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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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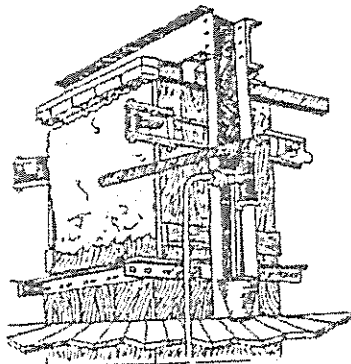
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Happy New Year

EDITORIAL

And a Happy New Year to all readers of the Wool Press. What is in store for you in the first edition of 2010? Quite a lot to do with the economics of farming it would appear. I don't suppose that a year has passed since farming was invented (not sure exactly when that was) when the economics of farming has not been of prime importance. There are two articles devoted to this topic – one by Ian Campbell, who brings you up to date with the current state of play with the EDS in the Falkland Islands and the other by Tony Mills who looks at the sheep industry in Australia and makes some comparisons with what is currently happening here.

Ian Campbell is also willing to put his head above the parapet on the subject of whether sheep in the Falklands are less hardy now than they used to be. Read his article to find out what he has to say on the subject and please be willing to write into us with your views for the next publication. Susan Campbell continues with her series of articles on worms and drenching – this time looking at drench resistance.

Andy Pollard has an interesting article on growing and feeding forage oats and he will be very involved in the Saladero Grazing Management Day which is proposed to be held on Thursday 4th February 2010. Many of you will have attended the Ram and Fleece Show at Fox Bay between Christmas and New Year, but for those of you who couldn't get there, Nigel Knight has written up an excellent account of the event and a list of all the prize winners can be found towards the end of the current edition.

The weather is always an interesting topic of conversation and with 2009 having just ended we can now look back over the whole year to see how it panned out. From a rainfall point of view it was very wet in April, May, August and November. Certainly the cold, wet weather in November will not have helped lambing and that is likely to have a knock on effect for this year's FIMCo export season. Time will tell.

Wishing you all the best for a prosperous and healthy 2010,

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

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ARE FALKLAND SHEEP GETTING TOO SOFT?

By Ian Campbell

Whenever sheep people get together inevitably the conversation turns to sheep breeding, flock numbers and so on. One particular issue that concerns a number of people is that the sheep, with the introduction of Merino type genetics (I include Polwarths in this) are getting too soft. Soft in this case refers to a reduced ability to thrive in this environment.

What are the true sheep numbers?

In 1898 the Falklands carried 807,211 sheep - the highest number ever recorded. Since then it has varied around the trend but that trend has dropped fairly steadily - to the current level of around 500,000 sheep.

Is this because the sheep are getting softer?

I believe too many things have changed to draw this conclusion.

- The number of people involved in farming and shepherding has reduced enormously
- The amount of farmed land has reduced considerably as areas (often productive islands) are taken out of agriculture
- Pastures have changed. Tussac areas have reduced, and the loss of nutrients exported in wool over 140 years may have reduced the quality and quantity of all pastures (Wool Press May 2009)
- Subdivisions and land sales have left some farms with a less than ideal balance of land classes to properly manage balanced flocks

Moreover there are significant enough areas of erosion indicating that perhaps at some time in the past there may have been too many sheep in the Falklands.

What has happened to wool weights?

Undoubtedly over that time wool weights have increased. The sheep 100 years ago cut about 2 kg wool and sheep now cut about

3.5kg - this has also been a gradual rise over time. Whilst it could be argued this is an effect of reducing stocking rates, I think this also indicates a probable genetic change towards increased wool production.

But what about the last 15 years?

The National Stud Flock and a number of other Merino type animals were imported in 1992 and annual sales have been disseminating rams out to Camp since 1994.

During that time wool production per head has remained fairly steady but the average fibre diameter has reduced. Sheep numbers have also continued dropping.

Are we losing the ability to cope with the Falkland conditions?

I am sure that sheep have adapted to the Falkland conditions over time - you would expect them to. Anecdotally people say that new introductions of sheep struggle for a few generations before eventually coming into their own.

Commonly there is damaging extreme weather events for off-shears sheep and lambs, but also there is the nutritional implications of long cold winters with no pasture growth. Undoubtedly there are internal parasites and of course the physical hazards of ditches, reefs, cliffs and birds. Which of these areas are under genetic control and which are environmental?

Firstly a very strong Polwarth or Merino genetic trait is to have a single lamb and in this environment that has to be a good thing, as twin lambs are far more likely to die. Lamb survival is strongly influenced by nutrition (an environmental factor) but affected also by birth coat (genetic) and by birth weight and maternal milk production (both genetic and environmental). The ability to negotiate hazards is a learnt behaviour and I don't feel is genetically important. The effect of hazards will presumably be exacerbated though by wool blindness (genetic and perhaps

environmental) and also having to carry a heavy fleece.

Resistance to parasites and/or the ability to cope with parasite burdens is influenced genetically and I suspect many years of not treating sheep for worms has led to a natural selection for a degree of worm resistance.

