

THE WOOL PRESS

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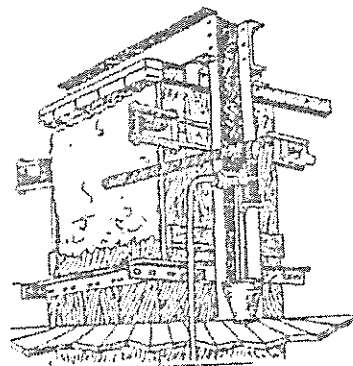
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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to all Wool Press readers.

A warm welcome to Mac McArthur, the new Senior Agricultural Advisor. Mac's introductory article gives readers a good insight into his background. He has already made a number of farm visits and thank you to all the farmers on the West who made time to see us when we came on a whistle stop tour before Christmas. Mac has also been visiting farms on the East as and when people are free of shearing commitments.

Mac and Peter Johnson attended the Fox Bay Ram & Fleece Show on 28 December and undertook to do the judging that, from Nigel's account on page 8, was quite a daunting task! You can view a list of the winners in this publication. Congratulations to the organisers, all who took part and the winners.

Peter has recorded and published the results of the wether trials hosted at Goose Green. The range in gross margins on wool alone is very significant and worthy of note. The total picture will be reported when the hogs have been through the abattoir. The results demonstrate that there is merit in running the trial again so please consider Peter's article where he asks farmers to take part next season. It would also be valuable to run the trial on another farm to test results under different conditions. Any offers?

Another trail, Peter reports, is underway at Port Edgar where Tex and Mandy Alazia will introduce a Managed Intensive Grazing system on their re-seeds. This is timely with Jim Gerrish returning in January to continue work with staff and farmers on MIG.

Thank you to Chris and Lindsay May for agreeing to have their farm enterprise featured in this month's publication. It is encouraging to read that their hard work is paying off as they develop their farm business to supply animals for both wool and meat markets. Their work on regenerating eroded areas is to be commended.

Don't forget when moving sheep **anywhere** in the Islands, they need to be tagged and accompanied by an Animal Movement Certificate.

We say goodbye to Vic Epstein, Senior Veterinary Officer, who completes his contract on 25 January. Thank you Vic for all your hard work and for getting us through an EU audit. We will all miss your wit at staff meetings! Best wishes to you and Coralee on your return to Flinders Island. Steve Pointing is returning to carry on Vic's good work.

And finally welcome to Ian Campbell who joins the team of Agricultural Advisors in January.

Best wishes for the rest of the season,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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WHAT SHEEP GENETICS MEANS TO YOUR BOTTOM LINE

By Peter Johnson

People question the impact that can be made with sheep genetics. It is an expensive process to purchase new and improved genetics and it takes time and effort to weigh, test and evaluate your sheep. In the end though, the results speak for themselves.

The wether evaluation at Goose Green has so far shown the dramatic differences that are accountable to genetics and genetics alone. Even though we currently only have the wool information, figures can be derived from the growth rates of the animals to factor in meat value also.

Below is a worked through gross margin example. The figures in the average column were derived from the average of all of the teams. The figures in the right hand column are from the highest performing team in the trial.

It has been calculated based on a 1500 ewe breeding flock running 1000 wool wethers and turning off some lamb for the abattoir. The DSE ratings have been kept the same for the two scenarios, but lambing percentages and survival rates have been changed to reflect the average and the top team's performance.

	Average	Best Performing Team
Animal Growth	6.7 Kg	7.1 Kg
Hogget Greasy Fleece Weight	2.9 Kg	3.2 Kg
Hogget Micron	21.9	21.1
Hogget Fleece Price	£4.28	£5.60
Mature Ewes	1500	1503
Mature Wethers	1000	887
DSE Rating	4316	4320
Gross Margin	£34,760.13	£43,910.23

There are not as many wethers in the best performing team scenario as they were left out to keep the DSE rating as equal as possible. The higher performing team will have more lambs and lower death rates hence a higher amount of feed needed for the same number of ewes.

The difference in the gross margin is staggering to say the least, and what is the cost of achieving this extra production of over £9,000? Besides a few incidental costs, the only real costs to gain this higher production are investment in genetics. Even spending £3,000 on say 15 new rams at £200, and hiring an extra person to help with weighing and information collection at £10/hour for 10 days a year still leaves the best part of £5000 extra in terms of farm gross margin.

Remember that these figures are based on results of the wether trial and are looking at average versus best case. If you are currently running below the average figures shown, then the gains to be made are even greater!

Next Dog Dosing Day...
...Wednesday 13th February (Droncit)

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

RAINFALL FOR 2007

By Siân Ferguson

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone around the Falkland Islands who have taken the time over the past year to record their monthly rainfall and send it in to the Department of Agriculture. Although we currently don't have any more rainfall gauges in stock, we have some more on order so if you are interested, please contact me and I will send you a rain gauge out when they arrive.

I've compiled some graphs below to show how 2007 compared to the previous two years, although please note that in 2005 and 2006 we did not have as many farms returning monthly data.

Finally, Happy New Year to everyone and I hope 2008 is a happy and successful one for you all!!

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Stanley	2007	55	73	64.5	28	22.5	37.5	35.5	22	41	24	50	27.5
	Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68
MPA	2007	55.2	75.5	68.7	37	32.9	36.1	43.1	29	24.5	38.8	74.7	31
	Average	63.1	47.9	56.8	53.7	49.5	58.8	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.8	58.4
Bleaker Island	69	95	69	28	37	40	34	11	14	32	25	18	
Cape Dolphin	41	60	36	30	11	18	23	19	30	16	26	30	
Darwin	38.5	98	31	20	-	-	-	21.5	10.5	33.5	53.5	29.5	
Fern Ridge	68	55.5	60.5	30.5	43	40	-	-	-	-	-	30	
Head of the Bay	45	95	62	25	40	20	21	26	23	25	54	38	
Moss Side	55	56	42	24	29	21	18	24	26	23	34	38	
Paragon	10	50.5	26	-	24	-	-	14	9	-	-	22.5	
Pebble Island	34	71.5	52	31.5	25.5	30	11.5	24.5	23	20	34.5	22.5	
Port Howard	69.5	104.3	72	50	70.5	56.5	67	38	29	41.3	75	47.5	
Saladero	30	67	25	24	28	20	20	17	11	15	30	20	
Salvador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.5	-	44.5	38.75	
Shallow Harbour	65.3	55	57.5	34.5	49	37	-	-	-	-	-	40	
South Harbour	42	45	68	65	54	47	53	30	26	20	28	23	
Swan Inlet	35.5	76.5	67	21.5	-	23	31	27.5	25	20.5	53	16	
West Lagoons	-	-	-	-	-	20	24	29	42	15	30	12	
Wineglass Station	39	79.5	70	36.5	38.5	36	30	29	26	35.5	74.5	35	

Polwarth Group Breeding Scheme at Saladero

If you are interested in entering ewes into the Polwarth Group Breeding Scheme based at Saladero, please contact Peter Johnson at the DoA to discuss details of the scheme and the requirements to enter.

Tel: 27355

Email: pjohnson@doa.gov.fk

GRAZING DEMONSTRATION GETS UNDERWAY AT PORT EDGAR

By Peter Johnson

Following a Wool Press article published in October, the DoA has taken the first steps for a grazing demonstration site at Port Edgar. Tex, Mandy and the rest of the family responded to the call for farms to come forward that have a re-seeded area that they want to try and improve their current grazing system upon.

A very suitable location was established at one of the many re-seeded areas on Port Edgar that the Alazia family have worked hard to plant over the last decade. The site of 'Logger Duck Creek' just south of the settlement has been chosen to put a Management Intensive Grazing style system in place upon.

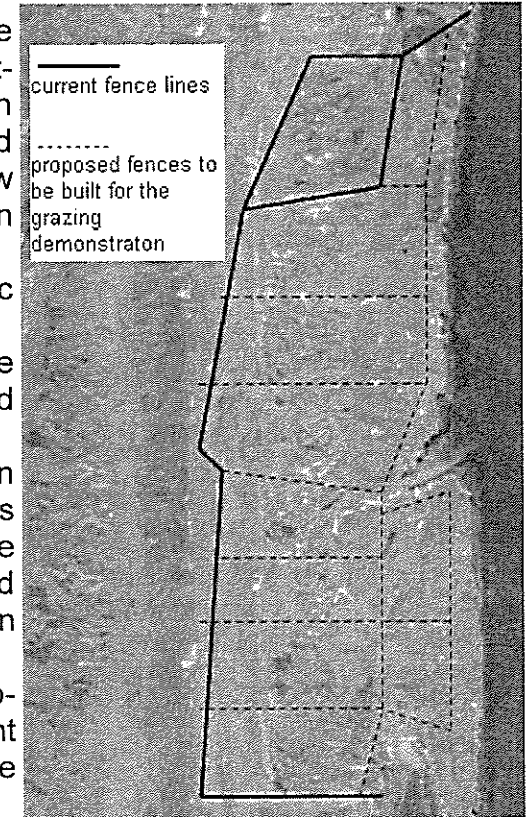
The site consists of an extensive flat running near the water, with a hill line running down the western side. The flatter areas have been the scene of intensive re-seed work, with numerous cultivation and planting techniques as well as seed mixes tried upon the ground over the years. The picture below (from Google Earth) shows the area that the demonstration will take place upon.

The proposed fences to be built will be of 3 wire electric construction with flexible posts every 12 metres.

The current plan is to run ewes in the trial area, and see how long the grazing season can be expanded from the end of the growing season.

After the proposed fences are built, there may also be an opportunity to put temporary fencing across some of the strips to ensure animals utilise both the reseeded areas and the steeper native pasture areas. This fencing could also be used to keep animals off areas that they are likely to get stuck in during heavy snow storms.

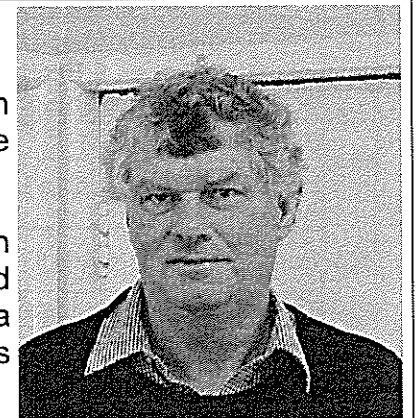
Progress on the site will continue to be reported in upcoming Wool Press articles and hopefully in the not too distant future we may have an open day to allow people to look at the site for themselves.



INTRODUCING IAN CAMPBELL

Ian, a farmer and Agricultural Scientist, hailing from Victoria in Australia has recently arrived in the Falkland Islands to take up the role of Agricultural Advisor - Sheep and Wool with the DOA.

Ian has had considerable experience in sheep reproduction, nutrition during pregnancy, wool classing, sheepskin product processing and prime lamb production. He has worked as an extension officer in a number of roles with the Victorian Department of Agriculture and has been a consultant to the veterinary profession.



Ian has lectured to agricultural students at Marcus Oldham College, a practical agricultural training college for young people seeking careers in agriculture.

Ian's wife Susan, a veterinarian, will join him in early February, once their youngest daughter Charlotte has returned to boarding school. They both look forward to meeting Falkland Islanders and working cooperatively with people both in camp and Stanley.

P.S. Next month Ian will be reporting on his first impressions of the Falkland Islands.

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK INDEX

By Siân Ferguson

To ensure that your Farm Management Handbook is up-to-date, we regularly send out loose sheets with your Wool Press to be put in your folders (these always have four hole-punches).

To enable you to make sure your FMH has all the recent updates, I have compiled a list of what you should have and the date of a recent change so you can make sure everything is in order.

If you do not have a FMH and would like one, or have any questions, please get in touch with me.

	Section/Sheet	Recently Updated On	Section/Sheet	Recently Updated On
General	Area		Clip Preparation Guide	April 2006
	Body Condition Scoring		Core Sampling	
	Camp Medicine Chest Contents		Coring SOP's	September 2006
	Contact Information	November 2006	Horse Colours	
	Fees		Quality Falkland Wool	May 2006
	Fire Guidelines		QFW Checklist	May 2006
	Labour Scheme Conditions	June 2007	QFW Shed Inspection Report	June 2006
	Length		Scanning Guidelines	
	Public Holidays 2006-2009	January 2007	Wool Samples	
	Rainfall		Agromony Tests	
	Staff Chart	November 2007	Artificial Breeding Programme and PIP Funding	November 2007
	Training Schemes		Fertiliser Rates	
	Video's		Pasture Improvement Programme	November 2007
Volume and Temperature		PIP Funds at Ram Sale	November 2007	
Weight		PIP Sheep Genetics Application	November 2007	
Finance	Depreciation Allowances	May 2006	Proposed PIP Priorities	November 2007
	Extra Statutory Concessions		Purchasing Live Rams with PIP Funds	November 2007
	Farmers Tax Guide		Soil Test Application	November 2007
	General Tax Guide		Soil Testing & Site Selection for PIP Funding	November 2007
	Guide - POAT		Trees	
	Insurance Issues & Perils		Animal Movement Certificates	April 2007
	POAT Examples for Self-Help		Caseous Lymphadenitis	June 2007
Self-Employment		Consultation Hours	November 2007	
Legal & Codes of Practice	Annex A Sites		Dog Dosing Dates	November 2007
	Annex B Sites		Dog Neuturing	
	Burning Permit	November 2006	Gestation, Oestrus and Temperature Tables	
	Designated Sites Legislation		Is Your Dog a Health Hazard?	
	Grass Fires Ordinance 2002		Killing Facilities on Farms	
	Import of Live Animals		Lambing Care	
	Licences		Ram Exam Workshop Handout	May 2007
	Notifiable Diseases		Veterinary Fees	
	Planning Permission		Veterinary Diagnostics	
	Plant Import Guidelines		Worming Horses	
	Species Legislation			
	Transport of Animals			
	Welfare of Cattle			
	Welfare of Dogs			
	Welfare of Horses			
Welfare of Pigs				
Welfare of Sheep				

To view the Farm Management Handbook online, visit...
www.agriculture.gov.fk/fmh.htm

WHOSE WETHER IS BETTER IN 2008?

By Peter Johnson

The wether trial currently running at Goose Green has been a huge success so far, with results showing large differences in potential income for a farm based on sheep genetics. The trial will be wound up in February 2008 with the slaughter of the current teams to measure carcass traits and determine carcass values. The Dohne cross and the Polwarth seem to be the breeds of choice so far, but we won't know the final result until all information is in.

Due to the success of this wether trial, the DoA is looking for farms to enter a team and/or to host a similar trial in 2008/2009

Animals will be brought together in February/March 2008 and run as a mob under the same management conditions until shearing in late 2008. The animals will then be slaughtered again in February 2009 to assess carcass traits.

We will be looking for teams of 15 randomly selected, newly weaned wethers. We would also like farmers to submit expressions of interest for running the trial on their farm. If you want to see how the breeds stack up on your particular type of country, then this is an opportunity not to be missed!

The same financial arrangements will stand as last year. The farm hosting the trial retains the wool while the carcass value is returned to the original owner of the lamb. The DoA will work closely with the farm hosting the trial and will require access to the mob about 3 times between being put out in February and shearing so that we can record live weight over that period.

I urge all prospective ram sellers out there to enter a team and let it go up against what other people have to offer. Let your clients see how your genetics perform. To all of the commercial breeders out there who buy in rams, I urge you to contact your ram supplier and get them to enter a team. If they aren't in it, how do you know how your genetic source stack up against what is available in the rest of the Islands?

If you would like more information, or would like to offer an opinion on how we could improve the trial then please contact me at the DoA.

SHEEP MOVEMENTS – TO THE ABATTOIR AND BETWEEN FARMS

A reminder to all farmers of requirements for animal movements

All sheep travelling either between farms or to the abattoir must have one of the following:

- A numbered movement tag (issued by DoA)
- A paint body brand (only to be used on animals travelling to the abattoir) – if this option is chosen please remember that the brand must be clear and easily readable. Only use on sheep with less than four months of wool growth.
- An eartag with your farm's issued brand printed on.

Please also remember that every animal movement must be accompanied by a fully completed Animal Movement Certificate. When sending animals between farms please send pink copy of the AMC directly to the DoA.

If you require clarification on any of the above please call the Veterinary Service on 27366 or email sbowles@doa.gov.fk

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2007 REPORT

By Nigel Knight

Wednesday 28th December 2007 dawned bright and clear. Unfortunately it soon clouded and became overcast. But none of this distracted the residents and visitors at Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating 'a good day' out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith had already been working hard transforming the wool shed. Tony and Susan had already spent most of Sunday with Keith setting up pens and wool tables. Keith was there again to take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. When Tony and Susan arrived with their entries they also gave invaluable help. As usual the entries started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline approached. The Islander aircraft had already made an early visit delivering H.E. The Governor to present the prizes in the afternoon.

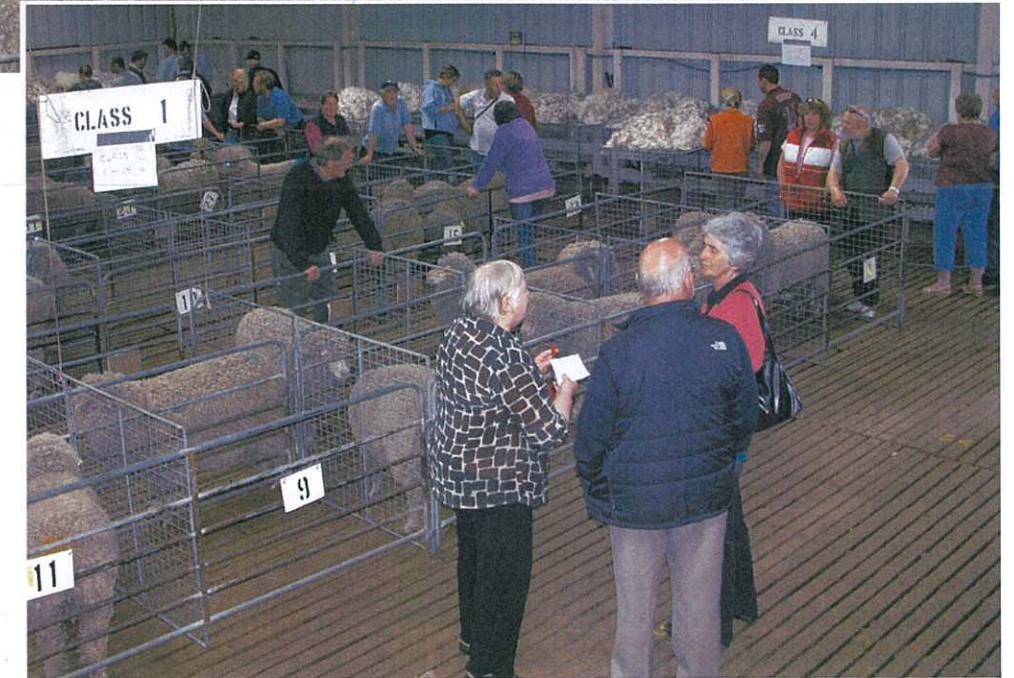
Once the entries were all in, Mac McArthur and Peter Johnson set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the fleece having the highest commercial value. They did this by working out the clean weight by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight. They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying the clean weight by today's prices for that micron wool. Once this had been accomplished the next task was to select from the forty three rams that were entered in the three ram classes the animal they considered to have the 'best conformation' along with the 'runner up' and third place. Next they had to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the Rams exhibited in the Show, not a job for the fainthearted.

A total of fifty four fleeces from sixteen farms and forty three rams from twelve farms were exhibited at this years Show. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of rams every one a credit to its owner.

By now the barbecue, which had already been set up by Tex and Mandy Alazia using their gas fired barbeque pits and (this year in the capable hands of Leon, Justin, John, Tex and Mandy plus other numerous helpers) was in full swing. This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes of rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the wool shed. Once this task had been accomplished the time consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known. These were all then competently collated by Ian. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully relieved of its fleece by Ali and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. The fleece weight and the sheep weight competition produced some very accurate results. This necessitated the equal first places to be decided by a draw to enable an individual winner to be selected. It was also very satisfying to see an increasing number entries in the 'Under 21's Sheep Judging Competition' this year - there were eleven entries, Rodney Lee and Peter Robertson expertly produced the 'Master judging sheets' to enable the results from this competition to be worked out. During the show Marlane recorded the highlights on camera.

Shortly before 5pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the wool shed for the prize giving. This years prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor who had flown out to Fox Bay especially for this event. He returned to Stanley after the prize giving so special thanks to Captain Clarke and all the supporting FIGAS staff for their assistance.

The Prize-giving brought this years Show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more socialising until late that night. As usual the Southern Cross Social Club Committee did an excellent job of looking after the bar. This brought to an end another successful Ram and Fleece Show.



Photographs of the Ram and Fleece Show were kindly provided by Marlane Marsh.

For a list of classes and winners, please turn to page 16

Are you coming to Stanley for work, holiday or medical reasons?
Do you have children between the age of 3 months and 7 years?
Stuck for childcare options?



STANLEY KIDS ZONE

3 JERSEY ROAD, STANLEY

Tel: 21954

skz@horizon.co.fk



Please contact Jo Watson, manager of Stanley Kids Zone for information regarding the services we provide and activities the children get involved in.

A prospectus and/or an enrolment pack can be e-mailed or posted to you. Stanley Kids Zone are keen to ensure that the camp community are aware of the services they provide.

There are discounted rates for camp children.

FARM IN PROFILE: GEORGE, BARREN & SPEEDWELL ISLANDS

Welcome to the second in the new Wool Press series where we will be featuring a Falkland Islands farm every month.

Property Name: George, Barren & Speedwell Island Group

Location: Off mainland East Falkland

Owners: Chris & Lyndsey May

Farm Size: 9,126 ha

Sheep: 5,200 (approx) Polwarth type sheep

Cattle: 25

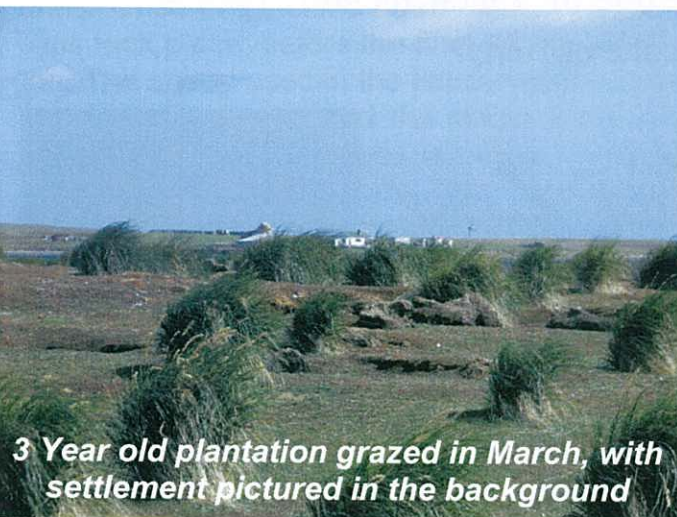
Chris & Lindsey May bought George & Barren in 2000 and expanded the group in 2006 with the purchase of Speedwell Island. Previously owning and operating New House, East Falklands and the Butchery in Stanley, Chris describes buying the group of islands as the best thing they have done so far.

Lure of the camp

Chris, who was brought up in camp, says he has always known that he wanted to be involved in farming. After leaving school, he took up employment at Johnsons Harbour and then went shearing for two seasons, where Lindsey (who spent her childhood in Stanley) joined the gang as a rousie. They then lived at Johnsons Harbour before purchasing their own farm in 1988.

Taking on George & Barren Islands

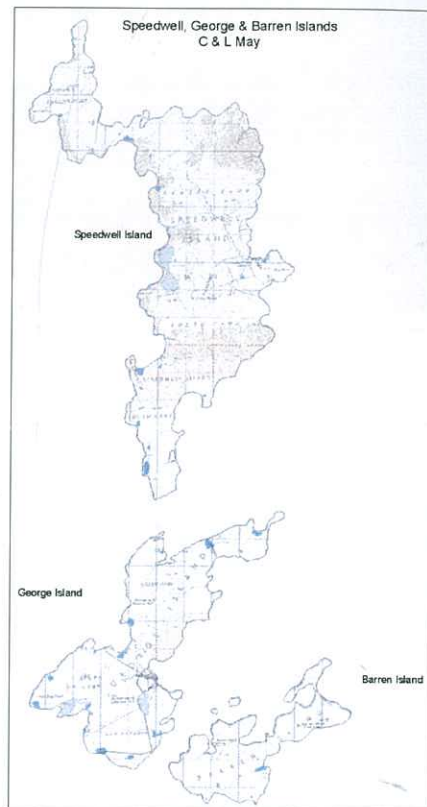
Having always wanting to own an island, Chris visited George Is. in 2000 while working at the Butchery. Despite erosion on the island, he thought that the size and quality of the animals showed a huge potential. He then returned to Stanley to convince Lindsey to buy the Islands; six years later they purchased Speedwell.



3 Year old plantation grazed in March, with settlement pictured in the background

Dual purpose sheep

Across the three islands, Chris & Lindsey are trying to produce a dual-purpose sheep (for both wool and meat), stocking the Dohne breed on George Island, Poll Dorsets on Barren and Pol-



warth and half cross Dohnes on Speedwell. They have been breeding Dohnes on George Island for several years and this season their first SAMM embryos were born on Speedwell Island.

They feel that the dual-purpose animal is the way forward as you get the best of both but believe finding the right animal is a different matter and only time will tell if they have made the right choices.

The change in farming over the next 10 years

Having already made the decision to change to dual-purpose sheep, Chris & Lindsey are now seeing the first $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ breed animals coming through to the abattoir. First results are encouraging. They are showing good carcass conformation and a distinct difference of more muscle, less fat and a finer micron in the pure animals. They now intend to continue with these breeds, trialing them to see if they are suitable for the islands.

The only other thing they see perhaps changing in the near future is if they have to change from old season lamb to new season for the abattoir. This may come about because of the problems they are experiencing with the old season lamb having teeth in wear ie, they are too mature to be sold as lambs. They find this a huge problem and even though their lambing season has been put back over the last two years to the



end of the first week of October, they are still finding old season lamb with teeth in wear. Completing their plans for the immediate future has been the changing from a balanced flock on George and Barren to a total breeding flock. Speedwell will also complete this change over this season with the last of the old wethers going to the abattoir in January.

Chris & Lindsey have also introduced some tried and tested farming methods to their farm over the past couple of years. They now practise crutching and wiggling their hoggets and shearlings to try and keep the wool cleaner. They now also take a half belly from their shearing ewes in an attempt to make it easier for the lambs to find the udder.

Looking at farms as a business

When asked how farming in the Falklands is changing, Chris & Lindsey believe that the majority of farmers are now looking at their farms as a business and not as a way of life. Adding that most farms have diversified in some way or another and wool is probably only a proportion of most farm incomes. With the abattoir and tourism, there is room for everyone to have a slice of the cake if they want it.

Other enterprises being developed

With the islands having a huge potential for diversifying, the Mays are involved in several activities. Along with exporting wool (last year selling direct to Chile themselves), they also breed lamb for Sand Bay and local sales, along with currently supplying beef to the abattoir. On the tourist side, they have a small number of cruise vessels visiting each season, receive helicopter day visitors from MPA and offer a limited amount of land based tourism.

They are also involved in crab fishing. Although this was the backbone of their income in the first couple of years on George Island, it was been overtaken by farming and while it still pro-

vides a reasonable income, now has a lower priority.

Using what you learn

Chris & Lindsey say the success they have with their islands is aided by the experience they gained running the butchery for three years. This gave them an incredible amount of business knowledge. They have learnt to value add and how with motivation, drive and ideas, you can really develop a business. They are constantly using this business knowledge to evaluate the impact of changing breeds, flock structures etc.

Chris & Lindsey love being in the farming business and enjoy being a part of an exciting phase of the changing face of farming in the Falklands.



Their next big challenge is to start regenerating the eroded areas of the island, which they have already started with two tussac plantations, 14 & 85 hectares in size and are currently part way through planting. They will be looking at planting some more acid tolerant grasses in the peaty eroded areas to try and start growing vegetation on them. The biggest obstacle to major land improvement works on the islands is the inability to get heavy machinery to the islands and this seems set to continue.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Mac McArthur, Senior Agricultural Advisor

Felicity and I have been given a wonderfully warm welcome by Falkland Island farmers and townspeople alike. In the short time I have been here I have visited numerous farming families in both the East and West Islands. Over the Christmas break Felicity and I attended the Ram and Fleece Show at Fox Bay, the shearing competition at Goose Green and the races in Stanley.

I have been asked a lot of questions about Felicity's and my background and why we decided to come to the Falklands, so I have answered the most often asked questions for Wool Press readers in this article.

What are your first impressions of the Falkland Islands?

A spectacularly beautiful country with plenty of fresh water both in the higher ridge country and in the lowland creeks and rivers. The yellow gorse hedges and the attractive coves where the farm houses and shearing sheds are located are exquisite. The colours and the visual link between the sky, the cloud, the land and the water is something I have never experienced before in my travels-every day and every hour seems to be different.

The often spectacular genetic improvement some farmers are making in decreasing the average micron of their wool clip and growing bigger framed meatier sheep.

The friendliness and willingness of Falkland Islander's to assist newcomers and make them feel so welcome was also one of our early impressions.

Why did you decide to come and live and work in the Falklands?

Having completed a project with the Royal Agricultural Society (Sydney Show) I saw the advertisement for the Senior Agriculture Advisor's job and I asked Felicity what she thought about relocating to the South Atlantic to which she said an enthusiastic 'Why not. When do we leave?'

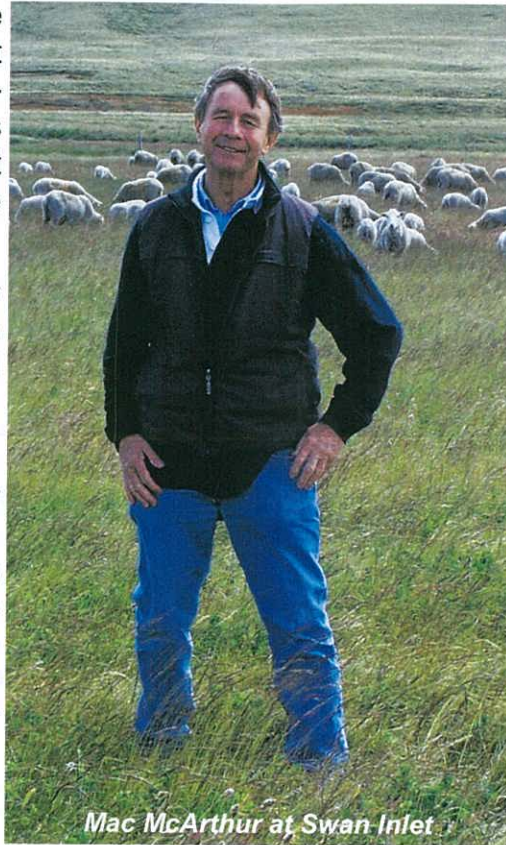
When I contacted David Reid, who was advertising the job on behalf of the FIG, he asked me if I knew Peter Johnston. Peter had been a member of my staff when I was the General Manager for the sheep and beef programs with the Queensland Department of Agriculture. I rang Peter and he said go for it, you will love the place, the people and the job. Our early experience in the Falklands certainly verifies Peter's comments.

Where were you born and raised?

Felicity and I were both brought up on farms. She initially at Deniliquin and then at Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, Australia and I in North Canterbury in the South Island of New Zealand. From a young age we both helped out with lamb marking, shearing, mustering and all the farm jobs that got saved up until the school holidays!

What is your background experience in agriculture?

After secondary schooling in Christchurch, I attended Lincoln College to complete a degree in Agricultural Science. As part of this qualification I did practical work on sheep and cattle properties throughout NZ. After finishing at Lincoln a mate and I went to Australia en route to Europe but after having too good a time in Sydney we ran out of money and decided to buy an old station wagon and work our way around Australia. We worked as roustabouts in shearing sheds, stockmen, cotton irrigators, tractor and truck drivers and in other roles before we both took professional



jobs in agriculture in Australia.

What experience have you had managing farms and working with livestock?

While I was at Lincoln I helped pay my way through the College by managing a sheep and cattle property on the hills surrounding Christchurch.

My first professional job was as Livestock Technical Officer at a property running 22,000 head of cattle and 70,000 sheep in Victoria. I was responsible for initiating a beef bull performance recording scheme where 500 Angus and Hereford bull calves were recorded annually and the best selected for joining with heifers at 15 months old. I was eventually responsible for 26 stockmen, the research and genetic improvement of cattle and completed a Masters degree on this work, involving practical aspects of performance recording and progeny testing.

What children do you have?

We have 2 children. Jacqui is a journalist recently married to Malcolm a sheep farmer and our son Dougal an economist, who lives in Essen, Germany with his delightful girlfriend Claudia.

What was the best dog you ever had?

A short haired black and white border collie bitch called Sue, who saved me walking many miles on many occasions both on the South Island high country and the rolling hills of the Waiarapa in the North Island of New Zealand.

What are the most memorable experiences you've had?

Mustering cattle on the Dargo high plains in the Victorian Alps. Before the snow season cattle that have been taken up to graze the alpine pastures in the spring are mustered in dense eucalypt forest. The cattle are called onto rock salt which is carried in a bag in front of your saddle. Despite riding from daylight to dusk it is not unusual to muster only a few head but as the weather gets colder the cattle sense the pending snow and come out for the salt and long drive back down to the low country.

I was fortunate to be selected as an Australian Churchill Fellow to study beef bull progeny testing in Canada, the USA, United Kingdom, France and Germany, which was an interesting challenge. On becoming a Churchill Fellow it was made clear that to lead and be a mover and changer you would often walk alone. Many people don't like change but the reality is that world market demand for agricultural products, the quality of products and many other factors are rapidly and constantly changing in the global village that we all now live in, whether we like it or not.

Marrying my beautiful wife and having 2 great children and that we all have a close family relationship, despite us all being widely dispersed around this wonderful world we all live in.

PS. These memorable experiences are not in order of priority.

What is the direction that you want to take the DOA?

From what I have seen and understood so far, I am impressed with the current direction, whole farm management improvement philosophy and the excellent relationship the Departmental staff have with the majority of Camp and Stanley people. The PIP programme, grazing management, genetic improvement of sheep and cattle and the demonstration/research work such as the wether and winter nutrition trials are all contributing significantly to whole farm profitability on many farms. These programs should all continue, albeit with sound review and evaluation to ensure they continue to be the most valuable research, extension and demonstration projects which enable farms to become increasingly profitable from a whole farm business management standpoint. As new agricultural product market opportunities are developed the DOA should lead the way to evaluate the markets and provide appropriate advice for farmers to decide whether or not the products and production systems are appropriate for their farms.

The Falkland Island's farming system is close to being a fully organic farming system on the majority of farms. If it is possible to obtain a premium on internationally organically accredited wool, lamb and beef, instigating an organic farming system for many farms in the Falklands may be practical. A recent review of organic wool production indicated the possibility of a 6% premium for

internationally organically accredited fine wool over that of non organically produced fine wool. The system developed will need to be practical and involve the minimum amount of 'paper warfare'.

What is your philosophy on life?

- 'Hold your whist' old Scottish saying meaning best to listen not mouth off.
- 'To be happy everyone needs something to do, something to love and something to hope for.' Mark Twain
- 'You are what you are--not what you would like to be'
- If you don't measure it you can't manage it effectively.
- Enjoy your life and family, laugh and see the funny side of things and above all remember tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life.

What is the funniest story you have heard on the Falklands so far?

My wife and I were having a quiet drink with a person who shall remain nameless in the bar at the Stanley races and somehow the question of how long we had been married came up. Felicity told him how many years and the farmer exclaimed 'Good God you don't usually keep your car that long!'

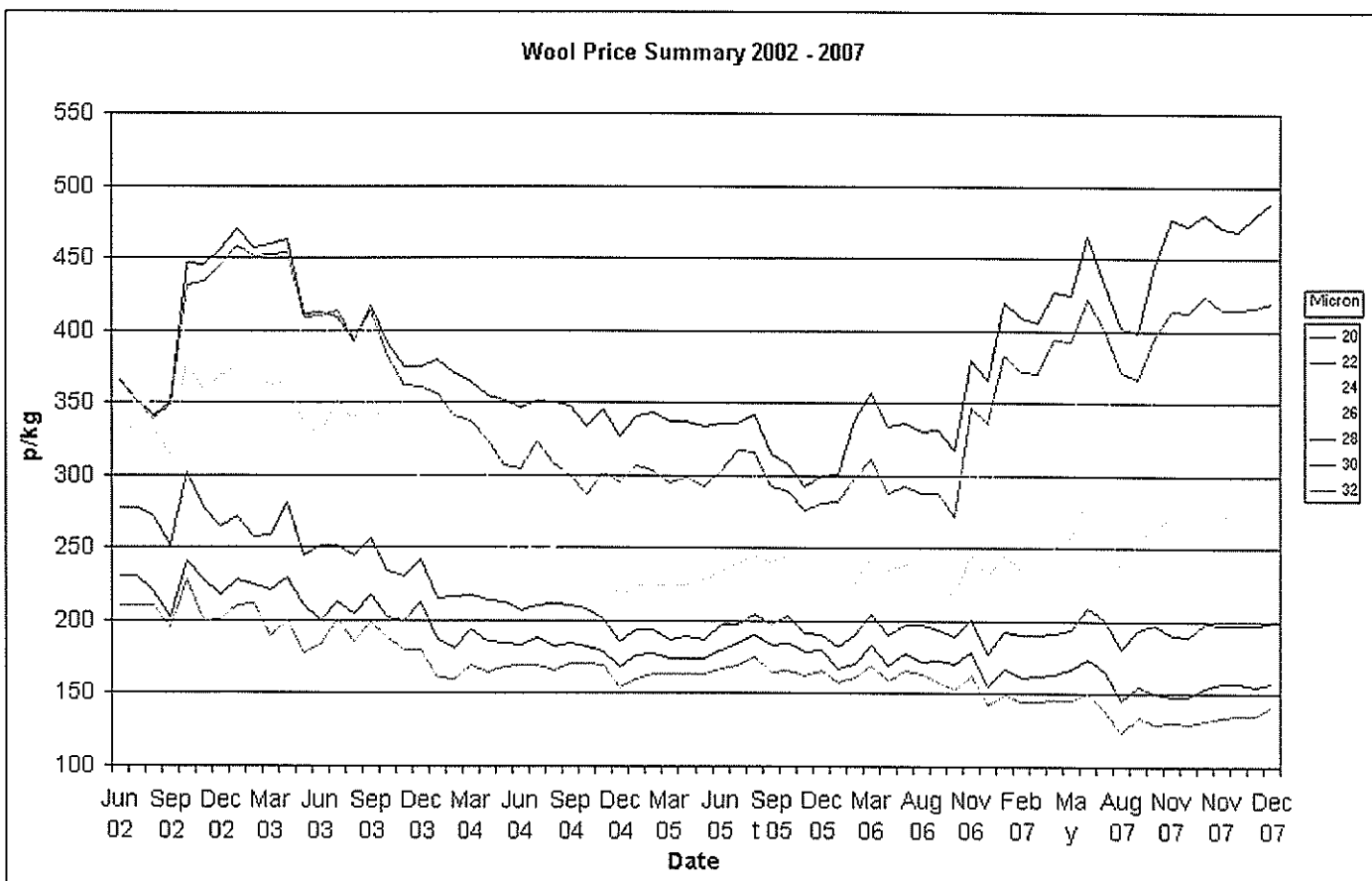
Concluding Comment

I look forward to working closely with DOA staff, together with a wide variety of Camp and Stanley people to make a significant difference to farm and Falkland Island business profitability. I am always interested to hear people's viewpoints about new and innovative ideas and strategies to improve people's income and lifestyle.

Felicity and I both look forward to contributing to Falkland community life, meeting and working cooperatively with people from a wide range of backgrounds and hopefully making a difference in many spheres of life and business in the Falklands.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



ALLOCATING THE 2007/8 FIG ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BUDGET

From the Environmental Planning Department

Annually, the Falkland Islands Government provides a sum of approximately £60 000 for environmental research, awareness raising, and conservation and management activities. The Environmental Planning Department, with the advice of 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 and conservation activities in the Falkland Islands.

This year will see a more strategic approach to the allocation of the ESB, with a formal application and decision making process. The first of the two funding rounds was held in September and the second will be held in February.

Priority areas

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.

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.

Application process

There is formal application form, which can be obtained from the Environmental Planning Department. Where possible, some level of co-funding or in-kind costs (e.g. labour, equipment) is desirable.

Deadline for applications for the first funding round is **Friday 8th February 2008**. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the EPD Environmental Officer prior to submission and she can also help draft your application.

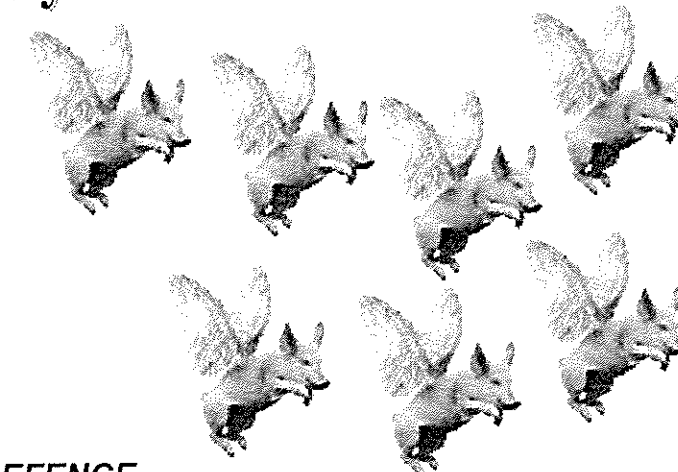
Please contact the EPD to obtain an information pack, including the application form, on telephone 27390 or email hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk

Seen anything strange lately?!

