

THE WOOL PRESS

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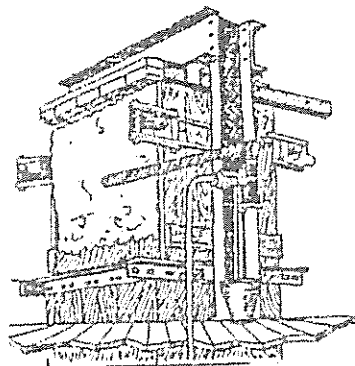
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EDITORIAL

There are numerous interesting articles in this month's Wool Press despite all of the staff being very busy with the AI/ET programme and preparation of data and presentations for Farmers' Week. Zoë Luxton has written a very timely and practical article on scanning ewes for pregnancy and Ian Campbell has pointed out in his article that the new corer and grab sampler machine recently installed at FIPASS offers another marketing option for your wool.

Thank you to Ali and Marlane Marsh for the most interesting farm profile on Shallow Harbour. To read about the high quality Herefords as another farm income source and to hear how the Marsh's view the Afrinos, plus all the achievements with shelter belt trees, makes most interesting reading. Congratulations to Ali & Marlane on their significant achievements prior to getting a road to the settlement at Shallow Harbour.

Our new staff member Tony Mills introduces himself, his wife Rosie Bright and their two sons Archie and Monty. Tony is quickly taking up 'the baton' from where Peter Johnson left off and comes to the Falkland Islands with an extensive knowledge of sheep production, grazing and farm financial management. If you haven't done so already you will have an opportunity to welcome him during Farmers' Week and he and I will be doing a 'whistle stop' tour to meet farming families in the West the following week.

Ian Campbell has also contributed an article on what is happening in the Australian wool industry that may turn out to be advantageous to Falkland Island woolgrowers. Robert Hall has contributed an item on lamb and young sheep losses and Tony Mills has an article pointing out the importance of ewe nutrition during pregnancy affecting life time wool production of their progeny

There are a number of other articles and statistics that are thought provoking and well worth the read.

The DoA staff and I are looking forward to meeting many of you during Farmer's Week next week and providing you with some more thought provoking data and viewpoints for discussion.

I look forward to seeing you next week and if not, hopefully the following week on the West.

Best regards,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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PREGNANCY DETECTION – A USEFUL MANAGEMENT TOOL

By Zoë Luxton

An article in the June edition of 'Farming Ahead' magazine, extolling the virtues of scanning ewes to determine pregnant and non-pregnant ones, has prompted us to back up the message they are putting across.

Scanning for pregnancy allows you to match ewes to feed requirements, and potentially identify any barren ewes which can then be removed from the flock.

The simple way to use scanning as a management tool is to determine which ewes are pregnant and which ewes are not. This allows you to:

- Feed accordingly – while non-pregnant ewes should not be allowed to fall away completely (they will never get pregnant next season if they do), there is no point having a mob of mostly dry ewes on your swedes or re-seeds. Keeping the pregnant ewes in good condition means they can feed and raise lambs successfully and be in good enough condition to then get pregnant again next year. Ewes in good condition have a better chance of keeping lambs alive and maximising growth rates
- See what your conception rates are compared to lambs born or lambs marked. If your conception rate (number of ewes getting pregnant) is 70% (for example, ideally they will be higher!) but your lamb marking percentage is 50% - where are you losing that 20%. Are the ewes aborting the pregnancies? Are the lambs being born but dying before marking due to poor nutrition?
- See if any particular ewes are consistently not producing a lamb. These barren ewes should be culled.

A step further would be to identify and separate any ewes carrying multiple pregnancies. Ewes carrying twins need a bit more energy in the last stages of pregnancy and during lactation or they may suffer twin lamb disease – which can be fatal. A shame to lose such a fecund ewe simply due to her fertility!

Having your ewes in while scanning is another good opportunity to body condition score them, ewes in poor condition could be separated and receive extra nutrition.

While we have focussed on sheep here, determining which cows are pregnant or dry is also useful if you wish to develop your herd. To pregnancy test cattle you need workable cattle pens and a decent crush.

Scanning ewes requires nothing more than the ewes being in the shed overnight (full bellies make it very hard to get a decent picture) and then being run through the race into the scanning crate. A source of warm water and electricity is useful.

To make the distinction between simply pregnant/not pregnant, ewes need to be over 45 days in lamb to accurately diagnose the pregnancy – this generally means that the rams need to have been away from the ewes for at least 45 days if you are using natural methods. This supports a tight joining period of 6 weeks so you can be certain of dates. Whereas if the ewes are AI/ET girls, you will know the exact day of mating.

When you cover your AI/ET ewes with a ram to catch any that did not get pregnant artificially your rams need to go out 2-3 weeks after AI/ET and the ewes then need to be scanned at 75 days after the AI/ET date. This length of time will allow determination of a larger pregnancy resulting from AI/ET, a smaller pregnancy from the ram or no pregnancy at all. Twin pregnancies are also best recognised at this stage.

Any questions about pregnancy detection please ring the veterinary department on 27366.

Monday 7th July

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

- 9am **Rural Expo**
Acting Governor Mr Martinez will open the Rural Expo and there will also be a breakfast supplied.
- 12pm **Lunch - provided by the DOA**
- 1pm **Organic Farming Systems** Mac McArthur
Ian Campbell
Learn about the opportunity for international organic accreditation of your farm/processing business.
- 3pm **Smoko - provided by the DOA**
- 3.30pm **Targeted Nutrition Trials** Andrew Pollard
Discussion regarding findings from the DOA's grazing management and strategic sheep nutrition trials.
- 5pm **Sessions Finish**
- 7.30pm **RBA Party**
Narrows Bar, children welcome until 9pm



Tuesday 8th July

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

- 9am **Fire Training & Presentation**
Venue: FIGAS Air Terminal
- 11am **Workboat Services**
Venue: FIPASS
- 12pm **Lunch - provided by Workboat Services**
- 1pm **FIMCo Annual Review**
- 3pm **Smoko - provided by the DOA**
- 3.30pm **Disease Surveillance** Steve Pointing
Zoë Luxton
FIMCo
Updated surveillance results on diseases such as boils and hydatids and general discussion on other disease surveillance.
- 5pm **Finish**
- 7pm **FIODA Variety Show**

Wednesday 9th July

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

- 9am **Tourism Presentation**
- 10.30am **Environmental Planning** (Town Hall)
- 10.30am **RBA Committee Meeting** (Refreshment Room)
- 12pm **RBA Buffet Lunch**
- 1pm **RBA AGM**
- 2.30pm **Smoko - provided by the RBA**
- 3pm **RSPB Invasive Species**
- 4pm **Finish**
- 6.30-7pm **Reception at Government House**



Thursday 10th July

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

- 9am **Wether Trial** Tony Mills
Discussion of the 2007/2008 wether trials' financial and genetic results.
- Wool Clip Analysis** Ian Campbell
Learn about the revamped wool clip analysis programme and why it is important for your wool enterprise.
- Quality Falkland Wool (QFW)** Ian Campbell
Discussion on the Quality Falkland Wool Programme and the responsibility of farmers to meet the standards.
- 10am **Smoko - provided by the DOA**
- 10.30am **Genetic Improvement of Livestock** Mac McArthur
Ian Campbell
Where are we at with sheep and cattle genetic improvement?
- 12pm **Lunch - provided by FIMCo**
- 1pm **Identification of Cattle** Steve Pointing
Mac McArthur
Zoë Luxton
FIMCo
A proposal to permanently identify Falkland Island cattle will be discussed.
- 3.30pm **DOA sessions finish for the day**

Programme continued over the page

Thursday 10th July - continued

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

3.30pm **Smoko - provided by the RBA**

3.30pm **Falklands Conservation**

5-6pm **FIGAS Public Meeting**

7pm **Meal at Hillside Camp**



Friday 11th July

Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

9am **Councillors Question & Answer Session**
RBA members only

11am **Smoko - provided by the RBA**

11am **FIDC**
Tourism and business opportunities for the Rural Community

12pm **Lunch - provided by FIDC**

1pm **FIDC**
Catch-up

2pm **Demonstration of Wool Core and Grab Sampling Machine** DOA
Venue: Wool Warehouse, FIPASS. Pick up from the Town Hall &
FIDC

3.30pm **Aquaculture Site Tour**
Aquaculture site

Evening **Camp Ed Dance**



PLEASE NOTE:

- The Department of Agriculture has organised or will be involved in all the shaded sections of the programme. Please contact us on telephone 27355 or email sferguson for more information.
- For more information on all other sessions, please contact Sealed PR on telephone 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk
- Throughout the week, there will be a display of the Albatross in the Geography Room of the Falkland Islands Community School.
- Everyone is welcome to attend the Department of Agriculture sessions during Farmers Week.

LAMB SURVIVAL

By Mac McArthur

From a young age I remember new born lambs being revived in the old wood stove in our farm kitchen. These were lambs that had come close to dying of starvation hypothermia (lowered body core temperature) and lack of colostrum.

Between 70 and 80 percent of lamb deaths occur within 2 to 3 days of birth and lamb survival is highly correlated with lamb birth weight. Ewes that are in better condition during pregnancy and at lambing produce bigger more robust lambs than those in poor condition. If the body condition score of ewes instead of being 3 is 1 this may mean a reduction in birth weight of lambs by up to 1.0 kg which can mean the lamb will be very vulnerable to dying from starvation hypothermia.

The survival of lambs is mainly explained by differences in birth weights but obviously other factors such as the mothering instinct of the ewe and whether or not the lamb suckles early and gets colostrum. It is critical for a lamb to consume adequate colostrum within the first 24 hours of its life. Lambs have the capacity to consume 2 to 3 ounces of colostrum per pound of body weight during this time. Colostrum is critical to survival of the lamb as it provides energy, anti-bodies to protect against disease, protein, minerals, vitamins and water.

At birth body fat reserves provide a limited source of energy to maintain the lamb's body temperature. In the cold temperatures that most lambs experience at birth in the Falkland Islands these reserves are burned at a high rate and if the lamb does not suckle and get colostrum early these lambs die of cold induced by starvation.

Ewes that are in low condition score at lambing change their mothering instinct for the worse and often lamb and wander off. Ideally ewes should be in condition score 3 throughout pregnancy and at lambing. Data collected this year at joining over 2,500 Falkland Island ewes showed an average condition score of around 2.3. Other farmer case studies have shown up to 20 per cent more lambs survived born to ewes that were condition score 3 than did lambs born to ewes that were condition score 2.3.

I noticed recently an article indicating that gene markers are available to identify sheep that have a high level of cold tolerance (lamb survival). Gene markers are individual genes in sheep that are part of the genetic makeup of the sheep to express characteristics such as fine follicle production, polledness or cold tolerance. They can be measured by taking a blood sample from a sheep and looking at the DNA profile to see whether these genes are present or not.

It is many moons since I used to take a steady old heading dog and go out on my twice daily lambing beats, marking twins and picking up triplets to mother on to ewes that had lost a lamb. Our knowledge and understanding of what makes lambs live or die has increased considerably since this time and we need to ensure we are utilising this information in managing breeding ewes for increased lambing percentages. Dead lambs have disastrous growth rates.

Corrections to June 2008 issue

The Farm in Profile: Moss Side article was missing the end of it's last sentence, which should have read "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 time in the evenings."

On page 7, Mac McArthur's "Journey Among the Westers" should have read made reference to Danny and Joy Donnelly.

We apologise for these errors.

DO WE NEED TO GRAB SAMPLE?

By Ian Campbell

The new corer/grabber brought here by FIDC has been described by many as a great piece of kit. Undoubtedly the sore backs, bruised thighs and cut fingers from core testing manually should become a thing of the past. But what about the grab sample?

Historically, around the world, the grab sample, which is literally mechanically collected handfuls of wool from the line, has been used for display purposes. Whilst it was great to have the wool certificate (with information from the core samples) buyers often wanted some wool to look at. They flick it, pull it, look for style and put a type on it. This enabled them to be more accurate in putting a price on it.

More recently there was a further set of tests developed to try to create full sale by description. These tests are known as the additional measurements and are done on part of the grab sample rather than the core, and commonly include

- Length (average staple length and variation)
- Strength (average force required to break a staple)
- Position of that break in the staple (% top, middle and base)

Such tests are related to performance of the wool for top manufacture. The length and variability of wool fibres in a processed top, as well as the amount of wasted noil (the short fibres that if you don't take out cause pilling) are important for wool buyers to predict accurately.

There are also a number of other less common tests available on the grab - curvature for example- which tries to describe the crimp and style of the wool.

In Australia most fleece lines are grabbed and additional measurements are done. In fact so few lines are not done it is becoming problematical to determine the premium for sampling. Nonetheless there are a few definite trends.

- The better the test result- the bigger the premium
- The finer the wool – the bigger the premium
- The average premium for additional measurements across Merino fleeces is 7.4%
- The average premium for additional measurements across Crossbred fleeces is 2.1%

There is no doubt in my mind that the lack of additional measurements is one reason Falkland Island wool does not reach the AWEX quoted prices.

To decide whether Falkland wool should be grabbed and additionally measured I suggest you discuss this with your broker, and the things you need to consider are the full cost of the test and associated costs like freight to the lab etc. The micron range we are talking about might give a 5% premium, however finer lines, hogget wool and wool from sheep bred by finer wool genetics may get more, as might wool that is very sound. But it is all uncharted territory. Even the concept of testing a grab but not necessarily having a display sample is novel.

The bottom line though is that it is another marketing option, and that has to be a good thing.

FIDC CORER & GRAB SAMPLER INSTALLED

The FIDC funded core sampling machine has been installed at FIPASS. Whilst this makes the onerous task of core sampling so much easier, it also has the ability to take grab samples as well.

Operating the machine was put out to tender, and the successful tenderer was the Falkland Islands Wool Company. The Department of Agriculture will still have the role of overseeing the weighing and sampling of wool bales, and co-ordination of the wool testing process.



DON'T FORGET A DEMONSTRATION OF THIS MACHINERY WILL BE TAKING PLACE DURING FARMERS WEEK ON FRIDAY 11TH JULY AT 2PM IN THE WOOL WAREHOUSE

FARM IN PROFILE:

Property Name: Shallow Harbour
Location: West Falklands
Owners: Alastair & Marlane Marsh
Farm size: 8,057 ha
Sheep: 3,782
Cattle: 106

Ali & Marlane moved to Shallow Harbour in 1983 when Dunnose Head (then owned by the Packe Bros) was subdivided, having always wanted to live and work in camp.

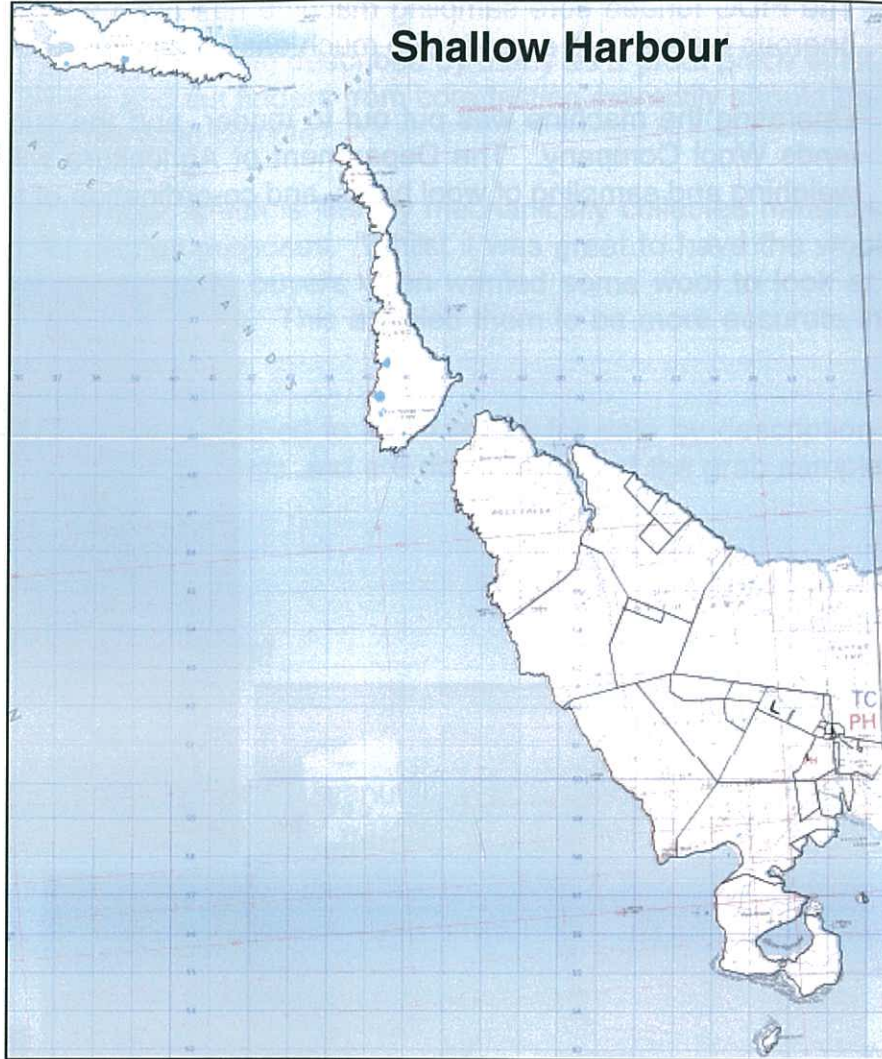
Sheep Breeds for Shallow Harbour

The sheep at Shallow Harbour are Polwarth & Dohne Merino x are bred for fine wool, but Ali & Marlane say they would also like to get involved with meat breeds, providing they can keep their

wool micron down at the present level. They are also involved with Afrino Joint Venture.

The Polwarth flock has done well at Shallow Harbour, but Ali & Marlane say that having seen

the performance of the Afrino flock on the farm to date, they believe these have shown more potential than any other breed they have stocked. The Afrino's have produced fine wool, but short in length, so Ali & Marlane say that



Ali and grand-daughter Carly get ready for work



Shelterbelt



Afrino's at Shallow Harbour



Herefords at Shallow Harbour

Tree Shelterbelts & Retail Enterprises

they hope by bringing in the bigger frame of the Afrino and crossing them with the Polwarth will maintain the fine wool of the overall flock.

Cattle Breeding

Alongside sheep farming, Ali & Marlane have also begun breeding beef cattle as another source of income, aiming to provide quality beef providing a reliable market becomes available. Their cattle herd consists mainly of Herefords, but they keep some Ayrshires for milking.

Changes to farming

Ali & Marlane believe that farming in the Falkland Islands is coming more labour intensive, with continuous sheep work through the winter months for them, due to eye wiggling in an attempt to reduce death rates in the young sheep. Rotational grazing has also added to the workload.

They are hoping to subdivide their camps further so they have a more intensive farm and to continue the re-seeding programme

There are some small tree nurseries at Shallow Harbour, growing mainly Lodgepole pine and macrocarpa tree and would like to continue this on a larger scale and plant more shelter belts on the farm. Currently they have seven shelterbelts, containing approximately 17,000 trees.

Ali & Marlane also run a retail shop in Stanley, Southern Imports.



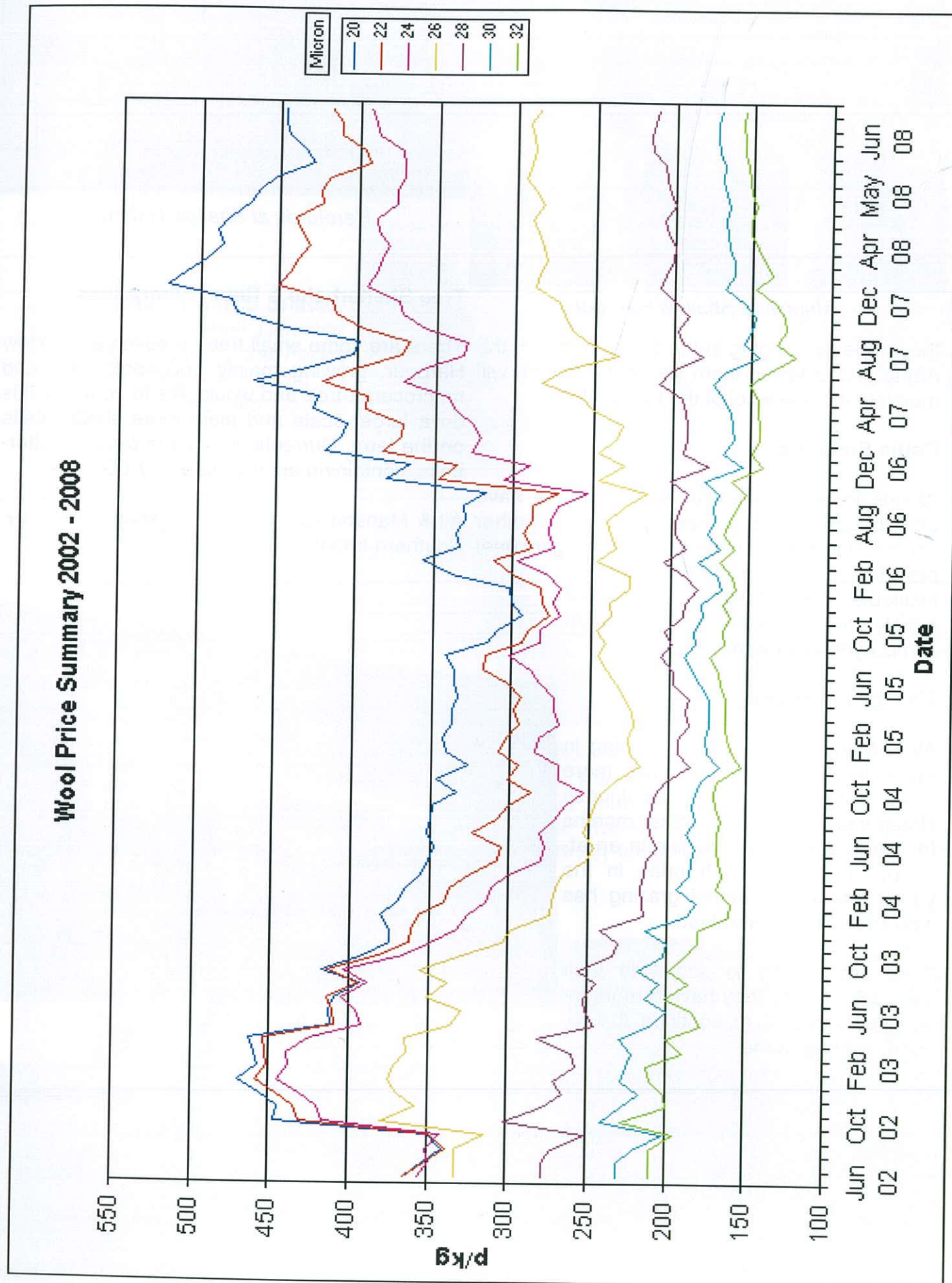
The road network is now in sight of the farm



Shallow Harbour Settlement

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



LIFETIME PRODUCTION A LINK BETWEEN GENETICS AND NUTRITION

By Tony Mills

How many times have we looked at an animal, say a horse or dog, or even a young child and commented on how much they are like their parents? We may have even said that under the right conditions they will develop into a fine young person, an excellent sprinter or stayer, or a great yard or paddock dog.

What we are describing is the **phenotype**, which is a combination of the **genotype** and **environment** i.e. $P = G + E$. Phenotype is an animal's measured or observed physical characteristics. Genotype is the particular combination of genes inherited by an individual. Environment is any non-genetic influence on an animal's phenotype. This includes nutrition, disease, age or climate. Animals born and reared in the same flock, under the same management will encounter many small environmental differences during their lives.

I would like to focus on one of the environmental factors; nutrition of the pregnant ewe and its impact on two key production traits of her progeny – fleece weight and fibre diameter (FD). As we know pregnancy or gestation lasts for about 150 days. There are two critical periods – mid to late pregnancy where inadequate nutrition will have a lifetime impact on FD and fleece weight. Mid pregnancy can be defined as day 60-90 and late pregnancy can be defined as day 90 to 150.

Wool is made up of two types of follicles, primary (broad) and secondary (fine). Primary follicles form in stages between about day 40 and day 90 when formation is completed. From then until birth (day 150) formation of the secondary follicles occurs. By about day 120 the density of follicles is at its maximum. Secondary follicles are the most important part of the wool producing skin as they have a direct influence on density and fineness of the fleece. It follows then that the higher the follicle density the lower the fibre diameter.

Lifetime wool research has shown that ewes that lose 0.5 condition score in mid pregnancy will give birth to lambs that produce 0.1 kg per head less wool and up to 0.2 microns broader wool than ewes that are managed to maintain their condition. If ewes are provided with good nutrition in late pregnancy then they can achieve up to 0.2 micron reduction in FD and 0.1 kg per head increase in clean fleece weight (CFW). These are lifetime effects. Combine this with the changes that occur in the ewe where 1 condition score change equals a change of about 0.75 kg of CFW and 1 micron of FD, then you have a serious impact on profitability and genetic improvement.

Currently Falkland Island producers are using a number of strategies to improve the genetics of their flocks under challenging environmental conditions. I would be interested to hear from producers who wish to discuss the various methods they have been using to minimise these impacts. You can contact me on 27337 or email tmills@doa.gov.fk

Does anyone require any work to be undertaken on their farm either on East or West Falkland?

Fencing, painting, anything considered, our hourly rate is: £6.00 per person. We will be on the West from Sunday 6th July so if you require our services please contact: Jason Stephenson on telephone numbers 21255 / 21241 or Jeremy Poncet on mobile 51826. We will be staying at the Bunkhouse at Port Howard, so you can also get in contact with us there.

THE GREATEST LOSSES OF LIFE ARE UNRECORDED

By Robert Hall

The old saying "If you've got livestock: you'll get dead stock" is true the world over, not least in the Falklands where losses of 10 to 15 percent of hoggets from weaning to shearing are possible; and general annual losses of five to ten percent for main-flocks are common.

Yet draining as these losses are to farms, there are far higher losses that go unrecorded each year. Lamb marking percentages of 60% record that 6 out of ten ewes have partially reared at lamb. Behind this figure is the fact that over a third of the flock has failed to get a lamb to marking.

The ewe scanning work by Jamie Bennison in 1987 concluded "*the typical pregnancy rate of a flock of breeding ewes in the Falklands is 96%.*"

As a generalisation, with a 60% lamb marking percentage, 36% of the ewes that were pregnant have failed in some way:- to complete their pregnancy; give birth to a live lamb; mother the lamb effectively to get it up and sucking; provide it with sufficient milk and keep it out of danger until marking. (Amongst that 36%, will be those ewes that die between stock taking and lamb marking, that will almost all have taken a lamb with them). As has been known for over 20 years, Bennison concluded the losses were at or after birth. Unfortunately little progress has been made since then.

With the Falklands sheep population at a seriously low level; with the need of lambs from farms to just maintain their ewe flock numbers; with the demand for lambs from the abattoir and with some farms replacing wether flocks with more ewes, the need for more lambs weaned in the Falklands has arguably never been greater.

The unrecorded losses of life are clearly a big problem yet they are also an opportunity for improvement. Appropriate ewe nutrition will be a major part of the equation, not least because a nutritionally challenged ewe has a reduced maternal instinct and may lack the resources to adequately feed its lamb.

Bennison wrote:

"In the Falkland Islands situation where twins are not desirable, it leads to the conclusion that the ideal weight range to maximise conception but minimise the number of twins is 40-45 kg. Within this weight group on average 98.5% of the sheep were pregnant, the percent of twinning was only 1.6%."

Clearly sheep weight and condition score at mating are linked to nutrition. Whilst there will be no single answer, the nutrition of ewes at lambing and during lactation is also likely to be part of the solution.

In 2006/2007: 113,503 lambs were born to 197,858 ewes and perhaps 76,000 ewes that were pregnant failed to rear a lamb until marking.

With last year's total average marking percentage of only 57.4%, further resources need to be targeted at addressing the problem of increasing the number of lambs weaned, not only with farms continuing to improve, the welcome ongoing FIP developments on farm, but with even more FIG funding, research and extension.

SAA'S COMMENT ON ROBERT HALL'S ARTICLE

By Mac McArthur

I fully concur with the sentiments expressed in the article contributed by Robert Hall and make it clear that the majority of the DoA's research and extension resources are targeted at lifting lambing percentages and the survival of young sheep on farms throughout the Falkland Islands. The Farm Improvement Programme (FIP) is specifically aimed at the improved nutrition of ewes and young sheep through the development of re-seeds (improved pasture), brassica and other crops, strategic feed supplementation (lupins) and improved grazing management techniques.

As will be discussed at Farmers' Week there are a significant number of success stories emanating from this work where farms have significantly increased the weight of their young sheep and ewes with subsequent increases in average lambing percentage and survival of young sheep.

A review of the research into worm parasites in Falkland Island sheep completed in the past has been undertaken by Susan Campbell, one of our veterinarians and further research into controlling worm burdens particularly in vulnerable young sheep will be investigated.

Further resources are always welcome, however in this time of tight budgets the trick is to use the available resources in the most efficient way. Presently the DoA is reviewing the grazing management/demonstration trial work it is involved with and will also review the AI/ET and genetic improvement programme to ensure they are all as efficient as possible and focused on the key issues of improving lamb survival, wool and sheep meat production.

Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

The world's richest dog has lost £5million - but can still look forward to a life of luxury. New York hotel billionaire Leona Helmsley left £6million to her beloved dog Trouble when she died. But her will was challenged by relatives who have succeeded in reducing the dog's inheritance to just £1m.

Judge Renee Roth, of the Manhattan Surrogate Court, accepted a settlement between Mrs Helmsley's heirs and the New York State Attorney General's office which cut the nine-year-old Maltese's inheritance on the grounds that his owner was mentally unfit when she made her will.

Mrs Helmsley, who died last August aged 87, had amassed a fortune in real estate and hotels with her husband, Harry Helmsley, who died in 1997. She was known as "the Queen of Mean" because of the way she dealt with her employees. But she had a soft spot for Trouble - a clause in her will called for the dog to eventually be buried next to her in the Helmsley mausoleum.

Carl Lekic, the general manager of a Helmsley hotel in Florida and now Trouble's caretaker, said £1m would be "enough money to pay for the dog's maintenance and welfare at the highest standards of care for more than 10 years," according to an affidavit.

Mr Lekic said the money would cover annual costs of £50,000 for full-time security, £4,000 for grooming and £600 for food. Mr Lekic will be paid a £30,000 annual guardian fee under the terms of the inheritance. The deal awarded £3m to Mrs Helmsley's two grandchildren, Craig Panziner and Meegan Panziner Wesolko, who had been cut out of her will "for reasons which are known to them", the document said.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL INDUSTRY?

By Ian Campbell

I noticed that the wool offering in Australia this week is probably the lowest since World War II. As the world's biggest wool exporter it might be interesting to know why this is the case.

Firstly it should be noted that this is historically the low time in the annual market cycle anyway, and this year is obviously very low.

The national flock is the smallest it has been for a very long time. It is now down below 100 million sheep from a high of 160 million not that very long ago. The reasons for this are a series of crippling droughts, an increase of beef cattle and cropping into the pastoral areas and a move away from Merino to meat breed sheep. In fact sheep meats, if you include live export to the Middle East, is a bigger earner for Australia than wool exports now.

Also these days some wool never reaches the auction system. Some wool is produced under contract and future sold, or sold privately.

Finally the wool price is at a low level so some people have withdrawn their wool, planning to wait until the price improves.

A few other interesting things are happening as well. The average micron is dropping to 20.6µ and now more than one third of the clip is 19 µ or less. At the same time wool cuts have increased to 4.3 kg per head.

But all is not rosy in the Merino industry. The mules operation, the trimming of loose skin from around the base of the tail, is to be banned in 2010. If this goes ahead, which it should do, then blowfly problems will increase, and/or chemical treatments will increase. There are a number of excellent alternatives (from plastic clips to genetically bare breeched sheep) being researched but none are quite ready yet.

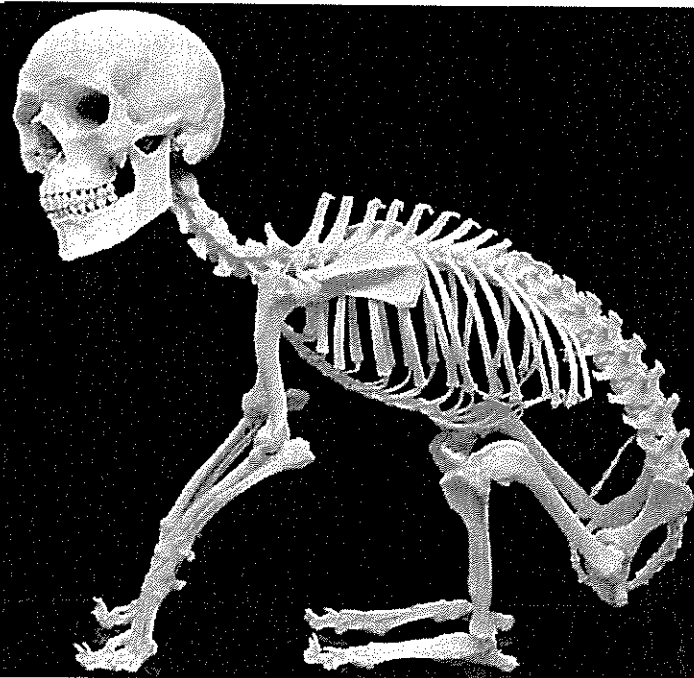
This debate will only get more interesting to follow as the deadline approaches. Particularly since it puts the Falklands in a good position as well. The first "non mulesed wool" auction has been held with not much of a result, but it is still very early days in this dispute.

**Seen anything
strange lately?!**

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

**Call the Veterinary Section
on 27366**

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



STAFF NEWS

G'day from the 'New' Peter!

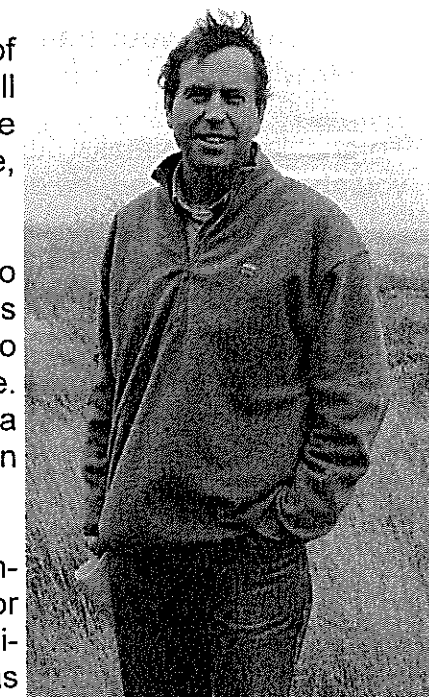
Hi my name is Tony Mills and I have been appointed to the role of Agricultural Advisor – Genetics and Nutrition. I shall be trying to fill Peter's shoes which in more ways than one were big. I arrived in the Falkland Islands from Australia on the 9th of June with my wife, Rosie and two boys, Archie (2 ½) and Monty (1).

Being diverted to Rio Gallegos because of fog and then bussed to Punta Arenas for two nights was an interesting introduction to this part of the world. However, the stop over meant we were able to meet a number of locals who gave us a good feel for our new home. I'm the son of a shearer and small business owner and grew up in a small town in Southwest Queensland – St. George (population approx. 3,000).

My last role was as a Rural Manager with a large agricultural financier – Rabobank. Prior to this I worked as an Agricultural Advisor with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in the semi-arid region of South Western Queensland. My main work areas were sheep and goat production, supply/value chain management and marketing. This area of Australia faces many of the same challenges as the Falkland Islands though under different environmental conditions e.g. poor winter nutrition, low sheep reproductive rates and wool versus meat production.

I will be working across the areas of genetics, nutrition, grazing management and financial/business management. All topics that I'm sure you are all grappling with at the moment. My aim is to gain a better understanding of how you are managing these issues and hopefully work with you to find practical solutions to the many questions that the daily operation of your business provides.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Farmers' Week and if you are in Stanley prior to this please drop into the office and say hello (I think Andy is looking for a bit of relief).



Plan for Cobb's wren

One of Falklands two birds found nowhere else in the world, Cobb's wren, is soon to have a plan to ensure its long-term survival. Falklands Conservation is preparing to lead in the development of a Species Action Plan, together with landowners and the Environmental Planning Department.

Cobb's wren survives only on mice and rat free islands, feeding along cobble coastlines. Island homes include Carcass, Lively, George, Barren, Speedwell and Kidney. Supporting landowners to keep their islands rat free will be a key part of the plan as well as eradicating islands with rats to increase the number of potential new homes.

Stay posted! There will be more information about Cobb's wren and how the Species Action Plan will be prepared in August's Wool Press.

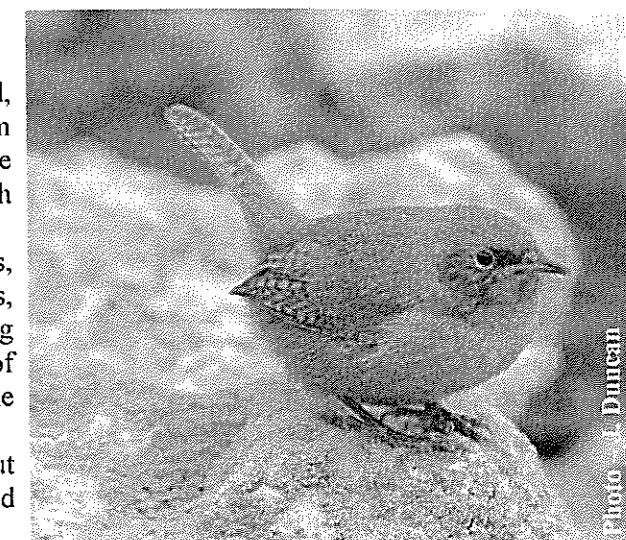


Photo: J. Duncan

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	June 2008	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		Agronomy Tests	
	Staff Chart	June 2008	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
			Dog Dosing Dates	November 2007
			Dog Neuturing	
Legal & Codes of Practice	Annex A Sites		Gestation, Oestrus and Temperature Tables	
	Annex B Sites		Is Your Dog a Health Hazard?	
	Burning Permit	November 2006	Killing Facilities on Farms	
	Designated Sites Legislation		Lambing Care	
	Grass Fires Ordinance 2002		Ram Exam Workshop Handout	May 2007
	Import of Live Animals		Veterinary Fees	
	Licences		Veterinary Diagnostics	
	Notifiable Diseases		Worming Horses	
	Planning Permission			
	Plant Import Guidelines			
	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

Recipe Page - Winter Warmers

Winter Warmers from Sainsburys.co.uk

Pork with Cider and Sage Dumpling

For the pork:
 500g diced pork
 1 medium onion
 2 tablespoons caster sugar
 2 apples, peeled, cored & quartered
 freshly ground black pepper
 1 chicken stock cube dissolved in 300ml hot water

For the dumplings:
 125g plain flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 freshly ground black pepper
 10g fresh sage, leaves chopped

Preheat the oven to 160°C, 325°F, gas mark 3. Heat the oil in an ovenproof dish. Coat the pork in the flour & shake off the excess. Fry the onion gently until softened & then add the pork. Brown lightly all over, approximately 5-8 minutes. Pour over the cider & water. Bring to the boil, cover & place in the oven for 1 hour. In a small frying pan, over a low heat, melt the butter & add the sugar. Add the apples & cook until the apples are soft & golden, turning occasionally. Leave to one side & keep warm.

