

THE WOOL PRESS

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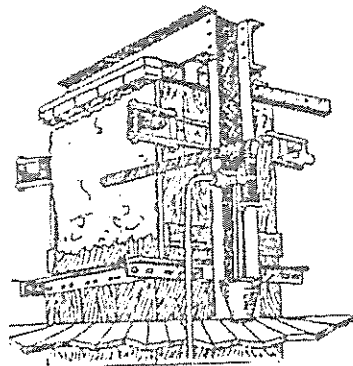
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to all readers.

Christmas week was a busy time for farmers who organised the very successful West Ram and Fleece Show and Estancia Shearing Competition held at Fitzroy. Reports on these events are published in this month's Wool Press and are excellent publicity for Falklands' farming.

As I write, FIMCO staff are hard at work preparing for the start of the meat export season with Zoe Luxton working at Sand Bay as the OVS this year. It is very encouraging to have a Falkland Islander in this post. Please take note of Joe Hollins' article about animal movement certificates if you are sending animals to the abattoir. Sooner or later we will have an EU inspection of the abattoir and the Veterinary Section is addressing issues to ensure that we are complying with requirements in order to be able to continue exports to Europe.

Many readers are participating in forage crop and supplementary feed trials this season and the results from those trials are some way off. However, trials using sheep coats have been going on this winter and Peter Johnson has recorded results from the trial at Manybranch in this publication. We are grateful to Bill and Shirley Pole--Evans for their help with the trial. Wool quality will certainly be a plus.

We are grateful to David Lambert for an update on the Wool Company and double dumping of wool bales. DoA staff have been coring wool simultaneously on East and West Falkland and I am hopeful that the growing call on this service is being met to everyone's satisfaction.

Helen Otley's article, "Eyes Down for Rare Plants" reminded me of a recent search for green-backed spiders! Readers as old as me may fondly remember seeing lots of green-backs in the gorse when we were kids. I moaned to a spider expert recently that I had not seen any for a long time. He reminded me that my eye level is not where it was when I was seven and I should get down on my knees and start looking more closely. I did this over the Christmas and there were the spiders in the gorse! It may well be the same with Helen's Dusen's moonwort and Adder's tongue. Take a look.

Best regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

Due to space restraints, we have had to publish the Wool Price Trend Over Time and Wool Price Indicators in black and white. If you would like colour copies, please contact us and we will email/post them out to you.

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ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE

By Joe Hollins

From this abattoir season a new piece of paperwork will be arriving on your doorsteps for stock movements, the Animal Movement Certificate. In fact it is not as new as it may seem, as it is a merging of two former documents: the Waybill and the Animal Transport Certificate. The waybill or stock movement certificate most farmers will be familiar with, whereas the Animal Transport Certificate is primarily used by transporters to document journey times for animal welfare reasons. The Animal Movement Certificate is of course for all commercial stock movements not just those to the abattoir.

This document is immensely important, and if incompletely filled, may result in refusal of stock at the abattoir. It covers three major facets of the EU abattoir accreditation:

1. Traceability of stock. This allows monitoring for disease in the abattoir as well as a fast and efficient response should a potentially infectious disease be identified in the carcass.
2. Good welfare for the animals when transported. This is important for the animals, for meat quality, to satisfy external audits, and to satisfy overseas customers. The modern consumer expects good welfare or refuses the product.
3. Control of drug residues entering the food chain.

Drug residues:

The control of drug and chemical residues is of vital importance. Each year the abattoir operates an EU approved programme of sampling for a wide range of chemical residues in meat. Positive tests can have a major impact on future exports and any future organic or part organic status. The last section of the form contains a farmer's declaration for any treatments administered to the stock being sent within the past 5 months. THIS MUST BE FILLED IN. This does not mean they cannot be killed. We have chosen 5 months because it covers some of the longest meat withdrawal times of any drug. But it does allow us to check that the animals have not been sent to slaughter for human consumption before the withdrawal time has passed. For example: if the wormer Ivomec injectable has been used, the withdrawal time stated on the bottle is 42 days. If this was 48 days ago there is no problem, but the drug still needs to be declared in case of anomalous lab results. Farms should be keeping a record book of all drugs used with their medicines for quick and easy reference.

Filling in the form on farm:

Very soon each of you will receive a pad of forms. A filled in example will be attached to the back as guidance. We are going to provide all the transporters with a pad as a back up in case you forget to bring your form to the stock pens. The following will act as reference for when the pads arrive.

Section 1: The full name and address of the owner.

Section 2: The 'address of the origin of the stock'. If same, just 'As Above'. But this may of course differ – a farmer may be based in say Fox Bay, but send stock from his land near Char-tres.

Section 3: 'Description of route stock have travelled'. Despite the use of 'have' just fill this in as best as you can, although the route may not be fully known to you.

Section 4: 'Full name and address of person/company taking delivery of the stock'. This applies to the final destination eg: FIMCo.

Section 5: 'Full address of the destination of the stock'. This section is usually superfluous and only needs to be struck out or filled with 'As above' unless truly different.

Section 6: 'Particulars of stock'. Where this will have altered from previous years is the movement ID. Three options are now available: (1) Official movement tags (record numbers including

numbers missing due to mistagging etc); (2) Body brands (record official brand letters and paint colour); (3) Ear tags carrying the same letters as the recently issued official body brand. If you are unaware of what this is, please contact Sarah Bowles at the DoA.

Section 7: 'The name and signature of the owner or occupier of the farm of origin of the stock'. Self explanatory, except that the last box requires departure and arrival time. The departure time is actually the time you begin loading the stock. The arrival time can be struck out as 'not applicable'.

Sections 8-12: For others to fill in en route and on arrival. Section 8 will apply to the transporter on the farm.

Section 13: 'Treatment declaration'. Please don't forget this. As explained above, this section will be checked at the abattoir and if incomplete the stock cannot be slaughtered. Either declare those used, or tick the box if none.

Now – peel off the bottom (yellow) copy to retain for your records, and, new this year, FAX it to the abattoir ASAP. This needs to arrive ahead of the stock. If you do not have a fax, let us know and we may be able to resolve the issue another way.

Why the fax? This is mainly an issue for the West more than the East because there are so many links in the chain. Port Howard may receive stock from between 1 and 5 farms which are mixed in the holding paddocks. All the certificates (ie: up to 5) are placed in a box there for collection. This may be some 2,000 sheep, 3 shiploads. As these three shiploads will be mixed mobs and transport times have to be monitored, three new certificates will be written out currently by the Tamar. These 2,000 sheep represent 5 truckloads on the East (400 a time), so 5 more certificates will be written out. All these certificates travel forward with the stock and arrive at the abattoir, where they will be checked and tallied by the Official Veterinary Surgeon. The most significant certificates are those that carry the farmer's declaration, the first certificates. A faxed copy allows the OVS to resolve problems if certificates go missing en route.

Baffled? Then 'phone us – we're happy to explain.



Falkland Islands Government
Department of Agriculture
Animal Health, Livestock Movement and
Identification Order 2002
Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Animal Movement Certificate

No. 1872

1. Full name and address of the actual owner of stock being travelled.	4. Full name and address of the person or company taking delivery of the stock.
2. Full address of the place of origin of the stock.	5. Full address of the destination for the stock.
3. Description of the route stock have travelled.	

6. Particulars of stock. (Full and accurate details of the stock being traveled must be supplied below.)

Number of stock	Breed	Description / sex	Movement ID

7. Name and signature of the owner or occupier of the farm of origin of the stock.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____
8. Name and signature of person in charge of the stock being travelled.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____
9. Name and signature of person in charge of the stock being traveled.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____
10. Name and signature of person in charge of the stock being traveled.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____
11. Name and signature of person in charge of the stock being traveled.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____
12. Name and signature of the person taking delivery of the stock at final destination.	Name: _____ Signature: _____	Departure Time: _____ Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____	Arrival Time: _____

13. Treatment declaration. (All treatments must be stated in the 2 months prior to movements of any oral animals.)

Name of drugs used and date of administration

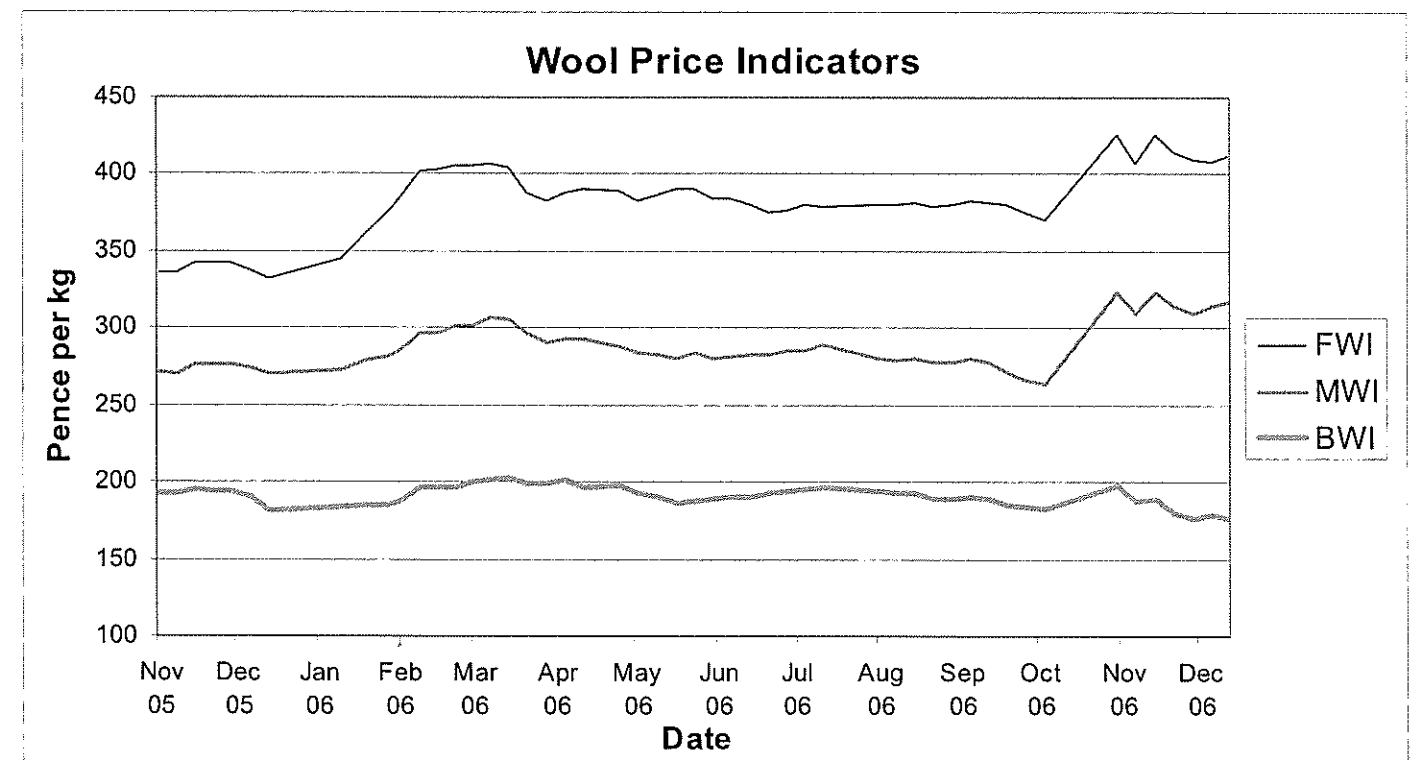
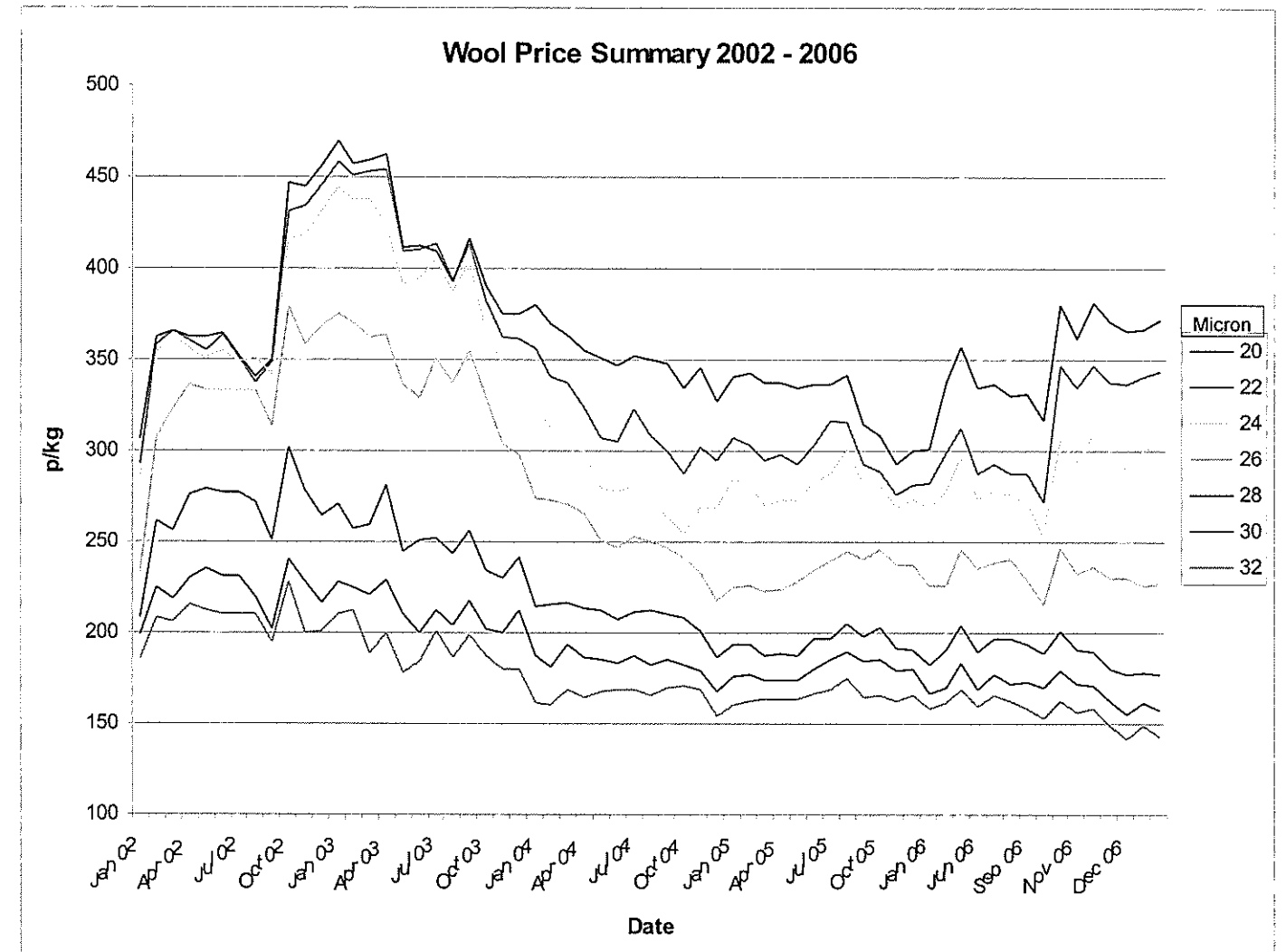
Tick if no treatments given

Original copy (owner) travels with the stock and is returned by the driver to the Veterinary Surgeon at the abattoir. A copy of the Animal Movement Certificate may be sent to the Department of Agriculture by the person taking delivery of the stock. A copy of the certificate should be kept by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of disease control.

The Animal Movement Certificate

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME & WOOL PRICE INDICATORS

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



Next Dog Dosing Day (Drontal)...
...Wednesday 31st January

UPDATE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY

By David Lambert

Progress continues to be made as more farmers have sold and shipped wool. Having now established the optimum dumping requirement for 40 foot containers we have already shipped a total of 9 full container loads to Europe, many of which will take advantage of the free warehousing deal negotiated on member's behalf. Sales continue to be made at excellent prices net Stanley basis in relation to the published MPG figures. We are preparing invoices as we speak for wool already on the water on its way to clients, and the first of our farmers can expect to be paid for their wool in the next few weeks.

The company deals with its members on the basis of net Stanley (i.e. the amount the farm will receive after deducting post-Stanley shipping and freight expenses plus commission and other costs), in order to avoid any confusion when dealing with different buyers in different locations, who would all have a different gross price basis - perhaps difficult to reconcile at farm level, particularly when dealing on several different continents.

We have now arrived at the point with the wool dumping machine that we know what the optimal level of dumping per 40' container will be to minimise overall freight rates. We will be shipping a further 6 to 8 containers on the next SAAS voyage. Many of these wools not already sold will enjoy our free warehousing deal whilst sitting virtually on the doorstep of several of the largest wool processors in Europe, meaning that when the wool is sold our total freight costs will be much reduced compared to shipping and storing wool in Bradford. We are also investigating freight options to Bradford which will significantly reduce costs when serving the trade there, including some of the smaller specialist woollen clients who can be expensive to service due to the tiny weights involved.

I was pleased to hear that a UK agent has decided to also join the RBA in order that those of his clients who were not already members of the RBA might also share the benefit of the new sheepsback insurance policy (which was negotiated by me on behalf of Wool Co and the RBA). This makes perfect sense and is the sort of thing that we set out to achieve when first looking at a wool co-operative - getting farmers together and spreading costs as thinly as possible. I am sure everyone appreciates the fact that all our costs will now be reduced a little.

Wool Co is now officially Associate Members of the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO). This will greatly help Wool Co (and to a lesser extent the rest of the Falklands wool producers) in its efforts to reach out to new markets and clear the way for Falkland wool to be imported to new areas of the world. Other noted Associate members of IWTO include Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), The Woolmark Company, Schlumberger (NSC) and Wools Of New Zealand. Obviously in many locations no firm has attempted to sell Falkland wool before and so we do not expect overnight success in these markets but with a persistent and co-ordinated approach and assistance from IWTO and our Government many barriers should get broken down over time. Being a member of IWTO spells out to the rest of the world wool trade the serious nature of our intentions and automatically raises our profile far beyond any conventional advertising that we might undertake. We intend addressing the whole of the IWTO conference in May 2007 to formally introduce our company which should further increase our profile with the trade. In addition we have some exciting news coming up with regards to other upcoming publicity and will be releasing details of these in February.

Our activities are increasing rapidly and we are now also discussing new and exciting options with third party processors with regard to processing options for skirtings which may lead to substantially better prices, free or nearly free core-testing and better or fairer value for each individual farm when interlotting.

Wool Co have received a number of enquiries from non-members and we hope that our member numbers will increase before the end of the season as more and more wool growers come to realise that we are indeed a safe pair of hands.

Whilst we are unable to offer the full package of benefits to non-members we are able to discuss selling parts of non-member clips to the trade and any interested farmer is more than welcome to ring for a chat or drop into the office for a smoko. The office number is 22297.

Manager/Trainee Manager The Falkland Islands Wool Company Limited

The Falkland Islands Wool Company seeks a person to take over the company as manager. The person may either be experienced in the wool trade or else training may be provided by the company, however we are looking for a resourceful and entrepreneurial outlook ideally with some skills in running a business and able to use Microsoft Office applications.

Physical fitness and previous experience operating machinery is also a requirement as the person will be expected to run some logistical operations at FIPASS as part of their duties including operating the double dumping machine and driving a forklift truck.

During the wool season it should be appreciated that a significant number of hours out of usual office hours will be required both from the requirements of wool dumping and also dealing internationally with wool traders in all time zones. A flexible, agreeable personality will therefore be most likely to be successful. Some overseas travel may be required over the longer term. This is a long-term, full-time appointment with good prospects for the right candidate.

Salary negotiable from £20,000 per annum rising according to experience and skills, to include any out of hours work required. In addition discretionary annual bonuses may be paid according to performance.

Applications by letter or email explaining your reasons for wanting to take the position, the qualifications, skills and experience that you can bring to the role and any other information that you deem useful should be sent to The Company Secretary, The Falkland Islands Wool Company Limited, Shackleton House, West Hillside, Stanley, to arrive by the latest 25th January 2007, or email to dlambert@blueyonder.co.uk

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

To contribute an article, recipe or cartoon for the Wool Press,
contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352
or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Submissions need to be in before the end of the month.

All contributions are gratefully received.

**The Department of Agriculture Biennial Report
July 2004 to June 2006**

Available free on cd

Telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for your copy.

2006 ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

By Nyree Heathman

Although a rather cold and wet day, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of the shearers and spectators that attended the 2006 Estancia Shearing Competition at Fitzroy farm. The days events started with the Intermediate competition for which there were 4 entrants. Having each shorn 4 sheep the winner emerged as Gilberto Castro with 36.65 points. Second was Robert Ferguson with 42.20, third Michelle Amor with 44.50 and fourth Keith Alazia with 45.45.

This was followed by the Open heats and then the Farmers category. John Jones claimed top spot in the Farmers class with 31.05 points. Steven Dickson was second with 36.80, Tony Heathman third with 42.35 and Keith Alazia fourth with 46.65. Competition then stopped for an hour or so whilst everyone tucked into Gilberto's asado and Shula's filled rolls and replenished their beer supply from the bar.

The Team Shear followed after dinner with 5 teams of shearers battling it out. The first shearer from each team shorn 4 sheep before handing over to his partner who shorn the final 4. The combination of Jan Clarke and Steven Dickson took top prize in this class with 35.63. They were followed by Kieran McCulloch and Luke Farhn with 42.20 and third were John Williams and Richard Short with 45.25.

This then brought us to the last event of the day – the Open Class final. As well as the excellent shearing demonstrated by the 4 finalists, the crowd was also kept entertained by Andrew Newman's amusing and informative commentary. The final was very close with only 2.60 points separating all four shearers. Paul Phillips proved to be the best on the day winning the competition with 43.05 points. Hot on his heels was Lee Molkenbuhr with 43.90. Jan Clarke was third with 45.00 and Kieran McCulloch was fourth with 45.65.

Many thanks to all those who helped out, both on the day and beforehand, and in particular to Alan at Fitzroy for allowing us to host the Competition there.

EYES DOWN FOR RARE PLANTS

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

At first glance, the Falkland Islands can appear to be a largely uniform landscape of diddle dee and white grass. However, if you get down on your hands and knees and have a proper look, you'll be surprised what you can see.

Naturalists and scientists have been collecting and identifying plants in the Falkland Islands for over 200 years and the total number of native species now stands at 171, with a further 175 plants introduced from elsewhere. Whether some plants are truly native or introduced many years ago, and how some species managed to get across to the Falklands from South America is still being debated by experts across the world.

Comparisons of measurements of growth form, flowering parts and genetic testing of Falkland Islands specimens compared to plants in North and South America, New Zealand, Australia and Europe are key to determining whether a plant in the Falkland Islands is truly native, a subspecies or a plant unique only to the Falkland Islands.

Some plants, like the widespread and easy to spot Vanilla daisy, are endemic meaning that they are only found in the Falkland Islands. Other endemic plants are much rarer and some along with other native plant species, which are also found in South America, have only been recorded in a few or even only one location here in the islands. In all there are 23 native plants that are so rare as to be of conservation concern and these appear on a national red data list.

Some of these rare plants have undoubtedly been under-recorded. There may be only a narrow window of opportunity to spot the more conspicuous flowers or fruits, they may be at a very low density in an area dominated by another species or it may be that there are just not enough people that can recognise the small and inconspicuous plants. So are rare plants really rare or are they so small or cryptic that we don't find them? Or do we simply not look in the right places? More eyes to the ground might help to solve these questions.

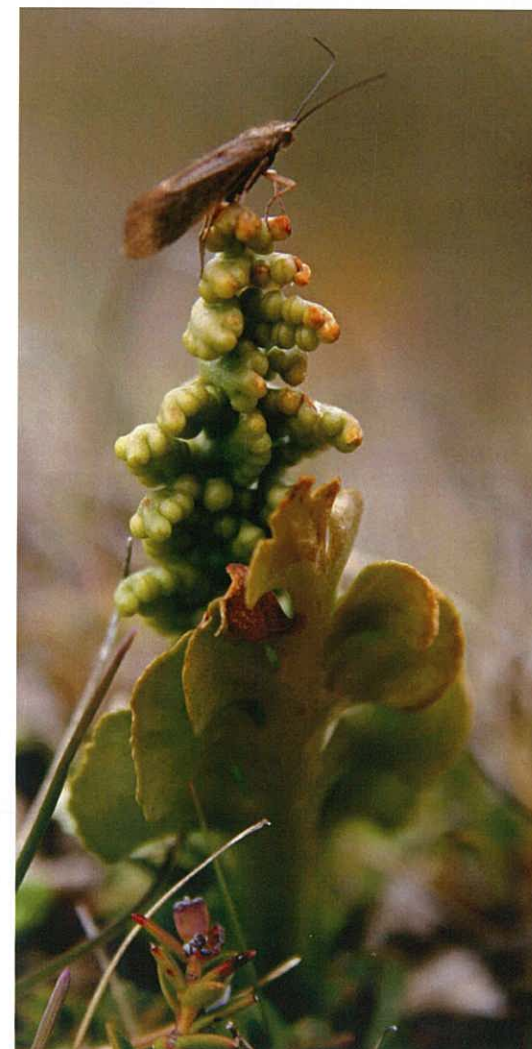
Now is the time to look for three particularly rare plants. Dusen's moonwort, Adder's tongue and Spider-plant are small plants less than 5 cm high, which produce flowering parts only during our short summer. These plants are all found at one site at Cape Pembroke and a few other places on East Falklands, but Falklands Conservation think they could be elsewhere. Whilst they no doubt will remain rare, knowledge of other locations where they occur could be critical to their conservation.

"We're interested in any records of these plants and now is the time to look for them. At Cape Pembroke, Dusen's moonwort and Spider-plant grow on open, short grass and sand dune environments, and Adder's tongue is found amongst diddle-dee," explains Grant Munro, Director of Falklands Conservation. "The three plants are so rare that the Government has made it illegal to pick or cut them, so please photos and location information only".

For more information, contact Falklands Conservation on 22247.



Adder's tongue



Dusen's moonwort



Spider-plant

SUMMER CAMP VISITS THE VETERINARY SECTION

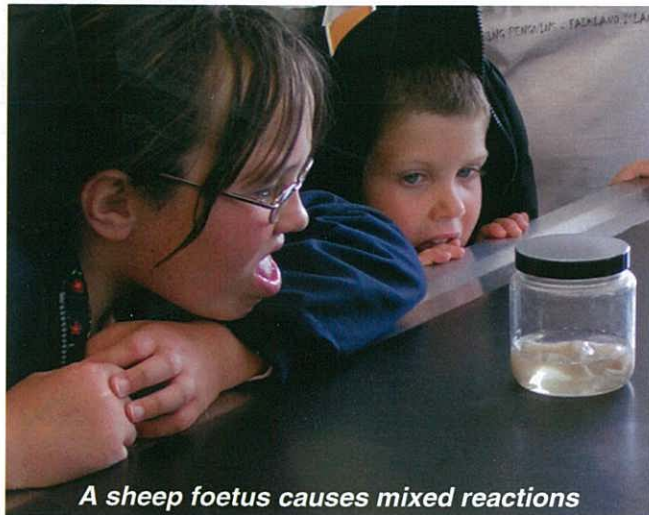
In December, ten camp children spent a week in Stanley for 'Summer Camp'. Myra Pitt took them to a number of locations in and around Stanley, including Stanley Dairy, the Market Garden, Gypsy Cove, Whalebone Cove along with a daily swim. They also paid a visit to the Veterinary Section where they all had a great time and took some photos of what they saw.

Veterinary Services Officer, Sarah Bowles took a look back on the day...

"On Wednesday 6th December the Veterinary Service expanded its staff by a considerable amount when ten Camp children called in to see what happens in the veterinary section of the DoA. Among other things the children took time to view a variety of Xrays, see a demonstration on how blood samples are collected into tubes, and also to look at some of our photographs and specimens kept in the clinic. After seeing the kennel room where animals stay whilst in with us, we had a lively discussion on the different types of fish caught in Falklands waters.

The children showed great enthusiasm, asked many intelligent questions and, we hope, enjoyed their look around the clinic; most of them having had animals staying at some stage, but had never visited the Vet Section themselves before.

We would just like to say thanks to all the Summer Camp kids, and their teachers, for coming to visit and we hope to see them again next year."



A sheep fetus causes mixed reactions



In the Consultation Room for another display



Studying different fish types



The 'Summer Camp' kids

EWES WITH SHEEP COATS PRODUCE A HIGHER NUMBER OF HEAVIER LAMBS AT MANY BRANCH

By Peter Johnson

In April 2004, sheep coats were placed on 196 mature ewes at Bill and Shirley Pole-Evans' Many Branch farm. 196 ewes without coats were also tagged to be used as a control. All of these ewes were then put back into the mob of mixed age ewes to be joined and spend the winter together. Lambing took place in October.

In mid December, all of the ewes were gathered for lamb marking. The trial ewes were weighed and wet & dried to determine if they had a lamb. The udders of the lactating ewes were spray marked to identify their lambs when they were marked the next day. This technique worked well to identify the correct lambs according to their treatment (blue for coats, red for no coats) as can be seen in the picture.



The lambs were also weighed and all of the results are shown below.

	Coated	No Coat
Average Ewe Weight April	41.2 kg	40.7 kg
Average Ewe Weight December	37.2 kg	37.9 kg
Lamb % (based on wet/dry of ewes present)	72.90%	68.50%
Average Lamb Weights	15.4kg	14.7 kg

The ewes will be shorn in February, and the lambs will also be weaned at this time. We hope to obtain a weaning weight of the lambs. This will show us whether the significant benefit (on lamb weight) of the ewes being coated carry's through to weaning.

The real benefits of the coats will hopefully come from the higher quality of wool found under the coats at shearing. The above information illustrates however, that there are no adverse effects on joining, reproduction, lamb survival and lamb weights from ewes being coated. The slight difference in ewe live weight is probably more of a testament to the heavier lambs from the ewes with coats on.



THE TWENTIETH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2006 REPORT

By Nigel Knight

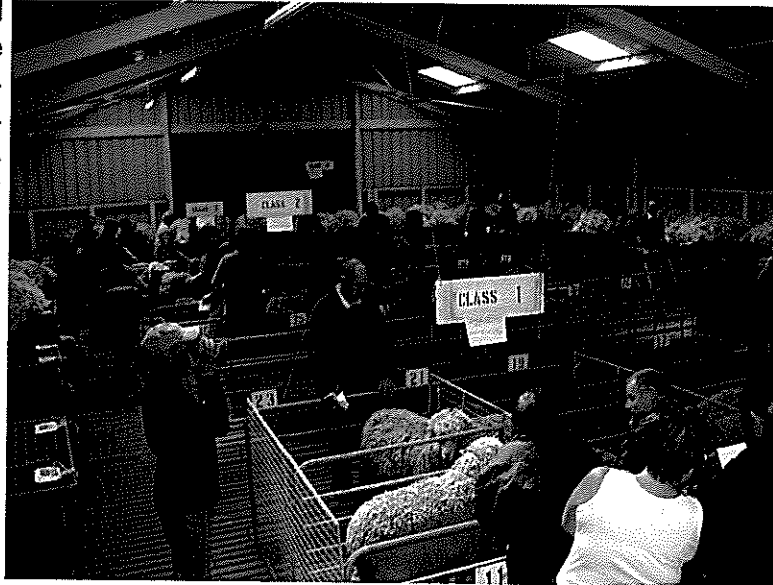
Thursday 28th December 2006 dawned bright and clear, this was in contrast to the previous day of heavy rain. Some party-goer's heads may have also been allegedly a little clouded after the Camp wedding on the 27th. But none of this distracted the residents and visitors at Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating 'a good day' out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith had already been working hard transforming the Woolshed. Ruben after a variety of other tasks helped Keith take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. When Tony and Susan arrived with their entries they also gave invaluable help. As usual the entries started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline for entries approached. The Islander Aircraft had already made an early visit delivering H. E. The Governor to present the prizes in the afternoon.

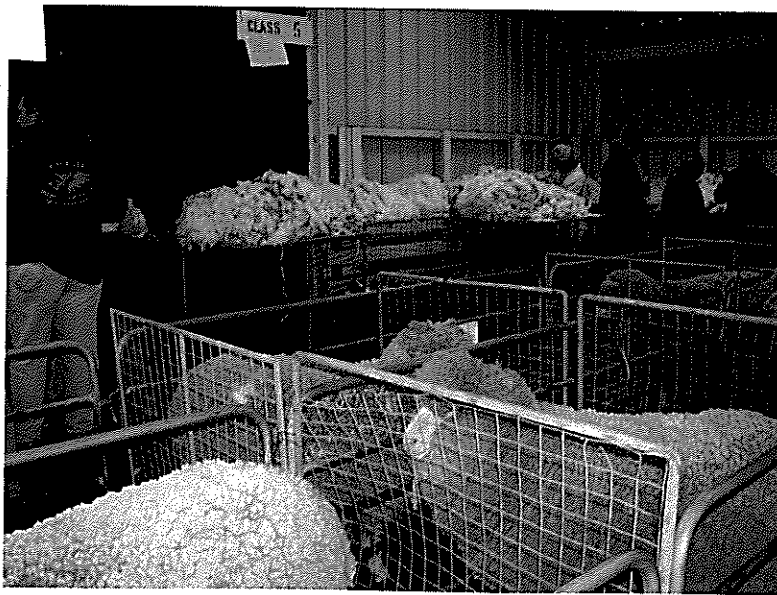
Once the entries were all in, Paul Robertson, Peter Johnson and Ted Jones set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the Fleece having the highest Commercial Value. They did this by working out the clean weight by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight. They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying the clean weight by today's prices for that micron wool. Once this had been accomplished the next task was to select from the twenty-nine Rams that were entered, in the three Ram classes the one they considered to have the 'Best Conformation' along with the 'Runner up' and third place. Next they had to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the Rams exhibited in the Show, not a job for the fainthearted.

A total of seventy-seven fleeces from fifteen Farms and twenty-nine rams from seven Farms were exhibited at this years Show. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of Rams, every one a credit to its owner.

By now the Barbecue, which had already been set up by Tex and Mandy Alazia using their gas fired barbeque pits and this year in the capable hands of Leon, Justin, Chris and Tex plus other numerous helpers was in full swing. This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes



The Ram and Fleece Show in full swing at Coast Ridge



A peep at some of the entries

of Rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the Woolshed. Once this task had been accomplished the time consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known.

These were all then competently collated by Lisa. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully relieved of its fleece by Ali and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. The fleece weight and the sheep weight competition produced some very accurate results. This necessitated the equal first places to be decided by a draw to enable an individual winner to be selected. It was also very satisfying to see an increasing number entries in the 'Under 21's Sheep Judging Competition' this year there were eleven entries, Mike Evans expertly produced the 'Master judging sheets' to enable the results from this competition to be worked out. During the Show Marlane recorded the highlights on camera.

Shortly before six pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the Woolshed for the Prizegiving. This years prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor who had flown out to Fox Bay especially for this event. The Prize-giving brought this years Show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more drinking and dancing into the early hours of next morning. Thus bringing to an end another successful Ram and Fleece Show.

THE TWENTIETH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2006 PRIZE LIST

PRIZE	DONATED BY	WON BY	POINTS	WT/Kgs.
<u>CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGET</u>				
1 st PRIZE.	ENGRAVED CHALLENGE SHIELD PRESENTED BY MR & MRS AUSTIN DAVIES + £100 PRESENTED BY NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD.	Coast Ridge Farm,	103	55.0
2 nd PRIZE.	£.75 DONATED BY STANDARD CHARTERED BANK.	South Harbour Farm	66.	56.5
3 rd PRIZE	£50 DONATED BY CABLE & WIRELESS PLC	Goring Station	60	52.0
4 th PRIZE	£25 DONATED BY R.M.PITALUGA & FAMILY	Coast Ridge Farm,	45	39.4
<u>CLASS 2 FULL WOOL SHEARLING RAM</u>				
1 st PRIZE	LYN BLAKE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP + £100 PRESENTED BY NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD.	Manybranch Farm	103	52.5
2 nd PRIZE	£75 PRESENTED BY CABLE & WIRELESS LTD	Goring Station	88	61.5
3 rd PRIZE	£50 PRESENTED BY SADDLE COMPUTERS	Coast Ridge Farm,	71	53.0
4 th PRIZE	£25 PRESENTED BY THE RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	Port Howard Farm	59	60.0

CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM

1 st PRIZE	FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL MARKETING CHALLENGE CUP ,A REPLICA & £40 PRESENTED BY FALKLANDS LANDHOLDINGS LTD	Boundary Farm	87	82.0
2 nd PRIZE	£75 PRESENTED BY URSULA WANGLIN	Coast Ridge Farm	75	86.0
3 rd PRIZE	£60 PRESENTED BY FALKLAND ISLAND WOOL GROWERS	Shallow Harbour	73	65.5
4 th PRIZE	£40 PRESENTED BY FALKLAND ISLAND WOOL GROWERS	Boundary Farm	73	78.0

WHERE RAMS OR FLEECES HAVE EQUAL POINTS ,THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FIRST PLACES IS USED TO DECIDE RANKINGS

PRIZE DONATED BY WON BY POINTS WT/Kgs.

CLASS 4 HOGGET FLEECE

1 st PRIZE	SILVER CHALLENGE CUP & REPLICA PRESENTED BY MEREDITH FISHING COMPANY & FALKLAND HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT LTD + £40 VOUCHER DONATED BY FALKLAND FARMERS	Golding Island	71	4.1
2 nd PRIZE	£60 FUEL VOUCHER PRESENTED BY STANLEY SERVICES	Goring Station	58	5.9
3 rd PRIZE	£35 VOUCHER DONATED BY FALKLAND FARMERS	Goring Station	44	3.6
4 th PRIZE	£25 VOUCHER ALSO FROM FALKLAND FARMERS	Coast Ridge Farm,	32	3.6

CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGETT

1 st PRIZE	GOVERNORS CUP` CHALLENGE CUP PRESENTED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR + £50 & REPLICA PRESENTED BY " NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD (FIG'S INVESTMENT MANAGERS)	Mount Kent	80	4.2
2 nd PRIZE	£75 FROM NEWTON INVESTMENT	Mount Kent	76	6.6
3 rd PRIZE	£50 FROM NEWTON INVESTMENT	Mount Kent	47	5.6
4 th PRIZE	£25 FROM NEWTON INVESTMENT	Goring Station	33	5.2

CLASS 6 ANY `B` TYPE WETHER FLEECE

1 st PRIZE	CHALLENGE CUP PRESENTED BY COAST RIDGE FARM + REPLICA PRESENTED BY SOUTH AMERICAN ATLANTIC SERVICE + £50 FROM PORT HOWARD FARM	Main Point Farm	78	5.2
2 nd PRIZE	£70 DONATED BY F.I. SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION	Mount Kent	70	4.6

3rd PRIZE £50 DONATED BY STANLEY ELECTRICAL

Boundary Farm 68 4.9

4th PRIZE £30 PRESENTED BY F.I. SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Boundary Farm 53 4.2

ADDITIONAL PRIZES

THE CHAMPION RAM OWNED BY Keith Knight, WON `THE PATRICIA LUXTON PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP` + REPLICA FROM THE LUXTON FAMILY CHARTRES. THE CABLE & WIRELESS PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP IS PRESENTED TO THE RESERVE CHAMPION + £25 FROM URSULA WANGLIN WON BY Coast Ridge Farm.