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

Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE



RAM AND FLEECE SHOW PRIZE WINNERS

Prize	Donated By	Won By	Points
<u>Class 1 - Full Wool Ram Hogget</u>			
1st	Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies & £100 donated by Newton Investment	Goring Station	83
2nd	£75 donated by Standard Chartered Bank	Many Branch	73
3rd	£50 donated by Cable & Wireless	Main Point	53
4th	£25 donated by R M Pitaluga & family	Goring Station	50
<u>Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram</u>			
1st	Lyn Blake Perpetual Challenge Cup & £100 presented by Newton Investment Management	Main Point	60
2nd	£75 presented by South American Atlantic Services	Goring Station	51
3rd	£50 presented by Saddle Computers	Coast Ridge	48
4th	£25 presented by the Rural Business Association	Leicester Creek	46
<u>Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram</u>			
1st	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup & a replica & £25 presented by Falkland Landholdings	Boundary	80
2nd	£100 donated by the Falkland Islands Wool Company	Boundary	69
3rd	£60 presented by Falkland Wool Growers	Coast Ridge	61
4th	£30 presented by Falkland Wool Growers	Keith Knight	47
<u>Class 4 - Hogget Fleece</u>			
1st	Silver Challenge Cup & replica presented by Meredith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development & £40 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Mount Kent	66
2nd	£60 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services	Coast Ridge	38
3rd	£35 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Mount Kent	37
4th	£25 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Coast Ridge	37
<u>Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hogget</u>			
1st	Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by HE the Governor & replica & £50 presented by Newton Investment Management	Mount Kent	100
2nd	75 from Newton Investment	Coast Ridge	46
3rd	£50 from Newton Investment	Golding Island	41
4th	£25 from Newton Investment	Peaks	36
<u>Class 6 - Any B Type wether fleece</u>			
1st	Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge & replica presented by Estate Ursula Wanglin & £50 from Port Howard Farm	Mount Kent	65
2nd	£70 donated by FI Sheep Owners Association	Peaks	55
3rd	£50 donated by Stanley Electrical	Main Point	52
4th	£30 donated by FI Sheep Owners Association	Peaks	47

Additional Prizes

The Champion Ram was owned by the Boundary Farm and won The Patricia Luxton Perpetual Challenge Cup and replica from the Luxton family, Chartres.

The Cable & Wireless Perpetual Challenge Cup is presented to the reserve champion and was won by Many Branch.

Rosettes were presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th prize winners in all six classes. A champion and reserve champion rosette is also given. These were all provided by Jim McAdam.

In Class 3, the 1st, 2nd & 3rd rams won a 25kg bag of sheep nuts by Pat & Dan Whitney.

A silver challenge cup and £75 for the fleece with the highest commercial value (all prizes presented by FIDC) won by Mount Kent with a fleece having an estimated gross value of £25.84. 2nd & 3rd place also went to Mount Kent, winning £50 and £25 for estimated fleece values of £24.60 and £20.60 respectively.

£100 for the best conformation ram won by the Boundary. Many Branch took 2nd place and won £75 and 3rd, winning £50, was the Boundary. Prizes presented by FIMCo.

A challenge cup and replica for the farm with most points in all classes is donated by Mr & Mrs Owen Summers and won by Mount Kent, along with £50 from Port Howard Farm.

Additional Competitions

In the guess the sheep weight competition, winners Erica & Pam received £25 from Meredith Fishing who guessed correctly with 35.2kgs.

The winner of the fleece weight competition also went to Erica & Pam, who received £30 from RBC and guessed a correct weight of 3.8kgs.

Winner of the micron estimate competition was John Voss who received £50 from Argos Fishing guessing at 17.8 micron. Runner up was Robin Smith who guessed 17.8 micron who received £25 from Cable & Wireless. The correct micron was 17.87.

The Department of Agriculture sponsored the 1st prize in the sheep judging competition for the under 21's, won by Felicity, Fayan and Dylan, who received a £50 voucher. Runners up were Erica & Chloe who received £25 from Cable & Wireless. 3rd prize went to Dale Evans who won £25 from the RBA.

Additional Credits

Warrah Knitwear kindly donated £50 towards show funds.

FIGAS once again generously agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.

The Southern Cross Social Club for financing trophy engraving and the bbq, with meat supplied by Rincon Ridge & Coast Ridge (burgers, sausages & bread rolls by Shirley). Cooking by Leon, Tex & Justin, with help from friends.

Keith for transforming the wool shed with assistance from Tony & Susan with setting up pens and fleece tables.

Peter Johnson & Mac McArthur for judging the special categories and all those who did the sums afterwards.

Marlane for photographs.

The Department of Agriculture for their assistance before and after the event, in particular Glynis & Gordon.

H.E. the Governor for presenting the prizes.

The committee of the Southern Cross Social Club.

And not forgetting the residents of Fox Bay for being excellent hosts.

Unsure about that Birthday present?

Why not subscribe the Wool Press to those elderly, overseas and Stanley friends and relatives for a year?

Local mailings - £15.00

Overseas mailings - £37.00

Send in a cheque made out to the Falkland Islands Government along with the destination postal address and we will do the rest!!

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

A dog-loving Croatian family have painted their house black and white in memory of their pet Dalmatian. Goran Tomasic, 52, and his wife Karmen, 35, decided to paint their house in the northern village of Pribislavec white with black spots after Bingo was run over by a car.

Goran said: "We have to admit that at first we were afraid of what the neighbours would say, but we loved Bingo so much we had to do it. "We wanted everyone to know what he meant to us and for his memory to live on."

A wolf walked into a packed bar in Italy, ate a steak sandwich and walked out again. The wolf strolled into the bar at Villetta Barrea, near to the Abruzzo national park, and helped itself to a steak sandwich from a table.

Bar owner Giacinto Lorenzo, 43, said: "It sounds like the start of a bad joke, but it really happened. "Everyone here knows what a wolf looks like and there was no mistaking this beast for a big dog. It was one of the wolves from the national park.

"It looked pretty thin and we guess it must have been suffering with the recent cold weather and the snow. "Everyone was so frightened we couldn't move for about five minutes afterwards, but the wolf just sauntered out as if it was the most normal thing in the world."

Local authorities have sent a team out to search for the wolf.

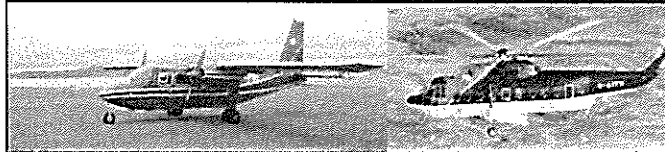
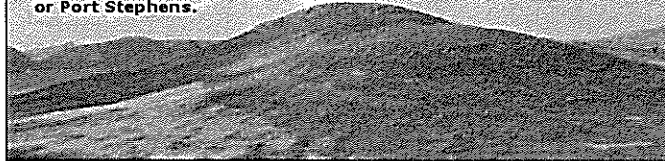


Biosecurity for plane and helicopter travel

The environment of the Falkland Islands is easily threatened by the introduction of new plants and animals. Some of the islands in the Falklands are free of invasive species, such as rats, mice, earwigs and thistles, and we want to keep the islands that way.

In order to prevent the spread of invasive species, you are respectfully asked to comply with a few simple measures when travelling between sites in a FIGAS Islander plane or British International/military helicopter.

Please take particular care if you are travelling to New Island, Carcass Island, Speedwell Island, George Island, Sea Lion Island or Port Stephens.



Before getting on the aircraft:

- Scrub all your footwear
- Make sure all of your clothing, equipment and luggage is free of soil, seeds, insects and rodents
- Please speak to the aircraft staff, lodge staff or landowner if you have any concerns or questions

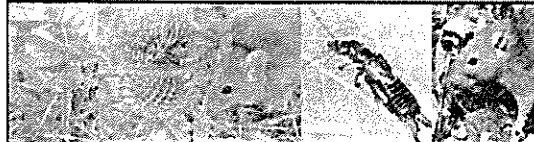


FIG Environmental Planning Department (27390)

Biosecurity for plane and helicopter travel

By Fiona Nannig-Wallace, Environmental Planning Department

A simple poster has been produced by the Environmental Planning Department to highlight the biosecurity risks associated with travellers on the FIGAS Islanders and military helicopters.

A number of land owners and managers are concerned about the arrival of invasive species such as rats, mice, thistles and earwigs to their settlements and islands via visitors off planes and helicopters. Most people living in the Falkland Islands know what shouldn't be brought to islands, but what about our visitors?

All international arrivals to the Falklands via the airbridge or the Lan Chile plane must complete a biosecurity form and declare all plants and vegetables. Captains on all yachts and ships arriving to the Falklands Islands receive biosecurity information via a 'Ports and Harbours' booklet.

So for international travellers flying between islands, EPD has produced the information poster. It explains ways that visitors can reduce the chances of accidentally bringing invasive species to currently invasive species free places like Carcass Island, Speedwell Island, George Island, Sea Lion Island or Port Stephens.

EPD will be sending out posters to tourist lodges and cottages at sites where planes and helicopters land, as well as at the Jetty Centre, FIGAS departure lounge and guest houses in Stanley and various places at MPA.

Please contact EPD if you would like a poster to display and you haven't already received one.

Recipe Page

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley



Corned Beef Hash Cakes - Phil Vickery's twist on a British favourite!

1lb Cold mashed potatoes	1lb Chilled corned beef, cubed or mashed
4oz Peas, frozen/fresh/tinned	2 small onions, chopped and fried until soft.
1 egg, beaten	2 tblsp oil
1oz butter	

Cook the peas until tender if you are using fresh or frozen - tinned ones will be soft enough as they are. Briefly mash the potatoes again, as they may have stiffened while they cooled. Make a well in the mash and add the drained peas, the corned beef, onions and the egg. Form into 4 - 6 patties, depending on how big you would like them, and chill for 20 minutes in the fridge. Heat the butter and the oil in a frying pan and cook the hash cakes over medium heat until crispy and brown outside, and hot all the way through.

Phil suggests serving these with fried eggs and Branston pickle (definitely the chunky one, not smooth!) but they are also great cold at picnics and barbeques!

Kim's Special Cheesy Leeks

These came about when my flatmate asked if I knew how to make "these cheesy leeky things" that her mum makes her. I had absolutely no idea, so this is what I came up with, and thankfully Kim liked them! Perfect with any kind of roast dinner (i.e. our Christmas one!)

2 medium leeks	2tblsp butter
1 pint whole/semi skimmed milk	2-3 tblsp plain flour
1-2 tblsp butter	4ish oz mature cheese, grated

Chop the leeks crossways, into circular slices (it turned out Mrs Ewles cut them lengthways) and soften in a pan with the first quantity of butter. In a separate pan, heat the other quantity of butter and gently cook the flour, without letting it brown. Carefully add the milk, stirring out any lumps, until you have a nice thick white sauce. Stir in all but a pinch of the cheese, until fully melted into the sauce. Upend the entire contents of the leek pan into the sauce and fold in until nicely blended. Serve in a plastic jug, sprinkled with the remaining cheese and served with a wooden spoon. (NB - those of you don't live at University are more than welcome to serve the leeks in a real bowl, and serve it with a real spoon! We were just a bit pushed for crockery that day....)

New Year's Nesquik - A stroke of genius at a BBQ!

1l Whole Milk
Chocolate milkshake powder
Tia Maria/Bailey's/Dooley's/Crema de Dulce de Leche

Pour the milk in a jug. In a teacup, measure out about 4 heaped tblsp of milkshake, and mix to a paste with a drop of the milk. Fill the rest of the teacup with the liqueur of your choice. Slowly pour in the contents of the teacup into the jug of milk, stir well and serve!

Date for the diary:

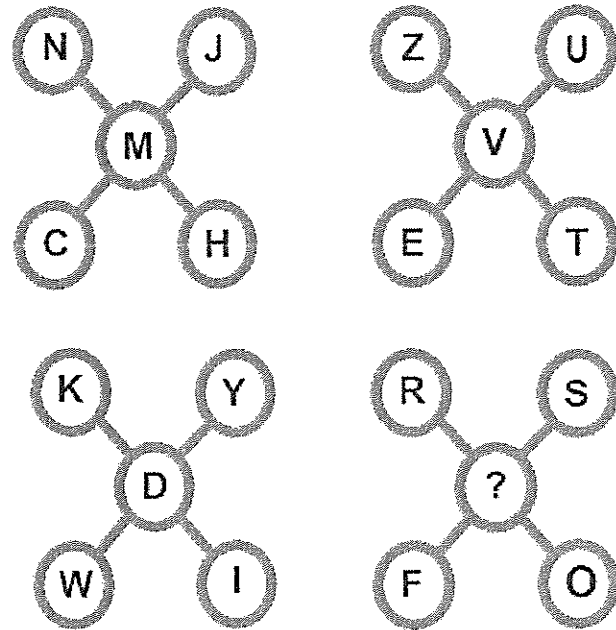
Saladero Ram Sale (Goose Green Shearing Shed) - 19th March 2008



PUZZLE PAGE

MIND OVER MATTER

Crack the mystery code to discover the missing letter.
Hint: A=1, Z=26



SUDOKU

The rules of Sudoku are simple. Place a digit from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

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

FIRST PAST THE POST

Six horses were entered in the 2.30 at Derbyville today. Three of the horses were fillies and three were colts (one of which was Mister Magic). Can you match the horses and riders and work out where each horse finished?

- The horse ridden by Kelly didn't finish last. The one ridden by O'Shea wasn't first but finished immediately ahead of Birthday Boy.
- The horse that finished last has a name which starts with the same initial as the colt (ridden by Riley), who didn't finish fourth.
- Lucky Lady finished some way ahead of the colt Jones was riding.
- Likely Lad finished some way behind the horse ridden by Davis whose horse finished two or three places ahead of Bonnie Lass.
- Golden Girl finished either three places ahead or three places behind the one ridden by Murray.



Pos	Horse	Jockey

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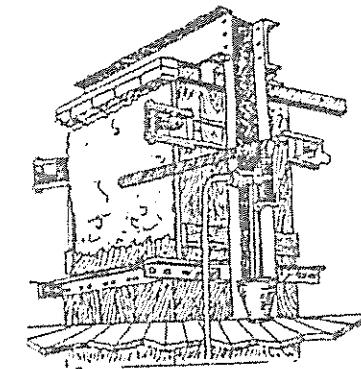
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EDITORIAL

A warm welcome back to Steve Pointing who has re-taken up the role of Senior Veterinary Officer. Steve is fitting back in with ease knowing most of the people in the Islands and dealing again with issues he has been very familiar with in the past.

Also a warm welcome to Jim Robins, who replaces Vikki Lee as Agricultural Assistant. Jim has a science degree, grew up in London and has worked in the Police force in Stanley. Jim is looking forward to meeting and working with farmers and learning about agriculture and rural life.

Ian Campbell, who was briefly introduced in the last Wool Press, has prepared an article on ruminant nutrition which, amongst other things, explains why sheep are able to do well on often relatively poor quality feed that non ruminants would struggle to survive on. Ian's wife Susan, who is a veterinarian and ran her own rural veterinary practice, arrived recently and we wish her a warm welcome also.

Our thanks to Ian and Susie Hansen for agreeing to have their farm featured in this edition. It is interesting to note their genetic improvement programme involving both AI and embryo transfer (ET) is making significant reductions in their wool micron count.

Zoë Luxton has written a most interesting item on her adventure on Steeple Jason Island blood sampling and taking swabs from albatross and penguins. Both she and Jim Robins were members of a team using interesting techniques to catch, bleed and swab the birds who sound as if they may have given as good as they got in many instances!

I have provided an update on the National Beef Herd and some comments about beef cattle as pasture improvers and future beef marketing.

In early March we are planning a series of half day updates on both the West and East Islands. We will be running these sessions in the San Carlos, Fox Bay and Hill Cove areas plus our own in Stanley. Topics will include results of the wether trial; lupin and swede winter nutrition trials; whole farm grazing management planning ala Jim Gerrish and changes to the PIP programme that have recently been to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

We are also looking for your input into other topics that you would like to see discussed so let us know by contacting either Andy, Peter, Ian or myself.

Information on the Sports week programmes for Goose Green and Fox Bay and the Saladero ram and bull sale at Goose Green are also included in this edition.

Enjoy the reading,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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BEEF ISSUES AFFECTING THE NATIONAL BEEF HERD

By Mac McArthur

I am aware that beef production in the Falkland Islands is a contentious issue due to the past history of beef production promotion and lack of export markets for beef. The critical needs are for the Falkland Islands to develop a sustainable manufacturing beef export market and further develop the present high quality local beef markets. If an internationally accredited and perhaps organic beef production system is able to be introduced, farmers that are interested in running beef cattle under these conditions should potentially benefit through a price premium. Development of these beef markets will also benefit the whole Falkland Island economy through the provision of more jobs, increased export income and a wider choice of organically produced grass fed beef products.

Grazing Management with Cattle

Having spent the past 2 weeks with Jim Gerrish, looking closely at grazing management of white grass, re-seeds and brassica crops on Port Stephens, Coast Ridge, Head of the Bay and Saladero, it became clear to me that cattle play an important role in improving white grass and other pasture productivity.

Jim believes strongly that cattle are an important grazing management tool to open up white grass to allow other higher quality grasses to flourish. Also for the distribution of clover and other grass and legume seeds in their manure to areas of bog white grass adjacent to re-seeds.

It is interesting to note the comments of Hugh Munro, the other Kiwi who reported the following comment in his 1924 report on agriculture in the Falkland Islands. He wrote in his report 'It would be very beneficial to pastures to carry many more cattle than is done at present, more particularly on properties that are subdivided into areas which will enable them to be used to the best advantage as scavengers to clean up the coarse vegetation as well as for the purpose of consolidating the surface soil.' *

Cattle can also play a beneficial role as 'vacuum cleaners' clearing paddocks of sheep worm eggs that have been grazed by sheep to reduce the worm burden when young sheep are returned to these areas to graze.

Recent Action with the National Beef Herd (NBH)

Recently Peter Johnson and I worked with Rodney and Carole Lee at 'White Rock' to draft the NBH cows. We selected 22 quiet, relatively early maturing Angus cows for joining with a 16 month old embryo transfer (ET) bull. This quiet young bull was joined with the cows on 28 January and will be removed after 6 weeks. A number of these cows have well muscled calves from last years artificial insemination programme that were all born within a compact calving spread.

A number of 16 month old Angus heifers have been selected and joined with a 16 month old ET bull (Te Mania Ultra sire). This quiet, well muscled young bull will be removed after a 6 week joining also.

A simple and practical performance recording programme recording calf weaning weight (to compare the relative milking/mothering ability of the cows and heifers) and yearling weight (a measure of the calf's genetic potential to grow beef) will be instigated. Previous records on growth rate and milking ability of these NBH cattle will be included in this herd performance recording programme so that the performance of the cattle in this herd can be compared with one another as

well as that of performance recorded Angus beef cattle around the world.

As with the sheep genetic improvement programmes, it is important that the best beef genetic material that meets the likely long term future Falkland Islands beef market turnoff continues to be developed. The requirement for relatively early maturing, polled, quiet cattle that have the potential to be sold with 5-12 mm of fat at 18-36 months old is likely to become increasingly important in the future.



Sixteen month old bull sired by Te Mania Ultra joined to NBH heifers

DoA's Role in Beef Genetic Improvement

The DoA's role is to assist farmers by making available superior beef genetic material through the NBH with the proviso that the production of a maximum of 6 genetically superior bulls annually should not compete with farmers trying to sell bulls, beef or breeding heifers. The DoA has a responsibility to ensure that excellence is achieved as long as we maintain a NBH.

There is room for improvement in some farm herds in anticipation of a future beef market which should increase through the beef going into the existing markets becoming of a consistently high standard to produce tender, tasty, beef that is sought after by Stanley, MPA and tourist consumers.

Vic Epstein as Senior Veterinary Officer put a lot of effort into getting approval for European Union beef export certification for the Falkland Islands and this is ongoing.

Clearly development of long term sustainable beef export markets will take considerable hard work and perseverance from many people involved in the Falkland Island's beef industry. Like most worthwhile things it will be difficult but it is do-able if all sectors of the industry including farmers, processors, DOA, government legislators and marketers work together to achieve both a manufacturing beef and an expanded high quality export beef market.

* Reference H. Munro. (1924) Report of an Investigation into the Conditions and Practice of Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands.

FOR SALE

From Nick & Annie Pitaluga

Enduro motorcycle, as new, Honda CRF 150, 4-stroke, elect start, extremely strong, extra-light (ideal boat bike and would fit in L/R), good gathering/driving gears. Had virtually no use (rider unsuited to it!!) Ph 31193 (eves) Fax 31194 or email us.

Also for sale

TS lister-petter alternator part(s) for Stamford alternator (earlier round type), 1 brand new exciter winding (+ 2 serviceable used units thrown in). Offers or willing to swap for starter motor.

RAINFALL UPDATE

By Siân Ferguson

Thank you to everyone who has sent their rainfall totals in. We should be receiving some new rain gauges shortly, so if you are interested in collecting your monthly rainfall totals, please give me a shout.

January was a slightly hotter month than average, with the average temperature at 15.7°C. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 20.6°C on Sunday 13th and the lowest was 2.5°C on Friday 18th. Rainfall was below average (see table below). There was a total of 238.5 hours of sunshine, slightly higher than the January average. The highest daily total recorded was 14.6 hours on Thursday 24th and there was only one day when no sunshine was recorded.

There were no days where snow or sleet fell and only 3 days when hail was reported. There were no days when snow was reported lying. There were 3 days with fog and no thunder. The average wind speed over the month was 14.9 knots (slightly below average), the highest gust of 61 knots was recorded on Friday 25th. Gales were recorded on 9 days, above the average of 4.9.

Falkland Islands Rainfall Totals

Location	2007												2008	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Stanley	2007	55	73	64.5	28	22.5	37.5	35.5	22	41	24	50	27.5	42
	Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74
MPA	2007	55.2	75.5	68.7	37	32.9	36.1	43.1	29	24.5	38.8	74.7	31	49.3
	Average	63.1	47.9	56.8	53.7	49.5	58.8	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.8	58.4	62.8
Bleaker Island	69	95	69	28	37	40	34	11	14	32	25	18	30	
Cape Dolphin	41	60	36	30	11	18	23	19	30	16	26	30	24	
Darwin	38.5	98	31	20	-	-	-	21.5	10.5	33.5	53.5	29.5	40	
Dunbar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.5	
Fern Ridge	68	55.5	60.5	30.5	43	40	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	
Head of the Bay	45	95	62	25	40	20	21	26	23	25	54	38	27	
Moss Side	55	56	42	24	29	21	18	24	26	23	34	38	31	
Paragon	10	50.5	26	-	24	-	-	14	9	-	-	22.5	23.5	
Pebble Island	34	71.5	52	31.5	25.5	30	11.5	24.5	23	20	34.5	22.5	19.5	
Port Howard	69.5	104.3	72	50	70.5	56.5	67	38	29	41.3	75	47.5	62	
Saladero	30	67	25	24	28	20	20	17	11	15	30	20	25	
Salvador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.5	-	44.5	38.75	39.75	
Shallow Harbour	65.3	55	57.5	34.5	49	37	-	-	-	-	-	40	38.5	
South Harbour	42	45	68	65	54	47	53	30	26	20	28	23	51	
Swan Inlet	35.5	76.5	67	21.5	-	23	31	27.5	25	20.5	53	16	38	
West Lagoons	-	-	-	-	-	20	24	29	42	15	30	12	33.5	
Wineglass Station	39	79.5	70	36.5	38.5	36	30	29	26	35.5	74.5	35	62	

Thank you to the following for sending in their rainfall data each month:
 Elaine Short, Sheena Miller, Peter Wakefield, Marie Paul Guillaumot, Marlane Marsh, Ted Jones, Michael Minnell, Vernon Steen, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, Viv Hobman, Nick Pitaluga, Mike Evans, Andrez Short, Shelley Nightingale & Bobby Short.

RUMINANT NUTRITION

By Ian Campbell

This is the first in a series of articles about ruminant nutrition. Whilst I will concentrate today on the basic concepts, which I am sure will be familiar to most readers, I will zero in on some of the important aspects as I see them relating to sheep nutrition in the Falkland Islands in the months ahead.

Background

Many of the rangeland animals of the world are ruminants. Sheep and cattle of course, and deer, giraffes etc as well. Ruminants have 4 stomachs, the rumen which somewhat vaguely merges with the reticulum, the omasum and the abomasum. The thing that makes them so unique is of course the rumen, and an understanding of the processes occurring there is essential for the understanding of practical sheep and cattle nutrition.

The Rumen

The rumen is a large bag which contains a water based mixture of eaten food and a rich brew of bacteria, protozoa and fungi. The aim is to keep these "bugs" healthy, and then nutrition will look after itself.

When food is eaten it firstly floats on the top in a raft. Small particles drop out and the rest soaks and is attacked by the bugs who are trying to digest them for their own purposes. Periodically the raft is regurgitated and chewed again, exposing new areas to the attack. Whenever chewing occurs the ruminant secretes vast amounts of saliva to neutralise the acids produced to try to keep the rumen in a healthy state.

Small particles leave the rumen via the reticulum into the abomasum where a great deal of the water is absorbed. Soluble breakdown products, mostly energy compounds, are also absorbed. Residual products, undigested food particles and the bugs themselves then move along to the abomasum where the acid digestive processes similar to our own stomach work on the feed and the "bacterial meat".

As far as digestive processes go there are some advantages and disadvantages to being a ruminant.

The advantages of being a ruminant

The big reason ruminants are successful creatures lies in their ability to digest and extract nutrients from poor quality roughages, cellulose in particular. The bacteria can break down cellulose, a structural carbohydrate indigestible by most higher species and provide simple energy products which are immediately absorbed by the animal and used for its own energy requirements. As a result of this large areas of land, and I would include the Falkland Islands, which are unsuited to intensive horticultural or agricultural systems, can still produce large amounts of food and fibre.

There are also a number of secondary advantages. The next big issue after energy is protein, and some of the bacteria can actually make protein, given a source of energy (ie from carbohydrate) and a non-protein source of nitrogen like urea. Hence the process of urea treating low protein roughages in many production systems. Bacteria can also change amino acids around and alter poor quality protein into better quality protein, of course a disadvantage is they can also do the reverse!

Finally bacteria can synthesise some important vitamins like vitamin B12. To make B12 though, a molecule containing cobalt, minute traces of cobalt need to be present. If this does not occur naturally then cobalt bullets, which sit on the floor of the rumen slowly dissolving can provide enough for the animal's B12 needs.

The downside of being a ruminant

The first big downside occurs if animals are fed high quality rations such as grain. Firstly the bacterial digestion process is a wasteful one when very good rations are fed, and much better use of these resources could be made feeding these to pigs or poultry, or of course people. Despite this much of the world are feedlotting cattle and lambs in an aim to get a fatter and more consistent animal. Secondly the acid produced very quickly from grains can rapidly become toxic giving a sub clinical loss or even death of the animal. To prevent this large amounts of lime or antibiotic like rumen modifiers might be fed, and long introductory periods need to be observed.

Secondly things like bloat can occur when the gas produces froth that can not be so easily belched off. Bloating animals once again can die due to pressure on lungs, heart etc.

Finally ruminants do produce large quantities of greenhouse gas by way of methane which presents firstly a waste of potential energy to the animal as well as a threat to the environment.

The three big variables

There are three big issues of interest to ruminant nutritionists, and in the issues to come I want to discuss each of these in turn, how they are related and the impact the rumen has on them. The three variables are the:

- quantity of feed available
- quality of feed available
- requirements of the animal

DOA UPDATES AROUND THE ISLANDS IN MARCH

The DoA is planning a series of half day updates in early March, and invites all interested people to attend. Proposed topics for discussion will be –

- Results and the implications of recent trials including winter nutrition with swedes and lupins as well as the final results from the wether trial
- Opportunities for whole farm grazing management planning following the recent visit by Jim Gerrish
- Changes to the PIP application process that have recently been passed through the Agricultural Advisory Committee relating to soil pH and genetics

If there are any other topic areas that people wish to discuss at these meetings please contact the DoA so that we can put the item on the agenda and make sure that the appropriate staff members are at the different locations to add to the relevant discussions.

The planned dates are as follows –

Day	Date	Location
Monday	10th of March	San Carlos area
Tuesday	11th of March	Fox Bay area
Wednesday	12th of March	Hill Cove area
Thursday	13th of March	Stanley

A TRIP TO STEEPLE JASON ISLAND – 21ST – 25TH JANUARY 2008

By Zoë Luxton

The Jason Islands are the most North West Islands of the Falklands archipelago. They are home to 65% of the world's Black Browed Albatross and numerous Magellanic, Rockhopper and Gentoos, Cormorants, Petrels, Skuas, Striated Caracaras and smaller birds.

Dr Marcela Uhart, a field veterinarian who works for the Wildlife Conservation in Argentina, visited Steeple Jason 5 years ago to blood sample and take swabs from several species of marine bird. Swabs are taken to see if any viruses that could cause avian influenza are present in the population and blood samples are taken to run a general screen to see what other diseases are present. In 2003 the presence of disease was low. There were some orthomyxoviruses detected (which is normal in large bird populations) but not the H5N1 strain that causes 'bird flu'.

When Marcela contacted the Veterinary Department about this 2008 visit to re-sample the populations on Steeple Jason Island she asked if we could supply an extra pair of hands. Vic the Vet shuffled into my office and with gritted teeth muttered that as he was flying out the following week he couldn't go – did I fancy a trip? After thinking for about 1 second I quickly typed an acceptance email to Marcela and made a mental note to find my padded waterproofs.

Marcela and a colleague Flavio Quintana, a marine bird biologist from WCS, flew in on Saturday 20th January. We flew to Carcass Island the next day with the rest of the team: Nic Huin from Conservation, Sarah Brennan who works for the RSPB and Jim Robins Conservation volunteer (who incidentally is our new agricultural assistant).

After a round of tea and sea sick pills, Mike Clarke had us all aboard the Condor and 5 rather choppy and nauseous hours later we landed in brilliant sunshine at The Neck on Steeple Jason. Luckily roughing it on Steeple Jason is a thing of the past, and after settling into the comfortable 3 bedroom bungalow with central heating, we went off to catch 3 Black Browed Albatross to deploy some new GPS trackers that also record detailed information regarding body position as the bird is flying, feeding etc. giving Flavio an excellent insight into their habits.

The sight as the albatross colony comes into view is breathtaking – small white dots as far as you can see, sitting on the ground, sitting on the water, gliding on the wind. If life in general

had some classical music as a backing track at all times it would be 100% magical. It is only 99% magical however, purely due to the cacophony of courting parents and hungry babies and the ever pervading smell of bird poop! The GPS trackers were attached to 3 adults as Flavio cheerfully worried 'I hope they return by the end of the week for me to retrieve the £3000 worth of trackers on each of them'. Yikes.

Monday was foggy and calm, perfect for working with Albatross as they are all sitting on the ground with nothing to do anyway as they need wind to fly. The plan was to blood sample and get swabs from up to 50 albatross, Rockhoppers and Gentoos. So off we went for phase 1 – Albatross. Nic and Sarah went off to begin the bird census they were there to do while Jim and I trotted off with Marcela and Flavio. You need to be experienced to catch and restrain an albatross as one good chop with that beak and you are likely to be missing a finger, so Flavio had to do the heavy work while Marcy and I collected samples and Jim was in charge of labelling, defrosting and chilling the samples. We were taking swabs from the trachea and cloaca (throats and bums!) of each bird. Bum swabbing is the easiest – tracheal swabbing involves distracting the bird by giving him a stick to chew on while quickly poking a swab in the back of his mouth while hoping he doesn't decide your finger looks tastier. Blood sampling an albatross proved to be the trickiest part of the day. Marcela has worked in the field with seabirds for many years and really struggled to hit the spot in several birds. I only managed to bleed a few and I'm pretty sure that was more luck than judgement. 'Penguins are a lot easier' encouraged Marcela. I was a bit sceptical at this point.

After each bird was bled and swabbed we put a tiny dot of orange spray on its head so

we didn't accidentally leap on the same ones twice. In the end we got swabs from 46 Albatross and had successfully sucked blood out of 19 of those – not as many as we'd hoped but better than nothing.



Fledgling albatross



Attaching a GPS tracking device

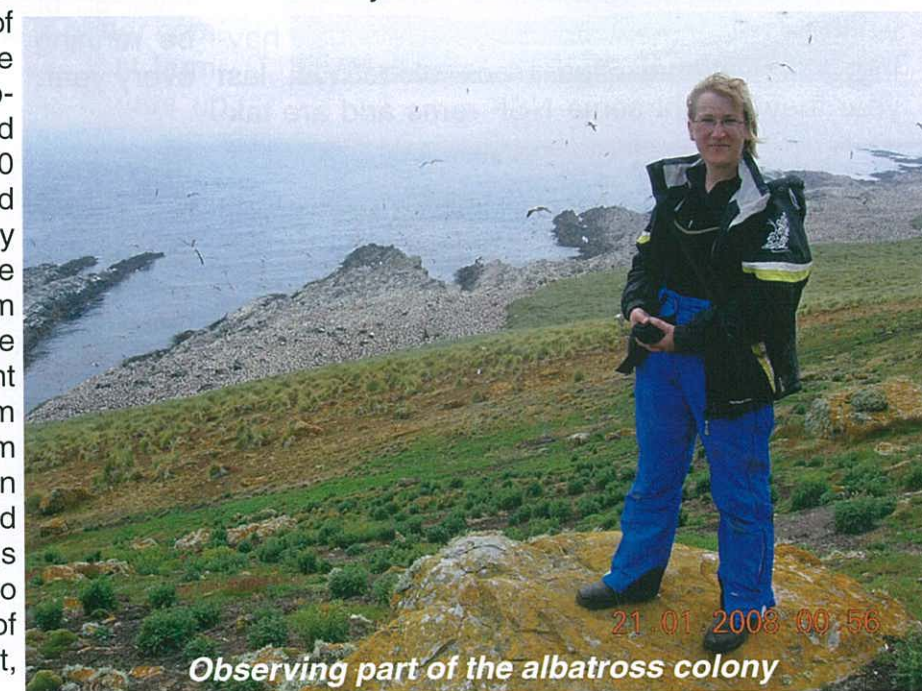
Tuesday was fantastically sunny. Flavio went off to stare at the sky and will the 3 with the GPS trackers to return, Nic went off to count Rockhoppers and Marcy, Jim, Sarah and I got to work in possibly the best spot in the Southern Hemisphere. We were perched on the edge of a small colony above a rocky beach with great views of penguins and albatross coming and going. With the bright clear weather we could see Grand Jason in the distance and all the thousands of albatross fishing in the very blue water below. We started off swabbing the fledgling Rockhoppers. They are easy to catch and once they have had a wriggle they tend to settle down and actually get quite relaxed sitting on your knee. The most dangerous bit with these guys is bending down to scoop them up as they live among the albatross – and baby albatross vomit vile oil on you when threatened. Marcy and I both ended up with stinking oily fringes – I can honestly say that having a face full of albatross vomit is possible the most revolting thing that has happened to me. Ever. We swabbed 34 babies and then caught 10 adult Rockies to blood sample and swab. Again, they are reasonably easy to catch as long as you are quick, but you have to get them under control quickly as they are FURIOUS!! In one fluid movement you have to catch them, hoist them under your arm and have a firm hand on the back of their neck. In the next fluid movement they need to be popped between your legs and their head pulled gently up so that your partner can get a drop of blood....and yes, she was right,

penguins are easier – whew! The final phase was Gentoos. This is without doubt the hardest work but possibly the most fun. The Gentoos have a well worn 'motorway' up through the tussac from the beach to the colony. Catching a Gentoos involves squatting very quietly behind a tussac bog with your partner in crime on the other side, equally well hidden. Both of you listening carefully for the slap slap slap of unsuspecting gentoos feet. As they waddle past, you grit your teeth and take a blind leap out behind the penguin. Chaos then ensues as you and your partner narrowly avoid concussive meetings of heads and throw your entire body weight onto a flapping gentoos – who still manages to get up and run off. The fluid movements of penguin catching are somewhat forgotten as you frantically attempt to control beak and flippers. By the end of the session we were lined with neat, flipper width bruises on every available limb. They are, however, pretty co-operative to bleed and swab once restrained and rush off looking mildly upset when released as opposed to the Rockies who turn around for a final snip at you when you release them. After 46 Gentoos we had finished our project, just in time as ones knees were starting to feel the strain.

After an extremely pleasant boat ride back to Carcass and a foggy flight back to town all that was left to do was pack all the samples up and deposit Marcy and Flavio at MPA and hope the penguins had forgotten us by the time those samples need to be repeated in another 5 years. It was a fantastic week and I learnt a lot so I am keeping everything crossed that I am lucky enough to be involved in future, similar projects.

P.S. only 2 of the GPS trackers were retrieved!

P.S. only 2 of the GPS trackers were retrieved!



Observing part of the albatross colony

FARM IN PROFILE: MAIN POINT

Property Name: Main Point

Location: West Falklands

Owners: Ian & Susie Hansen

Farm size: 6,949 ha

Sheep: 5,000 (mainly Polwarth breed)

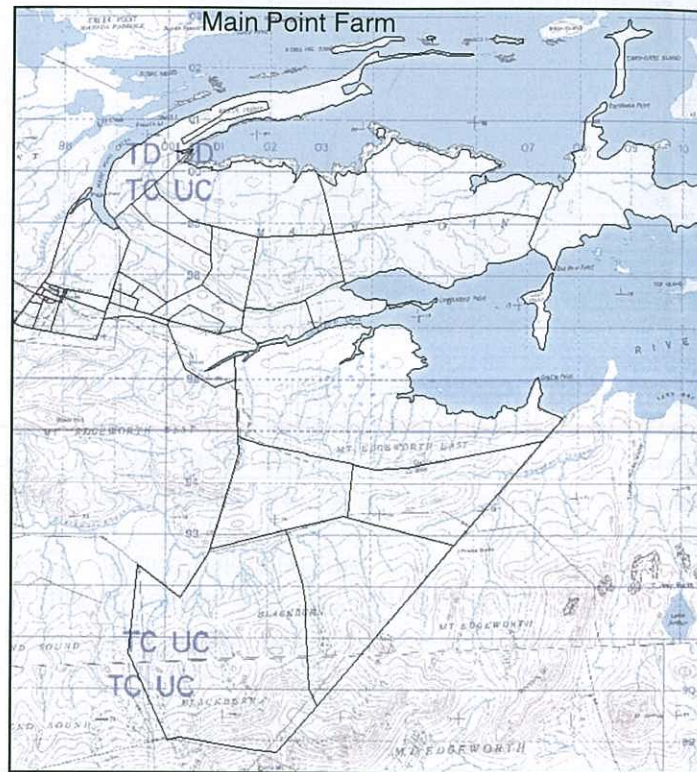
Cattle: 70 plus

Ian & Susie Hansen first moved to Main Point in 1983 to work as shepherds. By the time the subdivision of Hill Cove came about in 1987, Susie says she had already fallen in love with the place and if anyone else had bought the section, they would have had to keep her or on drag her away kicking and screaming!! They have both spent most of their lives around Hill Cove/Pebble working on farms and Susie says she would never want to do anything else.

Working towards fine wool sheep

Ian and Susie have also always been working towards breeding fine woolled sheep with decent weights, and are striving to achieve this while keeping a decent framed sheep. When they first took on the farm and sheared their first hoggets, they were 26 micron and Susie says they are now bordering on 19/20 micron.

This has been achieved by introducing Polwarths from the Boundary Farm, being involved in the artificial insemination programme over a few years, keeping their best animals for their stud flock and recently some embryo transfer work to bring in new bloodlines. Previously having little National Stud Flock bloodlines, last year they bought some NSF rams and are tak-



ing part in the NSF Polwarth Group Breeding Scheme.

Susie says they don't have any plans to sell lambs for meat, but have been selling 100-200 wethers each year and they always have surplus ewes for sale, which she puts down to good lamb marking percentages. She adds that over the years they have increased breeding ewe numbers but have seen lower percentages, while still ending up with the same number of lambs. Due to this, they will be cutting back on breeding ewes this year and will also be running dry ewes on the farm as they do every year.



Susie with mare and foal



Main Point ewe and lamb

Camp sub-division and other changes

Crutching maiden ewes was a change made early on and Susie feels that this has made a difference to lambing percentages. They practised pre-lamb shearing for a number of years on part of the ewe flock, but as there was no marked difference in lambing percentages they stopped this practise. Susie felt it was too stressful on the ewes and too stressful on her worrying about them!!

They have now subdivided some of their camps into small sections with 3 wire electric fencing, which seems to be working well. They don't carry out intensive rotational grazing, but they are able to rotate some of the ewes for lambing in smaller flocks. Susie says it's too early to tell yet of the benefits but believes it is successful. This practise also makes it easier at shearing and lambmarking time when bringing the ewes in. They can also carrying out their lambmarking at home over several days on their own, which is easier on the ewes and lambs and better for mothering up.

Changes in farming

Susie says that although it would be nice in ten years time to be producing 20 micron sheep, 4 or 5 kilo fleeces and wool prices at an all time high, it is more likely things will be the same with everything ten years older and more run down, including the owners!!

The biggest change that she sees is the abattoir and worries that sheep numbers will continue to drop each year with farmers supplying sheep to the abattoir, as the price is better compared to wool prices. Susie believes that farmers won't be able to boost lambing figures up

enough to continue supplying large numbers of animals to the abattoir while keeping sheep numbers up on the farm.

Although they have no plans to change their breed dramatically, Susie believes that the type of sheep in the Islands will change over the next ten years, with several farmers aiming towards the meat sheep.

Miniature ponies

In 1997, Ian & Susie brought down their first four miniature ponies from the UK and although this was a small project, it has grown in size. They sell the odd animals for pets and have some ponies that would sell for a decent price in the UK due to their spectacular colour. Susie says they are looking into this, but the shipping is quite complicated. They have recently purchased a 'saddle chariot' from the UK, which Susie hopes to train the ponies up to drive.



