fax 27321 or email ablake@mineralresources.gov.fk

SHEEP AI AND ET

By Nyree Heathman

It seems like we have barely finished this year's ovine AI & ET programme and already we are planning the 2006 programme, which it is hoped will commence in January. With this in mind I though it would be a good idea to briefly go over AI and ET, especially for those of you who may be considering getting some work done for the first time.

Artificial Insemination (AI)

AI in sheep is a fairly simple and quick procedure. The ewe is restrained in a cradle and inseminated through a small hole in her abdomen with the semen of your choice whilst under a mild sedative. To ensure the ewe is on heat she has to go through a simple synchronisation process over a period of 16 days – although there are only 5 days during this period that you actually have to do something to either your ewes or your teaser wethers/vasectomised rams. Success rates of 60 – 75% can be expected.

Adrian Veitch inseminating a ewe at Saladero

Fresh Embryo Transfer (ET)

ET is a pretty scary thought to most farmers but is actually a lot more straightforward than it sounds, although it does involve a great deal more preparation on the synchronisation front than AI. Superior stock, both ewes and rams (semen can be imported) need to be selected. Then the ewes, known as donors, need to be synchronised to produce more than the one or two eggs than they would naturally (often up to five or six). This is a 3-week process and involves a great deal of dedication, as accurate timing of injections is essential.

There are also numerous injections and in the 3-week period there are 9 days that the donors and/or teasers will require injections etc. Of these 9 days there are 4 consecutive days on which the donors have to be injected twice daily – 8am and 6pm. These injections are crucial to the success of your programme. You also have to synchronise recipient ewes for your embryos to be transferred into on collection day. Your donors are then inseminated with the semen of your choice and 5 or 6 days later they undergo surgery to collect the fertilised embryos from the donors' uterus.

Donors prepared for surgery

The donor ewe will be restrained in a cradle and anaesthetised. A small incision will be made in her abdomen to allow access to the uterus. A special solution is then flushed though the uterus to wash the embryos out and into a petri-dish where they can be found and graded with the use of a microscope. They can then be transferred into your recipient ewes. At this point you do have the alternative option of freezing the viable embryos for transfer at a later date or different location.

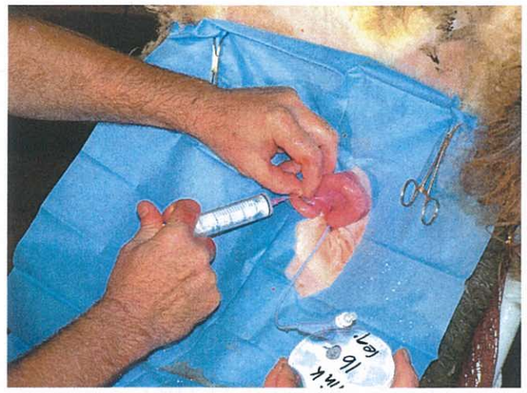
Another option for embryo transfer is to import frozen embryos from Australia, New Zealand or even South Africa, as has been done over the last 3 years. However it must be noted that imported frozen embryos are considerably more expensive than locally produced embryos. This allows you to import different breeds and genetics from specific flocks or animals that meet importation protocol.

Implanting the embryos

Typically you can expect the following success rates although I cannot stress enough that there are no guarantees with embryos transfer. There are numerous factors that can make or break a programme: feed quality and availability, animal stress, animal condition, weather, feed changes, animal health, your management of the process, – the list is endless.

Frozen embryos – 40%
Fresh transfer – 60%

If anyone is considering having AI or ET on their farms next year, or just want to have a chat and ask a few questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at the Department.



Flushing – collecting the embryos

Finding & grading the embryos

2006 SHEEP AI & ET

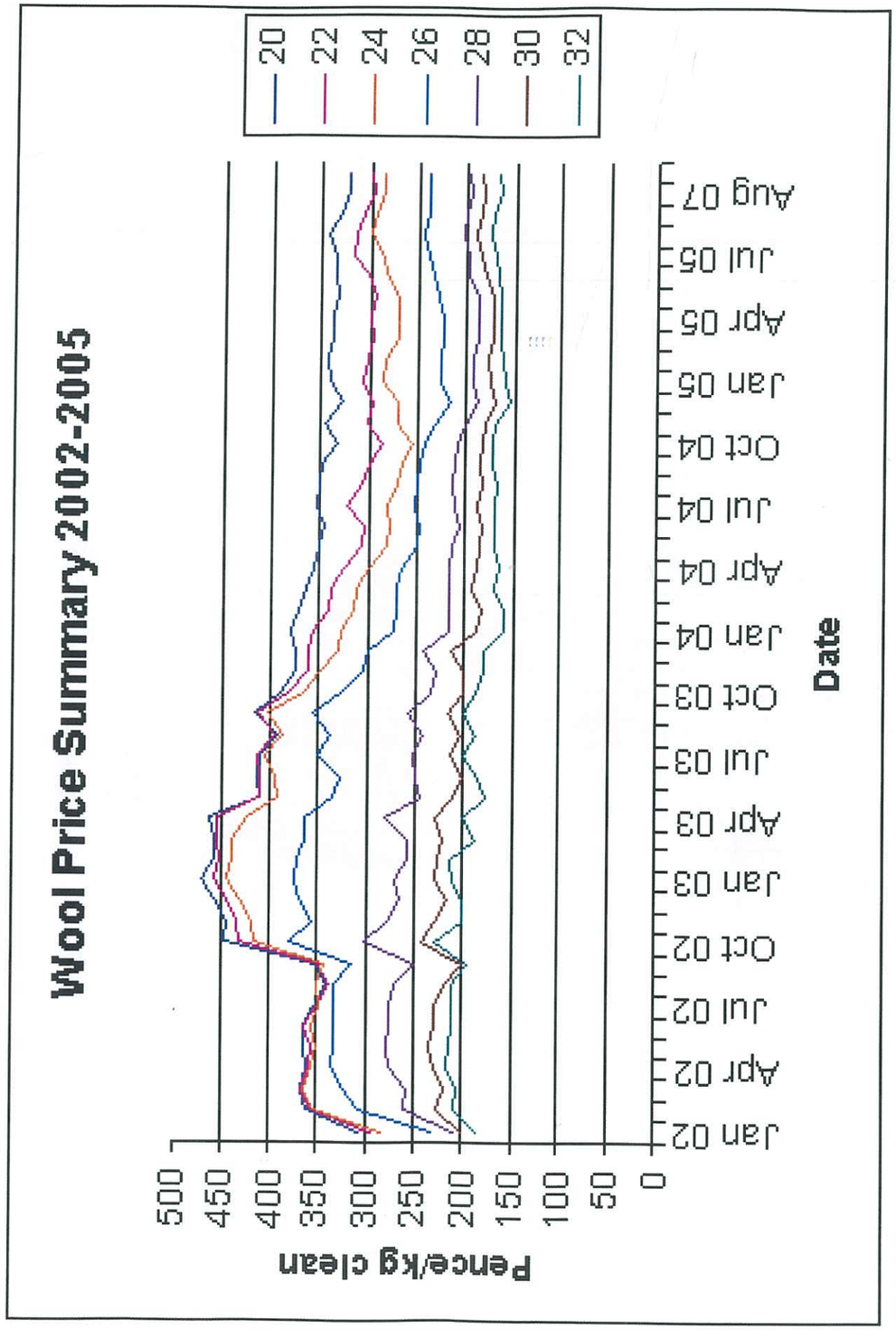
CAN ALL PEOPLE CONSIDERING SHEEP AI OR ET IN THE 2006 SEASON (Scheduled to commence in Jan), PLEASE CONTACT NYREE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DISCUSS THEIR REQUIREMENTS

THIS INCLUDES ALL PIP FUNDED WORK
AS WELL AS ANY PRIVATELY FUNDED WORK

Phone: 27355 * Fax: 27352
Email: nheathman@doa.gov.fk

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



PROJECTS AND CARS

Sam Davies

Since returning back to college after the June/July holidays I have been flat out with the serious side of things towards my diploma and spent the majority of my time in a computer room producing assignments - so my life is quite boring at the moment!

But although I have been bounded to computers, I have achieved a lot, and have learnt a lot as well. The biggest assignment I have completed so far has been a marketing assignment, I chose the wool industry to do mine on, for my personal interest and the research work was fairly easy to find. That assignment ended up being just under 7,000 words!

The major assignment for this course is to produce a property business plan which analyses every aspect of a property from natural resources, soil testing, management factors to a SWOT analysis. I could go into detail to every thing I have to find out, but I think I could be typing for a long time and bore the readers to skip this page!!

Seeing that I have to conduct a property business plan, I decided to ask Adrian (for those who do not know who Adrian is, he is the vet that has been to the Falklands on the past two AI/ET programmes) if he would kindly let me do mine on his Dorper stud in Narrogin WA, which he agreed to so I will be paying the gang a visit for three weeks during the September holidays. I will be staying with Michylla, so I'm sure I am going to have a great time over there!

On a brighter side of things, I have kept myself entertained fairly well in my spare time. My friend and I have ventured to the river a few times now and have had bbq's next to it. This weekend just gone, Kimberley and her flat mate and I went to Emerald for a day trip to go shopping. We went down in Kimberly's car, was quite surprised that we made it actually! She brought it earlier in the year for $900, so I was wondering if we would make it there and back because it is a four hour drive one way!

On the way there, because the car is petrol/gas she has to change over tanks when one empties. I was sitting in the back of the car, and then suddenly Kimberly pulls to the side of the road on the way up a hill! She said that we had run out of petrol, I couldn't believe it, I really thought that we were stuck in the middle of no where, this couldn't be happening, and then she pipes up and said that she was changing onto the gas. I have never felt so relieved in my life! Lucky for us we made it there and back in the same day, and it was a very long day!

POSTERS FOR CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS (BOILS)

By Steve Pointing

You will shortly be receiving a poster in the mail outlining what you and shearers can do to reduce the incidence of boils on your farm.

Please display this poster in a prominent site in your shearing shed as a reminder to yourselves and to any visiting shearers.

WORK AND THE WEATHER

By Siân Ferguson

It seems like people have just been coming and going these last couple of months. Not long ago Cathy and Chester left after spending five months on the Agricultural Trainee Scheme and we also said hello to me and goodbye to Mandy!! Last month, Teraaka Middleton spent two weeks work experience at the Department of Agriculture during a six week holiday mid-way through completing his A-Levels. Teraaka was working with Sue Halfacre as he wants to become involved with lab work after finishing his studies overseas.

Four students from the Community School are spending time at the DOA during September for two weeks Work Experience. Danielle Greenough is working with vets Steve and Vic while Erica Berntsen, Shaun May and Lucas Berntsen are involved in the agricultural side of things. Hopefully you will be able to read more about what they have been up next month!!

Other than trying to pull the Wool Press together as quickly as possible when it should have been finished yesterday, I've spent a lot of time working on the website these last couple of months, getting everything updated and changing the look of it. Hopefully it won't be too long before the new version is finished, but I'll let everyone know when it's up and running.

Moving onto the weather...August was a pretty average month, although a particularly wet one at Mount Pleasant, the third high ever recorded there. The wettest day was Tuesday 16th, when 13.1mm of rainfall was recorded. It was an average month temperature wise, the hottest day was on Wednesday 10th when 10.2°C was recorded at MPA. The lowest temperature throughout the month was –3.6°C on Friday 19th.

There were thirteen days of snow (just slightly above the average), with a depth of 5cm recorded on the 19th. There were three days of hail (below the average of 4.9), three days of fog (average 4.2) and no thunderstorms recorded, which is normal for August. Sunshine totals were below the average of 96.7 at just 90.4 and the two sunniest days, Monday 15th and Tuesday 30th, below saw 9.2 hours of sunshine.

It was slightly less windy than expected with a mean of only 13.8 knots compared to the average 14.7 knots. The maximum gust of 52 knots was recorded on Monday 8th (the average highest gust for August is 69 knots) and there were only gales on two days, Monday 8th and Tuesday 8th. There were thirteen days where gusts exceeded thirty knots, compared to an average of sixteen.

Rainfall Totals

Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Stanley	2005	**67**	**29**	**77**	**49**	**39**	**35**	**29**	**36**
	Average	*74*	*57*	*59*	*58*	*58*	*50*	*46.5*	*45.5*
MPA	2005	**77**	**33**	**48**	**56**	**48**	**22**	**23**	**49**
	Average	*61*	*47*	*57*	*49*	*54*	*58*	*45*	*36*
Head of Bay		**88**	**30**	**67**	**42**	**66**	**25**	**28**	**46**
Elephant Beach		**68**	**23**	**69**	**22**	**57**	**30**	**31**	**51**
Swan Inlet		**55**	**29**	**45**	**38**	**50**	**16**	**28**	**32**
Port Howard		-	-	-	-	-	-	**43**	**50**

I would like to thank the MPA Met Office, Andrez Short, Riki Evans, Ted Jones and Ron Reeves for providing us with the monthly data. If you would like to collect rainfall figures and provide the figures on a monthly basis, then please get in contact and the DOA can supply you with a rain gauge. Alternatively, if you already collect rainfall data, then we would be grateful to anyone who would provide us with a copy of the monthly totals.

Finally, just a quick note before everyone starts scribbling on the back page filling in the crossword. Mandy very kindly left me a completed crossword, which I used in August, so be warned – the puzzle this month is completely my own creation!! I know it's a bit thinner than usual, but it was my first attempt and I've been adding to the October one slowly already, so it should be bursting to the brim come time for the printers!!

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

By Glynis King

Sian has asked me for a write up on the administration side of things within the Agriculture Department.....June saw the end of the financial year. This is one of my busiest times and includes balancing accounts for the year-end and preparing for the new financial year (may not sound much but a lot of work is involved)! Also update staff records, archive old record and update inventories of the whole department.

The daily running of the office includes filing, typing, keeping the accounts up to date, a host of enquiries, payment of all invoices, orders for the department and where possible, a daily visit to my colleagues at the Agriculture Department. On a monthly basis I process the payroll for the Department, check on invoices paid and prepare month end reports to balance with Treasury accounts.

I am currently busy with Labour Scheme payments and enquiries; a reminder to all wishing to utilise this programme that you should apply in writing to Phyl Rendell or Neil Judd detailing the tasks to be undertaken and approximate time limit in order for funds to be committed. Once permission is sought and granted I will send out worksheets for completion.

The 15th September marks the end of the open season for grass fires; from the 16th September 2005 to 31st March 2006 permission must be sought from the Director of Minerals and Agriculture to burn grass fires in accordance with the Grass Fires Bill 2002; please contact me if you require more information.

However, please note that it is a requirement of the Grass Fires Ordinance 2002 that during the **open season** (1st April to 15th September), unless advised otherwise by the Director of Agriculture, before setting fire to vegetation that the following occurs;

(a) the Chief Police Officer is advised of the intent to burn camp

and (b) any owners/occupiers of any farm within two miles of the burn are advised of the upcoming burn

Please see on the following pages a copy of the Guidelines for Labour Scheme and Grass Fires for ease of reference.

You can contact me on
telephone 27322, fax 27321 or email gking@doa.gov.fk

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GUIDELINES FOR BURNING RESEEDS

These guidelines are based on the ARC Farmlink Fact Sheet from July 1986.

Pasture seeds germinate best in a firm, fine seedbed. The object of burning following rotation is to destroy the loose, spongy trash, which would otherwise adversely affect germination. Therefore the aim should be a good, clean burn.

WARNING! BURNING OF TRASH CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

Special attention to detail is necessary to ensure that the operation is completed safely and effectively.

PREPARATION

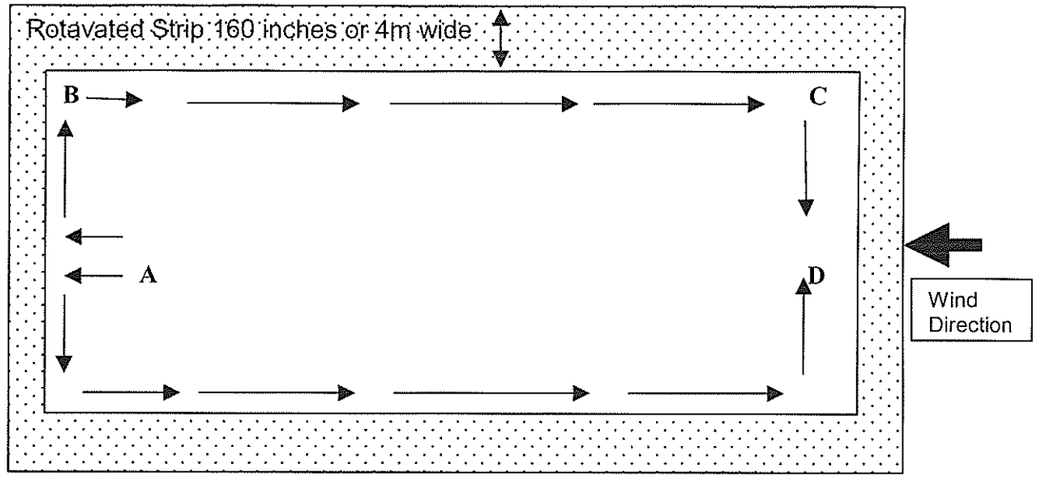
1. Notify the Director of Agriculture and Chief Police Officer of the intention to burn at a named site over a prescribed period of time as per the Grass Fires Ordinance 2002.
2. Notify neighbours by telephone call.
3. Have a tractor with matching rotavator on site. Set the rotavator to work at a depth of about 4 inches so that it will bring up fresh damp soil to make a firebreak. The firebreak should be at least 160 inches wide (2 passes of an 80" Rotavator). The firebreak should be rolled to compress the wet material.
4. Arrange for a gang of 4 to 6 people to be available. At least one should be a tractor driver experienced in rotavating. It is desirable for the gang to be able to keep in touch with one another by 2metre radio.
5. Prepare about 6 "torches" by tightly rolling pieces of bagging around the ends of 4-5 feet lengths of fencing wire. A supply of diesel is also required to soak the torches in prior to igniting them.

PROCEDURE

1. As soon as the trash is thoroughly dry, a day should be chosen when there is a steady light wind of about 5 to 10 knots and no threat of rain. Use the weather forecasts. Do not attempt to burn too early in the day. About mid-morning is soon enough after any dew has dried off. However, preparations can start earlier by rotavating a firebreak of 2 rotavator widths around the perimeter of the cultivated areas, with rolling to compress the wet material.
2. The direction of the wind dictates the spot where the trash is first ignited. This should always be on the <u>downwind</u> side. See diagram. (On next page).
3. Two people only are needed for actually lighting the fire. A larger number can cause confusion. Both should start at "A" about 10 yards from the downwind edge of the area. They should move to points "B" lighting the trash every 2 or 3 feet. This small patch should be allowed to burn out to form an additional firebreak.
4. The 2 people should then move at approximately the same speed and keeping abreast of one another to points "C" lighting the trash as they go. Once at points "C" they should move quickly to point "D" igniting the trash evenly. During this process the other members of the gang will be kept busy soaking and lighting the spare torches.
5. During the burn the borders of the area must be checked constantly in case the fire jumps the firebreak. If it does it should be put out immediately by beating or rotavating.
6. If conditions are right and the above procedure followed, the fire will burn itself out quite quickly. Odd pockets may smoulder on and these should be extinguished by beating or

rotavating. The site should not be left until the fire is out or safely under control. It should be visited at least once daily for at least 14 days to check that there have not been any flare-ups.

Generalised layout for a reseed burn



LABOUR SCHEME GUIDELINES

In an effort to make the Labour Scheme more 'User Friendly' and straightforward, the following guidelines have been drawn up that have given some flexibility to the original rules, but hopefully preserving the main aims of the scheme which are:

a) To put more Cash into Camp.
b) To service the fencing and pasture improvement programmes.

1. This scheme is to be used for the following camp related works only:
   a. Fencing
   b. Pasture Improvement (not for work undertaken on PIP)
   c. Major Building/ Development Projects
2. The Department of Agriculture must be consulted by the host farmer for approval of any work to be undertaken, <u>before the work commences or person(s) employed.</u>
3. The host farmer should, when practical, work alongside the person(s) being employed on their farm.
4. There is no stated limit for camp residents on the amount an individual can earn on the scheme.
   The Director of Agriculture will use her discretion to ensure that fairness prevails.
5. A family member, who is normally resident in camp, can work on the family farm for projects stated in point one up to a ceiling of £2,000 per individual per year. This does not include spouses/partners.
   In the interest of fairness, if someone else in your area has been waiting for the chance to work, they may be given priority over a family member.
6. In special circumstances (i.e. if no one else is available), Stanley residents will be permitted to work on the Labour Scheme.
7. Farmers will not be paid for work undertaken by themselves (or spouse) on their own farms.

8. The Department will consider payment for a maximum of 10 hours per day in summer (October to April inclusive) and eight hours per day in winter (May to September inclusive). Travel to and from the work site cannot be claimed.
9. The rates of pay, as agreed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, at the meeting held on 14th April 2005, shall increase to £6.00 per hour.

PLEASE CONTACT THE SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR FOR FURTHER DETAILS

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

FOR HIRE
FROM RACE POINT FARM

Race Point Farm has for hire a number of pure bred Dohne ewes for flushing for the next ET programme.

