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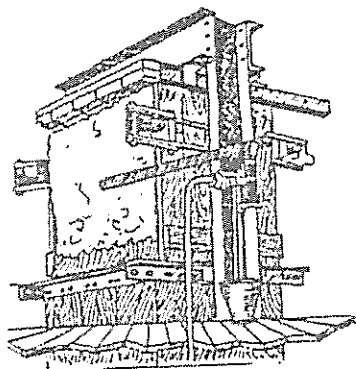
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Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

The Department is in a flurry of activity preparing for the presentations that will take place during Farmers' Week. Sian has included details of the DoA open days in this publication that includes the return of Jim Gerrish, a specialist in grazing management. Many farmers who attended his workshops commented that he had an easy going presentation style. Several people have also mentioned their surprise at learning how US farmers are also challenged when producing grass fed stock for meat. Jim will be using the knowledge gained from his earlier visit in his presentations next week.

The real return on selling lamb to the abattoir is highlighted in Neil Judd's article and followed up by a taster from John Ferguson on lamb prices for the 2008 season. These will be hot topics for discussion during Farmers' Week. I recommend a read and a bit of calculator work to see what your potential return could be from growing lambs for this market. Note Neil uses 2008 prices in his Gross Margin models.

Robert Hall's article on the potential impact of the Australian drought on world wool prices is highly relevant right now. As Robert reports, present trends are a moral boost for all producers.

Please also check out Peter Johnson's wether trials data. Wool and slaughter weights will make interesting reading later this year.

Lastly thanks to Sian for putting together an article on camp tourism. It is good to include the views of the main Falklands tourism operators. Yes, people still want to visit camp in winter!

Best regards

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

Enclosed with your Wool Press this month are more Farm Management Handbook updated. Please replace the sections in your book with the new ones. Many thanks, Siân

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IS THERE MONEY IN LAMB?

By Neil Judd

It is clear that an increasing number of farmers in the Falkland Islands are supplying lamb to FIMCO: as shown in Table 1

Table 1 – Lambs supplied to FIMCO

Year	Number of farms supplying	Number of lambs to abattoir
2003	6	2600
2004	7	1808
2005	9	3151
2006	17	9201
2007	27	11963

It is a great achievement for the meat industry to have generated such phenomenal growth in lamb supply over this period. The key question however remains: Is it profitable for farmers to be supplying such large numbers of prime animals (lamb & hogget) for slaughter?

Honestly, there is not a simple yes or no answer to this question, mainly because the answer depends on a few things, as follows:

- The type of sheep on the farm
- Proportion of breeding ewes on the farm
- Current stocking rate relative to farm carrying capacity
- Quality of sheep and lamb produced and hence price achieved
- Farm productivity (particularly lambing % and death rates)
- Prevailing wool and meat price

There are many combinations of these characteristics that are possible for each farm, however basically it is the interaction of these characteristics that determines whether or not the decision to sell lamb (new or old season) is a profitable one for any individual farm.

In order to provide farmers with a 'ball park snapshot' as to how the factors generally fit together for farming in the Falkland Islands, a series of four Gross Margin Analyses (GMA) have been completed. The analyses attempt to represent four common farming scenarios, based on a farm with a carrying capacity of 6,000 DSE, shearing about 4,900 a year.

- GMA 1** Historical balanced flock. Decision made to sell lambs without the ability or desire to back fill the space with more productive sheep.
- GMA 2** Historical balanced flock. Selling cast-for-age wethers.
- GMA 3** Same farm carrying capacity as examples 1 & 2, however the farm converted to a full breeding flock selling a mix of lamb and hogget.
- GMA 4** Full breeding flock but improved lambing % and reduced death rates. Flock fibre diameter reduced by 2 micron. Farm sells a mix of lamb and hogget.

General assumptions for each GMA

It should be noted that each of the analyses assumes that the practices described are maintained indefinitely (steady state model used).

- GMA 1** 24/25 micron historical balanced flock but decision made to sell wether lamb/hoggett
- No ability to 'back fill'
 - 3,203 sheep shorn
 - 4,300 DSE
 - 1,758 ewes mated
 - Sell all wether lambs, approximately 100 new season lamb and 300 old season lambs at £18/head and £22/head
 - 60% lambing, typical death rates
 - Wool price £2.50 p/kg clean net Stanley
- GMA 2** 24/25 micron balanced flock
- 4,900 sheep shorn
 - 6,000 DSE
 - 1,758 ewes mated
 - Sell approximately 250 cfa wethers at £6/head
 - 60% lambing and typical death rates
 - Wool price £2.50 p/kg clean net Stanley
- GMA 3** 24/25 micron breeding flock
- 4,310 sheep shorn
 - 6,000 DSE
 - 2,700 ewes mated
 - Sell approximately 180 new season lambs (at £18/head) and 480 old season lambs (at £22/head)
 - 60 % lambing and typical death rates
 - Wool price £2.50 p/kg clean net Stanley
- GMA 4** 22/23 micron breeding flock
- 4,672 sheep shorn
 - 6,000 DSE
 - 2,616 ewes mated
 - Sell approximately 210 new season lambs (at £18/head) and 580 old season lambs (at £22/head)
 - 70 % lambing and reduced death rates
 - Wool price £2.90 p/kg clean net Stanley

Table 2 – Relative profitability estimates for range of sheep enterprise options

Option	Estimated Farm GM	Estimated Farm Overheads	Approximate Profit/Loss
24/25 micron historical balanced flock - sell wether lambs - farm not fully stocked (4,300 DSE)	£23,800	£30,000	£(6,200)
24/25 micron balanced farm - 'full farm' (6,000 DSE)	£26,800	£30,000	£(3,200)
24/25 micron breeding flock - 'full farm' (6,000 DSE)	£34,000	£30,000	£4,000
22/23 micron breeding flock with moderate productivity improvement - 'full farm' (6,000 DSE)	£41,500	£30,000	£11,500

Note:

- 1 Proposed 2008 FIMCO lamb price schedule used
- 2 Farm overheads – the figure of £30,000 assumes typical cost structure and depreciation schedule. Also includes £7,500 for 'own labour'. Does not include interest or tax costs.

Conclusion

- Farms selling large numbers of new or old season lambs to FIMCO need to ensure that plans are in place to back-fill the space created by the sale
- Failure to back-fill will lead to profitability decline after a short period of cash-flow bonus
- Farms able to increase the proportion of breeding ewes on their farms have greatest profitability growth prospects
- Finer dual-purpose breeding flocks offer greatest productivity enhancing potential

I would welcome the chance to expand on any issue raised in this paper if so required. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Andrew or Peter if further information is required.

EXPORTS: LAMB VS. MUTTON

By John Ferguson, General Manager, FIMCo

Whilst the original concept of Sand Bay may have been to take 'all' the cull mutton, (before the plant was opened and before real customers with real contracts were agreed) a number of farmers thought this unrealistic, and results since have borne this out. Even if we had taken all the lower quality ones currently left on farm, production costs would not be cheaper and the net result worse – with many lower yielding carcasses.

MUTTON

For FIMCo – mutton will be produced for a long time yet, and to a degree, probably always. However:

- Mutton is much more difficult and slower to process – increases costs
- Not so attractive to customers – almost all needs to be boneless
- BOILS...!! – not proving easy to address, another reason for boning out
- By-products – most unfit or unviable, those saved have lower value
- Difficult to see a long term increase in value

For farmers – would selling the remainder of your culls at approx £2 head (in addition to the ones currently sold) 'do the trick' in terms of improving financial viability? Whilst I may no longer be farming and am not qualified to answer this, I would however suggest 'not'.

Present prices are approx £6.00-£8.00 for better quality, but the *average* is about £6.50. Higher yielding animals will come as breeds change, but will not alter the situation dramatically.

LAMB

The progress with lamb production, both 'new' and 'old' season, has been somewhat more erratic, for a number of fairly obvious reasons – especially ewe numbers, lambing percentages and finishing animals for sale. Much work is being done to try and address these difficult issues. From an income perspective for FIMCo, the effects of the current drop in international meat prices has not made this any easier, although there are indications that in 2008 there may be some improvement.

So, why concentrate on lamb?

For FIMCo – It's the main product that customers and potential customers enquire about and wish to progress, both in terms of 'niche' markets and international trade. With the increased lamb production in 2007, FIMCo was able to process more animals than 2006 – in a season, a week & half less. This has had a significant effect on reducing the operating costs.

- More bone-in cuts – less waste, higher yield
- More efficient to process – improved productivity, lower operating costs...
- Ability to further process (example: frozen chop cutting) and add value
- More opportunities to diversify into potential 'niche' markets
- Ability to harvest more by-products – offals

For farmers –

- Provides an opportunity to diversify
- Higher potential return
- Improved cash-flow

How can FIMCo assist the on-farm changes?

1. Financial Commitment from FIG

At a meeting between FIMCo and SFC last year, it was stated that FIMCo is an "Agent for Change" and that in order to receive a longer term financial commitment (and confidence, both for FIMCo and farmers) it should:

1. Align itself with the Department of Agriculture's 10 Year Plan
2. Produce its own 10 Year Plan, with financial projections

This has been carried out and approval for 2007-2008 funding has been received from SFC, in conjunction with the 5 & 10 year projections. These show the possible financial results, given both higher and lower sales prices.

2. Lamb Pricing

Following detailed discussions with DoA staff and FIMCo directors (predominantly farmers), the FIMCo Board and SFC has approved an increase in lamb prices – **for target quality lambs, for an interim period.**

This is a serious financial commitment by FIG at a time when international meat prices are at a low level and is approved for strategic reasons – in that it will assist farmers to work towards making the on-farm changes. It is intended that FIMCo will also benefit from this pricing policy, as most of FIMCo's production costs are 'per head' the higher yielding carcasses will be more cost effective.

Whilst the pricing and weight ranges will be discussed in more detail during Farmers Week, the following table shows the current and new lamb prices:

Caracass Weight & Price Relationship

	<8kg	8kg	9kg	10kg	11kg	12kg	13kg	14kg	15kg	16kg	17kg	18kg	20kg +
2007	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
2008	0.75	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.15	1.25	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	18kg +	
2008 £ hd		6.40 -	9.00 -	10.00 -	11.00 -	13.80 -	16.25 -	19.60 -	21.00 -	22.40 -	23.80 to 25.00	£25.00 rate	Flat

NOTES:

1. Given the recent market prices for approx 14-15kg lambs in Chile & NZ (approx £1.00 - £1.10kg +/-) the Falkland Is has been paying £1.25 for a similar weight.
2. In order to justify paying £1.25 - £1.40kg - in the target zone where most Falkland Is lambs are predicted to fall, there will be a maximum rate paid of £25.00 head.
3. This schedule is for an interim period and subject to change.

3. Organics

There is potential to be explored for organic lamb. Discussions with customers indicate that there is much less organic premium (if any) for manufacturing grade mutton, where a lot of our product goes into.

4. Local Market

The quality and consistency of beef has greatly improved over the past couple of years, and this has been recognised by retail and wholesale customers alike. There have been issues with the pricing structure, and following recent Board approval, FIMCo's prices are becoming more competitive. The intention is that this will increase the overall revenue to FIMCo whilst purchasing more cattle from producers.

All the above will be presented and discussed in greater detail during Farmers Week, although I am happy to discuss these and other topics with farmers at any time.

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS

By Siân Ferguson

Erica Berntsen and Lucas Berntsen have now finished their four months working at the Department of Agriculture as Agricultural Trainees. They have been very hardworking and a pleasure to have in the team, albeit with a sometimes strange sense of humour!!

We wish them all the best with whatever they do next.

One of their last tasks before leaving was to sit down and write a few words about their time here:

Erica

Hello again. I'm afraid the time has come to say my goodbyes and thank yous, but first I'll tell you all what I have been up to in the past four months, here at the Agricultural Department.

There has been a multitude of different activities that I have been a part of including core testing and weighing sheep on lots of different farms for the trials.

I also took a trip to the abattoir to watch some sheep being killed from one of the trials, which wasn't a good morning for me as I left there feeling a little worse for wear! I also had the opportunity to participate in one of Jim Gerrish's workshops that took place. I found it very interesting and informative; I could really see where his ideas and findings could be incorporated into the Falklands way of farming.

During my last few weeks at the department I have been included in the AI/ET programme which was, although a bit hectic and with a lot of early mornings, very enjoyable on my part and fascinating, as I didn't totally understand what it is they were doing, but nearer to the end I feel that I grasped the concept quite well and understood most of it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people up at the Ag Department who put up with my weird ways; they all made the experience absolutely fab!! I can't say that I haven't had fun because I have, it's been really great, thank you all and I hope that I haven't annoyed you all too much (Especially Siân, who I was sharing an office with!).

Thanks guys you've been great!

Lucas

Hello again everyone, well it seems like yesterday when I started working here at the department. But now my time here has come to an end and once again I must write an article for the Wool Press, this time saying goodbye.

My time here started at the beginning of March and finishes at the end of June. In this time I have had a lot of great laughs and sometimes, not so interesting jobs working for the department (Unfolding paperclips for the AI/ET program, counting out hundreds of tags making sure no two numbers match).

The jobs that I have been involved are helping Lucy and Vikki with core testing on a number of occasions, which may seem strange to most but I actually enjoy. However, the majority of my time here for the first three months was spent with Timmy, fencing, clearing out the big shed and hauling things about, being a general gofer I suppose.

A number of days here were spent travelling around the islands weighing sheep, setting up the ram sale and such like, who would ever think so much driving was involved in a job!

I guess I could say that I have just about been promoted to chief rover cleaner, a job that always seems to be never ending, but again I don't mind doing. Finally over the past month I have spent a lot of time helping out with the AI/ET programme, which has been both interesting, fun and occasionally boring (that would be the nursing).

So I would just like to thank everyone who I have worked with after the past few months, I have had a really fun time working here and no doubt I will be around again soon, picking up fencing most probably!

Well I've got nothing else to say apart from goodbye, so, goodbye I guess.

Farming Statistics

Thank you to everyone for sending your Stock Return Forms in by the deadline.

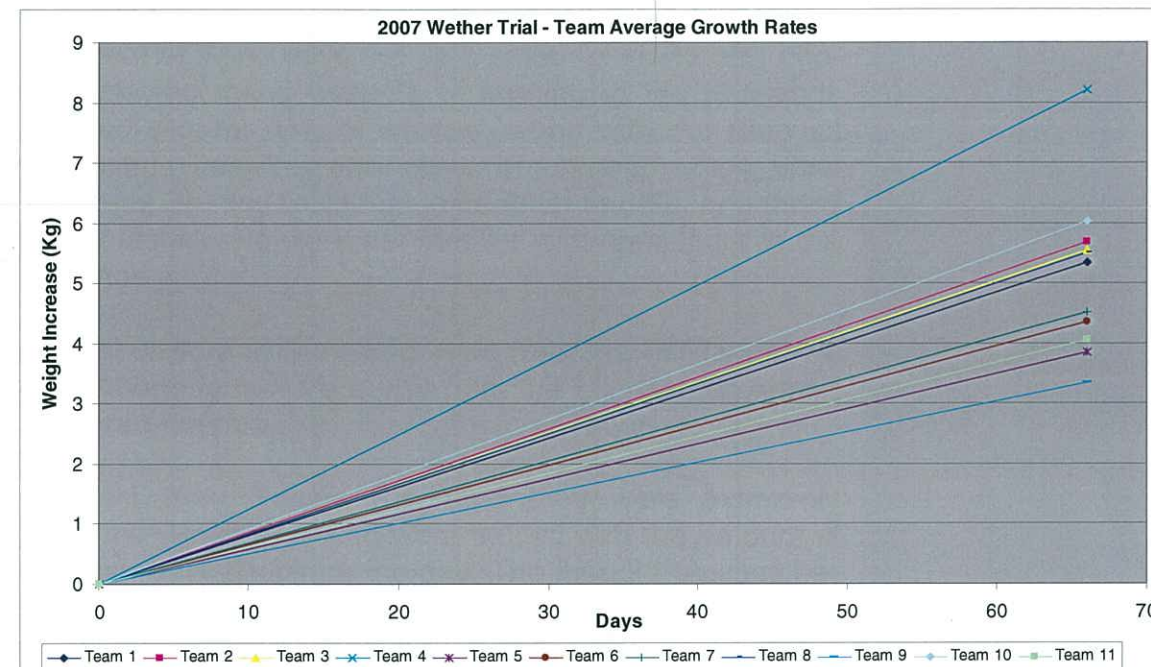
We are currently proofing and printing the Farming Statistics and will post these out as soon as possible.

Thanks, Siân

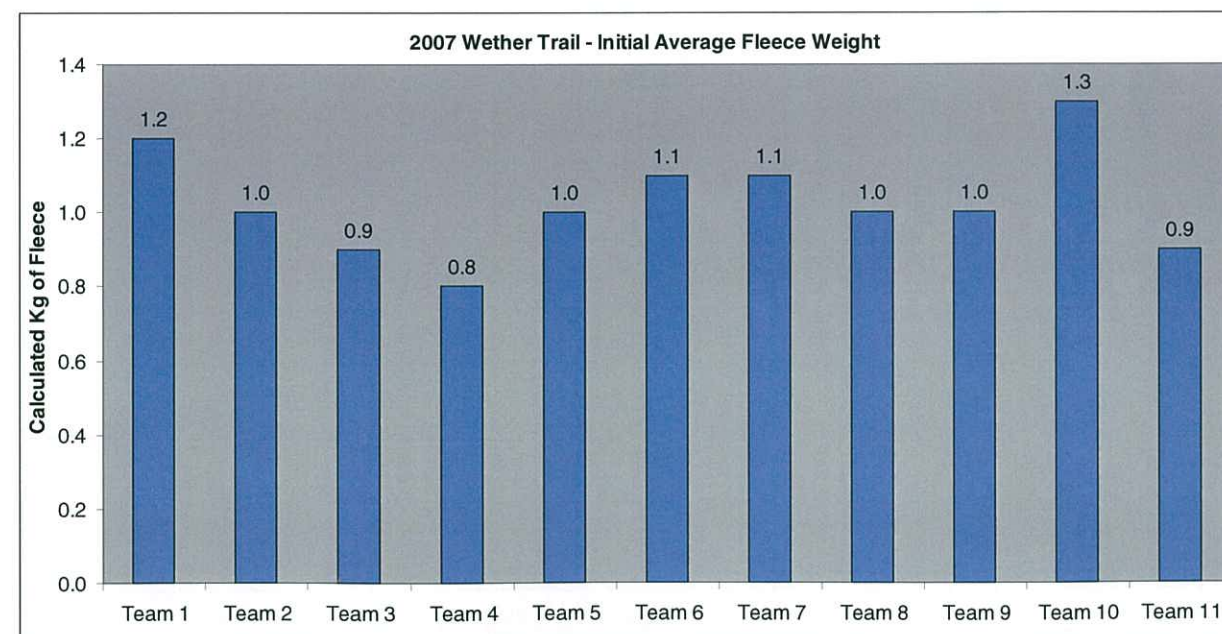
WETHER TRIAL UPDATE

By Peter Johnson

The 2007 wether trial continues at Goose Green. 11 teams of 15 wethers were entered in February, and a progress weight was taken at the end of April. All the teams have done well in the high quality native pasture and the graph below shows the weight gains for the different teams during that period. It will be of interest to watch Team 4, which has been the standout team to date, putting on a team average of 8.2kg in the trial so far, compared with the trial average of 5.2kg.



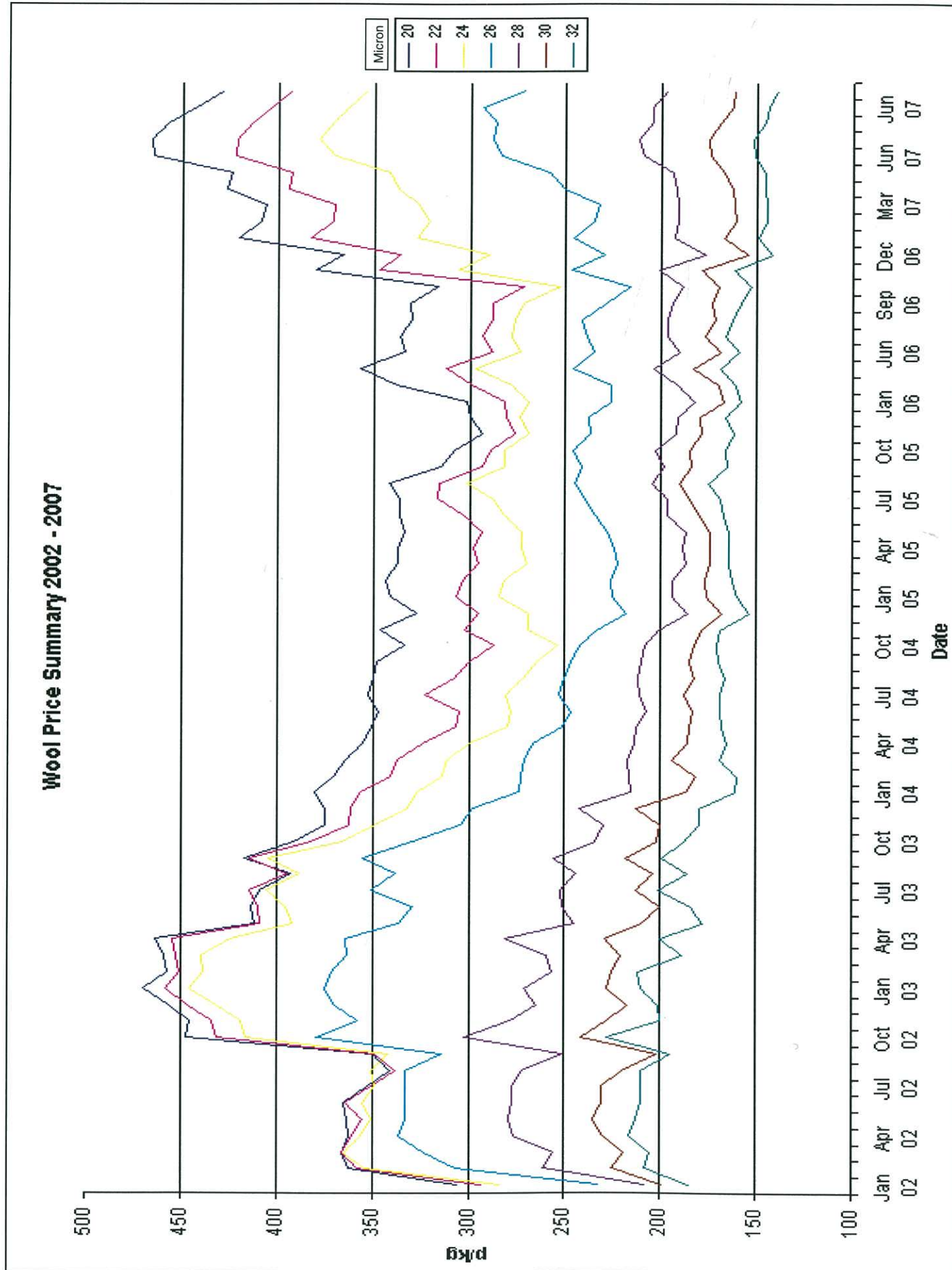
Another weighing of the animals will be taken at the start of July. The animals will then spend the winter together and be shorn on the 13th of November, when fleece weights and wool micron will be used to determine a fleece value. The animals calculated wool weight when it entered the trial (team averages shown below), will be deducted from its shorn fleece weight. The animals will then be slaughtered as old-season lamb and their carcass weights used to determine their meat value.



If there are any questions relating to the wether trial, please contact me.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



FALKLANDS EXPO

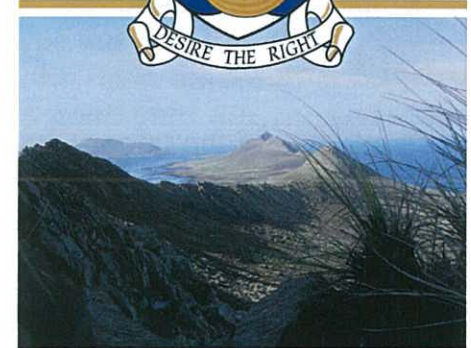
By Siân Ferguson

On the 16th June, Sealed PR organised a Falklands Expo in the Falkland Islands Community School in which many organisations organised a stand to showcase their services and products. This including community, food, exploration, services, sport and crafts.

The Department of Agriculture set up a colourful stand with photographs displaying many aspects of farming in the Falklands which provided a great deal of interest, along with our Biennial Report, Farming Statistics and other brochures, which were popular amongst Stanley residents to keep up to date, and those visiting from outside who were not familiar with agriculture in the Falkland Islands.

Although most visitors to the stand were from the Falklands, we were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Minister for Armed Forces, Mr Adam Ingram.

Sarah Clement from Sealed PR, said they were extremely pleased with the way it went and were thrilled with the amount of visitors that came for a look on the day. The thought process behind the expo was to give the community a platform to showcase individual success. All stand-holders put so much effort into it and this is what made it such a success with over 600 visitors on the day.



Vision

A prosperous and self-sufficient agricultural sector that creates opportunities for Falkland Islanders and is highly valued locally and internationally.

Mission

To foster a viable and internationally competitive agricultural industry through integrated applied research, extension, business skill development and regulatory programmes.



TOURISM IN CAMP

By Siân Ferguson

In winter everything seems to calm down in the Falkland Islands and you can take time to reflect on the past year and how to improve. A lot of people in camp now are reaching out to the tourist industry as a way of diversifying their farm's income. I contacted the prominent tour companies to find out what makes a good camp holiday and you can also hear about how Ian & Eileen Jaffray have worked to make North Arm a popular destination. If you have any questions, then any of the companies mentioned will be happy to hear from you.

North Arm

This is one of the larger settlements in the Falkland Islands and is part of the Falkland Landholdings Corporation. Farm Manager Ian Jaffray and his wife Eileen let out three self-catering houses in the settlement which are open all year round. Each house has a gas cooker, central heating, video and dvd, a washing machine, a fridge/freezer and a microwave, along with bedding provided. A shop with all the basic items is also located in the settlement.

Tourists who visit North Arm enjoy a mix of wildlife and experiencing camp life, with the most popular request being to see penguins and shearing. Bull Point is also a popular destination. Ian & Eileen say having clean and warm facilities is important.

What the Tour Operators say

MP Travel & Sullivan Shipping

MP Travel - a subsidiary of Sullivan Shipping - are always looking for more destinations that are in driveable distance from MPA, due to the loss of warrants. Sammy Marsh says the majority of military tourists are interested in the wildlife and the Falklands way of life, while many just simply want to go somewhere to relax away from the base. She adds that a bath is greatly appreciated as most only have showers on base - a homely environment with all the mod-cons is expected. The simplest things that are already being done by many is our style of hospitality - military personnel love the meat joint and jug of milk waiting for them when they arrive, simple but effective. Many people from MPA still want to get away and enjoy some R&R time during winter, so places that are open during winter are in short supply.

Sullivan Shipping also deal with cruise ships and Sammy says the three most popular



North Arm
Photo: Jaffrays



People off a visiting cruise ship at Carcass Island
Photo: Debbie Summers

places in camp for landings are Carcass Island, New Island and West Point. The camp landings are usually made by the smaller expedition vessels who want to see the wildlife and unique way of life. Although the wildlife and dramatic scenery does make a huge impression on the tourists, they also love the tea and homemade cakes and the warm welcome given by their hosts.

Falkland Island Holidays (Stanley Services)

The main attraction to the Falkland Islands is the wildlife says Jenny Luxton of Stanley Services. The pristine conditions our wildlife lives in, along with its quantity and tameness are very popular. Jenny advises that we should always try to ensure the each destination does not have too many people at any given time so the wildlife isn't stressed and the place retains it's uniqueness - there are not too many places in the world now where you can sit amongst the wildlife virtually on your own and people will pay for this privilege. Although the wildlife is the main attraction, people do want to see the traditional way of life; local people who can tell a good yard are coveted - this makes people's holidays more memorable.

On the accommodation side, most visitors through Stanley Services are well-heeled so require a good standard of accommodation, preferring en-suite facilities but these can be basic as long as homely and clean. The main area for upgrading is the need to add more bathrooms.

International Tours & Travel

Wildlife, and principally penguins and the albatross, will always be our main attraction and what draws probably 95 % of people to the Islands says Sally Ellis of International Tours & Travel. She adds though that military history (battlefield tours), our way of life and perhaps most significantly the opportunity to talk and mix with local people are also big attractions to camp. A mixture of this and wildlife is also good for camp visitors. For camp life to be an attraction there has to be some element of organisation so that visitors actually feel they are experiencing something specific, eg riding, fishing, gathering, seeing the shed in action, rather than just being on the farm while their hosts go on about their business without necessarily involving the visitor.

Sally says the accommodation really depends on the individual traveller. Most people who come to the Falklands are spending significantly to get here and will generally spend between £800-900 for an all inclusive one week stay, however there are also those looking for cheaper options and they favour the self-catering destinations. Cleanliness is vital. Maps and some basic brochures/leaflets/information sheets showing what there is to do in the area, suggested walks/drives and indication the length and difficulty (ie is this suitable for children?) are always useful.

For Sale

McConnell Arm, S16. PTO driven pump type in good working order. c/w 3 buckets and small quantity of spares. £350 ono. Contact Coast Ridge.

FARMERS WEEK 2007

The Department of Agriculture invites you to our sessions during Farmers Week 2007. We will use the sessions on Tuesday the 10th and Wednesday the 11th of July to discuss whole-of-farm systems and concepts. This will focus on breeding ewes, finishing lambs and ways of managing production and grazing strategies around their needs. Incorporated into these sessions will be results from DOA trials over the last year as well as recapping on previous research, to put forward ideas for shaping future farming systems.

Jim Gerrish, who many of you met in April and May, will return as a guest speaker to explore further the concepts of improving native camp with low-cost systems. We encourage people who were unable to make Jim's first round of workshops to come along and meet Jim, and to share your farming experiences with him. Also the people who did attend the first workshops, rest assured that Jim has a different and extended range of information he will be presenting. The short session on the morning of Thursday the 12th of July will be co-ordinated by the Veterinary section with discussions on animal health issues. This will include updates on disease control.

We would warmly welcome everybody's attendance at all of these sessions, to hopefully gain something from what will be presented, but to also add your thoughts and experiences to the subjects being discussed.

Monday 9th July

Town Hall

- 9am **Shearing Contracting** Open Discussions
With coffee provided by the RBA
- 11am **FIDC Update** Mark Brunet
- 12pm **Lunch**
- 1pm **First Aid Course**
- 2pm Stanley House Smoko
- 2.30pm **First Aid Course continued**
- 5pm **Finish**
- 7pm *RBA Party, Narrows Bar - please contact Sealed Pr for tickets*

Tuesday 10th July - DOA Day 1

Town Hall

- 9am - 12pm Training Centre Open Morning
- 8am **Welcome & Introduction** Phyl Rendell
- 8.15am **Nutritional Requirements of a Ewe Flock**
General terms throughout the year
- 9am **Forage Resources of the Falklands**
Looking at previous studies of what's available at what times of the year and what animals eat

- 10am Smoko provided by the DOA
- 10.30am **Protein and Energy Balance of animals**
Ewes, hoggets and cattle
- 11.30am **Annual Forage Cropping Options**
Turnips, oats, swedes and others
- 12pm **Protein Supplementation**
How does a rumen use it? Lupins and other sources
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.30pm **Yearly Profile of a Falklands Ewe Flock**
Body weights and what we can expect
- 3pm Smoko provided by the DOA
- 3.30pm **A Recipe Mix for Animal Feed Requirements**
- 5pm **Preview of Wednesday & finish**
- 7pm *FIODA, Town Hall*

Wednesday 11th July - DOA Day 2

Town Hall

- 8am **Taking Native Camp and Making it Better**
- 10am Smoko provided by the DOA
- 10.30am **Taking Native Camp and Making it Better**
Continued
- 12.30pm Lunch - provided by the DOA
- 2.30 - 4pm *Fire Training. Meet at FIGAS check-in*
- 1.30pm **Stand Over Winter Feed**
Exploring the use of high quality summer growth as standing feed during winter months
- 2pm **Putting it all into place on your farm**
- 3.30pm **Trade Displays & Smoko**
All suppliers and contractors are invited to have a stand where farmers can talk to them about what services and supplies they have to offer. Also on display will be examples of different low cost improvement options
- 5pm **Finish**
- 6pm *Government House*

Thursday 12th July
Town Hall

1st Session - DOA

8am **Veterinary Update**

Vic Epstein & Zoe Luxton

End of DOA sessions - continuation of the RBA programme

9.30am **FIMCO**

With coffee provided by the RBA

12pm *Lunch provided by FIMCO/FIDC*

1pm **FIMCO**

With coffee provided by the RBA

3pm **Wool Shipping - attended by FIC**

4pm **Visiting speaker - MPM Classer**

Wallace O'Conner

5.30pm **Finish**

Evening Hillside Meal

Friday 12th July
Town Hall

9am - 12pm Falklands Conservation Open Morning

9am **Accounts Information**

10am **Councillors**

RBA members only

Coffee provided by the RBA

11am **His Excellency the Governor**

12pm *Lunch*

1pm **Aquaculture**

Coffee provided by the RBA

2 - 3pm RBA Committee meeting, Town Hall Refreshment Room

3pm **RBA Annual General Meeting**

4pm **Falkland Wool Company**

Closed meeting

5pm **Falkland Wool Company**

Open to farm principles

6pm **Finish**

Evening Camp Education Dance, Town Hall

The Department of Agriculture Farmers Week Programme is open to everyone. For more information or a copy of the DOA programme, please contact us on telephone 27335 or you can email sferguson@doa.gov.fk For the RBA programme, please contact Sealed PR on telephone 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICE BOOST

Supplied by Robert Hall

Farmers in the drought-battered Australian wool industry have been delivered a much needed confidence boost after the benchmark price broke through the 1000¢ a kilogram barrier for the first time in almost four years. Wool shortage fears are behind the buying surge led by China, with the grower stockpile gone and the national wool clip predicted to fall to 420 million kilograms for the coming year, Australia's smallest in more than 60 years.

The Australian wool industry is approaching uncharted territory as global demand remains strong, according to wool exporter Peter Morris, of P.J. Morris. "In the past 18 months we have been selling more wool than we have been producing and the grower stockpile has diminished to a negligible amount," he said. "This is probably the first time in the history of the Australian wool trade where there is no stockpile. Where it goes from here nobody knows."

More than 48,000 bales were offered nationally this week, with the Eastern Market Indicator ending the week at 1008¢/kg clean, driven by demand in the clothing market from China, Europe and India. In Fremantle, the Western Indicator rose 18¢ to 1003¢/kg clean. Predictions were for prices in coming months to hover within 10 per cent of current prices, Mr Morris said. Wool broker Peter Howie, of Dyson Jones, said the drought had pushed supplies down between 10 and 20 per cent compared with last year. He said the increase in the price during the past month had brought on to the marketplace a lot of wool which had been in storage with brokers.

Prices were now reaching more sustainable levels for drought affected farmers struggling with rising costs of feed and lower wool cuts, WA Farmers Federation wool section president Max Watts said. "I think previous to these prices, people were continuing to leave the industry and I think it was essential that we saw a kick," he said.

Since 1989, before the collapse of the wool price scheme, national sheep numbers stood at 173 million. They have since fallen to 107 million. Numbers were expected to fall further this year as farmers continued to offload stock or move into more profitable livestock options, such as meat.