ROSETTES WERE PRESENTED FOR 1st, 2nd, 3rd. and 4th, PRIZE WINNERS IN ALL SIX CLASSES. A CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION ROSETTE IS ALSO GIVEN. THESE WERE ALL PROVIDED BY JIM McADAM. MEDALLIONS FOR 1st, 2nd AND 3rd PLACE WERE PRESENTED BY TWIGWORTH TRADING.

A SILVER CHALLENGE CUP + £100 FOR THE FLEECE WITH THE HIGHEST COMMERCIAL VALUE & £50 FOR RUNNER UP PRESENTED BY THE F.I. DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WON BY Mount Kent Farm WITH A FLEECE HAVING AN ESTIMATED GROSS VALUE OF £22.22. THE RUNNER UP HAD A VALUE OF £16.63 WON BY Coast Ridge Farm,

£100 FOR THE BEST CONFORMATION RAM WON BY Keith Knight 82.0 kgs £75 FOR 2nd PLACE WON BY Coast Ridge Farm, 86.0 kgs. 3rd PLACE WON £50 , Coast Ridge Farm, 87.5 kgs ALL PRIZES PRESENTED BY FIMCO.

A CHALLENGE CUP AND REPLICA FOR THE FARM WITH MOST POINTS IN ALL CLASSES IS GIVEN BY MR & MRS OWEN SUMMERS WON BY Mount Kent + £50 FROM PORT HOWARD FARM.

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

IN THE `GUESS THE SHEEP WEIGHT COMPETITION` THE WINNER RECEIVED £25 FROM MEREDITH FISHING Co. WON BY R Stevens WHO GUESSED CLOSEST WITH 38 kilos. ACTUAL WT. 38 kgs. Shirley Pole-Evans also guessed 38 kgs but the draw favoured Richard.

THE WINNER OF THE `FLEECE WEIGHT` COMPETITION RECEIVED £30 FROM RBC LTD., WON BY Valerie Harvey WHO WAS CLOSEST WITH A GUESS OF 3.7 Kgs. ACTUAL WT 3.7 kgs. James Killingbeck also guessed 3.7 kgs.

WHILST THE WINNER OF THE `MICRON ESTIMATE` COMPETITION RECEIVED £50 FROM THE ARGOS FISHING COMPANY WON BY Dae Peck WHO GUESSED 18.61 mu. ACTUAL 18.27 mu. RUNNER UP WON £25 FROM C&W Ltd THIS WAS Mark Jones WITH 19.08 mu.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY SPONSORED THE SHEEP JUDGING COMPETITION FOR THE UNDER 21's WON BY Felicity and Fayan RUNNER UP WAS Reba Peck AND 3rd PRIZE WENT TO Dale and Dylan.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

- WARRAH KNITWEAR KINDLY DONATED £50 FOR SHOW FUNDS.
- F.I.G.A.S. ONCE AGAIN GENEROUSLY AGREED TO FLY FLEECES FREE OF CHARGE .
- THE SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIAL CLUB FOR FINANCING TROPHY ENGRAVING & THE BARBECUE WITH MEAT SUPPLIED BY RINCON RIDGE & COAST RIDGE (BURGERS, SAUSAGES & BREAD ROLLS BY SHIRLEY), COOKING BY LEON , JUSTIN , CHRIS AND TEX WITH HELP FROM FRIENDS BARBEQUE PITS LOANED BY Tex & Mandy Alazia.
- KEITH, FOR TRANSFORMING THE WOOLSHED.
- Peter Johnson, Paul Robertson and Ted Jones FOR JUDGING THE SPECIAL CATEGORIES, AND ALL THOSE WHO DID THE SUMS AFTERWARDS in particular Lisa. Marlane FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.
- THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT. In particular Glynis and Gordon.
- H.E. The Governor FOR PRESENTING THE PRIZES.
- THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIAL CLUB.
- AND NOT FORGETTING THE RESIDENTS OF FOX BAY FOR BEING EXCELLENT HOSTS.

WEATHER FOR THE LAST QUARTER 2006

By Siân Ferguson

Happy New Year to you all. The past year seems to have flown by, lets hope we see a lot more of summer before the season changes - although there is one thing I love about winter - my birthday!! Camp Sports are on next month, shortly followed by Easter, then Liberation Day, Farmers Week and a nice long break before Christmas again, hurrah!!

Reflecting back on the past year, sometimes it can be quite difficult to think of your achievements. I think the one I must be most excited about is actually managing to grow some sunflowers (child's play I know). I ended up with quite a few, so conned people at work to take the spares. The competitive streak in everyone showed through, so it followed every Friday each plant was measured to see who would win The Great Sunflower Race.

My entrant, Calamity Jane, finally overtook the rest and was in the lead, until a slight accident with a scalpel resulted in her stalk being cut through - if you know me, there's no need to ask how or why!! So, lots of TLC later (and by that I mean some sellotape and keeping me and sharp objects away from the plant), Calamity amazingly continued growing, re-attached herself together and has now happily flowered in my porch. And now onto the weather...

October Summary

Temperature average was normal at 10.5°C. The highest temperature was 18.2°C on 26th, while the lowest was -0.1°C on the 4th. Rainfall was slightly below average. The wettest day was the 5th. There was 7 days when sleet or snow fell and 3 days of hail. There were 2 days of fog. No thunder was recorded. October saw 184.4 hours of sunshine, slightly above the normal. The sunniest day was the 22nd with 14.3 hours of sunshine and there were 3 days when none was recorded. Average wind speed was 16.2, more than the norm. The highest gust of 57 knots and highest hourly wind speed of 41 knots both occurred on the 27th. There were 17 days with gusts over 33 knots which is average for the month. Gales were recorded on 7 days, slightly above average.

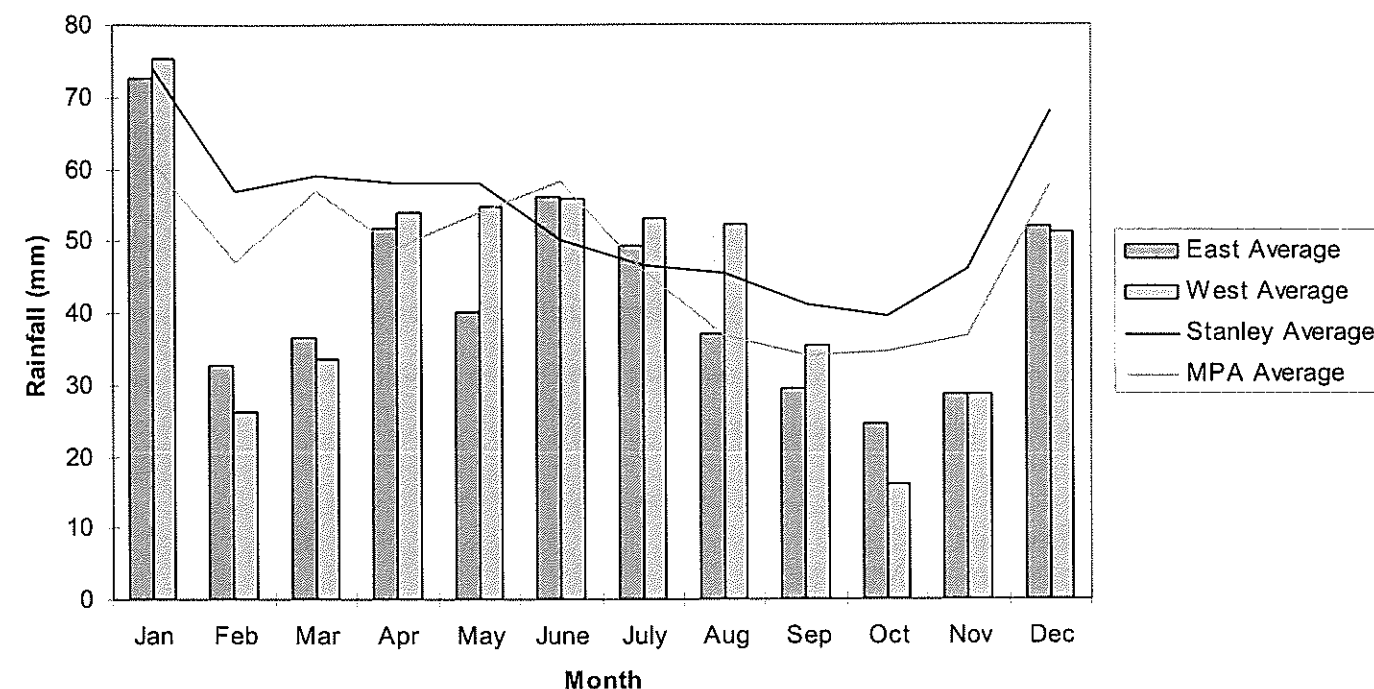
November Summary

Temperature for November was 0.2° above the long term of 12.9°C. The highest temperature recorded was 23.4°C on the 12th and the lowest was -1.3°C on the 3rd. Rainfall was slightly above average for the month. The wettest day was the 15th. There were 6 days when snow or sleet fell and 9 days when hail was reported. No thunder or fog was recorded. There was 241.7 hours of sunshine, more than the November average. The highest daily total was 13.3 hours on the 20th. There were no days when no sunshine was recorded. The monthly average wind speed was 16.0 knots which is slightly less than average of 16.2. The highest hourly average speed of 42 knots and the highest gust of 60 knots both occurred on the 27th. There were 19 days with gusts over 33 knots, which is average for the month. Gales were recorded on 3 days, which is below average for the month.

December Summary

The average temperature for December was 16.6°, more than the norm. The highest temperature was 22.6°C on the 11th and the lowest was 1.0 Deg C on the 2nd. Rainfall was above average and the wettest day was the 27th. There were no days when snow or sleet fell and 6 days when hail was reported. 1 day of thunder and fog was recorded. There was 299.2 hours of sunshine, well above the average of 228.1 hours. The highest daily total was 14.1 hours on the 25th. There were no days when no sunshine was recorded. The monthly mean wind speed was 16.2 knots, more than average of 16.0 knots. The highest hourly mean speed of 47 knots and the highest gust of 64 knots, both occurred on the 17th. There were 22 days with gusts over 33 knots which is above average for the month. Gales were recorded on 5 days, above average for the month.

Rainfall Trend for 2006



2006 Rainfall Totals for the Falkland Islands

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Stanley	2005	56.5	42	39.5	76	30	41	68	28.5	24	23	27	71
	Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68
MPA	2005	89.2	32.3	45.2	61.9	47.4	72.8	58.8	43.5	44.5	34.1	39.9	68.1
	Average	63	46.5	56.8	54.1	49.5	58.1	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.6	57.9
Bleaker Island	135	52	37	43	26	66	42	43	40	23	25	55	
Cape Dolphin	52.5	24.5	22	50.5	39	51	45.5	30.5	23.5	21	20	15	
Darwin	63	20.5	25.3	20.5	25	48.5	34	39.5	20	21	37	59	
Elephant Beach	64	37.5	37.5	59	34	64	52	45	31	25	-	-	
Fern Ridge	-	-	35	57	58.5	63	45.5	-	30.5	13.5	20	57.5	
Head of the Bay	77	38	40	68	18	62	58	47	32	33	31	51	
Moss Side	53	29	36	57	46	58	54	42	32	27	28	20.5	
Paragon	-	-	-	42	43	18	14	12	29	5	11	25	
Pebble Island	66	26	22	60	45	43	42.5	37.5	31.5	16	36.5	22	
Port Howard	131	48.8	48.5	71.5	82.5	80.5	71	75.5	58.8	31.5	50.5	85	
Saladero	56	26	37	26	45	-	-	28	21	12	17	35	
Shallow Harbour	-	19.6	33.3	51	47.5	48	53	-	30.5	9.5	22.5	41	
South Harbour	30	10	28	30	40	45	53	44	25	10	13	50	
Swan Inlet	66.5	24	45.5	49.5	43	72	54	-	27	28.5	37.5	59	
Wineglass Station	87	32.5	36.5	66	62	63	61.5	47	28	42.5	41	85.5	

Our thanks to everyone who collected rainfall data for us over the past year; MPA Met Office, Robert & Elaine Short, Phillip & Sheena Miller, Peter Wakefield, Riki Evans, Kevin Marsh, Ted Jones, Michael & Donna Minnell, Vernon Steen, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, Viv Hobman, Ali & Marlane Marsh, Mike & Donna Evans, Andrez Short and Bobby Short.

We still have a couple of rainfall gauges at the department if you are interested in collecting monthly rainfall data. Please contact us if you are interested or for more details.

DOG DOSING REPORTING SYSTEM

In the AAC meeting on 15 November 2006, the following proposal was discussed.

The committee decided that dog owners in camp report to the DoA that their dogs have been pilled after dog dosing day. The reporting system will continue for a trial period of 12 months.

All camp dog owners please advise that their dogs have been pilled by:

Telephone Veterinary Section: 27366 (if after hours leave message)

Email: imports@doa.gov.fk

Fax: 27352

If one person is responsible for an entire community only one phone call is necessary.

Please advise by the end of the week in which dog dosing day occurred.

When leaving a message please simply state:

1. Name
2. Location
3. Number and names of dogs
4. Actual day pills were administered

If you would like to raise any issues please contact Ian Hansen, Richard Stevens, Terrance McPhee or Justin Knight.

UPDATED DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2007/2008

PLEASE DISREGARD THE
PREVIOUS LIST

Date	Drug
31 st January 2007	Drontal
14 th March 2007	Droncit
25 th April 2007	Droncit
6 th June 2007	Droncit
18 th July 2007	Drontal
29 th August 2007	Droncit
10 th October 2007	Droncit
21 st November 2007	Droncit
2 nd January 2008	Drontal

PROPOSED CHANGES IN BOVINE TB MONITORING

In the AAC meeting on 15 November 2006, the following proposal was discussed. Please make your thoughts known to Ian Hansen, Richard Stevens, Terrance McPhee or Justin Knight. A decision will then be made to implement or abandon the project.

Introduction:

- Between 1987 and 2005 every year only a small percent of farms with cattle have been tested for TB.
- Approximately 36% of farms stocking cattle have not been tested for TB since 1987.
- Based on these figures the current system of monitoring TB is inadequate.
- Based on a small survey every cattle farm kills some cattle on farm each year so this could act as a better monitoring programme than the current one.
- An examination of slaughtered animals would give a better monitoring system for TB in the Falkland Islands.
- TB in cattle is a human health hazard so cattle with TB lesions should not be presented for human consumption.
- Farmers need not become experts on the diagnosis of TB but with basic knowledge they can identify abnormalities and advise the DoA.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

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

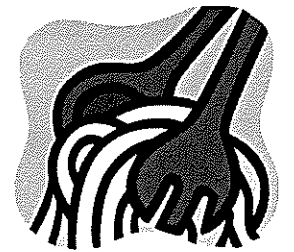
Recipe Page

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

For the main course...

LAZY ITALY

- 1x can condensed tomato soup eg Campbells
- Chicken breast, skinless & boneless, cut into chunks
- Garlic & Herb Cream Cheese eg Philadelphia
- Chopped Onion
- Oil for frying
- Pasta
- Butter

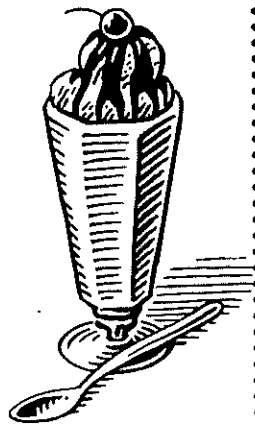


- Heat the oil and soften the chopped onions. Add the chicken and stir-fry until browned. Mix in the can of soup, mix well then add around 2 heaped tablespoons of the cheese. Simmer until the chicken is tender, adding small amounts of water if necessary. Season with mixed herbs and garlic powder if desired.
- Serve with warm buttered pasta.

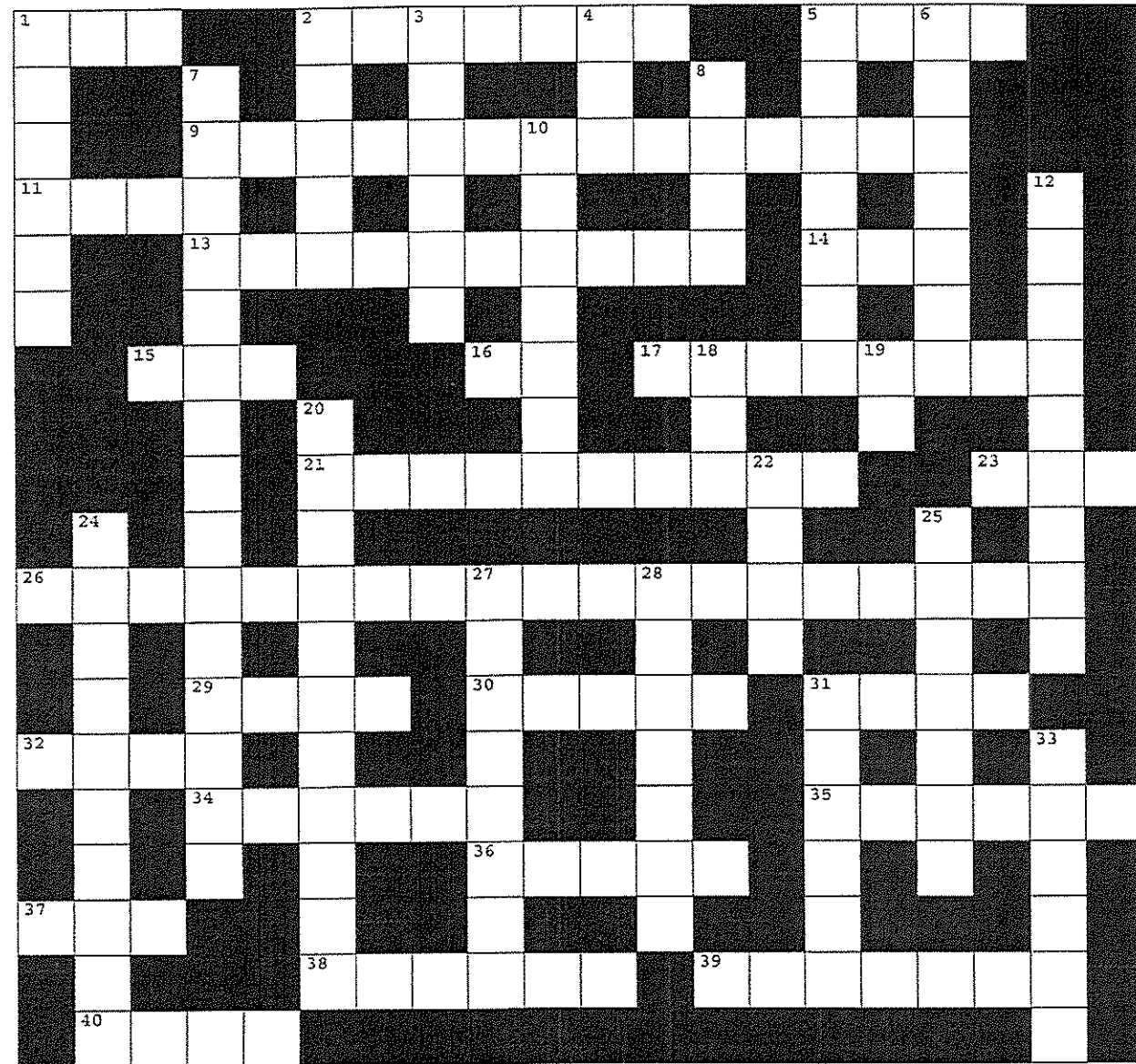
and for pudding...

VANILLA ICE-CREAM

- This recipe sounds absolutely foul, but is the kind of thing you have to try once. It is apparently very popular in the Italian islands, but is a bit like Marmite everywhere else - you either love it or hate it!
- Good quality vanilla ice-cream eg Waitrose, Carte D'or, Hagen Daaz etc
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Sea Salt
- Scoop out the ice-cream into dishes as normal, then drizzle with a little oil and finish with a sprinkle of sea salt. It has the most incredible but undescribable taste!



PUZZLE PAGE - XWORD



Across

1. Curve
2. Gadoid food fish in the North Atlantic
5. Fictional company existing in the world of Looney Tunes
9. The management of the affairs of a business or organisation
11. Precipitation
13. How would you know if there was a spelling mistake in this book?!
14. Express disapproval
15. Chart
16. "... (abrev) Christopher" patron of travel
17. West Falkland farm
21. Authority
23. Offspring
26. Event held at Fitzroy in late December
29. Ruffian

30. Long handled kitchen utensil

31. Location
32. Popular board game
34. Graduate undertaking practical work experience
35. Day of the week named after the moon
36. Marriage settlement
37. Cunning animal
38. Animal in the early stages of development before birth
39. Blockade
40. Smooch

Down

1. Member of the DOA staff (6, 7), and 28 down
2. Entertaining
3. Comic character always up to mischief with dog Gnasher
4. Regulate

5. Aeroplane pilot
6. VDU
7. EU accredited export plant (4, 3, 8)
8. Cautious
10. US legislator
12. Long eared cartoon character (4, 5)
18. Shade
19. Informal thank you
20. A primary industry
22. Memo
24. Could be offered in a version for left-handers
25. Playful pets
27. Timetable, programme
28. *see 1 down*
31. OC character
33. Ridicule, mockery

THE WOOL PRESS

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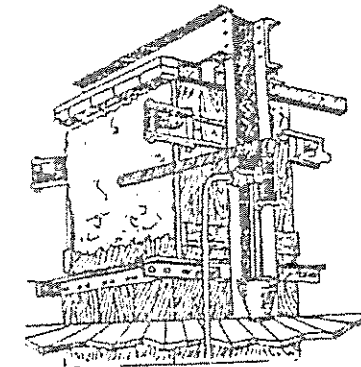
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the February edition of the Wool Press. As usual a host of people have put their ideas and information into print in an attempt to share experiences. It is hoped that you find the articles thought provoking and maybe in some small way, of use.

The department welcomes articles from other interested parties willing to share their knowledge and experiences. It is extremely please to read articles from Zoe and Gosia and to hear how things are progressing at Sand Bay Abattoir at the start of the export season.

Vic Epstein and Joe Hollins have been very busy writing this month as usual. The information contained in their articles on Dog Pilling, TB Monitoring and Drug Withdrawal Periods are recommended for both reading and very close scrutiny. Please do not hesitate to contact Vic or Joe if you have any queries or require further information.

We are also very thankful to Barry Armstrong for providing such a comprehensive overview of what his team at the Dohne Nucleus Flock in South Africa do with their ram team to ensure maximum rates of genetic progress are achieved.

Thanks also to Ben Berntsen for taking the time to give a summary of his recent trip to South Africa and thoughts on how it will affect things at EBF over the coming years.

A whole host of general items are also contained in this edition. Included are summaries of rainfall across the Falklands (thanks to all contributors), advertisement for the upcoming NSF Ram Sale and a delightful recipe provided by Krysteen Ormond.

The Wool Press relies on such contributions, well done. We look forward to hearing from more people in the future.

Best Regards,

Neil Judd
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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OFFICIAL VETERINARY SURGEON (OVS) AT THE ABATTOIR

By Zoë Luxton

Well, the 2007 Export season got underway on the 15th of January. There have been some expected teething problems like us all getting used to the new Animal Movement Certificates but as we use them more and more I am confident the hiccups will be ironed out.

The first week of production was slow as there were a few new members of staff on the line (and some new ones not on the line, me included) so it was obviously going to take a while for people to find their feet and get back into the swing of an efficient production line. We were also hampered by the 3 days of dreadful weather, which prevented the transport of anything to kill. We killed 1220 sheep in the first week.

In this second week we are aiming to kill approximately 2000. The OVS (i.e. me) is here to make sure we are complying with the EU legislation that we have to follow in order for Member States to accept our meat. Starting from the welfare of the animals as they arrive in our lairage and their pre-slaughter fitness through to welfare at slaughter and down through the line verifying that the meat hygiene is meeting FIMCo standards.

I am here to guide and help, not to just nag slaughter staff and farmers but some days I am afraid it probably does look like that! I guess the thing to remember is that if we don't do things to follow the EU requirements they will seriously tell us off when we are audited and they easily have the power to stop us exporting meat, which, economically, will be bad news.

If you have any questions or problems feel free to drop me an email, ovs@falklandmeat.co.uk or give a call at the abattoir on 27213.

THE NEW MEAT HYGIENE INSPECTOR

By Gosia Dabrowska

Hi Everybody! My name is Gosia and I'm Polish. Actually the real name is Malgorzata, but because most of the people experience difficulties trying to pronounce this name, I always introduce myself with Gosia.

I am the new Meat Hygiene Inspector in the Sand Bay Abattoir. By education I'm a veterinary surgeon, Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. I graduated in Poland though, where I used to work for 3 years as a vet. In October 2005 I moved to the UK, looking for new opportunities. Since then I have been working as a Meat Hygiene Inspector in EU approved abattoirs in England and Wales.

I have quite wide interests, from cinematography and arts to wildlife and endangered species protection. In my free time I usually go for a walk and take pictures of everything which arouses my interest. I also draw, usually animals, and mostly pets of my friends. That's why I don't have any of my drawings for myself.

My stay in the Falklands has given me the opportunity to observe the diversity of a local nature, meet wonderful and friendly people and see the completely different world of two little Islands in the South Atlantic. It's a beautiful and interesting place and there's no chance to be bored here. And the job? That's just by the by.

I would like to thank:

Vic and Coralee Epstein	Zoë Luxton and Andy P
Lyn Dent	Joe Hollins
Glynis King	

for a very warm welcome and being of help for the first few days of my staying here. See you later then!

DOG PILLING PHONE BACK - WHY?

By Vic Epstein

Camp dwellers: Please don't forget to contact the DoA after you pill your dogs.

Why are we asking?

Although some are; not everyone is perfect. The experts are still telling me that the most likely cause of us still having hydatids in the Falklands is non-compliance ie people don't worm their dogs or allow their dogs access to offal.

We know there is **NO MALICIOUS** non-compliance!

How?

If this were the case then there would be an area/s in the Falklands where the level of hydatids is much higher than everywhere else. This is **NOT** the case. So the only non-compliance is the **FORGETFUL** kind. This could possibly be the case!

There are those that never forget and there are many camp dwellers in this category. There are some who forget sometimes - we have to send reminders to about 10% of the Stanley dog owners each 6 weeks to remind them to bring their dogs to the DoA for pilling. They forgot!

If you haven't advised that you have treated your dogs you will be contacted on the Monday following and asked if the job was done. Don't be offended if you are a never forgetting person. For the forgetful person it may act as a reminder.

Remember hydatids should have been eradicated over 10 years ago based on the basic knowledge and life cycle of the disease BUT it is still with us. We can't go on pilling forever!

DOG DOSING REPORTING SYSTEM

In the AAC meeting on 15 November 2006, the following proposal was discussed.

The committee decided that dog owners in camp report to the DoA that their dogs have been pillled after dog dosing day. The reporting system will continue for a trial period of 12 months.

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Email: imports@doa.gov.fk
Fax: 27352

If one person is responsible for an entire community only one phone call is necessary.

Please advise by the end of the week in which dog dosing day occurred.

When leaving a message please simply state:

1. Name
2. Location
3. Number and names of dogs
4. Actual day pills were administered

If you would like to raise any issues please contact Ian Hansen, Richard Stevens, Terrance McPhee or Justin Knight.

TB MONITORING ON FARM

By Vic Epstein

It was proposed to change the methodology of TB monitoring in the Falkland Islands to one whereby when cattle are killed on farm, the 'handy slaughterman' carries out a check, and report back to the DoA.

Why was this decided?

The current system of testing monitoring only tests those farms who can:

1. Can catch cattle
2. Have facilities
3. Have been tested before and are TB free

It is in fact not very effective! And I can't see much value in it.

A quick survey demonstrated that farms with cattle slaughter one/some every year. If the farm slaughtermen have a look for signs of TB the scope is widened.

In reality we are assuming the Falklands is free of TB, not because of our testing regime but because Dr Diggle hasn't heard of a case of bovine TB in humans for over 30 years!

Does it matter if there is TB in the Falklands as far as potential export of beef is concerned? The answer is probably NO as all cattle killed at the abattoir will undergo a PM inspection and further testing if required to ensure the meat is TB free. NZ has bovine TB; England has bovine TB and they export lots of meat! (I am sure there would be marketing advantages however.)

Would it be good for farmers to know what TB looks like and be able to diagnose it when they slaughter animals?

The answer is definitely YES.

In a country that allows 'home killing' and sale of home killed meat surely it would be good for the consumers to know that at least there has been some sort of check on the disease status of the slaughtered animal.

The AAC committee decided that a training course should be run in the diagnosis of TB in the slaughtered animal. A course will be conducted during or around Farmers Week. If successful, other courses will be run around the Falklands.

Anyone interested or has comments please contact the Veterinary section of the DoA on 27366.

The Department of Agriculture Biennial Report
July 2004 to June 2006

Available free on cd

Telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for your copy.

DRUG WITHDRAWAL PERIODS

By Joe Hollins

The printing presses have been whirring and hopefully by now pads of the new Animal Movement Certificates will have reached every farm and transporter in the archipelago. Guidance on how to fill the form in was covered in the last Wool Press, but a section which will be fairly unfamiliar to Falkland farmers involves the concept of 'withdrawal periods' (also known as 'withholding periods'). This is in the important treatment declaration, section 13 on the form.

The treatment declaration:

As mentioned last month, one of three central elements for EU accreditation of the abattoir which this form covers is the monitoring of drug and chemical residues in the meat, in other words the prevention of these substances entering food destined for human consumption. Each year the DoA submits a detailed plan for residue sampling at the abattoir for a wide range of substances, which has to be approved by the EU before meat can be exported. The current plan was recently approved and is already underway.

Any positive results can have a serious impact on not only this approval, but on the enthusiasm of overseas customers for our product, and any future organic or part organic status the FI may gain. So the importance of this is paramount. You will see that we have asked for a declaration of all treatments given in the 5 months prior to the animals being sent to the abattoir. This seems a long time, but in fact 5 months is based on the longest meat withdrawal period we could find for any drug. All farmers should keep an animal medicine record book in their drugs cabinet for all treatments administered.

It should be noted that this also applies to meat destined for local consumption, whether pork, beef or mutton/lamb (as well as milk and even eggs). Falkland islanders need to be protected too!

What is the withdrawal period?

The withdrawal period is literally the period of time that must elapse after a treatment is given before the meat can be used for human consumption. This information is provided by the drug company and is an obligatory requirement for them. In other words all drugs and treatments should have a meat withdrawal period in the small print either on the labelling of the bottle or the enclosed leaflet. If it is not there – if the label has rubbed or the leaflet gone missing – then either check with us at Veterinary Services or get on the Internet, google the drug company and check their site or email them. For drugs provided by the department, we can provide the information. Treatments such as wormers which might be obtained independently or via a wholesaler we can try to find out if you are unable to.

Sample Animal Movement Certificates:

Each pad of forms has a filled in sample pasted to the back, and we have given a couple of classic drug examples in Section 13. If you have a look you'll see that the withdrawal periods are written in days within brackets as guidance notes. This is not expected from the farmer, but is helpful if you have the information handy. After all, you will need to check that you are not sending sheep to the abattoir which are still within the meat withdrawal period after having been treated with, for example, a wormer. These sheep can not be killed for human consumption before that period has elapsed. Don't think that we can not kill your sheep if there are any treatments to declare. As long as the withdrawal period has elapsed there is no problem, but we still need a treatment declaration in case your animals give an anomalous lab result and we need to trace the problem back. To illustrate this, both the examples given are acceptable. Noracillin LA – often used for the odd

wound or infection – has a withdrawal period for sheep of 60 days (NB old bottles say 14 days); Ivomec injectable has a meat withdrawal period for sheep of 42 days. We've cunningly dated our sample Animal Movement Certificate as over 60 days from these treatments – so neither prevent the sheep from being killed for human consumption, but both are correctly declared.

Wormers:

Perhaps one of the greatest risks posed comes from wormers. You have some shearlings ready to be finished for the abattoir in a few weeks time, but their backsides look a bit soiled and their flanks are not as full as they might be – so you worm them all with Ivomec. 3 weeks later you send them off – but it's a mistake. Any of those sheep may test positive for avermectin residues. If you are sending sheep to the abattoir, plan ahead, look up withdrawal periods and work out dates to avoid this disastrous event.

If you are importing your own wormers for meat producing animals, please advise us at Veterinary Services so that we are aware of exactly what products are being used.

Some common examples:

Drug	Action	Meat withdrawal period
Norocillin	Antibiotic	Cattle, sheep and pigs 7 days
Norocillin LA	Antibiotic	Cattle, sheep and pigs 60 days
Oxytetrin LA	Antibiotic	Cattle 14 days. Sheep 21 days Pigs 35 days
Ivomec Classic Injection	Wormer	Cattle 35 days. Sheep 42 days
Ivomec Pour-on Cattle	Wormer	Cattle 28 days
Panacur 10%	Wormer	Cattle 12 days. Sheep 15 days
Coopers Spot-On	Insecticide	Cattle 3 days. Sheep 7 days

Animal Movement Certificates

Reports from the OVS at the abattoir are that, bar a few teething problems, the forms are working well - so thank you to all concerned.

The farmer's faxed copy has helped iron out these minor difficulties and prevent delays.

One request – for the purpose of clarity, could farmer's overwrite the important details on their yellow copy prior to faxing so that they are easier to interpret at the other end.

A FEW THOUGHTS

By Ben Berntsen

Having just done my lambmarking and had some reasonable and some bad results, I have started looking back on my trip to South Africa and thought that I would share with you what I picked up from the trip.

Everywhere we went it became more and more obvious that all the lambing ewes were being put onto better feed. Some of this was planted especially for lambing and others were done by lambing when the feed was at its natural best, lambs hitting the ground when the growth was at its best. This always makes me think of riding along in a land cruiser with Neil Greyling through corn fields and asking the question, 'if you didn't plant this for your animals would they survive the winter', to which he replied, 'what the f--- do you want, productive animals or dead animals'. Needless to say I got the message loud and clear. You have to feed animals to get production, especially through that period from July to end of October. They have to supplement feed their animals through the same period.

The other thing that they put a lot of pressure on was selection. They selected animals for long bodies, clear faces, free flowing wool and good conformation clear of pigment with the exception of skin pigment. Things they told us here was the more wool you put on a sheep's body the less reproductive they become.

Why cull an animal for skin pigment when every thing else about the animal is ok? There is no such thing as the perfect animal - work with the best that you have. This year I have adopted the policy to work with those productive animals and the fat ones are on their last chance as they have obviously not struggled to bring up a lamb.

Other things that I picked up were;

Flushing ewes before mating. This immediately made me think of embryo's but not the case. It meant putting your ewes on good food just before mating so that they shed more eggs bettering chances of pregnancy and twins.

Scanning ewes for multiples and taking better care of them so that you get better survival rates. Something worthy of note here - lambs born as twins are naturally highly reproductive as the gene is inherited from the parents.

When you are trying to produce that perfect animal remember the genetic make up of a lamb is 50% mother and 50% father. So if you have a nice looking ram and just put him with any ewe, don't expect the progeny to all look like the ram.

Which brings me onto the things we were told to look out for in the rams. After selecting the rams that you are happy with, do the obvious checks and make sure that the working gear is in good order. Rams need to be in good condition before mating. Some rams are naturally gay and not interested in ewes so be aware of ram to ewe ratio so as to cover for this. Sperm test as some rams appear in good working order but are infertile. The ability of rams to mount a ewe. They do a simple test by putting a couple of ewes in a head bale and letting the rams in one by one to see if they can mount okay. One place we visited used ram marching so as to get the rams fit before mating. The use of teaser rams or injected wethers so as to get the ewes cycling so that they can be covered in the 35 day mating period which in turn will give a more even bunch of lambs and no little fellows having to face weaning after being born late.

As an after thought the other day I was thinking back to when the farms were big stations and re-

membering when all the camps on the farm used to be spelled at some time or other in the growing season, ewes off shears going to mountains in the San Carlos area until tallying. Talking to Snoozer at lambmarking similar things used to happen on the West. Could this be a reason for low reproduction rates as the food is not given a chance to re-grow due to constant grazing pressure?

I hope some of the above will be of interest to others looking to make progress in the farming world as giving excuses is not helping me to make progress. So I am going to put this new found knowledge into practise along with advice from our agricultural advisors.



Andries Greylings lambs on a crop. Notice the bare ground in the back ground, similar to our white grass camp

**Seen anything
strange lately?!**

Don't leave it..... or shoot it

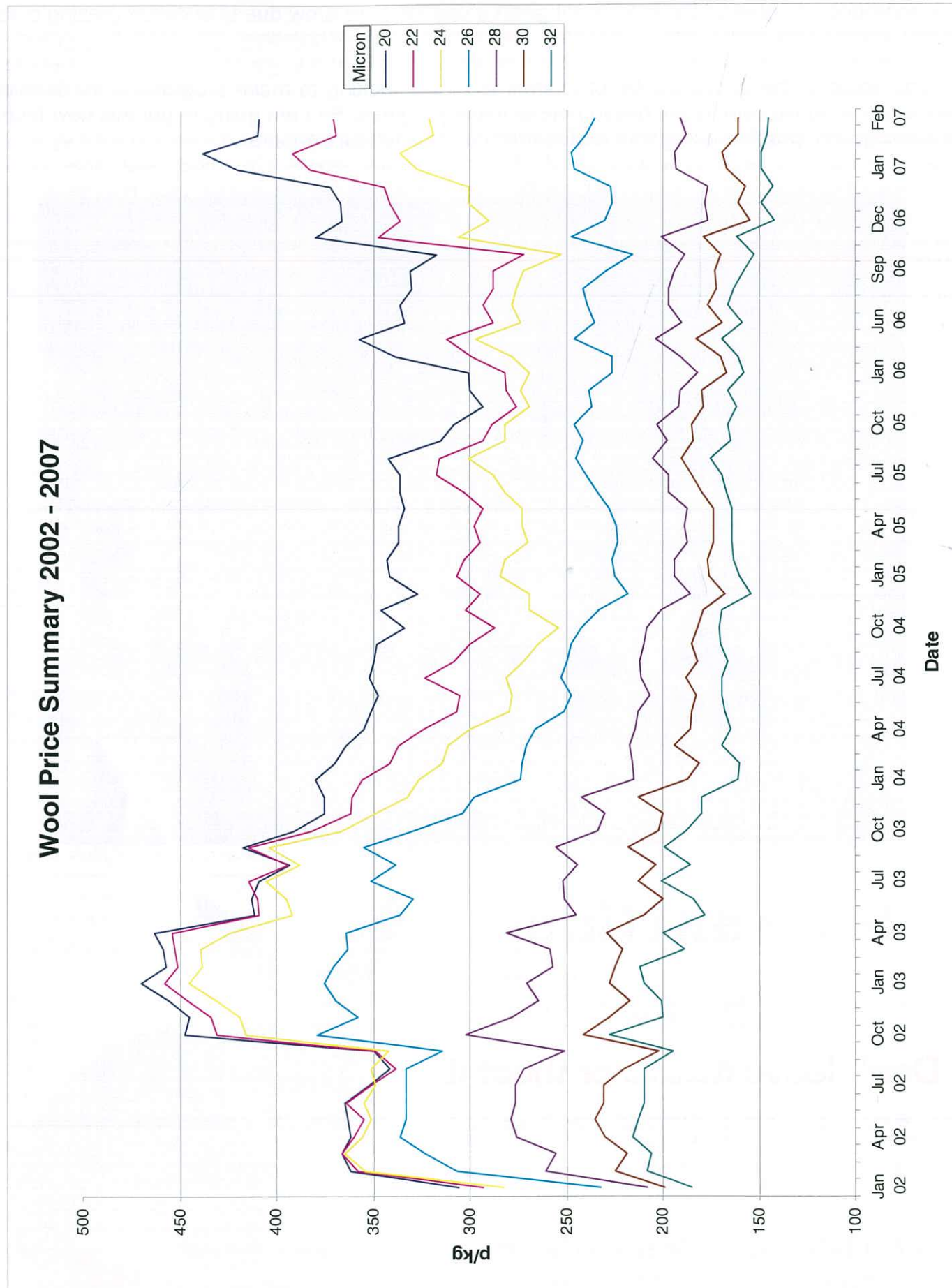
**Call the Veterinary Section
on 27366**

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS
OUR BEST DEFENCE**



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



WOOL PRICES OVER TIME - HAS THE MESSAGE CHANGED FOR WOOL GROWERS?