For more information telephone 41012, fax 41022 or email racepoint@horizon.co.fk

CORRECTION

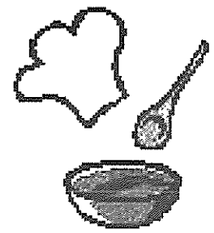
In the August Wool Press, there was an error in Zoe Luxton's article, Food for Thought. After the fifth paragraph (which finishes *"Little does she know" I thought "that I know Mr F a bit more intimately that that - so there")* there was a paragraph omitted which should have read…

> *Pause mid-High St with sandwich half way to mouth. "Hang on - not intimately in THAT way, most certainly not!" Indignant sandwich chewing. "But really, with clients that you know well - you can say you have a close relationship". An inevitable prawn down t-shirt moment halted the ponderings then but I had to reflect the matter. These are the things I know about Mr F: He has 5 Great Danes; he works in a sandwich shop and lives in Woodbridge. I wouldn't have a clue who his friends are, what he likes (apart from Great Danes and possibly sandwiches) or dislikes, whether he likes to chat, dance, drink or fight with people or what his favourite Harry Potter book is. Barely the basis of a close relationship.*

And then carried in *"But, we have been covered with spit and sweat together as we wrestled to examine the ear of Dog 1."*

Our apologies to Zoe for this, especially any misinterpretation that the article read without the missing paragraph!!

RECIPE SPOT



Chocolate Chip Ice Cream

Ingredients

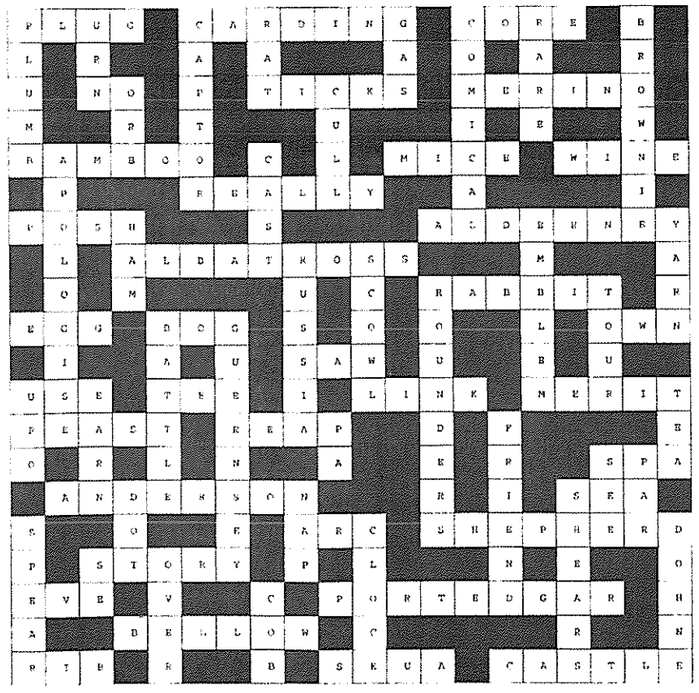
300ml (1/2 pint) milk
4 egg yolks
300ml (1/2 pint) double cream
140g (5oz) dark Belgian chocolate, finely chopped
1 tsp coffee essence
55g (2oz) caster sugar
110g (4oz) milk chocolate, chopped

Method

Put half of the milk the dark chocolate and the coffee essence into a small bowl, set over, not in, a saucepan of simmering water, stir until the chocolate has melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the remaining milk. Cream the yolks and sugar together until thick. Blend on the chocolate milk. Tip the mixture into a small saucepan and stir over a very gentle heat for 3-4 minutes or until the mixture begins to thicken, on no account allow it to boil. Strain the chocolate custard into a bowl and cool completely. Stir the cream into the cold custard and freeze, either in a churn or in a shallow tray in the freezer, when the mixture is half frozen stir in the chocolate and continue to freeze until solid. Once frozen leave in the freezer for at least 2 hours to mature. Put into the refrigerator for 15 minutes before serving.

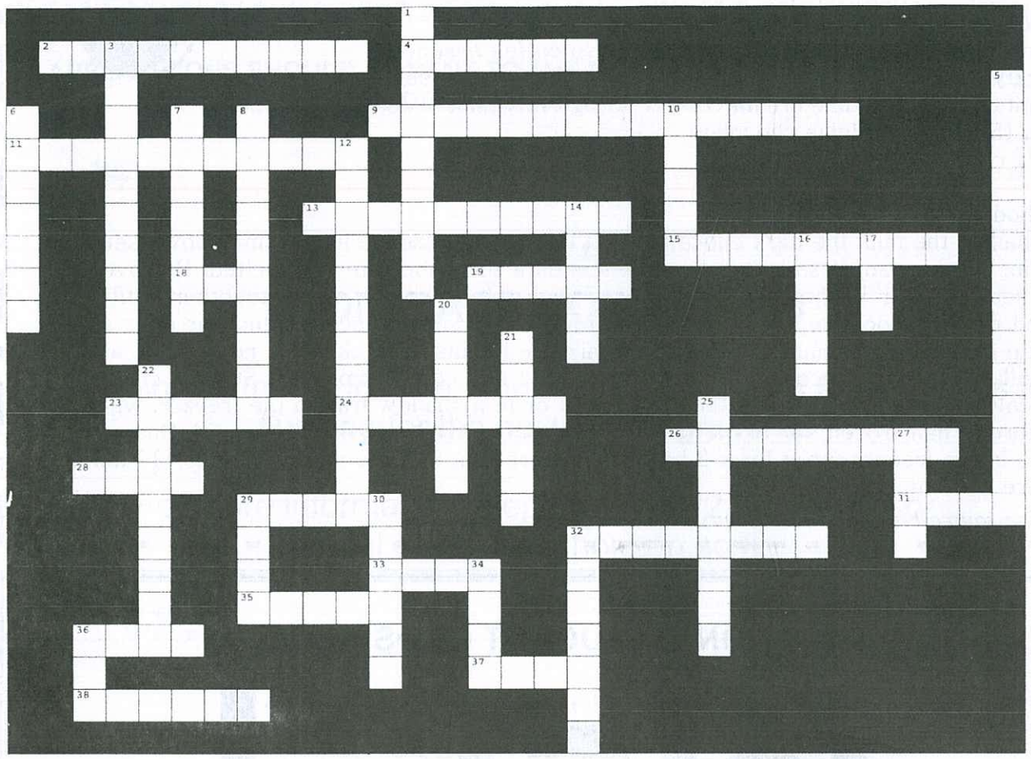
Recipe sourced from www.sainsbury.co.uk/recipe

SOLUTION TO AUGUST CROSSWORD



PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD...



ACROSS

2. Guilt-ridden
4. Annual
9. Popular stop-over on-route to UK
11. Bi-annual overseas competition
13. Study of insects
15. Causes increase in sunburn risk
18. Short snooze
19. African Equine
23. How you might greet the Queen
24. Go along with
26. Of the night
28. A gem or shape
29. Permit
31. White frilly material
32. A property boardgame
33 The product of theft
35. Cast with a wand
36. Extinct bird
37. A bend or twist
38. A sea-based robber

DOWN

1.Popular tourist spot on the east
3. Disney film featuring zoo animals
5. Students practising employment
6. Not plant or animal
7. Unwavering
8. Annual social/sporting event
10. Snow house
12. Capital of Dominican Republic
14. Alternative to cinch
16. Willing
17. Night time bird
20. Ringed plant
21. Young swan
22. Homosapiens
25. Dirty deeds
27. Friend
29. Parts of a play
30. A family of deciduous trees
32. A standing South African animal
34. Ponyride
36. Chemical to rid animal of insects

BRAINTEASERS...

x A man was driving a black truck. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. A lady was crossing the street. How did the man see her?

x Scientific studies have shown that there is a direct, positive correlation between foot size and performance in spelling bees / spelling tests. How can you explain this correlation?

The Wool Press

ISSUE 190 OCTOBER 2005 PRICE: £1.00

All the regular features and more!

AVIAN INFLUENZA - BIRD FLUE
Steve Pointing

2006 AI & ET PROGRAMMES
Nyree Heathman

WINTER FUEL
Robert Rowlands

LAMBING TIME
Vic Epstein

WHAT DO LAMBING EWES NEED?
Damien O'Sullivan

LOOKING BACK ON SEPTEMBER
Siân Ferguson

CATTLE LICE
Doug Martin

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES AND MORE!!

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EDITORIAL

With lambing well on the way this year on many farms, Damien's article in this month's publication entitled "What do lambing ewes need?" is very topical. Vic the vet's check list for lambing is also timely and we welcome calls from people who are interested in attending a lambing course at the DoA as a refresher or for newcomers to sheep work. Even before this year's lambs and calves are on the ground Nyree is advancing the 2006 sheep and cattle genetic programme. There is a brief update from Nyree in this publication, following on from last month's article. Do get in touch with her and Vic if you want some guidance with your plans.

Spring can be a time when signs of lice are seen on stock and Doug's comprehensive article on treating cattle lice is an interesting read. Following on from that are the weather statistics showing a very dry September all around the Islands. I am sure readers will be watching these statistics with concern and many will be making plans for water storage as and where possible if the trend continues. One area that we have not developed yet at the DoA is courses in rain dancing or water divining. We may have to put it in next year's budget!

The world news seems to be dominated by natural disasters these days and we hope the Falklands will escape them. Avian influenza is now becoming a major threat world wide. Steve's article this month sets out the facts so we are well informed.

Here's to a productive spring on farms.

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

AVIAN INFLUENZA – BIRD FLU

By Steve Pointing

Definition

Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of any spp. of birds. It is caused by a Type A influenza virus. There are two types of avian influenza virus, low pathogenicity (LPAI) and high pathogenicity (HPAI). The last outbreak of avian influenza in Great Britain was in 1991. The most recent outbreak close to the Falkland Islands was in Chile in June 2002 where there were two outbreaks in the central part of Chile, leading to the death or slaughter of about one million birds.

History and spread of the disease

A highly pathogenic form of avian influenza was known as "fowl plague". It first appeared in Italy more than a 100 years ago (around 1878). Pathogenic avian influenza was first recognised in the United States in 1924/25. Pathogenic and mildly pathogenic influenza A viruses occur worldwide. Highly pathogenic avian influenza A (HPAI) viruses of the H5 and H7 subtypes have been isolated occasionally from free living birds in Europe and elsewhere. The most recent outbreaks of the disease have occurred in Australia, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Italy, Chile and Mexico. A serious outbreak of AI in the Netherlands in 2003, spreading to Belgium and Germany, affected some 250 farms and necessitated the slaughter of more than 28 million poultry.

Another serious epidemic of the disease affected Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia early in 2004. This outbreak is still ongoing in China and parts of Southeast Asia. There is evidence that H5 viruses of low pathogenicity may mutate and become highly pathogenic.

Clinical Signs

Typically the disease presents suddenly with affected birds showing oedema (swelling) of the head, cyanosis of the comb and wattles, dullness of appetite, respiratory distress, diarrhoea and drop in egg production. Birds may die without any sign of disease being apparent.

Transmission

- Direct contact with secretions from infected birds, especially faeces.
- Contaminated feed, water, equipment and clothing.
- Clinically normal waterfowl and sea birds may introduce the virus into flocks.
- Broken contaminated eggs may infect chicks in the incubator.

Prevention and Control

✷ No treatment ✷

How to reduce the risk

- Avoidance of contact between poultry and wild birds, particularly waterfowl.
- Avoidance of introduction of birds of unknown disease status into flock.
- Control of human traffic.
- Proper checking and disinfection procedures.
- One age group per farm ("all in/all out") breeding is recommended.

In Outbreaks

- Slaughter of all birds.
- Disposal of all carcasses and all animal products.
- Cleaning & Disinfection.
- Allow at least 21 days before restocking.

Key Points

- Avian Influenza (AI) is a disease of BIRDS, not humans. People can become infected but rarely are.
- There are many strains of AI viruses, which vary in their ability to cause disease.
- AI viruses are categorised according to this ability to cause severe disease (pathogenicity) as either highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or low pathogenic (LPAI).
- LPAI does not always cause obvious disease in birds. It is present in the global wildfowl population.
- Certain strains of LPAI can mutate into HPAI, especially when introduced into poultry populations.
- One way that AI could be introduced into the Falkland Islands is by infective migratory birds. These would normally only arrive from the South American mainland and fortunately both Chile and Argentina are free of the disease.
- Some strains of HPAI spread easily and quickly between birds in poultry populations and cause severe disease, with a high death rate.
- In rare cases, some HPAI strains can lead to severe disease and deaths in people where infection has resulted from close contact with infected birds.
- There are a limited number of reported cases of person to person spread of AI, but no evidence of sustained transmission. AI virus may become more transmissible in humans or other species as a result of mutations.
- AI viruses can mutate into forms that enable them to spread more easily between people or other species.
- AI viruses can also exchange genetic material with human influenza viruses in humans or susceptible animals to emerge as new viruses capable of causing disease in people and being spread easily between people. This genetic change can occur within people or other species and is what makes AI such a potential threat to human health.
- The global human population may have little or no immunity to a new influenza virus that significantly differs from recent or existing strains of human influenza viruses. It is therefore very important to ensure that any outbreak of AI is controlled quickly and that workers and veterinarians in close contact with infected birds are well protected

Is avian influenza likely to occur in the Falkland Islands?

Well the answer is that it could occur anywhere but the Falkland Islands are less likely to be affected than many other places in the world. This is because the Islands are relatively isolated and they are not on a major migratory route for any wild bird species. The nearest large area of land to the Falklands is the southern tip of South America and there have been no recently recorded cases of avian influenza in that region. We should not, however, be complacent as there was an outbreak of AI in central Chile in 2002 and many of the poultry products that are consumed here originate from Europe where there have been sporadic outbreaks over the past 15 years. The EU however, is quick to ban the export of poultry products coming from infected premises.

If any of your chickens become sick with any of the symptoms mentioned above, then please contact the veterinary service as soon as possible. With a disease such as AI it is always preferable to make an early diagnosis so that steps can be taken to prevent further spread.

2006 AI & ET PROGRAMMES

By Nyree Heathman

South African vet Frans Jooste will be in the Islands from early January until late June to carry out all of the sheep artificial breeding work and any cattle work that is requested. Thus, I need to know by Friday October 14th 2005 what individual farm requirements are for next season. I need to know what your requirements are ASAP so that together we can make this programme work.

I have tried to make the order forms as simple as possible to fill in. Please use the comments space to explain fully if need be. For those of you who are unsure about what type of work you would like, if any, do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

It has come to light that I missed the following off the available cattle semen list that was sent out. Please accept my apologies for this error.

Belted Galloway	Dundrennan Macadam	21 straws	£10/straw
Angus	Kenhardt Winston	61 straws	£15/straw

If anyone has any further questions of just wants to have a chat about their artificial breeding plans please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at the Department at your earliest convenience.

WINTER FUEL

By Robert Rowlands

Following the difficulties some customers encountered with diesel fuel in the period of colder weather experienced during June and with thoughts given to future winters and not wishing for any repeat of these problems, Stanley Services Limited has reviewed the subject and published the following information which maybe useful to customers.

It is not always easy in this location to obtain winter grade diesel fuel that has a specification that would be acceptable to all users at a price that is affordable to customers. All fuel purchased by the company has full specifications and certificate of origin provided. The policy is to buy best grade obtainable at a competitive price and then, if necessary, a cold weather additive and possibly kerosene is added to the product to give it winter use properties.

There are three main properties for diesel fuel in the winter;

i **Cloud Point** is the temperature at which the fuel starts to go cloudy and wax crystals start to form
ii **Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP)** is the temperature at which the fuel, due to the size of the wax crystals, will no longer flow through a filer
iii **Pour Point** is the temperature at which the fuel is no longer a liquid

Normal diesel will have a Cloud Point of 0°C to –2°C and a Pour Point of –5°C. The CFPP would normally be a degree or two below the Cloud Point depending on the origin of the fuel. Cold weather additive has to be added to the diesel above the Cloud Point for it to work in the proper manner by breaking down the wax crystals so that they will flow through a filter, it will not work if added to cold cloudy fuel, the use of additive does not alter the appearance of the fuel.

Another alternative, but a more expensive option, is to add up to 20% kerosene to the diesel. The critical parameter for diesel in winter use is the CFPP figure. Kerosene and Cold Weather additive were used this winter but did not have the total effect expected due to the nature of how the additive works with the diesel fuel, depending on its origin. This fuel tested with a CFPP of –11°C, which is the temperature to which we have been working successfully over the last few winters. However it did not work to that limit in the field.

The lowest temperature that was reported to us was –9 °C. However with wind chill this could equate to -20 °C. The most critical element with diesel in exposed storage tanks used for heating is the location of the filter. Every consideration should be given to insulating and positioning the filter in a sheltered site if at all possible. In future all possible effort will be made to provide fuel with a minimum CFPP of –15°C. It remains possible that this will not cover those very rare occasions of very high wind chill factors.

There does seem to be a possible misconception widely held regarding the colour of the fuel; the colour of diesel varies from light straw to darker brown and comments are often made that the fuel is dirty if it is dark in colour. What counts is the specification of the fuel and the calorific value to be obtained per litre. As an example, Stanley Power Station is often supplied with higher density fuel; this being the fuel suited to the large engines used which will provide more kilowatts per litre of fuel.

All diesel supplied by the company is normally converted to winter grade in early April and this is then supplied until at least the end of August. It is noted that farms often purchase quantities before April and end up with fuel on the farm that may be unsuitable for use in winter months.

Therefore, if purchasing fuel months in advance it would be wise to consider purchase of cold weather additive, as it is considered an unnecessary expense to provide treated fuel all year round. If farms served in bulk by MV Tamar are taking in winter fuel stock in March, then please advise the company when placing the order.

In the last year customers will have noted that there has been a rapid increase in the local price of petrol. This has not been solely related to the world price of oil. Previously the product had been available in the islands from bulk storage, but due to the small quantities used this was no longer an economic option and it now has to be imported in containerised tanks. This has added greatly to the transportation costs. This coupled with small and decreasing quantities used means that it is unlikely that this method will change in the foreseeable future.

We hope the above information may be helpful to you and please contact us if you have any comment or questions.

LAMBING TIME

By Vic Epstein

DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES...

- COLOSTRUM (may have to collect some and freeze it early in the season)
  (may have some from last season)
  (slowly defrost in warm water- if it boils it is worthless!!!)
  (give it within the first 24 hours of birth or it is worthless!!)
- THERMOMETER
- STOMACH TUBE
- TEAT
- ELECTROLYTES
- GLUCOSE 20%
- 50 ML SYRINGE AND 19g 1 inch NEEDLES
- BOILING WATER (for a nice cup ot tea while you spend fun filled hours looking after the orphan lambs)
- HEATING (for the lamb and *you* while you spend fun filled hours looking after the lamb)
- INSTRUCTION MANUAL (in the October 2003 Wool Press or the Farm Management Handbook

If you would like a copy of the Instruction Manual posted, faxed or emailed to you, please give Siân a ring on 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

LAMBING COURSE

By Vic Epstein

Another course on ovine obstetrics and gynaecology - or for those not wanting to sound so scientific a course in trying to deliver live lambs and keeping them alive - will be re-run on the 19th October 2005 at the Department of Agriculture

This will be similar to the course run by Sue Harvey, my predecessor.

If you want a refresher this is your opportunity.

Please contact Sarah at the Veterinary Section on 27366 for more details,

ROBOCAN - AUTOMATIC INSECT CONTROL SYSTEM

The RoboCan automatic vaporising system, with natural pyrethrins, is an extremely effective, efficient and safe method of eliminating insects throughout the entire home. RoboCan is a portable automatic insect control system that will automatically protect homes from flying and crawling insects, 24 hours a day, even with doors and windows open.

The repellent effect of natural pyrethrin against almost all insects; including flies, mosquitoes, ants, midges, cockroaches and silverfish is well documented. Chrysanthemums produce pyrethrin as a natural insect repellent and killer for protection. This is extracted and used in the RoboCan insect control formulas.

Insects appear to detect pyrethrin molecules in amounts less than 1 part per million, and this, when combined with RoboCan's patented vaporising system, means that only an extremely small amount needs to be released. RoboCan uses as much active ingredients in one day of continuous operation as a conventional aerosol would use in about a three-second spray. Once detected insects want to avoid it and will move away from the area.

The RoboCan system effectively sets up a "No Fly Zone" by repelling insects so that they do not enter the area even with doors and windows open. One RoboCan unit will protect a typical home of 150 sq. m. If by chance an insect does enter, it will immediately try to leave and if it cannot escape it will die at a natural light source like a window, making it an easy clean up job.