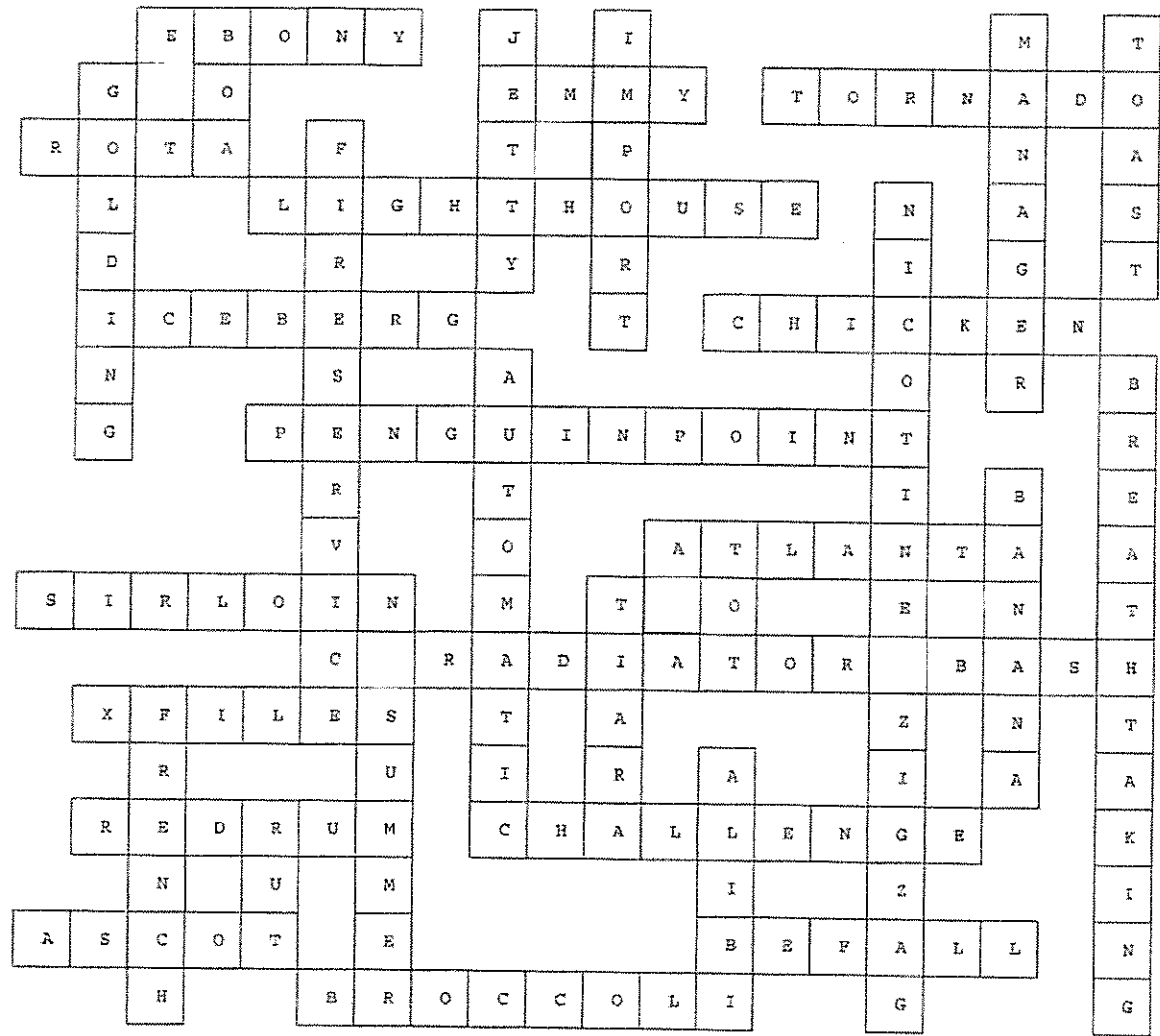
Delivering 175 bales to the WA wool stores yesterday, Pingrup farmer Trevor Badger has been forced to sell off 30 per cent of his ewes during the past year as a result of the drought. He believed further price rises were needed to stop the decline in the merino flock but the prices had delivered a much needed confidence boost for farmers. "It is a great morale-booster, because a lot of people running livestock at the moment are hurting," he said.

A REMINDER ABOUT ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES

An Animal Movement Certificate **MUST** be completed for **ALL** stock movements between farms and from farm to abattoir (excluding poultry and horses). Failure to send an AMC with stock for slaughter may result in the stock being **rejected**.

MANY THANKS

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



Strange Animal Tales

Source: Ananova.com

A dog has become a local celebrity in a Chinese village after she reportedly gave birth to a kitten. Hua Chengpeng, of Huayang village, Jiangyan city, told People's Daily that the unlikely animal was the third 'puppy' in his pet's litter.

"The first two puppies the dog produced were both normal, but when the third baby came, the whole family was very surprised to see a cat-like creature. It is a cat, not a dog at all," he said.

Local residents have been flocking to his house to see the 'kitten' which local vets say is really a puppy which looks like a cat because of a gene mutation. It apparently yaps like a puppy. Hua says his son brought the dog home from Liaoning city, where he had been working, a year ago.



Phoebe's Fabulous Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies

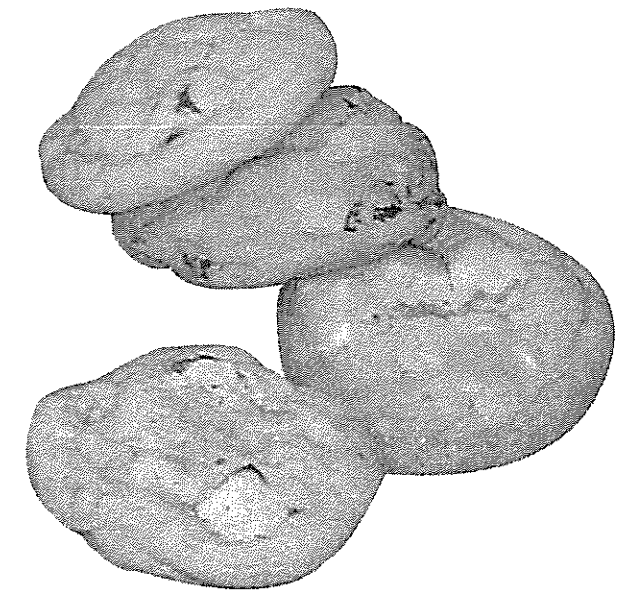
By Krysteen Ormond

If anyone reading is a FRIENDS fan, these are the very same cookies that Phoebe gives to Rachel after she tells her she makes the best oatmeal raisin cookies ever.

If you don't have light brown sugar, just using 190g white sugar is fine, and cinnamon can be used instead of vanilla.

Ingredients

- 12 tablespoons (175g) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (160g) firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2/3 cup (130g) white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups (170g) rolled oats
- 1 1/4 cup (160g) plain flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups (200g) raisins/sultanas



Method

Preheat oven to 375F/190C/Gas Mark 5. Cream butter and sugars together until light and fluffy.

Add egg and vanilla extract; beat until well combined.

In a separate bowl mix together the oats, flour, soda, baking powder and salt, then add into butter mixture. Stir in raisins.

Drop the dough by heaped tablespoons onto lined baking trays, leaving a good-sized gap between each mound.

Bake for 12-15 minutes until golden brown. Cool on the trays for at least a minute before transferring to a rack.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 18th July (Drontal)

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

PUZZLE PAGE

How many Falkland Island farms can you find?

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

Riddle

A farmer and his hired help were carrying grain to the barn. The farmer carried one sack of grain and the hired help carried two sacks. Who carried the heavier load and why?

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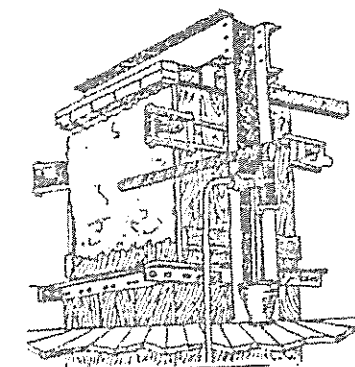
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EDITORIAL

Farmers Week has come and gone - for some in an alcoholic daze, for others in an alcoholic daze with new found knowledge, or as was pointed out old found knowledge represented. The trick to productivity in the Falklands is nutrition- this has been known since 1850! The key to nutrition is hard work and strategic supplementary feeding in the hard months through rotational grazing, feeding root crops, saving pastures, making and feeding hay or buying in feed or adding protein to better utilise pasture. The choice is yours! All are good choices but before spending you better look at the returns! Pull out the pen and paper and start to make a few calculations. Time to run a few trials - just like the DoA or maybe ask the DoA of the results before making the calculations. Calculating costs is easy – calculating benefits presents a little more of a challenge.

Don't think you are alone - work in Australia has shown the effect of ewe body score on lamb production. As you can tell me, the better the body score the more the lambs and if you're supplying lambs to the abattoir each lamb is worth money. The 5 critical areas of sheep production in Australia are nutrition, nutrition, nutrition, nutrition and nutrition! Sound familiar?

If you have had enough of sheep then start digging the spud patch. Maybe these photos should be put in your farmers hand book. The Falklands have been importing spuds for a hundred years so some of these diseases should be here. Have a look and let Shona know. The biosecurity protocols can then be changed accordingly.

If you have had enough of spud digging have a look at your wool clip and test out a few of Des Humphrey's tips. Most years there is a premium for micron. A few years ago there was such a premium that farmers were testing each fleece and classing according to micron to maximise profits. The Falklands has a wool coop with guru up to the minute information – make use if it, preferably before shearing!

Usually I would emphasise that any strange animal symptoms should be sent to the Veterinary Section. However on this occasion if you see something resembling this photograph please shoot it and bury it immediately for the benefit of all!

Vic Epstein
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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FARMERS WEEK 2007

By Siân Ferguson

One of the busiest times of the year in the Department of Agriculture calendar has now passed and we can heave a sigh of relief now that Farmers Week is over!

As always, the week was packed full of events organised by the Rural Business Association, including the ever popular RBA Party on the Monday night and the Government House reception.

The DOA was fortunate enough to be able to bring Jim Gerrish to the Islands again (many of you will remember him from his workshops held in April and May this year) to work with DOA staff on managed grazing initiatives as well as to assist with presentations during Farmers Week.

Peter Johnson and Andrew Pollard from the DOA also conducted presentations during the departmental sessions, along with Zoë Luxton and Vic Epstein from the Veterinary Section.

On the next page is an outlined summary of what was discussed at the sessions, but a cd of all the presentations (including those of Jim Gerrish) is available free from the Department of Agriculture. Please phone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for a copy.

Nutritional Requirements of a Ewe Flock

Looking at the seasonal nutrition requirements of a ewe flock, what makes up nutrition and what happens when the nutritional requirements are not met.

Forage Resources of the Falklands

Looking at what animals are eating during the different seasons of the year and the species intake in a set-stocked system

Annual Forage Cropping Options

What the benefits of forage cropping are, different seasonal forage cropping options and costs versus return.

Protein Supplementation

Looking at what it is, why animals need it and what can you do to increase protein at critical times of the year.

Yearly Profile of a Falklands Ewe Flock

A review of different trials and farms in the Islands which examined ewes throughout the year, studying bodyweights and how it affects ovulation rates/ability to conceive, lambing percentages and death rates and what can be done to increase the productivity and cost effectiveness of ewe flocks.

Recipe Mix for Animal Feed Requirements

A practical session looking at what animals eat versus what they need for a balanced and nutritional diet to allow them to perform at a productive and profitable level for farmers.

Managing Protein & Energy Balance in Ruminant Livestock

What animals are ruminants, the make-up of a ruminant, how to keep ruminants functioning every day and the advantages of strip-grazing.

Management of Native Camp for Improved Animal Performance

Looking at whitegrass, how to change pasture composition, advantages and disadvantages of using fire, complete pasture re-seeding, the importance of pasture records, plant diversity and

pasture stability, how you can change the pasture composition and how grazing management can make a difference.

Stockpiled Winter Pasture

What is stockpiling, what does it take to extend the winter grazing season, selecting the best pasture for stockpiling, the key components, how strip grazing increases utilisation efficiency and training your stock to find forage.

Putting It All Into Place On Your Farm

Setting the goals for your farm; strategic goals, lifestyle, financial, landscape and production systems. How to set specific, measurable, attainable, related and time-tabled goals and where to start.

Trade Displays

A small number of contractors and suppliers show-cased their businesses and what they had to offer. The DOA also prepared updates on the simulated grazing, wethers and pellet feeding trials.

Animal Movement Certificates

Why they are important and how to fill them out correctly. How stress in animals can affect productivity.

Bovine Tuberculosis

History of TB testing in the Falklands, why do we need to know. Farmers to inspect all home kills - DOA to set up training days, farmers to keep records of home kills and inspection.

Senior Veterinary Officer

Brucella ovis monitoring, disease monitoring, exotic disease and the importance of sending in anything unusual for testing.

For those interested in the PowerFlex posts, electric seeder etc that were on show during the Jim Gerrish presentation during Farmers Week, I will be putting an order together mid August - catalogue available. I also have information/prices on several models of new Honda ATV's ex USA.

Jimmy Forster: fbc@horizon.co.fk or tel: 42178

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 29th August (Droncit)

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

ALLOCATING THE 2007/08 FIG ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BUDGET

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Officer

Annually, the Falkland Islands Government provides a sum of approximately £60,000 for environmental research, awareness raising, and conservation and management activities. The Environmental Committee is responsible for allocating the 'Environmental Studies Budget' (ESB) funds to owners and managers of land, non governmental organisations and international scientists that conduct research in the Falkland Islands.

This year will see a more strategic approach to allocation of the ESB, with a formal application and decision making process. There will be two funding rounds, scheduled for September and tentatively, February.

Projects eligible for ESB funding must assist in the management of the biodiversity of the Falkland Islands. Priority will be given to initiatives addressing the key three themes of the draft 'Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy', which are environmental research, on-ground action and education.

Priority areas

The Environmental Committee has prioritised the current biodiversity needs of the Falkland Islands and projects that address these are more likely to gain ESB funds. These are:

High priority

Implementation of Key species and habitat action plans (See Appendix 1 below)

Prevention and elimination of invasive species

Management of important bird and plant areas (See Appendix 1 below)

Baseline surveying where knowledge gaps exist (e.g. shallow marine environment, off-shore islands, lower plants)

Educational activities and materials

Medium priority

Implementation of less at risk species and habitat action plans (See Appendix 1 below)

Long-term environmental monitoring – particularly for climatic and oceanographic conditions

Management of national nature reserves (See Appendix 1 below)

Prevention/management of pollution

Livestock-raptor management

Low priority

Sectorial (cross-cutting theme) action plan activities e.g. eco-tourism, aquaculture, agriculture

Environmental data storage mechanisms

Maintenance of national herbarium and insectarium

Application process

Applicants – landowners, land managers, scientists, individuals, institutions and organisations - are requested to submit a written outline of their project in relation to the area(s) of interest outlined above. Applications should be written in 10 point font and not exceed four A4 pages.

Proposals should be very clear on how projects contribute to conservation objectives. Where a project focuses on one site, a site management plan is desirable to identify security of long-term benefits.

There is no formal application form. However, applications must include information on:

- project objectives
 - background/justification
 - expected, possible project outputs and time scale
 - any project progress to date
 - justification of funds being sought
 - list of items for funding
 - time line for the use of funds
 - total estimated cost of the project and details of any co-funding
- project proponents experience and track record in producing results

Where possible, some level of co-funding or in-kind costs (e.g. labour, equipment) is desirable. ESB funds can also be used as FIG co-funding when applying to funding bodies in the UK and internationally.

A contract will be signed between EPD and organisations and individuals receiving funds. The contract will specify an agreed activity timeline, a reporting process for outcomes, as well as arrangements regarding publicity and use of analysed/interpreted data. Local publicity is particularly encouraged.

Deadline for the first funding round is Friday 31st August 2007. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the EPD Environmental Officer prior to submission and she can also help draft your application.

Decision-making process

Applications will be decided upon by the Environmental Committee based on:
 Relevance to the key themes and priority actions of the 'Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy'
 Urgency – the need to undertake the action immediately or in the medium or long term
 Capacity of the project/actions, project proponent and budget to meet stated objective(s).
 Possibility of sourcing funds elsewhere

Appendix 1

1. Species and habitat action plans

Key	Less at risk
Mainland tussac	Endemic plants (13 species)
Whitegrass-fachine acid grassland	Californian Club-rush stands
Fachine scrub	Endemic birds (2 species)
Boxwood scrub	Pelagic cetaceans
Five critically endangered plants	Coastal cetaceans
Black-browed albatross	Seals and sea lions
Striated caracara	Southern giant petrel
Southern rockhopper penguin	Gentoo penguin
Cobb's wren	Magellanic penguin
Zebra trout	Falkland Fritillary
	Ruddy-headed goose
	White-chinned petrel

2. Key Areas

IBA = Important Bird Area (Falklands Conservation 2006)

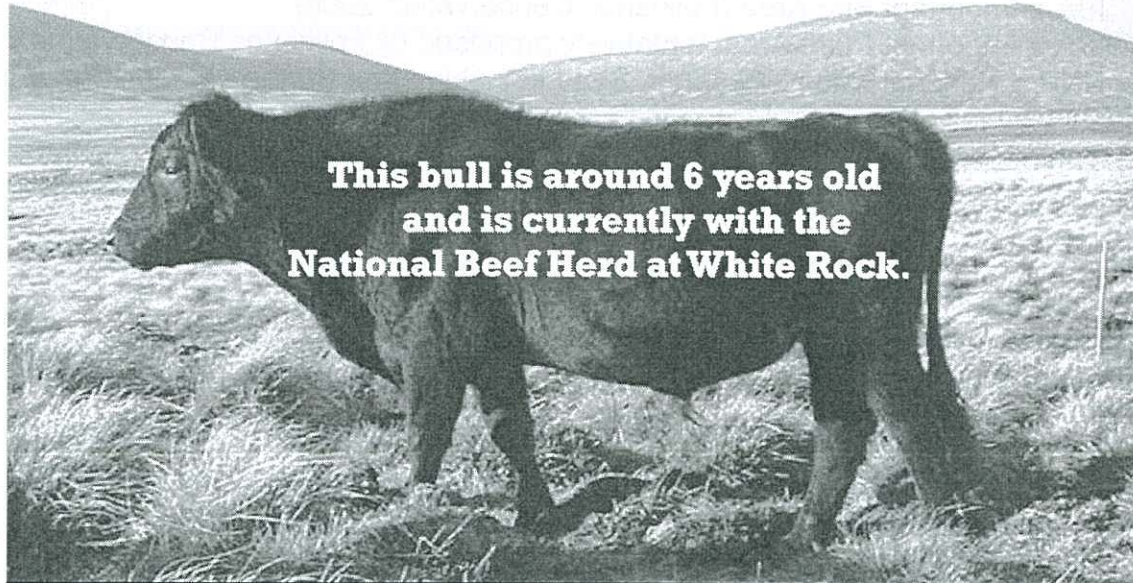
IPA = Important Plant Area, tentatively proposed by Falklands Conservation in 2002.

NNR = National Nature Reserve. Sea Lion Island and Bertha's Beach are proposed

Site	IBA	IPA	NNR
Beauchene Island	√		√
Beaver Island Group	√		
Bird Island	√		√
Bleaker Island Group	√		√ (north)
Elephant Cays Group	√		
Hummock Island Group	√		√ (Middle only)
Jason Islands Group	√		√ (except Steeple & Grand)
Keppel Island	√		
Kidney Island Group	√		√
Lively Island Group	√		
New Island Group	√		√ (south)
Passage Islands Group	√		
Pebble Island Group	√	√	
Saunders Island	√	√	
Sea Lion Island Group	√	√	√ (proposed)
Speedwell Island Group	√		
West Point Island Group	√		
Bull Point (East Falklands)	√	√	
Hope Harbour (West Falklands)	√		
Seal Bay (East Falkland)	√		
Volunteer Point (East Falklands)	√		√
Bertha's Beach (East Falklands)	√		√ (proposed)
Hill Cove Mountains	√		
West Lagoons Pond, Hill Cove		√	
Port Stephens and Albemarle Coast		√	
Hawk's Nest Ponds & Little Chartres Gully		√	
Long Mountain, East Bay, West Falklands		√	√
Cape Pembroke, East Falklands		√	√
Big Pond, Cerritos, East Falklands		√	
Cape Dolphin, East Falklands			√
Moss Side, East Falklands			√
The Twins, Carcass Group			√
Low Island, Carcass Group			√
Narrows, Dunnose Head, West Falklands			√
Sea Dog & Arch Islands, southwest West Falklands			√

**HOME
WANTED**

For National Beef Herd Angus Bull (Tag No. 1)



**This bull is around 6 years old
and is currently with the
National Beef Herd at White Rock.**

Anyone interested in using bull No 1 on long term loan should contact Neil Judd at the Department of Agriculture on 27355 or email njudd@horizon.co.fk

POTATO DISEASE SURVEY RESULTS

By Shona Strange

The Department of Agriculture recently sent a small sample of potatoes to the United Kingdom for disease analysis. The analysis was performed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland.

The samples shown on the next two pages were collected from a range of potato growers within the Islands.

From this analysis two diseases were found to be present in the Falkland Islands:

1. Streptomyces scabies (Common scab)
2. Rhizoctonia solani (Canker / Black scurf)

The purpose of this analysis was to establish what potato diseases exist in the Falklands. Based on information collected, the Department of Agriculture can set Phytosanitary Conditions for the Importation of Ware (Eating) and Seed (Planting) Potatoes into the Falkland Islands.

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust through its consultant's contact with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland and the Agri-Food and BioSciences Institute has proposed to assist the Department of Agriculture with the above task of establishing Phytosanitary conditions for potato imports.

In order to establish if there are other major potato diseases in the Falklands, I would be grateful if you could send any unusual or suspected diseased tubers to the Department for further assessment.

If you see any potatoes that you think might be diseased, please contact me on email sstrange@doa.gov.fk or telephone 27355

Extensive cover by common scab (Streptomyces scabies), some reticulation pattern caused by Rhizoctonia solani and a 'growth crack', of a type which is more prevalent when Rhizoctonia solani is present.		Scruffy skin due to abrasion, black scurf, fine common scab and lenticels.	
Pitted type of common scab caused by Streptomyces scabies.		Black scurf and reticulation due to Rhizoctonia solani	
Many lesions of raised common scab caused by Streptomyces scabies. Also fine brown spots that are a mixture of lenticels and very small common scab lesions		Very, very slight reticulation due to Rhizoctonia solani and a line of more severe reticulation.	
Tuber with a wet rot. Could not find Erwinia carotovora species bacteria that normally cause such rots. Was it rotten when it left the Falklands?		Scruffy-looking skin mostly due to black scurf and reticulate Rhizoctonia solani symptoms.	
Pimpled appearance due to extensive coverage with raised common scab		Perfect red skin.	
Strong reticulate blemish pattern caused by Rhizoctonia solani		Black scurf caused by Rhizoctonia solani and a dry rot, which is only skin deep and is probably the result of mechanical removal of tuber flesh	
Very, very fine reticulate pattern caused by Rhizoctonia solani		Coarse reticulation, a 'growth crack' and black scurf caused by Rhizoctonia solani	
Disease-free skin showing only lenticels.		Scruffy skin due to mild common scab, mechanical abrasion and lenticels.	
Brown, circular spots 2-4 mm diameter that are common scab lesions.		Perfect skin showing only many lenticels.	
Fine reticulate Rhizoctonia solani and a 'scar' beside one eye that is also a common Rhizoctonia solani symptom.		Red skin with mild common scab lesions	
Black scurf and severe reticulate cracking caused by Rhizoctonia solani.		Dry reticulate cracking due to Rhizoctonia solani. Knob on eye, which is a 'second growth' type of symptom.	
Some mechanically abraded areas of skin and 'eroded' spots probably due to physical damage. Pronounced show of lenticels.		Very scruffy tuber due to browning from abrasion, some Rhizoctonia solani cracking and two lines indentations on surface caused by tuber growing against a strong plant root or rhizome.	

Rosette sprouting due to old age, or treatment of the tuber stock with a sprout control chemical long beforehand. Plus a hole eaten by an insect.



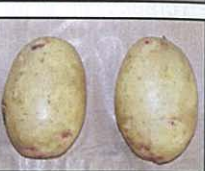
Disease-free skin showing only fine brown spots that are lenticels



Old potato with age wrinkles and skin darkened due to age and possibly, Rhizoctonia solani.



Near perfect skin with only fine Rhizoctonia solani reticulation and lenticels.



Almost blemish-free skin showing only 2-3 areas of mechanical abrasion and Rhizoctonia solani symptom on one eye. Also has a few shallow holes caused by an insect larva or adult eating at the flesh when the tuber was young and developing in the soil.



Perfect skin, showing only lenticels

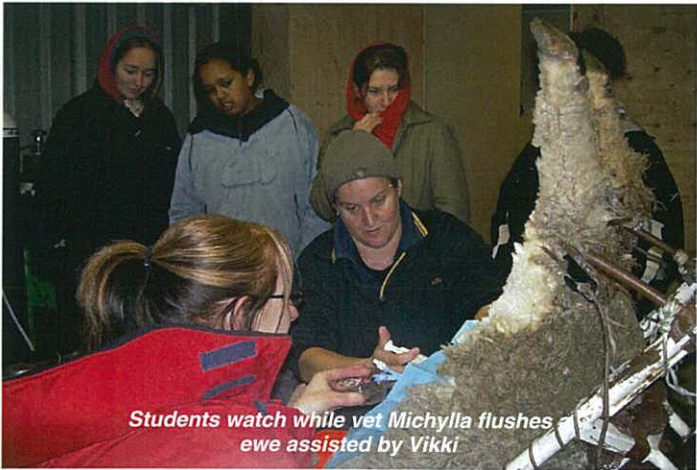


AGRICULTURAL WORK EXPERIENCE

By Louise Taylor

Students from the FICS have been fortunate to enjoy some work-based learning from the Agriculture Department in recent weeks.

Late in June, some students took the opportunity to find out more about the Agriculture Department's embryo transfer programme. 13 pupils from across the year groups took a day trip to Saladero to watch the process take place – embryos removed from some ewes before lunch and the selected ones transferred to others afterwards. All the students agreed that this was a very worthwhile trip and appreciated the chance to take a look at some of the work of the agriculture department first-hand. Students comment: "I think that the trip was good for people who are interested in farming and want to work for the Agriculture Department." "It was a very successful day and everyone enjoyed themselves." "Good day out from school." "It was really interesting."



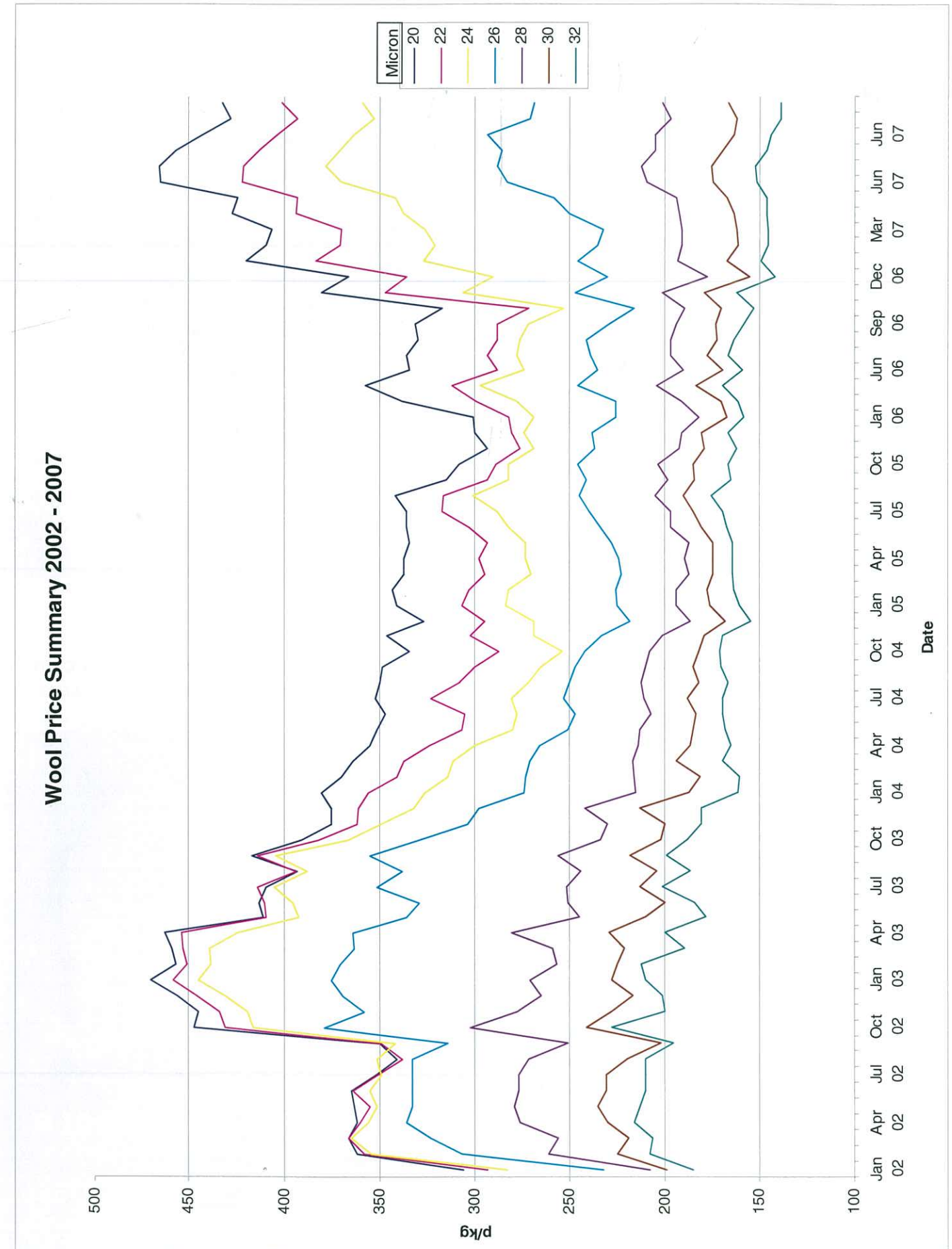
This is the third year that FICS students have been able to take a look at this programme. It's interesting to see how different students react – some like to take time-out for fresh air whilst others are keen to get stuck in and give hands-on help with the sheep! From a teacher's perspective, it's always nice to get a day away from the classroom, see something different and learn something new. Each year I've seen the programme in action has been different, and I've enjoyed every trip. That said, I hope to hand over to someone new for next year so the experience is spread out amongst school staff. This trip was originally set up from a scientific point-of-view but clearly it gives students the chance to consider an agricultural career and decide whether they can really cope with some of the less-glamorous aspects. I have discussed the possibility of an agricultural day-out where students would visit different farms on the East and see different types of "agriculture in action". Unfortunately, time has so far defeated me and I haven't managed to put the arrangements in place. Maybe next year

Right: Sam Dodd spends time with one of the patients during her recent work experience with the vets. We also have Stefan Clarke, Duane Evans and Alice Hancox join us for a week over the coming month. These four students have all expressed interest in a long-term career in agriculture, with some hoping to attend college first and others going straight to work for on-the-job experience and training.



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



2007 SHEEP AI & ET PROGRAMME

By Nyree Heathman

The 2007 programme kicked off in the second week of May, after the arrival of Michylla Seal from AllStock (WA), and ran until the end of June.

This was the third year that Mic has visited the Islands to carry out the AI & ET work on behalf of the Department. This year 23 farms participated in the programme (including Saladero).

Embryo Transfer

235 donors were flushed during the 2007 programme with the best programme producing an average of 9.18 embryos collected per donor flushed. The overall programme average was 7.24.

An overall programme average of 5.45 transferable embryos was achieved this year with a maximum of 8.00 transferable embryos per donor flushed.

1908 embryos were transferred into 1779 recips at 8 different locations. This included both imported frozen embryos and locally frozen embryos, as well as the fresh embryos that were collected during May and June.

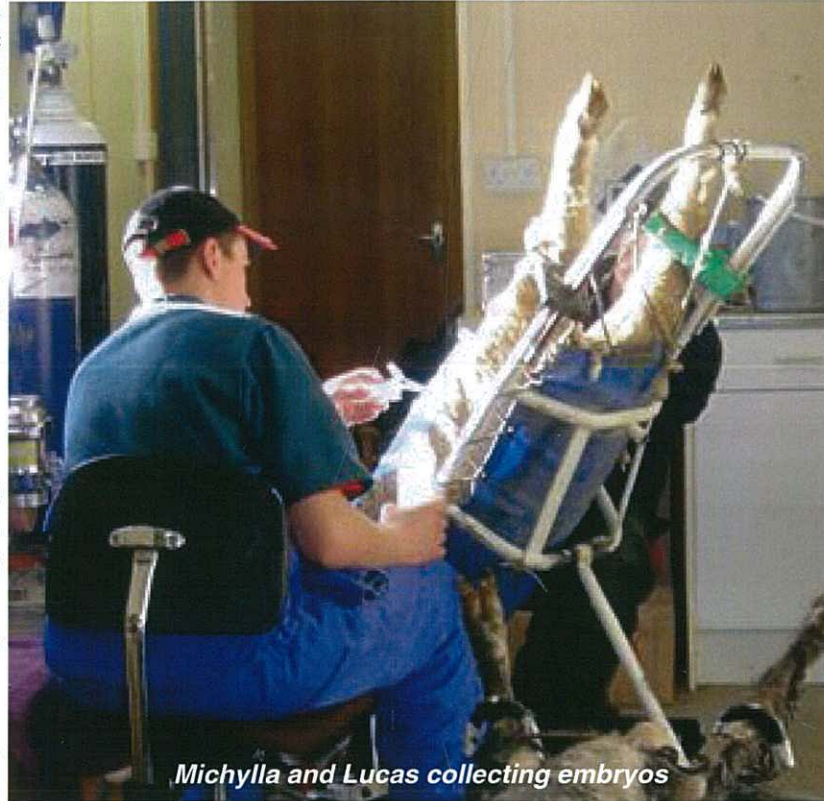
Artificial Insemination

This season 2284 ewes were inseminated at 8 different properties. Both frozen and fresh semen was used for this work.

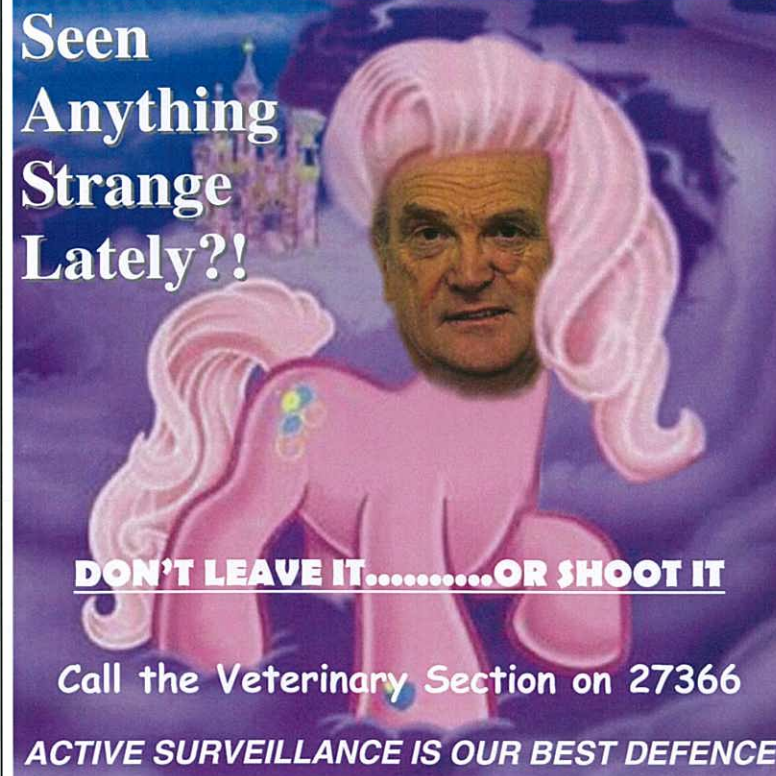
Although few ewes from this years programme have so far been scanned, to date the results that we do have are looking good.

Farmers around the Islands have put a considerable amount of time and effort into this programme so lets hope that we get some decent weather at lambing time.

Finally many thanks to all those people who helped out with the programme in any way.



Michylla and Lucas collecting embryos



SHOULD YOU CLASS EVERY CLIP IN THE SAME MANNER?

By Des Humphrey

Well I thought it was well overdue that I should drop a line to you all. With the wool market briefly showing some signs of improvement, lets all hope it maintains a viable level. Here is some food for thought about how you might put wools together to help maximise potential returns.

This information is based on hypothetical assumptions that the results will be mathematically about the mark. I would like you to apply the theories to your own situation.

What are the tell-tale signs that may influence your wool classing strategies?

Let's look at the following facts.

Fact One

Occasionally you find that a particular micron is bringing a price higher in value in relation to wools around it. This premium can be calculated and expressed as a percentage. This becomes known as a micron premium.

It is the percentage that a one micron finer wool brings over the broader micron.

Example: A 25 micron wool = 660c clean
A 26 micron wool = 600c clean

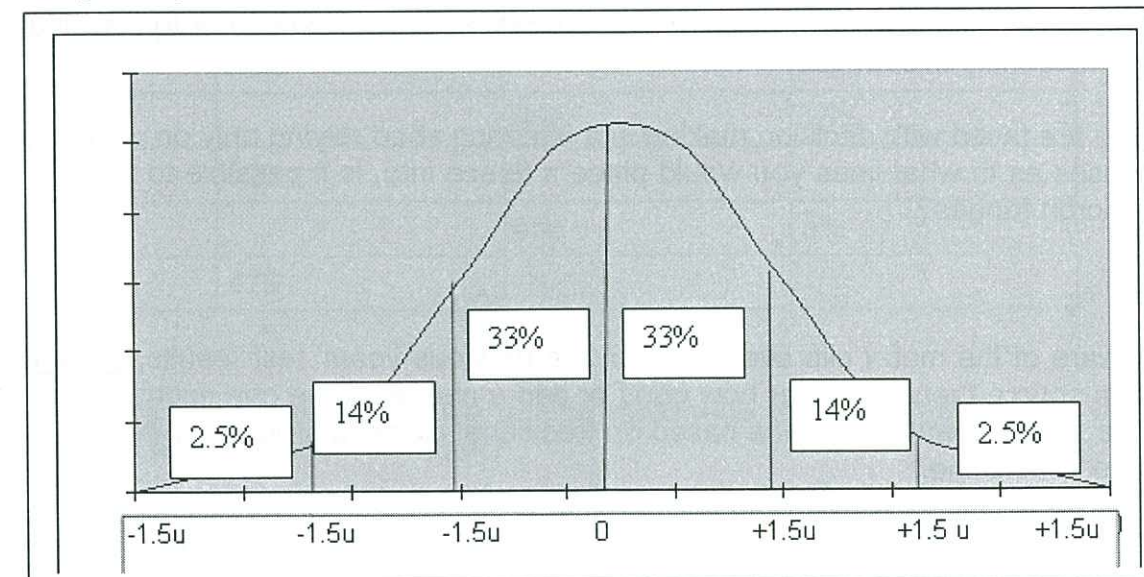
There is a 60c premium paid for 25 micron wool

$$\frac{60}{600} \times \frac{100}{1} = 10\% \text{ micron premium}$$

Fact Two

In every flock of sheep you will have a range of at least ten microns – that is from the finest sheep to the broadest sheep. No matter how even you may think your wool is, genetics, feeding, management and of course the most important influence being mother nature, all contribute to this variation.

