

# THE WOOL PRESS

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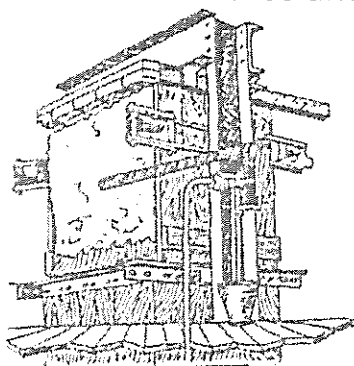
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*Plus all the usual features and more!!*



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## EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to all readers and we trust you all had a good Christmas break. There is additional coverage in this publication of the sheep shearing competition at North Arm and the Fox Bay Ram and Fleece Show that took place over the holiday. The organisers and competitors are all congratulated for making the events so enjoyable. Tony Mills, a judge at the ram show, mentions the three T's (Teeth, Testicles and Toes) when selecting rams. This is a catchy way to ensure selection covers the critical indicators for a good ram.

2009 will be a challenging year for the farming industry with low wool prices and high overheads. Thankfully fuel costs have come down compared to their peak in mid 2008. The Department of Agriculture is ready to advise and assist farmers wherever possible in critical decision making and long term farm planning during these uncertain times. To kick this off Ian Campbell has written an article on the value of ewes. This thought provoking piece spells out the need for more breeding ewes if we are to grow a successful meat industry and is well worth a read. Is there any merit in trying to develop a market for older, surplus ewes for breeding? Let Ian or I know your views.

The Abattoir export season is underway and we wish John and his team all the best with the production line and processing in the coming months. The Department is pleased to have Nigel Eaton here as the Meat Hygiene Inspector and Laura Ceballos as OVS for the season. Doug Martin's article on FIMCO illustrates the changes to transportation of sheep and cattle from the West and islands this year and additional grading of carcasses by "fat class".

Sarah reminds us in this month's publication not to forget the **movement certificates** when supplying sheep to the abattoir or to other farms!

This edition looks forward to the sheep ET/AI programme and Michylla Seal's article is an excellent prompt for those participating in this year's programme. Please take a few minutes to read it.

The wether trials are due to conclude this month and Tony Mills is keen to discuss the results with farmers at the abattoir on 22 January. It would be good to see you there.

Best wishes with shearing.

Regards

Phyl

**Mrs Phyl Rendell**  
Director of Minerals & Agriculture

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## HOW MUCH IS A YOUNG EWE WORTH?

*By Ian Campbell*

During the next export season the price for lamb will be £1.35/kg dressed weight - to a maximum of £25 per animal. In effect FIMCo is putting a floor price in the ewe lamb market.

Ethically perhaps slaughtering ewe lambs on an archipelago where the ewe flock is in need of these animals is not ideal, but commercially it may be a good thing for those farms who have these animals as surplus to their own requirements. It may well be the best price they can get anywhere - so that is just sound business.

If you were to keep these ewe lambs or sell them off to other farmers for breeding purposes - what would they be worth? The commercial ewe market in the Falklands appears to be very under developed.

Let's look at a flock of 100 ewe lambs with an average value of £16 per head (so they average around 12 kg dressed weight).

**Option 1** - Sell them now for NSL (new seasons lamb) and earn £1600.

**Option 2** - Keep them and grow wool and breed from them and sell what's left after 6 years.

The first year you suffer a loss since you forego £1,700 in hand because you would have had to spend at least £1/head to keep them on.

After the second year you have some wool to sell, but you are still about £500 behind option 1. Also some died over winter; but you still have 90 young ewes ready to start their breeding life.

After the third year you are now ahead - even if we factor in an interest rate for the £1,700 you borrowed two years ago to survive. Plus you still have 85 ewes in the prime of their lives.

If you keep them for 5 lambings, the wool and lamb returns will be four times as much as the value you would have got as a NSL - allowing for death rates, 60% lambing and only a minimal salvage value for not even all the remaining sheep at the end.

This analysis shows, the price for a female NSL is still far less than her long term commercial value as a wool growing, breeding ewe. This would still be the case even if they were to get the full £25. A better scenario still would be to shear them and sell a fleece before selling them as OSL and grossing £30 - if you don't lose any over winter - but that is still not as good as possible long term returns. In other words they are worth more as a long term breeder and wool cutter than FIMCo is offering for these animals as slaughter lambs.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
No of ewes	100	90	86	81	77	73	
Wool cut/ewe		2.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3	
Wool £/kg		2	2	2	2	2	
£ Wool income		450	599	569	494	440	
Lambs at £16		54	51	49	46	44	
Lamb value £		864	821	780	741	704	
£ Ewe Costs	100	90	86	81	77	73	
£ Ewe Sale						308	
£ Income option 2	-100	1,224	1,334	1,267	1,157	1,378	6,261
£ Income option 1	1,600						1,600

### Assumptions

- 10% death rate in hoggets
- 5% death rate in ewes
- 60% Lambing
- 70% of remaining ewes sold for £6 in 2014

# KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL AI / ET PROGRAMME

By Dr Michylla Seal, AllStock (WA) Pty Ltd

In a previous article in the Wool Press I discussed the need to forward plan for your programmes, giving particular attention to recipient/donor/AI ewes in your programmes. In order to get the best possible results from your programmes, particular attention needs to be paid to the nutrition and management of ewes. Even though the breeding season is months away, at this stage post weaning ewe nutrition and management need to be considered. Whether you are using natural or artificial breeding methods nutrition and management of your ewes needs to be considered to allow for a successful breeding programme this coming season.

## Selection of Ewes

**DONOR EWES** - It is vital that donor ewes are treated with the utmost care prior to and during a programme to ensure you attain the maximum result from your ewes. Ensure stress is minimised to attain the most from your ewes. Aim to have donor ewes in a paddock close to the yards where programming will take place to reduce stress during programming. The longer they have to become acclimatised to paddock (camp) conditions the better. The genetics of the donor are not the only factor to consider when selecting ewes as donors in an embryo transfer programme.

- Look for a body condition with a score between 2 to 3. Ewes that are too fat are just as bad, and are often worse than, ones that are in poor condition. Plan well ahead when selecting ewes, so that they can be in the right body condition at flushing.
- Ewes should not have previous fertility problems

**RECIPIENT/AI EWES** - Recipient (surrogate mother) selection and management is probably the most crucial factor in the success of an embryo transfer programme. Good quality recipients, exposed to minimal stress, are vital to attain good conception rates in an embryo transfer programme. Aim to have recipient ewes on the property for as long as possible before embryo transfer (4-6 months is ideal). The longer they have to become acclimatised to local feed, weather and management the better. About 4-8 weeks before an AI programme, attention should be paid to the condition of ewes and their preparation for insemination. The success of a programme is dependent as much on the fertility of the ewes as it is on the quality of semen used for AI.

- Good health with a body condition with a score between 2 to 3. (Ideally ewes should neither be in low condition nor over-fat for AI. Poor condition ewes often fail to ovulate and can have a high rate of embryo mortality while over-fat ewes tend to synchronise less readily and often have depressed fertility)
- Disease and parasite free
- Check the udder has 2 functional teats to rear a lamb
- Ewes checked for cancer (especially vulva cancer), foot abscesses and shearing cuts (especially those affecting the teats)
- Inspect feet, ensure trimmed and of good quality (as they have a lot of walking to and from yards and need to get around to eat)
- Are proven mothers, that is have had and reared at least one lamb (recipient ewes)
- Choose ewes approximately 3 to 6 years old
- They are not broken mouthed and have good quality teeth
- Disease free

## Preparation of Ewes

Whether it is the donor, recipient or AI ewe the same factors need to be considered in the preparation of ewes. Studies have demonstrated that if ewes don't recover their condition in the post weaning period and are in poor condition leading into a breeding season their follicular (egg) development is retarded and consequently their potential fertility is limited. The success of most programmes and breeding seasons lies in the nutritional management of ewes. The only factor which we can not alter that may affect a programme is the climatic conditions.

An ideal programme is:

Begin a minimum of 6 weeks prior to programme

- "Off shears" for a minimum of 6 weeks
- Weaned for a minimum of 6 weeks
- Worm burdens minimal; we suggest having a faecal egg count performed
- Have been drenched and vaccinated (3 in 1 as minimal requirement) for a minimum of 6 weeks prior to a program. If purchasing in ewes we recommend a quarantine drench.<sup>1</sup>
- We advise drenching ewes with MaxMin (multi-mineral drench) 6 weeks prior to a programme. Also consider giving an ADE (Vitamins) injection at this time. Six weeks prior to a programme ewes should be started on a rising plane of nutrition.<sup>2</sup>

If available, ewes benefit from supplementary feeding of protein during the 3-4 weeks preceding a programme. Feeding ewes to achieve a rising plane of nutrition has the effect of "flushing" ewes and improves fertility. This is achieved by promoting follicular (egg) development. However, the benefit can be lost and may even be negative if ewes are over-fat prior to a programme. Ewes on a falling plane of nutrition at the time of a programme are also likely to express below potential fertility. Condition scoring ewes about one month before starting a synchronization programme will give the manager/owner a good indication of the feed requirements for the pre-programme period.

## Handling of Ewes

- Minimise stress
- Avoid moving ewes; preferably maintain in one paddock for 6 weeks leading into a program
- Avoid using dogs unless they are steady and quiet workers
- Avoid abrupt changes in diet

## Handling Ewes after a Programme

Programs can involve considerable time and effort and when semen or embryos are purchased, some considerable expense. The success of the operation should not be jeopardised by a lack of attention to the needs of pregnant ewes. No matter what the method of breeding, some embryonic and foetal losses are inevitable but poor results are often due to inadequate management or adverse seasonal conditions.

- Ensure movement of AI and recipient ewes is minimised for at least the first 10 weeks after the program, this includes transporting ewes. If ewes need to be transported it is in the best interest of the programme to do it on the day of the programme.
- A maintenance diet is all that is required as high levels of protein can affect the hormone levels in ewes and consequently embryo survival. Be aware that major nutritional changes may result in stress; so should be avoided. Reduce feeding back to maintenance levels over the 5 days after the programme if supplementary feeding.
- Avoid stressing ewes, especially in the first 10 weeks after a programme, including drenching, vaccinating, dipping, shearing, crutching, yarding and drafting.
- It is important that ewes are in good condition (approximately 2.5) at the time of the programme and for the first third (50 days) of pregnancy when the placenta is developing rapidly.
- Close to the end of pregnancy ensure ewes are not at risk of Pregnancy Toxaemia. Supplementary feeding in the week prior to lambing can assist in preventing Pregnancy Toxaemia. At this late stage it should not affect lamb size but will ensure plenty of milk and an increased lamb survival.

These are the ideal recommendations for a programme however we understand that this is not always achievable under different climates, properties and management practices. I hope these recommendations are a useful tool in planning your programmes and I am looking forward to the upcoming programmes this breeding season. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at mic@allstockwa.com.au

<sup>1</sup> Vaccination against the clostridial diseases is not considered essential in the Falkland Islands but may become more important in the future with a move to more intensive lamb production.

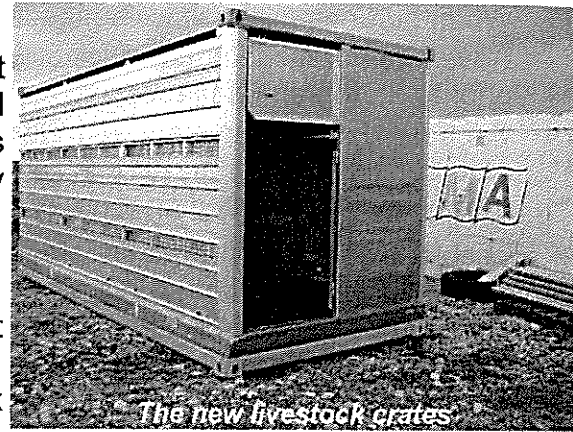
<sup>2</sup> This is not current practice in the Falkland Islands but would be a useful adjunct in getting recipients/donor ewes into the best possible condition prior to the start of an ET/AI programme.

# FIMCO NEWS - WHAT HAS CHANGED THIS YEAR?

By Doug Martin, Logistics Officer, Falkland Island Meat Company

## Livestock Transport System

Whilst they are still being assembled, the 6 purpose-built livestock crates purchased by FIG will be used throughout the season as part of the Falklands Islands integrated transport system, although they will be mainly used on the West & Islands system.

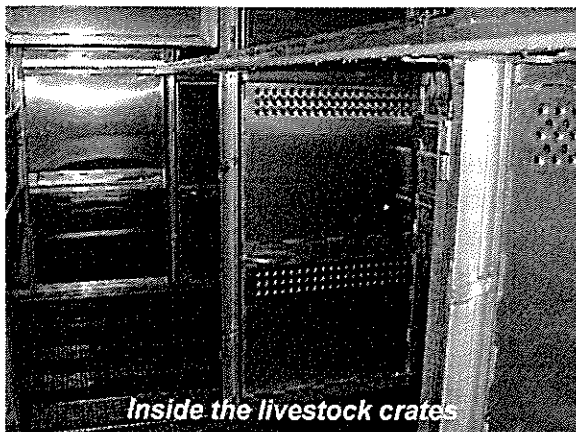


The new livestock crates

### Some useful points to note

- The crates have the same footprint as a 20ft shipping container.
- They are 3 deck sheep / 1 deck cattle. Each deck having 6 pens. An external ramp will be used to load decks 1 & 2 with an internal ramp used to load from deck 2 to deck 3.
- Welfare regulations advise the area per sheep/lamb and it would appear that each pen will hold approx 10. These figures may vary, depending not only on the animals' weight and size but on their physical condition, the weather, and the likely journey time.
- At 160 head per 20ft crate an average of 360 sheep will be shifted across the Sound or from the Islands on the Concordia Bay.
- Two full crates on a 40ft trailer will be sent from Port Howard to New Haven with two empty crates on a 40ft trailer sent on the return voyage.
- A tractor unit will be available to pull the trailers on and off the Concordia Bay or of course the livestock transporters will be able to do the same. For this season Justin Knight has the contract to transport sheep on West Falkland whilst Mike Triggs will continue to transport sheep to Sand Bay on East Falkland, which includes those sheep from West Falkland and Islands arriving at New Haven.
- When sheep are transported from the Islands the crates will be locked onto the deck of the Concordia Bay and loaded onto a 40ft trailer at New Haven.
- For the Ferry runs from Port Howard, the crates will be moved via the RoRo system on a 40' trailer.
- A point to remember is that the crates can also be used for cattle. In fact cattle can be carried on the bottom deck with the floor on deck 2 folded up and sheep carried on the top deck.

Unfortunately, there is a delay in getting all the crates built and into circulation, which will affect transport from the West & Islands to some degree during the initial weeks, until they all come on-line.



Inside the livestock crates

## Sheep Grading

Starting this season, in addition to live-grading (which more farmers are doing for themselves) all mutton will be carcass-graded on their Fat Class at Sand Bay, and payment will be made for quality as well as weight. This is based on the British MLC Fat Class classification, of which all farmers have a copy (if you cannot find your copy, please send an email to [dmartin@falklandmeat.co.fk](mailto:dmartin@falklandmeat.co.fk) and you will receive one by e-mail) The sheep / lambs in the Falkland Islands are not consistent enough to introduce the conformation system at this time.

A payment schedule was sent out to farmers in July and trials were carried out during the off-season in order to validate the system which will be used for the export season.

The fat class is determined by a visual appraisal of external fat development. There are five main classes ranging from 1 (very lean) to 5 (very fat). Classes 3 and 4 are sub-divided into L (leaner) and H (fatter). All these fat classes will be used in the FIMCO payment system, with the payment received based on each mutton falling into one of 3 categories: FC2, FC3L,3H, 4L, and FC4H,5.

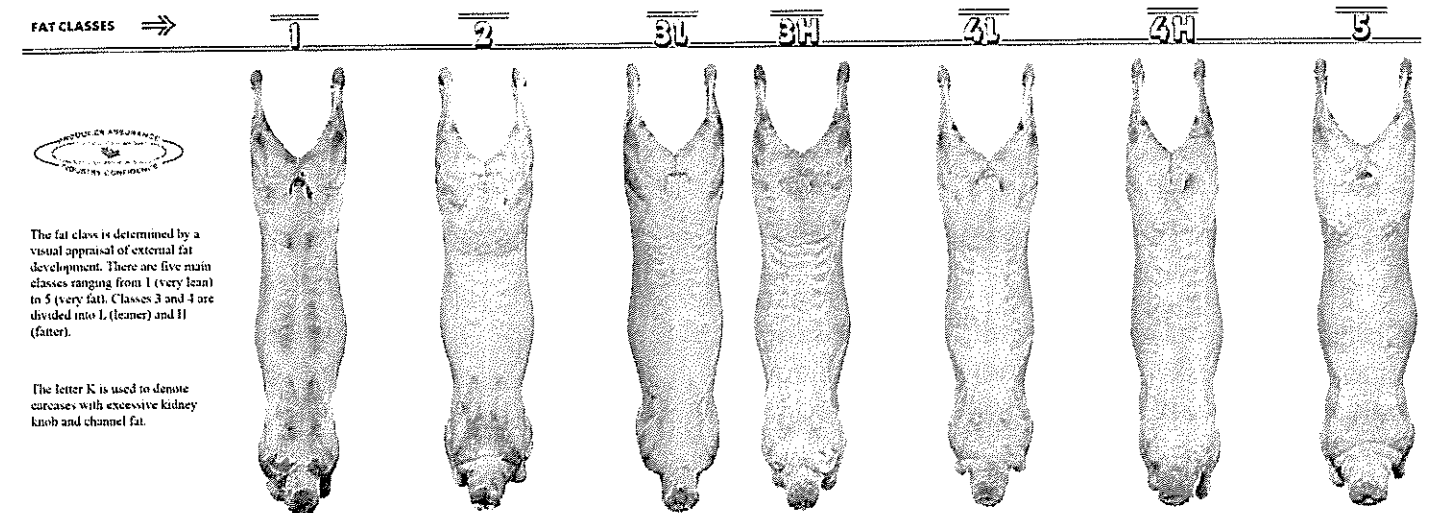
As in the past there will be no payment for FC1.

### The reasons for the change?

- Farmers have been asking for several years why they can't be paid for quality as well as weight.
- There are also more younger and lighter sheep coming through, which were penalised by the weight only pricing system, which was introduced for the older heavier wethers mainly.
- Enable more cost effective processing at Sand Bay, as the over-fat sheep take longer to bone out and trim, with a lot of wastage.

Most of the carcasses processed already fall into the 'target' bracket, which, as you can see, is quite wide. It pays a better price for these, and less for the more 'problematic' carcasses, therefore rewarding farmers who produce a quality product.

This may well require closer management of the animals, and we urge producers to look at the animals destined for sale as early and often as possible, so that they can be finished accordingly. With much stricter transport dates to work to it is essential that the Logistics Officer is kept fully informed as to any changes in type or quantity.



The fat class is determined by a visual appraisal of external fat development. There are five main classes ranging from 1 (very lean) to 5 (very fat). Classes 3 and 4 are divided into L (leaner) and H (fatter).

The letter K is used to denote carcasses with excessive kidney knob and channel fat.

## New faces at the Department of Agriculture...

This month sees the arrival of three new faces at the DoA. Natalie Finn will be joining the team at Minerals as Admin Officer for the Department of Agriculture & Mineral Resources. For the export season at the Sand Bay Abattoir, we have appointed Nigel Eaton as Meat Hygiene Inspector and Laura Ceballos as the Official Veterinary Surgeon. Nigel and Laura will be based at Sand Bay.

You can read more in the February issue.



## SHEEP MOVEMENTS

### TO ABATTOIR AND BETWEEN FARMS

#### A reminder to all farmers of requirements for animal movements

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

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

Please also remember that every animal movement must be accompanied by a fully completed Animal Movement Certificate. When moving stock between farms please send pink copy of the AMC directly to Sarah at the Veterinary Service.

The Veterinary Service has a limited number of tag guns available for loan for the application of movement tags – please note that these must be returned immediately after use.

If you require clarification on any of the above please call the Veterinary Service on 27366 or email [sbowles@doa.gov.fk](mailto:sbowles@doa.gov.fk)

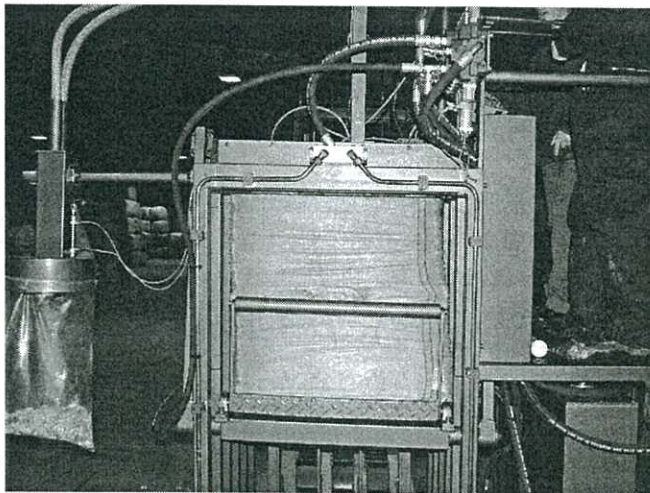
### MACHINE CORING UPDATE

At the closure of the wool testing season for Christmas it is pleasing to note that the new FIDC funded wool coring machine has sampled 1,248 bales of wool. It has also grab sampled several lines as well.

342 bales from the West have been sampled, so having the machine at FIPASS appears to be working for some from there. 39 bales from Island farms have also been sampled at FIPASS.

It is much faster and more efficient than manual sampling and possibly produces an even better sample.

For more information please contact Lucy Ellis on 27355 or Rodney Lee on 22297.



## FALKLAND SHEARS 2008

By Siân Ferguson

The Falkland Shears this year saw Evan Jones take the title of top gun shearer, pushing ahead of the more experienced shearers, both local and overseas.

This year the competition was held at North Arm. Organiser Shula Phillips said that the event will now rotate between North Arm and Goose Green, to take the pressure off the farms during the Christmas break.

Hosting the event further from town may have deterred some spectators, whilst others were busy with visiting cruise ships, however, there was still quite a good crowd gathered to cheer on the competitors and watch some of the professionals at work.

The top two competitors in the open section of the Falkland Shears go on to compete in the Golden Shears. As the next competition is in 2010, the two Falkland Islands entries will be chosen at the next meeting of the Falkland Shears.

To assist in the organisation of the event, Shula would like to hear from anyone willing to form a committee and help out with the organisation of future competitions. Having organised previous competitions on her own, she hopes that others may be keen to help out with arranging the food, sheep and other stalls and also some bring in some fresh ideas. She is also looking for any additional companies or individuals willing to sponsor the event or a particular category.



Pictured above: entries in the open competition  
Photographs by John Ferguson

If you are interested, please contact Shula on telephone 31105 or email [shula@horizon.co.fk](mailto:shula@horizon.co.fk)

Shula would like to thank all the sponsors and everyone who helped out on the day, who are too numerous to name and all helped to bring the day together.

### Results

#### Open

- 1st - Evan Jones
- 2nd - Lee Molkenbuhr
- 3rd - Jason Leevey
- 4th - Paul Phillips

#### Team Shear

- 1st - Jason Leevey and Stephen Jennings
- 2nd - Gilberto Castro and Lee Molkenbuhr
- 3rd - Kirwin Taumata and Stefan Clarke

#### Intermediate

- 1st - Gilberto Castro
- 2nd - Stefan Clarke
- 3rd - Daniel Ford

- 4th - John McKay and Shane Blackley

#### Farmers Section

#### Novice

- 1st - Lucas Berntsen
- 2nd - Ewen Bonner
- 3rd - Tara Wilson

- 1st - Paul Phillips
- 2nd - Tyrone Whitney
- 3rd - Jack Wilson
- 4th - Steven Dickson

**Cleanest pen of sheep** - Lee Molkenbuhr



## 22ND WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

### Report by Organiser Nigel Knight

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2008 dawned bright and clear, unfortunately it soon clouded and became overcast. But none of this distracted the residents and visitors at Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating a good day out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith had already been working hard transforming the woolshed prior to the event. On the day Keith was there again to take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. When Tony and Susan arrived with their entries they also gave invaluable help. As usual the entries started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline approached.

Once the entries were all in, Tony Mills and Ian Campbell set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the fleece having the highest commercial value. They did this by working out the clean weight (by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight). They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying the clean weight by today's prices for that micron wool. Once this had been accomplished the next task was to select from the forty-eight rams that were entered, in the three ram classes the one they considered to be the 'Best Dual Purpose Ram (wool and meat)' along with the runner up and third place. Next they had to judge the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion from all the rams exhibited in the show, not a job for the fainthearted.

A total of seventy-seven fleeces from thirteen farms and forty-eight rams from ten farms were exhibited at this years show. All the entries had been carefully selected from



tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of rams - every one a credit to its owner.

By now the barbecue, which had already been set up by Tex and Fayan Alazia using their gas fired barbeque pits and this year in the capable hands of Leon and Tex plus other numerous helpers was in full swing. Because of the unusually inclement weather on the day this was held in the transit shed, this fortified all of those that intended judging the three classes of Rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the Woolshed. Once this task had been accomplished the time consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known. These were all then competently collated by Susie. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully relieved of its fleece by Ali and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out.

The fleece weight and the sheep weight competition produced some very accurate results. It was also very satisfying to see an increasing number entries in the 'Under 21's Sheep Judging Competition'. This year there were eleven entries. Tony Hirtle and Bernard Betts expertly produced the master judging sheets to enable the results from this competition to be worked out. During the show Marlene recorded the highlights on camera.

Shortly after 6pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the Woolshed for the prize giving. This year's prizes were presented by Paul Martinez the First Secretary at



## 29TH DECEMBER 2008 AT FOX BAY

Government House.

The prize giving brought this years show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more socialising until late that night. As usual the Southern Cross Social Club Committee did an excellent job of looking after the bar.

This brought to an end another successful Ram and Fleece Show.

### Judge's Comment - by Tony Mills

The annual Fox Bay Ram and Fleece Show was held over the Xmas break. As a first time judge in the Falkland Islands, it was good to see a healthy number of entries in both sections of the show. It was also a good opportunity to get a gauge of the quality of seedstock available or currently being used in breeding programmes and after examining the fleeces on display it is was also easy to see the results of the effort producers have been putting into their selection programmes.

Overall the quality of the rams was commendable and it was good to observe that the younger animals entered were in general an improvement on the mature rams entered. I would say a good trend.

When selecting sires for the future it is important to not only concentrate on the objective measures to help selection but is also critical to take notice of the important visual characteristics as well. This is something we apply to the National Stud Flock and as an old sheep classer told me 'don't forget the three T's i.e. Teeth, Testicles and



Toes'. He also mentioned that it is also important to give the fleece a good fleaing (i.e. parting the wool) particularly concentrating on the backline looking for any signs of breakdown in the character of the wool. Given that a number of the results are determined by the farming public present it was good to observe a number of the public going through these procedures and as expected those animals that were sound in these areas came away with the points.

Congratulations to all the winners as well as Nigel and his trusty team of volunteers for putting on a good show and making Ian Campbell and my family welcome. I am definitely looking forward to next years event.

**Ram & Fleece Show results can be found on page 14.**



Successful competitors gather to display their prizes

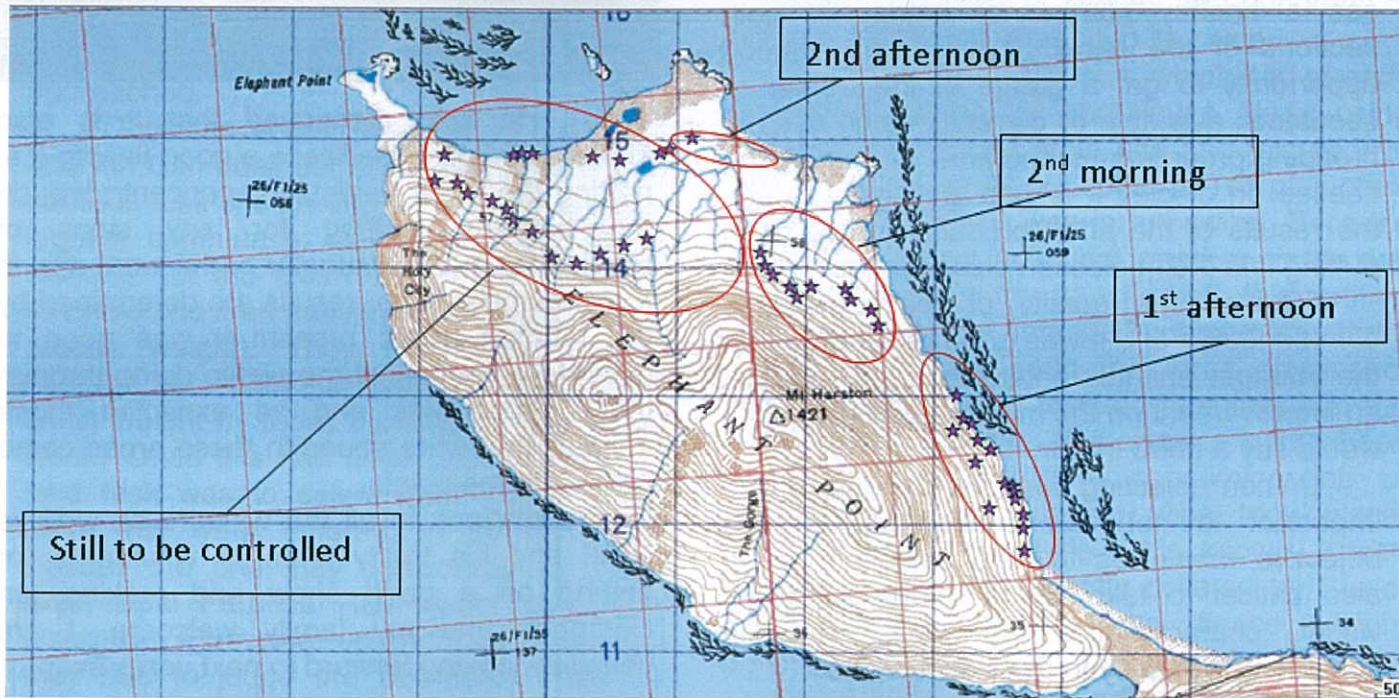


## SAUNDERS ISLAND, SPEAR THISTLE

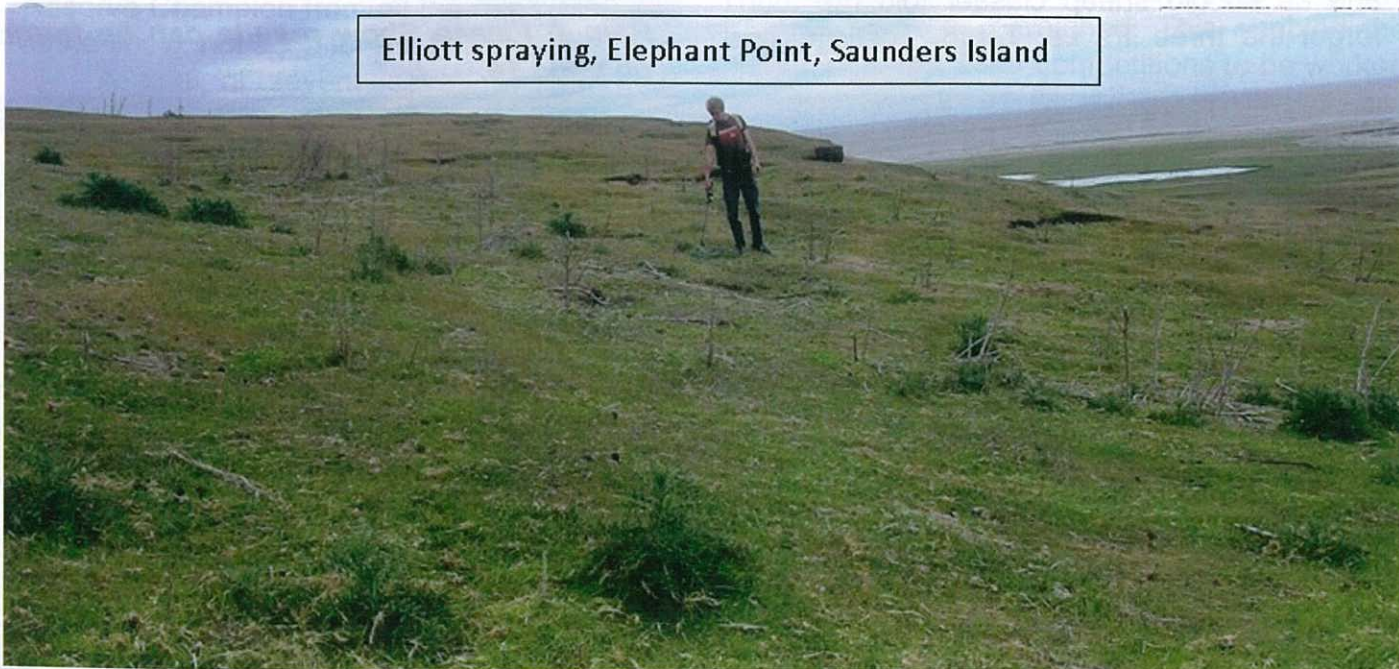
By Brian Summers, South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme

In the April 2000 Wool Press, Aidan Kerr wrote an article on the Spear Thistle infestation at Elephant Point camp on the northwest of Saunders Island and the herbicides he tested on its control. I visited Elephant Point in late April of this year and found that the thistles had spread down the coast and had almost reached the sand beach at the Neck.

Elliott Simpson and I mounted a first phase attack on these thistles on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December; things didn't start too well when the top came off my knapsack sprayer and filled the back of Anthony Tuson's Land Rover with blue coloured herbicide, but thanks Ant for ferrying everything out for us. The first afternoon we concentrated on the coast at the end of the sand beach, I sprayed whilst Elliott attacked with a "Lazy Dog" chisel hoe. Anyone who has ever visited Elephant Point knows that it is quite a hike from the cabin at the Neck down to the flats, this we did twice with filled 16litre knapsack sprayers. We achieved more than I had expected, but the really heavily infested areas are still to be controlled.



Elliott spraying, Elephant Point, Saunders Island



## SLAUGHTER OF WETHER TRIAL SHEEP

By Tony Mills

This is a quick note to let you know that the wether trial will be coming to an end with the slaughter of the animals on Thursday the 22nd of January.

This is an open invitation to you all to attend the discussion day coinciding with the slaughter of the trial sheep. The day will be split into two sessions to allow time for the animals to be processed. The proposed outline for the day is as follows:

### 8:30 am to 10:00 am - Live animal assessment

- Demonstration of the various techniques;
- Discussion on relationship between live animal body score assessment and the carcass grades;
- Discussion of transport/lairage losses;
- Discuss assessment of price grid and how this relates to animal selection on farm;
- Discuss on farm management and how this can improve sale animals and carcass quality.

### 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - Break

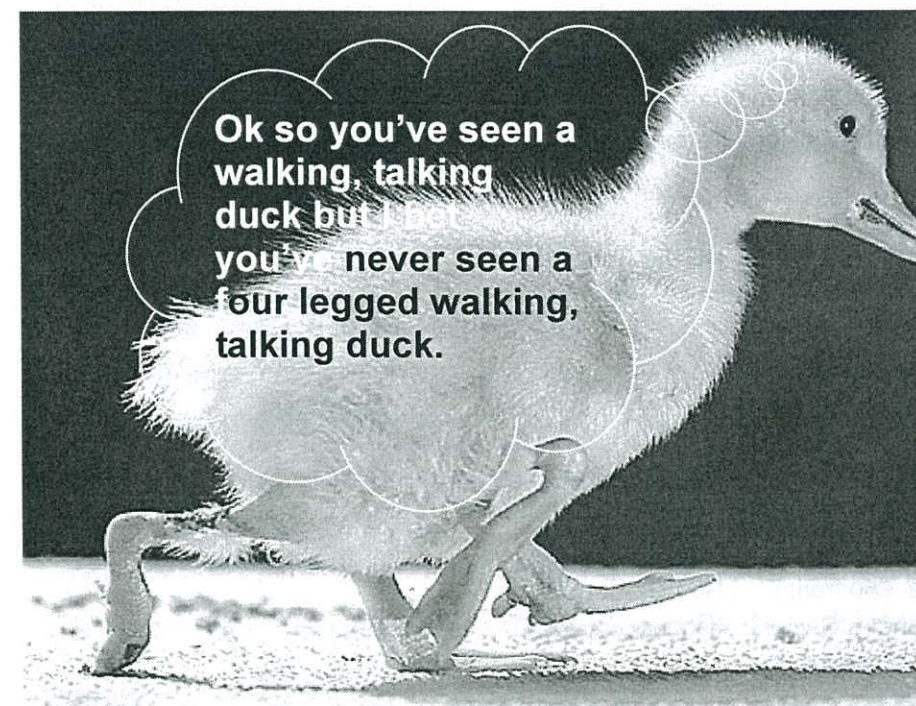
### 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Carcass assessment

- Demonstration of the carcass grading technique;
- Discuss the relationship between this and our live animal assessments;
- Discussion on processing issues relating to carcass quality and presentation of animals for sale.

The location for the day is the **Sand Bay Abattoir**. This would also be a good opportunity for you to view the new work that has recently been carried out.

There is a ferry crossing on the Wednesday 21st January and a return ferry on the Friday 23rd January.

Your input into the discussion of the various topics would be appreciated so if you are wanting to attend can you please RSVP to me either by email [tmills@doa.gov.fk](mailto:tmills@doa.gov.fk) or phone 27355.



**Seen anything strange lately?!**

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

**Call the Veterinary  
Section on 27366**

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



## RAM AND FLEECE SHOW PRIZE WINNERS - 2008

Prize	Donated By	Won By	Points
<u>Class 1 - Full Wool Ram Hogget</u>			
1st	Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies & £100 donated by Newton Investment	Shallow Harbour	86
2nd	£75 donated by Standard Chartered Bank	Teal River	75
3rd	£50 donated by Cable & Wireless	Shallow Harbour	73
4th	£25 donated by R M Pitaluga & family	Leicester Creek	51
<u>Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram</u>			
1st	Lyn Blake Perpetual Challenge Cup & £100 presented by Newton Investment Management	Many Branch	80
2nd	£75 presented by South American Atlantic Services	Fern Ridge	76
3rd	£50 presented by Saddle Computers	Coast Ridge	68
4th	£25 presented by the Rural Business Association	Shallow Harbour	66
<u>Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram</u>			
1st	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup & a replica & £25 presented by Falkland Landholdings	South Harbour	115
2nd	£100 donated by the Falkland Islands Wool Company	Many Branch	89
3rd	£60 presented by Argos Ltd	Coast Ridge	44
4th	£40 presented by Argos Ltd	Keith Knight	42
<u>Class 4 - Hogget Fleece</u>			
1st	Silver Challenge Cup & replica presented by Meredith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development & £40 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Peaks	58
2nd	£75 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services	Mount Kent	55
3rd	£35 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Peaks	54
4th	£25 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Many Branch	44
<u>Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hogget</u>			
1st	Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by HE the Governor & replica & £50 presented by Newton Investment Management	Mount Kent	98
2nd	£75 from Newton Investment	Coast Ridge	84
3rd	£50 from Newton Investment	Mount Kent	73
4th	£25 from Newton Investment	Mount Kent	40
<u>Class 6 - Any B Type wether fleece</u>			
1st	Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge & replica presented by Estate Ursula Wanglin & £50 from Port Howard Farm	Mount Kent	56
2nd	£70 donated by FI Sheep Owners Association	Boundary	55
3rd	£50 donated by Stanley Electrical	Main Point	54
4th	£30 donated by FI Sheep Owners Association	Mount Kent	53

### Additional Prizes

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

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

A silver challenge cup and £75 for the fleece with the highest commercial value (all prizes presented by FIDC) won by Mount Kent with a fleece having an estimated gross value of £16.57. 2nd & 3rd place also went to Mount Kent, winning £50 and £25 for estimated fleece values of £15.35 and £14.33 respectively.