Focus on the positives

Long term trends for wool price clearly show each additional micron reduction will increase the value of wool shorn by at least 25p per kg - often more. Reducing micron is a long term benefit as shearing, marketing and transport costs increasingly eat into wool prices. Obviously this only works if fleece weights remain the same - if you drop wool cut you lose a lot of the gain. If you are striving to drop micron it is imperative not to lose wool cut.

Also frame size and growth is important both for its own sake plus the option of a meat

lamb in a dual purpose breed, so it is also important not to lose this.

If a sheep cuts a few pounds per head extra value- but it costs something to achieve this like a crutch, or you need to use cover combs; then you need to work it out. Is it still worth doing- or is it a retrograde step to allow such a thing? (you get nothing for nothing).

Goal Setting

In the end it boils down to what you want as a genetic goal for your sheep. To my mind being well adapted to the environment is an essential goal. Cutting a profitable fleece and producing a good lamb is also an essential goal. I want both and I think we must strive for both, and not choose one or the other under the premise we cannot achieve both.

And I can show you some sheep both in the National Stud Flock and on some commercial farms to prove it is possible.

FORAGE OATS - TIME TO MONITOR!

By Andrew Pollard

With increasing temperatures and the usual bit of festive rainfall, I am hopeful that oat crops throughout the Islands will now be taking off and hopefully catching up after the poor start to the season.

The intended use for many of the oat crops will be targeted towards lamb production and beef production. There will also be some crops targeted towards breeding stock and some that will be conserved as hay or silage with the intention of using these over the winter period.

January and February will be very important months for farmers to monitor these crops regularly, so that good yields can be achieved whilst at the same time maintaining a reasonably high plant quality (for more information on the quality of oats see the May 2009 Wool Press).

Increased stem: leaf results in a lower plant energy value (digestibility), and a lower plant energy value results in lower live weight gains.

When are oats ready to graze?

The time when oats are ready to be grazed can be determined by pinching the oat plant with your thumb and forefinger and pulling sideways (this mimics the mechanical action of a grazing ruminant). If the plant breaks it is ok, if it pulls out (or almost does) then it needs longer for the roots to develop.

Grazing at this stage encourages the development of tillers, this should lead to increased yield per plant for a second grazing. Grazing should be carefully controlled, leaving a residual (green oat), so the plant can photosynthesise.

The limitation as to whether you get multiple grazings in a situation like this is likely to be dependant on the nitrogen status. It is advisable to apply nitrogen based fertiliser after establishment and then again after the first grazing.

What is the latest that I can graze my oats?

Due to the variability in the climate it is impossible to pin point a date, however, it is possible to make predictions by monitoring the crop. When monitoring you are looking for increasing stem to leaf levels. If the plant is starting to produce its seed head then you have missed the optimum grazing time and should get animals onto the crop, or cut it ASAP. There is mis-conception that the optimum time is when the plant is at a "milky-dough" stage with the grain. This guide is normally used overseas in relation to crop silage. In the Falklands there is little grain produced, not enough to favour grazing at this time compared to leaf. It is likely that a mixture of climate and soil fertility (particularly nitrogen) prevent this from occurring.

Live Weight Gains

It is essential that farmers know the benefits of the oats when they are evaluating the return on the investment spent. The change in weight (weight off oats - weight onto the oats) divided by the amount of days grazing will give a live weight gain per day which can be compared with other people. This is an important benchmark for assessing your progress.

I am writing this article now as it is topical. If people would like assistance with the monitoring of crops, estimating yields and plant quality or weighing animals please get in touch ASAP so we can organise our work schedules to fit in with yours!

From Woolco - Wool Coring

Could farmers delivering or having their wool delivered to FIPASS please advise Woolco on e-mail enquiries@wool.fk or telephone 22297 of the date it will be delivered (even if it is only the night before), if/how they would like it cored, and who it is to be shipped with. The more the lack of space becomes a problem the more important it is to let us know when and what is coming in. Just a hand written list of the numbers with the bales when they arrive is better than nothing if you are unable to send by e-mail.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Saladero Grazing Management Day

Thursday 4th February 2010

It is intended to follow a similar trail to that of the open day in 2009. This will include reseeded pastures and native camp.

This will be an opportunity for farmers to learn techniques to assist with the monitoring of grazing management, assessing the plant component of their reseeded and assessing pasture quality to maximise animal productivity.

Potential topics may include:

- **Grazing management records** (including stocking rates, spelling periods etc).
- **Fencing plan** (future ideas and also review where fencing has been erected in the past).
- **Pasture composition** (what are the desirable, undesirable and weed species. Can this be altered? or what went wrong?).
- **Measuring pasture yield and quality** (field sampling and sorting).
- **Basic plant identification** (utilising the recent Pasture Plant Guide).
- **Water management** (our limitations, future plans and solutions).
- **A discussion period at the end of the day**

This is a prime opportunity for farmers to collectively discuss the various aspects of grazing management and pasture improvements.