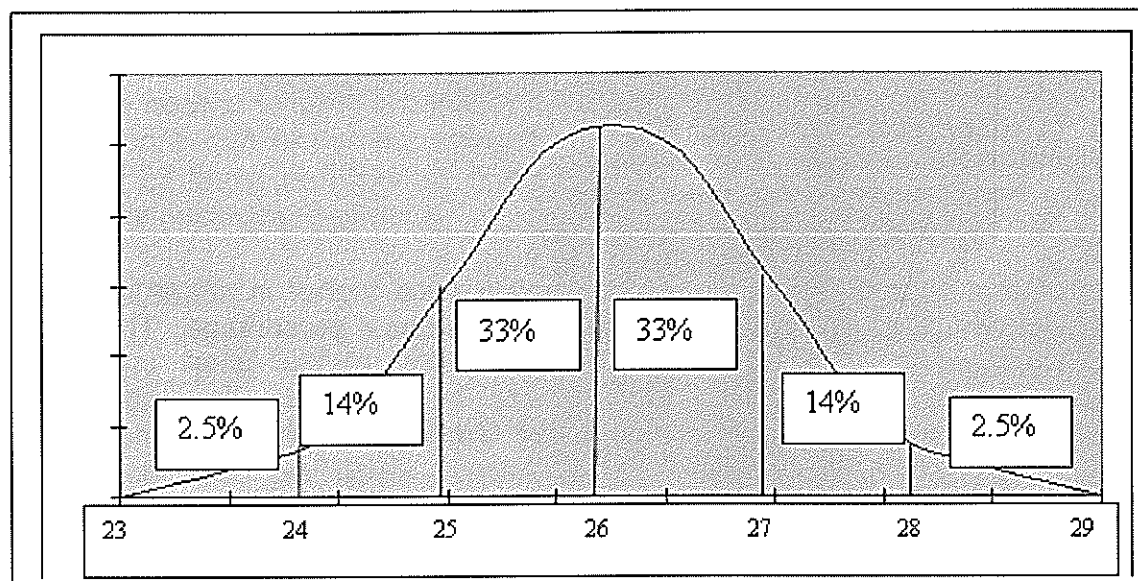
Statistically, every flock / mob can be divided into this micron distribution.



Note: I have slightly changed the % from the text book from 34% to 33%.

To make these figures into a more simplified interpretation, as there would only be a few animals at either side of the range, we ignore these animals and reduce the standard deviation from 1.5 micron back to 1 micron.

Here is what you might expect to get if the flock averaged 26 microns (this of course can be adapted to any micron average).



In other words, if this was a clip of 100 bales and we only included the main fleece wools, ignoring the "AA" wools, then hypothetically we could expect:

- 2.5 bales of 23.7 microns
- 14 bales of 24.6 microns
- 33 bales of 25.6 microns
- 33 bales of 26.4 microns
- 14 bales of 27.4 microns
- 2.5 bales of 28.3 microns

Now this is in the perfect statistical world. If we had tested every fleece prior to classing, it would be very easy to identify this range.

But when you are faced with decision making in a shearing shed relying only on visual, tactile and common senses as to what lines you would place a fleece into, is it possible to roughly estimate wools into micron ranges?

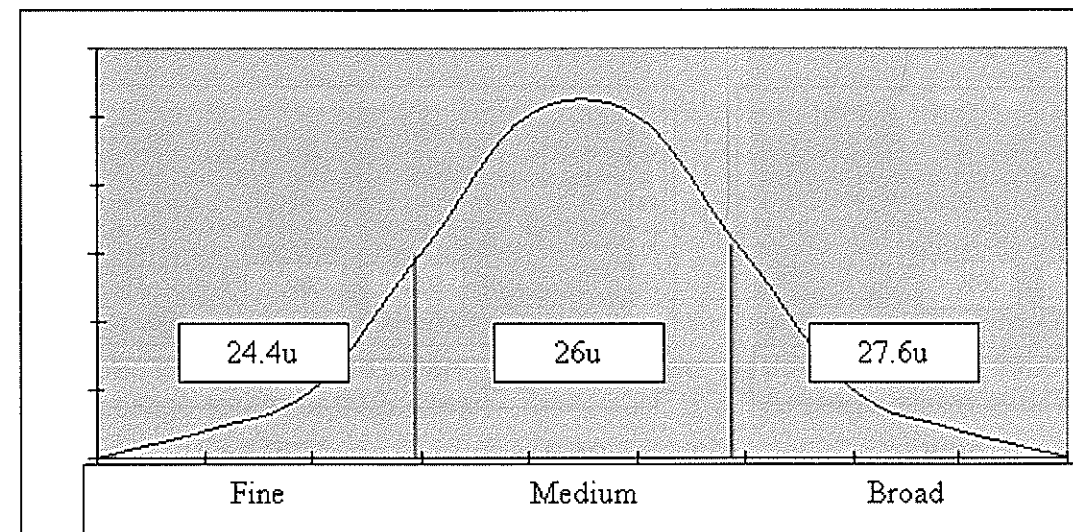
Fact Three

If you are aware of the mob / clip average from the previous years' test results, seasonal conditions and ram source then no matter how good or bad a classer some one might be, if you intend making a fine, medium and broad line based on traditional classing strategies, the largest line will always be the middle line.

Two thirds of all the fleeces will automatically fall into this category resulting in a micron test, exactly around the clip average. Then it is just a simple task to identify the softer, positive type wools and finer crimping wools, resulting in 15% - 17% of the clip falling into a micron range of

1.5 microns finer than the middle line.

The opposite happens when you identify the broader, hardier, flatter negative types.



Fact Four

The season average for 2006/7 saw the following clean prices obtained. I have included the micron premium for each.

MICRON	CLEAN PRICE	DIFFERENCE	PREMIUM
23	830		
		60c	8%
24	770		
		110c	16%
25	660		
		60c	10%
26	600		
		80c	15%
27	520		
		45c	9%
28	475		

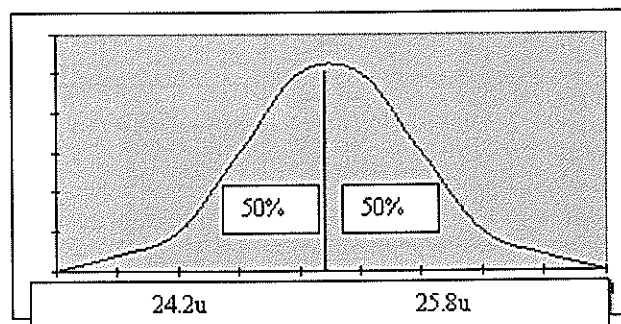
What classing strategies might we use to maximise the potential return, comparing a 25 micron flock, with a 26 micron flock?

BASE PRICE	BASE PRICE
For a 25 micron wool clip – 660c clean	For a 26 micron wool clip – 600c clean

Compare 4 alternative hypothetical methods of classing these clips, using the 2006/7 clean price average:

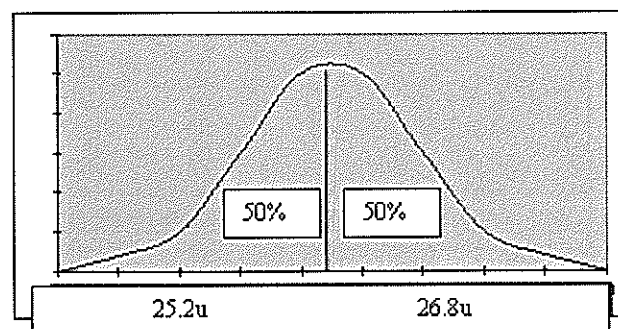
Option A – Divide the clip into two equal halves.

25 MICRON CLIP



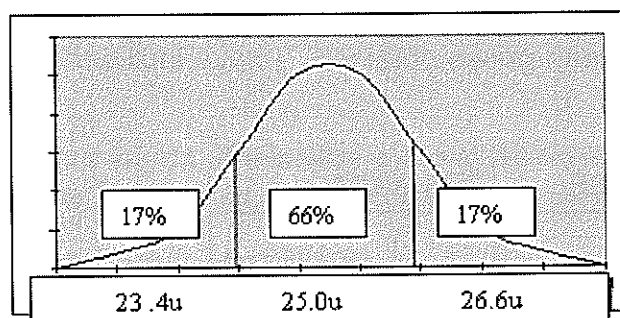
24.2 u 25.8 u
750c clean 610c clean
Average return of 680c clean

26 MICRON CLIP

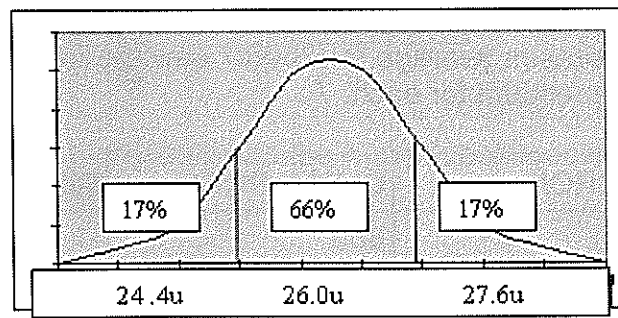


25.2 u 26.8 u
650c clean 530c clean
Average return of 590c clean

Option B – Normal Classing Practice – Fine, Middle, Broad



23.4u 25.0u 26.6u
810c clean 660c clean 535c clean
Average return of 664c clean

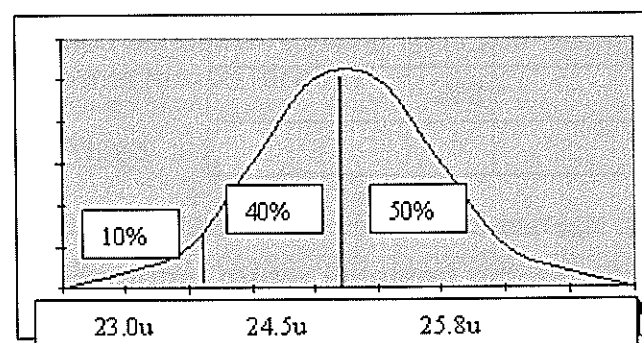


24.4u 26.0u 27.6u
720c clean 600c clean 485c clean
Average return of 600c clean

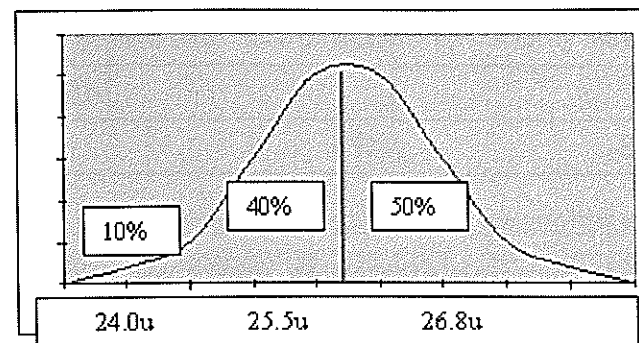
For a 25 micron wool clip – 660c clean

For a 26 micron wool clip – 600c clean

Option C – Small Fine Line, Middle, Bulk Up Broad Edge

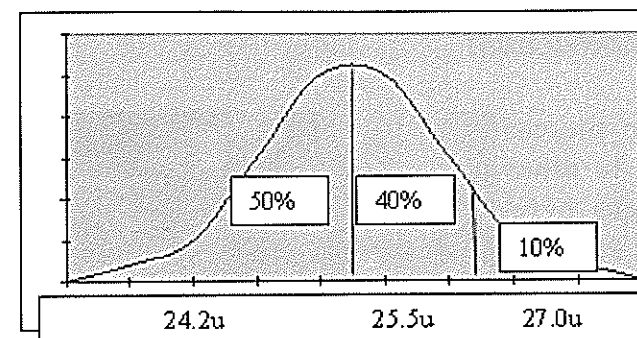


23.0u 24.5u 25.8u
830c clean 720c clean 610c clean
Average return of 676c clean

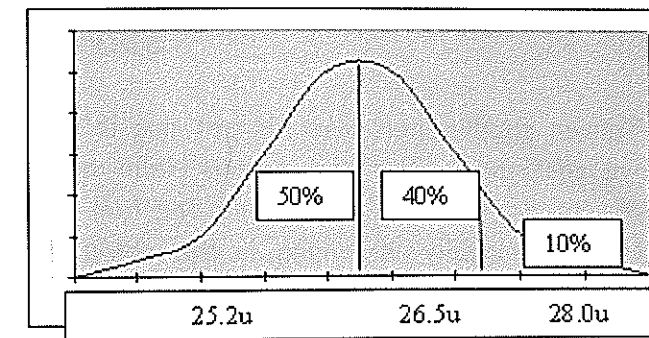


24.0u 25.5u 26.8u
770c clean 630c clean 530c clean
Average return of 594c clean

Option D – Bulk up the Fine Line, Middle, Broad



24.2u 25.5u 27.0u
750c clean 630c clean 520c clean
Average return of 679c clean



25.2u 26.5u 28.0u
650c clean 560c clean 475c clean
Average return of 577c clean

Conclusion:

The difference in returns for the alternative methods comes about by identifying where the micron premium lie. (Refer back to Fact Four).

This occurs for the 25 micron clip in Option A & D – an overall return of 20c clean better than the base average. I would prefer Option D as it divides the clip into three lines, the classing and processing of these wools a little more reliable than Option A.

This comes about through identifying the largest line, and matching it to where there is a window of opportunity to be gained in a higher premium, in this case 16%.

But in the case of the 26 micron clip Option B gives the best return. But there is not a lot of difference in any of these strategies as the premium either side of 26 microns is about the same, + 16% and – 15%. Therefore, how you divide up the lines will not have a great influence on the overall average return.

All very interesting, a bit of smoke and mirror theory as one might say. I thought I would give you something to ponder about. Looks good on paper but can you put it into practice?

Lets hope the wool prices keep on improving.

Notes from Department of Agriculture

Please do not hesitate to contact DOA staff if you have any queries after reading the article by Des Humphrey. It is a very easy exercise to review you historical classing results in the manner shown above.

If you consider the typical Falkland Islands classing strategy with separate lines for shearlings, A and B wool (or maybe B & C wool), with a small quantity of very broad wool in a BB or CC line, I do not believe that farmers differ much from Des's theoretical exercise.

Neil Judd.

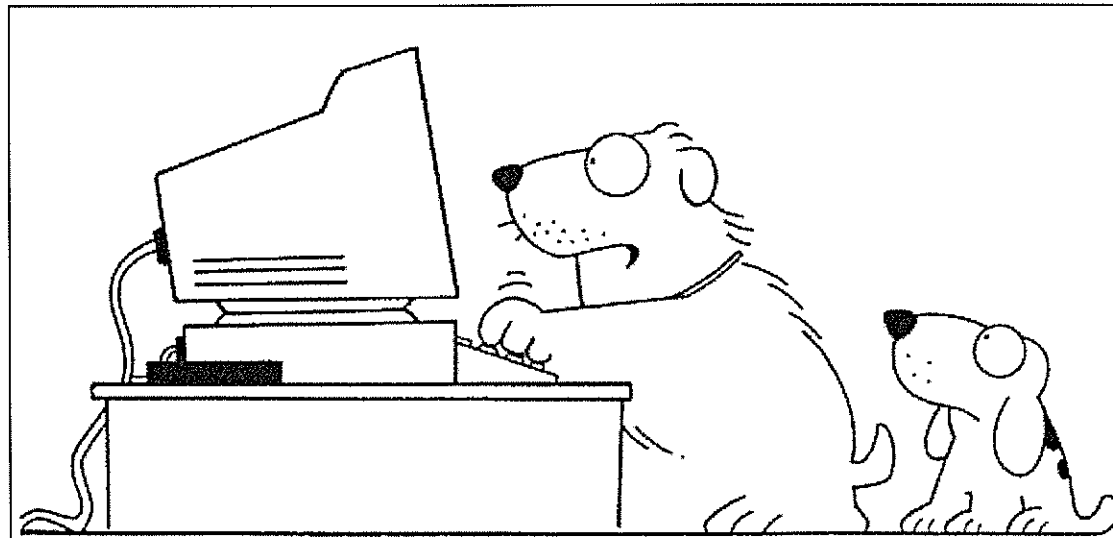
Strange Animal Tales

Source: Ananova.com

A Taiwan shopkeeper says his pet dog is so clever she can serve customers. The dog, named Hello, also goes to other shops to do the man's shopping for him. Hello sells betel nuts, known locally as penang, in the man's store in Pingdong city, reports the China News Network.

"She knows how to open the fridge, pick up the pinang, and put it on the counter, then collect the money from the customers. Many people just come to be served by her," says the owner.

Hello also goes shopping by herself. She carries a plastic bag, containing money and a shopping list, in her mouth. If there is a queue she waits in line and, when it is her turn to be served, puts her front legs on the counter and drops the bag in front of the shopkeeper. Her owner says the only problem is that on hot days she prefers to stay in the cool shop rather than hurry home afterwards. "Every time she goes shopping in summer, I tell her beforehand: "Come home early, don't stay there for the coolness", he said.



"I'm advertising my new business on the internet. For £25 an hour, I'll come to your house, lick your face, listen intently, wag my tail and be your best friend."

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

- **There were 51 farm names in the word search last month**

Johnsons Harbour, Blue Beach, Bluff Cove, Brookfield, Cape Dolphin, Elephant Beach, Estancia, Fitzroy, Salvador, Greenfield, Home Farm, Lorenzo, Long Island, Moss Side, Mount Kent, Murrell, Newans, New House, Port Louis, North Arm, Race Point, Riverside, Riverview, Rodeo, Saladero, Smylies, Swan Inlet, Teal Inlet, Wreck Point, Wineglass, Albemarle, Bold Cove, Boundary, Dunbar, Eastbay, Fern Ridge, Harps, Chartres, Main Point, Many Branch, Peaks, Philomel, Pickthorne, Port Edgar, Port North, Shallow Bay, Sheffield, Spring Point, Stoney Ridge, West Lagoons, White Rock

- **The farmer's load was heavier. His hired help only carried two sacks, while the farmer carries one sack, but his sack is a sack of grain. The hired help only carried 2 sacks - both empty.**

Recipe Page

From www.sainsburys.co.uk

For the starter

POTATO AND LEEK SOUP

Ingredients

25g butter
375g leeks, sliced
1 stick celery, finely sliced
375g potatoes, peeled & roughly chopped
900ml vegetable stock
142ml carton single cream
To garnish: chopped chives

Method

1. Melt the butter in a large pan & cook the leeks until softened but not coloured.
2. Add the celery, potatoes, stock & seasoning. Bring to the boil, then cover & simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Puree the soup in a blender & return to the rinsed pan.
4. Heat through, then stir in the cream & serve.

For the main

BARBECUED CHICKEN BREASTS WITH ORANGE & GINGER

Ingredients

4 skinless chicken breasts
2 tablespoons clear honey
1 orange, zest & juice
1 clove garlic, peeled & finely chopped
15g fresh ginger, peeled & finely chopped
freshly ground black pepper
To serve:
orange segments
mint leaves

Method

1. Make 3-4 deep slashes in the chicken breasts & lay them in a shallow dish.
2. Mix together the honey, orange, garlic, ginger & seasoning & spread over the chicken breasts; cover & refrigerate for an hour. If you intend to baste the chicken when cooking, put some marinade aside before putting in the raw meat.
3. Remove the chicken from the marinade & cook on a pre-heated barbecue for approximately 20 minutes on each side, basting occasionally with the separate marinade, & cook until the juices run clear when the chicken is pierced with a sharp knife.
4. Serve with orange segments & mint leaves.

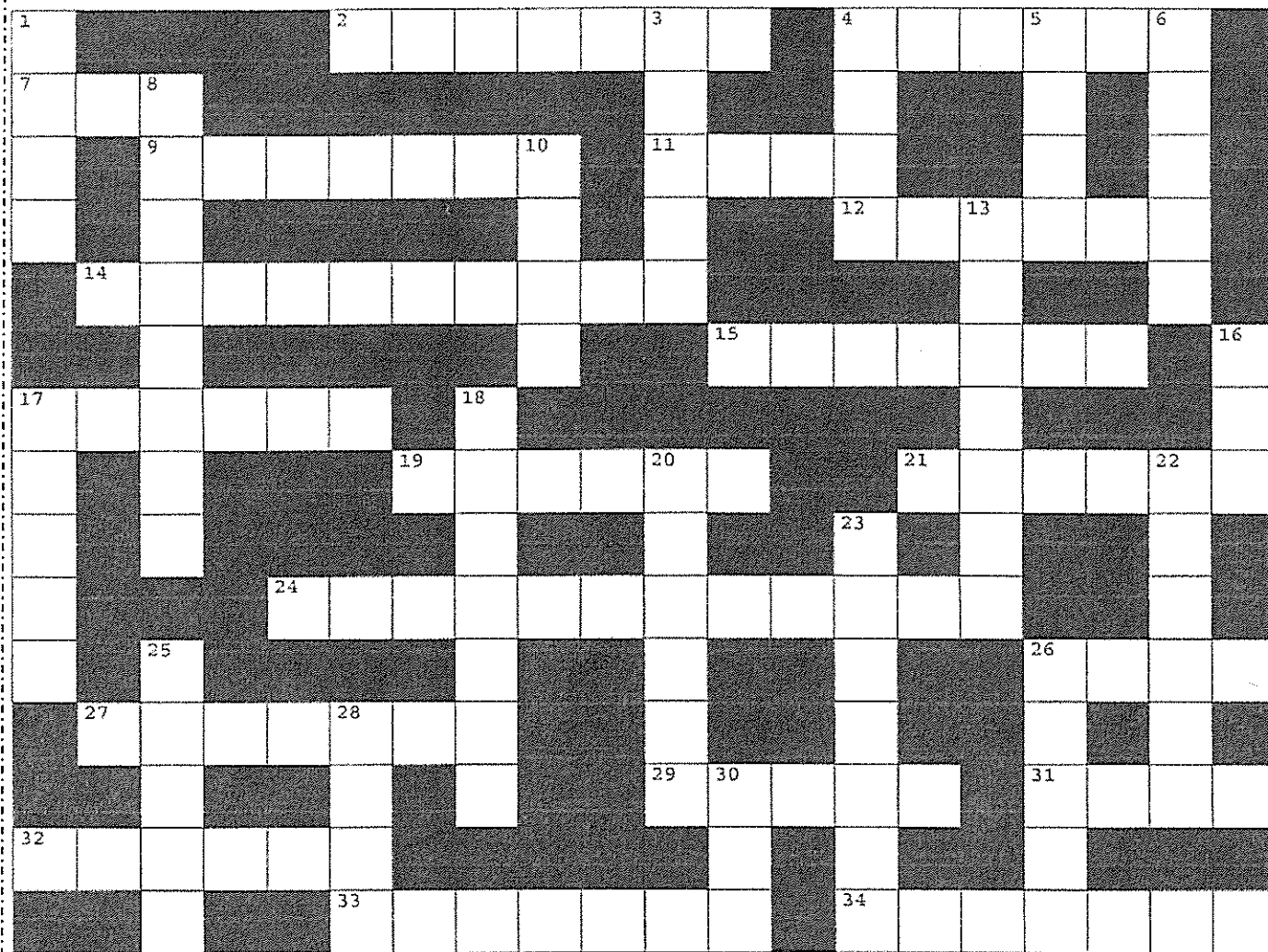


If you have a recipe that you would like to share, then please get in touch.

Fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

We welcome all contributions to the recipe page.

PUZZLE PAGE



- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Across | 17. Religion involving witchcraft | 34. Type of paint | 17. Popular spirit |
| 2. Oral doctor | 19. Blemish | Down | 18. American sitcom |
| 4. Conjuror | 21. Famous lamb | 1. Target | 20. Means of moving vertically |
| 7. Sour | 24. TV series starring Tamsin Outwaite | 3. WPSNA (<i>anag</i>) | 22. Raider |
| 9. Rearranged words | 26. E-market | 4. Hanker | 23. US state |
| 11. Shaft | 27. Evaded | 5. "Run ..." (violent frenzy) | 25. Apparation |
| 12. The Governor, Mr "..." | 29. Lucifer | 6. Silly | 26. Void |
| 14. Part of the home entertainment system | 31. Working-class | 8. Social website | 28. A Christmas carol |
| 15. Egotistical | 32. Accept | 10. House help | 30. Hatchet |
| | 33. Pasta dish | 13. Coward | |
| | | 16. Bashful | |

Riddle

A man takes a barrel that weighs 20 pounds, and then puts something in it. It now weighs less than 20 pounds. What did he put in the barrel?

THE WOOL PRESS

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Reducing Bloat in Hand-Fed Lambs - page 7

Elephant Seal Questionnaire - page 8

Lamb, Cattle & Pig Prices - page 10

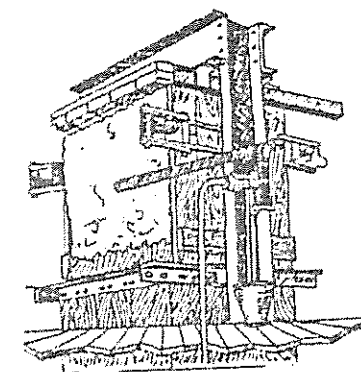
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EDITORIAL

September! Shearing will soon be under way and the whole cycle of farming revolves again. It really is becoming a little scary how quickly each 'off-season' seems to pass. Perhaps it is a reflection of how busy the entire farming calendar has come rather than of passing years!

Welcome to another information filled edition of the DOA Wool Press. Thank to the veterinary section for the up-date on Foot and Mouth disease and the ramifications on importation of products into the Falkland Islands. The outbreak of this devastating disease in the UK provides a reminder about why biosecurity controls exist in this country and their critical importance to the overall economy.

Peter Johnson has been extremely busy this month. The articles on lamb lot-feeding, length of mating as well as hogget and wether trials have an important message to the long-term conduct of livestock operations. They are commended for your attention. Similarly, if anyone is interesting in establishing a small scale demonstration site to further their understanding of grazing management principles, please do not hesitate to discuss the issue with Peter, or indeed any one of the Agricultural Advisors.

Bloat in lambs! A clear and logical article from Zoë that offers an explanation of why problems sometimes occur and, even more importantly, what can be done to reduce the problem. I am sure that the veterinary section would welcome comments from farmers as to how the option works in the Falkland Islands.

Thank you to Helen Otley for the update on Elephant Seals and information on the questionnaire being carried out by Gilly Cotter over the next few months and also to Krysteen for her fantastic sounding recipes. We hope that everyone tries and enjoys her recipes.

This month we have added information on the price of lambs, beef and also pork in the United Kingdom. The information is sourced from the 'Farmers Weekly' and is intended to provide a current price snapshot of price each week as well as showing how the current prices compare to longer term benchmarks. We hope that the information is of interest

All the best for now,

Neil Judd
Senior Agricultural Advisor

Apologies for the mistake in last months Wool Press, we hadn't swapped Neil & Vic's jobs around, it was a mistake on the editors behalf. Don't worry, you will not be seeing Neil operate on your dog anytime soon!!

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FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK UNITED KINGDOM IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Department of Agriculture would like to advise retailers and the general public that due to the current outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in the United Kingdom there are restrictions on the export of goods from the whole of the United Kingdom.

Although the Falkland Islands is not part of the European Union, we do (in most cases) mirror European Union import regulations aimed at controlling animal disease. This is to ensure that the Islands do not allow the importation of an animal disease which could be detrimental to our economy.

The European Union has introduced legislation which provides that certain things derived from animals can be exported from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) despite the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.

This legislation is European Union (EU) Commission Decision 2007/554/EC. It is currently in force but will be reviewed, and updated, on 23 August by the Commission of the EU.

The Director of Agriculture in the Falkland Islands intends to permit the import, from the United Kingdom to the Falkland Islands, of certain things derived from animals, as if the Falkland Islands were a member of the EU (other than the United Kingdom), for the ease of importing goods.

This will:

1. enable the exporters to get valid information from DEFRA (the UK department for the environment, food and rural affairs) about what products, procedures and declarations need to accompany the imports to the Falkland Islands;
2. give the Falkland Islands the same confidence that the measures introduced will protect it from foot and mouth disease as other EU member countries;
3. enable importers to simply explain to their wholesale agents in the UK what is required; and
4. enable changes and updates to be easily (*automatically? See notice below*) adopted and implemented as the progress unfolds in the UK.

The Department will keep you informed of any further major changes. This does not affect those goods currently being imported from Chile or Uruguay

IMPORT PROHIBITION (FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE) PROCLAMATION 2001

(Article 2)

Authority is given in accordance with article 2(2)(e) of the Import Prohibition (Foot and Mouth Disease) Proclamation 2001 ("the Proclamation") for the importation of anything falling within the descriptions given in article 2(1) of the Proclamation, the importation of which would otherwise be prohibited by effect of the notice of the Acting Director of Agriculture of 6 August, provided that the Director of Agriculture can be satisfied that thing was exported from the United Kingdom in compliance with;

- (i) Decision 2007/554/EC; or
- (ii) a Decision which amends or replaces Decision 2007/554/EC.

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture
Falkland Islands Government

FULL PELLETT FEEDING OF NEW-SEASON LAMB

By Peter Johnson

The trial that was conducted from February through to June has finally been completed and the simple analysis conducted.

The Trial

- Sheep pellets sourced in Uruguay were fed to three different mobs of lambs for a period of 50 to 71 days at Port Howard (PH), Elephant Beach Farm (EBF) and Swan Inlet (SI)
- The cost of the pellets, (averaged to include freight within Islands) was £250/tonne or 25p/kg
- A starter and a finisher ration were used. The starter had lower energy and protein, but was more palatable to get animals used to feeding
- Troughs and self feeders were used to supply feed to the animals ad lib
- Growth rates achieved were 82g(PH), 125g(EBF) and 152g(SI) per head per day (g/hd/day) over the length of the trial
- These differences can be put down to feeding regime, time on feed and genetics of the lambs

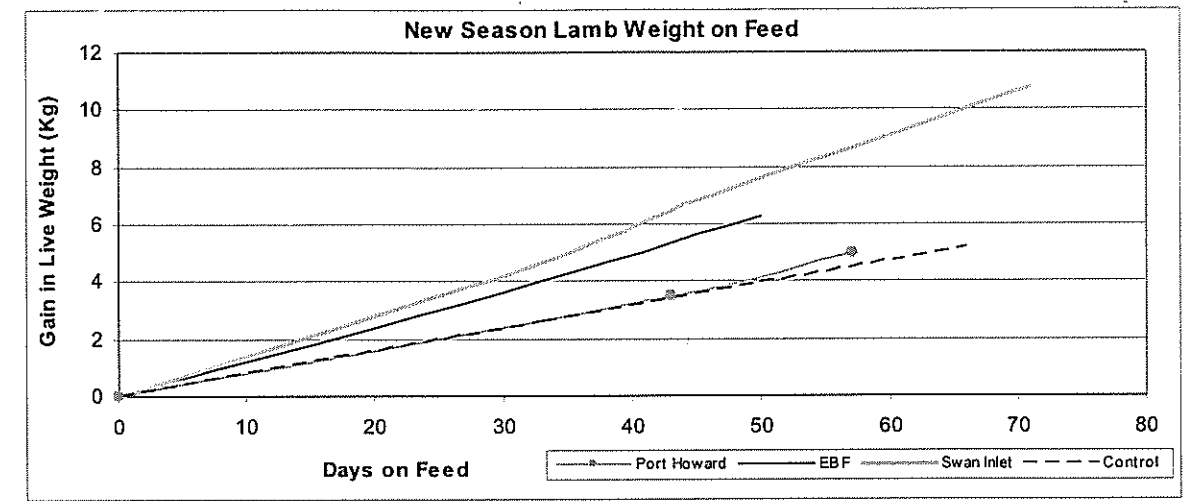
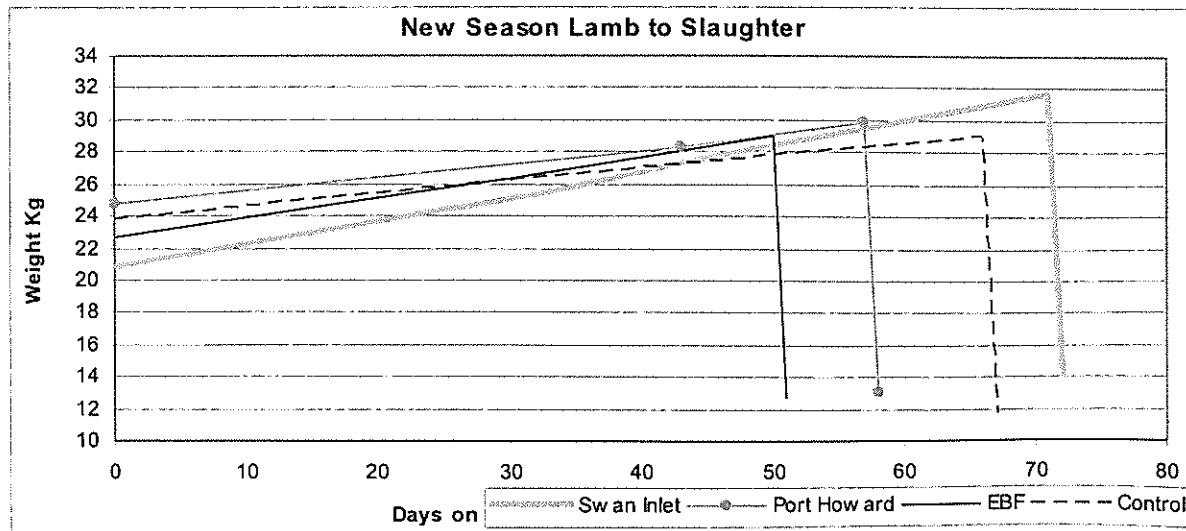
The control used for this experiment was the combined average of the lambs that had entered the wether trial at Goose Green for a similar period. These animals were placed onto high quality native camp. Although the animals were not slaughtered, a carcass weight of 11.7kg was estimated for these animals, using a yield based on an average of all animals at the three other sites who weighed 29.0kg at their last weighing.

Lesson Learnt

- The animals need to be on the higher protein, higher energy feed for longer
- Animals need to have continuous access to fresh feed, and need to be routinely directed towards the feed
- We were too cautious about the possibility of grain poisoning (which occurs when the change from a grassed based diet to a grain/pellet based diet is too rapid and the rumen microbes cannot adjust)
- Growing animals need high levels of protein and energy which were limited in the starter feed used in this trial
- Animals require access to good quality, clean water
- There are always a proportion of the animals that will not eat the ration. About 15% of the lambs in all three of the trials did not respond in the same way as the rest of the mob

Results

The following graph sums up the trial from where the animals started to where they finished and their carcass weight. The second graph shows the differences in growth between the three sites and the control.



Costs and Returns

At current prices for feed and for lamb at the abattoir, it was not economically viable with the feed source used on a whole mob basis – even if the highest growth rate of 152g/head per day is reached

The important factor is how many kilograms of pellets it takes to produce a kilogram of live weight gain, or the **feed conversion ratio**. This can be described as 6:1, or 4:1 etc. At 6:1, that means it takes 6 kilograms of feed to produce 1 kilogram of live weight. As FIMCo pays on a carcass weight value, the yield must also be taken into account. For the following calculations a yield of 45% has been used, i.e. 45% of the animal live weight was carcass weight.

Below is a sensitivity table. It illustrates the price it costs to produce a kilo of carcass weight (which is the basis on which animals are paid for by FIMCo) based on the feed conversion ratio and the cost of the pellets and an average yield conversion of 45% from live weight to carcass weight.

So let's look at Swan Inlet –

- It takes 2.22 kilograms of live weight to get 1 kg of carcass weight, if the yield is 45%
- The animals there had a feed conversion ratio of 6:1; 1 kg of live weight for 6 kg of pellets eaten.
- The cost of the feed was £0.25/kg. It cost £1.50 (6 x £0.25) worth of feed to put on 1kg of live weight
- If they need to put on 2.22 kg of live weight to make 1 kg of carcass weight that is 2.22 x 1.50 = £3.33

The price in brackets below the farm name, are the actual performance.