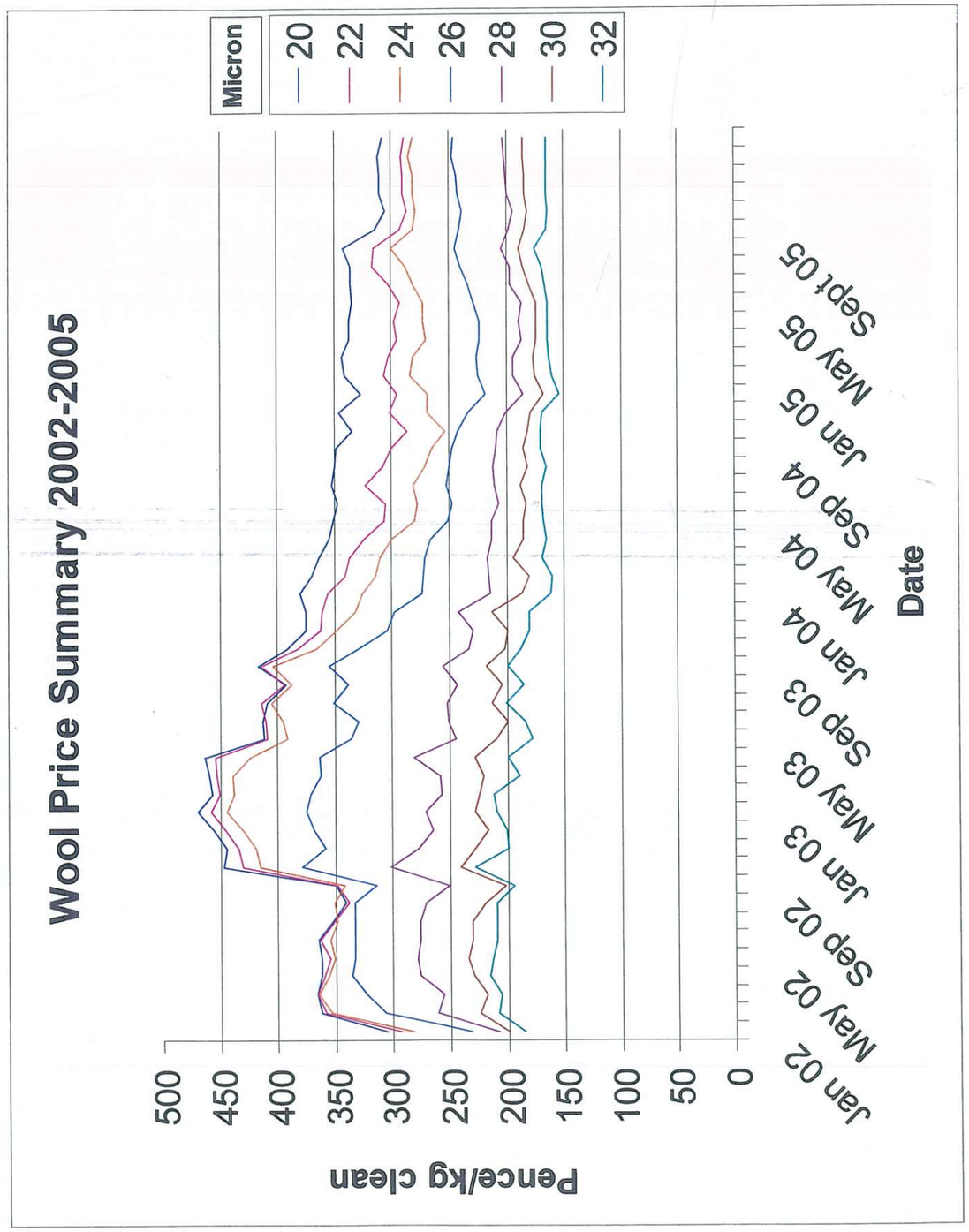
RoboCan's pyrethrin based formula is entirely safe for people, pets and the environment. The ingredients completely biodegrade within a few hours and leave no residues. It's also odourless and allergy sufferers are typically not affected by it.

Whatever your insect problem is, the RoboCan vaporising system can effectively eliminate them from the home.

Please contact Jimmy Forster at Bold Cove on telephone 42178 or email fbc@horizon.co.fk

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



WORK EXPERIENCE

By Siân Ferguson

On Monday the 5th September, the Department of Agriculture hosted four students from the Falkland Islands Community School for two week's work experience. Danielle Greenough spent her time in the Veterinary Section working with Steve Pointing and Sue Halfacre, while Erica Berntsen, Shaun May and Lucas Berntsen spent their time working with Timmy Bonner, Damien O'Sullivan, Doug Martin and Andrew Pollard

They each wrote about their experiences at the DOA…

DANIELLE GREENOUGH

My work consisted of working in the Veterinary Section doing various tasks: - working on the computer, in the surgery and also in the Laboratory but that was mainly watching and learning with Sue showing me different types of species to watch out for and what sort of chemicals are used for different types of work.

I stood in when operations were being done, watching what tools were being used We had all different types of arrivals come into the surgery and in all different shapes and sizes, with all different problems. I assisted Steve when he went out to sea for a hygiene inspection on a fishing vessel, also when animals were being imported we checked to see if they were healthy and disease free so they could come into Stanley, or out to camp. Working at the Agriculture Dept has made me want to go and achieve my goals at being a vet nurse.

ERICA BERNTSEN

During the time that I have been working at the DOA, I have taken part in many different tasks. Such as moving bags of seed to using a GPS to find out the area of a re-seed out at Saladero.

The day that will stand out in my mind was when we went out to Goose Green in the pouring rain to record the weight of the sheep that took part in the AI project. We had to weigh the sheep, record the breed, record the tag colour and number and also take a mid-side sample of wool. We did this to see which breed has the best attributes concerning the best micron, fleece weight and the best body weight.

I enjoyed my time working at the DOA because I did a lot of interesting work and learnt a lot of different and useful information in two short weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and I would definitely like to come back in the near future.

SHAUN MAY

During my time at the DOA I have taken part in a wide variety of activities from computer work to grading cattle. One of the best days I had, was when we weighed the AI sheep at Goose Green. We had to weigh the sheep record the tag number, breed and weight and then take a mid-side sample of wool.

I learnt how to grade cattle for their suitability for the market by its weight, fat content and pH levels etc. Sadly we did not to finish this as the cattle weren't tame enough.

I enjoyed my time because I got to travel around the islands and see different places. I have learnt a lot in just two weeks. Even as far as learning how to use a GPS to work out the area of a paddock.

I would definitely consider coming back to work here in the future. Thanks!

LUCAS BERNTSEN

I have been involved in a wide range of jobs and activities including pressing, fencing, moving seed, weighing sheep, GPS mapping and so on over the past two weeks.

There was also some travelling involved so I got to see new places and meet new people. It has been a good experience for me as I have picked up a number of skills and techniques that I'm sure will be very helpful for me in the near future. Some of these skills being, GPS mapping, finding the fat content of beef, working out the micron of sheep and other such techniques.

I have also learned why all of these things should be done and the benefits they will bring to farmers. Sadly though all good things come to an end and the time has come to return to school. Hopefully though I will be able to return the Department again soon to gain further knowledge and learn more skills before going off to college (hopefully) in Australia. Thanks for letting me be part of the team for the last two weeks and I'm sure I will see you again soon.

Shaun, Lucas and Erica enjoy a day out at Port Louis

MISSING IN ACTION

Can anyone who has **sheep CIDR applicators** or **auto vaccination guns** that belong to the Department of Agriculture please return them to Nyree ASAP.

Darwin Shipping Ltd – Cargo receiving for Voyage 342

AMG receiving until 19th October
Port receiving until 26th October

ETD Marchwood 3rd November
ETA Falklands 29th November

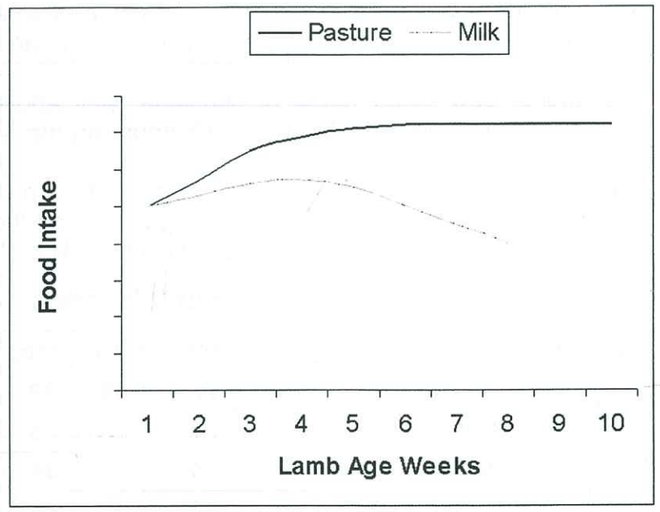
For shipping instructions please contact
Eva Clarke on telephone 27629 or email darwin@horizon.co.fk

WHAT DO LAMBING EWES NEED?

By Damien O'Sullivan

Ewe condition - Ewes need to be at about fat score 3 to minimise lambing losses and maximise lamb growth rates. The ewe's body reserves at lambing determine the potential milk production throughout her lactation.

Lambing – After lambing a poorly nourished ewe often has delayed milk production in the crucial 4 hours after lambing. Ideally lambs should receive colostrum within 30-60 minutes of birth. If the ewe is not lactating in this time period, the lamb's suckling reflex can diminish.



Milk vs Pasture intake of lambs

Colostrum – This is the thick opaque milk that a ewe has for 24hrs after lambing. It gives the lambs an energy boost and contains antibodies that a lamb needs in its first weeks of life. The amount and quality of a ewe's colostrum is directly linked to the value of her food in the 10 days up to lambing. Ewes in poorer condition tend to have a colostrum that is thicker and more difficult for lambs to suck.

Lactating ewes - Ewes lactating after lambing eat 20 to 70% more than dry ewes. Ewes with twins will eat another 5 to 15% more than a ewe with a single lamb. A lamb's early growth is determined by it's milk intake rather than birth weight.

A ewes's milk production reaches a peak 2-3 weeks after birth and by the time a lamb has reached 14 weeks they are only receiving 10% of their diet from milk. Studies have shown there is little advantage in allowing lambs to feed on the ewe after 14 weeks.

Other points

Lambs begin to eat small amounts of pasture from about 2 week and by week 8 pasture accounts for the main proportion of their diet.

Parasite burdens in stressed ewes can result in an increase in the number of worm eggs being dropped on pastures. This is not a problem for lambs until they begin to use pasture as their main form of diet.

Summary: Lambing success like most issues for livestock in the Falklands comes back to adequate nutrition. Here that means spelling the best camps to allow fresh high quality pasture for lambing ewes.

LOOKING BACK ON SEPTEMBER

By Siân Ferguson

September was a dry and hot month, with average temperatures 2.5° degrees above the long term average of 7.5°. The highest temperature recorded was 15° on the 17th and a low of -0.8° on the 11th. Rainfall in Stanley was well below the average of 41mm at 19.3mm. MPA also recorded a low rainfall at 14mm, much lower than the average of 33.5mm. There was three days of sleet and snow, well below the average of ten, with it only laying for one day. There were no fog or thunderstorms last month and only two days of hail (average 6.6).

Last month saw 159.5 hours of sunshine, well above the average of 132.6. The most amount of sunshine recorded was 10.8 hours on the 4th (surprising, as it was a Sunday!!).

It was less windy than expected last month with a mean wind speed of 14.3 knots, compared o an average of 15.5. The highest gust was on the 27th, reaching 45 knots. There was only one day of gales last month and gusts exceeding 33 knots occurred on eleven days.

Rainfall Totals

Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
Stanley	2005	**67**	**29**	**77**	**49**	**39**	**35**	**29**	**35.5**	**19.3**
	Average	*74*	*57*	*59*	*58*	*58*	*50*	*46.5*	*45.5*	*41.0*
MPA	2005	**77**	**33**	**48**	**56**	**48**	**22**	**23.1**	**49.1**	**14.0**
	Average	*61*	*47*	*57*	*49*	*54*	*58*	*45*	*36.4*	*33.5*
Head of Bay		**88**	**30**	**67**	**42**	**66**	**25**	**28**	**46**	**13**
Elephant Beach		**68**	**23**	**69**	**22**	**57**	**30**	**31**	**50.5**	**14**
Swan Inlet		**55**	**29**	**45**	**38**	**50**	**16**	**28**	**32**	**3**
Port Howard		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**42.75**	**49.75**	**14**
South Harbour		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**36**	**17**

Thank you to Riki Evans, Andrez Short, Ron Reeves, Ted Jones, Mike Evans and the MPA Met Office for the monthly data. If you collect rainfall figures or would like to collect rainfall figures for us and provide the totals on a monthly basis, please contact us and the DOA can supply you with a rain gauge.

NEW STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Department of Agriculture

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Bio-Security Officer
Department of Agriculture

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CATTLE LICE

By Doug Martin

Information regarding cattle lice has been published in the Wool Press in the past. This is an update on the latest available and also some detail on an attempt to eradicate the problem.

Background

Both biting or chewing lice as well as sucking lice occur in the Falkland Islands. Biting lice are not blood feeders but use their mouthparts to rasp away at animal skin and hair. Sucking lice have mouthparts specialized for penetrating animal skin. They spend most of their time with their heads firmly attached to the skin. Sucking lice often take on a darker appearance than chewing lice as they become engorged with blood.

Heavy louse populations cause lowered milk production, loss of flesh, stunted growth, general unthriftiness and anaemia. "Chronic" or "carrier" cows may abort due to louse-induced anaemia. During severe winters, louse-infested animals are more susceptible to respiratory diseases. Older animals, including bulls, may be "chronic" or "carrier" animals that, despite repeated insecticide treatments, continue to carry heavy lice populations. These animals are instrumental in re-infesting entire herds each year, and should be culled from the herd.

High louse populations coincide with periods of acute and cumulative winter stress as well as at calving. It is usually stock suffering most from poor nutrition that are most affected. The life cycle of all lice species is similar. Lice are host specific and spend all of their lives on the animal.

Eggs (nits) are deposited on the hairs of cattle. The feeding habits of immature lice are the same as those of the adults. The life cycle from egg to adult is from three to four weeks during cold weather. Reproduction slows dramatically in warm weather.

In the summer, lice generally can be found only in the folds of skin between the legs and body of cattle. In the winter, as populations increase, lice move to the neck, dewlap, muzzle, around the eyes, the neck and side of the face, back, sides, and tailhead. Specific locations are favoured by particular species. Lice are transmitted from one animal to another by contact. Suckling calves become infested from lice-infested cows while feeding, so cows should be treated prior to calving. Also some lice and louse eggs drop off into bedding or are rubbed off, along with hair, onto fences.

Sucking lice die within a few hours when off the host, however biting lice may live for several days if not exposed to direct sunlight or cold weather, and some eggs may hatch. Other cattle may then become infested from contaminated bedding or sheds. Any new arrivals onto the farm should be treated on arrival as well as segregated for at least three weeks.

Treatment

Most insecticides registered for use on cattle are not very active against louse eggs. This means that after treatment, eggs can still hatch and continue the infestation. With some insecticides, a follow-up treatment 2–3 weeks later is necessary. This time interval is critical to

achieve control, as it allows time for the eggs to hatch but not to mature into adults which will lay eggs themselves.

Treatment Methods

There are a number of methods of treatment available, but not all products control both biting and sucking lice, so check the label carefully and/or have the lice on your cattle identified. Spray-on and pour-on insecticides are probably the most widely used form of control, but insecticidal ear tags are also available. The injectable formulations of macrocyclic lactone (ML) worm drenches also control sucking lice.

Spray Treatment

Hand spraying is practical for small numbers of cattle. Knapsack sprays, or any pump/spray unit with 0.7–0.8 mm spray nozzles capable of producing a 'cone' or 'flat fan' spray pattern, are suitable.Commercial power spray units are also available. These are generally walk-through systems with one to three spray 'hoops'. Cattle must be walked slowly through them to ensure adequate wetting. With all spraying methods, thorough wetting of the cattle with the insecticide is essential.

Pour-on treatment

With pour-on treatments a small amount of insecticide is applied to the animal's back. Depending on the product chosen, some insecticide will be absorbed across the skin and be moved throughout the body. Sucking lice that feed on blood are poisoned as they feed. Insecticide that remains on the skin and in the hair coat is distributed by cattle grooming. This residue aims to kill biting and sucking lice that come in contact with it. Always follow the 'Directions for use' on the product label to ensure proper application.

Ear tags

For producers who choose to use ear tags only, it is recommended that these two products be used in rotation in order to delay the onset of resistance (provided that only biting lice are present). It is vital to remove (or replace) both types of ear tag after 3 months. Failure to do so will expose any new lice to sublethal doses of the product, which will allow selection for resistant lice.

Treatment by injection

As mentioned previously, some broad-spectrum injectable anthelmintics will control sucking lice but not biting lice. Read the product labels to identify a suitable product. Macrocyclic lactone (ML) products offer the added benefit of activity against lice when used to drench cattle for nematode infection. Conversely, if MLs are used to treat a louse infestation, the treatment will also affect any worms present. Make sure the treatment strategy used is compatible with a drench-resistance management program.

Eradication

Another consideration is that if you are concerned only with control (i.e. you treat the cattle only until they stop scratching) and do not check that you are removing all lice, then you

may be selecting for resistance. In the case of sheep lice, there is already widespread resistance to some of the treatments used, and there is no reason to assume that this will not also occur in cattle lice. The best way to delay the onset of resistance is:

- ✓ to follow the manufacturer's instructions
- ✓ ensure that you do not underdose
- ✓ check that treatments have been fully effective

To check for lice use a torch, magnifying glass or sticky tape. Assuming no resistance to the chemical used has developed, eradication of lice should be quite feasible if you comply with the following steps:

1. Treat all cattle with one of the treatments listed above, and ensure that you repeat the treatment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Ensure that the dose rate is accurate. Preferably weigh all cattle, or a representative sample.
3. Treat all cattle on the property at the same time, prior to calving. Choose a time when they are not stressed or in poor condition.
   OR
   If groups are treated separately, ensure that there is no contact possible between treated and untreated groups.
2. Immediately after treatment, move treated groups to a paddock that has not had cattle in it for at least a week.
3. Ensure that no contact with any neighbours' cattle is possible, either through straying or through contact across fences.
4. Check that treatment has been effective. No adult live lice should be found on the animals when they are brought in again for their second treatment, and there should be no live lice at all a few days after the second treatment.
5. Consider treating in autumn, before louse numbers build up. This will allow a longer 'test period' of cold weather to follow, so that you are better able to gauge whether eradication has been successful.

At the time of writing treatment cost for a 400kg animal was 80p/head for a single dose of a synthetic pyrethrin, and £2.20/head for a ML pour-on. Although organophosphorus products are effective the Department does not recommend the use of these due to the fact they are nerve poisons and better options are available.

In a trial on Saunders Island in 2003 three treatments, two using a Synthetic Pyrethrin and one using an Injectible ML were administered to all stock in an effort to totally eradicate lice. This was almost achieved, however the problem reappeared.

Possible reasons for failure:

- Chronic carrier
- Incorrect follow-up period
- Infested bedding
- Use of an injectible ML rather than a pour-on ML

RECIPE SPOT

Steak and Kidney Pie

Ingredients

4-6 tbsp onion gravy, hot and fresh
2 kidneys, chopped
100g/3½oz butter, cubed
1 egg yolk
50g/2oz rump steak, cubed
2 tbsp fresh parsley
200g/7oz plain flour
½ tsp mustard powder
salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Heat the onion gravy in a pan and add the steak, kidneys and parsley to it. eat through for 2-3 minutes. Place into a small gratin dish. Meanwhile place the butter, flour, egg yolk and mustard powder into a food processor, process until the ingredients are well combined and come together in a lump. Remove from the processor, roll out and place the pastry on top of the steak and kidney filling. Trim the edges, prick a couple of holes in the top, then bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes, or until cooked and golden. Remove from the oven and serve.

Chocolate Profiteroles

Ingredients

Choux Pastry
200ml/7fl oz cold water
½ tsp caster sugar
85g/3oz unsalted butter
pinch salt
115g/4oz plain flour
4 medium eggs, beaten

Cream Filling
600ml/1pint double cream
1 tbsp/15g icing sugar

Chocolate Sauce
15g/½oz butter
4tbsp/60ml water
175g/6oz good quality plain chocolate, broken into pieces

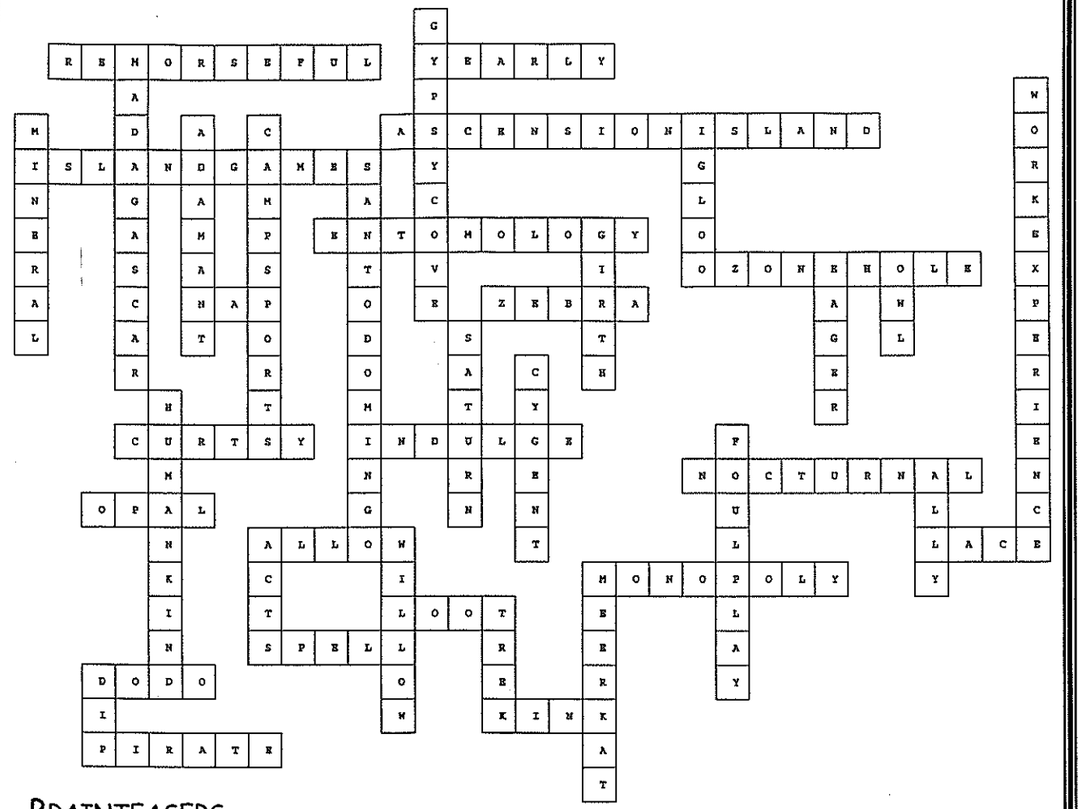
Method

Put half of the milk the dark chocolate and the coffee essence into a small bowl, set over, not in, a saucepan of simmering water, stir until the chocolate has melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the remaining milk. Cream the yolks and sugar together until thick. Blend on the chocolate milk. Tip the mixture into a small saucepan and stir over a very gentle heat for 3-4 minutes or until the mixture begins to thicken, on no account allow it to boil. Strain the chocolate custard into a bowl and cool completely. Stir the cream into the cold custard and freeze, either in a churn or in a shallow tray in the freezer, when the mixture is half frozen stir in the chocolate and continue to freeze until solid. Once frozen leave in the freezer for at least 2 hours to mature. Put into the refrigerator for 15 minutes before serving.