Please can all interested persons contact Andy Pollard as soon as possible to assist in making the day run as smoothly as possible.

AVOIDING DRENCH RESISTANCE

By Susan Campbell

Drench resistance is the down side of anthelmintic use, and we know from experience that it will occur. When it does the drench just no longer works.

It may seem amazing that I am on one hand encouraging people to drench (providing they have done WEC worm egg counts) and then in the next breath telling them to be careful to avoid drench resistance. Careful use though is going to prolong their effectiveness for as long as possible so it pays to start the way you mean to go on.

The first rule is to only use an effective drench. This is also important to ensure the maximum return on the cost of drenching. Drench effectiveness can be easily checked by doing a post drench WEC (worm egg count) 10 to 14 days after the drench and it should show a 95% reduction (i.e. worm kill) or better.

If there is any question then we can do a proper drench resistance trial which takes a little more time and trouble but in the end will give you a complete picture of which drenches are effective on your property.

The second rule is to make sure you give the correct dose. Too little drench is probably the quickest way to develop drench resistance. This requires knowing the weight of the heaviest in the mob and drenching all the sheep to this dose rate, having carefully calculated it from the label of the drench in use.

It is wise to regularly check your drench gun and measure its delivery to ensure it is the correct dose each and every time. It is also important to mix your drench well before loading your back pack

Careful delivery of the drench to the centre of back of the mouth is critical. Drench spilled or spat out is not just wasted - it means the sheep is underdosed as well.

Rotating drench groups will also minimise the

development of drench resistance. This is best done by changing drench groups (i.e. from levamisole to benzimidazole or to macrocyclic lactones (mectins)) preferably in summer of each year. Only rotate amongst those groups that are still effective on your property.

The most effective means to reducing the development of resistance is to combine all three drench groups together as they all act in different manners and combined the worm will have to develop many gene changes all at once to develop the required resistance. Unfortunately this is an expensive way to go and for this reason we suggest the rotation instead. Maybe one day in the future it will all be about drench combinations.

Avoiding bringing in drench resistance with the introduction of new sheep is also important and all sheep coming onto a property for the first time should be drenched with an effective drench and tested to ensure that no resistance to any drench is introduced.

Reducing the number of times you need to drench is also going to slow down the development of drench resistance, so always do a WEC before drenching. Think ahead when moving sheep and do this before you put them in the new clean paddock and contaminate it.

Long acting drenches or capsules should be used as little as possible, and possibly when used on adults should also allow for some of the fitter and stronger ewes to be left untreated in order to ensure that all the worms going onto the pasture are not just the resistant ones.

Worm resistance occurs fastest when pastures are cleaned up most effectively. In the Falkland Islands we never appear to get a completely 'worm free' pasture as the conditions are never ideal for killing worms on the ground, so this may be a saviour in the speed at which resistance will develop.

Nonetheless from what we have seen so far,

resistance is low compared to many sheep areas and attention to these details may keep it that way.

Lastly when we give you advice on drenching based on the result of your WEC we will endeavour to recognise the individual circum-

stances and the time of year before we give this advice and hopefully prevent you from unnecessary drenching.

Drenches cost millions to develop and new ones are very slow to come onto the market and expensive when they do; so look after the ones you have while you can.



AGRICULTURE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

By Ian Campbell

The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) has been a group effort from the Policy Unit and us but also, and most importantly, a representative range of farmers and agricultural business operators from all areas of the Falklands.

The structure of the Economic Development Strategy is firstly a document that defines where the agricultural industry is at the moment (Part A) and another where it should progress to over time (Part B).

In the Part A Agriculture EDS the agricultural industry of the Falkland Islands is defined, what it produces, how much it earns, how many people it employs and so on. Part B makes the more interesting reading!

Part B clearly begins with objectives about increasing income from agriculture. As a member of the committee looking at this, we just tried to think of as many things as we could to squeeze more profit out of the system.

Increasing production is an obvious one. Reversing the trend of reducing flock size, reducing land area being farmed and a reducing labour input is a big task and will take a long time to achieve. It may also take significant inputs like seed, fertilizer and fencing.

The Falkland Islands produces 0.1% of the world's greasy wool for sale. This makes us a price taker rather than a price maker for wool, so how do we make any more money from

wool sales than we are currently getting?

One way we thought of was Certified Organics. By offering a Certified Organic wool product we are making it a fairly exclusive one. Some big companies like Marks and Spencer have in their own goals a pledge to go organic, and so the demand for this should be very strong.

Reducing the fibre diameter is another way. Finer wool is always more expensive than stronger wool and we have been moving down this path for a number of years. Contentious perhaps - but some fine woolled sheep are now performing well in the Falklands and not just in the National Stud Flock.