Cost of pellets per Kilogram	Ratio of Pellets eaten to Live weight Gained				
	8 to 1	7 to 1	6 to 1	5 to 1	4 to 1
£0.05	£0.89	£0.78	£0.67	£0.56	£0.44
£0.10	£1.78	£1.55	£1.33	£1.11	£0.89
£0.15	£2.66	£2.33	£2.00	£1.67	£1.33
£0.20	£3.55	£3.11	£2.66	£2.22	£1.78
£0.25	£4.44	£3.89	<u>£3.33</u>	£2.78	£2.22
£0.30	£5.33	£4.66	£4.00	£3.33	£2.66
£0.35	£6.22	£5.44	£4.66	£3.89	£3.11
	Port Howard (£4.77)	<i>Elephant Beach -£3.71</i>	<u>Swan Inlet -£3.42</u>	Prices Currently under the £1.35/kg paid by FIMCo	

At the highest current price paid by FIMCo of £1.35, none of the trial sites would be economically viable. The boxes highlighted in green show under what conditions (pellet price and conversion ratio) feeding pellets would be economically viable.

Future

- The benchmarks of 152g/head/day and a feed conversion ratio of 6 to 1 have been set for what can be achieved in the Falkland Islands
- Higher growth rates and lower feed conversion ratio's can be achieved with a higher energy level within the diet, but care will need to be taken to avoid acidosis

Although wide spread feeding of whole mobs has been shown not to be viable at this stage, there is still a future for pellet feeding in the Falkland Islands in some specialised circumstances. This may be where by putting on a few kilograms with a concentrated pellet feed adds considerable value to the overall animal, not just the extra kilograms worth £1.35.

THE CARRY OVER EFFECTS OF THE LENGTH OF JOINING

By Peter Johnson

The length of time that the rams are left out with the ewes has a huge carryover effect on the whole productivity of the ewe flock. If the rams are out longer than they need to be, then it has impacts further through the season for lambing, weaning and joining again the next year. Let's look at two systems –

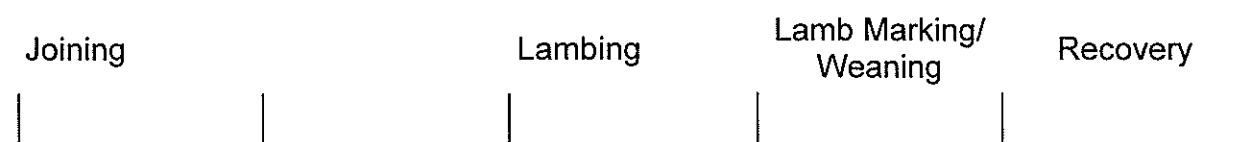
System 1

In this system the rams are put out on the 1st of May and left with the ewes for 12 weeks until about the 1st of August. Sheep have a gestation period of 150 days, so the lambs could be born anywhere between the 1st of October and the 1st of January. If the lambs are then weaned in mid-march, when the youngest lambs are 8 to ten weeks old, that only leaves the rest of March and April for the ewe to get ready again for joining, a period of about 6 weeks.



System 2

In this system the rams are left out for 6 weeks from the 1st of May. Lambs are born between the 1st of October and the middle of November. Weaning can take place in the middle of January which gives the ewes 14 weeks to recover and be in the best condition possible for joining the next season.



This second system gives both the weaned lambs and the ewes access to fresh, high quality pastures in the middle of the growing season.

The dates used (1st of May etc) are indicative. You can do this whether you lamb in September or in December.

Most ewes fall pregnant within the first two cycles after the ram is placed in with them. If they don't, then there is generally a problem with the ram, or the camp that they are in is too big or too broken up for the ram to find all of the ewes. Having good body condition in both the ewes and rams is also an important factor when joining. All of these can be overcome with management.

If ewes do not have a good recovery period from weaning to joining, they are weaker going into winter and that has carry over effects on the quality as well as the number of lambs born the next season. There are also detrimental effects on the ewes ability to survive the winter.

REDUCING 'BLOAT' IN HAND-FED LAMBS

By Zoë Luxton

An article in the July 2007 Vetscript from New Zealand caught the eye of us here in the veterinary department and we thought we would share it with you since lambing time will be upon us before we know it.

A farmer from New Zealand, fed up with losing hand-fed lambs to bloat, ended up contacting a Norwegian farmer and the Norwegian school of veterinary medicine for help (a high incidence of abomasal bloat has been reported in 15-30 day old lambs in Norway!)¹. This novel Norwegian idea of using a more yoghurt like feed for lambs instead of milk replacer has been used by farmers and vets alike in New Zealand with bloat and scour cases being much reduced.

Abomasal bloat occurs in lambs being fed milk-replacer. Warm milk entering the abomasum (the 'true' stomach) provides the bacteria present (it is thought that *Sarcinia ventriculi* and *Clostridial* species are the main culprits) with an excellent environment for fermentation. Fermentation produces much gas which then causes the abomasum to expand. Lambs can become really distended within 1 hour of feeding and die quickly from abomasal rupture or from the extreme pressure on the organs of the abdomen and chest. Typical treatment includes using a trochar to release the trapped air but often it is too late for successful treatment so prevention is definitely better than cure.

Yoghurt containing *Lactobacillus* species ('good' bacteria) theoretically provides a stable environment in the abomasum that prevents the 'bad' bacteria colonising and multiplying in the gut. *Lactobacilli* are also said to improve immune function.

Ideal early feeding strategy for artificially reared lambs

On the day of birth try to give up to five feeds of colostrum if possible (ewes or cows) – about 600ml for a 4kg lamb (or 15% of the lambs body weight).

If you have fresh/frozen/powdered colostrum available then feed this on days 2-4 also. If lambs have had a feed of colostrum from the ewe they can go straight on to the yoghurt feed. If you have no colostrum and don't think the lamb will have had any from the ewe just start feeding the yoghurt on the day after birth and feed milk on the day of birth.

Yoghurt recipe for small numbers of lambs (under 20)

- Put 3L of warm water (40°C) in a 9L bucket
- Add 1kg calf milk powder. Mix with an electric stick blender. They recommend calf milk simply because it is cheaper. You can use lamb milk powder if you prefer. Fresh cows milk is also fine to use as long as it has no antibiotic residues as these will kill the 'good' bacteria.
- Add 200ml of acidophilus yoghurt. Mix, then cover with a lid or sheets of news paper. The yoghurt produced at the Dairy contains acidophilus, make sure you get natural flavour. Lamb might not like strawberry!
- Keep the mix warm for the next few hours, if the air temperature is too cold the milk will take a long time to ferment. (They suggest using a brewer's mat that you can buy but not that many of us here make beer! Their other suggestion is putting the bucket in a polystyrene box with a lid with a hot water bottle as the heat source in the box. The airing cupboard may be another good warm spot).
- The yoghurt should set within 8-12 hours and may have a soft crust on top with some liquid at the bottom or may resemble thick commercial yoghurt.
- Top up with cold water to the 8L mark on the bucket and mix well. Feed in the same quantities that you would feed milk.
- Remove 200ml of this liquid yoghurt for use as the starter for the next batch.

There is a recipe for really large numbers of lambs as well which I can provide you with if you want it – just give me a ring on 27366.

Points to remember:

- Replace every milk feed with this 'soured' milk.
- Have a gradual transition from feeding warm to cold liquid yoghurt over a period of 4-5 days.
- Introduce the liquid yoghurt to lambs from 5 days of age, although it can be given to lambs from 2 days old if insufficient colostrum is available.
- Treatment is effective under either ad lib or set feeding regimes (eg 1-2 times a day)
- Treatment does not add a lot of extra expense.

The New Zealand farmer that started using this regime stopped abomasal bloat and scours completely by feeding yoghurt and she raises 100 lambs artificially each season. Lamb deaths were reduced from 25% to 3%. She feeds the lambs meal, hay and water along with the yoghurt but if you have decent grass for them to nibble that will be just as good as hay and meal. Make sure there is always a plentiful water supply.

Any further questions? Call 27366.

References

1. Lutriases B. and Simenson E. (1982/83) *An epidemiological study of abomasal bloat in young lambs. Preventative Veterinary Medicine* 335-45

FALKLANDS ELEPHANT SEAL QUESTIONNAIRE

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

The southern elephant seal is found across low latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere. During the 1800s and early 1900s, elephant seals were killed by sealers at most places where they breed, including in the Falkland Islands.

Elephant seals slowly started to return to the Falkland Islands during the 1900s but what is the status of the species today? How many pups are produced and where are the breeding harems?

Italian scientists monitor the population on Sea Lion Island annually but what is happening elsewhere? Have your breeding harems increased or decreased in size? Over the last 50 years, have breeding harems come and gone?

Science student Gilly Cotter has organised for the Environmental Planning Department to run an Elephant Seal Questionnaire for landowners during November.

You will hopefully find a copy of the questionnaire in your October edition of the Wool Press. It will ask you to check your coastlines for breeding elephant seals and where possible, count the number of weanlings (that is, pups that have just been weaned by their mothers) present in mid to late November.

The photo on the next pageshows the different individuals you might find in a harem of elephant seals, with the breeding male (left), pup and breeding female (right). (Photograph by F. Galimberti/S. Sanvito).

We're particularly interested in counts of weanlings. The pup in the photo is about two weeks old and after four to eight weeks, it will be abandoned by its mother, develop silver-grey fur and be rather fat.



We realise that November will be a busy time for you but perhaps the location of the breeding sea lions are near to where you might be gathering sheep or checking lambs. However, if you know that you have breeding elephant seals but could do with some help with the weanling count, please contact us in advance, as we may be able to help.

We are as much interested in where they breed as to where they don't breed, so completed questionnaires saying 'no elephant seals' will be as interesting as weanling counts!

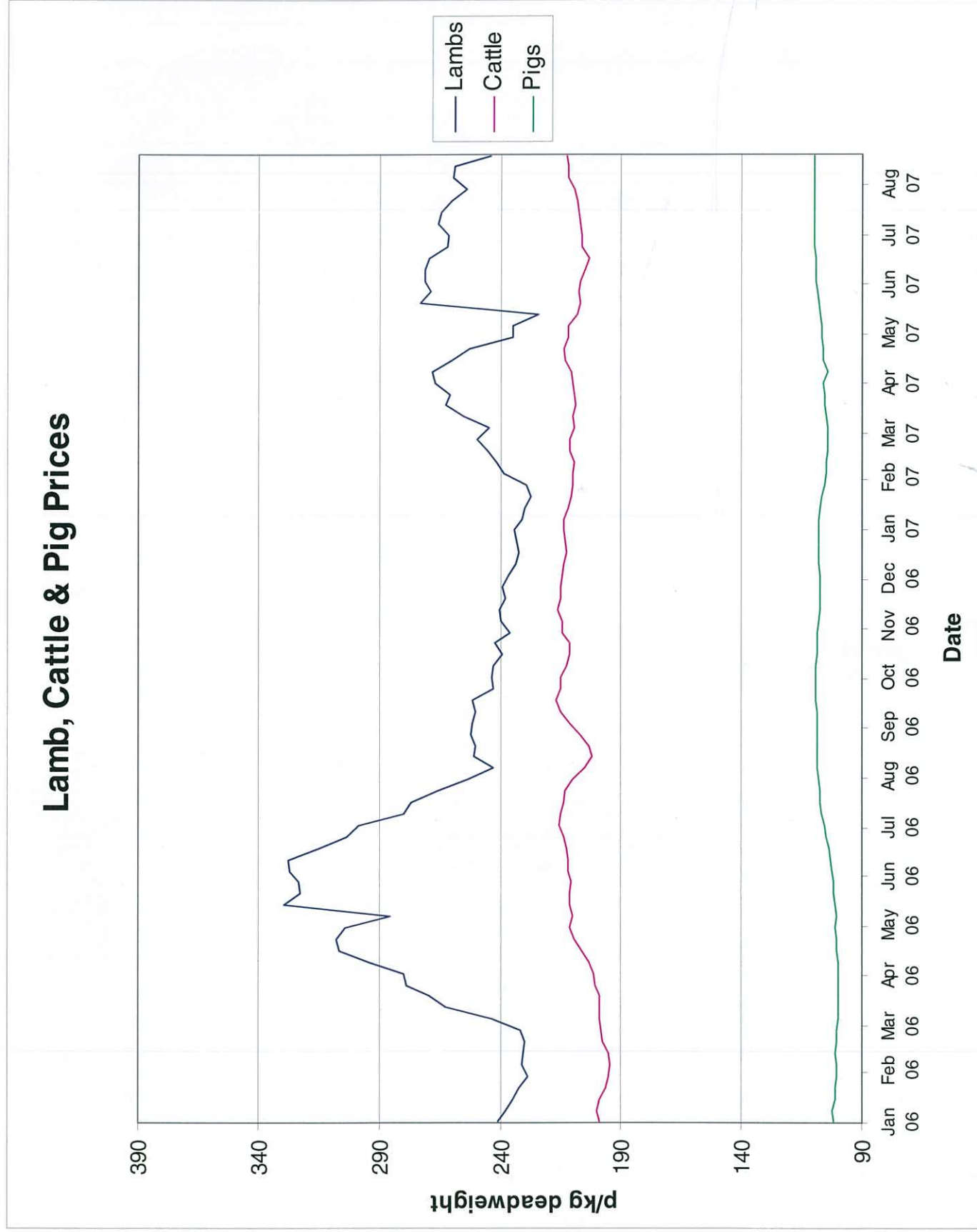
For more information, please contact: me on telephone 27390, fax 27391 or email hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk



LAMB, CATTLE & PIG PRICES

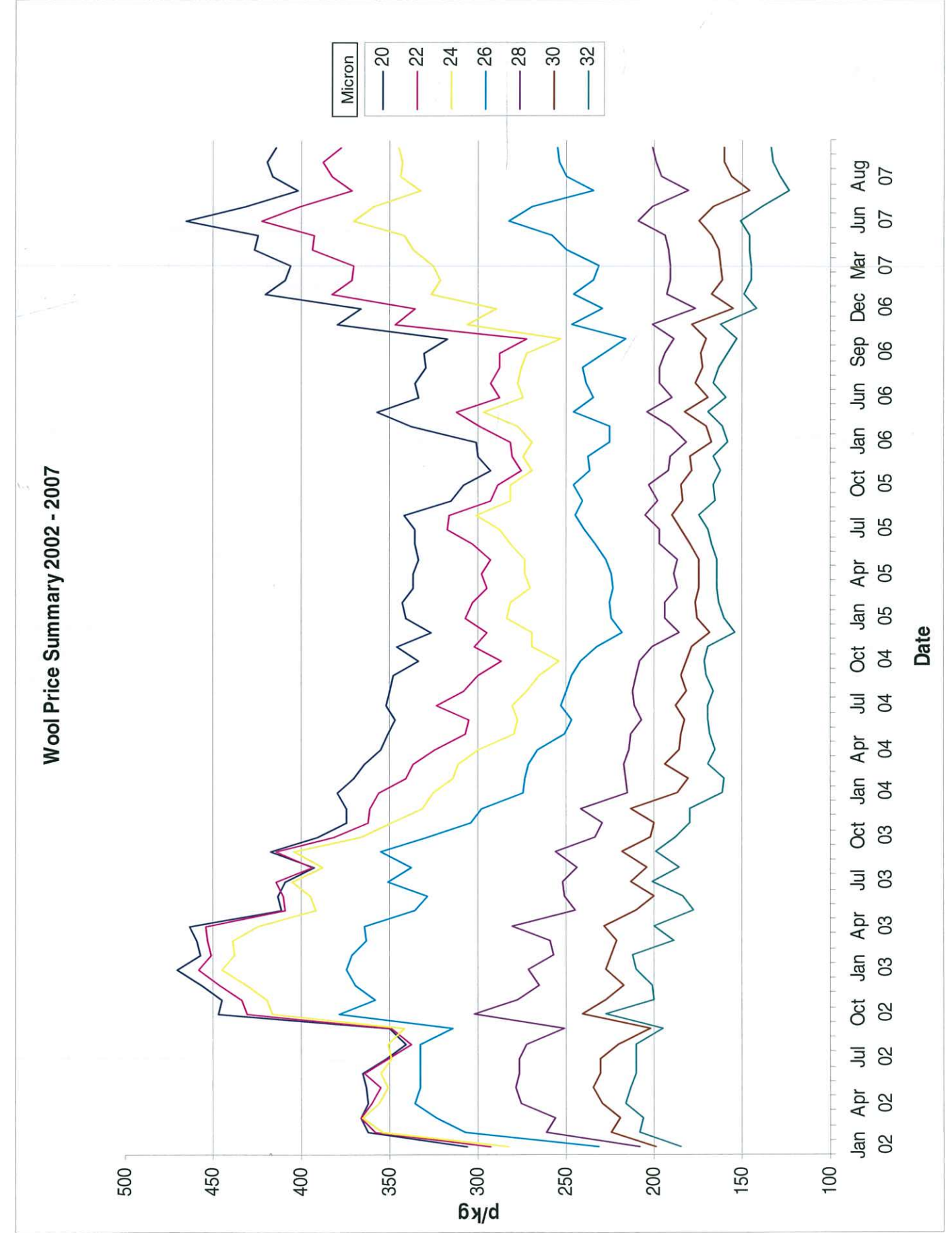
Source: Farmers Weekly Interactive

Please note that the prices are from the United Kingdom and are provided for information only to highlight current meat prices and to show how prices change over time.



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

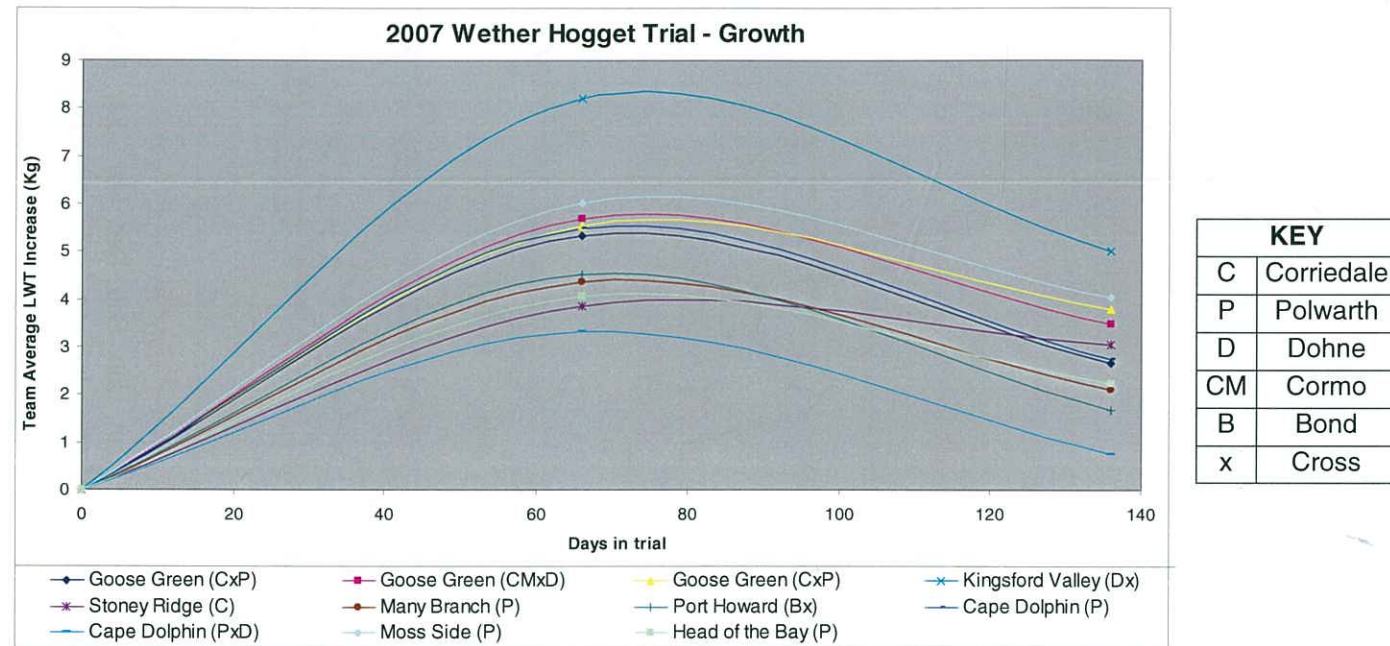
Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



GOOSE GREEN WETHER LAMB TRIAL - WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

By Peter Johnson

The 11 teams of lambs entered in the 2007 wether evaluation are bunkered down for winter at Goose Green. They were last weighed on the 6 July, just before Farmer's week, and the graph is shown below. All teams had lost weight, but keep in mind that they were kept in the shed overnight before this weighing, where they had previously been weighed straight off camp.



The table below shows the team average weights and the dates they were taken. The table on the right shows the letter used to identify each breed within the trial. The next weighing will take place some time in September. **Note** - All farms involved in the trial have given their permission for their data to be published.

Team Average Weights	Weighing Date		
	20/02/2007	27/04/2007	06/07/2007
Cape Dolphin (P)	25.8	31.3	28.5
Cape Dolphin (PxD)	27.3	30.6	28.0
Goose Green (CMxD)	23.8	29.5	27.3
Goose Green (CxP)	24.9	30.3	27.6
Goose Green (CxP)	22.8	28.3	26.6
Head of the Bay (P)	25.5	29.6	27.7
Kingsford Valley (Dx)	23.7	31.9	28.7
Many Branch (P)	25.0	29.4	27.1
Moss Side (P)	22.8	28.9	26.9
Port Howard (Bx)	23.1	27.6	24.8
Stoney Ridge (C)	17.9	21.8	21.0

Remember, that the open day planned for shearing of the trial has been set as the **13th November** - it promises to be an interesting day with the ability to see all of the teams together before and after they are shorn, and have their fleece values displayed on the day.

DEMONSTRATION TRIALS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPACT OF MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING (MIG)

By Peter Johnson

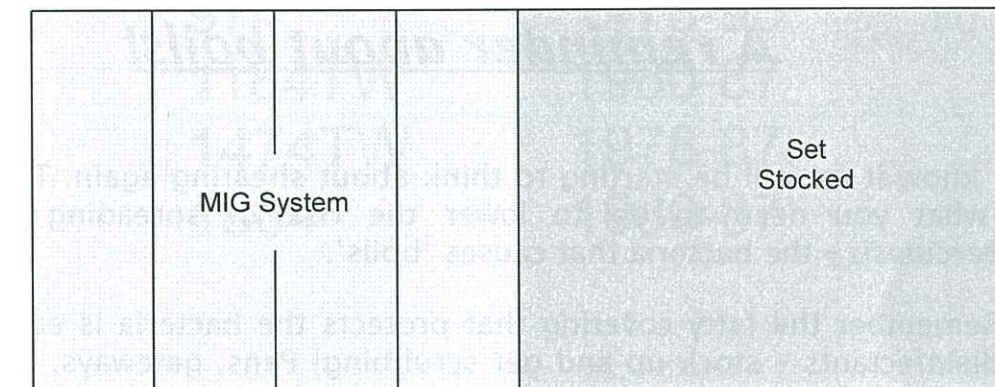
Been to the MIG workshops in April and May? Enjoyed listening to Jim again at Farmers week, maybe even read the book? Still not sure if this whole 'Management Intensive Grazing' thing will work for you, but willing to give it try with a little help?

You could be just the person to take on a small scale demonstration trial!

Recent workshops and Farmers week have honed in on the importance of grazing management, and the positive outcomes for animal nutrition and production as a result. The DOA is already demonstrating this in a number of ways through the grazing management trials on farms and the simulated grazing work at Fitzroy. The next step to complement these current trial's, is to start some demonstration trials with what MIG can do on your land in small plots.

The Demonstration

If you have a currently set stocked area with good water supply, why not work in conjunction with the DOA to fence off half of it, and put in place a MIG system so that you can see the results for yourself. You get your greatest return from your best land, so that is where we would like to start. A reseed or good native camp with greens would be the perfect place to set up this demonstration. Below is a simplified diagram of what it might look like -



The MIG system could have a series of parallel fences that temporary fencing can be run between to strip graze the pasture, while the areas not being grazed are rested, ready for the next time. There are no apologies that management will need to be intensified for the MIG system, and that will involve regular movement of portable fences. The DOA will assist in fencing set up and with monitoring animal live weights, wool production, death rates and important plant responses such as production of dry matter and also species sustainability (particularly of the 'good' ones like legumes).

If you are interested in having a demonstration plot on your farm, please contact Peter at the DOA to discuss the general requirements of the demonstration.

**Next Dog Dosing Day...
...Wednesday 10th October (Droncit)**

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

INVASIVE SPECIES - BIOSECURITY POSTER

The Environmental Planning Department wishes to raise awareness, particularly amongst visitors, of the risks of accidentally introducing harmful non-native species to islands and remote settlements via FIGAS flights and helicopters. The poster will highlight that new species should only be bought to islands and settlements with landowners permission.

We plan to highlight on the poster that rats and mice should not be deliberately or accidentally introduced to New Island, Carcass Island, Speedwell Island, George Island or Sea Lion Island.

However, if you would like the poster to also highlight any other species, such as earwigs, thistles or introduced ragwort, that you specifically don't want arriving to your island or settlement, please contact the Environmental Planning Department via phone, fax or email by Monday 17th September.

The poster will be displayed at the Stanley FIGAS departure area, hotels, and lodges and given to travel companies.

Jane Rowlands, Clerk
Environmental Planning Department
Phone 27390, Fax 27391
jrowlands.planning@taxation.gov.fk

A reminder about boils!

Before we know it we will be starting to think about shearing again. This is the time to consider what you need to do to lower the risk of spreading *corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* - the bacteria that causes 'boils'.

- Remember the fatty covering that protects the bacteria is easily destroyed by disinfectants - stock up and get scrubbing! Pens, gateways, chutes - anything that sheep can rub against should be cleaned.
- Arrange disinfecting equipment for any shearers that will come to your farm and ask them to please clean their equipment at each break and immediately if they happen to cut into a boil.
- Have an antiseptic spray on hand to spray all obvious shearing cuts with.
- Shear young stock first and also remember that lambs may become infected at lamb marking so a scrub of the board and prominent gateways at your lamb-marking pens may be prudent also. A coughing ewe can leave the bacteria on the pens which is then spread to the lamb.

Joe wrote an excellent informative article in the August 2006 wool Press so contact us if you would like a copy to refer to.

Note - this article is also in your Farm Management Handbook and is also available on-line at www.agriculture.gov.fk/caseous_lymhadenitis.pdf

WANTED

By Geoff Fisher
Tractor & Machinery Exporter, England, U.K.

FORD COUNTY TRACTORS

1004	1996-75
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974	1978-90
1184TW	1980-87
1474TW	1978-87
1884	1980-87

FOR DETAILS CONTACT

IAN HANSEN
Tel: 41008

or

HENRY BOUGHTON
Tel: 41041

FARMERS WEEK – QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY 6 GROUPS

After lunch on Wednesday the 11th of July during Farmer's week, 6 groups totalling about 40 people were formed and the following questions were put to them. Below is the questions and a combined form of the written responses that each of the groups provided. The number in brackets indicates if more than one group came up with the same response.

1 - Are you happy with the current productivity and profitability of your farm?

No (6)

2 - Do you think there are opportunities? If so, what are they?

Yes (6)

Improve grazing management (3)
Dual income from meat and wool (2)
Lambing percentage increase
Death Rate Decrease
Better food
Better opportunity to market products
Supplements
Review past performance and learn from others
Increase animal nutrition
Increased productivity/income

3 - What is the first step for you to start some form of Management Intensive Grazing?

Plan/Evaluate/Set Goals/Budget (4)
Sub-Division (2)
Pasture and water assessment
Make a fencing plan
Identify area to improve
Match resources – money, PIP, time

4 - What are the problems you see?

Money (4)
Labour (3)
Lack of collective experience (3)
Time (3)
Availability of materials (2)
Cash Flow
Bad attitude
Sourcing extra stock
Selling cattle
Logistics
PH (acid soils)
Rest period – longer recovery period and viability of supplementation
Shelter
Risk of a bad season
You would have to spell a camp before starting management strip grazing

Animals need better feed.

5 - What can the DOA do to support you to achieve these aims?

Co-ordinate shed talks/farm walks (2)
Business/Budget advice (2)
Hands or advice and pasture assessment
Advice and finance continuing on farm trials
Continue with PIP
Assistance with sourcing items
Sounding board
Labour scheme (continue)
Don't reinvent the wheel (learn from past mistakes)
Make available results from past trials and help with risk assessment
Soil testing and monitoring
Trialling, new varieties of seeds-sowing rate trial
Documentation-best practise
Knowledge from farmers (collectively) and Agricultural Scientists
To run practical trials on Saladero and turn it into a commercially viable farm
To encourage the Education Department to promote Agriculture as a career

6 - What do farmers need to do to help each other?

Communication (5)
More active RBA/Something New (3)
More discussion groups for skills/ideas/problems (3)
To lobby FIG
A collective voice
Collective marketing- meat and wool
Co-operation
Positive attitude
Stop arguing
Support each other
Stop being jealous of your neighbour
Respect each others thoughts and ideas
If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again! Never give up trying

These are the responses as recorded on the day, and are provided as a reference for what was discussed. Just because the response is recorded here, it does not imply that it was unanimously accepted by the group as a whole, or the DOA, but merely that it was raised in this forum.

FARMERS WEEK 2007

DOA presentations available on cd

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

• Crossword

Across - 2 dentist, 4 wizard, 7 off, 9 anagram, 11 axis, 12 huckle, 14 television, 15 selfish, 17 voodoo, 19 bruise, 21 skippy, 24 hotel babylon, 26 ebay, 27 shunned, 29 satan, 31 pleb, 32 assume, 33 lasagne, 34 acrylic **Down** - 1 goal, 3 spawn, 4 wish, 5 amok, 6 dopey, 8 facebook, 10 maid, 13 chicken, 16 coy, 17 vodka, 18 friends, 20 stairs, 22 pirate, 23 alabama, 25 ghost, 26 void, 28 noel, 30 axe

• Riddle - he put a hole in the bucket

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

Kangaroos will be sent to live a life of luxury in air-conditioned accommodation after public outrage at plans to kill them backfired. Australia's military were caught on the hop after angry reaction at plans to shoot thousands of the Australian icons at military bases.

Instead 3,200 eastern grey kangaroos will be trucked to a village more than an hour away from Canberra at the cost of £1,500 each. The Defence Department said in May the kangaroos were causing serious erosion due to over-grazing on two drought-ravaged military bases.

A secret plan prepared for the defence department and obtained by the Canberra Times newspaper, said thousands of kangaroos would be sterilised on the Belconnen Naval Transmission Station and Majura military training area to control numbers. Hundreds of others would be sedated with valium and trucked in special air-conditioned vans to the rural village of Braidwood, east of Canberra.

The kangaroos would be herded into a padded pen and sedated, then shot with a paintball gun to mark them as ready for transport. They would be released in a fenced area covered with shade-cloth, the report by the Wildcare protection group for the Defence Department said. Local wildlife groups were at odds over whether it was more humane to cull the kangaroos or move them.

Police in May ordered a halt to the planned cull, saying bullets could ricochet and hit protesters who planned to trespass on defence land to save the animals.

Want to keep ahead of the competition?

Then why not advertise in the Wool Press?

	B&W	Colour
Full Page	£20.00	£30.00
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Quarter Page	£5.00	£7.50
Personal Ads	£3.00	-
Flyers	contact us for details	

Send your adverts to Siân Ferguson,
Department of Agriculture by post, fax
27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk



Recipe Page

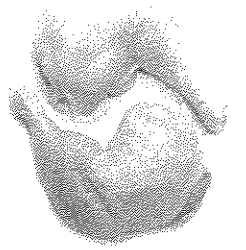
Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

Tim's Italian Chicken

A recipe I got off one of the finest teachers I've ever come across!

2 tblsp olive oil	4 chicken legs
1-2 cloves garlic, crushed/chopped	4 fl oz (100ml) white wine
4 tomatoes, chopped (tinned/fresh)	1 largish red pepper
salt & pepper	1 tblsp chopped parsley (dried is fine)

Heat the oil in a pot large enough to take all the legs in one layer. Add the chicken, skin side down and fry over medium heat until nicely browned - about 5 min. Repeat on the other side. Add the garlic and cook for about two minutes, then add the wine, tomatoes & pepper. Simmer for 10 mins, then check the juice in the pan. If it is too dry, add about ¼ pint water. Season with the salt & pepper, and simmer for a further 25-30 minutes. Stir in the parsley and serve with warm, buttered pasta - tagliatelle is the best for this one.



Impossible Pie

This pudding is fantastic fun to make, and is so easy. Everything slops in together, but by the time it comes out of the oven the pastry has fallen to the bottom, the coconut crust has risen to the top and there's a thick layer of custard through the middle!

4 eggs	¼ tsp baking powder
¼ cup margarine	1 pt milk
1 cup sugar	1 cup desiccated coconut
¼ cup flour	1 tsp vanilla
¼ tsp salt	



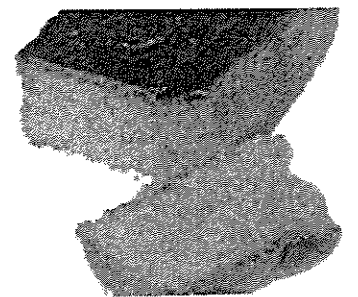
Cream the sugar and marg, then beat in the eggs. Add milk and fold in flour alternatively. Mix in the vanilla and then stir the coconut in. Beat well, then pour the mixture into a greased pie dish. Bake at 180°C for about an hour, until the top is nicely browned and the pie is firm but springy.

Nanny Thelma's Ginger Cake

Exactly what it says it is!

¼ cup butter	2½ cups plain flour
1 cup sugar	1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 eggs	1 tsp mixed spice
¼ cup milk	1 tsp cinnamon
¼ black treacle	1 tsp ground ginger

Cream the butter and the sugar until fluffy. Mix in all the spices, and the bicarb. Slowly add the treacle, flour, eggs and finally the milk. Beat well, until the mixture looks sloppy. Grease and line a deep loaf pan and pour the batter in. Bake for about 40 mins at 400°F. For a slightly taller cake, a tsp of baking powder in the flour will improve it's rise.



We are always on the look out for recipes to fill this page each month, especially with Krysteen heading off to university soon. So please, get your recipe books out or start emailing/faxing your favourite dishes that until now have been stored away only in your memory!!

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

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

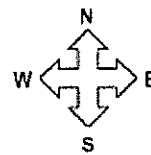
Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces.

Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

For more Sudoku Puzzles, go to www.websudoku.com

Alpha-Griddle

Use your compass directions to find the correct locations for the missing letters of the alphabet. When you have completed the grid, see if you can discover the hidden city, country, river or mountain.



		J			
					V
	T				
				U	

Note: North or south means any location along the same column, same rules apply for East or West.

Directions:

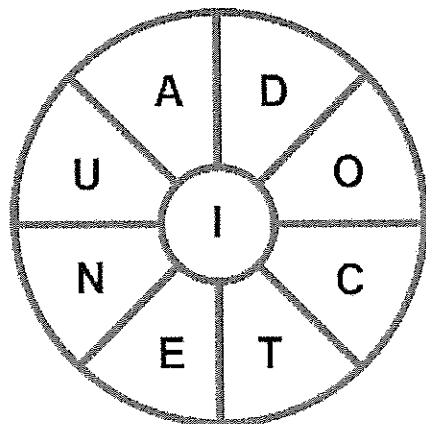
A is south of E: D is south of V
 B is north of T and west of E
 C is west of Y and south of G
 E is west of S and south of J
 F is west of O: G is east of P
 H is east of J and north of O
 I is east of U: W is east of B
 L is south of B: M is north of Y
 N is north of U: O is east of A
 P is north of T: Q is west of V
 R is west of C: Z is north of F
 S is east of V and north of I
 K is south of J and east of T
 Y is east of T and south

Brainteaser

In this puzzle, each letter represents a different number. Can you work out what number (0-9) each letter stands for? The leftmost letter can not be zero in any word.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{H O R S E} \\
 + \text{S A D D L E} \\
 \hline
 = \text{G A L L O P}
 \end{array}$$

Word Wheel



How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel?

Each word must contain the hub letter I.

Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 20 other words of five letters or more avoiding proper nouns?

Riddle

What travels around the world but always stays in a corner?

THE WOOL PRESS

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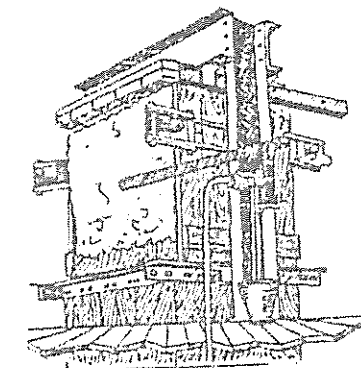
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Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

The article on protein supplementation trials could not be more timely for inclusion in the Wool Press this month as farmers will be watching their stock and hoping that spring grass growth comes on promptly to fill the food gap for pregnant ewes and cows. Along with forage cropping such strategic supplementations may be the way forward in future years. Peter Johnson's photograph of the lupin grains clearly illustrates that the feed is robust enough to be spread on the ground and not break down on initial contact with moisture. Andrew Pollard will report on some of the forage cropping work next month. Thanks to the farmers taking part in the trials there will be some interesting figures next year regarding feeding costs potential and economic return.