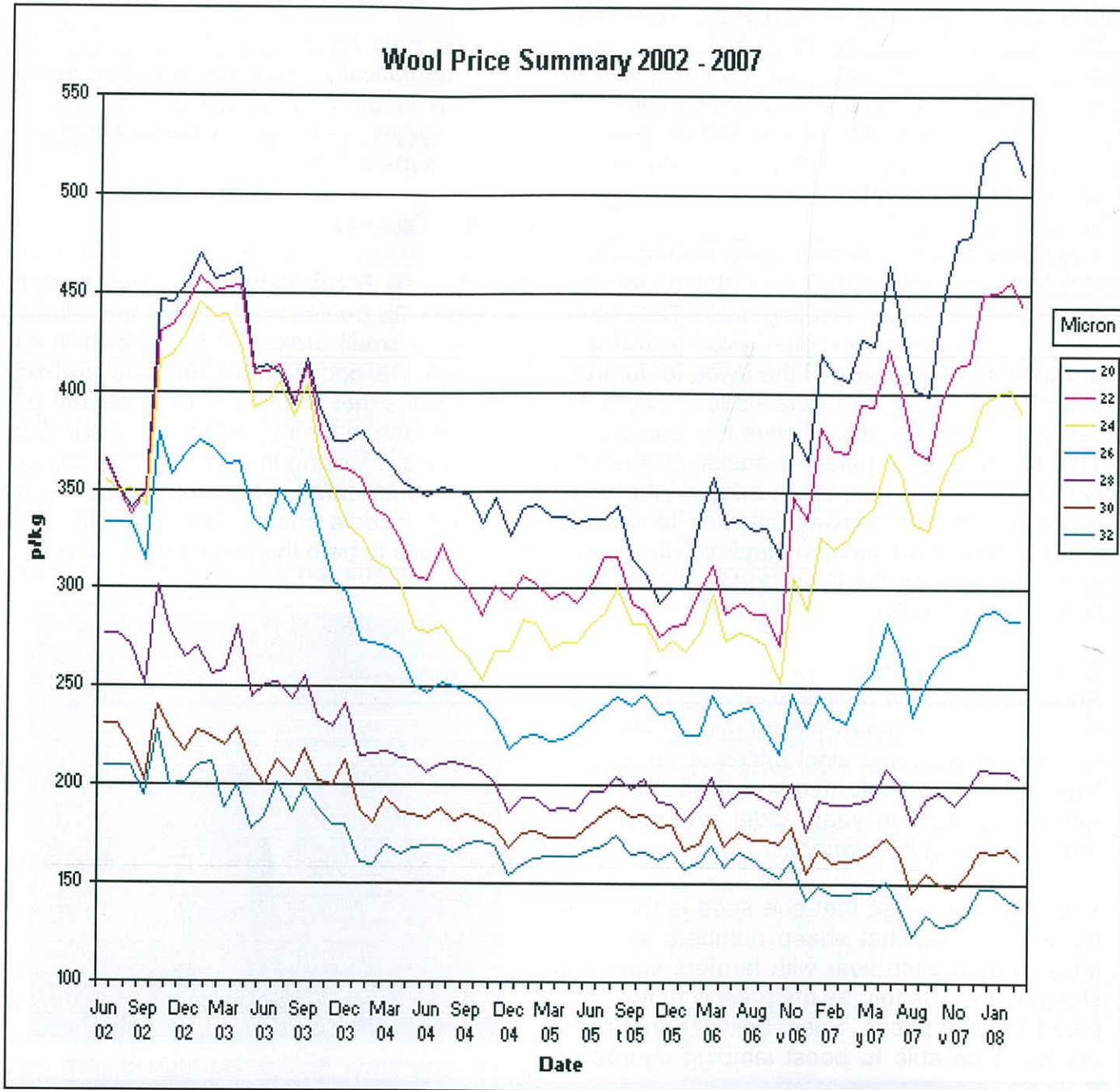
Dohne lamb



Driving sheep at Main Point

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



Seen Anything Strange?!

Don't leave it... or shoot it

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS
OUR BEST DEFENCE!!**



STAFF NEWS

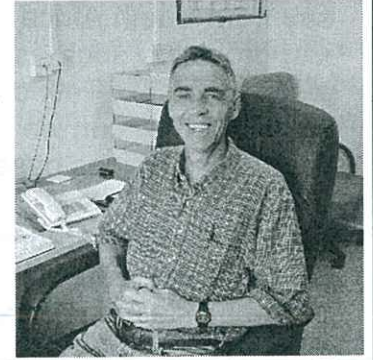
The Department of Agriculture would like to welcome to it's team...

Steve Pointing

Welcome back Steve, who is replacing Vic as Senior Veterinary Officer. Most of you will already know him, as he spent a number of years working at the Department of Agriculture, before heading back to the UK in 2006.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

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Jim Robins

Hello to our newest team member, Jim Robins, to the Department of Agriculture. Jim has joined as an Agricultural Assistant and will be working hard to assist farmers and departmental staff in various trials and projects.

Jim Robins
Agricultural Assistant

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You can hear more from Steve and Jim in the March Wool Press

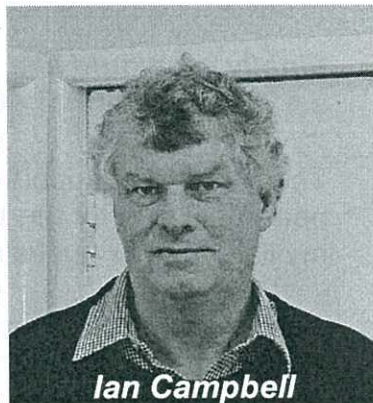
Last month we introduced you to our new Agricultural Advisor, Ian Campbell. You can now read about him and his thoughts on the Falkland Islands and Department of Agricul-

I thought I should provide a little more information about myself after my jet lagged mutterings in the last issue of The Wool Press.

My family and I ran a small farm in the foothills of the Otway Ranges in southern Victoria, Australia, very close to the farm where the first Polwarth sheep were bred (some Tasmanians may dispute this – sheep genetics is a contentious issue). Professionally I had a very similar job to the one I have now, but in Colac, Victoria. As well as working with farmers I have also taught at Ag college, university and in industry.

I have been here nearly three weeks now and have been lucky enough to have spent much of the time on the road, with other colleagues from DoA and Jim Gerrish while we were being trained in his system for monitoring grazing management. Obviously it was of great interest for me to see a number of Falkland Island farms, to speak with the farmers in detail, and start to learn about the way things are done here.

Obviously there were a lot of different things for me to get my head around. The White Grass and other different pasture species, the soils, the ditches, certainly the penguin greens, and the exorbitant prices of things like fertiliser and lime (we only thought they were dear). I look forward to learning about all these issues with an open mind in the time to come; certainly people have been



Ian Campbell

very friendly and helpful in showing these things to me which I greatly appreciate. The bonus of course was the spectacular scenery and wildlife; this is a very special place.

The interesting things though are that many things are the same. Stimulating discussions here about the ideal micron being a compromise between price, wool cut and the constitution of the sheep. I have been involved in this discussion many times in the past. Where do "new genetics" say from South Africa fit in? Should we be loyal about a breed or a type? And that's just genetics; problems such as where to spend the next pound; a fence, a reseed or a new kitchen, are also universal. Talk of it being too dry for this time of year, and is it just seasonal or is it global warming, how can we increase lambing percentage, and when is the best time to lamb are all universal discussions based on the same principles everywhere in the world.

Most of my background is in nutrition, particularly of the breeding ewe, grazing management and prime lamb production, with a bit of a sabbatical if you like in the dairy industry just to force me to think outside the square!

The organic market for food and fibre is certainly expanding and can sometimes offer a handy premium price. Before we came over both Mac and I spent a week being trained in the organic food and fibre production systems which I found both interesting and stimulating. I suppose the extensive farming system with its lack of problems like sheep lice and blowfly, and nasty weeds that need spraying out make organic farming in the Falkland Islands almost the default option.

Accreditation however is not just what you do but being able to prove it, it is essentially a fully documented QA procedure. We also need to think carefully about what tools we forego to gain accreditation, and are they costing us lost production. Things like drenching the odd scouring lamb, using ET or AI programmes, even trace element treatments, fertiliser and seed purchases need to be thought through and protocols put in place. No problem is insurmountable but we do need, unfortunately, to be somewhat pedantic, and also to respect the certification process if we wish to sell on the organic market. I look forward to working in this area whilst I am here as well.

Ian Campbell
Agricultural Advisor
Department of Agriculture

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Finally we would like to say goodbye to Vic Epstein, who served for two and a half years as Senior Veterinary Officer and has recently departed the Islands.

This is my best opportunity to write a note to the Wool Press. My salary has been paid and by the time this is read I should be well on my way back to my little farm in Australia

Time plays tricks. I'm sure I arrived yesterday but my calendar says over 2 years ago. What has been achieved?

The real biggie was the EU Fisheries Audit. This may not seem too exciting but without satisfying EU auditors the export of fish to the EU stops. If this stops, so does a big portion of the money coming into the country. There were a few problems. Changes have been implemented and more changes are occurring.



Next is the meat export industry. The fishing industry audit taught us that EU expects standards to be met, so a review was made of the meat export industry. This includes 'farm to fork' or 'gate to plate' depending on where you are from. The abattoir section requires changes and these are

currently being attended to. The farm to the abattoir requires attention and despite 3 years of harassment, and implementing a system well described as the 'dummies book of farming', some farmers still can't fill in a simple form and tag their sheep appropriately.

Unfortunately, unlike fishing where the de-registration of a vessel or two does not close the industry; the closure of the abattoir would close the industry.

Hydatids still persist. This year a case was found in the second week of the season rather than waiting for the last week as last year. I have written a paper discussing what changes should be made. They are not dissimilar to those written by Michael Richael in 1994 that were ignored. Hopefully they will be ignored no more.

We were working hard on exporting beef to the EU but, unfortunately the final decision was not reached before my departure. Something for Steve to keep attacking from the day he arrives.

Biosecurity is another field in which the ground rules have been detailed and the foundations laid for the future. Strange as it sounds, the ability to export depends on the ability to control imports and consequently defend the disease status of the Falklands. The office of the Attorney General has a 50 page document on what legislation is required to ensure good biosecurity practice has legislative backup. Plenty of interdepartmental cooperation is required to achieve the necessary results. Other tasks have been undertaken too, but this is enough for everyone to digest and carry on with.

Thanks to all those who worked with me. Thank you all for your patience, cooperation, kindness, help, diligence and input. In the near future I look forward to hearing that the projects started have been accomplished for the benefit of all Falkland Islanders.



RAM & BULL SALE

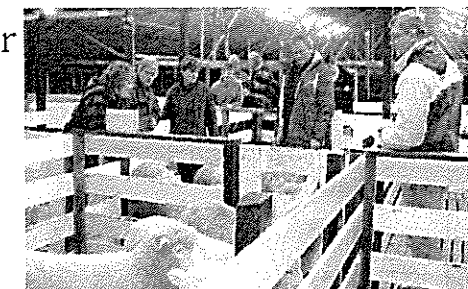
Wednesday 19th March 2008

in the Goose Green Shearing Shed

Along with stock from the Department of Agriculture and Corriedales from Goose Green, there will also be the opportunity for farmers to bring their own animals for show or private sales.

The Tamar will be available to transport farmers from West Falkland and there will a barbecue and drinks available.

For more details, please contact Lucy Ellis or Mac McArthur on telephone 27355.



Please note that the Department of Agriculture will not accept any responsibility for private sales and transactions between farmers.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH FARM MAPPING

By Siân Ferguson

When thinking back to September last year when I was (almost blissfully) unfamiliar with all things mapping, it surprises me that there has been much headway made with my skill in preparing maps.

A very quick handover period with Deborah meant that time becoming familiar with the complicated ArcGIS programme meant much flicking between the printed tutorial and the computer monitor attempting to make sense of everything. Some weeks later though there was a light at the end of the tunnel when I had understood enough to tackle my first farm mapping project (sorry Paul, I don't think I ever told you that Port Stephens was my first!!).

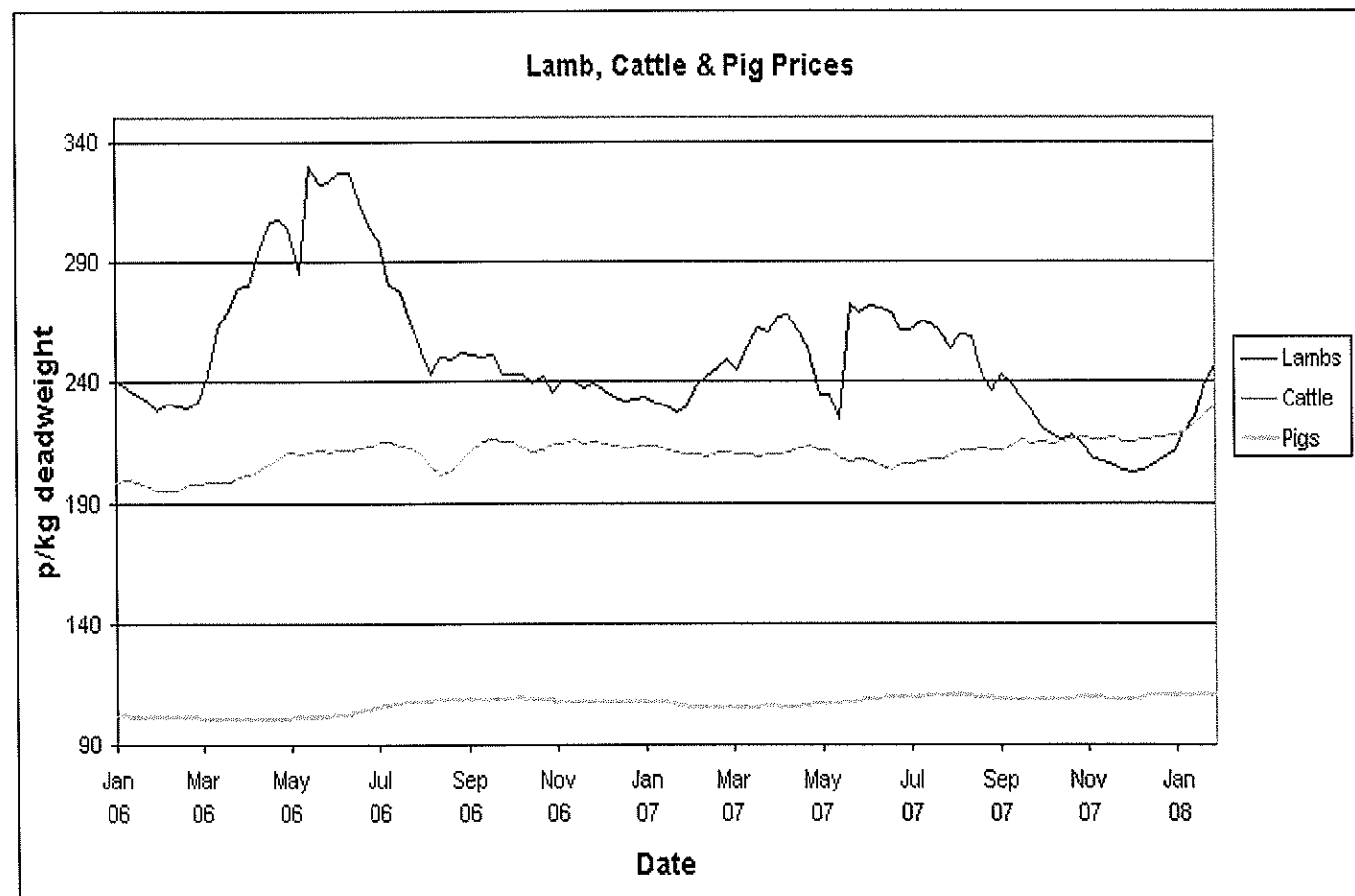
Nearly two months later and I can now (with confidence I might add) subdivide and join-up any camps or paddocks you have altered fencing in and provide you with camp areas. Any tasks that may be more complicated will take more practise, but with time and internet courses, the DoA should be able to provide you with any assistance you require when mapping your farm.

So, if you are either new to the mapping concept or wish to further update any more works you have undertaken, please contact myself or any of the agricultural advisors for more information on what we can offer.

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.



SPORTS WEEK PROGRAMME

We've included a quick guide to the Darwin Harbour Sports Association and West Falklands Sports Association timetables for the ever popular Sports week, so you can start planning your holiday now!!

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DHSA - Goose Green

Events to be held at the Racecourse (Social Club in bad weather).

Sunday 24th

9am - Racing & Gymkhana to include the Governors Cup

Monday 25th

9am - Racing & Gymkhana

Tuesday 26th

9.30am - Dog Trials with Fun Events in the afternoon, which will include football and the mechanical bull

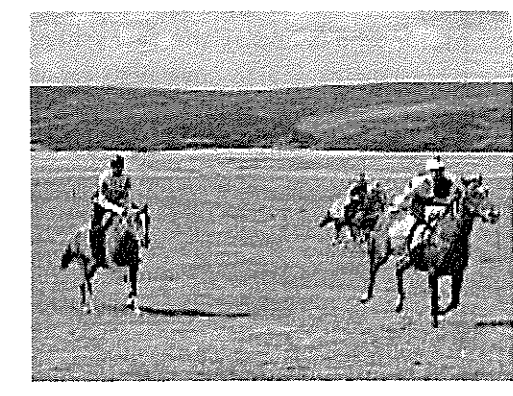
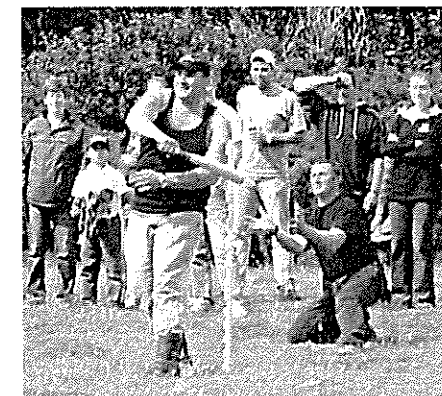
8pm - AGM & BBQ (social club). Some contributions of bread rolls or salad would be gratefully received.

Wednesday 27th

10am - Children's sports, including mechanical bull with the adult mechanical bull competition in the afternoon

Evening - Prize Giving Dance (Social Club), £2.00 on the door

For more information, contact Ali Short in the evenings on 21866.



L-R: Rounders at the Hill Cove forest, Shearing competition at Shallow Bay and Horse Racing at Shallow Bay
Pictures from P & S Nightingale

WFSA - Fox Bay

Please note that programme is in camptime.

Sunday 24th

10am - Foot events, including rounders and football, including a bbq

8.30pm - Mechanical bull

Monday 25th

10am - Shearing including bbq

8.30pm - Gold Cup Racing

Tuesday 25th

10am - Peat cutting followed by bbq and Treasure Hunt

5.30pm - Kids party

8.30pm - Darts

Wednesday 27th

10am - Dog trials (including fun dog trials) and kids sports, bbq

6pm - AGM

9.30pm - Prize Giving

Any enquiries, please contact Susan Hirtle.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

Mind over Matter

The letters A-Z are valued 1-26. In each set, the sum of the top two values minus the sum of the bottom two values equals the middle value, so the mystery letter is P (16).

FIRST PAST THE POST - Solution

Pos	Horse	Jockey
1	Lucky Lady	Kelly
2	Mister Magic	Jones
3	Golden Girl	Davis
4	Likely Lad	O'Shea
5	Birthday Boy	Riley
6	Bonnie Lass	Murray

Sudoku

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

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

Cheeta the Chimp, who co-starred in a dozen Tarzan films, is to publish his memoirs. The chimpanzee is listed in the Guinness World Records as the oldest living non-human primate at 75. Plucked from obscurity to become a Hollywood star in the 1930s, he later overcame addiction to alcohol and cigars.



The chimpanzee, who lives in California and whose real name is Jiggs, was approached by the publisher Fourth Estate. He has taken on a literary agent and is working with a ghostwriter on a "funny, moving and searingly honest" autobiography. The chimpanzee was snatched from the Liberian jungle in 1932 and taken to New York by the flamboyant animal importer Henry Trefflich. He starred in 12 Tarzan films and went on to work with Bela Lugosi in the 1950s, finally quitting the big screen after 1967's Doctor Dolittle with Rex Harrison.

Nicholas Pearson, the publishing director of Fourth Estate, said: "Here we've got the real monkey - a great actor who is one of the few still alive from what was the golden age of Hollywood. He saw it all.

"He had to act to save his life, literally. Others who fell by the wayside often ended up in the lab with the dogs, mice and rabbits."

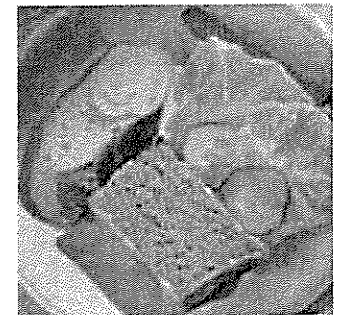
Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 13th February (Droncit)

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

Recipe Page

Recipes from Sainsburys.co.uk



French style pate

A simple tasty traditional French dish & requires chilling time.

Ingredients & Method

6-8 rashers streaky bacon, derinded	25g butter
250g chicken livers, chopped	250g minced pork
125g sausage meat	1 clove garlic, crushed
3 tablespoons sherry	1 teaspoon chopped mixed herbs
pinch of grated nutmeg	2-3 bay leaves
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste	

Lay the bacon rashers flat on a board and stretch with the back of a knife, use half to line a 500g microwave loaf tin or earthenware terrine. Combine the butter, livers, pork and sausage meat in a bowl. Cover and cook on HIGH for 6 minutes or until the meat is cooked, stirring twice during cooking. Place the mixture in a blender or food processor, add the garlic, sherry, herbs, nutmeg and salt and pepper and work until smooth. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and cover with the remaining bacon. Place 2 or 3 bay leaves on top. Cover with clingfilm and cook on HIGH for 4 minutes. Leave to cool, then cover with foil, weight down and chill overnight. Turn out onto a serving plate and slice. Serve with French bread and a green salad.

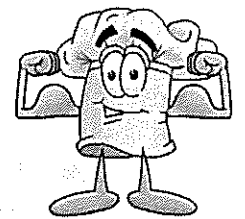
Sticky Chicken

A delicious recipe for kids & adults alike!

Ingredients & Method

2 cloves garlic, chopped	1 onion, chopped
50g smooth peanut butter	2 tablespoons sunflower oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice	485g pack chicken thigh fillets, diced

Preheat oven to 200C, 400F, Gas Mark 6. Blend together the garlic, onion, peanut butter, oil & lemon juice, put in a bowl & toss in the chicken. Cover & refrigerate for 30 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a baking tray & cook for 10 minutes until cooked but not crisp. Serve hot or cold.



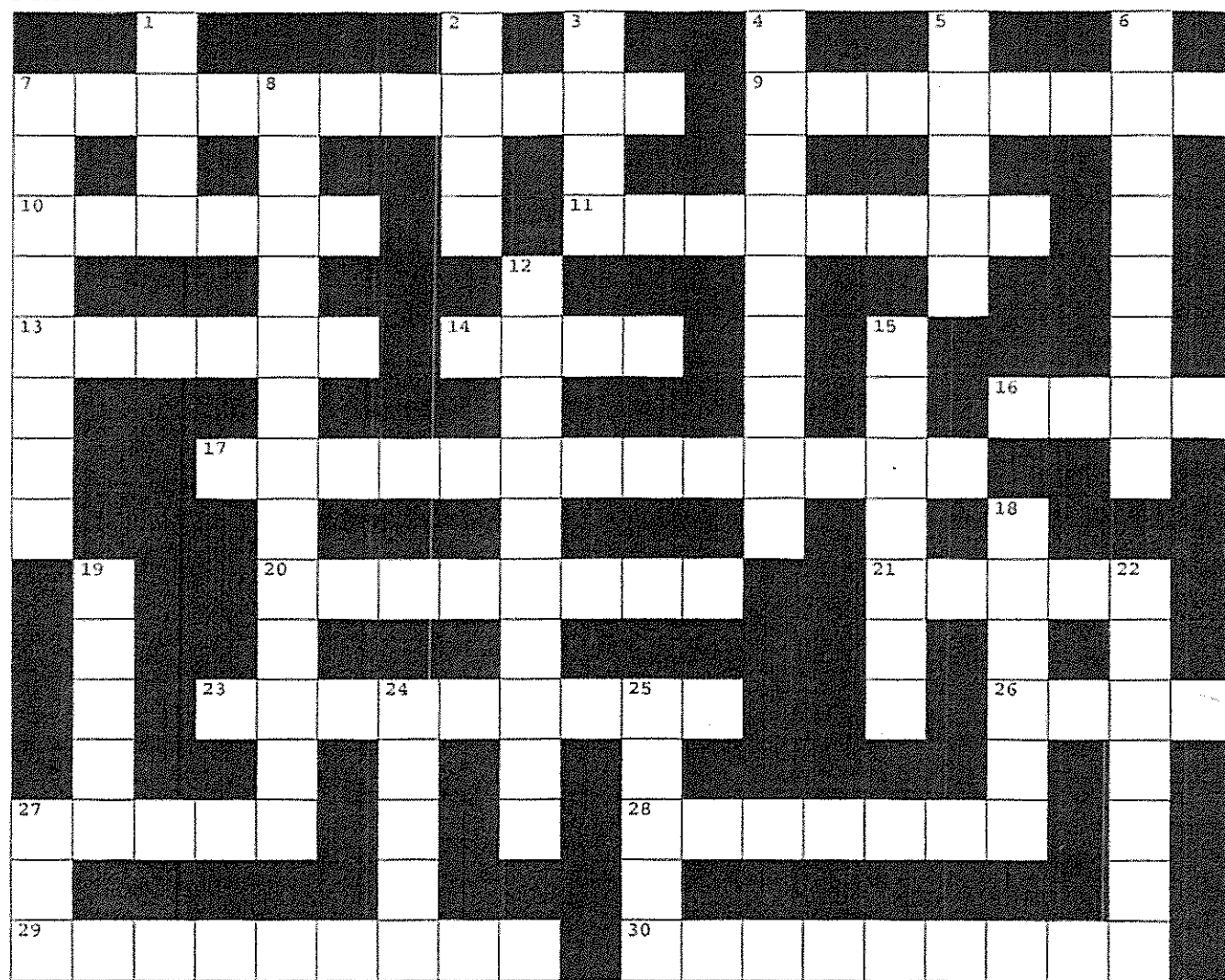
Elephant Seal Questionnaire

The Environmental Planning Department ran a questionnaire in November to find out where elephant seals are breeding, moulting and resting. Thank you to all the landowners and visitors who have sent in returns. We're still looking for completed questionnaires for many areas and islands.

Please return your completed questionnaires to the Environmental Planning Department. We are happy to mail out new forms. Please contact Helen Otley at the Environmental Planning Department for more information.

Telephone 27390 or email hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk

PUZZLE PAGE



- Across**
- 7. Common house plant (6,5)
 - 9. Breed of dog (8)
 - 10. Famous collie dog (6)
 - 11. *see 27 across*
 - 13. Conquer (6)
 - 14. Poet (4)
 - 16. Primary colour (4)
 - 17. Fitness centre in Stanley (7,6)
 - 20. West Falkland settlement (4,4)
 - 21. Combine (5)
 - 23. Essential shed machinery (4,5)
 - 26. Fruit/reddy purple colour (4)
 - 27. New staff member (5,8) and 11 across
 - 28. Feuding (7)
 - 29. Percussion instrument (9)
 - 30. Wisdom (9)
 - 3. Cut (4)
 - 4. Farm featured in the February Wool Press (4,5)
 - 5. John "...", cowboy legend (5)
 - 6. Burnt meat and beers (8)
 - 7. DOA farm (8)
 - 8. Cargo ship (9,4)
 - 12. Type of tree that grows in the Falklands (10)
 - 15. Local fishing company (7)
 - 18. Examination of tissue to determine type or cause of disease (6)
 - 19. Person (usually young) undergoing preliminary training (5)
 - 22. Tutor (7)
 - 24. Rope used by cowboys (5)
 - 25. Animation starring an ogre (5)
 - 27. Gender (3)
- Down**
- 1. Hints (4)
 - 2. Turn over (4)

Brain teaser...

There is a common English word that is nine letters long. Each time you remove a letter from it, it still remains an English word - from nine letters right down to a single letter. What is the original word, and what are the words that it becomes after removing one letter at a time?

THE WOOL PRESS

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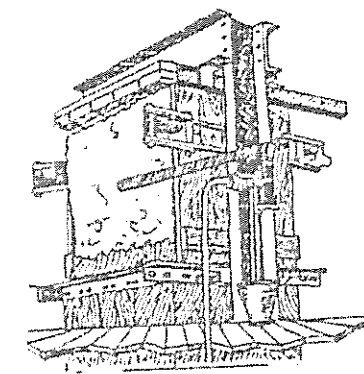
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Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

Although I've written the occasional article for the Wool Press since my return to the UK in June 2006 I didn't think that I would ever be writing another editorial for the magazine. Well this just goes to show that you should never assume anything.

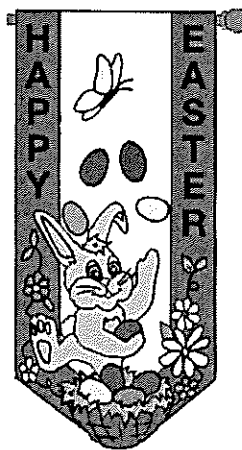
I've now been back in the Islands and in my old job for just over one month and, in many ways, it feels like I've never been away. The old adage about thinking the grass is greener on the other side of the fence has proved true once again – in my case the grass may have been literally greener in the UK than in the Falklands but not figuratively so. Put more succinctly – I'm very pleased to be back, although I have to say that I do miss not having my family with me.

What does this edition of the Wool Press have in store for you? Mac McArthur opens proceedings with an interesting article on the benefits of organic farming and the potential rewards. Ian Campbell has 2 articles – one on feed quality for ruminants, which follows on from his previous article in the last Wool Press and then a shorter article on meat quality. Many factors have an influence on how good a joint of meat is but how the animal is treated and handled in its last few hours of life can have a dramatic effect on the quality of the final product. It really does pay to handle the animals as quietly as possible and make their environment as stress free as you can. As for the marathon, I really think Ian should consider entering as I think he would cut an imposing figure – especially dressed in lycra!

In the rest of the magazine you can read the profiles of our new employees – OV Francesco Rossi, MHI Irma Vilimiene and AA Jim Robins. You can also read about West Lagoons Farm and an article on the importance of collecting skulls and bones from stranded whales and dolphins.

Happy reading,

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary officer



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CONSUMER DEMAND - KEY DRIVER FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

By Mac McArthur

Throughout the world there is increasing interest by consumers in buying organic food, clothing and other products including pet food. I learnt recently that there are three companies around the world that produce organic pet food, much of which is consumed by pampered pets in Japan.

Growing concern about climate change by consumers is forcing ecological and sustainable concepts such as 'clean and green', eco friendly and organically produced wool, cotton, meat and other agricultural products to be increasingly sought after. As a consequence, with relatively small quantities of all of these products available, premiums above normal prices are being paid both at the farm gate and throughout the processing and retail chains.

Recently the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) endorsed the organic food movement by stating that organic farming fights hunger, tackles climate change and is good for farmers, consumers and the environment. In the United States the organic market was worth US\$40 billion in 2006 and is expected to be worth US\$70 billion by 2012.

Organic Wool Production

Increasingly around the world wool producers who are fortunate enough to have grazing management systems that require little or no drenching of sheep, fertiliser use or dipping are having their systems internationally accredited as organic. A number of South American estancias and extensive grazing operations in Australia have converted to fully internationally accredited organic production of wool.

Potentially, wool is one of the most ecologically friendly of the textile fibres. Being naturally biodegradable, it doesn't require the pesticides or large amounts of water that cotton requires. It also requires relatively little energy to produce relative to petroleum based fibres. The opportunity for the production and marketing of wool for children's wear or for applications next to the skin such as sports clothing and doonas/duvets appeals to consumers making emotive purchases for children and gifts for friends. For many consumers it is increasingly important to them that products are made from sustainable resources in a way that is environmentally sound. Being a natural fibre that can be produced in the Falkland Islands without the use of chemicals there is an enormous opportunity for wool as a fibre that today's consumers can, and want to, believe in as a natural organic product.

In a recent review completed by Dr Kevin Byrne of the Woolmark Company, he predicted that in 5 years time world wide production of organic wool may not be more than 1.5 million kgs annually. Currently the estimated world wool production is approximately 1,574 million kgs so there is likely to be a niche market out there for increased amounts of Falkland Island internationally accredited, organic, fine micron wool.

In a recent review of wool marketing options comment was made that the market demand for organic wools is mainly for the finer apparel wools that are worn against the skin and it is common for premiums of around 6-10 per cent to be paid for these. Elders, a major seller of wool, promoted the first auctions of organic certified greasy wools during the 2006/07 season, generating global demand for these wools for which they claimed to have achieved premiums of between 5 and 15 per cent above the prices achieved for conventional wools of the same micron.

The Merino Company is supplying Marks and Spencer with 140 tonnes of 19.5 micron organic Merino wool which will be made into 11,000 organic wool garments likely to retail for around £30 each. One of the producers selling this wool, who runs sheep on extensive rangelands under an organic grazing system expected to receive a premium of 25 percent above that of traditionally produced wool.

Organic Beef Production

Although organic beef marketing has long lagged behind that of organic products of plant origin, it has grown considerably since the late 1990s, when the large retailers entered the market.

In Australia in 2000-2001 the value of the Australian certified organic beef was only \$32 million (farm-gate prices), with less than two thirds going to the organic market. By 2005 the estimated production had doubled to around \$60 million, with virtually all the produce being sold in the organic market. About three quarters of this is currently sold through the domestic market. Dominant export markets have moved from Japan and the UK to the USA. From 1992, Australia has had an official National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce. All products exported as organic must be certified according to at least the level of this standard by one of the organisations accredited by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

In Australia, beef is produced on both mixed and specialised properties. Some organic farmers and graziers never adopted the use of synthetic fertiliser and pesticides, and dealt with soil fertility and pest problems in other ways, such as through crop rotations, timing of farm activities, and through choice of seed and livestock. Most producers, however, converted from conventional to organic management and significant growth in the number of organic properties has occurred, especially over the past 10 years.

Although, originally, markets in Japan and the UK looked promising, the immediate future for expansion is more likely to be in the USA. The main reasons are that the Australian quota for beef imports into the USA, where demand is growing, is far higher than for the EU, and Australia is one of the few areas with the sanitary conditions (FMD-free) that permit exports to the USA.

Many observers tend to consider product premiums, quoted between 10 and 30 per cent to be the key to success. However, other factors such as total production and change in input prices also play a major role in the equation, and need to be carefully considered in any calculations to determine advisability of conversion to organic management. In the US only 0.11 per cent of the total beef cow herd was certified organic in 2005.

Conclusion

In the US organic farming has been one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors for more than a decade, however it still only accounts for 0.5 per cent of total US farmland. Only 0.07 per cent of the country's sheep and lambs were certified organic in 2005, however 6 per cent of carrot acreage, 4 per cent of lettuce acreage and 3 per cent of apples were certified organic.

With the increasing concern by consumers about products being 'clean, green', environmentally friendly and having minimum 'food miles' in their production to consumption transport there are some opportunities for sustainable premium prices for internationally certified organic products from the Falkland Islands.

The DoA is in the early stages of negotiating with an internationally accredited organisation to investigate the practicalities of introducing a practical and simple internationally accredited scheme for interested Falkland Island farmers to avail themselves of.



Certified organic wool can receive a significant price premium.

RUMINANT NUTRITION – FEED QUALITY ISSUES

By Ian Campbell

I said last issue that the three big issues in ruminant nutrition were:

- quantity of feed available
- quality of feed available
- requirements of the animal

and today I want to explore the issue of feed quality.

What is feed quality?

Food is eaten to provide protein and energy, plus extras like vitamins and minerals, for animals to survive and produce for us. The quality of the food refers to the levels of each of these nutrients in the food.

Energy is measured in Megajoules (MJ). We know that there is still some energy left in sheep and cattle faeces (they will burn for example) so we refer to Metabolisable Energy or ME as the amount of available energy in the food to the ruminant. As far as energy goes quality is a relative term with the poorest quality being a low MJ ME/kgDM (say 4) and the highest practical feed is about 10 for good forages and 13 for grains. One DSE equates to about 8 MJ ME so a grown wether needs 8 MJ/day and a lactating ewe 16-20 MJ/day.

Protein is measured as a percent of the ration. Low protein feeds like old dead grass are only a few percent, with the best green forages measuring into the high teens. Lupins and peas can be 25-35% protein. Being a percentage based measurement the actual protein requirement is a grams per day figure, but based upon normal intakes we can develop a few generalities.

Around 12-14% protein is considered adequate for growing lambs and milking cows, and dry mature stock will maintain themselves on protein levels of 7 or 8%. Pregnant stock lie somewhere in the mid range.

Digestibility

Another measure of feed quality is digestibility, measured as a percentage. Digestibility is perhaps the best single measure of quality. Digestibility relates to just that, the amount of the food able to be digested by the ruminant. Mathematically it can be calculated from energy and protein levels, but the best way to think of it is the difference in the energy in the food and the faeces produced from that food. Things like sugar and molasses are highly digestible, straw and sawdust are very low, mostly passing straight through.

Effect of quality on intake

Ruminants graze so long as they have space in the rumen to fill, and don't eat once it is full. The amount they eat, so long as enough is available, depends then on how quickly it is digested, and how quickly the finely ground undigested food moves out the other end. Another term for this is the rate of passage.

Low quality feeds have a slower rate of passage or a higher rumen retention time, this being the case for both low ME feeds or low protein feeds, and particularly so if both are low.

The impact of this is that sheep on poor quality feed will be not be able to eat the amount of feed required to meet their energy and protein requirements, and so lose weight, even though their bellies are full.

If a sheep eats 1 kg of 8MJ food per day it is maintaining itself. Once pregnancy kicks in then it needs 12MJ per day. It cannot eat 1.5 kg to get this, rather it needs to go onto better quality feed, say 1.2 kg of 10MJ feed, which it can now eat due to the increased rate of passage with the better feed.

To put it around the other way we can assess a pasture and say what classes of stock it will be suited to, maybe wethers but not lambing ewes.

Selective Grazing

Sheep are selective grazers. Given access to a varied pasture they will always seek out the more nutritious food. Leaves rather than stems, green rather than dry, clovers and fine grasses rather than other species, fresh shoots rather than old growth. Hence we see the sheep punishing the greens and only venturing into rough country once they get hungry. Such things make pasture assessment a difficult task.

The penalty for not reaching the nutritional requirement is weight loss. Weight loss is of course not sustainable, but depending on the initial condition of the animal it is a normal part of the annual farming cycle to manage.

READERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Lamb Weaning Results On Crutched Maiden Ewes

From Felicity Alazia, Port Edgar Farm

All our ewes except the old ones at the airstrip area are rotated through the year. So off shears they go onto saved wether type ground. Then into a small camp with the rams and then moved to larger saved ewe camp for the winter. In September we gather them home and the approximate number are spread around small improved pastured camps.

This was the first year we had joined our maiden Ewes at 2 1/2 years and as they had been shorn as shearlings early November 2007 were quite woolly by spring of 2008. Before spreading the Ewes into the reseed type camps we crutched all the maiden ewes that we brought home in the mob. 102 were crutched on 6th October, 7 appeared dry so were put into a white grass camp and the remaining 95 put into a reseed paddock of 61 ha. They started lambing mid October.

We found one dead in November, the remaining were sheared in early February. We had to cobalt them all at shearing on the board and so marked on a chart yes or no if it had reared a lamb. Of the 94, 66 had lambs and 28 not, plus the original 7 dry as not. We did the same with the next flock containing the uncrutched maidens.

We sheared 144 of which 54 had lambs and 90 had not. So taking a percentage of what was shorn with lambs the crutched group including 7 dry 66 divided by 101 = 65.34%. Not crutched group 54 divided by 144 = 37.50%.

We have now tagged 20 of each group to see if there is a knock-on effect next year in turns of experienced mothers rearing more lambs.



COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

Wool Corer and Grabber Machines

FIDC is looking for person/s interested in leasing the Wool Corer and Wool Grabbing machine which is due to arrive in early May. These machines will be installed next to the Double Dumper on FIPASS and commissioned ready for this coming season (September 2008).

FIDC would like to hear from interested parties who would be potentially interested in leasing these machines from FIDC.

For more information please contact Charlene Rowland at FIDC on 27211 or email: Charlene@fidc.co.fk during normal office hours.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation reserves the right to reject any tender received.

Tenders marked **Wool** should reach Charlene Rowland no later than 1500 hrs on 14th March 2008.



MARATHONS AND MEAT QUALITY

By Ian Campbell

The upcoming marathon reminds me of a biochemistry lecturer I once had who studied muscle metabolism in long distance athletes. They would run miles, and as soon as they stopped he would drive a huge needle into their thigh – "straight through the lycra" – to take a biopsy of the muscle. He was looking at glycogen and lactic acid production. Glycogen is muscle glucose, and when it is used up in some conditions it turns into lactic acid. The athletes call this starting to lactate, which sounds a bit weird. Its also why you get stiff muscles next day.

Glycogen is also present in sheep and cattle, and when they are slaughtered it turns to lactic acid when the animal is hung. The acid makes the meat more tender, and so acidity or pH is an important measure of meat quality.

That's why some of the best meat comes from quietly handled unstressed livestock, and some of the toughest meat comes from roughly handled and stressed livestock. The unstressed stock have plenty of glycogen, the stressed have used up their glycogen pre slaughter, and the lactic acid that may have been produced has all been further processed or excreted by the live animal.

I reckon it would be hard enough to get me to enter the marathon though, even now the biochemistry lecturer is long gone.

Official Veterinary Surgeon

Francesco Rossi

When I was offered the Official Veterinary position here in Falklands last October, I was in lovely Somerset in the UK. A mixture of thoughts were crossing my mind and I was really excited about starting this new experience.

Now I am here in this great place, although just for a short time, I do not regret my decision and I am really grateful to the DoA for the beautiful opportunity I have been given.

At this point you are probably asking yourself who is writing, so here we go, a little bit of my background:

My name is Francesco Rossi, I am Italian and I have a degree in Veterinary Science from the University of Bologna, Italy since 2003. After almost a year spent in the north of Italy gaining experience in clinic at work with cattle, I started my adventure in the UK where I spent three and half years working as Official Veterinary, Local Veterinary Inspector (Tb testing) and carrying out some clinical farm animals jobs with particular attention to cattle cases.

Now this job at Sand Bay abattoir is giving to me a daily opportunity to have a closer contact with all Falklands livestock; sort of a big window to the Falklands farm life, if you want.