By Neil Judd

It has been obvious to wool growers for the last 150 years that prices for wool do not remain consistent. Prices have varied considerably over time for the same wool type and even more dramatically for different wool types.

The table shown below highlights the variation in wool price that has occurred for good quality fleece wool types between 18 and 32 micron over the last six years.



Key Points

- Price has varied for fine/mid-micron wool (18 to 25 micron) by approximately 200 p/kg clean between years.
- Price variation for broad lots (26 to 32 micron) has been approximately 75p/kg over the six year period.
- Fine and mid-micron fleece wool lots have consistently achieved significant market premiums over broad wool lots (150 p/kg clean – 250 p/kg clean).
- At any point in time, wool price has consistently fallen away at the greatest rate for lots broader than approximately 24 to 25 micron, price then stabilises for very broad lots.
- At any point in time, wool price variation has consistently been less dramatic between 20 to 24 micron compared to broader lots between 24 and 28 micron.
- In 2007 broad wool lots (26 to 32 micron) have fallen to the lowest levels recorded for the period, while fine/mid-micron lots have increased to levels markedly above most earlier years (except 2003).

On farm consequences

Overall the world wool market environment is showing strength with signs of increased consumer and hence processing demand. The critical point however, is that demand appears to be in the fine/mid-micron range where supply is most limited.

Farmers are urged to carefully consider the on-farm sheep breeding ramifications of the continued market demand for fine/mid-micron wool (18 to 25 micron). Given careful selection and attention to breeding detail, it is possible to produce a dual purpose sheep type that has fine/mid-micron wool (as mature sheep), improved lamb growth rates and also improved hardiness.

If you would like to discuss any issue raised in this article, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

PERFORMANCE TESTING OF THE DOHNE NUCLEUS FLOCK

By Barry Armstrong

We have recently completed our performance testing programme of the August 2005 lamb crop. 560 lambs were born which gave us a lambing percentage of 126 and later a weaning percentage of 116%.

The whole process started 2 years ago in March 2005 when the ewes were mated. We put in Teasers (Vasectomised Rams) at a rate of 1% with the ewes for 14 days followed immediately by the rams in single sire groups at a rate of 40 to 45 ewes per ram for exactly 35 days.

The ewes for each ram were randomly selected but making sure that each ram got an equal number of ewes of each age group and equal numbers from each members family of our Group Breeding scheme. This was so that we could accurately and fairly assess the breeding potential of each ram.

This mating information was then entered into the Shepherd Sheep computer programme so that at lambing time the sire of each ram is already identified.

For many years we have found this practice at mating ensures that about 80 – 85% of the lambs are born within the first 17 days of the lambing period, which is beneficial and more accurate for the subsequent performance testing, as the lambs are all of a similar age.

At lambing time the lambs are given their permanent identity with a pre-marked tag in their ear within 12 to 24 hours of birth and this, together with the dams ear tag number, are entered into the lambing pocket book. This is all then also entered into the computer.

In early December the lambs are all individually weighed and the programme then calculates the 100 day corrected weights and indices. The computer programme makes correction factors for single and multiple births and also for lambs from maiden or older ewes.

The lambs are weaned at this stage



Classing Day



Dohne's ready for classing

and are then visually classed using the 100 day body weight indices as well as a visual appraisal for conformation. Any cull faults such as black spots or any other undesirable characteristics and remarks are made and recorded about wool quality and type as well.

At this 100 day classing the lambs were divided into progeny groups for each of the 10 or 12 sires used. We could then calculate the approval rate of the progeny of each sire together with the average 100 day body weight of each sire's progeny and this also gives a very good visual impression of how the progeny of each sire look. This allows us to make a preliminary assessment of how each sire performed.

The lambs were then shorn even though the wool was very short, but the object is to get an even length of wool when the main Performance Testing and shearing is done later at 14 months of age.

All the lambs are retained, even the culls, and ewes and rams naturally kept separate but the ewes and rams run in one group each. It is important to retain as many lambs as possible until Final Classing in order to make the performance testing and assessment of both the individual lambs and their sires as accurate as possible.

The main Performance Testing was then done at shearing time in October 2006 when the lambs were 14 months old. This involves weighing and recording every fleece as well as taking a 30 gram mid-rib wool sample from each lamb which is then sent off to the Fleece Test Laboratory together with a shorn body weight which is recorded a week or so after shearing. We also record any remarks about the visual appearance of the wool such as style, colour and handle etc.

The Fleece Test Lab measures the staple length, microns, clean yield and number of crimps per inch for every sample and together with the shorn body weight calculates all the indices for each trait and a combined **Selection Index** using the current Dohne formula. This is **Body Weight + 8 x Clean Fleece Weight minus 5 x Fibre Diameter**. All the animals are then ranked according to this Combined Selection Index.

This gives us the best balance with the present prices we are receiving for wool and mutton. As Peter Johnson said in his article in the December issue of Wool Press this formula must not chop and change too often. It is only after this classing has been done that any obvious culls are removed from the flock and marketed for slaughter if necessary.

In mid January at the age of 17 months the FINAL CLASSING was then done using all the measured data available and then carefully checking each animal for conformation and any visual cull faults. All the remarks about wool and conformation are recorded so that a full picture of each sheep is available. At this classing the sheep are all again divided into sire groups for us to be able to get an overall impression of the progeny of each sire. This then allows us to accurately assess the breeding potential of each of the 10 or 12 sires used.

The best 10 young rams are then selected as sires for the following mating. We always use the best sire from the previous year's group in order to provide a genetic link between the years and also use an outside sire as well to provide another link to compare us genetically with the rest of the Dohnes in the country. With the BLUP (Best Linear Unbiased Predicted) breeding values that are now calculated and available to us we are more accurately able to see what genetic progress we are making in comparison with the rest of the Dohne population.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

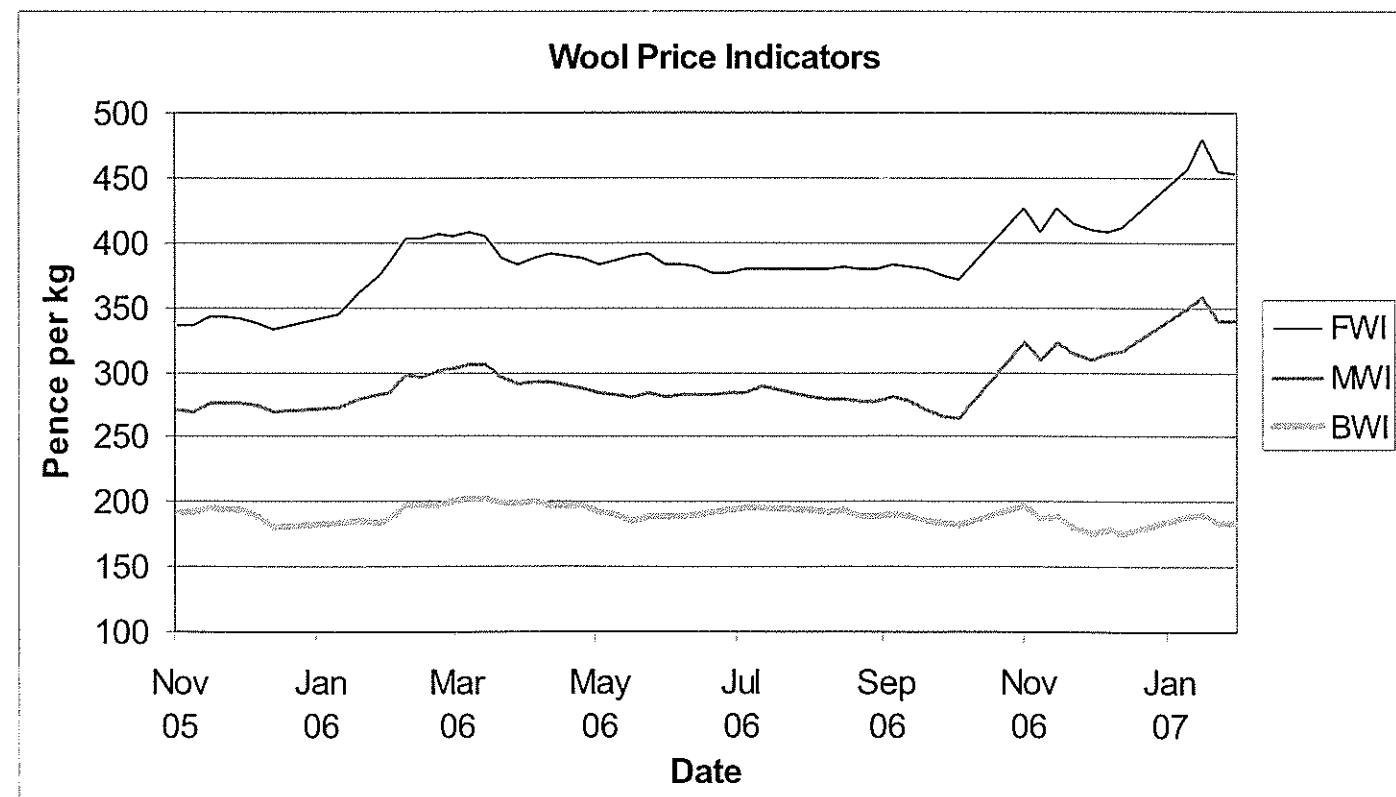
... Wednesday 14th March (Droncit)

JANUARY RAINFALL TOTALS

		2006											2007
Location		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Stanley	Rainfall	42	39.5	76	30	41	68	28.5	24	23	27	71	55
	Average	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74
MPA	Rainfall	32.3	45.2	61.9	47.4	72.8	58.8	43.5	44.5	34.1	39.9	68.1	55.2
	Average	46.5	56.8	54.1	49.5	58.1	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.6	57.9	63.1
Bleaker Island		52	37	43	26	66	42	43	40	23	25	55	69
Cape Dolphin		24.5	22	50.5	39	51	45.5	30.5	23.5	21	20	15	41
Darwin		20.5	25.25	20.5	25	48.5	34	39.5	20	21	37	59	38.5
Fern Ridge		-	35	57	58.5	63	45.5	-	30.5	13.5	20	57.5	68
Head of the Bay		38	40	68	18	62	58	47	32	33	31	51	45
Moss Side		29	36	57	46	58	54	42	32	27	28	20.5	55
Paragon		-	-	42	43	18	14	12	29	5	11	25	10
Pebble Island		26	22	60	45	43	42.5	37.5	31.5	16	36.5	22	34
Port Howard		48.75	48.5	71.5	82.5	80.5	71	75.5	58.8	31.5	50.5	85	69.5
Saladero		26	37	26	45	-	-	28	21	12	17	35	30
Shallow Harbour		19.6	33.25	51	47.5	48	53	-	30.5	9.5	22.5	41	65.3
South Harbour		10	28	30	40	45	53	44	25	10	13	50	42
Swan Inlet		24	45.5	49.5	43	72	54	-	27	28.5	37.5	59	35.5
Wineglass Station		32.5	36.5	66	62	63	61.5	47	28	42.5	41	85.5	39

Our thanks to everyone who collected rainfall data for the Department of Agriculture: MPA Met Office, Robert & Elaine Short, Phillip & Sheena Miller, Peter Wakefield, Ted & Sheila Jones, Michael & Donna Minnell, Vernon & Gail Steen, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, John & Viv Hobman, Ali & Marlane Marsh, Mike & Donna Evans, Andrez Short and Bobby & Lindsay Short.

If anyone is interested in collecting data on a monthly basis, there are still a couple of rainfall gauges available at the DOA.



LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

Planning on being away this winter?

Then please get in touch as soon as possible so we can arrange for your Livestock Ordinance Form to be sent out to you in order for you to complete and return before the deadline of 30th June.

We will be sending them out in May, so if you won't be here then, please phone/email us so we can get one out to you on time. An email version is available.

Returning completed Livestock Ordinance Forms is a legal requirement and failure to do so may result in a fine.

For more information, please call 27355.

Have you sent your latest Wool Statements in yet?

These will be photocopied and returned to you asap.

They will then be broken down, entered into our database and you will receive a report on the breakdown of wool weight, test results, gross price, net Stanley price etc for each lot plus an overall farm average.

Once we have collected all the Wool Statements for a year, we will run a series of comparisons to determine how things went for the year for farmers.

If you would like to be involved, please send in your 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 statements if you have not already done so.

WHAT'S ON AT SPORTS WEEK?

It's nearly that time of year again!! Here's a quick peek of the action on East & West Falklands later this month...

PORT HOWARD

Sunday 25th February
Foot events (including rounders)
and a bbq
at Many Branch and Bold Cove

Monday 26th February
Peat Cutting on White Hill
Shearing in the Port Howard Shed
Children's party in the evening

Tuesday 27th February
Treasure Hunt at Port Howard airstrip
followed by the Mechanical Bull
outside Port Howard Lodge

Wednesday 28th February
Dog Trials
Children's Sports
AGM
Prize Giving Dance

NORTH ARM

Sunday 25th February
Horse racing
followed by Gymkhana

Monday 26th February
Horse racing
followed by Gymkhana

Tuesday 27th February
Dog Trials
Football, Fun Events & Mechanical Bull
AGM & BBQ

Wednesday 28th February
Children's Sports & Mechanical Bull
Steer Riding Competition using the
Mechanical Bull
Prize Giving Dance (£2 on the door)

VACANCIES – TWO AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES

The Department of Agriculture has vacancies for two trainees for the period 1st March through to 30th June 2007.

A diverse training programme will be involved incorporating various sections in the Department of Agriculture. It is possible that time could be spent with a number of farms as a part of the work programme should the opportunity arise and circumstances permit this to occur.

Applicants with a genuine interest in farming are encouraged to apply.

Applications should be addressed to Siân Ferguson, Department of Agriculture, PO Box 583, Stanley by Friday 16th February.

Anyone requiring further information on the above vacancies should contact Neil Judd on telephone 27355.

The closing date for applications is by the end of business on 16th February.

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

To contribute an article, recipe or cartoon for the Wool Press,
contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352
or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Submissions need to be in before the end of the month.

All contributions are gratefully received.

CALLING ALL FARMERS!

**DO YOU HAVE 1 OR 2 (OR MORE??)
EXCESS ELITE RAMS YOU'D LIKE TO SELL?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SELL THEM
AT THE ANNUAL RAM SALE?**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL LUCY ON 27355 FOR DETAILS.**

There may exist the opportunity to enter those one or two super elite ewes you have spare (or have fully utilised her genetics)
- contact details as above.

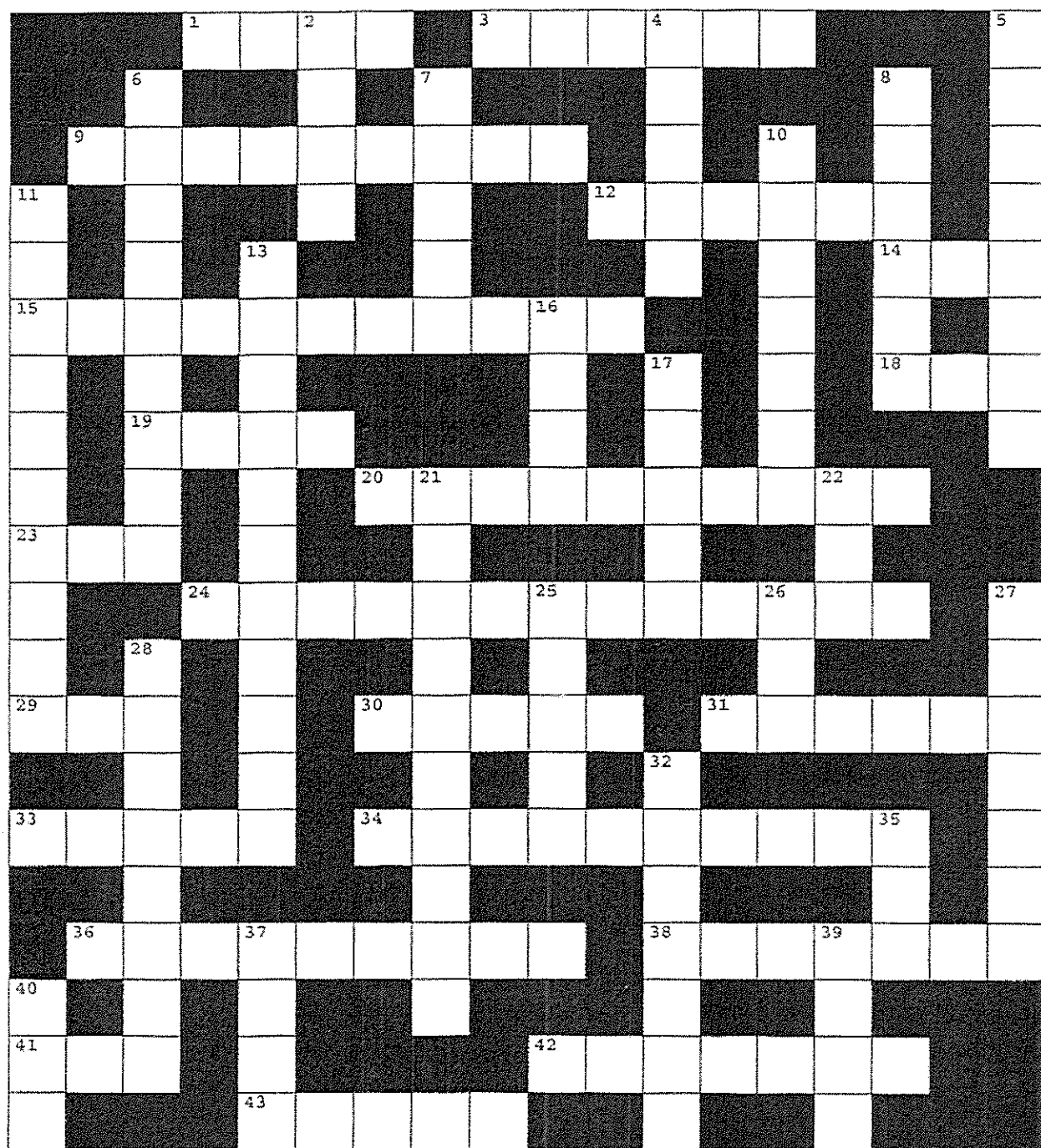
Correction

In the January 2007 Wool Press, we omitted the photographers names from Helen Otley's article, Eyes Down for Rare Plants, which were as follows.

Spider-plant – A. Henry
Dusen's moonwort – A. Henry
Adder's tongue – B. Summers

We would like to apologise for the oversight.

PUZZLE PAGE



Across

- 1. Assessment
- 3. Stuck in the mud
- 9. Popular Falkland event (3,6)
- 12. Human brand
- 14. Abdomen (*inform*)
- 15. Form of handwriting
- 18. Self-esteem
- 19. Separate
- 20. February social event (6,4)
- 23. Roger, righto
- 24. Recent VIP visitor (8,5)
- 29. Group of farmers

Down

- 30. Inject
- 31. Enigma
- 33. Forage, search
- 34. Commitment
- 36. Send message via radio signal
- 38. East settlement
- 41. Flop, failure
- 42. Computer manufacturer
- 43. Airport authority (*and 5 down*) (5,8)
- 2. "Hundred ... Wood", fictitious location

Across

- 4. Revel in
- 5. *See 43 across*
- 6. Pre-Stanley capital
- 7. Popular dance
- 8. Internet search engine
- 10. *See 25 down*
- 11. Local pub
- 13. Device for capturing renewable energy source
- 16. Successor
- 17. High quality printer
- 21. Disney movie about a Native American woman
- 22. Definitive period of time

Down

- 25. DOA staff member (*and 10 down*) (5,7)
- 26. Not I
- 27. The most productive day of the week
- 28. Lasagne eating lazy cartoon character
- 32. Pamphlet
- 35. Smear, blacken
- 37. Heroic, impressive
- 39. Passion, ardour
- 40. "Much ... about nothing", play

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Pellet Feeding Sheep, How Do You Do It? - page 10

The Coats Come Off At Many Branch- page 11

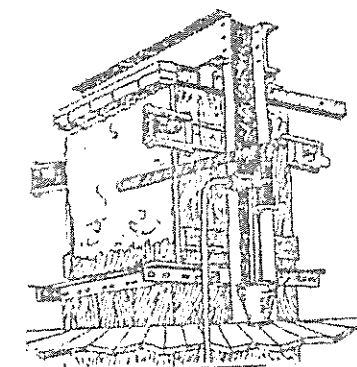
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EDITORIAL

February, I was assured by my Bold Cove colleague, with guarantees written in foot high letters of glittering gold, is the best month of the year. Not, it would appear, for the wild, wet and windy February of 2007. I may have to litigate!

As the traditional end-of-shearing celebration, Sports Week, closes with shearing yet to do, we can only hope that the abundance of grass at least provides some benefit for the stock. Ewes going into winter with extra body fat – if they haven't shivered it away - are more likely to sustain a successful pregnancy and come through those difficult months when pregnancy is advanced and grazing is scarce. But for the humans at least, the weather has been a trial.

Talking of which... this month's Wool Press is, as ever, an educational layer cake, which is what makes it such interesting reading. Peter Johnson holds the crown with a veritable clutch of worthwhile articles covering trials past, present and future, demonstrating amongst other things that there are always new avenues to explore in this challenging farming environment. It's all about seeking every last ounce of advantage by adding snippets of value to the product. Genetics, strategic food supplements and even ovine tailoring are the areas under investigation, and Peter is only too happy to hear from you. In a similar vein, Andrew Pollard has some sage advice about the feeding of hay and silage. Do they supplement the diet or simply replace like for like? Is the cost covered by the benefit? Up and coming trials for the feeding of bypass protein may provide a financially viable alternative.

On the business side of things, the annual Saladero Ram Sale is fast approaching, to be held once again at Goose Green (to whom we extend our gratitude). Please take note of the timing of events, make your travel arrangements, and prepare yourself for a feast of fertility. Not entirely unconnected, John Hobman has provided an invaluable table of National Stud Flock averages which is food for thought. And Neil Judd has laid out the details of some Joint Venture Partnerships being made available for the propagation of FIG owned sheep. He is keen to hear from interested parties.

From the veterinary section, Vic Epstein has some words of warning about the short scrotum castration technique, and Lyn Dent describes her foray into the lair of the Patagonian Fox on Weddell (foxes beware - the hunt is not yet over). Linked uncannily to this - and proving that hydatid is an almost inexhaustible subject - I have tried to provide a balanced article laying out the escape routes hydatid may use to bypass our controls, with a concluding message of hope. There should be a few surprises.

Twitchers among you who think they can see a plover or dotterel wearing exotically coloured pop socks will be interested to read Helen Otley's piece, which explains all. Please record any sightings and send the information to PhD student James St Clair. Ultimately the clarification of bird movements has implications for their conservation, so knowledge is a worthwhile thing.

And finally we welcome Mark Brunet to his new role as General Manager of FIDC. He sets out his core philosophy and looks forward to a productive relationship with the islands. We wish him every success, to the benefit of all.

It's a calorific layer cake! If you need a work out, turn to the puzzle page. Enjoy!

Joe Hollins
Acting Senior Veterinary Officer

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SALADERO RAM SALE 2007

At Goose Green

Venue:
Goose Green Shearing Shed

Time:
Inspections start at 8am

Date:
Wednesday 14 the March 2007

Auction:
Commences at 11am

MV Tamar:

The MV Tamar sails from Port Howard to New Haven at 7am on the morning of Wednesday 14th March and leaves New Haven for Port Howard at 4.30pm the same evening. Please contact Jason on 22206 for bookings and information.

Approximate Number of Rams available at the Sale:

65 x Polwarth Shearling Rams
35 Corriedale Shearling Rams

Sale catalogues are being generated now and will be distributed in the next week or so. All farmers on the Wool Press mailing list will receive a copy – if you know of anyone else who would be interested in obtaining a catalogue, please advise them to contact Siân Ferguson at the DOA.

Auction:

The Helmsman auction will commence at 11am sharp for all buyers wishing to purchase any of the above rams using their **own** funds. Please note that PIP funding will **not** be available to assist farmers with any purchase at the Helmsman auction. Usual auction processes including buyer numbers etc will apply. Rams remaining unsold after the Helmsman auction will be allocated as per the 2006 process to farmers using PIP funding.

Private Ram Sale Opportunity

The opportunity for farmers to sell **their own rams** at the Ram Sale exists. Please contact Lucy Ellis or Neil Judd to discuss your options.

It should be noted that sale negotiations and payment details for privately owned rams will remain the responsibility of private buyers/sellers. The DOA will not take part in or accept any responsibility for private transactions completed on the day.

Farmers participating in the PIP scheme should also be aware that PIP funds are able to be used to purchase rams from private farms **provided** all PIP planning requirements are satisfied. Anyone requiring more information or details should call Andrew Pollard or Neil Judd on 27355.

Exhibition Animals:

On exhibition this year will be some Multi-Purpose Merinos (MPM) and the elite group of the Polwarth National Stud Flock Rams. If farmers would like to exhibit elite animals, please contact Lucy Ellis for more details.

If anyone has any questions or queries regarding the Ram Sale, please do not hesitate to contact any of the above mentioned members of staff at the DOA on 27355.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 14th March (Droncit)

Dohne Merino & SAMM – Joint Venture

Expressions of Interest

In 2006 the AAC approved the establishment of Joint Venture (JV) arrangements with local farms for the propagation of FIG owned, non-NSF Polwarth sheep currently based at Saladero.

In line with this approval, the Department of Agriculture calls for expressions of interest from parties for such a venture with FIG owned Dohne Merino and SAMM shearling ewes.

Approximately 50 shearling ewes of each breed are available for the JV, however this may vary slightly due to farmer demands for ewes for flushing this breeding season.

In addition to the Dohne Merino and SAMM ewes, some 20 Corriedale x Dohne ewes are also potentially available for inclusion in one of the schemes.

JV partners will be selected on their ability to satisfy strict selection criteria as follows:

As follows:-

1. Grazing Management system in place that demonstrates an ability to provide the highest level of stock control, stock supervision and stock nutrition to JV ewes, rams and lambs.
2. Adequate paddock sub-division and feed availability to cater for individual sire mating and lambing of up to 8 individual family groups for each breed.
3. Ability to provide pedigree recording of all lambs born.
4. Ability to provide full performance recording of all animals born including:-
 - Live weight of all JV sheep recorded each month
 - Greasy fleece weight, yield and clean fleece weight and micron recorded each shearing
 - Production of Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) and overall ranking carried out of for all lambs born each year.
5. Demonstrated ability to manage artificial breeding programmes (AI/ET).
6. Provision of artificial breeding support services including training of rams for fresh semen AI and collection of fresh semen to support spread of elite genetics to other interested farmers.

What's in it for the Joint Venture Partner?

Rams

- (a) The JV partner will have restricted access to elite rams generated from the partner ship for limited on-farm use (within strict guidelines and clearly not at the expense of JV use).
- (b) All ram lambs born remain the property of FIG (DOA).
- (c) Ram lambs will be retained on the farm and managed for up to 18 months. They will be removed from the JV farm by 18 months of age unless:-
 - They have been retained as an elite stud ram for "JV use or
 - The retention has been agreed by both parties.

Ewes

- (a) All existing mature ewes remain the property of FIG (DOA).
- (b) Up to 50% of mature ewes owned by FIG (DOA) may be required for flushing by other farmers each year. Such activity will not be the responsibility of the JV farm. Any flushing of JV ewes on other farms must be completed by mid-May each year to allow natural mating of JV ewes each year in June.
- (c) Ewe lambs will be split at the rate of approximately 60% to Joint Venture farm and 40% to FIG (DOA). Division will be carried out at weaning each year on a randomised basis.

Interested parties are urged to contact Neil Judd by 16/03/2007

LAMB PRODUCTION AND TESTICLES

By Vic Epstein

Doug and Damien published an article Lamb production for FIMCO (November 2005) and amongst other things suggested the possibility of:

1. Leaving rams entire or
2. Short scrotum castration. This requires castration before 3 weeks of age and pushing the testicles into the inguinal region before placing the rings over the empty sac.

If either of these techniques are used in LAMB production it should be emphasised that the LAMBS should be in the freezer as new season lambs ie 4- 6 months of age.

Before embarking on this management strategy ensure:

1. Ewes are mated at the right time of year to ensure lambs are dropped and can be grown out in time for the abattoir season
2. The pasture plan is in place to ensure there is good feed for the ewes so they can produce a lot of milk for the lambs to grow
3. If early weaning is planned and growing out on pasture, then the weaning pasture must be planned and available

If you can't do it don't do it!! Nothing is worse than lots of randy rams running about looking for mischief.

DOG PILLING PHONE BACK - WHY?

By Vic Epstein

Camp dwellers: Please don't forget to contact the DoA after you pill your dogs.

Why are we asking?

Although some are; not everyone is perfect. The experts are still telling me that the most likely cause of us still having hydatids in the Falklands is non-compliance ie people don't worm their dogs or allow their dogs access to offal.

We know there is **NO MALICIOUS** non-compliance!

How?

If this were the case then there would be an area/s in the Falklands where the level of hydatids is much higher than everywhere else. This is **NOT** the case. So the only non-compliance is the **FORGETFUL** kind. This could possibly be the case!

There are those that never forget and there are many camp dwellers in this category. There are some who forget sometimes - we have to send reminders to about 10% of the Stanley dog owners each 6 weeks to remind them to bring their dogs to the DoA for pilling. They forgot!

If you haven't advised that you have treated your dogs you will be contacted on the Monday following and asked if the job was done. Don't be offended if you are a never forgetting person. For the forgetful person it may act as a reminder.

Remember hydatids should have been eradicated over 10 years ago based on the basic knowledge and life cycle of the disease BUT it is still with us. We can't go on pilling forever!

HAY AND SILAGE. WHAT DOES IT COST TO PRODUCE? DOES IT MAKE FARMERS MONEY?

By Andrew Pollard

In 2006 14 samples of locally produced hay and silage (varying pastures and cereal crops) were sent to a laboratory in New Zealand for analysis. The results of the analysis were discussed in a session entitled "Growing Forage Crops More Successfully" at Farmers Week 2007.

The presentation focussed on "pasture quality", costs of production and dry matter yield utilising real information from 3 farms in the Falklands (5 samples).

The table below lists these costs; farms have not been identified for this exercise

Sample	Crop	Type of Feed	Tonnes Dry Matter per Ha	Cost £/ tonne of dry matter	Energy	Protein (%)
					ME MJ/Kg	
A	Cereal	Silage	2.34	171	8.7	9.9
B	Grass/Legume	Hay 05/06	3.55	75	8.3	13.3
C	Grass/Legume	Hay 06/07	8.17	32	7.5	10.7
D	Cereal	Silage	2.08	75	8.7	8.6
E	Cereal	Silage	2.12	375	7.8	6.4

The samples show varying quality in regards to energy and protein. They also show massive differences between yields (note: two of the hay crops were harvested from the same field over consecutive years). As shown above, costs £ per tonne of dry matter are generally higher for cereal crops than grass/legume pastures. Establishment costs for cereal crops are annual (one off), grass/legumes crops are over the pasture lifespan (assumption of 10 years for this exercise).

It is important to take things a step further than examined at Farmers Week. That is, to determine the feed value and also cost per head from using the conserved feed.

Case 1 using Sample A Results

Based on a cost per tonne of dry matter of £171 (see table above)

Cost £/kg dry matter (£171 divided by 1000) = 17.1p

I have now made an assumption that we are feeding sheep, at close to full feed requirement, at 1 kg Dry Matter per head for a period of 100 days (winter feeding). **Please note at this level of feeding, the feeding could not be classed as supplementary, but rather as substitution as it is close to the animals entire diet (assuming a 40-50 kg wether)**

17.1 p/Kg Dry Matter x 1 kg (feed per day) x 100 days = £17.10/sheep

Now we will reduce the intake to 0.5kg per sheep per day

17.1 p/Kg Dry Matter x 0.5 kg (feed per day) x 100 days = £8.50/sheep

If the rate of feeding was reduced to a lower level, it would be possible to theoretically reduce the cost per head for the feeding programme, however low level feeding (at considerably less than 0.5kg of hay per sheep per day) on typical winter pasture in the Falkland Islands would not be expected to make a significant difference to animal performance.

Summarising the example above, to justify feeding 1 kg DM/animal for 100 days we would have to increase return by more than £17.10 from each animal to justify the exercise (reductions in death rates etc are also important of course and should be valued).

At supplementary rates of 0.5kg per day for 100 days, the cost per sheep is reduced, but the question remains... is the change in each animals performance big enough to make a cost effective difference to the stock. That is, does it generate more than an extra £8.50 per sheep because of the feeding?

Case 2 Using Sample C Results

Based on a cost per tonne dry matter of £32 (see table above)

Cost £/kg dry matter (£32 divided by 1000) = 3.2p

3.2p/Kg Dry Matter x 1 kg (feed per day) x 100 days = £3.20/sheep

3.2p/Kg Dry Matter x 0.5 kg (feed per day) x 100 days = £1.60/sheep

Compared to the previous example above this crop looks like a far more attractive option, However the same serious questions remain: - how much feed per day is required, what is the cost of the feed and what is the response from the feeding? Best estimates are that 0.5 kg per sheep per day (or more) would be required to make a meaningful difference to animal performance...hence more than £1.60 per sheep extra must be generated to justify the exercise (again reductions in death rates are acknowledged as an added bonus).

It is worthy to note that the same piece of ground had the following cost of production in its following season. Clearly costs and hence return on investment must be calculated over a number of years, not just on one season.

Case 3 Using Sample B Results

Cost £/t Dry Matter £75

Cost £/kg Dry Matter 7.5p

1 kg fed per day/sheep for 100 days = £7.50

0.5kg fed per day/sheep for 100 days = £3.75

The feeding of hay and silage to animals in the Falkland Islands must eventually be compared to other strategic feeding options that could be available. The main alternative that will be investigated this winter are the use of low level feeding of bypass protein and feeding of forage swedes.

Regarding bypass protein, trials will explore the feeding of approximately 100grams of protein per day to sheep. The feeding is hoped to address the animals' deficiency of protein and also to increase its intake of poor quality native grass. At current cost estimates, the feeding of bypass protein to sheep for 100 days will cost approximately £2.00/£2.50 per sheep. Again critical questions remain; what is the response to the feeding and will feeding bypass protein make farmers money?

It is hoped that answers to these key questions will be generated over the next 6 to 12 months for bypass protein as well as for swede and turnip crops.

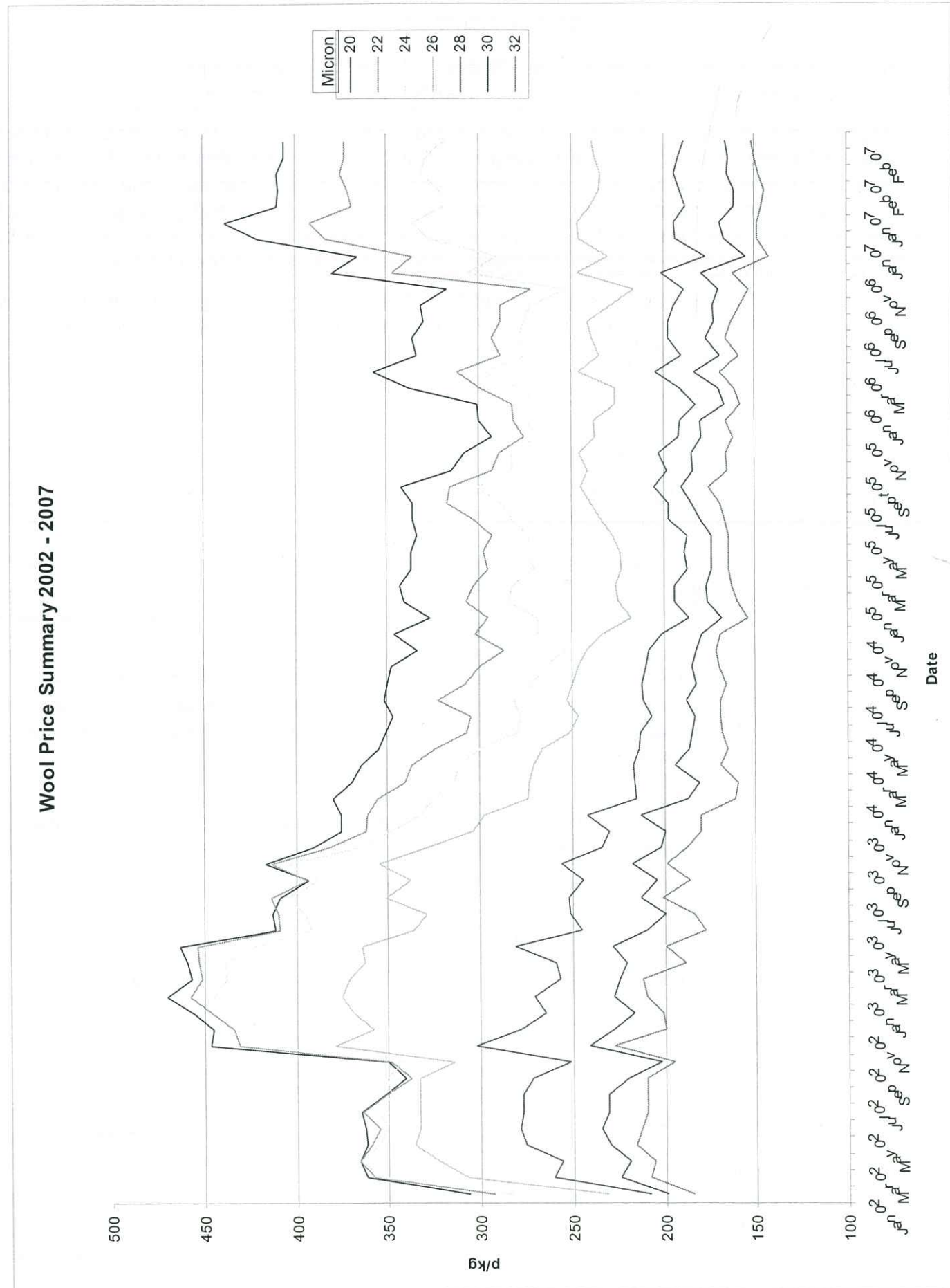
In the interim however, the impression clearly does exist that in many instances the cost of production of hay or silage will not offer many farmers the likelihood of a return on investment when feeding large numbers of commercial sheep on native camp.