The article by Doug Martin about next season's meat export season is a must to read for suppliers. I have just returned from a visit to Sand Bay Abattoir where John and his team are hard at work undertaking alterations in preparation for the 2008 season. Some may say that the export season is still three months away but farmers need time to plan ahead. Note the conditions for shearing sheep before slaughtering and the figures in the article showing the throughput of beef is also noteworthy. Better quality beef is already resulting in increased sales volume.

Rodrigo Olave was in the Falklands recently and with DoA support he undertook a survey of the shelterbelts on both the West and the East. Those considering planting shelterbelts in the future need to read this interesting article. Rodrigo will be producing a full report when back in Northern Ireland on the benefits of shelterbelts for farmers.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee approved proposals to enable PIP funds to be used in future for soil and wool tests provided measurements comply with the guidelines. These changes are published for wider information and for farmers to consider incorporating test costs when next preparing plans.

Lastly there has been some discussion at the DoA about the merits of a spray coating that is now being evaluated in Australia that can help protect newly shorn sheep. Thanks to Charlene Rowland for providing an article on the subject for publication. The DOA is investigating the concept with the producer/owner of the technology to determine if trial quantities are potentially available for the Falkland Islands...more on this later, but it makes interesting reading for protection from severe weather off-shears. I don't think we would contemplate using the coating for sunburn protection as in Australia but I may be wrong!

Best wishes with the spring activities,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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FIMCO UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2007

By Doug Martin, Logistics Officer

Sheep

Livestock Planning sheets received to date indicate that total throughput in 2008 will be similar to that achieved in 2007. Please note the new pricing schedules already distributed for cattle and lamb. Some important changes are transport and shearing times.

Transport

With the expected arrival of the Concordia Bay in early 2008 there will obviously be some changes to transport. Hopefully the new service will solve many of the current issues, and will also assist in a faster movement of sheep from farm to Sand Bay, with direct shipments from West Falkland possible. This will overcome the weight loss encountered with transporting larger volumes of animals in an extended transport and holding system. As many factors surrounding the operation of the new ferry are only recently becoming known, there is a lot of work now required to prepare for the new system. The fundamental difference being, all animals will have to be carried inside livestock crates and trailers.

Shearing

FIMCo agreed to a trial involving shearing animals pre-slaughter at the plant last season. We were able to do this because of very low skins prices in the previous season, which resulted in the disposal of virtually all skins. The practicality of this was difficult, especially when the wool was longer. There was also concern over loss of wool product.

Whilst reasonably successful and many thanks to Paul Phillips for his initiative and co-operation, it has been decided not to shear in 2008. This is for several reasons:

1. Due to lack of facilities, shearing and skins preparation cannot be carried out at the same time - this caused a problem last season, when we had decided to shear, then the skins prices increased.
2. Lack of suitable facilities makes the operation difficult at Sand Bay.
3. If shearing is required, it is considered better that the farmers retain the wool.

In order to retain the flexibility of skins production, yet overcome the loss of wool, avoid the potential for carcass contamination when dressing the longer woolled sheep and for hygiene and animal welfare reasons (by transporting too soon following shearing), the following policy will apply to all sheep and 'old season' lambs being transported to FIMCo.

1. Minimum of 14 days between shearing with cover combs and transporting
2. Minimum of 28 days between shearing with conventional combs and transporting
3. Maximum of 3 months wool (see note 1)

Notes:

1. It was generally agreed at Farmers Week that 3 months growth of wool is worth shearing, (this was also borne out during shearing at the plant) and this works in well with time that the longer wool generally becomes a problem at the plant. It is essential to maintain good communications with the Logistics Officer, so shearing can be carried out as appropriate before transporting.
2. It is planned that skins from new season lambs will be processed, but in the event that this does not happen - farmers will be given the option of shearing prior to transporting (subject to the above parameters).
3. There are certain instances where FIMCo reserves the right to insist that any or all sheep / lambs are shorn prior to transporting - this is generally the case where there is severe dust contamination involved.

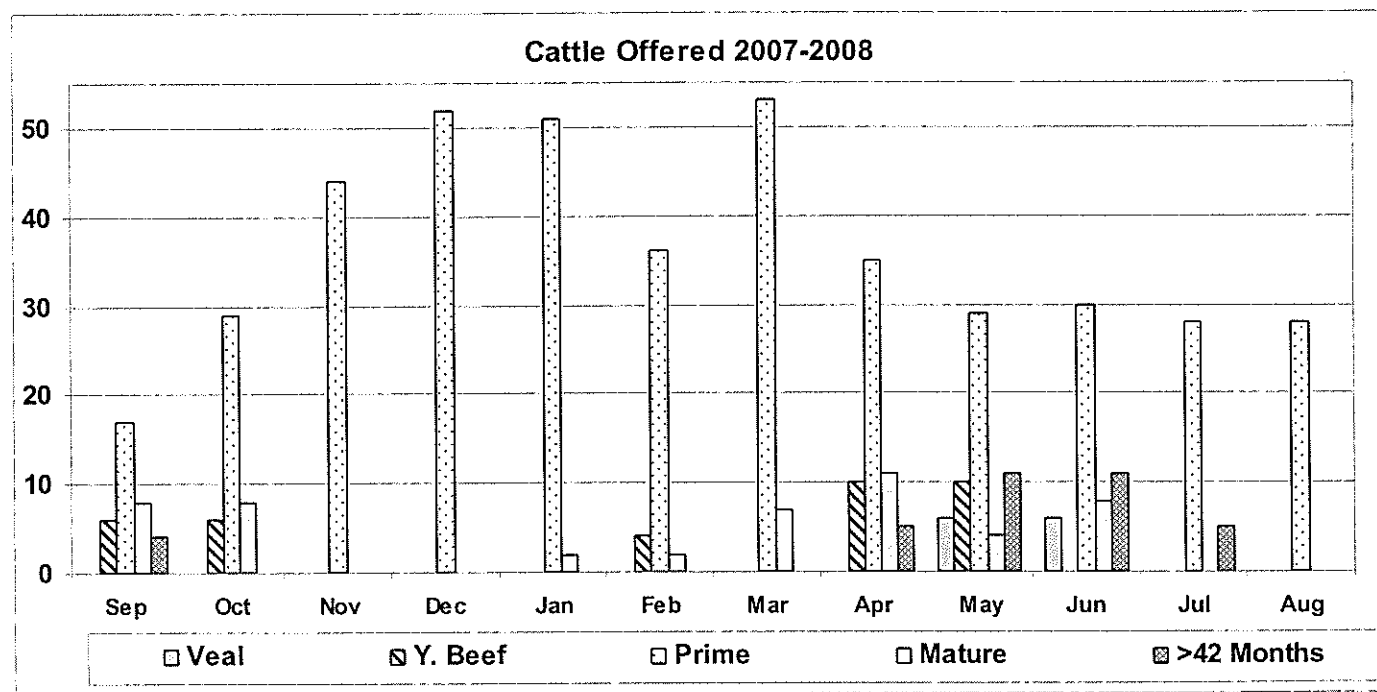
Cattle

Following more competitive retail and wholesale pricing by FIMCo, which is starting to show the desired effect of increased sales volume, (meaning that we can purchase more from farmers) the price schedules for cattle have slightly changed - more so for older and poor quality beef that is difficult to sell, and only slightly lower for good quality beef. The prices have remained highest for 'target' quality animals during the most difficult winter and spring months to maintain them in good condition

Work is ongoing in relation to EU accreditation for export of beef, although the economics of exporting beef requires thorough investigation. However, EU approval for beef exports may also provide some limited opportunities in the Falkland Is area. In order to provide some insight into the problems facing the beef industry the following figures are provided:

Total number of breeding cows (as at 31.5.07)	3591
Total others	2247
Sales and disposals (excluding culls)	851

288 cattle were processed by the plant at Sand Bay in the 12 months ending 30.6.07, therefore there is a large surplus. The quality of beef being processed has vastly improved over the past 2 years, however as you can see this is only a small proportion of beef cattle produced - and not all are in prime condition. The problem for farmers is compounded by the following information, compiled from figures taken from returned Planning Sheets.



Hogget Trial Shearing

The shearing of the hogget wether trial will be taking place on Tuesday 13th November at Goose Green. This will be open to anyone who wishes to attend and watch the hogget wethers being shorn as a team, with fleece values reported live on the day.

GOODBYE

By Nyree Heathman

Sian has bullied me into writing a final article for the Wool Press so here goes. I started with the Department of Agriculture in September 2001 working with Mandy McLeod in the Rural Development section. I soon became interested in the artificial reproduction work that was taking place though, mainly due to being one of Doug's slaves for the season, and finally moved into this field full time. I thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of my work within the DoA. It gave me the opportunity to work with some of the best (and some of the biggest characters) in the reproduction industry such as Willie Vivanco, Warren Nancarrow and Adrian Veitch from whom I learnt a great deal over the years. Useful snippets of knowledge like the fact that Adrian can read his paper and drive at 120km at the same time, and when you back his *brand new* ute into the trailer that some idiot parked behind you, don't expect him to not find out.

There are a few events that have occurred over the last 6 years that often come to mind - the day that Karen ended up dangling from the crush handle a foot off of the ground whilst doing battle with a cow determined to escape never ceases to make me laugh. There was also the day that Timmy and Mike Triggs got endlessly chased around the yards by a rather irate cow whilst trying to get some cattle onto the truck. Safe on the other side of the fence it was an hilarious spectacle that very quickly became far less amusing when I had to get in and help.

I think that the best though has to be the day at Cape Dolphin when Sam asked Frans if she could have a go at preg testing cattle. Up to her shoulder in cow she was merrily groping away when the animal in question decided to, shall we say, 'empty out'! The offending jet of brown liquid hit with amazing accuracy and Sam, who by now looked like she had been dipped in chocolate, was instantly banned from getting into the rover. After deciding that it really would be a bit harsh to strap her to the roof rack for the trip to town, she returned to Stanley, after being hosed off, in a set of clothes borrowed from Philip, with the window open just to be on the safe side!

What next? Contrary to popular rumour, I am not finishing work at the Department on the 21st September and departing the Islands on the next available flight for pastures new. I am in fact going rousying for a short while, and then once the tourist season kicks off I will be busy taking cruise ship passengers to visit the cute, cuddly little penguins and explaining that no, we did not put the stoneruns there ourselves, and despite the fact that yes, we are the last rover in a 12 vehicle convoy, we are not going to get lost and never be seen again getting from the MPA road to Bluff Cove Lagoon and back, so I will be around until the end of March 2008 anyway. After that who knows!

Anyway, enough from me for one day. Thanks to everyone at the Department and in the farming community for a thoroughly enjoyable 6 years. See you all in the Vic for a cider!!

Environmental Planning Department Elephant Seal Questionnaire November 2007

Following on from the article featured in last month's Wool Press, you should find a copy of EPD's Elephant Seal Questionnaire in your Wool Press envelope.

We are asking that you check your coastlines for breeding elephant seals and where possible, count the number of weanlings (that is, pups that have just been weaned by their mothers) present in mid to late November.

For more information, please contact Helen Otley (Environmental Officer) on 27390

**PAPER PASSED BY THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

Soil Testing and Site selection Guidelines for Cropping/Pasture works utilising Pasture Improvement Programme (PIP) funding

- 1. Purpose**
 - 1.1 To improve the establishment, yields and subsequent utilisation of forage crops and pastures via improved site selection and soil testing.
- 2. Recommendations**
 - 2.1 That all future first year PIP crops/pasture sites be scrutinised according to the criteria outlined in existing PIP planning plus those contained in this paper. As follows:-
 - Farmer to initially identify potential sites based on DOA site selection guidelines (see attachment 1). Each sample must be accompanied with soil test application sheet (attachment 2).
 - A soil sample for each potential site be collected with the sample made up of at least 5 sub-samples, collected according to DOA soil sampling guidelines (see attachment 3).
 - Number of potential sites should be restricted to a maximum of 3 per proposed PIP site (in the first instance).
 - Soil test to be carried out by the DOA for soil pH only, sites below pH 4.6 rejected immediately.
 - There will not be any charge for testing these preliminary soil samples.
 - Based on preliminary soil sample test results, those sites with a pH greater than 4.6 will be further investigated for suitability.
 - DOA to visit farm and look at selected sites matching site selected to guidelines (see attachment 4). A more comprehensive soil test will be taken looking at soil pH, phosphorous, potassium and calcium. Initially a **maximum of 3 sites** may be sampled per intended crop/pasture PIP plan site. There will be a farm cost to the PIP of £10 per sample.
 - Soil test to be reviewed and if acceptable the sites will be approved. The crop/pasture must be approved as per normal via annual PIP plans.
 - 2.2 The site selection and soil testing should not be viewed solely on the basis of the initial crop. It should also take into account the long term sustainability and productivity of the final pasture.
- 3. Background**
 - 3.1 In 2006/07 approximately 200 ha of improved pasture and 450 ha of forage crops were sown utilising PIP funding.
 - 3.2 In 2007/08, farm PIP plans have budgeted on approximately 950 ha of improved pasture and 450 ha of forage crops being sown.
 - 3.3 This utilises a large proportion of PIP funding.
 - 3.4 On many occasions crop/pasture failure is attributed to adverse seasonal conditions. Whilst this can be the case it is often exaggerated by poor site selection and the utilisation of low fertility acidic soils.
 - 3.5 It is a fundamental concept that the majority of plant species require soils with a favourable pH (greater than 5.5). Acidic soils are more limiting in the majority of other nutrients, in particular phosphorous.
 - 3.6 Various reports suggest that the average Falkland Islands soil has a soil pH of 4.6.
 - 3.7 Changes will be implemented into the 2008/09 PIP planning requirements, on uncultivated ground. Other cases are to be dealt with on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Agricultural Advisor – Agronomy.
 - 3.8 Farms that fail to meet primary or secondary soil testing/site selection requirements will be required to “keep looking” for suitable ground if cropping or pasture works are intended. The DOA is currently researching other opportunities for those farmers that cannot meet these requirements, for example: protein supplementation via lupins and managed grazing of native pastures.

More papers passed by the AAC are on page 14

**ASSESSMENT OF FALKLAND ISLANDS
SHELTERBELT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES**

By Rodrigo Olave

Introduction

To enhance the agricultural sector the DoA (Department of Agriculture) and UKFIT (United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust) in partnership with some private farms have established various trials as part of an on farm shelterbelt programme. This research programme has shown that lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) have a high tolerance to wind exposure and good potential for shelterbelt planting on farm sites due to the need to protect livestock and agricultural crops.

The main purpose of assessing tree growth in the Falkland Islands is to determine whether the species selected for shelterbelt planting have achieved a minimum performance to provide shelter. Such information could be used to improve the adoption potential of shelterbelts in the Falkland Islands to make a maximum impact on the whole farm system without covering large areas in trees.

Performance of a shelterbelt is estimated from tree growth, ground factors and meteorological conditions. These have been measured and the relationship between the characteristics of each shelterbelt trial and site factors will be examined. As to date Lodgepole pine has shown better results than other species tested, the relationship between their characteristics and site variables will be modelled to simulate the influence of trees on livestock production under the Falkland Islands environment. Additionally a cost benefit analysis of shelterbelts associated with pasture as a land use option will be conducted on the basis of the costs and returns that farmers face at present. This information will help towards the production of a flexible simulation guide to recommendations on designing shelterbelts for use in sheep rangeland production in the Falkland Islands.

All trees from 9 sites shown in Table 1 with different species were surveyed. In each site a variety of site variables were measured including topography, slope, elevation, tree height, survival and tree stem diameter.

Table 1. Shelterbelt trial sites in the Falkland Islands.

Shelterbelt Trial Sites	Location
Saladero Farm	East Falkland
Estancia Farm	East Falkland
Fitzroy Britannia	East Falkland
Fitzroy Farm	East Falkland
Stanley	East Falkland
Shallow Harbour Farm	West Falkland
Port Howard Farm	West Falkland
Bold Cove Farm	West Falkland
Hill Cove	West Falkland

The health of the conifer trees were recorded based on the level of damage affecting their foliage and discolouring of the needle/leaf loss (Table 2).

Table 2. Classification of health of trees observed.

Classification based solely on needle/leaf loss	Classification based on needle/leaf loss and yellowing of needles/leaves		
	Degree of yellowing percentage of yellowed needles/leaves		
	0 to 25%	26 to 60%	61 to 100%
0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4

For each lodgepole pine/site, foliar analyses will be carried out. Lateral shoots from a group of trees distributed across the site were sampled and the P, K, Mg, Zn, Cu and M concentration in the samples will be assessed.

The samples will be analysed in an ISO accredited laboratory at AFBI (Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute).

Outputs

Develop a model to provide an estimate of potential performance of a shelterbelt in the Falkland Islands using simple inputs and providing an easily understood description of the development of trees.

Produce a Cost-Benefit analysis for a shelterbelt programme considering appropriate economic parameters and taking into account public funds and other private conditions.

Future research needs

- Testing & Propagation of other species
- Pasture growth, lamb survival and sheep loses after shearing in the lee of a shelterbelt.
- Environmental effects in the landscape.

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank UKFIT and DoA for funding and other supports. I would also like to express my appreciation to the following persons: Mrs. Phyl Rendell, Mr. Neil Judd, Mr. Tim Miller, Mr. Gordon Lennie, Mrs. Kay McCallum, Mrs. Cynthia Williams, Mr/s Ali & Marlene Marsh and to the staff of the Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture for making me welcome.



The Saladero Shelterbelt Trial



Date of planting: 1998

Mean height: 2.3m

Species:

- Lodgepole pine
- Macrocarpa
- Radiata pine
- Austrian pine
- Southern beech

Seen anything strange lately?!

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

**Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366**

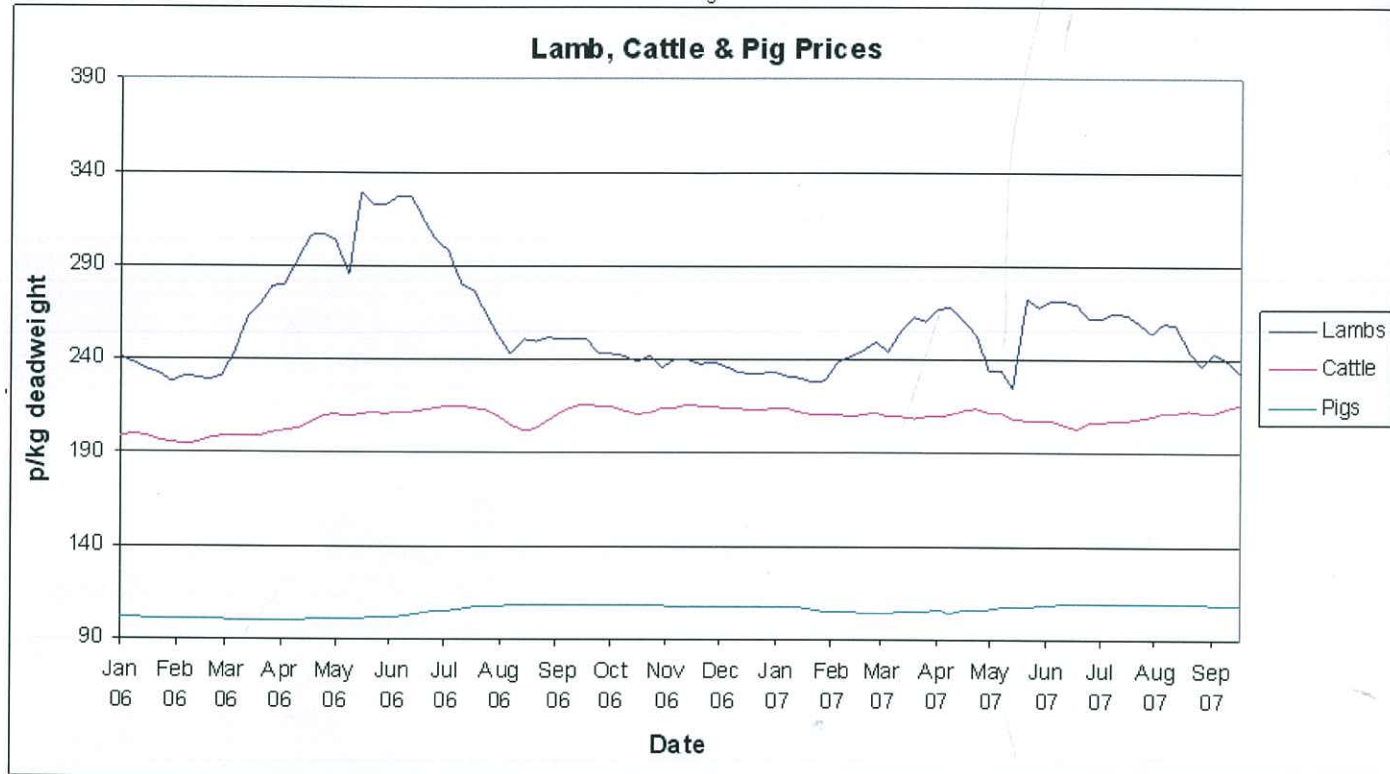


ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

LAMB, CATTLE & PIG PRICES

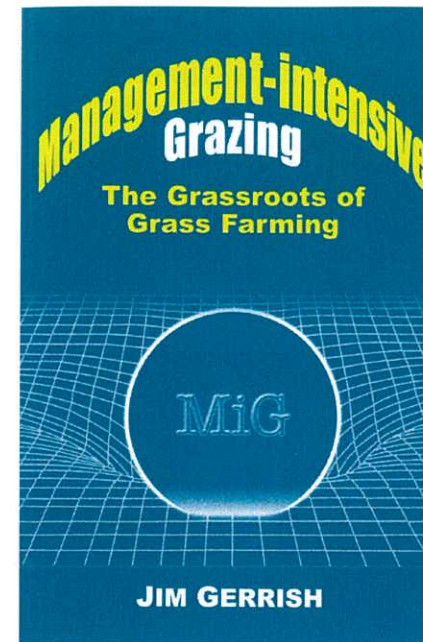
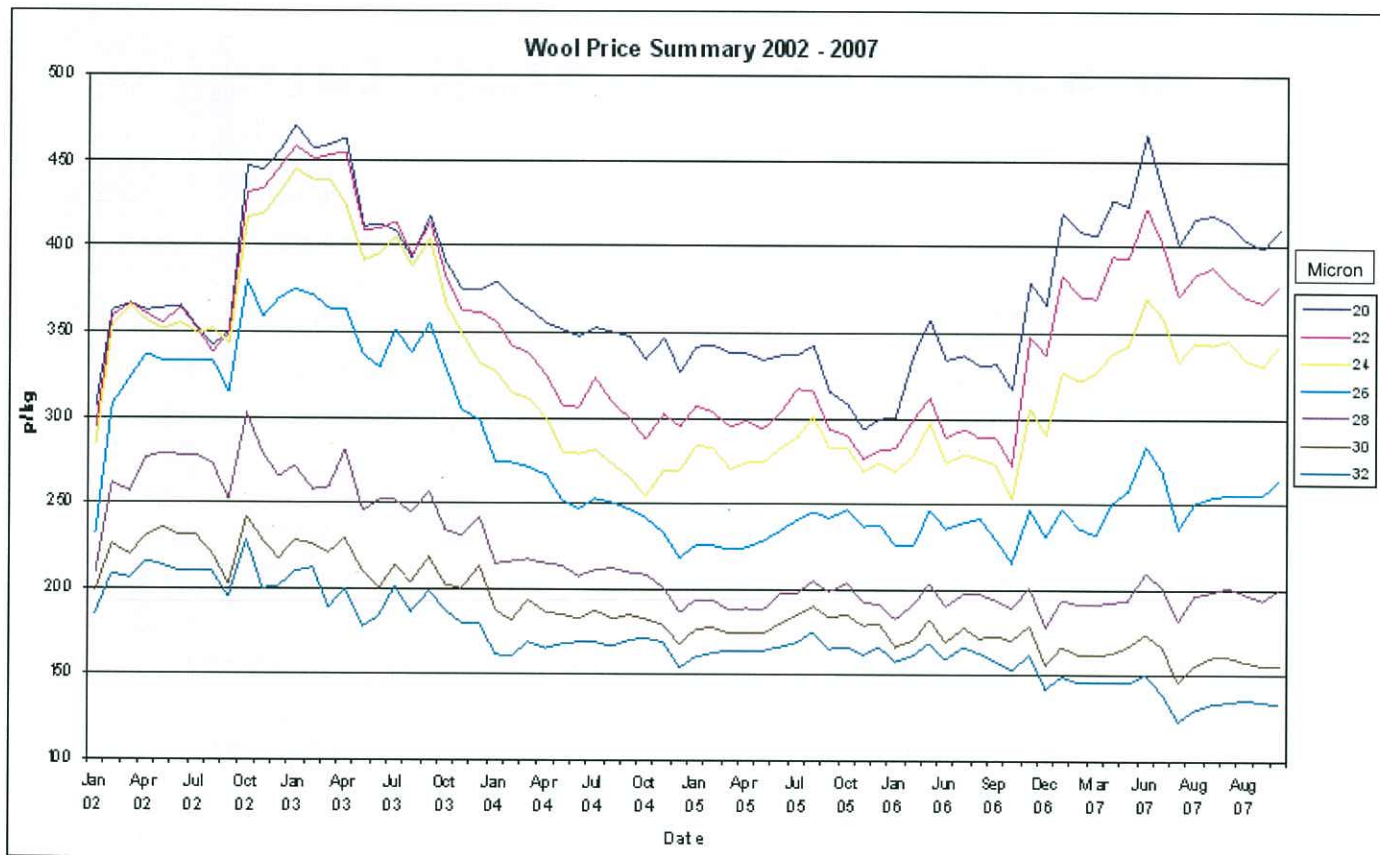
Source: Farmers Weekly Interactive

Please note that the prices are from the United Kingdom and are provided for information only to highlight current meat prices and to show how prices change over time.



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



A limited number of copies are available at the Department of Agriculture for £16.00 each

Contact Siân on telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

More copies of the book will be available when Jim returns to the Islands in January 2008.

SPRAY-ON COAT LEAVES SHORN SHEEP HAPPY COME RAIN OR SHINE

From the Guardian Unlimited, provided by Charlene Rowland

Author: Barbara McMahon
Imagine being left outside in freezing weather without any clothes on or standing naked for hours under a fierce sun. It's not much fun for newly sheared sheep in Australia, some of whom die of hypothermia or heat stress within days of having their fleeces removed.

Help may be at hand, however, after a chemist claimed yesterday to have developed a spray to protect delicate sheepskin from the harsh Australian elements. Henry King said his biodegradable lanolin-based spray acts like an invisible raincoat on shorn sheep and can also be used as a sunscreen.

Trials on livestock in New South Wales, a region badly hit this year with cold and wet weather, proved a success, he said. Certainly there will be a market: there are an estimated 120m sheep on the continent.

"It's a bit like a woman putting on hairspray to protect her 'do'," he told ABC Radio. "We set up a portable spray unit and

it forms a fine mist and the sheep run through it."

He said wool growers in the Monaro region of NSW found that spraying sheep is less labour intensive than putting coats on the animals or keeping them in shelters for the critical two- to three-day period after shearing.

Australia's vast national flock is raised in conditions ranging from the hot and dry areas inland to the chilly highlands.

Mr King said those in the business had called the invention the "best thing since sliced bread for the industry".



Photograph: David Levene

LUPIN FEEDING / PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTATION TRIAL UPDATE

By Peter Johnson

Trials got underway in mid August for the supplementary feeding of protein in the Falkland Islands. The final product chosen was narrow leaf lupins, sourced in Western Australia and delivered to Stanley in 50kg bags for £14.50 per bag or £290 per tonne. Lupins have the unique quality of being a high protein source (32%), palatable to livestock, weather resistant (they don't turn to porridge with rain or dew) and do not give cause for worry like with many other grains of being a cause of acidosis.

Reason for Supplementation

As numerous recent Wool Press articles and Farmers Week presentations have talked about, protein is a significant limiting factor in the diet of Falkland Islands sheep in August, September and October. Protein is important to keep the animal's rumen functioning so that it can process the pasture that the animal is eating more quickly than without the supplement.

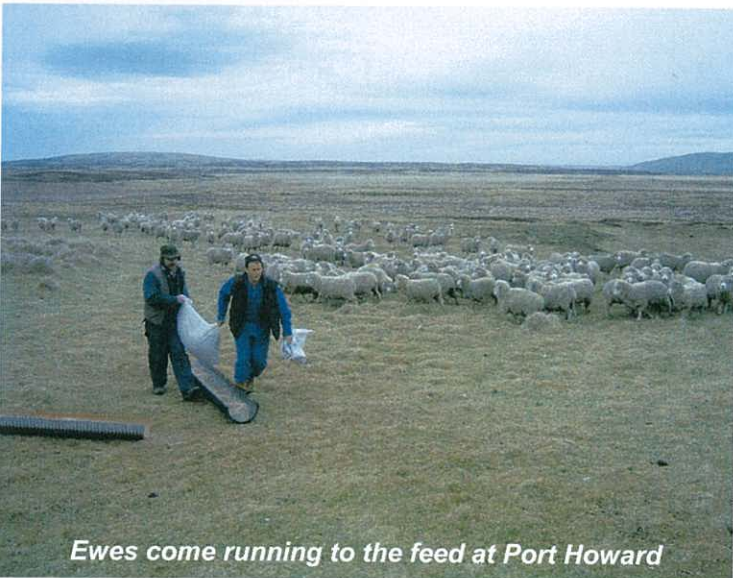
The aim of the trial is to measure the response of both breeding ewes and young sheep to strategic supplementation of 100g to 200g of lupins per sheep per day for 7 to 10 weeks. There is no doubt that this will have a positive effect on the animals intake, growth and lamb development, but the trial will aim to quantify this positive effect, to see if the increase in production is worth the cost of the feed in the first place. The cost of feed for a ewe at 150g per head per day for 8 weeks is £2.43, so that is the sort of increase in production required to break even.

The Trials

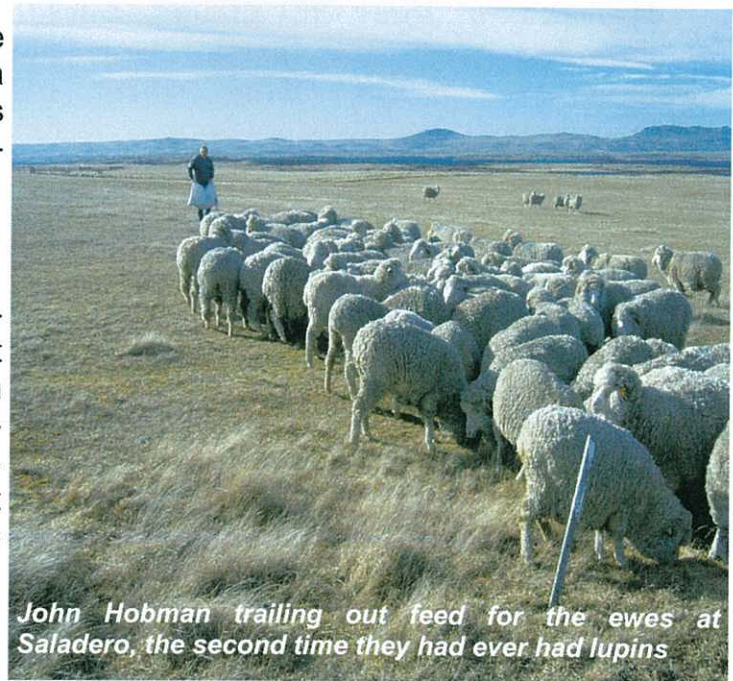
After being widely advertised, the trials are being conducted at Port Howard, Elephant Beach Farm and Swan Inlet. FLH has both ewes and ewe hoggets that are being feed lupins and the DoA is assisting in their monitoring. Ewes from the National Stud Flock at Saladero are also being given a ration of lupins.



The lupins are small, marble like seeds that are 32% protein



Ewes come running to the feed at Port Howard



John Hobman trailing out feed for the ewes at Saladero, the second time they had ever had lupins

Some points of the trial so far –

- The trial sites are currently feeding lupins to about 4700 animals in total
- Mob sizes are 200, 270, 700, 774, 850, 900 and 1000 animals
- Animals are being fed every 1, 2 or 3 days
- The lupins are very palatable with animals going onto them quicker than pellets in some cases
- Some sites trained with pellets before going onto the lupins, while other sites went straight onto the lupins
- The lupins are being trailed out, straight into camp, just onto sheep tracks or greens so that they don't get lost in the grass bogs and the sheep can find them
- Not all sheep are eating – 15-25% may not eat the supplement as is the case with any feed given to sheep
- The mob comes running at the sight of the Rover at all trial sites. It is worth watching if you get the chance, to see hundreds of animals running at the Rover instead of away from - it is something that you need to see to believe.

Results

Preliminary results will be available as they come in later in the year and early parts of 2008. Responses measured will be animal live weight, animal wool weights, lambing percentage, lamb weight, weaning percentage, weaning weight, and ewe joining weight in winter 2008 to see if there are any long term carry-over effects.

A full report will be available in the middle of 2008 which will include a cost benefit analysis of supplementary feeding.

Until then, I am eager to chase up suppliers of high protein feed in South America to try and reduce the cost of the feed, as freight contributes about 60% of the cost to get the lupins to the Falkland Islands currently.

FAREWELL

By Deborah Davies

The time has come to say goodbye to you all, because my contract as temporary GIS Manager has finished. Our family will continue to live in the Falkland Islands until my husband's contract has ended, then we are returning to Tasmania to live and work.

I have enjoyed my tenure with the Department very much and would like to thank my colleagues for their kindness and encouragement. A big thank you, also, to the farming community for their guidance and support.

However, do not fear, Farm Mapping is continuing so that data, such as fencing details, can be collected and entered onto your farm maps. Remember that gps units are easy to use and can be borrowed from the department, if you need them.

Farm Mapping is important, so please contact Sian Ferguson at Department of Agriculture for assistance with any aspect of farm mapping or for more information on what is involved by contacting her on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 10th October (Droncit)

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

PAPERS PASSED BY THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Artificial Breeding Programme and PIP Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To promote best practice management on farms where PIP funding is used to purchase genetic material. To ensure return on FIG investment is maximised.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That farms utilising PIP funding for genetics have a realistic Breeding Plan in place with objective, quantifiable targets to reach.
- 2.2 That *Guidelines for Sheep Artificial Insemination* be implemented for the 2008/2009 PIP year.
- 2.3 That *Guidelines for Sheep Embryo Transfer* be implemented for the 2008/2009 PIP year.
- 2.4 That direct costs such as micron and yield testing be available through PIP funds for up to 200 ewes per 1000 breeding ewes on the farm. This would form a part of the overall genetic component of the PIP.
- 2.5 That the genetic component of the PIP be increased to £3,500 per 1000 breeding ewes to assist in covering these costs, without a reduction in the funds available for genetic material itself.

3. Background

- 3.1 PIP funding has been available for the last two years to purchase animal genetics as part of the Artificial Breeding Programme co-ordinated by the DOA. In this time, genetic progress has been made, and the quantification of this progress is currently part of a major review being conducted by the DOA.
- 3.2 The paper 'Use of PIP Funds to Purchase Live Rams in the Falkland Islands' that was presented to the AAC in April 2007 (appendix c) is a part of this process of identifying and continually working towards a realistic breeding objective.
- 3.3 There is strong scientific and practical evidence that objective measurement when linked with effective subjective sheep classing, increases the rate of gain towards any breeding objective. Recently published data on a large ewe flock (670 ewes) using such a system has shown a gain of 1.0kg of clean fleece weight, a reduction of 2.4 microns in fibre diameter and an increase of adult ewe average body weight of 1.5kg. This was done with correct application of a dual purpose breeding objective and objective measurement over a 10 year period in a closed flock situation.
- 3.4 There is scientific evidence from in the Falkland Islands and around the world that ewes weighing 40kg and above at joining have a greatly increased chance (from between 10% to 16% above ewes less than 40kg) of surviving winter and rearing a lamb through to weaning time.
- 3.5 An example for a complete ram team change of 30 rams for 1500 ewes produced by AI would be as follows –
- The best 400 ewes visually selected by the farm.
 - The top 300 ewes decided after individual classing of the ewes which are individually tagged.
 - Fleece weights, body weights, yield and micron taken from those 300 ewes. (# **Note** – The DOA is currently negotiating with a wool laboratory in Uruguay to enable fleece testing to be carried out more cost effectively for farmers. More detail on this later).
 - The information is processed with an index that matches the farm's breeding objective.
 - The top 200 ewes are selected based on the results of the index, visual classing of the animals, and ensuring that they are all above 40kg.
 - These 200 ewes are artificially inseminated, resulting in 120 progeny (60% lambing).
 - The resulting 60 male progeny are individually tagged, and have their body weight, fleece weight, micron and yield tested at the first shearing.
 - This objective information is used in conjunction with visual classing to select the best 30 rams to complete the ram team change.
- 3.6 The ability to repeat this process for several years would allow extremely heavy selection to be placed on rams retained for breeding and also on ewes used in the breeding programme.