To make the dumplings: Put all the dry ingredients together in a bowl. Season. Add the water & mix to a soft paste, shape into 8 small dumplings. Remove the pork from the oven & place the dumplings on top. Cover, return to the oven & cook for a further 15-20 minutes at 220°C, 425°F, gas mark 7. To serve: Heat 4 plates & divide the pork & dumplings between them. Add the apples & serve with fresh green vegetables.

Winter Vegetable Soup

25g butter
 225g onion, sliced
 1 clove of garlic, crushed
 225g carrot
 150g swede
 pinch of freshly ground nutmeg
 (Peel and dice all vegetables)

1 tablespoon oil
 225g leek, sliced
 50g celery, sliced
 150g potato
 1 litre milk

Melt the butter & oil together, add the onion & cook over a low heat for 7-10 minutes, or until soft. Add the garlic, leek, carrot & celery to the pan & continue cooking for a further 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the potato & swede to the saucepan, season with nutmeg, pour over the milk, bring to the boil & simmer over a gentle heat for 20 minutes or until all the vegetables are tender. Turn the contents of the saucepan into a liquidiser & whizz together to form a smooth purée. Return to a rinsed out pan & add the cream, bring to the boil. Sprinkle the chopped chives on top & serve.

Mulled Wine

1 x 75cl bottle of red wine
 2 tablespoons caster sugar
 2 tablespoons brandy
 1 orange (cut thinly)

600ml cranberry juice
 300ml orange juice
 1 mulled wine sachet
 1 apple, thinly sliced

Place the wine, cranberry juice, orange juice, sugar, brandy and mulled wine sachet in a large saucepan and slowly heat to simmering point - do not boil. Allow to infuse for 10 minutes. Remove the sachet. Add the fruit to the mulled wine and serve in warmed glasses.

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 30th July (Droncit)

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

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

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

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Last Letter

A woman is seated and is writing. There is a thunderstorm outside and she dies as a consequence. How did she die?

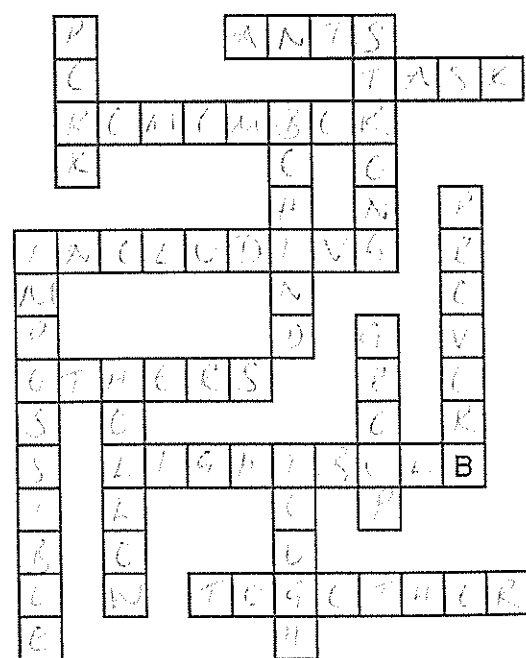
What's My Address?

I live on Sunset Boulevard, where there are 6 houses on my side of the block. The house numbers are consecutive even numbers. The sum of all 6 house numbers is 8790. You don't know which block I live on, and it's a long street, but I will tell you that I live in the lowest number on my side of the block. What's my address?

Logic Poem

The following verse spells out a word, letter by letter. "My first" refers to the word's first letter, and so on. What's the word that this verse describes?

My first is in fish but not in snail
 My second in rabbit but not in tail
 My third in up but not down
 My fourth in tiara not in crown
 My fifth in tree you plainly see
 My whole a food for you and me



Last Month's Solutions

Breed	Name	Picked Up	Re-homed	New Owner
Alsatian	Barney	Wednesday	Friday	Mr Perry
Collie	Geordie	Tuesday	Monday	Miss Kirby
Dalmatian	Dandy	Thursday	Tuesday	Mrs Tilley
Retriever	Marty	Friday	Thursday	Mrs O'Keefe
Terrier	Yorkie	Monday	Wednesday	Mr Morgan

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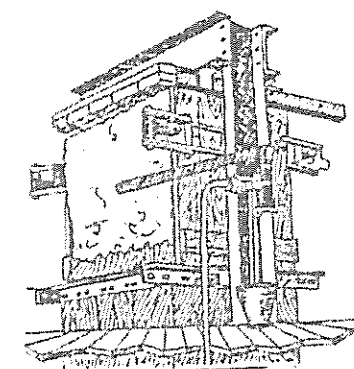
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EDITORIAL

It was great to catch up with many farmers and their family members who attended Farmers' Week sessions in Stanley recently. The RBA and all the people involved with planning, organising and presenting during the week are to be congratulated on a job well done.

This month's Wool Press has a wide variety of interesting and informative articles including Ian Campbell's item explaining how farms can become accredited as organic producers of wool and meat under the Memorandum of Understanding that the DoA now has with Biological Farmers of Australia.

Siân has produced a comprehensive summary of the main Farmers' Week agricultural sessions including pointing out that a CD copy of our sessions is available for those who were unable to attend.

Our overseas correspondent, Dr Michylla Seal summarises the highly successful 2008 sheep AI/ET programme that she and Ronnie Nilsson ran so efficiently with DoA staff and cooperating farmers during May and June. She emphasises the importance of farmers ordering the embryos you require for the 2009 programme no later than October and semen no later than December this year.

A big thank you to Peter and Maggie Goss for the stimulating article they have provided on what they have achieved on their Horseshoe Bay farm, particularly their breeding of productive sheep and cattle.

Zoë has written an interesting article on toxoplasmosis gondii, a disease that affects cats, sheep and humans as a follow up to the display mounted at Farmers' Week. Zoë is also seeking your comments about this disease as it may have affected your animals or family members.

Lucinda Lowe, our part time Laboratory Assistant, has written an article on her experiences working in the DoA and to round off a good read there is a most interesting article by Helen Otley and Robin Woods on Cobb's wren and a proposed action plan workshop.

Enjoy the read,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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WANT TO BECOME ORGANIC?

By Ian Campbell

Now that we have a signed agreement with Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) it is time to consider if you want to be a part of this programme.

The Decision

For some they want to be organic for ethical reasons.

For others it is for economic reasons, based upon a belief that there will be a premium for organic food and fibre in the future. Such premiums are believed to vary from 0-30%. Future indications are that there will be reasonable premiums for the foreseeable future.

How much do you rely on chemicals?

Conventional drenches and fertilizers are perhaps the two major things an organic system will not allow that you may well be using now. There will be other less important issues as well. The good news is you save the money by not using them, but importantly you need to factor in what you forego in terms of production loss.

What does going Organic cost?

In the agreement with BFA the Department of Agriculture covers all the auditing costs - a considerable cost to comparable Australian farmers going organic. The DoA will also at this stage cover the cost of some soil testing around old dips etc. looking for chemical contamination which may need fencing off. There are however three other costs to be worn by the farm business. (Tax deductible.)

- A "one off" application fee of around £250
- An annual fee of around £120
- A 1% levy on products sold as certified organic

As well as the monetary cost there is a requirement you keep adequate records and comply to an annual audit and agree to address items as advised by the auditor.

The Process

Give expressions of interest to the DoA. The first thing to do is to apply to the BFA, through us so they know you are part of the Falklands scheme. You will then need to develop an Organic Management Plan. We have templates to help you do this, plus Mac McArthur has been trained by the BFA to help you develop these plans. You will then be checked over by an auditor (me I'm afraid) who will check the plan and compare it to standards. The next couple of years you need to adhere to the plan, be audited each year, and three years after application you can sell organic product.

Timing

If you apply in the next few months then wool shorn in the 2011-12 shearing season can be sold as fully accredited Organic wool. Wool shorn in the 2 seasons before this can be sold as accredited Organic in Conversion. Because of the three year wait if you wait another 6 or 7 months your wool from 2011-12 may not be fully accreditable. It is a long term process I'm afraid, but time goes fast as well!

Next Dog Dosing Day...

...Wednesday 10th September (Droncit)

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

FARMERS' WEEK ROUND-UP FOR WOOL PRESS

By Siân Ferguson

Another July passes and with it, another Farmers' Week. All DoA staff were involved in gathering information for presentations and posters and it is often surprising how much time and effort it takes to put together even a half hour presentation!

There have been a number of new staff this year who have made their Farmers' Week debut along with familiar faces. Mac McArthur, Ian Campbell and Tony Mills have all arrived in the last eight months and most of you would have met them or read about them in the Wool Press.

A spokesperson for SeAled PR (who organised the week on behalf of the Rural Business Association) said "It went very well this year and we have had some very good feedback from members. The turn out for the majority of the sessions was very good and it was great to see so many at the fire training session." They would like to thank all those who took part in the Expo on the Monday morning, adding that it was a great way to open the week, with over 80 visitors enjoying the stands. They would also like to thank everyone who held sessions throughout the week.

Raymond Evans, chair of the RBA, added that for next year, they must see what their members want, how the sessions are to be run and look at the issues that are at the fore front at the time. He believes there may be a need to shorten some of the presentations to allow more time for questions at the end. Raymond would like to thank everyone who took part, gave presentations and in particular SeAled PR for organising it all.

He added that Expo appeared to be very popular and he would like to see it each year.

Director of Minerals & Agriculture, Phyl Rendell, said "It was very encouraging to see so many farmers at the DoA presentations this year and to hear their views on a range of topics. Feedback has been positive and new members of staff have learnt a great deal about the critical issues related to farming right now."

It is not possible to report on all the sessions of Farmers' Week in detail (we don't have enough pages for that!), so I have provided below for you a very brief summary of what happened if you were unable to make it or were feeling the after effects of the Government House reception.

Rural Expo

The DoA took part in the Rural Expo (organised by the RBA) and provided a very informative stand, including a summary of the simulated grazing trial, work carried out by Sergio Radic and some very informative posters on zoonotic diseases.

Organics

We have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA), enabling interested farms to now begin the three year conversion to becoming fully internationally organically accredited. This could mean premiums for any organic sales of wool and meat. Application to the BFA organics scheme costs £250 and then an annual fee of £120, and a 1% levy on certified sales which could be offset by premiums on sales.

Targeted Nutrition Trials

A review of the 2008 swede and lupin trials were presented and discussed. The results demonstrated that the supplementary feeding of ewes and hoggets in winter/spring had considerable benefits. These "key" benefits include an increased lambing percentage, extra wool growth, high lamb weaning weights, increased hogget liveweight and reduced hogget mortality. A cost benefit analysis was carried out at Moss Side and Blue Beach with ewes and hoggets respectively. The results were positive showing a return of investment of at least £3.46 for every £1 spent at Blue Beach and £9.71 for every £1 at Moss Side. The cost benefit was calculated on crops that were average to poor by Falkland Island standards (2.2 to 4.6 tonnes of dry matter per Ha) when compared to other crops grown in the Islands.

This increase in production could dramatically speed up the conversion of a farm from a balanced flock to a mainly breeding flock. The increase in ewe hogget liveweight over winter/spring (often a loss) increases the chances of young ewes reaching a joining liveweight of 40kg at 1.5 years of age. More information on the swedes and lupins will be gained from trials being carried out this winter/spring.

Disease Surveillance

A summary of disease surveillance results from the 2008 export season. Generally abattoir statistics show that animals are presented in good condition with few diseases of any major significance. Ten and a half percent of animals were positive for boils and the need for keeping shearing sheds clean and shearing younger animals first was stressed. One confirmed case of hydatids was found. If a viable cyst is found next season, it will be fed to a dog to check if the six weekly dosing cycle is sufficient to kill adult tapeworms before they mature.

Wether Trial

The results of the 2007 wether trial carried out at Goose Green were presented. Key messages from the trial were; there are differences within and between breeds; there is the opportunity to improve performance through genetics and the need to develop appropriate systems to improve profitability. Continuation of the wether comparison trial has begun this year on two sites, Stoney Ridge on West Falkland and Goose Green on East Falkland. The trial will end by January 2009.

Below: sheep in the wether trial at Stoney Ridge



Wool Clip Analysis

There are modifications being made to the current wool clip analysis programme which will show effective areas grazed (deducted ungrazed areas such as ponds, islands etc from total farm area). Also going into more detail on sheep benchmarks, such as average flock micron, average hogget micron, wool cut per head and effective grazing ha etc. Although this is a voluntary programme, it will measure your current farm performance, measure change over time and is also useful in business planning and the FIP. The annual report will be specific to your farm but might include comparisons to the Falkland Islands and will be a good summary of farm production and flock performance.

Quality Falkland Wool

The general message is that we are becoming complacent with the QFW scheme. It is a self auditing programme with responsibility landing at the feet of the farm owner and wool classer. The aim of the scheme is to provide quality control assurance to wool brokers and maintain buyer confidence. Farmers involved in the scheme need to complete their annual checklist every year before shearing and ensure diligence throughout the season.

Genetic Improvement of Livestock

Cattle – have a genetic goal that describes your ideal cattle beast. This might include maturity type, growth rate, milk production and temperament. You can buy or lease bulls to achieve this, use AI and monitor through performance recording. A summary of the NBH management was also presented to the audience.

Sheep – typical FI flocks are said to have various breed influences, be tough and hardy, adapted to conditions, good style, white fleece, strong wool around 26µ, not heavy wool weights and small frames. To have a genetic goal for your flock you will need to describe your ideal sheep. This will include your ideal micron, clean fleece weight, mature body weight and easy care animals. To achieve this you can buy in the rams to suit your genetic goal, monitor through wool clip analysis and weighing sheep and fleeces. The need to stick to your plan was stressed.

Continued on the next page...

Identification of Cattle

The proposal of a cattle identification system and national register was discussed. There will be a need for a double tagging system with a small button tag in one ear of the animal and a large reader tag in the other ear. It is proposed that we start double tagging calves born and animals moved off the property. Those appropriately tagged would be registered in the database. Moving onto double tagging calves with approved reader and button tags. Finally having all animals double tagged and registered. The need for a cattle identification system is traceability (increasingly important now the abattoir is EU accredited to export beef) to provide assurance for producers and customers (both local and international), herd management, herd health and national disease control.

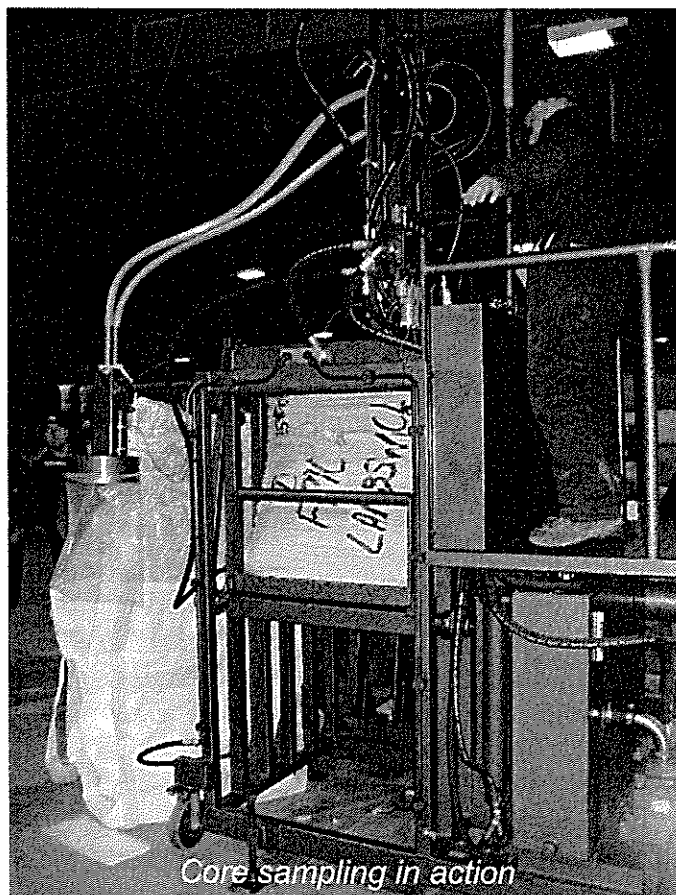
Wool Corer & Grab Sampling Demonstration

A demonstration of the FIDC funded wool corer and grab sampling machine was given to a crowd assembled at FIPASS. The DOA talked through the process while Rodney Lee, FIWCo (who were awarded the contract for the management and running of the machinery) grab sampled and cored three bales. It is envisaged FIWCo will charge a yet to be determined fee for the operation of the machinery.

Core sample of wool



Grab sample of wool



Core sampling in action

If you would like more detailed information on any of the topics, then we are able to provide a cd copy of our sessions, which are also available for online viewing/download at www.agriculture.gov.fk/farmers_week.htm or please give us a ring on 27355.

Seen anything strange lately?!

DON'T LEAVE IT... OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE!!

2008 AI/ET PROGRAMME IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Dr Michylla Seal, AllStock (WA) Pty Ltd

The 2008 Falkland Island AI/ET programme was a success!! I can honestly say I look forward to the Falkland Island AI/ET programme every year and as a company we feel privileged to be a part of the programme for the fifth year running.

Firstly, I would like to thank Nyree for doing a fantastic job of organising the programme for yet another year - unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to work together this year. A big thank you goes out to everyone at the Department of Agriculture for assisting with the programme and for always being willing to help us at a moments notice. Tim and Sarah did an excellent job of dispatching all the kits. Hopefully all unused items and drugs have been returned. The vets were of great assistance as our nurses (we did warn them that we are bossy!). Ronnie and I would like to extend a special thank you to Tim and Jim for coming to assist us when there was a late change in the programme. We certainly couldn't have completed the programme without everyone's assistance - it was great working in an environment with great teamwork!! Thank you to everyone who provided accommodation while we were out at camp and a special thank you to Brian and Diana at Goose Green for giving us a "home away from home".

As Nyree was pursuing other ventures overseas, Veronica Nilsson (Ronnie), a former employee of AllStock and a good friend of mine, was given the opportunity to be involved in the programme. Ronnie and I collected a total of 1,127 transferable embryos from 177 donors. This equated to an average of 6.37 transferable embryos collected per donor flushed. Of those embryos we froze 83 and transferred the rest into recipients (surrogate mothers). We implanted a total of 283 frozen embryos from Australia and South Africa. Finally 788 ewes were artificially inseminated laparoscopically. The breeds we worked with this year included Dohne Merino, Bond Merino, Merino, MPM, SAMM, Polwarth and Poll Dorsets. We eagerly await the scanning results from this year's programme and wish everybody the best with the lambing season.

Even though we have just completed a successful season, some forward planning is



Ronnie & Mic undertaking AI work at West Lagoons

required if you are thinking of having a programme performed next year. This is really essential once you have scanning results and/or lambing percentage results. Consideration needs to be given to donor and recipient numbers, as well as semen and embryo orders. It is also essential to consider nutrition and management of future donors, recipients and AI ewes. The most successful programme had a collection rate of 9.92 transferable embryos per donor flushed. The success of this programme was largely due to the management and nutrition of the donor ewes on the property. Management and nutrition need to be considered at least 9 months prior to a programme to ensure the best possible results. The recipients cannot be ignored and need to be considered as important as donor animals - they will potentially be rearing a purebred lamb. It is very important to give special attention to the post weaning nutrition and management of ewes to ensure they have adequate follicular (egg) development in the following season.

If I can be of any assistance in sourcing genetics, please do not hesitate to contact me at mic@allstockwa.com.au. In order to prevent delays, it is crucial to get your embryo orders to the Department of Agriculture no later than October and semen orders by December 2008. This allows the supplier of semen or embryos to co-ordinate collection with their own programmes in the country of origin and ensures you obtain the semen/embryos you require. Contact Tony Mills on 27355 for further information or advice on your genetic improvement plans and programme for 2009.

FORWARD FROM FARMERS' WEEK

By Mac McArthur

New Opportunities

Congratulations to the RBA and everyone involved in making Farmers' Week the success it was. Considerable planning, organising and setting up hours are put in by a lot of people to culminate in a week long event that captures the interest of a wide range of Camp and Stanley based people.

From an agricultural point of view there were a number of new innovations and opportunities for farmers to enhance their businesses and increase their profitability in the future. These include the opportunity for farms to become internationally accredited for organic production of wool, lamb, mutton and beef through the Memorandum of Understanding the DoA has developed with Biological Farmers of Australia.

The recent DoA Veterinary team achievement of European Union (EU) accreditation for the export of Falkland Island beef to Europe augurs well for future gradual export of beef as niche markets are discovered and developed for the high quality, young, grass-fed beef the Falkland Islands can produce.

Introduction of a National cattle tagging system to ensure that cattle can be identified back to their property of origin to ensure trace-back in the event of disease that may affect human health is a necessary aspect of EU accreditation for exporting beef. A side benefit of fully identifying all your cattle are the production recording and management benefits so that highly productive cattle can be selected and poor ones culled from breeding herds.

We have introduced opportunities for you to have your beef herd records analysed on the Herd-master performance recording programme to allow you to select superior cows and bulls in your herd. Talk to Lucy or I if you are interested.

Live Animal and Carcase Assessment

The importance of farmers assessing their lambs, mutton sheep and cattle as live animals and following them through FIMCo to evaluate how good their assessments of fatness and muscling are by checking their assessments against actual carcase measurements, can't be over stressed. John Ferguson welcomes farmers to come and check their livestock carcasses at FIMCo. New measurements of fatness and muscling of carcasses will be introduced in the future and these will be directly linked to the pricing grids.

Special tools for measuring the amount of fat on a lamb, mutton or beef carcase are available and are being used to measure subcutaneous fat on cold carcasses. Also a simple clear plastic grid developed for the Australian Beef Carcase Appraisal System (ABCAS) (pictured) can be used to calculate the area of eye muscle on a beef carcase. If both the eye muscle area and the subcutaneous fat depth over the rump are measured it is possible to accurately calculate the yield of saleable beef from a carcase. As eye muscle area is a highly inherited trait, recording this data for bulls and cows in a herd and selecting only those that produce heavily muscled calves will result in improved beef productivity in the future.

Camp Field Days

There are a significant number of success stories where farms have taken up new farm management methods and technologies and have some interesting things to show other farmers. When

the weather warms up and grass is growing again the DoA is considering running some field day/farm walks on both the East and West Islands.

The information/discussion days will focus on effective methods of developing, managing and maintaining highly productive re-seeds and cropping programmes, displaying the Afrino, SAMM, Dohne and Polwarth sheep. Also other aspects of best farm practice such as fencing methods and shelter belts.

I was involved last week with the weighing of the trial wethers at Stoney Ridge. The wethers are all doing well with many carrying a fair bit of wool. The Goose Green wethers are being weighed this week. Farmers are encouraged to attend these weighing days which we will advise in advance with the next weighings likely to be sometime in September.

Saladero

As many people are aware John Hobman will retire after 9 years as manager at Saladero in October. A number of changes in the way Saladero is run and managed will be the responsibility of the incoming manager to implement and manage to best farm practice standards. These include the development of a highly productive dual purpose (wool/meat) commercial flock to be run in conjunction with the National Polwarth Stud Flock.

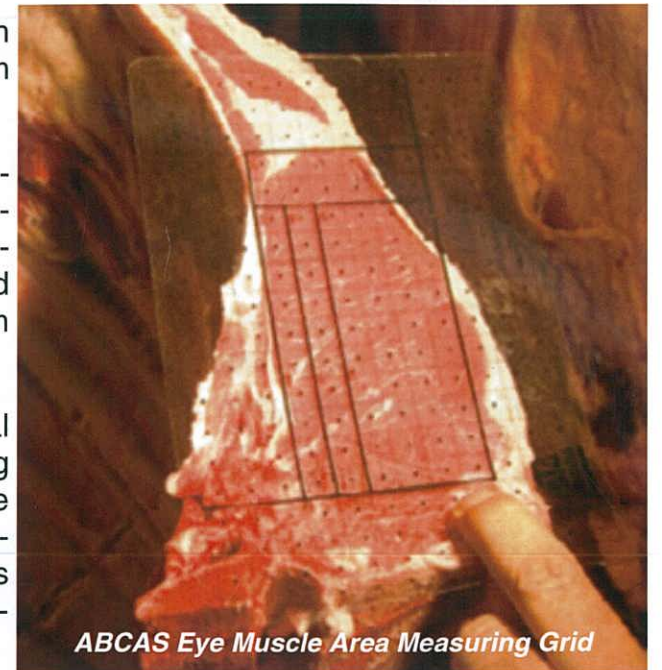
Research/demonstration trial work on key aspects of nitrogen fixation of legumes in re-seed pastures and instigation of the Jim Gerrish system of rotational grazing management. Also other plant and animal related trial work on key areas that will assist farmers to improve the productivity and profitability of their farming businesses will be instigated.

The incoming Saladero manager will also have responsibilities to oversee the genetic improvement programmes involving the joint ventures with the SAMMs, Dohnes, Afrinos and the National Beef Herd in conjunction with DoA and Falkland Landholdings staff.

Let Us Know

I am always 'all ears' for things that farmers and others feel strongly that the DoA should be working on. With tight budgets we are constantly doing more with fewer resources, however I am always keen to discuss suggestions that you might have.

My visit to the West last week to introduce Tony Mills to a number of farmers made me aware of a couple of things that we will look to doing in the future. Let me or other staff you work with know about things you feel have merit to investigate, implement or promote. Contact us on 27355.



ABCAS Eye Muscle Area Measuring Grid



Mac McArthur weighing wethers at Stoney Ridge

FARM IN PROFILE: HORSESHOE BAY

Property Name: Horseshoe Bay

Location: East Falklands

Owners: Peter & Maggie Goss

Farm size: 5,314ha

Sheep: 5,097 (mainly Polwarth)

Cattle: 66 (mainly Angus)

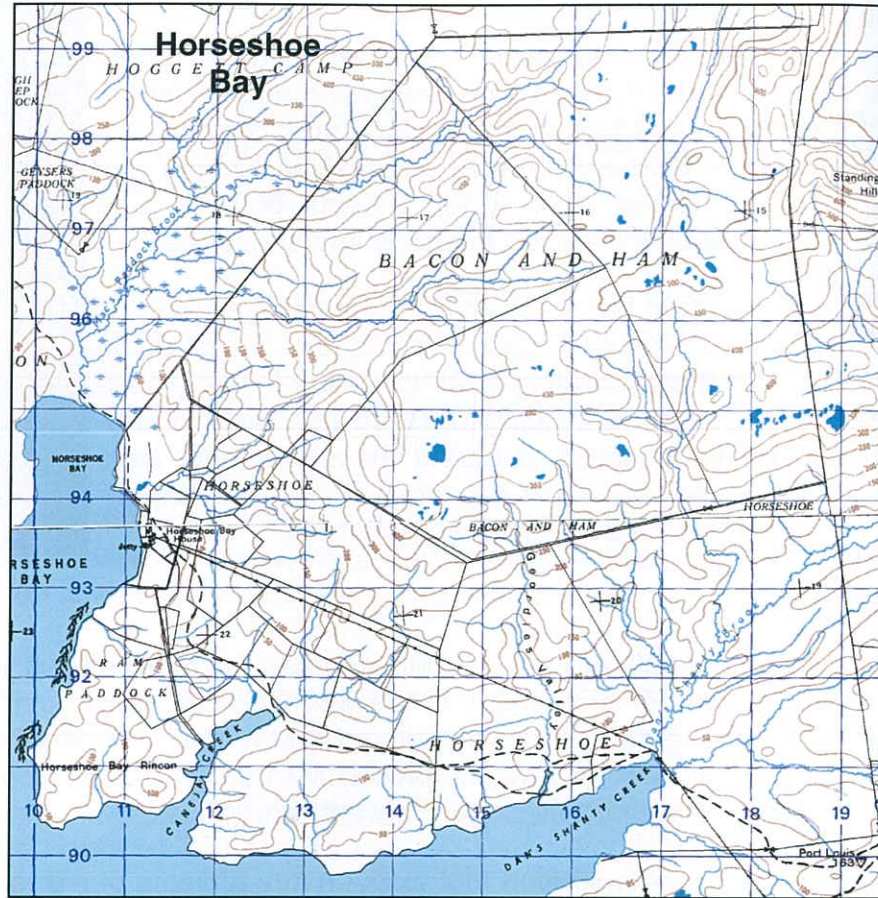
After contract shearing, Peter & Maggie had been trying to buy land in the Islands, but meantime farmed the Bluff Cove mountains, before moving onto Swan Island. There was only once place for Maggie though and when Horseshoe Bay came on the market, they bought the farm with big plans for the future.

Plans for their farm

Peter & Maggie have lived at Horseshoe Bay now for 28 years (although Maggie first arrived there in 1960 when it was still part of Green Patch). Being ambitious, they had lots of plans for their land, which included sub-division, paying off the mortgage (which they achieved after 7 years) and changing the coarse wool of 30+ micron they started off with (which took 15 years). The rest they say, is history.

Building up the Horseshoe Bay flock & farm

When Peter & Maggie first bought the farm, there were three camps, one large paddock, a caravan and 3,200 sheep. After buying in cast for age sheep for a few years, they had built the flock numbers up to 8,200 animals, which they continued running for a couple more years, but because they were always buying in reject sheep, they felt that something had to be changed. So they stopped buying cast sheep and started looking at wool micron. They will always remember the first stud ewes being selected for the largest frame 30+ micron – so it was a God send living next door to one of the finest wool farms!



Fine wool sheep

Peter & Maggie are now breeding their animals for the fine wool market. They introduced Dohne Merino genetics in 2004 to their flock aiming to improve the frame of the Polwarth to produce an animal which retains the fine wool but is also marketable for the abattoir. Unfortunately this did not work out for them as they felt that although the Dohne Merino wool is fine, there wasn't enough of it on the animal and



Family members help get ready for lamb-marking

they noticed the animals didn't cope well with wet winters.

Peter & Maggie say that there was a noticeable improvement with the frame of the Polwarth, so they are now using straight Merino genetics of 18 micron to increase the wool weight. They will continue to work with Polwarth and Merino over the next few years. There have also been Jacob sheep at Horseshoe Bay since 1983, which Peter & Maggie say are really good for



producing lamb for the meat market and cross well with any breeds.

Cattle breeding

The cattle at Horseshoe Bay are mainly of Angus origin. There is also a purebred Hereford and purebred Ayrshire bull on the farm. The aim is to breed beef animals for future markets, with Herefords which are some of the tamest animals Peter & Maggie have handled and they still also milk cows, for which Ayrshires are the best suited animal, so they will continue with these breeds for many years to come.

Changes at Horseshoe Bay & Falklands farming

Over the past few years, a six paddock rotational grazing system has been introduced at Horseshoe Bay, with a flock of 300 ewes which is part of their FIP plan. They say this is working well in their Jubilee ewe camp, where a mob of 500 has been fenced into two camps and further subdivided into three camps this year for

ewe rotation. The Ridge camp is being fenced in half to rotate a mob of 200 maiden ewes.

Peter & Maggie decided 5 years ago shear the entire flock with cover combs and they believe that since doing this, their stock handle the cold conditions during shearing and the winter much better and maintain their body condition.

In the next 5 to 10 years, they hope to see an increase in sheep numbers on the farm and hope to produce some prime beef, maybe with a slight swing towards producing a small amount of lamb for the abattoir from terminal sires.

Peter & Maggie don't believe that the type of animals over the next few years will need to change for wool, but perhaps for sheep and cattle meat producers. They say that the road system has helped farming in the Islands, especially for those supplying to the abattoir. Adding that the trend from ranching has now swung more towards intensive grazing with rotational and crop management and more farmers are now experimenting with different breeds. There is also diversification, especially tourism.



The Goss family at Horseshoe Bay



A snowy Horseshoe Bay settlement



Establishment and growth of legumes in acid soils in the Falkland Islands

By
S.J. Radic¹ and J.H. McAdam^{1,2}

¹ Queen's University, Belfast, UK.



The work is funded by the Falkland Islands Government, the U.K. Falkland Islands Trust, Mecusup Chile and Queen's University Belfast.

Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands

- Low lambing (60%),
- High percentage lamb mortality (10% - 20%),
- Ewe and hogget live weight loss through winter and early spring, increases death rates and reduces

Overall Aim

To investigate the effect of acid soils on legume establishment, growth and nitrogen fixation in the Falkland Islands.

Materials & Methods

Two groups of experiments were conducted,

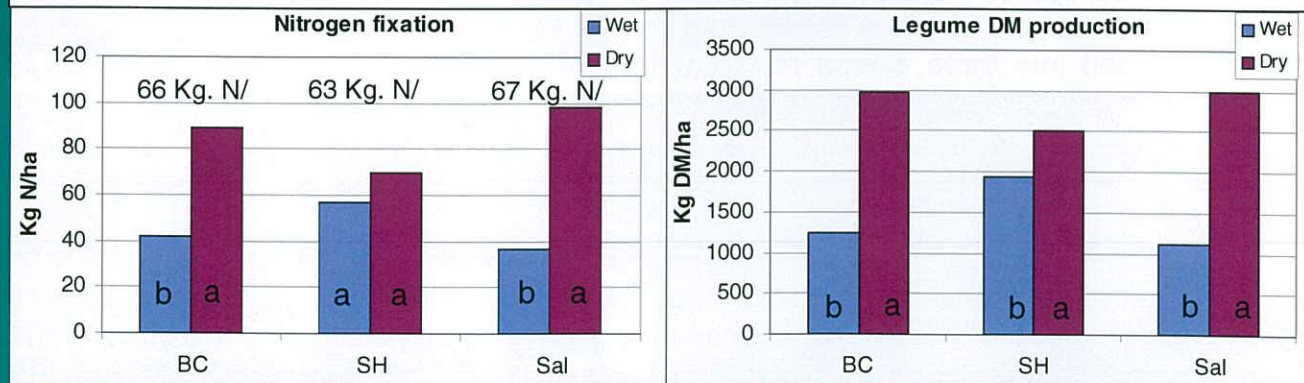
1. Controlled environment, a. Pot experiment. The effect of different doses of Calcified Seaweed (CS) on growth of legumes (*Trifolium repens* var. Gwenda, *Lotus corniculatus* var. Leo and *Lotus uliginosus* var. Maku) was investigated, b. Soil incubations with different doses of CS and different particle size distribution (< 0.25 mm and > 2.4 mm) at two different temperatures (11°C x 75 days and 60°C x 4 days) and lime as a control.
2. Field experiments in the Falkland Islands. At 3 farms grazing exclusion cages were used in established reseeds (dry and wet areas) to measure the yield, chemical composition and nitrogen fixation of the legumes during the growing season (October – February). Data collected was used to measure how much nitrogen is being fixed using ¹⁵Nitrogen-isotopic techniques.

Experiment 1. The effect of CS doses on incubated soils (60°C x 4 days) to Ca (meq/100g); Al (meq/100g)

Doses of CS g/kg (tonnes/ha)	Control Lime			Particle size distribution					
	Ca	Al	pH _{water}	< 0.25 mm			> 2.4 mm		
				Ca	Al	pH _{water}	Ca	Al	pH _{water}
0 (0)	1.02d	8.01a	4.41d	1.02e	8.01a	4.41c	1.02d	8.01a	4.41b
0.8 (0.63)	1.42dc	7.34b	4.48d	1.57d	7.69ab	4.43c	1.63c	7.61ab	4.45ab
1.6 (1.26)	1.89c	6.62cB	4.61cB	2.16c	6.87bA	4.53bAB	1.92c	7.24bA	4.48abA
3.2 (2.52)	2.73bA	5.16dC	4.77bB	3.50bB	5.95cB	4.62bAB	2.68bA	6.73bA	4.53aA
6.4 (5.00)	4.65aA	2.77eC	5.08aC	6.21aB	3.94dB	4.88aB	6.04aB	6.26bA	4.52aA

Values with different lower cases in the column are statistically different for doses. Different upper cases in the row are statistically different for particle sizes.

Experiment 2. Nitrogen fixation and dry matter production of legumes swards on each of 3 farms (BC=Bold Cove; SH=Shallow Harbour and Sal=Saladero).



CONCLUSION

From the first years' data, doses of calcified seaweed and particle sizes significantly affected the release of nutrients from incubated soils. Finer CS material had a better reaction with the soil and released nutrients faster than coarse CS. The mean level of Nitrogen fixation over 3 farms was 66 kg N/ha (SD +/-24).

COMMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SERGIO RADIC & JIM MCADAM'S POSTER

By Andrew Pollard

The poster presentation titled "Establishment and growth of legumes in acid soils in the Falkland Islands" was recently presented by Sergio Radic at the International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress meeting in China.

For those who have not met Sergio, he is a Chilean PhD student at Queens University of Belfast. His father is a farm owner in Tierra del Fuego (Chile).

Over the past 2 years Sergio has had trialwork at Bold Cove, Shallow Harbour and Saladero, and for the last year at Hope Cottage. Sergio hopes to present a report with the majority of his findings in October 2008 and the thesis in May 2009.

The results from experiment 1 clearly show the positive effects of liming Falkland Islands soils. The soil pH increases and the availability of aluminium declines (the majority of sown species are not tolerant to aluminium; refer back to the article 2 months ago at Port Howard with brassicas). This sample of soil taken was low in pH at 4.41.

High rates of coarse calcified seaweed only resulted in a 0.1 increase of soil pH, alternatively with the finer calcified seaweed sample an increase of 0.47 in soil pH was recorded. There are not samples from two calcified seaweed locations being compared; the sample has been sieved down to portions of particle size from the one site. The finer the calcified seaweed product, the better the response. This is important as the main cost of calcified seaweed is in the extraction and haulage.

Experiment 2 shows that a mean of 66 kg nitrogen/ha was fixed over 3 farms. This is encouraging as it shows that the legumes are working in our acidic soils as nitrogen fixers and are not just a source of "higher quality" forage. This justifies the inoculation of the seed; if the response was poor then it would be a waste of time.

To my knowledge this is the first piece of work that has measured this response in the FI. The nitrogen fixation was much higher on drier sites than wetter sites, the exception being Shallow Harbour. I would assume that there was little differential between the dry and wet samples at this location.

The experiment also shows that legume dry matter production (does not include the grass proportion) on the sites varies between 2.5 to 3 tonnes of dry matter/hectare on drier sites versus approximately 1 tonne to 2 tonne on the wetter sites.

The legumes being measured here are almost entirely white clover with some alsike clover present at Bold Cove. Indications from this trialwork show that white clover does not prefer water logged conditions; these areas often suffer from lower soil temperatures which affect growth. It would be interesting to see the response of Maku lotus (more tolerant of wetter sites) from Sergio's year 2 results.

Sergio intends to return in the first week in October to present his findings. Closer to the time this will be advertised and it is hoped all interested will be able to attend. In the mean time any questions, thoughts or suggestions are welcome.