For the option of feeding hay and silage to present a strong possibility of making a return on investment, the following should occur:

- Low costs of production (possibly less than £40/tonne)
- High yields of dry matter (possibly greater than 5 tonnes dry matter)
- High quality feed (protein levels above 10%, energy above 8% and high digestibility)
- Low wastage during feeding
- Low risk of loss post cutting to baling (weather spoilage)
- Low risk of spoilage after harvest (storage)
- Sustainable pasture, as establishment costs are linked to costs of production. Establishment costs divided by number of years hay can be cut (minimum lifespan of 10 years)

All farmers who would like to know the "true value" of their hay/silage crop please contact the department and we will gladly assist you through this process.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME



FALKLAND ISLANDS WETHER TRIAL HAS BEGUN

By Peter Johnson

The DoA's wether trial started in the last week of February. 11 teams have entered from farms on both East and West Falkland and all 165 lambs will be run together at Goose Green for the next 12 months to display the genetic potential of each sheep breed represented.

The trial will run 15 wether lambs in a team, representing various breeds. The mob will be run together for 12 months and measurements will be taken of both fleece traits when the animals are shorn in November/December 2007 and carcass traits when they are slaughtered in January/February 2008. The initial plan was to run a trial on both East and West Falkland; however it has been decided to combine the two sites into one larger trial group as an excellent site was on offer.

The trial will be run at Goose Green in the Beach Park camp behind Camilla Creek House. As many of you know this is excellent ewe country and will provide the best possible chance for the animals to show their true genetic potential. There has also been a swede crop sown in the camp to add to the winter nutrition of the animals. They will receive the best of care, and we would like to thank Brian and the team at Goose Green for volunteering to host the trial and for preparing such a magnificent camp for the animals to graze and really show what genetic potential they have.



Some of the high quality feed available at the trial site 'Beach Park'

All animals were tagged, weighed and had their fleece length measured before entering the trial. They will then be run as a mob until shearing in November/December of this year. At this shearing, fleece weights and other traits will be measured and the wool growth while on the trial will be calculated based on these measurements and an indicative fleece price given for each animal. **The animals were not shorn upon entering the trial** as initially planned. We will use measurement and calculation to account for differences in fleece length prior to entering the trial. The animals will then be prepared for slaughter at the abattoir in early 2008, where carcass characteristics will be measured.

We plan to hold open days for both shearing and slaughtering of the sheep so that people who have entered teams as well other interested farmers can see the differences for themselves. All trial results and comparisons will be available by April 2008.

**Seen anything
strange lately?!**

Don't leave it..... or shoot it

**Call the Veterinary Section
on 27366**

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE



PELLET FEEDING SHEEP – HOW DO YOU DO IT?

By Peter Johnson

The DoA has recently instigated a full feeding trial at two sites. The trials provide a complete pelleted diet to new-season lambs destined for the abattoir. Lambs will be fed for 3 months aiming to reach as high a weight as possible before the close of the export season.

Animals are being fed on a complete pellet diet that was imported from Uruguay. The feed is in open troughs at Port Howard, and self feeders at EBF. 180 lambs at each of the sites entered the trial, with 150 of those animals being taken through to finish, based on their weight gains after 6 weeks of feeding.

These photos show the lambs and troughs at Port Howard, and one of the self feeders being used at Elephant Beach.

The outcomes planned for the trial include –

Management techniques/experience for fully fed sheep. The trials hope to answer questions such as - what is the best way to train animals to eat the pellets? How much extra management really is involved? What percentage of shy feeders are there? How can the feed be kept dry? How much wastage is there? What animal health precautions are needed? What quality of water is needed for the animals?

These are but some of the mountain of questions that will hopefully be answered from the trial. All that is learnt from the trial will be put into a best-management guide at the completion of the trials. If there are other specific questions that you have about full-feeding of sheep, please contact me and we can attempt to answer them for you, and for other people's information.

Animal growth response to the feed. This is the crux of the trial. The DoA will determine the growth rate of the animals by taking regular individual animal weights, and see if the extra growth rate due to the pellets is worth the cost of feeding the pellets and the extra management. If it is not economical at this point, the analysis will show us at what rate it does become viable, either with lower feed costs or higher prices paid for the finished lamb. This is important to remember, and collecting the data on growth rate, animal response and carcass characteristics is vital in determining if this is a viable option for the future of lamb production in the Falkland Islands.

Initial calculations tell us that at best; feeding pellets with current prices will be break-even. Without solid trial work conducted locally, any calculations made have a degree of uncertainty. The price of the feed we are using is £0.22 per kg of dry matter, landed in Stanley.

Seek out potential supply lines. Another positive from conducting the trial has been the establishment of links with stock feed suppliers in Uruguay. With the regular SAAS boat, freight is kept to a minimum, and for sourcing animal feeding products the supplier of this particular feed was very obliging and keen to start trading to the Falkland Islands. Anyone, farm or importer, who would like the details of the manufacturer can contact me for their details.

Trial Results. The results from the trial and the best-management guidelines will be available by Farmers Week this year. I will give short updates as the trial progresses over the next few months and if you have any questions about any of the issues raised, please contact me at the DoA.



THE COATS COME OFF AT MANY BRANCH

By Peter Johnson

After spending 10 months protecting the fleece growing beneath, the sheep coats were finally removed from the ewes at Many Branch on the 11th of February. The coats were removed as the final stage before shearing took place the next day.

The photo's across show the coats on the sheep, and after the coats were removed. It is a process that takes about 20 seconds per sheep while they are standing up. I am sure Bill and Shirley will agree that it is hard work on a hot afternoon!

There is an obvious line on their neck where the uncoated part of the fleece stops and the covered part begins.

The final body weights of the ewes showed no difference between the coated and the uncoated sheep. The difference in greasy fleece weight was only 40g and can probably be accounted for purely by the amount of dirt the coats have kept out.

There was a difference between the sheep as they were shorn. All of the trial sheep, starting with the un-coated ones, were shorn by Jack Wilson. According to Jack, the coated sheep weren't harder to shear, just 'different'. They felt wet, although it wasn't water, but actually beads of grease, as there wasn't any dust to soak it up. Another observation was that the wool on the front legs of the animals was affected by water, presumably where rain had trickled

around the coat and dripped down the legs. Where the coats rubbed around the sheep's neck was also slightly matted and small pieces had to be removed from some of the fleeces.

Mid-side samples were taken from a random selection of both groups of sheep and will be further analysed. A bale containing only the coated fleeces was also pressed and will be core-sampled for comparison to other 'A ewe' lines of 'Many Branch' wool. These results will be published when they are available in the near future. Yield comparison will be particularly important to determine clean fleece weight differences between coated and uncoated sheep.

The future coated sheep in the Falklands – do you want to be part of a trial? The DoA is planning to make use of the sheep coats in a future trial, as they have a three year life expectancy and are still in excellent condition. The planned trials for 2007 are similar to the 'Many Branch' trial, and will be a similar replication, where approximately 200 ewes will be coated and 200 ewes will be run as a control. There is also a hogget trial planned with 200 coated and 200



Results Table

	Coated	Non Coated
Ewes Starting Trial	196	194
Ewes Shorn	151	157
Animals Lost	45	37
Death Rate	23%	19%
Greasy Fleece Weights	2.64kg	2.68kg

un-coated hogget's as a control.

The DoA would like to call for expressions of interest from anyone who would like to host either the ewe or the hogget trial. The host farm/s will be expected to work closely with the DoA for the duration of the trial and must be willing to provide the level of management needed to run the coated sheep. If you are interested in hosting either of the trials, please contact me.

These pictures show the difference between the coated fleece and the uncoated neck on the table.



DO PLOVERS AND DOTTERELS STAY AT HOME OR GO TRAVELLING OVER WINTER?

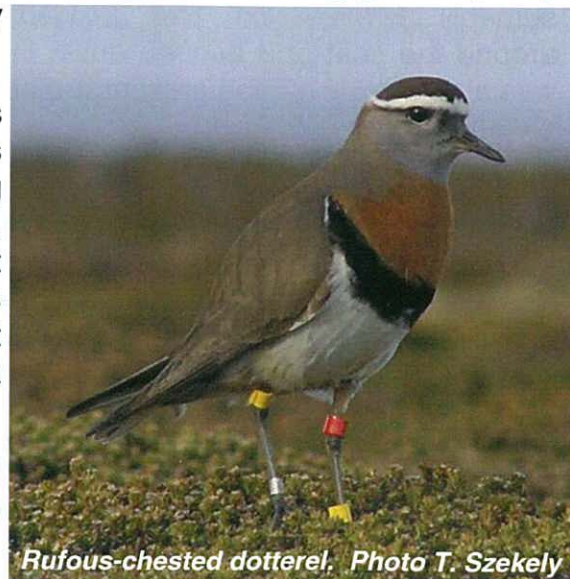
By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

British PhD student James St Clair has completed his first of three summers studying two-banded plovers and rufous-chested dotterels on Sea Lion Island. Now back in his University of Bath office, he is wondering whether the banded birds will stay on Sea Lion Island or migrate northwards to East Falklands or elsewhere. "Similarly sized white-rumped sandpipers arrive in the Falklands in September from the Arctic, so plovers and dotterels should be able to travel large distances and move from island to island," explains James.

"Over the summer, the banded birds on Sea Lion Island stayed fairly close to where they were nesting, but over winter, no one knows if they stay or move to different feeding grounds," says James. "If you see a banded plover or dotterel away from Sea Lion Island, I'd love to hear about it."

James asks that you record the date, location, species and combination of the colour rings. The study birds have four bands, with the bottom right band being metal. Record first the colour of the bottom left band, then the top left band and lastly, the top right band. "Colour rings can be difficult to read," says James. "But if you see a colour-ringed bird but can not read the colours or sequence of rings, please make a note of this and submit the record anyway."

Records should be sent to James by email jjhsc20@bath.ac.uk or to Falklands Conservation who will pass them on.



Rufous-chested dotterel. Photo T. Szekely

WHY HYDATID ISN'T SIMPLE

By Joe Hollins

It would be reasonable to think that the subject of hydatid has been done to death (unlike the parasite as yet), but this article is designed to put together a few facts pertinent to the Falklands, and to give everyone a little hope that hydatid might one day be eradicated.

The life cycle

In its basic form everyone knows the hydatid life cycle – or they think they do! Sheep dies → Dog eats offal/cyst → Dog passes eggs in faeces → Sheep grazes eggs/forms cyst → Sheep dies... etc. Very simple, therefore very easy to control. Unfortunately – like everything in life – this 2 host loop is too simplistic. It is however the core of the problem and the main engine that drives hydatid, which is why it is also our main point of attack. The purpose of this article is to explain how a small trickle of hydatid manage to escape control.

Background

To recap, in 2006 out of 33,500 kills at the abattoir there were 5 confirmed hydatids, an incidence of about 0.015%. Without getting hung up on the fact that hydatid has still not been eradicated, this does not represent a specific breakdown of hydatid control because: (1) the incidence is statistically very low, and (2) the 5 cases are very scattered. Remember that a hydatid cyst can be years old, and at this level it is more likely that each cyst has its own particular story of how it escaped our three pronged eradication protocol, namely: (1) kennelling dogs; (2) denying access to offal; (3) worming every 6 weeks. To do this, there have to be small loopholes or escape routes, and to complete a 2 host cycle, 2 escape routes have to occasionally coincide (ie: sheep to dog and back again). At the level of 0.015% - through sheer chance – occasionally they do.

The escape routes

There are a surprising number, and this is probably not an exhaustive list.

- (a) Non compliance ie: human failure to dose dogs: (i) Deliberate (hopefully very rare). (ii) Forgetfulness (human nature, more common, and proven to occur in Stanley every 6 weeks!). (iii) Poor dosing technique/difficult dog (there are always dogs that refuse or hold tablets and regurgitate).
- (b) Underdosing: Either through miscalculation or tablet loss.
- (c) Drug resistance: Fortunately never recorded with praziquantel (Drontal/Droncit).
- (d) Transport hosts: An interesting category, they create a transport link between the dog and the sheep: (i) blue buzzers, (ii) green bottles, (iii) birds and (iv) beetles can spread eggs from dog faeces over at least 30 hectares. Do turkeys have a role the other way from carcass to dog??
- (e) Alternative hosts to sheep? Yes. Sheep are the 'intermediate' host (the dog is the 'definitive' host). Hydatid is fairly non specific for the intermediate host, which is why humans occasionally get involved. It is known that cattle can occasionally host the sheep hydatid (this is separate to the true cattle hydatid found overseas), and there is one paper recording sheep hydatid in the European hare. This could therefore apply to East Falkland. If anyone finds cysts in their cattle (or hare!) please send them in.
- (f) Alternative hosts to dogs? Yes. Although the hydatid is fairly specific for its definitive host, the dog, there is one well known exception – the fox. It is however a very poor and inefficient alternative. Whereas a dog, having consumed a cyst, may have 100s of hydatid tapeworms pumping out eggs, very few will take in the fox and in very few foxes. Egg production is low. But occasionally it happens. I know of 7 farms in the West alone with existing Weddell

sheep, and some with Beaver sheep. It would not be surprising if this was a source of a very occasional - albeit rare - hydatid. (0.015% is 1 in 6,500 sheep!)

- (g) Access to offal: Dogs do escape and wander. Also there is unavoidable opportunist access to carcasses when out gathering.
- (h) Contaminated carcass site: Dogs don't need offal to get infected! Rolling in a contaminated carcass site followed by self grooming is enough. A cyst can contain up to 4 million tapeworm heads, scattered all about by the turkey vultures.
- (i) Ruptured cysts: In the same way, an unnoticed ruptured cyst when preparing a carcass would contaminate all the meat and surrounding ground with tapeworm heads. The meat is then fed to the dog.
- (j) Anomalous cysts: A small % of hydatid cysts are in the muscle/brain/other organs, and might be fed.
- (k) Adapted strain: It is known that one strain of hydatid has a 5 week life cycle. The Falklands may have an adapted strain. Even so it would only have a tiny window of opportunity to produce eggs between 6 weekly wormings.

The good news

That is – surprisingly – about 16 possible ways for a hydatid to slip through the net. But don't despair! These rare escape routes are reliant on the central life cycle to sustain the hydatid's existence. 0.015% means that the life cycle is teetering on the brink of collapse, which is why we are pressing hard to make sure everyone is still worming effectively every 6 weeks. Tasmania took 35 years to eradicate, New Zealand over 40. Still they are only 'provisionally free' and have had a smattering of residual cases. We may be witnessing its final throes in these islands, so – pile on the pressure!

INTRODUCING THE NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF FIDC

By Mark Brunet

Mark Brunet arrived on Friday January 26th and started work as General Manager, FIDC on Monday 29th. Here, he tries to explain why he and his wife, Ursula, were prepared to let their son live in their house in the UK while they went away...



Having spent three months explaining "No, I haven't been there before I go out to take up the job" it shouldn't have been a surprise that I have spent the last two weeks explaining "No, I hadn't been here before I came out to take up the job".

It symbolises, for me, the fact that Falklanders have a great deal in common with those in the UK - well, with the people we know in the UK, anyway. But it is a valid question - what was the appeal that was so strong that we committed to three years far away from home?

Partly, this was because this is a selfish opportunity for me to do the sort of thing which I really enjoy - helping others to make a real success of their ideas, and for those already in business to do things better. Partly, to be able to get to know a really beautiful part of the world. And partly to experience something different - a different sort of community and a way of life that appeals to two people brought up in the country.

Above all, "because we can" - no parental ties now, and youngest gone to University (Spanish and Russian at Exeter).

After a varied (chequered?) career which has included marine engineering, the performing arts (backstage - I have not got the legs to be a dancer), controls engineer, project manager, and Fi-

nance Director of a start-up company, I have spent the last six years working directly with companies and also building and running teams of advisers - all aimed at helping to create sustainable, growing businesses in a variety of sectors. For the past two and a half years, I have concentrated on working with people doing new things, often in new markets - and helping them to understand how (and when) to improve things which have "always been done that way".

Developing a business is difficult. I know - we grew our company from nothing to 120 people in nine years before I left - and I wish I had known then what I know now. There are things - simple things - which help make understanding any business easier. Mostly this is about breaking down the process of seeing what is going on into simple areas - asking simple questions about the product or service, the business model (the people and the money!) and the market - and particularly how to get to the people who will buy from you.

Many people are most interested in the core thing that makes their business - the product. Diving company people like diving; farmers like farming (mostly, anyway). But a little bit of better understanding about how the business can be improved can make it much easier to be able to afford the time (and money) to get on with the interesting bit of being in business. For those whose interest is in being business people, there is always scope for understanding how better to understand and improve the business, and someone to bounce thoughts off can be invaluable.

Mostly, I think this is about listening - and asking questions. A good business adviser isn't a specialist in your business - nor your product, your way of doing business or your clients. A good programme of business support aims to improve the way that business people go about improving their businesses!

And I believe that this is as true of rural businesses, including farming, as any other. I grew up in the country; my first jobs were on farms (cattle, arable and - oh boy - sheep!).

Supporting business directly is part of what FIDC is about - and I hope that we can aim to help make them better businesses by whatever means is most appropriate.

That is only part of what we do, of course - we have a variety of projects going which are aimed at helping other people to tread new paths confident that they can make a viable business. The fish farming project at Moody Brook aims to establish ways of making low-cost and low-tech fish farming viable for the islands, for example.

At the other end of the scale, we are trying to map a route forward to make sure that the prot area gets developed - it is high time to make something happen.

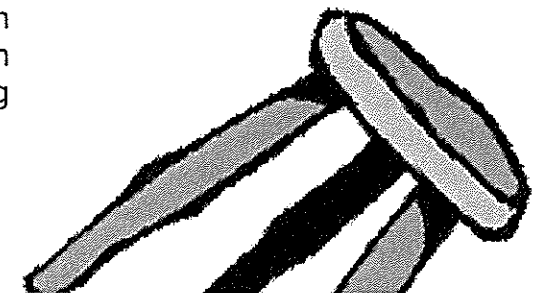
Most importantly, I believe that all of these strands of activity contribute to the development of sustainable growth in the Falklands.

Sustainability is about balancing three things - making money, providing the right quality of life for the populace and caring for the environment, so that it is there for our children to pass on to theirs. All three legs of this stool need to be in balance - if one leg is short, you will fall off!

So when you look at your business plan, or when I am asked to look at a project aimed at enhancing something in the Falkland Islands, there are three things I shall be trying to make sure are all catered for and all in balance.

People, Profit, Planet. Let us improve all three.

Profit, People, Planet - balance them or fall off the stool.



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

By Lyn Dent

At 0900 hrs on Monday morning the 22nd of January, a team of 4 hand-picked hunters & backup crew were due to set off by helicopter to Weddell Island. The Department of Agriculture has declared war on hydatids and the purpose of this trip was to determine if hydatids were present in foxes in large numbers on the Island. The aim was to shoot as many foxes as possible in 3 days and to conduct post mortems on site and examine their gut contents.

Unfortunately the weather was against us as Stanley was shrouded in heavy fog. Heli-ops requested that we all proceed to MPA and, as soon as it was clear enough, they would try from there. We did actually get airborne for about 15 minutes then suddenly executed a u-turn in mid-air and went back to MPA. The West and surrounding islands were all fog-bound to ground level so we were grounded. By 1300hrs the decision to abort was made and we all returned to Stanley. A follow-up heli-bid was submitted for the following Monday in hopes that the weather would improve by then.

On Monday the 29th January, weighed down by mounds of equipment, including rifles, ammunition, sleeping gear, scientific apparatus, Vick's Vapo-Rub and food, we went back out to MPA. The Chopper took off at 1125hrs and landed us at the settlement on Weddell Island at 1240hrs. We landed to find two American men, Bob and Robert, standing on the green watching us with interest, which was disconcerting since we knew the island to be uninhabited at the time. They had just landed their Cessna on the airstrip and were resting and waiting for the wind to die down before proceeding to Port Howard and on to Saunders's Island. They were travelling around the world in their light plane and were very interesting to talk to.

The hunters went off in two teams of three to various parts of the island in search of prey. The A+ Team was led by David McLeod with Ernie and Vic, and Jeremy Poncet was leader of the A team, Steve and me. Vic the vet was in charge of the post mortems, and I had the rather dubious privilege of harvesting gut samples and digging around the small intestines for faecal samples and to search for adult *Echinococcus granulosus* in the gut lining. This is where the Vick's came into its own! It is a well-know trick of police and mortuary workers to apply a generous amount of Vick's to the inside of your nostrils when dealing with dead bodies. Foxes don't even have to be dead to stink so it was a wise precaution.

When the foxes were shot, Vic and I opened their abdomens and tied off various sections of small intestine for examination. This is to keep the worms in one section for easy retrieval and to prevent any possibility of accidental infection to humans. I split each section lengthwise then immersed the sections of gut in 0.9% Saline for 30 minutes to loosen any worms from the gut lining. I then scraped the linings with a metal spatula, *not* from *my* kitchen, and examined the contents with a hand lens and then a dissecting microscope for the presence of adult worms. And no, I didn't use my own pots either! Jeremy and Steve also got in on the act on the last night and can now do a fair sort of sample collection.

On Wednesday at 1600hrs our trusty chopper (the Sikorsky S61) was supposed to arrive to take us back to MPA. We went hunting in the morning then packed everything up ready to go to the helipad. During the afternoon we met a couple who are travelling around the world in a 40 foot yacht. We contacted MPA via the yacht's radio but the message duly arrived back that there was no flight scheduled for us that day so we unpacked again.

We contacted MPA again on Thursday morning and were told that we would be picked up at 1120hrs. The helicopter arrived on time and hauled us away in very rough winds. We arrived in one piece at MPA at 1240hrs and headed back to Stanley with our trophies.

The hunters brought us 31 foxes in the 3 days. Several brushes were kept for the Stanley Museum and 30 faecal samples were brought back to the lab for Elisa testing. If any of those samples prove positive on Elisa, they will be sent off to the UK for confirmation by PCR analysis. This is the second lot of foxes we have analyzed in the last 6 months. We need lots more foxes for our

statistics to have any real meaning so the exercise will be repeated at a later date, as well as collecting foxes from other islands. If no positives are found then we may be able to conclude that foxes are not the reason why Hydatids continues to exist in the Falkland Islands. These animals are geographically remote from any of the farms which had positive findings in sheep last season; therefore the likelihood of the foxes being to blame seems an unlikely scenario, although sheep from Weddell Island have been sent to mainland farms in the past.

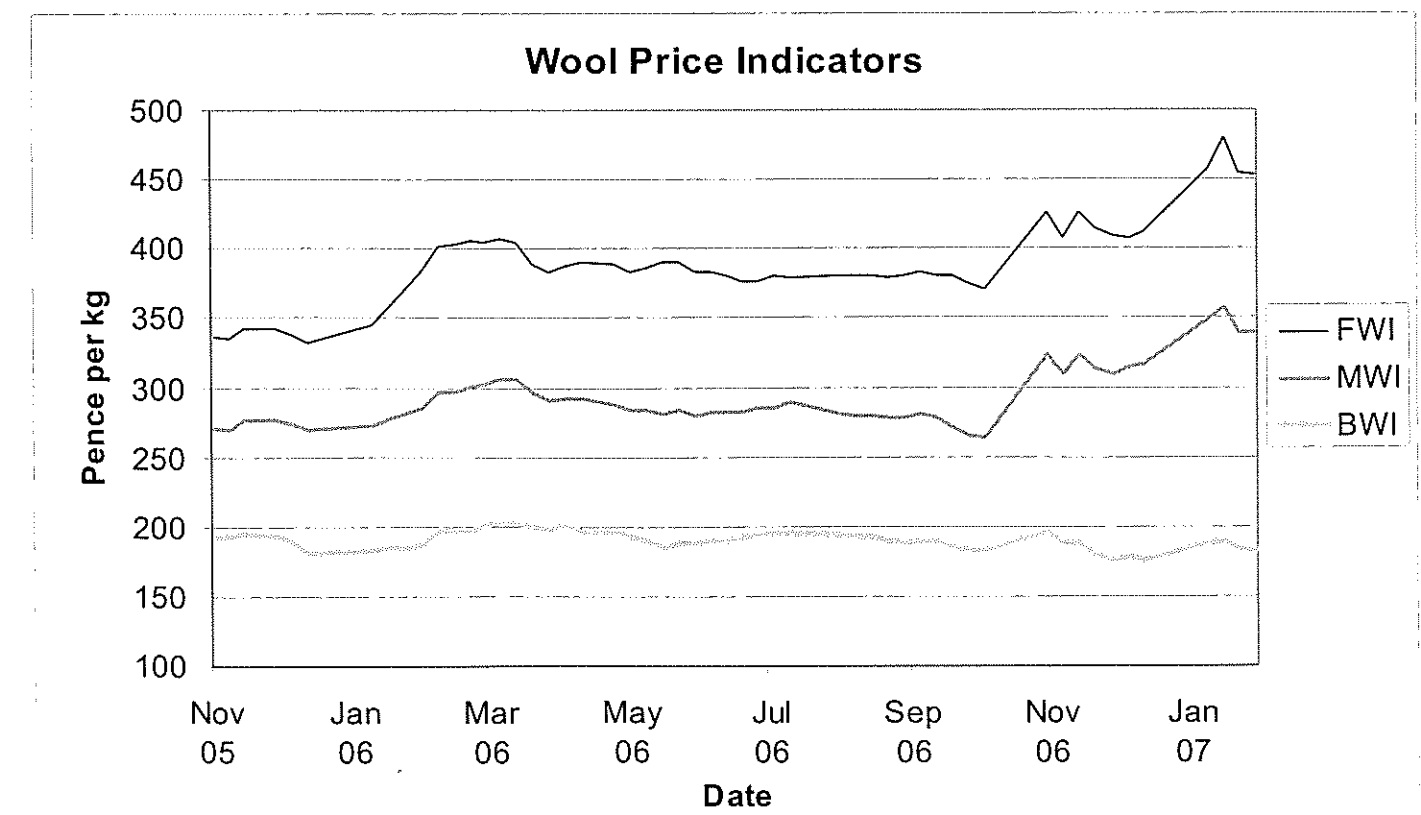
The whole team sends heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the trip possible and successful. It was a worthwhile trip and the whole team functioned well as a unit. Many thanks to all of you for your efforts in the name of science.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK AVERAGES

By John & Viv Hobman

Sheep Breed and Age	Date	Body Weight (kgs)	Fleece Weight (kgs)	Micron
Polwarth Mature Ewes *	31/01/2007	52.47	4.30	22.82
Polwarth Shearling Rams	26/01/2007	50.37	3.03	20.32
Polwarth Shearling Ewes	08/02/2007	38.71	2.67	20.34
Dohne Merino Shearling Ewes	08/02/2007	39.16	2.32	19.25
SAMM Shearling Ewes	08/02/2007	42.84	1.78	22.56
Poll Dorset Shearling Ewes	08/02/2007	53.15	1.66	29.53
Corriedale/Dohne x Shearling Ewes	08/02/2007	41.36	2.44	22.47

* One ewe was exceptionally good with a body weight of 60kg, a fleece weight of 7.2kg and 21.75 micron.



Paul & Shula Phillips Contract Shearing

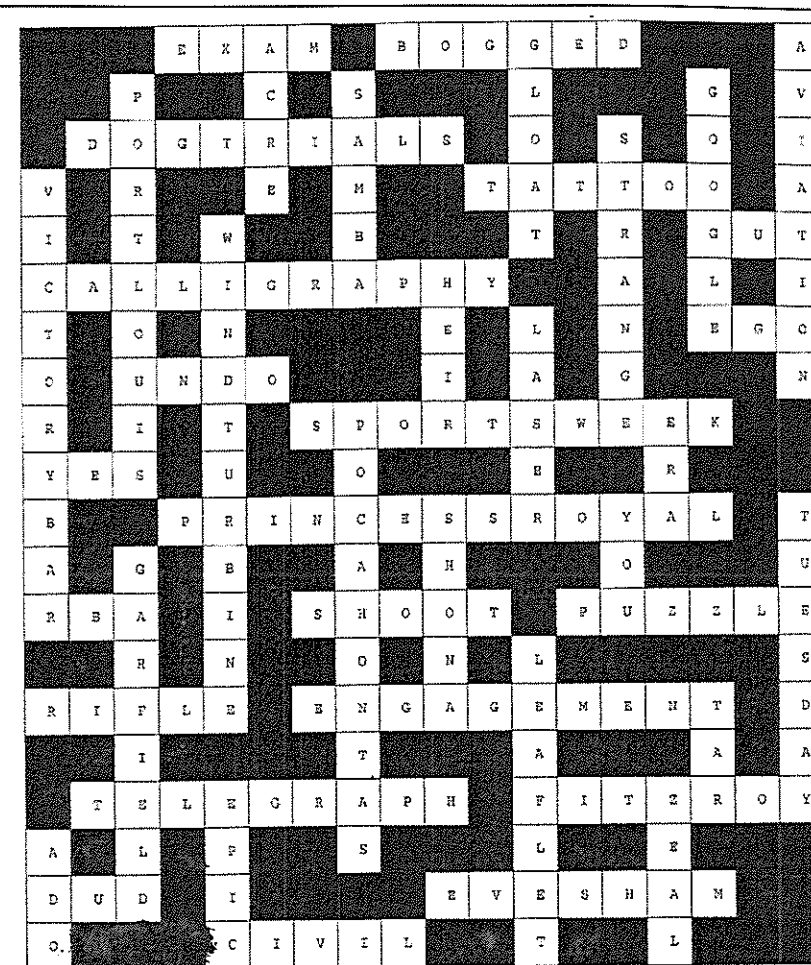
We are thinking about next season so we're sure you are too. In less than 7 months we will have the following staff back in the Falklands and the 2007-08 season will be underway:

Experienced shearers
Experienced rousies and tablehands
Australian stencilled woolclasser
Wool presser

We have Stanley based shearing quarters. With 9 years experience of contracting in the Falklands and 20 experienced employees we **MUST** be your first choice.

Make the most out of your overheads cost
And phone today on 22331 or e-mail
shula@horizon.co.fk

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



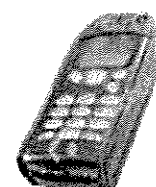
RECYCLING FOR CHARITY - TURN TRASH INTO CASH

By Siân Ferguson

Before you throw anything out from your home or office, stop to think if it can be recycled to raise money for charity...

Stamps

Guide Dogs for the Blind are phasing out their stamp recycling effort. However please, please, please don't throw away your stamps. We will be researching new charities who can make use of the donations and if you have any in mind, please get in touch. Just take a couple of seconds to tear the stamp off your envelope and pass it on to us.

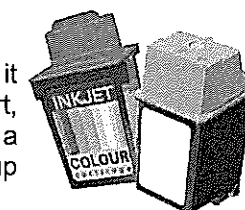


Mobile Phone

Do you have an old mobile phone that no longer works? Are you upgrading to a newer model? Please don't chuck your old phone into the bin. Send it into us and we will post it off to Guide Dogs for the Blind who receive £3.50 for each mobile, which goes a long way in their fundraising efforts.

Inkjet Cartridges

When you change your printer cartridge, remember that if you send it in to us, we will pass it onto Guide Dogs for the Blind who will recycle them. This not only serves as a fundraising effort, but also helps to protect the environment. Did you know that it takes six pints of oil to make a new cartridge and over sixty million cartridges are unnecessarily thrown out each year, taking up to a thousand years to decompose.

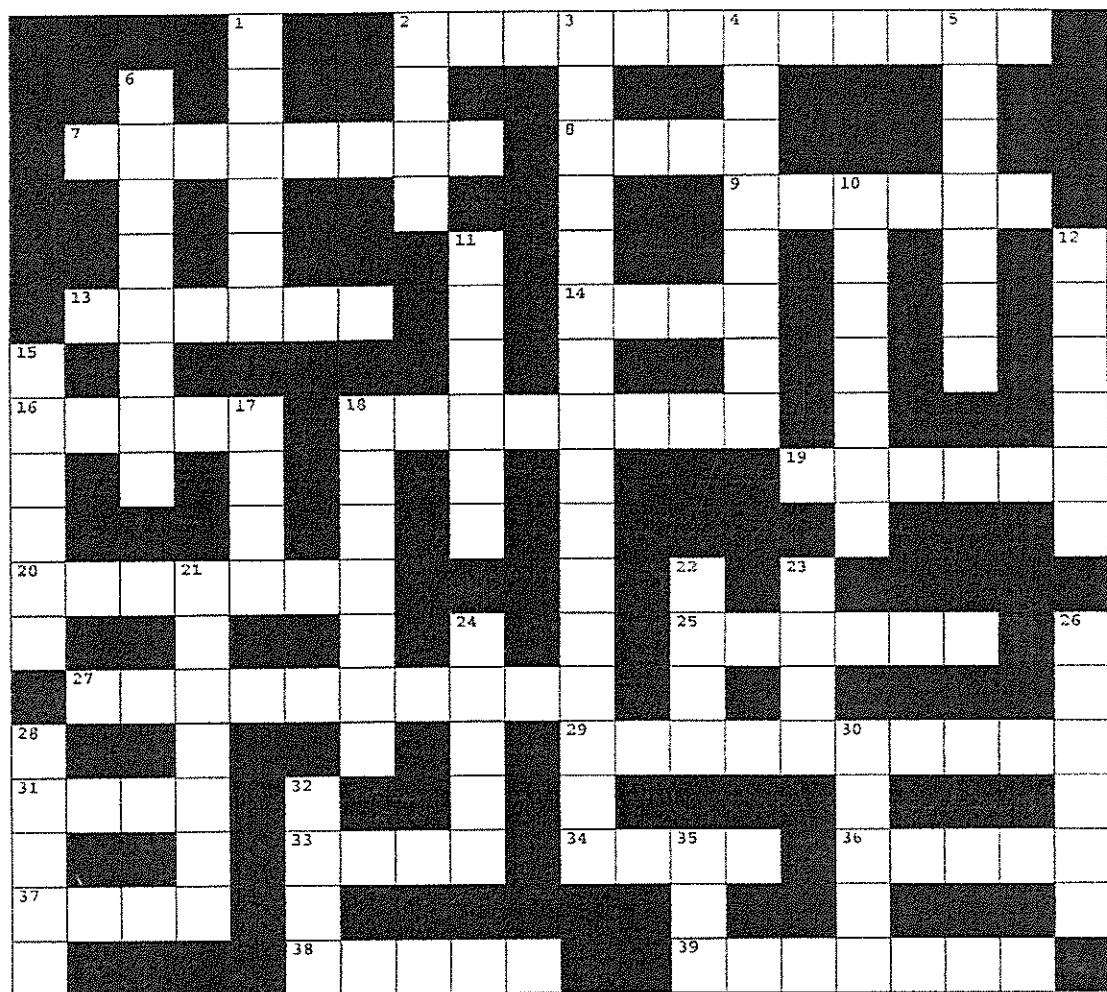


Please do not send in Laserjet or Epson cartridges & toners as we are currently unable to recycle these. If you have a contact for recycling them, please let us know!!

Send Items for recycling into: Katrina at Mineral Resources or Siân at the Department of Agriculture

PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 2. Items for recycling (6,6)
 - 7. Chocolate flavoured cereal (4,4)
 - 8. Eager
 - 9. Action
 - 13. Items for recycling
 - 14. Gear
 - 16. Part of a golf course
 - 18. Obstacles
 - 19. Occupy
 - 20. Fall
 - 25. Of Mice and Men character
 - 27. West Falkland port (4,6)
 - 29. East Falkland settlement (5,5)
 - 31. Against
 - 33. De-crease
 - 34. Long ribbon denoting rank
 - 36. Sneezing sound
 - 37. Game using terms such as birdie and eagle
 - 38. Striped hoofed animal
 - 39. March sheep event (3,4)
- Down**
- 1. Fictitious name adopted by authors
 - 2. Brood, sulk
 - 3. Items for recycling (6,10)
 - 4. Traditional food on Shrove Tuesday
 - 5. Common cigarette make
 - 6. Vegetable(s)
 - 10. Convention
 - 11. Popular local meat
 - 12. Torment, hound
 - 15. Plan, schedule
 - 17. Agreeable
 - 18. Channel
 - 21. Home of the millennium stadium
 - 22. Highest adult male voice
 - 23. Joint connecting the tibia and fibula with the femur
 - 24. Refuge, sanctuary
 - 26. Opportunity
 - 28. Loose, slack
 - 30. Is it liquid or solid?
 - 32. Froth, foam
 - 35. Knight

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive! Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience.

The Crossword and Sudoku solutions will be published next month. If you cannot wait until then, the editor is open to bribes of ice-cream and spicy coke!!

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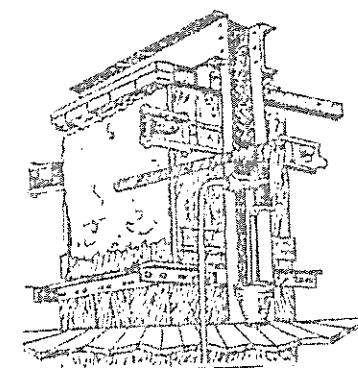
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EDITORIAL

The extremely wet season has delayed many readers from getting sheep work finished and on to other essential tasks. It has made for frustrating times. By the time you read this April publication I hope you will be ready to plan some time out to attend workshops in late April.

The DOA is pleased to be able to bring Jim Gerrish to the Islands. Jim, as well as running many workshops with farmers each year, has a farm in Missouri, so he knows how to get his boots dirty as well! Take a look at Neil Judd's article and get in touch with the department if you would like to attend the workshops.

If you are not convinced that a move from set stocking might be an option worth considering on your farm read Andy Pollard's article using data from the simulated grazing trials. There is a powerful argument here in favour of managed grazing. Andy would like to hear your views. Joe Hollins has written this month about a castration method for young lambs and calves called the Burdizzo technique. Again I am sure Joe would welcome feedback.

With the abattoir export season in full swing Zoe Luxton, the OVS, has written clarifying the "pros" and "cons" of shearing sheep before slaughter and the use of movement certificates for stock.

Thanks to Dan Fowler' for contributing an article on a potential new industry for the Falklands, aquaculture. I had a sneak preview recently of the excellent site at Moody Brook where the action will be. Who can remember catching (and eating) Zebra trout in considerable quantities? Now, sadly there are few known stocks left! It would be good to see them back in ponds and streams. I am not sure about the worms though, but if they sell.....

Dip into Steve Pointing's article about his experiences back in DEFRA the UK. And lastly welcome to Erica and Lucas Berntsen who have joined the Department as trainees for the next three months. They are getting out onto farms where the action is.

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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AQUACULTURE UPDATE

By Daniel Fowler

A year after the recruitment of Dr. Brendan Gara as Aquaculture Manager, the FIDC aquaculture machine continues to build up steam. The last few months have seen the recruitment of 3 new members of staff (Paul Ellis, Dan Fowler and Antoine Daille), the acquisition of a site (complete with poly-tunnels) and a building of links with overseas institutions who are willing to offer assistance.

Let's get things straight from the beginning. The aquaculture project is a non-commercial, small-scale trial, looking at a variety of things that could be done in the Falklands. We believe that there are aquaculture possibilities in the Islands, and by answering some of the technical questions we can hopefully demonstrate to the private sector how they can be realised. At the same time, we'll be helping to develop the aquaculture skills base within the Falklands, so as to have local people who can go on to establish and run their own projects. And, as a final bonus, a lot of the early work and research needed on fish, shellfish and algae in the Islands will lead to a better understanding of our surrounding environment.

Though our humble beginnings may be based in Stanley, Camp could be the real winner. Some of our eventual outputs could include profitable worm ponds anywhere around the coast, zebra trout being introduced to different streams and ponds, healthy mussels from around the islands being sold overseas and restocking of rivers with sea trout in popular fishing areas.