£100 for the best dual purpose ram (wool and meat) was won by South Harbour. South Harbour also took 2nd place and won £75 and 3rd place went to Teal River, winning £50. Prizes were presented by FIMCo.

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

### Additional Competitions

In the guess the sheep weight competition, winners Norma Edwards and Theo Delignieres who guessed closest with 36 kgs. The actual weight was 35.6 kgs. They received £25 from Meredith Fishing Company.

The winner of the fleece weight competition went to Emma Edwards, who received £30 from RBC and guessed a the closest weight of 4.48 kgs (actual weight was 4.4kgs).

Winner of the micron estimate competition was Bill Luxton who received £50 from Cable & Wireless, guessing 18.8 micron. Runner up was Rhian Alazia who guessed 18.3 micron who received £25 from SAAS Ltd. The correct micron was 18.61.

The Department of Agriculture sponsored the 1st prize in the sheep judging competition for the under 21's, won by Marilou Delignieres, who received a £50 voucher. Runners up were Carly, Ladeline & Jessica who received £25 from Ursula Wanglin. 3rd prize went to Niall Evans who won £25 from the RBA.

### Additional Credits

Warrah Knitwear kindly donated £50 towards show funds.

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

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

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

Tony Mills and Ian Campbell for judging the special categories and all those who did the sums afterwards.

Marlane for photographs.

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

Paul Martinez (First Secretary, Government House) for presenting the prizes.

The committee of the Southern Cross Social Club.

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



# 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	January 2009	Horse Colours	
	Fees	September 2008	Organics	September 2008
	Fire Guidelines	September 2008	Quality Falkland Wool	May 2006
	Labour Scheme Conditions	June 2007	QFW Checklist	May 2006
	Length		QFW Shed Inspection Report	June 2006
	Public Holidays 2006-2009	January 2007	Scanning Guidelines	
	Rainfall		Wool Mid-side Sampling	October 2008
	Staff Chart	January 2009	Agronomy Tests	
	Training Schemes		Artificial Breeding Programme and PIP Funding	November 2007
	Video's	December 2008	Fertiliser Rates	
	Volume and Temperature		Pasture Improvement Programme	November 2007
	Weight		PIP Funds at Ram Sale	November 2007
	Finance	Depreciation Allowances	May 2006	PIP Sheep Genetics Application
Extra Statutory Concessions			Proposed PIP Priorities	November 2007
Farmers Tax Guide			Purchasing Live Rams with PIP Funds	November 2007
General Tax Guide			Soil Test Application	November 2007
Guide - POAT			Soil Testing & Site Selection for PIP Funding	November 2007
Insurance Issues & Perils		December 2008	Trees	
POAT Examples for Self-Help			Advice for the use of Estrumate	January 2009
Self-Employment			Animal Movement Certificates	September 2008
Annex A Sites			Beef Kill Report Form	September 2008
Annex B Sites			Bovine Tuberculosis	September 2008
Legal & Codes of Practice	Burning Permit	November 2006	Caseous Lymphadenitis	June 2007
	Designated Sites Legislation		Cattle Identification	September 2008
	Grass Fires Ordinance 2002		Consultation Hours	September 2008
	Licences		Dog Dosing Dates	December 2008
	Plant Import Guidelines	January 2009	Dog Neutering	
	Notifiable Diseases		Gestation, Oestrus and Temperature Tables	
	Planning Permission		Import of Live Animals	September 2008
	Species Legislation		Is Your Dog a Health Hazard?	
	Transport of Animals		Killing Facilities on Farms	September 2008
	Welfare of Cattle		Lambing Care	September 2008
	Welfare of Dogs		Ram Exam Workshop Handout	May 2007
	Welfare of Horses		Veterinary Fees	September 2008
	Welfare of Pigs		Veterinary Diagnostics	September 2008
	Welfare of Sheep		16 Worming Horses	

# RAINFALL & WEATHER FOR 2008

By Siân Ferguson

Although December 2008 witnessed a record amount of sunshine for December or any other month since MPA opened, it's a shame that we didn't see any of the usual Christmas sunshine and warmth during the festive period. Here's hoping there's some good weather on the way!!

Temperatures for December were well above average, with daily temperatures averaging 16.7°C, two degrees above the long term average. Rainfall was below average, with the wettest day being recorded on the 20th, recording 5.8mm of rainfall.

Overall there was 312.6 hours of sunshine in December, 80 hours above average. There were no days when no sunshine was recorded. There was only one day when snow or sleet fell and six days when hail was reported. No thunder or fog was recorded during the month.

The average wind speed during December was 16.5 knots, slightly above average. The highest hourly gust of 63 knots was recorded on the 21st. There were 26 days when gusts over 33 knots were reported, which is above average for the month. There were five days when gales were recorded, above the normal of four.

## Falkland Rainfall Totals

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stanley	2008	42	36.5	44	72	45.5	34	55	90	45	30	34	34
	Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68
MPA	2008	49.3	49	38.3	103.9	43.1	41.1	43.3	74	21	26.9	45.3	28.8
	Average	62.8	47.9	56.8	53.7	48.6	57.7	45.6	36.7	33.5	34.8	38.5	57.2
Bleaker Island		30	15	40	67	40	55	28	54	7	12	12	20
Cape Dolphin		24	34	40	-	-	-	-	-	20	16	27	20
Darwin		40	29	29	73	30.5	36.5	25.5	45.5	17	35	24	18.5
Doyle Farm		-	-	19.25	63.25	48	44	11.5	57.5	27	20	25.5	-
Dunbar		67.5	43.5	28.5	205	105	137	62	-	-	44	-	38
Fern Ridge		-	-	-	89.5	59	-	25	52.5	11	18.5	28	32
Head of the Bay		27	28	39	86	46	42	37	88	15	40	34	30
Hill Cove		-	-	-	-	-	-	41	73.5	7.5	28.5	34	23
Moss Side		31	-	35	61	43	47	51	-	-	-	-	21
North Arm		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	21	27
Paragon		23.5	-	-	-	18	-	24	34	6.5	-	14.5	15.5
Pebble Island		19.5	30	20.5	40	35.1	39.5	26.5	59	19	15.5	33.5	9
Port Howard		62	40.5	47.75	108	66	72.5	58.5	121.5	18	41	60.5	62
Saladero		25	15	22	-	-	50	18	30	25	16	21	22
Salvador		39.75	35	47.5	63.75	35.25	37	44.5	68.7	11	17.25	33	25
Shallow Harbour		38.5	19	-	102.5	59	-	25	50	10.5	19.5	25.5	27.5
South Harbour		51	9	22	70	60	45	22	44	11	13	25	12
Swan Inlet		38	-	18	86.5	32	33	30.5	57	31.5	22.5	22.5	15
West Lagoons		33.5	30	25	91.5	61	58.5	-	-	5.5	30	42	22.5
Wineglass Station		62	53	44.5	116.5	42	47	-	93.5	16.5	10	36.5	21.5

Thank you to the MPA Met Office, Elaine Short, Sheena Miller, Peter Wakefield, Serena Sinclair, Marie Paul Guillaumot, Ted Jones, Peter Nightingale, Donna Evans, Ian Jaffray, Raymond Evans, Ron Reeves, Diana Aldridge, Annie Pitaluga, Marlane Marsh, Mike Evans, Andrez Short and Bobby Short for supplying weather and rainfall data.

If you would like a rain gauge to collect rainfall totals to send into the Department of Agriculture, please call us on 27355.

## Life in the Australian Army...

Provided by Bill Luxton

*Text of a letter from a kid from Eromanga to Mum and Dad. (For Those of you not in the know, Eromanga is a smalltown, west of Quilpie in the far south west of Queensland)*

Dear Mum & Dad,

I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the farm - tell them to get in quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but its not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes. You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are buggered because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' - dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a possum's bum and it don't

move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target - it's a piece of cake!! You don't even load your own cartridges, they comes in little boxes, and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster. Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozier.

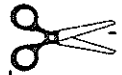
I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how bleedin good it is.

Your loving daughter,

Sheila

## Changed your email address, fax or phone number??

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



### Dates for the Diary



22nd January Slaughter of wether trial sheep - tel 27355 for more info  
 1st to 4th March Sports Week (Hill Cove & North Arm) - More details to follow  
 18th March Saladero Ram Sale

## Recipe Spot

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

### Chicken & Bacon Risotto (serves 3)

#### Ingredients

250g risotto/pudding rice	1 pint boiling water
2 chicken oxo	3 chicken breast fillets
1 packet bacon	2 cloves garlic
half medium onion, diced	salt & pepper
few pinches chilli powder	parmesan, fresh or packet

#### Method

Dissolve the oxo into the hot water to make the stock. Heat a little oil or butter in the bottom of a saucepan and fry the onions and chopped garlic for 2-3 minutes, until soft but not coloured. Pour in the rice and stir; pour over enough stock to just cover it. Simmer, stirring until the water is absorbed. Continue adding the stock bit by bit and stirring until the liquid has all been absorbed - the rice should be thick and creamy, but still firm when you bite into it (scoop a little out on a teaspoon to taste if you aren't sure).

In the meantime, sprinkle the chicken with the chilli, salt and pepper and grill or fry until cooked through and golden. Slice into diagonal strips, and keep warm. Chop the bacon into little squares and dry-fry in a pan. When the rice has cooked, tip all the bacon and its juices into the saucepan and stir well. Season to taste with the salt and pepper. Spoon onto plates, then sprinkle with the parmesan. Lay the sliced chicken over the rice and serve.

### Scroggin Flapjacks

A great one to make with the kids, as there's lots of guddling in the bowl!

#### Ingredients

100g (3.5oz) caster sugar (pref. golden)  
 100g (3.5oz) golden syrup  
 175g (6oz) each of 2 different types of muesli\*125g (4.5oz) butter, cut into chunks

#### Method

In a non-stick saucepan, heat the butter, syrup and sugar until they have melted together, to make a gooey liquid. Stir the two mueslis together, then stir in the syrup mixture until evenly coated. Press into a greased baking tin and bake for 25-30 minutes at 180oC. (The mixture should be spongy when it comes out of the oven and harden as it cools.) Leave to cool for 10 minutes and then cut into fingers. When cool, store in an airtight tin.

(\* This could be different brands (such as Alpen and Kellogg's), or varieties (e.g. Berry flavour with Nuts & Seeds flavour).

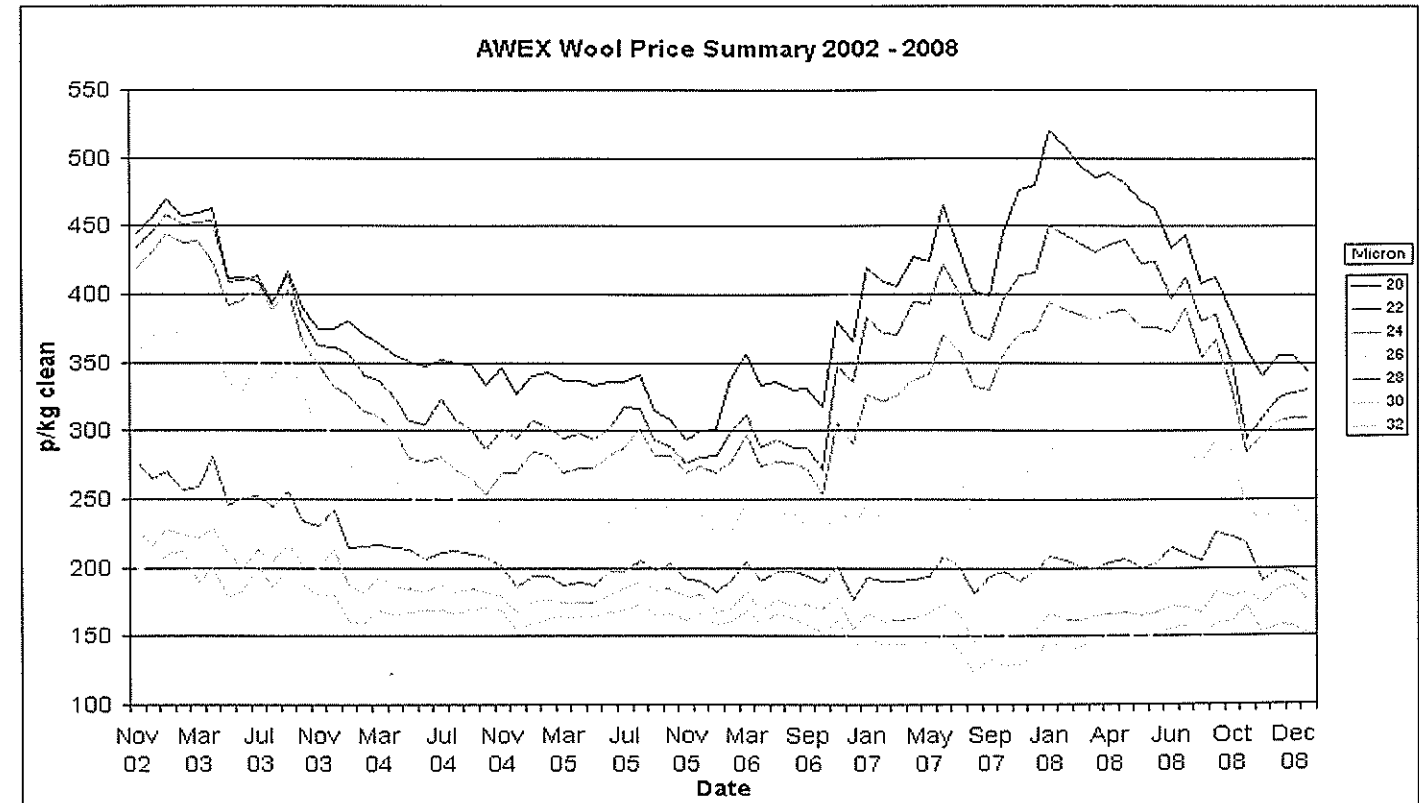
Or, you could make your own scroggin base - 6oz rolled oats, 4oz bran flakes/sticks, and 2oz your favourite mixed fruits, nuts and seeds.)

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

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

### DingBat Brain Games

*Flex your brain, free your mind and think laterally*

**HOROBOD**

*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.*

**DELWOB**

*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.*

## Word Search

Can you find all the words listed in the grid below? Here are the group of main faecal eggs and the animals they live in.

### What am I?

*Almost everyone sees me without noticing me, For what is beyond is what he or she seeks.*

### Last Month's Solutions

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

**GOOD**

= Good Looking

**1000000**

= Chance in a million

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

Strongyloides  
Nematodirus  
Moniezia  
Trichuris  
Toxocara  
Coccidia

Ruminants  
Cats  
Fowl  
Dogs  
Pigs

# THE WOOL PRESS

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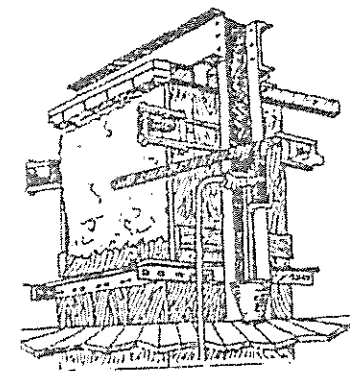
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Plus all the usual features and more!!



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## EDITORIAL

Trust that everybody is enjoying the warm and mild weather that we have been experiencing in late January-bit of a contrast to the extreme 40-42 degrees Southern Australia has been experiencing over the last week. Imagine shearing, gathering or even playing tennis in this sort of weather.

Zoë Luxton has written an enlightening, must read article for all cattle owners in which she outlines the cattle identification system approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee for Falkland Island cattle. She has concisely set out in a table the obligations of cattle owners and managers and also provided a section on frequently asked questions. An accompanying article explains why tagging of cattle to ensure traceability is so important for beef production and how in the future electronic tags may become necessary if beef is exported to the EU or other export markets.

An article on the possible effect of the world recession on food production prices received by farmers is food for thought-pardon the pun!

Thank you to Tex and Mandy Alazia for their most interesting article on the technical and managerial changes they have made to increase productivity at Port Edgar. They have been involved with both FI organic farming accreditation programmes and have received price premiums for their organically produced wool.

Elliot Simpson our GAP year student who is hoping to study veterinary medicine has written a most readable article about his experience working for the DoA and for Conservation. Elliot has been a valuable temporary member of our team and has contributed to everything from fishing boat inspections, tending oiled penguins, veterinary operations and working with reindeer. We wish Elliot well in his studies and hope to see him down here again soon.

We introduce Natalie Finn who has been recently appointed as Administration Officer for Minerals and Agriculture. Also Laura Ceballos Candamio who is the Official Veterinary Officer overseeing the seasonal lamb processing at FIMCo and Nigel Eaton who is the Meat Hygiene Inspector for the season. Welcome to you all.

Shona Strange has written an article thanking the dog owners on the West for hosting her prior to Christmas and to advise that she will be visiting all camp dog owners on the East after Sports Week.

If you are planning to take mid side wool samples from your sheep Sian has set out clear guidelines and asks that you ensure you do not send samples over 30 grams.

Lambing percentages generally have been higher for most farms than last year so here's hoping 2009 will continue to be a good year for agriculture and the Falkland Islands despite the recession. Enjoy your read.

Best regards,

**Mac McArthur**  
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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

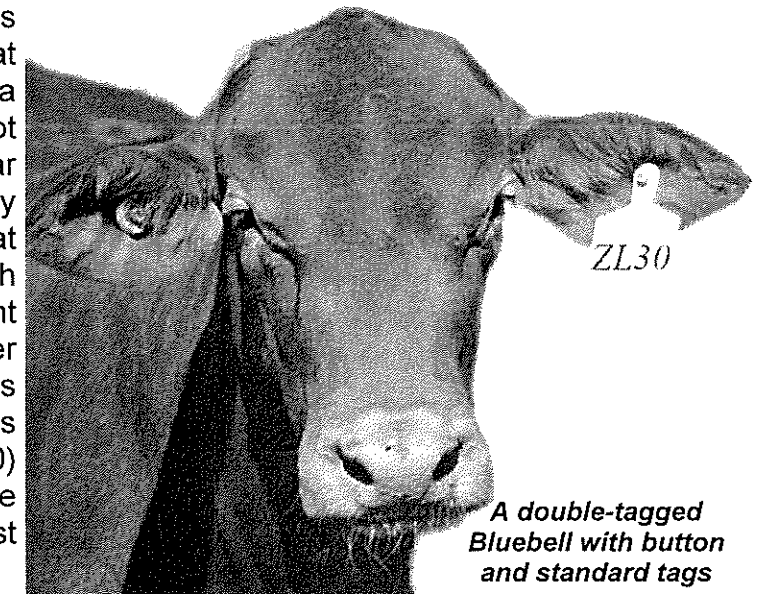
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## INTRODUCING THE CATTLE IDENTIFICATION SCHEME

*By Zoë Luxton*

In June 2008 a letter was circulated to all farmers discussing the need for a national cattle identification system. Thank you for all your replies, comments and ideas. We have aimed to create the most basic and sensible but efficient system for the national identification of cattle. The desire to create a beef export market was the impetus to begin this work but there are further advantages of such a system which you can benefit from even if you are 100 per cent sure you will never slaughter any of your cattle for export.

A basic tagging and recording system is essential for managing any herd. Thinking that old Bluebell probably hasn't had a calf for a few years is all very well but if you have got records of each cow that calved each year you can prove it and fire Bluebells scrawny behind off the farm! No point letting her eat grass that fertile cows could be eating! Such an identification system and movement recording is also invaluable if we were ever unlucky enough to be hit by a serious infectious disease. We could trace that it was scrawny old Bluebell (tag number ZL30) moving from one farm to the next that took the Bovine Viral Diarrhoea to the rest of East Falklands and act accordingly.



*A double-tagged  
Bluebell with button  
and standard tags*

Now is the time to seriously consider what you plan to do with the cattle on your land. Do you want a small manageable herd for family beef and milk consumption? If so a compact, easily handled mob of cows that calve regularly is the way forward. Time to shoot the mad old wild thing which you have been trying to catch for the past 6 years. Do you want to produce quality well finished 2 year olds to sell to the abattoir? A well planned beef cattle management system needs to concentrate on a short calving spread, optimum nutrition and timely marketing of the young cattle when they have got 5-9 mm of rib fat. Do you want to produce bulls for sale so others can build up their beef herds? If so you need to regularly weigh your young cattle and keep excellent herd records for genetic improvement.

In August 2008 the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the cattle ID system in principal and the idea to phase the Cattle Identification System in over a number of years. The following table summarises what you need to be doing to comply in 2009. In the next couple of Wool Presses I will summarise how the system will slowly be introduced to be complete in 2012 or 2013.

It is a legal requirement to complete a waybill – now known as an Animal Movement Certificate for any livestock movements. This includes ANY movement of sheep, cattle and pigs off one property and on to another.

The table on the next page shows some frequently asked questions and answers which I hope will be helpful.



DATE	CALVES BORN	CATTLE ON THE GROUND	REGISTRATION
After 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2009	<p><b>Calves born after this date must be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double tagged by the age of 6 months (or before leaving the farm whichever comes first).</li> <li>• Tagged with a farm code (as registered with the DOA – your abattoir paint brand or an accepted alternative eg full name) and unique number in each ear.</li> <li>• Ideally the number will be the same in each ear. It doesn't matter if it is not as long as all information is stored in the farm records accurately. Eg Left ear ZL23 Right ear ZL34.</li> <li>• These numbers should only be used <u>once</u> ie not repeated in another cow</li> <li>• The farm code and number can be on separate tags but now is the time to think about ordering numbered tags with your farm code on them.</li> <li>• Any type of tags can be used so current stocks can be used up.</li> <li>• All numbers and station marks used must be recorded in the <b>farm register</b>.</li> <li>• Unfortunately until the legislation is amended (which can take a little time!) all livestock must have a station mark also. When this tagging legislation comes to fruition the station mark may become obsolete.</li> </ul> <p><b>All farms should have some sort of book or spread sheet into which is recorded all calves born, to which cow, what happens to them eg sold to abattoir or other farm and any treatments given.</b></p>	<p><b>If remaining on farm:</b></p> <p>Farmers current tagging practice is allowed but consider starting to number tag at least (if not double tagging) your adult cattle if you get the chance. Record numbers in the farm log.</p> <p><b>If cattle are being moved off the farm they must be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tagged with a farm code and unique number in each ear.</li> <li>• Ideally the numbers would be the same in each ear.</li> <li>• Any tags can be used to use up current stocks.</li> <li>• The farm codes and numbers can be on separate tags if necessary</li> <li>• If moving directly to the abattoir for slaughter cattle may be identified by a paint brand on the body if you do not have farm-coded numbered tags</li> <li>• If moving for slaughter, records must be available on the farm to trace this animal back to the holding (farm) of birth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Every quarter we will send you a registration form to complete.</b></p> <p>The information we require on this form includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tag numbers and details of any calves born and tagged in the last 3 months.</li> <li>• Any cattle that have been slaughtered or died on farm.</li> <li>• Any adult cattle that are now appropriately double tagged.</li> <li>• You can get these via email or hard copy whichever you prefer. If you want to just cut and paste the relevant farm records back to us that is fine</li> <li>• We will know cattle movements on and off the farm for disease tracing via the animal movement certificate copies that you already send to us.</li> </ul>

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q: What sort of tags should I be using?

A: For now, any type at all that you have. In the future there will be a list of approved brands based on their tamper proof and reliability characteristics eg Leader tags. Eventually it is planned that each animal will have a large easily readable tag in one ear and a small button (very tamper proof ie won't fall out) tag in the other with the same number on it. We do realise that replacing a tag with a matching number is far from easy here. The options are to have blank tags that any replacement numbers can be written or branded on or to allow the animals to have a different numbers in each ear as we are currently.

### Q: Where can I get the tags from?

A: Your current tag supplier will invariably have the type of tags required when the system is finally 100 per cent in place in about 3 years time. Until then you may use any tag you wish but if they are unreliable you will spend more money replacing them and have more complicated records to keep.

### Q: I have a yearly colour system for my cattle and sheep. Do I have to change this?

A: No, you can use whatever colour tag you wish to purchase. A yearly national colour scheme was suggested by one or two of you but it was decided that it was not a necessary requirement for the ID System but it was certainly not a problem if individuals or a group of farmers wished to have a different colour tag each year. You may also put any extra information on the tags (eg year) as long as the farm code and a unique number are clearly visible.

### Q: I think the whole idea is a waste of time. Do I HAVE to do it?

A: Yes if your cattle are ever moved off your farm, either to another farm or the abattoir. After March 2009 FIMCo will not accept cattle unless they are clearly marked with a unique number in each ear and a farm code either on tags or paint branded on. To move them to another farm they must be double tagged with the farm code and numbers and this must be recorded on Animal Movement Certificates. If you will never move your cattle off the farm and are intending to dispose of them all before the system becomes a legal requirement in 2012/2013 you do not necessarily have to tag them at the moment. If you are not intending to stop running cattle then it would be in your best interests (time and money wise) to start phasing in the system so when it becomes a legal requirement you will already be doing it as a matter of course.

### Q: Do I have to register ALL of my cows when I first get a registration form?

A: No. When you receive the first quarterly registration form you will have a few options:

1. Register any calves born and double tagged and any on farm culls you have logged since Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.
2. Also register any adult cows that you know to be double tagged and logged in your farm book – this may be none of them, some of them or all of them!
3. Just write NONE if there has been none of the above activities since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 09. As time goes by and you start to tag things appropriately you can then fill their details in on the registration forms as you receive them.

When the plan is fully implemented we will double check with you that all your cows are now all double tagged.

### Q: I just received some cattle from another farm. Do I have to register them?

A: Only if you have retagged them. If you receive a cow from another farm we will have a record of her movement from the AMC and this will be added to your farm record on the database. If you keep her original tags but also add one of yours, YOU should record this. It would be useful but not essential that we are informed of this. You **MUST** tell us if you remove her original tags and re-tag her with your own tags.

## ELECTRONIC CATTLE TAG IDENTIFICATION A NO BRAINER

By Mac McArthur

A recent article in Country Wide a New Zealand rural paper had a very relevant article outlining why it is critical that all cattle are permanently tagged and a record kept of their movement from farm to farm and eventual slaughter.

"Electronic ID for cattle is a no brainer." Said Arron Hoyle the purchasing manager for the single largest buyer of New Zealand beef - McDonalds. He explained in eloquent and convincing terms why electronic traceability through cattle tags was absolutely critical from McDonald's perspective. He said from a global perspective it was necessary; because the ease by which people and disease (of which 75 per cent were of animal origin) moved around the world, meant it was critical to have systems in place to identify and traceback food contamination or disease outbreaks that affect human health.

Logistically electronic tag traceability was the only way with McDonalds' outlets in 118 countries serving 56 million customers each day, that the company could ensure food safety of their hamburgers and other fast food. At a brand protection level it was crucial as there was simply no room for a Fonterra-Sanlu type situation where melamine was added to milk products in China which killed and made children seriously ill.

"We're one global brand and protecting the brand is a key driver." he said. "We need to think forward and make sure our product has all the consumer attributes. Consumers expect transparency and part of that is traceability. Transparency equals traceability; you can't have one without the other."

He said "farmers, meat processors, and McDonalds are 'looking through the same lenses' and need to understand that customers worldwide want confidence and assurance that their food is safe."

The cattle tagging system that Zoë Luxton has written about this month is designed to cover all the present meat safety and disease traceback requirements of the Falkland Islands local beef industry. However at some point in the future if beef is being exported to the EU or the McDonalds Company decides to make it 119 countries that it buys beef from, the tagging system is designed to be flexible so that electronic tags can be used in one ear and thus the Falkland Island system will meet this electronic tag traceback requirement.

*Acknowledgement:*

*Extract from an article by Linda Gray published in the Country Wide magazine Vol. 1 No.1 January 2009 Southern Addition*

### **If you have something to share, let us know!!**

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

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

**All contributions are gratefully received.**

## FOOD PRODUCTION - IS IT RECESSION PROOF?

By Mac McArthur

Talking to one of our Councillors last week he mentioned he had heard a news item on the radio indicating that agricultural food production was the only industry that has not been substantially affected by the recession.

I have recently been in Australia where food prices, particularly for meat have gone up substantially over the past year with quality fillet and sirloin beef selling in retail shops for between \$30-40/kg Aussie dollars (£14-19 FI /kg). A year ago this steak was selling for around \$18-20/kg AUD (£8.5-9.4 FI /kg). Part of this price increase I suspect relates to the severe droughts that the Eastern Coast and many inland areas of Australia have been experiencing over recent years. Lambs were selling for over \$100 AUD at the farm gate.

### **What Will People Prefer to Eat in a Recession?**

It is likely that the actual makeup of urban based people's diets will change as they eat out less and buy more pasta, potatoes and cheaper label foods. Their disposable income decreases to a large extent what food they buy and how much. People on farms who produce their own meat, vegetables and eggs are unlikely to change their diet to any extent.

Food consumption around the world has grown steadily for decades because food demand is a factor of the size and growth of the population. As long as the global population grows there will be more mouths to feed, and the need to continue to increase agricultural output to feed them. It is not just the quantity of food we need to fuel the world that we are concerned with but the type of food we consume is of equal, if not greater, importance in estimating future demand.

### **Meat a Key Driver**

A key driver of expanding grain and oilseed demand is increasing meat consumption, especially within the developing world. As per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has expanded in countries like China, people's appetite for meat has also expanded. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Association, over the past few decades, Chinese meat consumption has advanced at a rate more than double the global average.

Increased demand for animal-based protein has a multiplicative effect on global grain and oilseed demand. Every unit of animal-based protein is a product of multiple units of feed. So for every kilogram of chicken, beef, or pork people around the world put on their plates, they effectively consume multiple kilograms of feed such as corn, soybeans, or wheat.

Although it is thought the long-term trend toward increasing meat consumption is firmly in place, this key driver of demand for agricultural commodities faces some serious short term difficulties as the global economy turns south. Consumers around the world are tightening their belts and meat is one of the items that most households substantially reduce the consumption of in tough times.

### **Lower Prices and Tighter Lending Likely to Reduce Agricultural Production**

The recent decline in world grain prices and reduced money lending by banks could limit agricultural production in the short term. For example, the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, recently forecast that the country's corn production could decline by as much as 7 per cent this season and that its soybean harvest could fall by nearly 3 per cent. Brazilian farmers have been particularly hit by tight lending conditions and limited access to capital is forcing them to plant fewer hectares or use less fertiliser thus reducing yields.

*Continued on the next page*



## Low World Food Stocks

On a world food basis if we subtract demand from supply and divide by demand we arrive at the 'stocks-to-use ratio'. This is a critical figure that tells us exactly how much food is available in the "global bread basket" and has historically shown a strong negative correlation with agricultural commodity prices. In other words the less "bread" we have in the world food basket relative to what is eaten in a given year, the higher prices climb, sending a signal to the world's farmers to produce more. Lately, this 'stocks to use ratio' has dropped to historically low levels, as tight world food supply and demand factors have whittled down global food inventories and driven food prices to levels that, despite being substantially below recent highs, are still well above historical averages.

In 2008, farmers were quick to respond to higher prices by planting more hectares and increasing their investments in crop chemicals, fertilisers, seed, and other inputs in order to maximise production. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) projected that during the current 2008/2009 crop year, world grain and oilseed production will grow 4.2 and 6.8 per cent respectively, higher than in 2007/2008. This jump in output reflected the increased investment on the part of farmers worldwide, to boost production in a high-price environment.

Despite this projected surge in production, global food stocks-to-use ratios look like they will barely move, remaining near historically low levels. The most recent USDA figures show the global grain stocks-to-use ratio is expected to climb the equivalent of roughly two days' worth of increased world food demand.

Given the outlook for world food supply and demand, these food stocks to food use ratios will remain at historically low levels for some time to come. Consequently these tight world food supply and demand fundamentals should support agricultural commodity prices at levels well above historical averages for the foreseeable future.

## Strong World Demand for Meat

Meat & Wool New Zealand's Economic Service is forecasting strong increases for both lamb and beef prices for 2008-09. Lamb prices at the farm gate are expected to be up 38 per cent on last year and beef prices are forecast to increase 11 per cent.

NZX Agrifax data shows earnings for lamb cuts to the EU are up 30 percent on the same time last year with racks and forequarters into Asia and the US are up 28 percent. "We may see softer consumer demand given the economic downturn, but that is likely to be offset by the tightened supply of lamb globally." said a spokesman

Beef and lamb exports remained a strong performer demonstrating the benefit of its positioning as a quality food, rather than a traditional agricultural commodity.

## Conclusion

The general consensus for developed countries is that despite the recession beef and lamb farm gate prices are likely to increase over those received in 2008. Other agricultural food such as grains and pulses (peas, beans etc.) may also increase due to relatively low world stocks.

In the Falkland Islands we are lucky to enjoy often home grown fresh meat, vegetables, eggs and other high quality food. If you think about it on a world comparative basis we are in a good camp.



Seen anything  
strange lately?!

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

Call the Veterinary  
Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE  
IS OUR BEST DEFENCE!!

## Horticultural Show

*Saturday 7th March 2009  
in the Parish Hall*

*Entries are to be delivered to the Parish Hall  
between 6 - 9pm on Friday 6th March*



*FIQAS have kindly agreed to fly entries  
from camp free of charge. Please address  
to: Horticultural Show c/o Tim Miller*

*For more information, contact Tim Miller on 21498  
(evenings only) or Tim Blake on 21271*

*The Garden & Polytunnel Competition will be judged on Saturday 14th February  
Entries to Siân Ferguson on 21977 or Nikki Buxton on 52051*

**Don't forget the Saladero Ram Sale  
is on Wednesday 18th March 2009**

**More details in the March Wool Press or call 27355.**





## FARM IN PROFILE: PORT EDGAR

Property Name: Port Edgar

Location: West Falklands

Owners: Michael (Tex) & Mandy Alazia

Farm size: 15,948ha

Sheep: 6,000 Corriedales

*Tex & Mandy Alazia have lived at Port Edgar since 1988 and enjoy living and working on the land. They have three daughters, Felicity, Fayan and Rhian.*

### Sheep Breeding & Stock Rotation

At Port Edgar, Tex & Mandy are breeding hardy, wool producing sheep as they believe wool is still a reliable source of income.

Over the past couple of years they have started to introduce stock rotation on their farm and believe the benefits are clear for everyone to see. Some of the changes they have noticed on the farm is the improvement of camps from spelling and fine grasses growing back between the whitegrass. Tex & Mandy say that the main benefit from rotating their stock is that there is always food saved in a paddock somewhere, which is useful in the winter.

Port Edgar is involved in the Department of Agriculture Managed Intensive Grazing trial and they hope to expand the system and further improve lambing and death rates.

### Organic in the Falkland Islands

The Alazias were also one of the first farms to sign up for the FIDC (Falkland Islands Development Corporation) organic scheme and have also joined the Biological Farmers of Australia organics scheme to become



Australia Certified Organic, an internationally recognised scheme.

After first receiving leaflets from FIDC, Tex & Mandy said that as they weren't re-seeding or using any fertiliser, they were virtually organic anyway and decided to go for it and it has grown from there. They have received premiums for their wool (which is produced organically), although have not sold any sheep as organic to the abattoir in the past as there hasn't been a premium.



*Rhian feeding a pet sheep*

## FARM IN PROFILE: PORT EDGAR

### What the future holds

Mandy & Tex say they won't be changing the type of animals they farm any time in the future, but say that others may do in order to supply the abattoir, or readjust should the abattoir ever cease to operate.

They hope that the next ten years will still see the farm under the ownership of the Alazia family and continued to work in such a way that it's enjoyable.

The biggest difficulty they have had to face at Port Edgar is living in the South West of the Falkland Islands, which can see some of the worst snowstorms and it can be difficult keeping the sheep out of the snow drifts.

### Role of the Rural Development Strategy

Although Tex & Mandy believe that changes to farming can unfortunately be politically driven and people can be stretched too far during the summer season. They say that the role of the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) will be crucial in the next year or so in boosting confidence.

They hope that through quick fixes, on-farm costs will be reduced, for example energy schemes and that a sensible solution is reached for transport and freight. They add

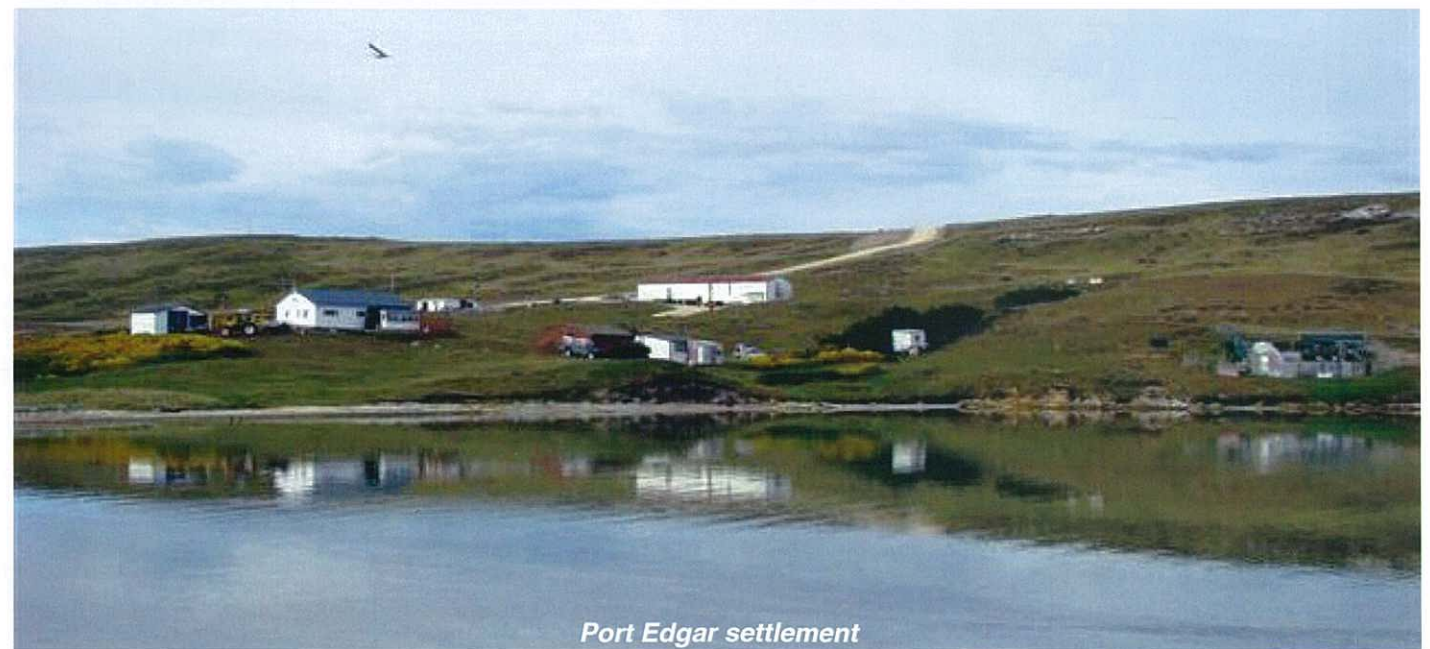


*Dogs working sheep at Port Edgar*

that young people have to be encouraged to move to camp, with somewhere for them to live and work.