TOXOPLASMA GONDII: THE CAUSE OF TOXOPLASMOSIS

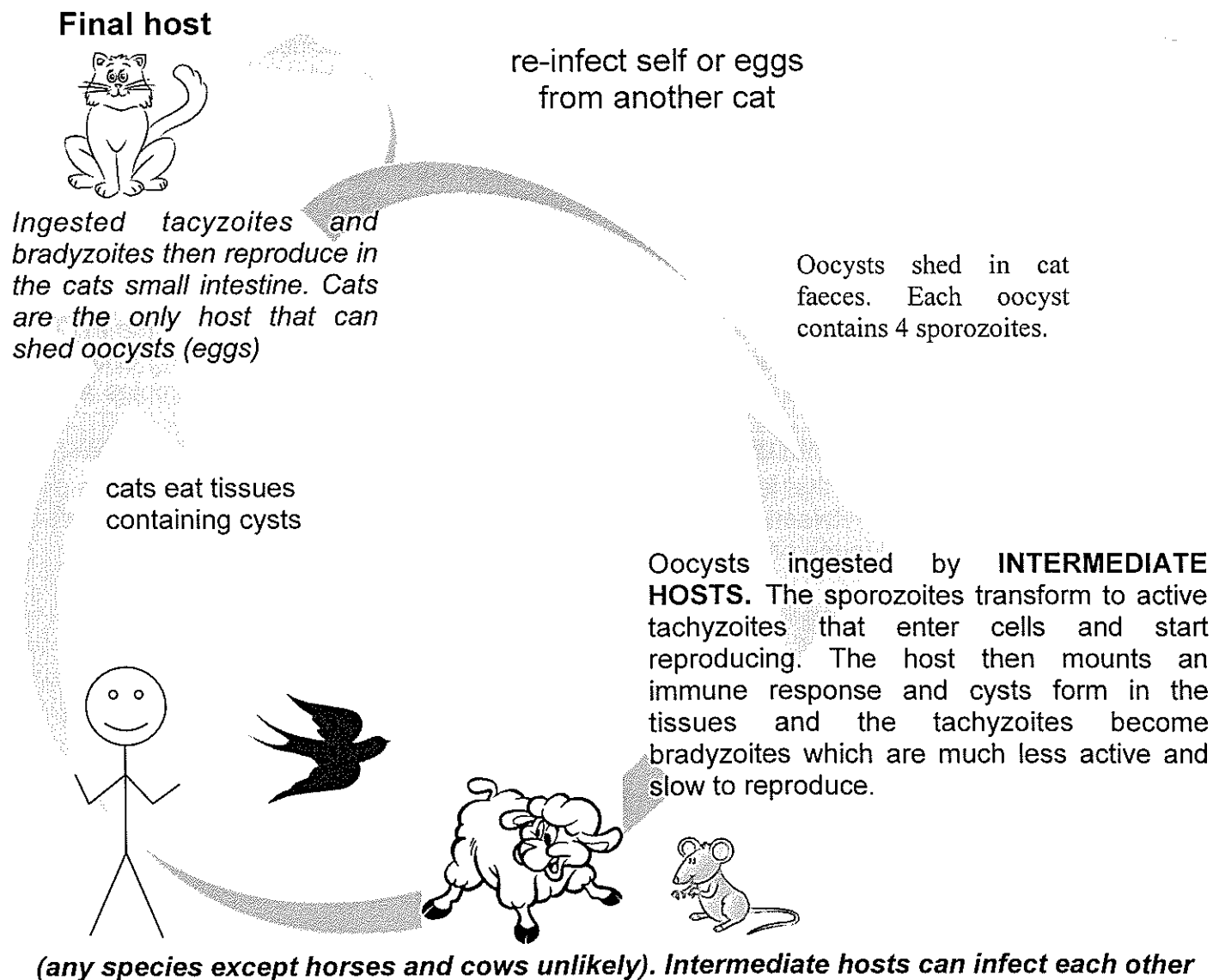
By Zoë Luxton

The Veterinary Departments' contribution to the DOAs stand at the expo during farmers week focussed on zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be passed from animals to man). Toxoplasmosis is one such disease. We are not currently having, or ever have had (to my knowledge), a major problem with toxoplasmosis but where there are sheep and cats it is likely to exist and as it can affect your family as well as your breeding ewes I thought an article may be of some interest and any comments would be welcome.

What is toxoplasmosis?

Toxoplasma gondii is a parasitic protozoa that can potentially affect all vertebrate species. It has very low host specificity (can infect many species) which is unusual. The main final hosts of *T.gondii* are felids (cats) and these are the most important hosts with regard to public health. Many species can be utilised as intermediate hosts, e.g. man, sheep, rodents and pigs. Horses, however, do not seem to become infected and cattle are not very susceptible to infection. The prevalence of *T.gondii* is worldwide. It is estimated that up to 80% of people in Europe have been exposed at some point in their lives and in the USA that 22.5% of the population over 12 years of age have been infected.

The life cycle is shown below:



Does it matter if animals or people get Toxoplasmosis?

No not normally. When exposed for the first time a healthy, non-pregnant human or animal will display nothing more than some mild flu-like symptoms and then be immune to toxoplasmosis. Complications arise however, if mammals are pregnant when they are exposed to *T.gondii* for the first time or if the animal has a problem with its immune system.

If ewes are exposed to *T.gondii* for the first time while they are in the first 55 days of gestation the pregnancy will more than likely abort and if it doesn't the lamb is likely to be stillborn or be weak and die after birth. Beyond 55 days aborted ovine placentas have obvious lesions associated with toxoplasmosis. Once sheep have been infected they tend to lamb normally the following year. This acquired immunity exists also in humans. If a woman were to become infected while in her first trimester of pregnancy, congenital abnormalities (which are not always evident at birth), can arise. Abnormalities can include hydrocephalus (water on the brain), convulsions and blindness. In Europe 0.1-0.2% of pregnancies are reported to have problems arising from a congenital infection with *T.gondii*. If a woman has previously been exposed and then gets pregnant, maternal antibodies will cross the placenta and the foetus will be protected.

If the immune system is somehow compromised, as in AIDS patients for example, complications relating to toxoplasmosis such as heart problems, encephalitis and blindness have been reported. Toxoplasmic encephalitis is a major cause of death in AIDS victims.

It is rare for cats to exhibit symptoms of *T.gondii* infection but the following symptoms have been recorded: enteritis, pneumonia, degenerative central nervous system signs and encephalitis. Dogs have been reported to show fever, anorexia, diarrhoea, pneumonia and neurological signs when suffering from toxoplasmosis.

How do animals and people become infected?

Animals that act as intermediate hosts (including man) are infected with *T.gondii* by ingesting oocysts from cat faeces or by ingesting the tachyzoites or bradyzoites from infected meat (or rarely from unpasteurised sheep or goats milk). Farm animals often ingest oocysts after animal feed or pasture is contaminated with cat faeces. Rodents and other animals may be infected while scavenging or by eating earthworms and insects that have been in soil that contains contaminated cat faeces. Cats mainly become infected by eating rodents that are infected. Man to man transmission (other than across the placenta) is extremely rare and could only occur via blood transfusion or organ donations (which are always screened in the developed world).

What can be done to avoid becoming infected?

If you are pregnant, gloves should always be worn when cleaning cat litter trays and gardening (in case there are cat faeces in the soil). All food should be protected from flies as they can potentially transmit toxoplasmosis from sitting on cat faeces then flying into the house and sitting on food.

Soil must be completely washed off fruit and vegetables before consumption. Hands should always be thoroughly washed after gardening, handling a cat and before and after preparing food, especially if raw meat has been handled. Utensils such as knives and chopping boards used for raw meat preparation should be kept separately. If you think you are high risk, cats in the household should not be fed raw meat or milk.

Aborted ovine material is a potential source of toxoplasmosis for humans and cats. Pregnant women should avoid handling aborted material in case of accidental ingestion of tachyzoites or bradyzoites.

Currently there is no vaccine for humans to protect against toxoplasmosis infection. Sheep, however, can be vaccinated. Cats can also be vaccinated. Treatment for infected cats and humans is available but the preventative measures highlighted are the most important pieces of advice to follow.

Lucinda Lowe, Laboratory Assistant

I started work on the 24th March 2008, but after ten days into my new job I had to leave on maternity leave. But after three months I am now back working part time (in the afternoons).

I am 18 years of age and have lived at The Murrell for the past 13 years with my parents, younger brother and my daughter. I have enjoyed the campers way of life; although it sometimes means hard work, cold nights and early mornings.

Working here at the DoA is my first proper job, as for the months I have been back I have only done random jobs here and there for different people; rousying at Bleaker Island, table hand at Johnson's Harbour, wool classing at home, working at Michele's Café and helping out with tourism and farm work at home.

Working at the DoA as a Laboratory Assistant for the first week for me was getting to know the department and everyone better. Thankfully I knew most people anyway because I spent two weeks work experience in the Veterinary Department in Year Eleven. So on the first day I knew most of the staff and my way around the department (a little bit). This helped me out a lot.

I have only left the Falklands twice, once for a holiday and the second time was to attend Welsh College of Horticulture (WCOH) in North Wales where I studied First Diploma (FD) in (Small) Animal Care. This was a great experience and I learnt a lot from college and living thousands of miles from home and familiarity. I spent roughly ten months in college and came back to the Falklands with a grade merit overall in my course.

During my first week at work in March I typed up weights of greasy and dry wool then put in the wool micron into spreadsheets. All this information came from washing the wool and then drying them in an oven at about 160°C overnight. I weighed the wool samples after to get the dry wool weights as we already had the greasy wool weights.

Another thing we did with the wool, not the same piece but off the same fleece is put pieces of the wool in a carding machine to get rid of all the knots, then the fleece pieces had to be stored in a humidity controlled room for four days and then Gordon took the micron reading for me to enter into the spreadsheet. I also had to look



Lucinda cleaning sheep coats

at sheep faeces under the microscope and count how many of these three parasites were in them; Trichostrongylus, Coccidia and Nematodirus.

I got to visit one of the farms, Moss Side for sheep weighing and test two mares to see if they were pregnant.

In July I came back to the DoA part time. Mainly I worked along side Siân where I helped her with the Farming Statistics. Siân read off the spreadsheet and I read off the actual farmers papers. We did this to make sure that everything on the spreadsheet coincided with what was on the farmers papers. I also helped to send the Wool Press out and deliver them to shops around Stanley.

I have also been helping out Gordon by running some samples down to the KEMH and cleaned the lab utensils; beakers, flasks, tubes, etc... which have to be cleaned with distilled water, then dried and then all the pen marks had to be removed with a solution.

Overall, I am enjoying working at the DoA and I am learning more and more everyday, and I know I will learn a lot more as my time progresses. I am also looking forward to learning as much as I can about the laboratory side of the DoA and getting to visit different farms. So far I have enjoyed myself and I hope that I will continue to enjoy myself for the rest of my stay.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Allocating the 2008/09 FIG Environmental Studies Budget**

Annually, the Falkland Islands Government provides a sum of approximately £50,000 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.

The ESB has a formal application and decision making process. The first of two funding rounds will be held in August/September and the second will be held around February 2009.

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 a 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 15th August 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 for (27390, hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk).



Above: Sally Poncet of Beaver Island Landcare Group discusses the challenges of eradicating rats with New Zealand expert Derek Brown on Channel Island in April 2007. Derek Brown's week long capacity building fieldtrip around the Beaver Island group was one of the activities supported by a £2,500 grant from the 2006/07 ESB.



Left: A sheep killed by whom? Brandon Breen of the US-based Hawk Mountain Sanctuary worked in the Falkland Islands during 2006/07 to conduct turkey vulture surveys in order to come up an estimate of population to guide FIG's policy for issuing shooting licences. Falklands Conservation was awarded £10,000 from the 2007/08 ESB to assist with Brandon's research.



Above: British Schools Exploring Society help ESB grantee Chris May build a cruise ship visitor jetty at Barren Island in November 2007. The jetty designates a safe landing point for passengers well away from the sensitive giant petrels. Protecting seabirds, educating people and diversifying income in camp. The May Family received £2,000 from the 2007/08 ESB for purchasing the timber for the jetty.



Right: Dan Birch mows through gorse near the settlement on New Island. Part of the £5,000 awarded from the 2006/07 ESB for an invasive species research and control project were used for fuel to run the tractor, a special mower blade and part-costs towards a salary.

COBB'S WREN SPECIES ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP

11TH SEPTEMBER 2008

By Helen Otley and Robin Woods

The Falkland Islands support two species of bird found nowhere else in the world: Falkland steamer duck (*Tachyeres brachypterus*) and Cobb's wren (*Troglodytes cobbi*).

Cobb's wren is one of only ten songbirds (passerines) that inhabit the Falkland Islands. The other nine are the native tussacbird, dark-faced ground-tyrant, Falkland pipit, grass wren, Falkland thrush, black-throated finch, black-chinned siskin, long-tailed meadowlark and the house sparrow, which arrived on a whaling boat from Montevideo in 1919.

Of the passerines, Cobb's wren is the only species considered to be threatened at a global level and facing a high risk of extinction in the medium-term future. It is classed as 'Vulnerable' by BirdLife International due to the long-term destruction of tussac habitat, the small population restricted to isolated islands in the Falklands and its inability to survive in the presence of mice or rats.

On boulder-strewn coasts where Cobb's wrens are most likely to be seen scurrying between the rocks and reappearing somewhere completely different like a mouse, they can be recognised by their plain ruddy-brown backs, grey-brown heads and off-white underparts. Their bills are noticeably sturdy and slightly downcurved. If you do happen across a Grass Wren foraging on a beach, it is easily recognised by its heavily streaked black on buff back and a whitish stripe over the eye. The bill is much shorter and weaker than that of Cobb's wren, which is altogether a more robust bird. Tussacbirds are much larger than wrens and generally blackish-brown.

Since 1958, Robin has been visiting islands across the Falkland Islands and recording plant and animal presence, including Cobb's wrens and rats. Through intensive field-work in 1983, followed by the Breeding Birds Survey (1984-1993) and recent surveys, Robin calculates

that there are about 6,000 pairs breeding on about 44 islands or islets. This might suggest an abundant bird but many of these islands are isolated and one pregnant female rat arriving at an island may eventually lead to extinction.

For example in 1908, Arthur Cobb collected the first of these wrens, which was recognised by ornithologists at the Natural History Museum in London as a distinct species. Bleaker Island was his home for about 15 years and Cobb's wrens and tussacbirds were numerous while the island was free of mammalian predators. Rats were accidentally introduced from a local vessel in the 1980s and now on Bleaker Island, tussacbirds survive only in places inaccessible to rats and there are no Cobb's wrens.

Islands with Cobb's wren include Lively, Sea Lion, George, Speedwell, Bird, Carcass and all of the Jason Islands except Steeple Jason, which has mice. Cobb's wren is mostly seen feeding along rocky coastlines with large boulders and accumulated kelp where it searches out small invertebrates. It shows little fear of humans and simply disappears below or behind boulders when disturbed. It also forages in dense tussac

where one of its favourite prey is the flightless Camel cricket. For breeding, it makes a domed grass nest lined with feathers, in the basal part of a tussac pedestal or in a crack between

beach boulders. But does Cobb's wren have other requirements necessary for the perfect pad? Do we need more research about breeding biology and habitat requirements?

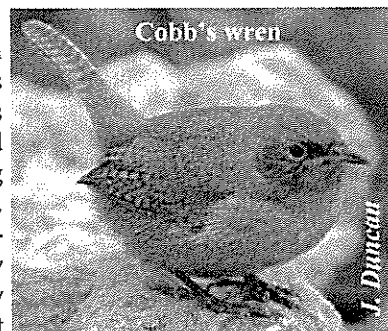
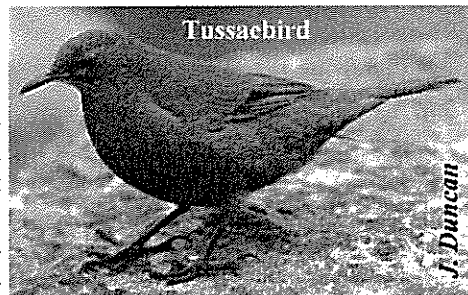
The other interesting aspect of the Cobb's wren that is yet to be fully unravelled is whether there is any regular movement between islands. Robin's study of colour-banded birds on Carcass Island (1995-2000) suggested that these adult males were sedentary because they were found year after year within 100m or less of where they were banded. It is not known how far a Cobb's wren can fly but in the autumn, a few (probably dispersing juveniles) may be seen on rat-infested islands such as Beaver and New Island which are near to rat-free islands. Similarly, individuals that appear at West Point Island probably fly from Gibraltar Rock (2.4 km) or possibly Carcass Island (9 km). If they reach islands with rats or mice, they do not survive to breed the following year. This poses an interesting question: if islands are cleared of rats, could Cobb's wrens colonise unaided or do they need a helping hand to establish themselves in these new island homes?

These gaps in what we know about Cobb's wren raise interesting questions about how we should be using environmental funds to ensure the long-term survival of the species. Should we be spending money on clearing rats off islands or is it just as important to concentrate on efforts to stop rats getting to currently pest-free islands? Certainly, you don't need to tell Chris May, Alex Jaffray or Rob McGill about the importance of checking all sea and air deliveries, including people, for hidden pests!

To help work out what actions are best for Cobb's wren, Falklands Conservation, Environmental Planning Department and landowners are working together to formulate a Species Action Plan. The Plan will document all that is known about Cobb's wren, including its current distribution and abundance, feeding habitats and the other species found on the islands with Cobb's wren.

Robin is currently working up a background document for a Workshop to be held during September 11th. Information from Falkland Islanders will be essential to produce the Species Action Plan, which will record current actions by landowners to protect known island populations from invasions of mammalian predators and identify any further appropriate biosecurity measures that might be needed. Where we don't know if an island has Cobb's wren or rats, survey plans will be developed to tie in with visits by landowners or field trips by researchers. Small islands with rats close to islands with Cobb's wren will be identified and categorised as having high priority for eradication.

If you would be interested in attending the Workshop or have any information that you think might be useful, please contact Helen Otley at Environmental Planning (28480 or by email to hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk).



Recipe Page

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

Keith's Bacon, Cheese and Tomato Pie

As made famous by my Grandad, Keith Farnell, this pie makes a nice change at smoko time.

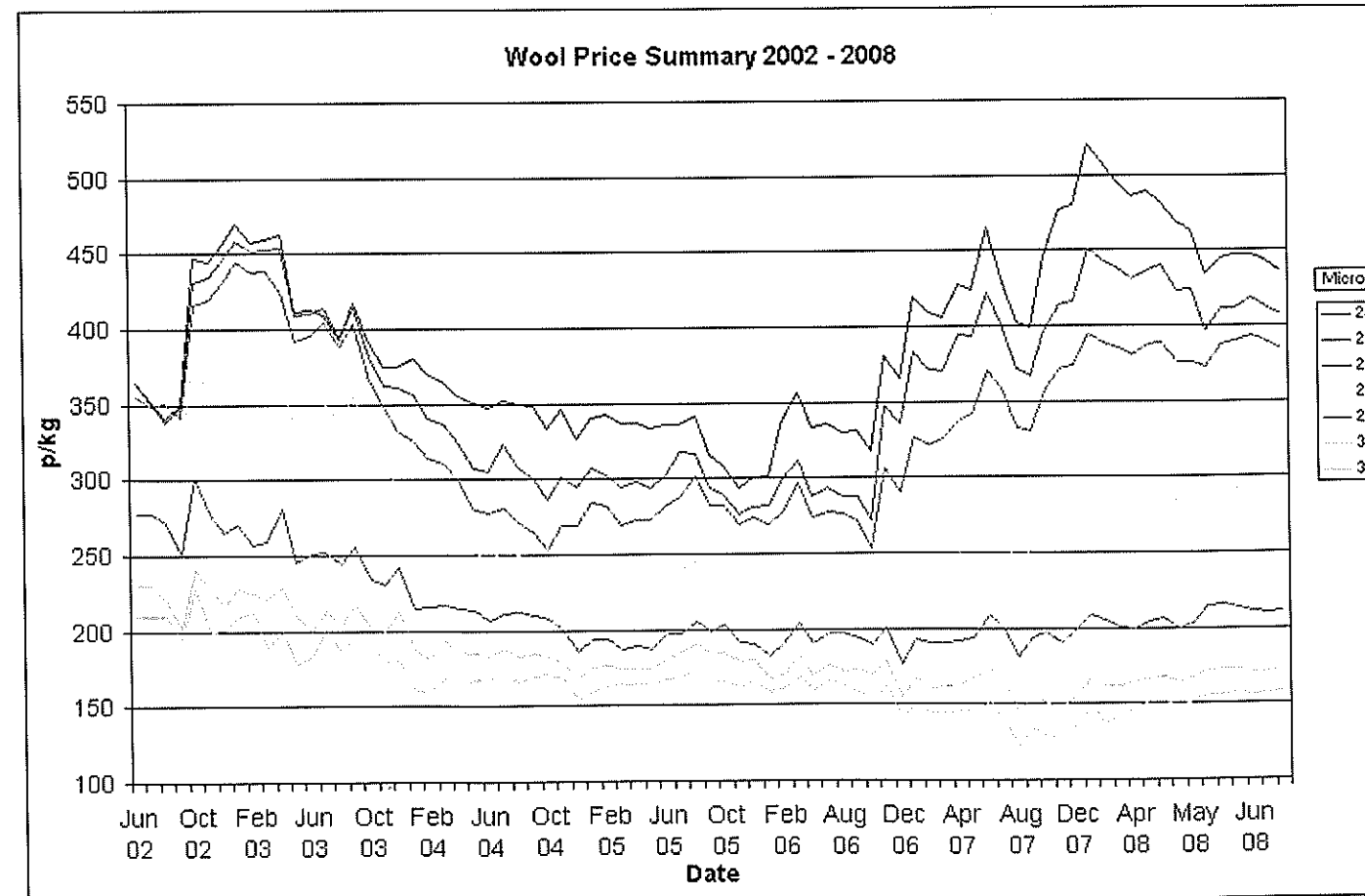
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 3/4lb (350g) plain flour | 4oz (120g) butter/dripping | Pinch of salt |
| 1 egg, beaten | Cold water | |
| 1/2lb (200g) packet bacon | 3/4lb (350g) cheddar cheese | |
| 2 medium-sized tomatoes, sliced, or 10-12 cherry tomatoes, halved. | | |

Rub the fat into the flour and salt until it resembles breadcrumbs, then mix in enough cold water to get a smooth pastry. Knead into a ball and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. While the pastry chills, part-grill or part-fry the bacon and cut into squares; grate the cheese. Grease an oblong baking tin. Halve the pastry and roll out half out and line the baking tin. Scatter 2/3 the cheese over the pastry, then cover with the bacon and the tomatoes; top with the remaining cheese. Roll the other half of the pastry out to make the lid, and seal the edges of the pie down. Brush with beaten egg and bake in a medium oven for 25 minutes, or until the pastry has browned. Cut into squares when cold.

If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, who not send in your own favourite recipes to share with other readers?

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



PUZZLE PAGE

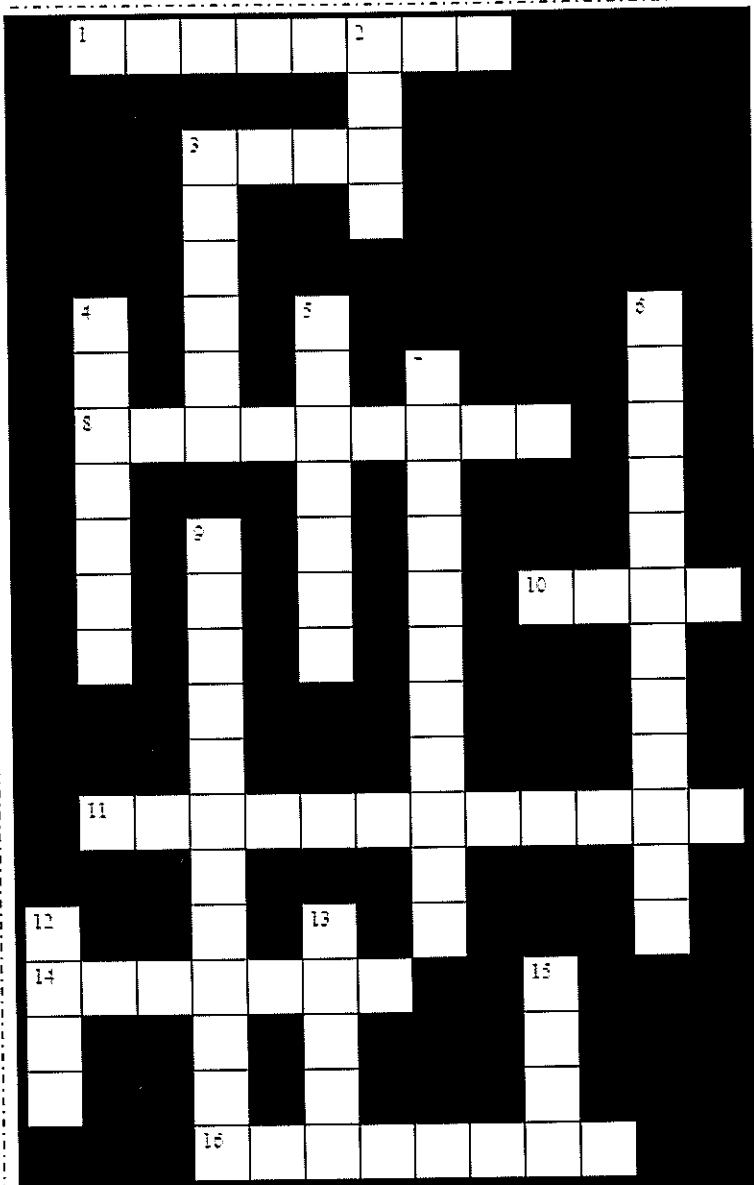
AUGUST CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. East Falkland Settlement (5,3)
3. Magic charm
8. West Falkland Farm
10. Radio Station
11. Dinosaur book (8,4)
14. Biological (relating to the land)
16. Forbidden beauty spot (5,3)

DOWN

2. Smallest part of an element
3. Apparition
4. Direction which the sun rises
5. Thug
6. Local grocery stores (6,6)
7. Trial to test genetics (6,5)
9. New ferry (9,3)
12. Liquid starter
13. Underground worker
15. Popular Swedish Band



Lateral Thinking

Frank leaves home. When he tries to return, a man wearing a mask blocks his path.

- 1.) What is Frank doing?
- 2.) What is the masked man's occupation?
- 3.) Where is Frank's "safe place?"



Last Month's Solutions

Right - Sudoku Answer

Below - Logic/Riddle Answers

Last letter: She was a skywriter. Lightning struck her airplane and she crashed

Logic poem: Fruit

What's my address?: Therefore, the 6 house numbers are 1460, 1462, 1464, 1466, 1468, 1470. The lowest house number, as per the question, is the answer: 1460.

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

THE WOOL PRESS

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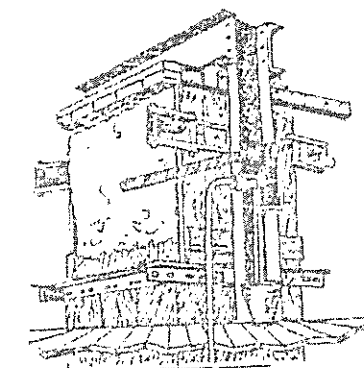
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EDITORIAL

I've just returned from a month's leave in the UK, where it rained almost every day. The cereal crops had grown reasonably well but were in danger of spoiling in the fields as farmers found it almost impossible to get on to the land to harvest them. This just illustrates that adverse weather conditions occur in other parts of the world as well as the Falklands and, as Ian Campbell points out in his article on page 14, no matter how much you talk about the weather you can't change it. However, he does go on to say that there are many things in farming you can control and those are the ones you should concentrate your efforts on.

Mac McArthur also refers to adverse weather conditions in his opening article on cattle selection in the "cold country" of upland South Island, New Zealand. In his conclusion he makes the point that biggest is not always best and that what you really need are hardy, productive beef cows that are well adapted to reproduce, milk well and rear a good calf under the harsh, extensive grazing conditions that prevail here. I wholeheartedly agree with his conclusion.

Andy Pollard has written an interesting article on the factors that may affect the establishment of a successful crop whether it be a grass re-seed or a field of swedes and Tony Mills gives an update on how this year's wether trials are proceeding. Ian Campbell continues his series of articles on the virtues of becoming organic and, whether you think it sensible or not, it is a fact that there are some people in the world who are prepared to pay a premium for organic wool so why not take advantage of the opportunity. The farm profile this month is from the Pole-Evans family on Saunders Island and Helen Otley has written an article on the results of a wildlife survey around the Islands. She would still be interested in receiving more information from you throughout the rest of this year.

On a veterinary note please read the short feature on boils by Zoë Luxton. This is a disease that you can influence on your farm just by adopting some good management practices.

Finally, please note Phyl's comments on burning permits for the coming season.

We're almost at the start of a new lambing/shearing season so sit back and relax while you read this magazine before the busy times start again.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

NOTE TO FARMERS:

With the August 2008 Wool Press you should receive a number of Farm Management Handbook updates and the annual Falkland Islands Published Farming Statistics. If you are missing either of these, then please contact us to get a copy sent to you.

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COLD COUNTRY CATTLE SELECTION

By Mac McArthur

I recently read an intriguing article in a 'Shaky Isles' farm journal where a fellow countryman (Sure to be an All Black supporter!) has devised an index for selecting Angus beef cows for hardiness and ability to reproduce well under the harsh New Zealand high country environment. If white grass was substituted for silver tussock, the pasture quality and quantity during the often snowy high country winter is very similar to that available to beef cows in the Falkland Islands. The only thing different is the scenery and there is not much nutrition in that.

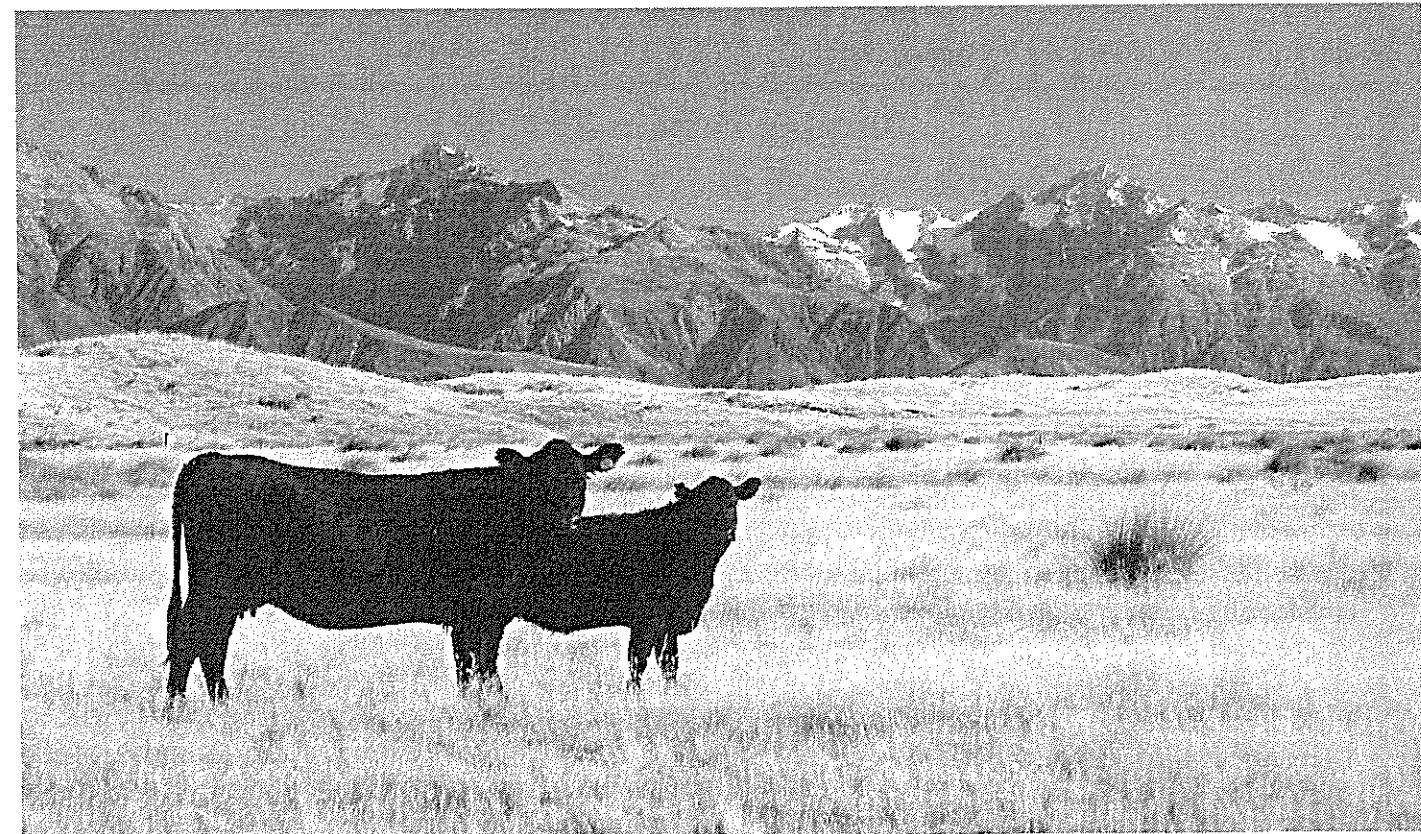
Index Development

The index has been developed targeting this specific and often harsh environment that cows rear calves to weaning on, then the calves are sold to other farmers who fatten them on crops or improved pasture. This breeding index combines estimated breeding values (EBVs) and applies various weightings to each trait EBV relative to its importance in selecting cows that are early maturing, have moderate body size (frame score) and are hardy milk producers.

The index focuses on milk production, based on the theory that increased milk production requires more feed to support it or condition (fat) has to 'come off the back' of the cow. Hence moderate sized cows that have lower energy requirements for body maintenance than larger framed cows and are able to store energy as fat on their backs during periods of the year when feed is in surplus supply, are selected preferentially by the index.

Management Constraints

As in the Falklands these cows are run and calved in extensive rangeland conditions with no supplementary feed. They graze on silver tussock country throughout the winter where there is often a prolonged quality and quantity feed shortage. Cows that are able to call on sufficient back fat reserves after calving to ensure that they not only produce high volumes of milk for their calves but also get back in calf are the breeders that make money for farmers in this environment.



Placing less emphasis on growth rate alone and developing hardy, fertile cows that rear a good calf to weaning age under these often winter snow covered, poor quality extensive grazing conditions, are the key aims of developing and using the index.

Implications for the Falkland Islands Beef Industry

Particularly when selecting semen for artificial breeding care needs to be taken to ensure that the EBVs of bulls being used are not out of line with the genetic goals of individual herds.

David Giddings, the New Zealand farmer who developed this index has applied it to all the Angus bulls with publicly available EBV figures and found over 80 per cent of the bulls to be ineligible because they have above average 600 day weight EBVs; i.e. their progeny will be too fast growing and late maturing. Others have below average EBVs for fat depth at certain ages.

I have recently observed a line of Falkland Island sheep which, like the beef cattle, have been selected for moderate size and ability to reach and maintain condition score 3 relatively easily relative to some other lines of sheep. Interestingly the lambing percentage (75 per cent) and scanning results (100 per cent) of these ewes in consecutive years have been considerably above the average for the Falkland Islands.

Conclusion

Biggest is not always best and breeding productive beef cows that are well adapted to reproduce, milk and rear a good calf under the often harsh, extensive grazing conditions that prevail here needs to be the key genetic goal for cattle breeding programmes.

For those farmers who are interested in making their beef cattle enterprise more productive in the future to meet possible future EU export beef opportunities, tagging, performance recording and setting genetic improvement plans makes sense.

The DoA can assist you by putting your herd records on the herdMASTER software and sending the analysed data back so you can make selections on your best milking cows and highest performing young stock. As more cattle performance data is generated, EBVs and potentially indices to select high performing beef cattle ideally suited to producing tasty, tender young grass-fed Falkland Island beef can be generated.

Burning Permits 2008/09

Burning permits are required for anyone burning land after September 15th.

Please apply in writing to the Department of Agriculture (email: gking@doa.gov.fk or fax: 27321) giving details of the area to be burnt at least 48 hours prior to wanting to carry out the burn.

Please note that grass fires will only be permitted on wet white grass flats on weekdays during September and no permits will be issued for burns after 30th September due to drier conditions increasing wildfire risk and increasing environmental impact.

Please ensure the guidelines available from the Department of Agriculture are followed when considering burning trash from cultivated ground this summer.

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture
22 August 2008

CROP FAILURE – IS IT COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR HANDS?

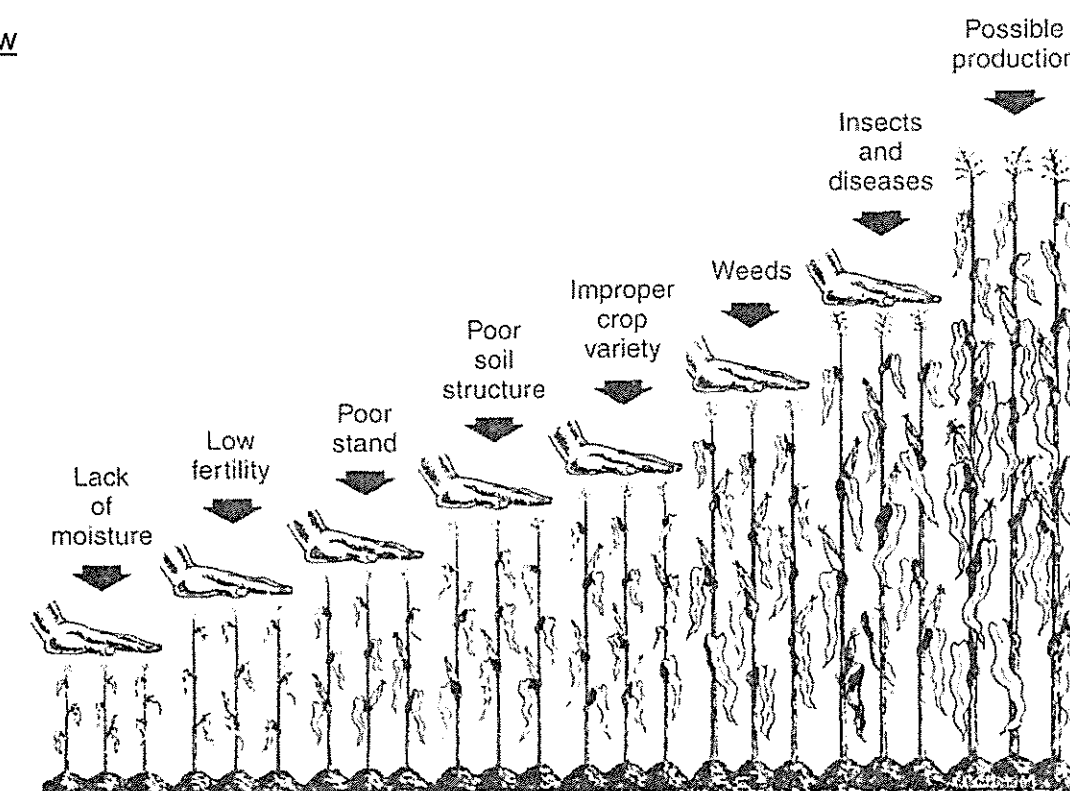
By Andrew Pollard

Obtaining the maximum production potential of a particular crop depends on the environment during the growing season and the skill of the producer in identifying and eliminating or minimising those factors that reduce yield potential.