Within each wool selling year the price of wool price fluctuates. The indicator price for 24µ wool ranged from 252-408p/kg last year - a massive 62% difference in gross income depending solely on the date you sell your wool in the year. Currently most people choose to sell as soon as its ready (they need the cash) but futures or contract selling wool may be able to help reduce some of the risk. We might not lock in at the top, but nor should we lock in at the bottom.

Adding value, such as scouring or top making may increase returns, but this would be expensive to do here. It could perhaps be done off shore under contract though and the first few trials have been done.

Increasing lamb and beef production are both important ways to increase farm income, particularly as they access a different market

to wool and show differing price fluctuations. A lot of effort is being put in to planning projects to make this happen, at FIMCo, at DoA and on farm.

Other opportunities were seen in animal genetics, contracting services and hay and fodder making. Educating the next generation of young farmers is an important issue as are farm ownership and succession planning.

There is one thing that it doesn't particularly address. The Falkland Islands Agricultural Industry is made up of about 88 discreet farm businesses. Each is managed autonomously by often independently minded farm managers. The decisions they make are based upon their own views about these

issues and their own goals and ambitions. The collective impact of the management paths taken by these businesses is what the EDS is discussing.

Hopefully the EDS contains some correct assertions that might be helpful to these folk. Certainly it contains messages to Government about what they can do to help these things happen. Combining the additive effect of all farms is vital if policies about FIMCo or the FIP are to be made - but it also is in a sense observing rather than proactively managing.

But that's agriculture the world over.

If anybody is interested in seeing a copy of the EDS documents please do contact us and we would be pleased to send it out to you.



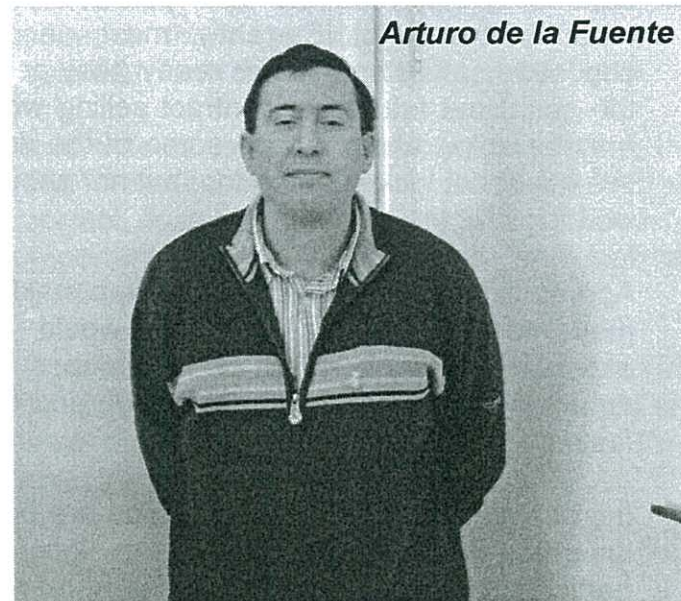
STAFF NEWS: WELCOME TO THE NEW MHI AND OVS AT THE ABATTOIR

January sees the influx of staff at Sand Bay abattoir for the Falkland Islands Meat Company as the export season kicks off.

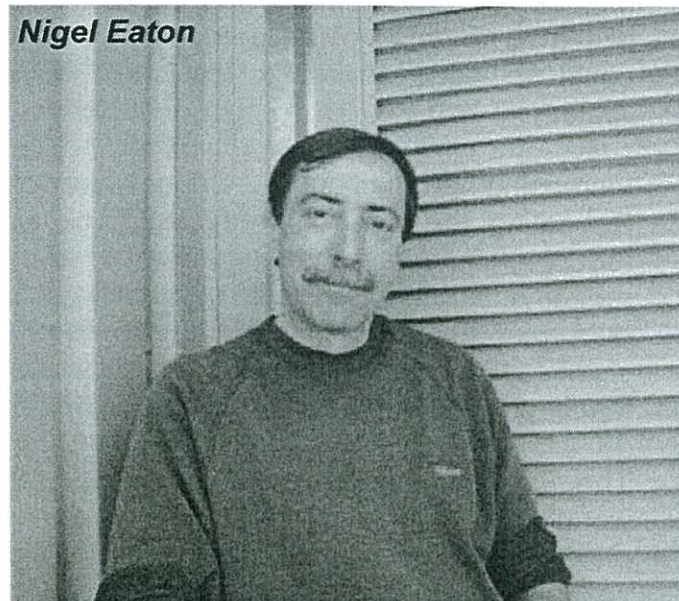
The Department of Agriculture also welcomes two staff joining the team, who will be based at the abattoir.

Many of you will recognise the familiar face of Nigel Eaton, who re-joins us the Meat Hygiene Inspector. New this year is Arturo de la Fuente from Spain, who takes up the position of Official Veterinary Surgeon.

You can contact Arturo and Nigel on telephone 27213 or email ovs@falklandmeat.co.fk You will be able to read more about them in the February issue of the Wool Press.