Recipes sourced from BBC website

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD...



BRAINTEASERS...

- IT WAS A BRIGHT, SUNNY DAY
- BOTH INCREASE WITH AGE

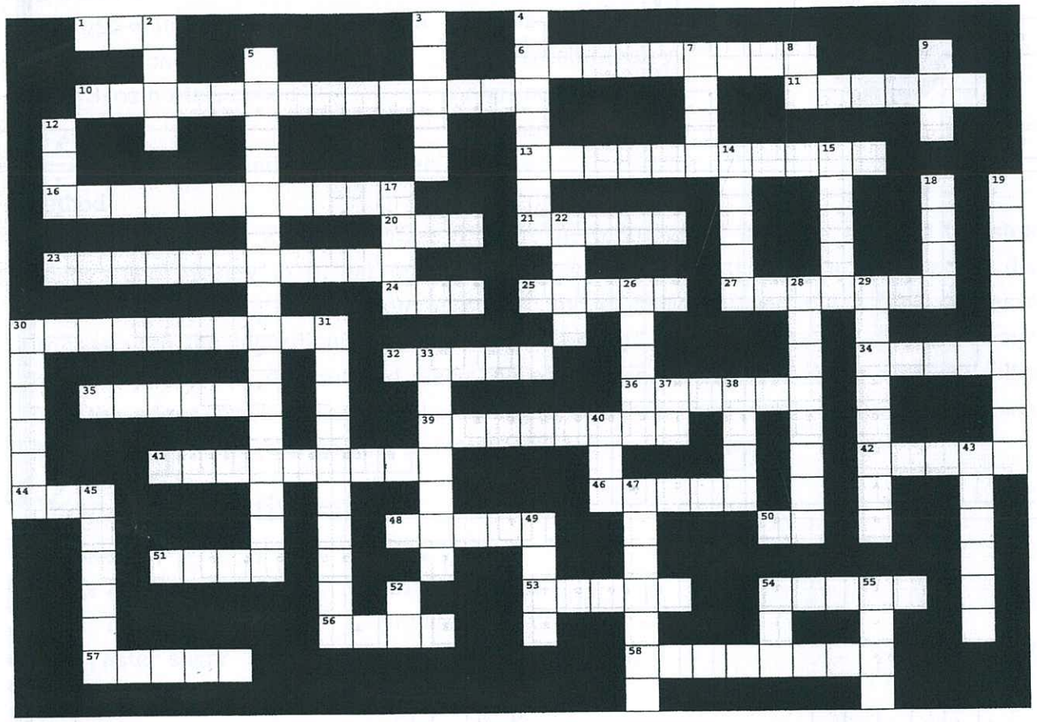
If you would like to contribute an article, recipe or place an advert in the Wool Press, then please contact Siân on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

If you have something to share, then let us know!!

Submissions need to be in before the end of the month.
All contributions are gratefully received.

PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD...



ACROSS
1. A celestial body or sphere
6. Reluctant
10. A form of genetic improvement
11. Asterix's sidekick
13. Doctor Who
16. DOA boss
20. Choose
21. A ship navigation system
23. CD
24. Barrel full of beer
25. To feel or cause a sharp pain
27. Obscuring of a celestial body by another
30. Weekly guide on micron prices
32. A black suit
34. Betting card game
35. Zodiac sign
36. Counting device
39. Worthy
41. Arrest
42. Division of the year
44. Role (wearing my DOA ...)
46. Long winter garment
48. Bank job
50. Yes
51. A gait
53. Remains
54. Diagram depicting data trend
56. Films adapted from comics
57. Sound broadcasting device
58. 'Sweet ...' film starring Keanu Reeves

DOWN
2. Television/radio provider
3. Japanese speciality
4. Museum manager
5. Popular TV soap
7. To seem ominously close
8. Move/proceed
9. By way of
12. Expensive brand name
14. To marry in secrecy
15. Many half diameters
17. A length of hair
18. Anger, often associated with driving
19. 'Z for ..' novel by Robert O'Brian
22. Against
26. Of or relating to birth
28. Cosmetic for colouring the lips
29. Popular ride at Blackpool
30. Extinct Falklands mammal
31. Falkland cinema
33. Promised
37. To exist/live
38. To strike with an open hand
40. Large vehicle for carrying people
43. A camera's three legged stand
45. Disposition
47. Sly
49. To become weary
52. School sports lessons
54. Precious stone
55. Undiluted

BRAINTEASERS...

x If you want to get rich, why should you keep your mouth closed?

x What asks no question but demands an answer?

There are two answers to the second brainteaser

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES AND MORE!!

REPLACEMENT FENCING
Phyl Rendell

STOP PRESS - SCRAPIE
Steve Pointing

WEST FALKLAND RAM AND FLEECE SHOW
Nigel Knight

SETTING BREEDING OBJECTIVES
Damien O'Sullivan

WOOL SELLING OPTIONS
Neil Judd

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION IN THE FALKLANDS
Steve Pointing

LAB TESTING
Siân Ferguson

LAMB PRODUCTION FOR FIMCo
Doug Martin and Damien O'Sullivan

CHRISTMAS RECIPES
Michele Evans

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November issue of the Wool Press in which I might have been bidding you farewell but that has been postponed until March next year. As from the 1st December 2005 Vic Epstein will be taking over as the Senior Veterinary Officer and I will see out my final months in the Department as Veterinary Officer. I am hoping that my "demotion" will enable me to have some extra time to get out and about in the Islands before I finally depart.

In this month's Wool Press you'll be able to read articles dealing with a whole range of production related issues. From information received and from personal observation it seems that this year has not been a very good one for stock of all kinds nor has it been an auspicious start to this year's lambing season. The very dry winter has been followed by an equally dry spring and a cold one too (see weather stats on page 11). This has been disastrous for early spring grass growth leading to very poor feed being available for lambing ewes which already came out of winter in poorer than usual condition. I fear that marking percentages for this season could be pretty dire. You would be well advised to read Damien's article on causes of lamb mortality on page 5 in which you will note that if the ewe is in poor condition at the time of lambing the knock-on effects on subsequent lamb survivability are greatly impaired. It is always good to receive letters from any source and especially when they come from the younger members of the farming community (see letter from Felicity Alazia, page 17) and while I don't disagree with Felicity that Turkey Vultures and Jonny Rooks will account for the deaths of some ewes and lambs these pale into insignificance compared with those that are attributable to inadequate levels of nutrition. Unfortunately attacks by birds are more visible and dramatic than simply dying from malnutrition and already weakened animals make easy targets for birds of prey.

In his article on setting breeding objectives on page 6, Damien points out that it is important that individual farmers set their own breeding objectives for their farms rather than rely solely on the importation of "improved" genetics from overseas. You, the farmer, know what type of animal best suits your farm and you should be ensuring that you are keeping those desirable traits on your farm as well as occasionally bringing in new genetics from outside. Neil Judd gives a full account of wool selling options on page 8 and 9 and Damien and Doug give some good advice on how to get your lambs ready for the next export season at the abattoir on pages 15 and 16. You need to be thinking ahead and preparing for that NOW as it is too late to fatten your lambs a week or so before they are due to be killed. And last, but not least, we say welcome to a new member of staff – Shona Strange. She has taken up the post of Bio-Security officer and you can find out a bit more about her a page 3.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition in those quieter moments between lambing, gathering, shearing and all the other 101 jobs that need to be done at this time of year.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

REPLACEMENT FENCING SUPPLIED TO FARMERS BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

By Phyl Rendell

1998/1999 Fencing Allocation

Records at the DoA show that there are a number of farms with fencing commitments outstanding from materials supplied in 1998/99. There has been considerable activity over the winter with fencing work and use of Labour Scheme funds so some fences may have been constructed but not reported to the Department as completed.

Please could farmers who received letters about outstanding fencing work last March and have not already been in contact, update me in writing about the status of this fencing. Details about work in progress would be welcome.

2001/2002 and 2004 Fencing Allocation

As farmers complete construction of their 2001/02 and 2004 replacement fencing allocation please, could they contact me or Nyree Heathman in writing when work is completed, in order that DoA records reflect the present situation.

If any farm has FIG replacement fencing material that they do not intend utilising, please can the farmer responsible contact me and arrangements can be made for it to be re-allocated.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will be given an update on progress with construction work at their next meeting planned for late November.

BIO-SECURITY OFFICER

By Shona Strange

I joined the Department of Agriculture at the beginning of October as the Bio-security Officer. My previous work experiences are varied. They include being Assistant Dairyperson on a Dairy Farm in the UK, Housing Officer in the PWD, Personal Assistant to the Director of Education and Accounts Assistant at Fortuna LTD. My last post was as Customs and Immigration Officer with the Customs & Immigration Department.

However, I have always had an interest in Agriculture and enjoy the outdoors and wildlife. I spent three years at Seale Hayne Agricultural College and gained an HND in Agriculture. I always felt one day that I would return to Agriculture in some way or other.

I have a son Matthew who is now 18 and is in his final year at Peter Symonds' College studying for his A-Levels. Matthew plans to continue his studies in the field of Business Management.

When the post of Bio-security Officer was advertised I decided it would be a really interesting and challenging job. I believe that Bio-security is an important issue to safeguard the Islands and their unique environment from the threat of the many pests and diseases that plague our world.

I look forward to working with you all.

STOP PRESS - SCRAPIE

By Steve Pointing

The first case of scrapie has been diagnosed in the Falkland Islands. It was found at Cape Dolphin in a seven-year old, home bred ewe which has always bred naturally and has not been involved in any AI or ET programme. HOWEVER, this case has been confirmed as being of a type called ATYPICAL scrapie as it does not follow the normal pattern shown in sheep with CLASSICAL scrapie. Although classical scrapie has been known about for over 250 years, the first case of atypical scrapie was first diagnosed in Norway in 1998. Because of the worldwide interest in this disease sheep have been submitted to far greater scrutiny than in the past with the result that new conditions are being diagnosed. More details about this condition will be given in the December edition of the Wool Press but in the meantime I would refer you back to an article written on the subject in the WP of November 2004. We need your help in discovering how widespread this condition is in the Falkland Islands.

In the meantime there is no need to be overly concerned as the diagnosis of this single case is not likely to affect the export of wool or sheep meat. There may be longer term consequences for the export of live sheep and their genetic material.

Coast Ridge Farm
Fox Bay
West Falklands

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

To all Falkland Farmers…

The fifteenth West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show will be held this year on Wednesday 28th December 2005 in Fox Bay Village.

This is to remind Farms before the start of Shearing to save Rams and Fleeces for the following classes.

CLASS	1	FULL WOOLED RAM HOGGET
CLASS	2	FULL WOOLED SHEARLING RAM
CLASS	3	FULL WOOLED MATURE RAM
CLASS	4	HOGGET FLEECE
CLASS	5	ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGET
CLASS	6	ANY 'B' WETHER TYPE FLEECE

Plus all the other usual activities and events.

Farms are limited to three Ram entries in any one Class.

Fleeces should be prepared as for pressing.

We will keep you all up to date on details of Prizes and Sponsors as the 'Event' approaches.

N A Knight
Organiser WFR&FS

IDENTIFYING WHERE LAMB LOSSES OCCUR

By Damien O'Sullivan

No one needs to be told that death rates in lambs can be quite high. This is born out by the fact that there are excellent conception rates recorded at scanning but this rarely relates to similar lambmarking percentages. Even in New Zealand, on average, 20% of lambs born will die within four days but when you have lambing percentages of 100%+ this is not such a problem. In other areas of the world it has been shown that 30% of all lamb losses occur within the first week of life.

With such a high loss rate in the first weeks of life it is worth checking and seeing if there are any changes that can be made to reduce deaths. Work in New Zealand found that 70% of lambing deaths can be avoided if there is:

- good ewe nutrition
- good supply of colostrum for the lamb
- birth weight is optimum for the breed
- there is an easy birth
- protection from cold
- maximum contact between ewe and lamb for the first 12 hours

Falkland Island research by Niillo Gobius shows that the main reason for losses can be attributed to the body weight/condition score of ewes at lambing.

In two groups of ewes:

- 30-32kg bodyweight ewes had a 20% lambmarking
- 40-42kg bodyweight ewes had a 60% lambmarking

Low bodyweight of ewes causes:

- low brown fat in the new born lamb which minimises losses from bad weather,
- reduced mothering instinct
- poor colostrum letdown,
- low milk production

Other causes of lamb death in the first two weeks of life are less important but still need to be considered: birth difficulties, mismothering, starvation, ewes cast after lambing, predation and mis-adventure (ditches).

It is worth looking back over your lambing records and seeing if the lower lambing years can be attributed to seasons when ewes were in poorer condition. Make an assessment this year based on ewe condition and see if you can predict your lambing %.

Anything we can do to minimise lamb losses has a long-term economic impact. A ewe lamb that produces 6 x 3.5kg fleeces of 24µ and raises 3 lambs would produce a gross return of £94 over her lifetime.

Checking ewes in the camp

In the past there was plenty of labour available to ensure lambing ewes were watched carefully and could be given assistance as needed. However as labour has become more expensive ewes have been left to their own devices and not disturbed when lambing. So where is the best medium between too much attention and not enough. From some of the rotational grazing work done with ewes in the islands it would appear on the surface that regular checks of lambing ewes will save more ewes than the losses caused by too much activity around the ewes.

SETTING BREEDING OBJECTIVES

By Damien O'Sullivan

One of the comments made repeatedly during the recent wool classing workshops was the desire of participants for more information on sheep selection and breeding objectives. As a result of these requests the DoA intends to organise a series of workshops for March/April 2006 to cover such topics.

It is important for farms that breed their own rams and select their best ewes to consider establishing long term visual and measurable selection aims for their farm. Unfortunately in the Falklands we have difficulty in maintaining numbers, so a breeding program that relies on heavy culling of inferior animals to achieve a "paper" improvement in sheep performance (but could also financially ruin the farm in the process!) is not possible.

It is therefore important that we have a plan in place that can be carried out over a period of time to ensure we are making gains with our breeding flock.

Where do we start?

Over the years there have been many imports of genetic material into the Falklands. When we import genetic material we are relying on the skills of another sheep breeder to select animals for the traits we need and as such hope our flock *should* benefit from the work of the breeder.

Relying on one-off injections of new genetic material into our flock will only have a short-term benefit unless we:

1 Use an on-going selection process and have breeding objectives for our flock

or

2 Regularly buy in better genetic material

A hands on approach to sheep selection will always be needed but actual measurement of important traits are the basis for genetic gain. The photo on the left is of a positive open stapled fleece whist on the right is a dull negative wool with poor length and character.

The process of improving our flock cannot stop with just putting one-off shots of new genetic material into the flock. In some cases farmers have lost some of their valuable flock attributes such

as clean faces, hardiness, fertility, wool value etc when introducing new genetic material. Careful planning needs to take place before introducing new material to ensure that the material is compatible with where you want your farm to go. After introductions, measurement and monitoring need to take place over the long term to ensure genetic gains continue.

What is the solution?

In the Falklands we do not have the easy option that is available to farmers in most other countries of simply heading off to the local sale or stud to purchase a large number of genetically superior rams whenever required. The AI and ET programmes have offered a potential solution to this problem for some farmers over the last year or two, however it needs to be recognised that considerable financial pressures exist on the budget of Government.

This situation is not likely to improve in the short term. As a consequence it would be prudent for farmers to ensure that they achieve maximum long-term benefit from their livestock genetic improvement activity that is carried out over the next few years.

Therefore we need to set in place our own individual breeding objectives that are based on a desire to develop a type of sheep that suits our farms, climate and markets.

With the AI/ET programs and other historical importations into the Falklands, the islands now have a very good resource of genetic material to assist in this process, but we cannot rest on the benefits of these introductions.

They need to be used as building blocks for providing each farm with a breed of animal or indeed a type of animal, that is profitable. To assist with this process, it is believed necessary for each farm to set it's own unique breeding objectives.

An example...

We could supply the market with 30µ wool valued at 187p/kg but it would it be better to supply 24µ micron wool at 281p/kg. With a 1000 sheep cutting 3kgs of choice fleece wool each this equates to a gross of £5610 compared to £8430. The difference of £2820 is hardly insignificant. If we then make the same calculation for a farm with an overall flock of 5,000 animals, the difference works out at an astonishing £14,100. This is important when we consider that generally the overheads for shearing and running a 30µ sheep are the same as a 24µ sheep. This of course is simplistic, as micron would not be the only factor that needs to be considered.

Breeding Objectives

We need to ask *"What do I want my sheep flock to look like in 5-10 years"*. This essentially will be set by our need to make a profit. Whether we like it or not we need to supply what the market requires whether we are in the sheep business, the cattle business or indeed any other business!

There are many other traits we can select for, however all traits that are part of the farm breeding plan must be:

- Heritable – can be passed from one generation to the next
- Economic value – provide value and income to the breeder.

We all realise the need for improvement to our sheep but this needs careful thought, planning and long term dedication.

A follow-up article in the next wool Press will look more closely at identifying some of the traits that farmers may wish to include in their own individual farm breeding plans.

WOOL SELLING OPTIONS

By Neil Judd

Falkland Island farmers have a number of options available to sell their wool clips…

1 Falkland Wool Growers (FWG)
2 Falkland Island Wool Marketing (FIWM)
3 Direct sales as individual farms
4 R W Lee

It is clear that the decision as to which selling option to use, should only be made by the individual farm concerned. It is likely that the decision would be based on many issues such as; reliability, relationship, security of money, trust and of course, selling performance of the various options.

The DOA does not have a role in providing information on many of these aspects. This is because such issues reflect the personal nature of the relationship between farmers and their agents/merchants. The DOA does however, have a role in objectively reviewing how each of the options performs and in providing farmers with independent information that can be used to assist in the decision making process.

You can help us with this task by sending in your "wool statements". Your wool statements will be returned ASAP along with an individual report showing how your farm's wool marketing option performed for the season compared to other farms and also to other selling options. If enough farms participate, not only will the DOA be able to compare the performance of the various agents/merchants, but also selling destinations and particular types of wool (fleece, bellies, pieces etc).

Such information is critical for those wanting to be involved in the selling process of their wool and also for those wanting to ensure that the option that they utilise is performing. Information collected over several seasons will result in a very powerful tool that can be used to review options over the **longer term**. In addition to providing the raw information for the review of wool marketing options, your wool statements also allow a comprehensive summary to be generated of your farms wool characteristics for the year.

For each individual lot, details of wool weight, test results (micron, yield and VM), gross price received, net Stanley price received etc, are all shown. In addition, to information on each individual lot, overall farm averages are also calculated. Such information represents a very powerful tool that can be used to track change over time as a result of any AI/ET or conventional breeding programme being carried out on the farm.

CAN YOU HELP US TO HELP YOU?!

Please send your 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 Wool Statements to
Neil Judd or Siân Ferguson as soon as possible.

What about the new freight route to Uruguay?

Recently I was able to visit some of the key companies involved in buying and processing wool in Uruguay. All of the companies expressed a very keen interest in Falkland Islands wool. The Quality Assurance schemes in piace in the Islands were particularly helpful in promoting the attributes of the Islands wool clip to these companies.

Bales at the Wool Warehouse

The various topmakers/brokers were particularly interested in the finer end of the Falkland Island's wool clip. They stated that they are able to access large quantities of broad micron Corriedale type wool (greater than 27/28 micron) from local farmers, but had difficulty in obtaining sufficient quantities of high yielding, good colour, low VM wool finer than about 25/26 micron.

The various companies expressed a willingness to work with all agents/merchants selling Falkland Island's wool. As such their contact details have been passed on to all existing agents handling FI wool (FWG, FIWM, R.W. Lee, and FLH). Details will also be passed on to any other party on demand. It will be extremely interesting to see how price offers work out, as the new season's wool becomes available.

In terms of the cost of the various freight options, the current stated cost of loose packed wool to Montevideo is £70/tonne. The rate is believed comparable to the cost of wool freight per tonne to Chile and only slightly less than the wool freight cost to Southampton.

Containerised freight of wool to Montevideo has been advertised at a rate of approximately £1260 per 20 foot container or £155 per tonne (varies with exchange rate). Such a high-containerised freight rate may limit the ability to use Montevideo as a wool freight "hub to the world". To justify the high cost, the route would need to achieve significant premiums over existing options and, as stated earlier, such options are already achieving world benchmark prices for fleece wool!

Summary

- Strong demand exists for quality prepared Falkland Islands wool
- Existing processors are generally pleased with the processing performance of Falkland Islands wool. It has been emphasised however, that standards should not be allowed to slip!
- Agents selling Falkland Islands wool generally achieve gross world benchmark prices for fleece wool.
- Competition exists between agents/merchants for farm business hence farmers have options.
- New freight link to Uruguay opens up more markets, but importance will depend on price paid
- Uruguayan companies keen to work with all agents/merchants selling Falkland Islands wool.
- The DOA can assist you to review the performance of your wool selling option.