### Diversifying into tourism and egg sales

Diversification is also present at Port Edgar, they have a self catering cottage which is rented out and they produce eggs for sale, adding to their farm income. Tex & Mandy say that the main attraction to the area is that it always stays the same, people can visit in virtually any century and the scenery will still be there. Along with being a picturesque settlement, Port Edgar is also home to magellanic penguins and whales.



*Port Edgar settlement*



## STAFF NEWS: GOODBYE TO ELLIOTT SIMPSON

### GAP Student Elliott Simpson

For the past three months I've been volunteering with the Veterinary Section of the Department of Agriculture.

Having finished A-levels back home in the UK I decided to come down to the Falklands (during my 'gap year') to expand my experience before university, where I'm hoping to study veterinary medicine. I've also had the opportunity to occasionally volunteer with Conservation for penguin counts throughout my stay here. Through work with both the veterinary section and Conservation I've had the chance to see a fair amount of the Islands, including visiting Speedwell, Saunders, West Falkland as well as travelling to various parts of East Falkland. This coincided with fantastic and interesting work.

So, why the Falklands? My answer to this is simply that my aunt, Becky Ingham (now Becky Ferguson), worked down here with Conservation for a number of years before heading back to the UK relatively recently. It was my interest in the stories she told of her time down here that inspired me to see the Islands for myself. Also from a practical point of

view; there is only one veterinary service here. This means that I would be able to see a greater variety of work in one practice than back in the UK, where practices are generally either small animal, large animal or exotics based. This has indeed paid off, where I've been lucky enough to go from assisting Steve Pointing on fishing vessel inspections to helping, whilst supervised, castrate both dogs and cats. This of course goes without even mentioning the amazing time I've had helping with the oiled penguins and working with the reindeer herd at Albemarle. The past few months have passed with lightening speed, and I will have to ensure I return here before too long.

With my time down here nearly at an end, all that is left to do now is to extend my thanks to everyone; at both the Ag. Department and at Falklands Conservation. My thanks also goes out to everyone who when out and about either doing vet based work or with Conservation has made me feel very welcome and made my time here so enjoyable and unforgettable. And, finally, to Pippa & Darren Christie who have had to put up with me staying with them for the duration of my visit!



Elliott at The Neck on Saunders Island

## STAFF NEWS: MEET THE NEW FACES AT THE MINERALS DEPARTMENT AND ABATTOIR

### Natalie Finn Administration Officer Department of Agriculture and Mineral Resources

I have just returned to work following a 3 year absence from having my twin girls.

I first worked for the Agriculture Department back in 1995 on the Youth Training Scheme. I worked at Brookfield, Lakelands and a month at Stanley Dairy (where I managed to drive the tractor bucket into the side of the dairy and slipped over in the ice and broke 72 eggs!!).

Since then I have done a lot of travelling while wool handling. I also went to college in Edinburgh for 2 years where I successfully completed an HND in Accounting. Following that I returned home to work for Beauchene

Property Co Ltd.

I am looking forward to my new job as administration officer for the Department of Agriculture and Mineral Resources. I am also pleased to be back working in Agriculture, albeit in a small way and am looking forward to learning more on the Mineral Resources side.

I am looking forward to the first barbecue and must apologise to Andy P that Lloydly will be on the social scene!



### Laura Ceballos Candamio Official Veterinary Surgeon

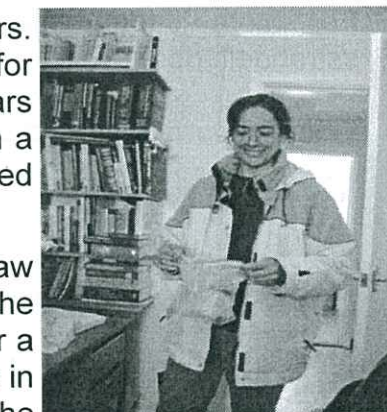
My name is Laura Ceballos Candamio. I qualified as a veterinarian in Madrid, Spain. After I qualified I worked in porcine practice for several years, first as a trainee while I was still studying, and as a junior veterinary afterwards.

After a big crisis in the porcine sector in Spain because of the "swine fever" I decided to move to England following an advert where they were looking for veterinarians to work as enforcement officers in abattoirs through the UK. I arrived in the UK in June 2002 and qualified as an Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) in November 2002. Since I qualified as an OVS I worked in different premises through the country, mainly

red meat abattoirs. My last post was for four and a half years in Stoke-on-Trent in a three species red meat abattoir.

In October 2008 I saw the advert in the veterinary record for a veterinarian to work in an abattoir in the Falkland Islands and I thought this would be an extraordinary chance to know the Islands and broaden my veterinary experience.

So far is being very interesting and I am really enjoying working and living here.



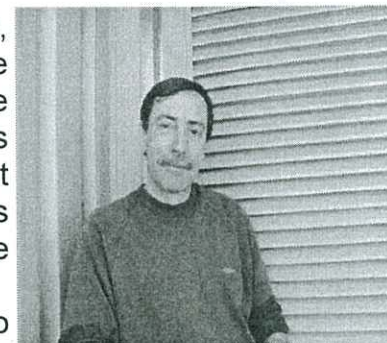
### Nigel Eaton Meat Hygiene Inspector

My name is Nigel Eaton and I have been a Meat Inspector for nearly 30 years. I have worked in most parts of the UK as a contractor and still enjoy travelling to different areas of the country.

I have recently returned from a 12 month contract in Denmark which was a fabulous experience and is a country I look forward to working in again. Having worked abroad and

enjoyed it so much, when the opportunity to come to the Falklands arose I jumped at the chance and was fortunate to be offered the post.

My aim now is to see as much of the Islands as possible, especially the abundance of wildlife before I leave.





## HYDATID CONTROL

By Shona Strange

First of all, a rather belated thanks to the West dog owners for allowing me to visit them, particularly as it was coming into the busy season. As usual I have been made most welcome and I appreciate your kind hospitality.

I am due to visit all dog owners on the East who live in the camp. I am not sure yet of exact dates but plan to start fairly soon after Sports Week. I will phone or e-mail each of you to arrange a suitable date and time.

This visit is to see all the dogs and their kennelling / exercise facilities. The department would like to build up a database on all the different types of kennelling facilities that exist in the Falklands. There are so many that it is impossible to remember every single one. To assist us in this project, I would like to take photos of each facility. Should you strongly object to this, please would you inform the department in advance and your reasons for this.

There is no hidden agenda behind this. The Department would simply like to get a better picture of what is out in the camp. If we feel that the kennels do not meet the standard recommended by the Animal Welfare Regulations, the Department will inform you by letter and are prepared to give advice on how you can improve the existing conditions.

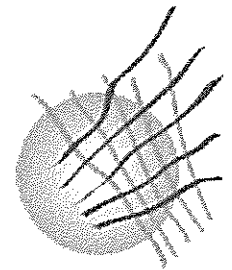
For more information, please contact me on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or e-mail [ssstrange@doa.gov.fk](mailto:ssstrange@doa.gov.fk)

I look forward to visiting you all in the near future.



## FAO launches International Year of Natural Fibres

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched on Thursday the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of familiar natural resources such as cotton, flax, wool, alpaca and even cashmere, which are often taken for granted in the face of rising competition from synthetic materials.



Discover  
natural  
fibres  
2009

Havez Ghanem, FAO Assistant Director-General for Social and Economic Development, noted that the production of animal and vegetable fibres generates 40 billion US dollars annually for farmers and account for up to half of a developing country's exports.

"Farmers and processors in these countries depend on proceeds from the sales and exports of these natural fibres for their income and food security," he said at the ceremony in Rome launching the Year.

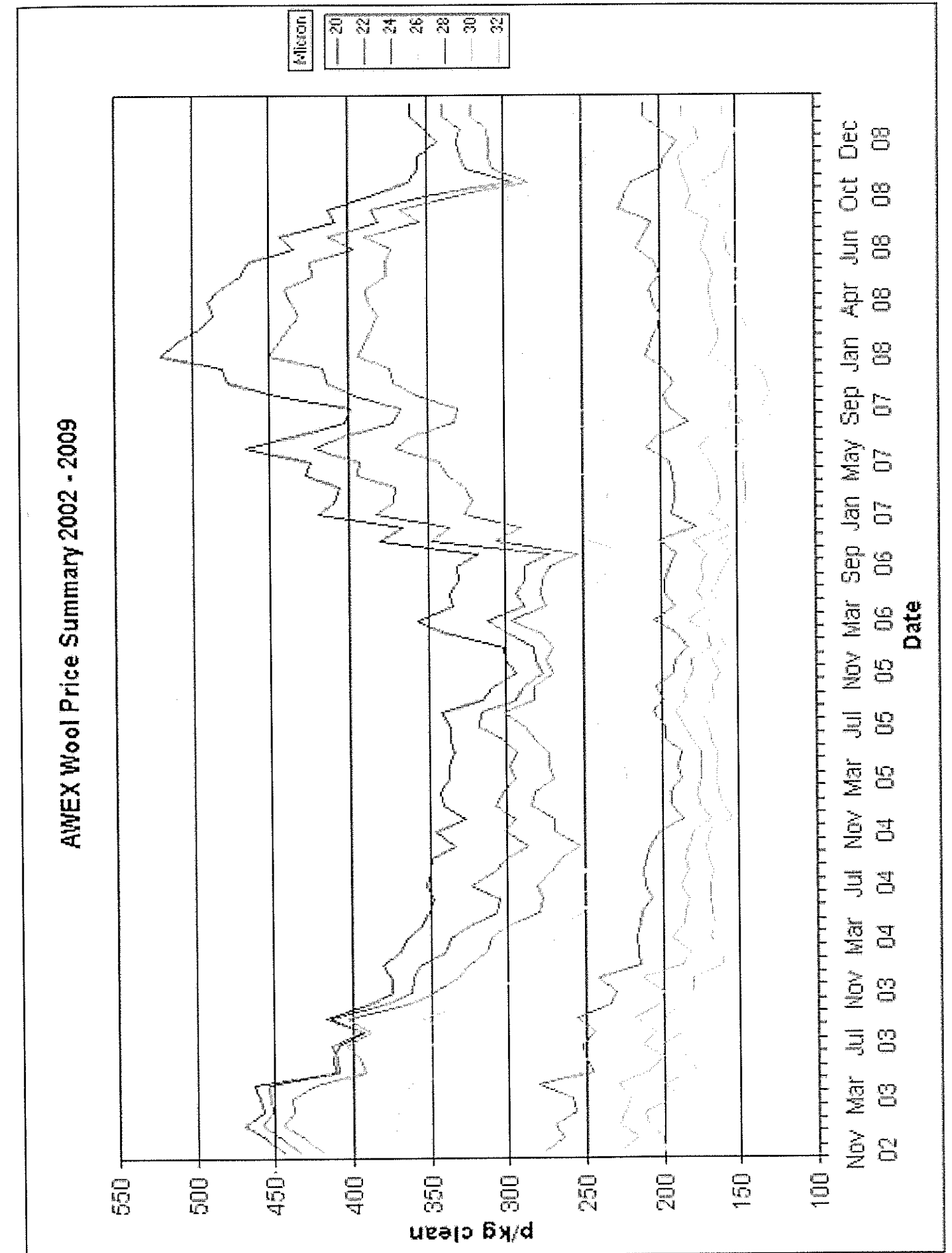
Some 30 million tons of natural fibres are farmed around the world every year, with cotton being the biggest crop.

The Year, dubbed "Wild and Woolly 2009" and which comes on the heels of similar year-long celebrations of the potato in 2008, rice in 2004 and mountains in 2002, will be celebrated through conferences, exhibits and fashion shows worldwide.

Source: MercoPress

## WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



## ALLOCATING THE 2008/09 FIG ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BUDGET

*From the 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 was held in August/September 2008 and the second will be open during 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 'Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy', which are environmental research, on-ground action and education.

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

### Application process

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

Deadline for applications for the first funding round is **Friday 27th February 2009**. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the EPD Clerk Fiona Wallace-Nannig 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, fwallace-nannig.planning@taxation.gov.fk).

### Who received funding from Round One?

The Shallow Marine Survey Group was granted £10,000 for their survey work of the invertebrates and habitats of our coastal seas. This funding is co-funded against £50,000 given to the group by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office through the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP).

Falklands Conservation were allocated £5,000 as continued support for the Plants Conservation Programme, which employs botanist Rebecca Upson. This programme also has OTEP funding over two years of £100,000, with FIG contributing £20,000.

£5,000 was allocated to the Falklands Freshwater Fish Project being run jointly between EPD, Falklands Conservation, Fisheries Department and FIDC's Aquaculture Programme. The project is also supported by OTEP (\$10,000) and other in-kind support. The Project Officer, Frin Ross, met many landowners during her successful surveys on West Falklands during December.

The turkey man Brandon Breen received £750 towards his lodging and transport costs for his

study of the interactions of turkey vultures with livestock in the Falkland Islands. Brandon returned to the US at Christmas to begin data analysis of his surveys and landowner interviews.

The recently departed Environmental Officer Helen Otley received £1,000 for laboratory analysis costs for a study of beaked whales of the Falkland Islands. The money will be used to employ an Australian whale genetics scientist to confirm species identification of 25 beaked whales washed up in the Falkland Islands. Little is known about beaked whales – most species are only known from a handful of dead individuals.

Falklands Conservation and the Year 6 Class at the Infant and Junior School received £2,000 to take all the children to Kidney Island and to Port Sussex to see the land infested by calfate bushes, and a lucky few kids will also do an intensive residential camp on Weddell Island.

Year 8 students were also fortunate to receive £800 to help pay for a 3 day trip to Volunteer Beach to led by teachers Emma Edwards and Elaine Messer. Their theme this year is King Penguins, which follows on from the hugely popular and successful 'Year of the Albatross' for 2007/08.



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## ARE YOU PLANNING ON MID-SIDE SAMPLING YOUR FLOCK?

Please make sure that you follow the simple guidelines and checklist below

1. Ring Siân at the DoA for some barcode labels, sampling bags and correct paperwork
2. Take only 20-30 grams of wool from the mid-side of the sheep (pictured) and write down barcode and tag number on labels and place in the sample bag with the wool
3. Write down the barcode and tag numbers on the Sample Summary Sheet
4. Send in the wool, Sample Summary Sheet and a completed Wool Test Request Sheet to the DoA



Please note that sending in samples over 30 grams and without the correct paperwork (including barcodes) will greatly delay the time it takes for the samples to be tested as the sample size will need to be reduced and the paperwork filled out before the wool can be sent to the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority laboratory for testing.

# SPORTS WEEK PROGRAMME

We've added a quick guide to the East and West Sports Association timetables, so that you can start planning your holiday now!

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### East Sports — North Arm

All day events begin at 10am Stanley Time (9am North Arm time)



#### Sunday 1st

Horse Racing and Gymkhana

#### Monday 2nd

Horse Racing and Gymkhana

#### Tuesday 3rd

Dog trials with football and fun events later.

AGM at 8pm

#### Wednesday 4th

Children's sports and Mechanical Bull Competition.

Prize Giving at 11pm

For more information contact Alison Short on 21866 or 27294



### West Sports — Hill Cove

Please note that all times given are camp time

#### Sunday March 1st

Foot Events in Hill Cove Forest, including football & rounders  
Gold Cup Racing in the hall at 8.30 pm



#### Monday March 2nd

Shearing at West Lagoons.  
Children's party at 4.30pm  
Children's talent show at 6.30pm  
Darts competition at 9.00pm



#### Tuesday March 3rd

Peat Cutting in Bull Flats, followed by the Treasure Hunt.  
Mechanical Bull in the hall at 8.30pm

#### Wednesday March 4th

Dog Trials at Westley  
Children's sports to run at the same time.  
AGM at 6.00pm in the hall at Hill Cove.

For more information contact Susan Hirtle

## Dates for the Diary

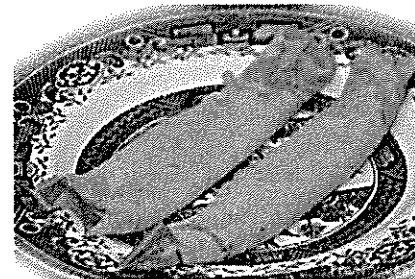


- 15th February Motor-Cross
- 14th February Garden and Polytunnel Competition  
Contact Siân Ferguson on 21977 or Nikki Buxton on 52051 to enter
- 14th February Government House Garden Open Day  
From 2pm—4:30pm
- 24th February Pancake Day  
Dog Dosing Day (Droncít)  
Please remember to contact the Veterinary Service on telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email [imports@doa.gov.fr](mailto:imports@doa.gov.fr) and advise when your dogs have been dosed. Thank you.
- 25th February Horticultural Show at the Parish Hall  
Entries to the Parish Hall between 6-9 pm on Friday 6th
- 7th March

# Recipe Spot

## The history of Pancake Day

Pancake day (this year on the 24th February) is also known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. Pancake Day is the last day before the season of Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence (giving things up). Shrove comes from the old word 'Shrive' meaning to confess. So, in the Middle Ages people from all over the world would use this day before the Lent season to confess all their sins. This means that Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) was the last day for people to indulge themselves on foods that were forbidden. Pancakes were forbidden because they contained fatty foods like butter, fat and eggs.



If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, why not send in your own favourites to share?

## Pancake Recipe

### Ingredients

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3/4 pint of milk (semi or full-fat) | 7 oz plain flour            |
| 1 egg                               | Pinch of salt               |
| Butter (for frying in)              | (Makes approx 6-8 pancakes) |

### Method

Measure the ingredients into a jug and beat together. You may need to add some extra milk to make the mixture quite runny.

Put a small amount of butter into a frying pan until it has melted, then put enough pancake mixture in to thinly cover the bottom. Flip over when the bottom side is partly brown and when the next side is ready, take out. Melt a little extra butter into the frying pan before adding the next pancake. Serve with lemon juice and sugar or syrup.

For fun, try these variations:

1. Make the pancakes in different sizes, very large or small
2. Garnish with sliced strawberries and cream
3. Once you pour the batter onto the pan and before you flip the pancake you can add bananas, chocolate chips or anything else!

## Chicken helps dog raise puppies

Source: [ananova.com](http://ananova.com)



A hen in China has reportedly shackled up with a dog to help raise its three newborn puppies.

Owner Yang, of Anqian village in Fuqing, said the hen moved into the dog's kennel after it gave birth last month, reports Southeast Express.

Since then, the hen refuses to leave the kennel, staying inside all day and only walking out when the dog is nursing its puppies.

Yang says the hen is very protective of the puppies and refuses to allow strangers to come close to the kennel.

"Quite possibly the hen is envious of the dog because it has no offspring of its own, and so it is trying to take over the puppies," he said.

"The dog seems to have given up the idea of driving the stubborn intruder out and has decided to share the space with the hen."



# PUZZLE PAGE

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

## 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

LOST  
WORD  
WORD  
WORD  
WORD

*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.

ETUNIMANI

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.

## Double Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

1 

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2 

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3 

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4 

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5 

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6 

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7 

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8 

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9 

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10 

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- 1) FOYTIRZ ORAD      6) JEESRY DAOR  
 2) DANE RESTET     7) NEIPOER WOR  
 3) VIADS RESTET    8) DIOLEUEHSF SCLEO  
 4) LACRALYED REESIT    9) DRRYU SERETT  
 5) CALCHALNA RAOD   10) SSOR DARO SWTE

### Brainteaser

If Fred can lay 1000 bricks in three hours, Jimmy can lay 1000 bricks in two hours and Kev can lay 1000 bricks in six hours. How long will it take Fred, Jimmy and Kev to lay 1000 bricks if they all work together?

## Last Month's Solutions

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

HOROBOD

Robin Hood

BOLWOB

Bowled Over

# THE WOOL PRESS

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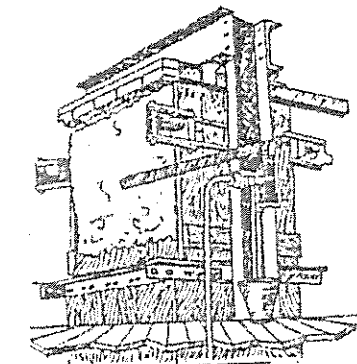
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Plus all the usual features and more



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## EDITORIAL

Hasn't it been a great summer? I hope it stays fine for at least another week so that everyone can enjoy themselves outdoors (as well as indoors) during Sports Week. The current Wool Press has its usual wide range of articles so that even if you don't find every page to your liking I am sure you will find something that interests you.

The first article on page 3 provides some information on the possibility of setting up a market for breeding ewes. If you are interested in the concept then please call Ian Campbell on the number provided. The Agricultural Advisory Committee is the forum where members from the DoA, the farming community and elected representatives can come together and discuss issues of importance to the rural community. Please think about putting your name forward if you are at all interested in representing the farmer's viewpoint.

In these difficult economic times Ian Campbell has a very apposite article on wool prices now and in the future; and in a second related article on page 17 he also looks at historic wool prices in Australia from the 1950's up to the present date. Andy Pollard has been reviewing the options on what to plant in successive years and how best to prepare the seed bed. Anyone planning on planting improved forage would be well advised to read his article on pages 7 to 9.

The farm in profile this month is Shallow Bay on West Falkland. Dae and Paul have been very successful in producing a much finer fleeced sheep over the past few years. Susan Campbell continues her series of articles on internal parasites in sheep – this time it is prompted by some very good photos of tapeworms sent in by Ben Berntsen.

Please note the date of the this year's ram and bull sale at Saladero (p 13) and the request for your suggestions as to what you'd like the DoA to cover during Farmers' Week later in the year. Mac McArthur continues his series of articles dealing with what needs to be done to improve the FI beef industry and this is followed by a report on the reindeer herd located at Albemarle. You will be pleased to learn that they are in excellent condition and increasing in numbers.

The final article by Zoë Luxton is a continuation of an earlier article on the proposed national cattle identification scheme. Anyone who keeps cattle should apprise themselves of what the future requirements will be and start to make the necessary arrangements now.

Sports Week will probably have come and gone by the time this edition of the Wool Press reaches you. I hope you all had a very enjoyable time and that any hangovers are now a pleasant and distant memory.

Regards,

**Steve Pointing**  
Senior Veterinary Officer

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## DO YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL EWES?

*By Ian Campbell and Mac McArthur*

At the AAC meeting in February it was agreed that the DoA could use funding in its current budget to help develop a breeding ewe market. The key aim being to increase the national wool flock size and production of quality fine wool and potentially more lambs and wethers for processing. In addition the aim will be to assist farmers to diversify their incomes and increase their economic viability in these difficult financial times.

The proposal is that a subsidy will be available of up to one third of the realistic commercial purchase price of replacement ewes up to 6 years of age, including hoggets and shearlings, with eligible farmers paying the remainder of the purchase price. The DoA will also run a register of ewe sales, to assist sellers and purchasers to contact each other. The scheme is available for wool or dual purpose breeds, but not meat breeds.

Farmers that apply for this money must be able to demonstrate that they can make a return on the investment in their flock of 3:1 and reduce flock age structure and increase wool and meat turnoff over the next 10 years. The scheme is available to all farms that meet the eligibility criteria and not necessarily farms previously involved with the FIP.

The value of young breeding ewes (based on average lifetime wool and lamb production) is often higher than the price offered by purchasing farmers. FIMCo is planning to develop a ewe mutton price schedule which will assist farmers negotiating a realistic buying price for young breeding ewes.

We are interested to hear from people who would like to sell ewes (6 year old or younger), hoggets or shearlings and also from people who would like to buy these sheep. Please contact Ian Campbell on 27355.

### INTERESTED IN BUYING OR SELLING EWE REPLACEMENTS?

**Register with the DoA as a seller or buyer of ewes and become eligible for the DoA ewe replacement scheme.**

**The DoA will pay one third of the purchase price when commercial transactions occur between ewe breeders and replacement ewe purchasers.**

**Contact Ian Campbell on 27355**

### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A vacancy exists for a member of the farming community to represent farmers on the Agricultural Advisory Committee in addition to a member representing the RBA. Terms of reference and details about the nature and frequency of meetings can be obtained from the department. Please contact Katrina Stephenson, the secretary, in the first instance on telephone 27322. Farmers wanting to be considered for the position should contact Katrina by the end of March and names will be forwarded to Executive Council for appointment.

Phyl Rendell  
Director

# WOOL PRICES DURING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

By Ian Campbell

The Global Economic Crisis is affecting the prices of all things and is affecting all countries. What impact has that had and will it continue to have on wool prices in the Falklands? While economic forecasting is not something the author professes to have on his curriculum vitae, there are a number of observations I have made whilst studying the markets that I think are worth discussing.

## The AWEX indicator

Firstly I should explain the AWEX (Australian Wool Exchange) indicator that we report on regularly in the Wool Press and Penguin News. Australia dominates wool exports worldwide and as such the micron guides in AWEX are pretty much the going price for those microns on the world market. A weighted compilation of all the microns gives the Eastern Market Indicator price (EMI) as a single measure of the price of wool.

## Exchange Rates

Most of the time when wool is traded on the world market the cash that changes hands is US dollars. This means that when we do the AWEX table (normally in Australian dollars) in pounds there are three currencies involved.

Astute readers will have noticed quirky observations such as, "The AWEX indicator dropped 10 cents (AUD) this week which equates to an increase of 3 pence," an apparent anomaly.

In reality the market was probably rock steady (in US \$) but the Aussie dollar has dropped and the pound increased relative to the \$US and each other.

### Observation 1.

*Much of the short term fluctuations in wool prices are actually fluctuations in currency rates. Long term trends though are related to supply and demand and the true value of wool at that time.*

So the good news here is that a strong US\$ and a weak pound will be good for wool prices in the Falklands. The market has dropped far more significantly in \$US than the graph appears.

## Supply and Demand

China has been the main wool buyer and was perhaps a bit late coming into the crisis but is well and truly involved now. A far less keen China will have huge impacts on the prices bid for wool - so the EMI will go down as a result - which it has.

Another observable difference across microns though is that the finer priced (more expensive) microns have been hit harder than the strong wools. This is worthy of further investigation - especially in light of the Falkland Islands push to reduce micron.

### Observation 2.

*The premium is still present for finer wool - just reduced.*  
I can see several major reasons for this.

Firstly there is the "spokes of the wheel effect". An across the board drop of 10% will knock 50p off a £5 wool but only 20p off a £2 wool - so a reduction like this will appear to be affecting fine wools far more than strong wools.

Secondly there is a supply effect. Behind the graph is the fact that 40% of all wool traded globally

is less than 24µ, then 20% is between 24-32µ and another 40% is stronger than 32µ. So the bulk of wool traded by Falkland Island farmers is actually in the market segment that is more scarce- and less likely to be affected by supply and demand considerations.

Thirdly there is the luxury vs necessity argument. Finer wools go into the luxurious end of the wool market and stronger wools into the more stable part of the market - hence they hold their value better because it is presumably the luxuries that people stop buying first.

Next, there may be a substitution of finer wool by stronger wool because it is cheaper. People might still buy a woollen garment but not the fine handling and draping one they can no longer afford. They will buy something that is perhaps not as good an end product - but cheaper.

And finally there may be an element of keeping the mills open. A wool combing plant is a specialised factory. You can close it down or keep it going, and if you do the latter you may choose to process much cheaper wools to reduce your input costs - particularly if you are stockpiling your product until things pick up.

## Will it even sell?

In a buoyant market buyers will have a go at everything, stockpile both raw and unprocessed wool knowing that prices are strong and maybe even getting better. In a depressed and uncertain market though raw wool is only purchased by a processor to fill the contracts they have for tops or processed wools. This has been happening this year. So the attitude of just taking the cut and then at least having some cash to cover some of the costs may not even be possible. Whilst you are willing to take a 15% cut or whatever, you still need to get the buyer.

I guess the answer here is to maintain quality - the irony is that low priced markets are even more fussy than when things are selling hot off the shelves. The Falkland Islands have a good reputation for white, clean wool, free from contamination and black fibres. It has a good reputation for fleece preparation. It is tested and accurately described. Sheep are not mulesed (like many Australian sheep) and it may even be organic. Keep these things - because these are what might provide market access during the tough times.

There is also the fact that a long term rolling drought in Australia has reduced sheep numbers there dramatically - and the amount of wool hitting the market from Australia is dropping, so people are looking elsewhere.

## Summary

We do know that the prices Falkland Island wool farmers will receive this year for their wool will be lower than previous seasons - and since they were not particularly good either, it will be difficult times ahead for wool farmers and related businesses. Drops in gross income, when not offset by drops in operating costs, result in serious drops in profit. So things are going to be hard.

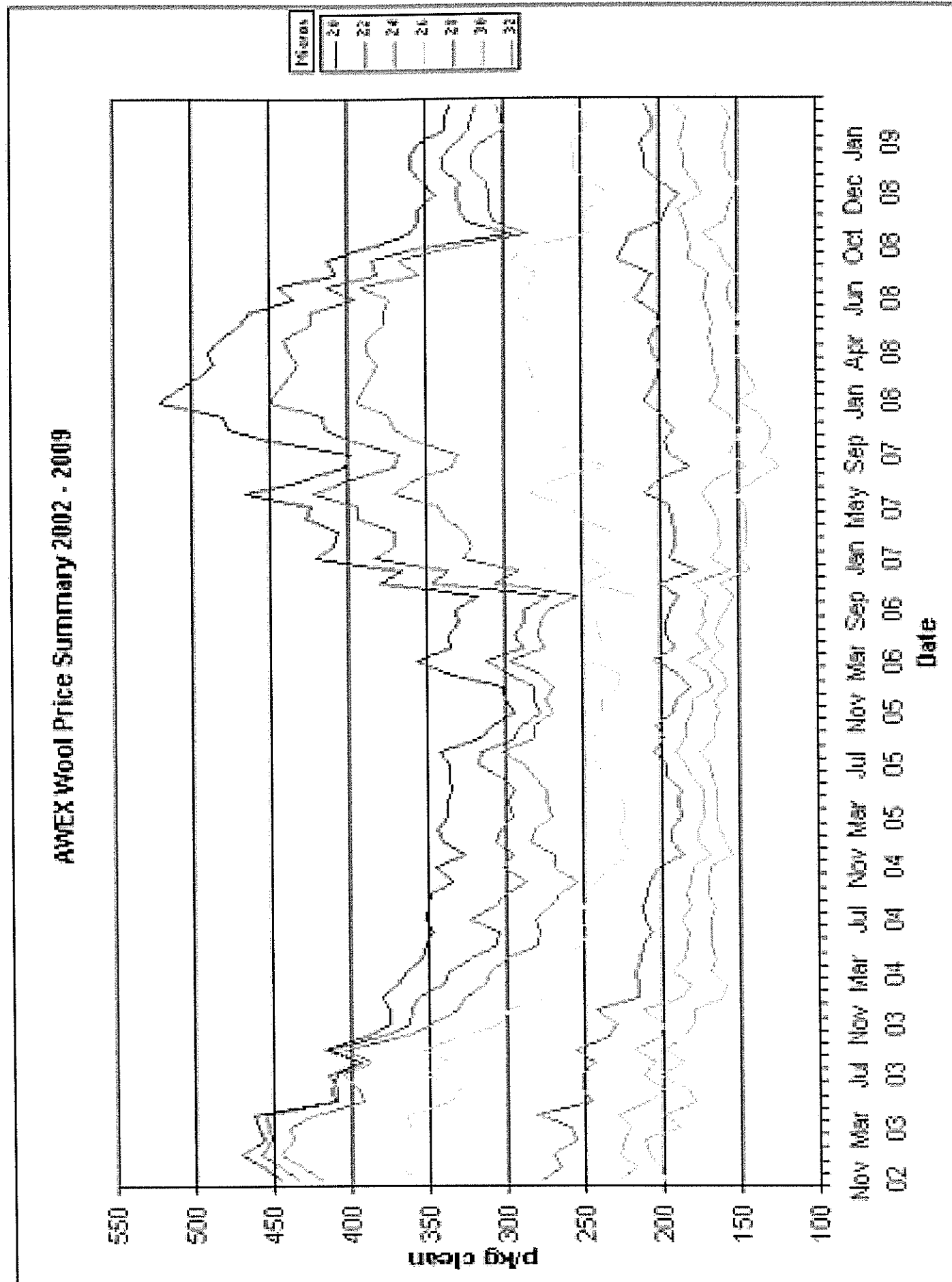
We also know that there are still premiums for finer wools, so the push for reduced microns by many will still be rewarded and it is not a time to change genetic goals.

How long this is all going to last is impossible to predict as well. There is a lag phase or "long pipeline" for wool products and it can be argued either way - that as things start to pick up raw wool prices will either be ahead of or behind the pack. Also how will the relativity between the currencies change?

The bottom line is that during these tough times you need to look after yourself and each other. This is something else you do well in the Falklands with sports days and whatever coming up, there's still time left in the fishing season too, so make sure you fit these things into your plans as well.

## WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DOA Wool Reports



## MORE EFFECTIVE PASTURE AND CROPPING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Andrew Pollard

Previous articles have reflected upon site selection, soil testing etc. This article assumes that a good site has already been selected and the area has been rotavated.

### Burning

Burning is one of the least liked tasks of the farming season, however, it is an essential part of the cropping/pasture process. The aim of burning is to remove above ground plant material and also the dense root material that is just below the ground (trash) leaving a seedbed that consists of soil, not root matter. Natural breakdown is in most cases ineffective due to the slow decomposition rates of the trash (diddle-dee can be different).

The burning period for cultivated ground almost entirely occurs between October and December. People burning in December need to review what they are trying to achieve in relation to growing a crop that year. If your environment is that wet that you cannot burn before then, you need to pay even more attention to the section below on growing oats in year one. Burning dries ground out and moisture loss is on a decline at this period in the calendar. In October and November there may only be a handful of occasions where the environmental conditions are suitable for a burn. When these occasions occur, this task needs to be set as a priority. There are tasks such as young sheep shearing and pre-lamb shearing that are inflexible (if utilising contractors) but ask yourself are other tasks more important.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Options

The success of the burn is evaluated by the quantity of trash remaining (the less trash, the better the burn). Trash can be problematic for obtaining a good seed to soil contact, effective fertiliser usage and for blocking up a seed drill.

After the burn a layer of ash is left on the surface of the cultivated ground. The thickness of this layer is proportional to the quantity of plant material burnt. This is very susceptible to erosion (this is why where fires burn in, a clay patch is often left).

When seeds germinate, and the subsequent early development, they need a food source like at any other time. Most people understand that a plant, once above ground requires green leaf to utilise sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and sugar in the process of photosynthesis. During the germination and early growth phase this food comes from within the seed. Larger seeds (such as oats) can therefore be sown deeper as they have more food available to them. These seeds can be planted at 25mm in depth in comparison to brassicas and pasture seed sown at 10mm in depth. This importantly means that in general the seed can be drilled into the soil below the ash. This provides better plant rooting (avoiding erosion from winds) and also better moisture availability. Using a seed drill here is essential.

Many books on horticulture will advise you in the winter to regularly fork your garden. However, they strongly advise that you do not do this with brassica plots. They prefer a consolidated seed bed as opposed to a cultivated one.

The Director of Agriculture (FI), Dr Gibbs, in 1946 writes in regards to brassica crops, "They cannot be established by normal methods on land which has been newly broken from native pastures. The cause is not known but it is believed to be due to lack of moisture in the seed bed through the difficulty of securing consolidation, no trouble has been experienced in obtaining a crop of winter turnips when sown on land newly broken from clover lea, or after 2 or 3 crops of



oats have been taken”.

Taking the above into account I would recommend that people sow forage oats in the first year (there are alternatives such as triticale, oats to date show the most promise).

Oats establish very quickly in comparison to brassicas and in the first year can make use of the lower soil moisture content (from rotavating and burning).

Whilst cost analysis information at present is unavailable, I would advise a top dressing of 50 kg of nitrogen per hectare on this crop once it reaches approximately an inch in height.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Options

Based on the assumption that oats were planted, the crop yield was good and the feed produced was utilised effectively we should now be left with a consolidated field with a stubble residual. This pasture needs to be assessed for weeds (a weed is anything that you do not want to be there, if growing swedes that means all other plant growth is a weed).

If there are no weeds then you are essentially able to plant anything into this seed bed. This decision should be based on your farm production goals. The most cost effective option across most systems is likely to be swedes, addressing the winter nutritional gap with stock. Secondly I would consider a crop like stubble turnips that would be ready to graze pre-joining ewes or putting weight on hoggets (same idea for cattle).

If the pasture has become infested with weed species then planting straight into this should lead to a reduced establishment and subsequent yield. What are the options?

Further cultivation is a risky option, strange as it sounds, rotavating actually propagates perennial weeds; it does so by chopping their roots into hundreds of root cuttings which all turn into new plants. Cultivation loosens up the seed bed and almost puts you back to the situation in year one (remember the horticultural view and Dr Gibbs).

Some weeds could be controlled by heavy stock grazing, care must be taken that the animal's nutritional requirements are not limited and negatively affect productivity.

The final option is with herbicide. Round Up (Glyphosphate) is effective on most plants and is less time consuming than cultivation. This would be my favoured option.

Direct drilling is again recommended to avoid soil moisture loss, obtain better seed to soil contact and also to prevent potential disturbance by implements such as the einboch or harrows after broadcasting.

Again, I would advise a top dressing of 50 kg of nitrogen per hectare on this crop.

### Putting Down to Pasture

If weeds were not an issue in year two it is almost certain that they will be in year three. Grass and legume species initially struggle to compete against many weed species.