In 1855 Baron Justis Von Liebig formulated Liebig's Law of the Minimum. It states that growth is controlled not by the total of resources available, but by the scarcest resource. He stated that "producers should minimise or eliminate the most limiting factor first, then the second most limiting factor, and so forth. Only in this manner can maximum yield potential be achieved".

Figure 1 outlines the different limitations. The example uses a cereal crop. I believe this can be applied to grasses, legumes and brassicas also.

Figure 1 - Liebig's Law of the Minimum



All successful agricultural producers use this important principle, either knowingly or unknowingly. For example, a producer may have planted a correct cultivar of brassica, at the optimum time, sowing rate, seed depth, eliminated weeds and still had a poor crop all because plant available water was the most limiting factor.

The following looks at the limitations and their relevance in the Falkland Islands:

Limitation 1 – Lack of moisture

Average rainfall in the Falkland Islands varies from approximately 650mm in the wettest areas to 300mm in the driest areas. Establishing crops and pasture in the wettest areas should be significantly more successful than in the drier areas at these rainfalls (assuming that other limitations are the same).

Sites can be selected to reduce soil moisture loss. Shallow soils dry out faster than deeper soils. Sites open to winds (particularly westerly's) should dry out faster than more sheltered sites. Flat ground should have less run off and hold moisture better than steep slopes. In a drier than normal season crop failure as a result of a lack of moisture can be out of the farmer's hand; it is a gam-

bling game and you are unlucky. On the other hand if the rainfall is average or above average for that area, are you unlucky or at some point have you made a poor management decision. Could I have selected a better site? Is my farm too dry to grow crops?

Limitation 2 – Low fertility

There is a direct relationship between soil pH and the availability of many nutrients. As soil pH declines most of the good nutrients become unavailable whilst the poor nutrients such as aluminium (toxic) become more available. It is therefore essential to select a site with the best possible soil pH. Earthworms will not tolerate a highly acidic soil.

Figure 2 (Right) "Water Barrel" Analogy of Nutrient Status

Ask yourself; have I selected the best site for soil pH that I can? Selecting a site close to the settlement is ideal in regards to grazing management and machinery access. However, a higher yielding crop/pasture 20 minutes off the road may be a more economic option? Has the crop failure been a result of no fertiliser added (particularly nitrogen)? Those farms that have calcified seaweed, why not take the crop to the beach?

Limitation 3 – Poor Stand

I assume here they are talking more about the 'doing'. Seed depth at sowing is important; a rule of thumb is the smaller the seed the shallower you plant it. Brassicas at 10mm and a large seed, such as oats, at 25mm.

Other issues include time of sowing, row spacing when drilling, surface trash etc

Limitation 4 – Poor Soil Structure

Texture and make up of the soil (sand/clay/loam) are not so important here as the majority of soils are very similar. Organic matter in the majority of soils is high. Small seeds in particular need excellent soil to seed contact. Sowing after burning without cultivation can often lead to the soil being capped. This makes it resistant to water, therefore dry and crusty.

Some soils that are peaty also smear, having a similar effect to soil structure. Growing crops works the soil before sowing to pasture and consolidates the seedbed making it a more desirable seed bed to sow into.

Limitation 5 – Improper Crop Variety

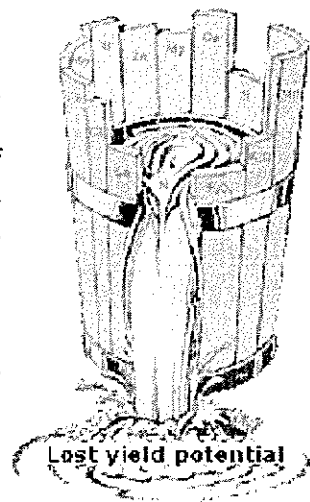
High fertility plant species require high fertility soils and almost always high rainfall. Low fertility plant species are more adapted to low fertility soils and lower rainfalls (not always). Unfortunately low fertility species are often lower yielding, have a lower nutritive quality (energy, protein, and digestibility) and are less palatable.

Cocksfoots, Tall Fescue, White Clover, Lotus, Swede and Oats etc are all species and within each species there are cultivars. Different cultivars are bred for different needs and are therefore not all suitable for Falkland Islands conditions. Do you know the cultivars? If so, are they suitable? Are the species suitable?

Limitation 6 – Weeds

Weeds are competitive for nutrients, light, water etc, reducing the establishment and persistence of the sown species. Many weeds such as sheep's sorrel and groundsel establish quickly but are easily knocked out over time.

Where weeds are established, herbicide is one method of control (be careful if going organic). Cultivating is the other option, but you will have to act quickly as weeds such as sorrel have a high seed bank in the soil and germinate and establish quickly. I would encourage a light dressing of nitrogen fertiliser as the weeds are generally not responsive.



A better solution is to prevent them establishing in the first place! Pasture is often sown after 3 or 4 crops have been grown, no fertiliser applied so the soil has been drained, and the subsequent pasture is therefore poor. Monitor the seedbed for weeds and aim to put down to pasture before they establish (some farms may only get one crop were Yorkshire Fog is an issue, other farms this may be two years). Constant rotavating each year will aid the germination of weed species.

Limitation 7 – Insects and Diseases

At the present this is not very applicable here but always keep an eye out. The grass grub can cause problems and we do have pests that affect brassicas. Biosecurity measures are important here to maintain this status.

An exception is geese. Focus the main time of control to when seedlings are germinating as this is where geese can do a lot of damage quickly.

Summary

Finally if you have done everything listed above you fall into 2 categories:

1. You have an excellent crop or pasture
2. You have a failure and are just unlucky! (if this is the case I will organise a card game with you!!)

I would advise everyone to work through these steps when preparing pastures/crops for this season. Help is always available from the DoA if required; please just give us plenty of notice.

SCRUB BEFORE SHEARING AND THINK ABOUT LOGISTICS!

By Zoë Luxton

Before we know it, it will be lambing then shearing. This winter period (while you theoretically have a spare day!) Is the time to consider what you need to do to lower the risk of spreading corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis – the bacteria that causes boils. While boils do not overtly affect your live sheep they certainly affect carcass quality and do actually cause reduced weight gain and wool growth when the young sheep is initially infected.

- Remember the fatty covering that protects the bacteria is easily destroyed by disinfectants – stock up and get scrubbing! Pens, gateways, chutes – anything that sheep can rub against should be cleaned.
- Arrange disinfecting equipment for any shearers that will come to your farm and ask them to please clean their equipment at each break and immediately if they happen to cut into a boil.
- Have an antiseptic spray on hand to spray all obvious shearing cuts with (we can provide iodine solutions for this).
- Shear young stock first and also remember that lambs may become infected at lamb marking so a scrub of the board and prominent gateways at your lambmarking pens may be prudent also. A coughing ewe can leave the bacteria on the pens which is then spread to the lamb.
- Do not let sheep linger in dusty letting out pens, if possible let them straight out and not hold them in a pen post shearing at all.
- Try to avoid drafting sheep after shearing, rubbing down a race and through pens is an excellent way to spread the bacteria.

Joe Hollins wrote an excellent informative article in the August 2006 Wool Press so contact us if you would like a copy to refer to. There is also a comprehensive section in your Farm Management Handbook to refer to. Farms that have low incidences of boils do try to strictly adhere to these points and also try to run closed flocks (so boils are not brought in).



WETHER TRIAL – 2008

By Tony Mills

The second weighing of the trial sheep was completed in July. The sites this year are Stoney Ridge on the West and Goose Green on the East. The paddock being used on the West is known as Double Creek Rincon. The general pasture description would be 50% Whitegrass and 50% Diddle Dee. There is approximately 1.5 miles of coastline. At weighing the sheep have access to a 10 Ha reseed for 2 days. This reseed was planted in November with a seed mix of Lotus, Red and Tall Fescue and White clover. The wethers are put on the reseed the day prior to weighing, weighed and then returned to their camp the next day. Normally this paddock runs approximately 400 dry sheep. The paddock at Goose Green is different from last year and is located near the old Orqueta house (Lafonia region). It is approximately 250 ha in size. It is generally used as holding paddock so it can be heavily grazed and then spelled for approximately three months. The general pasture description is Lax White grass. It also has access to coastline though it is an inland beach.

The overall health of both groups was considered sound with all animals displaying a good deal of energy when being handled. Body condition was assessed with an average score of 2.0 (estimate of 6-10 mm of fat cover at the GR site) for both groups. At each weighing 5 sheep were missing, however the trial hosts were confident that these missing animals were alive. Since the weighing one animal has died on the west. The cause of death was unable to be determined. This animal at its second weighing weighed 29.6 kg and its liveweight by 2.6 kg since the first weighing.

Table 1 and 2 provide a summary of the teams average liveweights from both sites.

Table 1 - Goose Green

Team #	Average Weight (kg) 4/4/08	Average Weight (kg) 25/7/08
1	25.6	28.5
2	17.6	21
3	17.5	21.8
4	30.5	31.1
5	32.1	33.5
6	26.5	28.7
7	32.4	34.6
8	23.8	24.9
9	27.3	28.3
	25.9	28.3

Table 2 - Stoney Ridge

Team #	Average Weight (kg) 4/4/08	Average Weight (kg) 17/7/08
1	24.5	24.1
2	17.7	19.8
3	17.2	19.1
4	27.7	25.7
5	33	31
6	24.9	25.8
7	33.9	32.8
8	25.1	22.4
9	29.2	30
	25.8	25.7

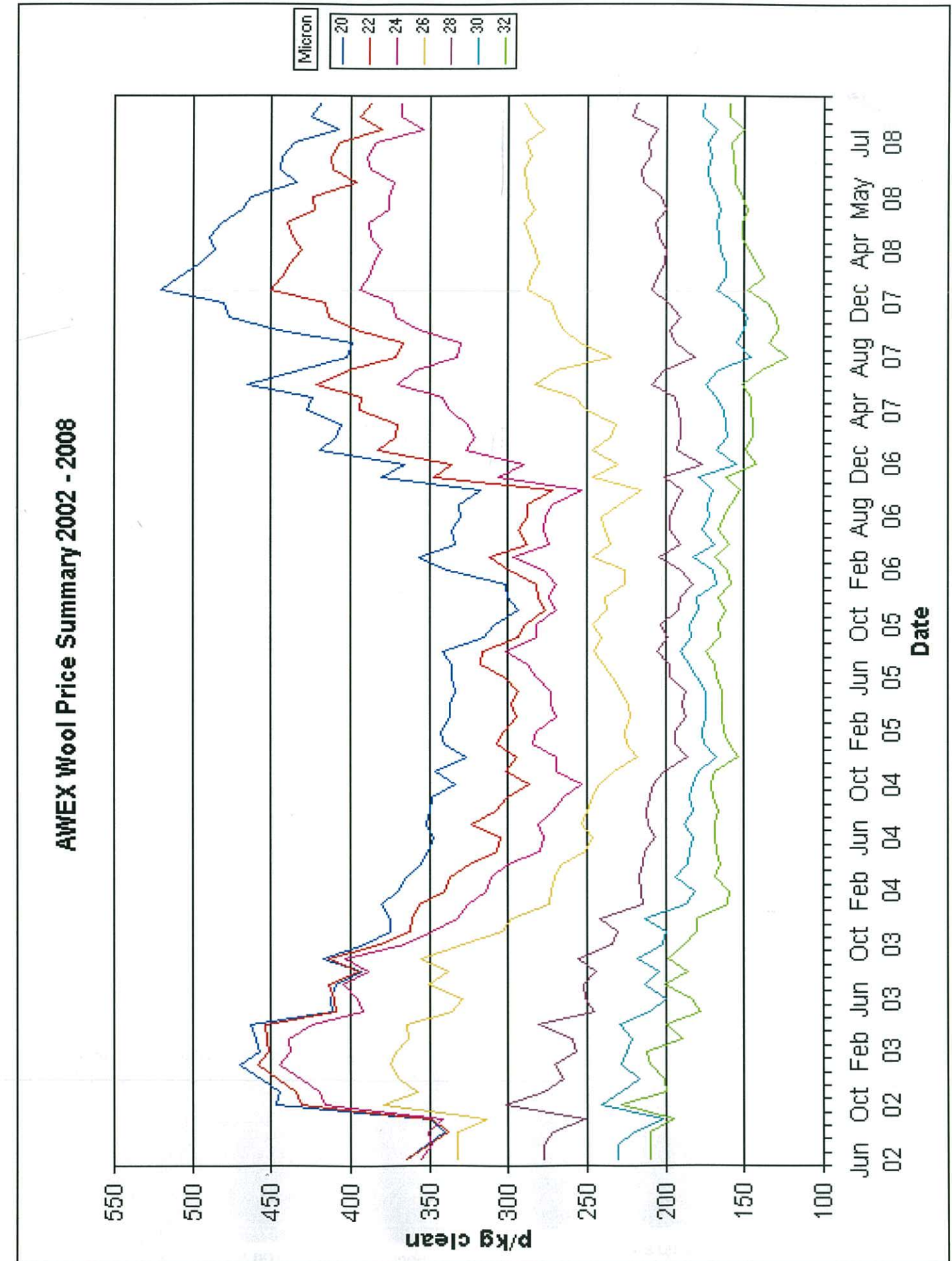
The data in Table 1 shows that the average liveweight for all teams increased with an increase in the overall group average of 2.40 kg. The range of individuals weight gain was from 0.0kg to 4.7kg. Table 2 shows that not all teams increased liveweight. One of the teams entered from the West Island and 4 out of the 6 teams entered from the East Island lost weight. The range of individuals weight loss was from 0.4 kg to 2.7 kg.

Faecal samples were taken from both groups to determine the current worm burden. The results indicated that though worm eggs were present the levels were not high enough to warrant treatment. The main species present were Strongyles (possibly Brown stomach worm, Black scour worm), Nematodirus (also a Strongyle), Moniezia species (Tapeworm) and Coccidia (Protozoa). Even though Nematodirus is a strongyle the reason we are able to separate it when doing faecal egg counts, is simply it has a very distinctive egg which makes it easy to identify. Faecal samples will be taken throughout the remainder of the trial.

The next weighing will be in mid-September after which a further update will be available.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



FARM IN PROFILE: SAUNDERS ISLAND

Property Name: Saunders Island

Location: West Falklands

Owners: AR & DL Pole-Evans

Farm size: 12,500ha

Sheep: 6,000

Cattle: 166

The Pole-Evans family have been farming on Saunders Island since 1948 and bought the Island in 1987. They have always been involved in farming and still use horses for gathering some of the less accessible areas. Five of the Pole-Evans family live on the farm during the winter. In the summer months, Biffo & Ant Tuson return from Aberdeen to help with farm and tourist work.



Sheep Farming

David & Suzan Pole-Evans run 6,000 sheep on Saunders Island, breeding Corriedales, Dohne Merinos, Poll Dorsets and Black-face Suffolks. Their breeding goal is essentially to produce a dual-purpose animal, and for them providing good quality lambs and sheep for the abattoir is as important as growing wool.

While they are currently trialling Dohne dual purpose sheep, they believe there is an important role to be played on Saunders by using specialty meat sheep genetics like Poll



David penning up sheep

Dorsets and Black-face Suffolks, which they would like to breed up in numbers.

David & Suzan consider themselves as specialists in breeding sheep for the abattoir, and argue that the higher value lambs they will produce will still be more economic for them than the dual purpose type animals despite the extra wool returns from such flocks.

They say that farming in the Falklands hasn't made that much of a change and won't because if there was an easier way, farmers would have been doing it 150 years ago.



Calves on Saunders Island



The hills are so steep on the North side of the Island, the only way to gather sheep is on horse-back

New practises they have recently implemented include increased sub-division of camps and planting of improved pastures and changes to genetics.

One of the main difficulties they face living on an island is transport on and off Saunders Island, and having an effective and efficient transport system is vital to both the farming and tourism parts of their farm business.

Cattle Breeding

The Pole-Evans see cattle playing an increasing role in the profitability of farming on Saunders Island and they currently run 166 cattle. Breeds they are involved with include; North Devon, South Devon, Red Poll, Belted Galloway, Angus, Jersey and Murray Grey. They are trying to find the best growing beef, aiming to provide animals to the abattoir and also to provide supplies of quality milk and cream.



King penguins are another enticement to Saunders Is.



The black-browed albatross, one of the many attractions that bring hundreds of visitors each year

The Tourist Industry

Along with the sheep & cattle enterprises, David & Suzan are also involved with tourism. During the busy summer months, they focus on providing for 400 land based tourists, along with cruise ship visitors.

The main tourist attraction at Saunders is the wildlife at the Neck. In a kilometre walk visitors can see King, Gentoo, Rockhopper and Magellanic penguins, along with Black-browed albatrosses and dolphins surfing in the waves.

David & Suzan feel tourism is a very important part of their farm business. Diversification into tourism has provided them with extra income at a time when they feel returns from sheep and cattle are perhaps more depressed than they would like them to be. In fact expansion into the future may be centred more on the tourism aspects of Saunders Island than the agricultural ones.



Daughters Louise (right) and Carole (left) take a well earned break during a gather

THERE WAS A YOUNG BEAST ON THE WEST

By Zoë Luxton

**There was a young beast on the West
Who didn't quite feel her best
She had foot and mouth
And when she went South
The virus, she spread to the rest**

Do you know what is moving on and off your farm?

**Make sure all animals are tagged
(double tagged for cattle)**

Record everything in the farm register

**Animal Movement Certificates are mandatory for ALL
cattle, sheep and pig movements**

**If you are in need of tags, there are a limited number
available from the Department of Agriculture**

Seen anything

strange lately?!

DON'T LEAVE IT...

...OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary

Section on 27366

IS THERE A PREMIUM FOR ORGANIC WOOL?

By Ian Campbell

More to the point will there be a premium for organic wool in three years time?

Near where I live in Australia there is an old spruce plantation. It exists because 75 years ago someone had the foresight to think that one day there will be lots of aeroplanes... and to service the demand they planted spruce; well that's what planes were made of.

Yes I am aware of the perils in predicting future markets, but it does have to be done. In marketing nothing is guaranteed. We can only know what has happened in the past and try to predict what will happen in the future. Price will always be based on supply and demand, so lets look at some facts:

- This year in Australia an Elders Organic Wool sale (620 bales of certified wool) quoted a premium of 10-20%.
- This year more than a thousand tonnes of Argentine Certified Organic wool sold for a 15% premium.
- Some big companies like Marks and Spencers are committed to organic wool, it is not just the small fringe companies. Organic is the new black.
- Organics is now the fastest growing food sector in the world.

Australia produces about 400 tonnes of Certified Organic Wool (interestingly much less than Argentina) and suffers more from flies and worms than we do here. Fly control is about to get much harder due to cessation of mulesing in 2010. (Mulesing is why some big companies like Abercrombie and Fitch boycott Australian wool). Australia is not in a position to flood the market for organic wool I don't believe. The Falkland Islands, if it wants to, could become a world-significant supplier of organic wool.

Another question is will premiums occur across the relevant micron ranges.

Once again what facts do we know? The organic wool from Patagonia was similar to here and it got a premium. The organic wool in Australia is possibly a little finer than from here but it will not be superfine (it was from Western NSW and South Australia).

What are different micron wools used for? Only superfine wool can be worn next to the skin, all other wools are used to make outer garments or furnishings etc. Wool from the Falklands can go into jackets, jumpers, knitwear etc. Is this where the interest lies? Why would people buy a fine wool organic jumper but not an organic jacket? The internet advertises organic wools of all micron ranges from Merino to Jacob.

A 10% premium for a 26 μ wool is a lot less cash than a 10% premium for an 18 μ wool. I feel that people are interested in organic wool due to a belief in the ethical production system it requires, and as such, any wool product is a potential organic wool product.

Some people are asking their current wool buyers "Would you pay me any more if my wool was organic?" They reply "No, we are paying you enough already". In the immortal words of Christine Keeler- "They would say that; wouldn't they!" The real point is that it is not necessarily those buyers who will be buying Falkland Organic Wool – it could be a whole new set of buyers. *That is the point!*

So I cannot guarantee a premium in three years time, but I am pretty confident that the benefits of being in the scheme will outweigh the costs. To me it is the easiest way to add value to a good product that really is sold pretty cheaply at the moment.

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER - BUT NO-ONE DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT

By Ian Campbell

"Concentrate on the things that are in your control; don't worry about the things that are not in your control." Advice found in many a management handbook.

As I walked to work this morning through ice, snow and wind, I recalled the farm stats I saw yesterday and then my thoughts were with the ewes about to lamb.

Once again, lambing performance last year was low -and it's no wonder I thought. This weather is so much out of people's control. What hope does a lamb have? What a miracle as many as do survive.

But is it out of our control? Yes the weather obviously is, but what about resilience? Resilience of the ewe and lamb to survive even if the weather is not good. Lamb survival has been studied a great deal over many years and there are a lot of factors that are capable of increasing the resilience of lambs and more do survive as a result. Perhaps not on disaster days, but on moderately bad days or even the moderately good ones there can be reduced losses.

People get carried away with genetics, birth coats of the lambs and so on but in my opinion it is ewe nutrition. I don't think I will get into trouble here by saying if we could improve nutrition in late pregnancy and early lactation we would increase lamb survival. The question is though *"is this in our control?"*

There is no grass growth now and there has not been for a couple of months and that is out of our control. Deferred grazing, putting ewes onto fresh feed rather than a camp they have been picking over since April is very much in our control. (Deferred grazing is the essence of grazing management in the Falkland Islands I believe). Feeding off the turnips or swedes, or even feeding an imported supplement like lupins. These things are in our control. In the DoA we have been looking at these issues for a few years and getting very positive results. More feed to the ewes means more milk which in turn means bigger, stronger lambs and more lambs to mark.

The other big loss here is in lambs or hoggets over their first winter. Resilience for them comes in having a few extra kilograms going into winter. Everything loses weight over winter, and those that don't have it to lose will die. Once again, I believe that is in our control. Strategic weaning - I will come back to this issue another time, worm control if needed, switching camps at the right time. Make sure that while there is that short window of opportunity for animal growth that each and every day the lambs are putting on as much weight as we can make them.

If we can get more lambs born, and more lambs to survive that first winter, then we are a long way towards boosting ewe numbers in the future as well as producing wether lambs for market. And I reckon a lot of it is in our control.

The Department of Agriculture has a number of raingauges available to farmers who wish to record their monthly rainfall data. This is intermittently published in the Wool Press.

If you are interested in accurately documenting rainfall on your farm, then please contact us on telephone 27355 and we will send you a rain gauge.

An update of the rainfall data collected from around the Falkland Islands will be published in the October Wool Press.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: THE STORY SO FAR

By Pippa Christie

The first round of Rural Development Strategy workshops is now complete. Meetings were held at San Carlos, Hope Cottage, Fox Bay and in Stanley and the level of attendance was fantastic. Everyone who participated indicated their support for the process and their intention to continue being involved, which was great and demonstrated the level of commitment and enthusiasm for ensuring the successful future of Camp.

The same format was used at each meeting. Each workshop began with a short presentation introducing the project and the core group, and explained the need for extensive community participation in order for the resulting strategy to be useful. Following the presentation, those attending the workshop were asked to split into groups to consider the current situation in Camp in respect of strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats. This community appraisal of the current situation will be useful in a number of ways; it gives us an idea of where we are now, it identifies issues that can be addressed in the short and medium term, and gives a first indication of long term opportunities, which will be explored further as the strategy develops. The results of the workshop exercise will be released soon, along with an interim report which fully details what has happened with the Rural Development project so far.

The next round of workshops starts very soon, and it would be great if as many people got involved as possible. It doesn't matter if you didn't attend the first workshop, you can still get involved. If you are unable to attend the meetings, but would like to contribute, please contact Nuala McKay, myself or one of the soon to be appointed Community Development Workers and we can ensure that your ideas are included and discussed.

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 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 MEETINGS?

Fox Bay
Friday 19th September,
11am

Goose Green - tbc

Stanley - tbc

For more information
please contact Nuala
McKay
email: nmckay@fidc.co.fk
phone: 27211
or Pippa Christie
email: pchristie@mineralre-
sources.gov.fk
phone: 27322

CALLS FOR WILDLIFE RECORDS – THE RESULTS

By Helen Otley,
Environmental Officer

Over the last 12 months, the Environmental Planning Department has been asking people in camp to send in details about particular wildlife they have seen. Here, I will describe some of the results of the Elephant Seal Survey run last summer (see Wool Press September 2007) and the request for whale and dolphin skulls.

Elephant Seal Survey

The Southern Elephant seal is found across low latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere. During the 1800s and early 1900s, elephant seals were killed by sealers at most places where they breed, including in the Falkland Islands. Elephant seals slowly started to return to the Falkland Islands during the 1900s but what is the status of the species today? How many pups are produced and where are the breeding harems?



Elephant seal pup suckling from its mother on Sea Lion Island

To answer these questions, twelve months ago, we asked people in camp to record where and how many elephant seals breed in the Falkland Islands. Many thanks to everyone who responded to the call for information, sent in survey forms and/or answered my phone enquiry.

So from the data, we have identified sixteen sites where elephant seals are most likely breeding in most seasons. There are some sites where historically they bred, such as along the north-eastern coast of East Falkland, but elephant seals have not done so since the 1970's/80's.

There are some breeding sites that have not been previously reported, including along the southern coast of West and East Falklands and at some sites, the number of pups produced has clearly increased in the last 5-10



Beaked whale skull from Dunbar Farm with Helen's feet in the photo for scale

years, e.g. on Carcass Island.

Whilst a number of known breeding sites on the more remote islands in the North-West need proper surveys (e.g. Sedge, Elephant Jason, The Twins and South Fur), the biggest breeding group appears to be on Sea Lion Island.

On Sea Lion Island, scientists from the Elephant Seal Research Group have been studying the breeding group each spring for the last thirteen years. Amongst a busy field season studying breeding behaviour, growth of pups into adulthood and breeding success, the scientists have recorded the number of weaned pups annually.

Drs. Filippo Galimberti and Simona Sanvito recently made an assessment about the size of the breeding group and its long-term survival. The breeding group has ranged between 1,860 and 1,920 seals during 1993 to 2007, remaining relatively steady, with an 8% decline in the population around 2002 to 2005.

Whilst the number of Elephant seals at South Georgia has increased in recent years, and perhaps also on Carcass Island, the population on Sea Lion Island has remained stable. Filippo and Simona think there are not any serious problems on land, with high rates of pupping and free suitable area for harems to become established on. Therefore, the at-sea movements of the Elephant seal need to be studied.

But the Seal Lion Island breeding group is

only one part of the Falkland Islands population. How our whole population may survive in the future is still unknown – regular monitoring of known breeding groups is essential.

Thanks again for everyone's co-operation and participation. If we have missed your breeding group off the list, please contact us at the Environmental Planning Department.

Whale and dolphin records

In the March 2008 edition of the Wool Press, I asked people in camp to let me know if they knew about the location of any whale and dolphin skulls. Skulls can be a useful way of knowing what species inhabit our waters and a non-invasive means of obtaining a genetic sample.

Many species of dolphins and whales migrate long distances and so if we can describe the genetic characteristics of cetaceans that die here, we can compare how different our animals are to specimens obtained elsewhere in the world. If the individuals in the Falklands are genetically different, then our animals must breed close to the Falklands, but no differences in genetics indicates animals travelling long distance, perhaps just calling into the Falklands only briefly.

The only landowners to contact me were the Delignieres family at Dunbar Farm. They had collected two large whale skulls and two small dolphin skulls during their first summer of farming. I was fortunate to spend last Easter with Marie-Paul, Hugues, Marilou and Theo and so we drilled a small hole in each of the four skulls to obtain enough bone shavings for a genetic test. The photos and a small drilled sample are all I need; no fear, the Delignieres family's skull collection remained intact!

The two larger whale skulls were both rare beaked whale specimens – some beaked whales are known only from a few rare skulls held in prestigious museums – and the Dunbar

samples are soon to be sent to Australia for testing, together with 15 other samples collected from other skulls held by the Falkland Islands Museum and John Smith.

But even more interesting were the two dolphin skulls. To me, they looked like Commerson's dolphins but having sent photos to a dolphin expert, it is suspected one of the skulls is actually a Spectacled porpoise (*Phocoena dioptica*). This is a small dolphin, about the size of a Peale's dolphin, which inhabits the Southern Ocean at around the 40 to 60 °S. Most sightings and strandings of the Spectacled porpoise are from around Tierra del Fuego and there are only a handful of possible sightings here in the Falkland Islands.

The sample will soon for sent off to a lab in New Zealand for further analysis. But keep your eyes peeled for a dolphin about the size of Peale's that is completely black above and completely white below and has a rounded dorsal fin like a Commerson's dolphin.

Many thanks to Marilou and Theo Delignieres for their interest in whales and dolphins. Their sharp young eyes for skull hunting are definitely aiding worldwide studies of cetaceans. Maybe there are more strange whale and dolphin skulls out there in camp? Please get in touch with us at the Environmental Planning Department on telephone 28480 or email hotley.planning@taxation.gov.fk about your skull collection.



Suspected Spectacled porpoise skull from Dunbar Farm

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SALE OF POOL MACHINERY

A Tender Board took place on Tuesday 5th August for the sale of Agricultural Pool Machinery.

Tenders were requested to include an outline of how the machinery would be utilised and whether or not it is the intention of the buyer to offer a contract service. Tenders particularly from contractors intending to operate machinery on West Falkland were to be given favourable consideration.

The tenders were as follows:

Sale of Department of Agriculture Pool Machinery - West Bids		Tender Price	Asset No.	Successful
Clarke, J, Lorenzo	Truax Direct Drill	£1,100.00	1632-1	✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek - Option 1	Complete Pool Machinery	£15,000.00		X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek - Option 2	Ford County Tractor		1624-1	✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Teagle Spreader XT22			✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	1 X 3 Metre Einboch Airseeder		1642-1	✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Cousins Hydraulic Cambridge Rollers		1792-1	✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Cousins Disc Harrows 3.25m		1633-1	✓
	TOTAL OF OPTION 2	£9,000.00		✓
Knight, J, Leicester Creek - Option 3	Ford County Tractor		1624-1	X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Marston Low Loader Trailer		1641-1	X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Truax Direct Drill		1632-1	X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	1 X 3 Metre Einboch Airseeder		1642-1	X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Cousins Hydraulic Cambridge Rollers		1792-1	X
Knight, J, Leicester Creek	Cousins Disc Harrows 3.25m		1633-1	X
	TOTAL OF OPTION 3	£10,000.00		
McKay, F, Teal River	Transpread Trailed Fertiliser Spreader	£2,350.00	1628-1	✓
Miller, P, Cape Dolphin	Ford County Tractor	£8,500.00	1624-1	X
Pole-Evans, D, Saunders	Ford County Tractor	£4,500.00	1624-1	X
Pole-Evans, D, Saunders	Dowdswell Rotovator 100 inch	£1,000.00	1226-1	X
Port Howard Farm	Ford County Tractor	£5,001.50	1624-1	X
Port Howard Farm	Dowdswell Rotovator 100 inch	£900.50	1226-1	✓
Port Howard Farm	Marston Low Loader Trailer	£900.75	1641-1	✓

Sale of Department of Agriculture Pool Machinery - East Bids		Tender Price	Asset No.	Successful
Ashworth, Malcolm, White Rose Farming	Transpread Trailed Fertiliser Spreader	£2,200.00	1644-1	X
Ashworth, Malcolm, White Rose Farming	Greenland PZ Hay Bob	£500.00	1799-1	X
Ashworth, Malcolm, White Rose Farming	Cousins Hydraulic Cambridge Rollers	£1,800.00	1791-1	X
Clarke, J, Lorenzo	Truax Direct Drill (East)	£1,600.00	1211-1	X
Clarke, J, Lorenzo	Howard Rotovator	£2,600.00		X
FLH	Transpread Trailed Fertiliser Spreader	£2,067.00	1644-1	X
FLH	Shelbourne Reynolds Trailed Fertiliser	£1,501.00	1639-1	✓
Grierson, Hew, Blue Beach	Transpread Trailed Fertiliser Spreader	£311.00	1644-1	X
Grierson, Hew, Blue Beach	Marston Low Loader Trailer	£726.00	1640-1	X
Grierson, Hew, Blue Beach	Cousins Disk Harrows 3.25m	£726.00	1621-1	X
Knight, N, Coast Ridge	Vicon Hay Mower	£700.00	1798-1	X
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Massey Ferguson 4270 Tractor		1797-1	✓
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Howard Rotovator			✓
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Transpread Trailed Fertiliser Spreader		1644-1	✓
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Marston Low Loader Trailer		1640-1	✓
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Truax Direct Drill (East)		1211-1	✓
Marsh, A & M, Shallow Harbour	Cousins Hydraulic Cambridge Rollers		1791-1	✓
	TOTAL FOR TENDER AS ONE LOT	£20,100.00		✓
Miller, P, Cape Dolphin	Vicon Hay Mower	£750.00	1798-1	X
Miller, P, Cape Dolphin	Greenland PZ Hay Bob	£750.00	1799-1	✓
Minnell, M & D, Moss Side	Cousins Hydraulic Cambridge Rollers	£1,000.00	1791-1	X
Minnell, M & D, Moss Side	1 x 6 Metre Einboch Air Seeder	£800.00	1646-1	✓
Phillips, T & C, Hope Cottage	Vicon Hay Mower	£825.00	1798-1	✓
Pole-Evans, D, Saunders Is	Howard Rotovator	£1,000.00		X
Port Howard Farm	Cousins Disk Harrows 3.25m	£900.25	1621-1	✓
Turner, A & E, Rincon Grande	Truax Direct Drill	£1,250.00	1211-1	X

If anyone has any queries regarding the above tenders please contact Andrew Pollard at the DoA on 27355.

Recipe Page

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley



The Laziest Steak Pie Ever

2 tins stewed steak
 1 tin button/sliced mushrooms, drained
 Lea & Perrins
 ½ medium onion, diced
 1lb shortcrust pastry, homemade or shop-bought
 salt & pepper
 300ml (1/2 pint*) ale [Newkie Brown, Guinness, John Smiths, Boddingtons, Fiddler's Elbow...just not Heineken, Cristal or Budweiser!]

Preheat the oven to 190°C and grease a deep pie dish. Empty both tins of steak into a saucepan and heat with a splash of Lea & P. Stir in the onions and mushrooms and simmer for 1-2 minutes. Pour in the ale*, and simmer for another 2-3 minutes.

Roll out 2/3 pastry and line the pie dish; pour in the steak mixture. Roll out the remaining pastry to make the lid. Brush the top with milk or beaten egg and bake for 35-40 minutes or until the pastry is golden and the gravy is bubbly at the edge of the pie.

(Drink the other ½ pint of ale while the pie cooks...I do...)*

If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, who not send in your own favourite recipes to share with other readers?

Strange Animal Tails

From Ananova.com

I thought this story was quite fitting, with the start of the trout fishing season!!

Record fish caught on toy rod

A man in the US has managed to catch and land a record-breaking catfish on a Barbie fishing rod just 2-and-a-half feet long.

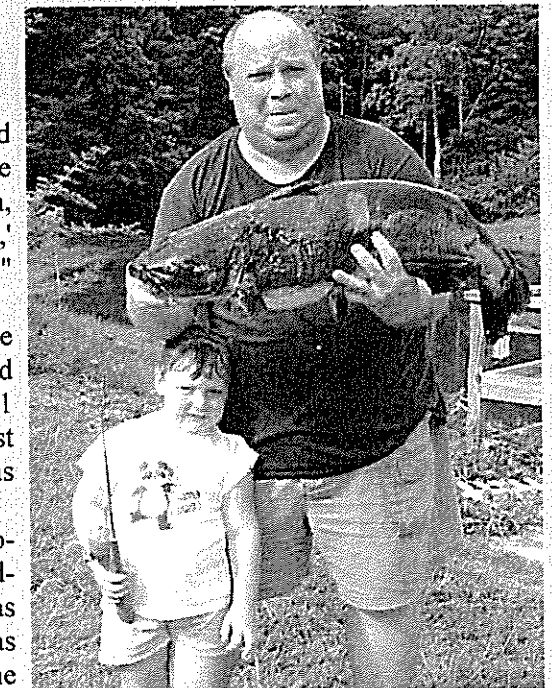
David Hayes and his 3-year-old granddaughter Alyssa were angling in the pond behind his Wilkes County home when she asked him to hold her rod while she nipped to the loo.

"They hadn't no more than closed the door than the cat hit the cricket and took off," Mr Hayes told the Hickory Daily Record. "He turned the water over and I saw his tail was about as wide as my

Alyssa returned to find her granddad battling with the monster fish. "She said, 'Papa, you're going to break my rod,' because it was bent double," said Mr Hayes.

After 25 minutes, the pink plastic toy prevailed and Mr Hayes landed the 21 lbs, 1oz catfish on the 6 lbs test line. At 32 inches long, it was 2 inches longer than the rod.

A state fisheries biologist from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has certified the record, which was nearly three pounds over the previous mark.



PUZZLE PAGE

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

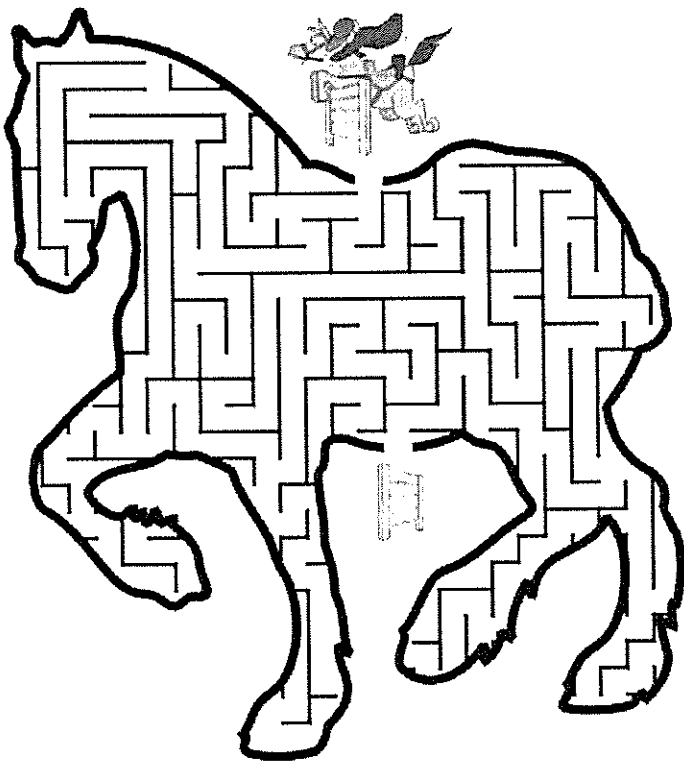
Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

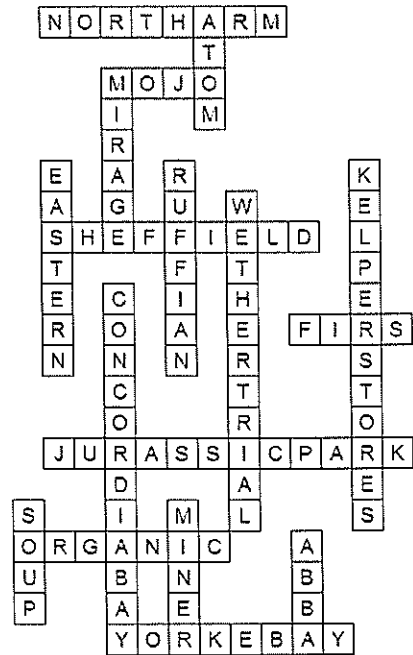
For free online Sudoku puzzles, go to www.websudoku.com

For the kids (or young at heart)

Can you help the horse and jockey find their way to the next fence?