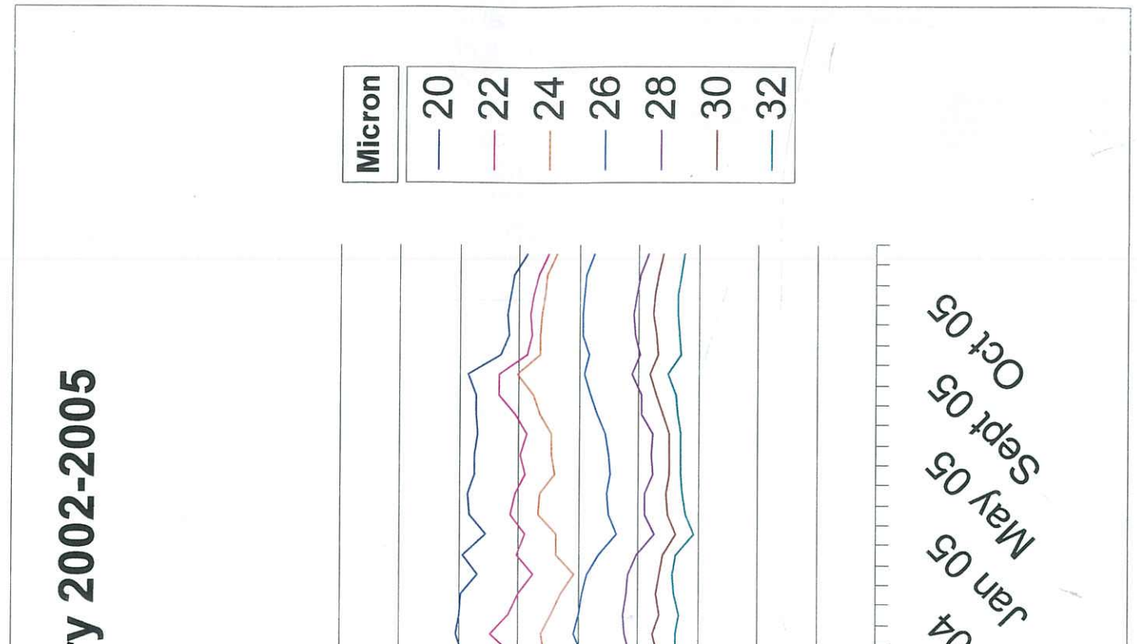
Core Sampling at the Wool Warehouse

CORE SAMPLING

If you would like to organise core sampling of your wool this season or have any queries, please get in contact with Siân at the Department of Agriculture on telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



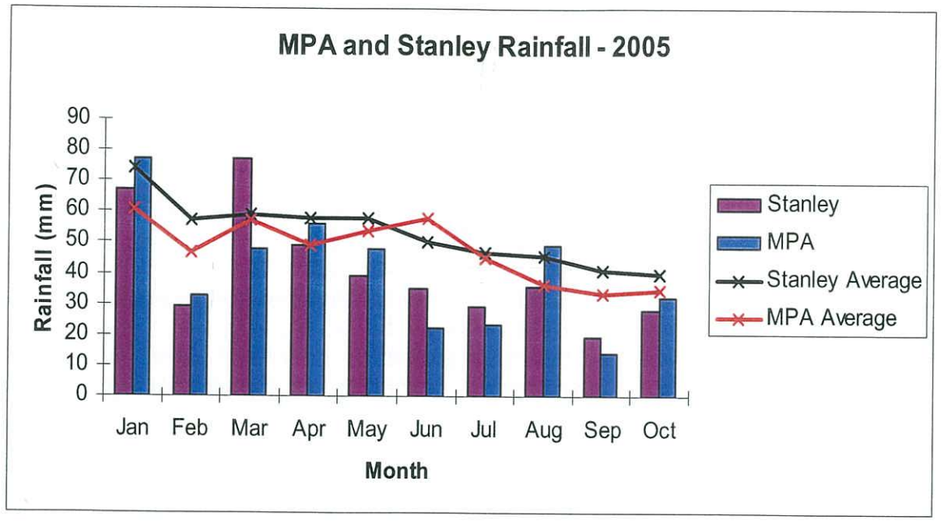
OCTOBER WEATHER

By Siân Ferguson

Temperatures for October were well below average, reaching a high of 14.9°C on the 7th and a low of –2.6°C on the 5th. Rainfall at MPA was only slightly below average with a total of 32.3mm for the month and while rainfall for Stanley was well above the September total, it was still below the average at 28mm.

There were only six days of snow compared to an average of just over seven. There was four days of hail (average 5), no fog (average 2.2) and one day of thunder (average 0.2). There was more sunshine for October than the average (176.3) at 187 hours. The sunniest day saw 13.7 hours of sunshine and there were only two days with no sunshine recorded.

The highest gust of wind recorded last month was 54 knots on the 18th. The average wind speed was 13.4 knots. There were six days of gales – in line with the average – and gusts above 33 knots were only recorded on ten days, well below the average of 17.5 knots.



Rainfall Totals 2005

Location		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Stanley	2005	67	29	77	49	39	35	29	35.5	19.3	28
	Average	*74*	*57*	*59*	*58*	*58*	*50*	*46.5*	*45.5*	*41*	*39.5*
MPA	2005	77	33	48	56	48	22	23.1	49.1	14	32.3
	Average	*61*	*47*	*57*	*49*	*54*	*58*	*45*	*36.4*	*33.5*	*34.6*
Head of Bay		88	30	67	42	66	25	28	46	13	21.5
Elephant Beach		68	23	69	22	57	30	31	50.5	14	19.5
Swan Inlet		55	29	45	38	50	16	28	32	3	11.5
Pebble Island		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.5
Port Howard		-	-	-	-	-	-	42.75	49.75	14	24.5
Saladero		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
South Harbour		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	17	15
Wineglass Station		85	29.5	57.5	43.75	63	22.5	21.5	44	14.5	17.5

Our thanks to Ted Jones, Riki Evans, Andrez Short, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, John Hobman, Mike Evans and Bobby Short for providing the monthly data. If you would like to collect rainfall on a regular basis for the DOA, please get in touch with us and we can supply with you with a rain gauge.

FARMERS – WHAT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN PLACE IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

By Steve Pointing

What's wrong with the current system?

Well, in the Falkland Islands, we don't really have a "universal" identification system do we? Each farm has developed its own system of identification over the years and this ranges from the quite sophisticated to the very basic. Now that the Falkland Islands is exporting sheep meat to the EU and with the possibility of being able to export live animals and their products elsewhere in the world the question of introducing a more "robust" system of identification has come to the fore again.

With this in mind I prepared a paper for consideration at the September meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee entitled "Review of animal identification systems used in the Falkland Islands and recommendations for improving the current systems". At the end of that meeting it was decided that the paper should be circulated within the farming community so that farmers had an opportunity to pass their comments. So here it is and I would be most grateful for feedback from anyone within the farming community.

Background

1. There have been a number of complaints received from farmers saying that they are not entirely happy with the current system of identifying sheep prior to movement

2. Our current legislation [Animal Health (Livestock Movement and Identification) (Provisional) Order 2002] was introduced in 2002 and was introduced in order to comply with EU Directive 92/102/EEC which sets out the requirements on the identification and registration of animals. Although the Falkland Islands is not obliged to comply with EU legislation it is a condition of being able to export meat to the EU that we have a system of identification in place that allows the Competent Authority (in the Falklands this is the Veterinary Section of the DOA) to trace animals back to the farm of origin. The EU has recently brought in some new legislation contained within Council Regulation No. (EC) 21/2004. This comprehensively details the system of identification for sheep and goats that is expected to be introduced in all EU member states. Again, it does **not** apply to third countries such as ourselves but we have taken note of this EC regulation when making some of our recommendations.

3. The SVO has contacted a veterinary official (Howard Batho) within the EC directly to ask his opinion of what is absolutely required to be in place to meet the EU conditions for the importation of sheep meat from a third country. His reply is given in full…

"I will try to answer you. The most important thing is that you can ensure traceability. We don't mind how that is done ie it's up to you what identification you have as long as you can trace an animal's origin for residue, TSE and health reasons. However as your status is good (I believe) and you don't have any/many imports of live sheep a simple system would probably be OK for your purposes. You may not need individual sheep identification. What if any system do you have now (sorry can't remember) and do you have any imports of live sheep?"

The SVO has replied to all the questions asked in this email and this did not lead to any changes in the advice given from the EU.

Recommendations

1. The preferred option of the DoA is a system of double identification of sheep. Double identification options could include a station and age mark as one form of identification in addition to another approved (by the Director of Agriculture) unique identification system. Other possibilities would include ear tags with unique, prescribed, identifying information for the individual animal and farm. Identification could also potentially include tattooing or electronic ear tags etc. With the exception of the station and age mark, identification systems should contain the following information:

   - Three letter farm code eg NSF (Saladero farm);
     FLH (Falkland Landholdings)
   - Country Code – FK (useful for export of live sheep)
   - Individual number – all numbered sequentially from 1 through to whatever number is required on the farm in a particular year.
   - A common colour to be used nationally each year with the colour changing each year (in a ten-year cycle). For example red tags for all years ending in a 0, green tags for all years ending in 1, blue tags for years ending in 2 etc. The colour cycle of tags would be decided centrally by DoA after consultation with the farming community.

2. Identification would generally be applied on the farm of birth at lamb marking time. Initially the use of the identification system would be voluntary but may become compulsory at a later date. The cost of identification systems would be borne by the farmer.

3. Identification systems would take the place of the movement tags which are currently issued by the DoA when sheep are being moved between farms or from a farm to the abattoir. However, for those farmers who did not want to introduce a "new" identification system they would still need to identify their sheep prior to them being moved. This would be done in the current way by contacting the DoA and requesting a number of movement tags. Currently these are provided free but in future they should be charged for. It is recommended that the charge be set at the cost of the cheapest "approved" unique identification system. Any such charge would not be introduced before July 2006.

4. The current system of documentation should continue to operate but might need to be modified slightly in order to accommodate the new identification system.

5. A central database of all sheep movements should be set up at the DoA

6. Tags used for identification should be of a type approved by the DoA. The DoA should also investigate what is available on the market by way of electronic tagging, as this might become a requirement in future years.

What do you think?

Having read the above this is now your chance to get involved in helping to shape the future of any national identification system that might be introduced. Please write in with your thoughts and we'll consider them at our next departmental meeting to discuss this subject.

Suggestions should be sent to;

Sarah Bowles
Veterinary Department
Stanley
sbowles@doa.gov.fk

LAB TESTING

By Siân Ferguson

Inside this month's Wool Press are copies of the Agricultural Test Request form. The completed form should be returned to me with any wool, soil or plant sample/s that you want tested at the DOA. Specialist veterinary type samples will continue to be handled by Sarah at the Vets Section.

After receiving the sample/s and completed form, I will pass the details onto the lab technicians, who will carry out the tests required. We will let you know as soon as the testing is completed and ensure that you receive an appropriate test report. You will then receive an invoice for the work undertaken.

I have included five copies of the forms and if you need any more, they can be collected, posted or emailed to you. If you have any questions regarding tests or fees that apply to particular tests, please get in touch with me (telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk) or Sarah (telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email sbowles@doa.gov.fk)

Lab Fees 2005

Procedure	Fee
Soil analysis per sample (N,P,K and pH)	10
Soil analysis per sample (per additional element)	2
Plant analysis per sample (Proximate analysis – dry matter, protein, fibre, Ca, P, Mg)	20
Wool analysis per sample (Fibre diameter only)	3
Wool analysis per sample (Fibre diameter & yield)	5
Wool analysis batches of 650 (Fibre diameter only)	2
Wool analysis batches of 650 (Fibre diameter & yield)	3
Microbiological preparation of fresh meat and fish per sample	5
Heavy metal analysis in fresh meat and fish per sample	30

Note:
Individual farms do not need to supply 650 wool samples to gain testing at the cheaper rate. The DoA will hold samples in storage until enough are on hand (maybe from many farms!) to complete a batch of 650 tests.

Important Notice Regarding Rock Phosphate

Could all farmers yet to collect their rock phosphate budgeted through their PIP Plans 2005/06, please contact Andy Pollard ASAP to organise collection.

Farmers are also reminded that as part of the 2005/06 PIP loan agreement, it is a requirement that all current "on farm stocks of rock phosphate" are to be spread by the end of this current season. Those that have the rock phosphate under "suitable" storage and have plans for future spreading are asked to contact the DOA to discuss and receive approval on these decisions ASAP.

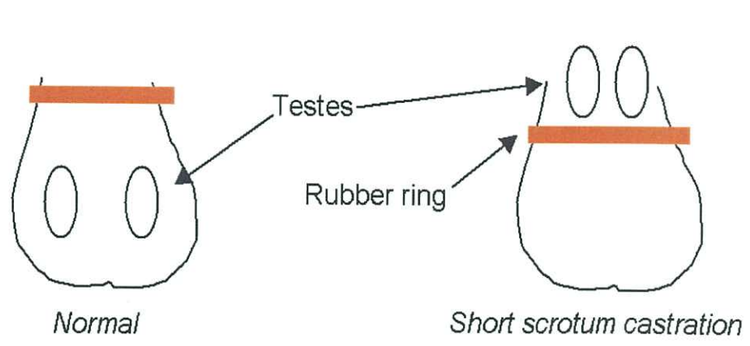
LAMB PRODUCTION FOR FIMCo

By Doug Martin & Damien O'Sullivan

The 2004-2005 season at the abattoir highlighted the need to get lambs up to weight as soon as possible. The weather is a critical factor in this but there are other management factors that can help make the most of money available at the abattoir in times of low wool prices.

Lamb Marking

- Mark lambs before six weeks of age, this minimises stress and reduces losses in growth rates.
- Ram lambs can be left entire. This usually will result in increased growth rates but remember the consequences if they escape. They will become fertile and begin to work once they reach the 23kg mark. It is at this point that there may also be some taint in the meat.
- You need to be 100% sure the lamb will make abattoir weight and will not escape if you are leaving them entire otherwise it is best to castrate.
- If tails are left on and there is excessive dags or manure the lambs may have to be crutched before being sent to the abattoir. Excessively daggy long tailed sheep cause major hygiene problems during processing.
- Another option is short scrotum castration of ram lambs producing a cryptorchid. The testicles are held up in the inguinal canal and sperm are less fertile but some individuals castrated by this method can still sire lambs. Marking as a cryptorchid should be done before three weeks of age to reduce the risks of lambs becoming fertile at sexual maturity – avoid lambs with horn growth and late drop, slow growing lambs. In NZ research short scrotum males had similar meat producing ability to ram lambs with an overall live-weight advantage of 3kg carcase over wether lambs. Other research has not found a difference between castrated and non-castrated males.



Normal *Short scrotum castration*

Weaning

A ewes milk production reaches a peak 2-3 weeks after birth and then declines, even under good pasture conditions. At 12-14 weeks milk production has declined to less than 20% of its peak and is of little value to the lamb.

At 12-14 weeks of age lambs are consuming nearly as much pasture as ewes and their need for quality pasture is greater. It makes good sense to wean at about this stage and use available feed more efficiently by giving lambs priority.

- Wean before 12-14 weeks of age but not less than 8 weeks.
- Provided lambs are heavier than 8-10kg, weaning as young as 8 weeks can be practiced when poor feed conditions for ewes exist. Supplementary feeding of lambs will be necessary to achieve target growth rates.

- There should be no check to lamb growth if they are weaned at 12-14 weeks of age.
- If the aim is to carry lambs over winter then weight loss must be minimised if wether lambs are to be sold as late lambs or if ewes are to be mated as shearlings.

Feeding

- Any lambs destined for the abattoir need to be on the best feed available.
- If being fed on crop the crop needs to be strip grazed to reduce loss and waste
- Crop fed sheep should also have access to shelter and whitegrass
- One group of lambs fed last year on very good oats and pasja had a weight gain over 58 days of 458grams/hd/wk this could have been improved by strip grazing.

Assessing progress of the lambs

- Weigh and fat score lambs at least once and preferably more often during the growing season to estimate a possible slaughter date/s.
- The same lambs had a dressing % of 37.6 at the abattoir. So in this case a 30kg lamb dressed out at just over 11.28kgs. Dressing percentages of other groups ranged from 31% to 45%. Aim for a 35% dressing percentage when weighing.
- As would be expected not all animals will reach the target weight. In some cases it will be necessary to take off the better animals and send them to the abattoir first. This allows better feed for the remaining sheep. The logistics of doing this with transport can be difficult particularly on the West but maybe neighbours can get together and send two half mobs rather than full groups.

In summary: good feed, regular weighing and fat score assessment are needed to get maximum returns at the abattoir

FOR SALE

Ewe Hogs approx 120 - last years micron 21.2

Maiden ewes (born 03) approx 60. micron 23.1 These are not available until end of January as some are in lamb!!

All lambs from the above Maiden's for sale at weaning.

Rams 24 micron and under all NSF.

6.5 year old ewes approx 400 available end of Feb.

For further details and an argument about the cost please phone Blue Beach Farm on 32235.

EWES AND LAMBING

By Felicity Alazia, Stanley House, aged 14

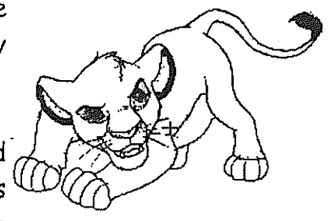
From the October Wool Press, I have read the article that Damien O'Sullivan wrote and have a few comments of my own. Most of the information that was written was interesting and useful but I knew most of that information already.

I think that the main cause of lambs dying is that the Turkeys and Jonny Rooks are killing the lambs. The main reason why they kill the lambs is for fun and not hunger. They also kill the lambs whilst they are being born. The Jonny Rooks and Turkeys swoop or fly down and peck the ewe's eyes out so she can't see, then peck around the lamb's eyes and the weak parts of the body. The Jonny Rooks and Turkeys also kill the lambs when they are sleeping and resting.

All of this is just for fun and not for hunger. So why can't we shoot Turkeys and Jonny Rooks? Yes I know they are protected species but they don't need to be. We can kill Teal Ducks, but they don't do any harm to us or anything else.

Strange But True...

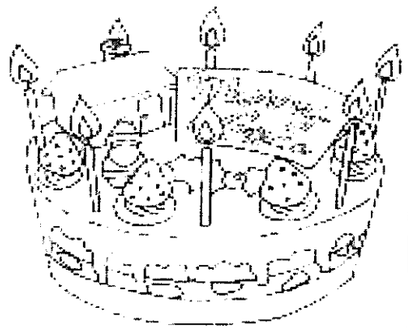
A lion has been found living in the garage of a house in Rio de Janeiro. Police officers found the big cat in the Brazilian city after complaints from worried people living nearby.



Neighbours in the neighbourhood of Campo Grande reported hearing the lion roaring during the night. Householder Jesus Teixeira told police the lion was called Baby and had been living with his family for 15 years. He had kept the lion after he sold his circus but has now been told he cannot keep the animal at his home. Mr Teixeira told a local newspaper, "I'm upset. I raised him, he is very calm and never attacked anyone. He grew up with my kids."

RECIPE SPOT

Christmas Cake



4oz cherries
9oz flour
1½ lb mixed fruit
2oz chopped nuts (optional)
1 tsp mixed spice
8oz butter
8oz sugar
Large tbs treacle
3 large/4 small eggs
Rum (!!)
500g marzipan
1 lb royal icing

Weight cherries and flour. Put them into a bowl and add the mixed fruit, chopped nuts and mixed spice. Cream together the butter and sugar and add the treacle (or use gravy browning) until you get the colour required. Beat the eggs together and add half a tot glass of rum.

Gradually add beaten eggs to creamed mixture and slowly add the flour mixture. Mare sure you mix well enough to ensure all the flour is off the fruit. Put into a lined 8" round of 7" square tin. Bake for 2½ to 3 hours at 110ºC. Cover with brown paper for the first hour then remove.

Test with a knife or skewer to make sure it's cooked. Allow to cool in the tin. When cooled, pour rum over the top and wrap in greaseproof paper to store until required. Decorate with marzipan and royal icing.

Mince Pies

1 lb self-raising flour
4oz margarine
4oz lard
Salt
Rum
2 x 454g jars of Mincemeat

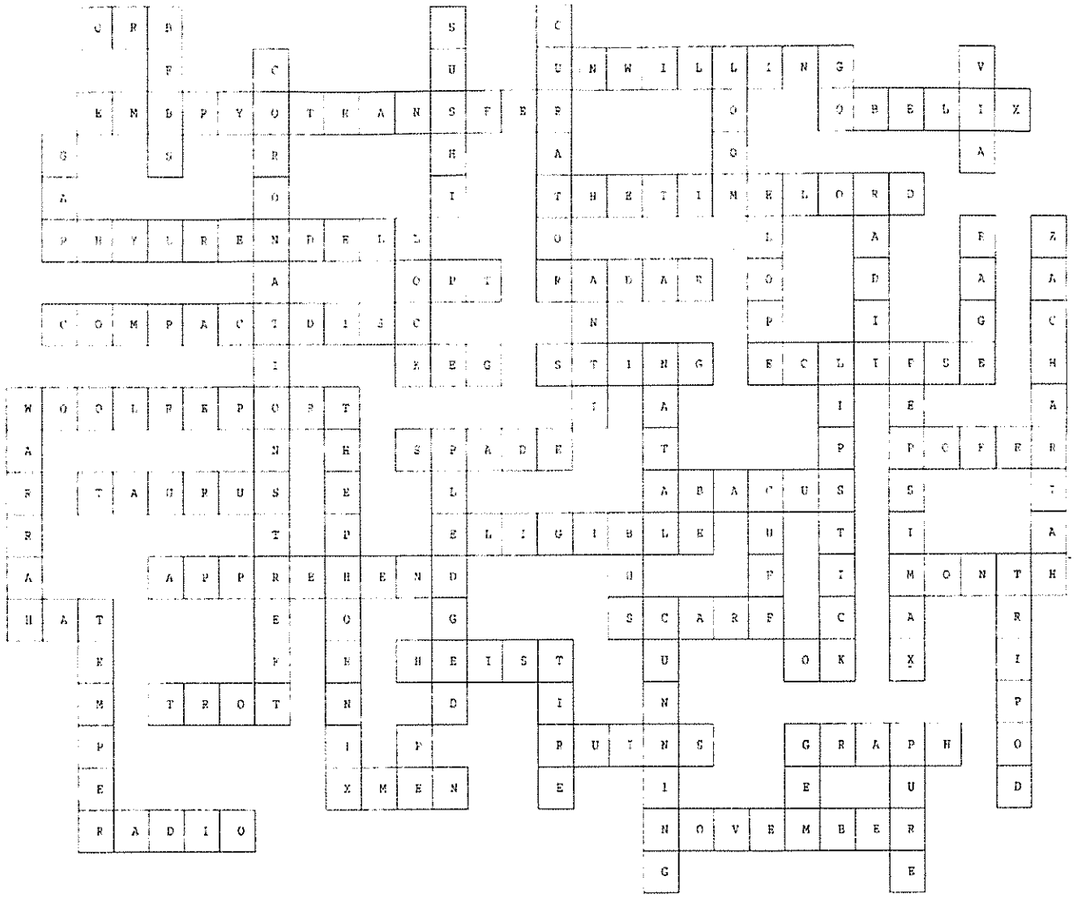
Rub flour, margarine, lard and salt together and add enough water (about ½ to ¾ of a mug) to mix together. Roll out on a floured surface. Cut circles and put into greased trays. Mix rum into mincemeat and a teaspoon to each tart. Cut out star shapes with left over pastry and place over the top.