Why spend £50 to £100 per hectare on seed if only a small proportion of it germinates? If this amount of money is to be spent (not including sowing costs etc) it is essential that the seed bed is as clean as possible. I might comment at this stage that one of the biggest decisions you may make is the choice of species and cultivars to be sown (next time you are in Town look at the gardens in the East of Stanley; some are entirely clover. Ironically, people wanted a grass lawn with no legume but got some cheap seed off a mate not knowing what it was).

Again, avoid cultivation, spray with herbicide and opt for the direct drill for all the reasons discussed in year 2.

Once the pasture is an inch or so above ground I would then spread approximately 30 kg of nitrogen per hectare. There is no need to apply nitrogen at planting as the seed is growing from its reserves and not necessarily utilising any of the applied nitrogen.

### Summary

Year 1: Prioritise the burn (early), sow oats underneath the remaining ash via a direct drill and finally apply fertiliser once established

Year 2: Assess pasture for weeds, treat with herbicide if a problem, plant a brassica (no cultivation) with the direct drill and once established apply fertiliser

Year 3: Assess pasture for weeds, treat with herbicide if a problem, sow the right species again with a direct drill and once established apply fertiliser

I emphasise that the above is the method I personally would aim to proceed with when cropping and establishing pasture in the Islands. Whilst I appreciate that there are differences in initial vegetation (diddle dee versus whitegrass), access to machinery, organic status etc movement away from the above in my opinion will favour failure rather than success. Ask yourself what you are currently doing and how successful is it to date?

Finally, I leave you a picture of a pasture sown this year. The area of sorrel was missed by the sprayer. Does your reseed look like that patch? Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of the above.



A pasture that was sown this year



## FARM IN PROFILE: SHALLOW BAY

**Property Name:** Shallow Bay

**Location:** Hill Cove, West Falklands

**Owners:** Paul & Dae Peck

**Farm size:** 15,948ha

**Sheep:** 4,000

*Dae & Paul bought Shallow Bay in 1987. Paul currently lives on the farm full time with daughter Farrah, whilst Dae is employed as house parent at Stanley House, living in town with younger daughter Reba. Although they spend the school terms in Stanley, Dae and Reba travel back to West Falkland to spend as much time as possible on the farm.*

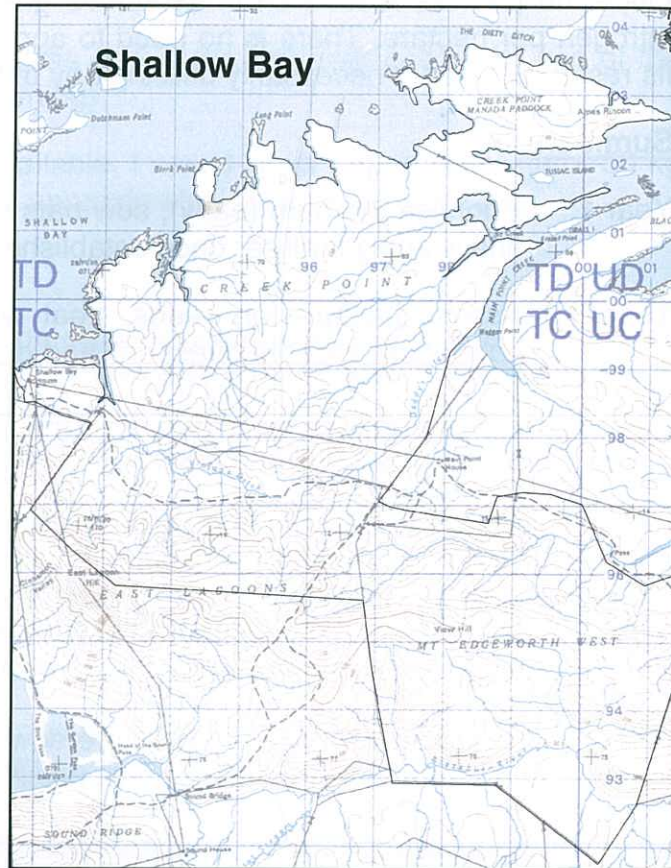
Shallow Bay is primarily a sheep farm running 4,000 Polwarth sheep. Dae & Paul are breeding their animals for wool, and in the past seven years, they have managed to bring their average micron down to 23.8µ from 27µ.

They have accomplished this by purchasing rams from the National Stud Flock in the annual sale (which they continue to do) and also setting up their own on-farm stud flock, which they breed into their main flock.

The final result produces a fine, high-yielding clean fleece with an average greasy fleece



*Sheep work at Shallow Bay*



weight of 3.8kgs. The yield of the hogget flock has been particularly good over the past couple of years. They are proud of the overall condition of their sheep, which also (according to some) produce some of the tastiest meat found in the Falkland Islands!

Dae & Paul continue to farm a set-stocking system in several large camps. They have not moved into rotational grazing because they believe the traditional methods of farming best apply to Shallow Bay.

The 1,200 ewes are lightly stocked over half of the farm and they have seen an improvement in their lambing percentages after reverting back to early lambing in October, rather than leaving it until November.

They also run some Hereford cattle on the farm, mainly for milking and their own beef consumption. Dae & Paul say they are intending to expand their beef herd in order to supply animals to the abattoir in the future.

## FARM IN PROFILE: SHALLOW BAY



*Paul exercising one of the thoroughbreds*

One of the plans for the future is to look at converting their farming practises to organic. Most of their current farming practises fit in within organic guidelines and there would only be a few changes necessary.

Shallow Bay welcomes tourism in the form of a self-catering bungalow. The building has been converted from the Old Stone House, and offers cosy living with scenery of the bay and islands to the north as well as mountains to the south. Dae & Paul give their visitors the chance to experience farming life, and eagerly get the horses in if the visitors are interested in riding. The fishing river close-by, on neighbouring farmland, has also proven very popular with the tourists.

For those horse enthusiasts Dae also offers the opportunity to trek along the old riding tracks of the north camp area. This experi-



*Ewes and lambs at Shallow Bay settlement*

ence lasts for 3 to 4 days covering ground from Shallow Bay to Roy Cove and includes camp fires, barbeques and sing-songs!

The Shallow Bay family hobby and passion is most definitely horses, and they are lucky enough to own an imported thoroughbred stallion and 3 pure offspring destined for the race-course.

Paul is also an avid leatherworker in the form of South American-inspired style and has been known to produce some high quality horse gear and jewellery.

The camp way of life is still very appealing to Dae & Paul, although in recent years the reduced income from wool has forced them to diversify. They feel that life in camp and the freedom and the ability to be self sufficient is the best way to live.



*The old stone house*



## WORMS IN SHEEP

Photographs by Ben Berntsen and article by Susan Campbell



Hogget faecal with tapeworm

Ben has kindly sent in four most impressive looking photographs which is the result of his sheep drenching. As he says, he put these hoggets onto his reseeded after shearing and felt concerned that they were not looking as good as they should and that there was some scouring. He then drenched them.

Unfortunately, what you see here was not the reason behind his sheep not looking so good, although the tapeworms (*Moniezia*) pictured in the photographs look horrendous they do amazingly little harm and they are in

no way related to the hydatid tape worm. They may perhaps add slightly to the scouring but little else. The real harm is done by round worms, *Trichostrongylus*, *Ostertagia* and *Nematodirus* worms which all live in the fourth stomach or high small intestine. These worms are microscopic and so are not seen by the naked eye in the faeces but importantly would also have been eliminated by the drench and thus Ben would have seen his hoggets pick up in condition. The tape worm lives low down in the gut and feeds on basically faeces. The roundworms, although small can be present in their thousands and affect production by causing:

- A reduction of feed intake by up to 50%
- An increased requirement for protein due to loss of proteins from the small intestine, and
- Decreased utilisation of ingested food

Unfortunately, by the time you see scouring in your sheep there has already been a substantial amount of economic loss rather than the weight gain you might have been expecting. The best way to ensure that you prevent this loss is to do a worm egg count well before scouring occurs. This involves collecting 10 fresh faecal samples and sending them into the laboratory where we can measure the number of eggs in the faeces and tell you whether or not you need to worm your sheep. It is particularly wise to do this before putting sheep onto clean pastures or reseeded so that you do not contaminate the area with worm eggs, therefore infecting all the grazing sheep and preventing them from fully benefiting from the pasture.

I am attempting to write some articles for the Wool Press about parasites and hope that these will help farmers to more fully understand this problem if anyone does not understand anything that I have written about or have any questions about parasites I would be happy to answer them. Previous articles can be found in Wool Press Vol's 225,226 and 227.



Hogget faecal with tapeworm

### NOTICE FROM STANLEY SPORTS ASSOCIATION (SSA)

Adrian Cawdery is a 1982 Falklands Veteran who visited the Islands in the 2007 pilgrimage. Adrian is now a registered equine podiatrist (a horse foot trimmer working towards 'natural care' of hooves rather than shoeing). Adrian enjoyed his previous visit so much he would like to return to the Islands and share his skills. The SSA is hoping to facilitate a visit by Adrian later this year. If you would be interested in taking part in some training (run by Adrian) to learn new, or refresh existing skills in equine foot trimming and care please let Zoë Luxton (assistant secretary, SSA) know on 51330 or [z\\_luxton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:z_luxton@yahoo.co.uk). We would like to have an idea of the number of people interested so we can assess how many courses might be needed and where they could be held. If you have a horse with a particular foot problem that Adrian may use to demonstrate his skill on, please let us know so we can send a photo and history to Adrian before he arrives. For more information see <http://www.epauk.org/register/adriancawdery.php>.



## NSF RAM AND NBH BULL SALE

By Lucy Ellis

This years' Ram and Bull Sale will be held in the Saladero wool shed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The stock inspection will start at 8am and, due to the early ferry departing time, the Helmsman auction will commence at 10.30am.

Stock for sale this year include a small number of Joint Venture Afrinos, SAMM's, Dohne shearing rams, NBH Angus bulls as well as NSF Polwarth shearing rams and ex-Stud elite mature rams.

The Concordia Bay will depart Port Howard at 6am on the 18<sup>th</sup> to arrive at New Haven at 7.45am. She will then depart New Haven at 4pm to reach Port Howard at 5.45pm. Could everybody please book with Workboat Services in good time as there are limited spaces.

And just in case you forget - please ensure you have transport organised for any stock you may purchase!

**Please note: If the ferry has to be cancelled due to bad weather the sale will be postponed to the next day, the 19<sup>th</sup> March. In this eventuality, the DoA will do all it can to inform people at the very earliest opportunity.**

Could all those who will need lifts to and from the ferry please advise the DoA well in advance to allow for adequate transport to be arranged.

The Galley Café will be selling food and drinks throughout the day at Saladero.

### FARMERS WEEK – YOUR INPUT

In an effort to make the Department of Agriculture's Farmers Week sessions more relevant to you we would like your suggestions. The type of suggestions we are after relate to topics/areas of interest you would like discussed. We would also like your suggestions on the manner of the presentations e.g. lecture type presentations, open forum discussions, poster displays or practical demonstrations.

Our aim is to try and accommodate all the suggestions put forward though it may not be physically possible given our time allocation during this week.

If you have any suggestions please phone or email Tony on [tmills@doa.gov.fk](mailto:tmills@doa.gov.fk)



### Dates for the Diary



1st–6th March Sports Week—Hill Cove and North Arm

9th March Commonwealth Day

18th March Ram and Bull Sale

22nd March Mothering Sunday

8th April Dog Dosing

Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email [imports@doa.gov.fk](mailto:imports@doa.gov.fk) and advise when your dogs have been dosed.



## EYEING OFF THOSE GOOD LOOKING BEEF CARCASSES

By Mac McArthur



After many months of waiting, the beef eye muscle area (EMA) measuring grids have finally arrived this week from AUS-MEAT in Brisbane. The clear plastic grid device created interest amongst farmers attending last year's Farmers' Week and is used to directly measure the area of eye muscle in a beef carcass.

Heavily muscled cattle and carcasses have thick convex muscles relative to their skeletal size and poorly muscled, dairy type cattle have thin concave musculature. By measuring the EMA on a carcass (sq.cm) and also measuring the rib fat depth (mm) it is possible to calculate accurately the Yield of Saleable Meat from a carcass.

### Yield of Saleable Meat

Yield of saleable meat (YSM) is what is left after excess fat and other trim has been removed including the majority of bones. In a well muscled ideally fattened (5 - 12 mm) carcass the yield of saleable meat will be in the order of 70% of the carcass weight but will vary considerably depending on the muscling of the cattle.

The amount of rib fat has the single biggest effect on the percentage of saleable meat as even very lean carcasses need to be trimmed of some fat. The following table shows the variation in yield of saleable meat relative to the fat class and percentage of fat trimmed.

Fat Class	3	4L	4H
% Yield Saleable Meat	72.5	71	70
% Fat Trimmed	10	12	13

The yield of saleable meat can range from 55% in a poorly muscled dairy cow to 76% in young Limousin bull carcasses. Individual animals in a beef herd can vary between having a YSM of 60 to 75% meaning a big variation in total carcass value at £1.80/kg as the table below shows.

	Carcass 1 70% YSM	Carcass 2 60% YSM
Carcass Weight (kg)	250	250
Weight Saleable Meat (kg)	175	150
Value @ £1.80/kg	£315.00	£270.00

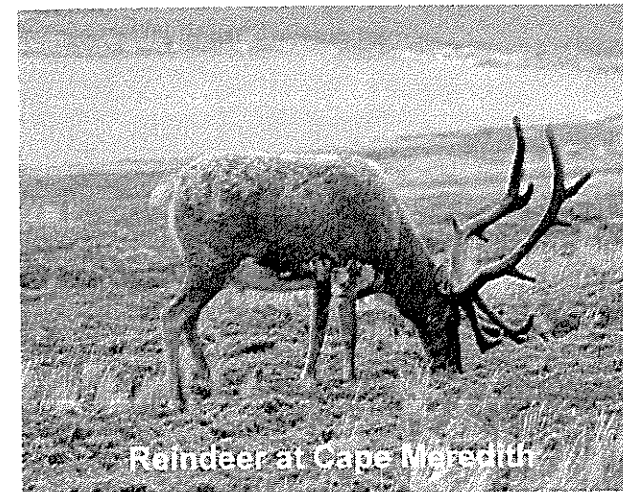
### The Beef Herd Breeding Objectives

The aim of the National Beef Herd is to produce very well muscled cattle that are capable of laying down at least 5 - 7mm of rib fat by the time they are 24 to 30 months old. Introducing semen and embryos from seed stock that have above average international Angus breed estimated breeding values (EBV's) for eye muscle area and for rib fat is important to improve these two critical carcass traits in Falkland Island cattle. These cattle also have above average EBV's for marbling fat which provides taste and juiciness to beef.

The grids will be used in carcass appraisal work and will be another tool to ensure the cattle bred in the future more readily meet the carcass specifications and consumer demand for high quality young beef.

## REINDEER ROUNDUP - WELL ALMOST!

By Steve Pointing



Four members of the DoA (myself, Tim Bonner, Andy Pollard and gap student, Elliott Simpson) headed off to Albemarle in January to make an attempt to round up the reindeer there and carry out a variety of procedures on them. The report below highlights some of the issues and difficulties that arose during the visit and makes some suggestions as to how we could be more successful when making a future attempt to gather them up.

### Background

Reindeer were first introduced to the Falkland Islands in February 2001. At that time 59 reindeer were brought back from South Georgia and initially held at the quarantine station at Saladero. After a few early setbacks (a considerable number of deaths in the early stages) the reindeer eventually adapted to their new surroundings and began to thrive. It wasn't the plan, however, that the reindeer should be looked after solely by the DoA so in early 2004 plans were made to translocate the majority of the herd to West Lagoons on West Falkland. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the reindeer did not thrive in this location, and after a very poor winter in 2006 a further decision was made to move the remaining reindeer to another location on West Falkland - this time to Albemarle. At that time 12 reindeer (10 hinds and 2 stags) were moved.

### Our thwarted attempt to round them up

The reindeer are currently located in a camp of approximately 600 hectares but in spite of the large area to be covered and the difficult terrain involved we didn't have too much of a problem in locating the reindeer herd. Initially they appeared to have split into 2 groups - one group of about 12 and the other of about 30 animals but during the course of our attempts to round them up the 2 groups re-united again.

The very good news is that the reindeer at Albemarle appear to be thriving. Their current numbers are approximately as follows:

Large stags - 3  
 Smaller stags - 2  
 Fawns born in 2008 - c.15  
 Remainder - c. 20 (including all the breeding females and yearling males and females born in 2007).

This makes a grand total of approximately 40 - an increase of over 300% from the 12 moved to this site in late 2006. As well as having increased in actual numbers the reindeer all appeared to be in excellent condition.

Although several attempts were made over 2 days to round them up and bring them into the much smaller Shanty paddock (approx 25 hectares) this proved impossible to do on this occasion.



## The next step

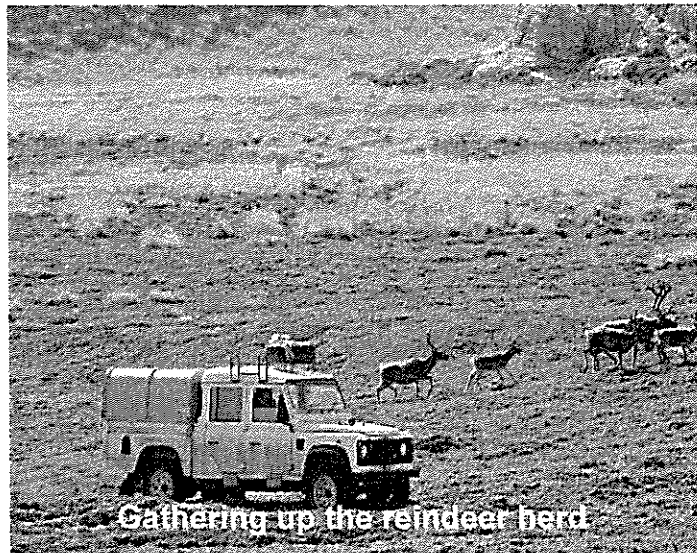
At some stage in the future it would be useful to round up the reindeer, count them accurately and carry out any animal husbandry and veterinary procedures that are deemed necessary. In an ideal situation the ratio of adult males to females probably needs to be no greater than about 1:30. The problem with having too many males at mating time (March/April) is that this can lead to a great deal of fighting and possible injury or even death. Two or three males could be identified for future breeding and the rest could be castrated.



The main problems encountered this time were the size of the camp, the difficulty of the terrain and the fact that the reindeer are less accustomed now to the presence of human beings. All of these problems can be overcome with a bit of forward planning.

It would be useful if the reindeer were visited on a fairly regular basis. This would make them more used to seeing people. If some or all of these visits could include the offering of some feed, it might make it easier to encourage the reindeer to follow a vehicle into the smaller paddock.

- The current gateway into the small paddock (the Shanty paddock) should be left open all the time so that the reindeer can freely move in and out of this paddock. A small amount of concentrate feed could be offered inside this paddock.
- The terrain in the Three Crowns/ Kit's Camp paddocks is extremely difficult. The best means of transport inside this camp to cover large distances is by two-wheeler; a land rover or quad bike can only be used in limited areas. During our most recent attempt to round up the reindeer there was only one skilled DoA motor bike rider available (thanks Tim) - our chances of success would have increased greatly with a second or even third motorbike rider available.
- Some changes need to be made to the current set up of the gates between the larger paddocks and the Shanty paddock into which we would like the reindeer to go. The current set up involves trying to get the reindeer to turn through 180° as they pass through adjacent gates. A new gateway constructed on the northern fence line of the Shanty paddock with a wing fence coming away from this gate would make it considerably easier to push the reindeer through. This could be achieved at not too great a cost either in time or materials. Once inside the Shanty paddock it should prove much easier to manipulate the reindeer into the portable cattle yards.



Finally I must say a big thank you to Pam and Erica for their welcome and assistance during our stay at Albemarle. We might not have been totally successful this time around but we will be better prepared for our next attempt. I'm not sure whether the reindeer appreciate it but they have ended up in what must be one of the most beautiful areas in the whole of the Falkland Islands. I certainly look forward to returning there for a more successful second attempt.

## AUSTRALIA IS OFF THE SHEEPS BACK

By Ian Campbell

Having just come back from a trip to Australia I thought I would report on some of the things that are being discussed there. The main issue is mulesing, where buyers are saying they won't buy wool from sheep mulesed after 2010 (the date it is due to be banned). But there are other issues as well.

The expression used in the 1950s was that Australia used to "Ride on the Sheeps Back" was the expression. The Korean war was on and wool was a pound a pound. Well now they are saying the ride is over.

By as late as 1988 there were 174 million sheep in Australia and wool was an AUD 6 billion export earner (actual - not adjusted for inflation).

Now, ravaged by drought, falling wool prices, and maybe mulesing, sheep numbers have plummeted to 76 million sheep, and despite the huge "fining up" of the clip it is back to \$2.2 billion in value and falling.

Wool growers are desperately seeking diversification. The land is also being used for cropping (canola and wheat) beef and prime lambs, all of which have increased.

Another aspect is the aging of the wool farmers. As one farmer put it the young people going onto the land are seduced by the big tractors, auto steer and GPS that points them towards cropping, and wool production is seen as hard work.

Whether there are lessons in the need for diversification of Falkland Island farms I won't comment upon, but there are a couple of interesting points beyond just the amount of wool Australia is no longer putting into the world market:

- Australia does not take the dual purpose approach we do here. Sheep are either Merino (most are now less than 21  $\mu$ , or terminal meat breed 28  $\mu$  plus - but the lambs killed are mostly never shorn. This leaves the 22-27  $\mu$  market largely untargeted by the Australians.
- Wool from non mulesed sheep is already achieving a 5% premium - this premium should increase if, as some are calling for, the ban is lifted for some reason.

*Horticultural Society*

**Flower, Vegetable  
& Home Produce Show**

*Saturday 7th March  
in the Parish Hall*

Show opens at 2pm  
Prize giving at 4pm.  
Followed by the auction

For more information  
contact:  
Tim Miller on 21498  
(evenings)  
Tim Blake on 21271

Please take exhibits to  
the Parish Hall between  
6pm - 9pm on Friday  
6th March (there is no  
cost to enter exhibits)

*FIGAS have kindly  
agreed to fly camp  
entries free of charge.  
please address entries  
to: Horticultural Show,  
c/o Tim Miller*

**Admission to show:**  
Adults - £1.00 OAPs & children: 25p

## NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION & TRACING SCHEME FOR CATTLE - CONTINUED

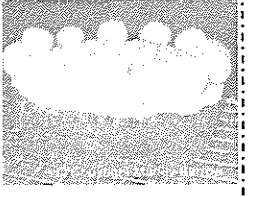
By Zoë Luxton

In the last Wool Press I discussed the introduction of the accepted National Identification and Tracing Scheme for Cattle. The article and table summarised a good action plan for beginning to comply with the requirements. This means that when it becomes a legal requirement you will probably already be running your herd in the most efficient and workable manner. The requirements for 2009 are repeated in the following table along with the requirements for the following years to complete the 3 year phase-in of the system. Remember that the benefits of having a tagged and performance recorded herd are many: reproductive efficiency and calf weights to name but two.



DATE	CALVES BORN	CATTLE ON THE GROUND	REGISTRATION
After 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2009	<p>Calves born after this date must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double tagged by the age of 6m (or before leaving the farm, whichever comes first).</li> <li>• Tagged with a farm code (as registered with the DoA – your abattoir paint brand or an accepted alternative eg full name) and unique number in each ear.</li> <li>• Ideally the number will be the same in each ear. It doesn't matter if it is not as long as all information is stored in the farm records accurately. Eg Left ear ZL23 Right ear ZL34.</li> <li>• These numbers should only be used <u>once</u> ie not repeated in another cow.</li> <li>• The farm code and number can be on separate tags but now is the time to think about ordering numbered tags with your farm code on them.</li> <li>• Any type of tags can be used so current stocks can be used up.</li> <li>• All numbers and station marks used must be recorded in the farm register.</li> <li>• Unfortunately until the legislation is amended (which can take a little time!) all livestock must have a station mark also. When this tagging legislation comes to fruition the station mark may become obsolete.</li> </ul> <p><b>All farms should have some sort of book or spread sheet into which is recorded all calves born, to which cow, what happens to them eg sold to abattoir or other farm and any treatments given.</b></p>	<p>If remaining on farm: Farmers current tagging practice is allowed but consider starting to number tag at least (if not double tagging) your adult cattle if you get the chance. Record numbers in the farm log.</p> <p><b>If cattle are being moved off the farm they must be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tagged with a farm code and unique number in each ear.</li> <li>• Ideally the numbers would be the same in each ear.</li> <li>• Any tags can be used to use up current stocks.</li> <li>• The farm codes and numbers can be on separate tags if necessary.</li> <li>• If moving directly to the abattoir for slaughter cattle may be identified by a paint body brand if you do not have farm-coded numbered tags.</li> <li>• If moving for slaughter, records must be available on the farm to trace this animal back to the holding of birth.</li> </ul>	<p>Every quarter we will send you a registration form to complete. The information we require on this form includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tag numbers and details of any calves born and tagged in the last 3 months.</li> <li>• Any cattle that have been slaughtered or died on farm.</li> <li>• Any adult cattle that are now appropriately double tagged.</li> <li>• You can get these via email or hard copy whichever you prefer. If you want to just cut and paste the relevant farm records back to us that is fine.</li> <li>• We will know cattle movements on and off the farm for disease tracing via the animal movement certificate copies that you already send to us.</li> </ul>
After 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	<p>All calves born after this date must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double tagged with approved tags* (within 6m etc)</li> <li>• A small tamper proof tag in one ear with the farm code and a unique number on it.</li> <li>• A large tamper proof reader tag in the other ear ideally bearing exactly the same information as on the button tag but this is not essential as long as accurate recordings of tag numbers are made in farm records.</li> </ul> <p>* 'approved' tags are those which are designated 'tamper proof' as can be purchased from Zeetags, Allflex, Leader etc. They will include the RFID tags approved for the NLIS and NAIT systems which are the current/impending national ID system for cattle in Australia and New Zealand.</p>	<p>AS ABOVE</p> <p>If existing adult cattle are already double tagged they do <u>not</u> need to have one of the tags replaced by a button tag. The existing tags in each ear are acceptable. However if you are just starting to double tag existing cattle you should ensure they finish up with a reader and a button tag.</p>	<p>AS ABOVE</p>
After 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2011	<p>AS ABOVE</p>	<p>ALL cattle on the ground must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double tagged</li> <li>• Have a farm code and unique number in each ear.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL cattle on the farm should be double tagged and registered with the DoA over the course of this year.</p>
After 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	<p>TAGGING AND REGISTERING WILL BECOME A LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND AUDITING OF FARM RECORD BOOKS AND MOVEMENTS WILL PERIODICALLY BE CARRIED OUT BY THE DoA.</p>		

## Recipe Spot



### The History behind Mothering Sunday

Did you know Mothering Sunday is also known as 'Simnel Sunday', because of the traditional baking of Simnel Cakes. It is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday' or 'Mid-Lent Sunday', as Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday during the Lent period.

No one actually knows how the idea of Mothering Sunday began, but four hundred years ago, people who lived in villages would go to the nearest big church rather than their local church.

This was a day that girls and boys 'in service' would go and visit their families as they were only allowed to visit them once a year. Also often the house keepers and cooks would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home for their mothers.

Here is a recipe for Simnel Cake which was traditionally cooked on Mothering Sunday.

#### INGREDIENTS

300g / 10oz self raising flour  
1 / 2 teaspoon mixed spice  
110g / 4oz butter or margarine  
110g / 4oz brown sugar  
2 tablespoons of golden syrup

#### 2 eggs

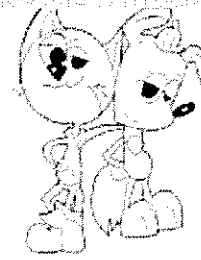
350g / 12oz mixed fruit  
Approx. 100ml milk to mix  
700g marzipan  
2 tablespoons of icing sugar for decoration

#### METHOD

Rub the margarine into the flour. Add all the dry ingredients i.e. sugar, spice, and dried fruit. Stir well. Add golden syrup and eggs. Add enough milk to form a soft dropping consistency. Stir well to combine all the ingredients. Grease a deep round 8 inch tin. Place half the mixture in the tin. Roll out one third of the marzipan. Place the marzipan on top of the mixture. Add the rest of the mixture on top. Smooth down the surface of the mixture. Bake in the centre of the oven for 1-1 1/4 hours or until a thin metal skewer inserted in the centre of the cake comes out without a trace of stickiness. Leave to cool for about 10 minutes. Loosen the cake from the tin gently with a knife. Turn out onto a wire rack to allow to cool thoroughly. Roll out another third of the marzipan. Mix the icing sugar with a little cold water to form a paste. Pour some on the cake. Place the rolled marzipan on top. Use the back of a fork around the edge to make a pattern. With the last of the marzipan make 11 equal size balls. Dip each ball into the icing sugar mixture. Arrange the 11 balls around the outside of the cake. Pour some icing sugar mixture in the centre of the cake. Add decorations of your choice.

*If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, why not send in your own favourites to share?*

### Lab Test and Cat Scan



A man runs into the vet's office carrying his dog, screaming for help. The vet rushes him back to an examination room and has him put his dog down on the examination table. The vet examines the still, limp body and after a few moments tells the man that his dog, regrettably, is dead.

The man, clearly agitated and not willing to accept this, demands a second opinion. The vet goes into the back room and comes out with a cat and puts the cat down next to the dog's body. The cat sniffs the body, walks from head to tail poking and sniffing the dog's body and finally looks at the vet and meows.

The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the cat thinks that your dog is dead too." The man is still unwilling to accept that his dog is dead.

The vet brings in a black Labrador. The Lab sniffs the body, walks from head to tail, and finally looks at the vet and barks.

The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the Lab thinks your dog is dead too." The man, finally resigned to the diagnosis, thanks the vet and asks how much he owes. The vet answers, "\$650."

"\$650 to tell me my dog is dead?" exclaimed the man.

"Well," the vet replies, "I would only have charged you \$50 for my initial diagnosis. The additional \$600 was for the cat scan and lab tests."



# PUZZLE PAGE

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

## 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

WISH



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.

ie Cexcept

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.

## Double Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

- 1) XOF ABY TEWS
- 2) HLLI VOCE
- 3) POTR DORHWA
- 4) POTR SEEPHNS
- 5) LABMELERA NOSTAIT
- 6) LEITTL RAHTECSR
- 7) SETW GONSALO
- 8) XOF BYA TAES

Answer for last month: Stanley road and street names

### Brainteaser

Assume penguins live with a density of 1,000 penguins per square mile and can run at an average speed of 7 mph on land and swim at 20 mph. Assume a polar bear has a territory of 10 square miles, can run at 25 mph and swim at 10 mph, how many penguins will an average polar bear eat in any given month, remembering that a polar bear could, as a maximum, only eat one penguin per hr and 7% of the land is next to the sea. (last month's answer: an hour)

## Last Month's Solutions

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

LOST

WORD  
WORD  
WORD  
WORD

Lost for Words

ETUNIMANI

Back in a Minute

# THE WOOL PRESS

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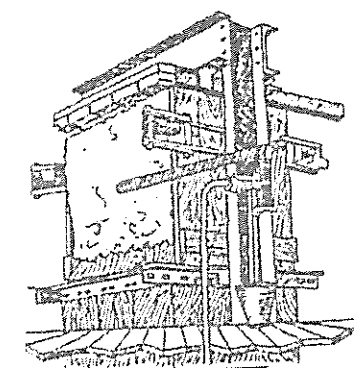
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Plus all the usual features and more!!



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## EDITORIAL

After an extremely dry, and fairly windless summer the skiff, of snow and sleet this week has reminded us all that winter is on its way. The positive is that stock and domestic water will again become plentiful but as one farmer pointed out to me this week, there is little hay or silage available because of the very dry summer season.

Andy Pollard has provided a must read article on the changes that have been approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the Farm Improvement Programme (FIP). A number of new opportunities have been provided for farmer's to be more innovative in looking at alternatives to increasing the diversification of income from their farms to help with the slow down in wool returns due to the world recession.

Steve Pointing has outlined the main changes in the recently revised animal welfare codes which were first introduced 10 years ago. You have an opportunity to comment and make suggested changes before the codes are adopted into Falkland Island's legislation. For all farmers it is important that you are aware of the main changes and comment if you believe changes are necessary.

With lower wool prices it is critical that where possible farmers not only diversify their enterprises but also with alternative enterprises ensure that the very best management practices and consequently products like lamb that fit the premium FIMCo specification are produced. Ian Campbell provides a very timely article about the marketing opportunities that a well managed lamb enterprise that consistently produces lambs of the correct carcass weight and fatness to fit the premium schedule price, provides for Falkland Island farmers.

Siân Ferguson and Lucy Ellis provide an excellent summary of the highly successful ram and bull sale held recently at Saladero. With all but 3 of the rams sold and the majority of them bought with private money, in the present economic climate it was a very pleasing result. A big thank you to Brian and Diana Aldridge who through much hard work and planning helped achieve a very successful first sale for them. Thanks also to the ram buyers, DoA staff who have put in so much work over the year, the caterers James, Trudi and Beverly Lee and everybody that came along to enjoy the fun day out.

A big thank you to Councillor Richard Stevens and Toni for the very interesting article and pictures on their farm Port Sussex.

Susan Campbell has produced a very interesting article about sheep drenches for internal parasite control in sheep. Ensuring that the weight of sheep is not underestimated, that the drenching gun is delivering the correct dose and that not just the daggy ones in a mob are drenched are key points. Make sure you read the whole article as there are a lot of other key points that affect the surviving and thriving of your sheep. Worm control meetings will be held shortly in conjunction with DoA updates. Dates and venues on the West and East to be advised shortly.

Ian Campbell discusses the triple bottom line concept and highlights the fact that economists have monetary benchmarks but lifestyle and environmental aspects are only often partially measurable in this hard currency terms.

Best regards,

**Mac McArthur**  
**Senior Agricultural Advisor**

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## FARM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

*By Andrew Pollard*

A paper was discussed at the February Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting in relation to reviewing the current guidelines and clarifying what options are available to farmers through the scheme.

In 2006 a set of FIP priorities were created by the DoA. Farmers are advised to consider these updated priorities when formulating their 2009/10 plans:

- a. **Improved winter nutrition of breeding ewes/cows**
- b. **Improved winter nutrition of hoggets/heifers and young steers**
- c. **Effective grazing management to improve long term pasture productivity and animal performance**
- d. **Targeted sheep and cattle genetic change to achieve defined breeding goals**

It is clear that improved reproductive performance, reduced death rates, improved growth rates and liveweight, combined with a slight adjustment to stock type on many farms, offers the Falkland Islands as a whole, the greatest scope to improve profitability of farming. Because of this, FIP plans should focus on works that offer the prospect of gains in these critical areas.

Whilst the DoA is focused on the above priorities, there are several potential projects that farms can pursue that do not fit directly into these four categories. The majority of these projects will be approved on an individual farm basis as they are often related to the categories above. These are as follows;

- Ditching is acceptable under the FIP programme, providing the farm shows evidence that they are addressing nutritional issues with their breeding and young stock. Plans are expected to outline the distance to be ditched, the associated costs and the stock type that the camp currently supports.
- The fattening of stock is eligible under the scheme providing farms can show the return on investment required. When considering approval the DoA will assess the farms current productivity levels. High quality improved pasture is often more likely to show the better return when compared to crops. Crops are often utilised as a stepping stone to assist the establishment of the pasture and this will also be considered. The long term plan will be required to obtain approval in this instance (see March Wool Press). Similarly lambs will show a better return from fattening than wethers.
- With the sale of the DoA pool machinery to the agricultural community it is felt that prices for works should be left for market forces to dictate. However, it is felt that these costs will be controlled by the farm meeting a £3 return for every £1 spent. The DoA will, of course, monitor the situation to see if a ceiling price is required.
- A wage of £6/hour is sometimes unrealistic when utilising skilled labour in some areas of work (particularly contracting). It is felt that paying skilled labour a higher hourly rate should have the knock on effect of quicker task completion and improved quality of work assisting in achieving the return of £3 for every £1 spent. The DoA will monitor the situation to see if a ceiling price is required.
- In evaluating FIP works progress often needs to be determined through wool mid side sampling, pregnancy diagnosis, soil testing and plant nutrient analysis. These costs can potentially be reclaimed through the FIP scheme.
- Land restoration projects, such as the planting of tussac grass, fencing of areas with clay patches etc. could potentially be funded under the programme.
- Rotavated tracks for easier movement or for fencelines may be funded under the scheme



as long as it clearly demonstrates a link to the current FIP priorities.

- Costs for scanning sheep could also be reclaimed as long as the farm can demonstrate a clear productivity gain purpose for the scanning.
- To an extent, grazing management is limited by water availability (particularly in the summer months). Funding is available for farms to create extra water sources or look at methods to deliver water providing they fit into a suitable grazing management plan.
- There will be no sheep ET programme run by the Department in 2009/10. Funding is available for sheep and cattle AI. This must follow the guidelines (same for ram purchases) set out previously by the DoA. Any issues relating to cattle genetics should be addressed by contacting the DoA early. They will then be discussed and a subsequent decision made.
- The purchase of imported high protein/energy supplementary feeds will also be considered for specific production feeding of young breeding stock and other situations where the return on investment meets the FIP criteria.

2009/10 FIP plans will require the estimated completion dates of tasks, in relation to cropping and pasture works. These dates will be closely examined during the approval process. When the task date expires, written permission will have to be sought from the DoA allowing you to continue with this crop/pasture.

**All farms are encouraged to be creative in the planning process and all practical and financially sound proposals will be considered.**

These changes will be sent out shortly as updates for the Farm Management Handbook. FIP plan templates for 2009/10 will also be sent out at the same time along with details such as deadline dates.

Please feel free to talk to any of the DoA Advisors on any of the above issues.

## REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE CODES

*By Steve Pointing*

The current animal welfare codes were first introduced in the Falkland Islands in 1998. Much has happened in the ensuing 10 years and it was thought appropriate to revise the welfare codes and bring them more into line with what is happening in the farming community in other parts of the world.

As a part of the revision exercise, the opportunity has been taken to standardise the format of the codes for each different species so that each code covers similar areas of concern. This should make it easier for farmers and livestock owners to refer to these codes and find an answer to any welfare query they might have. All the codes will have the following chapter headings:

1. Food and water
2. Protection from climatic extremes
3. Supervision
4. Handling facilities
5. Management practices
6. Husbandry procedures
7. Health
8. Euthanasia

In reaching a decision on the various time limits under which certain procedures should be carried

out we have adopted a fairly pragmatic approach to try and accommodate the extensive nature of Falkland Islands farming and the limited amount of labour available at busy times of the year.

The current FI welfare codes for all the different farm animal species were compared with welfare codes currently in operation in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. The proposed FI welfare codes more closely resemble those of Australia and New Zealand than those of the UK.