Arturo de la Fuente



Nigel Eaton

If your cattle are on the move,
Registration you have to prove
Along with the movement cert, in your pocket
Put their registration docket.
Add them to the DoA list
Or your FIMCo chance will be missed.



Please remember that **ALL**
sheep/cattle/pig movements
need to have an **Animal
Movement Certificate**
properly completed for them.

As from the start of 2010 you can also register your cattle with the DOA in preparation for this becoming compulsory in 2012. If your cattle are going to the abattoir for slaughter, it is **NOW** essential that they are registered.

REPORT ON THE TWENTY THIRD

Report by organiser Nigel Knight

Tuesday 29th December 2009 dawned bright and clear. Unfortunately it soon became cloudy and showery; the 'Bay' was beautifully still and calm. None of this however distracted the residents and visitors to Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating a good day out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith Knight, Nuala McKay, Justin Knight and Rueben Harwood had already been working hard transforming the Woolshed prior to the event. On the day Keith, Nuala and Rueben were there to take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. 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 Paul Robertson 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, next was to select from all the rams that were entered, in the four ram classes the one they considered to be the champion ram and reserve champion. Finally, they selected the

best dual purpose ram (wool and meat) along with the runner up and third place. They were assisted in this task by having all the ram's bodyweights recorded on entry to the show.

A total of seventy eight fleeces from seventeen farms and thirty seven rams from seven farms were exhibited at this years show. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of rams - every one a credit to it's owner.

By now the barbecue - which had already been set up by Tex and Mandy Alazia using their gas fired barbeque pits and this year in the capable hands of Leon Marsh, Justin Knight, Monica Lehyt (plus initial help from Felicity Alazia and Fayan Alazia) - was in full swing. Because of the unusually inclement weather on the day this was held in the Social Club.

This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes of rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the 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 Hansen.

The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully shorn of its fleece by Ali Marsh and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled



WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

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 a large number of entries in the under 21's sheep judging competition, this year there were ten entries. Michael Clarke expertly produced the master judging sheets to enable the results from this competition to be worked out. During the Show, Marlane Marsh recorded the highlights on camera.

Shortly after 6pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the wool shed for the prize giving. This year's prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor Mr Alan Huckle. Captain



Derek Clarke and FIGAS staff kindly worked late to enable H.E. to return to Stanley afterwards.



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.

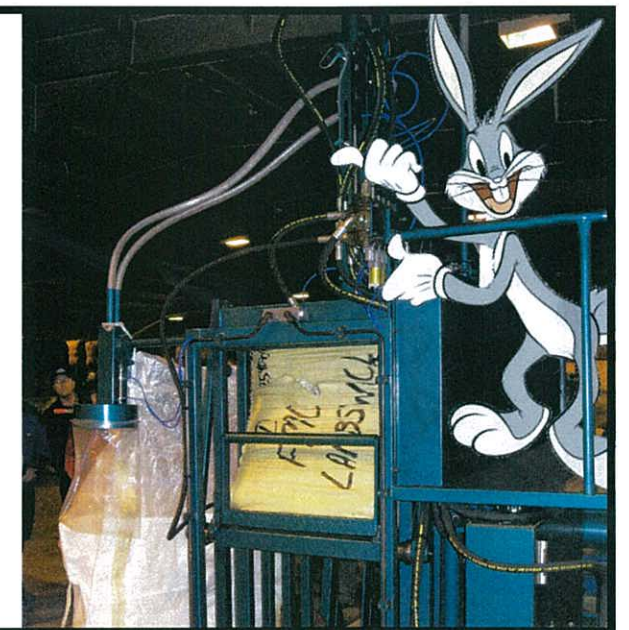
Many thanks to Nigel Knight for the report and Marlane Marsh for photographs. See page 16 for results.