Incorporation of Fleece Testing Services into the PIP Scheme

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the process and requirements for the testing of fleece samples for farms both within the PIP scheme and privately.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the process outlined in this report be adopted as the mode of operation for farmers seeking to utilise PIP funds for fleece testing as well as for private samples.
- 2.2 The number of fleece samples submitted for testing per farm within the PIP scheme is limited to 200 ewe samples plus 50 ram samples per 1000 breeding ewes (average of last three years).
- 2.3 Fleece samples be sent to the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat (or any other laboratory approved by the AAC) for testing if logistics and costs show sufficient benefit, otherwise samples will be tested in the DOA laboratory.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2004 the DoA conducted a comprehensive review of laboratory services. The review determined that appropriate test charges for fleece testing services carried out in the DoA laboratory were as follows:-
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| i. Test batches of 650 or less | |
| a) Fibre diameter only | £3.00/sample |
| b) Fibre diameter & yield | £5.00/sample |
| ii. Test batches of 650 or more | |
| c) Fibre diameter only | £2.00/sample |
| d) Fibre diameter & yield | £3.00/sample |
- 3.2 Recently the DOA has investigated the logistics and cost effectiveness of having fleece samples from the Falkland Islands tested by external laboratories.
- 3.3 Discussions with the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat (SUL) have shown considerable promise. It is possible that a service will emerge that allows samples to be freighted to Montevideo and tested by SUL for fibre diameter and yield for approximately £1.50 per sample.
- 3.4 It is envisaged that fleece samples would be consolidated by the DOA and dispatched at approximately monthly intervals to SUL in Montevideo for testing.
- 3.5 Test results would be emailed back to the DOA in a standardised format for distribution to farmers.
- 3.6 Test costs would be automatically deducted from the farm PIP account by DoA.
- 3.7 The service would also be available for non PIP fleece testing, however costs incurred would be invoiced to the farm for payment.
- 3.8 Full PIP planning and approval processes remain in force, plus an upper limit of 200 ewe fleece samples per 1000 breeding ewes and 50 ram fleece samples per 1000 breeding ewes per year within the PIP scheme. Additional samples will be billed to the farm at prevailing rates.

Note: Full details will be emailed/faxed to all farms. Please contact Siân with any queries.

Use of PIP Funds to Purchase Live Rams in the Falkland Islands

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper seeks to outline a funding framework for the DOA to utilise for farmers using PIP funding to purchase live rams.
- 1.2 Funding levels are based on the potential of the various breeds/purity levels to achieve gain on farms and also on costs associated with their generation. For some of the breeds funding levels have been benchmarked to average sale prices achieved for the breed at recent DOA sales.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the AAC approve the following funding maximums for farmers seeking to utilise Pasture Improvement Programme (PIP) funds to purchase live rams.

Breed or type	Maximum PIP Funding	Details/comments
Polwarth or Cormo	£75.00	Based on recent NSF Polwarth sale values achieved 2006 and 2007.
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes x Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)	£75.00	Selected performance recorded (PR) rams (10-50% ranking) from PR and potentially, non PR breeding flocks.
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes x Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)	£150.00	Selected PR rams (10-50% ranking) from selected PR ewes and elite PR rams (imported AI or leading breed sire).
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes x Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)	£200.00	Elite ranked rams (1-10% ranking). PR rams from elite PR genetic stock.
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes x Dohne/SAMM/MPM (75% new blood)	£200.00	Selected PR rams (1-50%) from elite PR ewes and elite PR rams.
"Pure" blood SAMM/MPM/Dohne	£300.00	Selected performance recorded rams (1-50%) from elite PR genetic stock.

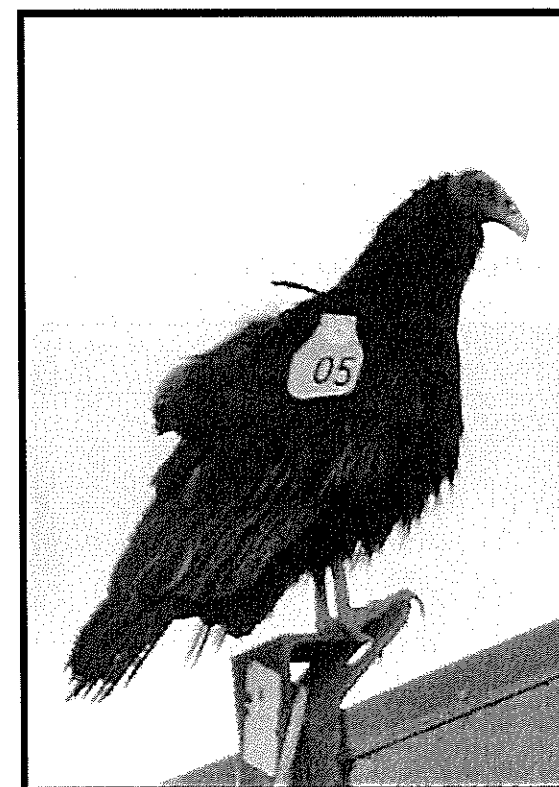
- Note: -
1. Performance recording (PR) should be based on a minimum of 20 animals of the same sex, breed and age located at the same farm.
 2. Performance recording includes consideration of live weight (at 100, 180 and 365 days), fibre diameter, greasy and clean fleece weight plus subjectively assessed characteristics such as face cover, pigmentation and conformation. DOA agricultural advisors are available to assist "stud" breeders with animal ranking and performance recording of their stock.
 3. Price maximums for other breed/combinations that emerge over time will be determined on a case by case basis by the SAA and added to the maximum funding table.

3. Background

- 3.1 PIP funds have been available for use by farmers for several years for the purchase of sheep genetics.
- 3.2 The funds have primarily been utilised to cover costs associated with AI & ET programmes but have also been utilised to purchase live rams at the DoA "Saladero" ram sale and on a small number of occasions, live rams from other farmers.
- 3.3 It is likely that the desire to utilise PIP funds to purchase live rams from other farmers will increase significantly over the next few years.
- 3.4 The intention of this paper is to establish a clear price framework for farmers wishing to use PIP funds to purchase live rams off farms other than the DoA.
- 3.5 It is clear that the price framework needs to recognise the ability of the genetic material to achieve improvement in profitability and productivity for farmers. The price framework must also address differences in quantity and demand for the various options.

Wanted!

Reports of wing-tagged Turkey Vultures



Falklands Conservation and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Pennsylvania, USA), with the support of the Falkland Islands Government, have recently colour-marked Turkey Vultures in an effort to learn more about the birds' movements in and around Stanley. Birds have been marked with yellow tags on either the right wing or the left wing. Each wing tag has a number on it.

Your help is needed spotting these birds.

Please report all sightings of wing-tagged Turkey Vultures, including the wing that is tagged (left or right) and, if possible, the number on the tag, as well as the location, time of day and date of sighting, to Grant Munro at Falklands Conservation at 22247 (tel.) or grant.munro@conservation.org.fk. Reports also can be made to Keith Bildstein at bildstein@hawkmtn.org. All persons reporting a tagged Turkey Vulture will receive a report of the study.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

Alpha Griddle

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

Brainteaser

$$\begin{array}{r}
 9\ 7\ 8\ 2\ 5 \\
 +\ 2\ 1\ 6\ 6\ 4\ 5 \\
 -\ -\ -\ -\ - \\
 =\ 3\ 1\ 4\ 4\ 7\ 0
 \end{array}$$

A=1 D=6 E=5 G=3 H=9 L=4 O=7 P=0 R=8 S=2

Sudoku

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

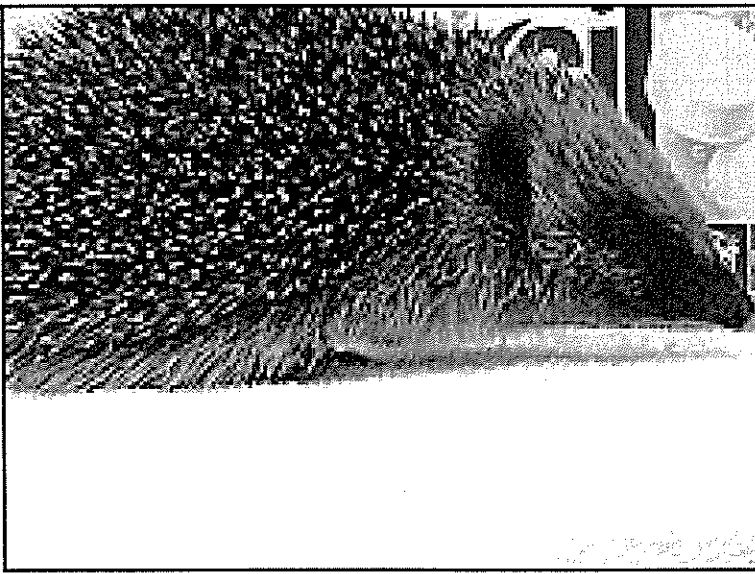
Riddle
A stamp

Word Wheel
9-letter word - EDUCATION

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

A hedgehog is recovering after surviving a spin in a 40-degree washing machine cycle. The female creature was nicknamed Lucky by staff who have been caring for her at the Brent Lodge wildlife hospital, near Chichester, in West Sussex.



Hospital manager Penny Cooper said the hedgehog wandered into a private home and burrowed into a pile of washing that was then put into the machine.

Lucky is now being cared for by a hospital volunteer in Hampshire. Ms Cooper said she was undergoing rehabilitation care before being given a "soft release" back into the wild. "We monitored her at the hospital to make sure there was no chest infection and none of the water had gone into her lungs," she said.

"She didn't seem disorientated, she was fine, and very clean with no parasites or anything of that nature on her." She explained the hedgehog was brought to the hospital at the beginning of September with the kind of story she had never experienced before.

"This lady came in and said, 'I've got a hedgehog that's just been through an eco cycle in my washing machine'. 'She'd left the back door open and this little hedgehog found a nice warm nest of clothing. 'It was only when she took the washing out that she got some prickles going into her hand.'"

Recipe Page

Provided by Sarah Bowles, Stanley

STUFFED SQUID

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 12 x Squid Tubes | ½ cup finely chopped shrimp/prawns | 4oz Feta Cheese |
| 1 tsp Grated lemon zest | Freshly-ground black pepper to taste | 1 tsp dried oregano |
| ½ cup flour | 2 qt vegetable oil (or more) for frying | Salt to taste |
| ½ cup milk | ½ cup breadcrumbs (fresh or dried) | |

Method:

- Rinse the squid tubes inside and out and thoroughly dry them on a paper towel.
- Crumble the feta cheese into a small bowl and add the shrimp, lemon zest, oregano, salt and pepper. Stir to thoroughly combine.
- Using a small spoon, loosely fill each squid tube with about 1 1/2 tablespoons of stuffing. Press the top of the squid tube together and skewer a round wooden toothpick through to securely enclose the stuffing. Do not overstuff the squid.
- Heat about 2 inches of oil to 375 degrees in a deep-fryer. Put the flour in one shallow dish and season with salt and pepper. Put the milk in another shallow dish and the breadcrumbs in a third.
- Dust the stuffed squid with seasoned flour, shaking off excess. Dip them in the milk, allowing excess to drip off, then thoroughly coat them with breadcrumbs.
- Shake off excess breadcrumbs and add the squid to the hot oil, 3 to 4 at a time. Fry until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes. Do not overcook the squid or it will be tough. Drain the squid on paper towels and serve immediately.

This recipe serves 4.

Country Music...Rock Music...Blues...Pop Music

News...Weather...Flight Info...Camp Matters

Folk Music...Rock 'n' Roll...Classical Music

BBC Drama's...One to One...Archers...Spotlight

The Latest Hits...Golden Oldies



Tune into Falklands Radio for All of the Above

www.firs.co.fk



PUZZLE PAGE



Can you locate all things spooky?!

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

WITCH
 PUMPKIN
 TRICK OR TREAT
 COSTUME
 FANCY DRESS
 GHOST
 MONSTER
 CANDY
 MASK
 ALL HALLOWS EVE
 HALLOWEEN

DEVIL
 SATAN
 MAGIC
 SPIRIT
 VAMPIRE
 HAUNTED HOUSE
 BLACK CAT
 SKELETONS
 DRACULA
 DEMONS
 BROOMSTICK

PARTY
 BLOOD
 OCTOBER
 MICHAEL MYERS
 MUMMY
 ZOMBIE
 FREDDY KRUEGER
 BEETLEJUICE
 HOCUS POCUS
 GRAVEYARD
 JACK O LANTERN



THE WOOL PRESS

November 2007

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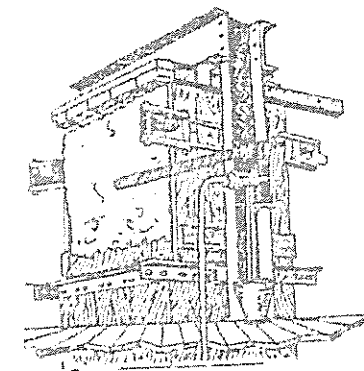
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EDITORIAL

Following on from the article on the lupin feeding trials in last month's Wool Press, readers are recommended to note the results in Andrew Pollard's article on the winter feeding trials in this publication. These early results from feeding ewes and hoggets on Swedes and lupin are very encouraging and worthy of publication in advance of the full data set that will be available in mid 2008. Thank you to all farmers and department staff involved with the trials for the continuous weighing and moving of stock.

With shearing in full swing Robert Hall's article is a timely reminder of the need for vigilance in shearing sheds to prevent black wool contamination. Lucy Ellis has also written an article to remind farmers using QFW stencils that they need to ensure that high standards apply in their sheds throughout the season. This is a self regulating scheme that can add pounds to your wool clip. Any farmer not part of the QFW scheme that wishes to join should contact Lucy.

Another interesting account this month is the contribution from Sergio Radic and Jim McAdam on legume trials. The results of this work will be interesting with regards to nitrogen fixation and possible relationships with calcified seaweed. Sergio will pay a final visit to the Falklands in February to complete his field research and the department is keen to see the results of his work and how they may impact on farming practices here.

Thanks go to FIDC for securing funds to purchase wool core and grab machines for wool testing. (Illustrated in Charlene Rowland's article). The investment is very welcome and conditions for coring in the FIPASS wool warehouse next season should be considerably improved with this additional equipment in use.

Siân Ferguson's article on farm mapping is a reminder that she can download your data from a GPS and update your maps. Contact Siân if you want to learn more about this useful farm tool.

Neil Judd writes a farewell article as he heads back to Australia at the end of his contract. Neil has made a significant difference to a wide range of agricultural activities, particularly wool production. Thank you for six years of dedicated work with the department Neil, and all the best for your future career. Keep in touch.

Regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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UPDATE ON WINTER FEEDING TRIALS

By Andrew Pollard

Numerous reports into agriculture in the Falkland Islands point to protein and energy being a key limiting factor for animals. This lack of protein inhibits the animal's ability to convert the large amount of gross energy (grass) into a rumen degradable source of nutrition. It limits the potential of the animal in terms of animal growth, wool quality and quantity and reproduction.

Stock nutrition from pasture dips from early autumn to late spring. This is the critical period when finer grasses have been eaten and animals rely on less nutritious native whitegrass and shrubs to survive. Forage Swedes have the potential in the Falkland Islands to supplement the stock's diet in this winter/early spring period.

Ewe Swede Trials

Farm	Weight Gain (kg)	Daily WG (gram)	Death Rate %
Home Farm	2.3	37	2.2
EBF	2.2	28	0.8
Moss Side	5.6	102	3.3
South Harbour	5.2	84	3.5

Farm	Ha Sown	Total Yield (t)	No Ewes	Days Grazed	Utilisation *	Kg / Ewe / Day Consumed
Home Farm	6.4	7	212	63	70%	0.37
EBF	8	21	889	78	80%	0.24
Moss Side	7.7	35.4	477	55	60%	0.80
South Harbour	30	51	783	62	70%	0.74

**utilisation refers to the proportion of crop eaten, this is enhanced by level of management via strip grazing*

All mobs have shown a weight gain. This gain varies from 2.2kg/head to 5.6kg/head. It is believed that the weight gain is directly related to the amount of swede made available to the ewes.

For example:-

477 Moss Side ewes gained on average 5.6kg. Doubling stock numbers onto the swede to 954 ewes may have seen average weight gains reduced to 2.8kg (similar number of ewes and weight gain as EBF).

10-20 % of ewes with access to the swede actually lost weight. It is likely that these ewes did not eat the swede and relied on the nutritionally poorer native camp. It could be argued that these would be representative of a control (the norm). It is my belief that daily strip grazing along with gathering animals onto the crop will reduce the number of stock that loose weight.

Ewe Lupin Trials

774 young ewes at EBF with an average weight of 37.7 kg at mid July were put onto a feed of lupin at approximately 150g per day. Average weights on the 9th October 2007 had reduced to 36.7kg, a loss of 1kg/ewe.

At Saladero some of the animals in the Green family were monitored for their performance on Lu-

pins. Results were as follows

	23/8/07	13/10/07	Weight Gain (kg's)
Mature	51.5	56.5	5
Shearlings	38.3	44.2	5.9
Hoggets	30	36	6

At Swan Inlet 6 classes of stock varying by age, sex or breed over approximately a 3 week period showed an average increase of liveweight between 1-1.5kg.

Hogget Swede Trials

Farm	Weight Gain (kg)	Daily WG (gram)	Death Rate %
Blue Beach	3	55	0

Farm	Ha Sown	Total Yield (t)	No Hog's	Days Grazed	Utilisation *	Kg / Ewe / Day Consumed
Blue Beach	6	13.2	490	54	80	0.50

North Arm hoggets between the 9/8/07 and 16/10/07 (68 days) went from 23kg average liveweight to 28.4kg, an increase on average of 5.4kg per hogget. The animals were on the swede for a little over one month.

North Arm, like Blue Beach, had a death rate of zero percent. These two farms totalled approximately 900 hoggets.. This figure alone would have huge benefits for farm productivity

Overall Discussion

This particular season recorded some very low swede yields. Lack of moisture prevented many crops from being sown until after the New Year. After the New Year whilst moisture was adequate temperature was below average for this time of year. The growing season could be estimated at being half a normal season.

Feeding 'enough' swede over late winter and early spring (with good management) will undoubtedly put weight onto animals.

Feeding lupins at this stage is indicating more towards being a source of supplement to maintain liveweight rather than increasing liveweight. The stock at Saladero would have had access to good quality spelled camp, as well as the lupins, as a result of a rotational grazing system.

Benefits at this stage from the improved liveweight gains will be the better condition of the ewe at lambing time and it's ability to produce milk, the health of the developing lamb (the knock on effect over its lifetime) and lamb survival.

The poor average starting weight of two of the breeding ewe trials (33.8 and 34.5kgs) will have had effects on the ewe's ovulation rates at joining time. These farms currently suffer from lower lambing percentages. Winter weight gains (2007) will have a positive effect on animals joining weights at May/June 2008.

Unfortunately these benefits will still be low, as many farms will then return the ewes back to a set stocking regime until they have access to the swede/lupin again. Much higher liveweights and hence ovulation rates will be seen by those farms that come off the winter feed and after lambing enter into a well managed system of rotational grazing, adding much needed additional weight gains to those achieved off the swede/lupin.

QUALITY FALKLAND WOOL

By Lucy Ellis

"The Quality Falkland Wool (QFW) scheme was set up by Farmers Association woolgrowers in response to a report from DS&Co that dark coloured and stained fibres were appearing in the clip".

The above quote came from a letter dated 1996 about the worrying fact that the clip was not as contaminant free as expected. How ironic that in this issue in 2007 (see page 16) there is a letter from Robert Hall of Falkland Wool Growers Ltd warning about black fleece wool inter-lotted with white fleece wool! The question that springs to mind is, "Have we actually achieved anything in the intervening 11 years?"

Well, obviously, the answer is a very loudly yelled YES but all the same it is incidences like the above that are very worrying and reinforce the point that eternal vigilance and attention to detail will always be rewarded.

The QFW scheme was indeed set up for the reasons mentioned above but it is also about setting and maintaining standards that will result in the highest level of wool preparation, will limit the risk of BCF readings above 5 bcf/100 grams and any foreign body contamination and will give buyers confidence that the product they purchase is of a consistent quality.

Attention to detail at all stages of the wool handling process will lessen the risk of contamination and produce a high quality product. Equally important is the attention paid to the yards, pens and shed as the sheep are coming in to be shorn, contamination of the fleece can happen at any point.

Since its inception in 1996, the QFW scheme has come a long way and been through a few changes, the most recent of which was the introduction of the self-audit by stencil holders in the 2006/7 season. The checklist itself has also been audited, this came about as a response to woolgrowers complaints about there being some "grey areas" in the list.

The DOA believes that the introduction of the self-audit was the logical step to take to make the scheme more farmer driven, have more responsibility in decision making and more ownership. Any comments from stencil holders on this would be gratefully received.

There seems to be a little bit of confusion about which bales the stencil can be applied to – all of them **IF** the contents are prepared to the highest standard possible. "Quality" in QFW does not mean just fleece wool it implies quality in handling and preparation of the whole clip.

Stencil holders should also be aware that they do not have to apply the stencil to all their bales. If the bale/s in question does not meet the standards required, do not apply the stencil. This could come about due to too many sheep being shorn in any given day and the wool handling and preparation being compromised or the wool being damp (I know, the sheep should not have been shorn anyway but I'm using this as an example!).

If anybody would like to know more about QFW or has questions about joining this VOLUNTARY scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me on 27355 or e-mail lellis@doa.gov.fk

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 21st November (Droncit)

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

MY VISIT TO EAST FALKLAND

By Shona Strange

Once again, thank you all for allowing me to visit your farms last week. Also for the cups of coffee and tea and the goodies to keep me going while journeying the, well not quite so rough, roads as the West! An enjoyable week on my part and it is good to meet up with you all.

Thank you to Georgina and Andrew for putting me up at very short notice and your warm hospitality and also to Trudi and Charles for yours. I will be back!!

During this trip I looked at killing facilities and offal disposal. Just as a gentle reminder please remember that it is important that dogs do not have access to your killing facilities or your offal disposal facilities at any time. Although they are under controlled supervision accidental escapes can happen.

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.

During the week 19 to 23 November 07 I would like to visit all farms on the West. If there is any day or time you cannot make I would be grateful if you would let me know in the next few weeks so that I can plan my route. Many thanks.

Contact Details:

Email: sstrange@doa.gov.fk

Tel: 27355

Fax: 27352



Worming Pups

By Zoë Luxton

As you all know the legislation with regard to hydatid control states that you must start worming dogs at 6 months of age. However, at a much younger age than this, pups will be eating meat and in contact with areas that sheep will graze. Thus they are able to spread *Toxocara* (the worm that causes bladder cysts) and will also have the same theoretical risk of any adult dog for spreading *E. granulosus*, the worm that causes hydatids. These worms are TAPEWORMS.

Droncit only kills tapeworms.

Drontal kills tape and round worms.

All puppies and kittens have roundworms and it is good practice to worm any bitch or queen 2 weeks before she has a litter and 2 weeks after. This is especially important if you have young children as some round worms e.g. *Toxocara spp.* can cause disease and even blindness in infants.

Drontal can be used from 2 weeks of age in young animals and is safe to repeat as often as every fortnight.

To prevent the risk of dogs younger than 6m spreading hydatids and to improve the health of your young dogs and protect the health of your family the following is highly recommended:

- 1) Worm bitches with **DRONTAL** 2 weeks before they pup.

- 2) Worm the bitch again and all the pups at 2 weeks old with **DRONTAL** (1/4 tablet per pup or if very small pups that are well under 2kg get some Panacur wormer from the Vets office)
- 3) When the pups start to eat raw meat begin worming them along with the adults on dog dosing days using **DRONCIT** or **DRONTAL**, whichever is due. The dose rate for **drontal and droncit** is 1 tablet per 10kg bodyweight.
- 4) It would be best practice to worm the pups every 2-4 weeks until they start to fit in with the normal dog dosing regime.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

Annually, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development provide funds through the Overseas Territories Programme, which aims to maintain the security, stability and prosperity of the Overseas Territories. Objective 6 of the programme is to support environmental management and the implementation of Environmental Charters.

The closing date for applications for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) is 30 November 2007. Funding can be sought for assistance with environmental research and management projects that will lead to the sustainable use and/or protection of Falklands wildlife and natural resources.

OTEP will consider projects of up to two years duration, with a maximum of £50,000 per year to be allocated per project.

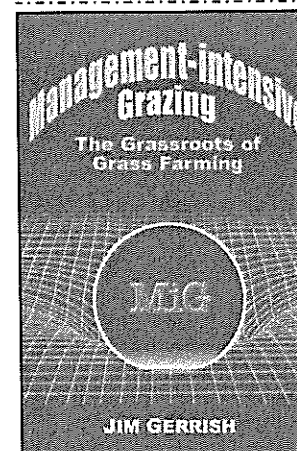
Project applicants are encouraged to seek complementary support from other sources where appropriate, either in cash or in kind. However, lack of success in attracting complementary inputs will not necessarily disadvantage otherwise strong proposals.

Current OTEP funded projects in the Falkland Islands are Falkland Conservation's Plant Conservation Programme, which is linked to the Department of Agriculture's grazing management trials and the Poncet family's rat and fox eradication project on the Beaver Island group.

Please contact Helen Otley at the Environmental Planning Department for further information and to discuss your project ideas (27390).

Date for the diary:

Ram & Fleece Show - 28th December 2007



Jim Gerrish - Management-intensive Grazing

A limited number of copies are available at the Department of Agriculture for £16.00 each

Contact Siân on telephone 27355
or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

More copies of the book will be available when Jim returns to the Islands in January 2008.

FAREWELL TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Neil Judd

It does not quite seem real as yet, but the time has come to say goodbye to the Falkland Islands.

We have spent six wonderful years calling the Falkland Islands home. It is perhaps a bit of an understatement to say that we have mixed emotions about leaving. We are keen to get closer to our children and extended families in Australia again, but struggle with the reality that this means we actually have to leave!

When we arrived in 2001, so many people went out their way to make us feel welcome and to offer their friendship. We will be eternally grateful for this.

Much has happened in farming over the six year period. Regarding these changes the few key things that "stick out" in my mind for particular mention include:

- Change in approach to farming. In many instances farming has continued to progress from mainly a "way of life" to it also being viewed as a business. For many farmers, decisions are now made with an eye on global market circumstances, potential return on investment and long term sustainability.
- Introduction and propagation of new sheep and cattle breeds with potential to improve profitability.
- Examination of alternative grazing management systems and approaches to livestock management.
- Expansion of an export sheep meat industry and the on-farm response in flock structure, sheep types and management systems occurring on some farms to capitalise on the opportunity.
- Shift in DoA emphasis from research to on-farm demonstration of principals, technical support and extension with private enterprise and competition encouraged.

I applaud farmers for the way that they have embraced the considerable difficulties and challenges caused by declining farm commodity prices and rising input costs over the last decade.

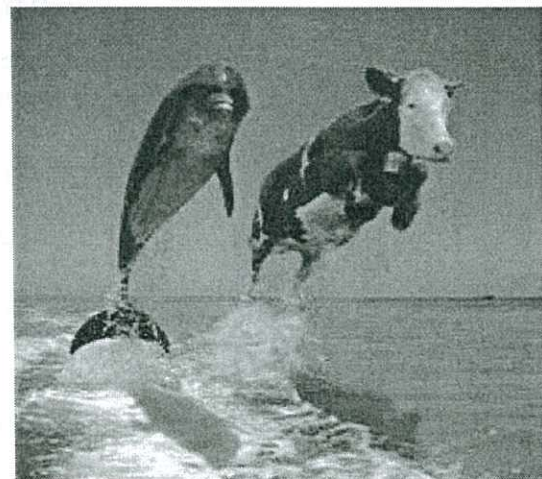
I wish the farmers of the Falkland Islands every success in the future. I truly believe that a productive, sustainable and profitable future is possible for those with the courage and determination to take control of their own destiny.

Thank you once again.

Seen anything strange lately?!

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

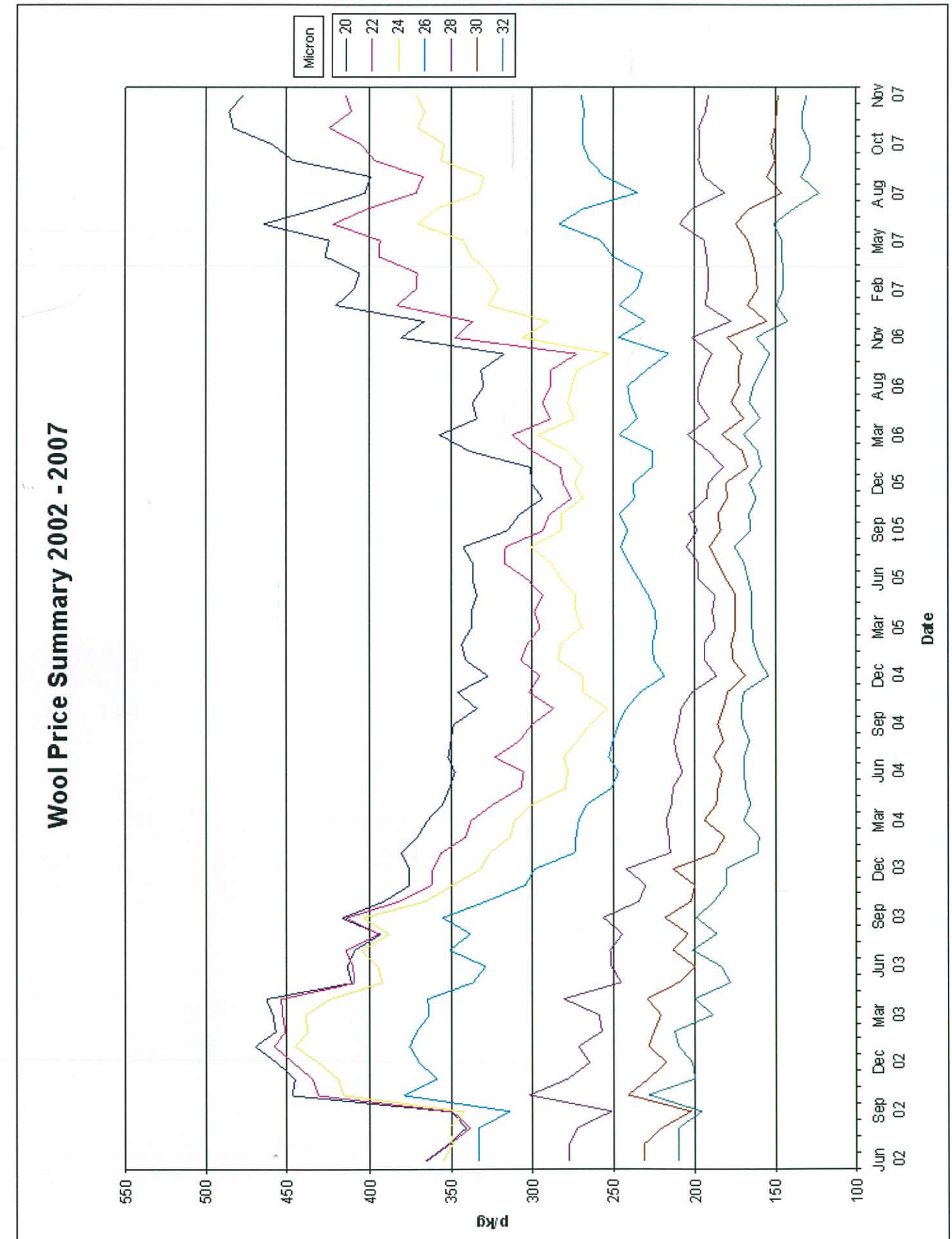
Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366



ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



THE PROCESS OF FARM MAPPING

By Siân Ferguson

Farm Mapping has been in place since March 2003 and many farms have already taken advantage of this service provided by the Department of Agriculture.

Farm boundaries were collected by the Public Works Department. They generally have an accuracy of 1 metre or better. These farm boundary maps are available from the DOA, who can also provide farmers a GPS unit to mark out their camp and paddock fences. The GPS unit is then sent back into the DOA to be downloaded and a draft farm map is then prepared to be sent back out for approval.

Elaine Turner from Rincon Grande has recently started the farm mapping process, which she decided to do so they know the actual size of the camps and paddocks, which she says will be useful in assessing stock holding capacities.

After a short tutorial from a DOA staff member, Elaine said the GPS unit was very simple to use. If you want to start mapping your farm and we cannot travel to your farm to go over the process, we do have some instructions which we will send out and give advice over the phone. Alternatively, if you have purchased your own GPS unit, we can also download this data and use to create a farm map for you.

Other information that we can use to create useful maps is vegetation classification data which has been collected by Landsat images and ground truthing. Topography maps can also be used alongside fence and boundary data collected by GPS and road information provided by the Public Works Department.

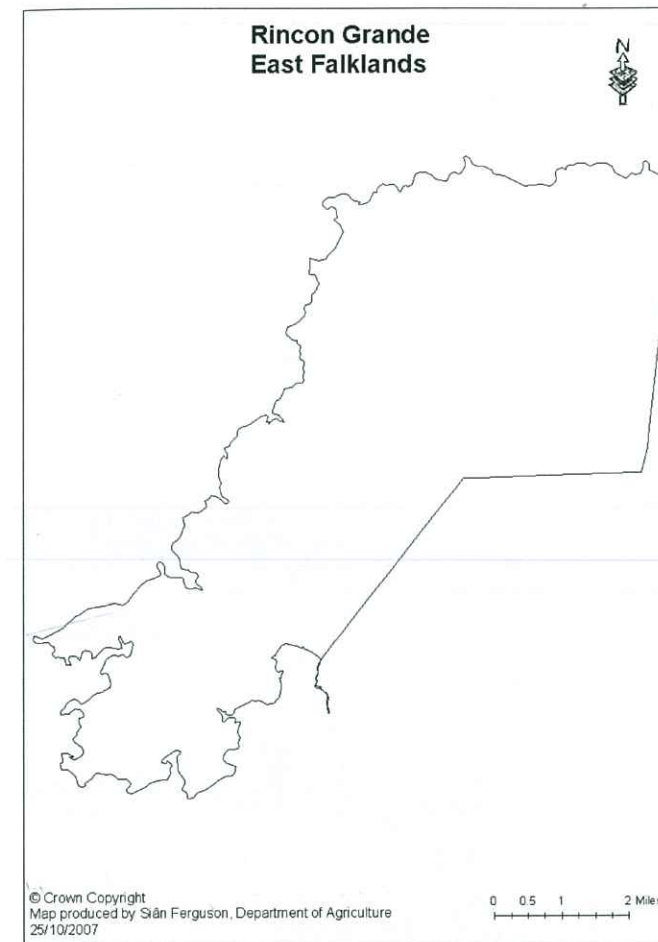
If you would like to start mapping your farm or just have a chat about the process, then please get in touch with me.