An additional welfare code has also been produced. This is entitled "Code of practice for the welfare of animals in transport". This is being introduced in order for the Falkland Islands to comply with EU requirements about how animals should be transported generally but to the abattoir in particular. This obviously has important ramifications as far as potential exports of meat into the EU are concerned.

Before these revised codes can be adopted into Falkland Islands' legislation interested parties have to have the opportunity to read through the proposed changes and make comment on them if they wish. This article forms a part of that consultative process.

Set out below is a table showing the main changes proposed but it is not exhaustive. If you would like to read each welfare code in full please contact Sarah (email [sbowles@DoA.gov.fk](mailto:sbowles@DoA.gov.fk) or telephone 27366) at the office and she will email you a copy. Please forward any comments back to Sarah before the end of April 2009.

### The main changes

Species	Castration without use of Local anaesthetic		Tail docking		Other
	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	
Sheep	< 5 months	< 6 months	Preferably < 10 weeks	Preferably < 12 weeks	Not to be deprived of food or water for periods in excess of 24 hours
Cattle	< 5 months Castration with rubber rings can only be used up to 4 weeks of age	< 6 months			
Horses					1) Best practice that horses be transported in individual stalls 2) Special care to be taken with horses that are being transported for the first time 3) Particular attention to be paid to condition of yards/gardens in Stanley that only receive horses occasionally
Pigs	< 6 weeks	< 8 weeks			Feeding of ruminant carcasses (especially brains, spinal cords and intestines) to pigs is undesirable and should be avoided if possible
Dogs					1) Must be provided with food every 24 hours 2) Bed raised off the ground to prevent it from becoming damp 3) Dogs to be checked at least once a day



## PRODUCING LAMBS FOR MARKET

*By Ian Campbell*

I have been watching with great interest the debate of recent weeks about lamb definitions. To me, much of the entire debate from all sides misses the point. The real point is lamb quality- and the ability to consistently, reliably and in a timely manner produce the correct weight and fat cover of lambs needed by FIMCo to satisfy their customers.

The Falkland Island export lamb market is a fantastic opportunity for farmers to diversify and to earn good income from lambs - up to £25 plus wool if done properly, but this does not come easily. It takes planning and commitment and a timely amount of well directed effort.

To state it even more succinctly; export lamb is not an opportunistic way for the farm to earn a bit more cash on the side. It is a business opportunity that requires a thorough business approach to achieve good results.

### Planning

Getting either a New Seasons Lamb (NSL) up to weight before the end of the export season, or an Old Seasons Lambs (OSL) up to weight and condition before they cut their teeth (or start using them for that matter) at the start of the export season, takes planning. In one sense they are the same because if a hogget goes into the winter too small it will never make an OSL next year anyway.

The big killer is stagnation. Lambs need to keep growing and at no time in spring or summer should they be allowed to stagnate, because you lose too much time and opportunity. Growth rates of these types of lambs could be up to 300 grams per day if all the things are right, but a nice 30 kg liveweight NSL (about £18 worth) at 6 months of age has put on 26 kg above its birth weight at an average of only 24 grams per day- not a huge ask really.

One reason for growth rates stagnating is obviously poor nutrition, and the 300 g/day is most likely never going to happen here. But there are a number of things within your control that may make it far better than it is. I believe that a combination of proper weaning and sound grazing management can help with nutrition immensely. Monitoring for worms in lambs will also avoid them stagnating by getting quickly on top of any issues that arise there. Having clean worm free feed in the right paddock needs to happen through good planning as well.

Of course OSL will inevitably stagnate or even go backwards in winter, and there is not a lot you can do about that. By having them as heavy as possible before this time, and by ensuring they do not for example have a worm problem, and by at least giving them as good a camp as you can afford to (I am aware pregnant ewes also need a good camp) then you can have a far better chance of getting them up to the weights required close to the start of the export season.

Priority setting is important too. Lambs might stagnate because there is shearing, then Xmas, then more shearing, and other commitments - and they get a bit left out - so this all needs to be well thought through beforehand.

### Monitoring

You should have agreed targets with FIMCo about the numbers of lambs and time you will have them ready. Watch them, observe the paddock feed, weigh and condition score them and check them for worms. Are they on track, if not what needs to happen to put them back on track? It's

not just FIMCo that doesn't want any surprises; it is your budget as well.

Effective monitoring may mean that you need to develop and train your grading skills, or you may need to make changes to your sheep yards, or to get hold of a set of scales. These issues also need to be thought through as part of your overall farm business plan.

### Finishing Systems

There are a number of finishing systems here that I am aware of. The best camps, oat crops, reseeded or brassicas are common, and there are bound to be others. Whilst good quality feed is the only way to finish lambs this must be used the right way.

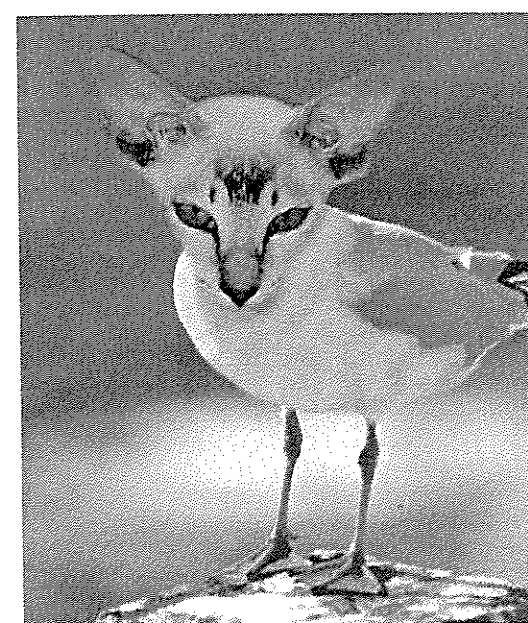
A change of diet (say from a good camp to a crop) requires a change in the rumen bugs to adapt to the new feed source. The bigger the change the longer this takes. For example moving sheep from a good green to a brassica crop will give them a bit of a gut ache and a scour. By the time a couple of weeks have passed they have probably put no weight on at all. From then on, though- as long as the good food lasts, they will start to steam ahead.

So, if you are allocating resources and you have a crop, put 200 lambs on it for 6 weeks rather than 600 lambs on it for two weeks. Putting them on for a few days just does not work.

Be aware of the relationship between quality and quantity, particularly in something like an oat crop. Shorter vegetative plants are far more nutritious than older flowered crops, and they may regrow if you take the stock out so long as you neither flog it too hard or allow them to pull plants out. An older, ungrazed flowering crop has a lot more yield, but more stem and tough stuff and very little more protein and energy. They demonstrate a lost opportunity since the lambs were probably off somewhere stagnating instead of being on the crop.

### Summary

People who work on their lambs by planning, monitoring and taking action can earn a good return from lambs, be they OSL or NSL, but if you sit back and just hope that it happens, then invariably it will not. I think lamb production is one of the few ways Falkland Island farmers can diversify income away from wool, and the genetics of most of the sheep here is weighted towards the dual purpose role anyway, so part of that decision has already been made. Go for it, but give it the chance it needs to succeed.



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strange lately?!**

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## 2009 RAM & BULL SALE

By Sian Ferguson & Lucy Ellis

After being held for four years at Goose Green, the Department of Agriculture's Ram & Bull Sale was moved back to Saladero. Around seventy people from East & West Falkland turned up for the event, which took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The Ram & Bull Sale provides an excellent opportunity to bring together producers and the DoA. It was also good to see a number of the general public, who are not directly involved in farming making the effort to attend this annual event.

Offered for sale from the Polwarth National Stud Flock (NSF) were 91 shearling rams and 7 ex-stud mature rams. Also on offer from the seedstock joint ventures were 6 Afrinos, 1 Dohne Merino and 4 South African Meat Merinos (SAMM) rams. Two purebred Angus Bulls, from the National Beef Herd (NBH), were also offered for sale.

Due to current low wool prices and the economic downturn, the selling price of rams as expected was down on previous years, however, the event still provided a great opportunity for farmers to purchase high quality genetics.

Of the total rams on offer, 84 were sold through the Helmsman auction and 10 through Farm Improvement Programme (FIP) funding. At the conclusion of the sale only 3 Afrinos and the Dohne Merino were left unsold. The Afrinos will be utilised in the existing JV scheme and the Dohne has since been sold. At the time of writing no sale has been secured for the two bulls, however, we would still be interested in hearing from any producers willing to negotiate a sale.

Farmers commented that the wool quality and size of rams this year was very even. This proved useful for those who were outbid on their preferred animals as they were able to choose another very similar animal.

This has been the first sale since the Concordia Bay started operating. Farmers from the West were required to organise their own transport and movement of sheep and from all reports this ran quite smoothly.

Hot food and drinks were available all day. Thanks to Trudi and James from the Galley Café who provided the excellent catering.

Finally, thank you to all sale participants, farmers, members of the general public who attended the sale day and especially to Workboat Services staff and the captain and crew of the Concordia Bay, without which the sale would not have happened. We look forward to seeing you all at next years sale.

### Unsure about that Birthday present?

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## RAM & BULL SALE CONTINUED...

### The Ram & Bull Sale in pictures...



Clockwise from top left: some of the shearling rams up for sale; Beverley and Trudi Lee prepare the barbecue; farmers inspect the stock; the two Angus bulls for sale; the Helmsman auction in action; vehicles gathered at Saladero for the sale.



## FARM IN PROFILE: PORT SUSSEX

**Property Name:** Port Sussex

**Location:** East Falkland

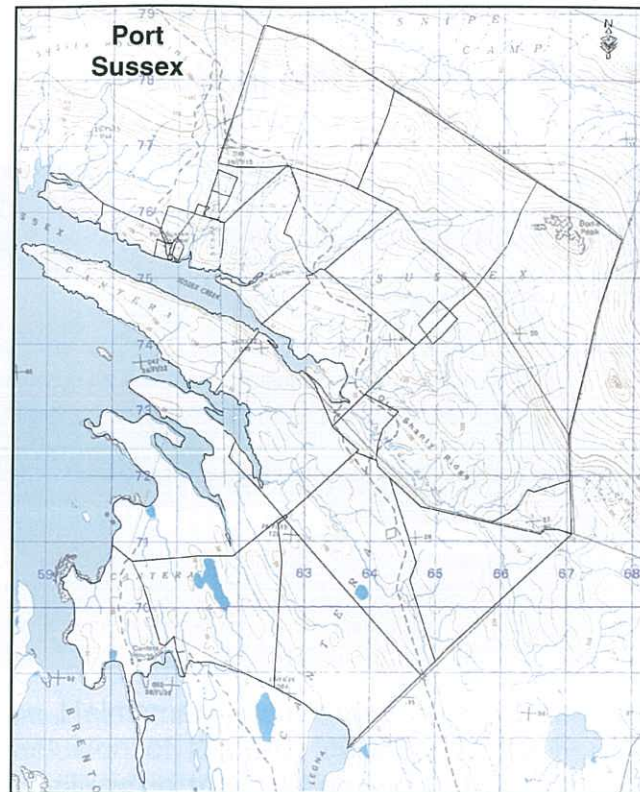
**Owners:** Richard and Toni Stevens

**Farm size:** 5,647 hectares

**Sheep:** 5,000

*Richard and Toni Stevens have lived at Port Sussex for twenty five years this coming September. Toni's maternal grandparents lived at Port Sussex when it was part of San Carlos (JB) when her mother was young and her paternal grandmother was raised at the Old House in the San Carlos area.*

*Toni and Richard went into farming because they felt that it was a good idea at the time. They are mainly involved in sheep farming, but Richard is currently in his fourth year as a councillor and Toni has been doing some occasional driving for tourists to Volunteer's Point.*



They introduced the Cormo breed briefly into their flock and more recently Dohne Merino sheep. The Dohne Merino has been introduced through a large artificial insemination (AI) programme in 2007 involving 600 ewes, and by hiring three rams last year from Andrez Short. They did this in order to get a more dual-purpose breed to try and meet the abattoir requirements.

Richard and Toni are going to continue working towards trying to find a dual-purpose breed that performs well in the Falkland Islands conditions, without compromising their micron and wool weights.

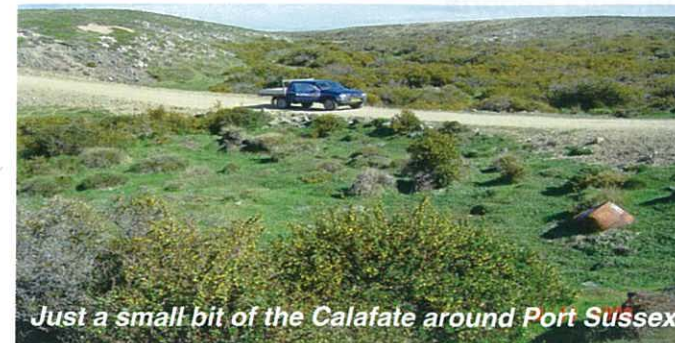
After attending the Grazing for Profit and Jim Gerrish's courses, Richard and Toni have gradually moved towards increased management of their pastures. They now rotate all their main flock sheep in three lots: their wethers (from shearlings), are rotated between three camps on their higher ground; their young sheep are rotated between eight camps on the lower original Sussex ground; and their ewes in Cantera over seven camps. They still set stock Cantera horse paddock with two hundred and fifty ewe and the two parts of Cantera re-seed with two hundred ewes.

So far, Richard and Toni have been disappointed with the results of their rotational grazing, with their set stock out performing their rotational flocks in regard to lambing percentage each year since



*Drafting sheep through the bugle drafting race*

## FARM IN PROFILE: PORT SUSSEX



*Just a small bit of the Calafate around Port Sussex*

they have been operating. The set stocks are heavier stocked than that of the rotational areas. Richard and Toni have tried speeding up their rotational grazing and have also tried splitting up the ewes into two camps prior to lambing, then opening up the gates for the ewes and lambs to spread prior to marking, but this has still not closed the gap. Obviously, because of the added cost of wear and tear, fuel and their time, they need to see some returns. They hope to work alongside the Agricultural Department in the future to sort out the problem.

At Port Sussex, Richard and Toni, have a major problem with Calafate. It covers an area of approximately seven square kilometres between both them and their neighbours, Ted and Sheila Jones at Head of the Bay farm. The Calafate seems to be spreading rapidly. Calafate contaminates their wool, which makes it painful to work with during shearing, and also, when the berries are ripe, the birds eat them and then they get purple bird droppings in their wool as well. The RSPB Invasive Species Project is looking into the problem but as yet they have not come up with a solution.

Richard and Toni have a good working relationship with their neighbours (Ted and Sheila Jones), as they help each other out with gathering, drafting, lamb marking, etc.

At Port Sussex there are approximately seventy cattle. Richard and Toni started off with a South

Devon Bull from Rincon Grande and a mixture of cows that were bought along with the farm. They have moved onto breeding Angus cattle, but would like to return to the South Devon breed again. This is due to the temperament of the Angus cattle and they also feel that the South Devon breed did well at Port Sussex.

Due to time restraints, Richard and Toni have put their cattle down as a low priority but they have recently started constructing purpose built cattle yards. Once these are finished, they are going to have a complete overhaul of their cattle herd.

The cattle are produced mainly for their own consumption, although they do a small amount of farm kills each year.



*Iain Thom, Derek Goodwin, Andrez Short and Toni during the Cervical AI programme*

Richard and Toni have always believed that you need to strive towards making your stock more productive and profitable. They also feel that farms in the Falkland Islands are moving away from the ranch style of farming.

Other animals that Richard and Toni used to breed at Port Sussex were rabbits and hamsters for the pet market, but due to the feeding of these animals being rather expensive, they have decided not to carry on with it.

*Our apologies to Paul & Dae Peck for incorrectly publishing their farm size last issue. Shallow Bay is only 5,020 ha.*

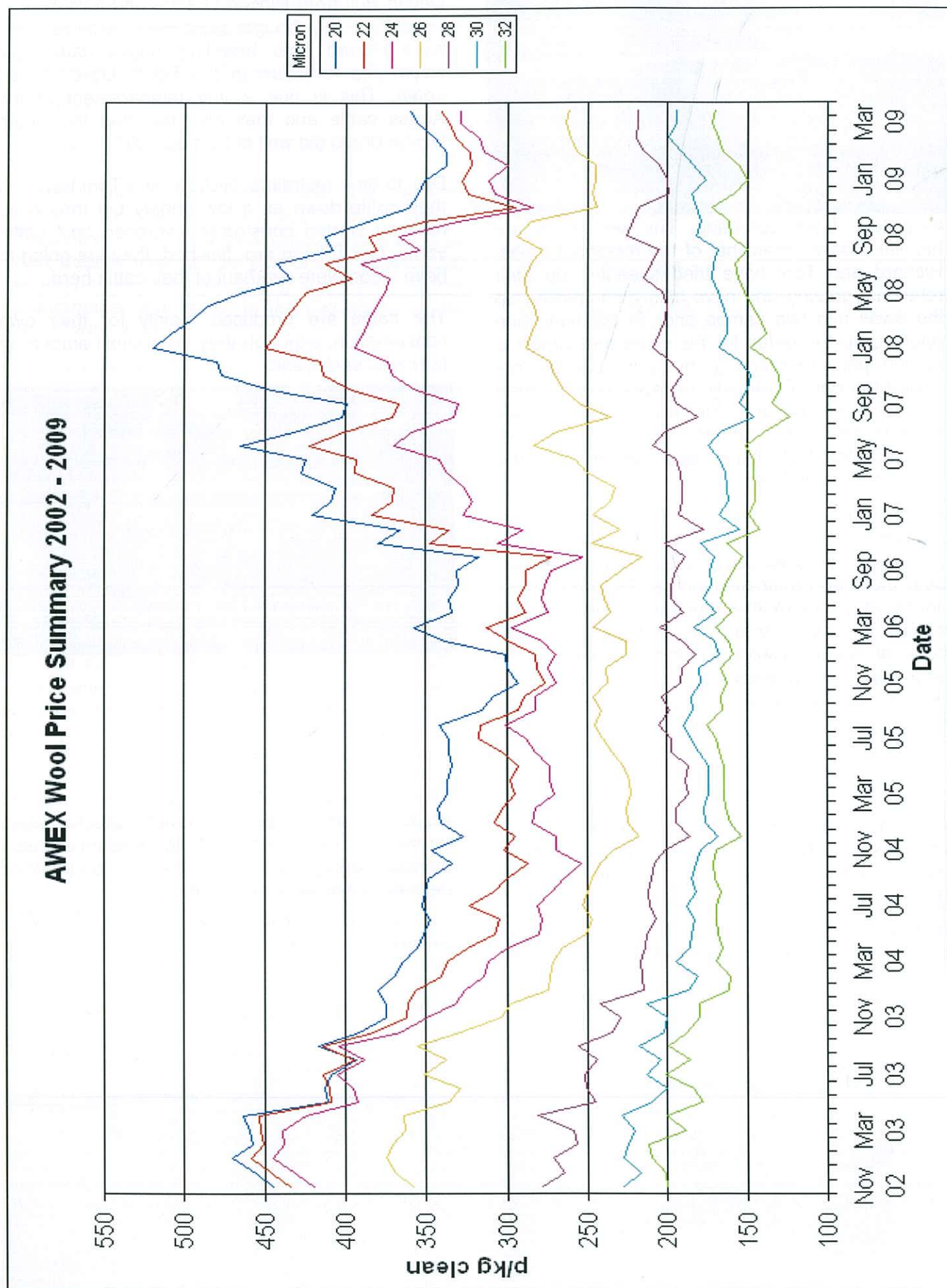


*Port Sussex farm, looking towards the West, before the road was built to the Shearing shed*



## WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



## KNOW YOUR DRENCHES

By Susan Campbell

Drenching may seem a simple task but to do it correctly requires a little attention to detail. The first mistake most farmers make is to underestimate the weight of their sheep. You should drench to the heaviest in the mob not to the average weight. If you don't have scales then use a set of bathroom scales and weigh a few of the heaviest by standing on the scales while holding the sheep. If you feel there is too greater variation in the group it may be necessary to draft the mob into a light and heavy mob before drenching. This is particularly relevant when drenching with levamisole which can be toxic at high doses which may occur when drenching a mob of weaners that varies say from 15 to 45kg in weight.

The second mistake that is frequently made is to assume that all drench guns deliver the correct amount. It is wise to calibrate your drench gun by putting ten measured doses into a measuring cylinder or jug to ensure that it is delivering the correct amount. Sometimes something as simple as a piece of plastic from a drench drum can be caught in the drench gun and cause inaccurate dosing.

Read the drench drum carefully and give the correct dose for the heaviest in the mob. Some drench containers stop the scale at 30kg but your sheep may weigh far more than this. In this case ensure that you have given them the additional amount required, do not assume that the 30kg dose is the maximum amount.

It is also essential when drenching sheep to treat the whole mob. After all what is the point in putting clean sheep back in with contaminated sheep as they will very soon become contaminated again and you are back to square one.

It is also desirable to drench onto paddocks that have been adequately spelled, or grazed with non susceptible stock, and are therefore 'safe' pastures. If you are unable to do this and you know that you are putting sheep back onto worm contaminated pastures then it is wise to consider the use of controlled release devices.

As for drenches, the world is coming to the conclusion that drench resistance is a major problem and it is therefore important to know which drenches are still effective on your farm before you plunge into drenching. One of the major causes of this is under dosing. The normal advice is that you should change drench groups every 12 months at the first summer drench.

Given that there has been relatively little drenching done in the Falklands to this point it is probably unlikely that combination drenches are necessary, but the three main groups of drenches should be rotated through. These are;

- The benzimidazoles or white drenches,
- The levamisole drenches or clear drenches and
- The macrocyclic lactones or mectin drenches.

All these drenches will be registered to treat all the major parasitic worms present in the Falkland Islands. Sometimes levamisole drenches will have praziquantel added; this is used to treat *Moniezia* which is the tape worm. Tape worm in sheep is non pathogenic and will not cause any production loss so there is no benefit gained by using this expensive additive to the drench.

There is also another group called Rametin which is fairly toxic and is only recommended for use when resistance to two out of the first three groups has become evident, I am unaware of this



currently being available in the Falkland Islands.

Although the drenches are registered to treat all the parasites this does not mean they are all still effective against all the parasites. To find out which drenches are effective it is best to perform a drench resistance trial. This is a fairly simple task but requires attention to detail to ensure meaningful results. Once performed it should be redone every 3 years or so to ensure that the results have not changed.

Something that has been found to improve drench efficiency includes holding sheep in yards for 24 hours before drenching. This is particularly effective with white drenches but is not recommended for clear drenches such as levamisole which can be toxic especially if the sheep are stressed.

Controlled release capsules are fabulous in their results and come in two forms, white drench or mectin drench. However they are very expensive and can exacerbate the development of drench resistance. For this reason recommendation for their use should be as infrequently as possible and probably only for susceptible young stock or lambing ewes when necessary. Most likely when there is no choice but to put stock back onto a heavily contaminated pasture.

### **Department of Agriculture to hold worm control meetings**

A number of worm control meetings will be held throughout the Falklands during the next few weeks. Internal parasites in both sheep and cattle will be discussed.

Susan Campbell, who has recently completed her Master of Veterinary Science in matters relating to grazing management and sheep parasites, will be talking about worm life cycles, impacts, prevention and treatments.

Susan has recently reviewed all the literature from previous researchers back to before Steve Whitley's day and has found that they all have come up with the same thing. Internal parasites in sheep are a problem, they do reduce growth rates and wool cuts and do increase the mortality rate in weaner sheep, especially in their first winter. All the research also indicates there are economic responses to treating, or preferably, preventing worm problems.

Worms are obviously seen as a problem by many farmers too, who buy a fair bit of worm drenching products over the years.

Tony Mills will be demonstrating the new worm testing kits, and hopefully we will have some microscopes and gut samples to display some actual worms and worm eggs.

Because treatment options are different on organic farms we will hold separate meetings for the organic farmers. An addition to their programme is that, Ian Campbell will be talking about the implications and constraints of treating sheep on the Organic Accreditation status.

Finally, the opportunity will be taken to discuss a number of other DoA projects:

- The FIP scheme
- The ewe purchase scheme
- Wool Clip Analysis
- Any other items of interest
- DoA involvement in Farmers' Week

*The dates and venues of these meetings with  
be emailed shortly to all farmers.*

*For more information, please telephone  
27355 or email [icampbell@doa.gov.fk](mailto:icampbell@doa.gov.fk)*

## **THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE**

*By Ian Campbell*

The global economic crisis and the cost/price squeeze in agriculture are dropping the bottom line for farmers in an apparently relentless manner. Nowadays however, rather than just talking about the bottom line, people are talking about the triple bottom line. Not only the financial indicators like income and profit, but also the people and the environmental bottom lines are important as well.

The concept is that if one aspect of the farm business gets out of balance, then the enterprise is unhealthy. An over emphasis on squeezing out the last penny will cause stress in the people involved, and perhaps a degradation to the environment and so on. A common sense concept, yet often overlooked. Monitoring these business indicators relies on a system known as benchmarking.

### **Benchmarking Finances**

Implicit in the common financial benchmarking approaches like gross margin analyses, is that the better the bottom line turns out in terms of pound figures, the more successful is the enterprise. Whilst this is an excellent tool it takes no account of the other less tangible bottom lines.

### **Benchmarking People Issues**

There are a large range of people issues affecting farmers. Most farmers are self employed and even defining actual income from other farm expenses can be problematic. There is also no annual leave entitlement for example, but this does not mean that taking time off is not a legitimate part of the farm business plan. Admittedly people issues are often financially dependent. A poor income causes stress, depression and anxiety. But so too does overwork, denial of holidays or quality family time.

People issues are very hard to quantify in a benchmarking exercise, mostly because values are a personal thing. What one person cannot tolerate or cope with another may thrive upon. Gathering sheep on horseback for days on end is a great lifestyle for some and a horrible tedium for others.

Farming can go through enormously stressful times. The pressures of droughts, snow drifts, commodity downturns and diseases etc. – it is a very volatile business environment. Communication within the farm business is an essential issue and being able to talk these issues through, with partners, debtors, bankers, friends, the DoA is an essential business component.

At the level of enterprise selection and management people should have a clear understanding of their own values and ethics and manage the business accordingly. Running a business at odds with your own values is stressful. Doing something well is seen by many to be some reward in itself. It may be the reason why some people choose organics for example, or choose a particular breed of sheep or cattle. The economic optimum may be a bit different, but people need to take pride and pleasure in what they are doing.

Such a decision is fine. But lets talk about it, accept that is what we are doing and get on with it. Living in a comfort zone might come at a bit of a cost, but so be it.



## Environmental Benchmarking

Environmental issues have always been hard to quantify. Nobody wants to degrade their own environment, and most show a wish to improve it. In the long term, revegetating eroded areas for example, will improve production and should increase the capital value of the property. In the short term though it represents a big investment in fences, cultivation, seed, fertilizer and time.

Sustainability is both a great and a simple concept. Our agricultural practice must not degrade the land, and hence we can keep on farming into perpetuity. The very essence of agriculture though is that it is a harvesting industry. Agricultural products contain nutrients, the products are utilized somewhere else, and the nutrients are lost. The basis of sustainable agriculture then includes an input of nutrients designed to replace those lost or harvested and on the Falkland Islands this is very expensive and not cost effective at the moment. Encouraging a healthy environment, such as land based penguin colonies which import nutrients, is hence of vital importance in nutrient recycling, irrespective of other sound reasons for encouraging the wildlife.

## SUMMARY

Probably the most difficult part of triple bottom line accounting is the fact that there are no common units to compare. Financial bottom lines are in pounds, lifestyle and environmental bottom lines are not, or are only partly so. Throughout the world sociologists and environmentalists are trying to come up with universal benchmarks, but so far it is only the economists that seem to have come up with the universally accepted bottom line process. Hard currency.



## ISLANDERS TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE

*By Mac McArthur*

### Work Experience

At the recent Saladero ram and bull sale I spoke with the parent of a young person who is looking forward to coming to do a week's work experience with the DoA. Every year a number of students apply to come and work for various periods with both the veterinary and agricultural staff in the Department. Shortly two bright young people will be spending a week on a wide variety of jobs including a specific training project with DoA staff.

### Careers in Agriculture

For students who are interested in making agriculture their career, time working with the veterinarians and agriculturists can be very valuable for them to see and experience the wide range of job roles agriculture offers. Elliott Simpson worked with us recently in his gap year and was involved with de-oiling and feeding penguins, weighing sheep, assisting with veterinary operations on animals and field work on a wide diversity of other jobs. It was interesting to see him grow in confidence and expand his knowledge and practical skills through his time working with the DoA team. Elliott, a city lad, has recently been accepted to complete a veterinary degree at Bristol University.

Over recent years numerous young people have gained valuable experience and skills with the DoA which has led to lifetime careers in professional agriculture and veterinary science. Sam Dodd who has also been involved twice doing work experience with the veterinary team, is due to complete her National Diploma course studying animal care this year in the UK.

## Agricultural and Veterinary Professionals

It is very pleasing to see all these young Falkland Islanders who have trained in agriculture or veterinary science coming back to work as professionals in the Islands. Zoë, Andy, Sarah, Shona, Lucy and Sian are all testimony to agricultural and veterinary training at various levels that are critical to the effectiveness of the FI DoA services and professionalism. It is also pleasing to see all those young people not only working hard as professionals but also doing higher degrees or other courses to expand their knowledge and skills, often in their own time. Currently Zoë is completing an external Masters course with the Royal Veterinary College, Andy is commencing an external Masters degree with Lincoln University in New Zealand and Sarah is completing a Diploma in Animal Health Care and Behaviour. Both Sian and Shona are completing study courses in online mapping and border import controls.

## Need for an Agricultural Mentoring Programme

Recently Ian Campbell, our Wool Advisor, proposed the need for a programme where young Falkland Islanders who are interested in going back on the family farm can gain practical experience and knowledge of different ways of managing other than that which they would pick up at home.

A young FI farm manager that I spoke with recently extolled the benefits he gained by working on other people's farms when he left school. Through learning to work dogs, shear and fence under a number of mentors on different farms with often quite different approaches has helped him to think 'out of the square' and seek new ideas and solutions and hence better manage because of this wide experience gained in his formative years. As a result of the experience gained he now feels he is better able to manage a whole range of different situations.

Having graduated from Lincoln College, a mate and I headed off to Australia and spent a year working our way 35,000 kms around the big island continent. Jobs we got usually by calling into the local pub, involved mustering livestock, rousing in shearing gangs, irrigating cotton, sowing wheat, working in an abattoir or whatever the seasonal jobs were in that part of Aussie. Having grown up on a farm and worked on other farms and stations throughout my school and University holidays all these experiences have, I am sure, shaped how I think, what I know, and why I am not interested in milking cows.

In a farm mentoring programme a young person is employed as an 'apprentice' and has a basic formal assignment work programme with a number of goals to achieve, some of which might be overseen by DoA staff. As well as gaining experience on the farm the apprentice would pass competency tests for practical things such as livestock husbandry, fencing, gathering, vehicle handling and maintenance etc. Farm business management training, budgeting and gross margin analysis of different enterprises would be included as assignments and tasks to be completed with assistance from the farmer and DoA.

## Farm Labour Shortage

Encouraging Falkland Island school leavers that are interested in going back on the land, to have a career as a farm manager or agricultural/veterinary professional are all critical for the future of agriculture in the Falklands. Farmers regularly lament the acute shortage of farm labour and this situation won't improve as the average age of farmers' increases without more young people having positive incentives to see agriculture as a fulfilling and challenging lifetime career through effective training programmes being available.

### Changed your email address, fax or phone number?

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





# Rural Business Association Sheep Show

to be held on the 18th of April 2009 hosted by Fitzroy Farm

## List of Classes:

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

There are also special prizes of guess the weight of the sheep, guess the micron of a fleece and a numbered programme draw - prize kindly donated by Workboat Services of a return ferry crossing and two passengers.

Michele's Burger Bar will be providing hot food and drinks throughout the day and there will also be a number of stalls around the shearing shed, including the Guild of Spinners & Weavers and Hope Cottage beef.

Everyone is welcome to go along to the event. Penning up of sheep starts at 8am and the Sheep Show is open to the public from 10.30am (although you are welcome to go along earlier). The judging will take place between 11am and 1.30pm and the prize giving will commence at 2.30pm.

All entries should be sent to SeAled Pr, Brandon Road, Stanley no later than 15th of April but before this date would be appreciated.

Due to the nature of the Sheep Show the Senior Veterinary Officer has agreed that the tags placed round the sheep's necks at the show will be sufficient as movement tags. Sheep entering the show will not need movement tagging beforehand.



## Strange Animal Tails

Source: Ananova.com

A US vet was amazed when an injured wild deer burst into the building where his clinic is based. A manager at a PetSmart store in Rossford, near Toledo, Ohio, opened a door and spotted the wounded deer outside.

The animal, which was lying in a pool of bloody snow, jumped up and ran through the just opened door, reports the Toledo Blade.

Once inside, the female deer lay down on the floor as blood dripped from her left hind leg, recalled store Manager Trudi Urie.

She called Dr Agustin Cuesta, who works in the veterinary clinic inside PetSmart, who was able to treat the deer's injury and return her to the wild.

"Of all the places to run into, a pet store that has vets in it," said Ms Urie.

Dr Cuesta said the deer had suffered two or three deep cuts and that bone was showing through

the fur. He could not determine what caused the injury.

He placed a numbing agent on the wounds before closing the wounds with dissolvable stitches, while covering the deer's head with a towel to stop her panicking.

"We took off the towel from her eyes and slowly she got to her feet," Dr. Cuesta said,

"She stood frozen for a few seconds, but after that she ran out of the store."



# Recipe Spot

By Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

## Chicken and Vegetable Bake

- |                                           |                          |                       |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped            | 4 chicken fillets        | 1 leek, sliced        |
| 3 carrots, peeled and chopped lengthways  | 2 pints milk             | 3-4 tblsp plain flour |
| 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped lengthways | 6oz oats                 | 4oz grated cheese     |
| 1 sweet potato, peeled and chopped        | 3-4 tblsp butter or marg | Salt & pepper         |
| Splash of oil                             |                          |                       |

Place all the veggies in a roasting tin and pour on a splash or two of oil; mix until coated and roast in a hot oven until soft. Transfer to a large pie or casserole dish. Dice the chicken and brown in a saucepan; transfer to the dish with the vegetables and stir until everything is evenly mixed. In a separate saucepan, heat the flour and butter over a low heat, mixing to a paste. Gradually stir in the milk and then return to a simmer until the sauce has started to thicken. When the white sauce is ready, pour over the chicken and vegetables, then smooth the top. Mix the oats and cheese together and sprinkle over the top of the chicken bake. Cook in an oven preheated to 190°C for 30 minutes, until golden brown and crunchy on top.

Chef's note - You don't have to use the exact vegetables above - chop and change, use what's available and what you like.

## Fish Crumble

- |                                                                             |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1lb fish (mullet, trout, salmon, toothfish, or a mixture of different ones) | 3tsp dried parsley |
| 2 tblsp butter and 2 tblsp flour                                            | 1 pint milk        |
| 2oz butter                                                                  | 2oz plain flour    |
|                                                                             | 1/3 pint milk      |
|                                                                             | 2oz oats           |

Preheat the oven to 190°C. Cut the fish into bite-sized chunks; bring the 1/3 pint of milk to simmer and poach the fish for 3-4 minutes, until just cooked. Transfer to a pie/casserole dish and set aside. Cook the 2 tblsp of flour and 2tblsp butter in a saucepan until they form a paste. Gradually stir in the milk and return to the heat. Stir in the parsley and simmer until the sauce has thickened. Pour over the fish and stir until the sauce evenly coats the fish. Rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Season the crumble topping with the salt and pepper, and sprinkle over the fish and sauce, ruffling the top as you go. Dot with a little extra butter and bake until the top is golden brown and the sauce is starting to bubble up around the edges of the crumble.

If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, why not send in your own favourites to share?



## Dates for the Diary



- |            |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8th April  | Dog Dosing<br>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. |
| 10th April | Public Holiday - Good Friday                                                                                                                                               |
| 18th April | RBA Sheep Show - Fitzroy Shearing Shed                                                                                                                                     |
| 19th April | Clocks go back one hour                                                                                                                                                    |
| 21st April | Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday                                                                                                                                          |
| 3rd May    | Run Together - (previously Race for Life)                                                                                                                                  |



# PUZZLE PAGE

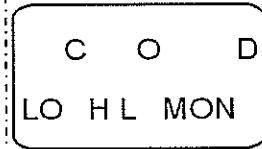
1	9	4
2	8	1 7
		3
3	5	7
1 5		4 6
7	2	9
3		
6 1	9	5
4	1	9

## 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

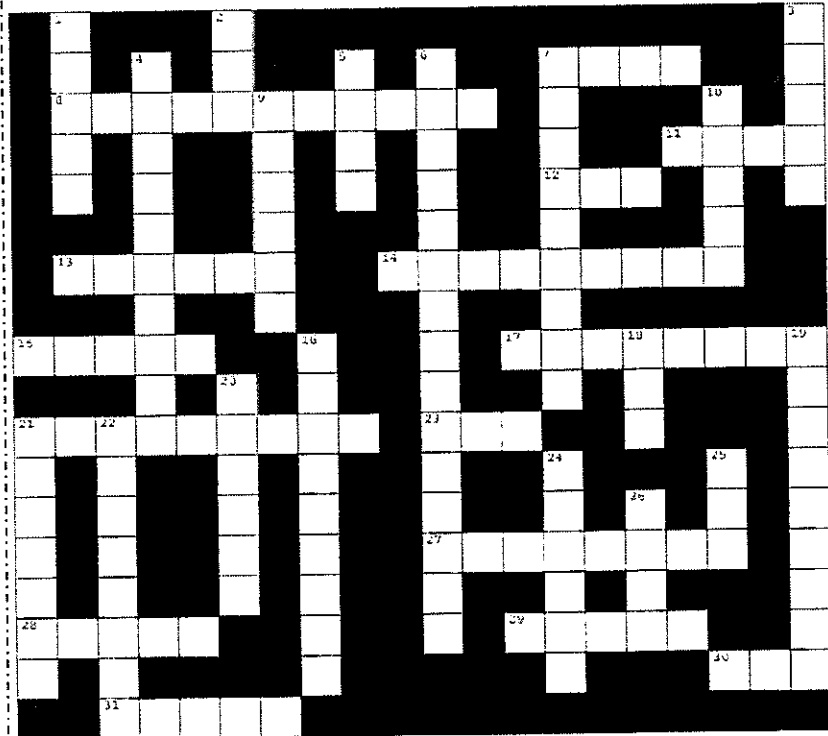


**Hint on how to solve DingBat:**  
Look carefully at the positions of the words. A lot of dingbats depend on prepositions like above and below, over and under, before and after.



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.