Anyone for worms? With all the talk of hydatids in the Falklands, it's time we heard something positive about worms. Ok, we may be talking about marine rag worms, but they're still worms, and they could turn out to be low maintenance and a worth-while bonus to farmers. Worms can be used by shrimp farmers, recreational anglers or as a replacement for fishmeal, and global demand is high. The low-tech approach that we're looking at would involve large shallow ponds constructed near the shore, with only feed and seawater as inputs. Pumping of seawater into ponds could be done using wind power, making this a low-tech, low-energy (therefore low-cost) operation that could be situated almost anywhere. Once up and running, we'd like to see farmers or landowners at the trial site, learning how it works, in order that they might set up a similar pond or two for themselves.

Trout - Fish farming doesn't just have to be about profit. Although we're looking at both sea-trout and zebra trout in with an eye to the commercial side, what I'm more excited about is the possibility of restocking ponds and lakes with the indigenous zebra trout. We'd like to breed sufficient numbers with a view to releasing them in selected waterways and ponds, helping to ensure their long-term survival. We could also restock rivers with brown trout, produced using adult fish from the same area. If you could guarantee your trout numbers were at a high level, recreational fishing could be expanded, and this could have a positive knock-on effect on Camp tourism. If anybody in Camp has suitable streams or ponds and would like to see zebra trout introduced to them, we'd be keen to hear from you.

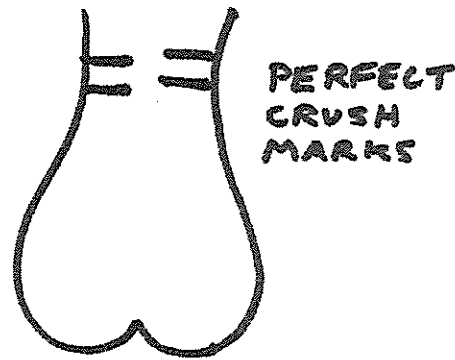
Mussels - And last, but by no means least, there are mussels. Mussels are already being cultivated at certain locations in the Islands, as well as being found all over. We are planning to improve upon the current bio-toxin testing, in order to bring it in-line with the EU regulations, allowing sales to the UK and overseas, increasing the potential market for Falklands shellfish. We will be looking at testing mussels and water from around the Islands on a regular basis, to develop a greater understanding of the algae and bio-toxins.

See you at Farmers Week - With all of the above projects, we've got our work cut out, but with the current levels of optimism floating around the aquaculture office, we're ready for the challenge. If all goes according to plan, we'd love to show any interested parties around the facilities come farmers' week. But in the meantime if you are interested in the possibilities of zebra trout in your waterways, please email danielfowler@fidc.co.fk or call 27211.

THE PERFECT BURDIZZO TECHNIQUE

By Joe Hollins

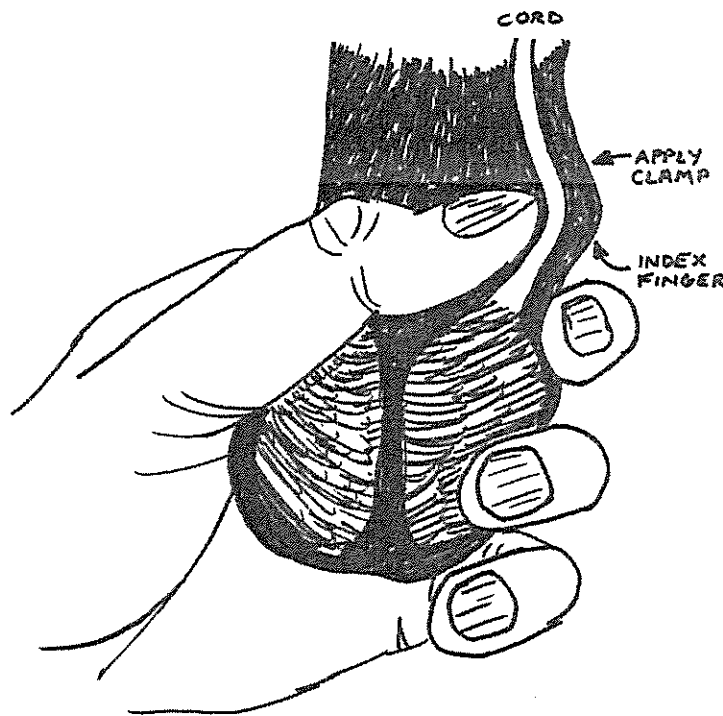
There have been some fairly mean and bizarre methods of castration in the past - such as crushing the testes between two rocks (still in use just over 100 years ago!), or the Russian technique of stabbing the testes with a knife and carefully squeezing out the substance - and there have been a mass of failed patent devices, but the one that has persisted is the Burdizzo. It's not flawless, however, and much of its success lies in the hands of the operator. Here's a handy little guide to its pros and cons - and how to do it right.



The Burdizzo is designed to irreversibly crush the spermatic cord whilst leaving the skin intact (though bruised). It does not part the cord, so feeling for a gap between two ends is misleading. Initially there is swelling of the testes, which takes about two weeks to fully subside as the testes undergo a sterile death, causing them to shrink and vanish. The scrotum should remain intact and healthy.

Technique:

- The object is to crush as little of the scrotal neck as realistically possible. Placing the clamp across the scrotal neck is a common error which causes scrotal death, sepsis, and severe setback.
- Lambs may be held on their backs, calves may be done standing. For the right handed operator, grasp the scrotum in the palm of the left hand, and with thumb and forefinger across the scrotal neck, feel for the cord in the neck and squeeze it over to the edge. The pinching between thumb and forefinger acts as a stop, while with the right hand the edge of the Burdizzo is placed above across the cord where it is now nicely taut. The corner lug - and the finger pinch - help prevent the cord from escaping as the handles are closed. The squeeze should be at 90 degrees to the scrotal neck.
- Leave on for at least 30 seconds, then release and feel for a crush in the cord. Repeat the procedure below the first mark (above causes unnecessary pain, whereas below is relatively numbed).
- Transfer to the other side and repeat the procedure.
- Make sure there is a gap of at least 1cm (young lambs 0.5cm) between the left and right crush marks. Ideally, slightly stagger the two sets. It is the near joining of the 2 sets of crush marks that can destroy the blood supply to the scrotum and cause it to die. This will cause prolonged healing, unnecessary pain, and a serious setback.
- For calves - with the larger Burdizzo - it is impossible to close the Burdizzo single handed. With practice it is possible to use a knee against the lower handle and one hand on the upper handle, while the other hand keeps the cord fixed in place. Letting go of the scrotal neck before closing the clamp will nearly always allow the cord to escape.



Disasters:

- Bad technique resulting in failure to properly crush the cord and unwanted ram/bull activity.
- Failure to crush the cord because of a poorly maintained instrument. **TIP:** always store a Burdizzo open. Storage closed causes metal fatigue and excessive give in the bushes. It is a finely designed instrument with little tolerance to wear and tear. This is the commonest cause of mass Burdizzo failure.
- Scrotal death because the operator has crushed too much skin.
- Crushing the penis - commoner than might be expected, and usually causing the animal's eventual death. Using the above technique, excessive crushing of tissue, and this complication, should be avoided.

We've all heard of Burdizzo failures, but using a well maintained piece of equipment, sound technique, and a barrowload of patience, the results should be consistently good.

SAAS – A COMPANY PROFILE

SAAS was formed in April 2005 to operate a shipping service between Stanley, Punta Arenas and Montevideo. The Elizabeth Boye was chartered in October 2005 and since then has completed 28 voyages.

The initial motivation for creating this service was to solve shipping issues for CFL but the company was also aware of the potential benefit to the Islands as a whole that a regular container service could bring. Without a containerised shipping service linking into a major worldwide network, both import and export opportunities are severely limited. This service provides a major step towards breaking those barriers so that people are free to buy and sell where it makes the most sense rather than simply because there is no alternative.

A major development therefore for the service was agreement from Hamburg Sud that their containers could be used to ship cargos to and from the Islands. This was set up in January 2006 and since that date containers have been imported directly from a number of countries including Australia, China and the United States. Similarly, exports have been shipped directly to various destinations, including Czechoslovakia, Russia and Poland.

The benefits however are not simply in being able to ship to and from new destinations, Hamburg Sud offer weekly sailings from Tilbury to Montevideo and with the Elizabeth Boye calling into Montevideo twice a month, shipping opportunities from the United Kingdom are more frequent than has traditionally been the case.

With the vessel calling into Fox Bay after calls to Punta Arenas, West Falkland residents have also been able to take advantage of the service by getting imports directly from Chile and also having another means by which to ship wool to Stanley or even directly to overseas buyers.

SAAS is wholly owned by CFL and to date it has borne all the risks and costs associated with this project.

SAAS has its own office located in the Lookout Industrial Estate, the company directors are John Pollard and Tom Blake and the company is managed by Sheena Ross. Whether you are an importer or exporter, Sheena would be happy to speak to you about how you might be able to benefit from the service.

Tel: 21833, Fax: 21834, e-mail: saas@horizon.co.fk

SHEARING PRIOR TO TRANSPORTATION TO SAND BAY ABATTOIR

By Zoë Luxton

We have had some enquiries recently regarding shearing sheep before they are sent for slaughter, below is some information and guidance which I hope may be helpful.

There are 2 main benefits of pre-slaughter shearing, one is that you may gain a bit of cash from the wool as well as the carcass and the other is that the sheep are cleaner for us to kill (hopefully!). Even if they are not as clean as we need, at least they are easier to get clean and dry if they are clippies. The cleaner the sheep we kill the less risk of contamination on the carcasses.

Unfortunately, following every "pro" list there is always a "cons" list. Shearing sheep can obviously leave them with cuts and bruises. Bruised meat has to be trimmed off carcasses which, if we have had to trim a lot, will leave you with a lighter carcass thus less profit. It is illegal to transport animals with injuries/wounds that may cause further suffering to them while on the lorry – i.e. castration wounds, broken bones, shearing cuts.

Falkland Island legislation states wounds must be sufficiently healed (before an animal is transported) – i.e. well scabbed over to the point that movement is not going to cause the wound to re-open. The stress of shearing, immediately travelling and then killing is also going to cause the meat to be tough. Cold weather/sheep chill factors must also be considered on the welfare/stress side of things. Also roughies are much better protected from bumps and bruises during transport than a newly stripped ovine!

Based on the above information, FIMCo and the DoA are advising the following:

- Wait at least 28 days after shearing with normal combs; or
- wait at least 14 days after shearing with cover combs, before transporting sheep to the abattoir

Within this timeframe all but the most serious shearing cuts should be healing well and any bruising fading. Please do not send any sheep with wounds that are still obvious. Remember that factors such as infection/contamination, excess skin movement, wool matting and sheer size will delay healing. Also don't forget about drug withdrawal times if you have given a wounded sheep a shot of antibiotics.

If you do want to shear pre-slaughter it is going to mean more sheep moving, getting them in, shearing, waiting, then re-gathering to send. However the benefits of these waiting times include letting the sheep gain a bit more weight or replenish any condition they may have lost through a night or two in the shed followed by a shivery post-shearing period. Secondly, sheep with a months wool growth will be slightly more buffered from bumps received during travelling which inevitably causes more bruising.

You will need to weigh up whether the gain from your wool will be worth it compared to the shearing/extra moving costs.

Remember any shearing done now (after March 15th) must be done with cover combs anyway. Any questions? Call the abattoir on 27213.

For Sale

1 quad bike tyre size 25 x 10 x 12 - £65
Contact Barnes, Dunbar on telephone 41103

CALLING ALL ANIMALS.....

By Zoë Luxton

As you will have noticed with the arrival of your new pad of movement certificates, we are no longer showing sheep favouritism. Waybills are now ANIMAL movement certificates as opposed to SHEEP MOVEMENT certificates, which means you can fill them in for any sort of animal you wish to move off your farm.

To comply with the implementation of the new Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006, the Falkland Islands Code of Practice now requires us to fill in movement certificates for cattle and pig movements as well as sheep. Certainly for animals coming to the abattoir (i.e. for human consumption), movement information is very important for disease traceability. Also, optimistically, we are considering a time when we may get EU approval for beef exports also, so traceability information is essential. For those of you sending pigs to the abattoir also please remember to fill in some paperwork.

Can I remind everyone that movement information should be supplied for all sheep, pigs and cattle movements anywhere (i.e. between farms) not just for animals coming for slaughter.

Currently we will not be asking you to fill in certificates for equine movements unless they are coming for human consumption!!

If you do not have a pad of Animal Movement Certificates please contact the Vet Dept on 27366.

FITZROY SHEEP SHOW

The Fitzroy Sheep Show will take place on Saturday 14th April. There will also be six or seven stalls selling Falklands produce and crafts on the day.

The show will start at 10am lasting until 3pm, with the prize giving taking place at 2pm.



- | | |
|----------|---|
| Class 1 | Mature ram over 24 months |
| Class 2 | Shearling ram over 12 & less than 24 months of age |
| Class 3 | Ram hogget less than 12 months of age |
| Class 4 | Mature ewe over 24 months of age |
| Class 5 | Shearling ewe over 12 months & under 24 months of age |
| Class 6 | Ewe hogget under 12 months of age |
| Class 7 | Pen of three flock hoggets (male or female) under 12 months of age |
| Class 8 | Pen of three flock shearlings (male or female) over 12 & under 24 months of age |
| Class 9 | Ram of any age suitable for producing prime lamb |
| Class 10 | Ewe of any age suitable for producing prime lambs. |
| Class 11 | Pen of three weaner prime lambs |
| Class 12 | Under sixteen open entry |

For more information, please contact SeAled PR

FARMING IN THE FALKLANDS WORKSHOPS (PLANT – SOIL – ANIMAL INTERACTIONS)

By Neil Judd

A series of DOA workshops are planned during late April and early May 2007. The 2-day workshops will investigate the basic building blocks of farming and how they relate to Falkland Islands production. The workshops will combine world best knowledge mixed with local, practical experience. They will aim to review the processes that drive farming; namely the interactions between plants, soil and animals.

It is hoped that farmers interested in progressing the profitability, productivity and sustainability of their farms will be able to attend one of the workshops. The workshops will blend a mix of information, discussion and hands-on activity to ensure that outcomes are meaningful and relevant to all of those who take part.

Workshops will be conducted by Jim Gerrish from Idaho, USA. Jim is widely recognised as a world leader in the field of whole farm grazing management, education and research.

Through the informal, interactive workshops, Jim, farmers and DOA staff will explore all of the key factors that make up the Falkland Islands farming systems, to discuss productivity features (good and bad) and also income generated. The focus will then shift to exploring cost effective opportunities for improvement.

All options that are currently used to improve performance on farms will be investigated, including;

- Re-seeding
- Native pasture management
- Forage crops
- Animal Supplementation
- Hay & silage
- Set stocking
- Managed grazing
- Fencing options

The content of the workshop is of critical importance to all farmers in the Falkland Islands involved in grass based livestock systems including beef production, wool production and sheep meat production.

Workshop Dates & Venues

1 – **Port Howard**. Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th April

2 – **Fox Bay**. Thursday 26th & Friday 27th April

3 – **San Carlos**. Monday 30th April & Tuesday 1st May

4 – **Stanley**. Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd May

As workshop dates get closer, further details will be provided. For catering purposes, people are asked to advise Siân Ferguson (telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk) which workshops they hope to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact Neil Judd, Andrew Pollard or Peter Johnson at the Department of Agriculture if you have any questions or require further information about the workshops.

Jim Gerrish Biography

Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands consultant providing service to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across the US. He currently lives in the Pahsimeroi Valley in central Idaho and works with numerous ranchers in the Intermountain West using both irrigated pastures and native rangeland.

He received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Illinois and an MS in Crop Ecology from University of Kentucky. His past experience includes over 20 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty of the University of Missouri, as well as 20 years of commercial cattle and sheep production on his family farm in northern Missouri. The University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center (FSRC) rose to national prominence as a result of his research leadership.

His research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provided a foundation for many of the basic principles of Management-intensive Grazing. He currently writes regular columns in BEEF Magazine and The Stockman Grass-Farmer. His book "Management-intensive Grazing: The Grassroots of Grass Farming" is one of the best sellers on the SGF bookshelf.

Jim was co-founder of the very popular 3-day grazing management workshop program at FSRC. These schools were attended by over 3000 producers and educators from 39 states and 4 Canadian provinces from their inception in 1990 through to 2003. Fifteen other states have conducted grazing workshops based on the Missouri model and Jim has taught in eleven of these states.

He is an instructor in the University of Idaho's Lost River Grazing Academy held twice annually near Salmon ID. He typically speaks at 30 to 40 producer oriented workshops, seminars, and field days around the US and Canada each year. For the 24 years he spent in Missouri, he stayed in touch with the real world on a commercial cow-calf and contract grazing operation. He was deeply involved in the Green Hills Farm Project, a grassroots producer group centered in north-central Missouri and emphasizing sustainability of family farms.

His research and outreach efforts have been recognized with awards from the American Forage and Grassland Council, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, National Center for Appropriate Technology, USDA-NRCS, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Progressive Farmer, and American Agricultural Editors Association.



REPLACEMENT ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES

All farmers should by now have received their new 'ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE' books – these are to replace the old 'WAYBILL' books.

Can you now please dispose of any old Waybill books you have left over as these are no longer acceptable for use either with animals travelling to the abattoir, or for sheep moving between farms.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, or if you have not received a new Animal Movement Certificate book, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, Sarah.

SMALL BUT SUCCESSFUL RAM SALE

By Siân Ferguson and Lucy Ellis

The Department of Agriculture's Saladero Ram Sale was a small but successful affair this year, attracting over 70 people from around the Islands and more than 150 sheep.

The day officially started at 8am for viewing of all sale stock. The BBQ was fired up for breakfast and the final preparations taken care of. The last of the exhibition and sale sheep were allocated their pens when farmers from the West arrived after coming across the Sound via the Tamar on the day. Farmers had plenty of time to inspect sale sheep before the auction started.



Farmers bidding in the Helmsman Auction

Following thorough sheep inspection, the purchase of National Stud Flock Polwarth, Corriedale Shearling Rams and Poll Dorset Shearling Ewes started late morning with Peter Johnson directing the Helmsman auction, ably assisted by Siân and Nyree. Sixteen farms participated in the bidding, which lasted over an hour. The of remaining NSF Polwarth rams were allocated using Pasture Improvement Programme funds.

Everyone seemed pleased with the overall condition and quality of the animals presented. The top bid of the day was £250 on a Polwarth shearling ram. The number of animals available for sale was lower than last year, however numbers available are considered "normal" considering that last years sale included a lot of ET animals of new dual purpose genetics. 65 Polwarth rams were sold, averaging £70 each and the 13 Corriedales sold brought an average price of £38.

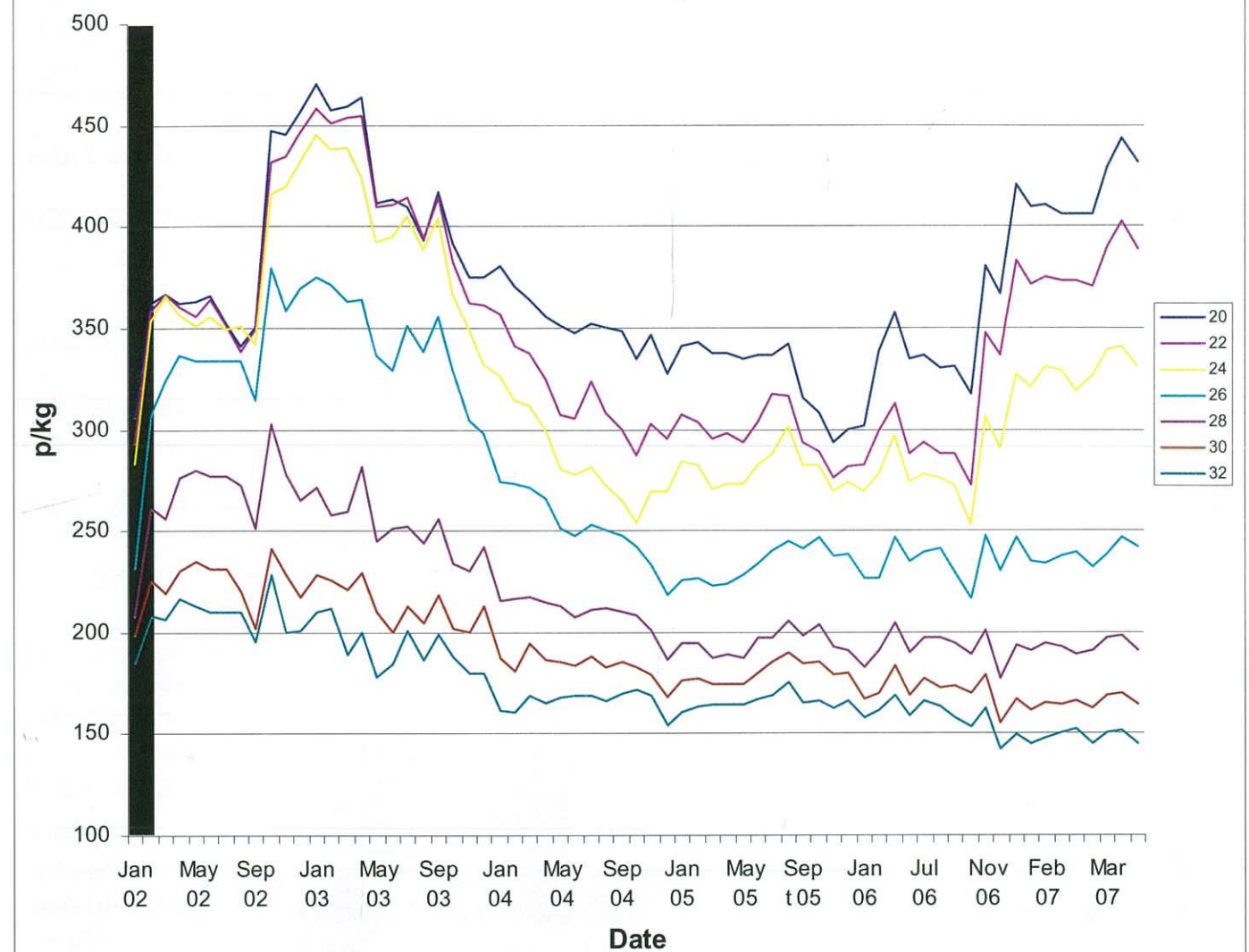
Farmers also had the opportunity throughout the day to sell their own sheep. This opportunity has been taken up by an increasing number of farmers over the last couple of years. Farmers are using the occasion to sell their own high quality animals to a gathering of keen and motivated buyers. The DOA hopes to further develop the occasion as a venue to sell privately owned breeding stock.

A small number of exhibition sheep were also brought along to the Goose Green sale, giving people the chance to view the MPM's from West Lagoons, the Elite Stud Rams from Saladero, also the Stud Rams from the National Corriedale Stud flock and a small number of Poll Dorsets belonging to Neil McKay.

The DOA would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Ram Sale such a success through display of sheep, attendance to purchase rams or simply to view what has been going on at the stud flocks over the last year, we hope that you agree with our feeling that considerable progress is being made!

Particular thanks are expressed to Brian and his team at Goose Green for their assistance and use of the shearing shed and stock truck, the Tamar crew for ferrying farmers and sheep across the Sound and to Port Howard farm for making their facilities available for farmers from the West to move their purchases.

Wool Price Summary 2002 - 2007



Seen anything strange lately?!



SIMULATED GRAZING TRIALS UPDATE

By Andrew Pollard

In December 2004 the Department of Agriculture established a series of "Simulated Grazing Trials". The key objectives of the trials were:-

1. To determine if a model of managed grazing systems (graze and spell) produced more pasture than a traditional set-stocked system.
2. To allow calculations to be made to determine if the increased yield of feed was cost effective.

The trials looked at 3 "models" of grazing management:

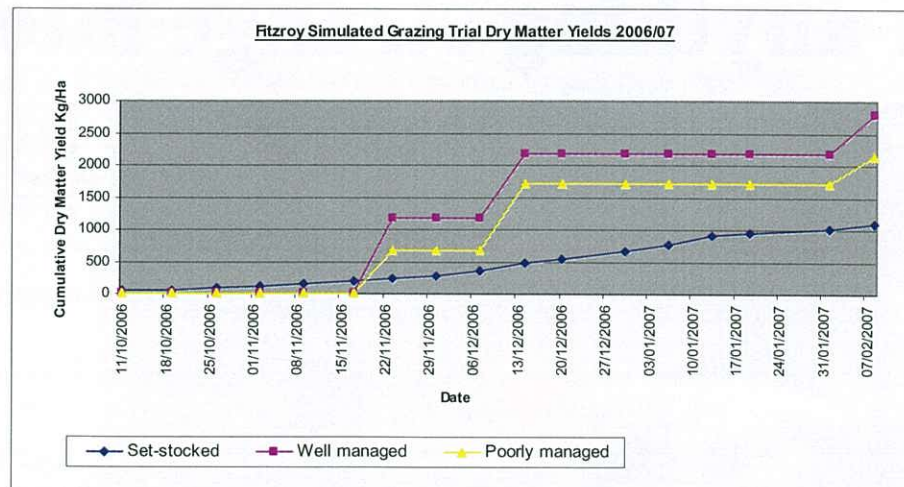
- **Set-stocked** - plots are cut on a weekly basis (back to a height of 3cm) during the growing season.
- **Well managed grazing** - plots are mown (back to a height of 4.5cm) when the plants reached a stage deemed as optimum for pasture yield and quality (cut several times during the growing season).
- **Poorly managed grazing** - plots are mown (back to a height of 6cm) when the plants had "over matured" and were losing quality, theoretically represents a grazing system better than set-stocking but poorer than well managed grazing (cut several times during the growing season).

Pictures of the Simulated Grazing Plots, Post Mowing



Poorly Managed (6cm) Well Managed (4.5cm) Set-stocked (3cm)

2006/07 Results from the Fitzroy Site



Note:- the set-stocked treatment has been cut 17 times so far between October 2006 and February 2007, while the two managed grazing treatments have each been cut 3 times.

Results show that in the set-stocked plots; weekly yields of plant dry matter have been fairly consistent, peaking in the December/January period. Since the middle of January weekly yields have reduced. In the managed grazing plots, cutting dates are shown by the steep rises between weeks. The chart shows that rate of growth peaked between the 22nd November and the 13th De-

cember. During this period of approximately 21 days both "models" produced over 1 tonne of dry matter per hectare (48 kg/day/Ha), this is a large proportion of the yield to date, as can be seen in the table below.

2006/07 (Early Oct – Early Feb)	Set Stocked	Well Managed Grazing	% Change Over Set Stocked	Poorly Managed Grazing	% Change Over Set Stocked
Dry Matter Yield (Kg/Ha)	1072	2777	259	2147	200
Predicted annual stocking rate (DSE/Ha)*	2.94	7.61		5.88	

Note: - a 40 to 45 kg wether will eat approximately 1 kg of dry matter per day (represents 1x DSE), hence 1DSE equals a sheep that would eat approximately 365 kg dry matter per year. The table above clearly illustrates the amount of extra pasture that can be grown from well managed grazing of pastures.

Question...would all types of pasture achieve the same level of response to a changed grazing management system? The answer of course is no.

Question...would you expect the yields of different types of pasture to follow a similar pattern within the 3 grazing management levels? I believe the answer to be yes.

The reasoning for this requires an explanation/understanding of the biology of pasture growth. Constant defoliation of grasses (set-stocking) reduces the plants amount of "green material" (photosynthetic potential and hence "growing power"). The function of this "green material" is to trap sunlight, utilising it to make the necessary food available for plant growth. When a plant is unable to photosynthesise it relies upon its root reserves to grow, weakening the plant. When the plant is once again able to photosynthesise, its immediate focus has to be on replenishing its root reserves, as a result leaf growth is slow.

Over time, constant grazing pressure can lead to plant death, particularly of the most desirable species (i.e. those preferred by animals). Could this be the reason for encroachment of Christmas bush on some older reseeds or for the loss of clover in others or maybe why tussac and fascine disappear when continuously grazed?

In much the same way that overgrazing has a potentially serious impact on the most desirable plant species in a pasture, under grazing can also lead to loss of yield and quality. Under grazing can cause plants to become more "stemmy" and set seed. This is evident from the poorly managed grazing plots, 2.8 versus 2.1 tonnes of dry matter per hectare.

These results could of course be argued as applying only to 2006/07 season, so the table below compares results from the 2005/06 growing season as well:-

2005/06 (Mid Oct – Mid Apr)	Set Stocking	Well Managed Grazing	Poorly Managed Grazing
Dry Matter Yield (Kg/Ha)	688	1851	1605
Annual Stocking Rate (DSE/Ha)	1.88	5.07	4.40

Although yields were lower than 2006/07 season, trends were similar. The well managed grazing plots produced the highest pasture yields. Earlier in the article we discussed the negative effect of set-stocking on root growth. The increase in dry matter yield as seen in the 2006/07 season could possibly be attributed to the development of a better root structure over time (ie from two years of improved management!). Improved root development, in particularly with the "turf" species would be expected over time from well managed grazing.

After discussing these results recently with a farmer, it was quickly pointed out that stock do not graze the pasture in the same way as a lawn mower cuts it (valid point). It is essential in grazing

management to view pasture management through an individual plant as well as the "whole" pasture. Animals are selective grazers; they will always prefer white clover to Yorkshire fog or indeed to whitegrass. You could move the animals on as soon as they have grazed the white clover down to a pre-determined level. This means that the Yorkshire fog is rarely, if ever, grazed!

This is where managed grazing is essential. How can the level of selective grazing in pastures be reduced to create a positive change in the plants without affecting animal performance? The only real answer is sub-division of camps and a higher level of stock contact/management. It is suggested that the best place to start such a process of sub-division and more intensive stock management is on the best ground where the cost benefit of the activity will be greatest. As time progresses lower quality areas could then be tackled.

In many situations the highest yield potential areas may be reseeds, valley greens or coastal greens. Sub-dividing camps creates an opportunity to offer rest to the pasture in areas from which stock have been excluded. To then reduce the level of selective grazing, a high stock density (more animals) is needed over a short period of time. The key issue at this stage is to recognise the delicate balance that needs to be walked between creating a positive change in pasture composition without "crashing" the condition of the animals.

Rotating through the other camps in the sub-division provides rest for the most recently grazed pasture which allows plants to re-grow and regenerate, particularly the "best" species in the camp. Rotation speed is obviously a balance between the number of camps that are available plus existing growth conditions (remembering from earlier that one tonne of dry matter was grown in 21 days during the prime summer growth period!)

Final Thoughts

The results from the Fitzroy simulated Grazing Trial **clearly** show that a higher level of grazing management offers great scope to maximise available pasture and offers considerable potential to either improve individual animal performance or to run more animals (or perhaps to achieve both in the longer term). The trial also demonstrates that potential exists to improve farm profitability.

Many of you may be asking which of the grazing methods are practiced on your farm? (The pictures on the first page of the article may give some indication). Finally if you are still not convinced, go back to the objective for the simulated grazing trials and try convincing yourself the opposite! I welcome your thoughts and queries. Many thanks must be given to Gordon Lennie for collecting the trial data so that this article could be written.

Livestock Ordinance forms

- deadline 30th June, will you be here?

The deadline for the completion of all Livestock Ordinance Forms is the 30th June. They will be sent out next month, in plenty of time to be returned before the deadline. An email version is available on request.

If you are not going to be in the Islands then and need a form earlier, please contact us asap so we can arrange for one to be sent out earlier so you do not miss the deadline.

Returning completed Livestock Forms is a legal requirement and failure to do so may result in a fine.

For more information, call 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

A VETERINARY PERSPECTIVE FROM THE UK

By Steve Pointing

I left the Falkland Islands almost 9 months ago and have only just got around to writing this article having promised Sian that I would produce something before the end of 2006. At the time of writing I am sitting at home on a sunny Spring morning convalescing from an operation a week ago and it seemed like the ideal time to bring you all up to date with what I've been doing on the veterinary front since my return to the UK.

Well we took a month or so to reach the UK having travelled via Ascension and St Helena and then we had to sort out our house for sale prior to looking for something else to either rent or buy nearer to the location where I would be based in Taunton, Somerset. House selling and buying in the UK is not an easy procedure so I think we did pretty well to have sold one house and bought another by the middle of September. We have ended up buying a brand new property so although the house was in good condition (apart from all the usual brand new teething problems) the garden was completely untouched having previously been a part of a paddock. Our task in the coming year is to turn that ground into a productive veggie plot and attractive garden – at least things grow relatively quickly in the UK's climate and living in Somerset we are unlikely to be short of the necessary rainfall.

I have come back to work for my previous employer – previously called MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and now called the SVS (State Veterinary Service) an executive agency of DEFRA (the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Many farmers have come up with other suggestions for the acronym – not all of them very polite! In fact I found out the other day that Defra in Welsh means "Wake up" – perhaps that is telling us something! Perhaps you could have a competition asking for suggestions as to what DoA could stand for other than Department of Agriculture. One suggestion that I frequently heard on my rounds was "Department of Australians" – and that is not meant in any sort of derogatory way.

Well – what is it like working for the SVS? Quick answer – often very frustrating and exasperating. I've always thought that the British civil service was closely modelled on the British armed forces – so for every rank you might have in the army there is a civil service equivalent, and in much the same way that the army operates, those at the top pass down their orders to those below who have to actually carry out the tasks and sometimes (actually quite often) they don't appear to be very sensible or very well thought out (possibly because many of them emanate initially from the EU!) Most of my current work falls into two areas – control of Tuberculosis (TB) and investigating complaints relating to farm animal welfare issues.

On top of this there are many other issues that are dealt with by the SVS – from dealing with outbreaks of exotic disease (the 2 most worrying ones at present in the UK are avian influenza and bluetongue – more about this later), issuing export certification for live animals and animal products, post import checks on live animals that have arrived from other parts of Europe or further afield, and liaising on a regular basis with vets in private practice to ensure that they know what they are expected to do on behalf of the SVS in their capacity as LVI's (licensed veterinary inspectors). That probably covers about 90% of the work but there are lots of other areas which are rather specialised and in which only certain officers are fully competent to carry out the procedures. At present I am dealing mainly with TB breakdowns, animal welfare issues and visiting private veterinary practices on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Tuberculosis (TB)

The TB situation in the UK was bad when I left MAFF in 1998 to come to the Falkland Islands. It

is now much worse. Historically it has always been a problem in the western counties of Cornwall, Devon and Gloucestershire but now the areas of previously "clean" ground in between are also succumbing to the disease. Large areas of Somerset and Dorset are now affected as are the Welsh border counties (Hereford, Shropshire, and Gwent) as well as pockets of infection in more isolated areas such as Pembrokeshire and Staffordshire.

MAFF has been trying to control and eventually eradicate the disease since before the Second World War. In the early days (apart from the war years themselves) they had great success and the incidence of the disease was reduced from almost 50% of dairy cows having the disease to single digit figures by the early 1950's (in much the same way as hydatidosis was reduced dramatically when pilling of dogs was first introduced and the feeding of offal to dogs was banned); since then, however, the fight against the disease has had a rather chequered history.

Some progress seemed to be being made in the late 1990's but the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2001 had more long-term consequences than just the effects of that disease alone. During the FMD crisis all effort naturally went to eradicating the FMD virus from the nation's live-stock as speedily as possible but while this was happening the control of TB was put on the back-burner for a period of almost a year with the result that when it was re-visited in 2002 the disease had spread well beyond its traditional areas.

This begs the question as to how the disease is spread – and the simple answer is that it is mainly spread with the aid of a wildlife vector – namely the badger. Yes, some cattle to cattle spread does occur and this can be relatively easily dealt with but unless the wildlife vector is also tackled then the disease continues to lurk in the undergrowth (literally) to re-emerge at a later date when the cattle are next tested for TB.

Something that used to happen, but sadly no longer is allowed to take place, was that as well as removing infected cattle from a herd badgers in the immediate vicinity of the breakdown farm were also trapped and humanely culled. This process has been put on hold for a number of years now while successive governments have tried to determine whether badgers really are responsible for harbouring and spreading the disease (there is plenty of good scientific evidence from both the UK and Ireland that they are) and how members of the public view a badger culling policy. Not surprisingly, in a country as urban as the UK, with very few people really knowledgeable about countryside matters or interested in the plight of British farming, the great British public is firmly anti- the killing of badgers for whatever reason.

In the meantime the badger population continues to grow exponentially (they are a protected species, the top of their food chain with no natural predators) and alongside their population growth there is a corresponding increase in the number of TB breakdowns. In case you are wondering what happens to the badgers that carry the TB bacillus I should add that most of them eventually die of the disease themselves – usually at the end of a long debilitating illness during which they lose weight and eventually can't feed themselves anymore. This may take a year or more to happen and during this period they are able to infect other badgers within their sett as well as contaminate pastures on which cattle are grazing.

You will see from what I have written above how frustrating it is to visit a farmer with a TB breakdown and not be able to really tackle the problem at its root. All we can do is remove the animals that have reacted to the TB test and keep doing this until there are no more reactors. However, that hasn't solved the problem and both the farmer and visiting veterinary officer know that in subsequent years more reactors will turn up as the underlying wildlife vector has not been dealt with. To me that seems to be trying to deal with a problem with one hand tied behind your back while trying to balance on one leg at the same time. TB is a serious national animal health problem and it needs to be tackled in a serious and sensible way. That just isn't happening under the current set of operating instructions.

Exotic diseases

The 2 exotic diseases (ie diseases not normally present in a particular country) that are of most concern in the UK at present are avian influenza (AI) and bluetongue. You will probably all have read about and seen on the TV the recent outbreak of AI in a turkey farm belonging to Bernard Matthews in Suffolk. That appears to have been dealt with swiftly and effectively and no new cases have subsequently come to light.

The most likely route of infection still appears to have been in turkey products imported from Hungary where there had been an AI outbreak in the early part of 2007. If this is the case it just goes to show how important it is to monitor what is being imported into the country and where it comes from (biosecurity!)

As for bluetongue this still hasn't reached the UK but we will be keeping a very close eye on the situation over the coming months as temperatures begin to rise. Why are temperatures important? This is because this viral disease is spread by biting midges and their numbers increase substantially as the temperature rises. Normally bluetongue is a disease of the tropics, subtropics and more recently the Mediterranean region. However, with global warming, the various midge species responsible for spreading the virus have extended their range and for the first time ever last year there were outbreaks of bluetongue in northern Europe – in Holland, Belgium, Germany and France.

Although we can easily prevent the importation of live animals from affected areas we cannot stop the wind blowing from the east or south-east and various epidemiologists expect that the disease could well enter the south of the England in the coming summer with wind-borne midges from the continent. In countries where the disease has been endemic for years bluetongue is mainly a disease of sheep – leading to major mortalities – and cattle are usually unaffected but can act as a reservoir of infection.

However, in the northern European outbreak cattle were the species most affected and they developed clinical signs of the disease and many became seriously ill and subsequently died. Once an accurate diagnosis had been reached all affected herds were culled and there was a period of strict isolation with no movements of unaffected stock allowed into or out of the surveillance zone.

This is an interesting disease but I won't say more here as I will leave it to Vic or Joe to answer any questions you may have. Vic will be well aware of the potential consequences of bluetongue reaching a sheep producing country as Australia has been concerned about this possibility for many years and regularly monitors the cattle population in northern Queensland and the Northern Territory to check for the presence of bluetongue virus that may have come across with midges from nearby Indonesia.