There is just one thing I am really struggling with here: Newspapers - where are they? Could someone bring them here please.....

Meat Hygiene Inspector

Irma Vilimiene

Irma originates from Lithuania in East Europe. For a long time she has successfully worked in her native country as a veterinary surgeon, a veterinary inspector and as a civil servant.

In 2005 she moved to the UK and currently works for Grants Veterinary Services.

Irma took the position up in the Falklands because of her love of travelling and has always liked to take the opportunities that life can offer. Her hobbies include music, photography and travelling.

She has three daughters. The eldest, Ruta, is sixteen years old and the twins, Monika and Vaiva, are twelve years old. They attend a secondary school in Lithuania.



Irma Vilimiene and Francesco Rossi

THE NEW AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT

By Jim Robins

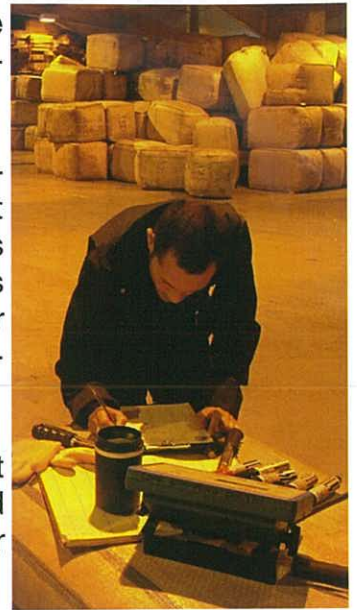
Having spent nine months in the Falkland Islands I've now taken up the role as Agricultural Assistant so here's a little bit of background about myself before I begin working with as many of you as possible.

I grew up in Northwest London until 2001 when I relocated to Southampton where I gained a degree in Biology. During this time I did every part time job imaginable including being a hospital porter, carting patients around, warehousing, waiting at functions, ground maintenance, odd jobs at a plastic factory and even a parking attendant at St Mary's Stadium for the Southampton football matches! All of this in between university, running a record label and putting on regular acoustic gigs around the city.

After graduating I moved on to spend three years as a learning support worker in day services and residential homes for adults with learning and physical disabilities, with a short spell as a project worker in a hostel for vulnerable adults, meeting some real characters along the way.

Having met my partner Jo Payne in Southampton, we decided to make the move to the Islands and arrived last May, and I ended up spending six months working at the police station. In my short time in the Islands I've become more and more enamoured with the place, people and way of life, even having the privilege of staying out at Steeple Jason with Falklands Conservation.

After a week working at the DoA I can safely say my limited knowledge of the ins and outs of agriculture in the islands has increased tenfold, still without even scratching the surface. I'm looking forward to learning as much as I can about agriculture and camp life in the Islands through the job. It will be a steep learning curve as my experiences within agriculture in the Islands are limited, but with my current knowledge and everything I'm going to be learning with each farm visit, I hope I will soon be of use to as many of you as possible and look forward to it.




Seen anything strange lately?!

DON'T LEAVE IT.....
OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

FARM IN PROFILE: WEST LAGOONS

Property Name: West Lagoons

Location: Hill Cove, West Falklands

Owners: Peter & Shelley Nightingale

Farm size: 6,961 ha

Sheep: 3,000

Cattle: 40

Peter & Shelley bought West Lagoons in 1987. Already living at Hill Cove when the farm was sold and subdivided, they thought they may as well stay and try for a piece of land..

Sheep farming

This is the main enterprise at West Lagoons, stocking Polwarth/Corriedale

crosses, which are fast becoming Multi Purpose Merino (MPM). They chose to follow the MPM (thin skin) breeding programme after attending a workshop in South America and seeing the dramatic changes and success in a country so similar to our own.

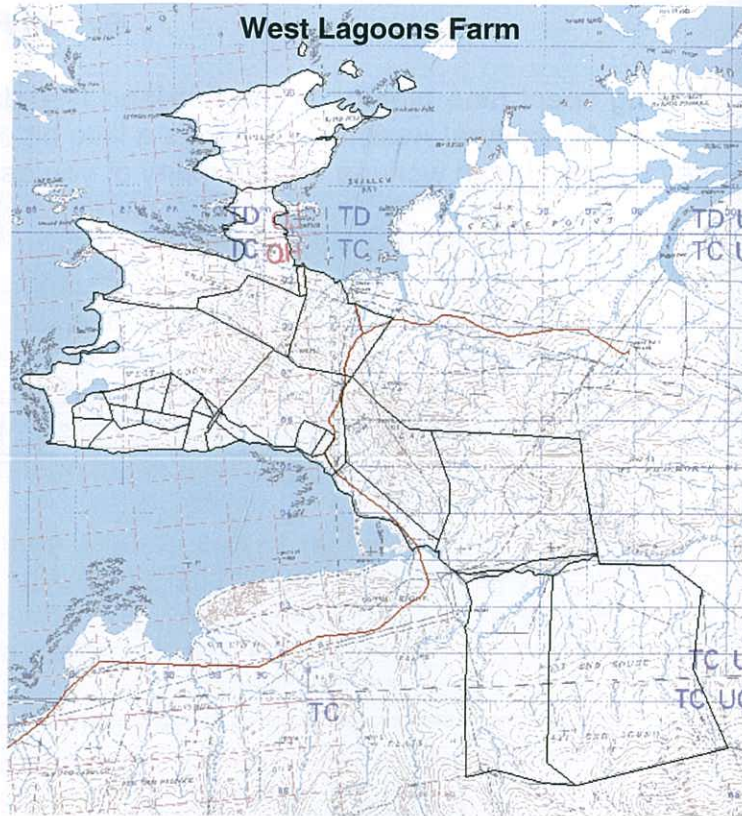
Peter and Shelley say their sheep are mainly bred for wool, but they are also working on a longer and meatier animal.

Improving the quality of sheep

The main change on West Lagoons has been to improve the quality of sheep on the farm. This is being achieved by classing all breeding animals each year, matching ewes and rams for best results.

Peter & Shelley have fast tracked this method by an intensive and large Artificial Insemination (AI) programme, involving 800 ewes per year.

They have also moved towards a more intensive grazing plan, which is improving the land by the 'hoof and tooth' method. They say that this is definitely working for them, as it is less



Peter with Skippy & Lexi



Tim helping out with the lamb marking

expensive than planting reseed and a larger number of sheep can be grazed in a smaller area.

The future

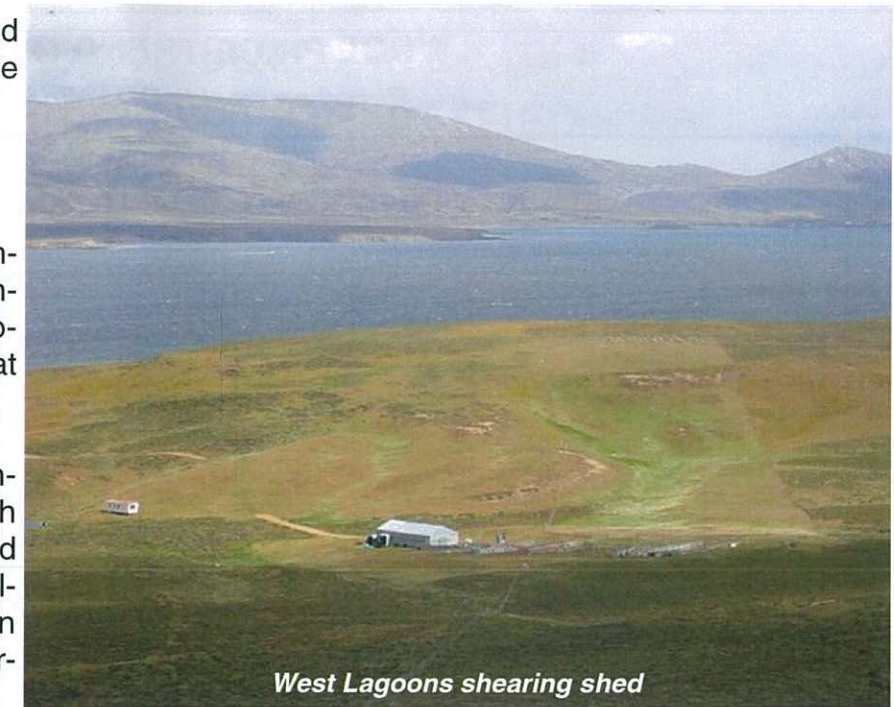
They are hoping to build sheep numbers back up to 5,000, primarily running breeding ewes, with lambs going to the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo).

In five/ten years time, the Nightingales are aiming for a softer high quality wool and better framed sheep, along with a better bank balance! They believe that farming in the Falklands has to change to survive in the modern world.

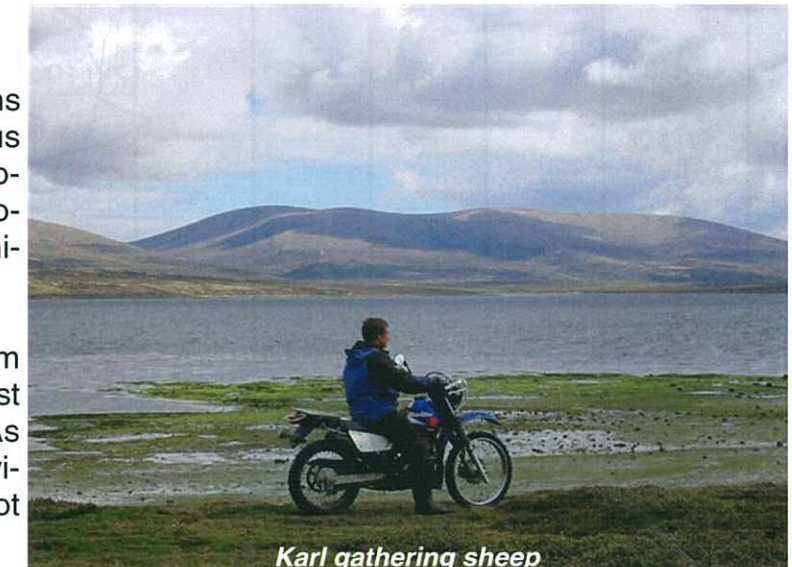
Cattle and tourism

Along with sheep farming, West Lagoons also stock cattle of the Aberdeen Angus breed crossed with Red Pols. They are producing beef for their own use at the moment, but hope in the future to provide animals for sale to FIMCo.

Peter & Shelley also run a small tourism business, providing farm holidays and West tours for around 30 visitors each year. As they have to fit these around farming activities they prefer to take guests only when not too busy on the farm.

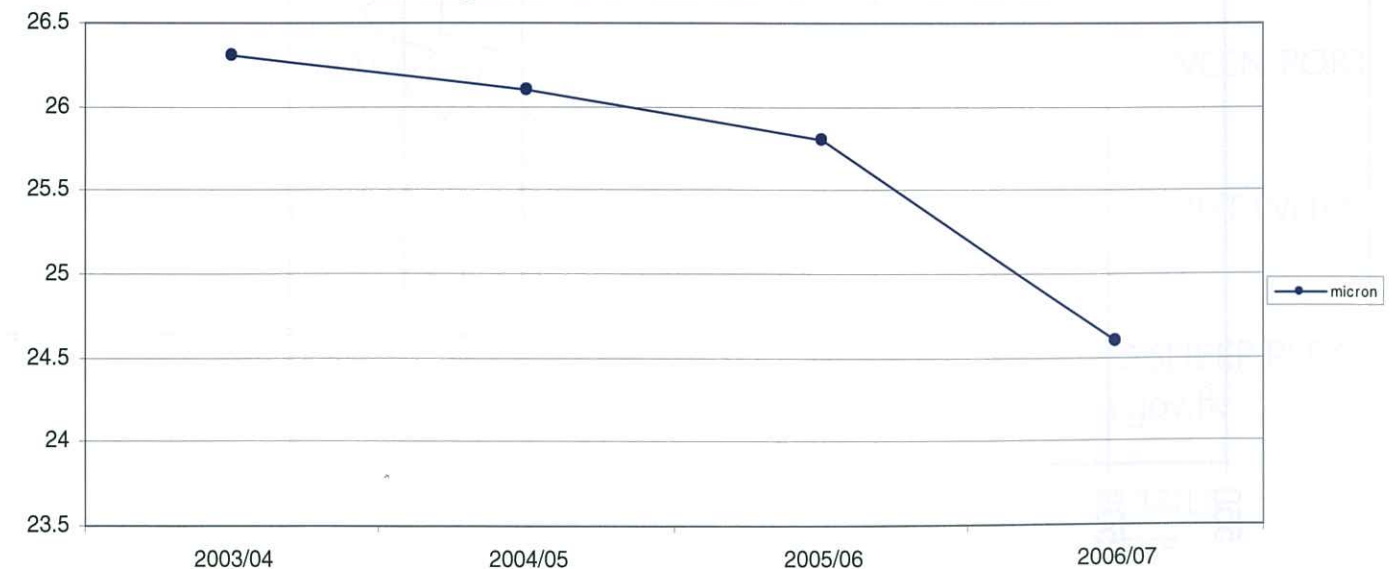


West Lagoons shearing shed



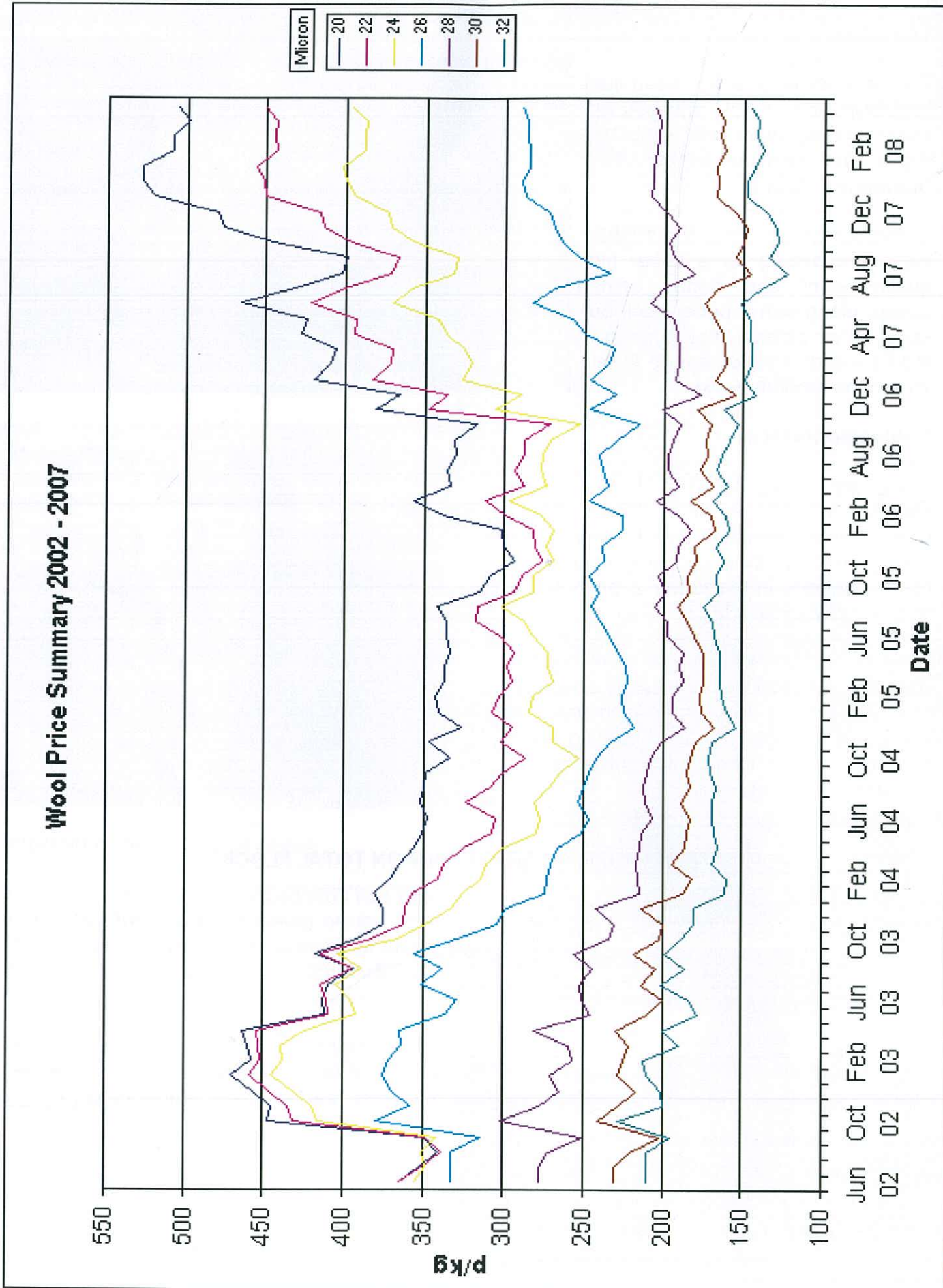
Karl gathering sheep

West Lagoons AVERAGE MICRON TOTAL FLOCK



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



RAM AND BULL SALE GOOSE GREEN SHEARING SHED WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2008

STOCK FOR SALE:

POLWARTH NATIONAL STUD FLOCK SHEARLING RAMS

CORRIEDALE STUD FLOCK SHEARLING RAMS

2 X E.T ANGUS BULLS

PRIVATELY OWNED SHEEP

PLUS:

EXHIBITION SHEEP

BARBEQUE BEFORE AND DURING SALE

HOT AND COLD DRINKS

SALE DETAILS:

SHEEP AND BULL INSPECTION TO COMMENCE AT 8.00 AM

SHEEP AND BULL SALE TO COMMENCE AT 11.00 AM

TAMAR FI TO CARRY WEST SALE PARTICIPANTS AND STOCK BETWEEN PORT HOWARD AND NEW HAVEN AND BACK

SALE CATALOGUES ARE BEING FINALISED AND WILL BE POSTED OUT WHEN COMPLETED

ALL PERSONS WISHING TO EXHIBIT OR SELL PRIVATELY OWNED SHEEP PLEASE CONTACT LUCY ELLIS ON 27355 OR E-MAIL lellis@doa.gov.fk

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND ALL SALE ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE DOA ON TELEPHONE 27355

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES

The Department of Agriculture is running a series of update meetings to which all interested people are invited to attend.

Where and when:

San Carlos (Kingsford Valley)	Monday 10th March	1:00 pm
Fox Bay (Social Club)	Tuesday 11th March	1:00 pm
Hill Cove (Social Club)	Wednesday 12th March	1:00 pm
Stanley (Chamber of Commerce)	Thursday 13th March	2:00 pm

Topics we intend to cover:

- The PIP scheme - new rules and regulations
- DOA and genetic improvement schemes
- Jim Gerrish workshops
- Organic farming schemes
- What's happening with pool machinery
- Mid side sampling and costs
- Farm Labour Scheme

There will also be time for open questions on any matter relevant to the Department of Agriculture.

Attending the session from the department will be Mac McArthur, Andy Pollard and Ian Campbell. Peter Johnson will be present at San Carlos only.

For more information, please contact us on telephone 27355 or email one of the agricultural advisors.



NOTICE FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY

Darwin Shipping Ltd is pleased to advise all customers we will be taking wool North on voyage 720. Closing date for receipt of wool is Friday 21st March 2008. This sailing will replace the April sailing originally advised. For further information contact Andy Watson on 27629.

DoA AND OTHERS TO THE RESCUE

By Mac McArthur

On a recent Saturday a convoy of adventurers drove out to Volunteer Point to test their off-road driving skills and observe the penguins.

Having enjoyed a great lunch, it was time to brave the breeze and venture out to enjoy the penguins and the scenery. Having watched and photographed the King and Magellanic penguins from outside the white stone no-go areas for some time, an intrepid group decided to check out the penguins on the beach.

Braving the strong wind and stinging sand, the intrepid five ventured onto the beach a safe distance from the penguins. Two vets in the group noticed a penguin with part of a ring top aluminium can stuck fast on its beak. A decision was quickly made to try and catch the penguin and release it from its debilitating appendage.

The penguin despite probably having not fed for some time was no slug and after a short chase was captured and the offending can top removed from its beak and it headed out to sea for its first feed for some time.

Meanwhile a very agile Pat Short had been watching from his Rover and was striding down the sand dunes, blue eyes flashing to accost the penguin hasslers. Fortunately the evidence of the removed part can immediately calmed Pat and he was pleased about the action the group took.

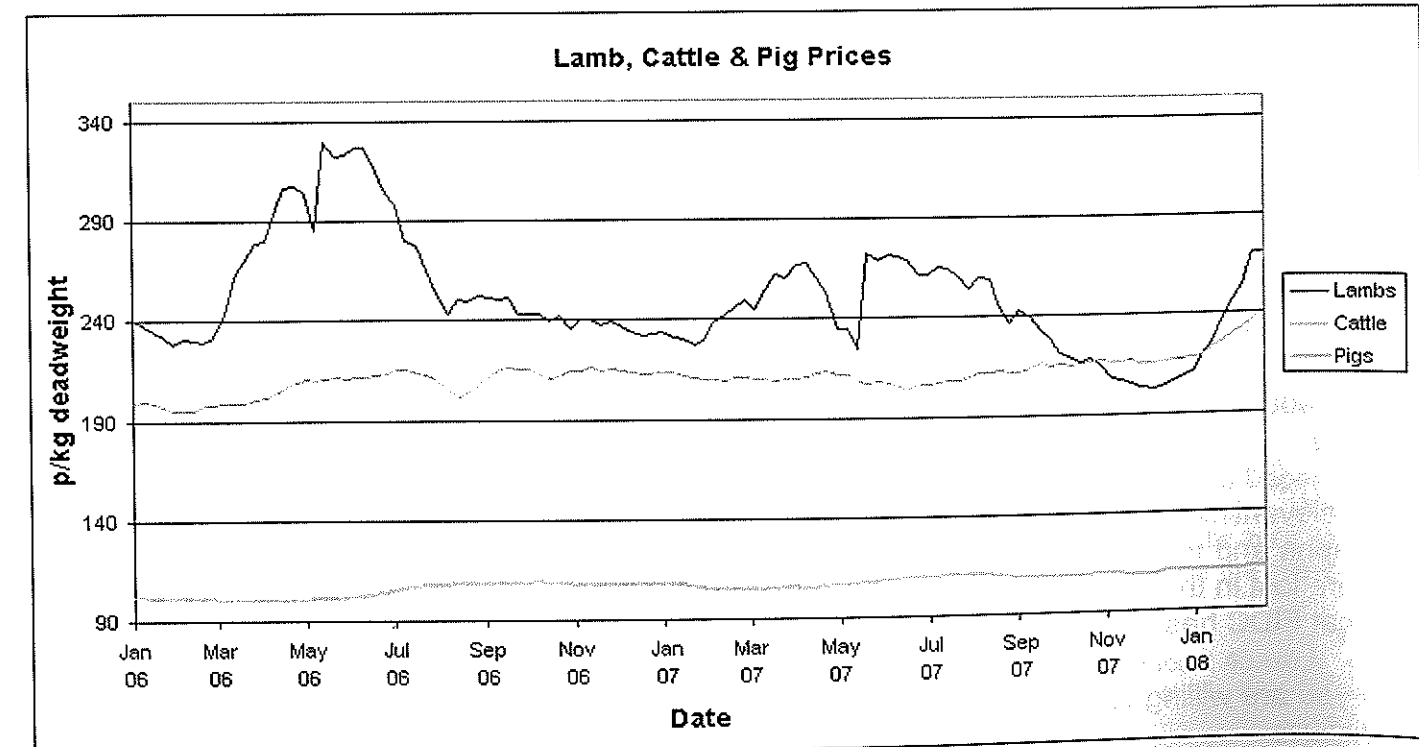
Pat was all fired up because very recently people had chased and kicked penguins at Volunteer Point. Isn't it great to see the effort that people like Pat are putting in to ensure that our wildlife is protected and respected?



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.



RBA SHEEP SHOW 2008

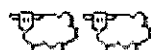
Rural Business Association Sheep Show 2008 to be held on the 12th of April hosted by Fitzroy Farm.



Please find below a list of Classes:

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

All entries should be sent to SeAled Pr, Brandon Road, Stanley no later than 28th of March. sealedpr@horizon.co.fk or fax: 222432



FARMERS WEEK 2008

The Rural Business Association would like to announce the dates for Farmers Week:

7th to 11th July 2008



FIDC is planning to celebrate 25 years of business at the end of May over a 3 day period. Due to staff changes, corporate memory gets eroded over time. We are trying to gain a wide picture of what FIDC has been up to over the 25 years and asking businesses and key people to contribute to this initiative.

We would be pleased if you could contribute, especially if FIDC has been involved with your business.

If relevant we would appreciate a general overview of your business and any interesting photographs and tangible products that could be shown. Most of our earlier records and photographs were lost in the '97 fire. We intend that FIDC will be open to the general public and schools to see what FIDC has tackled over the years.

If you are willing to help us please contact me at FIDC on 27211 or email; charlene@fidc.co.fk to discuss.

Q. HOW TO STUDY DOLPHINS? A. FIND A SKULL!

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

The recent find of the very rare Andrew's beaked whale on Pleasant Road, Fitzroy Farm in mid February by Alan Henry and Micky Reeves brings the number of known whale and dolphin stranding events in the Falkland Islands to just over 150 separate incidences. The records were collated by Helen Otley, primarily during 2006, through collecting written records in newspapers, newsletters, books and talking to farmers and landowners, young and old.

The earliest known record of a whale or dolphin found on the coastlines of the Falklands is that of a rare strap-toothed beaked whale found in 1875 on Bleaker Island and deposited in the British Museum of Natural History. According to Helen, the true number of stranding events and cetaceans that have died naturally and washed ashore could be far higher than the events that people can remember. "There are so many coastlines and un-inhabited islands that we probably only find half the specimens with enough bones left for identification," Helen explains.

Most of the records are of pilot whales and sperm whales, with the occasional dolphin, sei whale and beaked whale. There are records of up to 500 pilot whales stranding together at some sites and interestingly, blue whales were reported washed ashore in the Falklands until about the 1950s but not since. The huge number of records only further demonstrates that the Falklands is important to many species of dolphin and whale, including many species that have never actually been sighted at sea in our waters.

Helen explains that the beaked whales are a good example. "About three people have probably seen beaked whales swimming in the waters of the Falklands. Beaked whales are about the rarest of the cetacean families, with some species like Andrew's beaked whale only known from a few stranded individuals." But from the identification of specimens and skulls found at a number of locations, including Cow Bay, Saunders Island, Keppel Island, Fox Bay and now Pleasant Roads, as well as specimens deposited in museums around the world, Helen has documented a total of 34 records of seven different beaked whale species. Many of the beaked whale records come from John Smith, who has had a fascination for this type of whale since the 1970s, and has a skull collection to rival any half decent national museum anywhere in the world.

The skulls and bones found around our shores are now providing one of the only easy and non-invasive ways to study the biology of whales and dolphins. Fast moving, diving marine mammals are difficult to study; they don't show much of themselves each time they surface, they can not easily be captured or their underwater behaviour recorded. But according to Helen, we can actually easily learn a lot about their behaviour by their skull and it explains why naturalists like John Smith and Ian Strange have kept as many skulls as they could find and store.

Increasingly whale scientists are interested in how far cetaceans roam and whether populations are isolated or extend across vast areas of the ocean. These relationship-type questions are answered by analysing the genetics of many individuals from different places across the known distribution. The best analysis comes from using a fresh tissue sample, often collected using a biopsy dart that is fired from an air gun. This invasive method has its own small but inherent risks of disturbance or injury to the dolphin. But to avoid the need to biopsy whales and dolphins, samples can actually be taken from skulls, particularly from teeth where remnant DNA can be located.

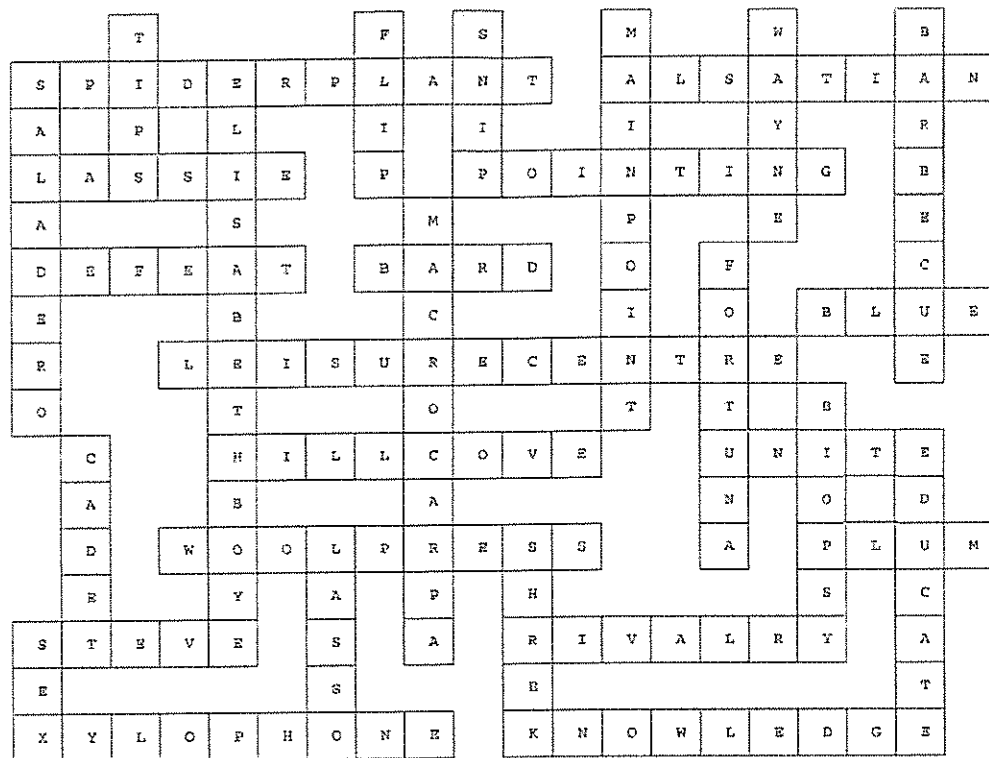
From the 100 or so whale and dolphin records collected that are not pilot whales, the skull is available for a small handful of them. "The Fisheries Department has collected sufficient samples from stranded pilot whales but DNA samples from the Falklands are required for all other species," says Helen. Indeed, the Environmental Planning Department has received a number of requests for samples of Commerson's dolphins and Peale's dolphin.

Commerson's dolphins and Peale's dolphin are only found in southern South America and if our dolphins are isolated from South America, then we need to be extra careful about protecting them because they are unique. "To determine how far our dolphins range, we need samples to testing. If we can supply DNA samples from the tissue of recently deceased dolphins or from skulls, this avoids even the need to consider whether remote biopsy darting is appropriate," she explains.

If you find a whale or dolphin that has just recently died, please contact the Environmental Planning Department or Falklands Conservation to get advice about how to preserve the specimen and collect tissue samples. Helen also advises that as well, Falklands biologists are seeking to obtain a bone sample from any dolphin skulls, be it a skull on a beach or in your front garden. "The bone fragment necessary for DNA analysis needs only to be the shavings obtained from a small drill hole, so the skull is not damaged or destroyed."

A dolphin skull will be about 30 to 40 cm in length, whilst the skull of a pilot whale will be at least 40 cm in length. Please contact Helen Otley on 27390 or send an email with a photo of the skull if possible to hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk

Crossword



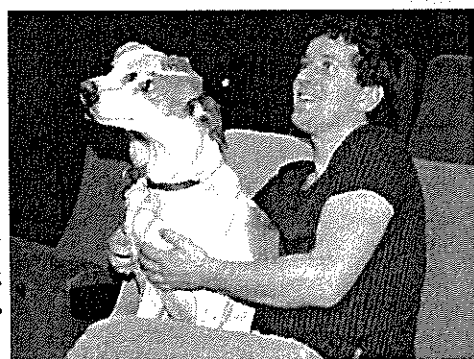
BRAINTEASER

The base word is Startling - starting - staring - string - sting - sing - sin - in - I

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

An Austrian cinema is letting movie-goers take their pet dogs to films with them in a bid to lure more customers. The Admiral cinema in Vienna has been struggling against competition from new multiplex cinemas which have been built nearby. So cinema bosses have started a monthly Doggy Day in a bid to offer something different from their brash modern rivals.



Visitors pay £4 for a ticket while their pet pooch can go in for free and are given a blanket to snuggle up on in their seats, as well as water and popcorn. A spokesman said: "The only thing different from a normal movie showing is that, on the insistence of local veterinary authorities, the volume levels for the films are turned down a bit so as not to hurt the animals' ears."

Thomas Feldinger, 24, who has already attended one of the doggy days with his pet Labrador Hanjo, said: "It's a great idea. Hanjo loved it in there and so did all the other dogs. "I thought they might all make a noise and bark through the films but once the film started going they all settled down in their blankets and watched quietly."

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 26th March (Droncit)

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

Easter Recipe Page

Recipes from Sainsburys.co.uk

EASTER HOT CROSS BUNS, FRUIT AND YOGURT BREAKFAST

A special breakfast

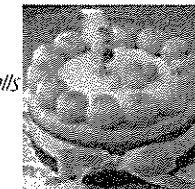
- Ingredients
 3 medium size eggs, beaten
 150ml milk
 pack of 4 hot cross buns
 10g butter
 2 peaches, nectarines or kiwi fruit, sliced
 50g each black and white seedless grapes
 125g strawberries, hulled
 2 bananas, peeled and sliced
 300g tub natural Greek yogurt
 15ml spoon clear honey (optional)



Beat together the egg and milk in a bowl. Add the hot cross buns and leave to soak up the egg mixture, turning occasionally to evenly coat. Heat the butter in a frying pan, add the hot cross buns and fry for 1-2 minutes each side until evenly golden. Remove from the pan and cut into squares. Divide the fruit and yogurt between 6 serving dishes, top with the hot cross bun squares and drizzle over the honey if using.

SIMNEL CAKE

A traditional Easter Sunday cake with twelve balls on top representing the Apostles



Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cake | Almond Paste |
| 200g plain flour | 350g ground almonds |
| 2 x 5ml spoons ground mixed spice | 75g icing sugar |
| 175g butter or margarine | 75g caster sugar |
| 175g brown sugar | 1 large size egg |
| grated rind of 1 orange | 2 x 5ml spoons lemon juice |
| 4 medium size eggs | 4 drops almond essence |
| 175g currants | 15ml spoon warmed, sieved apricot jam |
| 175g sultanas | Alternatively |
| 175g raisins | 454g pack ready-to-use marzipan |
| 75g glace cherries, quartered | |
| 50g mixed peel | |

Grease a 19cm cake tin and line the base and sides with a double layer of greased greaseproof paper. Tie a thick band of brown paper around the side of the tin and stand it on a pad of brown paper on a baking sheet. If making the almond paste: Mix the almonds and sugar together, add the egg, lemon juice and essence and mix to a smooth pliable paste and roll out one quarter into a 19cm circle. Preheat the oven to 160°C, 325°F, Gas Mark 3. Make the cake.

Sift the flour and spice together. Cream the fat, sugar and orange rind together until lightly and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, adding a large spoon of flour with the last two. Fold in the remaining flour and the fruit until thoroughly mixed. Place half the cake mixture in the prepared tin, lay the circle of almond paste or marzipan on top and press down lightly. Place the remaining cake mixture on top and smooth the surface.

Bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour, then lower the temperature to 150°C, 300°F, Gas Mark 2 and bake for a further 2½ hours or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn onto a wire rack to cool. Roll out one third of the remaining almond paste or marzipan into a circle to fit the top of the cake. Brush the cake with apricot jam and press the paste into place. Shape the remaining paste or marzipan into small balls and arrange around the top of the cake. Place under a hot grill to brown the balls.

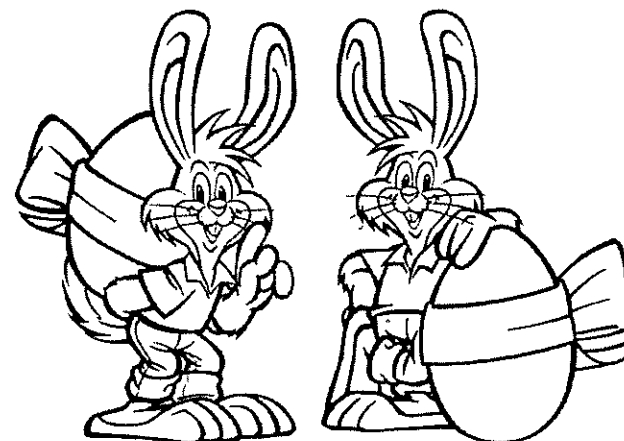
Tie a yellow ribbon round the cake and decorate as liked, with sweet eggs.

EASTER LAMB CASSEROLE

A full flavoured lamb casserole with vegetables in a delicious gravy.

- Ingredients
 1 x 15ml spoon olive oil
 750g lamb neck fillet, sliced or a 750g bag frozen lean diced lamb, defrosted
 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
 400g can chopped tomatoes
 1 lamb stock cube made up to 500ml with boiling water
 580g pack Chantenay or standard carrots, topped, tailed and diced
 small butternut squash peeled, deseeded and diced (optional)
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 1 x 15ml spoon gravy granules
 20g pack flat-leaf parsley, chopped

Heat the oil in a flameproof casserole or heavy based saucepan. Add the lamb and onion and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally until evenly golden. Add the tomatoes and stock, cover and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the carrots, squash if using, seasoning and gravy granules, and cook for a further 30-40 minutes, or until the lamb is tender. Stir half the parsley into the casserole, and sprinkle the rest over the lamb just before serving.



Easter Sunday 2008

Sunday 23rd March

PUZZLE PAGE

Can you locate the twenty seven government departments contained in this word search?

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

And if you've found the word search too easy for you, then why not attempt our brainteaser?

Brainteaser

The combined ages of Robert and David are 44, and Robert is twice as old as David was when Robert was half as old as David will be when David is three times as old as Robert was when Robert was three times as old as David. Whew!!!! What a mouthful.

How old is Robert?

HINT the answer is not a whole number.

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sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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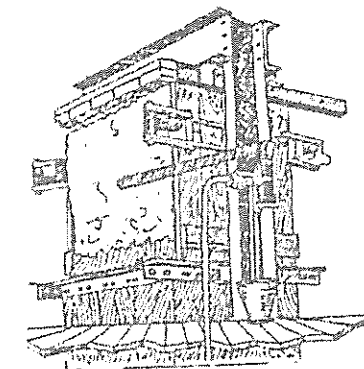
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EDITORIAL

It was excellent to encounter such a large number of farmers at the Ram and Bull sale held in the Goose Green wool shed the other day. The discussions were wide ranging with farmers from East and West exchanging views on how the season has gone in their part of the Islands. Being able to talk to farmers face to face is also always helpful for department staff. Best of all, the entire stock of rams was sold as well as a bull! You will find more details on the sale in Sian and Lucy's article. Thank you to everyone who came along on the day.

Peter Johnson's article on the results from the wether trials is compulsory reading for all wool and meat producers. His account includes the money made from the sale of the carcasses as well as the wool. As Peter comments, genetics makes a difference to the bottom line and choices need to be made as to what type of animal grows the best on your farm. Teeth in wear is highlighted in the trial results and one of Ian Campbell's articles in this publication discusses the issues of new and old lamb production. Please take time to read it.

Ian has been busy this month! He has written a number of interesting pieces that relate to the wether trails. One of his articles reminds us to make good use of information on wool certificates in order to monitor the change to wool quality over time. So dig out those certificates from the shoe box this winter and have a good read!

A big thank you to Philip and Sheena Miller for their farm profile this month. The work they are doing at Cape Dolphin is a credit to them.

Welcome to Lucinda Lowe, our laboratory assistant. We are pleased to be able to employ another young Islander in the department.

Good luck with your entries for the RBA Sheep Show on Saturday 12 April. See you there.

Regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

Please note that due to space restrictions on the colour pages, the graph depicting Wool Trend Over Time has been printed in black and white. Please contact the Department of Agriculture if you wish for a colour copy to be sent to you.

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

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

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HOW VALUABLE IS BREEDING TECHNOLOGY?

By Ian Campbell

The costs of artificial insemination and embryo transfer are pretty substantial, but what are the benefits?

Firstly I must state the obvious. Such techniques are only ever a means to an end, they are not the end itself. In my view a successful ET or AI programme is not defined by percentages born, conceived or whatever but by how did it help us reach our genetic goal.

Artificial Insemination has the potential to use a ram of vastly superior genetic merit, over a large number of ewes. Mind you rams themselves have the ability to spread their genetic merit over a large number of ewes as well, so we would use AI only if:

- The ram had proven genetic worth
- We had no direct access to the ram for some reason or
- We want to mate more than 60 or so ewes to the ram

Embryo transfer is a slightly different situation. In the case of a ewe by natural mating she may only ever produce at most 6 or so lambs, usually less, over her lifetime. By inducing her to multiple ovulate and placing embryos in surrogate ewes we can make her genetic influence far greater. Once again to justify the expense, and it is far greater than AI, she must have proven genetic worth.

So it all boils down to genetic worth. Just what defines genetic worth is defined by the goals of the individual business. If you want fine wool with heavy wool cuts, or you want growth and size, or probably all of the above, then an outstanding individual may be worth the expense.

All animal breeders should have a clearly defined genetic goal for their stock. The genetic goal should aim to quantify where your flock or herd is heading and should put figures on factors like wool cut, micron, frame size, growth rate, no spots and everything you feel is important to your business.

When you chose a sire from an outside source ask them what their genetic goals are. Do they match with yours, if not look elsewhere.

For AI or ET to be justified then the individual animal you are using must be superb in traits for that goal, and using that animal must make it much quicker for the future flock to move towards the goal.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 7th May (Droncit)

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

THE FARM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME & POOL MACHINERY

By Mac McArthur

Farm Improvement Programme (FIP)

During a recent Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, changing the name of the Pasture Improvement Programme was discussed and agreed.

It was felt that the title of "Farm Improvement Programme" would be more appropriate as this would better reflect the purpose of the scheme which has expanded to include, as well as pasture improvement, the genetic improvement of sheep and fencing to assist with managed grazing.