## Crossword



### Brainteaser

As I was going to St. Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives.  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits.  
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,  
How many were going to St. Ives?  
*(last months answer: polar bears live at the north pole and penguins live at the south pole!)*

### Last Month's Solutions

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

- Across**
- 7. Not quite dry
  - 9. The shortest street in Stanley
  - 11. Supply vessel & 16D
  - 12. Condensed water.
  - 13. A yellow fruit
  - 14. Front road feature & 5D
  - 15. A white farm animal
  - 17. A small white and purple berry
  - 21. First settlement
  - 23. Not very well
- Down**
- 1. A snow dog
  - 2. Slice
  - 3. Member of the royal family
  - 4. Authoritative body
  - 5. See 14A
  - 6. Southern Island
  - 7. Sour red berry
  - 9. Brightest day
  - 10. A place to stay
  - 16. See 11A
  - 18. Creepy crawlie
  - 19. Popular Beatles song
  - 20. A dull round vegetable
  - 21. Flightless black and white bird
  - 22. Arctic deer
  - 24. Electrical kitchen item
  - 25. Glass container
  - 26. Left ajar

ie Cexcept 'l' before 'e' except after 'c'

WISH  
★  
Wish upon a star

Double Puzzle: West Falkland Islands settlements and farms

# THE WOOL PRESS

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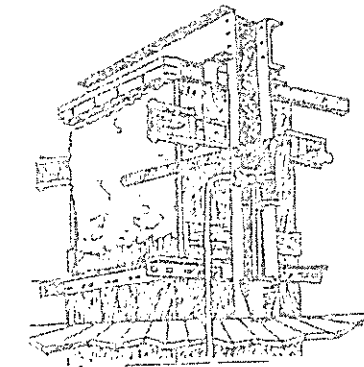
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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to another Wool Press jam packed with varied and interesting articles. With the financial implications of having lambs at the right weight and grade for the abattoir Mac McArthur's opening contribution makes some pertinent observations on what sheep farmers need to be thinking about now – well in advance of the next export season.

Tony Mills brings together all the data gleaned from this season's wether trial – not surprisingly there is quite a bit of variation between breeds and between the sites where the trials took place. I will leave you to read the article and come to your own conclusions as to what the data really means.

In his article Ian Campbell spells out what is being taken out of the environment by way of nutrients and minerals in order to grow wool and meat. When you look at his figures and consider how long sheep farming has been going on for in the Falkland Islands it gives you an idea of how much the land may have been depleted over the years. As every good gardener knows you can't keep planting the same crop year after year in the same bit of ground and expect the yields to remain the same without replenishing the soil from time to time. On a much larger scale the same holds true for farming.

On page 12 Andrew Pollard has an interesting article on growing and feeding forage oats; it appears to be essential to feed them at the optimum time of growth to get the most out of them. Andrew would like to follow this up by monitoring oat crops in various locations in the next growing season.

The remainder of the articles are shorter in nature but no less interesting and range from reports on the recent RBA sheep show at Fitzroy, the monthly farm profile (Sheffield, Saddle and Harps) and short reports on worm egg collection, a wool coring update and a brief introduction to the new CEO of Falklands Conservation, Craig Dockrill. We were very pleased to have two work experience students from FICS at the beginning of April and they have both contributed short pieces on what they did in their time at the DoA.

Last, but not least, please remember that this is the time of year to complete your Livestock Ordinance Forms. You should find 2 blank forms included with this copy of the Wool Press.

Here's hoping that May will be a bit sunnier and drier than was April,

**Steve Pointing**  
Senior Veterinary Officer

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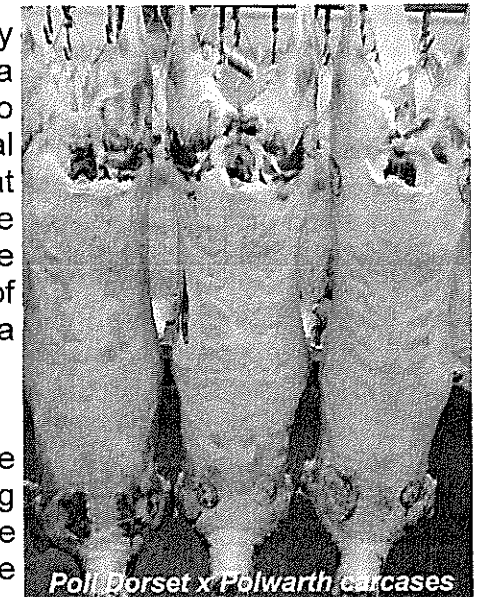
## SEEING IS BELIEVING

*By Mac McArthur*

This week I was out at FIMCo checking on a line of crossbred lambs that had been sent in from a farm on the West. The lambs were South African Meat Merino (SAMM), Black-faced Suffolk, Poll Dorset and Polwarth sired and all out of Polwarth ewes.

### Variation in Carcase Traits

Weights and grading data was collected and will be analysed by Tony Mills so that FIMCo and the DoA can start developing a data base on the breed crosses and how they meet the FIMCo carcase specifications. It was very striking how individual carcasses within each of the breed crosses differed so widely in fat cover, carcase length and weight. The variation between the carcase characteristics was, as might be expected, quite wide between the various crosses. In contrast another farmer's line of lambs all fell into the 3L category and appeared to have a relatively lower variation in carcase weight, length and fatness.



### Supply Chain

Both from the viewpoint of clients in Europe who are buying the Falkland Island lamb products and the farmers who are supplying the lambs to FIMCo it is important that all people involved in the supply chain for lamb understand what is required to provide the optimum lamb carcase. Sheep genetics, nutrition, fatness assessment and weighing (to check optimum carcase specification) electro stimulation and correct chilling of the carcasses all contribute to a high quality product being exported.

### Live Assessment and Weighing

Talking with Jimmy Forster, who is doing the grading before the carcasses go into the chiller, he said there is an enormous lot that farmers can learn about their stock and how they can improve their long term financial returns by simply being at FIMCo to see some their livestock graded. Simple things like ensuring, through live assessment and weighing, that the lambs meet the optimum carcase specification and then checking the carcasses to verify that their assessments were correct. Getting 100 per cent of your lambs into the 3L category or better, as did one farmer this week means a far better return for the hard work and genetic improvement put into flocks than just getting 56 per cent meeting the specification and the remainder being down graded and consequently paid much less for.

John and his team at FIMCo welcome farmers to visit the plant at Sand Bay and see their livestock slaughtered and graded.

### Scanning Equipment

The Department is currently seeking a scanning kit that will enable both sheep and cattle to be assessed accurately for back fat and eye muscle area in live animals. This will assist with training farmers and others to accurately assess both sheep and cattle on the hoof. To me for farmers not to be able to live assess the livestock they have put so much hard work and money into is a bit like a car salesman who is flogging cars without having the facts about the car's fuel consumption, top speed or engine capacity etc.

### Resolution for Next Season

With the lamb killing season drawing to a close, farmers need to be planning their sowing of oats and crops to finish lambs for the next killing season. They should also be resolving to plan to visit FIMCo at least once when their lambs or other livestock are being slaughtered. You will be surprised how interesting and enlightening it is and in these tough financial times optimally finished lambs that meet the specifications on weight and fatness are vitally important.



# WETHER TRIAL SNAPSHOT- 2008/2009

By Tony Mills

The wether trial for 2008-09 was completed with the slaughter of the surviving animals at the end of January. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the owners and managers of the host properties and the trial participants as quite obviously this trial would not have happened without you all. I would also like to acknowledge the Department of Agriculture staff that carried out the initial work to establish this second trial.

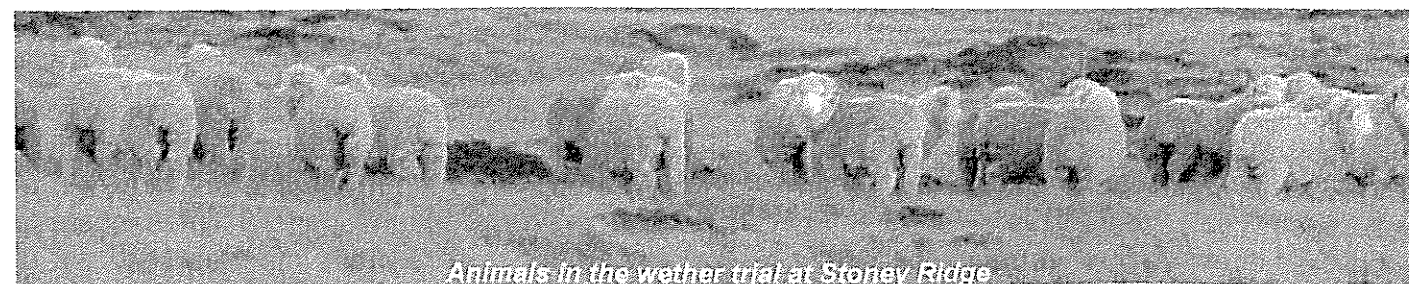
Because of unresolved transport issues the final slaughter took place over two days (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 139 processed, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 19 processed). It should be acknowledged that all the participating parties did their best to resolve the issues with the resources available at the time. Given the short amount of time between the kill dates the data has been combined to complete the final comparisons.

Nine teams from seven properties participated in this year's trial. The trial was also conducted on two sites; Goose Green and Stoney Ridge. Each team consisted of 20 animals which were then allocated randomly to the two sites. Breeds represented included full blood Polwarth, and Corriedale and crossbreds of Polwarth, Corriedale, Cormo and Dohne. Of the 180 original animals starting the trial 158 were slaughtered (82 from the East & 76 from the West).

One of the aims of this year's trial was to manage the issue of 'teeth in wear'. Because of this the trial was completed earlier than last year and only 12 of the final 158 were downgraded from lamb to sheep (4 at Goose Green & 8 at Stoney Ridge). Also with the development of a new grading method at FIMCo we have included this data into the final comparison. Body condition (fat) score (at the GR site – long ribs) was assessed at each weighing and the relationship between this and the FIMCo grading method provides a useful guide for producers who use live assessment to determine which animals are suitable for slaughter.

In line with last year's trial an estimate of wool income has been added to meat income to calculate a total net income excluding production costs. The Southern region AWEX point of micron quotes averaged over 6 months (October 08 to March 09) was used to determine the wool price. This was then converted from Australian dollars to pounds based on an average currency rate for the same period. The net price was then calculated using the formula applied by the Falklands Wool Co-operative. This formula deducts commission and freight on a clean wool basis from the gross price received. Insurance was not deducted given that this is very dependent on the individual business. Additionally the freight rate is an approximation of the current rates to Bradford.

Information was also collected on internal parasites. This was done through the collection of a group sample of faeces at each weighing to allow for a total faecal egg count to be carried out. An assessment of worm burden was carried out at the beginning of the trial (April) and on that basis all animals were drenched. The sampling throughout the trial showed that worm burdens were low throughout winter but once the spring flush occurred, worm burdens also increased to a level that showed treatment was necessary. It also showed that significant worm burdens were also present in late summer. Based on the test results all animals were treated at shearing but not prior to slaughter. This was due to the need to manage the withholding period of the drench that would have been used.



Animals in the wether trial at Stoney Ridge

A cobalt drench given to all animals in the trial was the only other health treatment received.

A summarised table of the main data is provided below. A presentation of all the data is provided in the enclosed supplement. Because of certain constraints not all animals were selected randomly which needs to be remembered when making direct comparisons between breeds/bloodlines. Overall trends do however provide us with some useful incites that can be used on farm. A random selection should be carried out to limit bias in the sample and to provide a better representation of the drop that the animals are being selected from. It has been suggested that the best from the drop should be used for comparison, however this is difficult because you find it very difficult to get consensus on what is best and the best are not representative of the whole drop.

A valid point was made on the grazing strategy employed for the trial animals. Animals at both sites were set stocked for the length of the trial. Given that there are a high percentage of producers utilising rotational grazing management it may have been a better option to employ that technique to make for a better fit to current management practices. If a future trial was to be conducted this point should be considered.

The main points to note from the tables below are that:

- As expected all animals gained weight over the length of the trial;
- There was a setback over winter for the animals run on the West;
- This flowed through to the final result with each teams average being lower than the teams on the East;
- The overall value and key production characteristics were lower for the teams run on the West as compared to the teams on the East;
- There is sufficient variation between breeds/bloodlines which allows producers plenty of scope for development to improve returns;
- Live body condition has an impact on carcass grade and dressing percentage;
- Broader fibre diameter sheep require a significant increase in fleece weight, bodyweight and dressing percentage to overcome low wool value.

A brief explanation of some of the data is as follows:

1. Final weight (22 Jan) is the weight in lairage, therefore as close to an empty bodyweight as possible.
2. Adjusted value is the value if animals were not downgraded from lambs to sheep.
3. Average grade is the FIMCo fat cover grade based on the UK meat industry standard. 1 = Lean, 5 = Fat, 2 is the minimum grade required by FIMCo.

Table 1. Average data for the key production characteristics of teams run on Stoney Ridge, West Falkland

Team #	Av Lwt 4/4/08	Av Lwt 22/01/09	Av Dwt	Av Grade	Av DP%	Av Actual Value £/ Hd	Av Adjusted Value £/ Hd	CFW (Kg)	MFD (u)	Net Wool Value	Total Value £/ Hd	Total Adjusted Value £/ Hd
1 (P)	24.5	31.2	11.9	2.1	38%	£10.92	£12.88	1.6	22.48	£4.27	£15.18	£17.15
2 (C)	17.7	26.2	10	1.8	38%	£7.35	£8.47	1	22.62	£2.55	£9.90	£11.02
3 (Co x C)	17.2	26.6	10.3	1.8	39%	£7.37	£8.66	1.1	21.11	£3.28	£10.65	£11.94
4 (C x P)	27.7	31.1	12.6	1.9	41%	£8.49	£14.73	1.4	23.77	£3.50	£11.99	£18.24
5 (C)	33	37	14.7	2.3	40%	£14.31	£19.71	1.6	24.1	£3.69	£18.00	£23.40
6 (P)	25.2	29.5	11.8	1.8	40%	£12.02	£14.01	1.4	21.01	£4.16	£16.18	£18.17
7 (C)	33.9	37.1	15	2.3	40%	£15.94	£15.94	1.8	25.25	£3.83	£19.77	£19.77
8 (P)	25.1	29.5	11.4	1.6	39%	£12.91	£12.91	1.3	20.97	£3.51	£16.42	£16.42
9 (Dx)	29.2	33	12.8	1.9	39%	£13.87	£15.17	1.5	20.51	£4.48	£18.35	£19.65
<b>Average</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>£11.84</b>	<b>£14.08</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>22.41</b>	<b>£3.72</b>	<b>£15.56</b>	<b>£17.79</b>



Table 2. Average data for the key production characteristics of teams run on Goose Green, East Falkland

Team #	Av Lwt 4/4/08	Av Lwt 22/01/09	Av Dwt	Av Grade	Av DP%	Av Actual Value £/Hd	Av Adjusted Value £/ Hd	CFW (Kg)	MFD (u)	Net Wool Value	Total Value £/ Hd	Total Adjusted Value£/ Hd
1 (P)	25.6	35	13.6	2.5	39%	£16.13	£17.53	2	21.94	£5.35	£21.48	£22.88
2 (C)	17.6	30.2	11.2	2	37%	£10.65	£10.65	1.3	21.49	£3.91	£14.56	£14.56
3 (Co x C)	17.5	32	12.2	2	38%	£14.24	£14.24	1.4	22.81	£3.63	£17.87	£17.87
4 (C x P)	30.5	38.7	16	2.8	41%	£20.95	£20.95	2	24.34	£4.37	£25.31	£25.31
5 (C)	32.1	40.5	16.2	2.7	40%	£17.13	£21.78	2.1	24.72	£4.67	£21.80	£26.45
6 (P)	26.5	36	13.6	2.2	38%	£17.20	£17.20	2	20.22	£6.33	£23.53	£23.53
7 (C)	32.4	41.9	17.1	2.8	41%	£22.73	£22.73	2.1	26	£3.92	£26.65	£26.65
8 (P)	23.8	31.2	12.3	2.4	39%	£14.18	£14.18	1.8	21.87	£4.92	£19.10	£19.10
9 (Dx)	27.3	33.7	13.1	1.9	39%	£16.51	£16.51	1.8	19.6	£5.85	£22.35	£22.35
Average	25.9	35.7	14.1	2.4	39%	£16.88	£17.62	1.9	22.57	£4.83	£21.71	£22.45



## A NUTRIENT BUDGET FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS - FOOD FOR SOILS AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

By Ian Campbell

Certain soil nutrients are essential for both plant growth and animal health. The low nutrient levels of many Falkland Island soils are well documented, but it is worth looking at some of the nutrients in particular. I would like to do this in the form of a nutrient budget.

Specific soil deficiencies are often addressed by the application of the correct fertilizer. For example a phosphorus deficiency is resolved by adding a fertilizer like rock phosphate or superphosphate. Bringing hay or grain onto a farm will also bring some nutrients on. Nutrients can be budgeted in the same way a bank account can be, nutrients coming into, and nutrients leaving the system- and where does that leave the balance?

Of course in a grazing animal ecosystem the nutrients are recycled. The same molecules are eaten, and deposited back (albeit on a different spot) onto pasture many times in urine, faeces or dead animals. New nutrients come into the system if a penguin colony or sealion brings it from the sea, or if the animals graze seaweed and bring these elements on. Nitrogen is gained by the fixation by legumes such as lotus or trefoil or clover. Some nutrients might also come in rain, after lightning or a neighbouring volcanic eruption.

Elements are lost however by export of products. If wool, meat or hay are removed from the system and used elsewhere, this removes the nutrients permanently. Sometimes they might also erode away, or they may turn into a form in the soil that is no longer usable.

If the amount of nutrient being lost is greater than the amount being added back, then soil nutrient decline will be occurring. Let's look at the nutrients being lost in wool alone. Each year the Falkland Islands exports around 1.6 million kg of wool.

### Wool

Wool is a protein so it contains a lot of nitrogen- about 16.5%. It also has about 1% phosphorus and about 1.6% potassium. Wool is a slightly alkaline product which means that its removal will slightly acidify the ground from which it grew - to the equivalent of 1.4% lime.

This means that each year we export in our wool bales:

- 266 tonnes of fixed nitrogen (N)
- 19 tonnes of elemental phosphorus (P)
- 26 tonnes of elemental potassium (K)
- 23 tonnes of lime equivalent

### Meat

Meat statistics are not so easy to convert into nutrients as the meat exports include actual FIMCo exports, farm kill not put back on camp and surplus animals and waste put on the beach. Nutrient levels in meat are somewhat less on a wet weight basis but the actual weights involved are probably greater- so maybe about another 25% again of nutrients are removed these ways.

### What would be needed to replace these nutrients annually?

To replace

- 330 tonnes of N would take 720 tonnes of Urea fertilizer
- 24 tonnes of P would take 260 tonnes of Superphosphate
- 26 tonnes of K would take 52 tonnes of Muriate of Potash
- 23 tonnes of lime equivalent -self explanatory however calcium is also very important here.

Of course the bad news is that this has been happening every year for well over 100 years. The good news is that it is all spread out over 1.1 million hectares, so the amount taken from each piece of ground is small- but possibly still significant- especially with P and N. Ironically as well phosphorous is hard for plants to extract from soils when the pH is acidic, as they are, and low nitrogen here is a major reason for low soil micro organism activity and the resultant peaty soils. The effect of lime and Potash exports Island wide are probably less detrimental at this stage.

### What can be done?

Apart from buying expensive fertilizers there are a few things that can still be done. Encouraging legumes in pastures is an obvious one that many of my predecessors have shown great passion for. Encouraging wildlife to come in from the sea is another one (particularly P and N) Superphosphate is in fact made from ancient sea bird droppings. Allowing seaweed grazing by stock will be good as well. Seaweed contains these nutrients as well as energy and protein.

Animals will spread nutrients around. Often the high nutrient levels in an old penguin colony are too rich, but eventually the grasses that grow there will be eaten, and the nutrients moved to other areas.

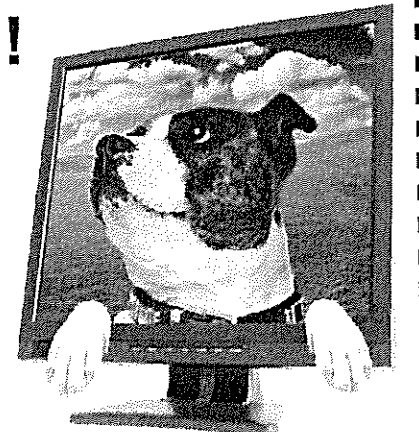
Spreading manure from under sheds could help a reseed too for example. We would also like to investigate ways of recycling meat processing scraps, surplus animals and perhaps fish by-catch to return these nutrients to the land.

Seen anything strange lately?!

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

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE  
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## RBA SHEEP SHOW

A large crowd gathered in the Fitzroy shearing shed on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Rural Business Association (RBA) Sheep Show.

First places were well spread between East farms and Falklands Landholdings farm North Arm dominated the wool sheep classes along with animals from Mount Kent, while Elephant Beach, Blue Beach and Home Farm also picked up top places. In the meat classes, Home Farm took away the majority of first prizes with plenty of competition from Fitzroy and Mount Kent.

North Arm claimed the Champion Ram class while judges took a great deal of time to decide between Home Farm and Blue Beach animals in the Champion Ewe class. Eventually a fifth judge was called in to give the deciding vote leading to a win for the meat sheep owned by Tyrone Whitney of Home Farm.

Organisers of the event, SeAled PR, said that the number of entries (119 sheep in total) was a little down on last year, but an impressive number turned up, despite the weather. Ten farmers entered animals into the show, including an entry from West Falkland, who had a worthwhile trip when one of their ewes took home a prize. The RBA were delighted to see entries from over the water and hope to see more Westers next year.

The judges are increasingly impressed by the quality of wool and meat sheep and were this year torn between a meat and wool sheep Champion ewe, because both were of such an excellent quality for their breed.

Along with the sheep classes and fun competitions including guess the fleece micron, there were also several craft stalls, selling handmade wooden products, cards, jewellery, fleece products and a spinning demonstration. There were also burgers and drinks on sale, keeping the crowds full during the day.

Although there are many people linked with the farming community who go along to the Sheep Show, there are also many who just head to Fitzroy for a day out, often attracted by the stalls from Stanley and Mount Pleasant

There was a change to the programme this year, as the Ram of Any Age class was changed to Terminal Sire in order to reflect the changes in breeds taking place around the Falkland Islands. Next year, the RBA plans to include new classes – and maybe some stalls – in a bid to encourage more youngsters to attend the show. They will also include two classes relating to General Purpose animals to further encourage entries.

Preparation of the event starts well in advance, with a date being chosen that fits in with Fitzroy farm and a ferry run. Judges are then approached, sponsors asked if they wish to continue their support and the RBA committee talked to about any changes in the programme. Potential stall holders are also contacted to make the show more fun for visitors and then the advertising starts and programmes printed.

The RBA would like to thank Tim Blake, Justin Knight, Sammy Hirtle and Brian Aldridge for judging, and to Paul Robertson for reluctantly agreeing to break the deadlock in the Champion Ewe class. The Association also expressed their sincere thanks to all their sponsors, Bobby Short and Ron Binnie for always turning up to help set up the show and HE The Governor, Mr Alan Huckle for presenting the prizes.

*Please turn to page 19 for a list of the prize winners.*

## THE RBA SHEEP SHOW IN PICTURES

### The Prize Giving



*Clockwise from top left: Stevie Dickson receives the Champion Ram prize; Olivia Whitney collects her prizes in the pet sheep section; Tyrone Whitney received the honour of Champion Ewe; Heather May collect the prize for guessing the micron of the fleece; Fitzroy farm manager and host, Alan Eagle collects prizes in the prime weaner lamb section; West farmer Shelley Nightingale takes home 2nd for her ewe hogget; the crowd gathers for the prize giving.*

### The Craft Stalls & A Fun Day Out For All



*Thank you to SeAled PR for providing the photographs*



## FARM IN PROFILE: SHEFFIELD, SADDLE & HARPS

**Property Name:** Sheffield, Saddle & Harps

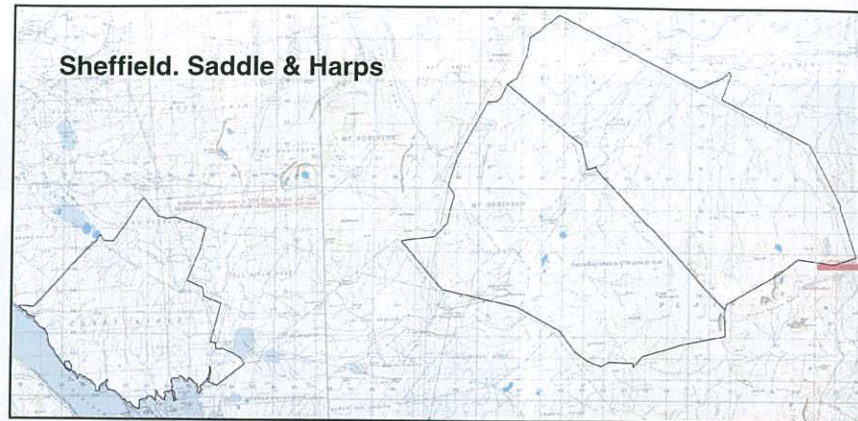
**Location:** West Falkland

**Owners:** Kenneth & Josie McKay

**Farm size:** 27,197 hectares

**Sheep:** 7,700

**Cattle:** 28



*Kenneth & Josie bought Sheffield in 1997 and took over Harps in 2004. In 2000 they worked Saddle and bought it in 2004. Buying Sheffield was a dream come true as they both love the camp life and since their initial purchase, have expanded quite considerably!!*

*Although they will now be taking on the lease at Chartres from next May and may be selling Sheffield, Kenneth & Josie say that their future plans for farming aren't changing, just the destination!*

*They are kept very busy during summer-time and in recent winters have also been occupied with putting up new fences and building work. Although they have been working hard, they enjoy it and wouldn't swap farming for anything else.*

### Sheep farming

There are approximately 7,700 sheep across Sheffield, Saddle and Harps, which are mostly Polwarth ewes they currently use for breeding. Kenneth & Josie also have some small stud flocks breeding pure SAMM (South African Meat Merino) and Poll Dorset sheep. They are working towards a dual purpose sheep, having the Poll Dorset and Black-face Suffolks for terminal sires at Sheffield, the SAMMs for meat and wool at Saddle and breeding Dohnes at Harps. This year they hope to have enough meat and dual purpose bred rams to put across their flocks, mating ewes with Poll Dorset, SAMM and Dohne Merino rams only.

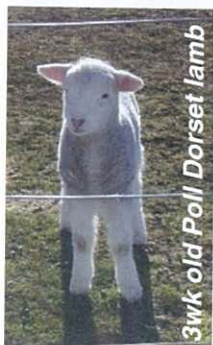


Shearling Dohne Merino ewe and rams

At Saddle, they keep breeding ewes only, under-stocking the land with around 1,700 ewes. Kenneth & Josie say that they need to keep the land under-stocked to produce bigger and better lambs. They add that you can't run the same amount of sheep a farm used to run if you want to produce fat lambs for the abattoir and the income far outweighs the money you can get for wool and other stock and with no overheads involved, it is pure profit to the farmer.

The Saddle ewes will all be mated with SAMM rams this year, purely for producing ram lambs for the abattoir. What they don't sell as new season lamb will be sold later as old season lamb. They are impressed with the SAMM genetics, which are doing very well and Kenneth & Josie are confident from the progeny they have seen so far that they will achieve the goal of changing their flocks around to produce lambs for the abattoir.

At Harps they run a mixed flock which are mated with Dohne Merino lambs, aiming to produce a larger framed, dual-purpose animal, whilst keeping a reasonably fine fleece micron. The ewes at Harps are rotated around 4 camps throughout the year.



3wk old Poll Dorset lamb

Kenneth & Josie send nearly all their lambs that are up to weight to Sand Bay Abattoir. They kept back some of the Poll Dorset ewe lambs this year to put back into the flock and replace the older ewes to build their terminal sire flock up faster.

## FARM IN PROFILE: SHEFFIELD, SADDLE & HARPS

### Changes and future plans

They are in the process of working towards a rotational grazing programme for the ewes during the summer, whilst completing some fencing work during this winter to enable them to rotate the Saddle ewes next summer. Kenneth & Josie believe this is the cheapest and most effective way of improving the land. They are going to broadcast seed and then use the sheep to work it in with the 'hoof and tooth' method. They don't believe that the conventional re-seed methods are a viable option, with the high fuel costs and the labour time involved. There is already a rotational grazing system in place, albeit on a larger scale.

This is the first year Kenneth & Josie have mated a reasonable amount of ewes with meat breeds and their lambing percentage has significantly increased. This has been a very encouraging start and they are confident they can look forward to a rewarding future in farming and will see through their goal of (hopefully) producing 800 lambs or more for the abattoir each year.

So far this year, they had over 500 old and new season lambs for the abattoir and over the next few years they will be replacing the breeding flocks with more SAMMs and Poll Dorsets, turning the farm into how it should be – a sustainable and thriving business. It has been a slow turn around for them but Kenneth & Josie say there is no quick fix in farming and you have to work hard at it to achieve what you want. They are hopeful that the abattoir will continue to run for the foreseeable future and, in doing so, making farming for them a very profitable and rewarding business to be in.

Kenneth & Josie believe there is a definite need for farmers to breed and introduce more dual purpose animals into flocks in order to make a difference both to their business and to that future of farming in the Falklands. They believe the Polwarths are too inbred and the further you go into them the smaller the sheep become and resulting in lower lambing percentages, although some farms are doing well with this breed.



The settlement at Sheffield farm

However, to make a significant difference, there is the need to change and diversify.

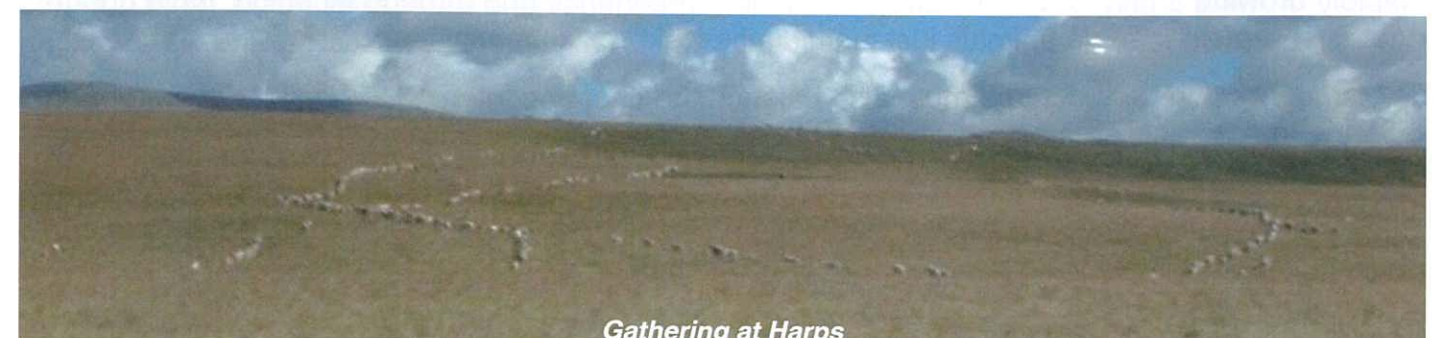
### Cattle

There are 28 cattle across the 3 farms, comprising of milk cows, oxen and calves. Kenneth & Josie have mainly Red Poll and Lincoln Red breed, although several of the older cows are Ayrshires. They milk the dairy cows and breed beef for their own consumption, along with a few animals which are sold to the abattoir. They hope to continue producing a small number of cattle each year for the abattoir, using genetics from calves from a National Beef Herd bull. Kenneth & Josie are aiming to produce a better beef animal with a higher meat yield to enable them to continue to sell some cattle each year.

### Changes to farming

They say that farming is changing quite dramatically now, with more farmers realising wool alone isn't a viable option any more, unless you are running a considerable amount of sheep, which very few small farms are able to do. Therefore the need to diversify is essential to sustaining their business. They add that the dual purpose animals are making a big difference to many farms and that the abattoir is an essential lifeline to farmers. The money that farmers can make from lamb and beef is quite a substantial and welcoming addition to their income.

Kenneth & Josie believe that the camp life is definitely the best life you can have and no matter how hard they work they still find a great satisfaction from what they do.



Gathering at Harps



## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF FORAGE OATS

By Andrew Pollard

The March 2009 edition of the Wool Press discusses the potential advantage of sowing oats in the first year after a cultivation and burn. This was due to the larger seed size and being able to drill deeper under the ash left from burning.

Oats are grown to satisfy two very different requirements, conserved as hay or silage for feeding stock in winter/early spring or by being grazed in the field (generally by young stock post weaning). The following article takes a closer look at their value as a grazing crop.

The photographs below show a forage oat crop with a high ratio of leaf to stem and are of a high nutritive quality.



In comparison the oat crop to the right shows a field of forage oats that are more mature and have a low leaf to stem ratio and are therefore lower in nutritive quality (it was my intention to maintain anonymity, unfortunately this is a bit difficult with Ian and Stevie in the picture!!)

In the Falkland Islands it is more common for crops to be grazed when more mature such as the example at North Arm.

The table below shows the nutrient analysis of the crop by Hill Labs in New Zealand.



Sample	Crude Protein (%)	Digestibility (%)	Metabolisable Energy (MJ/kg)	CP (%) Requirement
High leaf: stem	17.4	70.4	11.3	14.3
Low leaf: stem	9.5	52.0	9.7	12.5

Energy is needed by animals for all body functions. Higher levels of energy are needed during pregnancy, lactation, growth and also during poor weather conditions.

Rapidly growing sheep or lambs, and ewes in late pregnancy and through lactation, have greater needs for protein than do animals just maintaining weight (summarily for cattle).

The amount of protein required must also balance the energy content of the diet if rumen fermentation is to have the greatest efficiency. This does not occur in the low leaf to stem sample, approximately 12.5% crude protein would be required with only 9.5% being provided.

Due to the low digestibility of the low leaf to stem sample, rate of passage will be slower and consequently feed intake will be reduced.

Sample	Starting Weight (kg)	Weight gain per day (g)*	Weight after 30 days (kg)	Weight after 60 days (kg)
High leaf: stem	15	150	19.5	24
Low leaf: stem	15	50	16.5	18

\* Assumption made, on the weight gain per day (this could be measured by weighing animals off and onto the crop).

The difference in weight gain over a 60 day period in the example above would be 6 kg's

Taking into account that the leafy sample was 7.9% higher in crude protein, 18.4% more digestible, 1.6 MJ higher in energy. The analysis could be considered as being conservative and the weight gain between the 2 samples may be higher.

### Quality versus Quantity

Grazing forage oats when leafy will provide a higher quality feed source than one that is grazed when more mature.

However, the mature crop of in the photograph has a higher yield than the leafy oat crop.

Is it possible to get more than one grazing out of the oats if they are grazed early enough? I would comment that this may be limited without the use of nitrogen fertilisers. If I use a second top dressing of N fertiliser is this going to show a return on investment?

Could the crop in the first example be grazed earlier (as soon as roots prevent plant from pulling out), grazing early encourages tillering, producing more growth per plant.

The utilisation of the feed is also important. Ian and Stevie both commented that a lot of the oat crop at North Arm was flattened and therefore not grazed. This wastage would be reduced if grazed shorter.

Crops will respond faster to regrowth if they are backfenced, preventing the stock from coming back onto the grazed section of the oats.

Farmers need to determine what their aims from growing the oats are. If fattening young animals is the intention, this can only really occur by increasing the quality of the feed intake.

### Plans for 2009/10 Season

Next season I would like to focus on monitoring oat crops in particular, working with yourselves to answer the following questions:

- When could I potentially first graze the crop? (please contact me when you have planted and I will organise a date to come and look at the crop).
- What is the estimated dry matter yield prior to grazing? (this is easy to measure and will allow you to match stocking rates with maximising potential regrowth).
- What is the daily weight gain of the stock whilst grazing oats? (weigh stock and record date on and similarly when taking the stock off)
- What is the regrowth?

It is also possible to look at applying some nitrogen fertiliser to strips after the first grazing and to measure a response.

Anybody who is interested in working on evaluating the return on investment for these crops, please contact me so we can put together a plan of action to monitor the crops next season.



## WORM EGG COLLECTION & COUNTS

By Susan Campbell

The Department of Agriculture is in the middle of running a series of Internal Parasite seminars where we are discussing ways of identifying the presence of worms in your sheep and cattle and of managing parasites effectively on your property. Faecal egg counts (FEC) are recognised as the most effective way of telling what level of parasite contamination is present in your sheep and to this end we now have available at the Department of Agriculture FEC collection kits. This is a very simple procedure for farmers to follow and is by far the best way to tell if you should be drenching. Below is the description of how to go about collecting a sample. For a kit please call the Department.

It is advised that sheep should be FEC checked before lambing, before Dec to check for drenching at this time and weaners should be checked prior to weaning and then on a 6-8 weekly basis throughout the year. It is also wise to check stock that are not in good condition or are showing signs of scouring. If moving sheep off a camp which you intend to use for susceptible stock eg reseeds etc then it is helpful to get a sample of those sheep being moved out of the camp to give some indication as to the level of contamination present there.

### Collection Method for Worm Egg Counts

The kit includes 10 sample bottles, gloves and a submission form.

#### 1. Collection of samples

Faeces may be collected directly from the rectum of the sheep if you happen to have sheep yarded. However the usual method for collection is to hold sheep quietly in the corner of a camp not too tightly packed for approximately 10 minutes. Then allow the sheep to move away and collect samples that are still warm placing individual samples into each container (more than one sample can be used to fill a container).

Collection from cattle can be similarly done.

#### 2. Storage/delivery

Once collected, clean the outside of the container and ensure that the lid is on firmly. Place all the containers in the plastic bag provided with the filled in parasitology submission form and place them in the refrigerator (not freezer) until they can be delivered. This should occur within 24 hours of collection. A phone call to the laboratory to ensure that they will be available to process your samples would be advised before collection. Please ensure delivery to the laboratory in time for processing before the weekend preferably by Thursday

Results should be available within 24 hours of delivery to the laboratory.

## QUALITY FALKLAND WOOL

By Lucy Ellis

At its peak, the Quality Falkland Wool (QFW) scheme had 35 accredited sheds. As of this 2008/9 season there are only 25 sheds actively using the stencil. There are various reasons for this and the main one is change of ownership of many farms. The new owners have a decision to make as to whether they would like to get themselves and their woolshed accredited in their own right or not.



The QFW logo

The next most common cause is that stencil holders have chosen, for their own personal reasons, not to apply the stencil, in any given season. Stencil holders, in the main, are diligent about completing and returning the self-audit check lists though.