Reading about the various conditions above will make you realise how fortunate you are in the Falkland Islands not to have to deal with animal diseases such as these. It really does pay to keep them out of a country if at all possible and this is where biosecurity at the border is so important. Setting up systems to keep diseases at bay may have a cost implication but in the long run it is a much cheaper option than having to deal with a disease outbreak and all its ramifications.

I think I've probably written more than enough for one article and poor Sian may have difficulty in finding space for this article in the next Wool Press. Although we've been back in the UK for almost 9 months we still think of the Falklands on an almost daily basis and still keep up to date with the local news via the Penguin News on-line (and reading the Wool Press, of course). If you'd like to make contact with us then contact Sarah or Glynis at the DoA for our actual address or email us at sweap@dst.eclipse.co.uk. We'd love to hear from you. Really – we would!

INTRODUCING THE NEW AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES

From March to June this year, we have two trainees working at the Department of Agriculture, Erica Berntsen and Lucas Berntsen.

LUCAS

Hello everyone, I guess that most of you are now aware that I have recently undertaken one of the positions as trainee agricultural assistant here at the DoA. The main reasons why I decided to apply for this job are, firstly I have always had a keen interest in farming and all aspects of agriculture, secondly I have also spent the majority of my life living and working out and about in camp, so I enjoy doing the jobs I am given, and finally I have always been interested to have a job here at the department.

So a week or so after applying for the job I was lucky enough to be told that I had received one of the two available positions and that I would be starting work here on the 5th of March. Already I have found my time here both very interesting and amusing. So far this month I have been involved in a wide range of activities including repairing cradles for the AI and ET programme, assisting with castrating rams at Walker Creek, weighing trial sheep at Goose Green, to setting up and helping with the recent ram sale, again, at Goose Green.

I have enjoyed my time here so far and I am looking forward to my next few months working here. After I have finished my time here at the department I am hoping to go and work on both our farm and other farms around the area that would like an extra hand, before hopefully joining the shearing gang the season after next. After that I am planning to take over and continue running our farm. Well that's really all I have to say for myself for now so hopefully none of you have fallen asleep while reading this. Andy P your record is at stake!

ERICA

Hello there, as most of you may know, I'm one of the new trainees here at the DOA. The reasons why I applied for this position are: I have always lived on a farm and helped out with the jobs that were going on, and secondly I have always been interested in farming ways and how to improve on things.

I started working here on the 5th of March and already it has been very busy. During my first week I did quite a lot of travelling around the East Falkland, I visited Moss Side, Cape Dolphin and many other places. I also went down to North Arm with Vikki for a day to help do some core testing and we also cored some bales down at FIPASS.

This week has been very hectic because we are setting up the ram sale down at Goose Green which went as well as expected with most of the rams being sold. I had a lovely lunch of home-made beef burgers and Benny kebabs; well I had to do my bit to keep the barbecue afloat!

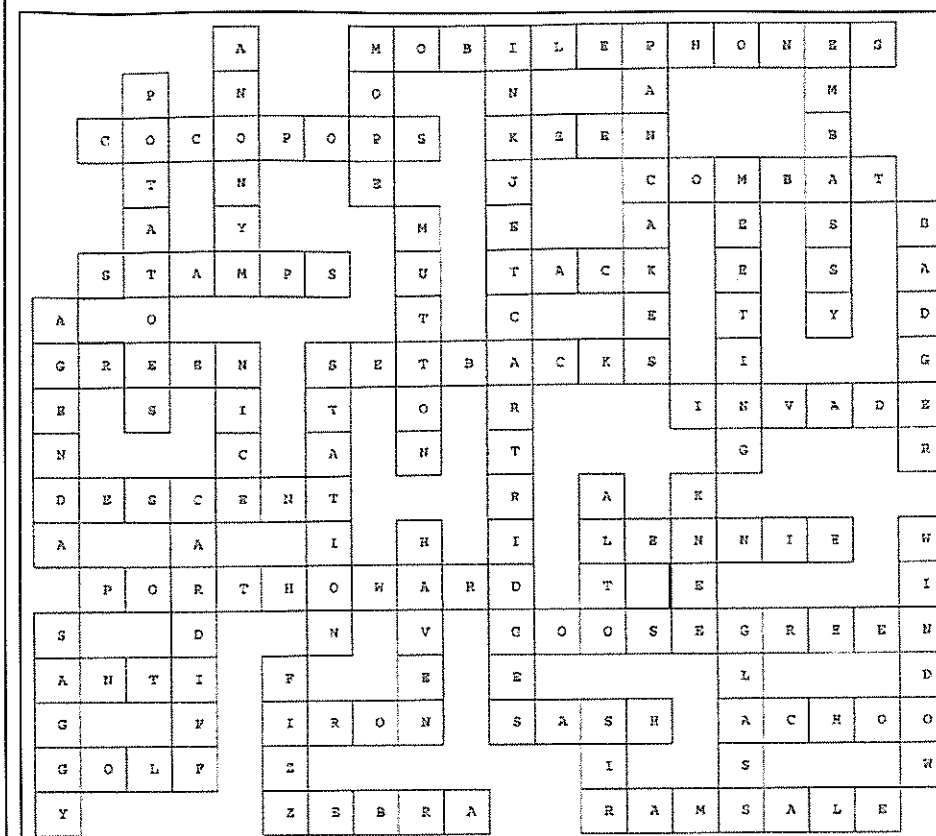
So far I have really enjoyed my time working here, and have had a lot of fun with the people that I am working with - I think they're fab! I have learnt a lot about the trials and also the reasons for doing them. I am looking forward to working with you in the near future.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 25th April (Droncit)

Please call 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and confirm that your dogs have been does. Thank you.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS



9	6	3	1	7	4	2	5	8
1	7	8	3	2	5	6	4	9
2	5	4	6	8	9	7	3	1
8	2	1	4	3	7	5	9	6
4	9	6	8	5	2	3	1	7
7	3	5	9	6	1	8	2	4
5	8	9	7	1	3	4	6	2
3	1	7	2	4	6	9	8	5
6	4	2	5	9	8	1	7	3

Recipes by Krysteen Ormond

The Easiest Broccoli Soup Ever

You will need a pot that holds twice the amount as that of the broccoli you are using. Bring to the boil a pot full of well-salted water and then simmer the broccoli until very tender, and slightly mushy. Transfer the broccoli to a blender and blend several scoopfuls of broccoli at a time with a few spoonfuls of the salted water used to simmer the veg. Alternatively, push the broccoli through a wide sieve with the back of a spoon, and then stir in the broccoli stock. Continue sieving/blending until all the broccoli has been pureed, and you have used enough stock to get a smooth but thick soup. Discard any remaining stock from the boiling pan, pour in the soup and heat through.

Elizabeth's Mayonnaise Cake - Perfect for the eggless months!

7oz SR Flour 3/4 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda
 4oz Sugar 6 fl oz Mayonnaise
 10oz Cocoa 3/4 cup Water
 1 1/4tsp Baking Powder

Preheat the oven to Gas 5, or equivalent Rayburn/oven temp, roughly 180 degrees. Sift all the dry ingredients together, then gradually stir in the mayo and water until you have a smooth batter. Pour into a lined cake pan and bake for 30-40 minutes, or fill 15-20 muffin cups and bake for 12-15 minutes.

PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD

Can you locate the twenty-three Department of Agriculture staff members?

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

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3 9		
7 9 3 4		
8 5 4 7		
1 8 2 5		
		6 7
6	5 8	4

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

TEA-TIME TEASERS

A mother is four times as old as her daughter. In 20 years she will be twice as old as her daughter. How old are mother and daughter now?

Say are there 12 marbles. One of these marbles is slightly heavier or lighter than the others. You have a two plate scale. You are allowed to weigh three times. Can you find the marble that differs in weight?

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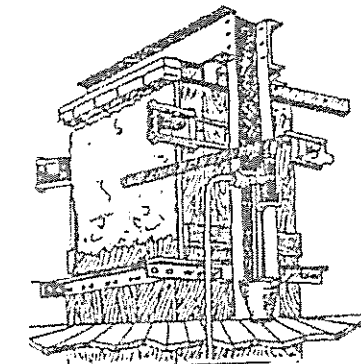
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EDITORIAL

This month's WOOL PRESS covers many topics for the farmer. Several of the articles have been written by non-DoA staff, which is excellent, demonstrating that not only some read the WOOL PRESS but also get involved enough to contribute. All contributions are always welcome.

Sheep contributions show why trials have to be done. Good theoretical ideas have to be tested and if successful implemented. If unsuccessful, recorded so farmers don't meow 'we did that before and it didn't work then. Why are you reinventing the wheel'.

Ear marks at lamb marking have been used for a long time in the Falkland Islands. There are a limited number of marks which are used on several different properties. The ear marks do not substitute for movement tags and maybe it is time to review the system of earmarking in the Falklands. Any suggestions may make a good starting point for an article in the next WOOL PRESS.

The Fitzroy Sheep Show was a great success. Maybe following on this show someone has some good ideas for FARMERS WEEK, which is the next big event in the farming calendar.

The article by Tex brings up some good points so I don't think anyone will ask him to go to the 'naughty corner'. Unfortunately, this slaughter season had no cases of hydatids turn up until the second last week of slaughter where suddenly 3 cases have been found. So still the fight goes on 15 years after it should have ended. This has at least given Zoe something to occupy her mind which is obviously starting to wander as she produced some 'cat facts'. I see the season is stretching. As the abattoir season draws to a close I congratulate everyone associated with the abattoir on another successful season.

Mr Vic Epstein
Senior Veterinary Officer

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WHY DO WE DO WETHER TRIALS?

By Peter Johnson

This is a fair question, so I thought I would pen some facts, as well as my thoughts about wether trials in general.

A wether trial is a comparison between bloodlines looking at the animals economic traits. It allows you to compare 'apples with apples'. You are comparing animals being run in the same environment with equal nutrition. It is by no means a perfect comparison, or the be-all and end-all of genetic evaluation, but it is a reliable, simple way to generate useful data about how one line of animals are performing relative to others within the trial.

We are currently undertaking the second major wether trial to be conducted in the Falkland Islands. The DoA ran a wether trial at Goose Green with animals from the 1995 drop of wethers. The current trial is using animals from the 2006 drop of animals, so hopefully we will see an improvement in fleece weights, fibre diameters and liveweight gains, as we have 11 years of breeding and selection under the bridge for everybody on the Falklands between the two trials.

(An interesting article I have been reading about a breeding ewe trial whereby simply selecting animals from within a flock, using objective measurement (fleece weighing and testing) gains of up to 17% in fleece weight or reductions of up to 2.14 microns have been made on the flock average over 8 years. When chasing fleece-weight and finer micron in unison, the resulting flock was cutting 12% more fleece and was 1.19 microns finer. If this is the goal for some farmers, imagine what can be done when new rams are introduced using objective measurement in tandem with sound experience and sheep classing to aid in selection?)

The current trial is also evaluating carcass value, another aspect for comparison at the completion of the trial. This is a new alternative for production in the Falklands, with many farmers selling 'old season' lamb to the abattoir.

The first trial had 9 teams broken into three breed categories of Polwarth, Corriedale and Cormos. The current trial has 11 teams including Polwarth, Corriedale, Bond, and various Dohne cross animals up to half bred. The reason that these breed types and not any others are being evaluated is because they were the breed types voluntarily put forward by farmers.

Wether trials throughout the world are run usually on an annual basis, with many ram breeders vying to enter teams of wethers to prove to their potential customers that the animals from their farm will out compete other animals based on economic returns. At the end of the trial, they then have that published, un-biased information to use as a marketing tool when promoting their animals. They are done on a regular basis to continually benchmark where they are up to and ensure that breeding and selection is leading to economic gain for their clients.

Wether trials are not 'new' science and I hope that there is enough interest to continue running them annually. The opportunity exists for anyone wishing to sell rams to other farmers in the Islands to enter a team of wethers from their bloodline and let the proof be in the pudding at the end of the trial about how they perform, and what gains they have made with their breeding and selection over the last decade or so, whether it has been with the introduction on new bloodlines, or using the more traditional breeds that have a longer history in the Islands.

If you have any suggestions or comments about ways to improve the format or running of the wether trial I would really like to hear from you, because I can not make amendments if I do not know what issues you wish to raise. If you think they should be run on another type of 'country', then perhaps you might consider hosting next years trial, giving you the first hand ability to witness what combination of genetics performs best in your particular circumstances, or proving beyond doubt that your current stock type is best suited for you and can make the economic returns.

MANY BRANCH SHEEP COAT TRIAL

By Peter Johnson

I have written a number of articles over the last few months about the sheep coat trial at Many Branch. We now have the wool results and have completed an economic analysis of the trial which is outlined below, within a report of the whole trial. If there are any questions, comments or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

Aim

To determine if it is economically viable to use sheep coats based on any positive change in –

- Ewe survival rates
- Lambing Percentages
- Fleece Weights
- Wool Values

Method

Approximately 400 mixed ages ewes at Many Branch were randomly drafted into two groups in April of 2006. One of these groups was fitted with 'wool-over' brand sheep coats, which had an initial cost of £3.17 each, while the other group was tagged as a representative control group. All of the experimental animals were weighed.

All animals were then placed back into the ewe mob of approximately 1200 ewes. The ewes were joined and lambled down as one mob. In December of 2006, lamb marking time, the ewes were weighed and whether they had had a lamb or not was determined by wetting and drying each ewe. Lambs from the trial ewes were also identified and weighed.

In February of 2007, the coats were removed and all animals again weighed. The animals were then shorn, and each animals fleece weight was also recorded. A single bale was pressed from the coated ewes and was core tested as a single lot for comparison to the remainder of the ewe flock 'A' wool.

Results

The results of the trial are shown in the table below –

	Coated Ewes	Non-Coated Control Ewes
Ewes starting trial April 06	196	194
Ewes Shorn February 07	151	157
Death Rate	23%	19%
Lambs Marked	110	98
Lambs Marked / Ewe Joined	56%	51%
Weight of Lambs Marked	15.4	14.7
Fleece Weight	2.64 kg	2.68 kg
Average Micron (Bale)	23.4 μ	24.0 μ
Average Yield (Bale)	74.2	72.9

Economic Analysis

The sheep coats were sourced from an Australian company at a cost of £3.19 for each coat landed in Stanley, including freight. This price is similar to the current price (2007) for the same coats, with any small variations due to changes in freight costs.

The coats took approximately 30 seconds to put onto each ewe and 20 seconds to take off. If we average that out with the time to pick up a new coat for the next sheep etc, then we will allocate 2 minutes to each sheep. At £6 an hour for labour, that is a cost of 20p per sheep. Taking the total cost to £3.39.

The manufactures of the coats claim that they are suitable for use for 2 to 3 years, and the coats at the end of the trial were certainly still in very good condition.

No time has been included for gathering to put them on or take them off, as this process was done at a time when the sheep had been gathered for another management function, so there is no additional cost.

A variety of wool price information was used to calculate the value of each of the fleece lines including 'wool cheque' a web based system for pricing wool types, and published information relating to Falkland Island wool, converted to a net Stanley rate.

The price for the coated wool was 309 pence per kg clean. The price for the non-coated traditional wool was 284 pence per kg clean. This equates to £8.16 and £7.61 for a coated and non-coated fleece respectively or a difference of £0.55.

It is difficult to put a price on the difference between number of lambs and lamb weights between the two groups. Based on this data, having coats on sheep produces 112.7kg more lamb per hundred ewes than sheep without coats at lamb marking. This could equate to an extra £0.40 a ewe based on abattoir lamb prices for wether progeny plus the extra benefits of ewe progeny who had a body weight 5% higher than their counterparts.

So the benefit of coating sheep in this trial equated to £0.95 per sheep. At a cost of £3.39 based over 3 years it is still a deficit of £0.18 per ewe for putting the coats on per year. In this instance, sheep coats were not an economically viable option.

Future Work

Many Branch traditionally has an extremely high yielding wool, and the 2007 clip highlights this with an average of 72.9. Future coating work will concentrate on areas where traditional yields are low due to sand and peat.

150 ewe hoggets have been recently coated on George Island in a similar style experiment to the Many Branch. Traditional yields have been in the 50's and 60's so there may be economic benefit from excluding the sand and peat, not only for wool price, but for transport costs of the wool bales as well.

Other future work may look at the survival benefits of coating pre-lamb shorn ewes for a short period until lamb marking, for protection during the critical period post shearing.

Changed your email address, fax or phone number??

Don't forget to let us know so we can continue to send you departmental news, including wool reports and trial/workshop information!!

BEAVER ISLAND - FARM DIVERSIFICATION

By Sally Poncet

Farm diversification comes in many shapes and sizes these days. Fortunately, we've moved on since the late 1980s, when in order to qualify for farm assistance from Government, sheep had to be the centre of your world 365 days of the year. If there's one thing the last 20 years of farming in the Falklands has shown it's the fact that there are other things besides grass and wool that keep Camp alive.

Cruise ship visits, squidding, imports, trucking, road building, winter jobs in town, summer farm stays, IT commerce, handcrafts, conservation projects, boat hire, inshore fishing, clothing design, knitwear, jam-making, whatever it takes to keep you on the land and inject more life into Camp, it's all good news.

Tourism was the first in the growing line of diversification avenues, starting nearly 40 years ago at New Island, Carcass and West Point. New Island has since expanded its activities into scientific research and conservation and the New Island Trust's research station is proof that 30 years of dedicated investment really does pay off. There are now over 12 scientists and staff working on the island each summer, with research grants coming in annually from various universities and funding bodies.

Beaver Island Farm, 5 miles to the south on the other side of Grey Channel, is about to embark in a similar line of business thanks to a research grant from the FCO's Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). The farm was awarded two years of OTEP funding to clear rats and Patagonian foxes from eight tussac islands in the Beaver Island Group. The islands include Tea, Little Coffin, Skull Bay, Channel Islands, Governor, Green and Stick-in-the-Mud, and range in size from 4 to 300 hectares. The aim is to restore these islands to as near their original state as possible by removing introduced predators, namely rats and foxes. The project will also provide employment and training opportunities: the OTEP funds include provision for labour costs to employ local people under contract to lay the bait, with training given on the job.

The Beaver Island Group Restoration Project as it's called, got underway last year when an application for starter funds was made to FIG's Environmental Committee. Funds from FIG's Environmental Studies Budget enabled Derek Brown, a New Zealand restoration specialist working with South Georgia Habitat Restoration Officer Darren Christie, to visit Beaver in early April. Derek joined Jerome and Leiv Poncet, FIG Environmental Officer Helen Otley and myself on SV *Golden Fleece* for a two day tour of the tussac islands. A couple of months earlier, I'd been able to survey the island's wildlife pre-eradication, working from SV *Damien II* with Dion Poncet and visiting Canadian scientist Carmen Lishman, and from SV *Porvenir* with Ken Passfield and Leiv.

Eradication is a costly and time-consuming business. We worked out that the project would cost, at a bare minimum, about £63,000. We will receive £36,000 from OTEP and the remaining funds will be 'in-kind' contributions. Falklands Conservation has provided the rat bait and the Antarctic Research Trust is funding the pre- and post-baiting surveys. Private donations have been received to cover shipping expenses (MV *Tamar* delivered 4.8 tons of rat bait to Beaver in February) and local business Synergy Information Systems is offering media and IT resources. Funds will be administered by Beaver Island Farm, and Leiv will be managing the restoration fieldwork, with advice from Derek Brown as required.

Success requires meticulous planning and 100% commitment from coordinators and fieldworkers. Close collaboration with Derek, FIG's Environmental Officer Helen Otley, Klemens Putz of the ART, the RSPB's Invasive Species regional officer Brian Summers and staff at Falklands Conservation, will ensure that this substantial overseas investment in Falklands' wildlife and the local economy is well looked after.

We plan on starting the baiting in late July/August, when rat numbers are at their lowest and food scarce. Channel Islands, Green, Little Coffin and Skull Bay Islands will be done this winter, Tea and Governor Islands in 2008. A team of 4 contractors (with room for volunteers should anyone be interested) will be based on Beaver Island for approximately 12 days, and accessing the islands by boat each day. This is an ideal opportunity for any farmers interested in seeing the far West, and learning how to go about clearing islands of introduced species. With more winter work guaranteed next year, and quantities of first class reindeer steaks from the Beaver Island reindeer herd to fuel the team, this is an opportunity not to be missed!

As well as rats, the project will be looking at fox eradication, first from Tea Island (300 ha), and eventually from Beaver itself (3800 ha). Patagonian foxes were introduced to these islands and also Weddell, Staats, Split and River Islands, in the 1930s from Patagonia. In 1997-99, an attempt was made to clear foxes from Beaver and a section of Weddell Island using 1080 poison. The attempt failed because unlike rats, foxes cannot be eradicated by poison alone. Appropriate follow-up methods involving trapping, shooting and use

of tracker dogs, have to be put in place. By dealing with the Tea Island foxes first and trialling the use of tracker dogs in particular, the plan is to develop an effective method for clearing Beaver Island. Ultimately, the lessons learnt may benefit Weddell Island where the owners will be following our small scale efforts on Tea Island as they decide how to tackle their fox problem.

We will be dealing with the Tea Island foxes next winter 2008. Training of tracker dogs is an important part of the project. Two dogs are required, between 12 to 18 months age, obedience trained, and with a near-uncontrollable passion for cats. If anyone out there has two such young dogs and is interested in a contract for training them to the standard of obedience required – or if you'd like to find out more about those reindeer steaks - please give Leiv a call on 42316.

HYDATIDS & TRACEABILITY

By M Alazia, Port Edgar

The March edition of the Wool Press carried two articles on dog pilling & hydatid by the senior veterinary officer & Joe Hollins. The first by Vic seemed to me that although he may have good intentions just basically seems a repeat of his previous articles pointing the finger at the dog owner. His last sentence in bold capitals states "We can't go on pilling for ever!" Well why not, even if we were 99.9% certain that the disease was eradicated.

The second article by Joe was a complete contrast and brought up issues about possible spread by turkey's, insects etc and a complete lifecycle that I and am sure others knew nothing about. For instance Joe says cysts can contain up to 4 million tapeworm heads all scattered about by turkey vultures at a carcass site. Had we known this we could have called our dogs to heel when out gathering & they were rolling in such sites.

I'm sorry if I am being unfairly critical as it's not in my nature, but I think department heads have a desire to leave their mark on a certain issue during their contracts. I remember a succession of Wool Press articles by a previous SVO about animal welfare in the islands & about how far behind the UK we supposedly were. Shortly after I was shearing for the first time in the UK and of the thirty odd farms I was at every one including an agricultural collage had sheep with untreated maggots, some close to death. I also saw other practises that in my mind fell well below the FI animal welfare.

Anyway cards on the table. There were 5 confirmed hydatids found out of the 2006 kill of 33,500 at the abattoir. We were pretty stunned when we were told that one was from our sheep, as we like to think that we are as diligent as possible. We were free from hydatids when Diana checked offal during a large cull kill in about 1997, and were free in 2005 from the sheep sent to the abattoir. As we were this year from the 168 sent this season which were 6 year old wethers all bred at Port Edgar and did not include any bought in stock as in previous years. The hydatid test on our dogs was also negative.

The first thing we asked last year was which sheep the hydatid was from. You know the answer! Not a clue. Well I'll give you the numbers & their origin; 236 left here by Tamar on 6th March 06, the first being killed on 15th March the last being killed on 13th April. 92 were 6 year old wethers bred at Port Edgar the remainder 6 years + came from 4 different farms on west Falkland & one farm on East Falkland plus one animal from Beaver plus 15 that had never set foot on Port Edgar land.

Therefore I think traceability needs sorting out once & for all and should be simple to do. Also to repeatedly say there was X amount of confirmed hydatids all unconnected so therefore it is a case of non compliance is not helping anything. We sent in a suspect liver last winter from an old double fleecer among 12 others that I killed that came in from land & sheep that we had just purchased, they were all riddled with boils which I thought strange (but they were old) The liver sample turned out to be negative, I think, as although I have asked twice for the result we have not been told. Shona asked us if we had been officially told, but to her knowledge she thought it was negative. Well I'll put it down to people being busy but reporting is a two way thing, as I am busy when shearing filling the shed etc etc then pilling & feeding dogs & remembering to ring or email the ag dept to say I have done so. As for hydatids at the abattoir I dearly hope there are never any more from anywhere. But if there is one from here & you can say it definitely originated & lived on this farm all it's life, & was caused by non compliance of pilling & offal control etc then I'll go & stand in the naughty corner.

Note: The figure 4 million for a single hydatid cyst applies to the largest and most mature. The information comes from the Department of Primary Industries fact sheet, Australia. The duration of hydatid eradication campaigns comes from the WHO/OIE (World Animal Health) manual on hydatid. They are: New Zealand 1959-2002, and Tasmania 1960-1996. Both countries are declared 'free' but both still have occasional hydatids in the abattoir (Tasmania at 3 per million sheep, NZ at 0.35 per million sheep – WHO/OIE) Joe Hollins

FALKLAND ISLANDS EAR MARKS

By Nyree Heathman

The Falkland Islands has a number of different sheep ear marks (station marks) used for animal farm identification. As you will all be aware several of these marks are used on more than one property. By ensuring a border of a minimum of 2 farms between any two properties with the same ear mark, in theory sheep mix ups should be minimised.

The extremely colourful map included with this article shows the ear mark distribution that is currently registered with the DOA in the Falklands. The schematic shows all of the different marks that are currently being used. As you can see there is quite a variety, however, due to some of the ear marks being relatively similar to each other, it is possible for some confusion to arise. It is thought that the following combinations in particular could possibly be confused;

- End Half Penny & End Square
- Fore Fork & Fore Half Penny
- End Fork & End Split

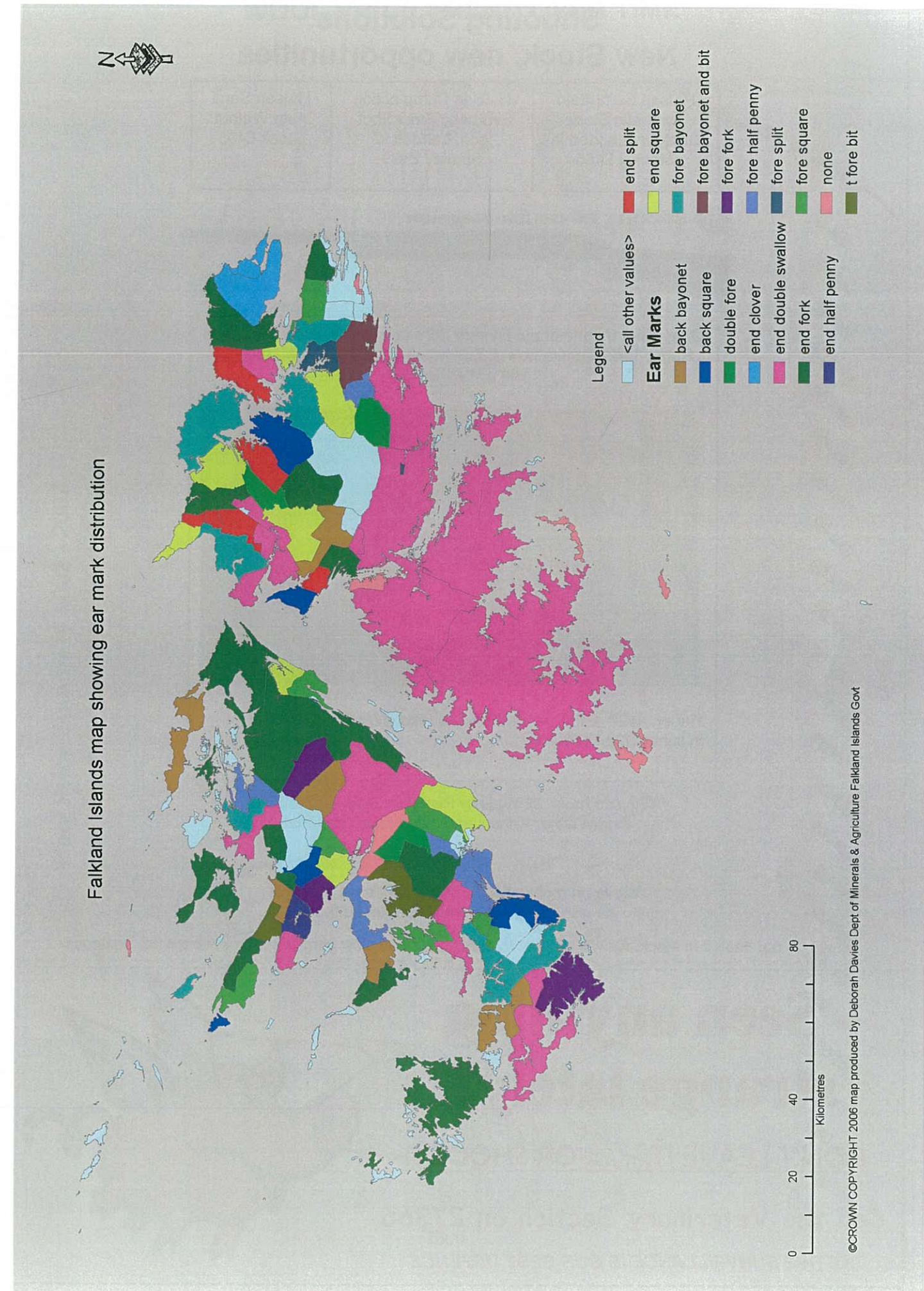
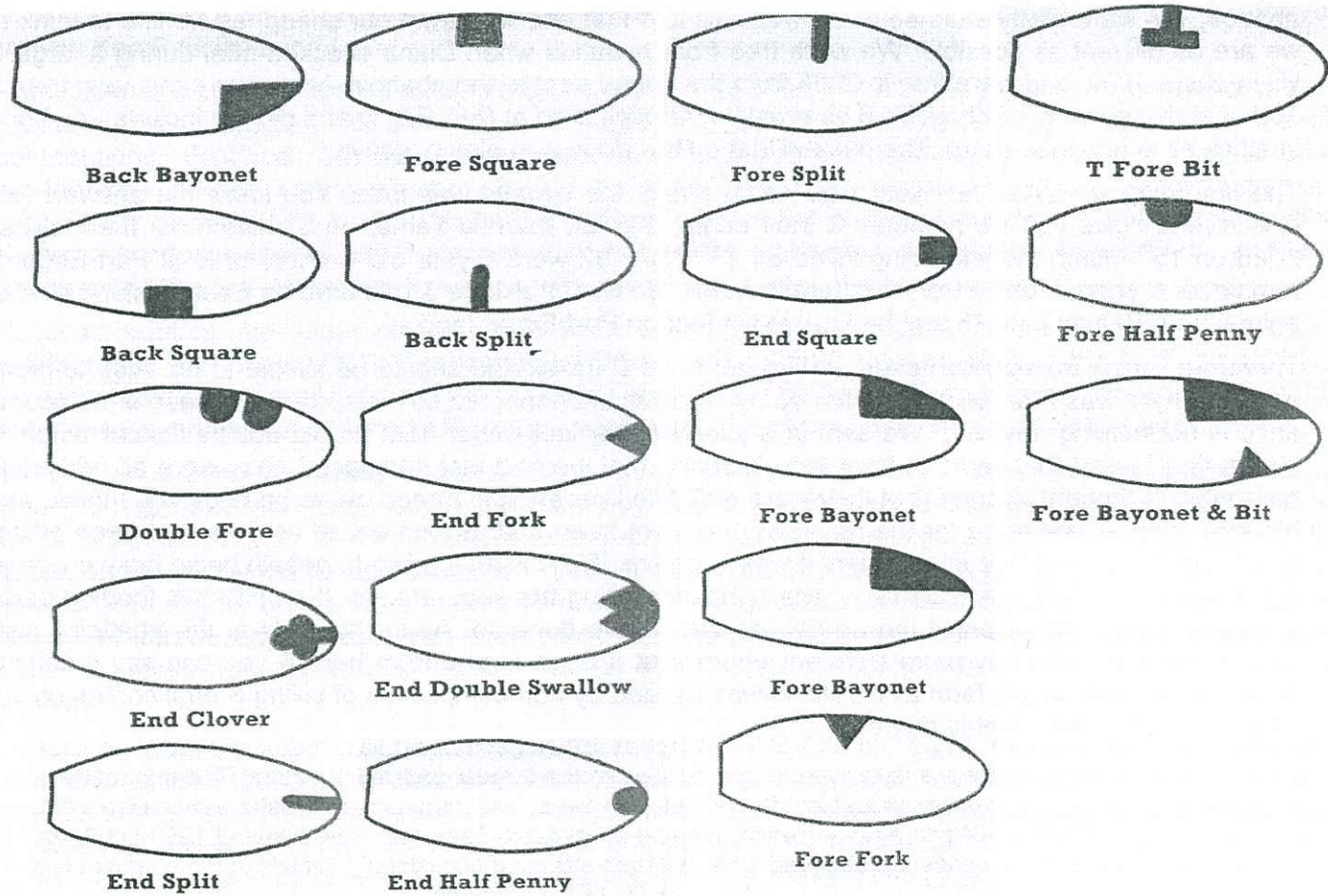
If there are any other combinations that you feel may be confused please let us know. We welcome your thoughts!

Similarly, there are a couple instances around the Islands where the '2 farm boarder' rule has been eroded through farm ownership/management change and, in some cases, through camp ownership/management change. In these situations it is possible that stock may enter a property from one farm, and be returned to another farmer believed to be theirs. Although the chances of this happening are fairly remote, it is still a possibility.

We are keen to hear your thoughts on this issue. If you think that there is currently a problem, please let us know. In addition, we would welcome hearing your ideas on how potential problems can be reduced in the future. Some possibilities could include having some farms change their earmark or potentially having a wider variety of marks?

Anyone wishing to comment can contact Nyree Heathman or Neil Judd at the Department by phoning 27355.

Ear Marks in the Falkland Islands

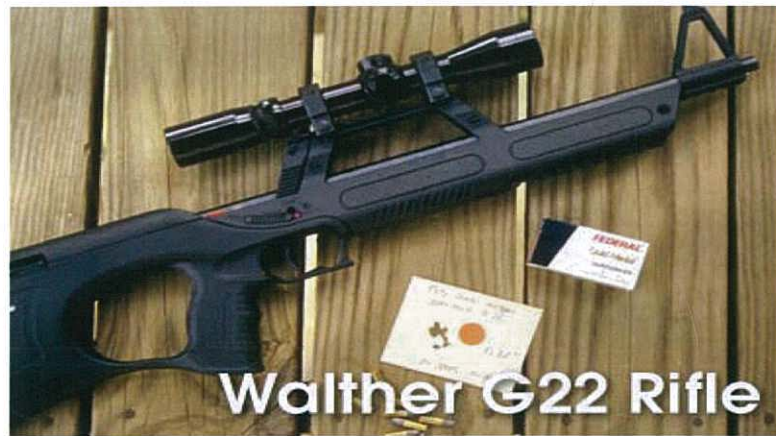


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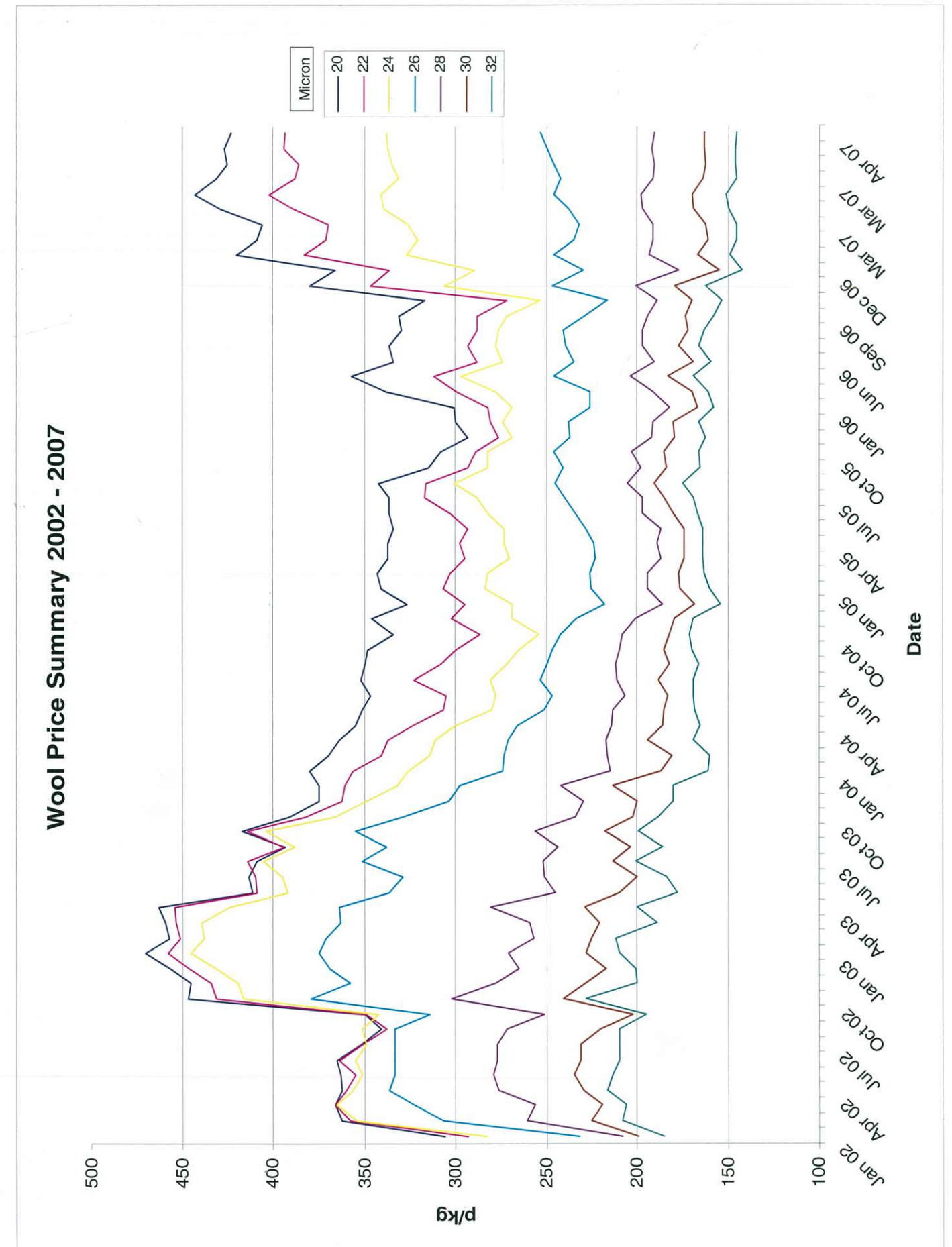
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ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME



FITZROY SHEEP SHOW

The 10th Annual Rural Business Association Sheep Show took place at Fitzroy on Saturday 14th April attracting 150 people. Sarah Clement, one of the organisers of the event, said the show this year was excellent and the best year yet.

There was the top number of entries so far from a varied amount of farms. All the sheep entered this year were of particularly high quality, which proved difficult for the judges and there were some very close results.

There were stalls set up selling handmade crafts, the spinners and weavers in action and Bernice Hewitt was on hand with face painting for the children. Michele Evans also kept everyone fed during the day and Dennis Whitney ran a bar in the shed. The bouncy castle was also put into action, which helped create a great family day out, with activities to keep the kids entertained.