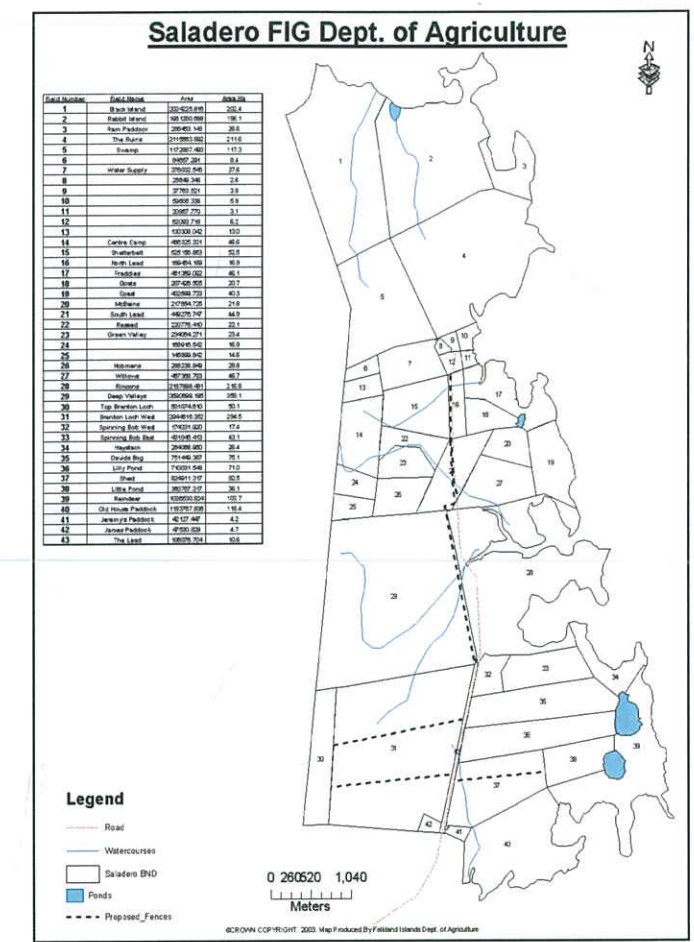
One of the DOA GPS units



Elaine Turner mapping one of the settlement paddocks at Rincon Grande



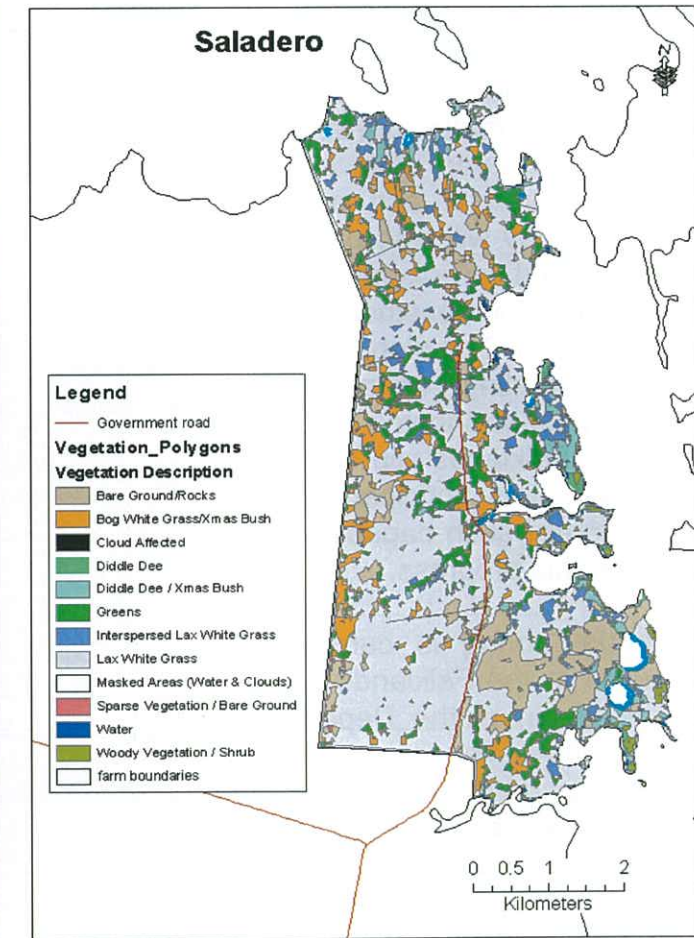
Rincon Grande Boundary Map



Saladero with features and internal fences



Saladero with internal fences and topography map



Saladero with vegetation classification data

WOOL CORE AND GRAB MACHINE FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

By Charlene Rowland, Falkland Islands Development Corporation

As a result of the research carried out by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, the Falkland Islands Development Board has agreed to buy two wool core and wool grab machines, which will be a major step forward for the wool industry. The machines will be arriving in April/May 2008 and were sourced from the Wool Testing Bureau in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The machinery will initially be installed in the wool warehouse on FIPASS. Like the manual core sampling process, they will need to be operated under the supervision of DOA staff.

This machinery will compliment the existing double dumper machine, which was bought for the wool industry to optimise container payload and to enable freight cost cutting with the introduction of a container service to and from the Falkland Islands. This has created an opportunity for farmers to sell their product directly to an increased number of customers in a more cost effective manner.



The Wool Core Machine

Samples from the wool core and wool grab machine will allow measurement of yield, micron, vegetable matter (VM), colour and at a later date for staple length, strength and position of break. They will also provide fully representative display samples for buyer assessment of Falkland's wool. The plan is to streamline marketing, speed up sales and increase income for farmers. As the Falklands clip continues to fine up, it is anticipated that the addition of such capability will enhance this progress.



The Wool Grab Machine

Manual coring is currently conducted in the Falklands under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. The operation is carried out under strict quality control procedures at the FIPASS warehouse, Goose Green, North Arm and Fox Bay. It is a slow process and physically demanding. The physical nature of the operation is

regarded by many as a significant problem for manual core sampling in the Falklands, a problem which the new machines will overcome. Grab sampling is not undertaken in the Falklands at the moment.

The sampling will be performed under internationally recognised guidelines to enable the issue of internationally recognised pre-sale test certificates.

The cost of the machinery including freight will be approximately £31,000. The machines are refurbished to full operational standards and the package includes a feed conveyor, a bale feed gate, roller assembly for weighing platform, compressor, weighing station and terminal, precision platform scales up to 300kg, an electromotive force compensation weigh cell for use in precision platform scales, a new piston compressor, core tip sharpener, a complete spares kit, freight and commissioning by a representative of the Wool Bureau.

Operation of the core and grab machine requires skill and attention to detail. It is expected that training opportunities will be provided on the operation of the machines once full operational details are agreed.

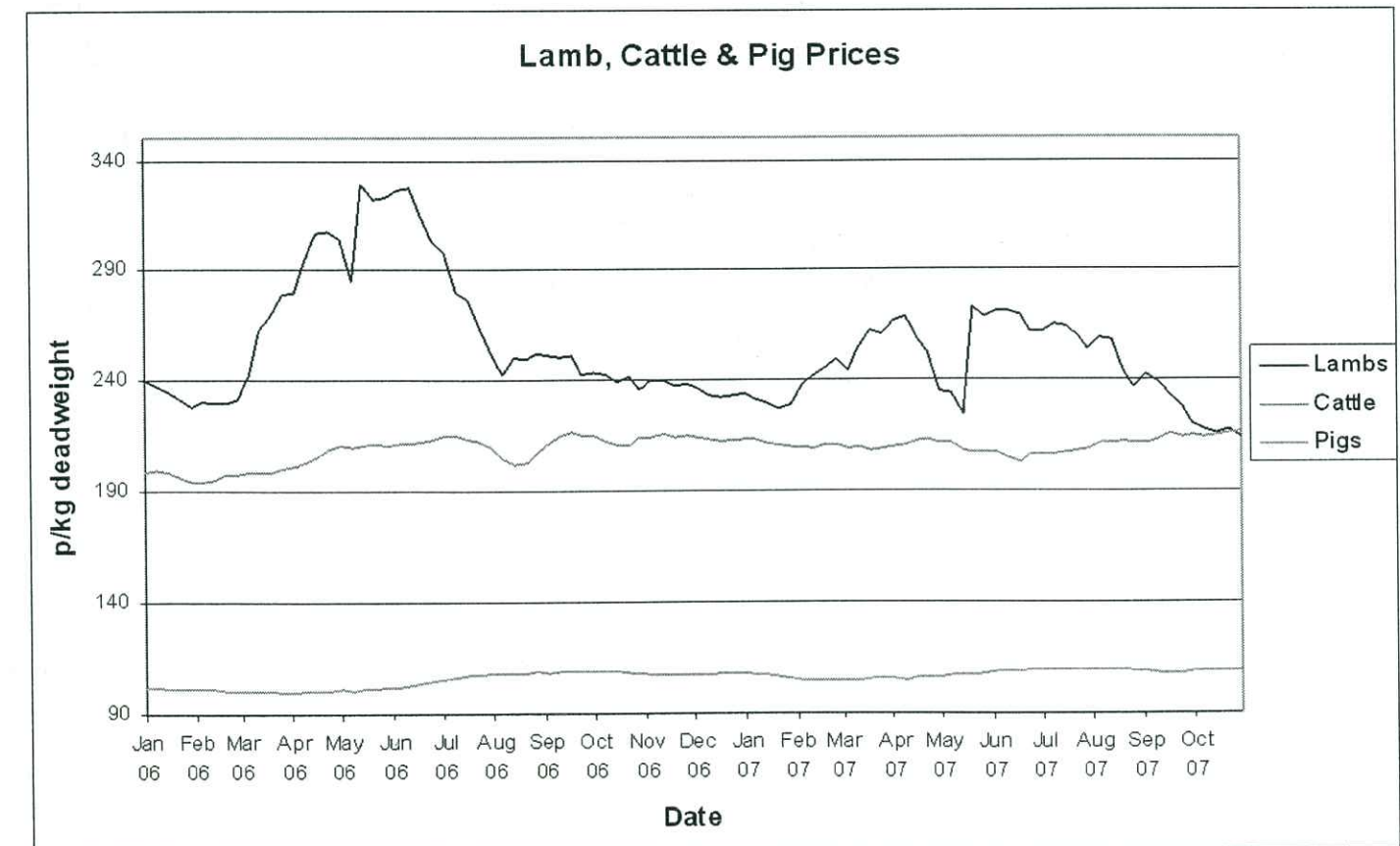
If anyone would like to see a video clip of the machines in operation, please give me a call and I would be happy to send you a 19Mb file or discuss any of the operations, costs etc.



LAMB, CATTLE & PIG PRICES

Source: Farmers Weekly Interactive

Please note that the prices are from the United Kingdom and are provided for information only to highlight current meat prices and to show how prices change over time.



MY LEGUME PROJECT IN THE FALKLANDS

By Sergio Radic and Jim McAdam

The main problems with sheep production in the Falkland Islands are low lambing (60%); high mortality percentage (10 – 20%) and low lamb weight (aprox. 12 kg). Forage crops can help improve this situation as they have better quality and, in some cases, quantity of production than grasslands. Legumes are a good source of feed as they have high protein content; better yield in mixtures and fix Nitrogen.

One question we don't know the answer to is, how much nitrogen do legumes fix in the Falklands? This is important to know, because this nitrogen ends up in the soil and can then stimulate grass growth. The DoA has carried out a lot of work on which legumes are best adapted to the acid soils found in the Falklands (Lotus and some Clovers have come out as most suitable). Another problem is that Falklands soils have a low pH, low Ca & P, synthetic fertilizer is expensive and is not accepted in organic production systems. One alternative is to use calcified seaweed (to raise the pH, Ca & other minerals) and in this way establish and grow legumes with a good yield and fixing Nitrogen.

I am carrying out research on this subject, supported by a grant from the Chilean Government, registered at Queens University (and here, Jim McAdam is my supervisor), and in conjunction with the UK Falkland Islands Trust and DoA in the Falklands. The overall aim of my project is to investigate and determine principal soil factors affecting legume establishment, growth and nitrogen fixation in the Falkland Islands. One part of my study is to study the interactions between acid Soils-Calcified Seaweed-Legumes.

My experiments are divided into two parts, some in the greenhouse and labs at Queen's University, Belfast and some in the field in the Falkland Islands, at Saladero, Shallow Harbour and Bold Cove. In each of these 3 farms I have grazing exclusion cages to measure the yield, chemical composition and nitrogen fixation of the legumes. To measure how much nitrogen is being "fixed" from the air, I am using ¹⁵Nitrogen-isotopic techniques, as these give the most accurate results.

I am analysing calcified seaweed chemical composition, incubation with soil and neutralizing strength and particle size distribution. The latter, because it is the main source of variation of yield response in each of my experiments.

Samples have been taken of Calcified Seaweed from different bags in the field, sieved and particle size distribution measured:

Particle size distribution	Percentage %
< 0.25 mm	9.3
0.25 - 1 mm	47.3
1 - 2.4 mm	21.5
2.4 - 4 mm	15.4
4 - 11 mm	4.9
> 11 mm	1.7
TOTAL	100 %

What is the important message from this result? First of all, it is known that for any added materials like lime, a good soil effect depends on the fineness of the material. For example the effectiveness in the soil is zero in the first year when this material is over 2.4 mm in size. The effectiveness increases to 50% when the material is between 2.4 – 0.25 mm particle size and finally the effectiveness is 100% for particles below 0.25 mm. If you look at all the Falklands material on the next page particle size 0.25 mm, then the distribution is:

Particle size distribution	Percentage %
< 0.25 mm	9.3
0.25 – 2.4 mm	68.8
> 2.4 mm	21.9
TOTAL	100 %

So, Calcified Seaweed is a good liming alternative but its effect in the soil is slow, because most of the material is over 0.25 mm. The problem with legumes is that they are more sensitive to acid soil than the grass and the calcified seaweed creates a good soil pH for the new legume seedling. In summary, decreasing particle size of a liming material, decreases the lime rate required to raise soil pH, or in other words, less cost for the same kilograms of Seaweed.

I am now back at Queens in Belfast and analysing my samples, especially for N¹⁵ which is a complex analytical process. When I have the results I will be able to work out fixation rates and will report these back to the DoA and through Wool Press.

I would like to acknowledge the help of people at the different farms where I have my experiments - Jimmy & Ginny (Bold Cove); Ali & Marlane (Shallow Harbour); John & Viv (Saladero) and everyone in the Department of Agriculture in the Falklands. This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Falklands UK; Falklands Island Trust; Universidad de Magallanes Chile and Queen's University Belfast.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me by email: sergio.radic@queens-belfast.ac.uk

SAMA CLOTHING

Rugby shirts - Falklands 25 logo
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Polo shirts - Falklands 25 logo
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Polo shirts - South Atlantic Medal Association Falkland Islands Trust
- various colours and sizes - all £15 each

Plaques - South Atlantic Medal Association Falkland Islands Trust
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Pilgrimage ties
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Camp orders can be sent to Kevin and Teena Ormond on tel/mobile 22814/52814/52260, fax 22814 or email kttk.ormond@horizon.co.fk

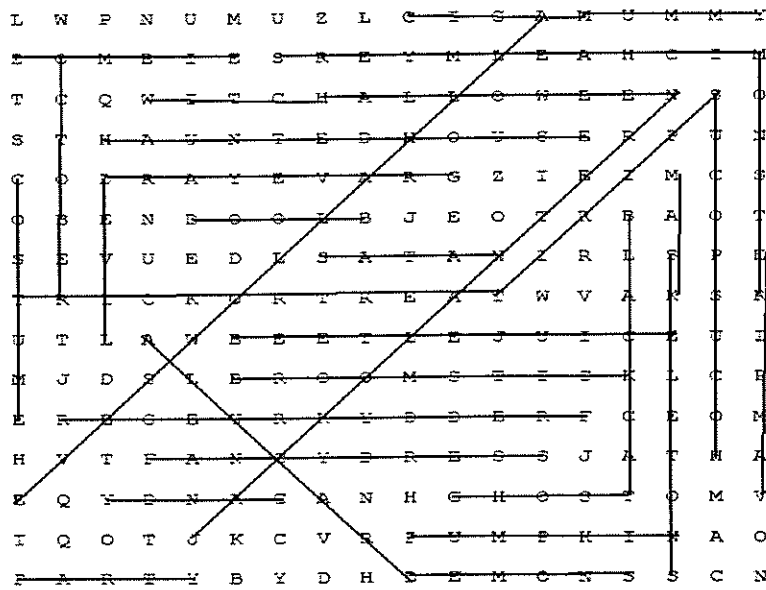
Back in August Falklands Conservation wing-tagged a number of turkey vultures in Stanley with large numbered yellow tags on either their right or left wings.

In recent weeks there have been a number of sightings from outside Stanley with some birds reaching as far as Fitzroy, Lively Island and Saladero.

If anybody sees a tagged vulture out in camp it would be great if this could be reported to Falklands Conservation with details of when and where it was seen, the tag number (or if this is not readable whether the tag was on the left or right wing) and any information on what it was up to.

Thanks to those that have already done so, the more information we can get the more useful the end result will be.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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Phone Siân on 27355.

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

An animal lover was so fed up with looking for her tortoises she has fitted them with a tracker device. Jane Williams, who runs a tortoise sanctuary from her home in Colchester, uses a handheld scanner to hunt down her 60 animals. The tracker device is attached to their shells with a removable sticky pad. Ms Williams said: "I think they are absolutely fantastic. Contrary to popular belief tortoises can actually move quite fast. "They are real escape artists. They can climb walls, hide in bushes and bury themselves. We find them in all sorts of unusual places. It is amazing how difficult it can be to find them."

The Pink Shop Gallery
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Is pleased to accept orders from camp.

Apart from artwork, jewellery, books, gifts, Woolmore Falkland lambskins, binoculars, Vango tents, sleeping bags, Leatherman, musical instruments and the frames and framing service we offer...

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Calendar £6, post by air £1.85, surface £1.

Recipe Page

Provided by Doug Martin, Stanley from TheCattleSite.com.

Beef Stew with Guinness

Ingredients (6 -8 servings)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1½ kg (3 lbs) lean stewing beef | 2 large onions, coarsely chopped |
| 2-3 carrots into 2" strips lengthways | 1 small turnip (or swede) cut onto ¾" cubes |
| Groundnut oil for cooking | 1 tinny (330ml) Guinness (or stout beer) |
| 3 tablespoons plain flour | 2 tbs tomato puree |
| 1 OXO (beef stock) cube | ½ tsp chilli powder |
| Freshly ground pepper | Sprig of thyme |

Preparation

Trim the meat removing any fat or gristle and cut into 2" (5cm) chunks. Mix the flour, salt, pepper and chilli powder in a bowl. Toss the meat in the seasoned flour and coat well.

Cooking

Heat some oil (2 tbs) in a large heavy frying pan over a high heat and fry the meat until it is nice and brown on all sides. If your frying pan is not very big do this in batches. Place the browned meat (and any liquid) in a casserole dish. Add a little more oil (1 tbs) to the pan and fry the onions, carrots, turnip (swede) for a few minutes. Add the garlic to the pan and fry for a further minute or so. When the onions are starting to brown transfer to the casserole dish. Add the Guinness (stout) and tomato puree to the frying pan and bring to a simmer. Add the stock cube and mix well ensuring all the caramelised juices on the frying pan dissolve. Pour into the casserole dish. Add the bay leaf and thyme. Stir, taste, and add a little salt if necessary. Place the lid on the casserole dish and put into a pre-heated oven at 300°F (180° C, Gas Mark 5) for 2 to 3 hours.

Cook's Tips & Serving Suggestions

Try using a little chilli powder to replace salt in your cooking. We all eat too much salt and the chilli powder acts as a great substitute. A small amount (½ tsp) adds "something extra" to the dish without adding any heat. You will need more than a "pinch" if you are worried! Great served with a Mustard Mash (mashed potato mixed with a splash of double cream and 1 tbs of whole grain mustard) or warm crusty bread.

Finally.... enjoy!

Want to send Christmas presents with a difference?

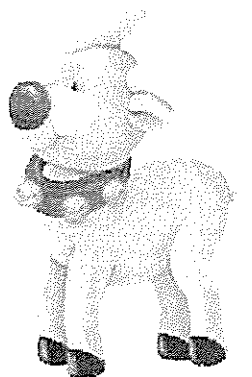
Then why not give someone an annual Wool Press subscription?

We will send each month's issue on your behalf so no need to worry about anything!!

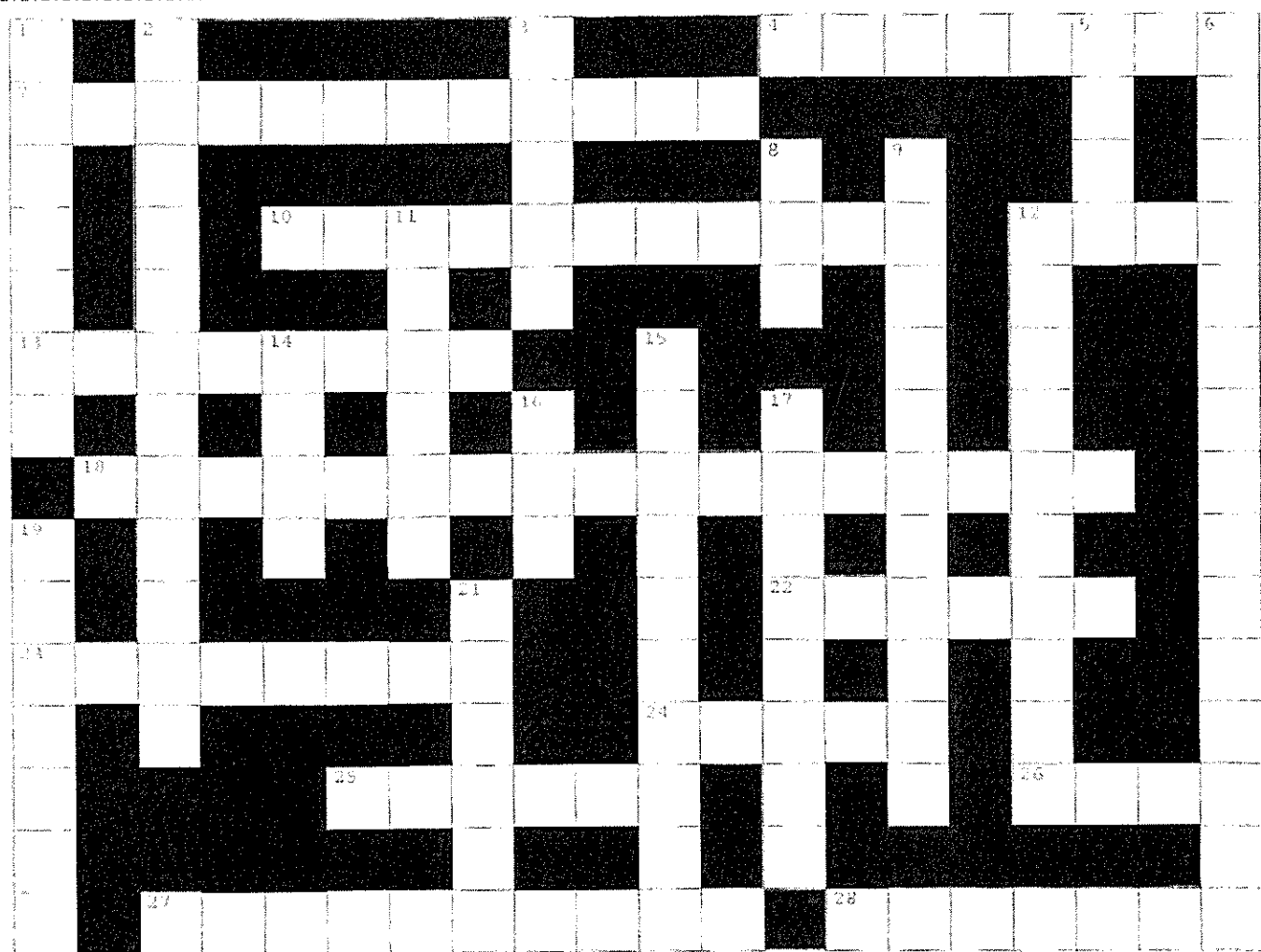
Only £15.00 for local mailings and £37.00 worldwide.

So to keep local and overseas family and friends up-to-date with Falklands agricultural issues with no effort from yourself, just give Siân a ring on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Special Christmas offer - sign someone up before 21st December and you will receive 3 back issues absolutely free!!



PUZZLE PAGE



Across

- 4. Handle (4,4)
- 7. West Falkland settlement (4,8)
- 10. East Falkland farm (4,7)
- 12. Animal foot
- 13. Calibre
- 18. DOA publication (7,10)
- 22. Northern continent
- 23. Recall
- 24. Sweet scent
- 25. Clever clogs

26. Chocolate sweet

- 27. DOA staff member (6,4)
- 28. Weekly payment later in life

Down

- 1. Pacify
- 2. Popular medical drama (5,7)
- 3. Verify
- 5. "Finding ..." film
- 6. Popular FI tourist location (5,4,6)

8. Local pub – and 19 down (7,3)

- 9. Government department
- 11. Authority figure
- 12. Whirleybird
- 14. Tutorial
- 15. Un-inhabited island (5,5)
- 16. Messaging service provider *inits*
- 17. Bonfire fuel
- 19. See 8 down
- 21. Tricks

Riddle Corner

EGG TIMER

Suppose you want to cook an egg for exactly 3 minutes. You have only a 5 minute hourglass timer and a 2 minute hourglass timer. Using these 2 timers, how can you boil the egg for exactly 3 minutes?

SPECIAL NUMBER

What is special about the number 854917632?

DOCTOR AND LAWYER

Doctor says to lawyer we were born on the same year, month, day, and minute. We were born in the same hospital, hospital room and we have the same 2 parents. We are not twins and we have no brothers. Explain this.

THE WOOL PRESS

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EDITORIAL

There are many things happening in the camp and in the Department. Despite Neil leaving, his good work carries on with successor Mac (John McArthur) as he has a copy of the Department 10 year plan and will be full steam ahead as soon as he lands. I am sure he will be busting to be on the west for the Ram and Fleece Show and have a look at the Afrinos too.

Take a peek at their performance, check out the value of the wool and compare it to what you've got. Maybe it is worth having finer wool! Take a peek at the grazing management trial results. Is anything applicable to your property?

The Falklands has a sheep meat industry - Not farmers and an abattoir. Meat is on the menu and the abattoir will be opening for export trade on (or about) 14 January. Money is being spent on the abattoir to make sure the food produced is wholesome and meets EU standards. The meat industry requires input from the farmers and the abattoir.

Don't forget we need sheep movement identification; we need residue information so if you've treated sheep, tick the box; we need welfare information so fill out the forms completely. We also need to have as little contamination of the sheep before the fleece is removed to ensure the meat stays clean. This means fleeces with less than 4 months growth and clean dry sheep. Farmers, abattoir, DoA unite in a common front to make a successful industry!

Isn't it good to see a farm profile? Hopefully in a few years this will lead to farmers having discussion groups and gross margin analysis and farmers, who enjoy the farming profession, will band together to help each other develop ways of improving their businesses.

Lyn has also left the shores after doing a sterling job for the last 2 years but the laboratory will continue on as it forms a critical part of our monitoring system for compliance of meat and wool analysis to monitor improvements in fleece sheep.

If all else fails say Hello! Hello! Hello! to Superintendent Paul Elliot. He is a really good guy who wants to do some good work in the Falklands but he can only do it with your help.

Cheers,

Vic Epstein
Senior Veterinary Officer

Please note there are some FMH updates in your Wool Press envelope this month - please update accordingly.



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GRAZING MANAGEMENT TRIALS – MOSS SIDE

By Peter Johnson

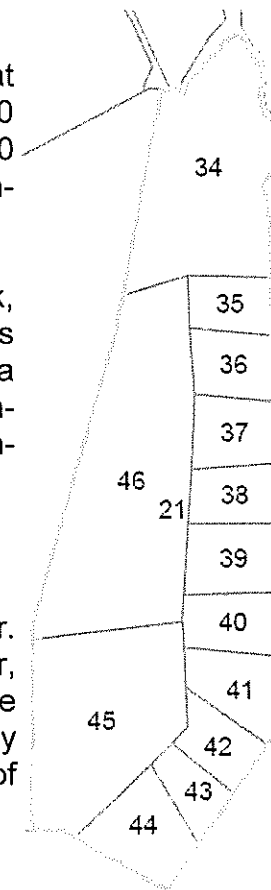
I have recently had the pleasure of looking over a number of grazing management trial sites on both East and West Falkland and I have been extremely impressed by the way in which the systems are progressing, and the fact that although by no admissions are they the 'perfect' system, changes in species characteristics have been made to what was pretty ordinary camps to begin with.

Perhaps the most impressive improvement that has been made in 2007 is at Moss Side farm. The grazing trial was built in late 2006 and about 550 maiden ewes entered the trial in February 2007. The trial consists of 10 camps, 40 to 50 Ha in size. Some sections of the camp are better than others, but most consists of diddle-dee covered, undulating hills.

The ewes have been rotated through the 10 camps once or twice a week, depending on what rest period is needed for the camps and how the animals are performing. The ewes went onto a swede crop which was grown as a part of the 'system' of managed grazing and were lambed down in a completely different, rested camp for 6 weeks of lambing. At the end of November, they were moved back into the rotation with their lambs at foot.

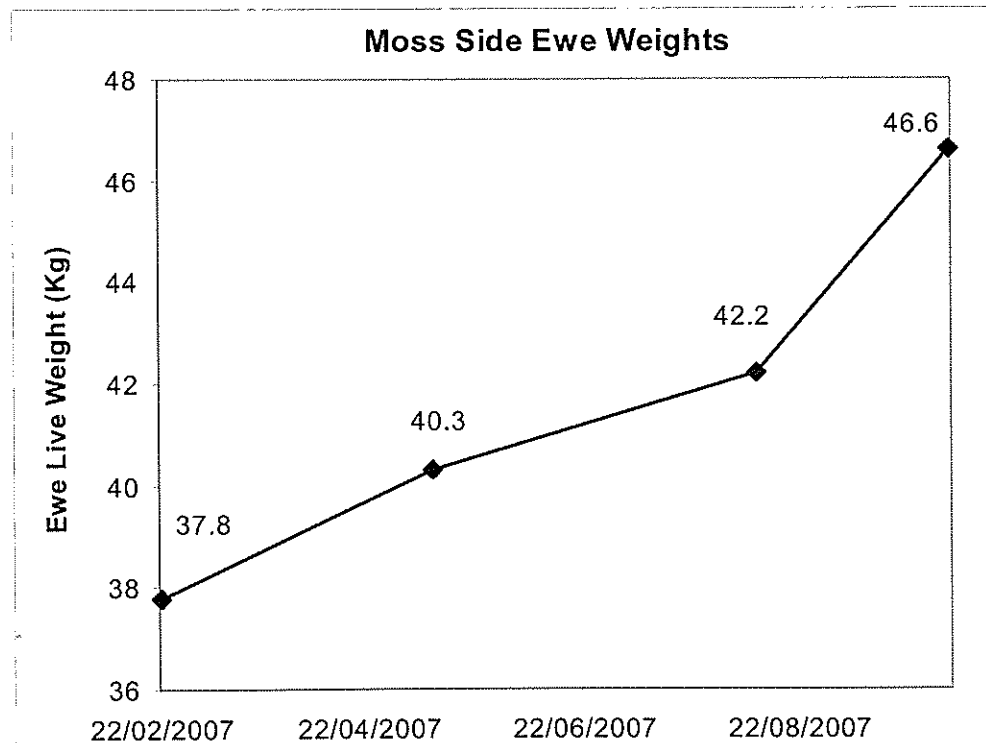
The map shown on the right is of the trial area.

The graph below shows the average ewe live weights for the flock this year. By lifting the average live weight by 4.4kg between August and October, these ewes will give their lambs the best opportunity at the start of their life with increased milk production, higher levels of fat on the lambs when they are born and finer micron for the lifetime of the lamb due to the lay down of secondary follicles.



It is an outstanding effort and a credit to the extra management that Donna and Michael have put in for these animals. These animals will continue in this system and lamb marking and weaning data will be made available once these operations have been carried out in the near future.

If you have any questions about the Moss Side Grazing Management trial or any of the other grazing management trials, please contact the DoA.





SOIL TESTING – FARM EXAMPLE

By Andrew Pollard

In the October edition of the Wool Press, a paper entitled “soil testing and site selection guidelines for cropping/pasture works utilising PIP funding” was presented after it had been passed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The paper and attachments are included with Wool Press mailings this month for updating Farm Management Handbooks.

The following is a “real” farm example taken in early November from Goose Green

Potential sites were identified and a soil sample taken from each site (12 sites)

Results

Site Name	pH (water)	FI Ranking
East Paragon	4.15	Very Low
Centre Paragon	4.45	Low
West Paragon	4.46	Low
East Cemetery Park	5.28	Very High
Centre Cemetery Park	4.87	High
West Cemetery Park	5.13	Very High
East Cart Horse	5.11	Very High
Centre Cart Horse	5.54	Very High
West Cart Horse	5.00	High
East Swan Inlet	5.23	Very High
Centre Swan Inlet	5.14	Very High
West Swan Inlet	4.1	Very Low

Note:- FI Ranking is based on 149 soil samples processed through the DoA laboratory for previous pasture works.

According to the new PIP guidelines, soil samples with a pH below 4.6 will be immediately rejected. In the example above, 4 of these sites would be deemed unsuitable for PIP works.

6 of the samples fell into the category ranked “very high”. The best of these was Centre Cart Horse with a pH of 5.54 which is very high for a Falkland Island soil.

What Next?

The next job will be to visit the 6 sites again and rank them according to the DoA Site Selection Guidelines.

Once narrowed down to just a couple of sites, a more comprehensive soil sample will then be taken (by DoA) to look at the sites for pH, phosphorous, potassium and calcium.

Finally, all people planning on cultivating “new” ground as part of a 2008/09 PIP plan are urged to start thinking ahead now. Approval for these sites based on soil fertility (still have to go through the normal PIP planning process) can be gained in advance and will alleviate the “rush” when it comes to the planning stage.



COATED SHEEP TRIAL – PEAKS FARM

By Peter Johnson

In May 2007, Tony and Susan Hirtle discussed with the DoA about purchasing sheep coats as a part of their PIP allocation to use on their pre-lamb shorn ewes through to lamb marking, with the hypothesis being that the coats would provide protection for the ewe during that vulnerable period, reduce ewe deaths and increase lamb survival and body weight.

The DoA shared the same hypothesis and decided to run a trial in conjunction with Tony and Susan with a smaller number of the intended ewes to evaluate their effectiveness.

Sheep coats were put onto 200 pre-lamb shorn ewes at Peaks Farm in early October, straight off the board. However, things did not go as planned. The medium coats that were available for the trial proved too big for the frames of the majority of the 200 ewes that averaged 33.3kg after they were shorn.

As the coats were not a tight fit, they proved to be a hazard for the ewes, with legs getting caught up in the straps and the animals walking on the coats as they trailed on the ground. Tony and Susan made the right decision after witnessing this and removed the coats from the majority of the ewes. Pregnant ewes need to be treated with the upmost of care and any trauma during this late stage of pregnancy can adversely affect the foetus.

In these circumstances, this trial has proved that the right equipment is needed to get the job done. This is one of the main reasons why the DoA conducts trials to evaluate the effectiveness of new practices to provide ‘best management’ or ‘best bet’ advice about new farming practices and reduce the risks associated with new technologies to farmers.

We await the results of the trial of coats on ewe hoggets of George Island and will evaluate other possibilities to use the coats on perhaps heavier ewes in the future.

FALKLAND ISLANDS
MEAT COMPANY

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF SHEEP AND LAMBS PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING AND SLAUGHTER

- Animals should be given the opportunity to feed, water and rest after gathering.
- Animals must be graded correctly. This must be carried out by the FIMCo Grader or by owners approved by FIMCo to grade their own stock.
- Allow to empty out prior to transport, as ‘full’ animals do not travel well and faecal contamination increases en-route.
- Time off feed will be no less than 6 hours and no more than 24 hours prior to transport. (for example: hold animals to be transported the following morning in the shearing shed overnight, off feed but supply water if possible)
- To avoid dehydration, ensure that water is made available prior to transport (particularly important where long journeys are anticipated)

- If on crops/reseeds, allow 3-5 days on feed with less moisture to avoid scouring (*and therefore contamination prior to and during slaughter & dressing*).
- No rams/cryptorchids over 6 months of age are to be shipped.
- Only load stock that is fit for sale and transport. (*if injured at the loading point do NOT load*).
- Do not load wet animals. Precautions must be taken to ensure that animals are loaded dry.
- Sheep with wet, dusty or dirty wool create a contamination risk - which in turn increases the risk of carcase contamination during dressing. (*Carcases are regularly checked and tested for faecal, dust and other bacterial contamination during processing*)
- Sheep arriving with severe dust/peat contamination problems may not be able to be processed and the farm from which they come may have penalties imposed.
- Identify every animal with correct identification tags (and/or) registered marking brands.
- Complete Animal Movement Certificate fully and correctly before transport leaves farm. (*Animals arriving without a correctly completed AMC cannot be accepted at Sand Bay*). Make sure the transporter has the yellow and pink copies which will accompany the sheep to Sand Bay. Fax through a copy to FIMCo.)
- Ensure withholding periods for any drenches/drugs are strictly adhered to. (*If in doubt seek advice from the DoA, before the animals are transported*).
- Provide well maintained holding and loading facilities.
- Handle quietly so as to cause as little stress as possible. Use dogs only when necessary.
- Do not pull the wool as this will cause bruising.
- Avoid drafting / sorting sheep in dusty pens and yards. The risk will be minimised if sheep are drafted in the shearing shed.
- Sheep and lambs must be 'dagged' as required before transport.
- Be aware of loading capacities for transport, especially if hauling your own stock.
- Unnecessary stress on the sheep or lamb at the farm, in the truck or at the plant can affect meat quality by lowering muscle glycogen levels. This in turn may raise pH to an unacceptable level which may result in meat that is dark, tough, less flavoursome or has shorter shelf life.
- In order to gain maximum return it is important that lambs are weighed and an estimate made of the eventual carcase weight. The DoA has carried out trials regarding this point and will be able to provide advice.
- Ideally lambs should be gaining 50-100gms per day in order to ensure a quality product.

WOOL LENGTH GUIDELINES FOR 2008 SEASON

BACKGROUND

- 4 months or more wool growth is the most problematic.
- They are more difficult to keep clean and dry (especially in April / May) and therefore cause contamination and production delays.
- There are a small number of farms which have an inherent issue with dust and peat contamination which is made worse by wool lengths over 4 months. These may require shearing and will need to be assessed before transport to FIMCo.