**SEEN ANYTHING
STRANGE LATELY?!**

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

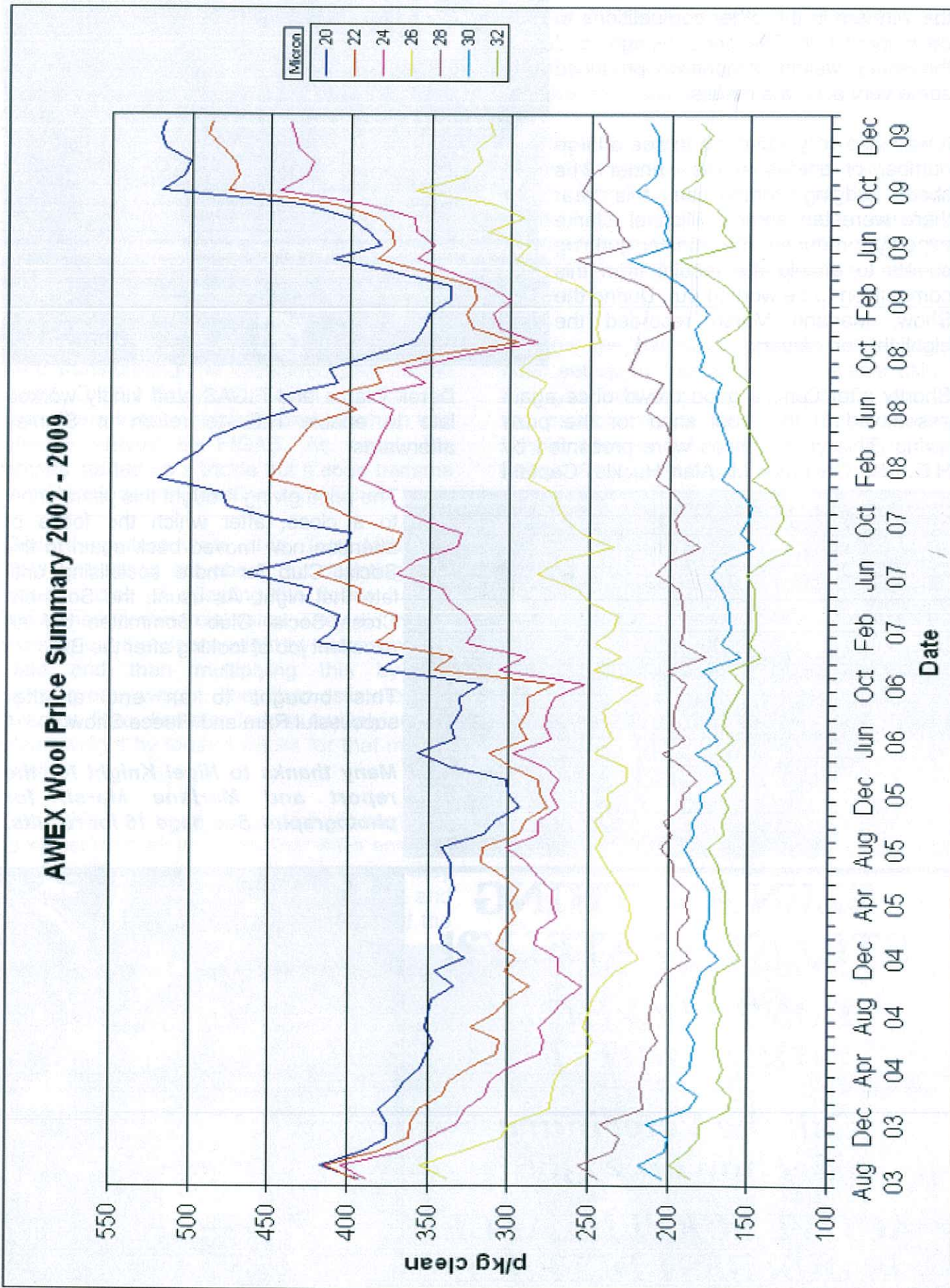
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Section on 27366**

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IS OUR BEST DEFENCE**



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



COMMENTARY ON THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

By Tony Mills

Does the following description of the sheep industry sound familiar, 'With a strong demand for lamb and relatively high prices for mutton there are concerns that current levels of turnoff are not sustainable. There have also been important changes in the flock composition with an increase in the proportion of ewes joined to terminal sires and a sharp decrease in the numbers of wethers relative to ewes. The combined effect of the declining flock size and the changing structure away from wool producing Merinos has significantly reduced wool production'.

Some of you may have guessed what country's sheep industry this summary was describing but for those who missed the couple of hints this is not a report written by a commentator on the Falkland Island sheep industry, rather it is an excerpt from a summary paper for the Australian Sheep CRC (Cooperative Research Centre) on the declining sheep flock in Australia. This flock has reduced from 170 million in 1990 to below 77 million in 2008. There are three other reports that have been completed to provide the detailed background to this summary which some people may be interested in reading. They can be accessed through the Sheep CRC website at www.sheepcrc.org.au/industry-tools-and-information/declining-sheep-flock.php.

So what is my point? I think there are some very close parallels that can be drawn from both countries' situation. A key one that is common to both countries is the long term low wool price trend that has been evident since the peaks of 1990. In Australia producers have diversified into other key primary products such as grain crops or cattle while here it is more likely to be tourism (on or off-farm), other off-farm work, horticulture with a dabble into cattle. That is not to say that Australian producers have not sought off-farm work because that is also the case. It is not rocket science that income needs to come in to keep the business healthy but it needs to be done in such a way that the impact of time off-farm is minimised on the productive capacity of the farm enterprise. The other common factor between the two countries is

the continued squeeze on agriculture's terms of trade (income versus cost) making it more difficult to maintain a highly profitable enterprise. The gains generally come through on-farm productivity increases, which brings me back to what the report's key purpose is for the Sheep CRC and what is the relevance to Falkland Island producers.

This organisation is a key research and extension body that has input from all state agricultural departments as well as universities and key industry players (e.g. sheep and wool processors). They are using this report to focus their work on the key areas of production and business management to keep the industry sustainable. These areas include reproductive efficiency (including improving number of lambs marked/weaned), demand for wool, meat quality, labour (getting more from less), economic impact and adoption and utilisation of new and existing skills/technology.