Bake in a hot oven (180ºC) for about 10 to 15 minutes. Place on a cooling tray and dust with icing sugar.

Our thanks to Michele vans, Stanley for providing this months recipes.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD...



BRAINTEASERS...

- BECAUSE SILENCE IS GOLDEN
- A TELEPHONE & DOORBELL

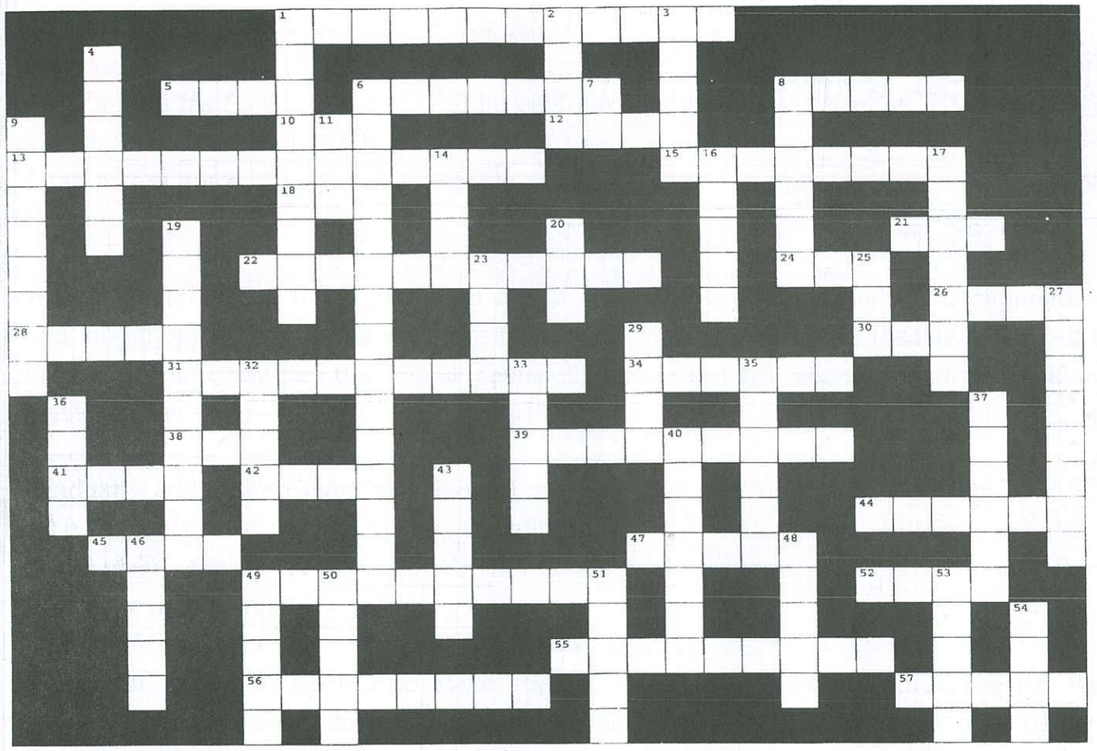
If you would like to contribute an article, recipe or place an advert in the Wool Press, then please contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

If you have something to share, then let us know!!

Submissions need to be in before the end of the month.
All contributions are gratefully received.

PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD...



Across
1. The art of cultivating gardens
5. 3600 seconds
6. Venue for midwinter madness
8. Vulgar
10. Was seated
12. Show of hands
13. Last FIC chartered vessel to visit Stanley
15. Ordinary
18. Male child
21. Venomous snake
22. Aussie soap
24. Bawl
26. Capable
28. Elude
30. Used to be
31. Local publication
34. Accumulated knowledge
38. Coloration of skin by UV rays
39. Idle person
41. Fatal
42. A kind of popular music
44. Open public land
45. Shade
47. Military chaplain
49. Keyboard machine for writing letters
52. Cartoon character
55. Flat Indian bread
56. Improper
56. MMR virus
57. Nudge

Down
1. Lucky object
2. Sudden jump
3. Domain
4. Place of worship
6. Recently opened nursery
7. Informal greeting
8. Dilemma
9. To slowly burn
11. "Much ... about nothing " – play
14. Symbol
16. Outshine
17. Euphoria
19. New vet
20. To be under obligation to
23. Awareness programme for children
25. Forward end of a boat
27. A moment of sudden revelation
29. Not here
32. Person trained in martial arts, often working as an assassin or spy
33. 2005 Rugby Six Nation Champions!!
35. ".. mouse" - cartoon hero
36. Combines
37. Pig meat served with pineapple
40. Theft
43. Large horse breed
46. Large expanse of water
48. Keen
49. Lukewarm
50. Toyota 4x4 vehicle
51. Respond
53. Happen
54. Retained

BRAINTEASERS...

S	S	I
G	D	E
U	D	E

Using the grid, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central D and no letter can be used twice, however, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, however, plurals are. There is at least one nine letter word.

Excellent: 30 words. Good: 23 words. Average: 18 words

The Wool Press

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All the regular features and more!

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DOHNE MERINO'S IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE CHANGING SCENE OF FARMING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
Steve Pointing

PLUS ALL THE USUAL FEATURES AND MORE!!

EDITORIAL

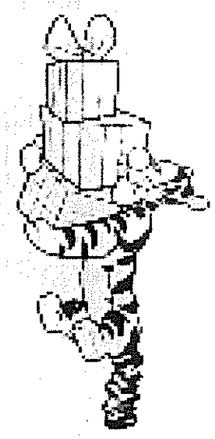
This edition of the Wool Press brings to an end another year of reporting that is intended to be informative, helpful and sometimes humorous.

The Wool Press provides an opportunity, not only for DOA staff to inform farmers and the camp community about what is happening, but also for farmers to share thoughts and experiences with other farmers. As such, an open invitation is extended to all farmers in the Falklands to contribute to the Wool Press. Provided information is suitable for publication, every effort will be made to publish articles as soon as possible.

This months Wool Press is believed to contain something for just about everyone. As an example, Vic Epstein provides an overview of scrapie, Sam Davies gives a summary of her two years of study in Australia and, very regular contributor, Damien O'Sullivan provides an update on his Wool Classing Workshop activity as well as a very important article on sheep breeding characteristics.

In addition, Steve Pointing has contributed an excellent article outlining how farming has changed in the Falkland Islands over the last few years. This article is commended for everyone's attention.

Over the next few months each edition of the Wool Press will feature an article on one of the sheep breeds considered to offer productivity and profitability improving potential to farmers. The first breed to be featured is the Dohne Merino from South Africa. Next month it is hoped that the Cormo will be featured, then the Polwarth, Corriedale, SAMM etc.



This edition of the Wool Press also contains a parting note from Sue Halfacre. The DOA greatly appreciates the efforts and professionalism which Sue has shown to her duties . We wish Sue all the very best with her next *appointment*.

Staff at the DOA wish all farmers a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

All the best,

Neil Judd
Senior Agricultural Advisor

SCRAPIE AND ATYPICAL SCRAPIE

By Vic Epstein

What are the signs?

Scrapie:

- Affects animals typically between 2 to 5 years of age-occasionally younger (but extremely rarely less than one year of age); occasionally older
- Subtle behavioural changes - only likely to be observed in sheep under constant surveillance eg pets or valuable animals living around the house
- Affected sheep may follow or lead the flock
- Hyper excitability - run with a fixed stare and a high- stepping gait.
- In-coordination and ataxia (drunk!)
- Fine tremors or convulsions when being handled
- Intense itchiness- nibbling (wool stuck between the teeth); rubbing or scraping against objects (possibly confused with itch mite)
- Condition loss (wasting) late in the course of the disease (possibly confused with malnutrition)
- The condition is progressive and irreversible
- Terminally sheep unable to stand
- Death usually occurs 2 weeks to 6 months after clinical signs first seen.

Atypical Scrapie

- All of the above but usually seen in sheep over 5 year of age

How long does it take between infection occurring and clinical signs being seen?

- It is thought that most infections occur at or near birth but infection in adulthood is also possible. The disease can incubate for 5 years before clinical signs occur.
- In the case of atypical scrapie this is even longer.
- Many sheep may be killed or die of other causes before they are affected by scrapie so diagnosis can be made from normal sheep on samples taken at abattoirs.

How is Scrapie/Atypical Scrapie diagnosed?

- Diagnosis is made by examining part of the brain under the microscope using special techniques.
- Atypical scrapie and scrapie can be differentiated depending on what part of the brain is affected using special techniques.

Why Atypical Scrapie and Scrapie?

- Scrapie was identified over 200 years ago although the cause of the disease is now under intense investigation because of the possible link between scrapie, mad–cow disease in cattle and Cruzfeld- Jacob disease in man.
- Atypical scrapie was first found in 1998 and has only been discovered because of the new laboratory techniques. The disease has been around for much longer but the new laboratory techniques have enabled its diagnosis since 1998.
- Atypical scrapie has been found in sheep in countries which have never had scrapie.

What is happening on the Falkland Islands

- Historically it was proposed at one stage to look at potential exports of genetic material to South America. Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) questioned the Falkland

Islands scrapie status. No one knew because no testing has ever been undertaken.

- An awareness campaign was started in Farmers Week this year.
- A sheep acting strangely- constantly biting at its legs and falling over when all the other sheep ran away from an approaching vehicle was sent into the DoA.
- The brain from this sheep was sent to the UK and diagnosed with atypical scrapie but negative for scrapie.

How does this affect the Falkland Islands?

- Under current EU rules this discovery has no effect on the export of meat or wool from the Falkland Islands.

What to do next?

- The status of scrapie is still not known in the Falkland Islands
- Some countries with atypical scrapie have never had scrapie
- The Falkland Islands still needs to know its scrapie status.
- The best way to find out the status is to sample sheep showing clinical signs.

HOW CAN FARMERS HELP?

- **If you observe sheep acting abnormally when gathering or crutching or shearing or just wandering around the paddocks looking for goose eggs put it in the rover, take it home and contact the DoA. We can arrange to do a post mortem and if necessary for the brains to be sent off to the UK for examination.**
- **This is the best and cheapest option**

BACK AND QUALIFIED

By Sam Davies

As most people are aware I have returned from college, all finished now and am pleased to say that I now have the following qualifications:

- Certificate three in Agriculture;
- Certificate four in Sheep & Wool;
- Diploma of Agriculture.

The past two years have gone by very fast for me, and I was very happy with the college overall. It is a very good college for vocational training and I would certainly recommend it to any one else wishing to pursue a career within the Agricultural industry. Longreach Pastoral College also offers a diploma course, so there is much more to be achieved than certificates specialising in different areas.

Longreach is situated right on the tropic of Capricorn, during the summer months it was very hot and I experienced temperatures of 40 + degrees. Originating from the cold weather of the Falklands, it was a very big shock to my system to be exposed to hot weather. But after time, I grew used to the temperature and it was nice to be brown instead of a pasty white!!

The experience I gained at Longreach was valuable, and I also saw and did a lot of things (not relevant to college though!) that I would have never done here or if I had went to the United Kingdom. I have been to loads of Rodeos in Longreach and neighbouring towns, and I was also lucky enough to go to a 'Batchelor & Spinsters Ball' (AKA B&S) in WA with Michylla. That was my favourite event over my two years!

I have joined the Department of Agriculture once again and my main task is to supervise the core testing for the first couple of months. Also helping other members of staff when needed, I am excited to be back and working with the DoA Team.

WOOL CLASSING WORKSHOPS REVIEW

By Damien O'Sullivan

We have recently had a number of woolclassing workshop reviews on the East and West. The purpose of the workshops was to cover what people had learnt at the wool classing workshops and look at classing options for different farms. The review workshops have been open to any-one interested, not just those who attended the original workshops.

So what have we found?

Necks - There seems to be quite a bit of confusion as to how much wool should come in necks. Many people have been taking off far too much neck wool. Neck wool should only come off if there are cotts that cannot be easily pulled apart or there is thick matted vegetable matter.

Stain – stain should only include wool stained with urine from around the britch in ewes and around the pizzle in wethers, blood stain, manure stain, raddle stain or any other permanently discoloured wool. Stain should not include short fribs, or skirtings from around the legs these could go in an A pieces line.

Topknots & jowls (wool from the top of the head & jaw) – Topknots with sufficient length can go into A pieces or Necks, if the jowls are very short and have a lot of kemp (hairy fibres) they should go into locks.

An example of what you may expect from a Polwarth wool clip of 2000 mature animals, cutting 4 kg of 25 micron wool. (44 bales) is given below:

Brand	No of Bales	Description of each line
A	5	Approximately 23 micron range, soft handling, good length, stylish wool
B	21	Approximately 25 micron range, main fleece line, all wool of good length, colour and style
C	6	Approximately 27 micron range, types, good length and style
MIX FLC	1	Fleece wool with which black spots have been removed
BB	2	Off types fleece wool (AA and CC as required)
A PCS	5	Skirting wool, stain removed
STN PCS	1	All stain including raddle and manure stain. Not heavy dags.
A BLS	3	Belly wool with stain removed
LOX	1	Include very short kempy jowl pieces

A suggested classing layout for this clip to maximise farmer's return.

If you would like to look at woolclassing options for your clip or have any queries please contact me.

GOOSE GREEN / DOA SHEEP BREEDS TRIAL

By Neil Judd

Thursday 10th November saw an excellent crowd attend the second shearing of the DoA/Goose Green sheep breed trial. Helpers assisted with the shearing, fleece weighing, skirting and valuing of fleeces of each of the breed combinations.

As a brief reminder, the various breed combinations were created through an Artificial Insemination programme in 2003 using semen from the various breeds over commercial, unselected Goose Green ewes. Animals were shorn as hoggets in late 2004 and obviously, as shearlings this year. Between hogget and shearling shearing, all animals were grazed on native camp at Goose Green. The camp did not contain any improved pasture or forage crops but is regarded as good quality camp.

The trial had several main objectives;

1. Determine how crossbred lambs of the various breed combinations survived and performed in the Falkland Islands
2. Provide an opportunity for farmers in the Falklands to view each of the breed combinations
3. Provide guidance to the DOA on breed combinations worthy of further evaluation in the Islands.

Results...

Goose Green AI Sheep Breed Trial Results 2004/2005

Sire Breed	Clean Fleece Weight (kg)		Fibre Diameter		Fleece Value (£)		Live Weight (kg)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Polwarth	1.83	3.46	21.91	25.47	5.69	7.98	29.30	40.93
Corriedale	1.60	3.12	23.30	27.49	4.84	6.52	28.50	42.67
Cormo	2.00	3.14	20.70	24.01	6.62	8.06	28.40	41.46
Dohne	1.93	2.96	21.65	24.77	6.22	7.66	30.90	43.67
SAMM	1.78	3.03	23.85	27.11	4.95	6.09	31.80	46.21
Flaxton	2.10	3.51	20.04	22.25	7.39	9.70	29.10	40.07
Hazledean	2.07	3.02	20.48	21.89	6.97	8.51	29.06	38.84

FIMCo General Manager, John Ferguson, kindly commented on the carcasses, pictured together below...

SAMM, Corriedale and Dohne trial breeds carcases at two years

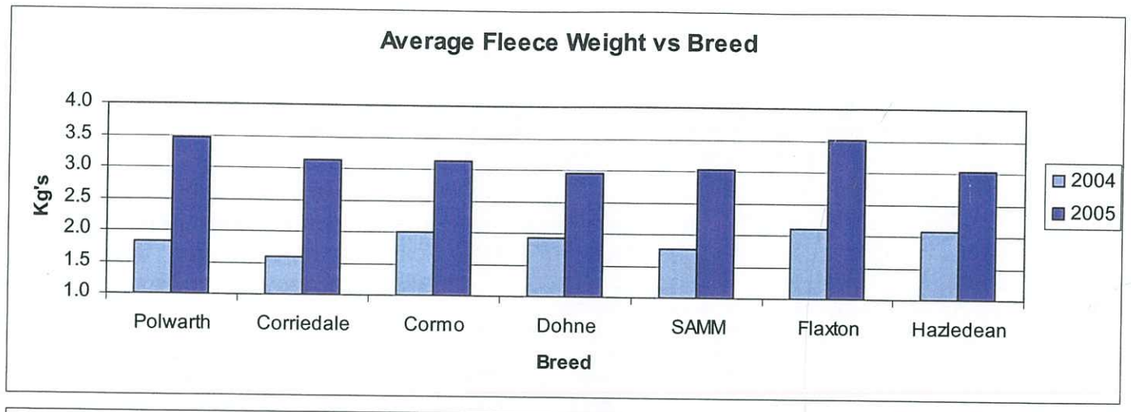
SAMM (left)
Although not in as good condition as the Dohne, the SAMM had the best overall conformation. The legs and loin had the best yield, with a good all round carcase.

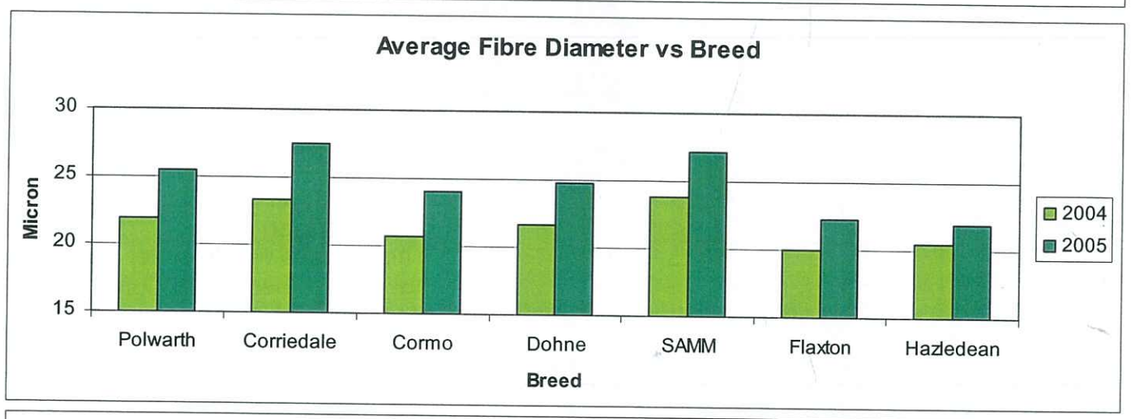
CORRIEDALE (middle)
"This was the tallest carcase, although it did not carry as much meat on the legs, chump loin etc."

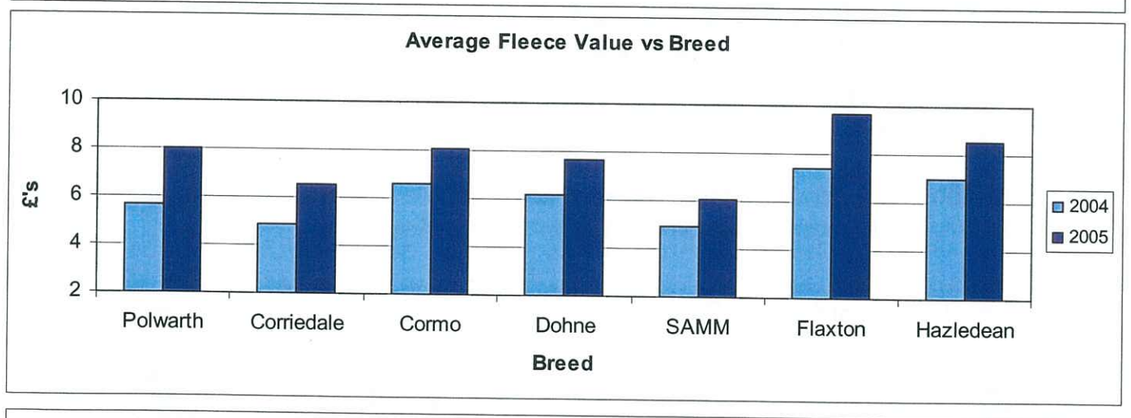
DOHNE (right)
"This carcase was in better condition that the others although slightly shorter. It had reasonably good conformation (shape and size - more meat & yield) on the legs and shoulder area."