Although there has been a change to the name of the scheme, this does not bring about any change in the way the programme will be run.

Pool Machinery

Pool Machinery contracts are due to end in September this year. Farmers and contractors are encouraged to express their views in writing **as soon as possible** to the contact details below.

If you have any queries, concerns or wish to comment about either of these issues, please contact Andrew Pollard on telephone 27355 or email apollard@doa.gov.fk or speak to any of the Agricultural Advisors or me.



ET/AI PROGRAMME FOR 2008 UPDATE

By Peter Johnson

The DOA will be coordinating an embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) programme for the Falkland Islands again this year.

The programme will run for six weeks starting in mid May, with the work being carried out by Michylla Seal from Allstock Western Australia. Michylla is an experienced veterinarian and has had exceptional results in previous years that she has carried out work in the Falklands.

The main work being carried out this year is insemination and flushing of the Polwarth National Stud Flock, and the DOA joint venture Dohne and SAMM flocks.

Work on private farms under the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIP) includes ET of Dohne, SAMM and Bond genetics, as well as laparoscopic AI of Multi Purpose Merino (MPM) and straight Merino sheep.

The work will be carried out on East and West Falkland as well as on one of the Islands.

ORGANIC LAMB

By Ian Campbell

For the last Wool Press Mac McArthur wrote an article about organic farming, concentrating mostly on wool and beef. This month I want to discuss organic lamb.

To be sold as Certified Organic Lamb there must be a number of things happen. Firstly the lamb must be born and raised on a Certified Organic farm, then transported, processed and packed in an organically accredited manner.

Worldwide the demand and production of organic products in general, and organic meat in particular, is growing at an increasing rate. Organics is the fastest growing food sector in the world and is currently worth US\$27 billion.

In Australia there is currently a demand for 200,000 organic lamb carcasses on the domestic market and a further demand of 200,000 carcasses for export each year. Processors are frustrated because they are not instantly available, and those producers that have them available are receiving up to a 25- 30% premium in some cases.

Going organic means making sacrifices, and keeping very good records which are audited on a regular basis. Such costs to the business should be rewarded by a premium. The quoting of premiums for organic products though is a difficult issue.

If there is a premium quoted then we must assume the quality is equally as good as the conventionally produced product. Often it is difficult to compare prices because the products may differ in quality, and sometimes organic product may be of inferior quality.

Being able to produce organic lamb without sacrificing quality is often an issue in Australia. Conventional systems in Australia are based upon pastures that need fertiliser and ewes and lambs that may suffer internal and external parasites unless treated, and this can sometimes present problems for organic farming systems.

As a result a lot of the current organic sheep systems are extensive, either by design, or in those areas where agriculture is naturally extensive due to the climate or environment.

In some of the higher production areas organic farmers are diversifying, using the old crop rotation principles to prevent livestock diseases and raising a number of types of livestock and perhaps cropping. Hence they are limited in their ability to produce large amounts of lamb, but they may also produce beef, alpaca, some crops or hay etc.

The second type of farmer is much more analogous the Falkland Islands situation. Due in their case to very low and unreliable rainfall, and poor soils, farms in these areas are large, with little input, and so can become organic almost by default.

These people have stopped using whatever synthetic inputs they were using in order to achieve organic status. This is actually where a lot of the Australian organic lamb, and wool for that matter, is being sourced. They are specialty growers, but in extensive systems.

Organic agricultural systems, and in particular marketing systems, are a big priority for us in the Falkland Islands and the market indicators are that this is a very sound direction in which to be heading.

NEW OR OLD SEASON LAMB – THE ISSUES

By Ian Campbell

New season lamb is born in spring and processed in the following summer or autumn. If it is held onto through winter and processed the following summer then it is old season lamb. The obvious issue is the lamb or hogget debate, but there are a number of other issues as well.

So lets talk teeth in wear. There is a risk with old lamb in that they somewhat variably begin to show teeth in wear. From a marketing point of view they go from lamb to mutton. From a price point of view from £20 to £0 for a 14.5 kg. That's the FIMCO price and the most extreme difference, but we all know it- take it or leave it. There are also some accreditation issues relating to this that may make it even tougher in the future if we need to go to teeth erupted rather than teeth in wear.

Now if that argument is not compelling enough we need to consider the bigger picture. Lambs are kept presumably because they don't make the weight, or perhaps with shearing etc people are too busy to get them in and off. Either way what happens from now on is that they start to lose weight and they need to regain this, and more, to be sold as old season lamb.

Keeping weight up is critical and that means putting them onto a pretty good camp. Effectively these sheep are getting some of the good stuff the mothers of the next crop should be getting. Those ewes are a bit poorer when they lamb, produce less, smaller lambs and less milk, and then you have left over lambs again next year. A self perpetuating cycle that some how you need to bust out of.

Selling mostly new season lamb takes planning. Starting at ewe management over winter. Good lambing and early lamb growth, good weaning management and a good finishing system. On top of that you need good labour allocation to the jobs that will return the most money. Yes it is a busy time of year and sound planning and good time management of the available labour is critical.

To me selling new season lambs was partly for, admittedly, the Scrooge like pleasure in the money coming in, but also the delight in the knowledge that I was reducing my stocking rate at a critical time when I knew things were about to get tough. It seems to me the same happens here- even more so.

Chicken and pig breeders buy in all their food and it is a direct cost. They know how much feed converts into meat. For lamb farmers feed is an indirect cost, but a cost none the less. A new season lamb might eat on average one kg per day for 150 days to produce 15 kg of carcass. A ratio of 10:1. An old season lamb might eat on average 0.8 kg per day for 400 days to produce a 16 kg carcass, a ratio of 20:1.

The same amount of feed can produce 2 new season lambs or 1 old season lamb!

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THOSE OLD WOOL CERTIFICATES...

By Ian Campbell

Wool Certificates are made up so the buyer can understand the attributes of your wool, and give you an appropriate price. They also provide you with some wonderful feedback, and we all know how hard it is to get feedback in extensive agricultural systems. Having a number of certificates over the years is wonderful for benchmarking the farm business.

For starters work out how much clean fleece you produced if they haven't done this for you. How is this changing over the years? You could even work it out on a per hectare basis, or a *la Jim Gerrish* per hectare for different paddocks.

Elsewhere in this issue I speak about having a genetic goal for your flock, including as well as other things your ideal fibre diameter and wool cut per head. Coincidentally I see the Island Plan also has set a goal of an average of 24.75µ for all Falkland Islands wool by 2009.

As your wool testing certificates come in you will see a number of different microns recorded for the different lines. In order to get one single average you will need to do what in statistical terms is called a weighted average. The weight of each line times the micron, added together and divided by the weight of all shorn wool will give your average micron for the year. You can also work out your average wool cut.

Example (500 sheep)	Workings
1000 kg AAA at 22 µ	22000
800 kg BBB at 24 µ	19200
200 kg PCS at 21 µ	4200
150Kg BLS at 22 µ	3300
50 kg LKS untested (assume 23 µ)	1150
Total	2200 kg/500 = 4.4 kg/head
	49850/2200 = 22.6 µ

Average wool cut and micron are interesting figures, look over the last few years, are they changing? Do you want them to change? Are they changing the way you would like? Is the change due to environmental or genetic reasons?

Of course then comes the big question.

Have the genetic decisions you have been making the last few years been paying off?

If you would like help to analyse your wool certificates, please feel free to ask DOA staff. Next issue I will talk about other interesting calculations from wool certificates.

LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

Next month (early May) we will be sending out the annual Livestock Ordinance Forms, which you have a legal obligation to complete and return to the Department of Agriculture by 30th June each year.

If for any reason you will be out of the Islands during this period, then please contact us as soon as possible and we will send you a form now to be completed and returned.

Please contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk for a form or further information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Failure to complete and return this form by 30 June 2008 can, under Livestock Ordinance, Section 20, result in a fine of £200 per day for each day overdue.

RAM & BULL SALE 2008

By Siân Ferguson & Lucy Ellis

The annual Department of Agriculture livestock sale was an exciting affair this year, attracting over 90 people and for the first time in recent years, including cattle on the list of animals for auction. Nineteen brave souls came across from the West on the Tamar and a large crowd attended from all over the East.

As with previous years, the event was held in the Goose Green shearing shed and took place on Wednesday 19th March.

All of the 83 Polwarth Shearling National Stud Flock rams were sold at auction with one attracting a bid of £260. The 28 Corriedale Shearling National Stud Flock Rams listed were all sold and of the 16 Mature NSF Polwarth Rams available, only six animals didn't attract any bids. These were later allocated to farmers through the Farm Improvement Programme (formerly known as the Pasture Improvement Programme).

Two Angus bulls from Saladero were brought along to Goose Green for the sale, one sold for £350 to a West Falkland farmer. Excluding animals allocated through FIP, sheep and bulls were sold through the Helmsman Auction method.

With all rams being sold there is a great dispersal of genetics to a wide range of farms in the Islands. Also, genetic gain will be achieved by the farm that purchased one of the two Angus Bulls.

Also, there were numerous exhibition sheep for people to look at, mainly exhibited from Goose Green – SAMM crossbreds, Dohne crossbreds, Cormo's, Corriedales and pure-bred SAMMs. Attracting a lot of attention were the 2 Afrino rams that Ali and Marlane generously brought across from Shallow Harbour.

Despite the rain and thunder, it was a very successful event. The Department of Agriculture would like to particularly thank John and Viv Hobman, Brian and everyone at Goose Green for all their assistance both before and during the sale, the crew of the Tamar FI for carrying West farmers and sheep. Also Port Howard Farm for their help with loading/unloading sheep on the West and all the DoA staff involved for organising this popular event in the farming calendar, especially Glynis and Katrina for running the barbecue all day. Finally, a big thank you to everyone who turned up on the day to bid for sheep and cattle or just to have a day out.

Seen anything strange lately?!

DON'T LEAVE IT..... OR SHOOT IT

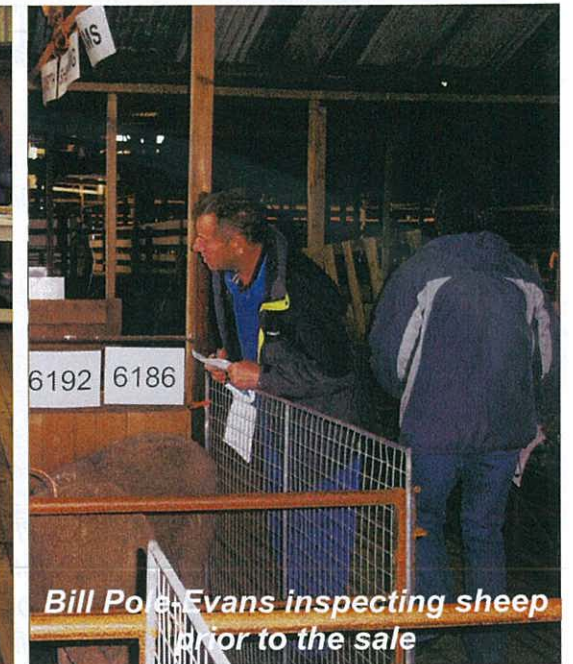
Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366



ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

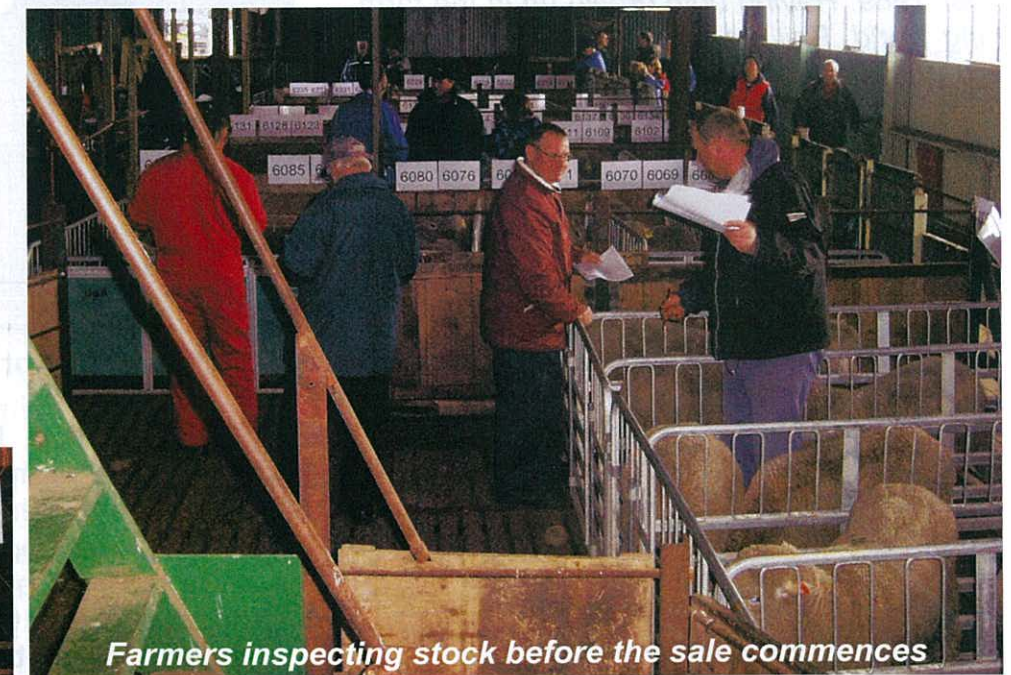


Farmers during the Helmsman Auction

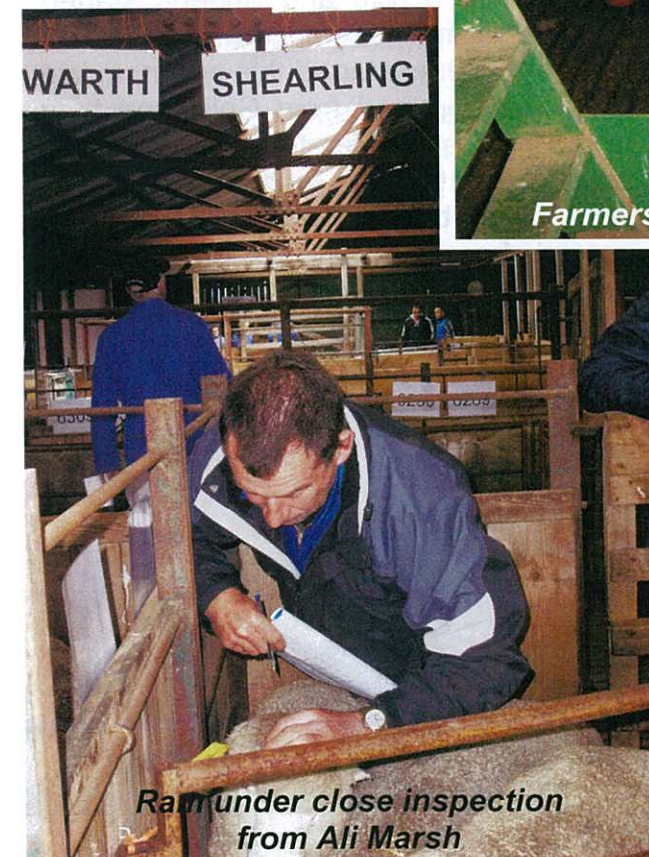


Bill Poole Evans inspecting sheep prior to the sale

Pictures from the Ram & Bull Sale



Farmers inspecting stock before the sale commences



Ram under close inspection from Ali Marsh



The two Angus bulls available for auction

FARM IN PROFILE: CAPE DOLPHIN

Property Name: Cape Dolphin

Location: Port San Carlos, East Falklands

Owners: Philip & Sheena Miller

Farm size: 4,705 ha

Sheep: 2,800

Cattle: 40

Philip spent his earlier years living at Port San Carlos, where his father was the farm manager. Before the sub-division of farms, Cape Dolphin was the main ewe breeding ground for Port San Carlos. Philip and Sheena moved to Cape Dolphin in September 1989. Having both grown up in the farming world, Philip and Sheena enjoy the way of life farming has to offer.

Breeding a dual purpose animal

Philip and Sheena originally ran Cape Dolphin as a wool producing farm, breeding Polwarth for better micron qualities. When the abattoir was built a few years ago, they decided to change the structure of the stock on the farm from a balanced flock to a full flock of breeding ewes. Their aim is to supply animals to the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) and wool for the world market, making the farm a more viable business.

For the last few years, Philip and Sheena have been breeding Dohne Merino (a dual purpose breed) through various embryo transfer programmes and are now crossing the pure bred animals over the Polwarth ewes, aiming to breed an animal that is suited to the Falklands environment which will produce both fine wool and a good meat carcass.

They also have two Poll Dorset rams, which they cross with cull ewes to produce a good lamb carcass that requires less finishing for FIMCo.

During the next winter, Phillip and Sheena hope to start full belly crutching their ewes.



Breeding cattle for the local market

A few years ago, Philip and Sheena started working towards their aim of having a herd of Hereford Cattle. They started this with nine live Hereford cows imported from Chile and they now have a herd of 28 Hereford cows, 2 Hereford bulls and 10 oxen, which they have achieved through breeding with Hereford bulls they reared from an embryo transfer programme.



ET Hereford Bull at Cape Dolphin



The Point at Cape Dolphin

They plan to sell a consistent quality of beef to the local market through FIMCo and hopefully sometime in the future export the same quality beef.

Plans for the future

Philip and Sheena say that it is still early days and they need a couple more years to see if these sheep and cattle breeds are the right ones for Cape Dolphin. They participated in a wether trial last year (and will again this year), saying it is crucial to the business to get all that information and compare with other breeds from other participating farms.

Over the next few years, they hope to see a healthy flock of ewes producing Polwarth x Dohne Merino lambs, whilst producing good quality fine wool. They also hope to have a thriving Hereford beef herd, producing consistently good quality beef.

The change in Falklands farming

They say that farming is definitely changing in the Falklands and we now have an abattoir and we must use it. The Millers also say that some people are farming their land more intensively to try and get better production from their farms, adding that there is more fencing going up and higher quality pastures



Clover on the hay field

going on the ground, all making a more productive business to be in.

Tourism and Pool Machinery

Cape Dolphin has one of the premier tourist locations in the Falklands and Philip and Sheena say they enjoy having day-visitors to the farm.

They have also been carrying out agricultural contract work and managing the Pool Machinery for the past five years. They say the Pasture Improvement Scheme (renamed the Farm Improvement Scheme) has changed and there are more ways to spend your allocation of funding, ie. genetic improvement, fencing etc, leading to a dramatic decline in the amount of re-seed work undertaken by farmers, so that side of the business has not been quite as profitable as Philip and Sheena had first thought.



THE WETHER TRIAL COMES TO AN END

By Peter Johnson

The wether trial which has been running at Goose Green for the last 12 months came to an end on the 19th of February with all of the trial animals being slaughtered at Sand Bay Abattoir.

The trial was started in February 2007, with 11 teams of 15 newly weaned wether lambs from 8 farms coming together at Goose Green. The 165 animals were then run as a mob under the same environmental and management conditions for the duration of the trial to see how their genetic base performed (given the same environment to show it in). The animals were weighed a number of times during the trial, shorn in November 2007 and eventually killed as old-season lamb in February 2008.

The average carcass weight for the trial was 16.4 kg, with team averages ranging from 14.4 kg to 17.5 kg. Of the 154 animals that were killed, 51 of them had teeth in wear, so by definition were no longer lambs and attracted the much discounted price. All of the carcass information is shown in the attached table.

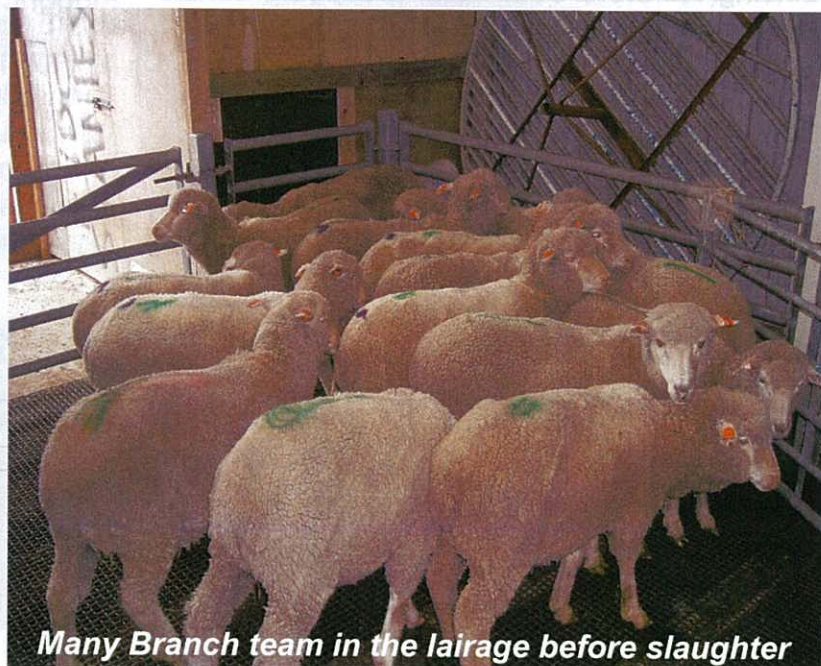
Overall, a value per sheep was calculated for the trial. The average per team is shown in the table and in the graph. The figure was calculated by taking the weight the animal put on in the trial, multiplying it by the carcass yield and assigning £1.40 per kg of that carcass weight. This was added to the fleece value figure that was calculated after shearing based on fleece weight and micron.



Carcasses from Moss Side Farm Hanging at Sand Bay

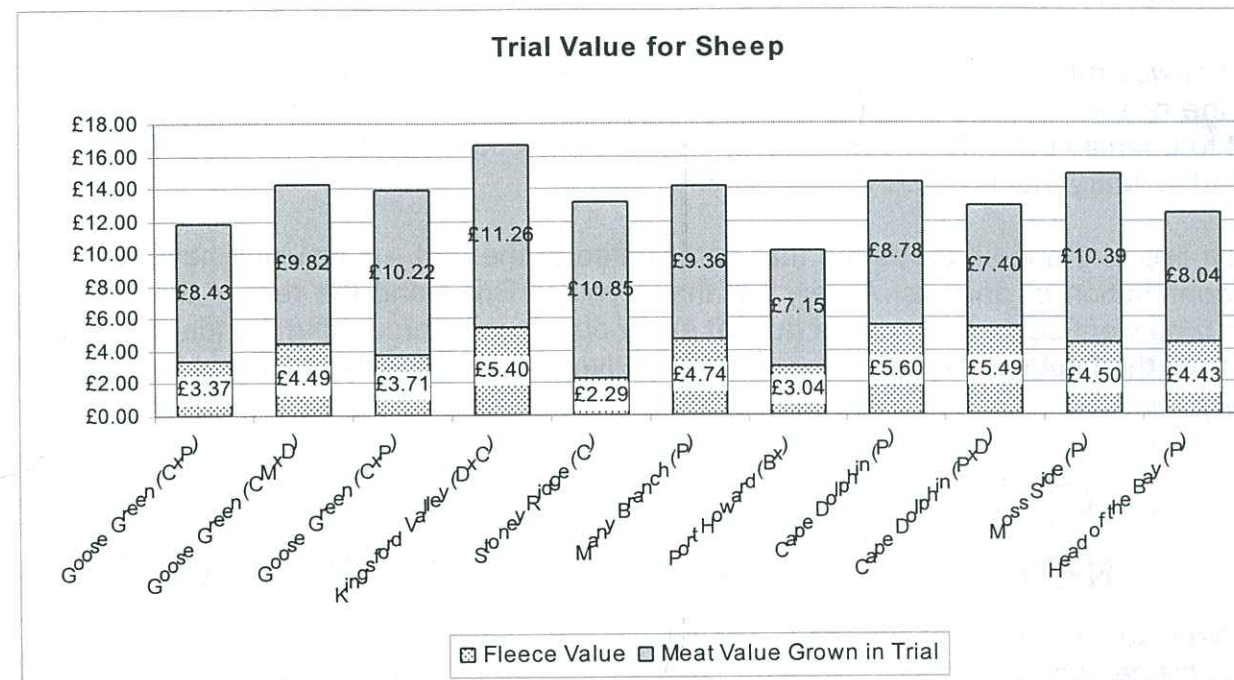


The heaviest carcass in the trial (right) from Kingsford Valley – 22.8



Many Branch team in the lairage before slaughter

The results from the trial are shown in the graph below –



	Start Wgt Feb 07 (Kg)	Finish Wgt Feb 08 (Kg)	Growth in the Trial (Kg)	Meat Value Grown in Trial	Carcass Weight Feb 08 (Kg)	Carcass Yield	Average Carcass Price (Commercial)	% with teeth in wear	Average Possible Price (No teeth in wear)	Greasy Fleece Grown in Trial	Micron	Fleece Value	Trial Value
Goose Green (CxP)	24.9	38.9	14	£8.43	16.5	43%	£15.03	43%	£22.37	1.9	24.7	£3.37	£11.80
Goose Green (CMxD)	23.8	40.5	16.7	£9.82	17	42%	£18.39	27%	£23.32	1.9	21.7	£4.49	£14.31
Goose Green (CxP)	22.7	40.5	17.8	£10.22	16.7	41%	£21.48	7%	£22.69	1.8	22.7	£3.71	£13.92
Kingsford Valley (DxC)	23.7	43.8	20.1	£11.26	17.5	40%	£20.32	21%	£23.83	2.1	20.4	£5.40	£16.66
Stoney Ridge (C)	17.9	36.8	18.9	£10.85	15.1	41%	£16.69	21%	£20.35	1.1	22.9	£2.29	£13.14
Many Branch (P)	25	41.3	16.3	£9.36	16.8	41%	£15.62	40%	£22.79	1.9	21.3	£4.74	£14.09
Port Howard (Bx)	23.1	36.2	13.1	£7.15	14.4	39%	£13.84	31%	£18.69	1.5	22.7	£3.04	£10.20
Cape Dolphin (P)	25.8	41.1	15.3	£8.78	16.9	41%	£8.09	86%	£23.09	2.2	21.1	£5.60	£14.38
Cape Dolphin (PxD)	27.3	40.2	12.9	£7.40	16.3	41%	£19.09	20%	£22.75	2	20.2	£5.49	£12.89
Moss Side (P)	22.8	40.9	18.1	£10.39	16.7	41%	£17.37	31%	£22.83	1.8	21.4	£4.50	£14.89
Head of the Bay (P)	25.5	39.5	14	£8.04	16.3	41%	£15.43	40%	£22.30	2	22.1	£4.43	£12.47

Overall, the trial showed what it aimed to do – that there is a vast genetic difference between breeds and types of sheep that are currently grazing in the Falkland Islands. The table and graphs speak for themselves and I urge you to have a very good look through them.

The top team provided £3.14 return above average; an increase of 23%. If you are currently running an 'average' mob of animals, genetics that are currently here in the Falklands can provide a 23% higher return for you with the same input and quality of pasture. That's £314 more in your pocket for every 100 wether lambs; and that is if you are currently 'average'.

This trial was run on a lightly stocked, productive native pasture and was done so to give all animals the chance to thrive. The wether trial planned for 2008 will have two locations and will attempt to quantify the differences not only between genetics, but also how those genetics perform on 'hard' country that is perceivably tougher.

I would like to thank all the farms that participated in the trial – it wouldn't have worked without your contribution of animals. A very big thank you to Brian and the rest of the team at Goose Green who went beyond the call of duty at every opportunity throughout the trial, and made it very easy from the DoA's perspective to run an effective trial with quality outcomes for Falkland Island farmers.



NEW LABORATORY ASSISTANT, LUCINDA LOWE

Welcome to our newest member of staff, Lucinda Lowe!!

Following the recent departure of Senior Laboratory Technician, Lyn Dent the department undertook a staff restructure and a position for Laboratory Assistant to suit a young Islander was created, which has now been filled by Lucinda.

She is no stranger to the Department of Agriculture, having spent two very successful work experience weeks with Sarah at the Veterinary Section.

We all look forward to working with her and you can hear from Lucinda herself in next month's Wool Press.



On only her second day at work, Lucinda has already become familiar with wool carding!!

Telephone: 27355
Email: llowe@doa.gov.fk



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

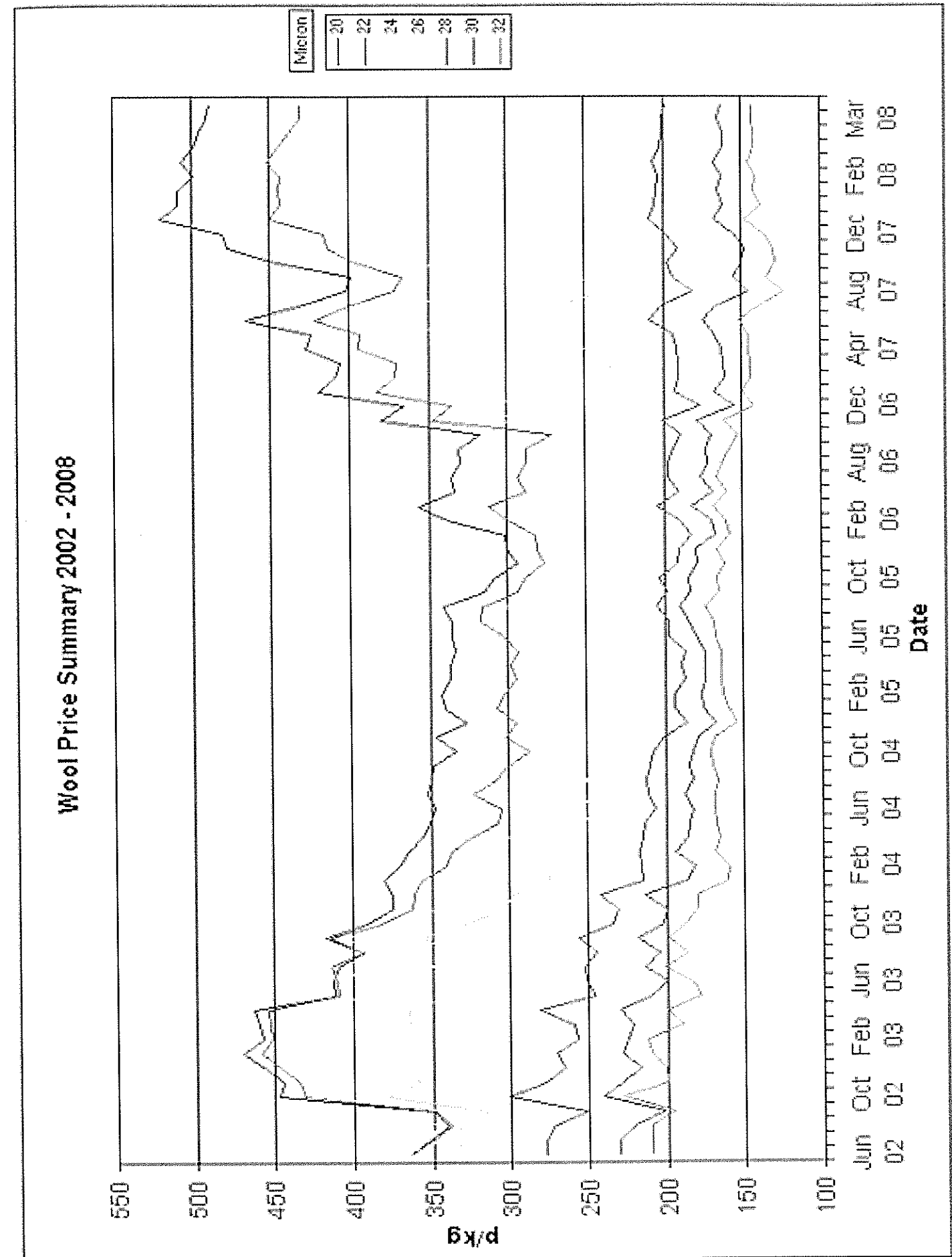
To contribute an article, recipe or cartoon for the Wool Press, contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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

All contributions are gratefully received.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports





RBA SHEEP SHOW

Saturday 12th April 2008



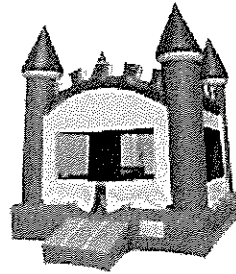
Fitzroy Sheep Show - fun for all the family!!

The 2008 Rural Business Association Sheep Show will be taking place in the Shearing Shed at Fitzroy on Saturday 12th April.

In addition to the sheep classes and prizes, there is a whole host of events organised, so there will be fun for all the family!!

The Guild of Spinners and Weavers will be present and also have craft items for sale, there will be a cake and bun stall, Michele Evans will be providing food in her Burger Van and there will be a vegetable stall. There will also be a bar in operation for over eighteens.

The organisers are hoping to have face painting and the bouncy castle. Pam Budd will be there on the day with helium balloons and pick n mix.



There will also be much, much more!!

If you would like to book a stall or would like any further information, please contact the RBA office on telephone 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk

Information for Sheep Entries

If you are taking sheep along, they will need to be penned up between 8am and 10.30am. Judging will take place between 11am and 1.30pm and the prize giving will commence at 2pm.

Special prizes include:

- Most points in classes 1 - 8
- Champion Ram
- Champion Ewe
- Guess the micron
- Guess the weight of the sheep

If you would like to book overnight pens for your sheep, please contact Alan Eagle at Fitzroy.



Ali, Andrez and Thomas Short at the 2007 Sheep Show

Please see over the page for a list of sheep classes

Sheep Classes

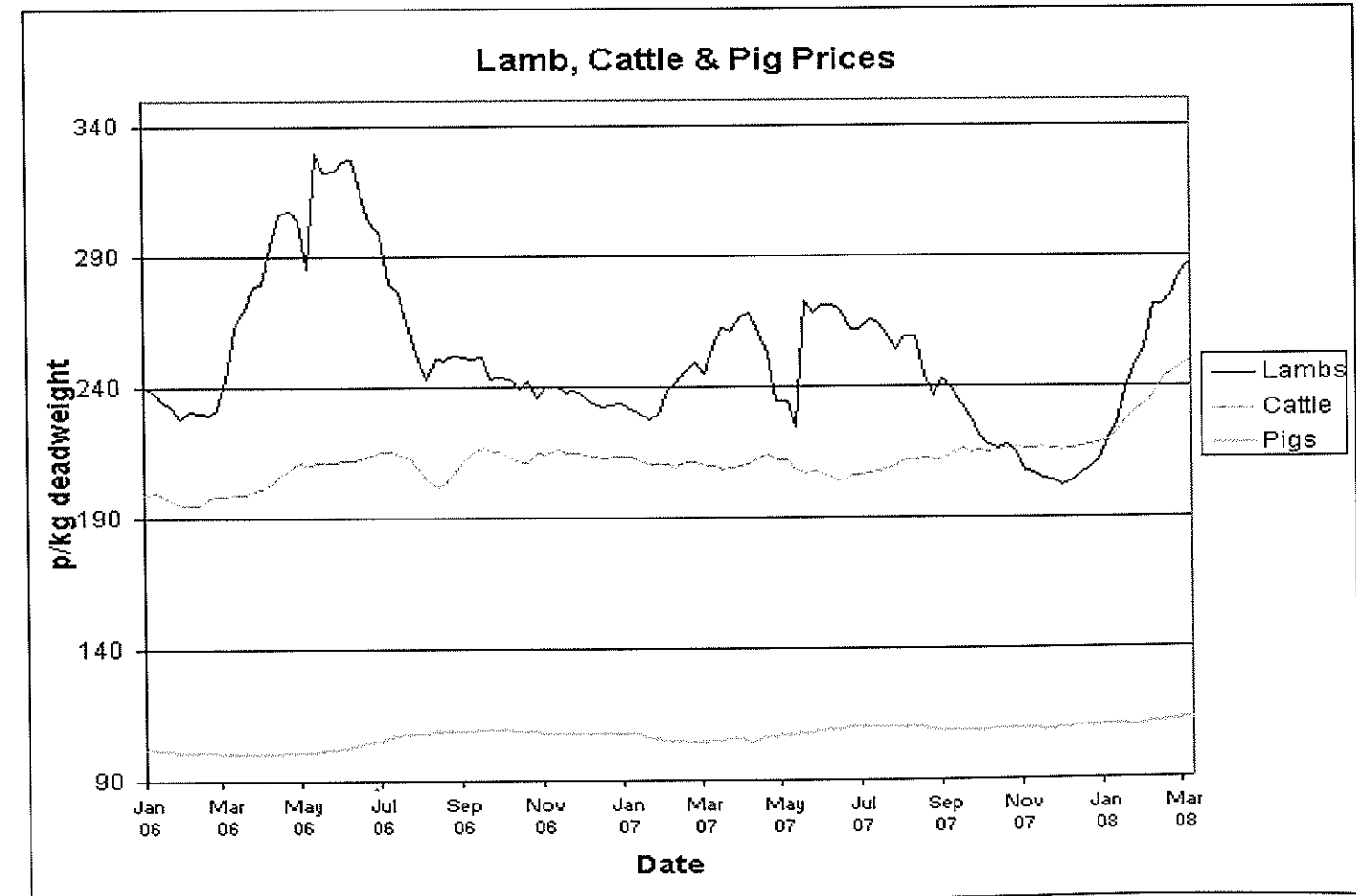
- Class 1 - mature ram over 24 months of age
- Class 2 - shearling ram over 12 & less than 24 months of age
- Class 3 - ram hogget less than 12 months of age
- Class 4 - mature ewe over 24 months of age
- Class 5 - shearling ewe over 12 months & under 24 months of age
- Class 6 - ewe hogget under 12 months of age
- Class 7 - pen of three flock hoggets (male or female) under 12 months of age
- Class 8 - pen of three flock shearlings (male or female) over 12 & under 24 months of age
- Class 9 - ram of any age suitable for producing prime lambs
- Class 10 - ewe of any age suitable of producing prime lambs
- Class 11 - pen of three weaner prime lambs
- Class 12 - under sixteen open entry



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.



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

Robert is 27.5 years old, David is 16.5

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

A bear who kept stealing honey from a beekeeper's hives has been convicted of theft and criminal damage in Macedonia. But the bear was nowhere to be seen as the court in Bitola handed down its judgement, reports the Daily Telegraph.

The case was brought by a frustrated beekeeper, who, after a protracted battle, turned to the law to stop the bear from attacking his beehives. Zoran Kiseloski said he tried to keep the bear away by playing thumping "turbo-folk" music and buying a generator to light up the area.

"I tried to distract the bear with lights and music because I heard bears are afraid of that," Mr Kiseloski told the Dnevnik newspaper. So I bought a generator, lit up the area and put on songs." But when the generator ran out of power and the music fell silent, the bear was back: "It attacked the beehives again," said Mr Kiseloski.

The court found the bear guilty and, since it had no owner and belonged to a protected species, ordered the state to pay the £1,700 damage it caused.

Recipe Page

Recipes from BBC Food www.bbc.co.uk

Potato, leek and cheddar tart



Ingredients

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 450g/1lb young leeks, well washed | sprig of thyme |
| 8 basil leaves, cut into strips | 55g/2oz butter, gently melted |
| 225g/8oz filo pastry, rolled out thinly | 175g/6oz farmhouse cheddar, grated |
| 1 apple, peeled, cored, diced and tossed in lemon juice | salt and freshly ground black pepper |
| 150g/5oz Jersey Royal new potatoes, peeled and cut into 5mm/¼in slices | |

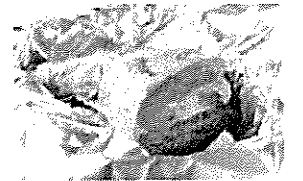
Method

Preheat oven to 160C/325F/Gas 3. Cut leeks into 1cm/¼in rings. Cook in a pan of boiling water with the thyme, until soft. Drain well, reserving the liquor. Discard the thyme. Season the leeks with salt, pepper and basil. Cook the potatoes in the reserved leek liquor until just soft (about 4-5 minutes). Drain and allow to cool. Using a large plate as a guide, cut the filo pastry into rounds approximately 30cm/12in in size. Brush all but one of the rounds of filo pastry with melted butter. Arrange in a baking tin with alternate layers of potato and leek in between. Sprinkle over the grated cheddar and diced apple and season. Top with remaining sheet of filo, brush with melted butter and seal edges of pie with water. Prick several times with a fork and bake in the oven for about 20-30 minutes.

Organic new season lamb with rosemary, lemon and zucchini rosato

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 leg of new season organic lamb, boned and butterflied | |
| <i>For the rose coating</i> | |
| 1 small jar zucchini rosato (rose petal jam) | 3 tbsp Dijon mustard |
| 2 unwaxed lemons, grated zest only | 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil |
| salt and freshly ground black pepper | |
| generous bunch of fresh rosemary, stalks removed and leaves roughly chopped | |



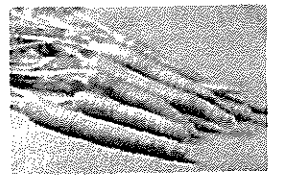
Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/356F/Gas 4. For the rose coating, blend all of the ingredients together in a bowl, adding the olive oil last. Season the lamb generously with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and spread the rose coating all over the skin, using it all up. Place the lamb in the preheated oven for 35 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to sit for 20 minutes before slicing and serving.