LAST MONTHS SOLUTIONS



LOGIC ANSWER - A Safe Place

- 1.) Playing Baseball
- 2.) A Catcher
- 3.) 3rd Base

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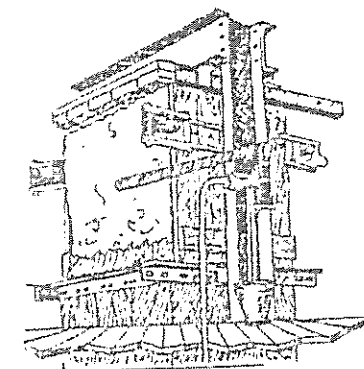
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EDITORIAL

Seeing sleet and snow on the ground at the weekend reminds us all that nothing has changed with the Falklands' weather. Warm, dry spells in September always seem to be followed by severe conditions in October and even as late as November as occurred last year when the SAMA visit took place. These are always testing times for ewes about to lamb and for newly shorn sheep. However, there are some good things happening on farms where thought is being given to management of stock and it is hoped that survival rates for lambs and ewes will be an improvement on previous years.

With animal survival in mind the veterinary section has submitted three articles for this month's publication. Do dip into Zoë Luxton's article that highlights three diseases that could be pulling down your stock and Sue Campbell writes about her work on worm burden in sheep. Then Steve Pointing reminds farmers about care with animals at shearing time.

With shearing now underway, Ian Campbell writes about benchmarking your wool clip and the information needed from farmers considering using the service that he is offering. There is a reminder too that Ian and Lucy Ellis will be on West Falkland on 15 October to coordinate a meeting at Fox Bay regarding wool coring, handling and transporting and how the core and grab machine in Stanley can be best utilised. If you cannot make the meeting do let them know your views.

With new products potentially becoming available for export in the coming years including internationally accredited organic wool, lamb and beef for export, Tony Mills' article on organic production is a stimulating read, while Mac McArthur looks forward to how these new products may need to be marketed in the future.

A big thank you to Roy and Jodie McGhie for having their farm profile published this month. They have worked extremely hard on their farm at Port North and are beginning to see the benefits of both their rotational grazing programme and cropping work. It is good of them to share their experiences and plans for future production.

Last but not least we are all asked by Tom Eggeling to look out for more sightings of the very attractive Pagoda Fungus that he has come across in the Islands and Brandon Breen is keen to hear about any of turkey vultures he has tagged. With rural development strategy workshops in full swing it is also interesting to read about cruise ship visits in Camp, demonstrating the present diversity of the economy outside Stanley.

Here's to a productive lambing season and successful early shearing.

Best regards,

Phyl Rendell
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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BENCHMARKING YOUR WOOL CLIP - USING WOOL CLIP ANALYSIS

By Ian Campbell

Benchmarking simply means measuring the things that define the health or success of your business.

Those familiar with goal setting in a business will recall that a goal should be (amongst other things) measurable. Benchmarking your business with Wool Clip Analysis simply means measuring some of the important Key Profit Drivers in your farm business.

Benchmarking is done for your information. If you have been investing in improving the business, (and who hasn't been?) then it will be an improvement in these benchmarks over time that you will be looking for.

Being able to measure progress in any business is hard enough, but with wool growing it is notoriously difficult; with a once-per-year harvest. Relating any change back to specific strategic decisions becomes problematical - nonetheless improvements, or the lack thereof, are essential to know.

In other words you need to extract as much out of the information you have as you can.

You should have all the figures needed for benchmarking your wool enterprise once you have sold all the wool. Whilst you can do the hard yards on calculators and spreadsheets, we can take the work out of it for you if you chose to accept our Wool Clip Analysis service.

The benchmarks we will be reporting to you include your

- Wool production figures per head for hogget and mature sheep
- Average fibre diameters for hogget and mature sheep
- Average wool produced per effective grazing hectare (EGH: we know the overall sizes of farms, but take out stone runs, mountains, conservation areas etc to get your EGH)
- Wool Clip preparation- Fleeces to Pieces ratio etc
- Price differential from the AWEX indicator at the time

All you need to do is complete the cover sheet and send in wool selling details and we will put the information into a useable form for you.

If enough people are involved we can then look at averages and ranges for the benchmarks (maintaining confidentiality) as well.



Dates for the Diary



22nd October	Dog Dosing Day (Droncit) Please call 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and confirm that your dogs have been dosed. Thank you.
25th October	West Falkland Wether Trial - Shearing at Stoney Ridge (times TBC)
28th October	East Falkland Wether Trial - Shearing at Saladero (times TBC)

ORGANIC PRODUCTION

By Tony Mills

Given the opportunity now available for organic production, I thought I would provide some insight into this change through a contact of mine in Australia. Mac and Jenne Drysdale, as you will see, run an extensive grazing sheep and beef enterprise in Western Queensland. Mac has in the past held the position of Chairman of the International Wool Secretariat and Australian Wool Corporation as well as being Chairman of the board of Country Road (Large high end clothing retailer) and holding a position on the board of Mitre 10 (Large hardware retailer).

Organic Production in Queensland – Mac and Jenne Drysdale, Perola Park

Perola Park is a certified organic property in the semi-arid region of western Queensland. Total area of the property is 35,000 acres. Average rainfall is around 18 inches pa but with wild variations around this average. Most likely range of rainfall is 10 to 25 inches per year. Fully stocked we can run 5000 ewes and 300 cows. All wether lambs are sold into the organic lamb market. Wool is sold and followed through to the end user. 2007 production was swing tagged in Marks and Spencer as Perola Park in a 19.5 micron wool jumper programme titled "Mans Wool". Young cattle are sold to a finisher at about 300 kgs.

We converted to organic production in 2003. We had been selecting for fly resistance in our sheep for 15 years prior and had given jetting away. We had also been objectively selecting our breeding flock. Selection based on body weight, wool cut, and micron of all maiden ewes has seen a 30% gain in lambing. We have achieved an increase in ewe body weights and a drop in micron from 22 to 19.5 in our breeding flock. Wool cuts per head remained the same. Not sure if this had an impact on worms but all our testing indicated our worm counts reduced markedly to the point of "too few to count". Maybe selecting for body weight saw us choose a worm resistant animal. End result no drenching. This testing coincided with us taking a decision to lighten stock levels as well and that is probably a better explanation for the reduction in worm counts.

By 2003 no jetting no drenching and the availability of products to allow us to dip for lice if needed. Organic production was an easy choice. The decision was made on philosophical grounds more than marketing. At heart I am a greeny.

After a year or two we were approached to supply a wholesaler with lamb. Until then our production had gone through the conventional system for wool, lamb, and cattle.

Looking back I thought production was going to be difficult and there may be a premium down the track. In reality production was not hard at all. We learned that we had been doing procedures as a matter of course which really added no value or at least you could do things a little differently for a better result.

The biggest shock was the distribution chain for red meat. Once you get into it you learn just how hard it is and as a result it attracts a certain type of individual. Breed of their own. There is little thought given to long term alliances. Spear a deal, make a quid and move on is their motto. Payment on time, what is that?

In short, in our area production is not as hard as getting a premium or establishing a distribution chain. In the end we have accepted that selling young cattle to a finisher and wool into an organic pool is best for our health. Lamb is a different story.

Wool and cattle premiums are around 10 to 20%. Lamb premiums at farm gate are about 100% or \$50 per head. Fully stocked we can sell between 3000 and 3500 lambs into this market. You can see why we are not prepared to let the lamb distribution chain go unchallenged. We have rented killing space, developed our own brand and sold direct to consumers without any real success. We found the mark up on a lamb carcass to be \$180 cut up and packaged for sale to about \$380 to the consumer. \$200 per head from wholesale to consumer.

The problem is numbers. We could sell only small numbers outside of the major supermarkets. The logistics of breeding 3000 for sale means we need to be able to turn at least 480 off at a time. An existing wholesaler has the retailers sewn up at the moment and we have been supplying him with carcasses as this is the only way we can get our numbers off quickly enough.

Regarding production and supplementary feeding. Most feeds are available with certification. Out here we use copra meal which is fine for Australian standards but not USA. If you wish to export to USA then it is a harder regime. Urea is out but naturally occurring minerals are clear. Copper, salt, calcium etc are fine but do need clearance from BFA.

In short it has not been an easy marketing row to hoe. Production has its challenges but has been far easier for us.

There are some pertinent points based on the Drysdales' experience that would be relevant to producers in the Falkland Islands. The main points are:

- Production is being conducted on extensive rangeland pastures with large variations in climate
- The production system was conducive to a transition to organic production – low input
- Selection using key production traits and based on long term trends delivering desired results
- Difficulties in retaining the benefits through the meat supply chain (the obvious difference here is the ability to work closely with a key player in the meat supply chain).
- When they set out they were unsure if the profitability and premiums would be there however they have been rewarded.

For further discussion please contact Tony Mills on 27355 or email tmills@doa.gov.fk

QFW Stencil Holders

DoA staff will be undertaking audits of sheds and procedures this coming season with the aim of visiting every shed.

Please be aware that we will be looking to ensure that all standards, as laid out in the checklist, are being adhered to.

Any corrective actions will be undertaken within the allotted time specified on the Shed Inspection Report sheet and followed up with a further audit. Sheds that are consistently not meeting the standards run the risk of having their stencil withdrawn.

For any information on the QFW scheme, queries and questions please contact Lucy Ellis or Ian Campbell on tel. 27355.

METABOLIC DISEASES THAT CAN OCCUR IN EWES AROUND LAMBING

By Zoë Luxton

Pregnancy Toxaemia (ovine ketosis, twin lamb disease) - Basically a lack of available glucose in the ewe

A disturbance of carbohydrate metabolism caused by the high demand for glucose by the developing foetuses over the last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Affected ewes are usually in poorish body condition but occasionally over-fat ewes can be affected. If they are not treated it is almost always fatal. Ewes recover well as soon as they have lambed.

The disease is usually precipitated by something that reduces food intake so that the glucose produced in the ewe is not enough to supply the demand of the foetuses.

Precipitating factors that will reduce food intake are hypocalcaemia (which is why it is always wise to treat with calcium as well), a change in diet or some other stressful occurrence such as moving them to a different paddock.

Basically, ruminants absorb very little carbohydrate as glucose. Carbohydrates are mainly broken down into fatty acids and stored as fats with a low level of ketones and only a small amount being used directly to make the glucose needed. When MORE glucose is needed (e.g. when there are foetuses growing) if the dietary intake is not enough the fats are mobilised to try and make more glucose. When fats are broken down rapidly one of the by-products is ketones which accumulate and cause a toxic effect – which is seen as the symptoms of pregnancy toxaemia.

Signs of pregnancy toxaemia include:

- Refusal to eat normally
- Depression
- 'star gazing' or head pressing (chin held upwards or head held against something)
- Teeth grinding
- Blindness
- Circling
- Muscle tremors
- Jaw champing and salivation
- Excitability on handling
- Breath may smell of ketones (like pear drops)
- After a few days ewe will be collapsed and near a coma
- This will be fatal if not treated

Initial treatment by farmer:

50-100ml Calcium and Magnesium under the skin at the side of the chest, just behind the shoulder (approx 30-40ml of each)

plus 160ml electrolyte/dextrose solution by mouth.

Then 50ml glycerol 4 hours later.

Supplement feed ewe with fresh green grass, green vegetables, hay or maize etc.

Glycerol treatment may need to be continued for the next few days.

Further treatment (may need veterinary help):

50-100mls dextrose 40% and 50ml calcium 20% intravenously

plus oral electrolytes and dextrose and glycerol. May need to repeat iv dextrose every couple of hours.

Supplement feed ewe with fresh green grass, green vegetables, hay or maize etc.

Continue glycerol for several days until the ewe is eating normally again.

Hypocalcaemia (lambing sickness, downer ewe syndrome)

Basically a lack of available calcium in the ewe

This is the same as bovine milk fever which usually occurs at or just after birth of the calf. However, the condition can be found in ewes several weeks before lambing. Its occurrence is often associated with stressful conditions e.g. gathering.

The signs of hypocalcaemia are seen due to a breakdown of the mechanisms that utilise calcium in the body rather than a general lack of calcium.

Clinical signs of hypocalcaemia include:

- Incoordination
- Muscle tremors
- Collapse with hind legs extended
- Fall into coma and die

Sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish between pregnancy toxaemia and hypocalcaemia but ewes with hypocalcaemia tend to collapse and die in a shorter length of time, they do however respond to treatment with calcium very quickly whereas response to treatment for pregnancy toxaemia can be slow and several days' treatment may be required.

Initially treat with 50-150ml of 20% Calcium borogluconate injection (intravenously if possible) and follow up with oral or subcutaneous doses. Inject steadily as rapid administration can cause a disturbance of the heart rhythm.

Hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers, grass tetany)

Basically a lack of available magnesium in the ewe

Generally occurs in the first 4-6 weeks after lambing. A chronic form can occur in sheep subjected to poor nutrition during winter but this is less common than the acute post-lambing form.

Sheep have very small reserves of magnesium to buffer changes in dietary intake as most of the magnesium in the body is tightly bound into bone. It appears that sheep have very little ability to control their magnesium absorption and ruminants are extremely dependent on continual supplies of magnesium in the diet so changes in diet can abruptly affect the ruminants' ability to absorb enough magnesium. Stressful situations that decrease dietary intake can cause hypomagnesaemia.

Clinical signs include:

- Over-excitability and exaggerated responses
- Trembling, especially of the facial muscles
- Incoordination
- Stiff gait
- Collapse on one side
- Spasms with all 4 legs rigidly extended
- Collapse and death can occur within a couple of hours

Treatment of even comatose ewes can be successful but if repeated treatments are needed due to relapses the prognosis gets poorer.

Treat with an injection of 20% Calcium borogluconate (50-100ml under the skin) and 25% Magnesium Sulphate (up to 75ml under the skin).

IF IN DOUBT SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE

WORMS - ARE THEY A PROBLEM IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

By Susan Campbell

If you run sheep then you need to be aware of the implications of worms to the sheep on your farm. Research previously done in the Falkland Islands involving over 4,000 measurements has found high numbers of worms, especially in young stock and pregnant ewes. The number of worms in a live sheep is best measured by looking at the number of worm eggs in the faeces of that sheep- a Faecal Egg Count or FEC.

Whilst the low stocking rates on the Falkland Islands are some help in reducing worm problems, is it probable that the sheep are grazing some parts of the pasture far more heavily than others. The rapid life cycles of worms on reseeded or greens where the sheep concentrate their grazing will cancel out the beneficial effects of low overall stocking rate and may even cancel out the benefits of placing them on these superior pastures.

I would strongly advise you to at least consider doing a Faecal Egg Count (FEC). This will help to determine what level of parasite burden your sheep have and whether or not it is likely to be causing a sub clinical loss, a loss in production that is not seen directly as illness in the sheep.

Basically the internal parasites of importance in the Falkland Islands include *Ostertagia circumcincta*, *Trichostrongylus vitrinus* and *Nematodirus* spp. Big names and probably not that important to know unless you want to know how they work and what they are doing to the sheep. *Ostertagia* is recognised as being the most important sheep worm in the Falklands as it has the lowest temperature at which the eggs of the worms can hatch.

Parasites live in the intestines or fourth stomach of the sheep and do their damage in several ways.

- They reduce feed intake by up to 50% by affecting the appetite of the sheep.
- They increase the requirement for protein due to the loss of protein from the gut; an issue when the diet of Falkland sheep is already likely to be protein deficient
- And they decrease the ability of the sheep to utilise ingested food.

It is no wonder sheep infected by worms have a significantly greater chance of dying, a reduced body weight and decreased wool production.

When eggs are laid in the gut they pass out onto the pasture in their faeces and remain there until the correct conditions for hatching occur. Once they hatch into larvae they may be eaten when then mature into adult worms in the sheep and quickly start laying eggs. The warmer it is the faster the eggs hatch, but also the faster the larvae die.

Sheep with poorer worm immunity are also more susceptible to the parasites. In such animals more worms develop from larvae, and then those worms each lay more eggs. As a result the problems escalate.

Some sheep genetically will have poorer immunity to begin with, but young sheep are less immune and immunity is also reduced by sheep being in poor condition, sick or when lactating.

You might wonder why any of this is important to know. Well the reason is that if we understand what happens to the parasites when they are out on the pasture we can better manipulate the situation to minimise the number of parasites available to our stock. We can for instance work out what is the best way to prepare a 'safe' pasture for putting our most susceptible stock onto having wormed them. It can also help us to know what time of the year it is best to drench our sheep in order to minimise the worm burden through out the year.

In the next Wool Press I will look at ways of managing sheep and pastures to reduce worm problems.

Wool Handling, Transport & Sampling Public Meeting

Public Meeting: Wool handling, Transport and sampling. Chairman Ian Hansen

Introduction: There are 3,000 bales of wool produced on the West annually. Much of it is core sampled somewhere and it all needs to be stored and transported. The way wool is cored and transported is likely to change due to changing transport arrangements and the availability of the wool coring machine at FIPASS. The current infrastructure may or may not be adequate - we need to discuss these issues before the season begins.

When: Wednesday October 15, 5:00 pm (Stanley time)

Where: Fox Bay Social Club

Background: There are now more wool testing, storage and transport options available as a result of a number of initiatives:

- Improved road system
- New ferry service based on Port Howard and New Haven.
- New wool corer on East at FIPASS
- Double dumping is available at FIPASS to help storage and transport
- SAAS can take wool from Fox Bay

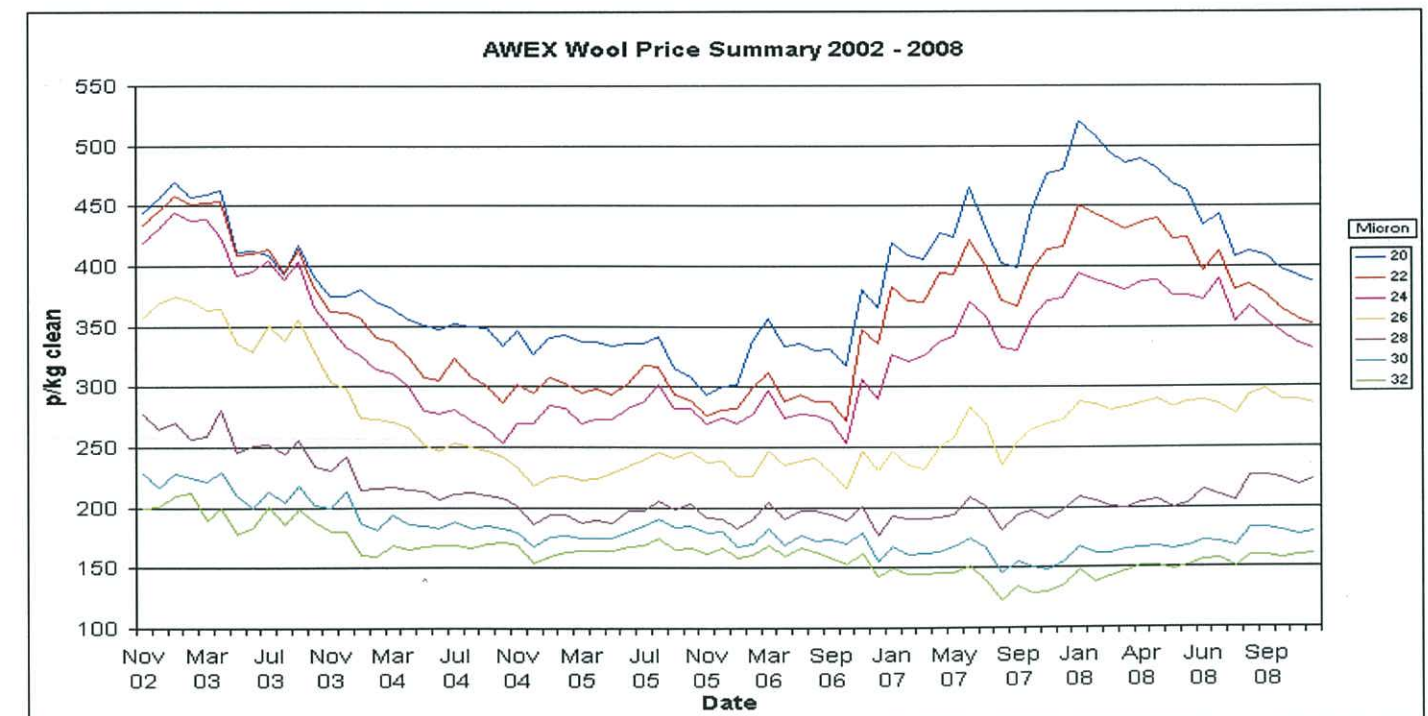
But there are also a number of issues:

- Wool storage facilities are limited at ferry terminals
- Availability of DoA staff to supervise sampling is limited
- Access to machine coring is available only on FIPASS

For questions contact Ian Campbell or Lucy Ellis at the DoA on telephone 27355. All welcome.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



FARM IN PROFILE: PORT NORTH

Property Name: Port North

Location: West Falklands

Owners: Roy & Jodie McGhie

Farm size: 4,210ha

Sheep: 3387

Cattle: 29



Having spent his childhood at Roy Cove, Roy couldn't pass up the opportunity to buy Port North in the 1980's when the farm was for sale. Jodie moved back to the Falklands (although she was born in the Islands, Jodie grew up on a

dairy farm in the UK) and met Roy in 2001. They have been running the farm together since, although there have been some disputes over the years about different ways of doing things!

Wool & meat sheep

Roy & Jodie stock mainly Polwarth sheep at Port North, breeding predominately for the wool market. They have reached their goals in the size of the animals they want for the farm (although there is always room for improvement) and they are now working on the micron of their wool. They say that this is not a fast development, but with the introduction of new bloodlines and selective breeding, they are optimistic they will reach this goal.

They also have 3 Texel-cross rams, which they are using to breed lambs for the abattoir. Port North is also home to 20 Jacobs.

Hereford cattle

There are 29 cattle at Port North of mixed breed. Over the last few years, Roy & Jodie have been adding more Hereford genetics to their herd, which they believe is one of the better breeds, showing a faster growing animal with better overall meat coverage than other cattle on their farm.

They hope to continue working with Hereford to produce beef to sell privately. They have no current plans to sell beef to the abattoir, as there are too many other work commitments

Below: Port North settlement and reseed



Jacob sheep at Port North

for the time involved in transporting the animals.

Diversification

Roy & Jodie said they have never taken the step into the tourist industry (although Port North is home to many penguins) as they are happy with way things are at the moment. Although they are both aware of the need to change, as running a small farm is a struggle.

Alongside farming, Roy also works as a shearer on other farms and spends time fencing and squidding to help pay the bills.

Rotational grazing

One of the biggest steps Roy & Jodie have taken is the start of a rotational grazing system on their farm. They started this last year with ewes and, at first, were apprehensive about the results. However, they have seen an increase in sheep and wool weights, along with a rise in their lambing percentage.



Rotational grazing system in full swing



A reseed at Port North

One area they hadn't thought of and were surprised to see results in was death rates. As the sheep were constantly being moved, Roy & Jodie had the opportunity to find cast sheep before it was too late and their death rates during lambing was significantly reduced.

Overall, they had better sheep and more lambs from the same section of the farm than the year before.

Farming in the future & difficulties faced

In the future, Roy & Jodie are hoping to change their micron results, continuing with the Polwarth breed. They would like to see more rotational grazing implemented at Port North and might even get around to mending a fence or two!

With changes being made to the air and sea transport system Roy & Jodie believe the Hill Cove & Roy Cove area is becoming increasingly isolated and there is more of a reliance on the road network, which can be in poor shape at times and could cause extra problems if it were to become licensed. They say that reverting back to the 'old' days, when stores had to be ordered in bulk, gardens were fully stocked and heating and hot water relied on burning peat, seems a move backward rather than forwards, adding that this is the way they believe is camp is going.

They believe that there is a fast change in farming in the Falkland Islands, with the introduction of meat breeds and people finding new ways of making money. At Port North, they are working with the animals more with moving, weighing and drenching.

SOME ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

By Stephen Pointing

Welfare of sheep at shearing

We are very close to the new shearing season so this is a good time to remind everyone involved in the business of shearing sheep that you are dealing with live, sentient creatures that can feel pain and discomfort. Shearing is a particularly stressful time for sheep especially in the Falkland Islands where the majority of sheep are not used to being closely observed and handled from one year to the next. Please bear this in mind when gathering the sheep and housing them prior to shearing.

The closest man/sheep interaction occurs during the shearing process itself. I know that the vast majority of shearers are extremely skilled at what they do but please don't become blasé about the welfare of the animals that you are dealing with. Handle them firmly but with care. Pay particular attention when shifting positions and when shearing around the more delicate areas. With this in mind I would like to remind farmers and farm managers that they are responsible for the welfare of sheep on their farm. If you aren't happy with the way in which a particular shearer is handling your sheep then please take it up with the shearing gang leader. He should be willing to listen to your concerns and take the matter up with the shearer concerned. The shearer may be the person handling the sheep roughly but you become complicit in the act if you see what is happening and do nothing to prevent it from carrying on. If you have any concerns about sheep welfare during shearing and you are finding it difficult to get the situation sorted out then please contact one of the vets in the veterinary section of the DoA. Don't allow further sheep to suffer.

Transport of livestock between farms and to the abattoir

This is another area in which there is a potential for animals to become injured or worse. Before the main season for transporting livestock gets underway please take a good look at your transport vehicle. Is it suitable for the purpose? Does it need any maintenance now before the main export season arrives? Check all those areas where an animal could injure itself eg

- The floor – is it sound and slip proof?
- The walls – are they sound and free from any sharp projections?
- The roof – is there adequate protection from the elements?
- The loading ramp – is it sound and slip proof? Does it close properly?
- Internal partitions – are they in good condition and adequate for the purpose?
- How many animals do you want to carry? Is there sufficient space available?
- If the trailer needs to be attached to the Land Rover – is the coupling strong and secure?
- Are the tyres in good condition?
- Is the transport vehicle easy to clean and capable of being thoroughly cleaned between journeys?

Please have a look at your livestock transport vehicle in the coming weeks and carry out any necessary maintenance before you need to use it. If you'd like any advice about this topic then please contact one of the vets in the Veterinary section of the DoA.

Help wanted for bird research by British ornithologist - Tails from dead snipes for comparison with birds in Patagonia and elsewhere. Pop all tail feathers in an envelope and post to Falklands Conservation, Stanley. Include the location and your address as £2 will be sent to cover P&P. Thank you

NEW NATIONAL AND WORLD RECORD PRICE OF R152,000 FOR A DOHNE RAM OF THE CORSANDO DOHNE STUD, MOORREESBURG.

From Henri Londt

On the 13th annual production sale of the Corsando Dohne stud of Koos Bester and Son of Moorreesburg, which took place on 27th August, a new South African as well as world record price of R152,000 (10,250.21 GBP) was achieved for a Dohne ram XP5.234. The buyer was Coenas v/d Westhuizen, Towerland Dohne Stud, Nieuwoudtville. A son of XP5.234 was sold for R50,000 on the same sale and the buyers were Hermanus Kitshoff and Sons of Moorreesburg. Altogether 17 sons of XP5.234 offered and sold on this sale for an average price of R15,800 per ram. With a 100% clearance the average price of the 73 rams offered was R12,818. This is also a new national record for Dohne rams on a production sale. Altogether 345 commercial ewes were sold for an average price of R1,054 per ewe. The sale was conducted by BKB Auctioneers.

Demand for Dohne Merino rams on West Cape spring sales continue to increase resulting in new record averages and turnovers

As a result of the outstanding performances of the Dohne in the commercial environment the demand for Dohne Merino rams continues to rise on the West Cape

spring sales. These results reflect an increase in the turnover and average prices on most sales achieved for Dohne rams compared to the previous season so far. This trend is observed for the ninth consecutive year. The "low input" features with an efficient reproductive component and high quality merino wool of the breed provide commercial sheep farmers with good returns which forms a sound fundamental base for the huge demand and good prices attained by Dohne Merinos.



Topprys 08 Koos Bester L/R: Allan Sinclair, (auctioneer), Jan Afrika, Koos Bester, (seller) Coenas v/d Westhuizen, Towerland Dohnestoet, Nieuwoudtville, (buyer) en FC Bester, (seller). The sale was conducted by BKB Auctioneers.

Seen anything strange lately?!



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



MARKETING MEAT

By Mac McArthur

I was asked by a farmer recently, whether the Department of Agriculture should be involved with providing advice or comment on the issue of meat marketing. My answer is of course it should be. It is not all that long ago that our other main agricultural product, wool, was marketed on behalf of farmers with minimum transparency. Wool marketing reform has improved this situation now providing a useful benchmark and bringing the Falkland Islands in line with world standards.

What is marketing?

Marketing is the process of supplying customer's needs at a profit and often involves sophisticated research to find out what the potential customer requires in terms of quality, quantity and other important aspects of the product being sold. Selling of products which is often confused with marketing is defined as providing products at an agreed price. Therefore it is a part of the marketing process.

Beef, sheep-meat and waste marketing

The history of beef production and marketing in the Falkland Islands has not been a rosy one and it is important to learn from mistakes of the past. As I see it we are moving into a new era and it is important to investigate now intermediate and future market opportunities for the Falkland Islands beef and lamb industries. This may take some time to come to fruition.

With the recent accreditation for the export of beef into the European Union and a significant number of farms signed up to produce organic meat and wool in the future, we will have a number of products that are different to the ones traditionally produced in the Falkland Islands. These products may have increased auditing rigour over traditionally produced products and will require a different marketing approach to ensure the best returns to farmers.

In the future it is likely through research and development that cost effective methods of utilising waste products through composting them, turning them into blood and bone fertilizer or pet food, will require specialist marketing as well. Also halal slaughtered meat products are increasingly in demand around the globe and they will also require marketing intelligence to ensure economic returns for the extra processing costs involved.

International Meat Marketing

Recently JBS Swifts one of the largest meat processing companies in the world with major market share in Japan, North America and Korea undertook a major marketing campaign to discover new and different markets for its meat products. Many major companies and countries undertake similar marketing research programmes on a regular basis to ensure their customer's needs are satisfied and their products will continue to be profitable in diverse new markets in the future.

I spent a couple of years working for Nolan Meats, a company that processed significant numbers of beef, lambs and pigs and was an integrated production (feedlot), processing and wholesaling meat company. This successful company had the philosophy that they needed to be an information seeker and continually ask the who, what, when, where and how questions. Through ensuring their customers always received consistently high quality meat products that guaranteed a tasty and tender meal every time, this company was not just selling quality meat but marketing peace of mind. For people who are interested to learn more about this company's meat product marketing the following link will take you to the Nolan Meats website. <http://www.nolan.com.au/home/>

Biting the bullet

The Falkland Islands wool industry some years ago began to introduce dual purpose sheep that

had finer micron wool and better meat carcass characteristics than many traditional Falkland Island sheep. Associated with this change improved selling, marketing methods and transparency has meant improved returns to farmers and businesses. Similarly if the new meat products that we can produce in the future don't have potential markets investigated now, will we not expose the future beef, and sheep-meat industry to the lack of a market experienced by the Falkland Islands' beef industry not too long ago?

The way forward is to have a gradual development of an export beef industry. This should be based on well researched international markets able to pay a suitable price for the product range that could be produced. Time to bite the bullet to ensure we know what the market opportunities are for the unique and diverse agricultural products we are likely to be able to produce from the Falkland Islands in the future.

UPDATE ON MID-SIDE SAMPLING

By Ian Campbell and Siân Ferguson

As you may be aware, there were some problems with shipping and freight costs, response times and testing mid-side samples last year. For the 2008/2009 season we will be using the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority laboratory in New Zealand.

This is an option which will have the most benefit to farmers. We already have links with the NZWTA through sending core samples for testing and the testing of samples is relatively cheap. NZWTA also have a good turnaround time for sending results back.

As with core sampling, we will not be able to give you a firm price for each sample due to the exchange rate and size/weight of the samples being sent to New Zealand, but our research indicates it will be £2-3 per sample.

Mid-side samples collected for testing by NZWTA

- The sample size needed for testing is 20-30 grams. To keep freight (the largest proportion of the price) costs down, please do not exceed the 30 grams.
- To ensure samples are processed and results returned as quickly as possible through NZWTA, **they are providing us with bar codes to enter tag numbers etc on.** Please contact us before you start your testing and we can send you some out. This will replace placing the cards in the bags.
- As with core-sampling, to save costs, mid-side samples will be packaged together, perhaps waiting for a week before sending off. If you would like your samples processed sooner, please let us know, but you will need to be aware this may incur a larger freight cost which will be passed onto you.

For sale

Quantity of cattle ranging from calves to aged cows x George and Speedwell Island. Prices negotiable.

Contact Chris or Lindsey on 32023, 32015, 22828 or c.l.may.ltd@horizon.co.fk

TURKEY VULTURES IN THE FALKLANDS

*From Falklands Conservation
& Brandon Breen*

Brandon Breen is currently in the Falklands to continue his Turkey Vulture studies. This is Brandon's third trip to the Islands in a series that began two years ago. His initial work – in partnership with Falklands Conservation and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary of Pennsylvania, USA – focused at obtaining an estimate of total population and on marking individual birds to begin to understand their range and dispersal within the Falklands. During this field season, Brandon's efforts continue with an expansion of the marking programme, more in-depth observations of vulture flight and feeding behaviour; and further meetings and surveys in camp to better understand the interaction between farming and Turkey Vultures. Brandon's ongoing research will be written up in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a M.Sc. degree in the University of Minnesota's Conservation Biology program.

Behaviour

The Turkey Vultures in the Falklands are interesting to biologists because their presence in the Islands represents a bit of an anomaly. The Turkey Vulture is superbly designed for soaring flight; In the American tropics, one often sees Turkey Vultures drifting lazily above in effortless flight. In general, flapping and Turkey Vultures go together like sheep and ballroom dancing. Yet, here in the Falklands, where weather conditions are often not favourable for soaring flight – there exists a healthy population of vultures. Moreover, this population remains year-round and copes in winter with low temperatures, strong winds, and a short daylight period for foraging. To move adequately over this landscape, the local Turkey Vultures rely heavily on flapping flight. In the Falklands it can be said that flapping and Turkey Vultures go together like teaberries and buns.

Turkey Vultures are typically migratory at high latitudes, and populations in the northern hemisphere vacate similar latitudes to that of the Falklands in winter in favour of warmer climates. One area of Brandon's interest touches upon the way in which the local vultures manage to survive Falkland winters. Specifically, do

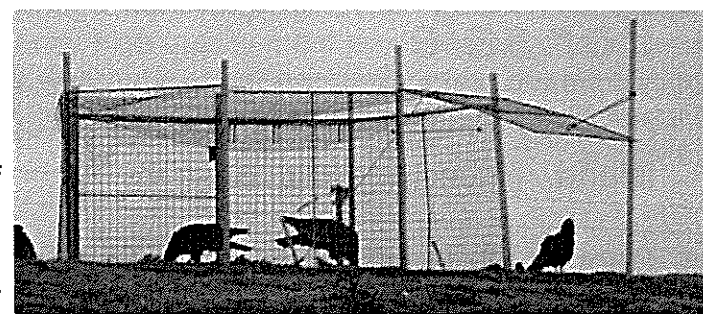
vultures here employ behavioural strategies to take the edge off of winter? Initial findings show that Turkey Vultures in winter tend to fly closer to the ground and flap more. Flying closer to the ground – though more energetically expensive – may allow the birds to cover greater distances when foraging (since wind speed increases with altitude, and more wind reduces vulture speed when flying into the wind). Given the short winter day length, the vultures' primary obstacle in winter may be to cover enough ground to ensure they find enough food resources.

Population Estimate

In the first year of the project, funded by the FIG Environmental Studies Budget, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and personal donation, work focused on obtaining a robust estimate of population. This involved extensive road surveys, individual point counts, and coastal transects surveyed on foot. In total, some 4,600 miles of road were surveyed, in addition to 78 point counts and 35 shoreline walks. This data provided a Turkey Vulture population estimate of between 4170 – 6050 individual birds for East Falkland, West Falkland, and Pebble Island (other islands were not surveyed).

Marking Programme

In the first year a pilot programme of wing tagging birds was completed. A total of 16 birds were tagged in Stanley. Sightings called into Falklands Conservation by both Stanley and Camp residents showed that the birds moved widely through the summer with sightings recordings as far as Bleaker Island, Saladero and Cape Dolphin. This was supported by data from roost counts in Stanley that showed a drop in numbers around Stanley during the summer period. It would appear that during the breeding



Trapping the Turkey Vultures

season Turkey Vultures seek out remote and secure nest sites, whereas in winter birds congregate in more accessible roosts such as those in Stanley. In camp birds were seen in highest densities near the coast, in tree stands, around seal colonies, and in locations where tussac is present in dense stands. The wide dispersal and movement of birds suggests that individual vultures have the ability to travel widely throughout the islands, thereby making possible local fluxes in vulture numbers.

This year's expansion of the marking programme started with great success on East Falkland. Brandon, along with two colleagues from the United States, spent a week during the middle of August trapping vultures at Eliza Cove near the dump. They captured and tagged 34 additional vultures, bringing the total number of marked vultures to 50. A week spent trapping on West Falkland, however, did not meet with the same success. Another West Falkland trapping attempt is scheduled for the near future, and it is hoped some of these birds will be tagged to explore their seasonal movements around the West as well as to increase the chances of documenting vulture movement between East and West Falkland, if such movement occurs.

The importance of reports of marked Turkey Vultures by camp and Stanley residents cannot be overstated. All reports are valuable, even if the number on the tag is not seen. Please report all sightings to Falklands Conservation, and note the colour of the tag, the number if possible, the time, date, and behaviour of



The Falklands Conservation rover acts as a resting spot

the bird.

Farmer Interviews and Questionnaires

Whilst Brandon took the opportunity to speak with a number of individuals in camp during the course of the previous surveys, there is still much to be learned. This is a specific area that Brandon is keen to address this year and is looking forward to calling in on as many people as he can during the course of the work.

The purpose of the interviews and questionnaires is to record the distribution of attitudes toward birds of prey in camp, to record farmer observations of bird-livestock interactions, and to give voice to farmers on this topic. This information will increase the resources available to policymakers for consideration.

Full details of the findings to date are available in a report. If any one would like to receive a copy please get in touch with Brandon bree0087@umn.edu or Falklands Conservation. We will be more than happy to e-mail a copy but the file size is 1MB so if this is liable to overload your connection let us know and we can post a copy on disc.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS CERTIFICATES

By Mac McArthur

Visiting a farm in early in September, I was reminded that a number of farmers have two or more properties that are not immediately adjacent, so they have to travel across a third farm when moving livestock. If this is so, a Livestock Movement Certificate must be completed for these animals as they are moving to a non-contiguous (non-adjacent) geographical location.