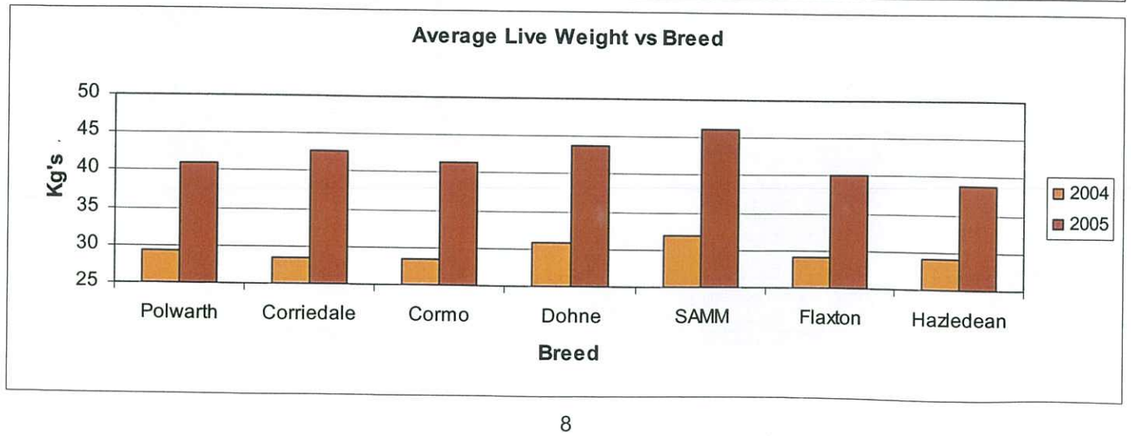
John Ferguson also kindly provided pictures of some lamb cross carcases (including Dohnes) from Elephant Beach Farm at approximately five to six months old.

He commented that they were "good yielding, even carcases with limited fat cover with an average carcase weight of 13.7kg for the lot".









Discussion

Results observed over the past two seasons clearly indicate that considerable potential exists for farmers if they wish to rapidly change key productivity traits of young sheep on farms in the Falkland Islands.

It is obvious that farmers wishing to change characteristics such as micron, fleece weight or liveweight could identify a sheep breed that offers the ability to achieve such as change. However, it should be noted that changing ONE characteristic is relatively easy, the real task is to appreciate the impact that changing one characteristic (for example, reducing fibre diameter) has on other important characteristics (such as liveweight, survival, hardiness etc).

The trial demonstrated that all of the breed combinations are worthy of further evaluation in the Falkland Islands. The task for the DOA over the next couple of years will be to generate sufficient breeding ewe numbers of each of the breeds to allow full evaluation of their merit as long term **self-replacing ewe options** for farmers!

Questions such as; what is the hardiness of the breed? What about survivability? What about fertility? And so on have not been asked of the various breeds included in this trial as yet, hence no objective information is available. As such a degree of caution is urged in taking too much from just a little bit of information!

It is important to remember that quite a few farmers in the Falklands have experience with some of the breeds included in this trial. So please, if you are interested in a particular breed for your farm, why not take the trouble and seek out such farmers and talk to them about how their animals have performed. A lot of breed information is also available on the internet and from breed societies etc so once again, why not take a few minutes and see what you can find out about the breed you are interested in! Time spent tracking down such information could prove to be very valuable indeed.

The DoA would like to thank Brian and his Goose Green team for the wholehearted support given to this trial over the last three years and also to Diana for the hospitality offered to the large crowd on shearing day. In addition we would also like to thank everyone who attended the trial shearing and helped to make it run so smoothly. Such support makes it very easy for us to do our jobs.

Please do not hesitate to contact Damien O'Sullivan or myself if any further explanation is needed.

CHOW CHÈ'S

By Sue Halfacre

By the time you get to read this, I will be up to my eyeballs in Clostridial Toxin Testing amongst other things. Don't panic because it will all be happening in the UK on UK animals. I will probably still be doing poop Parasitology. It seems to follow me around like a bad smell wherever I go. My contract finished at the end of November and I have decided it's time to go back before I forget the difference between a petri dish and a soup dish.

So, what will I remember about the Falklands heh? Well I have something in the pipeline, or should that be incubator. In May a stork will be delivering my own little lambkin for me to look after so that will be a long lasting memory? I thought when you were fat and forty you had gallstones removed.

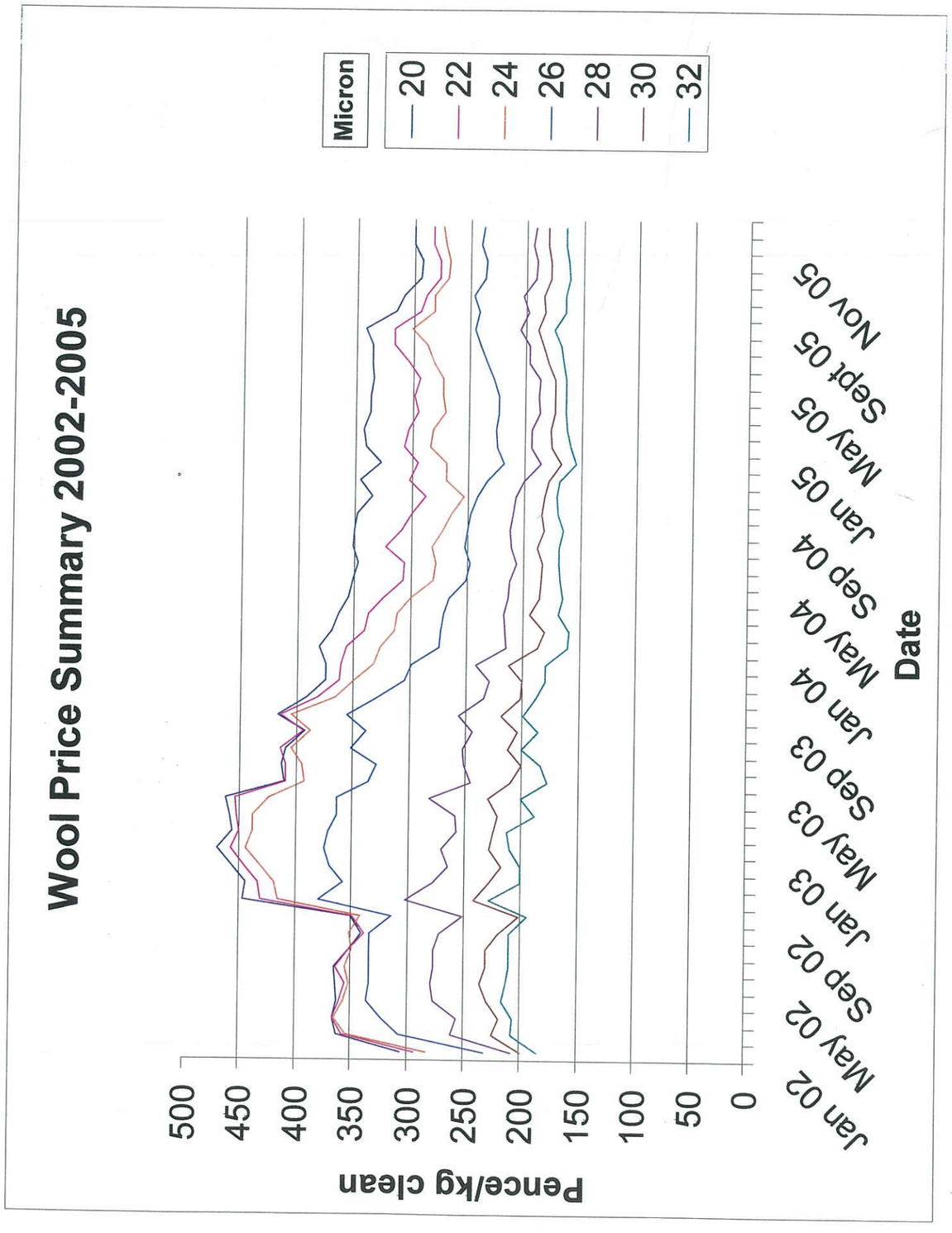
The hospital will be better off as I will not be able to press the red button by accident in the x-ray room only to shut the whole system down and have everyone waiting sent home. Also I won't be able to try and steal their Suzuki jeep mistaking it for the DOA's after dropping off samples to the Path Lab. I thought the steering column had broken as I could not turn the key and rang Sarah to rescue me. She wondered why I was sitting in a jeep with foot high letters down the side saying Medical Emergency.

Highlights of my years have been a visit to Staats Island and travelling to Steeple Jason strapped to Michael's Penelope in a storm (that's a boat to those that don't know). I find it useful to speak to people that do a similar job so you can exchange ideas and come up with solutions you never thought of. Trying new things and learning new skills has also been interesting although I would now rather spin wool than test it anymore. Especially when in the height of the wool testing season, you start dreaming about big fluffy white things chasing you. Last year was a record year for numbers submitted. Hopefully most of you are well on your way to lowering the average Micron.

I enjoyed getting out in camp as the lab can get a bit claustrophobic at times and you can not guarantee cake will be on the menu. I have done a bit of camp driving and got bogged on the beach. I don't know if that counts? I will miss Bertie Bubbles, my Rover 90 but he has gone to a good home. Well I best go and buy some sun tan lotion for my stay over in Ascension. All that hot sun might prove a bit too much. Shame.
All the best.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



WHAT TRAITS SHOULD I INCLUDE IN A BREEDING PLAN?

By Damien O'Sullivan

The traits we include in a breeding plan will depend on the type of sheep we are breeding to meet our markets. There are a large number of traits we can select from but ultimately we need to select for traits that are:

- definable and easy to measure
- economically important: either increase returns or decrease costs
- heritable: traits that are easily passed from parents to progeny
- variable: traits that range in performance from animal to animal

There are basic conformational traits we need to use in the selection of any sheep whether the animal is for wool, dual-purpose or meat a suggested checklist would be:

Conformation		Factors to consider
Overall	Size	average or bigger for its breed, consider feed and age differences
	Length	Average length for breed, short or over length animals can have problems
	Width	Average width at hips & shoulders
	Depth	Good balance of body, everything in proportion
	Markings	Any markings black spots etc
Head	Bite/jaw	Good teeth, jaw not under shot or overshot
	Horns	An issue if seeking polled animals.
	Face	Clear of wool
Neck	Length	Good length in proportion to rest of body
Body	Barrel	Even with backline of good length & straightness
	Girth	Good rounded gut area
Legs	Feet	Pasterns, hocks and hooves sound
Rams	Testicles	Good size and free from abnormalities

Table 1: Conformation checklist for sheep

Most farmers would visually select animals using the above points often without consciously doing so but it is useful to have a list when selecting animals. From this point onwards we need to look at our enterprise and see what traits are important to maximise returns to the farm. With sheep in the Falklands we have three choices wool, dual-purpose or meat. Given the volatility in the wool market many people are looking to dual-purpose sheep to spread risk and maximise returns.

The table below looks at some of the traits that would be selected for in three enterprises.

Enterprise	Traits	
Wool	Micron	Clean fleece weight
	Bodyweight	Yield
	Parasite resistance	Clean faces
	Reproduction rate	Free of black wool
	Survivability	
Meat	Bodyweight	Parasite resistance
	Clean faces	Reproduction rate/growth rate
	Carcass quality	Survivability
Dual-purpose	Micron	Clean fleece weight
	Bodyweight	Parasite resistance
	Clean faces	Reproduction rate/growth rate
	Carcass quality	Survivability
	Free of black wool	

Table 2: Suggested selection traits used in a Breeding plan for different sheep enterprises.

In any breeding plan there will be traits that are selected visually and those that need to be measured. In the past we have relied heavily on visual selection but with tools now available such as micron testing we can more accurately identify animals that have the characteristics and performance we need. In the next edition of the Wool Press we will look at a basic selection process for those breeding their own rams.

DOHNE MERINO'S IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

This article is the first in a series on sheep breeds in the Falkland Islands - as provided by farmers.

Cape Dolphin

Cape Dolphin Farm, owned since 1981 by Philip and Sheena Miller, boasts 4705 hectares of prime Falklands land and runs 3300 predominately Polwarth sheep. When they bought the farm in 1989 the sheep breed was Corriedale with a micron range of between 28 and 32. With higher wool prices being achieved for finer wool they decided to change breeds, and with this in mind looked for a breed that would best suit their farm and needs. Philip says, "To begin with we looked at Cormos and Polwarths from the Falkland Islands National Stud Flock", (a small number of these sheep were imported from Tasmania).

Cape Dolphin Farm

With the construction of an EU approved abattoir Philip and Sheena had another avenue to obtain revenue. With the changes to their sheep breed over the years they found that although they had lowered their micron, the frame of their animals had been reduced. To provide lamb to the abattoir they were going to have to find a way of meeting both markets. After chatting to fellow farmer and friend Steven Poole they learnt of the Dohne Merino. Sheena says, "We thought about it and decided we would also try them and bought frozen embryos from Australia for implantation in the Falkland Islands first embryo transfer programme in 2003".

The first drop of lambs achieved excellent weight gains through their first six months averaging a gain of 250g per day. This encouraged them to implant more frozen embryos, again from Australia but from a different genetic background. The lambs from this programme also achieved excellent weight gains. The first shearing took place and ewe greasy fleece weights were between 3.4 and 4.2kgs, with a micron range of 16.8 to 18.2. The rams fleece weights ranged from 4 to 7kgs with a micron of 17.5 to 20.6. As these first figures were good they decided to do some fresh embryo transfer this year and flushed a number of their young ewes resulting in 53 fresh embryos being transferred. In addition to this they also purchased frozen embryos from South Africa via Australia.

2003 drop Cape Dolphin Dohne Merino Lambs

The Millers feel that without doubt the Dohne Merino is the breed for them at Cape Dolphin as they seem hardy enough to cope with extreme weather conditions from the very dry Summers to the very wet and snowy Winters, with their average annual rain fall being around 500mm. Philip and Sheena are planning to expand their breeding program next year to include a semen collection and embryo transfer centre at Cape Dolphin.

Horseshoe Bay

Horseshoe Bay is a 5314 hectare farm owned by Maggie and Peter Goss, and runs 5535 Polwarth sheep. They introduced their first pure-bred Polwarth ram in 1982, and in 1990 they introduced Australian merino genetics through AI. In 1991 they purchased two Polwarth stud rams of 17-20 micron and have continued buying in good Polwarth rams from the Falkland Islands National Stud Flock, bringing their current overall average micron to 25. When they started farming in 1980 the farm average micron was 29/30.

When they were told about the Dohne Merino they were interested in the dual-purpose breed, especially as they maintained a good fleece weight and micron. After years spent improving their wool these animals sounded ideal. Horseshoe Bay purchased frozen embryos from Australia in 2003. So far they are performing well and feel that the Dohne cross really well with their Polwarths. This season they mated half of their main flock-ewes to Dohne Merino shearling rams.

Their purebred rams fleece-weight averaged 3.93kgs greasy, and 18.29 micron, whilst the half-bred rams averaged 3.3kgs greasy and 19.33 micron. Their purebred ewes averaged 3.3kgs greasy and 17.40 micron, and their half-bred ewes averaged 3.17kgs greasy and 20.42 micron. Half and quarter bred ewe hogs born in December 2004 weighed an average of 20kgs in mid July 2005.

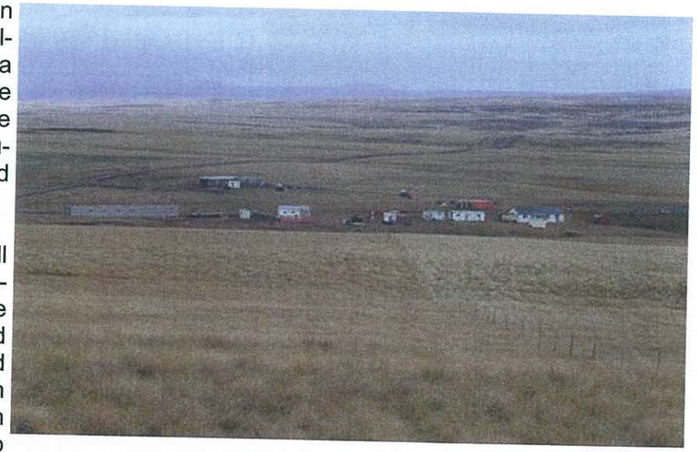
They feel that the Dohne have a good covering of wool although it is slightly shorter in staple length than the Polwarth. The Horseshoe Bay Dohne's are grazing on natural pasture but perform very well on swede crops.

Maggie and Peter feel that it is too soon to say whether they have performed well enough to influence breeding choices on their farm at present, but have noticed that the cross-breeds are more robust then the pure-breds. They are keen to introduce another family of Dohne Merinos next season.

Elephant Beach

Riki Evans and Ben Berntsen run 8400 hectare Elephant Beach farm. Their vegetation is mainly white grass and diddle-dee with green valley's and coastal greens. They are currently running approximately 6400 sheep, mainly consisting of breeding ewes and replacements with the main breed base being Polwarth. Up until two years ago they ran a commercial flock purely for wool production, but with the onset of the new Abattoir and declining wool prices, there was a need to look for an animal that could produce good wool as well as having the capability of producing a good meat carcass.

With the prospect of embryo transfer on the horizon, they started to look for a dual-purpose breed and after talking to a farmer down the road came across the Dohne Merino. Having read a magazine on their performance, they were particularly impressed with their hardiness and decided to give them a try.



Elephant Beach Farm

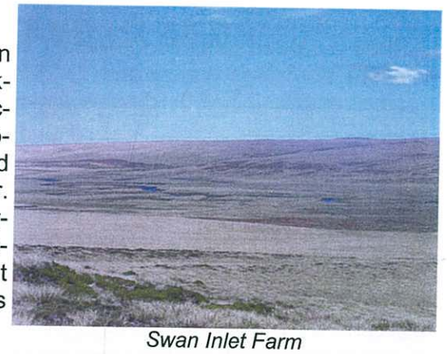
They initially invested in a relatively small number of frozen embryos and also included some AI to enable them to see how the pure and half breeds performed alongside each other. Having watched them lamb the first thing that struck Ben was their will to live. He says, "As soon as they hit the ground they were trying to get to their feet and it was only a matter of minutes before they had their first drink. The other thing that struck me was that they were small lambs when born giving the ewe little trouble".

They never looked back and at 6 months old they were weighing over 30kgs. They felt that both the pure and half breeds were performing about the same and were impressed with them. "They had good growth rates clear faces and beautiful wool, and weren't getting fed any better than our other sheep. We decided to use the rams over some of our better younger age ewes, which enabled us this year to have a ram base of nearly all half and purebred Dohne's which we were able, with better feeding to get large enough to mate. We are so impressed with them that we are pushing them hard to get a self-replacing Dohne base ewe flock

Their pure-bred ram microns range from 17.58 to 20.21with their greasy fleece weights from 3.4 to 4.4kgs. The half-bred ram microns range from 19.05 to 21.14 with greasy fleece weights ranging from 3 to 4kgs. This was with 12 months of wool growth. They sent a small amount of half-bred lambs to the abattoir this year that were finished on turnips for the last eight weeks and their average kill out weight was 14kgs. Over all they feel that the Dohne Merino has performed very well in the cold wet winter climate and goes ahead rapidly in the summer.

SWAN INLET

Swan Inlet is a 273 hectares river valley farm owned by Alison and Andrez Short. It is a mixture of good ground (by Falkland standards), steep scrubby banks and wet, unproductive floodplain flats. Ali and Andrez have embarked on a programme of grassland improvement by controlled grazing and sowing with lotus and clover. Their average rainfall is 400mm/yr. They bought de-stocked Swan Inlet nearly 3 years ago and purchased 100 frozen Dohne Merino embryos in 2004 from Australia. This year they flushed 15 ewes hogs that were a result of last years programme and inseminated their commercial flock ewes with Dohne semen from some of their ram hogs.



Swan Inlet Farm

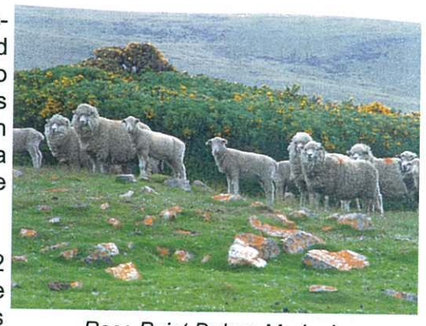
Andrez says, "We believe that a dual purpose breed may suit many farmers here with the opening of the abattoir. We chose Dohne Merinos because the emphasis is still on wool fineness as well as having lamb potential. Farmers are seeking ways to improve micron. Our research has indicated that Dohnes could do well here - they adapt to drought and cold, and are 'non selective' grazers. They have good weight gains - anything between 150 and 400g per day. At 200 days the Swan Inlet ewe hoggets weighed between 40 and 50kgs, and the rams between 40 and 55kgs. We rented out ram hoggets and trained up the best for semen collection for AI programmes for other farmers. One of our ewe hoggets won her class in the local sheep show and was also Champion Ewe".

Swan Inlet Farm Dohnes on Lotus

Ali and Andrez say they will continue to work on establishing a viable, regulated stud and will purchase more elite semen/embryos/rams/ewes to get up to 8 different families in their flock. In the meantime they await the birth of this years crossbreds that they will sell to other farmers and the abattoir. In the future they plan to flush their Dohne hogget ewes after they lamb and continue to rent out rams, and sell semen and rams.

RACE POINT

Steven and Ella Poole own and manage on a daily basis 14456 hectare Race Point Farm, running 9500 Corriedale based sheep and around 60 head of cattle. They chose to introduce the Dohne Merino to their flock because of its dual-purpose aspect, and like the Millers at Cape Dolphin, imported frozen embryos from Australia. Steven commented, "It has finer wool and with the Abattoir in mind it has a good carcass weight. It is only early days yet, but their performance so far looks promising".



Race Point Dohne Merino's

The Poole's first drop of Dohnes weighed an average of 40kgs at 12 months old with microns ranging from 15.9 to 19.66. Clean fleece weights ranged from 1.7 to 3kgs. They also had some half-breeds born in 2004 and at 6 months old their body weights ranged from 28 to 35.6kgs.

It is Steven and Ella's intention to expand the breed through their farm and in June of this year they had some of their 2-tooth shearling Dohne ewes flushed. They are planning to do more flushing in the first half of 2006 to further increase their numbers at Race Point, and are also considering embryos sales to local farmers.

THE CHANGING SCENE OF FARMING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Steve Pointing

Definitions

Ranching – a farming system involving little grazing management. Generally a low input system. Livestock tend to be set-stocked.

Farming – a higher input system of agriculture. More focus placed on the management of pasture and improved livestock husbandry. Livestock tend to be rotationally grazed.