Carrot cake

Ingredients

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 200ml/7fl oz sunflower oil | 4 free-range eggs | 4 tbsp clear honey |
| 225g/8oz plain flour | 2 tsp baking powder | ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda |
| pinch salt | 1 tsp vanilla essence | 175g/6oz grated carrots |
| butter, for greasing | | |



For the icing

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 75g/2½oz cream cheese | 2 tbsp butter | 340g/12oz icing sugar, sifted |
| 1 tsp vanilla essence | | |

Method

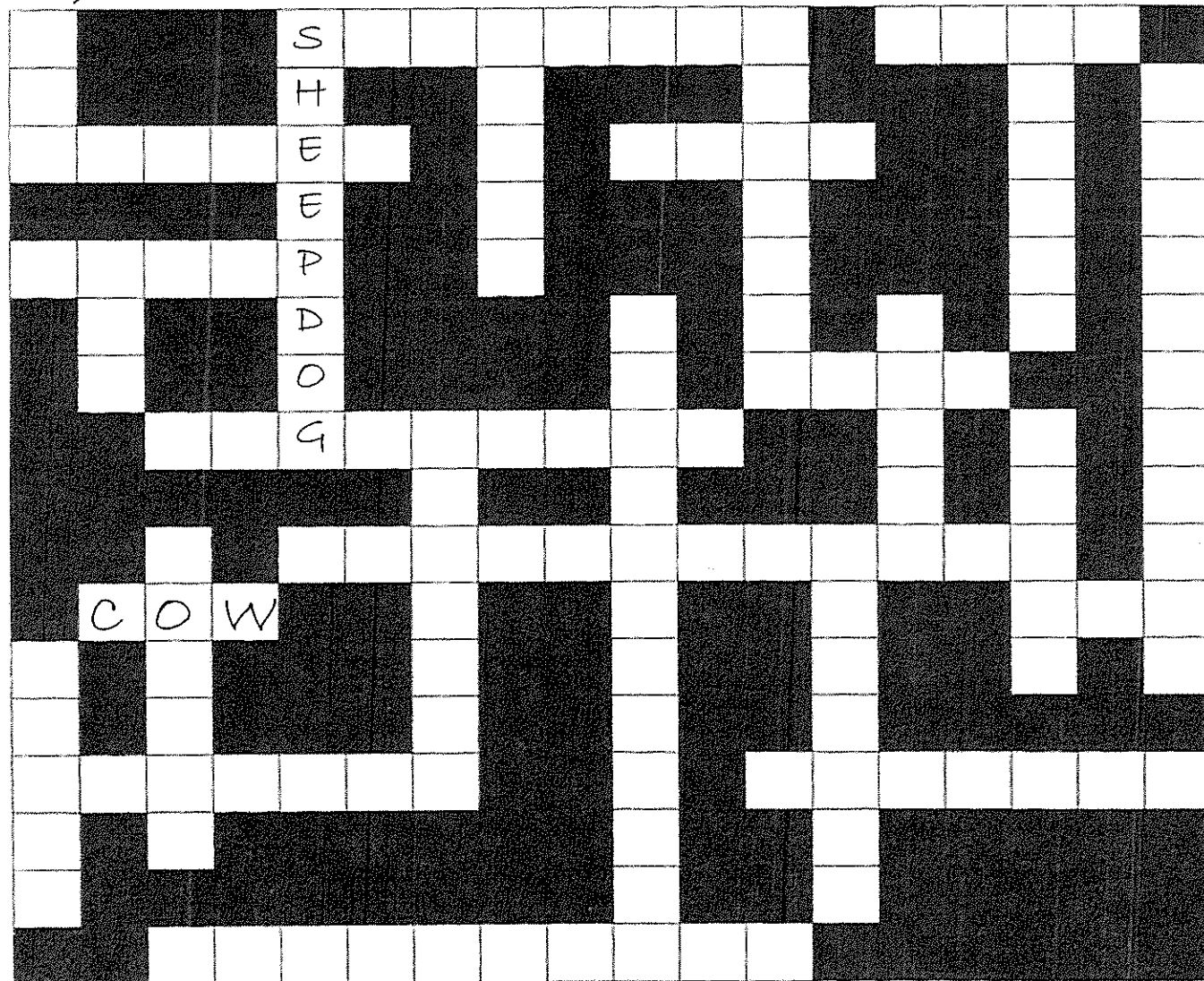
Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. In a bowl, whisk together the oil, eggs and honey until well combined. Stir in the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, salt, vanilla essence and grated carrots and beat well. Pour the cake mixture into a greased 23cm/9in cake tin and transfer to the oven to bake for one hour until a skewer poked into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool on a wire rack and carefully remove from the tin when cool. For the icing, beat the cream cheese and butter together in a bowl until light and fluffy. Add the sifted icing sugar and vanilla essence and stir until combined. Once the cake is cool, using a palette knife, spread the icing across the cake. Serve in slices.

PUZZLE PAGE

WORD
FIT

The object of this puzzle is place all the words listed below into the spaces, with just the two already placed words to get you going.

To help you, we've grouped the word list into lengths.



Three Letters

COW
DIG
HEN
SUN

Four Letters

BARN
FISH
SHED

Five Letters

ANGUS
DITCH
FENCE
LASSO
SHEEP

Six Letters

CORRAL
GARDEN
STABLE

Seven Letters

COWSHED
GARAGES
PADDOCK
TRACTOR
TRAILER

Eight Letters

SHEARING
SHEEPDOG

Nine Letters

VEGETABLE

Ten Letters

DOGKENNELS

Eleven Letters

LAMBMARKING

Twelve Letters

DRAFTINGPENS
KILLINGHOUSE

GOOD LUCK!!

THE WOOL PRESS

May 2008

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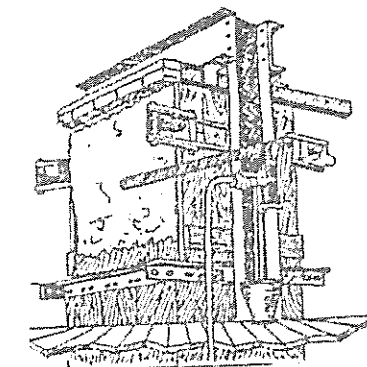
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EDITORIAL

On behalf all of the Department staff I wish to sincerely thank Peter Johnson for the outstanding work he has done and the achievements he has contributed to as a highly respected DoA team member. Peter is heading back to Australia to take up a role in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, based in Orange. We wish him and Julie well in their future career and family adventures. Peter has said his final written farewell on page 16 and invites all those who have made Julie, Robert and he so welcome to visit them in Australia.

I would also like to welcome Kenton Goodwin who is currently working as laboratory assistant in the DoA's laboratory for the next 6 months. Kenton is really enjoying his work, interacting well with all the DoA staff and making a significant contribution in his job.

Ian Campbell has contributed a couple of interesting articles on livestock losses and woolclip analysis. Counting sheep was always seen as the answer to insomnia but as Ian rightfully points out, it costs nothing to count sheep more often when you are putting them through a gate. If you record at what age and where the losses occur, you can start more accurately identifying whether ditches, reefs, birds or poor nutrition are the likely reasons for the often significant losses. Wool clip analysis is something that can help farmers make more money from their farms and as Ian points out in his article skirting of fleeces is a key issue and wool classing is really about wool marketing.

Peter Johnson's second last Wool Press article on the 2008 Wether Trial sets out the farms and breeds of wether involved. The idea to run half the wethers on a West and an East Island farm was raised at one of the DoA update sessions held earlier this year. It will be interesting to see what effect the two environments have on the productivity of the sheep.

Zoë has used a clever play on words in the title of her great article on foreign bodies. This most interesting article provides some sound advice about managing symptoms of sickness in dogs.

What a great photograph taken at Terence and Sheila McPhee's farm of a pet lamb and black rabbit checking one another out in our advertisement asking people to advise us if they observe strange behaviour in their animals.

Peter Johnson's article on the options for wethers highlights the fact that 'horses for courses' is very important in farming. The DoA's role is to provide farmers with advice on the options for your farm. We will always do our best to provide scientifically sound and practical options for you to consider but at the end of the day it is your choice.

Hew Grierson in his Reader's Contribution on page 4 as a 'canny Scot' sums up what I am saying by stating 'I go with what is achievable and makes me the most money'.

Ian Campbell has provided an up-date on the organic farming initiative. Some farmers will have met Andrew Monk, Chairman of the Standards Committee of Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) when he visited here recently to obtain an understanding of how organic the Falkland Islands farming system is and to assess Ian Campbell for his accreditation as a BFA auditor. Ian's article recommends the importance of talking to your wool broker about his view about the future markets for organic wool and also asking to whom is your wool sold each year so you can make your own assessments.

A big thank you to Hughes and Marie Paul at Dunbar for their input into the very interesting article on what they are doing with their farming and tourism business. It is interesting to read their views on organics and to see the smiling faces of their two children enjoying growing up in the Falkland Islands.

Our Wool Press coordinator Sian is becoming a specialist journalist writing about Sheep Shows and Sales and has written a very readable article about the recent RBA Sheep Show at Fitzroy which includes the results. Sian has also contributed an article on the Livestock Ordinance Forms which must be completed and returned to the DoA no later than the 30th June, 2008.

Henry Boughton from Woolmore Sheepskin products at Hill Cove has contributed a most interesting article on his sheepskin rug tanning business and his desire to help strengthen the economy of the Hill Cove Settlement and the Falkland Islands.

The looming issue of animal welfare groups hi-jacking the rights of farmers to farm in an ethically sound and un-cruel way by attributing human (ewe-man) rights to sheep makes alarming reading.

The Wool Press provides some great take home messages and food for thought on how you run your farm business to make a profit and provide a lifestyle that many in the world envy. Enjoy the read.

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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LIVESTOCK LOSSES

By Ian Campbell

Nobody likes losing livestock. Most farmers feel terrible when stock die for the sake of the stock, and then there is the financial loss on top of that. Higher levels of lamb mortality also means slower genetic progress, and you can't even get rid of those black spotted ones because there are just not enough sheep.

As a farmer in Australia I thought I knew why my stock died; snake bite, ryegrass staggers, phalaris toxicity, the list was endless. Now I am here they talk of a whole lot of completely different issues; stinkers, snow, ditches and killer tides.

The fact is sheep rarely did die of snake bite; but it was a better heading than "No Bloody Idea".

Knowing just why stock die is obviously the first step towards preventing losses. Since arriving here, whenever we discuss the sensitive issue of livestock losses, there remains a degree of uncertainty. Sheep get counted out at shearing, and pretty much not counted again until lamb marking. Sometimes people seem to get a hell of a shock that the numbers are not there. They seem to have disappeared into a black hole. Often the number of carcasses observed is a great underestimate of the actual losses.

So what is the answer? For some it is ditches. Sheep lost in ditches can disappear and there are people ditching, battering the edges, to make them safe, or fencing off some of the worst areas.

Some might be swept out to sea by incoming tides. Scrounging for seaweed on the beach and trapped by the tide, and cleaned up by grateful predators. Once again no signs, but some people are identifying those areas and fencing them off.

These are good solutions if they are the correct diagnosis of the problem, but sometimes it is a "lets hope so" type of solution.

One thing we can do, and it costs nothing, is to count sheep more often. Every chance, and this will mostly be during a move, sheep can be counted through a gate. Retrospectively we can look back and say yes, that is where it occurred and yes there are those risks present there. Many are starting to do more stock movement due to grazing management improvements, and this might be one more additional benefit.

At the DoA we are also looking at the problems of losses. Not surprisingly perhaps, we are finding that the heavier ewes and hogs are now, the better chance they have of coming out the other end of winter. We are also looking at lupin or crop supplementation, and changes in grazing management.

Improving reproduction rates and survival rates are important ways to earn more farm income, and the first step to all this is to at least get a better understanding of why some animals are dying.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 7th May (Droncit)

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

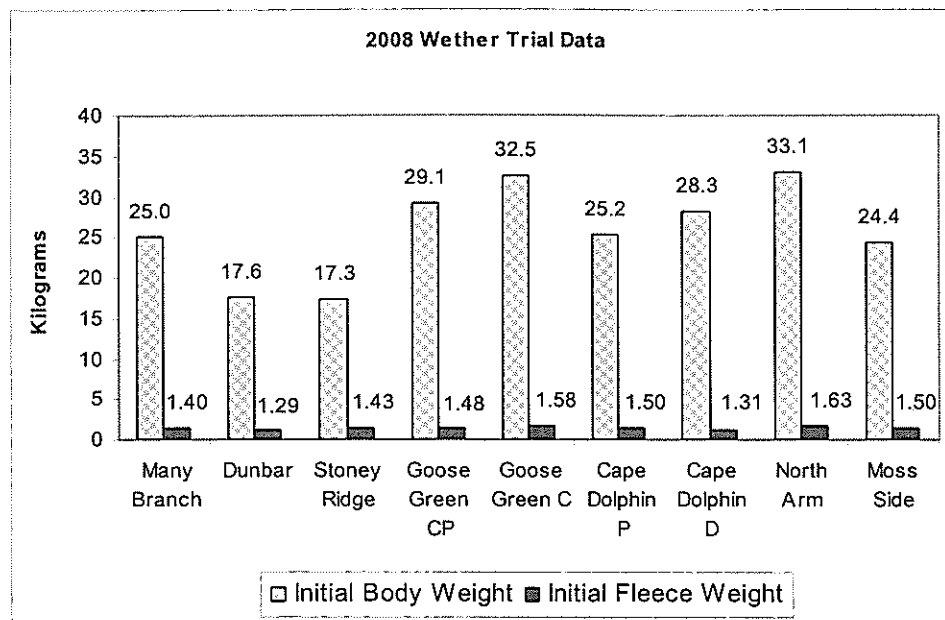
2008 WETHER TRIAL GETS UNDERWAY

By Peter Johnson

In the first week of April, the 2008 wether trial got underway with the coming together of all of the animals to take part in the trial. The following are a few facts about the trial –

- There are 9 teams taking part from 7 different properties from both East and West Falkland
- Breeds represented include Corriedale, Cormo crossed with Corriedale, Polwarth, and Polwarth crossed with Dohne
- Teams entered consist of 20 hogget wethers
- All animals were tagged, drenched and cobalted as they entered the trial
- Each team of 20 animals was split into two groups of 10 animals
- 10 animals from each team were sent to Goose Green while the other 10 were sent to Stoney Ridge
- Animals will be run at the two locations for the rest of this year, with shearing to take place in October / November
- In early 2009, the animals will be put through the abattoir as old season lamb to quantify a meat value

The graph shows the initial average bodyweights and fleece weights for each of the teams in the trial.



READERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

From Hew Grierson, Blue Beach Farm, San Carlos

Dear Ian,

I have read your article on New or Old Season Lamb - The Issues, several times.

I feel it is very simplistic and the issues are far more complex. Each farm should be taken on a case by case basis, as you have written.

We have sold small quantities of new & old season lamb, from good quality PD rams crossed over undesirable polwarth type ewes to straight dual purpose types. From our experience we would have to drop ewe numbers significantly to reach a 15 kg carcass in new season lambs and therefore lose income from wool from ewes.

Example, last year I got 50% away to abattoir this year only 20% have made grade. This is linked to our grass growth. Also the abattoir price structure/ kg was harder to achieve this year.

We need to look at ewe breed, wool quantity and quality verses lambing % and growth. I go with what is achievable and makes me the most money.

Another issue is wool income from old season lamb. This can be a valuable source of income. The amount of grass required to finish old season lamb is less than the amount required by a breeding ewe.

I feel the last sentence should read for Blue Beach Farm, "the same amount of feed can produce 1.5 new season lambs or 1 old season lamb and a fleece, without wool income dropping.

These are my thoughts on our findings. I agree with you about the issues at the abattoir and teeth in wear, they are out of our control. I feel DoA should receive constructive feedback, good & bad.

Best regards,

Hew

WOOL CLIP ANALYSIS

By Ian Campbell

I wrote last month about checking out the wool certificates to calculate average wool cuts and fibre diameters. Let's now look further at the wool clip using a process we call wool clip analysis.

Work on Australian clips shows the "ideal" clip to be made up of

- 82% Fleece wool
- 7% Pieces
- 6.5% Bellies
- 3.5% Locks
- 1% Bulk Class

Lets face it bellies are not negotiable, I guess all you can do is pick some stain out - or not. Definitely you should.

Locks are sweepings from under the table, mostly second cuts, so they are also pretty non negotiable unless you want to retrain your shearers. Shearers here tend to leave the socks on the sheep so there may be fewer locks than in Australia. If you are not careful though you can end up with too many pieces in the locks as wool flies around the shed, off the edge of the table etc. Locks are pretty cheap, so you lose money- is it enough to pay for more help in the shed?

Skirting is the main issue. Fleeces to Pieces ratios of around the 10 to 1 mark are normal in Australia, I haven't seen enough clips here to get a good feel for this one. The aim of skirting is to present the fleece better, get rid of the low yielding, short fibred, stained and high vegetable matter edges of the fleece, leaving better quality wool in the fleece line. It is all about marketing the fleeces with a higher quality in relation to yield, vegetable matter and uniformity.

The irony though is that these pieces are finer as well as shorter. If you skirt less hard then you will improve the fineness of both your pieces and your fleeces, improving both their values as well. Statistics is a funny thing!

The important thing is to take off what you have to; but no more. Skirt with the fingers, not hands, or not what hangs over the table or whatever. Try to keep track of the parts of the fleece and skirt systematically. Always take stain off; preferably when on the board not the table. In Australia a pre shearing crutch is expected.

What about the difference between lines. A good couple of microns is a clear separation, but if you get less investigate amalgamating lines. Wool school is all about keeping fleeces and lines apart, sheds and marketing are about putting them together to some extent.

Always talk to your broker about setting up the lines. Wool classing is really about wool marketing. Some years you keep the stretchy in, other years you pull it out to make another line. Some years you may want a small number of elite bales by classing down, other years you class up to get more of the finest line, but your fine line is stronger in these years, and your strong line is finer. All just different ways of marketing the same wool.

As for the 1% bulk class, well those are the really weird ones, terminal sire rams for example, or double fleece, broken or whatever.

If there is sufficient interest we may be able to help individual farmers to analyse clips. If we do this for a number of cooperating farms then we may be able to come up with our "ideal" Falkland Islands clip.

Just looking at some sheds during shearing I haven't seen much to think it will be a lot different. Sheep here tend to have less vegetable matter with the lack of burrs and weird seeds. Peat dust can be an issue here, but you don't skirt that out.

FOREIGN BODIES: Also a veterinary problem, not just people from overseas!!

From Zoë Luxton

We have had a few interesting cases recently – they are bit like buses, everything is nicely routine for a while then you get a few major things to deal with in a short space of time! Not that we mind a bit of a challenge but as with all things veterinary; prevention (if possible) is better than cure.

2 major surgeries that we have had to do in recent months involved dogs with foreign bodies which have had to be removed (see x-ray on opposite page). In the past, at various practices, I have removed a whole list of interesting foreign bodies including a kebab skewer, a cassette tape, a golf ball and innumerable items of underwear. Most of the guzzling culprits are Labradors but here the most common presentation we see are collie dogs with bones stuck in various parts of their digestive system.

The clinical signs that you see with a foreign body can depend where in the digestive system it is stuck. Many foreign bodies (FBs) make it into the stomach and beyond, often getting lodged in the small intestine. In this case the animals may be vomiting, but not necessarily regularly after eating as the food can still get into the stomach unimpeded. The animal will most likely be a bit off colour and will get more depressed as time goes on, there will be abdominal pain (colic) and you may notice diarrhoea or the absence of normal poos. Animals looking 'tucked up' or stretching a lot are good indicators of abdominal discomfort.

FBs in the stomach may cause more prompt vomiting after ingesting food but of course each individual case is different.

FBs lodged in the oesophagus can cause the most violent vomiting. In this case it is more regurgitation than vomiting as the food eaten just cannot enter the stomach, so has to come straight back up the way it came down. Projectile vomiting with a degree of pain associated certainly suggests an oesophageal FB so veterinary advice must be sought.

Sometimes a FB can get lodged as far down as the large intestine – blocking the passage or passing of faeces. The dog may not be vomiting but will appear very constipated and uncomfortable and may need to be sedated and 'cleaned out' – a job we would rather avoid thank you very much!

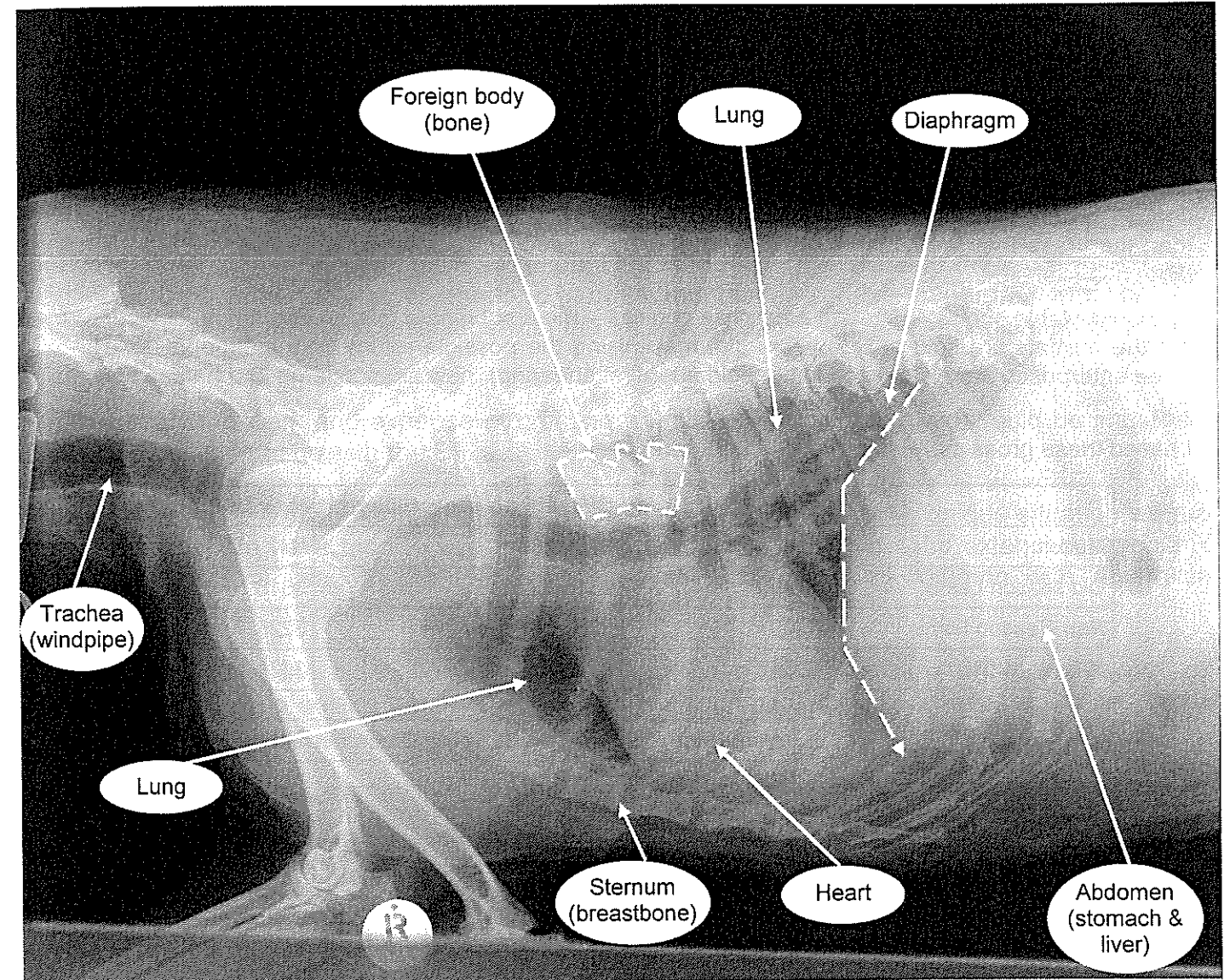
This is not to suggest that every time a dog vomits you have to start totting up the vets surgery fees. Dogs can vomit for a number of reasons. If you notice a vomiting dog the best course of action (if the dog generally seems ok) is to starve it completely for 12-24 hours allowing only water, then introduce small amounts of bland food (rice, pasta, plain white meats). If it is a 'bug' this will probably settle things down and you can then start to re-introduce the dogs normal diet. If the clinical signs continue despite basic treatment then give us a ring at the Veterinary Section.

All surgery to remove FBs is major – especially if the FB is lodged in the oesophagus near the heart. If this is the case you cannot reach the FB by going in through the stomach – you have to enter the chest cavity to reach it and remove it. This most definitely puts the vets' and vet nurses' blood pressure up as it is tricky surgery, often with poor outcomes. So in this case, prevention is definitely better than cure!

We know that no-one purposefully feeds their dogs FBs, when things get lodged it is simply an accident - the dog certainly doesn't mean to do it either! But there are a few things you can do to reduce the risk. Make sure that the areas where the dogs are stay free of small bones like chop bones (a common culprit). Cover hen runs and rubbish drums so bones cannot be dragged out and spread by birds or cats. Keep the cages and greens as free of old dog bones as possible and be wary of feeding cooked bones that may splinter into bigger chunks that can be swallowed

accidentally.

As an aside – it is worth considering feeding the dogs a bit of dog biscuit or mixer along with their bones. Mutton has plenty of protein and fat which are essential, but very few vitamins and other essential minerals which all go towards an all round healthy dog. Dogs fed solely mutton can have very poor coats and suffer constipation or diarrhoea. Their bones may also not heal as well after fractures.



In the above radiograph, the foreign body (FB) has become lodged in the oesophagus above the base of the heart. This is a common place for FB's to lodge. The FB has caused the trachea to be deflected ventrally.



Seen anything strange lately?!

**DON'T LEAVE IT.....
... OR SHOOT IT**

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

WHAT OPTION FOR WETHERS IS BEST FOR FALKLAND ISLAND FARMERS?

By Peter Johnson

There have been many discussions in the corridor of the DOA over the past few weeks about the relative merits of new season versus old season lamb and running wethers as wool cutters.

As Ian's article discusses, stocking rate is an important factor in the overall productivity and profitability of farming. It has a bigger impact on farm income than the price fluctuations received for either wool or meat. If you choose to send young animals to the abattoir, in my opinion, the decision needs to be based on how you can then utilise the forage that animal would have eaten.

Is it going to be used by running more ewes on your farm? Is there going to be more for your ewes to eat so you will get more productivity from them, or is it just a 'bad' camp and you will choose to leave it de-stocked? I have spent some time going through the DOA gross margin model and coming up with a few figures. We have heard it before but it needs to be restated. It doesn't really matter what enterprise you choose to undertake, it will bring you a similar return if done well. If you decide to sell young animals early, then the grass they would have eaten needs to be utilised or back filled, otherwise you will take a very large financial hit.

The below table shows 4 different enterprise choices – the first being a mutton enterprise, or wool wethers, but the animals are sold at 5 ½ years old, maximising the possible return from mutton value. The other three enterprises are old season lamb (sold after first shearing), new season lamb and half as new, half as old.

I based these gross margins on a 5000 DSE farm base -

	GM at 5000 DSE	GM with no back filling	New DSE rating
Mutton	£40,876	£40,876	NA
Old season Lamb	£44,096	£31,883	3618
New Season Lamb	£40,291	£25,999	3225
½ New, ½ Old	£42,312	£28,941	3421

I used the following assumptions –

Wool Price	£3.50 Kg Clean net Stanley
NS Lamb Meat Value	£14
OS Lamb Meat Value	£20
Mutton (5.5 yrs)	£7.50
Lambing	62%
Ewe Death Rate	10%
Wether Death Rate	5%
Hogget Death Rate	15%

To me there are a few points –

- There is no real difference between any of the options with a full farm. Especially if a farmer has a particular interest for a system, then they are more likely to manage it well, hence it will have the same gross margin potential.
- An empty farm means empty pockets. If the farm is not back filling the DSE's that it is selling to the abattoir then it is losing serious money. Even if there is some compensatory gain by the rest of the flock because the farm is lightly stocked, it will have to go a long way to make another £20,000 or so.
- Running a balanced flock, especially with current wool prices is competing economically with the other two options.
- There is scope to improve in all the operations, but I have used lambing percentage, wool prices and meat prices that I feel are about average.

I hope that this provides food for thought for a few people out there. Having the option of the abattoir is excellent, but from a farm business perspective, we need to be sure that whatever enterprise we choose to partake in provides our farm with the best resulting productivity.

HOPES TO SEAL AN ORGANIC AGREEMENT

By Ian Campbell

Dr Andrew Monk from the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) visited the Falkland Islands in early April to discuss prospects of a joint proposal to certify Falkland Island produce as organic. It was a busy but successful week where real progress was made.

Andrew, along with Mac McArthur and Ian Campbell, visited farms on both the East and West, met with meat and wool buyers as well as a number of interested parties. Of particular interest were the farms that have been a part of the existing Falkland Island Organic Scheme.

The Falkland Islands major agricultural export is wool, and it is largely produced organically. If you were to buy a labeled organic jumper, for example, from a major retailer, then each process in the chain must be certified organic by a recognised authority. This starts at the wool grower, and continues through the scourer, spinner and garment manufacturer. The "paper trail" must be continuous, and it only accepts certificates with the IFOAM logo, the umbrella organisation of international organic agencies.

Unfortunately the work and expense of creating a unique Falkland standard would be immense, hence the decision to go with the BFA.

Other countries have also adopted the Australian standards so it is not a unique situation we are creating here. We have tried to use the UK standards in the past but the extensive rangeland production systems used in the Falklands have so much more in common with Australian agriculture than UK agriculture.

Farms that were in the old Falkland Island scheme have the necessary farming systems and record keeping to be selling certified wool within 18 months if they so chose, and other farms should be able to come into the scheme soon after.

The world seems to be interested in all sorts of ethical production systems and organics is right up there. The demand is growing all the time and the promise of a premium is there for wool and meat.

If farmers are thinking of entering the scheme then of course we at DoA can help, but also discuss it with your wool broker and meat buyer as well. They will be actively involved in the organic chain and you should know their views as well.



Above: Andrew Monk from the Biological Farmers of Australia

FARM IN PROFILE: DUNBAR

Property Name: Dunbar

Location: West Falklands

Owners: Hugues Delignières and Marie Paul Guillaumot

Farm size: 12,500 ha

Sheep: 4,700 Polwarth sheep

Cattle: 9

Marie Paul and Hugues live at Dunbar with their two children Marilou (13) and Théo (11). Although they are all new to Dunbar, they first came to the Falklands 16 years ago and each visit thereafter has resulted in a growing attachment to the Islands.

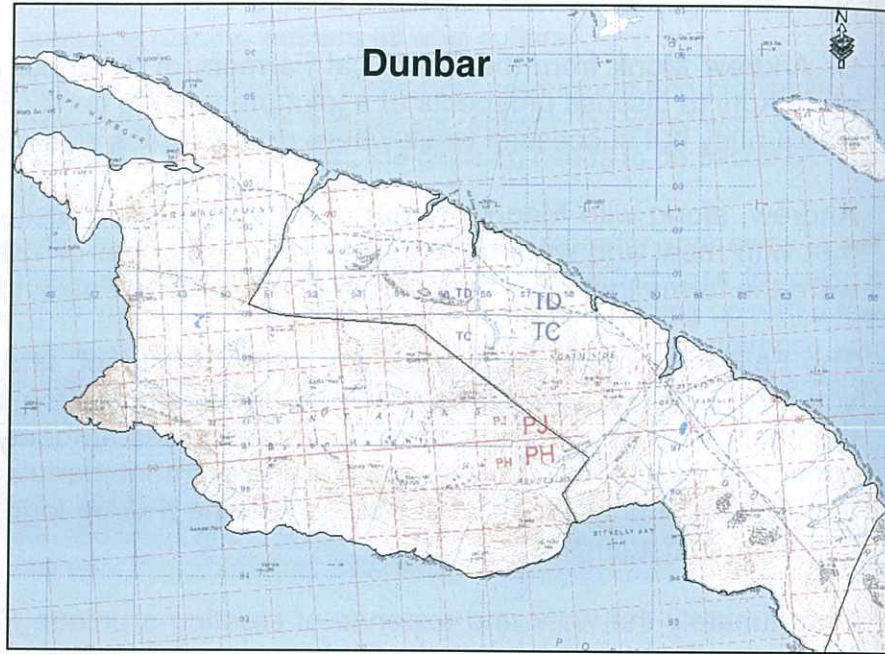
The move to Dunbar

Hugues and Marie Paul, although new to the farming scene in the Falklands, are no strangers to sheep work. Hugues grew up on a farm in France and they have spent time on sheep farms in Patagonia. Becoming farmers was something they have wanted to do for a long time, especially after their experiences in Patagonia. They see farming in the Falklands as a challenge, with the necessities of management between sheep and land in harsh conditions paid off by spectacular landscapes and wildlife and the sea nearby, important to them.

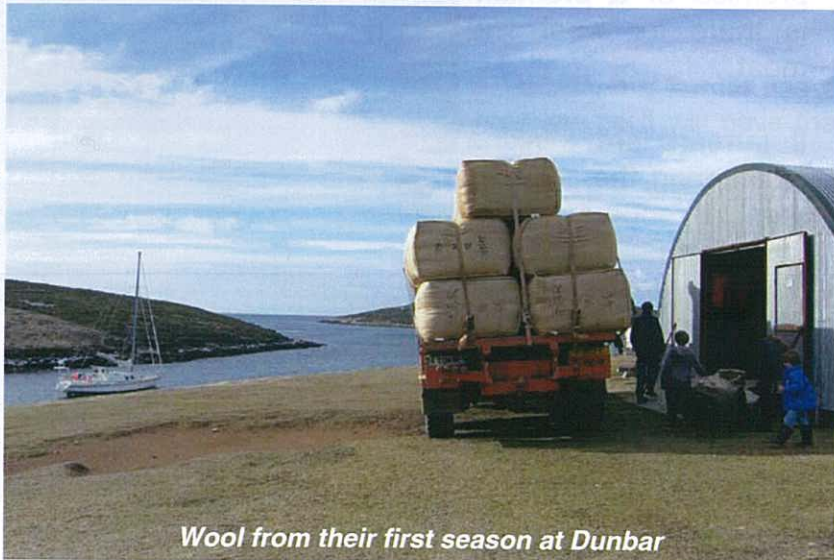
Hugues and Marie Paul have been sailing in the Southern Ocean, South Georgia and Antarctica for 20 years, so are no strangers to outdoor life, cold weather and strong winds (actually preferring it to warm places with lots of mosquitoes!).

The first step

The first objective for Hugues & Marie Paul has been to complete their first season at the farm. They say their wool is away and so they feel happy



Dunbar settlement in the snow



Wool from their first season at Dunbar



Hugues, Marie Paul & Marie Paul and Théo

even if they know that some roughies are still laughing at them in the mountains!

They are breeding their sheep for mainly wool production, but are also selling some animals to the abattoir and trying to keep a balance while slightly reducing the sheep numbers.

As with others farms, the priority at Dunbar is to try and reduce the death rate, especially for young sheep. They would like to work on creating better pastures for the lambs at weaning time, believing that a good start is essential for the young sheep and also for post-shearing.

Organics

They are following the Department of Agriculture in relation to the proposed new organics scheme; they are interested in becoming certified as they believe that the demands for organic products (both meat and wool) will increase in the future. Hugues and Marie Paul are already following a number of the organic practises, so don't see any reason not to take the leap into organics with the chance of making more.



Gathering ewes

The future of farming

Although Hugues and Marie are new to farming in the Falklands, they feel that the last few years have brought better connections and communication to the Islands, which are hopefully to be improved further in the future. They believe that this is certainly important for modernisation with time, transport of heavy machinery, wool, re-seeds, animals to the abattoir etc allowing for diversification. It makes it easier for farmers and workers at camp to spend time working in different sectors or working on other farms during the season and together with the Government's FIP, it may help people to face and work through hard times (ie low wool prices).

Other enterprises

Along with sheep farming, Hugues and Marie Paul are involved with tourism, using their sailing boat "Le Sourire". They are also hoping to entertain cruise ships at Grave Cove.

Finally, they would like to thank everyone who has helped them with lending a hand, advice, patience and for a highly appreciated warm welcome.



Dunbar Settlement

SUCCESSFUL SHEEP SHOW AT FITZROY

By Siân Ferguson

A very successful Sheep Show was held in the Fitzroy shearing shed on Saturday 12th April. Rain and wind didn't stop around 80 spectators and farmers turning up on the day to enter sheep, visit the stalls or for a day out, which was greatly enjoyed by all. The Rural Business Association were very pleased with the turnout of the stalls. They concentrated on encouraging stallholders relevant to farming; woollen goods from Rosemary Wilkinson, vegetables from Fitzroy farm, cuts of beef from Hope Cottage and a delicious cake stall provided by Annie Pitaluga from Salvador. There was also some ladies from Stanley selling hand-made crafts.

There were a number of visitors from Mount Pleasant, which the RBA commented was a great opportunity for them to see the 'real Falkland Islands' as well as being able to purchase exclusive souvenirs or gifts. Visitors from Stanley were also likely to have been attracted by the chance to buy fresh produce straight from the farmer.

Members of the community not associated with farming were also interested in the sheep entered in the different classes of the show and spend time taking a closer look at the animals. A number of the MPA visitors were also keen to ask questions about the different classes.

The judges (Doug Martin, Tony Blake, Hew Grierson and Nick Pitaluga) were very pleased with sheep entries. Doug Martin said it was great to see the range of breeds exhibited and most importantly the interest and enthusiasm shown by farmers. Hew Grierson commented that the standard of sheep was very good, with well grown animals with good wool.

Nick Pitaluga added that found he the standard to still be very good, as in past years, with some notable progress coming through as the newer breeding operations continue.

Tony Blake was very surprised by the standard of entries this year. He hadn't been for a couple of years and was surprised by the improvement of sheep in general.

The RBA would like to thank everyone for their assistance, particularly Ron Binnie, the judges and all of the helpers. Also to everyone who braved the weather, both stallholders and spectators. They said it was great to see how supportive the more experienced farmers are of the younger ones and it was a great opportunity for farmers to look at each others stock and exchange ideas and opinions.



Winner of the Under 16's open, Darby Newman with her entry



Guess the micron of the fleece proved very popular throughout the day



Farmers and spectators inspect the sheep

SHEEP SHOW RESULTS

Class 1: Mature ram over 24 months of age

1st: Cape Dolphin
2nd: Goose Green
3rd: Goose Green

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

1st: Home Farm
2nd: Goose Green
3rd: Goose Green

Class 3: Ram hogget less than 12 months of age

1s. R Poole
2nd: Home Farm
3rd: Port Sussex

Class 4: Mature ewe over 24 months of age

1st: North Arm
2nd: Cape Dolphin
3rd: North Arm

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

1st: Home Farm

2nd: Moss Side
3rd: North Arm

Class 6: Ewe hogget under 12 months of age

1st: R Poole
2nd: Mt Kent
3rd: R Poole

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

1st: Moss Side
2nd: Mt Kent
3rd: Home Farm

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

1st: Wineglass Stn
2nd: Home Farm

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

1st: Wineglass Stn
2nd: Home Farm
3rd: Lorenzo

Class 10: Ewe of any age suitable for producing prime lambs

1st: Lorenzo
2nd: North Arm
3rd: Fitzroy

Class 11: Pen of three prime weaner lambs

1st: Cape Dolphin
2nd: Lorenzo
3rd: Fitzroy

Class 12: Under 16's open entry

1st Darby Newman
2nd: Jack Alazia
3rd: Regan Newman

Other Prizes

- Champion Ram: Cape Dolphin
- Champion Ewe: Home Farm
- Most points in wool classes: Home Farm
- Lucky Programme number 60
- Guess Micron of fleece: R Tellez
- Guess weight of sheep: R Tellez

AFRINO SHEEP DOING VERY WELL AT SHALLOW HARBOUR

By Peter Johnson

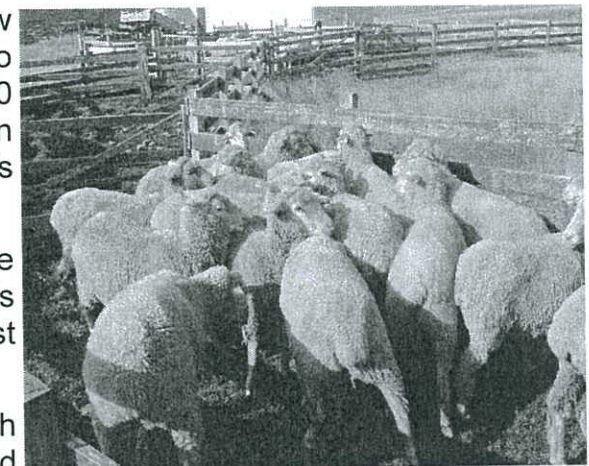
The Joint Venture Afrino sheep being run with Shallow Harbour were weighed in early April in the lead up to selecting breeding groups for the 2008 season. The 20 shearling ewes and 23 shearling rams are all in magnificent order and a credit to both Ali and Marlane's management as well as the characteristic of the breed.

The ewes averaged 50.8 kg while the rams (which were put to Polwarth ewes as hoggets) weighed in at 46.3. This is from animals that averaged a greasy fleece of just under 2kg, 18.9µm wool as hoggets.

Lambs produced from the Afrino rams over Polwarth ewes have done extremely well over summer, and according to Ali and Marlane, they are standing shoulder above the rest of the lambs they are running with, and can not be mistaken with the characteristic clear face and large, floppy ears.

The DoA was not able to procure Afrino semen for this season to expand the current bloodlines at Shallow Harbour, so a natural mating is planned between the three different groups that are currently there.

Pictured right: the Afrino sheep at Shallow Harbour





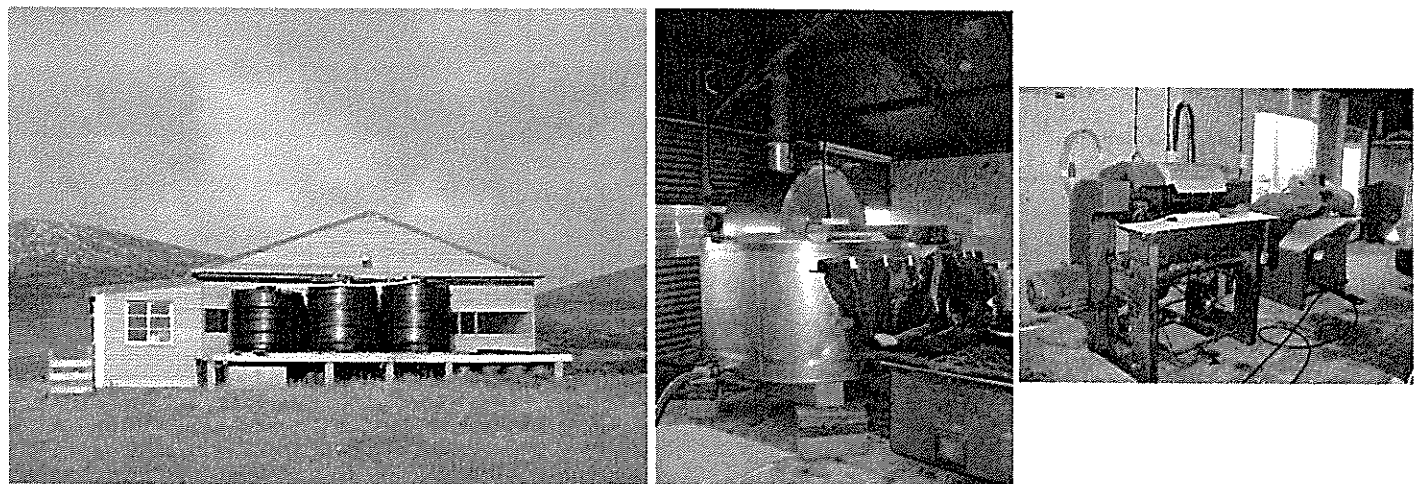
Henry Boughton, Hill Cove, West Falkland.
Tel: 41041 email: hvb4950@horizon.co.fk

Hard to believe a year has almost passed since the first batch of sixty skins came through the new tannery here in Hill Cove. To see these wonderfully soft and creamy skins completed made all the blood sweat and tears of the last year or so seem very worthwhile.