The stock movement certificates are important to trace back any animal disease that may be exotic or endemic and have the potential to close down our livestock industries as occurred in the UK in 2001 (FMD outbreak) and again more recently.

If you are in a situation where you have to shift stock across another farmer's land please ensure that you do put in a livestock movement certificate. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Bowles or the veterinarians on 27366.

THE PAGODA FUNGUS – A CURIOSITY IN THE FALKLANDS

By Roy Watling & Tom Eggeling



Above: Pagoda Fungus

Introduction

Originally described from Australia but subsequently recorded from New Zealand and Venezuela, the Pagoda Fungus was thought to be restricted to these southern hemisphere areas of the world. That is until Tom Eggeling found the same species at three sites in East Falkland. First it was found on decaying tussock stools on East Island, then in a shelter-belt amongst *Blechnum penna-marina* and *Gunnera magellanica* etc. under *Pinus contorta* at Sand Bay, East Falkland (Fig.1) and finally south-west of the settlement on Bleaker Island, this time amongst *Empetrum rubrum* on a former tussock area.

Discussion

These three records extend the distribution of the fungus considerably and to find it growing under *Pinus contorta* makes one wonder whether it has been introduced like the Australian False Truffle, *Hydnangium carneum*, which has been found growing with eucalypts at Stanley. On the other hand, it has not hitherto been found in the native habitat of Lodgepole Pine and at Sand Bay the understorey is certainly made up of local plants so perhaps it is native? Even in its Australian sites it is not certain whether it is associated with the roots of trees in a symbiotic relationship, mycorrhizal, or whether it is saprotrophic.

It was once thought to be a species of *Cantharellus* and related to the European chanterelle, but Derek Reid, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew investigated the fungus and re-named it *Podoserpula pusio*. He placed the fungus in the Coniophoraceae where the Wet Rot Fungus *Coniophora puteana* is accommodated (Reid, 1963). Members of this family are characteristically saprotrophs. However, its characters are very unusual in that family and recent DNA work in North America (Mathney, 2006) has shown that the Pagoda Fungus is actually related to a little pleurotoid fungus found on twigs and branches in Europe called *Plicaturopsis crispa*, a fungus very closely related to some of the crust fungi (Watling, 2008). Indeed the lobes of the Pagoda Fungus look exactly like

the isolated caps of *Plicaturopsis*.

The Pagoda Fungus is easily identified by the lobes of the 'pagoda' spaced in tiers along a vertical axis, which decrease in size towards the apex. Sometimes the lobes completely encircle the stem with the stem piercing the centre or else they are attached laterally. They are thin-fleshed, range in colour from pale apricot to orange with a distinct pinkish tinge and are not unlike petals. There are between 4 & 8 lobes per fruiting body and the whole structure may stand up to 75mm high (Fig.2).

Conclusion

To find this unusual but distinctive fungus in three separate locations in very different habitats in the Falkland Islands is altogether surprising and makes one wonder whether it is more widely distributed in the Falkland Islands. Anyone finding this fungus growing elsewhere in the Islands is asked to contact Tom Eggeling, Le Pic Vert à Bidet, 32410 Castéra-Verduzan, France – with information on the date found, the habitat in which it was growing, its location/grid reference and if possible a photograph or dried specimen.

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POST VISITOR REPORTS– WHAT DO THEY TELL US ABOUT CRUISE SHIP TOURISM IN CAMP?

By Helen Otley, Environmental Officer, Environmental Planning Department.

Over the last two seasons, Falklands ship agents, cruise vessel staff, IAATO staff and the Environmental Planning Department have coordinated the completion of Post Visit Report (PVR) forms for cruise ship vessels visiting sites in camp (all areas outside of Stanley, excluding Bluff Cove, Kidney Cove and Gypsy Cove). Whilst some data about cruise ship tourism in camp can be obtained via FIG Custom records, the PVR data allows a more detailed insight into site usage, including the number of passengers, staff and crew going ashore, durations of visits, activities undertaken and passenger/staff ratios.

In the 2007/08 tourist season, there was an increase in the number of cruise ship landings and passengers in camp compared to the 2006/07 season, from 85 landings and 10,504 passengers in 2006/07 to 119 landings and 13,009 passengers in 2007/08.

The rise in cruise ship tourism in camp during the 2007/08 season was primarily an increase in the percentage of large (141-600 pax) vessels (being 29% of all vessel landings in 2007/08 compared to 18% in 2006/07). The percentage of small (1-50 pax) vessels decreased from being 33% of all camp landings in 2006/07 to only 16% in 2007/08.

Twenty-eight different vessels made 60 separate voyages that included visits to sites in camp during the 2007/08 season. Of the 60 separate voyages, 52 voyages (87%) were a 1-day visit to camp, six voyages (10%) were a 2-day trip and two voyages (3%) were a 3-day visit. Vessels went to between one and five sites and one to three sites were visited per day.

The islands visited were West Point, New, Carcass, Saunders, Steeple Jason, Sea Lion, Bleaker, Volunteer Beach, Barren and George. West Point Island was the most popular site with 36 vessel visits, compared with 30 visits at New Island and 29 visits at Carcass Island.

On average, 95% of passengers, and 23% of staff and crew aboard vessels went ashore (Table 3). The average passenger to staff ratio was 12 passengers per staff member and ranged between 9:1 and 35:1 per vessel. On small and medium vessels, the mean passenger to staff ratio was 7 and 10 passengers per staff, respectively and averaged about 35 people per staff for larger vessels.

With the growth in larger cruise vessels visiting sites in camp, landowners should be mindful about the higher passenger to staff ratios for larger vessels. Where necessary, landowners may need to adapt their tourism management system to ensure all visitors are well briefed about appropriate behaviour to reduce environmental effects and to remain safe whilst ashore. If you would like a full copy of the report, please contact me.

Department of Agriculture Sale of Pool Machinery

A Tender Board took place on Tuesday 9th September for the sale of the remaining Agricultural Pool Machinery. A total of five tenders were received. Below is a spreadsheet of the bids received and the successful and unsuccessful bids:

Resale of Department of Agriculture Pool Machinery

		Tender Price £	Asset No.	Successful
Knight Shirley	Massey Ferguson 4270 4WD Tractor (West Falkland)	£5,000.00	1786-1	√
Peck Paul	6 metre Einboch Air Seeder (West Falkland)	£700.00	1636-1	√
Miller Philip	6 metre Einboch Air Seeder (East Falkland)	£300.00	1647-1	√
Miller Philip	Massey Ferguson 4270 4WD Tractor (West Falkland)	£3,500.00	1786-1	x
Miller Philip	6 metre Einboch Air Seeder (West Falkland)	£200.00	1636-1	x

PUZZLE PAGE

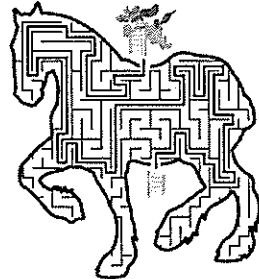
Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTIONS

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



FALKLANDS RAINFALL TOTALS

Thank you to everyone for sending their data in. Please contact us if you would like to collect rainfall data.

Location		2007			2008								
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Stanley	2008	24	50	27.5	42	36.5	44	72	45.5	34	55	90	4.5
	Average	39.5	46	68	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41
MPA	2008	38.8	74.7	31	49.3	49	38.3	103.9	43.1	41.1	43.3	74	21
	Average	34.6	36.8	58.4	62.8	47.9	56.8	53.7	48.6	57.7	45.6	36.7	33.5
Bleaker Island		32	25	18	30	15	40	67	40	55	28	54	7
Cape Dolphin		16	26	30	24	34	40	-	-	-	-	-	20
Darwin		33.5	53.5	29.5	40	29	29	73	30.5	36.5	25.5	45.5	17
Doyle Farm					-	-	19.25	63.25	48	44	11.5	57.5	27
Dunbar					67.5	43.5	28.5	205	105	137	62	-	-
Fern Ridge		-	-	30	-	-	-	89.5	59	-	25	52.5	11
Head of the Bay		25	54	38	27	28	39	86	46	42	37	88	15
Hill Cove					-	-	-	-	-	-	41	73.5	7.5
Moss Side		23	34	38	31	-	35	61	43	47	51	-	-
Paragon		-	-	22.5	23.5	-	-	-	18	-	24	34	6.5
Pebble Island		20	34.5	22.5	19.5	30	20.5	40	35.1	39.5	26.5	59	19
Port Howard		41.25	75	47.5	62	40.5	47.75	108	66	72.5	58.5	121.5	18
Saladero		15	30	20	25	15	22	-	-	50	18	30	25
Salvador		-	44.5	38.75	39.75	35	47.5	63.75	35.25	37	44.5	68.7	11
Shallow Harbour		-	-	40	38.5	19	-	102.5	59	-	25	50	10.5
South Harbour		20	28	23	51	9	22	70	60	45	22	44	11
Swan Inlet		20.5	53	16	38	-	18	86.5	32	33	30.5	57	31.5
West Lagoons		15	30	12	33.5	30	25	91.5	61	58.5	-	-	5.5
Wineglass Station		35.5	74.5	35	62	53	44.5	116.5	42	47	-	93.5	16.5

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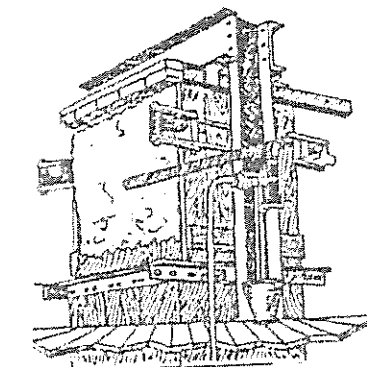
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Plus all the usual features and more!!



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EDITORIAL

There are some thought provoking articles in this month's Wool Press. Ian Campbell discusses the often asked question, 'Does selecting for finer wool necessarily reduce wool cut?'. Zoë Luxton has prepared an informative article on itch mite in sheep and the best courses of action if you have sheep that are infected.

Tony Mills, in his item on how stocking rates are determined, discusses how farmers generally might determine stocking rates for their farms and asks for farmers views on what parameters they prefer to use to set their grazing levels.

Last week I attended a very positive organic agriculture conference and expo in Brazil, so it is very pleasing to see that we currently have around 37 per cent of the Falkland Island farming area signed up for the Biological Farmers of Australia organic accreditation scheme. (Organic Update page 7.) I spoke with a large Brazilian organic beef production and processing company, Friboi and was advised that currently they are unable to satisfy the demand for their beef products and organic beef is being imported into Brazil from Uruguay.

It is great to see the positive report from Heidi Clifton and Fayan Alazia, on their week's work experience at the Department. All staff were impressed with their keenness to learn and work hard at the diversity of tasks they were involved with. We wish them well with their future careers in agriculture.

Thank you to Raymond Evans and Arina Berntsen for the most interesting article on Pebble Island. They have made genetic improvement with both their sheep and cattle and it is interesting to note they have introduced Angus cattle which appear to be well adapted to the island's climate.

Many people will be aware that John and Viv Hobman are retiring from Saladero after having worked there for the past nine and a half years. John has provided a most interesting article on his and Viv's time at Saladero and the changes and recording that occurred. Today we farewelled them with a presentation and informal farewell at Saladero. A big thank you to John and Viv for all the hard work and achievements-time now to enjoy your retirement, get up a bit later and while away a few hours reading books.

Susan Campbell has provided a most informative and practical article on ways of managing your sheep, cattle and pastures to reduce worms.

With the upcoming fireworks and bonfire nights the guidelines for the safe use and storage of fireworks is important to read and help ensure that you, your family and pets are safe and not sorry this fireworks season.

Helen Otley has provided an interesting article on the native zebra trout and the Falkland's minnow and the research that is being carried out now and what is planned for the future.

Enjoy the read and contact Departmental staff on 27355 if you require further information.

Best regards,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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WOOL CUT AND FIBRE DIAMETER- ARE THEY RELATED?

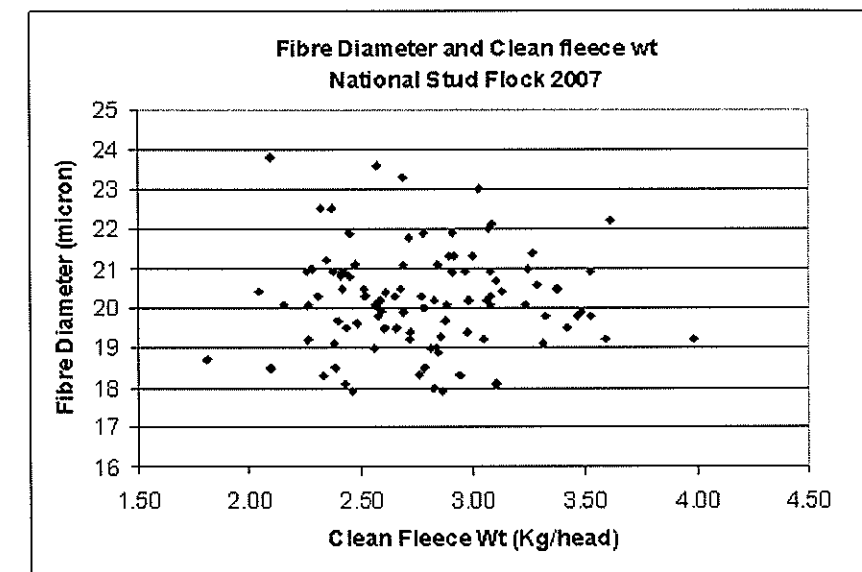
By Ian Campbell

The genetic goals of the National Stud Flock, and indeed many of the commercial flocks on the Falkland Islands are to reduce fibre diameter and increase wool cuts. Hence the often asked question; "Does selecting for fineness reduce wool cut?"

The short answer is it can do; but doesn't have to. So lets look at the long answer.

As an example we will analyse last year's figures for the shearing NSF rams - in this graph we have plotted the fleece weights and microns, with each dot representing one animal.

The pattern is pretty much a 'shot gun' grouping of figures with little relationship between them. Some heavy cutting fine sheep and some strong woolled light cutters; and everything else in between.



What about selecting rams?

If we select the best dozen for fibre diameter alone

The best dozen animals are all less than 19 micron and with wool weights ranging from 1.7kg to over 3. It is fair to say that perhaps these sheep cut less than the average wool cut and hence by selecting sheep for micron alone we may inadvertently reduced wool cut. Interesting to note one exceptional result (the heaviest wool cutter) is not included because it was just over 19 micron.

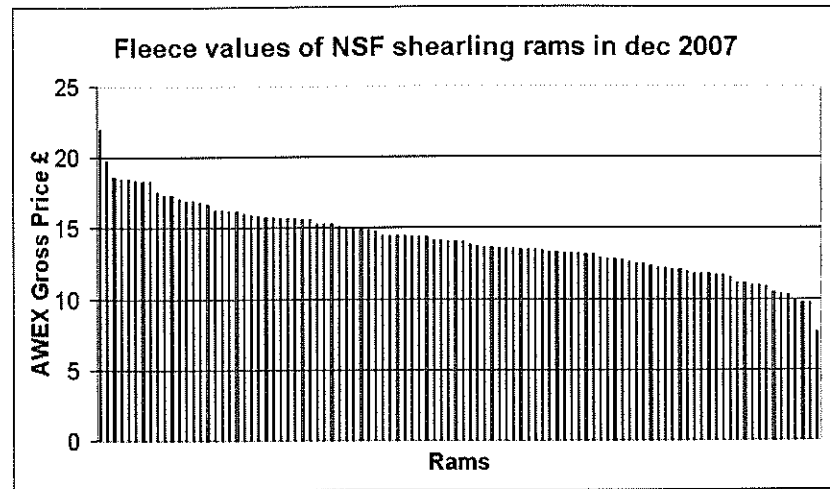
If we select the best dozen for fleece weight alone

Of the top dozen wool cutters none are below 19 μ so if we select for fleece weight alone we will most likely inadvertently select for stronger wool. Interesting to note also that in this case two of only three 18 micron sheep cut nearly 3 kg (better than average) but miss out because they are not quite heavy enough wool cutters.

Selecting for Fleece Value

The more clean wool per fleece the more wool to sell. The finer the wool is the more it is worth. These two factors work together to form the fleece value. It is worthwhile looking at the results for the same sheep plotted as a fleece value. Obviously the price of wool varies so we will work with a price list from Dec 2007 when they were shorn. At that time 18 micron wool was worth

around 500p/kg and 24 micron wool around 380 p/kg clean.



The top dozen or so sheep each cut fleeces averaging around £17 and the bottom dozen or so averaged around £10. The fact that some sheep cut at least half as much fleece value again as the others is of note. Because their costs (eg shearing etc) are the same the profit made by some sheep is twice that of others in the same flock- and the reason why we are all interested in genetics. The problem with fleece value though is that wool prices fluctuate over time.

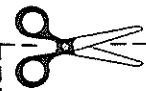
Selecting by Index

By using an index as we do in the National Stud flock, which is these two traits plus liveweight, all incorporated in a formula to give one single score, we overcome the price fluctuation problem. Weighting and combining the traits ensures

- Selection for fineness will not reduce wool cut per head or frame size
- Selection for wool cut will not blow the micron out
- Selecting for size will not blow micron out

In other words we get an improvement of all the traits at once.

And that is why these shearing rams averaged 2.8 kg clean of 20.2 micron wool - averaging over £14 per fleece and it is getting better every year.



Dates for the Diary



- Friday
14th November Wool Handling, Transport & Sampling Public Meeting - 5pm in the Chamber of Commerce, chaired by Cllr Ian Hansen
- Wednesday
3rd December Dog Dosing Day (Droncit) - Please call 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and confirm that your dogs have been dosed. Thank you.
- Monday
8th December Public Holiday - Battle Day - All FIG departments apart from those providing essential services will be closed.

ITCHY AND SCRATCHY

By Zoë Luxton

We have had a few calls recently about the presence of itch mite in sheep so I thought I would do a quick overview. This may not be new knowledge to many of you but a bit of revision never hurt anyone.....

- ✦ Itch mite, also known as psorobic mange is caused by the mite *Psorobia ovis* (*Psorergates ovis*).
- ✦ It appears to be commonest in fine woolled sheep such as the Merino and Corriedale and has been reported in Australia, NZ, South Africa, South America and USA only (not Europe).
- ✦ The mites are found under the superficial skin layers where they feed on the skin and can cause immense irritation.
- ✦ The sides, flanks and thighs are the areas most commonly affected.
- ✦ Sheep infested with itch mite may show absolutely no signs at all or they can show signs of severe irritation (nibbling, rubbing and chewing) with the affected skin areas looking dry and scurfy.
- ✦ They can have wool that breaks easily with the remaining fleece hanging in ragged tufts.
- ✦ After 1-2 years sheep may become 'tolerant' as the skin becomes thickened.
- ✦ In the most severe cases fleeces have to be discarded but generally fleeces are downgraded if they are seriously affected.
- ✦ In most cases where there is only tufting of surface wool the fleeces are not downgraded.
- ✦ Usually only about 1% of sheep have severely damaged fleeces so the amount of money lost from affected fleeces is unlikely to be more than the cost of treating the whole flock (which would be the correct route for eradication).
- ✦ Itch Mite infestations spread slowly (as females only lay few eggs over their lifetime) and they may only ever affect 5-15% of an untreated flock.
- ✦ The mite lifecycle is complete in 4-5 weeks with only the adult being mobile enough to spread to another sheep after very close contact.
- ✦ Itch mites die quickly when not in contact with sheep.
- ✦ Transmission occurs in the brief post-shearing period as longer wool presents a barrier to the transfer of mites.
- ✦ Infested sheep yarded with clean sheep after shearing is the most likely way to spread infection.
- ✦ Considerable mortality of mites was observed for up to 9 days after shearing, suggesting that fluctuations of temperature, dessication and solar irradiation causes high mite mortality and that this is a good time for concurrent therapeutic control.
- ✦ Treatment with the macrocyclic lactones (eg ivermectin, moxidectin etc) that are also used for worm control is effective and it would obviously be more cost effective to incorporate itch mite control with wormings rather than do 2 separate treatments at different times of year.
- ✦ Remember the importance of the correct dosage of drenches for the weight of the sheep.
- ✦ Because of the very slow build up in numbers after treatment, no further signs should be seen for several years.
- ✦ Dips are also effective but an unlikely option here in this day and age.
- ✦ It is probably not best practice to treat the odd scruffy sheep and leave it running with the rest of the mob as re-infestation is likely, albeit at a slow rate.
- ✦ If you have a few sheep that severely suffer the effects of itch mite then culling them out is a viable option as they are unlikely to be many in number.
- ✦ The appearance of sheep suffering the effects of itch mite is reasonably classic, although remember that other diseases eg scrapie can cause a sheep to rub and nibble.
- ✦ Deep skin scrapes are the best diagnostic test for itch mite as the round mites are reasonably easy to spot under the microscope if you are lucky enough to harvest a few. The absence of mites in your scrape does not mean there are definitely none.

Any questions? Ring the veterinary department on 27366.

STOCKING RATE – HOW IS THIS DETERMINED?

By Tony Mills

During some recent reading and from listening to a number of conversations on this topic it got me thinking as to how would I approach determining the appropriate stocking rate for a property or paddock. It also made me contemplate how a producer would approach the same question. Would they be that different?

It might be best to start with the various terms that are related and often substituted for stocking rate. The main terms are carrying capacity, stocking rate, and stock density. In my dictionary the following are an explanation for each of these terms:

- Carrying capacity – the long term stocking rate a given area (includes district, property and paddock) can support without significant negative impacts to the animal or the area
- Stocking rate – the short to mid term stocking level a given area (includes district, property and paddock) can support without significant negative impacts to the animal or the area
- Stock density – the immediate term stocking level a given area (generally only relates to a paddock) can support without significant negative impacts to the animal or the area

In essence they are all describing the grazing pressure applied to a particular pasture within a defined area. The other point worth noting is that they describe this over different timelines. In different grazing systems this pressure can also be described in terms of liveweight. The term most people use is stocking rate and it is usually expressed as a sheep or beast per hectare (Ha) or acre (ac), but can be described as a dse per Ha or ac, an Adult Equivalent (AE) per Ha or ac, a livestock unit (LSU) per Ha or ac or even cow days per Ha or ac (CDA). An AE is the term used for a cattle enterprise and is defined as the **energy required to maintain** a 450kg steer. LSU and CDA are terms associated with an intensively managed grazing system.

So how are stocking rates determined? Most often I would say that they are determined by past experience. This knowledge has been passed on through various generations. Sometimes this knowledge has been tested through science and quite possibly the long held rates are adjusted. A past advisor and one time director of the DoA did this very effectively for carrying capacity in the rangelands of Queensland.

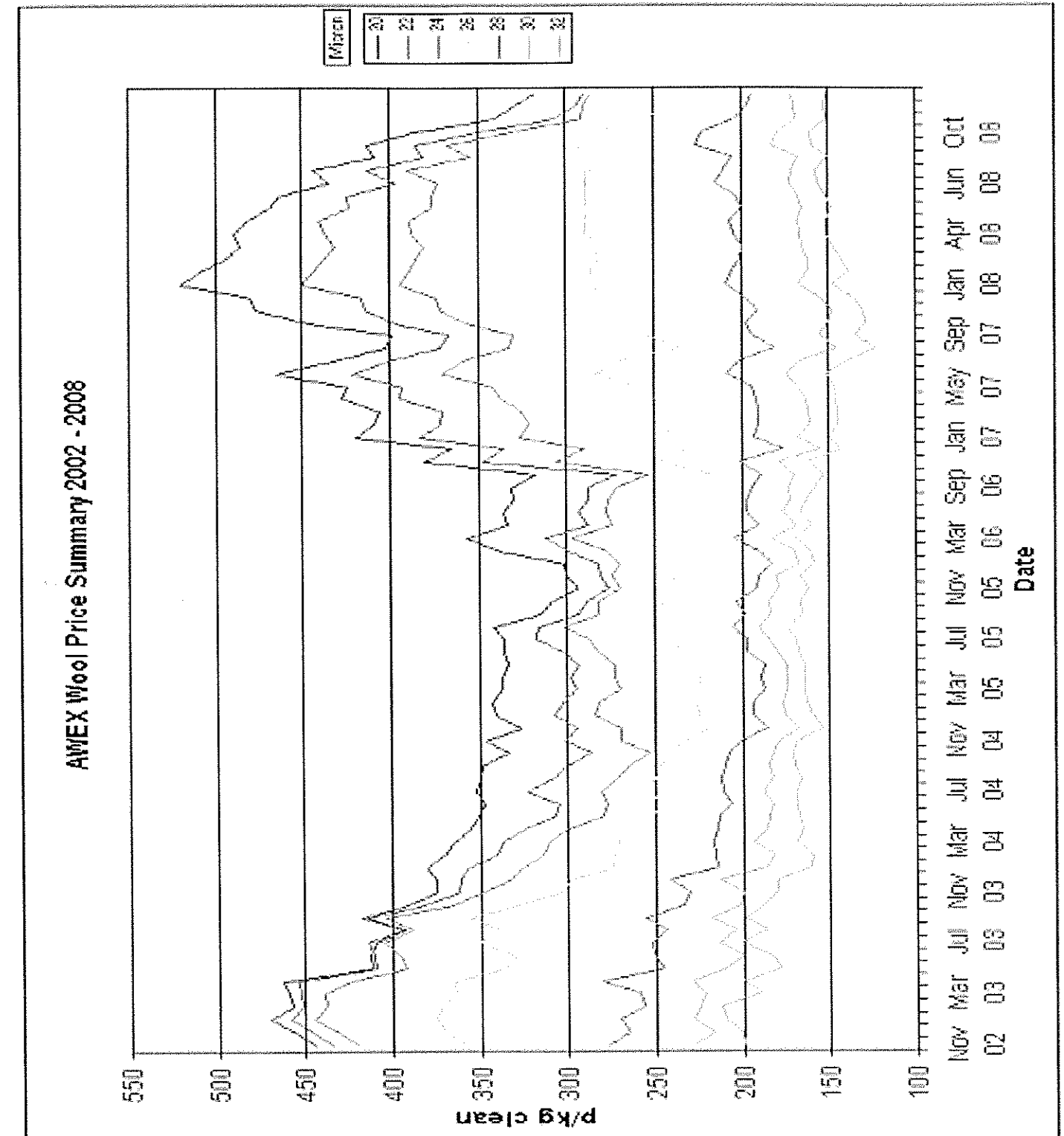
So what is being considered when the rates are being determined? What information would an Ag scientist and a producer be using? I believe the following information is being used:

- Grazing behaviour
- Animal condition
- Target weight
- Stock type and class i.e. animal requirements
- Area
- Topography
- Pasture condition e.g. often indicated by colour
- Pasture species
- Quantity of pasture
- Percentage utilised
- Time of year
- Timeline

Are all these indicators used? The most likely answer is probably not. There may also be other types of information used. I would be interested to hear how producers approach setting their grazing levels. I would also be interested to hear whether I have explained the terms appropriately. You can contact me on 27335 or email tmills@doa.gov.fk

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



Organic Update

There are now 10 farms that have entered the Organic farming scheme. The combined size of these 10 farms is 414,844 Ha –over 1 million acres- or around 37% of the total area of all Falkland Island farms.

Is 37% of an entire country certified as organic a world record? - I suspect it might be but do not know.

HEIDI AND FAYAN'S WEEK OF WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE DOA

By Heidi Clifton and Fayan Alazia

For our work experience, we have been working at the Department of Agriculture as we are hoping to have a future career in agriculture and would like to go to a collage in Australia. We felt that Australia was a more appropriate place as it has many similarities to the Falkland Islands.

It has been a very interesting week doing various activities inside and out. These activities were:- weighing out wool samples to be tested for micron then washing and drying them; going to the Post Office, Mineral Resources, West Store and Saddle Computers; filling out a table with information of wool samples from Saladero, Stoney Ridge and Goose Green; putting labels on envelopes ready for the next Wool Press; went to the Abattoir; went to Elephant Beach; saw the oiled penguins; (Heidi) saw a dog being castrated and 2 cats having blood taken so they are able to get into the UK; (Fayan) went to the dairy and helped with testing cows to see if they were pregnant and took blood; did some GPS'ing of Stanley House and the Department of Agriculture; went to Kingsford Valley and did a QFW shed inspection.

The trip to Elephant Beach with Tim, Jim, Andy and Rebecca

We had to be up at the Ag Department at 0700. It took us about 1½ hours to get there. As we were going off road we both started talking about getting bogged, turns out 15 minutes later you never guess what happened. Tim got BOGGED!

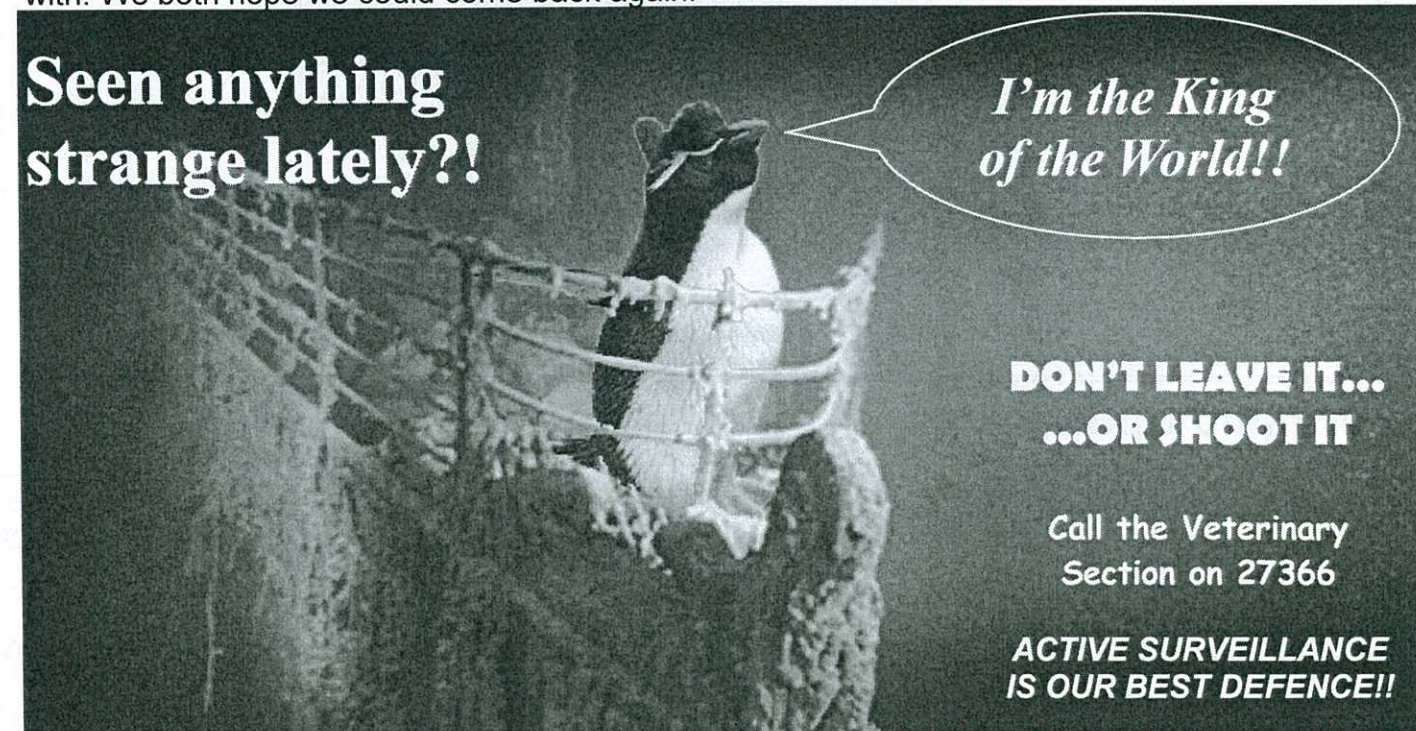
Rebecca said we had to build 24, 3.5 by 1.5m cages to see what different types of grass grow when the land has not been grazed on. Rebecca used a GPS to mark were each pen was. We built about 11-14 cages before going back to town.

Making a GPS map of Stanley House and the Department of Agriculture

We both helped each other in doing a map of Stanley House and the Department of Agriculture. After we marked down all the points on a Google Earth Map we put them on the computer and placed them both on a map of Stanley. Stanley House was marked more accurately than the DoA because of the meter range, but we knew what was what.

Overall everything was fun and we had a good laugh. It has been a real eye opener and a good opportunity to work with different people. Everyone at the DoA was very helpful and fun to work with. We both hope we could come back again.

**Seen anything
strange lately?!**



West Lagoons
MPM
Multi Purpose Merinos

For Sale from West Lagoons Farm

Semen straws from **Glendemar Brown 6 (00 006)**

Brown 6 was born in July 2000

He was 110kg as a 2yo

His micron averaged 18.5

He breeds long bodied progeny that mature early

He reduces micron on his progeny

He is good on his feet and passes that onto his progeny

He was the dominate sire of the MPM breed in Australia, South America & the Falkland Islands.



*2nd cross ewe hogs from Brown 6 at 10 months
Pictured at Hill Cove*

Rambouillet 85 2527

S. Rambouillet SS Ram

Glendemar 006

D. Rambouillet SS Ewe

D. Glendemar G0278

S. Glendemar 95051

D. Glendemar w0355

For more details and costs, please contact Shelley or Peter on phone 41194, or email: sptk@horizon.co.fk

Do you know where there is any Calafate?

Calafate (*Berberis buxifolia*) or Magellan Barberry has only recently been recognised as a potentially invasive species and is the plant that is most likely to have a negative economic impact on agriculture in the Falkland Islands.

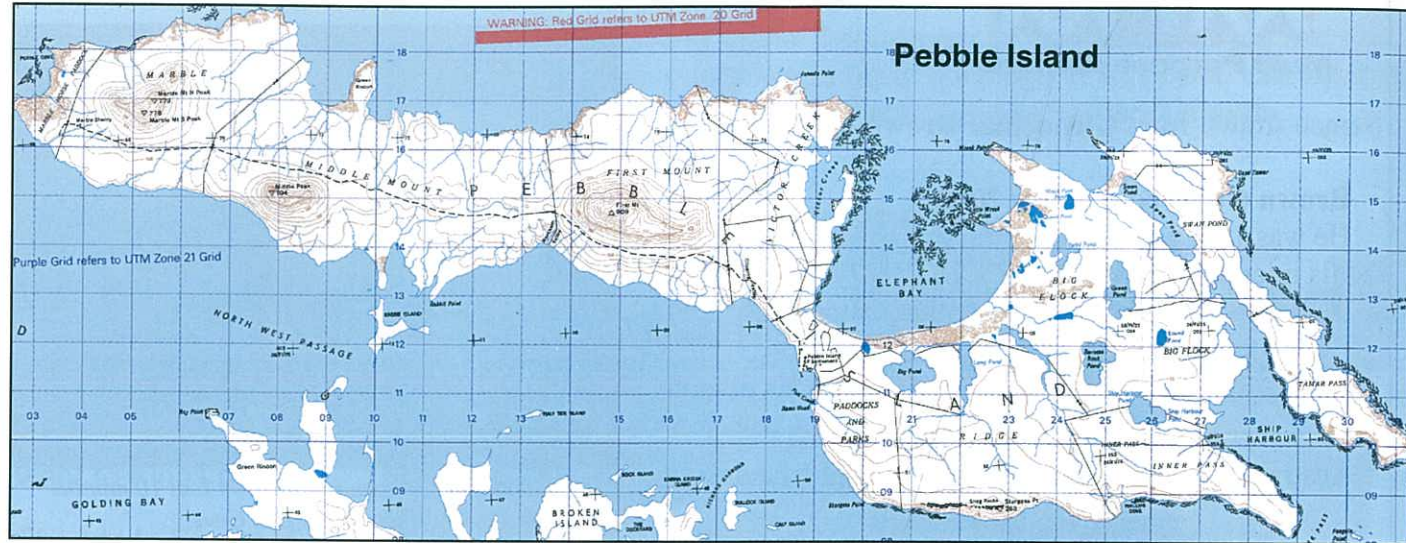
The current distribution of calafate and its potential to spread further into camp is a very serious problem for the ecology of the islands and for agriculture. It is essential that its spread is controlled as soon as possible and further spread is prevented. The main areas where calafate has been recorded in large quantities are at Port Sussex & Cantera, Head of the Bay, Island Harbour and Keppel Island. The South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme is trying to map the distribution of calafate and would be interested to hear of the exact location of calafate in other areas.

This is a good time of year to spot calafate with its shiny leaves, spiky branches and yellow flowers.

If you know of the location of any calafate please contact Brian Summers on 22866, 55844 or email bsummers.sais@horizon.co.fk.



FARM IN PROFILE: PEBBLE ISLAND



Property Name: Pebble Island

Location: West Falklands

Owners: Dean Bros

Farm size: 10,490ha

Sheep: 8,850

Cattle: 57

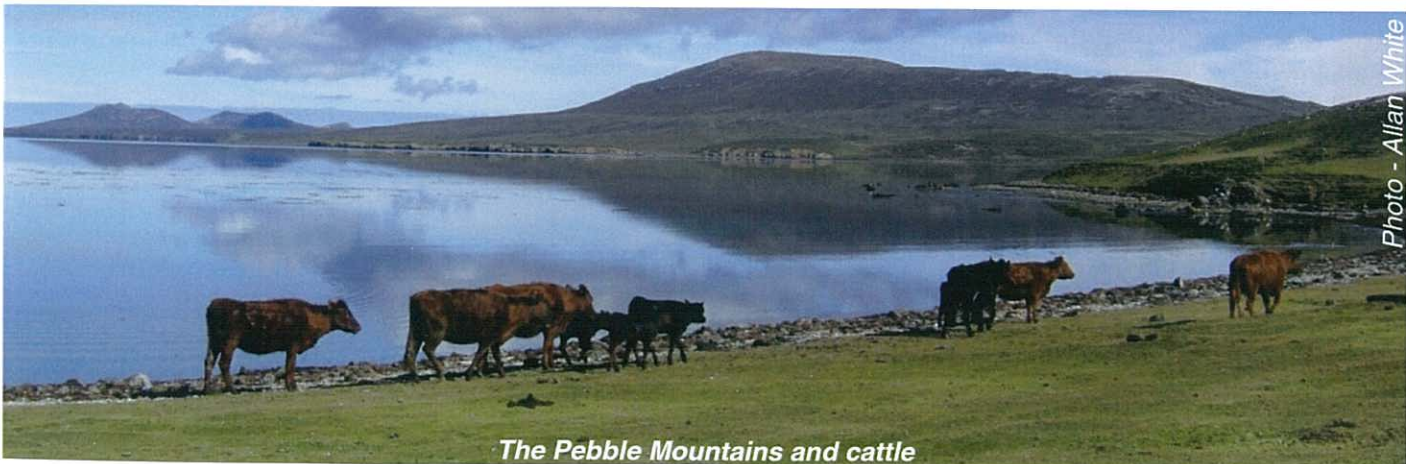
Raymond Evans is also well known throughout the farming community as Chairman of the Rural Business Association (RBA). Raymond says he always tries to take an active interest in anything involved in the rural sector. He hopes his past experience, general knowledge and involvement in farming contributes well to his role in the RBA.