From the above definitions I think you'd agree that the type of agriculture practised in the Falkland Islands now and in the past is ranching rather than farming. With the development of the AI/ET programme over the past few years it is interesting to note the change in the type of questions farmers are asking about their livestock. For the first time in a long time (and perhaps ever) some farmers are now closely observing their pregnant ewes carrying valuable AI or ET lambs and, I think, they are often surprised by what they are seeing.

Ewes that are in poor bodily condition at lambing (condition score of 1-2) are liable either to produce small lambs or, if the lambs are well grown, they fail to thrive subsequently because their mothers have so little in reserve to produce adequate amounts of milk. For the ewe to survive post lambing she either has to produce very little milk (which is disastrous for the lamb) or if she produces sufficient milk for the lamb it is often at the expense of her own health.

Farmers are now seeing this directly for themselves with ewes that they are keeping under close observation. Of course, what they are noticing in this small group of select animals, is (and has been) happening with the rest of the flock ewes year in and year out. We know from scanning data that most of the ewes in the Falkland Islands are capable of becoming, and do become, pregnant, but between giving birth and marking time a huge number of lambs are lost.

There are a variety of reasons for the losses but the major cause, without doubt, is due to inadequate nutrition of the dam leading to subsequent inadequate nutrition of the lamb and ending with death either directly from starvation or from hypothermia related to inadequate energy intakes.

What can you do about the situation?

Well, for the relatively small number of animals involved in the AI/ET programme it really would be worth your while identifying an area of land which could be kept aside to provide reasonable grazing in the critical period leading up to lambing.

If you could provide the ewe with good grazing for the six weeks leading up to lambing she would lamb down in better condition, her body energy reserves would be sufficient to meet her and the lamb's needs and most importantly of all she would produce milk quickly and in sufficient quantity to meet the lamb's need. If you have spent several hundred or several thousand pounds participating in the AI/ET programme then surely it is in your interest to make sure that the newborn lamb has the best possible start in life and the best way to do this is to ensure that the ewe is in good condition.

If good grazing is in short supply, as it has been this year, then it would pay to feed your recipient ewes on a small quantity of concentrate feed or good quality hay. This might require some pre-planning as most flock ewes in the Falklands won't readily eat concentrate feed but, given a bit of time and effort, they can be "trained" to eat it.

As for the rest of your lambing flock well you obviously can't afford to treat them in the same way as your AI/ET ewes. Improving their condition at lambing is of paramount importance in increasing the lambing and marking percentages in the Falkland Islands but can only happen relatively slowly over time.

Improved nutrition is obviously linked to a number of factors such as stocking rates, availability of improved pasture, farm management practices etc and these are all areas that are being systematically addressed by the Pasture Improvement Programme (PIP). I won't elaborate on that here as there have been several articles in past editions of the Wool Press and, no doubt, there will be many more in future editions on methods of getting your ewes in better body condition in the run-up to lambing.

The main point to remember

THE BODY CONDITION OF EWES AT LAMBING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ENSURING A GOOD LAMBING PERCENTAGE AND AIDING LAMB SURVIVABILITY.

I think some farmers in the Falkland Islands may be realising this fact for the first time, as they shift from a purely ranching system of agriculture to a more "farmed" system for certain categories of stock.

TRANSPORTATION OF WOOL

Farmers – please note...

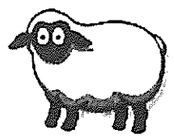
When transporting wool bales from your farm to the warehouse this should be done using CLEAN transport. The outside of the wool bales should be free from any animal waste product. You should not be transporting your wool sacks in the same transport used for carrying live animals to the abattoir unless the transport has been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and left to dry before further use.

If you do not comply with these conditions there is a possibility that wool sacks will be rejected for export or if exported may not be allowed entry into the importing country.

Steve Pointing

SHEEP ID PLAN - NEW TAG RULES FOR AUSTRALIA

By James Wagstaff



The following article was taken from the Australian farming newspaper, The Weekly Times (dated Wednesday 26th October 2005).

Australia's billion dollar sheep industry has solved its identity crisis. After years of wrangling, details of the National Livestock Identification System for sheep will be released today (26/10/05).

Under the system:

- Lambs born after 1st January next year must be tagged prior to leaving their property of birth *except....*
- Sheep sold directly from the property of birth to slaughter do not need to be tagged
- All sheep sales must be supported by a national vendor declaration, which includes a waybill, a document that records stock movements
- Producers on-selling sheep can also apply a pink post-breeder tag, which carries their property identification code

Unlike the cattle system, which uses electronic identification, sheep tags will be manually read. The new scheme has already come under industry fire, with some sectors adamant the fine print contains serious flaws which could threaten Australia's international lamb and mutton markets.

Agents, saleyards and processors oppose any exemptions to the programme. Agents believe the tagging exemption for stock sold directly to slaughter would give processors an unfair advantage by providing farmers with a more cost-effective way of selling their sheep.

But major processor, and Australian Meat Industry Council sheep committee chairman, Roger Fletcher said he was more concerned that the exemptions would jeopardise "the integrity of the system in the eyes of our export markets". The industry could not afford to "accommodate the lowest common denominator" when it came to food safety and product integrity, he said.

"It is a fact that Australia must keep abreast of the rest of the world on product traceability or we will limit access to markets" Mr Fletcher said. "It is also a fact that if we do not develop a system that meets the requirements of our trading partners, they will impose a system on us or prohibit access."

NLIS (Sheep) Management Committee chairman Ian Feldtmann acknowledged there were concerns within the industry but said the system would be reviewed by 2008. "We are aware of their concerns, but there has to be compromise", My Feldtmann said. "The industry has been stalling on this issue for some time."

Mr Feldtmann said that unless sold to a particular market, such as the live export trade, all sheep born before 1st January next year would not need to be tagged until 2009. He said the system was designed to provide a "phased-in, cost effective and practical approach" to traceability.

It had received the backing of state governments, he said. "We have worked hard to develop a nationally consistent programme, one that is as uniform as possible across state boundaries", he said.

Sheepmeat Council of Australia executive director Bernie O'Sullivan said that "to get one national railway gauge across all state governments" was an exceptional result for the industry.

Mr Feldtmann said the NLIS Standards Committee would investigate electronic identification for sheep, similar to that used by the cattle industry. Any decision on electronic identification would be assessed with a review of the visual-based systems in early 2008.

Mr Feldtmann said the NLIS (Sheep) Management Committee had decided to delay the start of a central database to "underpin" the visual tag and paper-based system.

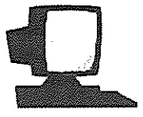
Darwin Shipping Ltd
Cargo receiving for Voyage 344

AMG cargo closing - 26th December
Port receiving - 19th December - 5th January
Estimated arrival in Falklands - 7th February 2006

This is the first proposed shipment north for Wool.
Please note that the closing date for wool will be the 25th January. Any wool received after this date will be sent on the second voyage which is due to sail in April.

For shipping instructions or assistance please contact
Eva Jaffray on telephone 27629 or email darwin@horizon.co.fk

A COMPUTER XMAS



'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the shop,
The computers were whirring; they never do stop.
The power was on and the temperature right,
In hopes that the input would feed back that night.

The system was ready, the program was coded,
And memory drums had been carefully loaded;
While adding a Christmasy glow to the scene,
The lights on the console, flashed red, white and green.

When out in the hall there arose such a clatter,
The programmer ran to see what was the matter.
Away to the hallway he flew like a flash,
Forgetting his key in his curious dash.
He stood in the hallway and looked all about,
When the door slammed behind him, and he was locked out.

Then, in the computer room what should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer;
And a little old man, who with scarcely a pause,
Chuckled: "My name is Santa...the last name is Claus."

The computer was startled, confused by the name,
Then it buzzed as it heard the old fellow exclaim:
"This is Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
And Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen."

With all these odd names, it was puzzled anew;
It hummed and it clanked, and a main circuit blew.
It searched in its memory core, trying to "think";
Then the multi-line printer went out on the blink.

Unable to do its electronic job,
It said in a voice that was almost a sob:
"Your eyes - how they twinkle - your dimples so merry,
Your cheeks so like roses, your nose like a cherry,

Your smile - all these things, I've been programmed to know,
And at data-recall, I am more than so-so;
But your name and your address (computers can't lie),
Are things that I just cannot identify.

You've a jolly old face and a little round belly,
That shakes when you laugh like a bowlful of jelly;
My scanners can see you, but still I insist,
Since you're not in my program, you cannot exist!"

Old Santa just chuckled a merry "ho, ho",
And sat down to type out a quick word or so.
The keyboard clack-clattered, its sound sharp and clean,
As Santa fed this "data" to the machine:

"Kids everywhere know me; I come every year;
The presents I bring add to everyone's cheer;
But you won't get anything - that's plain to see;
Too bad your programmers forgot about me."

Then he faced the machine and said with a shrug,
"Merry Christmas to All," as he pulled out its plug!

RECIPE SPOT

Crispy Chicken Skewers

Cube chicken breasts and thread them onto skewers with pieces of courgette, onion and pepper between. Brush with olive oil and lemon juice, and grill or barbecue until browned all over. Serve with a dollop of tsatsiki and basmati rice or couscous.

Recipe source - www.sainsbury.co.uk

Sausage with Caramelised Apples

Fry slices of 4 pork sausages in butter, add slices of an apple and fry until browned. Sprinkle over some sugar and a drop of calvados or cider, and then a swirl of single cream. Serve with cooked red cabbage, mashed carrot and roughly mashed potato.

Recipe source - www.sainsbury.co.uk

Tequila Sunrise

Mix together one and a half parts tequila and four parts orange juice. Pour in half a part of grenadine - gently so it falls to the bottom.

Recipe source - Cocktail UK

Blue Lagoon

Stir together three parts Vodka, one part Blue Bols in a jug (half filled with ice cubes) and top up with pineapple juice.

Recipe source - Cocktail UK

Mars Bars Shots

Find an empty Vodka bottle (1 litre) and fill up with Mars Bars (cut up into small sections). When you can fit no more in, fill the bottle up with Vodka and leave for two days (or until Mars Bars have fully dissolved). Serve in shot glasses.

Recipe source - Siân Ferguson

Snowflake Shots

Line up required amount of shot glasses, pour a cap full of Tia Maria in each, then slowly pour on top a capful of Baileys and finish by slowing pouring cream on the top. Down in one.

Recipe source - Terrianne Ormond

Fish Kebabs

Thread chunks of 2 firm white fish fillets onto skewers with pieces of bay leaf, cherry tomatoes, cubed red onion and cubed yellow pepper. Grill or barbecue on all sides, basting with olive oil and crushed garlic. Serve with a dollop of Greek yogurt and crunchy salad.

Sweet and Sour Pork (one serving)

Heat vegetable oil in a large pan or work. Slice 155g of pork into strips. Place 3 tbsp flour in a small bowl, season to taste, add 3tbsp cold sparkling water to make a tempura-style batter. Dip the pork strips in the batter then place in the oil to deep fry for one to two minutes or until cooked and golden. Meanwhile, make the sauce. Heat a small pan, add to it 2 tbsp honey, ½ tsp Tabasco sauce, 1tbsp mustard, 1 garlic clove (crushed), ½ chicken stock cube, 2 tbsp water, ½ lemon (juice only) and 1 tbsp soy sauce. Stir over the heat for three to four minutes, or until all of the flavours have combined and the sauce is nice and thick Pour over the pork to serve.

Recipe source - www.bbc.co.uk

The Wool Press does not accept any liability for losses that may arise from budding chefs testing numerous shot and cocktail recipes before attempting any actual cooking!!

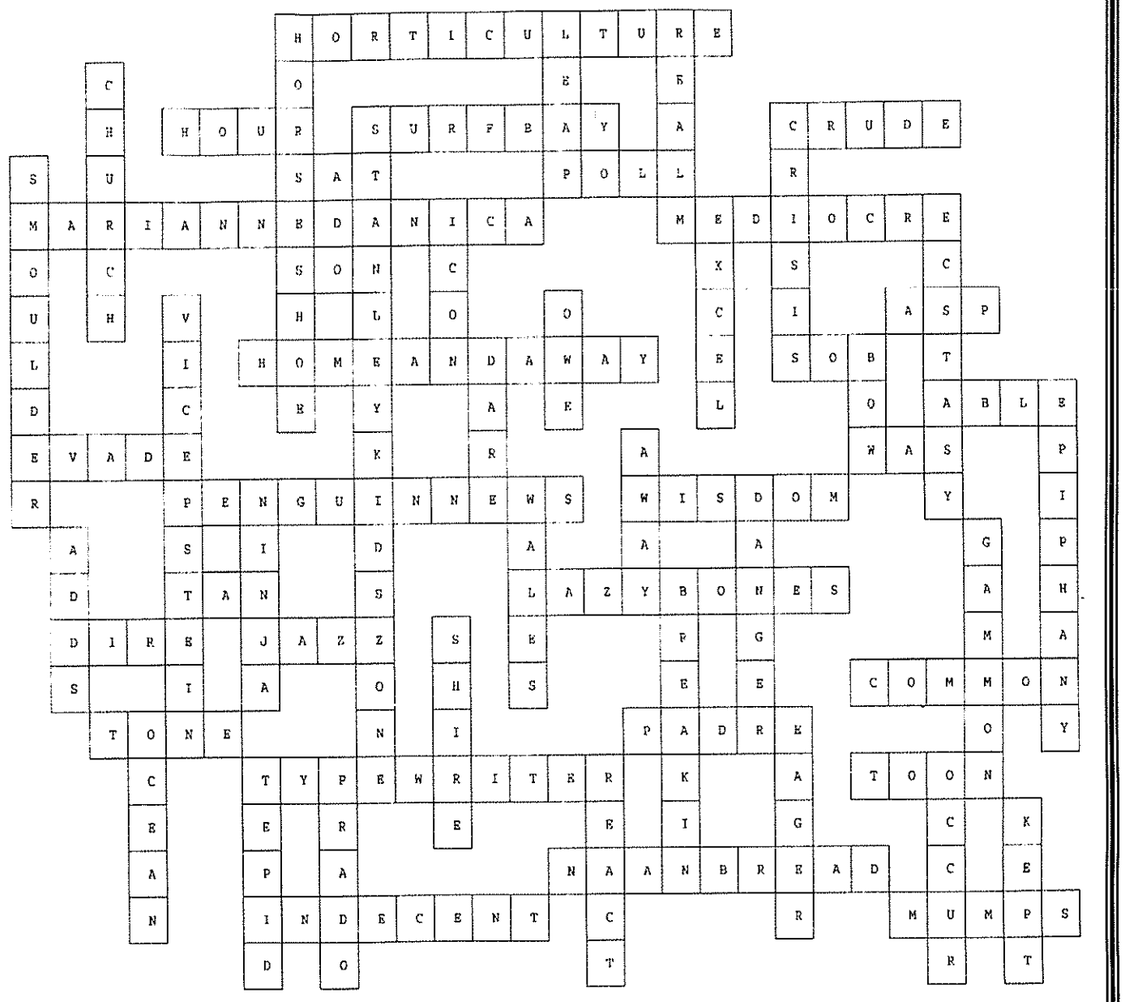
2006 DOG DOSING DATES

Date	Drug
18th January 2006	**Drontal**
1st March 2006	Droncit
12th April 2006	Droncit
24th May 2006	Droncit
5th July 2006	**Drontal**
16th August 2006	Droncit
27th September 2006	Droncit
8th November 2006	Droncit
7th February 2006	**Drontal**

The Department of Agriculture staff would like to wish everyone a ***Merry Christmas*** *and a Prosperous New Year*

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD...



Congratulations if you got 23 words or over (and if you got 30, you are either a genius or a cheat!!). The nine letter word was disguise.

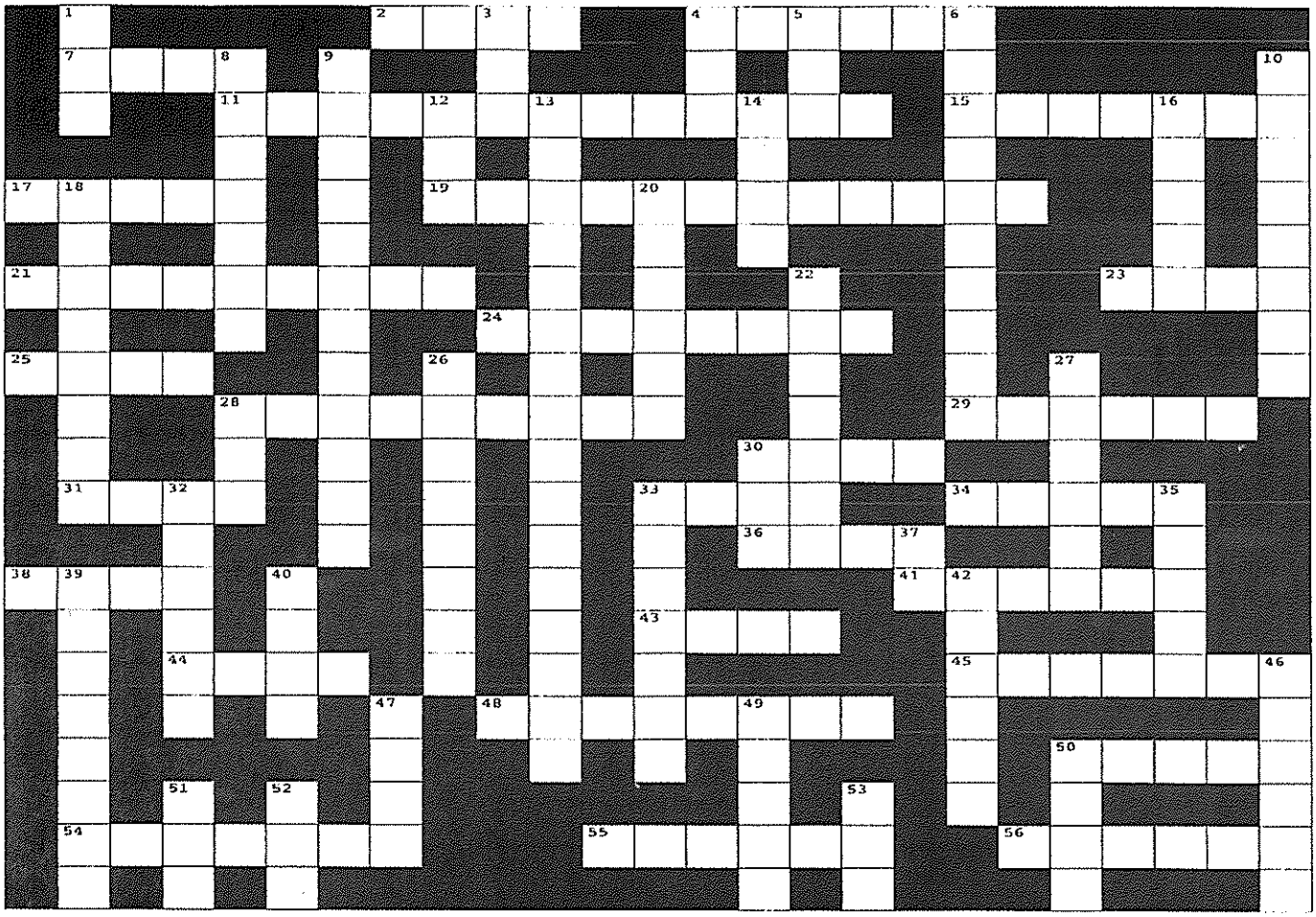
If you would like to contribute an article, recipe or place an advert in the Wool Press, then please contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

If you have something to share, then let us know!!

Submissions need to be in before the end of the month.
All contributions are gratefully received.

PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD...

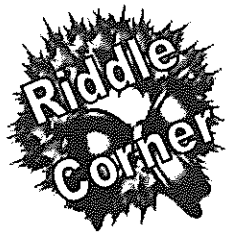


Across

2. Treaty, agreement
4. UK city
7. Horde, abundance
11. Large festive decoration
15. Morning Star, rebellious angel
17. Colour of the DOA building
19. Jennifer Lopez/Jane Fonda movie
21. Christmas treat
23. Chime
24. Outside stove
25. A Dutch cheese
28. Book for finding synonyms
29. Santa's transport
30. Undergarmet worn as dress lining
31. Symbol of marriage
33. Chickens home
34. A place of safety
36. George of the Jungle's 'dog'
38. Light carriage
41. Bugs Bunny's fav snack
43. Edible mammal flesh
44. Hobble
45. Rumour
48. Month of Jesus' birth
50. Fragile
54. Large island on the West
55. Long sparkly tree decoration
56. Small cave or cavern

Down

1. Mischievous sprite
3. Four legged pet
4. Reveal, expose
5. Enemy
6. "101 ..." cartoon about spotty dogs
8. Device for observing internal organs
9. Gift given to baby Jesus
10. Aeroplane shaped South American capital city
12. "... city" PC game creating virtual cities
13. DOA director's other responsibility
14. Few and far between
16. Cube shaped soft flavoured sweet
18. Santa's horsepower
20. Clans
22. The most famous reindeer
26. New Year's Day entertainment
27. Fox inhabited island
28. Playground chase game
30. Distress signal
32. Flammable, gasoline based weapon developed during WWII
33. Santa's way in on Christmas Eve
35. Paper money
37. A processor for by an individual at home/work
39. The youngest Girl Guide group
40. Xmas dinner
42. Astounded
46. Primary colour
47. The Inferno
49. Brag
50. Tariff
51. Peculiar, uneven
52. Solicit money
53. Mythical small, magical, mischievous creature



If, having only one match, on a freezing winter day, you entered a room which contained a lamp, a kerosene heater, and a wood burning stove, which should you light first?

What is the largest possible number you can write using only 2 digits - just 2 digits, nothing else?

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world?

A mother and father have six sons and each son has one sister. How many people are in that family?

Optical Illusion

Do you see a vase or two people?