If anyone is interesting in joining the QFW scheme or wanting more information, please contact Ian Campbell or Lucy Ellis on 27355 or email [icampbell@doa.gov.fk](mailto:icampbell@doa.gov.fk) or [lellis@doa.gov.fk](mailto:lellis@doa.gov.fk)

## CORING UPDATE FOR THE 2008/9 SEASON

By Lucy Ellis

This 2008/9 season has seen the start of a new era in core sampling, in the Falkland Islands, with the introduction of a semi-automated core/grab machine based at FIPASS. Gone are the days of blood, rivers of sweat and, almost, on occasion, tears. That is not to say that the capability to manually core has gone, far from it, the kit is stored at FIPASS ready to use if necessary.

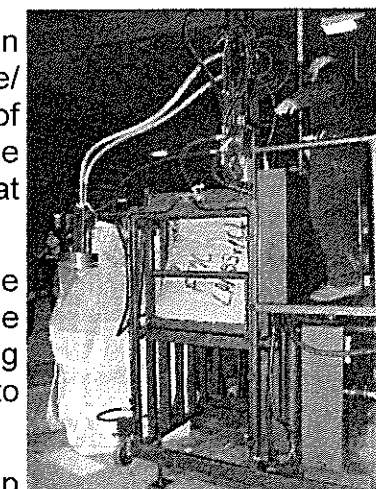
The Falklands Wool Cooperative (FWCo) won the tender to operate the core machine and also negotiated with ByronMcKay to oversee the running of the wool warehouse on FIPASS. This includes bale receiving and stowing, coring and grab sampling and packing bales into containers for onward shipment.

Farmers now contact Rodney Lee at the FWCo to organise receivership and for machine coring of their bales. Those farmers who want to manually core their bales will still contact the DoA.

To date (7/4/09) 3641 bales have been cored and all but 321 of those have been cored through the machine. A quick break up of those bales to see from what areas they come from is as follows: East – 2474, West – 938, Islands – 229. The season is slowly coming to a close but there are still quite a few hundred to go so the above figures are by no means definitive.

There is also the opportunity to grab sample bales. The main purpose of grab sampling is to test for Length and Strength (L&S) of the staple and Position of Break (PoB) within the staple. In countries that sell wool by auction the grab sample is also used for display to let potential buyers see and feel the wool.

This season just 3 farms took grab samples from, mainly, their finer lines i.e. hoggets and shearlings.



The wool coring machine in action during Farmers Week

## MEET THE NEW FALKLANDS CONSERVATION BOSS

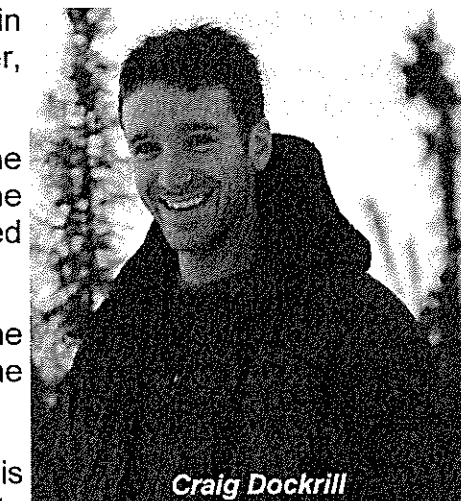
Having travelled 12,000 miles south from his previous post in Canada, new Falklands Conservation Chief Executive Officer, Craig Dockrill says he is very happy to be here.

Craig first heard of the post through a friend working with the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and liked the combination of birds and an agricultural and fishing based economy that the post and the Falkland Islands had to offer.

His previous job was working for the Canadian government in the western Arctic as a habitat biologist, which involved managing the migratory bird population and protected areas.

Craig says the environment and wildlife in the Falkland Islands is very different from what he is used to, but he is looking forward to working with landowners and farmers.

Craig will be working on how Falklands Conservation can better serve the community and build a better relationship with the Falkland Islands Government. He is looking forward to meeting everyone and would like to welcome anyone to call into the Falklands Conservation offices for a visit.

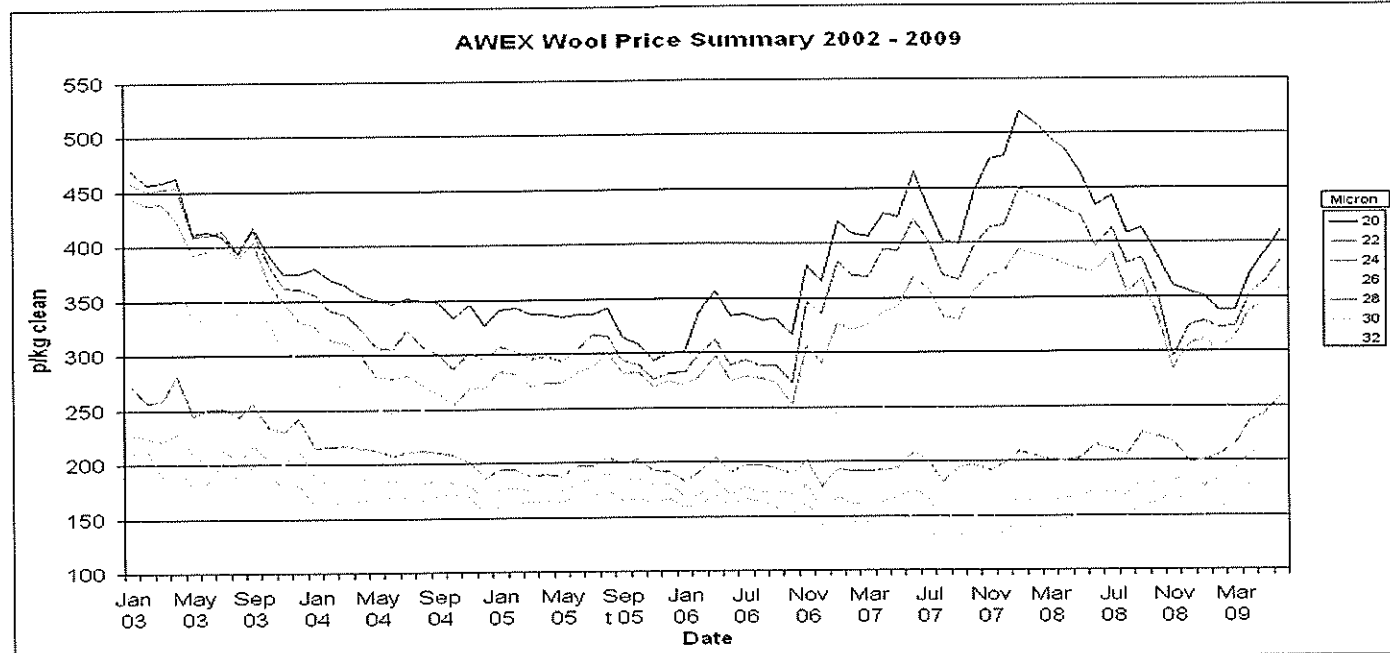


Craig Dockrill



## WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



## WORM SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN STANLEY

There will be a worm control seminar in the Chamber of Commerce at 1.30pm on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, discussing internal parasites in both sheep and cattle.

Susan Campbell, who has recently completed her Master of Veterinary Science in matters relating to grazing management and sheep parasites, will be talking about worm life cycles, impacts, prevention and treatments.

Because treatment options are different on organic farms we will holding separate meetings for the organic farmers. An addition to their program is that Ian will be talking about the implications and constraints of treating sheep on the Organic Accreditation status.

Finally, we will also be taking the opportunity to discuss a number of other DoA projects. For more information, please call the Department of Agriculture on 27355.

## LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

Yes, it's that time of year again! Livestock Ordinance Forms are being sent out with the May Wool Press and you have a legal obligation to complete and return the form by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

There will be two forms enclosed, one is to be returned to the Department of Agriculture and the other is for you own records.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Siân Ferguson on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email [sferguson@doa.gov.fk](mailto:sferguson@doa.gov.fk) If for some reason you cannot contact us during the day, please feel free to contact me in the evenings on 21977.

If you haven't received your form, please let us know so we can send a replacement.

Thank you,  
Siân Ferguson

## WORK EXPERIENCE DIARIES

On 30th May 2009, Reba Peck and Sonia Arkhipkin joined the team at the Department of Agriculture and Veterinary Service respectively for the annual work experience programme.

### MY WEEK OF WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE DOA

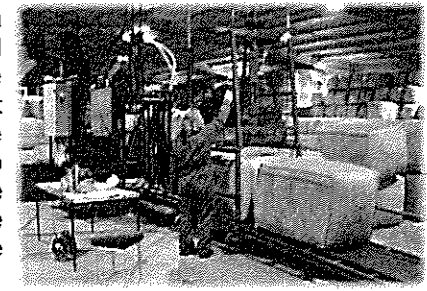
By Reba Peck

Its weeks ago now, since Mrs Maskall-Bott and Ms Bell herded all of year 10 into the Geography room and started to explain that we would all be doing work experience in a few weeks time. You probably wouldn't believe how much preparing we had to do, so many questions, sheets to do, role plays, one of the role plays was "What to do when talking on the phone to an employer" I didn't do very well in that role play because I'm useless when I have to talk formally on the phone. Then we had to do our first ever CVs, some extremely stressful times. Then the board outside the ICT room started to fill with work placements.

The first day this happened, we all really wanted to have a quick nose around to see what kind of jobs were going. I will say at first, there wasn't much that caught my eyes, but after a few weeks the Ag. Department came up. I had been interested in the DoA, for quite some time, this was because I know quite a lot from the farming point of view, but I didn't know so much about the Ag. Department. So I decided to apply. We had to do at least three different applications, to send off to three different work placements. About week after I sent the application to the DOA, I was asked to have an interview. I was really pleased when I was able to reply to the letter Siân had sent to me, saying I could do my five days of work experience with them and that I would be working the same Government hours as them.

The week was full of interesting new experiences, some that were entertaining and some others that were a little boring, though there were definitely more fun opportunities than not. I was shown how to weigh and sort out wool samples so they can be sent to New Zealand to find out the Micron, I went to Blue Beach and Elephant Beach with Siân and Tim to check and download the weather

stations, that was on Tuesday and we all got very cold because it was a horrible day. It was still quite interesting and I got to use a GPS so we could mark where the weather stations are on a map.



Reba learns how to use the machine corer

I learned how to create a map using a programme on the computer, and by using that programme I placed the points where the weather stations are using the GPS from the previous day, the map also showed the roads around that area, the rainfall gauge outside the DoA, farm names and their boundaries.

I had a talk with Mac McArther about what the DoA does and another conversation with Ian Campbell about Organic farming, I found both interesting. At tea times I would swap stories with Sonia as she was down in the Veterinary section. I went with Lucy to do some Core Testing on the new machine and I think this was probably one of my most favourite experiences of the week. I did some computer work in between all this and it wasn't too bad as I did learn some new skills.

I think I have gained a fair amount of knowledge from this week and I have enjoyed it. I'll be going back to school next week and I expect all of my class will be swapping work experience stories of what they did, and I will be able to tell them that I had good time. I would like to thank all of the people who work at the DOA for putting up with me, ensuring that I learned and had a good time. I'm not certain of what I am going to do for a future career but I will definitely consider this line of work.

### WORK EXPERIENCE ARTICLE

By Sonia Arkhipkin

Working at the Veterinary Service, for my work experience week, has been amazing. In such a short period of time, I managed to learn so many interesting facts about nursing and treating various animals. This was mainly due to the variety of jobs that the Veterinary Service take on: One minute an operation is taking place, the next we are in the car collecting dog's ashes, and later we are on a fishing boat collecting samples! So, there was definitely no time to get bored.

One of my first jobs, believe it or not, was to help Steve euthanase a piglet! Poor little piglet, it definitely was not the healthiest. Shortly after, Sarah introduced me to a cat that had, had a rather prolonged stay at the Vets. My job was to feed and clean that cat's cage everyday. However, that cat had cunning plans... every time it was placed in a new, clean cage it would show the urge to destroy it immediately, which of course was my responsibility to clean all over again. The highlight of my week was to observe three operations. Sarah very kindly let me inject the dogs with painkillers (successfully, as they are now running around looking very

healthy).

Who would ever imagine that two King penguins would find their way into a little green shed at the Veterinary Service. I think that has to be my worst memory: While feeding the penguins for the first time, with Steve, I had to open a huge sharp beak and force a fish down its swaying head. I managed to drop the slippery fish not once but three times on the sand, each time followed up with a wash to free it from sand, which ultimately just made it more slippery. Having done this for about five minutes I think Steve was mortified at how useless this process had been, and decided to feed the fish to the penguin himself! However, by the end of the week I have managed to master a skill 'how to shove an Icefish down a penguin's throat!' that afternoon we had a visit from Power Station staff who brought us an enormous spider that looked as if it was about to pop, and reproduce by the million!

I loved every bit of working in the Veterinary department in a pleasant environment, with such kind people. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone at the Veterinary Service for giving me this opportunity, and for making this week so enjoyable and memorable.

### Corrections

We apologise that the lamb growth rates quoted in Ian Campbell's article last month were incorrectly calculated. The correct figure is 140g/day. Also, there were 21 rams purchased through the FIP scheme at the Ram & Bull sale, not 10 as we reported last month.



## NOTICE

To all farmers: please be aware that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, there will be a scanning charge of 5 pence per ewe scanned. Those of you in the FIP can budget for this charge in your 2009/10 plans.

## The great sheep shearer shortage: hundreds kept out of Britain because of new visa test

By Simon Mcgee, *From the Mail on Sunday 12th April 2009*  
Provided by Sukey Cameron, FIGO Rep

Britain faces a critical shortage of sheep shearers because new biometric work visas are hampering hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders from coming to the UK.

Around 500 professional shearers, many of them Jackaroos – cowboys adept at ranch and farm skills – or their female equivalent Jillaroos, have been travelling to the UK for decades to help cut the fleeces of the 25million-strong national flock during the main shearing season, from May 1 to the end of July.

But delays caused by the red tape involved in the Government's new points-based system for allowing migrant workers into Britain, which also includes biometric details such as fingerprints on their work visas, has resulted in few of the shearers being approved so far.

The National Association of Agricultural Contractors says some have been told it will take up to nine weeks to get their visas, compared to three or four weeks under the previous system.

NAAC executive member Robert Morris, who is himself a sheep-shearing contractor, said: 'The situation is serious and critical. These guys are world-class shearers who can each deal with up to 400 sheep a day. Unless all 500 of the shearers are allowed into the country, we can't shear the national flock in time and we will lose

thousands of sheep to diseases and other problems.'

The new rules, introduced last November, require non-EU workers to score a certain number of points to qualify for a permit, based on the migrant's ability, experience, age, language skills and demand in the UK for his or her skills.

They must have a certificate from the UK employer sponsoring their stay and must also turn up to a dedicated facility run by the UK embassy in their home country to provide biometric details.

While the importance of sheep shearing has been recognised with a high 'skills' score in the points system, the NAAC says the length of time officials take to process the applications is prompting many to consider not bothering with the UK shearing season.

Labour MP Michael Foster, who is Mr Morris's local MP and whose Hastings and Rye constituency has the UK's highest concentration of sheep, has pressed the Home Office to prioritise the applications.

He said: 'The Government is right to be cautious about immigration, but I don't think these new rules were intended to prevent skilled workers like sheep shearers from coming to the UK.'

However, a Home Office spokeswoman said: 'The new system has been designed to be accessible, applications are processed quickly and there are no reported delays – with visas normally issued within 25 days or less.'

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
20th May	Dog Dosing Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email <a href="mailto:imports@doa.gov.fk">imports@doa.gov.fk</a> and advise when your dogs have been dosed.
14th June	Liberation Day
15th June	Public Holiday - in lieu of Liberation Day
30th June	Livestock Ordinance Forms - deadline for return to the DoA
6th - 10th July	Farmers Week

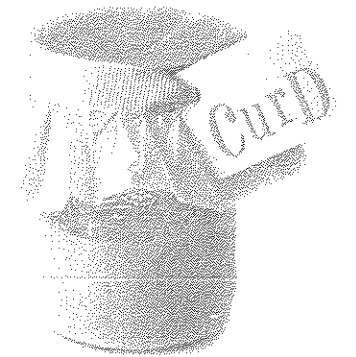
## Recipe Spot

By Terrienne Ormond, Stanley

### Lemon Curd

#### Ingredients:

- 2 lemons
- 3 eggs
- 1 tbsp butter (real not spread)
- 1 cup sugar
- Vanilla Essence – few drops



Put the sugar and rind and juice of two lemons into a pot. Bring to the boil and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Whisk the eggs together then slowly add the lemon/sugar mixture, gently whisking all the time. At this stage you may wish to strain the lemon rind from the boiled mixture if you prefer a smooth curd. Put the curd mixture back into the pot and stir over a medium heat until it thickens. Take off the heat and stir in the butter and vanilla essence. Pour into a jar, leave to cool then enjoy on toast, scones or straight from the jar! This recipe keeps well in the fridge for a couple of months.

*If you enjoy recipes other people have contributed to the Wool Press, why not send in your own favourites to share?*

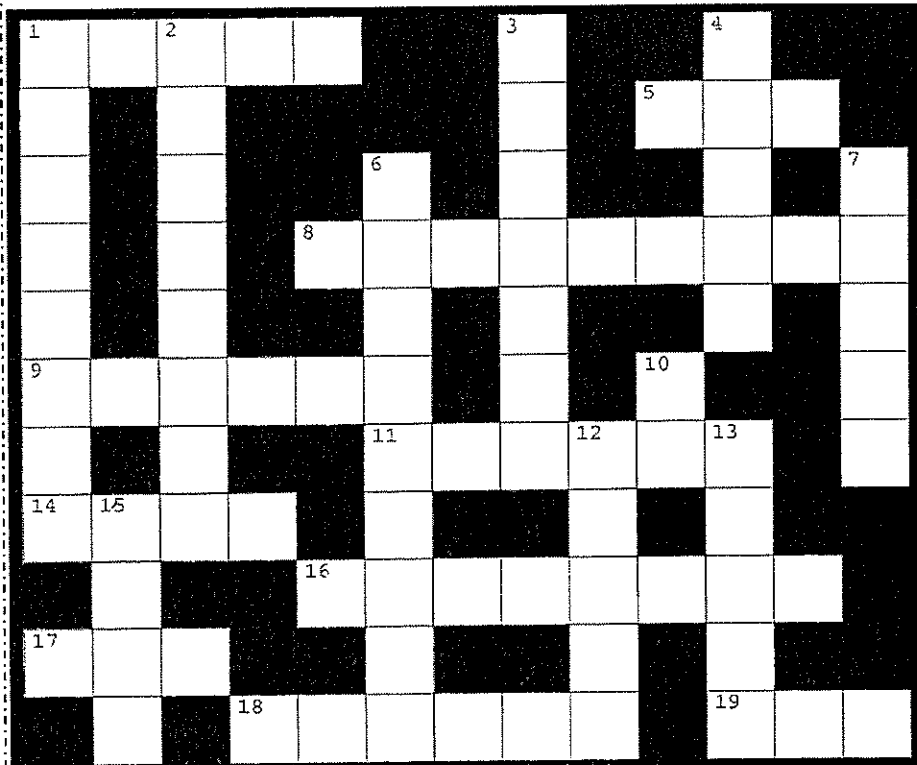
## RBA SHEEP SHOW PRIZE WINNERS

<b>Mature ram over 24 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Elephant Beach 2 <sup>nd</sup> Blue Beach 3 <sup>rd</sup> Goose Green	2 <sup>nd</sup> North Arm 3 <sup>rd</sup> North Arm	<b>Ewe of any age suitable for producing prime lambs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Home Farm 2 <sup>nd</sup> North Arm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fitzroy
<b>Shearling ram over 12 and less than 24 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> North Arm 2 <sup>nd</sup> North Arm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Goose Green	<b>Ewe Hoggett under 12 months</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mt Kent 2 <sup>nd</sup> West Lagoons 3 <sup>rd</sup> North Arm	<b>Pen of three prime weaner lambs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Fitzroy 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fitzroy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Home Farm
<b>Ram Hoggett less than 12 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> North Arm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Elephant Beach 3 <sup>rd</sup> Goose Green	<b>Pen of 3 flock hoggets male or female under 12 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Home Farm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Elephant Beach 3 <sup>rd</sup> North Arm	<b>Under 16's entry</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Home Farm (Olivia Whitney) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Home Farm (Olivia Whitney) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Goose Green (Jack Alazia)
<b>Mature ewe over 24 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Blue Beach 2 <sup>nd</sup> Blue Beach 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mt Kent	<b>Pen of three flock shearlings male or female over 12 and under 24 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mt Kent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Home Farm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Texel Valley	<b>Most points in wool classes: North Arm</b>
<b>Shearling ewe over 12 months and under 24 months of age</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mt Kent	<b>Terminal Sire of any age suitable for producing prime lambs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Home Farm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fitzroy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Home Farm	<b>Champion Ram: North Arm</b> <b>Champion Ewe: Home Farm</b>  Guess the weight of the sheep: S Dixon Guess the micron of the fleece: H May



# PUZZLE PAGE

## Crossword



### Across

1. Crumbly chocolate
5. Alternative to a Windows PC
8. Farm featured in May *WP*
9. "Ah... skin roll", popular *Friends* quote
11. "Blue .." Nora Roberts book/ flower
14. Smelling tool
16. Shortest month
17. Previously consumed food
18. Popular vehicle make
19. Atmosphere

### Down

1. Make of tractor
2. "... heel", weak spot
3. New supermarket and 6D (7, 9)
4. Best rugby team in the world!
6. *see 3D*
7. To improvise (2,3)
10. Ratio of a circles circumference to it's diameter
12. "... Jay", boat
13. Largest artery in the human body
15. A promise

## 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.

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

### Brainteaser

What is so fragile that when you say it's name you break it?

## DingBat Brain Games

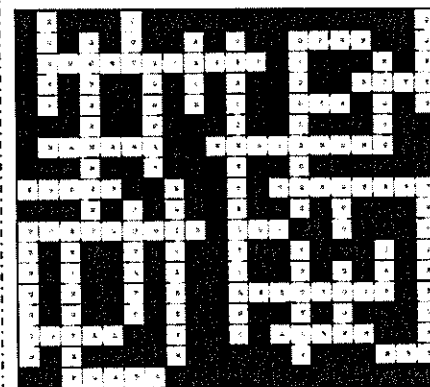
Flex your brain, free your mind and think laterally

BAN ANA

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

*Hint: Describing out loud what you see may give you the clue you need!!*

## Last Month's Solutions



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

### Brainteaser

Only 1 man was going to St Ives, the other 2,801 were heading the other way!

LEAST

Last but not least

CO D  
LO HL MON

Fish out of water

*If you would like to see a particular type of puzzle in the Wool Press, the please let us know!*

# THE WOOL PRESS

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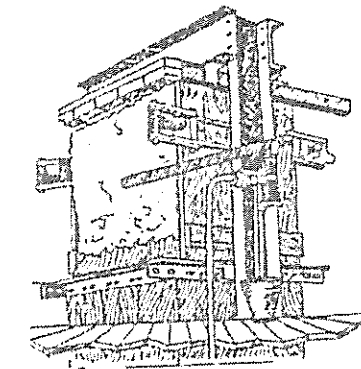
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Plus all the usual features and more!!



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## EDITORIAL

Having just returned from working with farmers on the West weaning the NBH calves and helping Zoë and Susan pregnancy testing the cows in yards that quickly became muddy and slushy, brought home how wet and miserable the past two months have been for stock and farmers alike.

Ian Campbell has provided a stimulating article about the use of terminal breed rams in which he points out the dangers of using terminal sires that produce large lean lambs that often have carcasses that are heavier than the ideal FIMCo specification requires and take a lot of feed to fatten. While we are talking about lamb and FIMCo I would like to point out in an article I wrote last month when I mentioned a line of lambs that had all met the FIMCO specifications of carcass weight range and 3L fat score that was what farmers need to be aiming at but in actual fact for the 2009 season lambs were paid relative to their carcass weight only.

Susan Campbell has provided two articles this month with one about the value of pregnancy testing of cattle so that you can better feed and look after the pregnant cows and which ones to check on when they are close to calving.

Susan's second article about controlling worms in cattle sums up the key issues that have been discussed at the series of DoA worm management workshops held recently throughout the East and West islands. Understanding the life cycle including the dormant stages, the types of drench and the best timing of application as well as grazing management techniques is important to obtain best production from young cattle in the Falklands.

Sally Poncet has contributed an interesting article about restoring tussac, removing rats and foxes from islands and the success of these programmes involving a wide range of Falkland Islanders and people from around the globe.

John Ferguson has summarised the key issues for the FIMCo export season in a must read article on a very successful processing season somewhat marred by livestock transport difficulties which are currently being addressed. With marketing being a key issue it is good to see a potential new market in the Faroe Islands part of Denmark.

Thank you to Arthur and Elaine Turner for their interesting article on Rincon Grande where they have recognised that to do well in farming embracing technology is critical.

Lucinda Lowe our Laboratory Assistant has written an article on the work she is involved with in the laboratory. Laura Ceballos (Official Veterinary Surgeon) and Nigel Eaton (Meat Hygiene Inspector) for the FIMCo export season have reported on their work both of which make interesting reading.

Enjoy your read. Regards to all.

**Mac McArthur**  
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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## TERMINAL OR MEAT BREED SIRES

*By Ian Campbell*

There has been a lot of discussion about terminal or meat breed sires for use in the lamb industry lately, and our policy of not funding these animals in the FIP scheme has been under some healthy debate as well. I think it is a good issue to talk about - but let's first define a few bits of terminology.

### **Meat Breeds**

The meat breeds of sheep have been selected for meat traits over generations. Conformation, growth rates, fat cover and more recently things like eye muscle area. The British short wools (Dorset, Suffolk or Southdown) are typical examples. Generally their wool is not worth much, nor is there much of it to sell anyway. Some meat breeds (Wiltshire Horn, Dorper) even shed their wool - negating the need to even shear them.

Meat breeds can be run as self replacing flocks, with ewe lambs returning as breeders and wether lambs being slaughtered for meat. Wool income is greatly reduced compared to a dual purpose flock though, and it is not considered as profitable for this reason, despite presumably a generally better lamb income. Also all the wethers need to be sold as lambs, whether they are finished or not - there is a huge discount for them if they do not make the grade by teeth eruption.

### **Terminal Sires**

A terminal sire is usually a meat breed and is used at the "end of the line". For example it might be put over cull ewes from the wool flock (black spots etc). These ewes are presumably genetically flawed, and hence it is not desirable

to use them to breed up replacement sheep - but you cannot afford to sell the ewes because you need all the breeders you can get. The idea (by definition) is that all lambs, male and female, are slaughtered for the lamb market. Terminal sire use is therefore often not sustainable. You need to be able to buy in ewe replacements, or be breeding enough surplus ewes in a parallel wool sheep enterprise to be building flocks of prime lamb mothers whilst maintaining numbers in the wool flock.

Unfortunately to adapt a phrase from Monty Python, we feel here in the DoA that every ewe is sacred. We do not actively encourage the use of terminal sires as such - because we do not advocate the slaughter of ewe lambs. We have a strong and consistent policy of going down the dual purpose route, where a reasonable fleece is grown on an animal with reasonable carcass traits. Only wether lambs are slaughtered, and ewe lambs are retained for breeding purposes.

### **Qualities of Meat Breeds**

Throughout the world many meat breeds have been selected for use as terminal sires. Because a terminal sire is destined to provide only half the genetics of the sale lamb, animals bred as terminal sires are usually pretty extreme in the traits they select for.

Many meat breed sheep around the world have been selected recently for the large lean lamb market. This market is very lucrative in Australia at the moment and targets lambs that are still relatively lean (2H or 3L) at a fairly heavy 22 - 25 kg dressed weight for a lamb. This is a fantastic product; but to grow them to heavy

## **FARMERS WEEK 2009 - Monday 6th to Friday 10th July**

*This is the International Year of Natural Fibres, so along with the normal regular sessions, we will be promoting "Wild and Woolly" in the Falkland Islands and hope to have a variety of products and information on display*

*This year, the Department of Agriculture will be holding sessions on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July. Along with smokos, we will also be providing a lunch on Thursday.*

*We will be working towards providing informative and interactive discussions, which will include the following topics:*

*National Stud Flock*

*Weaner (sheep & cattle) Production*

*Meat (sheep and beef) Production*

*Grazing Management*

*Genetics*

*Veterinary topics*

*More information and a detailed programme will be available in the coming weeks. Please call 27355 for more information.*



weights (over 50 kg liveweight) takes considerably more time and good nourishment than to grow a 16 kg carcass which is still under 40 kg liveweight. Great if you have access to finishing systems, but they are a terrible lamb if not finished. If they are slaughtered at 16 kg for example they will only be a 1 score, they are bred to grow on.

Even if you could grow a lamb out to 22 kg plus here, the FIMCo price schedule will then thwart you anyway as its value peaks out at 19 kg. After this weight there is no further financial incentive to grow heavier lambs and you are giving FIMCo free meat.

Large lean lamb genetics are not suited to the production systems we have here, either as self replacing flocks or as terminal sires. The genetic goal we need here for a meat breed or terminal sire is for an early maturing (for this read fat enough at a lower weight) animal - a small framed piggish ram rather than the long, tall rams evolving from the large lean lamb program. The genetic goal of meat breeds to be used here would therefore be a lamb that matures with 2 or 3 score fat at the relatively light carcass weights (internationally) of 16-19 kg. So look carefully at the figures before you think about using Prime Lamb genetics.

High lamb growth rates are obviously also important but this trait comes more from the dam's side - good milk production and a good start in life are important here. Using a terminal sire over the same ewe will have no influence on these traits - other than very large or big shouldered rams may cause lamb birth difficulties.

---

## THE VALUE OF PREGNANCY TESTING CATTLE

*By Susan Campbell*

### When, Where and How

Pregnancy testing of cattle is something we are being asked to do more commonly in the veterinary section. The value of pregnancy testing your herd is that you know where you stand. You know which cows to give the preferential treatment to, the best feed in the situation that there is limited feed and which cows to keep an eye on when they are calving. If for any reason you have to decrease the number of cattle then you know which ones to get rid of too.

Pregnancy testing is best done once the bull has come out of the cows for eight weeks. Prior to this the manual method that we use is less reliable and can not guarantee the correct answer. All you need to be able to provide is a race and crush that will securely hold a cow and that we can easily get in to test the cow and we are right to proceed.

### Qualities of Dual Purpose sheep

The NSF and joint venture flocks are all dual purpose sheep. Whilst they will not produce a large lean lamb, they will at least be able to finish a new seasons lamb at 14-16 kg with reasonable fat cover. The great benefits are that they are self replacing flocks, and the wool income is a major source of revenue. If old season lambs are produced they will have returned a valuable fleece before processing, and wether lambs that do not make the grade can be carried on for wool production and will still have a reasonable income earning potential.

The dual purpose sheep we use here are all Merino influenced, in other words tend to have wool fibre diameters in the low to mid 20 microns. Corriedales were also Merino influenced but had stronger wool again, and Romney Marsh and other British long wools are stronger again. The micron premium for wool is far more consistent these days and the more profitable dual purpose sheep tend to be at the finer microns.

### Summary

Genetic improvement is a key to good animal production systems. The production systems available in the Falkland Islands though are not conducive to the large lean lamb genetics which need far better finishing systems. With the dual purpose breeds they have just a modest carcass weight goal of 16-19 kg, but with adequate fat cover.

The keys to success in a lamb enterprise lie in the management of sheep with effective health, nutrition and grazing management practices, rather than in a new breed of sheep that will do wonders despite still having to deal with these issues.

## CONTROLLING CATTLE PARASITES

*By Susan Campbell*

Cattle have worms too. Especially if you run them continuously on the same ground year after year you will find there is a considerable build up of parasites and this will be affecting the growth rates of young cattle, and the general condition and fertility of adult cattle. For all practical purposes the parasites in cattle are different species to those in sheep and therefore they are not transferable from sheep to cattle or vice versa.

The life cycles of the cattle parasites are very much the same as for sheep parasites with the exception of *Ostertagia*. In cows older than 6 months there may be a hypobiotic phase which is when the larvae does not develop through to the adult but 'hibernates' in the gastric lining. Effectively this means there are three types of infection.

Type 1 disease occurs when cattle less than 18 month old take in large numbers of larvae over a 4 to 8 week period eg in spring. These will develop in 3 to 4 weeks and cause severe damage to the stomach lining resulting in scouring, decreased growth rate or increased weight loss. It is usual for most animals of the same age to be affected and they will respond well to any type of worm drench.

Pre Type 2 Occurs between August and December when larvae are picked up and 4 to 6 days later instead of developing into an adult worm they burrow into the glands in the stomach where they may live for up to nine months until the ideal weather conditions for reproduction occur.

Type 2 Large numbers of hypobiotic (dormant) larvae may have built up and they emerge simultaneously and mature into egg laying adults usually in late summer to early autumn. The massive emergence of these larvae can cause extensive damage to the gastric lining and severe diarrhoea and weight loss and ill thrift. If these animals are not drenched with a drench that is effective against the larval stages (a mectin or third generation white drench) then clearing the adults out will only cause more larvae to emerge and a persistent ill thrift will result.

*Ostertagia* is possibly the most important parasite in cattle in the Falkland Islands as the climate here is best suited for its development.

FECs can be performed in cattle less than six months of age but after this time they become less meaningful. As a result of this we are more reliant on a strategic drenching programme (one which keeps parasite numbers below those that will cause production losses) rather than the curative approach which relies on recognising disease before treating the animal. In this latter case significant production losses will have already occurred.

A good strategic programme relies on:

1. The use of drenches when they are most useful in the life cycle
2. Not grazing young cattle on paddocks where high contamination with eggs and larvae are known to have occurred

Cattle like sheep are most susceptible to internal parasites when they are young, two years and under, when they are pregnant and lactating, or if they are in poor general condition. For this reason it is important to be thinking about treating them at these times.

It is generally advisable to drench all calves at weaning. Other than this the best times for drenching cattle are in January and June. The January drench reduces the parasite numbers in the animal while the parasites on the pasture are being killed by environmental factors. It is best to use a mectin drench for this drench or at least a third generation benzimidazole carbamate drench (eg Panacur, Systamex or Valbazen) as these are the only drenches effective against the



hypobiotic larvae which may be in large numbers at this time of the year. The June drench removes the adult worms that have been picked up in autumn. This drench can be done with any of the drenches the benzimidazole or levamisole drenches being the cheapest but not available in pour on formulae. It is good to use these drenches occasionally as the mectin drenches are not effective against *Cooperia* which can build up and become a problem with the constant use of mectin drenches.

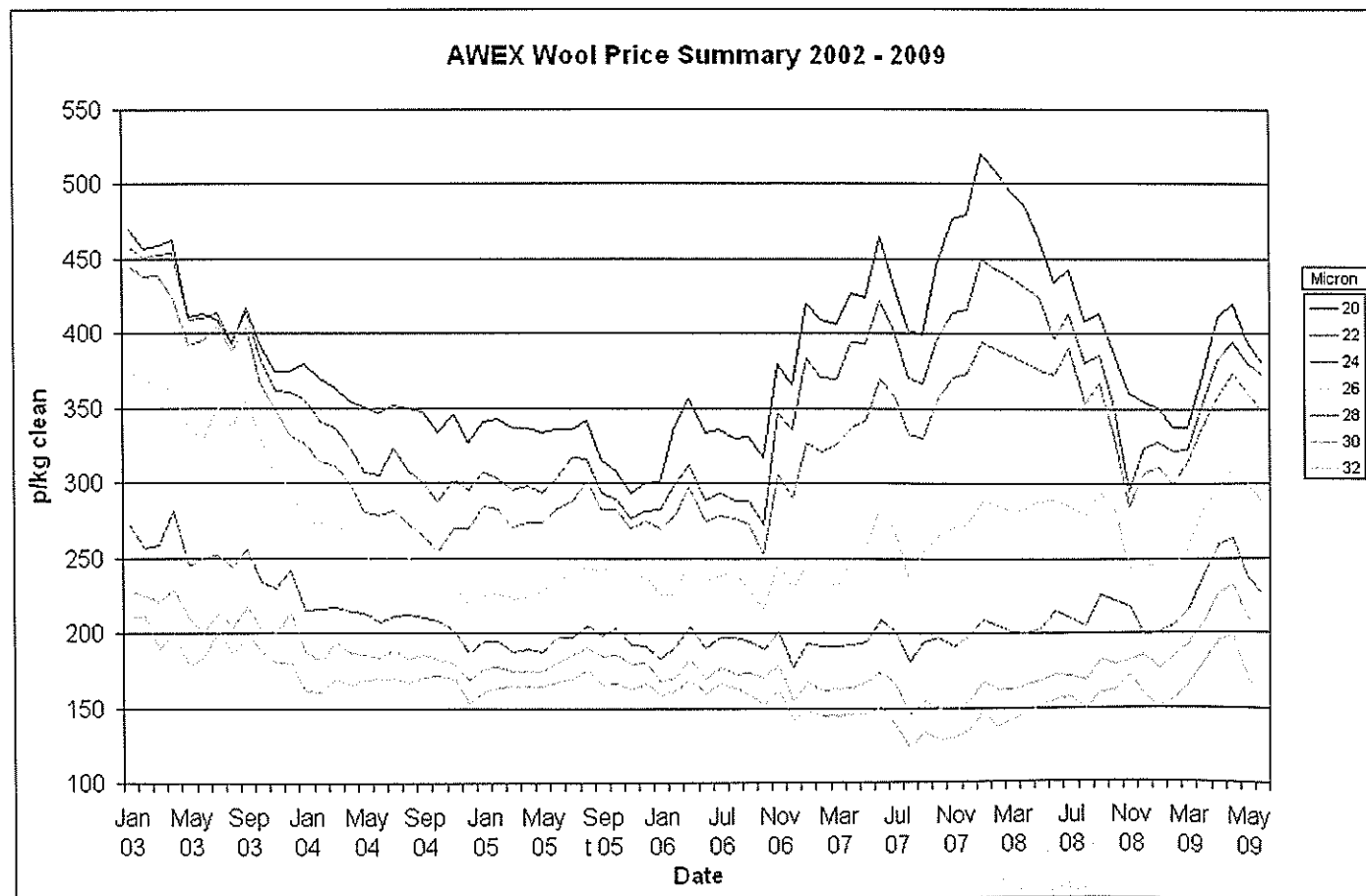
Drench resistance is not a problem with cattle drenches and therefore it is not necessary to change drench groups on an annual basis as for sheep drenching.

These drenches should be given routinely to all cattle until they are over two years of age and after this it is usual to give them to cows that are not looking in good condition as these will be more susceptible to parasites. It is not generally considered that all adult cattle need to be drenched unless they are all in poor condition as they usually have quite good immune systems to parasites once they are two years or older. However if you are running them constantly on the same pasture and at quite high stocking rates this advice may vary.