A Farming Life

Pebble Island is leased by Raymond Evans and Arina Berntsen. Raymond has spent most of his life on Pebble, having grown up on the Island, then taking over as manager from his father in 1983/4 and then later in 1994 the lease from the Dean Bros. He has worked in farming for most of his life, although has spent a short stint working in the police force and a short time in New Zealand for work experience before taking over as manager on Pebble.

Originally a Corriedale flock, Raymond started crossing the sheep at Pebble to produce a dual purpose animal with finer wool. This is a combination he thought would go well without making any drastic change and was brought about around fifteen years ago.

Raymond believes that the way forward is to have an animal which is bred for both wool and meat as it is best to have two strings to the bow.



The Pebble Mountains and cattle



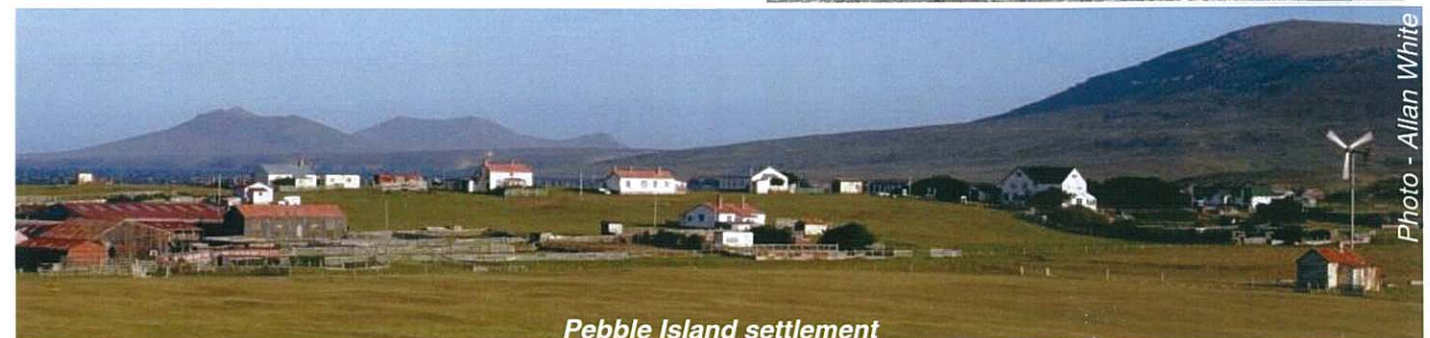
Gentoos at Green Rincon

A few years ago, there was an Embryo Transfer (ET) programme carried out on some of the ewes, to improve the quality of the sheep and wool. These animals are now just going into the flock and it is hoped that this will produce improved results.

Cattle on Pebble Island

There are 57 cattle of mixed breed on Pebble, which are bred for producing milk and beef on the farm. They have been introducing Aberdeen Angus genetics to build better beef herds and improve carcass size. Raymond says that have not sold animals to the abattoir in the past as it is difficult to get them away, but hopes that this would be a possibility in the future with improved transport.

Although he believes that the type of animal will not need to change drastically over the next few years, Raymond says that farmers always need to watch the market, as breeds are improved. He would like to continue in farming for as long as possible, and that he tries to keep an eye on things to make any necessary changes. He believes that farming is forever changing so you need to keep an eye on future markets.



Pebble Island settlement



Sheep by the wind turbine

Over the next few years, Raymond sees farming becoming more intense, as people do more rotational work with the sheep and people making the best of the abattoir as a second outlet.

Pebble Island is also home to 350 goats (of which a few are sold for meat) and 33 pigs. The pigs were brought to the Island in 1997 and are bred for pork and sale as weaners to other farms.

A Tourist Destination

Tourist lodge on Pebble Island, which is run by Alan White and Jacqui Jennings. Visitors are attracted by the abundance of wildlife, particularly the penguins and freshwater birds, although there are also seals to be found at certain times of the year.



King Shag & Rockhopper colony at Tamar Point

OUR TIME AT SALADERO

By John Hobman

I will retire at the end of October and will move to Goose Green to live after nearly 9 ½ years at Saladero. We have loved every minute of our time here. Here is a brief summary of what has happened at Saladero over the years:

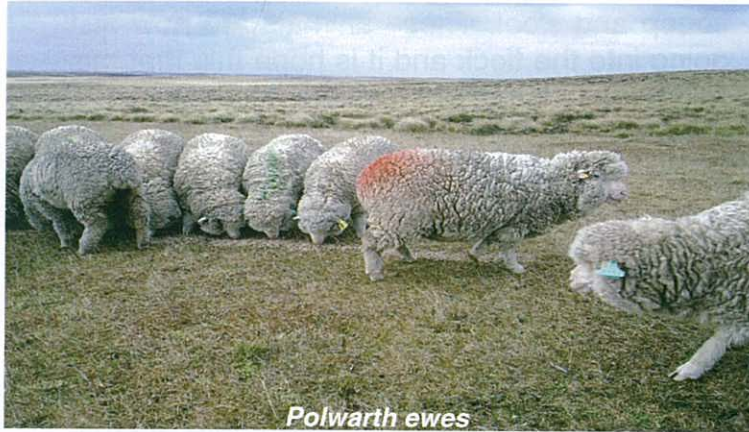
We arrived at Saladero on the 10th May 1999. Owen Summers and Doug Cartridge accompanied us to the farm and my first job was to put the rams out. Driving sheep away in the dark and not knowing the camps proved interesting.

In 1991 the Wool Advisor for the Department of Agriculture and two Falkland Islands farmers travelled to Tasmania to select 25 stud rams and 500 ewes to set up the National Polwarth Stud Flock. They arrived by air in January 1992. They went to Sea Lion Island and later part of the flock went to Lively Island prior to coming to Saladero in 1995. The stud flock was set up to breed rams for the farmers to purchase, with a sale held every March.

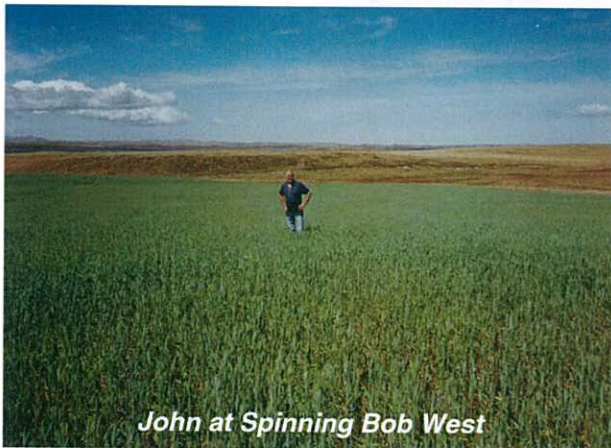
Not only were the imported sheep here but also 219 ewes that had been bought from Bold Cove, Chartres, Crooked Inlet, Coast Ridge, Johnsons Harbour & Shallow Harbour to make up the breeding flock.

There were approximately 1,200 sheep on the farm when we arrived.

2005 was the start of the AI and ET programme. In that year 400 ewes were AI'd



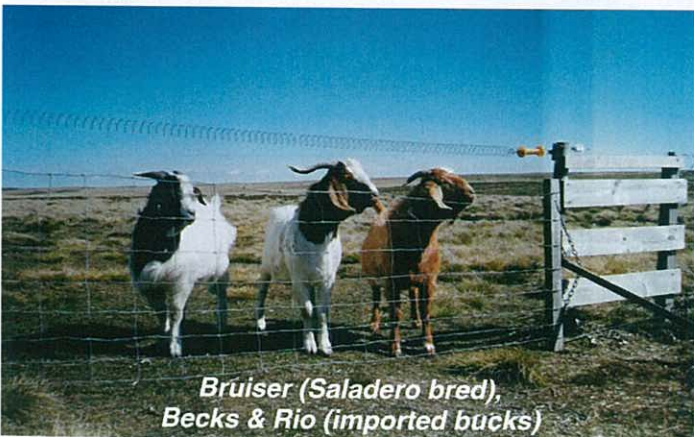
Polwarth ewes



John at Spinning Bob West



Loading rams after the ram sale



Bruiser (Saladero bred),
Becks & Rio (imported bucks)



Bull calves

(using imported semen) and then flushed at Saladero. The embryos were taken to Goose Green and transferred into 2,000 Corriedale recipients. (Polwarth, Dohne Merino, SAMM, Poll Dorset and Polwarth/Dohne X embryos were used.) The team from Allstock in Australia were amazing to work with. Especially Mic who was here for all of the work over the 4 years.

Over the next three years we flushed 267 Polwarth ewes and transplanted just under 1,600 embryos. There has been a great improvement to the flock with all the new genetics starting to come through, all thanks to Neil Judd whose idea it was to start the Sheep Genetic Programme.

When we arrived at Saladero there were 250 cattle. These had been purchased from farms all over the Falklands. There was an assortment of breeds and ages, with the condition of the animals varied from good to very poor.

In 2002, 26 cows received imported embryos and in 2003 30 cows received embryo transplants. Angus, Ayrshire, South Devon and Hereford embryos was used. There have been several sales of cows, bulls and calves over the years. Some were sold at the annual ram sale and some were sold via a radio auction.

In September 2003 the National Beef herd was relocated to Cantera (Port Sussex Farm) and then in 2004 they were moved to Port Howard on West Falklands. In May 2007 five Angus bull calves arrived at Saladero from Bold Cove. Three were later sent to Port Howard to the National beef herd and two were offered for sale at the 2008 ram sale.

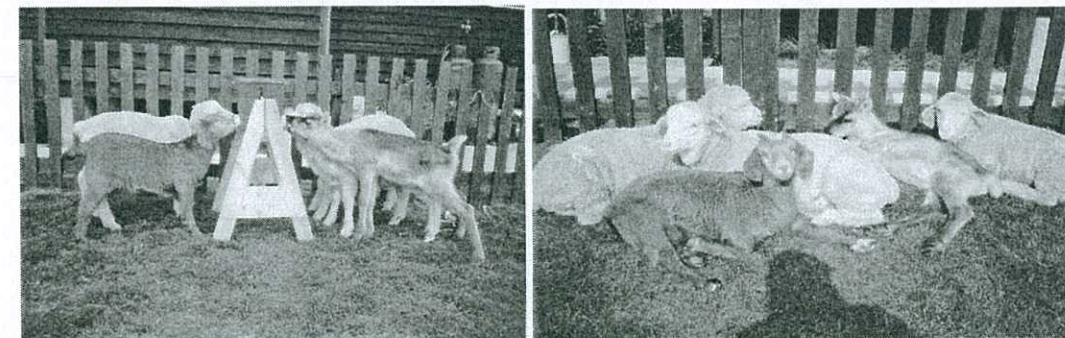
33 female goats arrived at Saladero on 17/11/99 from Pebble Island. A further 37 does, 32 kids and 2 bucks arrived on the 25/5/00 again from Pebble. Some of the does were in kid. I was not too keen on the goats to start with but Viv's love and enthusiasm for them changed my mind. The original idea was to produce cashmere. 100 goats were shorn in September 2000 and the fibre was sent to Bradford for testing. The results showed that only 5 goats had any cashmere that had commercial value.

There appeared to be a small market for goat meat so it was decided to look into the possibility of introducing a breed of goat for meat production. In 2001 we AI'd 60 does using Boer semen imported from New Zealand. This was a great success

In June 2002 two Boer bucks arrived from New Zealand and over the next 3 years a successful breeding programme was implemented. We had a high kidding percentage with the majority of the does having twins, some had triplets and we had one set of quads and one set of quintuplets. An agreement with 2 farms (Wreck Point and Wineglass Station) meant that all the cull goats



The reindeer



Left & Right:
Feeding time & rest for
the pets:
lambs, kid & fawn

would be passed to the 2 farms. In all 88 went to Wreck Point and 207 to Wineglass. Half Boer Bucks were also sent to Pebble Island and Saunders Island in 2002. It was decided in 2005 to disperse with the goats at Saladero and they were put up for sale. 44 were sold to Race Point and 22 to Wineglass Station. Over the years we hand reared 8 kids, some were the smallest of triplets and others either the doe had died or they had been abandoned.

In February 2001, 56 reindeer arrived from South Georgia. There was a problem with scouring to begin with and a few died, but once they were given access to the beach they did well and we had a couple of years with fawns being born. We successfully hand reared one fawn that had been abandoned by its mother. Heskey is now on Weddell Island. 47 reindeer were shipped to West Falklands (Hill Cove and Weddell Island in July 2004). 3 were bought by Freshco's and slaughtered for sale to the public.

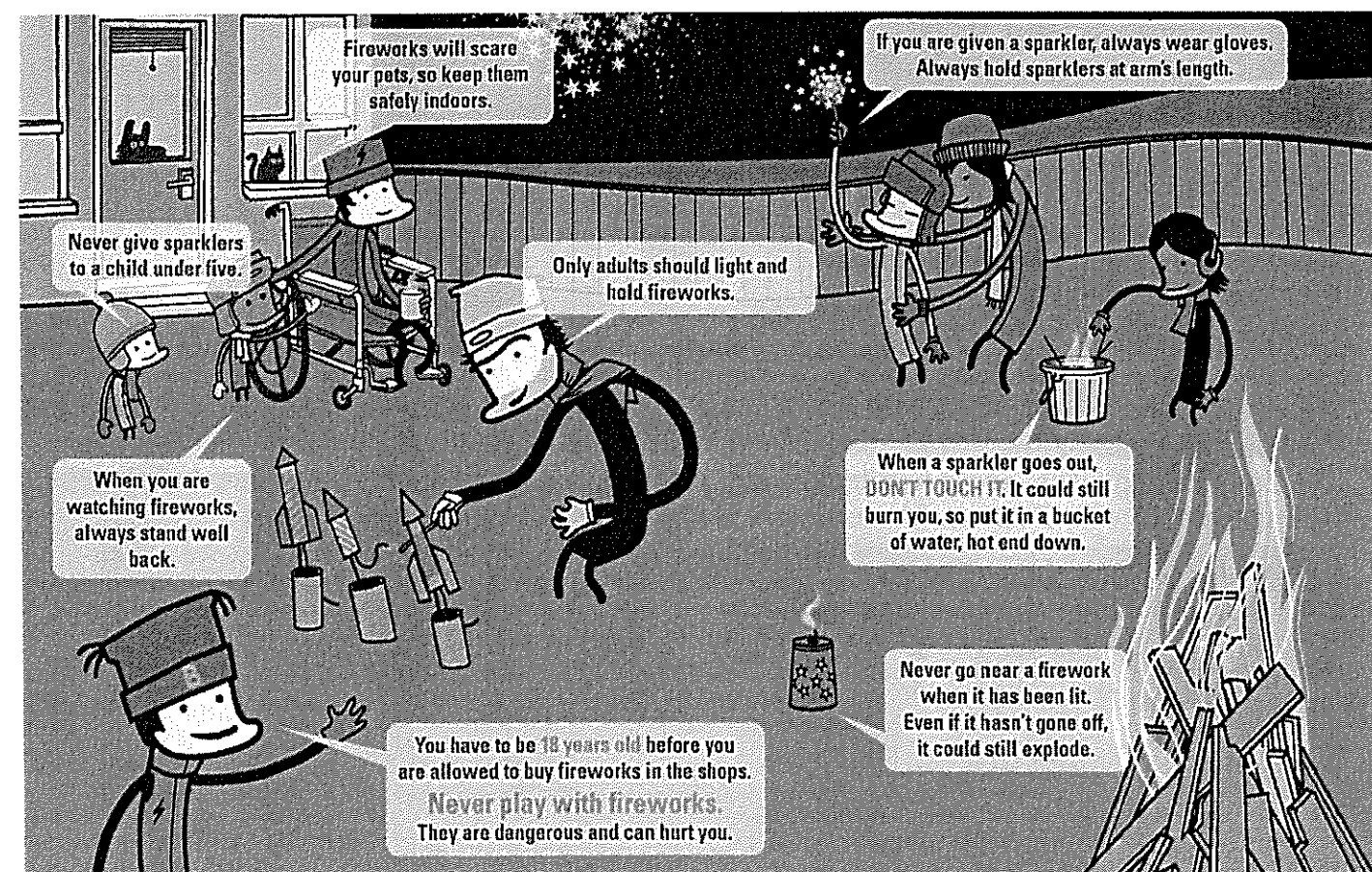
The shelter belts have continued to prosper. There has been a variety of forage crops and reseeds done over the years.

In view of the recent discussions on the re population of camp it is interesting that in the early 1850's, Hope Place (10 minutes drive from the house) was the home to about 150 Gaucho's and their families. All that remains are a few ruins and the outline of a sod corral. A cross just above the old settlement indicates the burials of Wilhelmina Smith and Peter Smith who died in 1864 and Mary Smith who died in 1870.

Our main shearer over the years was Diver (who was here for nearly all the shearing) we would like to thank him and also Timmy, Snider, Gonz, Gilberto, Ricky, Paul, Jan & Tyrone who have shorn the sheep.

Over the years Viv has cooked 379 Breakfasts, 773 lunches, 339 suppers for staff from the department and we've had over 3,000 for smoko.

We wish Brian and Diana Aldridge good luck in their work here and hope they will enjoy it as much as we have.



FIREWORKS SAFETY

Please be safe during the upcoming Fireworks & Bonfire nights - follow these guidelines provided by the Fire & Rescue Service.

THE SALE OF FIREWORKS CODE

- All fireworks sold must comply with current British Standards at this time BS7114
- Only category 1 (sparklers) and category 2 (garden) fireworks should be sold to the general public
- Category 3 (display) fireworks may only be used in organised public displays, with the prior permission of the Government Secretary
- No category 3 firework exceeding 120 decibels noise level should be sold
- Fireworks should not be sold to those under the age of 18
- All packets of sparklers must carry a warning 'Not to be given to children under 5 years of age'
- Boxes pre-packed by the original supplier and intended to be sold complete should not be split up for sale
- The name and address of the manufacturer must not be removed from the packaging
- Fireworks must not be sold in the street or any public place
- Limit the supply of noisy fireworks (113-120 decibels) to larger higher cost packs
- The general public should not be sold: small bangers or larger bangers if they are deemed to be classified as category 3 fireworks, mini-rockets, category 4 fireworks, aerial maroons, aerial shells, shell-in-mortars, maroon-in-mortars, and any firework with erratic flight, e.g. squibs, jumping crackers and helicopters
- If any accident by fire or explosion causes death or personal injury in or about the premises it must be reported immediately to the Chief Officer of Police
- Fireworks must only be sold during the period beginning the 1st October and ending on the 5th November and during the period beginning on the 1st December and ending on the 31st December. If the retailer sell outside these periods e.g. for wedding celebrations then a notice of the sale must be provided to the Chief Officer of Police
- Fireworks must be stored in either Mode A or Mode B

Mode A

- Fireworks must be stored on their own in a detached store, constructed substantially of brick, stone, iron, concrete or shipping container.

Mode B

- Only dummy fireworks or empty boxes may be displayed
- No more than 50 kilogrammes of fireworks may be

kept in any room within a building where fireworks are sold.

- Fireworks kept in any room within a building where fireworks are sold must be kept locked.
- Any container used for the storage of fireworks must be kept closed and either locked or positioned so as to prevent the public having direct access to the fireworks
- Stocks of fireworks over and above the 50 kilograms permitted to be stored in the shop must be stored as Mode A and kept locked and clearly marked 'Fireworks - Highly Flammable'.
- Storage of fireworks must be sited away from any source of ignition
- Fireworks should not be stored next to substances such as oil, paint, matches or any other highly inflammable substance
- Smoking must not be permitted in any area near to where fireworks are displayed or stored and 'NO Smoking' signs must be displayed
- No person may smoke whilst handling or conveying fireworks
- Do not store Bengal matches in the same container as fireworks
- All passageways leading to containers used for fireworks must be kept clear at all times
- Water type fire extinguishers must be available at all times, properly maintained, and readily accessible



The Fireworks Code for adults

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm.

MANAGING SHEEP AND PASTURES TO REDUCE WORMS

By Susan Campbell

Sheep have different susceptibility to worms depending on their age, their physiological and nutritional status and their general health. The younger they are the more susceptible they are to parasites, and pregnant and lactating ewes are also more susceptible to parasites.

Think of the worms as two populations. Worms in the sheep; and infective larvae on the paddocks. It is important to consider this to create a safe or clean pasture and to give the most susceptible stock the safest pasture.

Keeping your stock safe from parasites by creating safe or clean pastures can be achieved by the following actions

- Don't put parasites on there to start with. If you know you have a 'safe' pasture ensure you keep it as clean as possible by drenching **all** sheep onto that pasture. Use your safe pastures for your most susceptible stock.
- Spelling of pastures - this only works at certain times of the year and requires quite some time depending on the weather conditions. For instance at the hottest, driest, windiest (thus low humidity) time of the year perhaps late October to February here, it will take at least six weeks to have any major effect on reducing pasture infection. In winter no amount of spelling will have any significant effect on reducing pasture contamination because the larvae are so slow to develop but even more importantly they are slow to die in the colder conditions so there is no significant decrease in number.
- Providing better nutrition through rotational grazing or crops or supplements will mean the better fed animals will have better immunity and should thus produce fewer worm eggs.
- Grazing with non susceptible stock. This includes cattle, who don't share common parasites with sheep in the Falklands, and mature dry sheep such as wethers, non pregnant or non lactating ewes, but not rams. These animals can be used as they are far less susceptible to worms and they can help 'vacuum' up parasites from the pasture without replacing new ones as they are more resistant to parasites.
- There is also a method of grazing called 'Smart Grazing' which involves putting drenched wethers or other adult dry sheep (not rams but possibly cattle could be used) onto the pasture in November at high stocking rates (2.5 to 3 times normal stocking rates) and grazing the pasture out for 4 weeks or less, then removing them until it has grown back and repeating the process in January. This helps to clean up heavily contaminated pastures as any larvae that the animals eat do not have time to develop into egg laying adults within this time. Thus the pastures can be made suitable for susceptible stock particularly over the winter period when many pastures are heavily contaminated. It is a process that might be useful here on reseed. It works because it vacuums the worms up, it bares the paddock out making it more vulnerable to the weather and the drying effects of the wind etc and it does not increase the contamination in the process providing the wethers are given an effective drench onto the pasture and kept there for no longer than 4 weeks.

Having told you all this there is an exception to the rule which is *Nematodirus* which are far less susceptible to weather and larvae can survive more successfully over the summer months as it remains protected in the egg. On the other hand this particular parasite does not usually affect animals much over the age of one or two. So the aim in controlling this worm is don't use the same paddock each year for your young stock, ideally you have two or three paddocks that you can rotate the weaners around from year to year.

So other than drenching at the time of introducing stock into a safe pasture it is also useful to

know when it is good to drench the sheep to get the best year round protection from worms.

Worms are hatching rapidly and dying rapidly in late October through to February. The drier conditions, increased temperatures and lower humidity due to the wind will cause the larvae to die. At this time if we combine what is happening on the paddock with a drench of the sheep and we can effectively reduce both parts of the parasite population.

It is therefore best to drench at the start of this period (late October to early November) and again if required in late January to early February. The second drench is done on the basis of the FEC being 100epg or greater. The first summer drench should be performed on all sheep. If this interferes with lambing then I would recommend doing it as close to the start of lambing as is possible.

The true benefits of drenching in the Falkland Islands have shown increases of roughly 10% in fleece weight, up to 20% in body weight with considerably less weight loss over winter and decreased death rate in weaners by at least 6%. As well as increasing weaner survivability this will lead to improved saleability of new season and old seasons lamb, improved lambing percentages and survivability of lambs as they will be larger and stronger and have more milk.

The other aspect that the previous research in the Falklands has revealed is that the use of reseed should definitely be accompanied with drenching onto these pastures or crops as without it the growth rates have been shown to be no better or even worse than those of sheep grazing native pastures. This makes sense as you are placing them on these pastures at a much higher stocking rate than normal and parasites are most likely to be significant in this situation.

Next issue of the wool press is the How Why and When of FECs.

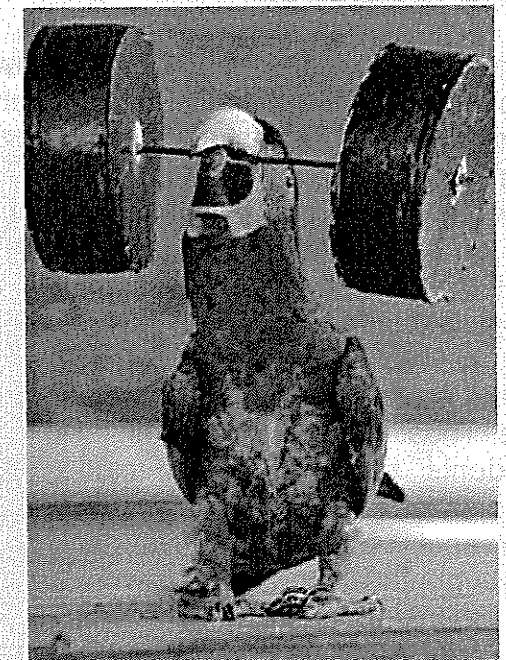
Flying high in bird Olympics

WEIGHT to go!

This parrot is clearly at the beak of his powers.

He's a resident of the Shenyang Bird Island in China, which recently launched its own version of the Olympic Games.

Along with weightlifting, events include basketball and cycling. And none of the feathered beasts get in a flap as they show off their talents.

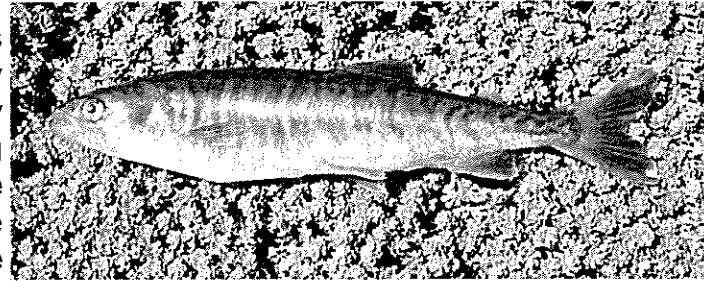


Winging it... a parrot lifts weights

FOCUS ON FRESHWATER FISH FOR THE COMING SUMMER

By Helen Otley, Environmental Planning Department

In the Falkland Islands, the freshwater habitat is home to a number of internationally, nationally and locally important plants and animals. They also provide recreational opportunities, drinking water and provide the terrestrial link to the shallow, marine environment. The native freshwater fish component is integral to the overall function and health of waterways.



Zebra trout

In 1999, New Zealand freshwater fish biologists Bob McDowall, Richard Allibone and Lindsay Chadderton surveyed a number of creeks and rivers on East and West Falkland. They showed that the introduction of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) to waterways during the 1930 – 1950s has resulted in a catastrophic shrinking of the range over which the native zebra trout (*Aplochiton zebra*) and to a lesser extent, the Falklands minnow (*Galaxias maculatus*), are now found. Zebra trout are only now found in land-locked ponds and areas that the brown trout have yet to become established in, such as Lafonia and Philomel Harbour/Lake Sullivan North.

A number of landowners with zebra trout have conservation measures to protect the species, including one landowner putting his zebra trout sites under national nature reserve protection. Environmental Planning Department recently produced a trout fishing poster to highlight to visitors that zebra trout should not be caught and brown trout eggs and fingerlings are not to be transferred between waterways.

In an innovative approach to conserve a species, the FIDC Aquaculture Programme has been busy since 2006 with investigations to see if zebra trout can be farmed for commercial production. They have conducted surveys in Lafonia and kept fish in captivity, and whilst they have pretty much ruled out the fish as a commercial product, they will continue to keep their broodstock on site for further study

Like last year, the zebra trout spawned in captivity at the Moody Brook hatchery with no encouragement needed. Unfortunately, like the year before, the eggs were highly susceptible to a very aggressive fungus found in freshwater. Thus the numbers of eggs surviving to hatch was not as high as one would have wished, despite the use of fungicides and filters.

The Aquaculture Programme has hosted three University students that have conducted studies of zebra trout, including Tiphonie May, who is at Portsmouth University. Last winter, University of Swansea student Ben Perry completed his third year thesis on how brown trout and zebra trout interact by looking at the stomach contents



Aquaculture Programme staff Paul Ellis and Dan Fowler electro-fishing for brown trout at Moody Brook

of both species. His study indicated that the biggest problem was not brown trout eating all the zebra trout but the brown trout eating all the freshwater insects that would normally only be available to zebra trout.

Since the last comprehensive surveys were undertaken 10 years ago, the Aquaculture Programme, Falklands Conservation, Fisheries Department and Environmental Planning Department decided the timing was right to seek the funds to re-survey the key locations, make investigations in un-surveyed areas such as south of Fox Bay and discuss how best to conserve the remaining stocks of zebra trout.

Through the FCO-Overseas Territories Environment Programme, FIG Environmental Studies Budget and South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme, and with in-kind support from Fisheries Department, Falklands Conservation and the Aquaculture Programme, the necessary funding and expertise were recently secured.

A Project Officer has been recruited who will be working in the Falkland Islands, mostly on West Falkland, from late November onwards for a period of 3 months. Dr. Katherine (Frin) Ross has been most recently employed by the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust, based on the Isle of Lewis. She has explored some parts of the Falkland Islands in 2005 on route home from a 2.5 year posting at the British Antarctic Survey's labs at King Edward Point, South Georgia.

To help us plan the fieldwork on both East and West Falkland, we are interested about where freshwater fish, particularly zebra trout, are found. If Bob McDowall couldn't get to your stream or pond in 1999, now is your opportunity to find out what lives beneath the water! For the most part, the sampling will be done by electro-fishing, which does not harm the fish.

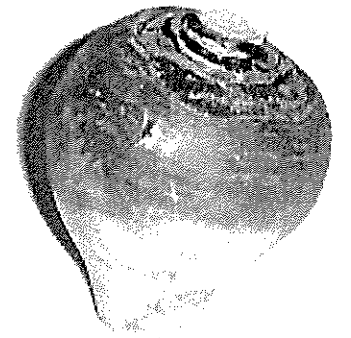
Please phone Helen Otley at Environmental Planning (28480) if you can help us with the project. We will be contacting all landowners about the possibility of survey work in late November.

Recipe Spot

Provided by Sue Smith, Blue Beach Farm

SWEDE CHUTNEY

- 5 lb swede
- 1 ¼ pints vinegar
- 1 ¼ lb sugar
- 7 ozs Sultanas
- 1 onion
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 oz of mild Curry Powder



Peel chop and cook swede in boiling water with salt, drain and mash.

Chop up onion and add it and all remaining ingredients to swede simmer for about an hour or until onion is soft

If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, who not send in your own favourite recipes to share with other readers?

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

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

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Brainteaser...

There is a barrel with no lid and some wine in it. "This barrel of wine is more than half full," said Lucy. "No it's not," says Sarah. "It's less than half full." Without any measuring implements and without removing any wine from the barrel, how can they easily determine who is correct?

Word Search

Can you find all the words listed in the grid below? Hopefully not, as we've kept one out, but it is up to you to determine which one and find the rest!!

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

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| April | Monday |
| August | November |
| December | October |
| February | Saturday |
| Friday | September |
| January | Sunday |
| July | Thursday |
| June | Tuesday |
| March | Wednesday |
| May | |

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

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

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the December edition of the Wool Press – and once again it is full of varied and interesting articles. I'll pass comment on them in no particular order of merit but starting at the front and working my way through to the last page.

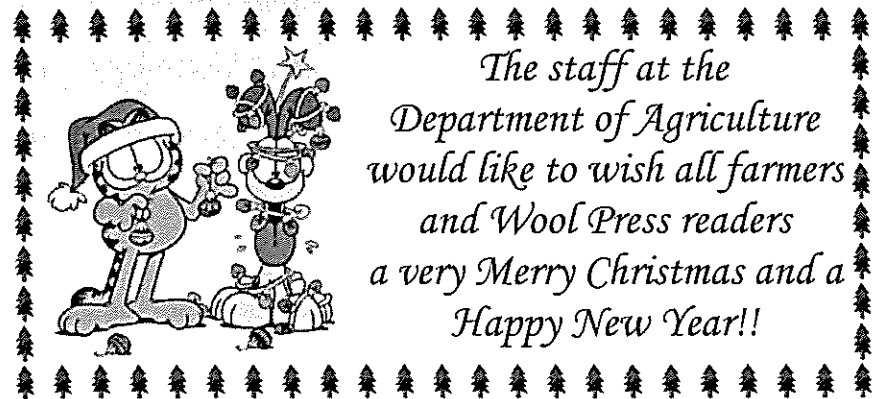
Mac McArthur starts the ball rolling with his informative article about getting cattle to the right weight and body condition for sale to the abattoir – particularly in the period from September through until December. Beef farmers please read and inwardly digest. The next two articles deal with internal parasite control. The first is by Ian Campbell and Zoë Luxton and covers the difficult issue of how to deal with worms on organic farms – you can't use drugs so you have to rely on other means of worm control instead. It is possible to do but it does require quite a lot of pre-planning and organisation as to where various groups of animals will graze throughout the season. This is followed up by an article by Susan Campbell on the use of faecal egg counts in helping you to monitor what is going on inside your livestock so that, if you have to use an expensive anthelmintic, you can use it at the correct time of year and in a group of animals that really need to be dosed. Tony Mills continues his series of articles on this year's wether trials – I am sure you will all be interested in the results to date and we look forward to the final results when they are all slaughtered through the abattoir in January 2009.

This month's farm in profile is Murrell farm and on that rural note there is good news about the further expansion of C&W services to Camp and also an update on the rural development strategy from Lisa Johnston. Ian Campbell has a second article about weaning lambs earlier than is normally practiced in the Falklands – he gives some good reasons for doing so but I expect many of you will also be able to say that there are good reasons why this hasn't happened under Falkland Islands conditions. It also appears to be the time to bid farewell to some members of staff and say hello to some newcomers – thank you for all your hard work to Glynis and Jim and welcome aboard – Brian and Katrina. For those of you intending to send livestock to the abattoir please read the article by John Ferguson – it is so important to plan ahead and not leave things to the last minute and finally keep a look out for any dead mice that are still in reasonable condition – Darren Christie would love to receive them (look out for strange Christmas presents at Government House!))

Let's hope the good start to spring this year carries on into a glorious summer. Fingers crossed – we could have some good lambing percentages this season.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all at the DoA,

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer



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FINISHING YOUNG CATTLE TO MEET MARKET SPECIFICATIONS

By Mac McArthur



Planning

Planning ahead at least a year is one of the keys to having young cattle fat and heavy enough to meet the premium beef price grid FIMCo provides from September to December. To have cattle ready to meet the market specification, despite your being flat out gathering, shearing and lambing, now is the time to be doing the planning. The question is how are you going to get your yearling to 18 month old cattle finished for the early spring and summer of 2009 to meet the premium market specifications?

Weight gain and fattening rate

The premium market specification on the price grid for young cattle is a carcass weight of between 160-280 kgs with a rib fat cover of between 5 and 12 mm. If we take the mean carcass weight of 220 kg, well grown young beef cattle 12-18 months old should have a live-weight of around 275 kg at the present time. At slaughter they need to be 415 kg live weight allowing for a dressing of around 53 per cent.

e.g. $415 \text{ kgs} \times 0.53 = 220 \text{ kgs carcass weight}$

So over the next year they need to put on at least 140 kgs live weight or 0.4 kg/day.

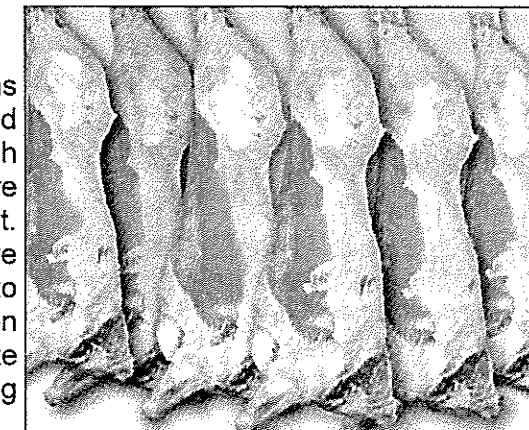
e.g. $415-275 \text{ kgs} = 140\text{kgs}$

$140 \text{ kgs divided by } 365 = 0.4 \text{ kg/day}$

As well as gaining this weight they need to be fattening at a rate that will ensure they have a minimum of between 5-7mm of rib fat. It takes approximately 14 times more quality feed to lay down fat than it does to grow muscle and bone. So even though the premium price is still paid for carcasses with rib fat of up to 12mm, clearly feed is being wasted once the 5-7mm has been attained that could be used to fatten other cattle or sheep.

Finishing Systems for Young Cattle

To fatten young cattle under the harsh winter and spring conditions that prevail in the Falkland Islands it is necessary to provide feed such as swedes, tussac or supplementary feed such as high quality silage, hay or other supplements. To do well, cattle require roughage as well as high protein and energy in their diet. Observations this past winter of young cattle on swedes that have not fattened as quickly as they might have, possibly relates to insufficient white grass runoff areas to allow the cattle to fatten optimally. Swedes have a high water content and adequate quantities of good quality roughage is required to allow young cattle to grow and fatten quickly.



High quality hay, silage or other supplementary feeds are often out of the question because of their high cost, however opportunity exists on a number of farms for small numbers of quiet young cattle to be finished on tussac. It is vitally important that tussac is judiciously grazed to maintain the tussac plants as a long term sustainable resource for the future. It is possible to finish well grown young cattle on high quality reseeded and to do this the grazing management and legume grass balance must be of the highest standard and quality respectively. Young cattle at weaning (6 months old) should weigh around 220 kgs and it is important that as they are growing muscle and bone and starting to fatten that they don't strike a nutritional set back. Finishing on high quality reseeded is clearly only an option over the summer months and these finished cattle will be able to be sold to the price grid specification for the January to April period.

Live Cattle Assessment

A critical skill that farmers who are serious about producing quality beef that meets market specifications is to learn to assess how fat their cattle are. The DoA staff will be working with FIMCo staff over the next while to help farmers with live cattle fat scoring. To assess the fatness of cattle it is necessary to have a strong basic cattle yard with a crush and head bail. Unless you can lay your hands on cattle particularly at low rib fat depths it is very difficult for accurate assessments to be made.

Feeling the amount of fat over the tail head and ribs on a beast and then either comparing that with a scanogram reading of actual fat depth or measuring the carcass hanging on the hook is the only way to learn and practice makes perfect. John Ferguson and his staff are keen for farmers to come to FIMCo to see the carcasses of their cattle hanging up and I would encourage all farmers producing cattle to do so and learn this important cattle marketing skill.



WORM PARASITE CONTROL ON ORGANIC FARMS

By Ian Campbell & Zoë Luxton



The use of conventional sheep drench is not allowed on certified organic farms as part of a routine procedure. There have been a number of organic or herbal drenches trialled but none perform satisfactorily enough to cure a wormy animal. This then puts a huge emphasis on prevention rather than treatment - generally a good philosophy anyway. Prevention often takes good planning and timely actions.

Monitoring

There is nothing to be gained by being in denial of a worm problem. Monitoring actually achieves two things. Firstly and perhaps obviously it tells us how infected the sheep are and if they need a treatment or not. Secondly, and less well understood, it lets us know how infected the pasture is. A high worm count means the pasture will have a high larvae count. Even if you could drench, putting sheep back on the same area will only give a very short respite to the animals- they need to be moved somewhere clean.