Without doubt this was a community project, in so much that a great many from the West helped with this venture, of one thing I am sure, I couldn't have done this on my own, this project would have failed without the enormous help that's been shown to us, and something I shall always remember. Some friends questioned the wisdom of building the tannery so far from the market and that closer to Stanley would have been the more sensible choice, but Hill Cove is where we live and I hope that in some small way we might just be able to prove that business ventures on the West can succeed. Yes logistically it is more difficult, but as we've proved not impossible. Hopefully Woolmore sheepskin products will grow; we have a healthy tourist industry and must gear ourselves in that direction.

For the present we are concentrating on the sheepskin rug side and striving to improve on the high quality we have so far. As to the future, we would like to add products to the rug range, again we must choose quite carefully here, not all the visitors to the Islands have a pocket full of money and we must bear this in mind.

Sometimes at the end of another good day and when all the various machines are switched off, I sit down and reflect for a moment or two and many times it's reminded me of the numerous occasions when I used to switch off the milking machines in UK, and yes, I do ask myself the question, how on earth did an ex dairy farmer from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire become a tanner in Hill Cove on the Falkland Islands. Would I change things? Never. I love it and I hope we can go from strength to strength and perhaps help to strengthen the settlement a little at the same time.



L-R: Rainwater tanks out side of tannery, the big washtub, the iron and the staker
Pictures provided by Shelley Nightingale, Hill Cove

LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

By Siân Ferguson

Yes, it's that time of year again, the dreaded Stock Returns. Farm owners (or managers) should all shortly be receiving their Livestock Ordinance Form - if you haven't had anything in the next week or so, please contact the DoA and we will send you another one out.

Two forms will be posted out to you. One is to completed and returned to the Department of Agriculture no later than the deadline of 30th June 2008 and the other is for your own records.

As there are a couple of sections that sometimes prove confusing to fill out and with the introduction of new columns last year, we've included a couple of paragraphs below as guidelines for filling out your annual return.

- With the introduction of the sheep paint brands for sheep movements to the abattoir and elsewhere, there has been some confusion regarding requirements for cattle and horses. The sheep brand sent out is solely for the use of sheep movements. If you do have your own farm brand for cattle and horses then this is to be entered. If you are unsure, please consult previous copies of the Farming Statistics for what has been entered, or contact the DOA to find out if you have a brand registered.
- The completion of the wool sales is not optional, you do need to return your annual sales information (greasy & clean kg's sold plus net value of wool sold). However we are aware that some farmers will not have received all their wool sales information so please contact us if this affects you by the deadline. If you have informed us of this, you can return your Livestock Form and send in the wool sales information at a later date.
- In order to provide the greatest amount of accuracy to the published Farming Statistics (and to avoid re-prints when large numbers of stock are omitted), we will this year send you back a copy of your farms information as it will appear in the Farming Statistics, which you can then check over and contact us if you believe there are any errors. This may prove particularly useful with the inclusion of all the new columns last year; death rates, reproductive efficiency etc.

If you have any questions concerning the Livestock Ordinance, please contact me on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk If you cannot contact us during the working day, you can contact me at home on telephone 21977.

The return of completed Livestock Ordinance Forms to the Department of Agriculture by the 30th June each year is a legal obligation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FAILURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORM BY 30TH JUNE 2008 CAN, UNDER LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE, SECTION 20, RESULT IN A FINE OF £200 PER DAY FOR EACH DAY OVERDUE.

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

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

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

All contributions are gratefully received.

INTRODUCING KENTON GOODWIN

Hi everyone, my name is Kenton Goodwin and I am sixteen years old. First a little bit about me.

For the past 7 years I have been living in Stanley though regularly go out to our farm with my parents at weekends and holidays.

I have been helping with the day to day farm work ever since I was old enough to ride a quad bike. I have learned to drive many farm vehicles and often use quads or motor bikes for gathering the sheep. I have always been keen to learn everything about farming and I have been quite pleased at some of the tasks I have achieved.

Before I finished school I worked with Choice Fruits Farm Shop and spent my school work experience in Falklands Garage helping Peter Morrison. On leaving school I went out to Moss Side farm to help out and learn new things. Just before starting at the Department of Agriculture I was working at Johnson's Harbour painting the settlement buildings.

I have two ambitions in life that I would like to achieve. One is to become a Pilot and the other to be the owner of my own farm so that I can try some different farming methods.

Actually getting the opportunity to work with the Department of Agriculture is like the icing on the cake. Not only do I get the opportunity to learn the many new farming techniques, but that I get to be part of the team that is helping all the other farmers to test their own new methods.

My first two weeks here has been busy but fun and already I have been soil sampling and testing grass for mineral types. I have been wool core sampling and even been out to a couple of places in camp already.

I am beginning to find my way around the department. The staff have been great and always willing to show me different working skills. I am looking forward to the months ahead as I am sure the staff have many surprises in store for me. I hope to get to visit some of the farms when the opportunities come my way.



GOODBYE FROM PETER JOHNSON

The days have finally run out, and my too short a stint of time in the Falkland Islands has come to an end. Although I am looking forward to the next challenge that awaits me, it is with trepidation that I do leave.

It has been an action-packed time for me over the last couple of years here, and there are many memories and experiences I will take with me. I feel the DOA has really progressed on some key issues while I have had the pleasure of working here, and I think the focus on farm productivity factors such as winter nutrition and grazing management are the key for Falkland farmers to drive their business performance into the future.

There are many challenges ahead for agriculture in the Islands. Conversion to a dual purpose flock, labour and skill shortages and rising input prices are but a few of the battles facing agriculture here and globally.

I do feel that the framework is in place however, to take the steps forward to meet these challenges with what we have learnt from trial and error here, and from agricultural advancements in other parts of the world. FIP and the labour scheme are two exceptional tools that can be used by farms to set themselves up to meet these challenges and I urge everyone to use these great schemes while you still have them, because one day in the future they may not be there.

On the personal side, our newly expanded family took every opportunity to spend time in camp and travelling around to experience some of the magnificent scenery, wildlife and hospitality the Falklands has to offer. We enjoyed two sports weeks, and the warm, summer days of BBQ's around the West at Christmas time, memories firmly etched in our minds.

I look forward to reading about the outcomes of current trials in future Wool Press articles and about what else is happening in Falkland's agriculture. Our door is always open in Australia for everyone who has made our stay here so special.

Peter's replacement Tony Mills, his partner Rosie Bright and their 2 small boys will be arriving on June 6th. Tony hails from Western Queensland and has had wide practical experience in the sheep, wool, grazing and farm financial industries. Like most extension scientists trained in Australia and New Zealand, he has a sound technical understanding and practical knowledge of plant (agronomy), soil and grazing animal interactions. He comes from an extension background and has worked as a rouseabout in shearing sheds and station hand on properties in a harsh environment. Soon after he arrives Mac will be bringing him around to meet farmers throughout the Islands.

EVEN SHEEP HAVE EWE-MAN RIGHTS, SAY THE SHEARING SHOW PROTESTERS

From the Daily Mail, 12th April 2008, kindly provided by Sukey Cameron, FIGO

For years, enthusiasts have flocked to see a county's traditional sheep shearing competition.

They are enthralled by the skill and dexterity of operators in removing fleeces in as little as two minutes.

But now the event has been scrapped ... because anti-cruelty activists claim the ewes and rams could be hurt by the electric clippers that are used.

One protester declared: "Sheep have rights too."

The annual contest was one of the most popular parts of the three-day Kent County Show held in Detling, near Maidstone, each July.

It involved shearers from as far away as Australia and New Zealand competing to see who could remove the fleece from a sheep in the fastest time possible.

But, following the protests, the event has been scrapped from the line-up this year, infuriating many in the local agricultural community.

Farmer Tony Mowbray said: "This is just complete madness. Shearers are trained professionals.

"Of course sheep get the odd nick, but it's ridiculous to stop that from being shown to the public to protect their sensibilities.

"I have never in my life heard of such a thing. What sort of message does this send? Are we now supposed to not shear flocks and let their coats grow out of control?"

Another farmer, Hugh Skinner, of Sissinghurst, Kent, said: "I just think it is another example of the public being separated from what goes on in the countryside.

"I have just been to the Paris Agricultural Show and they make every effort to bring the countryside to the people."

Sheep breeder Lester Gosbee said: "It is a great shame, because the competition shows people how quickly sheep are shorn.

"Occasionally they do get the odd nick, but never enough to need stitches."

Shearing has been banned over concerns the clippers harm the sheep

The show organisers, the Kent County Agricultural Society, said the contest was scrapped after members of the public complained about how the sheep were treated.

A spokesman said: "The welfare of the animals is a major concern and although there have been concerns raised by the public, this is not the primary reason for the competition not appearing."

Showground manager David Goff confirmed that people worried about the treatment of sheep had voiced concerns.

He added: "When I said I used to teach sheep shearing, I said it was a bit like men shaving. But members of the public don't understand.

"Education of the public is a real concern - I am very conscious that we need to educate the public.

"In the old days, people were country folk - but now they come from the towns and don't really understand."

He said the event's £15,000 running costs are no longer viable.

One animal rights activist, who did not want to be named, said:

"Sheep have rights too. I thought it was cruel, so complained. A lot of people agreed with me."

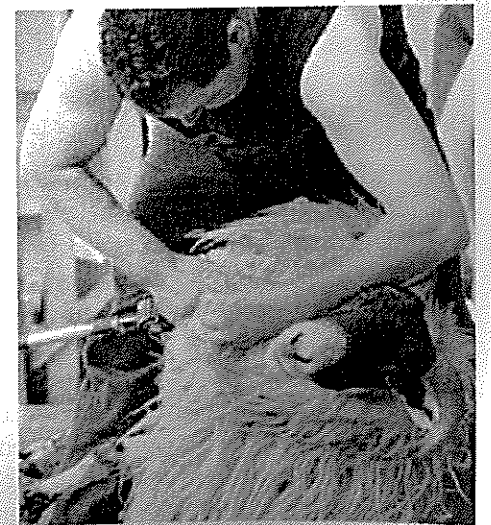
However, Mr Skinner - who has a 1,200-strong flock of sheep - has now offered to host the competition at his farm in Sissinghurst on July 13.

Mechanical shearing devices are similar to human hair clippers. In Australia, elite shearers can remove 200 fleeces in an eight-hour day - around one every two to three minutes. In competitive shearing, it can take just two minutes.

The RSPCA said it backs scrapping the Kent contest.

Julia Wrathall, from the charity's farm animal department said: "If you are going to shear a sheep, it should be on its home farm where there would be enough time to do the job without worrying about the speed aspect.

"If you bring speed into it, you may sacrifice care and quality and we would have genuine concerns."



Fleeced: A shearer at work

FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

"Seen anything strange lately?! Don't leave it....or shoot it. Call the Veterinary Section".

This image associated with these words might be most people's favourite bit in Wool Press but it's no laughing matter and recently, doing just that has been extremely worthwhile.

South American grey foxes and sheep farming are a bad combination, and luckily foxes weren't let loose on East and West Falklands back in the 1930s when they were first introduced to Weddell and Beaver Islands. In early March, John Morrison of Port Howard Farm followed the advice in Wool Press and reported a possible fox sighting near Port Purvis to the Department of Agriculture. Opposite Port Purvis lies River Island, which has foxes.

Was it a cat or a fox? Neil Clark, Rupert Anderson and John saw it for less than a minute. John and Rupert were both struck by the size of the animal, which they reckoned to be larger than any cat they'd seen. John and Rupert have seen foxes on River Island many times and reckoned it looked more like one of those than a cat. They found prints on the beach, which weren't exactly like those of a cat.

Foxes don't like water but it is possible that a fox feeding on a tidal reef on the island could get caught by a rising tide and swept offshore and end up on the mainland.

A site visit was arranged for Sally Poncet to spend a week searching the area for signs and sightings, with Port Howard Farm offering all the assistance required, including the loan of a land rover.

The only recognisable tracks found in the entire week in the Port Purvis area were those of cats. But generally, food is plentiful at this time of year - sheep carcasses, diddledee and teaberries inland, geese and easy scavenging along the shoreline - so a fox could be anywhere.

Could it have been a cat? It did run off like feral cats do - foxes are generally more tame - and the prints were definitely more cat-like. But the size and colour of the animal, particularly its tail markings, were more fox-like, and those people who saw it have experience and knowledge of foxes from working on River Island.

The search is not over yet. If you do see anything out there on West Falklands that looks like a fox, call the Veterinary Section!

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

A Chinese zoo says a wolf and a goat have become unlikely sweethearts after sharing a cage together. Keepers at the zoo, in White Tower Park, Nanchong city, says the pair have become inseparable. "If the goat is gone for a bit, the wolf will howl and run frantically around the cage until she comes back," said keeper, Mr Xu.

Prey and predator only started dating by accident a month ago, Xu told the West China City News. "Early one morning I opened the goat's fence to let her out to eat, and unexpectedly the wolf came out, because we hadn't locked his cage securely," he said. "The wolf ran straight to the goat's fence, and started howling when it smelled the goat. The goat was so scared you could see her legs shaking." Xu says he had to protect the goat until other employees came to help separate the animals. "But for the next several nights the two started getting to know each other better, and even exchanged howls and baas.

You could tell they were flirting," says Xu. Five days later Xu and his colleagues came to a decision: "We thought, since they so much wanted to, why not put them together? It's really rare for a wolf and a goat to be so close." The zoo says that since being put together, the wolf and the goat have done everything together - except share meals. The wolf sticks to his meat while the goat enjoys a vegetable diet.



Recipe Page

From NYTimes.com, provided by Doug Martin, Stanley

Beef Roast With Melted Tomatoes and Onions

Time: About 2 hours, Adapted from Susie Fishbein

Ingredients

1 silver tip roast, 5 pounds, or rib roast, 7 pounds	Fine sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper	4 tablespoons olive oil
2 onions, coarsely chopped	4 cloves garlic, cut into slivers
3 large or 4 medium ripe tomatoes	6 sprigs thyme, woody stems discarded

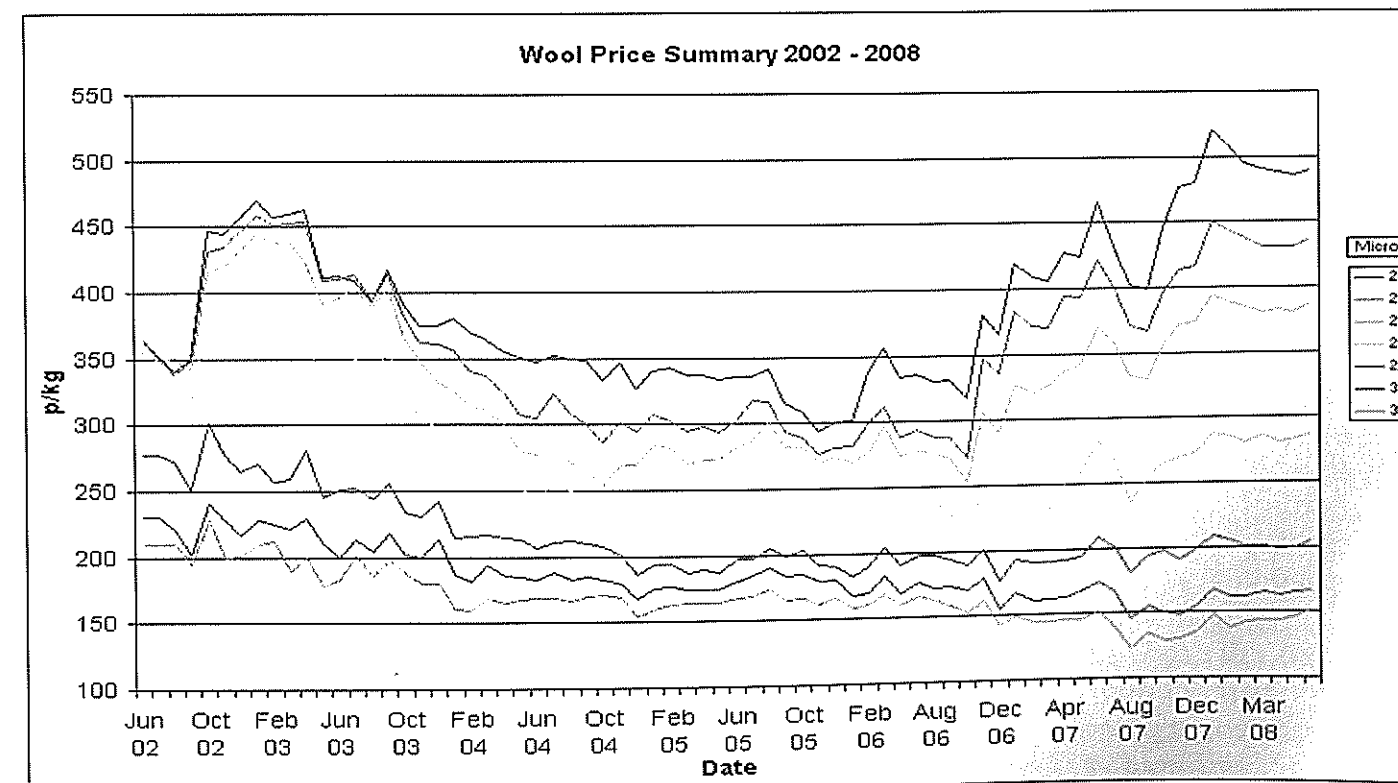
Method

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Season roast with salt and pepper. In a large heavy pot or Dutch oven, heat oil to very hot. Sear roast on all sides until crusty dark brown, at least 3 to 4 minutes a side. Do not move roast around while searing, as this will prevent crust from forming.
2. Add onions, garlic, tomatoes and thyme to pot. Stir and cook vegetables 3 to 4 minutes. Add water to come a third of the way up the roast. Place pot in oven, uncovered.
3. Braise about 1 1/2 to 2 hours depending on size, until meat thermometer inserted into centre registers about 155 degrees (medium rare). Do not overcook. Remove from oven, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest 10 minutes. Transfer to carving board or platter and serve with tomatoes, onions and pan juices.

Yield: 10 to 12 servings.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

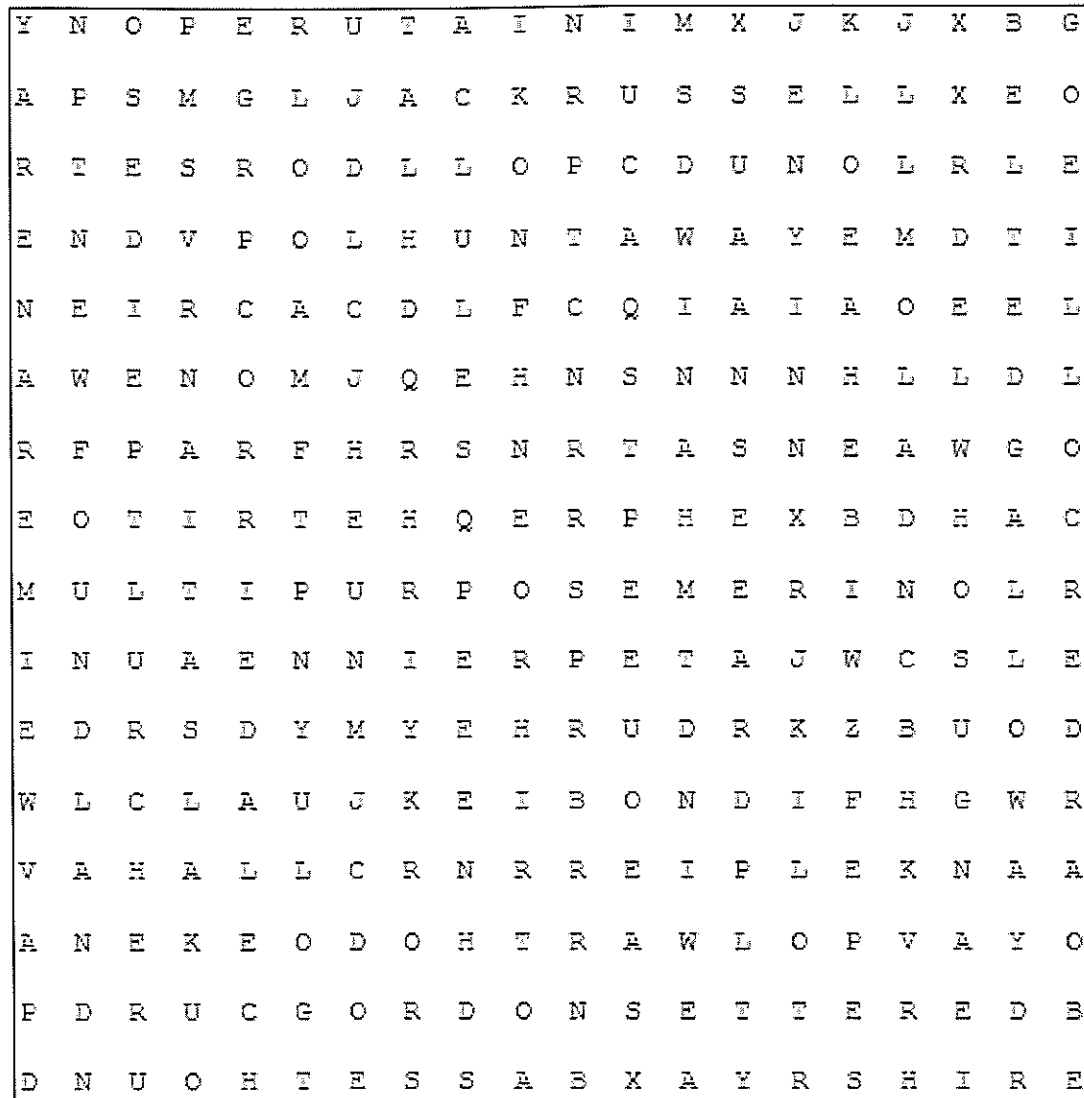
Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



PUZZLE PAGE

Can you locate some of the animal breeds found in the Falkland Islands?

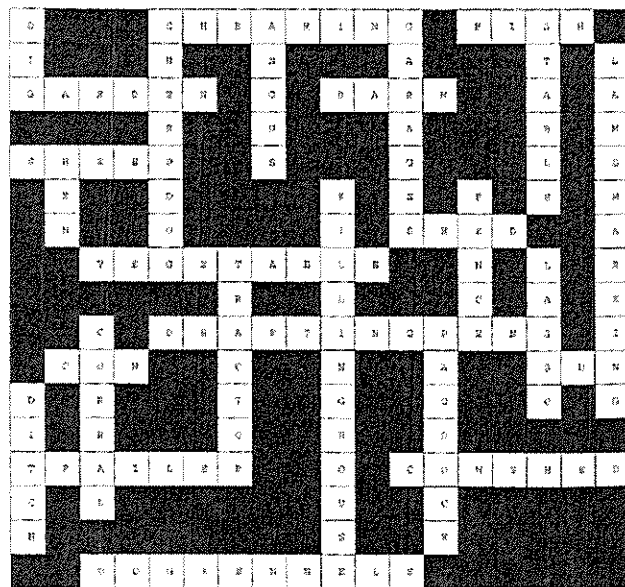
WORD SEARCH



Animal Breeds

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ALSATIAN | HEREFORD |
| ANGUS | HUNTAWAY |
| AYRSHIRE | JACKRUSSELL |
| BASSETHOUND | KELPIE |
| BELTEDGALLOWAY | LABRADOR |
| BOND | LURCHER |
| COCKERSPIEL | MINIATUREPONY |
| CORMO | MULTIPURPOSEMERINO |
| CORRIEDALE | NEWFOUNDLAND |
| DACHSHUND | PERSIAN |
| DOHNEMERINO | POLLDORSET |
| GERMANSHEPHERD | POLWARTH |
| GOLDENRETRIEVER | TEXEL |
| GORDONSETTER | WEIMARANER |

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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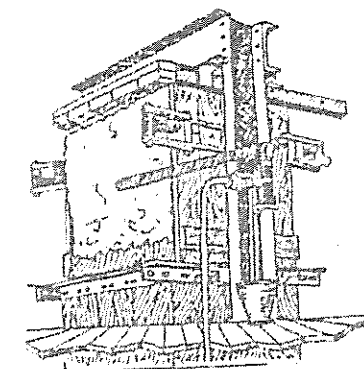
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EDITORIAL

There are some thought provoking articles in this month's Wool Press that will make good reading during the dark June evenings. Both Ian Campbell and Andrew Pollard's articles give food for thought and they are keen to get feed back so don't hold back! But first take a look at the FIMCO report from Doug Martin where he shows the number of farms now supplying mutton and lamb to the abattoir. All farmers are to be congratulated for the speed in which they have adjusted to a new meat industry. Progress made in five years is remarkable.

Do you agree with Ian that an ideal flock structure is where ewes are joined at two years old, lambing percentages are not less than 65% and after four lambings ewes are sold for mutton at age five? If so how can we achieve it? Ian's second article explores present average stocking rates. Rates have been higher in the past but are farmers using less land now but more intensively? See if you agree with Ian as to how to maximise stocking levels without dropping production.

Andrew's article on simulated grazing trials is really putting out a powerful message. Regular but managed grazing (or mowing in this case) resulted in an increased yield over three years. Why? Then Andy examines the influence of soil temperature and rainfall on dry matter production. His second article on soil fertility confirms respect for the old timers who burnt the cull in the camp in order to improve soil quality.

Thank you to Donna and Michael Minnell for their farm profile this month. Their achievements since buying the Moss Side in 1993 are remarkable. Best wishes with your future business plans.

Mac McArthur has described his visit to the West in May. He covered a lot of ground and managed to stay on the sticky roads which can be a challenge at this time of the year. I am sure his meetings have been thought provoking and helpful in understanding what can be achieved on farms in relation to income from meat and wool production.

Rural Development Strategy meetings are in full swing now and Pippa Christie is keen to hear from anyone who wants to know more about the initiative. You will find details inside. In addition to Pippa's profile, I am delighted that we have Susan Campbell on the staff assisting in the veterinary section; an area that gets very busy indeed. Her work on sheep parasites is a critical piece of work and the results from her research are eagerly awaited.

Lastly do dip into the article about Jillaros! If we counted all the ladies working in agriculture on Falkland farms we would have a high percentage too.

Looking forward to seeing you in Farmers' Week in July.

Best regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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FLOCK STRUCTURES

By Ian Campbell

Flock structures are an often neglected aspect of farm management and decision making that is actually an important aspect of farm profitability. There are a number of different flock structures. From what I can see nearly all the farms here have a self replacing flock structure. The other alternative is to have a flock structure based on buying in animals to run which is fairly common in other parts of the world. A self replacing flock relies on enough ewe lambs eventually entering the ewe flock to maintain numbers at a reasonably constant level. That much is obvious but lets look at the figures and implications.

Assume we aim to join 1000 ewes annually and get a 60% lambing - half of each sex.

There are 300 ewe lambs born. Lets say we cull 50 for spots, jaws, muffy faces, runts etc or they die in the first winter; so we have 250 ewe lambs in that age group to go in. To maintain the 1000 ewe flock, **with no more deaths**, we need to breed each ewe for 4 years to keep our 1000 ewes. Add in a typical death rate and we need to breed for 5 years to maintain our numbers.

OK with all that lets look at a few consequences.

Age at first joining

Ewes reach puberty once they reach a weight not an age. At 35 - 40 kg they will cycle and become pregnant, but ideally they are a bit heavier than this so they can carry the lamb if things get tough - as they do. Assuming we lamb at the same time each year we need to join at 7, 19 or 21 months of age to lamb as a 1, 2 or 3 year old respectively.

Joining lambs is most likely out of the question here, however it is done elsewhere. The difference between lambing as a two year old and a three year old dictates (with the 5 lambings) whether they will ultimately be expected to lamb as a six year or a seven year old. Of course lambing as a two year old rather than a three year old means there is one less dry mob on the farm - so this might need to be backfilled.-ie we can try to build up to 1100 ewes.

Lambing Percentage

A 70% lambing means that we can easily do with only 4 lambings so we can keep the average age of the flock down. A 50% lambing and we might just need to squeeze another lambing out of the old girls and keep them until 8 years old. Higher lambing rates will also enable more wethers to be available to sell or run on and a higher cull rate in the ewes for genetic progress.

Average age of the flock

Younger mature flocks cut more wool, finer wool and a better style of wool (many old sheep go doggy and blow out). It is also easier to keep the weight on younger ewes, they are in the prime of their breeding life so do a good job on the lambs. There should be less deaths. Genetic progress is also sped up in younger flocks due to a younger generation interval. If sheep are culled for age at 5 years they have a much better chance of reaching the 15+ kg carcass that has a commercial value than if they are culled off at a year or two older as skinny old toothless ewes with no commercial value. It is also much better than having significant numbers of old ewes just dying on the job.

The Ideal Flock Structure for the Falkland Islands (I think)

- With a bit of extra TLC (tender loving care) ewes should be joined to lamb as a 2 year old
- Lambing rates of 65% - last year it was 57.4% (average for the Falklands)
- Four lambings and culled after shearing as a 5 year old for £8.36

FIMCO - EXPORT SEASON 2008

By Doug Martin

This year just over 30,000 sheep were processed with mutton much as forecast, Old Season Lamb (OSL) numbers down and an increase in New Season Lamb (NSL) compared to the forecast and 2007 export season. **Average weight of NSL was greater than that of OSL** – This is considered due to both the pricing structure and difficulties experienced by many farmers in carrying over and finishing OSL.

Out of interest a summary for production from 2003-2008 is included.

Summary: Sheep Meat Export Production Falkland Islands 2003-2008										
Year	OSL	Ave.cwt	NSL	Ave.cwt	Lamb Suppliers	Lambs Total	Mutton	Ave.cwt	Sheep Total	Total Suppliers
2003					6	2953	12447		15400	27
2004					7	1808	19658		21466	33
2005	1269	13.3	1690	12.1	8	3151	20081		23232	38
2006	5949	13.3	3256	11.5	17	9368	26222		35590	41
2007	7257	13.5	4353	12.9	24	11610	22832	19.4	34442	48
2008	6905	13.7	4935	13.9	27	11840	18189	19.5	30029	47

Comments:

1. 2008 Price structure – had the effect of:

- Encouraging farmers to breed for or produce heavier carcasses.
- Encouraging some farmers to mate terminal sires to part of the flock.
- Demonstrating that there is currently little difference in the new genetics imported as a dual purpose sheep. There is a slight difference in some cases, however when taking DoA trials into account the results from meat breeds are far superior. **Nutrition is the key.**
- Based in part on results achieved by a major supplier as well as the perceived need to produce heavier carcasses, approx 20 farms will be using terminal sires over part of the ewe flock to produce lambs for next season.

2. Transport

- Problems were encountered at commencement of season, however once this was resolved few delays were experienced. Poor weather impacting on livestock movement caused delays towards the end of the season.
- With the new ferry service there will be issues to be dealt with, however once these are overcome it is expected that there will be a vast improvement on the service that currently exists. The new purpose-built livestock crates funded by FIG will be in use for next season.

3. Traceability

- Some problems arose early in the season with sheep incorrectly identified; however in general farmers did a good job of correctly completing the Livestock Movement Forms.
- Even though the paint brands are easy to apply, problems arose at times with smudging, making the job of drafting difficult. Many farmers are now using numbered tags with property identification, thus making it relatively easy to prepare sheep for transport to Sand Bay.
- As in past years a number of sheep became separated from their lots between the farm and Sand Bay; however it is expected this will not be an issue with the new transport system.

4. Supply Planning

- In some cases farmers planned well ahead and at other times, due to pressure of shearing and other commitments, sheep were selected very close to time of transport. This made it difficult to schedule the daily kill in advance in terms of indicated and actual numbers and also more importantly, compared to those farmers who selected early and provided better nutrition, farmers who could not do so perhaps sacrificed feed providing grazing to those sheep unsuitable for sale.
- The supply of OSL was lower than indicated numbers with "teeth-in-wear" being the major issue. Monitoring OSL is a difficult task and again feed can be wasted as selection is based on weight, condition and teeth eruption, with the latter being a problem in that lambs need to be individually assessed. This is not a simple system with which to work. Carrying lambs over winter requires good quality feed as well as better management and monitoring, particularly for

weight and internal parasites.

- In some cases more time was required to finish new season lamb as with lower wether numbers as well as faster throughput at the plant the season finished early. It is difficult to meet all farmers' needs and any new pricing schedule being considered will endeavour to rectify problems such as this. Some observations which need to be remembered are that often the weather in May will cause problems with transport and also top quality feed will be required to finish lambs once the season turns cold. Internal parasites can also be a problem. Lambs born early, and sold straight off their mother is a simple system.

5. 2009 Season

- The indication for next season is there appears to be an increasing number of farmers using meat breeds as terminal sires for new season lamb with approx 20 farms using terminal sires and an increase in old season lamb with wether numbers remaining the same.
- At this stage over 50 farms have indicated they will be supplying.
- Sheep meat prices are on an upward trend, however all associated costs will increase with high oil prices impacting on transport, overheads and packaging.
- If the aim is to sell all first cross lambs, the price paid by FIMCo may need to take this into account. (Pricing is currently being reviewed).

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have supplied Sand Bay during the past season, for both the export and domestic markets. Over £450,000 is expected to be paid out to farmers during the current financial year. Further upgrading of the plant will be completed for 2009, making the plant more efficient and as stated previously, a new transport system will operate from the West & Islands, but it is anticipated that this will improve the planning and supply for both East & West.



FARMERS WEEK PROGRAMME

	Monday 7th July	Tuesday 8th July	Wednesday 9th July	Thursday 10th July	Friday 11th July
Session 1	Governor to open Rural Expo & breakfast	Fire Training & FIGAS (Air Terminal)	Tourism followed by Helen Otley	DOA - Wether trial, wool clip & QFW	Councillors (RBA only)
<i>Smoko</i>		-	RBA	DOA	RBA
Session 2		Workboat Services (at FIPASS)	RBA Committee Meeting	DOA - Genetic Improvement	FIDC - Tourism
<i>Lunch</i>	DOA	Workboat Services	RBA	FIMCo	FIDC
Session 3	DOA - Organic Farming Systems	FIMCo Annual Review	RBA AGM	DOA/FIMCo Identification of Cattle	FIDC Catch-up following by wool machinery demonstration at FIPASS
<i>Smoko</i>	DOA	DOA	RBA	-	RBA
Session 4	DOA - Nutrition grazing management trials summary	DOA/FIMCo Disease Surveillance	Invasive Species RSPB	Falklands Conservation	Aquaculture Site Tour
<i>Evening</i>	RBA Party Narrows Bar	FIODA	Governor's Reception	Hillside Meal	Camp Ed Dance

This programme is subject to change and was correct at time of print. For more information on DOA sessions, please contact us on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk. For all other queries or to book an Expo Stand, please contact Sealed PR on 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk All sessions will be in the Town Hall unless indicated otherwise. More information will be available in the July Wool Press.

JOURNEY AMONG THE WESTERS

By Mac McArthur

During the hard slog of study for the last year of my Bachelor's degree I read a great book entitled 'Journey Among Men' which was about a trip that an Australian professor, a famous Australian artist and their mates wrote about their interesting adventures in Northern Australia. At this time at Lincoln College in New Zealand, I was focused on trying to pass final exams, trying to resist, with my mates the change from 6 pm pub close to 10pm. This book had me thinking about adventures in faraway Australia much more exciting than worrying about study.

I was reminded of the book and the adventures those men had recently when Felicity and I visited a number of farms on the West Island. We flew over to Hill Cove on the Saturday morning and picked up our vehicle from Peter and Shelley Nightingale and headed off South.

We called in at Stoney Ridge but Jennifer and James were away so we headed for Port Stephens where we were made very welcome by Ann and Peter Robertson. Paul came in for supper and we had a most interesting evening as there were connections with Deniliquin in Australia where Felicity was born. I remember a big hoarding as you entered Deniliquin which had a picture of a large family of rabbits under which the sign said 'Do it in Deni'-due to political correctness it is no longer there.

We presented Peter with a two up set which had a 1912 penny the year of which was coincidental with another Falkland Island historical item we viewed at Crooked Inlet on our journey through the West.

With a wee bit of snow overnight Port Stephens was brisk the next morning when we set out to Albemarle to have morning tea with Pam and Erica. It was good to catch up with Pam and her daughter who we last saw at the Ram and Fleece Show at Fox Bay. We enjoyed magnificent views driving down into the cove towards the Albemarle house that the late Leon built and designed so beautifully.

We drove back to Port Stephens then headed off the next morning for White Rock and the pregnancy testing of the National Beef Herd. Due to some mechanical problems we had to call into Fox Bay and arrived at the cattle yards late to find Zoë and Susan pregnancy testing the last of the NBH cows. It was coolish and despite the cold we did manage to get the odd smile out of Susan and Zoë when they were lucky enough to have their hands warmed by a condescending cow's internal organs.

I spent an interesting time early that evening discussing with Simon and Sue Bonner their lamb enterprise at Pickthorne. Later on Rodney Lee, despite there being three pretty damned good cooks present, single handedly cooked us all a delicious meal. Carole had gone to considerable effort having hosted 23 people the previous weekend to ensure we had clean linen and spotless rooms.

The following morning Felicity and I had morning tea with Bill and Shirley Pole-Evans as Shirley was baking more of her beautiful cakes. We then caught up with Kenneth and Josie McKay who had come down to Port Howard to be involved with the FIGAS discussions at the Lodge. It was cold and so we decided to have the lamb production discussion at The Lodge where we were made most welcome and provided with afternoon tea and a beautiful cake. Don Bonner was also there staying with his daughter so we got a couple of good stories that capped the true yarns that are included in the 'Journey among Men' and are much more humorous.

Tracking on down to Fox Bay mainly in the dark was interesting as we flashed past a red Rover pretty well on our side of the road and then Monica McKay stopped us to say that the road was fairly slippery and there was a large truck following so this time we were prepared to pass Justin's big low loader. We were made very welcome by Shirley and Nigel Knight and later caught up with

Keith and Justin.

Next morning we headed off for Port North and caught up with Jodie having passed Roy and Fraser on the road. Fraser informed me with delight that he had taken photographs the day before of a wee (meaning small or minor) altercation I had had with the icy road surface just prior to coming down the hill towards Little Chartres.

As well as catching up with Jodie on Port North's lamb production issues Felicity and I caught up with Wendy Reynolds and her delightful young student Thomas, who was very interested to learn about snakes and other awful Australian wildlife. Felicity had a most interesting time in the school house reminiscing about when she was growing up in country Australia and had a governess to teach her and then was at a small school which she rode her pony to. We also caught up with Susie Hansen who was helping Jodie whilst we discussed the lamb production issues.

Wendy suggested we stop on our way up to Dunbar at the clay pans to have a very scenic view to Cliff and the Bense Islands on our way which we enjoyed very much. On arriving at Dunbar we were greeted by Hugues and his two very switched on and delightful children, Marie Lou and Teo. To spend time with people with a mainly French background and upbringing who are very keen to learn and make a success of farming in the Falklands is interesting. Not many people would be prepared to set up a farming or any other business in a country where another language was spoken.

Driving back to Bold Cove that evening in the dark with a bit of a blizzard blowing Felicity said at one stage that if we have a break down now we only have 8 kilometres to walk. After a delightful evening with Jimmy and Ginny we headed off to Port Howard to fuel up the vehicle and noticed then that we had a slow leaking tyre which was kindly pumped up by Simon Bonner.

Heading up to Crooked Inlet we noticed cattle grazing on a re-seed and came upon Danny and Joy Connelly stopped on the top of the hill overlooking the beautiful view into Crooked Inlet. Not many places in the world you would stop and chat to a farmer and his wife looking out for whales 'blowing' in the bay. Danny and Joy invited us in for a cuppa and cakes (Think I put on 2 kgs on this trip!). Danny then changed the slow leaking tyre-lucky we didn't try to change it in the dark the previous night as it proved to be a wee bit more complex than changing most tyres. We also viewed the very interesting saddlery and horse equipment including an embossed leather 'saddle' that had been won by a lady who had won the Governor's Cup in 1912. The saddle was a thick leather pad that incorporated the girth and might have kept your weight down but would have been fairly hard to grip with your knees if your mount decided to 'pig root' or get into a full bucking frenzy.

After farewelling Danny and Joy we drove back to Hill Cove and saw a magnificent cloud and setting sun over the water to Saunders Island at the top of the hill. Welcomed by the pack of Susan and Tony Hirtle's and Critta Lee's dogs it was a bit like arriving at a New Zealand high country station where most shepherds and the owners have 7 or 8 border collie dogs each.

The Hirtles took Felicity and I on an interesting walk around their individually named and multi coloured beef herd. A heifer that had recently calved was given the 'Turtles' usual treatment and Tony and I carried the calf in turns a good distance into a beautifully sheltered treed hideaway-glad it wasn't a heavy calf! The next morning we were up at daylight so we could see the Charolais Murray Grey cross heifer, her blue roan mates and the quiet old blue roan bull that is responsible for most of the multi coloured calves in Hill Cove.

Bidding Susan and Turtle goodbye on a fairly bleak and windy morning at Hill Cove we were then in the capable hands of 'Steady Eddie' who flew us uneventfully in a gale to Pebble Island and safely back to Stanley.