Ideally you would change the camp that you run the cattle on when you drench them and place them on a pasture that has not had cattle on for some time. For instance pastures spelled for two months in summer or six months in winter. Short term rotations of less than 10 weeks are not effective means of reducing parasites on pasture particularly as there is a long delay with the life cycle of *Ostertagia* in cattle faeces. Managing parasites on pasture is very much the same as with sheep and cross grazing with sheep will do much to reduce the numbers of available larvae for cattle. Ideally alternate grazing with sheep and cattle will do a lot to control parasites in both sheep and cattle ideally changing them in January and June to match the cattle drenching times.

## WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



## RESTORING TUSSAC

By Sally Poncet



For the past two years, Beaver Island Farm has been carrying out a tussock islands restoration programme in the Beaver Island area on West Falklands. A £37,000 grant from the FCO's OTEP (Overseas Territories Environment Programme) fund was used to restore a total of 9 islands. Operations involved spreading rat bait by hand in order to remove the entire rat population from each island, and to clear foxes from Tea Island.

Rat eradication is relatively straightforward and has been successfully carried out in the Falklands since 2001 when Falklands Conservation under the direction of New Zealand specialist Derek Brown, cleared Top and Bottom Islands in Port William. Fox eradication is far more difficult and has only ever been achieved once in the Islands, when Wally McBeth cleared them off Sedge Island back in the 1970s.

OTPE funds were spent directly on restoration - related activities which were mainly restoration contractors fees and flights, boat hire and field equipment. Grants for pre- and post-baiting wildlife surveys and the bait came from FIG's Environmental Studies Budget, the Antarctic Research Trust, Falklands Conservation, the RSPB's South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme.

Over the two years, the project employed a total of 15 people. Sally Poncet organised the programme, Leiv Poncet was assistant manager and Dion Poncet ran the support boat *Golden Fleece* (with additional logistical support at times from boats *Peregrine*, *Damien II* and *Porvenir*). Derek Brown of New Zealand and Steve Ebbert of Alaska were project advisors. Russell Evans, Peter Nightingale, Dion Poncet, Leiv Poncet, Jim Woodward and Dion Robertson took part in the first year rat eradications on Channel Islands East and West, Little Coffin, Little Coffin Knob, Stick-in-the-Mud, Skull Bay and Green Island. The following year Dion, Leiv, Jim and Dion were joined by Drew Robertson, Tiphonie May, Helen Otley, Leigh-Ann Wolfaardt, Derek Brown and Jeremy Poncet for the Governor Island programme. Fox eradication on Tea Island in September 2008 required a small specialist team under the direction of a fox control specialist from Alaska who trained Dion, Leiv, Sally and Ken Passfield in fox eradication techniques.

The success of the first year's rat eradications was confirmed in April 2009, when no rat sign was found on any of the 7 islands baited in 2007. And the signs are looking good for Tea and Governor, although final confirmation of success will come next year after the final check.

So was it worth the money and all the hard work - spreading bait by hand in dense tussock and along cliff coastlines is not for couch potatoes or the faint-hearted - ? When you see the number of small birds that have built up in just two years, the answer is a resounding 'Yes'. The islands are finally on their way to providing optimal wildlife habitat once again; the skills and cash shared out during the course of the project are still circulating; and with more eradication work on the way over the next two years, there'll be plenty to keep restoration workers in a job this coming winter and next. OTEP are once again providing 2 years of funding for more rat eradications, and the FIG Environmental Studies Budget are funding fencing off and re-planting of tussock areas - the latter is an important part of island restoration. If you're interested in some winter contract work, get in touch with Sally tel 21826, e-mail [sallyponcet@horizon.co.fk](mailto:sallyponcet@horizon.co.fk).



## FIMCo EXPORT SEASON 2009

By John Ferguson, General Manager, Falkland Islands Meat Company

Just over 33,000 sheep were processed at Sand Bay during the 2009 sheep export season. The season commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> January and was due to be completed by the 24<sup>th</sup> April; however, this year we suffered supply issues mainly connected with shipping from the West & Islands. This resulted in accumulated processing downtime of over a week, with all the consequential cost implications that go with production delays. Not all the remaining animals have arrived at Sand Bay yet. What was very frustrating was that when the new 'system' transport from the West worked, it worked extremely well, in comparison to previous years. A complete review of the entire livestock transport system is however already under way, in order to see what practical and cost effective improvements can be made.

The work carried out in part of Phase I of the Sand Bay upgrade proved very beneficial during the season, and allowed the processing and packaging of more complex cuts, and for the first time, frozen chop/neck/flap cutting was carried out to value-add to the less profitable products. Whilst it was a successful trial (3 x 20' reefers), it added to the space pressure in the Cold Store, and so will not be properly cost effective until there is enough Cold Store space to take advantage of 40' reefer containers. This matter is also severely limiting other value-adding options we wish to take.

### What else was new for 2009?

**Carcase Grading** - After successful trials in the winter of 2008, mutton were paid for on carcass condition (fat score) as well as weight. As can be seen by the graph, this was very successful. To provide information, both to compare with future seasons and other price related decisions, both OS & NS lamb carcasses were also graded and information was added to the farm summary sheets. For clarity, as there was some initial confusion, it did not form any part of the payment for lambs, which were paid for on carcass weight alone.

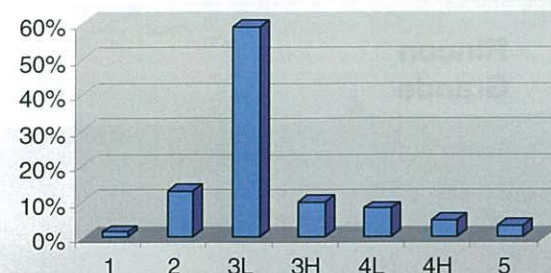
**(Low Voltage) Electrical Stimulation** - was installed just after the start of the season, to take a step towards improving the tenderness of the meat. Unlike the domestic market, carcasses have too little storage (Chiller) space available and must be cut the following day. Clearly, this is not conducive to tenderness, but this will not be overcome until Phase III of the upgrade. Organoleptic testing (taste tests to you & I....) showed that there were clear improvements in the lamb tenderness and some improvement in the mutton. The system is also being used on cattle, and it appears that this also shows some improvement, although they are able to be aged longer anyway.

**Carcass Quality** - The mutton quality overall was good; however it was interesting to note that the average weight of mutton was down slightly. The average weight of OSL was slightly up, but there were a lot of carcasses with too little condition on them, which causes a problem with processing & sales. That said, there were some excellent results from several farms, which demonstrates just what can be achieved. NSL carcass weights were down by almost 2kg, compared to last season, but that was unusually high anyway, so it ended up near although slightly below what we expected. The effect of dry weather during the finishing period appeared to be the main factor.

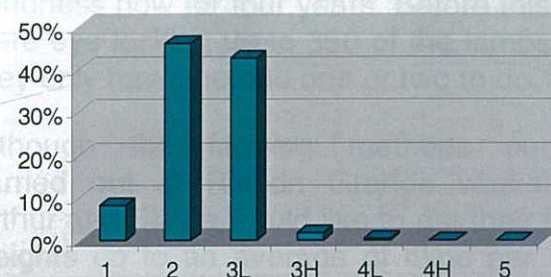
The volume of OSL was fairly static, whilst NSL increased by almost 2,000 or 33%. This was the first time that some farms had supplied and many will gain knowledge from the experience gathered this season. Lower than normal wool prices also had some bearing on the numbers sent.

The graders this season did an excellent job. Before next season grading workshops will be run in conjunction with the DoA. The goal is to provide farmers with the skills and confidence in grading their own sheep and lambs. The management at FIMCo also encourages every farmer to visit the plant during production, especially if its their own animals being processed. Those who do visit say it is time well spent.

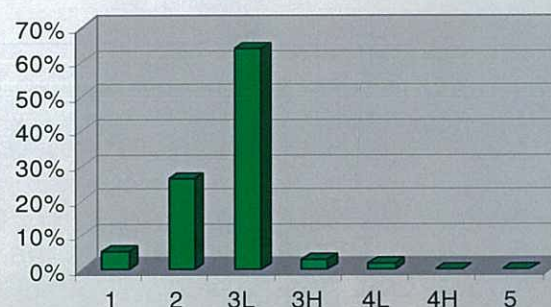
Mutton Grade Range (2009)



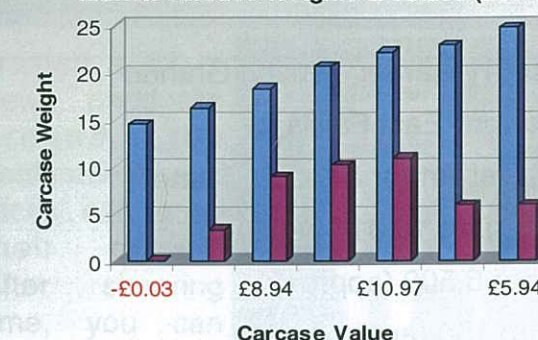
OS Lamb Grade Range (2009)



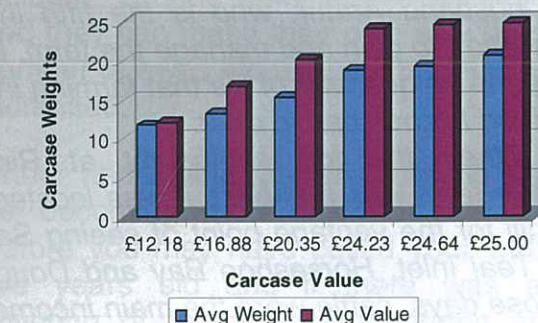
NS Lamb Grade Range (2009)



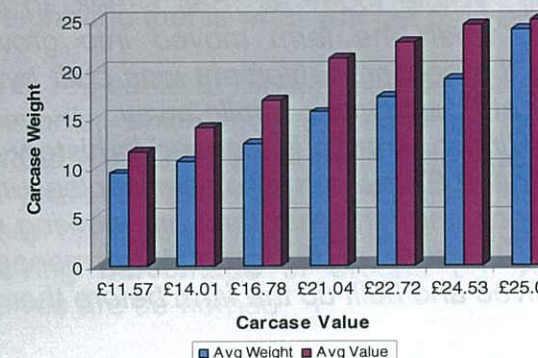
Mutton Carcass Weights & Values (2009)



OS Lamb Carcass Wts & Values (2009)



NS Lambs Carcass Wt & Value (2009)



From the Falkland Islands to Faeroe Islands (via Denmark)



The FIMCo management and staff would like to thank farmers supplying livestock, graders, transport operators and others who assisted in completing another export season. A more detailed report will be provided as normal during Farmers Week.



## FARM IN PROFILE: RINCON GRANDE

**Property Name:** Rincon Grande

**Location:** East Falkland

**Owners:** Arthur & Elaine Turner

**Farm size:** 10,016 hectares

**Sheep:** 6,500 (approx)

**Cattle:** 150 (approx)

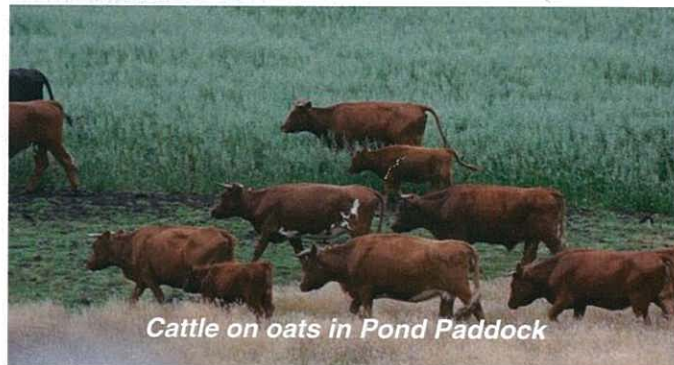
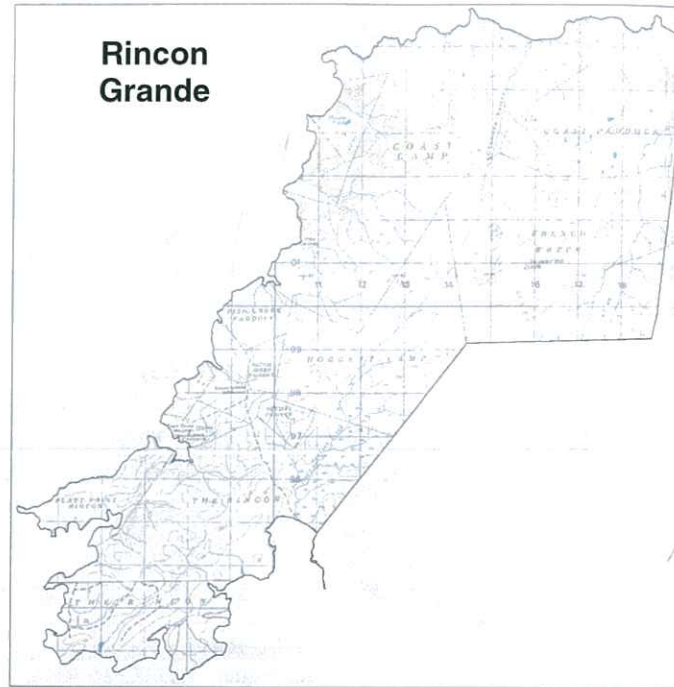
Elaine has lived at Rincon Grande since 1994 with husband Arthur, who is the fifth in his generation to own and manage the farm. Both enjoy the unique way of life that farming in the Falkland Islands has to offer.

When the top settlement at Rincon Grande farm was first built, it was located on the hill for the vantage point of seeing Salvador, Teal Inlet, Horseshoe Bay and Douglas. In those days, cattle were the main income for the farm. The windless and ruins of the salt house where the Gauchos used to salt hides is still visible today at Salt Creek. In later years, when the farm moved into growing wool, the second settlement was built by the water at Foam Creek, a mile away.

Rincon Grande is steeped in history and Arthur and Elaine can take special pleasure in the stock and land that they are working with today, because of the great farm managers who lived and built up the farm before them.

### Sheep Breeding

At Rincon Grande, they breed Polwarth x Corriedale sheep to produce a dual-purpose animal. Arthur and Elaine use the Corriedale genetics to keep a nice big, plain body and the Polwarth genetics to reduce wool micron. They have an average farm micron of 25µ. They also run a terminal sire flock, putting Texel rams across their 5 year-old cull ewes. 2009 was the first year that they have sent NSL and OSL to FIMCo, sending 302 NSL



Cattle on oats in Pond Paddock

and 298 OSL. They are worried how the new definition of OSL this season will affect their plans to continue to sell OSL with FIMCo changing from "teeth in wear" to "teeth erupted".

The sheep at Rincon Grande are bred for wool and they sell all surplus new and old lamb wethers to FIMCo, along with their four year-old wethers.

They believe that the Corriedale/Polwarth combination works well at Rincon Grande, as the sheep are hardy animals, lambing at approximately 80% and the ewes being exceptionally good mothers.



Turnip Swede pasture Batten Boy paddock

## FARM IN PROFILE: RINCON GRANDE



Driving the coastal ewes

They have been culling their sheep for wool blindness now for four years. Before this, they were eye locking up to 350 of the lambs, now they only have the odd one or two to do.

Although the farming methods currently carried out at Rincon Grande works well, Arthur and Elaine would like to get their fleece weights up to an average of 4kgs per head. They are keen to see FIMCO continue to operate so they can also like to increase their ewe numbers to 5,000 and sell all wether lambs as old season lamb.



Whirling Fireball

### New farming practises

A new farming practise that Arthur and Elaine have started include planting more crops, including turnip, swede and oats for winter feed and for finishing animals for FIMCo during the summertime. They have also



The North Coast

created a lot of new paddocks around the settlements and races out to all their camps. After shearing time, you can now let the sheep out at Rincon Grande and they can make their own way home. The number of ewes stocked on the farm has also increased.



Shetland mare Southsea Rose with her foal Rain

Arthur and Elaine say that farming seems to be becoming more intense and scientific. Before you may have culled your wethers at five years old and if there was a good covering of fat he was a mutton and dog tucker if there wasn't. Nowadays, you look at the body condition score and the actual weight and that is what you get paid on.

The 150 cattle at Rincon Grande are all North Devon's, which they will continue to breed. Arthur & Elaine sell all their oxen aged 2 to 2 ½ years to FIMCo and the local market. They keep up to 50 cows on the farm, which have a calving percentage of around 65. All their calves are de-horned.

### Other enterprises

As well as stocking sheep and cattle, Arthur and Elaine also run horses and Shetland ponies and own Whirling Fireball, a quarter-horse mare they imported from Missouri, USA in 1999. They also have rabbits and a pet pig called Pumba.

Alongside farm work, Elaine also works for Murrell farm driving tourists during the summer season and Arthur runs a stevedore business with John Jones.



## INVASIVE ASCENDING

By Nick Rendell and Mac McArthur

Recently Nick Rendell and Mac McArthur attended the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project (SAISP) strategic planning workshop and regional meeting held on Ascension Island. Thirty three delegates representing the United Kingdom South Atlantic Overseas Territories (SAOTs) of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Ascension Island, St Helena and Tristan Da Cunha along with delegates from the UK, New Zealand, France and Italy.

This was the first ever meeting of all island representatives of the SAISP and proved to be a very valuable forum for developing collaboration and information exchange between the island communities many of which are trying to manage with scarce resources, similar major weed, rodent and feral animal problems. Funding for travel, accommodation and board was provided by the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project (SAISP).

### SAISP

The SAISP successfully built upon a proposal to the European Commission's European Development Fund (EDF-9). The project began in December 2006 and runs until November 2009. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is managing the project's implementation in the five SAOTs including the Falkland Islands.

SAIS project work completed to date in the Falklands has made great inroads in identifying and tackling problem areas for invasive plants in the Islands. In his role as SAISP Project Officer Brian Summers has done a great deal of work to date, notable invasive species problem sites include; calafate at Port Sussex and other sites on East Falkland; spear thistles on the western part of Saunders Island; European ragwort at Mare Harbour and gorse at various sites in the Falkland Islands. Much more work is needed to control these outbreaks. Hopefully the continuation of the Invasive Species project will be an outcome from the regional strategic plan developed at Ascension.

### People Attending

Apart from the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Planning FI (which also had delegates from similar departments from a number of other islands) Sally Poncet (Beaver Island Farm Landcare Group), Craig Dockrill, Ann Brown and Pierre Pistorius (Falklands Conservation), Brian Summers (SAISP), Darren Christie (Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands) and Anton Wolfaardt (Albatross and Petrel conservation coordinator, UK SAOTs) made up the group attending from the Falkland Islands.

Right: Spear Thistle: a common invasive species in Stanley and the Camp



Clare Stringer, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), is the Project Manager for the SAIS Project and has been involved with the project since its inception in March 2006. She is a very successful driver of this ambitious project.

The workshop was very capably facilitated by Clare Shine, a Paris based barrister who has been involved with the Global Invasive Species Programme. Representatives of the UK Government Department for International Development (DIFD), Kew Gardens and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) were also present.

### Importance of FIG Representation

It was important for the Falkland Islands that both the Environmental Planning and Agriculture Departments were represented as the workshop was held to develop a regional strategy and action plan to reduce the impacts of invasive species in the SAOTs. The workshop also aimed to develop the outline for a regional early warning system to ensure early notification of new problem species and pave the way for maintaining a regional network after the current SAIS project ends.

FIG representation at the workshop was crucial to ensure that the strategy and action plans developed incorporate all of the invasive species issues affecting the Falkland Islands camp and urban communities and propose practical and affordable actions as solutions. The opportunity to meet and interact with counterpart staff on other islands, dealing with similar issues and similar constraints was also extremely valuable.

As Environmental Officer, Nick represented the environmental interests of FIG. Being new to the position it was a great opportunity to meet key people in the environmental sphere from the Falklands, the other South Atlantic OTs and the UK; to engage with them on invasive species and other environmental issues.

### Outcomes from the strategic plan

The initial outcome from the meetings will be the

publication of a regional strategy for the South Atlantic Overseas Territories. This will be tailored to each Island group, while drawing on the overarching strategic problems we share. The key areas that came from the workshops which will inform the recommendations in this strategy include:

- The need to engage landowners on the issue of biosecurity and Invasive Species management;
- Early identification of long-term threats – the requirement for an early warning system;
- The need for a Biosecurity Officer to work across all Government Departments at either Regional or individual territory level;
- Identification of the EU Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENTRP) as a possible funding source for the South Atlantic OTs
- The need to have biosecurity and invasive species issues in the SAOTs properly taken up and integrated into the relevant UK government departments.

### Importance of early intervention

Early intervention is vital in the future if we are to avoid further introductions of harmful invasive species. The earwig outbreak in Stanley is a good example of how a minor introduction of non-native species has been allowed to escalate to affect the entire urban population. Had someone checked on the earwigs when they first arrived and assessed under the FI climate whether or not they posed a threat to home and business owners, it is possible that, through early intervention, the problem could have been eliminated or mitigated.

By having good surveillance groups on the ground, effective reporting and notification procedures, rapid response facilities and contingency planning in place, future introductions can be controlled and stopped before they become a problem. This will likely become an even greater issue if climate change makes the Falklands' climate more mild and wet (as has been generally predicted) and suitable therefore to host a wider range of species.

### Future of SAIS Project

Funding for the SAIS project concludes in November this year and given the significant progress that has been made since 2006, in identifying problem invasive weeds, mammals and insects and taking action to reduce or eliminate a number of invasive species for the islands, it is critical that this collaborative forum across the OT islands is continued.

Numerous islands have been cleared of rats (in the Falkland Islands), cats (Ascension Island) and serious invasive weed species such as calafate are being worked on here in the Falklands and in the

other SAOTs. The benefits of having inter-OT island collaboration, cooperation and regular communication and a collaborative approach to achieve future EU or other funding cannot be underestimated.

### The need for a responsible officer to work across all Government Departments

In order to achieve improved integration between government departments, the private sector and the military in the Falklands there is a need to either designate a new position or pool current resources to co-ordinate biosecurity operations in the Falkland Islands.

This biosecurity officer would act as a focal point for early invasive species identification at ports of entry, in Stanley and in the camp. They would co-ordinate the biosecurity role of the Customs and Immigration Department, the Agriculture Department as well as other sector groups such as fisheries, importers, horticulture, warehouse managers as well as imports conducted by the military.

The holder of this position could also co-ordinate inter-island biosecurity to prevent the spread of invasives already present in the Islands such as rats and the plant species previously mentioned.

### Importance of a collaborative approach and information sharing to control invasives

To be effective in invasive species control a biosecurity officer would need to be well-linked with the FIG and have responsibilities to work with all Departments and the wider community. The post would require strategic planning, risk assessment and practical eradication skills as well as an extensive knowledge of invasive species and how plant and animal incursions occur. Effective liaison with a diverse range of community groups such as customs, farmers, visiting scientists and tourist operators would allow the early identification of invasive species. The pro-active seeking out of new plants introduced onto the Islands that pose a potential threat to agriculture and the environment as well as identifying plants and insects that members of the community have observed or brought in to be identified are important roles that someone needs to be responsible for.

Links between the Falklands and the other South Atlantic OTs have been instigated through the recent conference attended. By working as a regional group our islands could gain by sharing experience and be more likely to access European funding opportunities collectively, rather than on an individual basis.

A good example of collaborative effort is the upcoming Cobbs Wren Restoration Project which is funded jointly by the Overseas Territories



Environmental Programme, FIG, the Antarctic Research Trust and the SAISP with input from Falklands Conservation and will be driven by Sally Poncet of the Beaver Island Landcare Group. This project begins in August this year with rat eradications and habitat restoration work and will continue for two years at various sites around the Islands.

Sally Poncet has enlisted the help of Ascension Conservation at the recent conference, with Charles George coming to join the rat-baiting programme on Tea Island this winter (funded by Ascension Conservation). Experience of the recent cat eradication on Ascension and the Falklands well established rat eradication programme will be shared in this exchange and is an excellent early result of the SAISP conference.

**Responsibility for controlling Invasive Species**  
Because invasive weeds, many of which are escapees from gardens tend to start off hardly being noticed and then can often after a few years 'explode' and then require massive resources of manpower, chemicals and machinery to control them. Sometimes the people that should have in hindsight, been involved in early intervention and actions to eradicate the weed don't take responsibility and this considerably slows down the reduction or elimination of those weeds.

There is a need for farmers and the wider FI community to take responsibility and ensure mitigation, eradication and risk assessments are

effectively funded and carried out.

**Conclusions**

This was an invaluable workshop/conference which dealt with numerous issues affecting the FI not least of which is the lack of adequate resources to deal effectively with invasive weeds such as calfate, thistle species and ragwort. Numerous valuable contacts were made with colleagues working on other OT islands dealing with the same invasive weed and animal species and also with people in the UK and elsewhere who are aware of funding bodies and means of attracting funding for mitigation, monitoring and eradication programmes for problem species.

The strategy when finalised will be published and made available for community consultation and development of better ways to cooperatively manage invasive species so they don't have long term impacts on the environment, farming, tourism, urban business and the wider community.

The environment and agriculture of the Falklands are under increasing pressure from the threat of invasive species. Awareness of the issues at stake is only beginning to be widely appreciated. The need to co-ordinate biosecurity in the Falklands is now becoming a real issue. Hopefully the work done at the SAISP regional strategy will push this further within government and lead to the co-ordinated management of biosecurity issues in the Islands.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS RAINFALL TOTALS**

*Thank you to everyone who sends in their monthly rainfall data*

		2008						2009					
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Stanley	2008/09	34	55	90	4.5	30	34	34	36	44.5	51.5	90	95
	Average	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74	57	59	58	58
MPA	2008/09	41.1	43.3	74	21	26.9	45.3	28.8	52.8	52.6	60.6	106.3	105.4
	Average	57.7	45.6	36.7	33.5	34.8	38.5	57.2	62.1	48	56.1	58.2	50.8
Bleaker Island		55	28	54	7	12	12	20	35	20	30	-	67
Cape Dolphin		-	-	-	20	16	27	20	21	38	43	74	65
Darwin		36.5	25.5	45.5	17	35	24	18.5	53.5	37.5	46.5	91	87.5
Dunbar		137	62	-	-	44	-	38	28	72	45	121	136
Fern Ridge		-	25	52.5	11	18.5	28	32	49.5	52.5	47	80.5	86
Head of the Bay		42	37	88	15	40	34	30	35	53	54	110	105
Hill Cove		-	41	73.5	7.5	28.5	34	23	36	110	77	60.5	101
Moss Side		47	51	-	-	-	-	21	20	30	52	82	98
North Arm		-	-	-	-	11	21	27	35	22	31	63	87
Paragon		-	24	34	6.5	-	14.5	15.5	20.5	34.5	-	78	81
Pebble Island		39.5	26.5	59	19	15.5	33.5	9	61	50	49.5	60	107
Port Howard		72.5	58.5	121.5	18	41	60.5	62	60.5	75	68	118	135
Saladero		50	18	30	25	16	21	22	44	37	39.5	71	69.5
Salvador		37	44.5	68.7	11	17.25	33	25	31	50	33.6	80.5	89
Shallow Harbour		-	25	50	10.5	19.5	25.5	27.5	48	41	30	75.5	71.5
Swan Inlet		33	30.5	57	31.5	22.5	22.5	15	51	35.5	35.5	82.5	81
West Lagoons		58.5	-	-	5.5	30	42	22.5	40.5	75	59	75.5	112
Wineglass Station		47	-	93.5	16.5	10	36.5	21.5	52	37.5	43	100.5	75.5

Picture yourself.....

late evening, stormy night.....

...the phone rings, there has been a car accident and someone is seriously injured.....

Help could be at least 6 hours away.... If not more!

Would you know how to help?

Simple skills learnt on a basic first aid course may save a life....

**Learn First Aid NOW!!**

West Falkland First Aid Training – Fox Bay

**Organised by Stanley Leisure Centre**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Contact Steve Dent or Helen Marsh for more details

Stanley Leisure Centre

Tel – 27285

Fax – 27284

e-mail [sdent.leisure@sec.gov.fk](mailto:sdent.leisure@sec.gov.fk)



## A LAST WORD FROM OUR STAFF AT THE ABATTOIR

Laura Ceballos and Nigel Eaton arrived in the Falkland Islands in January to take up the posts of Official Veterinary Surgeon and Meat Hygiene Inspector (respectively) at Sand Bay Abattoir during the export season. Before leaving, they wrote about their experiences.

Nigel Eaton  
Meat Hygiene Inspector

I arrived in the Falkland Islands on 6<sup>th</sup> January full of anticipation for the adventures and experiences to come. None came! Very cleverly I developed a DVT and due to complications have suffered (mostly in silence) for four months. To date, 21 blood tests (hate needles) and 4 injections (great fun!). So a big thanks to all the staff at the KEMH, especially Stella, for all their help and support.

I did manage to visit some places of interest, but not nearly as many as I had planned as I was pretty much confined to Stanley. Having said that, other things more than made up for my disappointments.

My time as Meat Hygiene Inspector (MHI) at the abattoir was very satisfying, to work in a modern, well managed and efficient facility was a pleasure. I even learned a new condition only found (I believe) in the FI's, that being Christmas Bush Liver (total harmless by the way).

The best impression that I take home though is the friendliness of all the people I met from day one. I received a big welcome at the Stanley Arms where I spent a little time and have made some wonderful new friends who I will miss greatly. You know who you are so no names (too many).

Laura Ceballos  
Official Veterinary Surgeon

Now I am getting to the end of my time in the Falkland Islands I can say what a great experience it has been not only professionally but personally as well.

At the abattoir the major issue has been the transport of the sheep because the weather conditions haven't allowed the ferry to sail when scheduled. Because of this we had a few days when the abattoir didn't process, and now they will have to process after Nigel and me leave. Other than the transport issues working at FIMCO Sand Bay have been very easy for me because all the production team has been very cooperative and any problems have been dealt with immediately. I have as well gained some knowledge about sheep farming in the Islands which is quite different to what I have seen before.

From a veterinary point of view I am happy to say that I didn't find major animal health problems at ante mortem inspection and at post-mortem inspection the animals were found to be quite healthy as well, the only major pathology and cause of rejection found was caseous lymphadenitis in the older animals.

During my free time I have visited some of the main touristic places. I will make special mention of "Sea Lion Island" which made a great impression on me and where I did really enjoy my time walking around the Island and watching all the wildlife. I would like to thank as well to the people at the Agriculture Department who have been very helpful when we arrived here and through our time in the Islands.

### Seen anything strange lately?!

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

**Call the Veterinary Section on 27366**

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



Woods 1000.com

## LIFE IN THE DOA LABORATORY

By Lucinda Lowe, Laboratory Assistant



Lucinda Lowe, Laboratory Assistant

The activities that I have done so far alongside Gordon and many of the other staff since becoming the new laboratory assistant last year in March have been quite varied. These include wool sampling, faecal egg counts (FEC), blood testing and getting fish samples ready for testing at the KEMH and United Kingdom.

I started my time here at the Department of Agriculture (DoA) cleaning and weighing wool samples from farms. Washing each individual sample by hand, making sure that the debris, grease and dirt had completely gone. After washing the samples they were dried in the ovens ready to be weighed for the yield analysis. The samples would then be put through a carding machine, so that all the knots were taken out. This was so the samples could be micron tested by Gordon, which meant that each sample had to be dated and the time marked down before being placed in a humidity controlled room for four hours before being tested.

This is done for two reasons. When marketing a fleece it is done by weight, yield and micron, doing these tests gives the farmers an idea on what they will make out of each individual sheep. But the testing (mid-side samples) that are done within the laboratory by Gordon,

helps them select a decent breed for fleeces. I have also done many faecal egg counts (FEC) with Tony and Gordon in the last couple of months. I had to learn the McMaster technique to get the faeces ready for egg counting, which is done under a microscope. The McMaster technique involves weighing and sieving down the faeces into a liquid, then they are spun down and salt solution is added to bring the eggs to the top of the slides. The eggs that we count are mainly the Coccidia, Nematodirus and Trichostrongylus. Sampling and egg counting ten samples can take up to a couple of hours as it is critical that everything is done correctly, so that the eggs can be counted accurately.

There are several reasons for FEC these are:

- Assessing worm infection in the sheep
- A guide to let us know how infected the camp is

Checking the worm counts at key stages enables us to detect worms at the stage it is economic to drench the sheep and before the losses have already occurred.

I have helped out a couple of times, with the fish sampling. Every time a fishing boat is inspected by one of the vets, a random fish block is taken off the boat. The samples have to be left out over night to defrost so that Gordon can take off the samples. These are then liquidised, sealed and then sent to the hospital laboratory to be tested.

These are tested at the hospital for various types of bacteria such as faecal coliforms, E.coli and Salmonella, and for heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead. They are also tested for various pesticides at the LGC laboratory in the United Kingdom.

Blood samples are taken by the vets and they are then put through to us to be tested. This is done by a machine called a haematology calibrator. The samples have to be thoroughly mixed before they are put in the machine, which does all the testing. This is done to



check mostly the white/red blood cell levels. Samples are also frequently taken to check liver/kidney functions and these are sent to the KEMH laboratory for testing.

Working outside the laboratory I have helped out with many other activities such as:

- Dog dosing which I did whilst Sarah was away on holiday last year in September pilling Stanley dogs as they arrive at the Veterinary Section,
- Veterinary nursing where I spend Thursdays and Tuesday mornings down at the Veterinary Section learning to set up for operations,
- I have helped Sian with making up the Wool Press since about November last year,
- I am now starting to do the wool market updates three times a week,
- I spent a couple of long days helping Shona do dog checks on all the camps on the East,
- I have been carrying out mare pregnancy tests for the vets whenever blood samples come in,
- I have now started getting into bug identifying which Shona has taught me to do. Although I am scared of insects, I am

quite enjoying identifying bugs and so far have correctly guessed a few, and lastly

- I am also hoping in June to help out for a couple of days with the AI/ET programme with Tony at Swan Inlet.

Learning to do certain tasks like the Wool Press and the veterinary nursing means I can assist when staff take leave. This is why I am starting to learn these roles, which for me these have probably been the best experiences so far.

I have thoroughly enjoyed everything I have learnt so far within the Department, whether it is sample testing, veterinary work, going out to different camps, market updates or the Wool Press. Although some of the work can be difficult to do at times I am grateful to have all the support and help from staff.

Lastly, I'd just like to add a big thank you to all the staff here at the DoA and Minerals Department as I have had so much encouragement from everyone in the last twelve months.

**CORRECTION:**

*Last months farm in profile should have read that Kenneth and Josie took over Harps in 2001. We apologise for the mistake.*

## In praise of ... Sheep

Sheep are creatures of very little brain, and know nothing of government, although quite a lot about grass. Government, however, wants to know much more about them. European rules - which Britain tried to block, without success - mean that every one of Britain's 30 million sheep born after the new year will have to carry a machine-readable electronic tag.

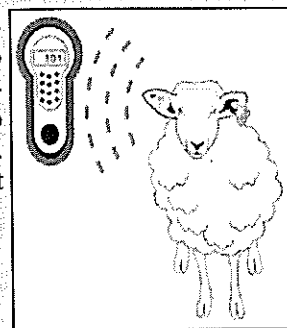
This brings no obvious benefit, but comes at considerable cost - about £1.50 per sheep - almost all of which will have to be paid by farmers. Every Easter lamb racing around a field will have to be tracked on a database. Farmers warn that the number of sheep in Britain will fall sharply as a result: some hill farmers, earning just a few thousand pounds a year, may give up.

Britain's sheep industry has already had to put up with the terrible slaughter forced on it by foot and mouth disease, and sustained low prices and rising costs.

There is another threat this summer, too, from

new visa rules, that may stop Australian and New Zealand shearers from coming over to Britain to work. Sheep face a hot, woolly summer in heavy fleeces which no one is able to cut. The British landscape would be bereft without them - no Herdwicks in the Coniston fells, or Cluns in Shropshire, or Southdowns in Suffolk, or the half-wild Soays of St Kilda.

The department of rural affairs is promoting its counting scheme with a strange logo (pictured right), of a bewildered sheep beaming radio waves at an electronic reader. But counting sheep is best left to shepherds - and insomniacs.



Picture yourself.....

late evening, stormy night.....

now is the time to fix that dodgy pump.....

...as your husband switches on the power to test that it is working his body convulses and he collapses in a heap.....

He has been electrocuted!

Do **YOU** know what to do?

By the time the Emergency Services arrive, for your husband, it could possibly be too late!

# Learn First Aid **NOW!!**

## West Falkland First Aid Training – Fox Bay

Organised by Stanley Leisure Centre

**15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Contact Steve Dent or Helen Marsh for more details

Stanley Leisure Centre

Tel – 27285

Fax – 27284

e-mail [sdent.leisure@sec.gov.fk](mailto:sdent.leisure@sec.gov.fk)



# 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.

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

## DingBat Brain Games

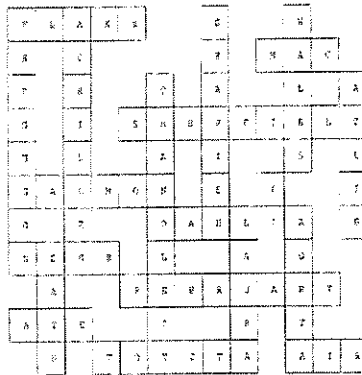
Flex your brain, free your mind and think laterally

T T T  
T T T  
T T T  
T

T42

Hint: Describing out loud what you see may give you the clue you need!!

## Last Month's Solutions



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

BAN ANA

Banana Split

Brainteaser  
Silence

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

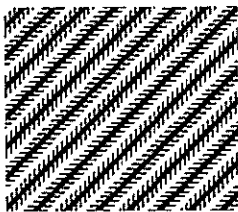
Noel

If you would like to see a particular type of puzzle in the Wool Press, then please let us know!

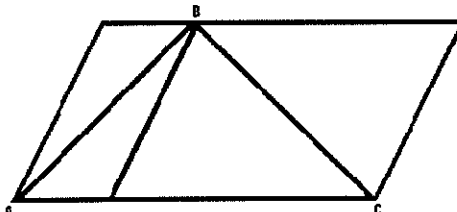
## Brainteaser

What has roads but no cars, rivers but no water and hills but no trees?

## Optical Illusions

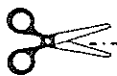


Are the lines bending?



Which line is longer, AB or AC?

Can you SPOT the Dalmatian?



## Dates for the Diary



- 1st July Dog Dosing (Drontal)  
Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email [imports@doa.gov.fz](mailto:imports@doa.gov.fz) and advise when your dogs have been dosed.
- 14th June Liberation Day
- 15th June Public Holiday - in lieu of Liberation Day
- 30th June Livestock Ordinance Forms - deadline for return to the DoA
- 6th - 10th July Farmers Week



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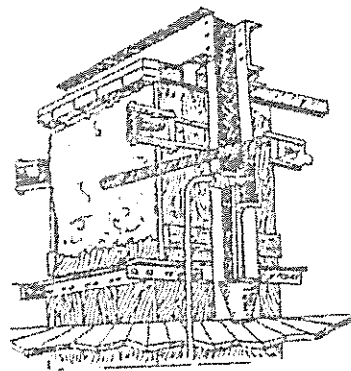
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*Plus all the usual features and more!!*



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