Grazing Management

Putting sheep on a short pasture rotation cycle (ie a few days) will mean they will not pick up the larvae from eggs they deposit during their visit, and so they can be kept clean. This however is negated when they do their second rotation as the larvae will all still be there unless it has had a few summer months in between. Longer rotations will have an intermediate benefit and so on.

Longer grass though, particularly important on greens, will dilute the worms down- reducing the number of larvae consumed per bite.

Grazing management can therefore certainly help a lot, but will not prevent the problem entirely, however this can be further improved if we look at different animals.

Worms in sheep are a problem with hoggets and lambing ewes. Mature wethers and dry ewes are pretty resistant and so they can graze the dirty paddocks. Cattle are totally resistant to the sheep worms here so they can also graze these areas- better still. Not only do they not catch the disease but they vacuum up the larvae and kill them off. The paddock they have come off will be that much cleaner too.

We are aware that in the Falkland Islands there are traditionally ewe camps, wether camps and so on; and not much rotational grazing- but that is in fact the worst thing you can do for worm prevention.

Nutrition and Weaning

Leaving the lambs on their mothers too long never helps (see page 13) and good nutrition also helps to fight off the parasite burden by improving natural immunity. A good quality camp, kept clean by spelling or grazing with wethers or cattle, is an essential requirement for lambs to grow out in their first season.

Dietary Factors

Other than nutritional factors *per se*, it is known that some plants contain chemicals that are mildly active against worms- usually condensed tannins. Plants we know of that contain these compounds and are sown here include plantain and lotus. Native plants are of unknown status but it is possible there are some plants grazed that may have an effect. It would be interesting to know if anybody has any feelings about this aspect.

Genetic Selection

Some sheep are genetically more resistant to worms than others and this is something that many sheep breeders around the world are looking at. We will be looking at these traits in the National Stud Flock now that the number of organic farms is significant, but this will take a few years to show much effect. It is of course possible that there has been a strong natural selection pressure on this over the years.

What if it all goes wrong?

Sometimes the worms will become a problem, and this is then a major issue. The organic standards, as well as the Falkland Island code of practice clearly state that these sheep must not be allowed to continue to suffer- they need to be treated.

If you are in this category you should seek help from us. Basically treated sheep on an organic farm will need to be quarantined away from all other sheep for at least three times the normal label withholding period or three weeks- whichever is longer. They must also be clearly identified, and the next wool clip from them must be sold as conventionally grown rather than organic. These animals will never be able to be sold for organic meat.



THE WHY, HOW AND WHEN OF FAECAL EGG COUNTING

By Susan Campbell



The Why

Faecal Egg Counts (FECs) are useful tools to determine the parasite status of your sheep. Although what they are measuring is the number of worm eggs in the faeces this corresponds quite well to the numbers of parasites present in the animal.

FECs are the only way that we can tell in the live sheep what is going on with sheep worms. If we rely on scouring or poor condition as a measure of parasites we will have overlooked a lot of loss of production that has already occurred.

Scouring is a very poor assessment of parasite load as sheep can scour as the result of an allergic reaction to the presence of even small numbers of worms; or conversely they may not scour at all even with quite heavy burdens. Generally it is reasonable to consider that there is a lot of production or subclinical loss going on well before scouring occurs.

FECs also give us a snapshot of the pasture contamination. If high counts are coming from a mob, not only is the parasite level in the mob high, the infective larvae on the paddock will be high too.

The How

It is best to assess the entire mob by carrying out a FEC which involves collecting 10 fresh samples (still warm). This can be done direct from the pasture if you can hold the mob in a small area for a short period of time, or alternatively if you have them in the yards collected from the ground or directly from the animals. Ten is considered to be an adequate number no matter how big the mob is. The samples need to be approximately the same size and at least 5g in size. They can then be placed in a container (eg plastic bag) together and delivered for testing within 24 hours. They must be kept refrigerated or at 4° C until they can be delivered to prevent the eggs from hatching. Different mobs on a farm will have different levels of contamination so all mobs should be checked.

Drenching part of the mob does nothing to clear up the overall worm problem, it only allows them to get re-infected again by the remainder of the mob, and this can happen quite rapidly so you are not in effect gaining anything. Associated with drenching the entire mob is moving them onto fresh, low infected pasture. Drenching the entire mob and placing them back onto heavily contaminated pastures will also make the drench pointless so it is important to know that the pasture they are to be put into is not heavily contaminated with worm larvae.

For example if you are wishing to use a pasture for a susceptible mob of sheep such as your shearlings and the camp currently has wethers on it you can take a FEC from the wethers and this will enable you to have some estimate of the contamination of the paddock that you are planning to use for your shearlings.

In general the younger the animal the more susceptible it will be to parasites. Adult dry sheep are the least susceptible. Rams are also more susceptible than wethers. Pregnancy and lactation especially, lower the resistance and result in higher FECs. This makes paddocks that have been used for lambing most unsuitable for young sheep.

The When

The best time to drench is at the time that best ensures removing the parasites in your sheep at the same time as the pasture contamination is naturally dropping. This effectively reduces parasite numbers most effectively. Late October to early November is the ideal time for the first summer drench for all stock and is not usually accompanied by a FEC. The first FEC should be in January and drenching would be performed on all mobs with a FEC of 100 epg (eggs per gram) or over.

The rest of the tests would be in winter to ensure that the number of parasites is not increasing beyond 300 epg in weaner sheep. This would probably be worth performing every two months in young sheep depending on the type of counts that you are receiving, otherwise longer apart if they remain low. In the adult sheep low counts would possibly indicate one further test in mid winter. Lambs should be drenched at the time of weaning regardless of what their FEC is and then placed on a safe pasture to ensure the best possible protection for these animals for the longest possible time.



WETHER TRIAL – 2008

By Tony Mills

The fourth weighing of the wether trial sheep has been completed. This weighing also coincided with the shearing of both groups. Faecal samples have been taken at each weighing to monitor the worm burden. Based on the September sample results the groups were drenched (average egg count 200 eggs per gram). A sample prior to drenching in October also confirmed that this was the appropriate action with average counts over 400 epg. Body condition score (Table 1 & 2) assessed at each weighing has slipped below 2.0. This level is commonly termed store condition and equates to a carcass fat measurement of 6 to 10mm at the GR site. The level at the last weighing was an average of 1.7 for both groups which is considered to be backward store condition. This would equate to a carcass fat measurement of 0 to 5mm.

Table 1 Goose Green

Team #	Av Lwt 4/4/08	Av Lwt 25/7/08	Av CS	Av Lwt 19/9/08	Av CS	Av Lwt 27/10/08	Av CS
1	25.6	28.5	2.1	30.0	1.2	33.8	1.6
2	17.6	21.0	1.7	22.7	1	25.9	1.5
3	17.5	21.8	1.6	23.5	1.3	27.9	1.7
4	30.5	31.1	2.0	32.2	1.3	36.1	2.0
5	32.1	33.5	2.1	33.2	1.4	37.7	1.7
6	26.5	28.7	1.9	30.3	1.1	33.9	1.7
7	32.4	34.6	2.4	36.1	1.6	39.8	2.0
8	23.8	24.9	2.1	26.0	1.3	28.7	1.6
9	27.3	28.3	1.9	30.0	1.1	33.6	1.7
Average	25.9	28.3	2.0	29.6	1.3	33.4	1.7

Table 2 Stoney Ridge

Team #	Av Lwt 4/4/08	Av Lwt 17/7/08	Av CS	Av Lwt 15/9/08	Av CS	Av Lwt 24/10/08	Av CS
1	24.5	24.1	1.9	25.8	1.3	29.5	1.8
2	17.7	19.8	1.6	19.7	1.2	21.3	1.4
3	17.2	19.1	1.8	19.4	1.1	22.1	1.4
4	27.7	25.7	1.9	25.5	1.2	29.6	2.0
5	33.0	31.0	2.1	31.4	1.3	33.5	1.9
6	25.2	25.8	2.0	25.2	1.3	28.3	1.7
7	33.9	32.8	2.1	33.4	1.5	36.8	2.0
8	25.1	22.4	1.9	23.6	1.1	26.7	1.7
9	29.2	30.0	2.0	28.3	1.3	30.6	1.6
Average	25.9	25.7	1.9	25.6	1.2	29.0	1.7

Table 1 & 2 also show the change in liveweight from the start of the trial. It can be seen that on average the trial groups at Goose Green have continued to put on weight from their initial weighing. If we use the total group average liveweight and convert it to a dressed carcass weight using a dressing percentage of 40% the dressed weight would be 13.3kg (33.4 x 0.40 = 13.34). This weight would seem a suitable carcass weight to have based on the FIMCo price grid however given that the body condition score is below the ideal, additional time will be needed to meet the specification. The increase in liveweight also indicates that there is sufficient feed to allow for growth however its quality is insufficient to add body condition. In fact only teams 4 and 7 may achieve the necessary carcass weight and quality to meet the FIMCo price grid.

The trial groups at Stoney Ridge have all recovered their weight lost over winter and are now on average

marginally above their initial liveweights. If we apply the same process to determine the carcass weight, we see that the dressed carcass weight would only just fit into the grid (29.0 x 0.40 = 11.6). However given the body condition score they would not be deemed suitable. The situation for both groups highlights that it is possible to have sheep with suitable liveweights prior to the start of the export season but their body condition will let them down. Obviously the next issue is teeth. At the December weighing all animals will be mouthed to determine this situation. The aim is to have the animals slaughtered in January soon after the season has opened. It is also our intention to hold a hoof (live) and hook (dead) assessment day in conjunction with FIMCo. This should provide a good opportunity to discuss a number of the issues relating to meeting the price grid.

Table 5 & 6 show the wool test results for both groups. Interestingly all the groups on the West have yielded lower than those on the East. Also the average greasy fleece weight (GFW) is lower for each group. It is also evident that we have a micron range from 19 through to 26 obviously reflecting the differences in breeds. Also worth noting is that the medium wools average GFW and yields are close to that of the strong wools. Wool values will be calculated and will be printed in the next Wool Press along with the carcass values. I'm sure these will be well discussed.

Table 3 Goose Green

Team	Mic	Yld	GFW	CFW
1	21.9	71.4	2.81	2.01
2	21.5	70.6	1.89	1.33
3	23.5	69.7	2.07	1.44
4	24.3	69.5	2.87	1.99
5	24.7	68.9	2.98	2.05
6	20.2	74.5	2.69	2.00
7	26.0	69.4	3.00	2.08
8	21.9	70.9	2.57	1.82
9	19.6	72.7	2.44	1.77
Av	22.6	70.9	2.63	1.86

Table 4 Stoney Ridge

Team	Mic	Yld	GFW	CFW
1	22.5	68.6	2.22	1.53
2	22.6	66.0	1.33	0.88
3	21.1	69.2	1.59	1.10
4	23.8	64.0	2.09	1.33
5	24.1	64.3	2.51	1.61
6	21.0	63.9	2.16	1.38
7	25.4	65.9	2.58	1.70
8	21.0	65.6	1.93	1.27
9	20.5	65.9	2.27	1.50
Av	22.4	66.0	2.12	1.40

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RURAL BROADBAND EXPANSION CONTINUES

By Cable & Wireless

Cable & Wireless are pleased to report that good progress continues to be made in offering upgraded phone and the introduction of broadband services to camp residents.

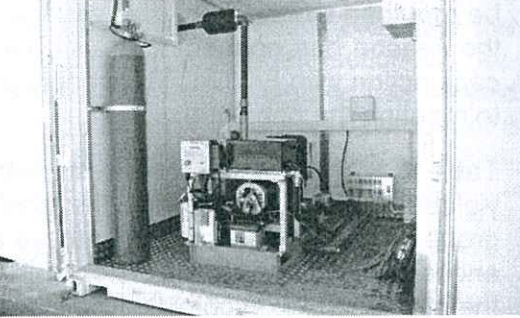
Engineers from Cable & Wireless have worked throughout the winter months building infrastructure at a number of new sites on East & West Falkland. These sites will provide the main backbone of the new network. Experience gained from 20 years of operating the current network has been taken into account in providing a more robust and resilient network; increased power back up e.g. wind generators, upgraded solar arrays & diesel generators at main sites, relocation of towers to provide better resilience to weather effects and once the build is complete, due to the protected design configuration, will offer a more robust reliable service.

Customers around Fitzroy, Fitzroy Ridge, Goose Green and Mount Kent are connected. New access equipment has been installed at Port Howard and Fox Bay which is undergoing final testing before customers are cutover to the new phone system and offered broadband connections for the first time. These cutovers are expected imminently. Residents of North Arm are the next in line scheduled to be cutover at the end of November /early December.

Work is also ongoing to deploy the WiMax technology that will be used to connect individual properties in more remote locations. A number of customers served by the new WiMax transmitter at Sapper Hill are already using the WiMax network for broadband. Residents in the vicinity of the new transmission site at Malo Hill and the existing site at Pleasant Peak will be the next subscribers to be offered the new voice and broadband service. Upgrades will start in December.

So far the project has seen over 50% of the project costs being spent with local businesses. This figure may rise as work continues into early 2009 on building the final infrastructure on both East and West Falkland which will allow the remaining customers to be upgraded to the new network in line with the target completion date of 31st March 2009.

New generators installed at core sites



New site at Mt Kent



New site at Glorious Hill



New site at Malo Hill



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Wednesday 24th 8:30am – 12:00pm

Thursday 25th, Friday 26th, Monday 29th Closed

Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st 8:30am – 3.00pm

Thursday 1st January Closed

Normal opening hours will resume from
Friday 2nd January, 2009.



Don't forget to keep the 27th December free, come
along to the Racecourse and join us in celebrating
our 25th Anniversary.

Kid's entertainment, free barbecue, cash bars, live
music, disco and a sparklers display.

6:00pm to 1:00am.



FARM IN PROFILE: MURRELL FARM

Property Name: Murrell Farm

Location: East Falklands

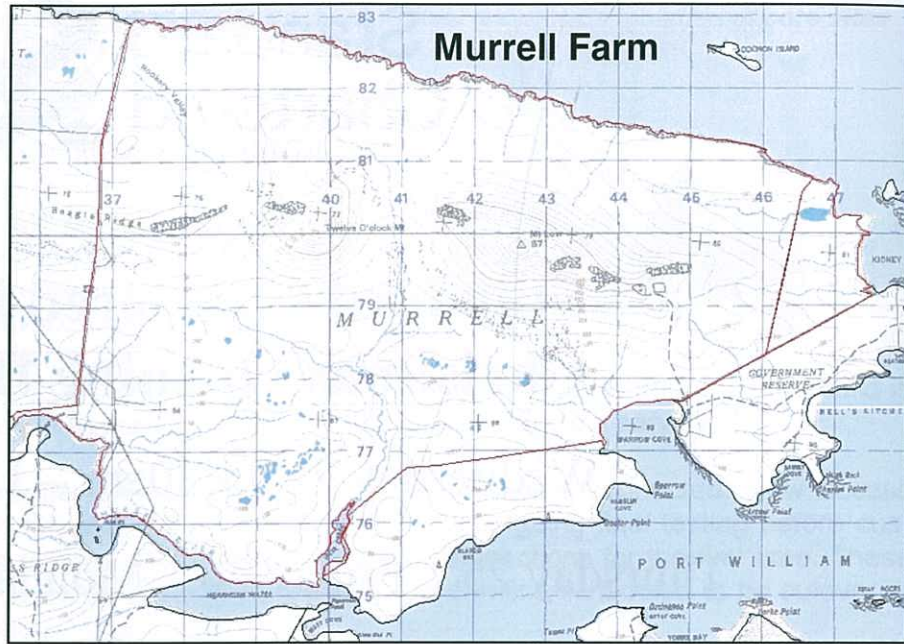
Owners: Adrian & Lisa Lowe

Farm size: 10,000 acres

Sheep: Approx 3,000

Cattle: Approx 50

Murrell Farm is home to Adrian and Lisa Lowe and their family. As well as running the property as a farm, they have a very successful tourist business. They say that generally Lisa deals with the farming side whilst Adrian covers the tourism side - and when needs must both help each other!!



History of Murrell Farm

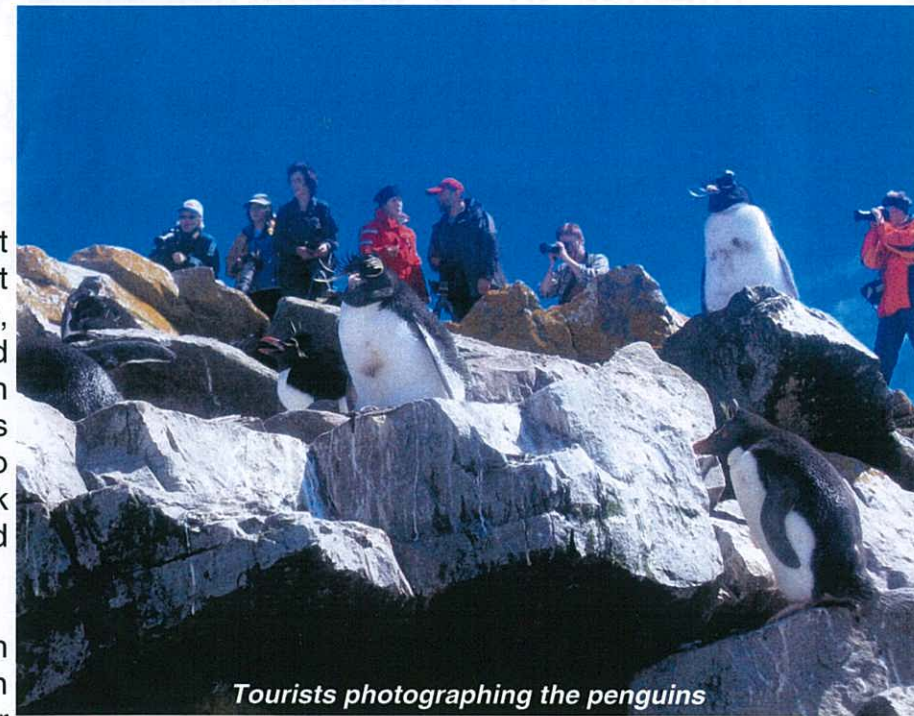
Originally, Murrell Farm was part of Green Patch, which was split up in 1980 when Lisa's parents, along with Tim Miller, purchased the Murrell. They say from then until the 1982 Conflict the days were hard, there were no hand-outs and it was either sink or swim, but Lisa's father Claud was no sinker.

Following Claud's death, the farm was handed down and Adrian and Lisa took over in October 1995. Farming was not new to either of them, as they have always worked on farms and love the lifestyle.

Farming the Murrell

The sheep at the Murrell are 60% Corriedale and 40% Polwarth, which Adrian and Lisa run for wool.

Although the Murrell sees good lambing percentages, they do not run enough sheep to



Tourists photographing the penguins

supply the abattoir with animals. They say that a lot of their sheep are old and they are working on reducing the age down to five years.

About fifty head of cattle are stocked at the Murrell, originally pure Ayrshire ex-Noah's Ark. They have now introduced Red Poll into the herd, breeding the cattle for milk and beef for their own consumption.

FARM IN PROFILE: MURRELL FARM



Murrell sheep with Stanley in the background

In five to ten years time, Adrian & Lisa see their farm with young sheep and an ever-growing tourist business.

Tourists

They are lucky enough to have four types of penguin on their land and in the 1999/2000 season, working with Sullivan Shipping and the cruise ships, they had a total of 447 passengers visited. In the 2007/2008 season this increased to 6,362 and they also provide tea, coffee and home-made cakes.



Serving tea and cakes to the tourists

Roads and Peat Stoves

The construction of a road to the Murrell has made a big difference to the Lowes and they can now have a social life if they want to.

Adrian and Lisa say that maybe they are behind the times with peat and no twenty-four hour power, milking cows and doing their own baking, but it is effective and works for them!!



Murrell Farm Settlement

CATTLE AI/ET OPPORTUNITY

An opportunity exists with Frans Jooste (Reproductive Specialist) visiting the Falkland Islands in late January to utilise embryos held in stock at the Department of Agriculture. The breeds include Angus, Shorthorn, South Devon and Charolais x Murray Grey. Also available is semen from the following breeds – Red Poll, South Devon, Belted Galloway, Hereford, Shorthorn, Jersey and Devon. Because of the short timelines involved we require expressions of interest to utilise this material no later than Tuesday 2nd December. Please phone or email Tony Mills to register your expression of interest. Ph 27355, Email tmills@doa.gov.fk



CONCORDIA BAY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



DECEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5 Ferry	6 Ferry	7 Ferry
8 Ferry	9	10 Ferry	11	12 Ferry	13	14 Ferry
15	16	17	18	19 Ferry	20 Ferry	21 Ferry
22 Ferry	23 Ferry	24	25	26	27	28 Ferry
29 Ferry	30 Ferry	31 Ferry				

Departure times will vary around the Christmas period. Always check with the office before travelling. The office may be unmanned over the Christmas period, but we will be available on the phone.

Telephone Numbers

Adam: 55299

Mandy: 52468

22300 will always get to someone!

**WORKBOAT SERVICES WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

WEANING LAMBS

By Ian Campbell

From what I can gather weaning lambs is not something generally done here - only at ewe shearing when the lambs are by then many months old. There are a number of reasons why this practice should be examined - it may be that some great opportunity is lost.

Milk production in ewes - Milk production in ewes depends on many things, however for these Polwarth/Merino type sheep on relatively poor quality pastures it will peak shortly after the ewe gives birth and reduce over time. After about seven weeks the ewe is down to a relatively low milk production. Enough to offer the lamb comfort rather than nutrition.

The lamb diet - Lambs start life exclusively on a milk diet. With access to roughage and the bacteria in their environment they rapidly develop a rumen. Milk actually bypasses the rumen, but by the time this has happened the ewe is drying off. Whilst the lamb does still get some milk, most of its daily nutrient intake comes from pasture it grazes for itself.

Selective grazing - Sheep are selective grazers, and the cunning old ewe is far more selective than the lamb. As a consequence the lamb is left with the rubbish feed and the best quality feed is eaten by the ewe. Areas like greens are heavily grazed by ewes, and lambs will not get their share when a lot of hungry ewes are there before them.

Parasites - Worm parasites are cunning too and around the time a ewe is due to lamb they increase their egg laying because there will be a new population of lambs to infect. Leaving the lambs with the ewes rather than putting the lambs onto a fresh paddock will increase the worm burden. Worm burdens on the greens will be high.

Lamb growth rates - Left with poorer feed (a negative) and an increased parasite burden (another negative) the growth rate of the lambs is not as good as it could be if they were worm free on good feed, even though they are getting some milk (a positive) from their mothers.

Effect of poor growth rate - If you are selling lambs for meat then the weight the lambs are will have an easily measurable impact. If you are keeping them on to grow out, there is also a financial impact. Survival of weaners over the first winter is likely to be heavily influenced by their weight entering winter. Most animals on winter quality feed will lose weight. If they get down to critical weights they will die, but even before this stage their resilience will be greatly reduced. Bad weather, snow and cold wind is out of anybody's control, but bigger fitter weaners are more resilient to the effects of these. Because the penalty of poor growth in February/March is increased mortality in August/September often the link is not made!

A word on pastures - It can be a good way to utilise a small feed resource. Putting 500 ewes and 300 lambs onto a special place will not use that feed as well as putting just the 300 lambs alone onto it. Once dried off the ewes will be far more resistant to worms and be able to spell themselves longer, and recover better, for next years joining.

Planning - An early weaning may well be the solution but requires planning. You need to have;

- A tight joining so you have a tight lambing spread
- The lambs marked early enough to be fully recovered
- A good fresh paddock to put them onto (drench if needed)
- Good fences to stop them getting back to mum.

Organic? - Organic farms have an extra challenge. Currently there are no effective organic worm treatments and if sheep become wormy it will be very hard to deal with. Quarantine areas and good stock records are essential. For organic farms the planning is the same - but more important. Using pasture rotations, cattle to graze out sheep worms, monitoring worm levels and of course judicious weaning are all part of the armoury and are the tools of an organic farmer. Non organic farmers may add a strategic drench but the principal of prevention rather than cure is a good one.

**Glynis King
Office Manager/PA**

After ten years of working for the Agricultural Department, I am finally moving on to pastures new. My last day with the department is the 3rd December where I will then transfer to the Post Office to take up my new role as Deputy Post Master.

It has been a very enjoyable chapter of my working life and some of the highlights and most memorable moments have to be planting the shelter belts at Port Howard and Bold Cove in the middle of the winter in deep snow!!!! I soon developed my own way of tree planting as you can see from this awful picture (thank you Sarah)!!! that it was easiest for me to roll from hole to hole and pop in a tree, the Michelin Man has nothing on me!!!! It used to take me about an hour to get rigged up with help from Ginny and Sarah into my boiler suit which then had to have the legs folded in half for the correct length. The week was great and Jimmy and Ginny were marvellous hosts' thank you both.

I then helped out with putting up the reindeer fence at Saladero. It was then that I learned to drive a tractor and quickly thanks to Geds Ford. I was doing well on the normal flat ground then I came to

**Jim Robins
Agricultural Assistant**

When I first arrived in the Islands I would never have guessed that in the following 18 months I would be getting up at 5am to strap down ewes in cradles for the A/ET programme, be jabbing and rolling wool bales or attempting to rugby tackle sheep after chasing them round paddocks! I know to farmers here that all seems like an average day, but to me it was something very new, even eye opening and it has been thoroughly enjoyable learning and experiencing so much about agriculture and camp life in the Islands.

At no point have I ever tried to pretend that I know the ins and outs of Falklands agriculture, but I appreciate how many farmers were keen to try and help me understand all the 'hows' and 'whys' of what they do. I have an enormous respect for the dedication and enthusiasm so many farmers have for the long, cold and often thankless work that makes up a day in agriculture here. Seeing that sort of satisfaction is life affirming and has probably contributed to my own decision to change direction to something that will hopefully be just as fulfilling. I'm moving back to Southampton with my partner

a rather tricky steep ditch and he refused to help me out, I had to do something or stay there all night, so I settled my nerves and got on with it and to my astonishment it went very well. Tractor driving became fairly easy after that..... had to show him what a girl could do and that I was no wimp!

It was back to the office after that and no more adventures out for me!! I moved from the Agricultural Department to the Minerals Department in 2004 when Phyl took over as Head of both departments.

It was not an easy decision to make to leave the department as it has been a great place to work and I will miss working with everyone but I feel it is the right time for me to make a move and to try something new.

No doubt I will hear from you all when the mail goes missing!!!!!!

Joey, who I know will be missed by any farmer or shearer who's had a bad back or any other random joint or muscle problem in the last year and gone to see her in her osteopathic capacity! I'm planning on heading back to university to do a masters degree in Biodiversity & Conservation, probably partly a result of seeing so much that I consider worth conserving out on all the farms I've visited in my time with the DoA!

Thanks to everyone both in the DoA and out in camp who took the time to teach me something new and to the DoA for the opportunity to work with a great bunch of people, I'm sure that a lot of what I picked up will prove useful in future with conservation work. No doubt I'll see a lot of you again anyway as these Islands get under your skin and it just doesn't seem feasible to think I won't be back again at some point in future!



**Brian Aldridge
Saladero Farm Manager**

I started work for the Department of Agriculture as Farm Manager at Saladero at the beginning of November and most of you will already know me.

I was working at Goose Green as Farm Manager before moving to Saladero, I moved to Goose Green in 1981 as a general farm hand and progressed up to Manager, a job which had its highs and lows, but I very much enjoyed working and living there.

I applied for the job as Farm Manager at Saladero as I wanted a change and a chance to do something different and especially be involved in a different kind of managed grazing system and more intense farming practices.

Since arriving at Saladero it has been interesting to say the least. The first night Diana and I spent here the hot water cylinder burst at 2.30 am, which had the house full of steam and the fire alarm going crazy plus the newly moved cats climbing the curtains (if there had been any hung).

I am now busy doing general maintenance and trying to find my way around as when Saladero and Brenton Loch were part of Goose Green they were 2



camps now there are 43 paddocks/camps of varying sizes with some very good pasture and reseeds. We have done some shearing and will start mothering up lambs in the next couple of weeks.

What I am looking forward to most in the job is working with the DOA and getting involved in the grazing management systems, preparing and selecting rams for the Ram Sale and also getting more involved with the Joint Ventures and the Group Breeding Schemes. We are also looking forward to hosting open days as there is a lot to see at Saladero especially the shelter belts and the reseeds, so hopefully we will see some old and new faces in the near future.

**Katrina Stephenson
Office Manager/PA for Minerals & Agriculture**

As you will be aware from Glynis' article she is off to explore pastures new. As Glynis is leaving the department it has been decided that my role as Personal Assistant to the Director of Minerals will be combined with Glynis' and I will now be known as Office Manager / PA for the Department of Minerals & Agriculture. I am looking forward to expanding my role and being more involved with farmers and the Department of Agriculture, as well as still dealing with the Minerals side of things.

I would like to wish Glynis all the best of luck in her new job as Deputy Post Master and thank her for everything that she has taught me in preparing for my new role in Agriculture. Luckily for me Glynis has not moved far and is only across the road, so I can shout out the window if I need help.



Expressions of Interest in Managing the National Beef Herd (NBH)

The NBH will no longer be run at White Rock after May 2009 . The herd is fully performance recorded and being managed intensively to achieve high calving percentages. Regular weighing, artificial insemination, pregnancy testing and other management requires the cattle to be yarded, weighed and handled regularly to ensure management is at the optimum level and all NBH cattle are quiet to handle.

If anyone is interested in intensively managing this herd of around 50 cattle and calves please contact Mac McArthur on 27355.

PLANNING AHEAD – TO MEET LIVESTOCK SUPPLY DATES

By John Ferguson, Falkland Islands Meat Company

With the seventh export season looming and a new transport system in place from the West and Islands, we are confident this will provide more certainty and efficiency in terms of animals arriving at the plant and the planning thereof - for both FIMCo and producers alike. With this in mind, Doug will shortly be sending out the proposed dates for livestock collection, based on information provided by producers, the FIMCo Production Plan and allowing some leeway, where possible. This type of system is essential for the most cost effective production and transport system, as used in other plants and where we have been trying to get for some years now. I'm not suggesting that it will be that straightforward or without difficulties, but it has to be the target.

FIMCo will try to be as accommodating as possible, especially in terms of clashes with shearing dates, but even with the best will, it won't always work in right for everyone. However, by now, the supply of animals for meat should be an essential and integrated part of the farming calendar, not just an 'add on' or 'when I've got time to go see what I've got available'. During export production, the operating costs are very high, and any deviation from the maximum (and most cost efficient) number that can be processed each day (475-500) becomes very costly.

Whilst FIMCo will do its best to fit in with producers, **it must be stressed that farmers also have a responsibility to work to meet agreed supply dates.** It is often impossible to fill the vacuum created by a late notice shortfall in livestock, and this directly affects both the export and non-export periods. There have been occasions where the truck has actually been en-route or arrived at the farm, before this is known!! Clearly, this is unacceptable, and whilst a penalty covering the hire of the truck may be imposed should this happen in future, this goes nowhere towards the cost of the staff or plant waiting for animals – it takes about 3 days for all parts of the plant to get back 'on track' following a stoppage of more than a few hours. The key messages are:

Planning –

- Discuss and agree potential supply dates and expected volumes with the Logistics Officer (ie numbers suitable for processing should be the way producers are thinking, now over 6 years into the meat industry, not what may be available). I know this is not always easy, but without some sort of firm planning, it is difficult to operate effectively.

- Plan to finish the animals as they are to be supplied, especially if transport dates are to be staggered some way apart.
- The same applies to the planning ahead of cattle & sheep supplies for next winter etc, and **we are keen to hear from farmers who wish to discuss Supply Agreements, which may be one or more years in advance, so that breeding programmes can be planned well ahead**

Preparation –

- Whilst it is not FIMCo's place to advise on how finishing is achieved, it is essential that all animals being sold for meat are properly finished in terms of condition, and ready to meet the agreed supply dates. Weighing of lambs and cattle is as important as condition scoring.
- A vital part of this is actually looking at the animals on a regular basis so that finishing regimes can be altered if required. Too often, we know that people are only gathering or looking at their animals a couple of days before they are due to be transported!
- Of animals ready for transport – holding off food, keeping them dry prior to loading onto the truck etc, according to the Preparation for Transport information previously supplied by Doug.

Communication –

- Please keep the Logistics Officer informed of all changes to volumes available, condition of the stock, issues with supply dates etc – the sooner we have information, the more able we are to react and accommodate requests for changes.
- **Everyone should be able to provide at least 2 weeks notice of changes.** FIMCo will endeavour to do the same.
- We all know Doug's shy of using the phone, but please do keep him informed..!!

Mutton pricing:

Following a successful trial period during this winter, the FIMCo Board have approved the visual Fat Class system for the grading of mutton carcasses (only). So, please check your Kill Sheets and Lot Summaries carefully to see how your animals turned out. **Essentially, mutton will be paid on a mixture of weight and condition.**

The weather has been reasonably kind so far, with some rain of late, so we hope you all have a successful season. Finally, a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone from the management and staff at Sand Bay.

CORE & GRAB SAMPLING MACHINERY

By Rodney Lee

As many of you will know, the Falkland Islands Wool Co has been awarded the contract to operate the machinery at the wool warehouse at FIPASS. We have now managed to do a few trials and have come up with the following rates :-

- Coring samples per lot £20
- Core and grabbing for samples per lot £25
- Double Dumping per dump (two bales) £10

There is a chance we **may** be able to reduce the coring rate for smaller lots (10 bales or less) once we have put more through but will advise on this sometime in the future.

We are also managing the DoA forklift so if you need to use it and the key is not already there, please ring 51576 (Rodney) or 53018 (Lindsey) to be advised where to pick it up from. It would be useful if we could be notified when wool is coming in and which shipper it will be allocated to as we are hoping to co-ordinate this part of the warehouse as well. For further information please ring 22297 or 51576.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

By Lisa Johnston



A broad representation of the Stanley community attended the second phase Stanley meeting of the Rural Development Strategy on October 23. RDS Policy Officer Pippa Christie said, "The workshop was made all the more useful for the invaluable input from the Stanley business community. We were very keen for them to bring their expertise to the table and in fact at the Goose Green meeting it was suggested by a number of farmers that we consult with Stanley business people in order to 'pick their brains', and also to ascertain how rural areas might attract business relocation or how businesses might expand to rural areas."

The second phase of RDS meetings have taken place at Fox Bay, Goose Green and Stanley and examined questions relating to population and the economy such as:

- What does the future Camp population need to be? What is the vision for the future population in Camp?
- How should the population be distributed and what are the benefits?
- What in economic terms is needed to support the population and the services required?
- Can current economic activity support the vision and if not what do we need to do in terms of economic activities to achieve this?

The groups also looked at how to achieve an increased population and stronger economy and what would need to be done in order to facilitate businesses and employment and the provision of goods and services.

Mrs Christie said, "Those attending the workshops were very focused and put a great deal of energy into responding to the questions while attempting to avoid a simple 'wish-list' situation." Despite the physical distance between the three meetings there were a great many similarities in responses, confirmed Mrs Christie: "It was generally felt that business incentives, land release incentives, investment in improving communications and services, and the development of partnerships between Camp and Stanley businesses, as well as attracting new businesses, would be advantageous in terms of increasing the population and developing the economy."

Around 100 individuals attended the Camp meetings and approximately 30 attended the Stanley meeting. A short report on the results will be released in December.

The next step for the RDS will involve the collating of information, and research based on the results. It will also be vital to dovetail the RDS process to the Economic Development Strategy.

For more information on the RDS, or to share your views, please contact Community Development Workers SeAled PR (22432), Nuala McKay (27211) or Pippa Christie (27322).

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CABLE & WIRELESS internet

SHOPPING OVER CHRISTMAS

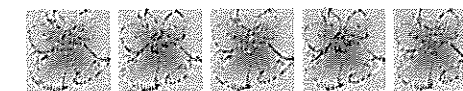
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VALUE

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HAVE AN ORDER? CALL 22234 AND ASK FOR MARIE



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Open everyday

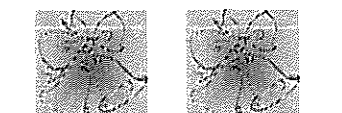
9am - 9pm

Except

Christmas Day - Closed

& New Years Eve

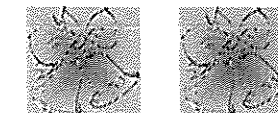
Early Closing - 8pm



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QUALITY

DEAD MOUSE HUNTING SERVICES REQUIRED!

By Darren Christie

Some of you may have seen a recent story on the BBC about a project based at York University, which uses mouse genetics to track human migration through history. The same project is also looking at how mice have adapted to different environments.

The web address for the story is: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7645908.stm>

The project team is really interested in gathering samples from the Falklands. Ideally, they would like 30 mice from the East and 30 from the West, including the offshore Islands. The only way this is achievable is with the help of everyone in Camp. 3 mice have already been sent in from the West, which is really very much appreciated, thank you.

It would be fantastic if you could be on the lookout for dead mice that are in a reasonable state (more or less whole and preferably not mouldy!). If you do find a mouse/mice, please could you write a label with the date and location found on it, stick the mouse/mice and label in a plastic bag, freeze, and send to me, Darren Christie - if you warn FIGAS/me you are sending them in, I can collect them from the airport rather than them festering in the Post Office until I check the box!

If posting, please only post Monday-Thursday so that they don't sit in the post over the weekend. Alternatively, if you're visiting town and want to drop dead mice off, then please deliver them to the Government House Offices.

Your help would be really appreciated with this. Please give me a shout if you have any queries (tel 52811 or email djchristie@mac.com).



PUZZLE PAGE

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

Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

DingBat Brain Games

Flex your brain, free your mind, and think laterally

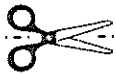
Hint on how to solve DingBat:

Look carefully at the positions of the words. A lot of dingbats depend on prepositions like above and below, over and under, before and after.

In some dingbats, the shape of the word is important. What does it look like? Is it bent? Turned over? Backward? Really big? Describing (out loud) exactly what you're seeing may give you the clue that you need.

GOOD

1000000



Dates for the Diary



- Wednesday
3rd December Dog Dosing Day (Droncit)
- Monday
8th December Public Holiday - Battle Day
- 25th & 26th
December Public Holidays - Christmas Day & Boxing Day
- Monday
29th December West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show
- There will be all the usual classes and competitions
- Public Holiday - Christmas Holiday
- 30th & 31st
December Government Holidays
- Thursday
1st January Public Holiday - New Years Day
- Raft Race
- Contact John Clifford for more details

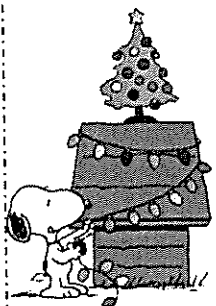
Last Month' Solution

Answer: September

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

Brainteaser - Tilt the barrel until the wine barely touches the lip of the barrel. If the bottom of the barrel is visible then it is less than half full. If the barrel bottom is still completely covered by the wine, then it is more than half full.

DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2009/2010



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

Thank you for your assistance.

Date	Drug	Date	Drug
14 th January 2009	Drontal	12 th August 2009	Droncit
25 th February 2009	Droncit	23 rd September 2009	Droncit
8 th April 2009	Droncit	4 th November 2009	Droncit
20 th May 2009	Droncit	16 th December 2009	Droncit
1 st July 2009	Drontal	27 th January 2010	Drontal