Sarah would like to say a big thank you to all their sponsors, Fitzroy for letting the RBA host the Show there and to Ron Binnie for all his help with the organising and setting up.

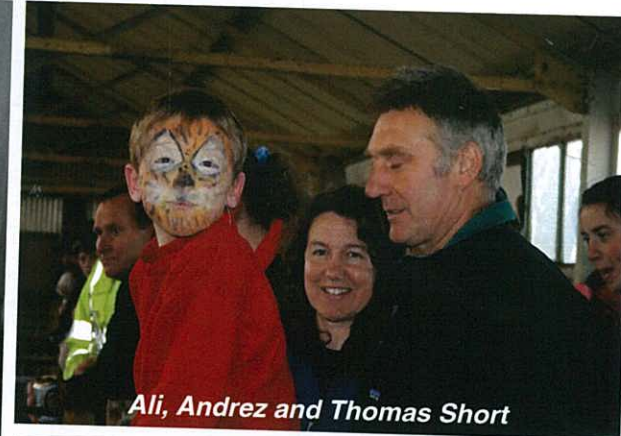
Some of the action from the day



Darby Newman



Kate Williams



Ali, Andrez and Thomas Short



Tyrone Whitney & Miss Harriet Hall



Phillip Miller & Miss Harriet Hall



The crowd gathered at Fitzroy Shearing Shed

Sheep Show Results

Class 1 – Mature ram over 24 months of age

- 1st Cape Dolphin
- 2nd Swan Inlet
- 3rd Elephant Beach

Class 2 – Shearling ram over 12 and less than 24 months of age

- 1st Cape Dolphin
- 2nd Swan Inlet
- 3rd Moss Side

Class 3 – Ram Hogget less than 12 months of age

- 1st Home Farm
- 2nd Wreck Point
- 3rd Cape Dolphin

Class 4 – Mature ewe over 24 months of age

- 1st, 2nd, Mt Kent
- 3rd Swan Inlet

Class 5 – Shearling ewe over 12 months and under 24 months of age

- 1st Swan Inlet
- 2nd Mt Kent
- 3rd North Arm

Class 6 – Ewe hogget under 12 months of age

- 1st Home Farm
- 2nd Moss Side
- 3rd Blue Beach

Class 7 – Pen of three flock hoggets (male or female) under 12 months of age

- 1st Elephant Beach
- 2nd North Arm
- 3rd Cape Dolphin

Class 8 – Pen of three flock shearlings (male or female) over 12 and under 24 months of age

- 1st North Arm
- 2nd North Arm
- 3rd Mt Kent

Class 9 – Ram of any age suitable for producing prime lambs

- 1st Cape Dolphin
- 2nd Blue Beach
- 3rd Rincon

Class 10 – Ewe of any ewe suitable for producing prime lambs

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Fitzroy

Class 11 – Pen of three prime weaner lambs

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Fitzroy

Class 12 – Under 16's open entry

- 1st Darby Newman
- 2nd Demie-Rose Greenough
- 3rd Ryan Poole

Most points in classes 1 to 8

- Cape Dolphin

Campion Ram
Cape Dolphin

Champion Ewe
Home Farm

Guess the weight of the fleece
Sheena Miller

Guess the micron of the fleece
Iris Dickson

Many thanks to SeAled PR the information and photographs

For Sale

Icon 299E 2-metre set, 25 watts on max. Can be used as either a house/vehicle base set. **£50.**

Palm Computer (personal organiser, music, photographs) bought from Curries in March for £184.99. Will sell for **£160.**

Contact: Maud McKenzie on 21505

CAT FACTS - SOME LIGHT READING TO FILL A PAGE!

By Zoë Luxton

Many farms/households have a few moggys around because they keep the rat and mouse population down and require limited expenditure on food and maintenance. Some people have cats around because they enjoy the company of a feline, enjoy watching general cat behaviour and let's face it, not much beats a warm furry body on your knee on a rough night. Cat love is earned; you can't just expect it as you would from a dog! I personally find cat behaviour and interaction fascinating, if you don't share my interest you are under no obligation to read on!

Cats survive in many types of organisations, from solitary wanderers to multi-cat colonies. Behaviour problems tend to arise when house-cats are forced into multi-cat situations that they would not normally chose to be in. When cats live in a colony, it has been shown that they pick and chose their preferred associates – like people choosing friends. Preferred associates groom, rub, touch and nose-touch more than with other members of the colony.

Grooming and rubbing occurs between housecats and wild colony cats that are preferred associates. It is a behaviour that shows affiliation between individuals. Touching, for example lying together is basically a passive form of showing affiliation. Cats have been observed to lie together when the temperature was 35°C, so clearly they weren't snuggling up for body heat! My own Gingers are not too fussed with each other and only on the very very coldest of nights will they even consider sitting on the same armchair – with at least 6 inches between them.

Nose-touching is greeting behaviour that allows exchange of information and identification of group members. Because of the high rate of sniffing, rubbing and grooming between cats it is likely that every colony has a specific odour. This is supported by the fact that cats returning from hunting are rubbed all over by the other cats and it can also be seen that pet cats rub all around their owners legs when they return. They are rubbing their gland secretions on you so you once again smell like you belong to their colony!

Cats communicate with each other in a number of ways. Visual signalling is based on posture, tail and ear position. When you see a cat trotting towards you with his tail vertically in the air, it means he is approaching with friendly intentions, invariably he will then rub you and wrap his tail around your leg, another sign of friendly affiliation. A paw being waved in your face as you are trying to see the TV signals he would rather you were playing than ignoring him. If you continue to ignore him, yet he feels he is the dominant animal here, his ears rotate outwards and he will slowly move his head from side to side with that amazingly haughty look that cats seem to have perfected. Submission and fear signals are reasonably obvious to anyone familiar with animals, flattened ears, tail tucked under, hissing and ruffled fur in the case of fearful aggression.

Interestingly enough scratching on objects is not just Tiger sharpening his nails. If it is on the outskirts of a cats domain it is thought to be a signal that the area is already colonised. Often cats will scratch objects in the middle of their territory, simply to say "I'm here, I'm also big and tough – look at the mess I have made of this post/log/sofa". Furniture damage is often an issue with indoor cats; mine demolished an entire three piece suite once, having studiously ignored the 2 pristine scratch posts purchased for them. Individual cat preference has to be recognised in such cases. Mine apparently find vertical scratching unpleasant and have hardly touched a sofa since I purchased a horizontal scratch pad with a springy rubber mousy on the end. I'm not going to start on urine spraying etc as it probably needs a page of its own, and there is only so much drivel about cats that some people want to read – if you are having cat pee problems however you are very welcome to ring for some advice!

My final snippet of information that I think is particularly clever is the nature of mating. Males mate

with several females and females mate with several males. It is highly likely that queens given the opportunity have kittens sired by several males all within the one litter. This is not just because fertile queens are women of ill repute. It is known that males are protective of their kittens. By mating with several males the queen may generate a situation in which several males will defend her kittens, or at least not attack them, thus ensuring the survival of her litter. When a queen then gives birth, certainly in a colony situation, other familiar queens will happily nurse and guard her litter and possibly even deliver foot to the nursing female, perhaps showing the softer side to these highly individual and unique animals.

The comedian Eddie Izzard superbly summed up the difference between cats and dogs. While recounting the tale of Pavlov and his dogs (chap rang a bell before feeding the dogs, eventually the dogs started salivating simply at the sound of the bell because they learned that the bell meant food) he wondered what might have happened if you tried the same experiment with cats? It went something like this;

Day 1: Rang bell, cat went to answer door

Day 2: Rang bell, cat said no thanks, had eaten earlier

Day 3; Rang bell, cat shushed bell with paw and said had headache

You get the picture.....

Livestock Ordinance Forms

We will shortly be sending out Livestock Ordinance Forms to all farms.

The deadline for return of all forms is 30th June 2007.

An email version is available on request.

Return of completed forms is a legal requirement.

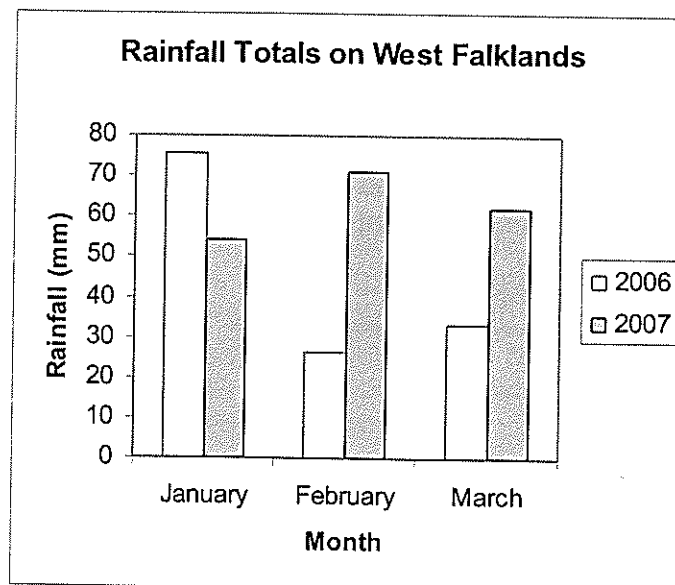
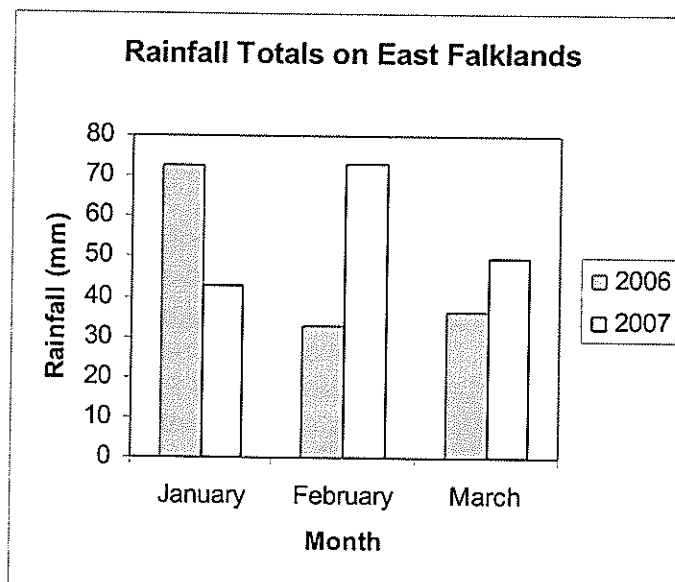
Failure to complete and return this form by 30 June 2007 can, under Livestock Ordinance, Section 20, result in a fine of £200 per day for each day overdue.

Please contact Siân on telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for more info.

RAINFALL UPDATE - 1st QUARTER 2007

By Siân Ferguson

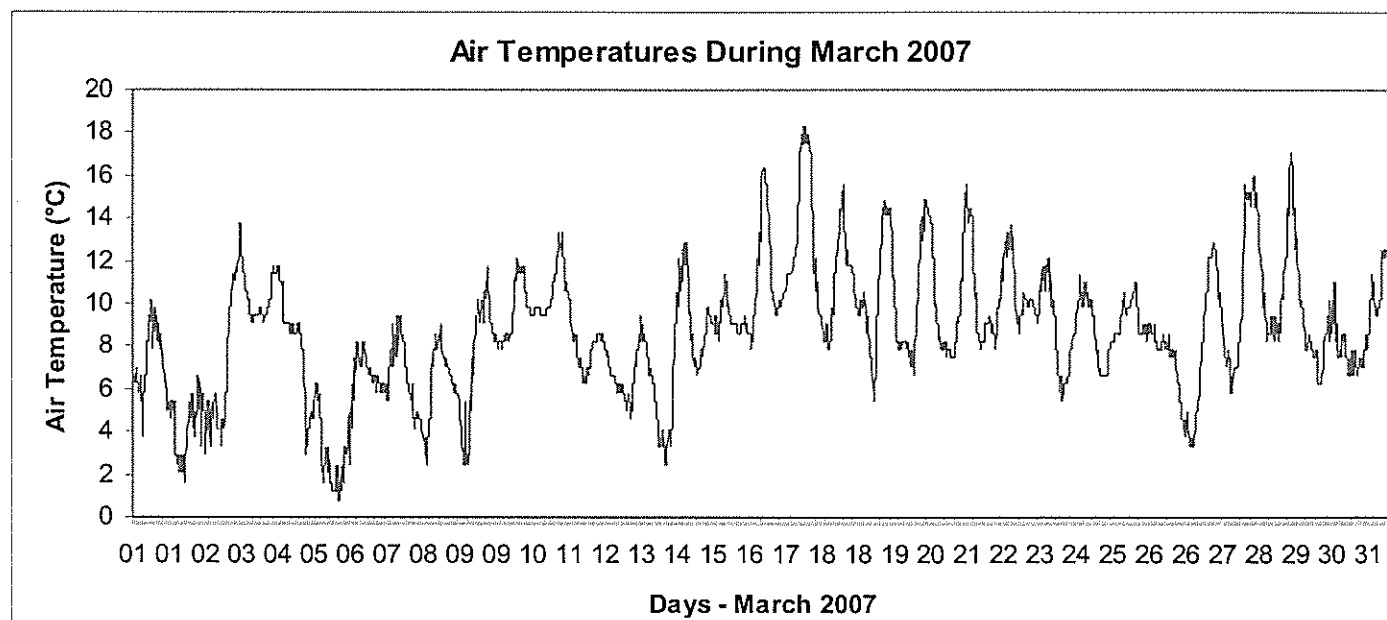
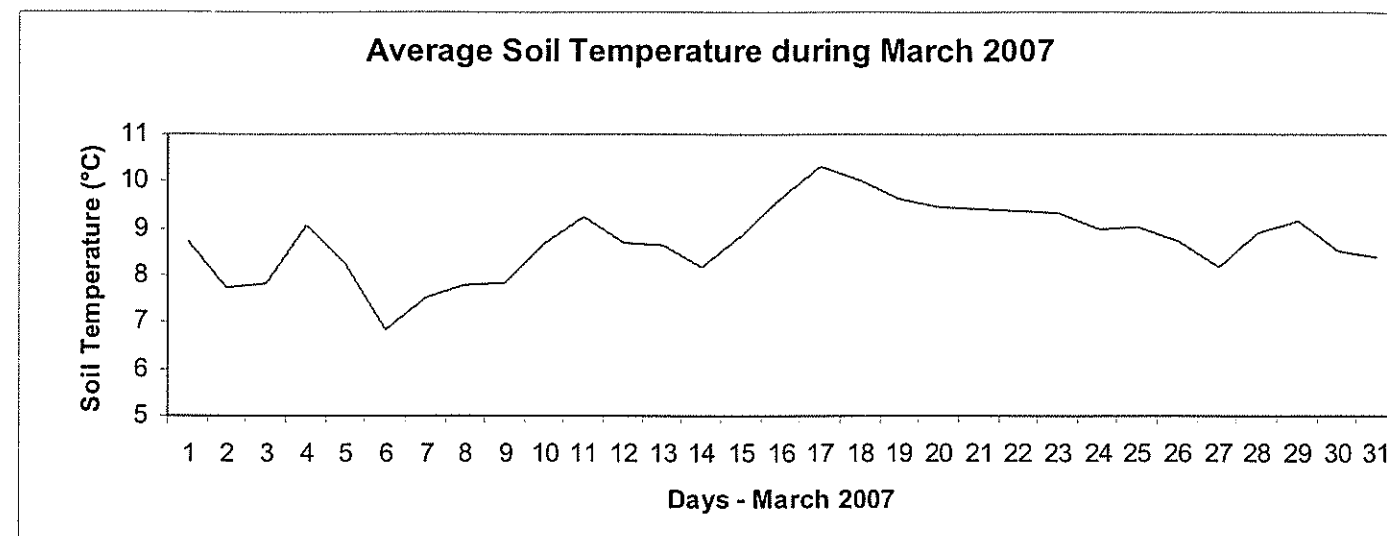
First of all I would like to apologise for the delay in getting the rainfall information out to everyone, the Wool Press was quite packed last month. Thanks as always to everyone for sending their rainfall data, we are very grateful and I will try to be more consistent with updating everyone with the totals! To make up for this though, I've made two charts which compare rainfall on East and West Falklands over the last couple of years. Please note that the averages are only derived from 2006 and 2007 data.



Location		2006									2007		
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Stanley	Rainfall	76	30	41	68	28.5	24	23	27	71	55	73	64.5
	Average	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74	57	59
MPA	Rainfall	61.9	47.4	72.8	58.8	43.5	44.5	34.1	39.9	68.1	55.2	75.5	68.7
	Average	54.1	49.5	58.1	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.6	57.9	63.1	47.9	56.8
Bleaker Island		43	26	66	42	43	40	23	25	55	69	95	69
Cape Dolphin		50.5	39	51	45.5	30.5	23.5	21	20	15	41	60	36
Darwin		20.5	25	48.5	34	39.5	20	21	37	59	38.5	98	31
Fern Ridge		57	58.5	63	45.5	-	30.5	13.5	20	57.5	68	55.5	60.5
Head of the Bay		68	18	62	58	47	32	33	31	51	45	95	62
Moss Side		57	46	58	54	42	32	27	28	20.5	55	56	42
Paragon		42	43	18	14	12	29	5	11	25	10	50.5	26
Pebble Island		60	45	43	42.5	37.5	31.5	16	36.5	22	34	71.5	52
Port Howard		71.5	82.5	80.5	71	75.5	58.8	31.5	50.5	85	69.5	104	72
Saladero		26	45	-	-	28	21	12	17	35	30	67	25
Shallow Harbour		51	47.5	48	53	-	30.5	9.5	22.5	41	65.3	55	57.5
South Harbour		30	40	45	53	44	25	10	13	50	42	45	68
Swan Inlet		49.5	43	72	54	-	27	28.5	37.5	59	35.5	76.5	67
Wineglass Station		66	62	63	61.5	47	28	42.5	41	85.5	39	79.5	70

Thank you to the MPA MET office, Robert & Elaine Short, Phillip & Sheena Miller, Peter Wakefield, Ted & Sheila Jones, Michael & Donna Minnell, Vernon & Gail Steen, John & Viv Hobman, Andrez Short and Bobby & Lindsay Short, Kevin Marsh, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, Ai & Marlane Marsh and Mike & Donna Evans for supplying the rainfall data. Please contact us for a rain gauge if you would like to record your monthly rainfall data.

Data from the DOA Weather Station in Stanley



This year has seen an increase in a variety of samples submitted to the Veterinary Service by farmers - suspect hydatids, growths, lesions, and lumps & bumps in general.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have taken the time to keep these samples, and made the effort to get them in to us here at the DoA.

It is very much appreciated, and greatly expands our understanding about what conditions exist in the islands.

Thank you all,

Sarah

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

As part of the Careers programme at the Falkland Islands Community School, students participated in a Take Your Child To Work Day. Careers teacher Louise Taylor hopes the experience will motivate them to consider a career relating to the place they visited and use the opportunity to find out more about the qualifications and training needed to pursue their aim. At worst students can at least pick up some transferable skills and eliminate a working idea for the future – but we are pleased to hear that the student reports about the Department of Agriculture came back very positive!! For their day at work, students need to find their own placements, hopefully accompanying a relative but some of the more enterprising students made arrangements with other places. The day at work is intended to give students an insight into work issues they may not have considered and with GCSE options coming up soon, it is hoped that their experiences at work will guide students with their choices.

Louise believes all work experience is good experience to show links between what happens in school and what you'll have to do at work. Clearly, not every last fact from the school curriculum is going to be useful in any job, but team-working, listening to people, showing respect for your colleagues, communicating politely, information technology skills and some aspects of specialist knowledge (to name a few things) should be seen to be worthwhile. At the DOA, we had Dylan Stevenson shadowing Agricultural Advisor Peter Johnson and Robyn Davies spent her time at the Veterinary Section with Veterinary Services Officer Sarah Bowles. Peter and Sarah wrote about the day's activities....

Sarah Bowles

Robyn joined me for the day on Wednesday 11th April in the Veterinary Office. Sadly the majority of our clinical work had been carried out on the previous day so there weren't too many animals to occupy our time with, however, she did assist me in the office with jobs such as filing, packaging goods to be sent to Camp and completing new EU fish health certificates. Although the animal side of things was relatively quiet, we did have some pets in and she observed consultations, blood sampling and treatments. I hope Robyn enjoyed her day and that it gave her an insight into work carried out by the Veterinary Service.

Peter Johnson

I had Dylan Stevenson join me and to start the day off we headed into the East Falkland camp to look at and discuss the range of trial work the DOA is currently undertaking. The long Rover ride was dominated by discussions about the merits of different sheep breeds, why science at school is important in an agricultural context, what makes plants grow, and the number of stomachs that sheep and cows have compared to pigs and humans. As a part of this trip around we stopped and looked at lambs being fed pellets in two locations as part of the DOA's new-season lamb trials. Dylan asked some well directed and thoughtful questions about what the Agriculture Department is up to and what qualifications you need to do the various jobs. I think he was also surprised to sit and watch the sheep and their behaviour with each other around the feed troughs. We also had a look at the progress of two different swede crops that form a part of the Grazing management trials. Related to this was the data that Dylan downloaded from one of our weather stations onto the laptop. After a busy day in camp taking it all in, the rest of the afternoon was spent in the office and shed. I would like to thank Dylan for coming along for the day and for his polite, pleasant nature and positive attitude for the day.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 6th June (Droncit)

Please call 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and confirm that your dogs have been dosed. Thank you.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

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

TEA TIME TEASERS

10 and 40

• First, weigh all 12 marbles, 6 on each side of the scale (weighing #1). Whichever side is heavier, take those 6 marbles and weigh 3 on each side (weighing #2). Again, whichever side is heavier, take those 3 marbles, placing 1 to the side, and weighing the other 2, one on each side of the scale (weighing #3). During this weighing, if one marble weighs heavier than the other, the answer is obvious, and so too, if they balance perfectly, then the marble you put to the side is the heavier marble!

Lazy Chicken

by Siân Ferguson

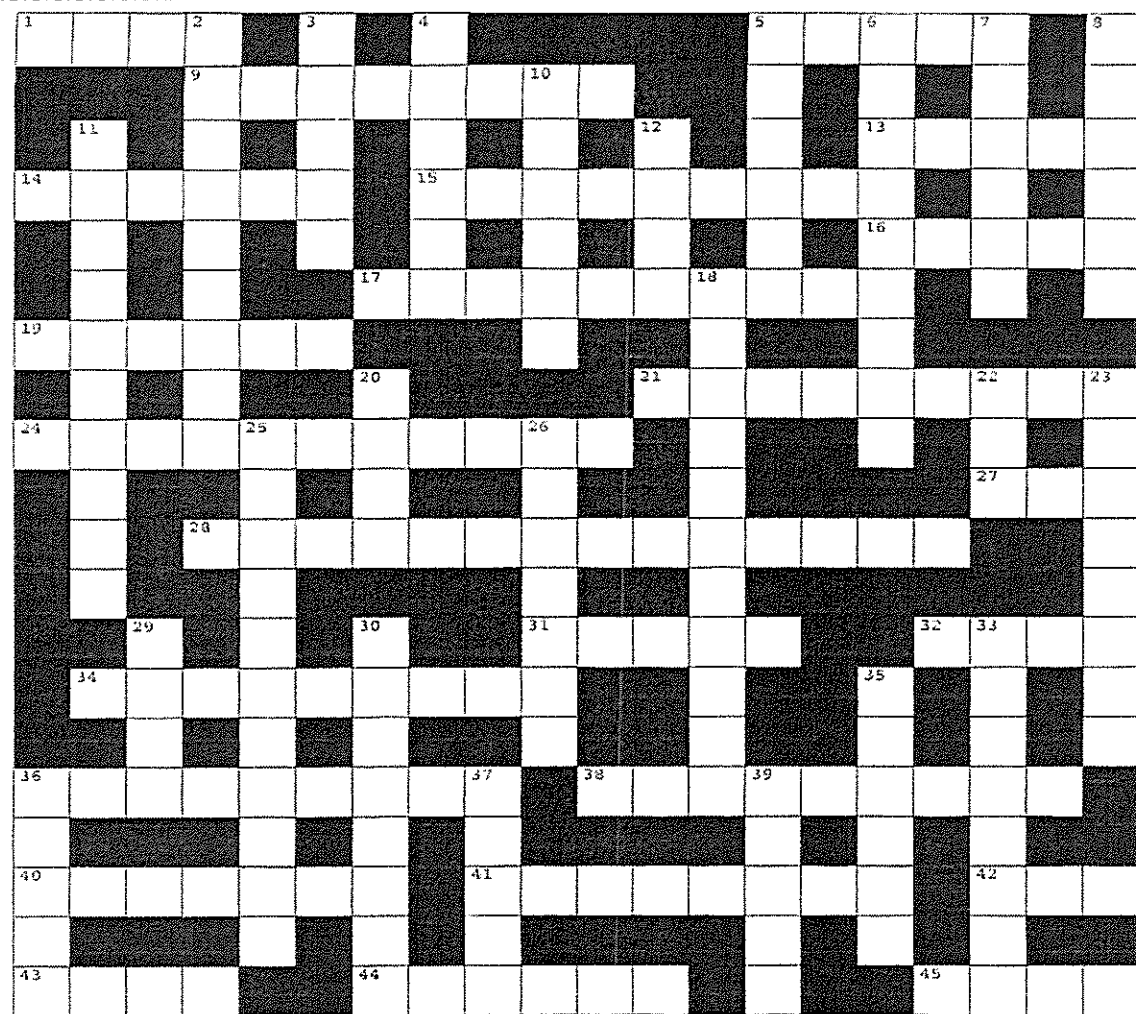
This is a great recipe if you are heading out and won't have that much (food) preparation time, or if you are just feeling a little lazy and want to curl up with a book while supper is cooking as I often do!! And the best thing that I like is you don't have to stick to the recipe, but experiment to your own taste.

Start boiling a pot of water. Defrost enough chicken to fill your casserole dish. Add one cup of rice to the pot for every 2 pieces of chicken and one extra. I often add a couple teaspoons of turmeric to give the rice colour. While the rice is boiling, fry the chicken with some generous amounts of rosemary until the skin has browned. Cut up half to one onion.

Put a layer of (cooked) rice on the bottom of the casserole dish and add the chicken, packing down with rice and the onion. Sprinkle some generous amounts of salt and herbs to your tasting on the top. Pour over the top some chicken stock until the liquid reaches the top of the dish. Put the lid on and cook in a moderate oven for about one and a half hours until the chicken is cooked, topping up with chicken stock half way through.

If you want to be more adventurous, try adding some sweetcorn, peppers mushrooms etc to the mixture. Enjoy!!

PUZZLE PAGE



Across

- 1. UK unemployment benefit
- 5. The best nationality!!
- 9. Room heating device
- 13. A person who does not eat any animal products
- 14. "Tom ...", actor
- 15. Local fishing company
- 16. Playground item
- 17. Sheep Breed (4,6)
- 19. Untangle
- 21. Lazy, dawdler *inform* (4,5)
- 24. Man-made connection between Gypsy Cove and the Bypass (5,6)
- 27. Plunge, immerse

- 28. Island chain on West (7,7)
- 31. Rugby manoeuvre
- 32. Dopey deputy in Dukes of Hazzard
- 34. Analogue communication device
- 36. To bring to ruin or destruction
- 38. Popular vehicle make
- 40. Separated, cut
- 41. Pilfer, misappropriate
- 42. Legendary being
- 43. Sign of impending sleep
- 44. Gizmo
- 45. Imperial measurement

Down

- 2. *See 6 down*
- 3. Large mammary gland on cows
- 4. Tropical grass with hollow stem
- 5. Long waterproof boots popular with anglers
- 6. Annual farm return forms *and 2 down* (9,9)
- 7. Scottish dish
- 8. Not malignant
- 10. Prophecy agent
- 11. Recycling units (5,5)
- 12. Reflection of sound
- 18. Designer (5,6)
- 20. Part of the eye
- 22. Assist
- 23. Artificially induced state of relaxation and concentration
- 25. Connects farms in the Falklands
- 26. Presumed
- 29. Shop selling various foods already cooked/ prepared *inform*
- 30. Trusty farm animal (5,3)
- 33. "Talk *33 down* to the *40 down*", saying
- 35. Last colour of the rainbow
- 36. Wimp
- 37. Work and press into uniform mixture
- 39. *See 33 down*

TEA TIME TEASERS

- A milkman has two empty jugs: a three gallon jug and a five gallon jug. How can he measure exactly one gallon without wasting any milk?
- There are three playing cards lying face up, side by side. A five is just to the right of a two. A five is just to the left of a two. A spade is just to the left of a club, and a spade is just to the right of a spade. What are the three cards?

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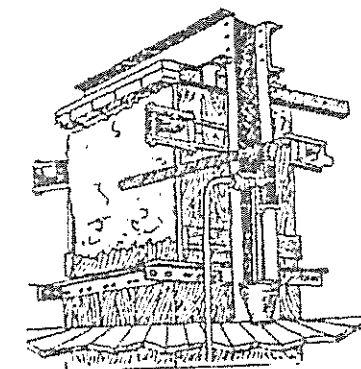
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Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to another packed edition of the DOA Wool Press. I am constantly impressed by the ability of Siân to coerce the staff of the department and the general community into producing enough high quality material to keep the Wool Press coming out every month. Well done Siân; a hard task done extremely well!

This edition of the Wool Press is not an exception; it contains a multitude of highly informative articles ranging from quite technical to 'just good fun'. Readers are urged to link the articles from Peter Johnson (Winter Protein Supplementation) and Joe Hollins (All Flesh is Grass) and to carefully consider them in the context of what goes on in their animals during July, August and September each year. Poor nutrition during this period is believed to have a profound impact on the profitability and productivity of farming in the country – results of Peter's trial work will be eagerly anticipated.

Thank you to Zoe for the summary of the 2007 Meat Export Season and her article explaining the definition of lamb, we look forward to many more contributions from Zoe over the years. Welcome to the department Zoe!

Thanks are also expressed to Helen Otley for taking the time to describe some of the research that BAS has going on with leopard seals and how we can all help.

This month Steve Pointing makes another contribution. Steve's views on the subject of animal welfare, traceability and general farming issues are always welcomed and as always poses food for thought.

As a final point I would like to make mention of the departure of Joe Hollins from the DOA. Joe has been a regular and dedicated contributor to the Wool Press and indeed to the DOA overall. Lets hope that we see you in the Falkland Islands again. Thank you!

Neil Judd
Senior Agricultural Advisor

Due to space restrictions, we are unable to publish the Wool Price Trend Over Time in colour, but you can find a black and white version on page 18. If you would like a colour copy, please contact us.

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WINTER PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTATION

By Peter Johnson

Animals require two main things in their diet, energy and protein. Sure, they also need other nutrients like calcium, and various micro-nutrients such as selenium and cobalt, whose deficiencies can affect animal performance, but without energy and protein, the animal can not survive and be productive. The other thing to remember is that animals that are ruminants, like sheep and cattle, have bacteria in the rumen that actually use what goes into their system, not the animals themselves. It is these bugs that then overflow and are digested later on down the digestive tract.

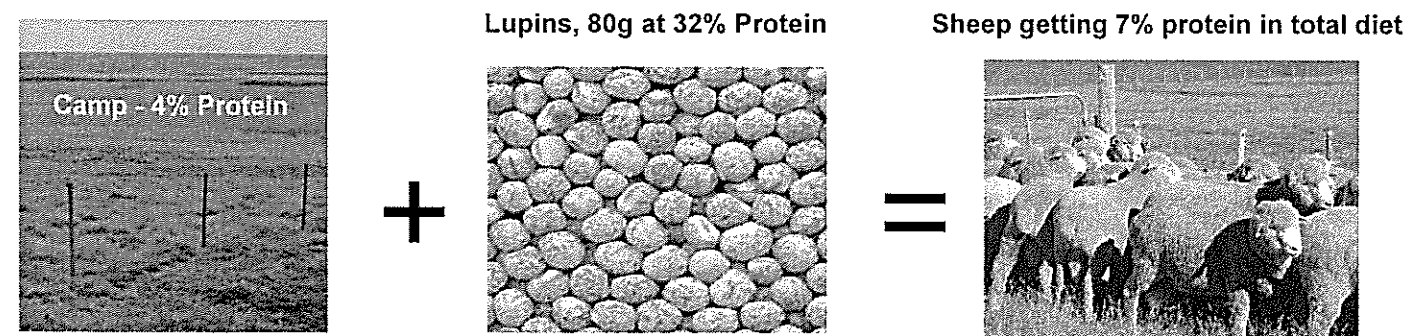
So what does this mean? Well it is the **bacteria** that you are feeding your precious grass to! We need to make sure that the bacteria are doing the most productive job they can based on what the animal selects from the camp to feed them.

During the beginning of winter, the bacteria aren't doing too badly. The animal is selecting enough green feed from the camp, all that fine grass hiding close down to the ground underneath the dead material we see from above. But, this doesn't last forever. Eventually the green grass, which contains the vast majority of the available protein in a camp, runs out. All that is left is the rank, dead material that has a high energy content, but a low to non-existent protein content. The animals eat the rank material, but it just sits in the rumen, not doing too much. This is because the rumen bacteria do not have the protein that they require in balance with the energy to effectively digest it all. That is where protein supplementation comes in.

If we can give the rumen bacteria a hit of protein every few days, they will function much more effectively, speed up the digestion process of the rank grass in the rumen, and increase the animals feed intake, as the whole process is going through the animal at a much faster rate. Research shows that the rumen bacteria can go for about 72 hours without a 'protein hit' before they lose their effectiveness. So if we as animal managers can provide that hit every 3 days, they will be much more productive.

How do we do this? One way is to use a high protein supplement! The DoA has recently acquired high protein, whole lupins for the purpose of trialling the supplementation during winter. Trials are planned where groups of ewes and hoggets will be feed a small quantity of lupins every three days, or longer depending on circumstances. At this stage, the cost is £2.10 per animal for 90 days worth of feed.

The sheep only require about 80g/head/day of the lupins (or 240g every 3 days) to have a significant effect on the overall diet protein levels. Lupins are about 32% protein, while dead, weathered native camp can be as low as 4% protein. Depending exactly where an animal is in its growth or reproduction cycle, it can require between 6% and 12% of its diet as protein, and this addition of lupins can raise the overall diet protein percentage to this productive level.



The DoA still has trial positions available for interested farms, to see if this form of supplementation works and is cost effective in your conditions. We are after mobs of approximately 500 ewes and/or 500 hoggets, as well as a control mob, to monitor differences in live weight, reproductive performance and wool quantity and quality. Feeding will start in early July with an introductory period and then move on to the lupins every 3 days for the following three months.

We are flexible with how we will be feeding the lupins out. I would certainly value anyone's ideas or suggestions as to how to feed large numbers of animals in the wet, cold conditions of the middle of a Falklands winter. These recommendations and what we learn from all of the different trial sites, learning what does and doesn't work, will be another important output for the trial.

A ROUND-UP OF THE 2007 MEAT EXPORT SEASON

By Zoë Luxton

We are pleased that this season seems to have run fairly smoothly. The following spiel is summary of the most pertinent happenings this season.

The new Animal Movement Certificates were introduced and despite being a little 'user unfriendly' one has arrived with every load of sheep. Few have been perfectly filled out but all have had the important treatment box ticked or filled in for which I am very grateful.

Without wishing to sound like a broken record, it is dull, but true that ADDRESSES NEED TO BE IN FULL e.g.: Sheep Farm, West Falklands, Falkland Islands FIQQ 1ZZ.

The other common problem is that the number of stock written on the AMC doesn't tally with what arrives at Sand Bay. With Lots coming from the West this is hardly surprising as there are several places where you could lose/gain a sheep or two. This is a fact of life but it is far from ideal. The shortage of indoor lairage space at the abattoir adds to the risk of gaining/losing numbers from Lots as sheep often have to be held in paddocks.

The AMC forms will be reviewed. No big changes will occur but there will be some re-wording to make them clearer to fill in and to read at this end. There may also be spaces for farmers/truckers/receivers stock tallies. The OVS/FIMCo will also make every effort to contact farmers and discuss discrepancies in stock numbers. These changes are all in an effort to tighten our traceability system.

Sheep identification requirements are due to be legislated i.e. the requirement for tags +/- or paint brands. The most ideal solution would be to have an initialled tag AND a matching paint brand on an animal. Thus if a tag was pulled out or a sheep was too dirty to see the brand and then had to be shorn to render it clean enough to kill, there is a second method of identification present. Obviously tagging AND branding takes more time and materials and you will not be legally obliged to do both. You will be legally obliged however, to ensure that any paint brands are clearly legible. Sheep with smudged, unreadable brands that cannot be identified will not be accepted for slaughter. Remember to fully document your identification method(s) on the AMC.

In total 34,276 sheep were processed through the slaughter hall this season. This is approximately 1000 more than last season, and with the export season being a week shorter. This shows that the workings of the abattoir are getting more efficient and until more space is available for storing animals/carcasses/boxed product, it will not be possible to increase the production rate much more.

The usual types of pathologies were found in carcasses. Boils (Caseous lymphadenitis), bladder cysts (C.tenuicollis), Sarcocysts, arthritis, tumours and 3 hydatid cysts. Several carcasses had to be condemned due to emaciation and some because they were so heavily bruised there was very little meat available on them that was fit for human consumption. Boils and hydatids are subjects for separate articles but I would like to draw your attention to the high incidence of trauma that has been noted on carcasses this season (bruising and broken ribs).

Sheep/carcasses will sustain trauma from the following procedures;

1. Gathering and drafting on farm and loading onto the lorry
2. Transport on lorries and ships
3. Unloading, drafting and movement into lairage pens at the abattoir

4. During stunning if the electric stunners are set too high Point 4 is a situation that is checked daily (and immediately rectified on the rare occasion the settings have been altered).

Points 1, 2 and 3 are obvious, yet valid. Any handling of sheep stock will cause bruising to some extent unless the work is tediously slow and done on a thick bed of straw! Drafting sheep to select them for slaughter, penning to tag or brand the selected ones and then loading them onto a lorry all involves fairly intense handling. One of the commonest bruises we see is down the back of a sheep – speckled bruises that are simply due to wool-pull.

Bumping about in the back of a lorry, bouncing off each other and the sides is another sure way to cause some bruising.

Unloading, drafting and movement at the abattoir carries the same risks as handling on the farm. This is not an accusatory paragraph. It is simply to serve as a reminder that severe bruising, as well as being a welfare issue, reduces the value of a carcass. So stop and think. Take an extra 10 minutes to load the shed or lorry, let the animals slowly investigate where they are expected to go rather than hurrying them through gates and wondering if you can just squeeze that extra sheep in the pen. Let the infuriatingly flighty one rush past you back into the pen, rather than rugby tackling it and turving it over the fence with your boot in its bum. Consider lining your stock trailer with some straw if you are expecting a rough journey. Remember that a bang on a fence that is going to bruise you, will bruise your sheep in the same way – and that bruise will have to be trimmed off your carcass reducing its weight and its value.

This advice is for farmers, truckers and abattoir staff alike.

I am now based in the Department of Agriculture and any question or comments are always welcome telephone 27366 or email zluxton@doa.gov.fk

Invasive Species Programme Objective Setting Workshop

A 1½ day workshop is being planned for Friday and Saturday morning 6/7th July to set the priorities and objectives for this EU funded project. The results will be fed back to Farmers during Farmers Week.

Several Officials and Farmers have already been invited to participate, however if there is anyone who would particularly like to take part please let Brian know on 22866 or email bsummers.sais@horizon.co.fk

Clare Miller the Programme Manager from the RSPB will be attending the workshop.