The current issues with sheep skins are:

- Current skin value of mutton makes it not viable to harvest them.
- These skins have to be disposed i.e. approximately 34,000 skins may need to be disposed.
- The approved method of disposal is that each skin must be 'chopped up.' This is done in a 'bone crusher' – which works (just) but is often damaged with long woolled skins, which places a lot of stress on the machine. **A terminal breakdown makes disposal impossible and puts the remainder of the Export Season at high risk!**

2008 SEASON WOOL LENGTH GUIDELINES

'New Season' Lamb

Shearing will not be required (*unless requested by FIMCo for contamination reasons*)
Lambskins have the most value; therefore it is more than likely these can be sold.

'Old Season' Lamb

Given the limited period between main shearing and teeth becoming 'in wear' or the cut off date for 'old season' lamb, it is unlikely that the length of wool will be a problem.

Contact the Logistics Officer if you feel this may be an issue

Mutton

The risk of contamination of meat at processing and the disposal of long woollen fleeces makes handling sheep with 4+ month wool growth very difficult at the Sand Bay plant.

Shearing at Sand Bay.

- This was tried last season at Sand Bay and was reasonably successful, but the facilities are minimal to say the least and a number of issues were identified.
- We anticipate saving the lamb skins this season - and there are not the facilities to both save skins *and* shear at Sand Bay.

Wool is best kept by farmers themselves. The extra 4 months wool growth can be handled in several ways:

- An extra shearing (prem-shearing) of 4 months wool.
- Shear sheep due to be slaughtered only once (wool may have up to 16 months growth)
- The best way depends on each farm and can be calculated after discussions with the wool broker, DoA and shearing contractor

All farms that will have sheep with 4+ months wool (at the estimated time of transporting) must contact the Logistics Officer in good time to discuss options.

The Logistics Officer will be contacting each farmer in the near future.

Account Books Available

£2.00 each

£6.00 per set

Phone Siân on 27355.

HELLO FROM THE NEW CHIEF POLICE OFFICER

By Superintendent Paul Elliott, Royal Falkland Islands Police Station

I am grateful for this opportunity to contact you through the Wool Press. I have now been in the Falklands for nearly three months and thought it was high time I introduced myself to you. I have a keen interest in the countryside and rural economy having come from an agricultural background and worked in a large rural county prior to my posting to the Falklands. I was born near Kingsbury Episcopi in Somerset where my great grandfather was a shepherd but I went up to Lincolnshire at an early age when my father moved from Dorset Farmers to work as an agricultural sales merchant with Spillers. I underwent comprehensive schooling and on leaving 6th form with A levels I joined Lincolnshire Police at the tender age of 18. I served with Lincolnshire Police for 30 years, and officially retired from the force on 2nd October 2007 after achieving the rank of Chief Inspector.

During my Lincolnshire Police service I gained experience across a wide range of operational policing areas including general patrol work, traffic patrol, rural patrol, control room, custody, firearms, public order, and search unit. I have experience as a Sector Inspector, firearms commander and control room manager. In my latter years I was Chief Inspector dealing with race relations & diversity, partnerships, community safety, crime reduction and quality of service. I also sat on the county rural forum and worked with partners from the Country Landowners Alliance, the National Farmers Union and Confederation of Small Rural Business.

Although this is my first full time overseas posting, I have some previous international policing experience including a training attachment in Croatia to assist their police move from a military style towards a community policing style so they can qualify to join the EU. I was involved in development of a control room system in the USA, and in my own spare time I am working in partnership with the Romanian Police to provide training and a domestic violence women's refuge in Transylvania.

Some people have asked how did I come to apply to join the Royal Falkland Islands Police? I saw an advert in the Police Review that read: 'Do you fancy a change of scenery'. Well I did 'fancy a change', and as it happened everything in my personal circumstances was right. I was about to retire, possessed transferable skills, my family had flown the nest and were settled, our parents are in good health and everything was in favour of such a move. I am delighted to have been selected for this post and very excited at the prospect of living and working in the Falkland Islands for at least the next 3 years.

Over last 10 weeks I have formed the opinion that the style of policing the people of the Falkland Islands want from RFIP is essentially community focussed. Policing with common sense and good humour by officers that are seen out and about in town and in camp, on foot and on mobile patrol. Officers who are friendly, approachable and non confrontational, but properly assertive and robust when appropriate. A force that is responsive to local needs and circumstances, dealing with issues that really matter to the community in a proportionate and professional manner.

I have made it clear to my officers that this is the style of policing that I am advocating and am currently engaged in a consultation programme to establish the views of the community about issues they see as a priority.

I am in the process of conducting a root and branch review of the Force – its structure, policies, procedures and practices – to ultimately provide a modern, better trained, more professional, more efficient, more effective and wholly economic service.

I am conscious that I am Chief Officer of the Royal Falkland Islands Police – not the Stanley Town Police Force, yet I am aware that the policing service outside of Stanley is minimal. I am actively exploring the pros and cons of extending the current policing service to camp in East and West Falkland. On my recent visits to camp people there were pleased to see a police officer, but I need to establish wider opinion on this issue and see what the whole community want from their police service.

I am not suggesting that there is a lot of crime in camp, indeed I believe that the rural community is overwhelmingly law abiding and that any minor issues that may arise are quite properly resolved lo-

cally. However there may be some more serious matters where police involvement is appropriate. I need to establish how the police can provide an appropriate style of policing to establish a service when that is the case.

The community focussed purpose of police patrols to camp I have in mind would be designed to support rather than report the local community. I wonder whether well publicised advice workshops or police surgeries could be held periodically rather than regular police patrols which could be seen as excessive and unnecessary, or perhaps you would prefer officers to drop in when passing.

To help me draw the right conclusion please consider the questions below and reply to me by post or (preferably e-mail) with your views.

Royal Falkland Islands Police Community Consultation Questionnaire

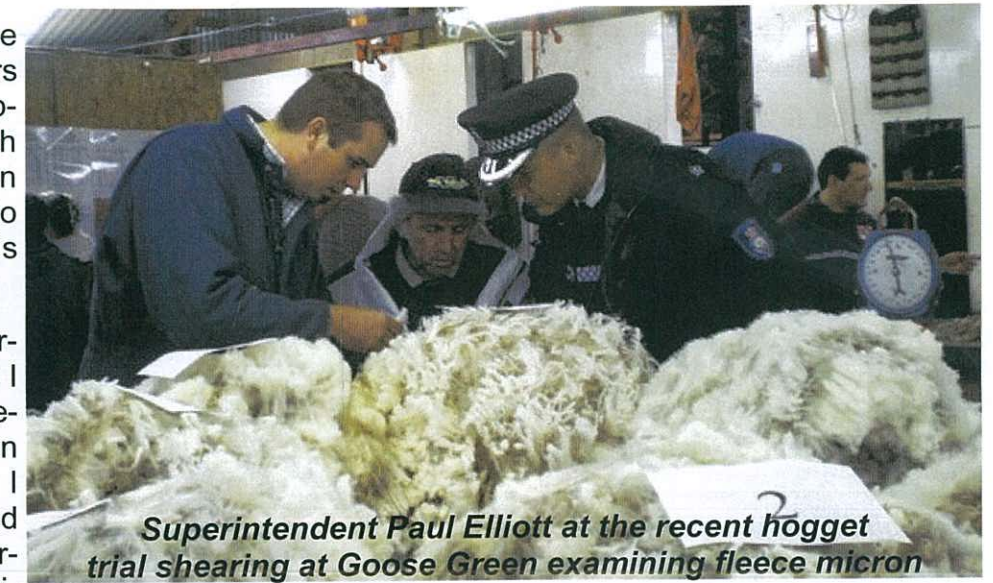
- How do you rate your confidence in RFIP and what do you think about RFIP today? (Written comments and marks out of 10 please where 1 is awful and 10 is fantastic)
- What improvements would you like to see to the RFIP over the next 6 months?
- What policing style do you want?
- What ideas do you have to help me deliver that?
- What do you think about Camp patrols and policing of West Falkland?
- What do you think about military involvement in the civil policing of Stanley, MPA and other areas (including camp) in the Falklands?
- What are the top 3 crime or other issues that concern you most in the Falklands that you think should be priorities for the Police?

All replies received will be treated by me with complete confidence and no remarks made by respondents will be attributed to any individual in the summary report. I will produce the findings of the survey and provide a copy to the Wool Press for publication.

I do hope you will help me identify the sort of Police Force you want for the Islands so that during my period here I can deliver the policing you need.

Email: chiefpoliceofficer@police.gov.fk

Telephone: 28100

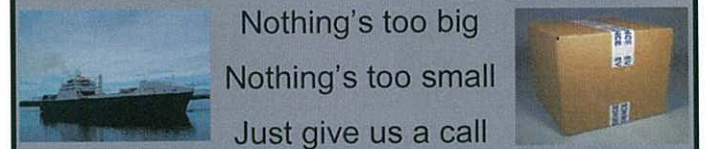


Superintendent Paul Elliott at the recent hogget trial shearing at Goose Green examining fleece micron

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ETA Stanley: 10 January 2008

Voyage 0716 - First Wool Shipment!

Last day for Receiving: 07 January 08

ETA UK 08 February 2008

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AFRINO SHEEP UPDATE – SHALLOW HARBOUR

By Peter Johnson



The DoA's Afrino sheep were recently shorn at Shallow Harbour at the end of November. The 24 ram and 20 ewe hoggets are the resulting progeny from Embryo Transfer work carried out in 2006. All animals have grown out extremely well in the Falklands environment, as you can see from the table below –

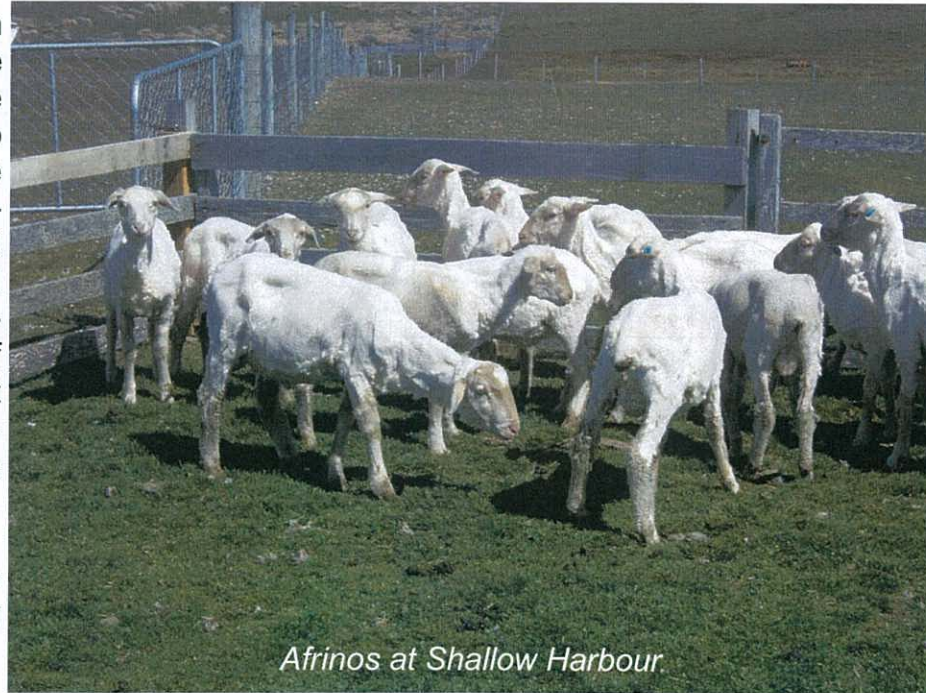
AFRINO	Greasy Fleece Weight	Body Weight (Post Shearing)	Micron	Yeild
Ewe (20)	2.3 Kg	35.0 Kg	19.3	66.2
Ram* (24)	1.8 Kg	33.1 Kg	18.6	69.6

* *Note – the 7 month old rams were joined to flock ewes, which has had an adverse effect upon their condition.*

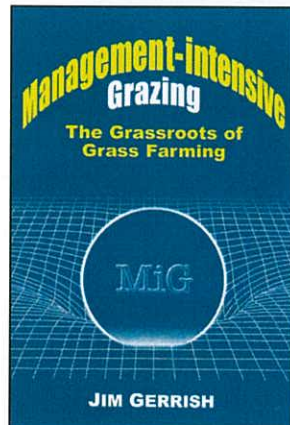
The animals have had no special treatment or feeding, but have been run as a 'part of the flock', which consists of native and reseeded areas at Shallow Harbour. Ali and Marlane have commented that they have treated the animals for worm burdens a number of times, which seems to be a less admirable trait of the breed around the world. Hopefully future concentration on selecting genetically resistant animals will alleviate the problem.

Mid side samples were taken from all of the sheep and the results are shown in the above table. The exceptional sheep have been identified within the mob, and there is the expectation that the ewes will be flushed of embryos in 2008. These will be used with more imported semen to expand the number of animals in the Falklands so that we can make further observations of the suitability of the breed for the Islands.

For more information about the Afrino or the animals at Shallow Harbour, please contact me.



Afrinos at Shallow Harbour.



Jim Gerrish

Management-intensive Grazing

A limited number of copies are available at the Department of Agriculture for £16.00 each

Contact Siân on telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

URUGUAYAN FLEECE SAMPLING SERVICE

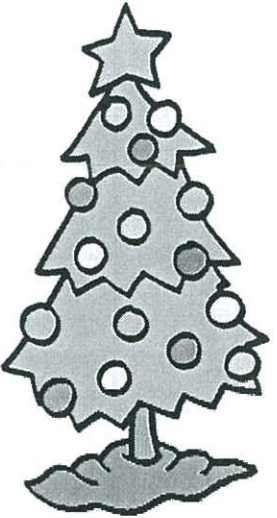
By Siân Ferguson

The Department of Agriculture has recently established links with the SUL laboratory in Uruguay to test mid-side samples for micron and yield (these tests were previously carried out in the DOA laboratory). Although there will be a longer turn around between submitting your mid-side sample to the DOA and receiving your results, the cost of submitting the samples for testing will be lower.

The new process will be:

- Fill out correct paperwork (you'll find these in your Wool Press envelope)
- Send samples to Siân at the Department of Agriculture
- Samples are then shipped via SAAS's regular link to Uruguay to SUL laboratory
- SUL send results to DOA who then distribute to farmers
- DOA will invoice farmers for cost

The deadline for submitting your samples to the DOA will be **14th December**. This will be the last shipment before Christmas. Please remember that the paperwork has now changed so please fill in correctly, including fleece ID cards.



For everyone currently waiting for their results, we are expecting these back very shortly and will send them out as soon as they are received.

If you have any questions, please give me a ring on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk. If you are busy shearing etc, feel free to give me a ring at home on 21977.

Seeing anything strange over Christmas?!

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

Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366

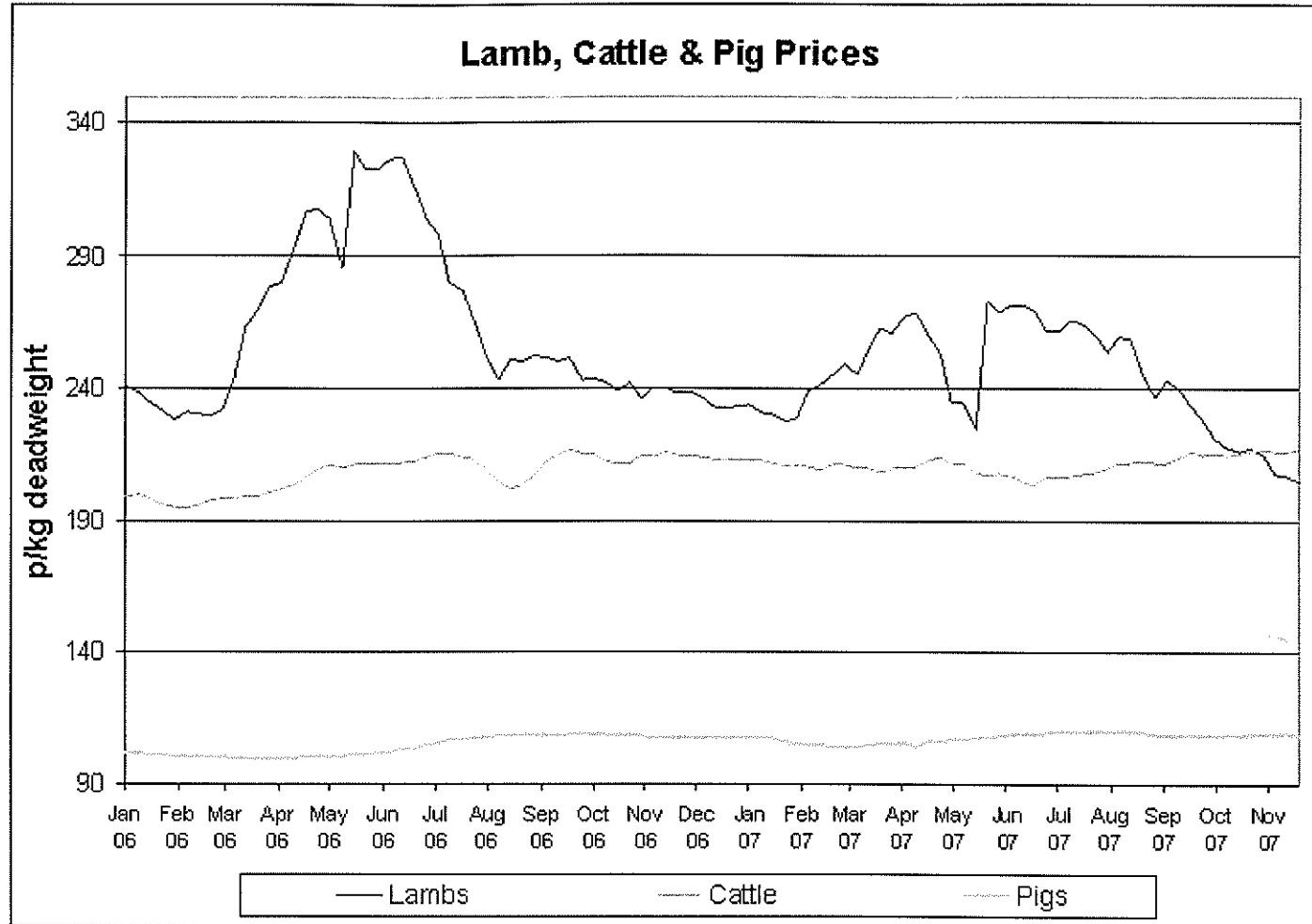


ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

LAMB, CATTLE & PIG PRICES

Source: *Farmers Weekly Interactive*

Please note that the prices are from the United Kingdom and are provided for information only to highlight current meat prices and to show how prices change over time.



New Senior Agricultural Advisor

Mac McArthur arrives at the beginning of December to take up the Senior Agricultural Advisor position at the Department of Agriculture. Mac is accompanied by his wife Felicity.

Although you will be hearing from Mac in due course through the Wool Press, please find his contact details below...

Telephone: 27355

Fax: 27352

Email: mmcarthur@doa.gov.fk



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from all at the
Department of Agriculture*



FAREWELL FALKLANDS

By Lyn Dent



The time has come to say goodbye to the Department of Agriculture and the Falkland Islands. It has been a very quick 2 years and I have enjoyed my stay immensely. It has been an extremely varied time here since my laboratory duties often overlapped with Veterinary and Agricultural tasks.

My first mission was as an environmental officer charged with the safe removal of a quantity of hazardous material from our chemical store. This turned into a major incident for the Fire and Rescue service that turned out in force and ran the exercise as a real event. It was strange to see at least 30 or 40 firemen in full breathing apparatus swarming over our building, right down to full decontamination measures afterwards. Having dealt with noxious chemicals I spent the entire abattoir season digging round in sheep guts collecting samples for several disease surveys we were running. Once collected, I was despatched to the SAG lab Chile for a week to analyze the samples.

Then I was sent as an extra to help Frans with the A/ET program at Saladero for a week. There was a trip out to camp to gather and weigh sheep and 3 fox hunting expeditions to plan and execute in search of hydatids. I had the opportunity to use Brintel's Sikorsky S61 for the fox hunts to Weddell and Beaver Islands which was a unique experience then we used FIGAS to get to Port Howard then travelled overland to Purvis House where we launched an inflatable boat and sailed across to River Island for the 3rd hunt. I learned to use a peat stove in the 4 days I was there and managed to keep the shearing gang fed and watered when I wasn't sweeping out in the shed or checking fox guts for hydatids.

I have had very useful relationships with both the Fisheries lab and the hospital lab and have gained much needed knowledge from both of them. I was given a wonderful chance to work with a team of vets from the USA who were taking samples from Rockhopper penguins, in search of Bird Flu. They even sent me out on a fishing boat inspection in Port William, travelling on a launch and we had to climb up a skinny little rope ladder in heaving seas to get onboard. Once we had inspected the fishing boat we got hauled across to the mother ship in a cargo net to do the reefer vessel then again across to another fishing boat. There is an awful lot of cold sea between those boats and it is all visible through those nets!

Outside of work hours I have had a wonderful time with the FIODA group working as Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Manager on a couple of their productions. I have made some lovely friends there as I have with the gun club where I was Treasurer. It is a great privilege to be able to shoot as often as I did here with few hindrances.

I have had a couple of brilliant holidays to the UK and Chile and have been to a few of the islands around the Falklands too. High on my list of favourites is Sea Lion Island where I have been 3 times, closely followed by Darwin Lodge. I have a huge stash of photographs to bore everyone with back home in Oz. There were a million other things that I managed to do and I made sure to do them whether the weather was good or not (which means it usually wasn't). I have loved my time here but now I must return and do some real work instead of playing.

Vicon Vari Spreader for sale.

275 litre capacity

Contact Blue Beach Farm on 32235 to view

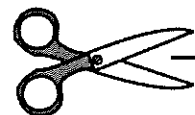


RAM & FLEECE SHOW



28th December 2007 in the Coast Ridge Shearing Shed

- All times are in Stanley time.
- Entries may be sent to Fox Bay c/o Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day between 9.00am. – 12.00am.
- Judging will commence at 2.30pm. – 4.00pm.
- Prizes will be presented at 6.00pm. In the 'woolshed' by HE The Governor.
- FIGAS have once again generously agreed to fly fleeces free of charge. Please label fleeces clearly and correctly.
- There will be all the usual classes, events etc.
- Would all intending entrants please indicate the probable number of rams or fleeces to be exhibited so that sufficient pens/tables can be prepared.
- Rams in the class 1 should not have any permanent incisor teeth erupted. Rams in class 2 should only have 2 permanent incisors.
- Please note that fleece entries should be skirted fleeces only. All neck belly and stained wool should be removed before the fleece is rolled.
- The fleece with the highest commercial value/best conformation ram/champion ram/reserve champion will be judged on the day by two experienced 'wool people'. All other judging will be by popular vote.
- The judge's decision will be final.
- Where replicas are given challenge cups are perpetual.
- For more information, please contact Nigel Knight at Coast Ridge Farm.



DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2008/2009

Date	Drug
2 nd January 2008	Drontal
13 th February 2008	Droncit
26 th March 2008	Droncit
7 th May 2008	Droncit
18 th June 2008	Drontal
30 th July 2008	Droncit
10 th September 2008	Droncit
22 nd October 2008	Droncit
3 rd December 2008	Droncit
14 th January 2009	Drontal

Please remember to contact the Veterinary Service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed.

Thank you for your assistance.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 2nd January 2008 (Drontal)

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

The Pink Shop Gallery

John Street (tel/fax 21399)

Is pleased to accept orders from camp.

Apart from artwork, jewellery, books, gifts, Woolmore Falkland lambskins, binoculars, Vango tents, sleeping bags, Leatherman, musical instruments and the frames and framing service we offer...

Don't forget... we can send your 2008 Tony Chater Falkland Calendar on your behalf.

Calendar £6, post by air £1.85, surface £1.

Country Music...Rock Music...Blues...Pop Music

News...Weather...Flight Info...Camp Matters

Folk Music...Rock 'n' Roll...Classical Music

BBC Drama's...One to One...Archers...Spotlight

The Latest Hits...Golden Oldies

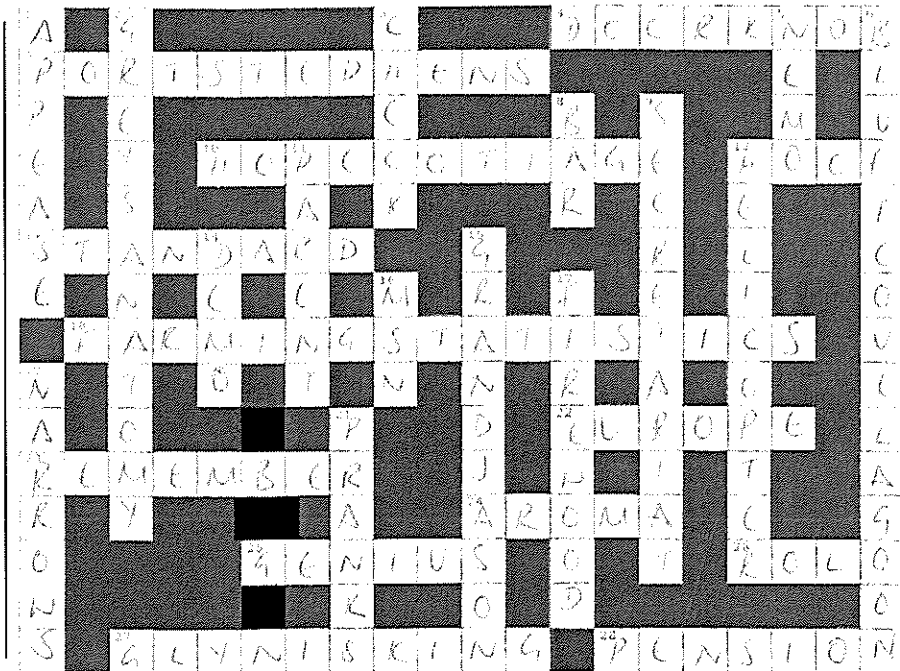


Tune into Falklands Radio for All of the Above

www.firs.co.fk

"We wish all our listeners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year"

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



Egg Timer
Tip both timers over at the same time. When the 2 minute timer runs out, drop the eggs in and cook them until the 5 minute timer runs out!

Special Number
It contains the numbers one to nine, in alphabetical order.

Doctor and Lawyer
They have a Sister and they are triplets!

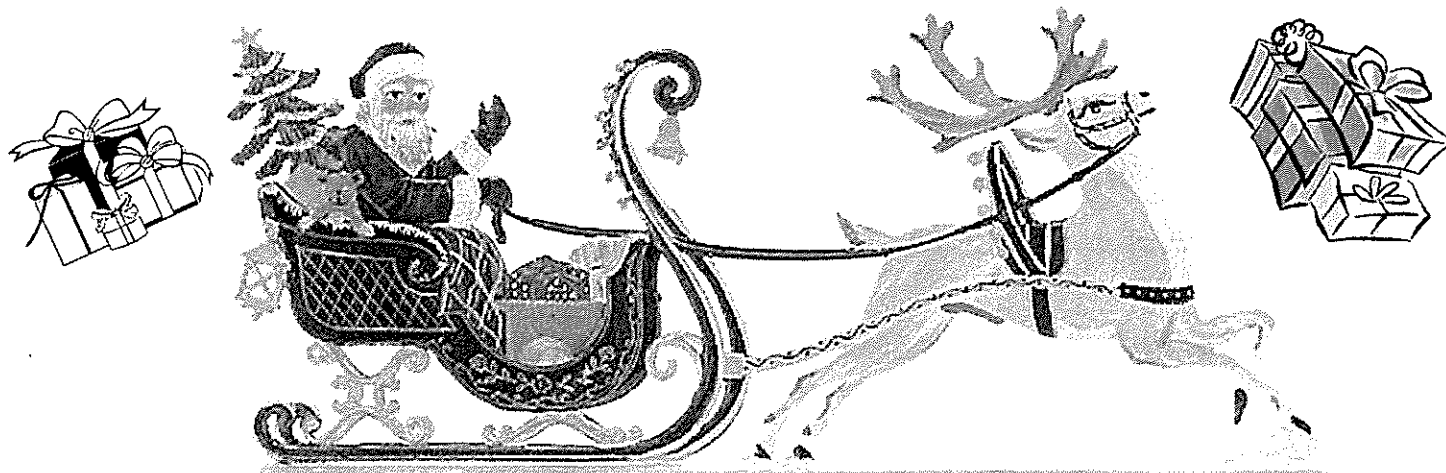
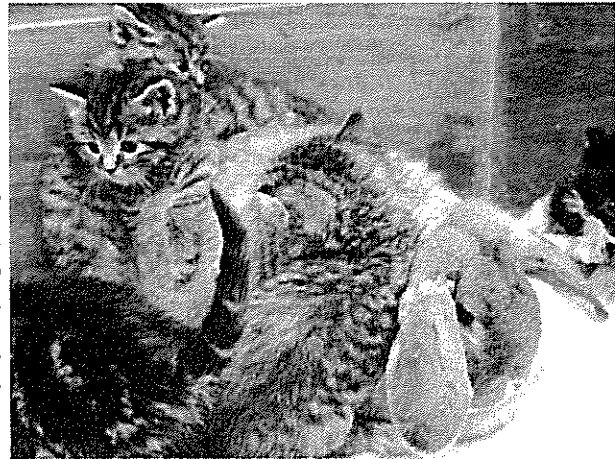
Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

Six kittens abandoned by their mum have found an unlikely replacement - a pet rabbit. The tiny kittens were left all alone after their mum decided she couldn't be bothered feeding them. They were taken in by veterinary nurse Melanie Humble, who thought her own cat would mother them.

But instead they're being cared for by her rabbit Summer. Now, they've fallen in love with their surrogate mum and refuse to leave her alone.

Melanie, 29, from Aberdeen, said: "It's amazing to see. For some reason they just took to the rabbit instantly and thought she was their mum. They started climbing all over her and were looking to get milk from her. She just sat there and let them do it. Now they follow her everywhere. They can't bear to be without her. They're all so lovely together."

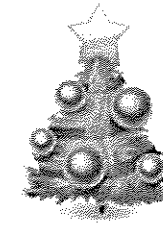


Recipe Page by Terrienne Ormond, Stanley

'tis the season to be jolly - and here 's a couple of recipes to get you in the mood!!

EGG NOG

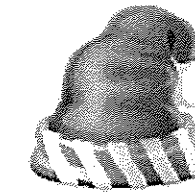
- Ingredients:**
6 cups Whole Milk
2 cups fine sugar
2 cups Brandy
2 cups Cream
2 cups Dark Rum
12 Eggs
Grated Nutmeg



What to do...
Separate eggs and beat yolks and sugar together until thick. Stir in brandy, rum, milk, and cream, and chill in refrigerator until needed. Just before serving, transfer egg mixture from refrigerator to a chilled punch bowl. Beat egg whites until stiff and carefully fold whites into the egg nog without beating or stirring. Sprinkle the top with nutmeg. Makes about 28 servings. Do not put any ice in the punch bowl.

SNOWBALL COOKIES

- Ingredients:**
2 cups plain flour
¾ tsp salt
1 cup butter
½ cup sugar
1 tbsp vanilla essence
1 cup finely chopped pecans
¾ cup icing sugar



What to do...
Preheat oven to 325F and grease 2 baking trays. Cream together butter and sugar then stir in vanilla essence. Sift flour and salt into creamed mixture then add the pecans. Roll dough into small bite sized balls and arrange on the baking trays. Bake for 25 minutes or until light brown in colour. Leave to cool down a bit then roll each cookie in icing sugar.

HOLLY BERRY COCKTAIL

- Ingredients:**
1/8 of a Lemon
1 ½ oz Gin
Raspberry Juice
Raspberries



Method:
Pour Gin and squeezed lemon juice over ice, add raspberry juice and throw in one or two fresh raspberries. Stir and enjoy.

Want to send Christmas presents with a difference?

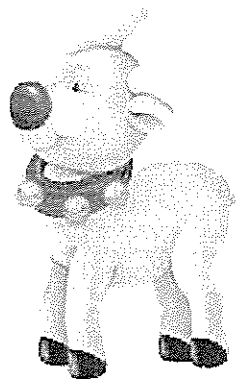
Then why not give someone an annual Wool Press subscription?

We will send each month's issue on your behalf so no need to worry about anything!!

Only £15.00 for local mailings and £37.00 worldwide.

So to keep local and overseas family and friends up-to-date with Falklands agricultural issues with no effort from yourself, just give Siân a ring on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Special Christmas offer - sign someone up before 21st December and you will receive 3 back issues absolutely free!!



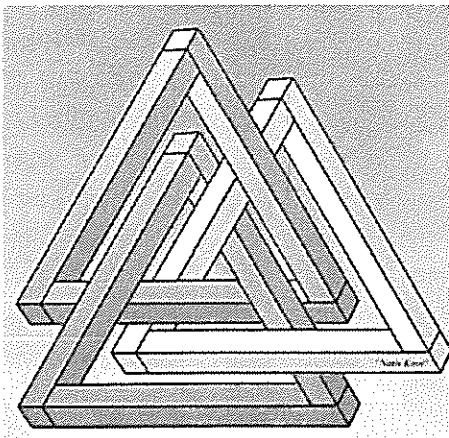


OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

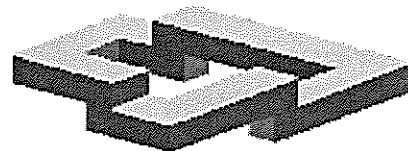
How many faces do you see?



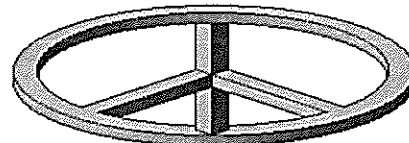
Is this knot really possible?



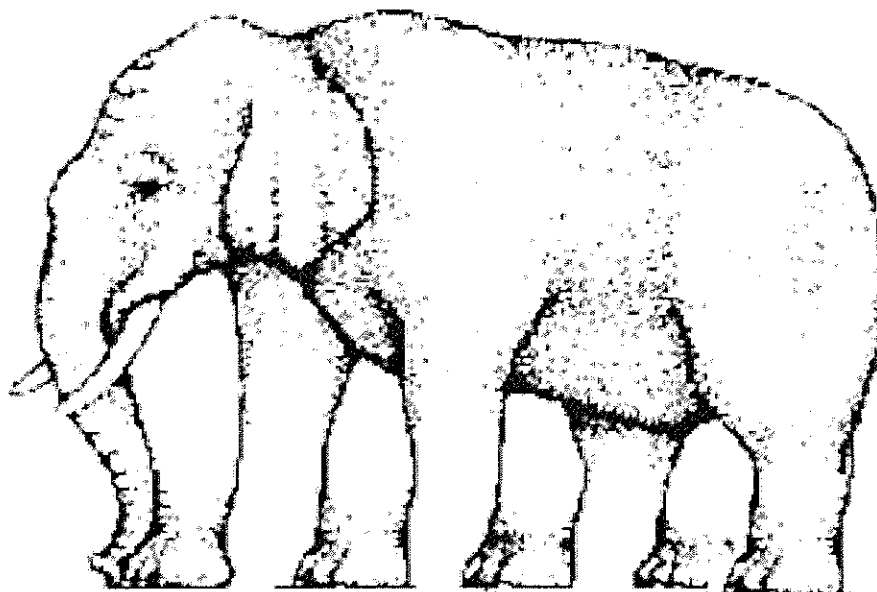
Look at the group of stairs. How can they keep climbing?



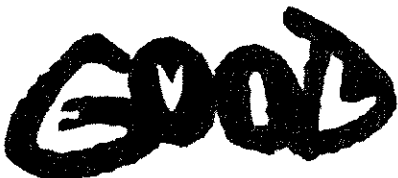
Is this possible?



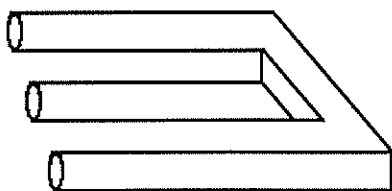
How many legs does this elephant have?



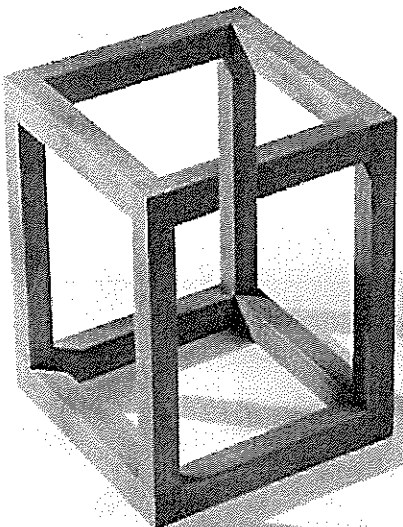
What does this say?



Three-pronged fork?



Impossible crate?



Are the horizontal lines parallel or sloped?