It is quite simple to fit into these areas the very same ones FIP attempts to address as well as what producers are attempting to do on a daily basis. There is a basic set of production cycles that occur on a constant basis and to achieve gains in the key production characteristics that make you money you are constantly doing them again and again and tweaking the edges to gain some improvement. Sometimes the thing that works is the old tried and tested practice at other times it is a 'new' practice which is an old practice that has been re-examined and tweaked with advances in technology or knowledge.

A comment that is constantly repeated through the report that discusses the changes to the sheep industry is that the number of lambs born in recent years has been less than the total of lambs slaughtered, sheep slaughtered and live exports, so to arrest the decline in the population and have a stable population this cannot continue. One of the ways to address this is to improve recruitment of animals. It makes it very important to ensure we are working on the right areas, making informed decisions and working together to achieve the necessary changes to make the industry sustainable.

WEATHER SUMMARY & RAINFALL TOTALS

MPA Met Office Weather Summary for December 2009

December had slightly below average temperatures and above average rainfall for the month. Sunshine totals were above average.

Temperature - The mean maximum temperature was 13.9 Celsius, half a degree below the long-term average for December. The highest temperature recorded was 20.5 Celsius on the 22nd and the lowest maximum was 7.2 Celsius on the 2nd. The mean minimum temperature was 4.7, which is just below the 5.4 Celsius December average. The lowest minimum was 0.2 Celsius on the 2nd and the highest minimum was 9.0 Celsius recorded on the 20th December.

Rainfall - The total rainfall for the month was 83.3 mm which is well above the December average of 57.1 mm. The wettest day was the 23rd with a total of 20.1 mm. More than 0.1mm fell on 16 days

and 1.0mm or more fell on 9 days.

Sunshine - There was 252.3 hours of sunshine, which is above the monthly average of 235.3 hours. The highest daily total was 13.6 hours on the 9th.

Snow / Fog / Thunder - There were 3 days when sleet or snow fell but no reported lying snow. Hail fell on 8 days, compared to an average of 6 days. There were no days with fog. There were 3 days of thunder.

Wind / Gales - The monthly mean wind speed was 14.1 knots, which is just below the average for December of 15.8 knots. The highest hourly mean speed of 38 knots occurred on the 1st December and the highest recorded gust was 56 knots also occurring on the 1st. There were 18 days with gusts in excess of 33 knots, slightly below average for the month. Gales on 5 days where recorded, 1 below the monthly average.

Falkland Island Rainfall Totals for 2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stanley	36	44.5	51.5	90	95	31.5	28	90	20.5	23	87	48
Average	74	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68
MPA	52.8	52.6	60.6	106.3	105.4	46	159.8	58.1	29	44.2	94.1	83.3
Average	62.1	48	56.1	58.2	50.8	56.5	45.5	38	33	34.8	41.1	57.1
Bleaker Island	35	20	30	-	67	30	30	-	17	19	41	36
Blue Beach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Cape Dolphin	21	38	43	74	65	18	12	13	9	17	25	21
Darwin	53.5	37.5	46.5	91	87.5	33	37.5	19.5	18	32	64	42.5
Dunbar	28	72	45	121	136	45	63	58	20	58	79	75
Fern Ridge	49.5	52.5	47	80.5	86	31	65.5	49	16	28	57.5	29
Goose Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	16	21	23
Head of the Bay	35	53	54	110	105	34	45	64	22	30	75	37
Hill Cove	36	110	77	60.5	101	63	60	86	-	44	113.7	40
Moss Side	20	30	52	82	98	30	-	54	13.5	23	58	31
North Arm	35	22	31	63	87	46	31	21	12	14	41	40
Paragon	20.5	34.5	-	78	81	9.5	9.5	12.5	6.5	12	23	-
Pebble Island	61	50	49.5	60	107	31	32.5	56	13.5	22	66.5	29.5
Port Howard	60.5	75	68	118	135	57.5	89	70.5	33.5	40.5	101.5	49.5
Saladero	44	37	39.5	71	69.5	24	28	22	14	17	59	37.5
Salvador	31	50	33.6	80.5	89	32.25	31	47.25	25.5	30.75	76.5	35.25
Shallow Harbour	48	41	30	75.5	71.5	31.5	62	57	19.5	26	60	30
South Harbour	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swan Inlet	51	35.5	35.5	82.5	81	31	30	55.5	19.5	29	73	51
West Lagoons	40.5	75	59	75.5	112	58	69	79	-	56	93.7	32
Wineglass Station	52	37.5	43	100.5	75.5	35.5	50	137	15	60	91.5	-

Thank you to everyone who has provided monthly rainfall data in 2009. If you are interested, please contact us and we can send you out a rain gauge.