STIFF OLD BONES

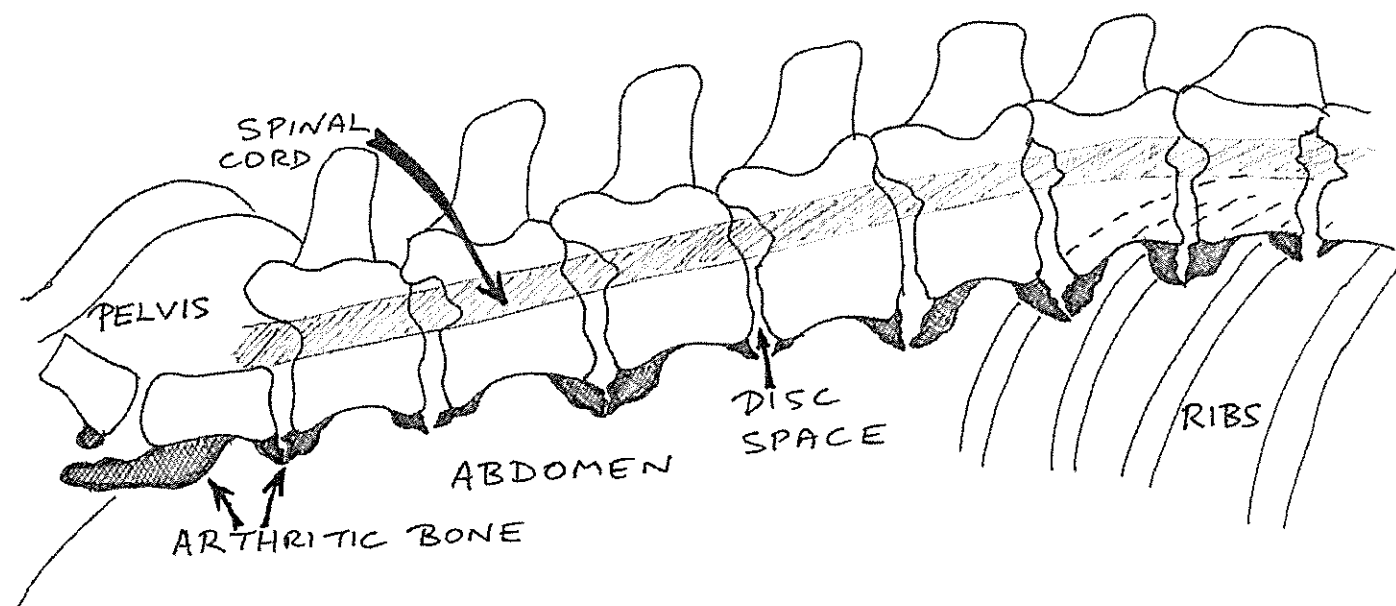
By Joe Hollins

Working Collies and their close relatives Kelpies have a great tendency to stiffen up with age. As vets, we tend to pull a few limbs around, tweak a few bones, and say that they've got a touch of arthritis. It's no lie, but the trouble with the term arthritis is it encompasses a huge array of different conditions: its simply means inflamed joints. If I spent a day digging post holes or running a marathon, I would almost certainly have a touch of arthritis myself, but it would hopefully go away. What we really mean is osteoarthritis, the long term or chronic inflammation of a joint with the accumulation of extra bone, which grates, stiffens, and occasionally - usually through over exuberance (daft racing, penning sheep) - becomes exacerbated. Any joint can be affected, especially if it has been injured at some point. But the working Collie/Kelpie specialises in one type: spinal osteoarthritis, known professionally (because we medical folk like obscure terminology!) as *spondylosis deformans*. Okay - let's just call it spinal arthritis.

Joints are finely designed affairs: moving interfaces between bones which are lined with slippery cartilage, wrapped around with an enclosing membrane, and filled with lubricating oil (synovial fluid). Unfortunately like all moving parts, they can wear, and the body's attempts to repair the damage results in the laying down of slightly less efficient materials which wear all the more - and so on. It's a self perpetuating process that begins to obstruct the range of the joint, pinch between the moving parts, and - because joints are well endowed with nerve endings - hurt.

Working sheepdogs are famed for their enthusiasm. They love to work. As youngsters especially they are more than content to grind themselves into the ground gathering sheep. It's what they live for. Inevitably, they wear out their joints - such is life. The commonest joints to be affected in these breeds are the joints between the vertebrae of the spinal column, especially the lower back. From here comes power and thrust, and the spaces between the vertebrae are constantly compressed and squeezed together.

Between each vertebra lies a disc. This consists of a fibrous ring with a jelly-like centre, a resilient shock absorber evolved to resist compression but allow spinal flexibility. It is probably progressive damage to the underside of these discs - the most compressed part inside the curvature of the spine - that starts the process of spinal arthritis. Bone begins to accumulate on either side of the disc, attached to the bodies of the two adjacent vertebrae, and over time this forms a bridge which just occasionally fuses and welds the 2 vertebrae together. This removes the source of pain, but unfortunately more usually a painful working gap persists between the two sides.



Generally this process occurs all the way along the lower (lumbar) back and occasionally higher through the thorax. One of the most painful areas is the very base of the spine, the lumbo-sacral joint, where the pelvis attaches. In the early stages dogs just tend to show stiffness after rest, especially after a day's work, but as it advances, the dog will become stiff throughout the day.

What can be done? Prevention is difficult; a working dog must work. The only factors that may have an influence is to make sure that the dog has a good balanced diet for healthy joints and bones, and is not obese. Obesity not only aggravates arthritis, but speeds it up. It's simple engineering: more weight, more wear.

Treatment is easier. It is worth remembering that dogs are stoic and keen to serve; it is up to us to recognise the signs. If obese, keep lean; simple dieting has a marvellous effect. In addition certain dietary additives help (the modern catch word is 'nutraceuticals!'). The easiest are omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, the essential fatty acids, also vital for good skin and coats. The cheapest source of omega-6 is sunflower and corn oil. Fish oils are high in omega-3. Small quantities are required (eg: ½ tsp once or twice a week) - don't overdo a good thing. Kidney beans and soya beans are rich in both! Also popular and believed to help is the over-the-counter combo of glucosamine with chondroitin. These are said to protect the cartilage, and are used extensively by medical professionals but don't come cheap.

Which leaves the non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, or NSAIDs. Aspirin is still a good drug, cheap, non-prescription and well tolerated by dogs. The dose is 10mg/kg up to twice daily (150mg for a 15kg collie). Use sensibly and strategically. NEVER be tempted to give a dog ibuprofen: remarkably - because dogs are very drug tolerant - it poisons them. For that special dog though we have some excellent, powerfully effective prescription NSAIDs here at the surgery. You might have to dip into the beer money, but feel free to enquire!

My contract comes to an end shortly and I leave for the UK. For all the cups of tea, cookies, roasts and warm welcomes, very many thanks. You're a tough, hard working, hospitable people farming in difficult conditions, and I wouldn't have missed this past year for all the world. Where else can you herd reindeer, flush embryos and grovel around in the working innards of fishing vessels?! But... next time a friend at home complains about the UK weather, I will simply laugh! Hasta luego. Joe

HYDATID CONTROL - My Visit to West Falkland

Thank you all for allowing me to visit your farms and for the numerous cups of coffee and tea. Kept me going while journeying the rough roads of the West (well parts of it anyway)!! An enjoyable week on my part and it is good to meet up with you all.

If anyone would like a laminated copy of any of the displays shown during my visit, please contact the Department of Agriculture. Please indicate which ones you would like and how many of each.

If there are any other queries with regard to the Hydatid Control Programme or you just want a chat please feel free to get in touch with me.

Kind regards

Shona

Email: sstrange@doa.gov.fk

Tel No: 27355

Fax No: 27352

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEFINITION OF LAMB

By Zoë Luxton

We have had some queries this year at the abattoir as to why some hoggets have been sold as mutton as opposed to the lamb carcasses they were intended for.

The Falkland Islands definition of 'lamb' is as follows: 'a sheep under 12 months of age or with no permanent teeth in ware up to 15th March of the killing season. All sheep processed after 15th March are considered to be mutton.'

This definition was agreed and documented by the DoA Veterinary Section in conjunction with FIMCo before the start of the 2006 export season.

It must be remembered that 'lamb' is defined for purely marketing purposes, it defines carcasses we can sell as 'lamb' as opposed to 'mutton'.

The age of sheep, however, must be taken into account with regards to how it can be processed through an abattoir. Specified Risk Material is the parts of a carcass that are considered able to spread disease, namely the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies such as BSE and Scrapie. SRM is material such as brain, spinal cord, spleen, and some parts of the small intestine. With regards to sheep; Scrapie is a disease that develops slowly therefore the brain and spinal cord that are considered dangerous in mature sheep are not considered as Risk Material in ovines under 12 months of age. Obviously not every young sheep arriving at an abattoir has a passport with its date of birth on it to prove its age so the EU define 'safe' neurological tissue as that which is from ovines that are under 12 months old or those that have NO PERMANENT INCISORS ERUPTED. Sheep cut their permanent incisors between 12-18 months of age so any animal with a permanent incisor cut through the gum could potentially be over 12 months of age.

Consumers require young carcasses that are marketed as 'lamb' to be cut in specific ways, ie they want loin cuts, this is ideal in sheep under 12 months or with no permanent incisors erupted as the carcasses can be split lengthways, the spinal cord left in or removed and be further processed with no worry of spreading Scrapie by contamination of meat with SRM. To process carcasses over 12 months or with a permanent incisor erupted, the carcass must be split, the spinal cord removed and the empty spinal canal double checked that there is no visible SRM remaining. All this has to take place separately from the main processing table and under very strict hygiene rules.

The DoA and FIMCo recognised that simply defining 'lamb' as a sheep under 12 months of age or with no permanent incisors erupted was not ideal for the Falklands farming system. Only being able to market these defined animals as lamb would mean that much fewer 'hogget' carcasses could be sold as lamb, several animals would have permanent incisors through the gum and would have to be sold as mutton thus attracting a much lower carcass value. The more lenient definition of 'lamb' was thus introduced and is based on similar systems as shown below:

Australia: 'lamb' an ovine carcass derived from a female, castrated male or entire male ovine animal, that: a) shows no evidence of eruption of permanent incisor teeth and b) in the case of males, shows no evidence of secondary sexual characteristics.

New Zealand: 'lamb' a sheep less than 12 months of age or which does not have any permanent incisors in ware.

Chile: 'lamb' a sheep under 16 months old based on lambing date or which does not have any permanent incisors in ware.

There HAS to be a cut off point. A point of view that has been raised is 'why can't we just use 15th March as a cut off date and not be concerned with permanent incisors in ware'. This is a good point. The reason being that old season lambs born early in Sept 2005 for example would be 18 months old by the time they were slaughtered as 'lamb' in March 2007, everyone agrees that the taste difference between a 16 month old sheep and an 18 month old sheep is not going

to be vastly different however the more and more mature lambs that are sold the more likely at some point there is going to be a complaint 'my lamb didn't taste like lamb'. A few complaints from consumers to 1 or 2 main buyers can have devastating effects. Having teeth erupted and in ware is a good indication of the general maturity of a sheep. Having a lamb definition system in place that is similar to huge lamb producing countries is good common sense and a reasonable defence against any complaints. Old season lambs with teeth in ware will be sold as mutton, lowering your profit. It is best practice to mouth the hoggets you are planning to send to the abattoir, any with permanent incisors erupted need to be on the lorry ASAP so you can still sell them as 'lamb'. This season we monitored some old season lambs at the DoA to try to determine how long it took from a tooth erupting to being 'in ware' – to give you an idea how soon you need to ship your more mature hoggets out. The results are displayed below.

Sheep 1

Day 1 – first incisor just erupting



Day 9 – first incisor growing



Day 21 – second incisor growing, first almost in ware.



Day 31 – first in ware, second almost so.

Sheep 2

Day 1 – no eruption



Day 9 – both erupted



Day 21 – in ware



Sheep 3

Day 0 – 1 already erupted



Day 9 – first one almost in ware



Day 21 – first well in ware, second growing



Day 31 – second almost in ware

The 3 lambs we kept here were confined in mobile yards that were moved on a daily basis so that fresh feed was always available to them. Their diet was supplemented with high protein finisher pellets at a rate of 1.5kg per animal, split into two daily feeds. The front teeth of these lambs were photographed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the time they were here. The trial extended from the 5th February 2007 to the 8th March 2007 during which time all 3 had lost their central deciduous incisors and the permanent teeth had erupted and come into ware.

ONCE THE BABY TEETH FALL OUT THE LAMBS SHOULD BE INTO THE ABATTOIR IN LESS THAN 3 WEEKS OR THEY WILL TURN INTO MUTTON

15 KG OF LAMB VALUE= £18.75

15 KG MUTTON VALUE= £0.00

THE SPOTS OF A LEOPARD SEAL

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

There is a saying that a leopard never changes its spots and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) seal scientists have recently shown that it's also true for the leopard seal. Leopard seals are solitary animals, which haul out in summer on Antarctic pack ice to breed and for the rest of the year travel about in search of prey. A proportion moves northwards, some even reaching the Falkland Islands during the winter months.

At Bird Island, BAS's long-term biological research station at the north-west tip of South Georgia, biologists have been trying to work how the leopard seals seen between April and October fit into the sub-Antarctic food web ecosystem. "We wanted to mark the leopard seals but getting a tag on a live animal without restraining it is difficult" explains Dr. Jaume Forcada. "But as all leopard seals have a unique pattern of colour spots and patterns, we can recognise them through photographs".

Jaume and his team have identified over 120 leopard seals and already the biologists overwintering at Bird Island are checking the beaches each day with cameras in hand. "We would love to expand our research and observation effort to the Falkland Island. Its only 1,390 kilometres from Bird Island and that's nothing for a leopard seal" says Jaume.

Leopard seals, like most wild animals, aren't very aggressive unless disturbed and good photos can be obtained from 20 metres away. Dr. Forcada requests good quality photos of the left and right sides of the head and body, throat and belly area, as well as any scars and wounds, if possible. Small plastic coloured hind flipper tags have a four number/letter combination. Details of your sighting and photos should be sent to jfor@bas.ac.uk or to Falklands Conservation who will pass on the record.



Photo - Donald Malone

Seen anything strange lately?!

DON'T LEAVE IT.....

OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

CHAMPION SHEEP DOG TRIALS RESULTS & PICTURES

Held at Goose Green on Saturday 12th May 2007
(Thanks to Ali Short & Glynis Newman for information & pictures)

Position	Handler	Dog	Total Points	
1	L. Morrison	Duel	112	2nd Port Howard
2	T. Hirtle	Twig	108.5	4th Port Howard
3	S. Dickson	Day	100	1st North Arm
4	T. Hirtle	Quill	97	1st Port Howard
5	O. Velasquez	Ronaldo	92.5	4th North Arm
6	S. Hirtle	Jody	84.5	3rd Port Howard
7	H. Grierson	Mick	76.5	3rd North Arm
8	G. Castro	Mac	62.5	2nd North Arm



1st place Les Morrison receives his prize from Tony McMullen



Tony Hirtle places 2nd & 4th with Twig and Quill



3rd place - Steven Dickson and Day

Livestock Ordinance Forms

The deadline for return of all forms is 30th June 2007

Failure to complete and return this form by 30 June 2007 can, under Livestock Ordinance, Section 20, result in a fine of £200 per day for each day overdue.

FULL FEEDING OF NEW-SEASON LAMBS – WHAT WE’VE LEARNT SO FAR

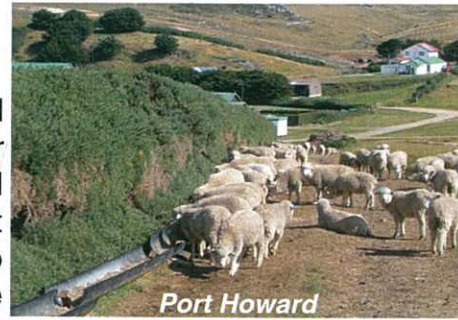
By Peter Johnson

This trial began in February with the identification and separation of two mobs of approximately 180 wether lambs at both Port Howard and Elephant Beach. The primary aim of the trial was to finish as many lambs as possible for the abattoir as new season lamb. In March, 46 lambs from Swan Inlet also started a feeding program. The second aim of the trial, but equally important, was to bring the processes, skills, management and supply lines of lot feeding to the Falkland Islands.

Method

Port Howard

Lambs entered the trial in mid February after being selected based on their bodyweight, with a minimum weight of 19kg set for lambs entering the trial. Lambs were initially locked into a small part of the airstrip for a few hours each morning until they got used to the feed. Some pet lambs were also added to the mob to help teach them to feed. Open troughs were used to place the feed in and were cleaned every day. A highly palatable starter ration was used to introduce the animals onto the feeding regime, and then the higher protein, higher energy ration was introduced.



Port Howard

Elephant Beach

Lambs entered the trial on the 1st of March, and were selected by visually assessing and tagging the biggest lambs at lamb marking in mid January. Lambs were placed in a small holding paddock of about 5 Ha. Two self feeders were used for the lambs and were filled every few days to supply a constant supply of feed.



Elephant Beach

Swan Inlet

Lambs entered the trial in mid-March. The animals were placed in a small paddock that had good, clean water access. They were initially fed using troughs checked and filled twice a day, but were then moved onto self-feeders.



Swan Inlet

Results

So far, the lambs from Port Howard (pictured left) and Elephant Beach have been slaughtered. The animals from Swan Inlet are expected to be killed in the next few weeks. A full economic analysis will be carried out after the last slaughter, which will compare animal growth rates, feed prices and look at individual animal performance. It will also include a price sensitivity table, and we are hoping to use the price schedule for next years abattoir season as the basis for these calculations.

Timing is also an issue that will be looked into further, with the flexibility offered by pellet feeding of being able to unload lambs into the export season rather than having to carry them through the winter an economic bonus in some people’s circumstances.

A few comments on what has been learnt at Port Howard

Citta Lee was one of many having involvement in the trial at Port



Carcasses at Sand Bay Abattoir

Howard, and he felt that establishing a routine for the animals was important; “we slipped up by not getting the lambs into a feeding routine immediately”. Intensively farmed animals thrive on routines and rituals and also need a constant feed source in front of them. “In future, it would also pay to get the lambs on the high protein feed much quicker as I felt that there was a marked improvement in the condition of the lambs and they just seemed to have a bit more vigour”.

This was probably due to the conservative advice given by the DoA to slowly introduce the higher energy feed, as we were very cautious of acidosis, or grain poisoning which can occur with any grain based ration. In retrospect, the lower than expected growth rates in all of the trials can probably be attributed to the below optimal energy level within the diet. The bottom line is in full feeding – the higher the energy level (grain content), the higher the growth rate, but the higher the risk.

Another comment from John Morrison at Port Howard related to water. The airstrip was chosen specifically as it had access to high quality water in the well, and I personally thought that it was more than adequate for supplying the lamb’s needs. John noted that when the lambs were let out from the holding paddock around the well, many of them ran to another water point near the old dairy (which is supplied by another water source) to drink. This is an interesting observation and highlights that intensively feed animals must have unrestricted access to high quality water to reach their maximum performance. Perhaps there is something in the well water that limited the animal’s water intake from that source?

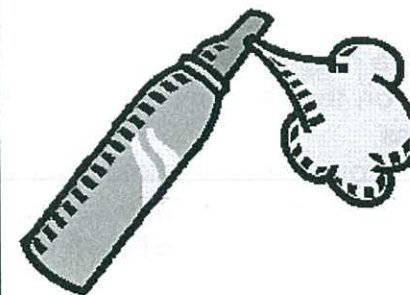
Look out for the follow up reports and results for this trial in future Wool Press articles.

Battle the Boils!

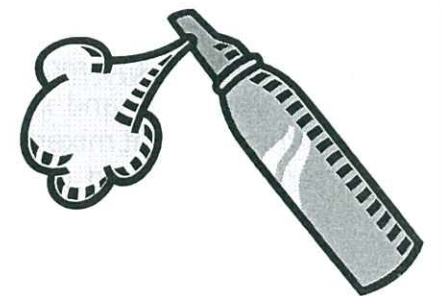
Battle’s White Disinfectant and Carbolic
for spraying pens, chutes and races.

Both in 5 litre containers

Will make up to 225 litres



Just £12.70



Available at Falkland Farmers now!

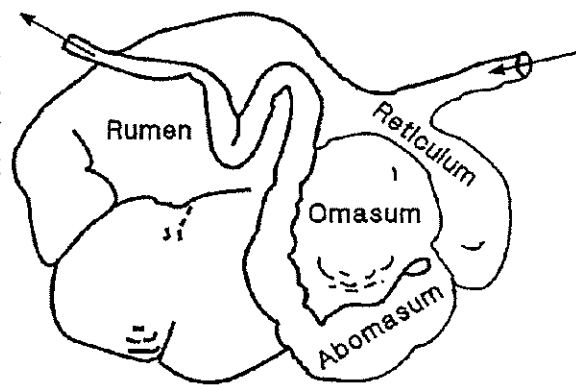
ALL FLESH IS GRASS

By Joe Hollins

One of the most famous questions set in the finals of a veterinary degree was a Biblical quote. It said, quite simply: 'All flesh is grass.' *Isaiah 40:6. Discuss.*

Of course those four quoted words aren't as simple as they look, and in a final exam you can be sure that the examiners wanted a detailed biological analysis of how it is that ruminants thrive where most other mammals would starve and die, and how they therefore provide the link in the chain for converting - as far as we are concerned - indigestible materials into calories. And into beef, mutton and lamb, wool and milk. It's a neat trick - and in truth, ruminants can't digest grass at all. It's done for them. This is the story of the four stomachs.

Most people know that the ruminant has four stomachs: the reticulum, rumen, omasum and abomasum. In actuality the fourth stomach, the abomasum, is the true stomach. It is much the same as our stomach and has similar functions, to acidify and break down the food before it descends into the intestine where fats, carbohydrates and proteins are fully digested and absorbed. How the ruminant knocks us monogastric mammals into a cocked hat and off the grassy plains, is in the preceding three stomachs. Here, woody based fibrous materials such as grass, rich in locked up energy in the form of the complex carbohydrates cellulose, hemi-cellulose and lignin - and utterly indigestible to us monogastrics - are broken down into digestible fatty acids (chiefly acetic, propionic and butyric acid). So ruminants have a double digestion system that permits them to thrive on poor quality food: the first breaking down indigestible materials into digestible materials, and the second more or less exactly like ours.



This can only be accomplished with a little help. The first two stomachs, the rumen and reticulum, are intimately associated fermentation vats packed with literally many billions of bacteria and protozoa that do the work on the ruminant's behalf. The inhabitants of this microbial zoo release enzymes which break down mainly cellulose into calorific fatty acids and glucose. They have a purpose: the glucose is used by the microbes as a source of energy. The inside of the rumen is their world: they use the glucose to breed, live and die. As a bonus, they have not only produced digestible fatty acids, but the microbes, dead and alive, spill out with each churn of the vat into the abomasum and intestine where they themselves are digested and utilised as food. So nutrition is derived in effect from three sources: ordinary digestible food; indigestible food made digestible, and the microbes themselves.

To achieve this, the ruminant has to assist the microbes in their business to gain the maximum benefit from the food. It does this in several ways:

- It churns over the morass of food in a mixing cycle between the reticulum and rumen. If you place your ear/hand in the dip immediately beneath the pelvis on the left flank you will hear/feel this 'cement mixer' action going on. When ill it slows or stops.
- It regurgitates and chews the cud. Grinding the woody and fibrous materials into finer and finer particles massively increases the surface area for the microbes to get at, and speeds digestion. Failure to chew the cud properly (eg: broken or malformed mouths) therefore results in a poor animal - which will be an inefficient grazer as well.
- It belches. The microbes live without oxygen and produce methane as a by product. It's unhelpful, occupies space and inhibits rumenal contractions. Failure to remove it is one cause of bloat. Classically this can be caused by overindulging in highly fermentable foods (eg: clover), or having a touch of pneumonia (enlarged lymph glands in the centre of the chest squeeze off

the gullet).

Armed with this knowledge, it becomes more understandable why different quality forages with different fibre contents or even fibre lengths have different digestibilities. It also explains why over consumption of lactic acid producing feeds such as grains can so acidify the rumen that it can cause rumenal death - the death of the microbes, without which the ruminant itself will die. The microbes need a relatively stable environment, although they can adapt to gradual changes in food. Starvation alone will kill the microbes since they too have to feed, a key factor here in September when heavily pregnant ewes are desperate for grazing. Some fibre to keep the microbes alive - even if it is technically of very poor nutritional quality - is better than none at all, which is probably where the much scorned White Grass has a role to play.

This also helps explain something that may become of great importance in the future: bypass protein. The microbes also digest protein, but the digestibility of protein varies enormously. Some proteins can be digested or degraded within 30 minutes, and are utilised by the microbes to build their cell walls. Ultimately these are readily digested by the abomasum and intestine at a later date, so they are still useful. Other less degradable proteins may theoretically take several days, so they flow out of the rumen to be digested in much the same way as we digest proteins, in the ruminant's second digestion system. Supplementing with bypass protein is a way of utilising the ruminant's double digestion system more fully, and increasing calorie intake.

All this raises a question: how do young ruminants cope with milk? At birth the gut is of course completely sterile, the rumen, reticulum and omasum poorly developed and devoid of microbes. Suckled milk is digested in the abomasum and intestine, as with us monogastrics. Cunningly, the act of suckling stimulates a fold to form called the oesophageal groove, which acts as an aqueduct and allows the milk to bypass the forestomachs straight into the abomasum. Spillage into the rumen causes unwanted fermentation and bloating. This is a common problem with hand reared lambs, and is more often seen with bucket feeding or the use of poorly shaped nipples causing them to swallow air. Nibbling on forage inoculates the rumen with microbes and stimulates rumenal development, so that it is usually functional in the lamb by the time it is 50-60 days old.

And if you're wondering what the omasum - alias the 'butcher's Bible' - has to do in all this, the answer is, relatively little. It absorbs water.

Ram Examinations

Don't be shy! Now's the time to run those rams through a race and do a good scrotal examination. Remember - the easiest guide to fertility is scrotal circumference, and fertility - good and bad - is hereditary. A good ram should be capable of 200 ejaculates per month, but it needs the tackle!

See the enclosed FMH insert and refer to Wool Press article, 'The Ram Exam' September 2006.

Also, please replace previous FMH Boils section with the one enclosed.

COMMENTS ON HYDATIDS AND TRACEABILITY ARTICLE

The comments below were received from Steve Pointing, former Senior Veterinary Officer at the Department of Agriculture on an article written by M Alazia, Port Edgar called Hydatids and Traceability, on why he believes animal welfare is such an important issue and why farmers in the Falkland Islands have to be aware of the subject.

1. Poor animal welfare standards could have a serious deleterious effect on the ability of Falkland Island farmers to export live animals or animal products - be it wool or meat. The product itself could be perfect but if the purchaser/consumer found out that the animals from which it came had been kept or reared in less than satisfactory conditions this could be a reason for choosing to buy elsewhere.
2. The animal welfare problems that occur in the Falkland Islands are different from those that occur in the UK because the farming systems are so different. I am not sure that I ever said that the welfare conditions were worse in the Falkland Islands - but that farmers needed to be aware of them - just as British farmers need to be aware of the welfare problems in various sectors of the livestock industry back here. Much of my current work involves visits to various farms to investigate complaints relating to animal welfare issues. Some are justified, others are rather more spurious.

In many ways Falkland Island farmers are very fortunate in that, because of the extensive nature of farming in the Falkland Islands and because of the low density of population, very few members of the public come into contact with livestock on a regular basis. In the UK most farmers' fields are surrounded by housing and criss crossed by public rights of way - so the public has many opportunities of seeing livestock at close quarters. If they see anything amiss - you can bet your bottom dollar that someone will report it - either to ourselves, the local authority or the RSPCA.

I don't, for one minute, think that welfare problems are worse in the Falkland Islands than here; by the nature of the farming, terrain, weather conditions etc - they just tend to be somewhat different.

3. Michael particularly mentions the problem of "fly strike" and how he had seen many untreated sheep with the condition while working in the UK. He is quite right to say that this is a serious welfare problem in the UK. It does, however, get reported on a regular basis and, if following investigation the problem is found to be genuine, the farmer concerned may well find himself being prosecuted under UK animal welfare legislation.

The problem of fly strike is obviously much more common in the UK than in the Falklands for a number of reasons - a) the lushness of the Spring grass in the UK leads to sheep with very mucky backsides thus encouraging flies to lay their eggs, b) the UK has a much warmer, wetter Spring than the Falkland Islands - better conditions for the adult fly and also for development of the maggots, c) the climatic conditions in the UK also encourage high worm burdens in Spring leading to diarrhoea and further soiling of the rear end.

In the farmer's defence (but not to condone him) it can be quite difficult to see fly strike in the early stages of infestation as the maggots are hidden beneath the fleece and you might only know that the sheep was feeling uncomfortable by observing it closely and for a period of time. That can and should be done under UK sheep farming conditions but would prove very difficult in the Falkland Islands if (as a result of global warming, for example) the incidence of fly strike increased significantly.

4. My final comment is that you ignore welfare issues at your peril. In the highly competitive marketplace in which farmers now operate there will always be one group looking to capitalise on their own strengths and pointing out the weaknesses of others. This will involve many different factors (in the case of wool - fineness, whiteness, staple length of the product etc) but how the animals are reared and looked after will also have an impact in certain markets - so it is in the farmer's own interest to make sure that he is not disbaring himself from future higher priced markets by ignoring animal welfare issues.

Now Michael will have every justification in saying that I have written yet another article on the importance of animal welfare. I am only doing so, and have always only made an issue of the subject, because I am aware of the potential danger of not taking the subject seriously enough with the result of farmers suffering financial consequences further down the line.

'Great relief' as sheep shearing crisis is averted

From the Farmers Guardian (March 16, 2007), kindly sent in by Malcolm Ashworth

The threatened sheep shearing crisis has been averted following the Home Office decision to relax its rules or work permits for visiting shearers.

The industry faced serious problems if skilled workers, mainly for Australia and New Zealand, were unable to work in the UK this season due to the Home Office instance for more stringent paperwork.

However, pressure from the agricultural industry has persuaded the Home Office to delay plans for visiting workers to require a PAYE reference number - with less than two months to go until the sheep shearing season begins.

NFU chief livestock adviser Peter King said it was a 'great relief' to hear that common sense had prevailed.

"There is an acute shortage of skilled commercial shearers who can shear up to 400 sheep a day, and with only seven weeks before we start shearing we had to find an immediate fix that allows these specialist contractors to enter the country."

National Sheep Association chief executive Peter Morris said "These highly skilled workers need to be able to ply their trade in the few short weeks that they are here without excessive paperwork and associated cost being attached to them."

Rob Morris of the National Association of Agricultural Contractors, and shearing contractor based in Kent, said lots of applications for permits would be arriving this week because the NAAC had been advising members to hold off doing so or face losing the cost of a failed application.

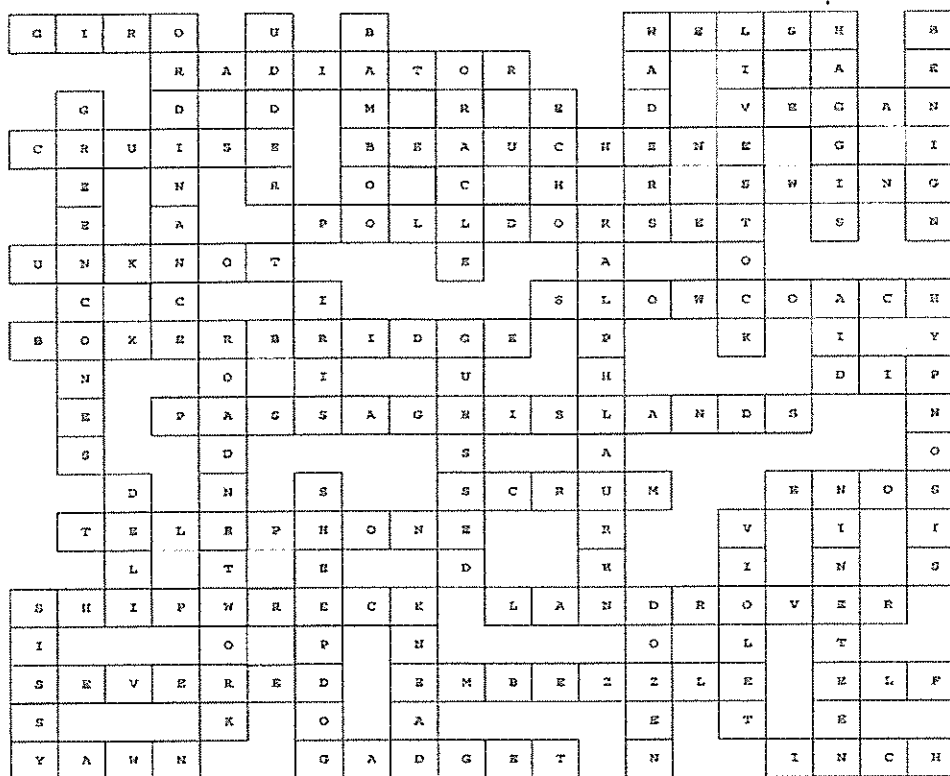
The UK needs about 500 visiting shearers to supplement the workforce. The problem arises with about 100 shearers who do not qualify for entry and need to obtain work permits.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 6th June (Droncit)

Please call 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and confirm that your dogs have been dosed. Thank you.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS



Logic Puzzles

- The milkman filled the three gallon jug, and then emptied the contents into the five gallon jug. He then filled the three gallon jug again, and continued to fill the five gallon jug until it was full. The milk remaining in the three gallon jug was precisely one gallon.
- 5 of spades / 2 of clubs / 5 of clubs or 2 of spades / 5 of spades / 2 of clubs

Squid with mint, chilli, coriander and lime



Ingredients

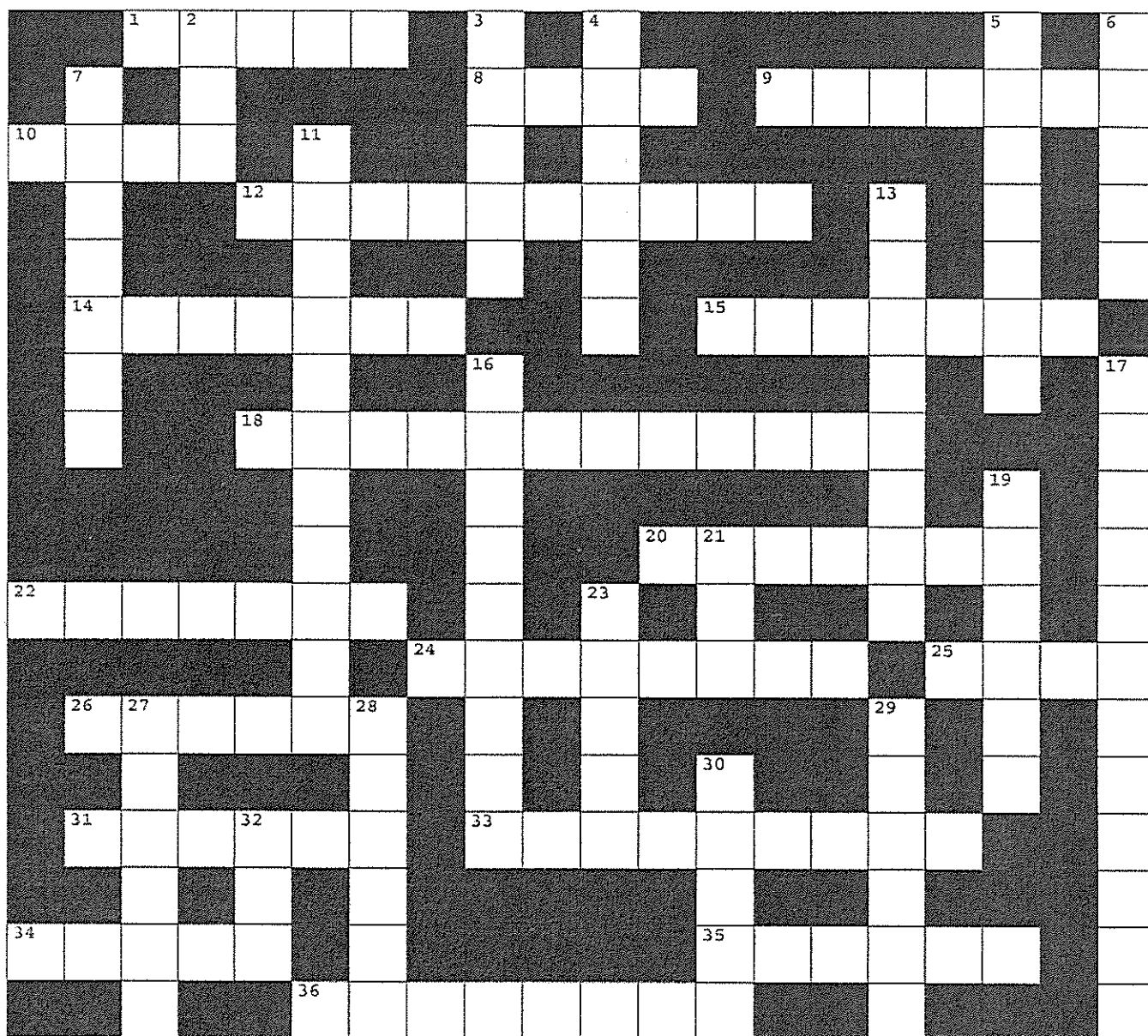
- 2 squid (bodies and tentacles)
- pinch sea salt
- handful fresh coriander leaves
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove
- handful fresh mint leaves
- 1 mild red chilli (or more, to taste)
- ½ lime, juice only

Method

Clean and prepare the fresh squid. Pull the tentacles away from the body. Remove the 'ears' from either side of the squid body and remove the skin with your fingers. Cut the squid body into rings. Crush the garlic. Sprinkle over the sea salt and crush the garlic to a fine paste with the knife. Finely chop the mint, coriander and chilli. Add the olive oil, garlic paste and chilli to a frying pan in a moderate heat.

Cook for a minute or two, until the garlic just begins to brown. Add the prepared squid to the pan and stir for a couple of minutes. Season with sea salt. Add the mint and coriander to the pan and stir. Remove the pan from the heat, and squeeze over the lime juice and serve immediately.

PUZZLE PAGE



Across

- 1. Black
- 8. Television award
- 9. Twister
- 10. Schedule
- 12. Fixed structure aiding mariners
- 14. Downfall of the 'unsinkable'
- 15. Poultry
- 18. Point on West Falklands (7,5)
- 20. American city
- 22. Prime cut
- 24. Room warming device
- 25. Thump

- 26. Science-fiction series (1,5)
- 31. Famous racehorse (3,3)
- 33. Test, dare
- 34. Race meet
- 35. Come about
- 36. Often disliked 'green'

Down

- 2. Large snake
- 3. Loading/unloading point
- 4. Introduce
- 5. Top dog
- 6. Tribute
- 7. West Falkland island
- 11. One of the emergency services (4,7)

- 13. Addictive substance
- 16. Programmed
- 17. Astounding
- 19. A monkeys favourite food
- 21. Measure of alcohol
- 23. Headdress
- 27. Of France
- 28. Popular season
- 29. Wind
- 30. Defence
- 32. Groove in the road