After a week of excellent hospitality, great company, much too much food and some beautiful scenery, it is back to the gym to try and get some flab off before the midwinter swim - such is life!

Rural Development Strategy: Planning for Camp's Future

WHAT?

A development plan for Camp, created by the community through workshops, discussions and consultation at every stage of the process.

WHY?

- To plan for the future - need to know what we want to achieve, where we're going and how we're going to get there
- To look at how the Camp economy can be strengthened
- To consider how to improve access to goods and services
- To think about how to enhance quality of life for people living in Camp
- To ensure that Camp continues to be central to the Falklands' culture and heritage
- To make a strong case for future Camp investment
- To guide future investment in Camp to where it's needed
- To link all relevant areas together in one plan - communications, transport, access to goods and services, business services, strengthening of farming, development of tourism, increasing opportunities for people living in Camp

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- It's an opportunity to have a say in the future
- It's an opportunity to influence policy and decision-makers
- It's an opportunity to address weaknesses in current service delivery
- The Strategy needs to be well-informed
- All views and ideas need to be considered
- It's your land, your life, your future

WHEN ARE THE NEXT MEETINGS?

*Fox Bay Social Club,
Friday 13th June,
2pm*

*Hill Cove hall, Mon-
day 16th June,
1030am*

*Public Meeting,
Stanley, 22nd July
5pm*

*Hope Cottage, date
to be confirmed*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

By Pippa Christie



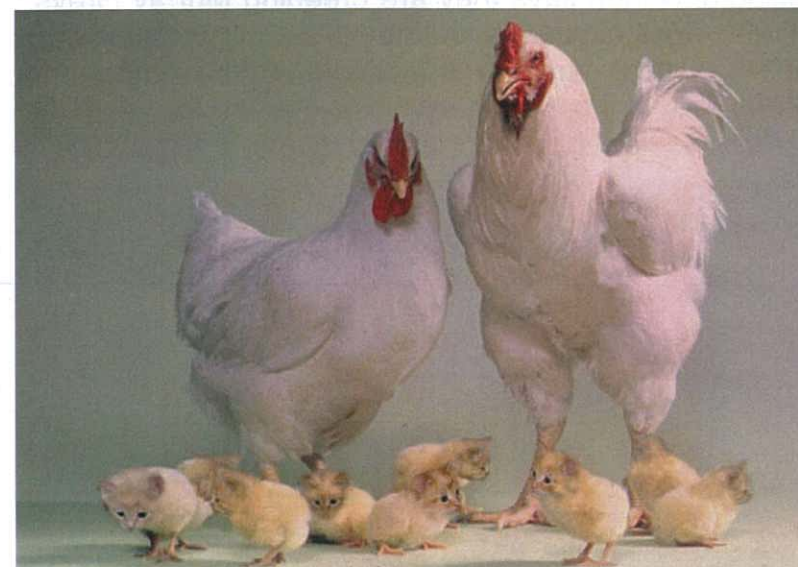
Now that I am badgering you all to participate in the Rural Development Strategy, I thought I'd better put something in the Wool Press, so that those of you who haven't met me already can put a face to a name.

I've lived in the Falklands for 21 years of my 26, having arrived in the Falklands with my family in May 1987. I have worked for FIG since I finished university in 2004, firstly in the Policy Unit at the Secretariat, and now at the Department of Mineral Resources. Although I've moved to Minerals, I still spend part of my time undertaking policy work, and it is through my policy role that I am working on the Rural Development Strategy. In addition to the Strategy, I am sure I will be helping the Ag Department from time to time, so you'll see me around!

I'm really keen to get as many people involved in the Rural Development Strategy as possible. If anyone has any queries or comments on the development of the Strategy, then please email me or give me a shout, so that we can make

sure that the strategy meetings are really successful. I can be contacted by phone (27322) or by emailing pchristie@mineralresources.gov.fk. Please do come along to the meetings if you possibly can; all your contributions are needed to ensure that the final strategy reflects what the people in Camp and the whole Community want for Camp's future.

You will be hearing from me by email and through the Penguin News in the near future as we look for representatives from the Camp community to work more closely on the development of the Strategy. This would involve helping to organise meetings, collating views and opinions on the future of Camp expressed by people in the Camp Community, and representing the Camp Community at meetings in Stanley. These representatives would also be the point of contact for people in Camp who are unable attend the RDS meetings, but still want to have a say in the Strategy. If you're interested in this role and would like more information, give me a call or send me an email. Alternatively, if you can think of someone who you think would be a really good representative, then please mention the idea to them and try to persuade them to get involved.



**Seen anything
strange lately?!**

**DON'T LEAVE IT.....
.... OR SHOOT IT**

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS
OUR BEST DEFENCE!!**

FARM IN PROFILE: MOSS SIDE

Property Name: Moss Side

Location: Port San Carlos, East Falkland

Owners: Michael & Donna Minnell

Farm size: 9,542 ha

Sheep: 6,500 mainly Polwarth

Cattle: 112 mixed breed

Michael and Donna bought Moss Side in 1993. When they first moved to the farm there was only two buildings, including the house, everything else has been erected in the past 15 years. They had previously spent 9 years at Chartres. Both Michael and Donna grew up in camp, Michael on East Falkland and Donna on the West. They stayed in farming for both the lifestyle and the challenge.

Breeding for a dual-purpose animal

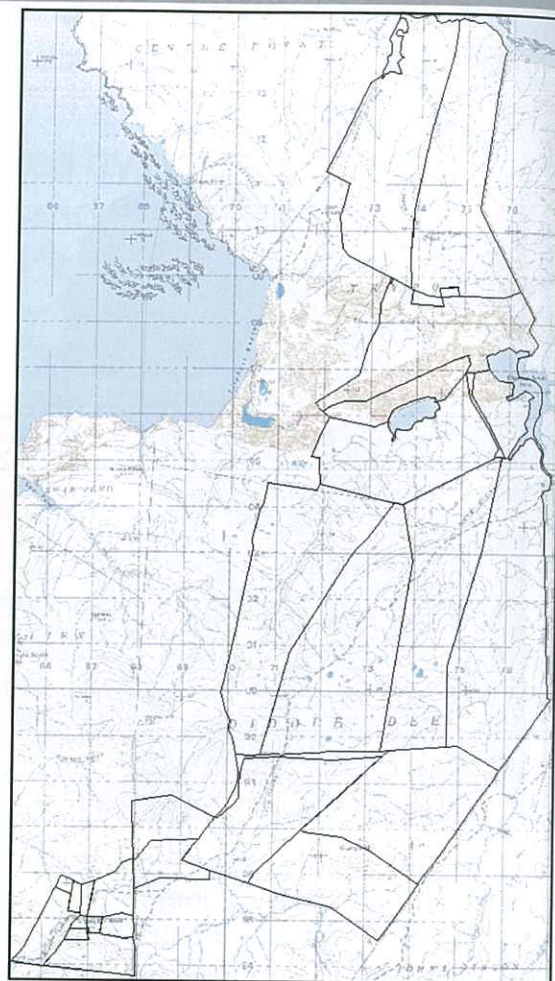
When Michael and Donna first moved to Moss Side, the main sheep breed was a Corriedale and Polwarth cross. They worked on more Polwarth animals to reduce the average farm micron and increase the fleece weight.

In recent years they have introduced Dohne Merino genetics (through an Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer Programme), in to produce finer wool and a larger lamb carcass to sell to the abattoir.

Michael and Donna say that the reason they are pursuing Dohne Merino genetics is that this is the only breed they have come across that keeps wool micron down, whilst still producing a good meat carcass.

Although they have seen some good results so far, it is still early days and they have yet to be sure that this is the right breed for their particular farm.

With selling sheep to the abattoir and still producing a good fleece weight, this will hopefully bring in more



Breeding Murray Greys

In 2001, Michael and Donna introduced the first Murray Grey half breed cattle to their farm through an AI programme.

Donna says they are breeding Murray Greys to get a younger maturing animal with a heavier meat carcass. She likes the calm temperament



Murray Gray Calves at Moss Side

of this breed and is very pleased with the results so far. They have also recently acquired some pure-bred animals through an ET programme.

Some of the cattle are sold to the abattoir and Donna also sells weaners onto other farmers. At Moss Side cows are still milked, providing the owners and calves with fresh milk and cream.

Looking towards the future

Michael and Donna believe they need to change the type of animals on their farm to bring their wool micron down and produce larger lambs to sell. They feel the Polwarth lambs are not heavy enough and are hoping the Dohne Merino crosses will do this.

They are also hoping to increase survival rates for younger animals with better feed and care of the ewes at critical stages.

In the next five to ten years Michael and Donna would like to run a sustainable farm, leaving enough money at the end for repairs and maintenance around Moss Side, hopefully with the odd holiday thrown in!

Changes to farming

Since taking over the farm, Michael and Donna have seen many changes to farming methods. The main one has been that farmers now need to spend more time with their animals, especially for those involved in trials and genetic work, especially the strip grazing.

Although strip grazing is time consuming, Michael and Donna say that the effort is worth it as sheep weights have increased, although with rising fuel costs many of these methods will become more costly and therefore not be viable.



The house at Moss Side settlement



The shearing shed at Moss Side before completion



Shearing underway in the Moss Side shearing shed

They are involved in trial grazing small areas of their farm, mainly working with the younger ewes. They have subdivided a camp, putting out 500 ewes, which will hopefully yield better lambing percentages allowing them to sell surplus wether lambs to the abattoir.

Diversification

Alongside farming, Donna will also be branching out later this year into horse taming for other people as an extra source of income. She has always enjoyed working with horses and decided to do this because she has now got better facilities to work with horses and some spare

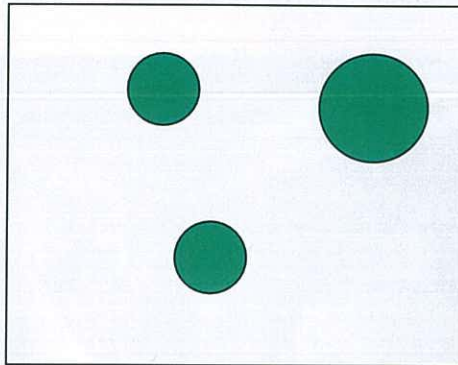
SOIL FERTILITY – AN EXAMPLE FROM PORT HOWARD

By Andrew Pollard

This article describes a trip that I made to Port Howard back in 2004. I hope it helps to further explain why the DOA have introduced the soil testing requirement to the 2008/09 Farm Improvement Programme.

The field I would like to talk about was sown down to a crop of swedes. The majority of the field was a complete failure. However, in 3 distinct areas of no more than 10 metres each in diameter, were some of the best swedes that I have seen in the Islands to date.

Field Plan



The soil was tested within each of the 3 areas and further tests were taken approximately 5 metres around the outside of each patch. The soil test results were as follows:

	Successful Swedes	Failed Swedes
pH	4.68	4.40
Phosphorus (mg/l)	30	14
Exchangeable Calcium (me/100g soil)	5.74	1.80
Aluminium (mg/l)	130	307

The results show a significant difference in soil fertility in favour of the successful swedes. Soil pH, phosphorus and calcium levels were higher and aluminium (which is often toxic in acidic soils) levels were lower.

This still does not provide us with an explanation as to why the soil fertility was different. Rodney then helped me out with his thoughts.

Back in the late 50s the area would probably have had the culled carcasses put on it. The bones would then have been heaped up into piles and burnt (most probably in 3 stacks). This would seem to be a logic explanation as to the rise in soil pH, phosphorus and calcium levels.

Ploughing would have brought up clay into the soil, which helps explain the high levels of aluminium in the soil. The liming effect from the burning of the bones would likely have lowered the levels of this aluminium.

The morale of the story, the better the soil fertility, the better the crop.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 18th June (Drontal)

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

STOCKING RATE

By Ian Campbell

Introduction

The article on new vs old lamb in the March Wool Press has started some interesting debate which is great. My argument presented then was based on the concept that carrying lambs over winter put extra pressure on the ewes, which detracted from their ability to successfully lamb and for that lamb to grow well.

The assumption I made was that farms in the Falkland Islands are stocked at an optimal level. Hence this article on stocking rate. All future discussion will be most gratefully received.

Stocking Rate

Stocking rate is simply the number of animals grazing on an area of land. In order to compare wethers, ewes, cattle etc we tend to use the term Dry Sheep Equivalent per Hectare. Stocking rate can be an important key profit driver.

Imagine a large paddock with a few sheep. They don't impact on each other at all. In fact we can add a few and they still don't affect each other. Nor does adding sheep increase our fixed costs.

We have increased the stocking rate. Production per head has not changed but production per hectare has gone up. The system is more profitable.

Keep adding sheep until they start to compete a little bit for food and maybe spread a few worms to each other or whatever. Stocking rate has gone up, fixed costs are the same. Variable costs per head are still the same at this stage.

Production per head will drop off slightly but production per hectare still goes up. This is the most profitable Stocking Rate.

Add some more sheep, and production per head drops so significantly that production per hectare also drops, and profitability drops too. We have gone too far.

This system is less profitable. (And what I assumed old lambs do to the system).

So the most profitable system is when produc-

tion per head is just dropping off and production per hectare is (almost) at its highest. If we go beyond this either of two things happen.

- Variable costs go up rapidly to maintain income. Essentially this means buying in feed and maybe drenching stock to maintain income.
- If you do not increase variable costs, lambs don't grow, animals die and breaks in the wool occur, reducing income.

Since feeding here in the Falkland Islands is a particularly high variable cost we don't want to get into this situation due to over high stocking rates. Hence stocking rates here probably will be conservative.

Where are we now?

According to the farm statistics (2006-7) there are

- 1,135,884 Hectares of farmland (take out ungrazed ponds, islands, etc and say 1,000,000 Ha)
- 530,000 sheep (at 1.2 DSE per sheep) 636,000 DSE
- 6251 cattle (at 12 DSE per animal) 75,000 DSE

A stocking rate of about 0.7 DSE per Ha. In terms of the above discussion where does this put agricultural profitability, and where does it put your farm?

Incidentally

Just for the record Falkland Island stocking rates have been higher than this in the past, so overall stocking rate is at an historically pretty low level. It is interesting to ponder the possible reasons;

- Less shepherding input as people manage more sheep and balance other jobs
- The wrong mix (is only 10% cattle ideal?)
- Over a century of nutrients exported in wool (N,P, K, S and Lime equivalents)
- Changes in pasture composition over time
- Flock structure changes and low reproduction rates

SIMULATED GRAZING TRIAL RESULTS

By Andrew Pollard

With another growing season having come to a halt, now is the prime opportunity to review some of the findings to date.

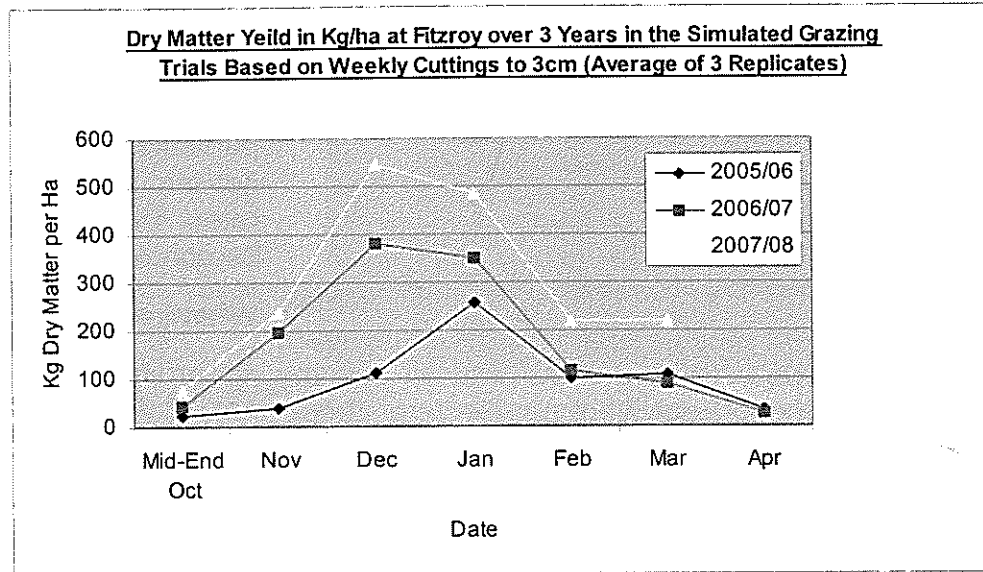
The following graph show's the monthly dry matter production from the replicated plots at Fitzroy (Greens). These are the "simulated" plots that are mown weekly by Gordon and have been talled to give a monthly yield.

Chart 1 Showing 3 Years of Seasonal Growth at Fitzroy.

There are two key pieces of information that we can deduce from this chart.

Firstly, there is a general "seasonal" pattern trend. November and December 2005 are an exception to this rule.

Secondly, the yield has increased each year the trial has been running, 3 years of full records. Why is this? Wasn't it a very year dry year in 2007/08?



What can we deduce from this?

This chart can be used as a tool that can assist in grazing management planning.

Late October to mid November pastures will begin to grow (variations across the Islands as this is related to Fitzroy). An agronomist will advise you here to have the most valuable pastures locked up (I mention an agronomist because it is not easy holding back from putting animals on). Getting animals onto these pastures too early will severely reduce the quantity of annual feed produced. It will also have long term effects on species composition.

Mid November to mid February (particularly December and January) pastures will be growing very rapidly. This is when stock will have to be moved rapidly. This is where stock numbers on "best" pastures will be highest in order to stop pastures from going to stem/seed and losing nutritive quality. Paddocks will have a short recovery time before they are ready to be grazed again (4-6 weeks).

Mid February to mid April pastures will slow down and paddocks will need a longer recovery period. Mowing weekly is the trials replication of "set stocking", in reality it is better than set stocking as it is rested for a week and left at 3cm, not ground level (lowest mowing setting). Managed Intensive grazing (resting paddock until plant growth slows and in the trials then mowing back to 4.5cm) has shown to double/treble the seasonal yield. More growth early and late can aid to expand this 4-5 month growing season.

Relating the Pasture Yields to Weather Data

On the next page are two charts that show the relationship between soil temperature and growth versus soil moisture content and growth.

Chart 2 Showing the Trend between Soil Temperature and Growth

With the exception of mid-December there is a trend from mid-November to early-January that shows increasing soil temperatures and increasing pasture yields. After early-January growth slows off again (still better though than spring).

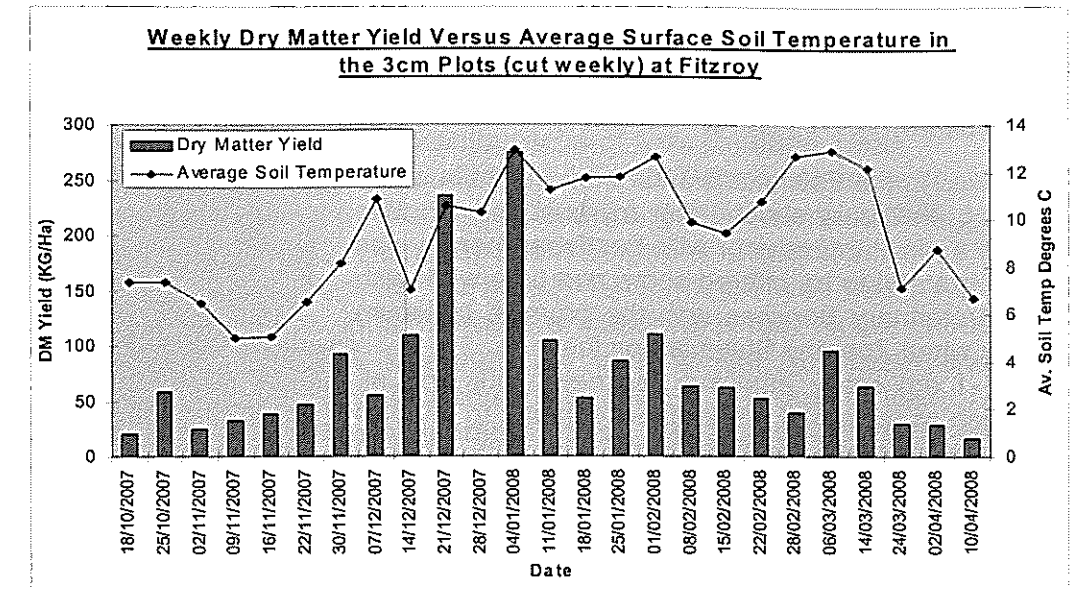
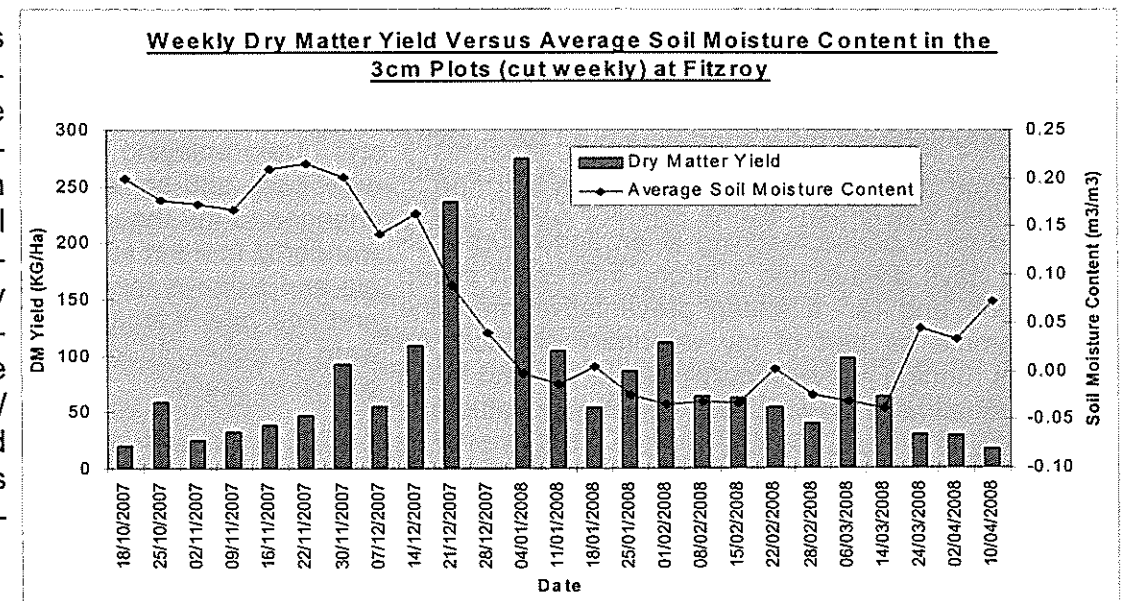


Chart 3 Showing the Trend between Soil Moisture Content and Growth

Soil moisture is high in spring/early-summer, this is due to the winter moisture build up. In mid December soil moisture declines rapidly (higher temperatures, more sunlight intensity/hours, more wind etc). A few weeks after so does pasture yield.



Soil temperature is therefore the more limiting factor than rainfall on spring/early summer dry matter production. At the turn of the year soil moisture becomes the limiting factor for growth over soil temperature.

Interestingly the optimum time to sow crops is when both soil moisture and soil temperatures are high enough to encourage germination and support the seedling. This season of data (will vary) shows this to be a very small time frame (late-November to Mid-December). Incidentally if nitrogen fertiliser is to be applied this would also be a prime time to do that.

Why was the yield higher in 2007/08?

In 2007/08 seasonal rainfall was a lot lower than 2006/07 (two thirds in most regions). The season however was a lot warmer and would have had a higher sunshine intensity/hours/day.

This is important as in countries where summer temperatures are more consistent rainfall is their driving factor. Here we have the 2 factors to deal with and pasture management should not be based on rainfall alone. Finally many thanks to Gordon Lennie for doing all of the hard work on this project.

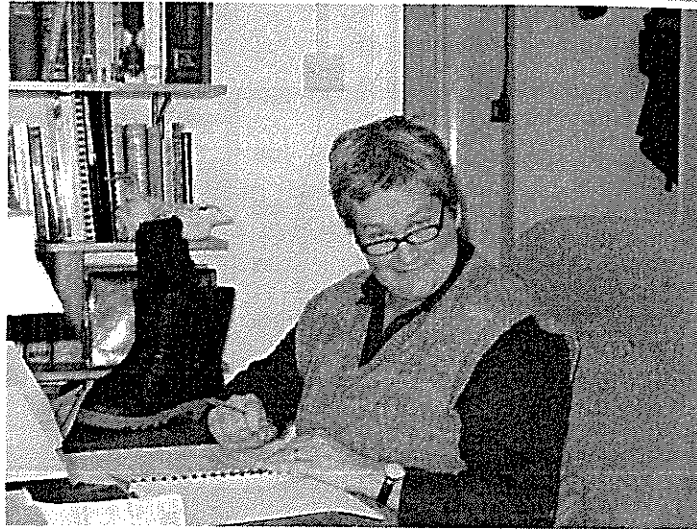
STAFF NEWS

Welcome to Susan Campbell, Veterinary Officer, who has recently started work at the Department of Agriculture.

I arrived in the Falkland Islands from Australia at the start of February shortly after my husband Ian who is an agricultural advisor with the department. I was very grateful to be offered some part time work with the Veterinary Services with the promise of locum work when Zoe and Steve are on leave.

I am really enjoying this new work and although aspects of it are in direct contrast to my previous work many are right up my ally. I am amazed at the absence of diseases such as fleas, Feline Leukaemia Virus and Sheep footrot, lice etc. I also have to eliminate things such as snake bite and spider bite from my potential diagnoses and add things like grass sickness which I have never seen before. I have worked more with dogs which are far more common pets than cats in Australia.

At university I did a degree in Agricultural Science and then went on to do a degree in Veterinary Science. Following that I worked in the government veterinary services for a short time but I have come largely from a background of private practice with both small and large animal veterinary work. I also worked for a period teaching at an agricultural college. I have always had a strong interest in sheep medicine and ran a sheep preventative medicine programme as part of my veterinary practice. As well as running my veterinary practice Ian and I also ran a small farm on which we had sheep, cattle and

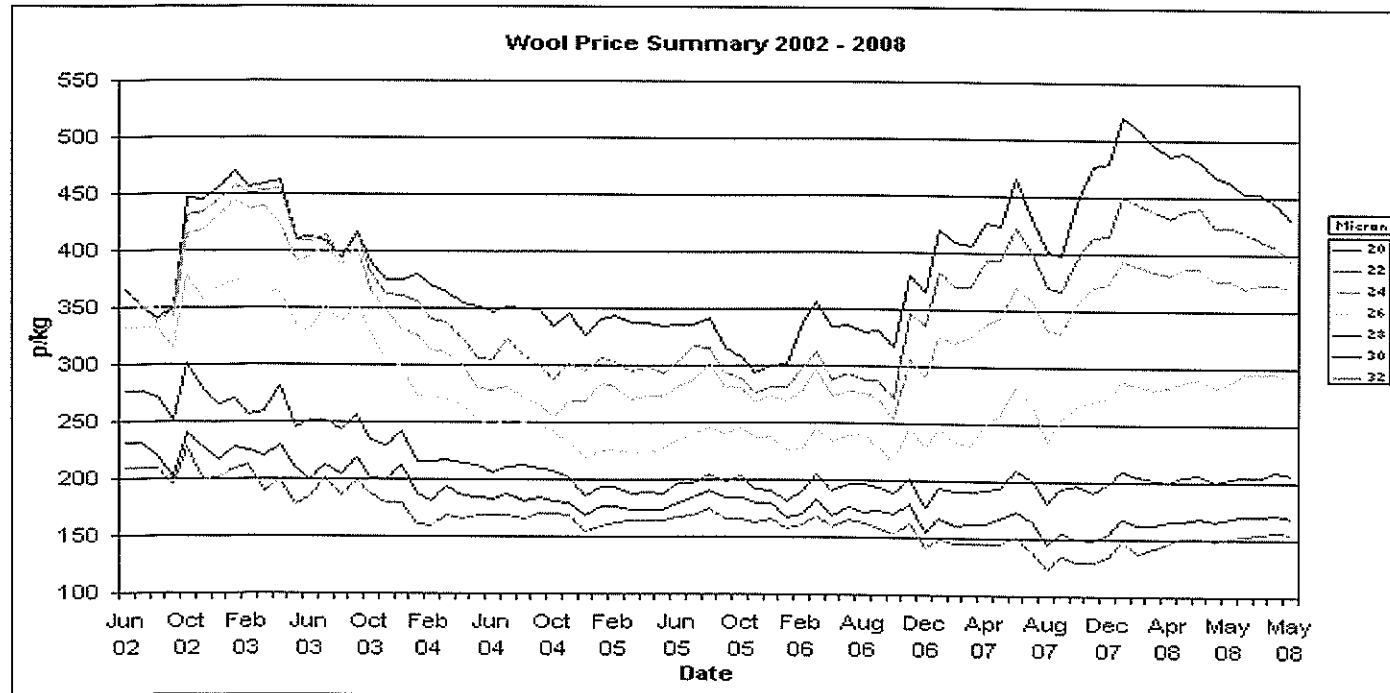


some horses. More recently I completed my Masters of Veterinary Science in sheep parasitology and as a result I am using this knowledge to do a study of the work that has been done in the Falkland Islands on sheep parasitology and will hopefully complete a summary of this work with a few overall conclusions.

I am enjoying the challenges provided by my work here and consider it very interesting to make changes to my thought processes. It has also been wonderful to meet so many new and interesting people and to have the opportunity to get out to camp and see how things are done there. I will look forward to getting to know more of you over the next couple of years.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



TWO ANZACS - TWO WARS

By Mac McArthur

On ANZAC day I was asked along with Peter Johnson to contribute to the Stanley ANZAC Ceremony with the following item.

At the outbreak of World War I my late Father, John Duncan McArthur was a 16 year old, keen horseman on my grandfather's high country station 'St James' near Hanmer Springs in North Canterbury, New Zealand. He put up his age by 2 years and enlisted with the Canterbury Regiment of the Mounted Rifle Brigade. He served in the Sinai-Palestine campaign as a Captain of the light horse brigade in the combined Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division known as the "ANZAC Mounted". He was also part of a contingent of Canterbury soldiers that occupied Gallipoli.

My Father spoke little about his war experiences but did tell me how the returning soldiers cheered when they first saw the Southern Cross stars in the night sky as they returned in their troop ship to the Southern hemisphere. I find it interesting how prominently the Southern Cross features in both the Falkland Island night sky and the life of people here.

My late half brother John Seddon McArthur was a young ANZAC bomber pilot who flew many sorties defending Australia and New Zealand against the Japanese invasion of New Guinea in World War II. He died aged 25 when his and 3 other fighter planes struck a violent storm off Green Island, near Rabaul, New Guinea and crashed into the sea. I was born the following year and despite being called Mac, was christened John in his memory.

I would like to read a short extract from the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand 1966.

'The Mounted Rifles Brigade (Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury Regiments with supporting troops) under Brigadier-General E. W. C. Chaytor, in March 1916, joined with three Australian light horse brigades and four Royal Horse Artillery batteries to form the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division (the "Anzac Mounted") under the Australian Major-General H. G. Chauvel. The Division moved 20 miles into the Sinai Desert in April to help guard the Suez Canal. Patrols, reconnaissances, and one or two minor clashes ensued. Then, in the early hours of 4 August, 18,000 Turkish infantry attacked Romani. A superb Australian delaying action upset the Turkish timetable and when the 2nd Light Horse Brigade (with the Wellingtons under command) entered the fray the sun was pitiless and the Turks already flagging. The New Zealand Brigade shattered the enemy flank before dark and the whole Division followed through, fighting two sharp actions in the next week and bringing Turkish losses to some 10,000 men. Though other troops were engaged it was very much an Anzac victory.

By degrees the New Zealanders found their way back through Jerusalem to a camp near Jaffa, where the Canterburys left in November to occupy Gallipoli—a proud distinction, though 11 men died there of sickness. Retracing their steps, the other units reached Rafa and sadly parted with their horses.' One of the tougher tasks the "ANZAC Mounted" dealt with.

FLY STRIKE

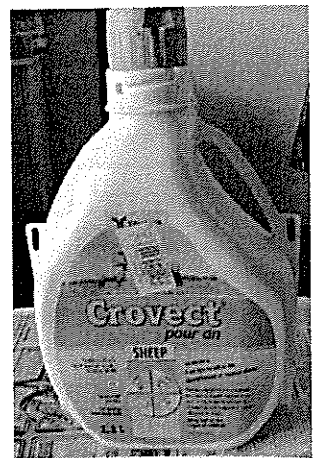
By Susie Hansen

Last year when I was in Cornwall, there was a lot of rain and hot weather and farmers there were having a lot of problems with fly strike. We got talking about the products they used and as we get quiet a lot of fly strike - especially in lambs during the summer here at Main Point and as I am always doing battle with maggots I thought I would bring one of the products back to try!

Up to this point the best thing I'd found was the "Spot On" available from the Veterinary Dept which works really well I might add. However the stuff I have here now is called "Crovect" produced by Novartis Animal Health.

It is a pour on solution for prevention and treatment of blow fly strike on sheep. It also contains a blue dye so it is easy to identify animals that have been treated. One application will give six weeks protection from fly strike and application direct on effected areas will kill larvae within a few hours.

It seems to work really well and the blue dye does wash out of the wool.



Jillaroos are taking over the Outback

The Times, 3rd June 2008
provided by Sukey Cameron

By Paul Larter in Brisbane

It is hot and sweaty work, flies mercilessly pestering the rugged figures on horseback who toil under wide-brimmed hats, tending their cattle and sheep.

But now it seems, the figure on horseback is more likely to be a jillaroo than a jackaroo as life in the Outback gets a feminine touch.

Record numbers of young women, from their mid-teens to mid-twenties are signing up to work in the heart of the Australian bush.

At the biggest rural training station at Longreach, 700km (435 miles) west of Rockhampton in the cattle heartland of Queensland, women are in the majority.

Peter Scott, manager of the campus, said: "There are women managing properties now. There are girls who are head stockmen, in charge of camps. They've even changed the language on the stations."

Last year, for the first time, more young women than men enrolled on the agriculture training courses; this year the ratio is 60-40.

"Our best shearer is a girl, our best wool handler is a girl," Mr Scott said.

The trend is attributed by some to the romance of the Outback, even to McLeod's Daughters, a popular TV drama where a cattle station is run by good-looking young men and women in neat jeans and pristine check shirts.

But the backdrop to these at-

tractions is a chronic nationwide labour shortage and a succession of crippling droughts that have left farms with a shortfall of up to 120,000 workers.

The industry is beginning to recruit workers from the South Pacific because Australian men are being lured from the fields and into the pits by a booming mining sector that can pay them three times as much.

Nonetheless, the starting wage of A\$30,000 (£14,600) compares well with most apprenticeships and Australia's biggest cattle company says that its new staff are increasingly comprised of women.

"In the past it has quite easily been, I would say, 90 per cent men to women. In the last couple of years it would be as high as 40 per cent women to 60 per cent men. I don't know if it's got to 50-50 yet but it has got pretty close to it," said David Connolly, livestock general manager of the Australian Agricultural Company.

Although they sometimes struggled with the hardest work, such as handling calves for branding, women were often less rough with machinery and more instinctive with animals. "Some of these girls, they get damn good at what they do," Mr Connolly said. "I'm a chauvinist from way back but these girls are as good as the guys."

This year Escott Station, a 2,500sq km property with its own airstrip 520km north of Mount Isa in



northern Queensland, has taken on six jillaroos and not a single jackaroo, though it has hired three, more senior, stockmen.

Gabrielle Kennedy, the co-owner and manager, said that they were fighting a losing battle against richer competitors. "In our little part of the world we're competing with the mines all the time for men. They offer so much better conditions, work, money and hours and I don't think the heart's in the boys any more.

"Years ago it was a good way to get out of town and save money and have a really good experience. They can do all of that in the mines now."

A few hundred kilometres south, on Mimong cattle station, Anna Durham, 20, from Brisbane, is into her second year on the land.

She went to university to study primary education but it was not for her. Instead, she followed her heart to work on the land.

"Some people can't handle the workload. During shearing time we had about two months where we didn't really get a break at all, starting at 6.30am and knocking off at 9 and sometimes 11 at night. It's not for everyone," she said.

Are feral cats a problem in Camp?

It is a known fact that cats via their faeces can pass on Toxoplasmosis and Sarcocystis to sheep but what is not known is exactly where this occurs. There is plenty of opportunity for sheep and cats to come into contact with each other around settlement paddocks but what about feral cats out in the camp? The South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme would like to hear the views of farmers if they believe they have a problem with feral cats.

Contact Brian Summers on 55844 or email bsummers.sais@horizon.co.fk.

Recipe Page

From BBC.co.uk/food

Inverted loaded cheeseburger

Try this all time American classic, which is so much tastier when you make it yourself.

Ingredients

- 450g/1lb minced beef
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp American mustard
- 110g/4oz Monterey Jack or strong cheddar, grated
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh chives
- 1 tbsp coarsely ground black pepper
- 4 slices of crispy cooked streaky bacon
- 1 baby gem lettuce
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1 small red onion, sliced into rings
- 4 burger buns

Method

Mix the beef with the garlic and mustard. Mix the cheese with the chives and set aside. Divide the beef into four and form into burger shapes. Make a deep indentation into each of the burgers and place a spoonful of cheese into the indentation. Shape the beef around the cheese until it is totally sealed. Sprinkle a little pepper over each burger and place in

the fridge until ready to cook. Cook the burgers in a pan or under the grill, for 4 minutes each side for rare, 6 minutes for medium and 8-9 minutes for well done. Toast the burger buns on the cut-side. Load the buns with the burger, top with the bacon, tomatoes, lettuce and sliced onion and serve with fries.

FALKLAND RAINFALL TOTALS

Location		2007							2008				
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Stanley	2007	37.5	35.5	22	41	24	50	27.5	42	36.5	44	72	45.5
	Average	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74	57	59	58	58
MPA	2007	36.1	43.1	29	24.5	38.8	74.7	31	49.3	49	38.3	104	43.1
	Average	58.8	45.7	36.7	34	34.6	36.8	58.4	62.8	47.9	56.8	53.7	48.6
Bleaker Island		40	34	11	14	32	25	18	30	15	40	67	40
Cape Dolphin		18	23	19	30	16	26	30	24	34	40	-	-
Darwin		-	-	21.5	10.5	33.5	53.5	29.5	40	29	29	73	30.5
Doyle Farm		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.3	63.3	48
Dunbar		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.5	43.5	28.5	205	105
Fern Ridge		40	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	89.5	59
Head of the Bay		20	21	26	23	25	54	38	27	28	39	86	46
Moss Side		21	18	24	26	23	34	38	31	-	35	61	43
Paragon		-	-	14	9	-	-	22.5	23.5	-	-	-	18
Pebble Island		30	11.5	24.5	23	20	34.5	22.5	19.5	30	20.5	40	35.1
Port Howard		56.5	67	38	29	41.3	75	47.5	62	40.5	47.8	108	66
Saladero		20	20	17	11	15	30	20	25	15	22	-	-
Salvador		-	-	-	25.5	-	44.5	38.8	39.8	35	47.5	63.8	35.25
Shallow Harbour		37	-	-	-	-	-	40	38.5	19	-	103	59
South Harbour		47	53	30	26	20	28	23	51	9	22	70	60
Swan Inlet		23	31	27.5	25	20.5	53	16	38	-	18	86.5	32
West Lagoons		20	24	29	42	15	30	12	33.5	30	25	91.5	61
Wineglass Station		36	30	29	26	35.5	74.5	35	62	53	44.5	117	42

Thank you to everyone who sends in their monthly rainfall data.

PUZZLE PAGE - KIDS SPECIAL

With half term approaching, here's a couple of puzzle to keep the kids (or yourself!!) occupied for a while...

STRAY DOGS

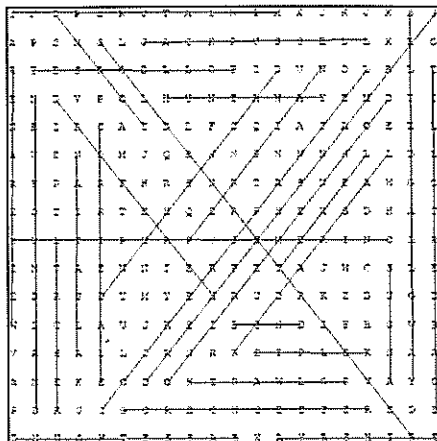
Five stray dogs were picked up by animal welfare officers on different days of the week (Monday-Friday) and taken to the Kennelmore Dog's Home. All five dogs were re-homed on different days of the following week (Monday-Friday). No dog was taken to the dog's home on the same day of the week it was re-homed. (eg The dog picked up on Monday wasn't re-homed on the following Monday). Can you match each breed of dog with its name, the day of the week it was first picked up, the day it was re-homed and the name of its new owner?

1. The collie (who isn't called Marty) was taken to the dog's home on Tuesday. Mrs O'Keefe re-homed one of the dogs on Thursday.
2. The dalmatian was re-homed the day before the dog Mr Morgan re-homed and earlier in the week than the dog Mr Perry re-homed but later in the week than Geordie was re-homed.
3. The dog which was taken to the dog's home the day before Marty was taken in, was re-homed by Mrs Tilley.
4. The alsatian was taken to the dog's home on an earlier day of the week than the day in the following week when a lady re-homed the retriever.
5. Miss Kirby re-homed one of the dogs two days earlier than the day in the previous week when Barney was taken into the dog's home.
6. Dandy was taken into the home a day later in the week than the day in the following week when Mr Morgan re-homed a dog.
7. Yorkie the terrier was taken to the dog's home earlier in the week than the alsatian.



Breed	Name	Picked Up	Re-homed	New Owner

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



ANT PUZZLE VERSE

Can you fit the underlined words correctly into the grid? One letter has already been entered to get you started.

We've got to change this lightbulb,
A daunting task indeed.
There's me and you, that makes two,
How many more ants do we need?

Look inside that hollow log,
I'll check behind this tree.
Find a troop or even a group,
Then send them over to me.

There's no such thing as impossible,
We work together as one.
Ants are strong, we march right on,
Until the job is done.

Oh good, you've found the others,
This job won't be so tough.
A thousand and three including me,
That should be more than enough.

At times like this a proverb,
Is a useful kind of perk.
So remember that old saying,