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK INDEX

By Siân Ferguson

To ensure that your Farm Management Handbook (FMH) 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, me or visit. You can also view the FMH online at www.agriculture.gov.fk

	Section/Sheet	Recently Updated On
General	Area	
	Body Condition Scoring	
	Camp Medicine Chest Contents	
	Contact Information	October 2009
	Fees	July 2009
	Fire Guidelines	September 2008
	Labour Scheme Conditions	September 2009
	Labour Scheme Application Form	September 2009
	Length	
	Public Holidays	December 2009
	Rainfall	
	Staff Chart	October 2009
	Training Schemes	
Livestock & Wool	Clip Preparation Guide	April 2006
	Core Sampling	April 2009
	Coring SOP's	April 2009
	Fleece Sampling Guidelines	September 2009
	Horse Colours	
	Organics	September 2008
	Quality Falkland Wool	January 2009
	QFW Checklist	January 2009
	QFW Shed Inspection Report	January 2009
	Scanning Guidelines	September 2009
	Wool Sample Summary Sheet	January 2009
	Wool Test Request Form	September 2009
	Pasture Improvement	Agronomy Tests
Artificial Breeding Programme - FIP Funding		November 2007
Fertiliser Rates		
Pasture Improvement Programme		August 2008
PIP Funds at Ram Sale		November 2007
PIP Sheep Genetics Application		November 2007
Proposed PIP Priorities		November 2007
Purchasing Live Rams with PIP Funds		November 2007
Soil Test Application		November 2007
Soil Testing & Site Selection for PIP Funding		November 2007
Trees		
Advice for the use of Estrumate		January 2009
Animal Movement Certificates		September 2008
Beef Kill Report Form	November 2009	
Finance	Bovine Tuberculosis	September 2008
	Caseous Lymphadenitis	June 2007
	Cattle Identification	September 2008
	Consultation Hours	September 2008
	Dog Dosing Dates	December 2009
	Dog Neuturing	
	Gestation, Oestrus and Temperature Tables	
	Import of Live Animals	September 2008
	Is Your Dog a Health Hazard?	
	Killing Facilities on Farms	September 2008
	Lambing Care	September 2008
	Ram Exam Workshop Handout	May 2007
	TB Monitoring on Farm	August 2008
Veterinary Fees	September 2008	
Veterinary Diagnostics	September 2008	
Worming Horses		
Legal & Codes of Practice	Depreciation Allowances	May 2006
	Extra Statutory Concessions	
	Farmers Tax Guide	
	General Tax Guide	
	Guide - POAT	
	Insurance Issues & Perils	December 2008
	POAT Examples for Self-Help	
	Self-Employment	
	Annex A Sites	
	Annex B Sites	
	Burning Permit	November 2006
	Designated Sites Legislation	
	Grass Fires Ordinance 2002	
Licences		
Plant Import Guidelines	January 2009	
Notifiable Diseases		
Planning Permission		
Species Legislation		
Transport of Animals		
Welfare of Cattle		
Welfare of Dogs		
Welfare of Horses		
Welfare of Pigs		
Welfare of Sheep		

RAM AND FLEECE SHOW PRIZE WINNERS - 2009

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 Limited	Goring Station	111
2nd	£75 donated by Standard Chartered Bank	Goring Station	104
3rd	£50 donated by Cable & Wireless	Shallow Harbour	50
4th	£25 donated by R M Pitaluga & family	Many Branch	47
<u>Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram</u>			
1st	Lyn Blake Perpetual Challenge Cup & £100 presented by Newton Investment Management	Shallow Harbour	64
2nd	£75 presented by Newton Investment Limited	Shallow Harbour	60
3rd	£50 presented by Saddle Computers	Fern Ridge	54
4th	£25 presented by the Rural Business Association	Fern Ridge	45
<u>Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram</u>			
1st	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup & a replica & £50 presented by Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association	Many Branch	117
2nd	£75 donated by the Falkland Islands Wool Company	Fern Ridge	72
3rd	£60 presented by Argos Ltd	Keith Knight	66
4th	£40 presented by Argos Ltd	Shallow Harbour	64
<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	Main Point	34
2nd	£75 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services	Goring Station	29
3rd	£35 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	West Lagoons	26
4th	£25 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Port Edgar	25
<u>Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hogget</u>			
1st	Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by HE the Governor & replica & £100	Mount Kent	66
2nd	£75 from Newton Investment	Goring Station	35
3rd	£50 from Newton Investment	Coast Ridge	34
4th	£25 from Newton Investment	Coast Ridge	27
<u>Class 6 - Any B Type wether fleece</u>			
1st	Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge & replica presented by Estate Ursula Wanglin & £50 from Falkland Islands Sheep	Goring Station	47
2nd	£75 donated by Port Howard Farm	Coast Ridge	47
3rd	£50 donated by Stanley Electrical	Boundary Farm	36
4th	£25 presented by Port Howard Farm	Mount Kent	32

Additional prizes

The Champion Ram was owned by Many Branch and won the Patricia Luxton Perpetual Challenge Cup & replica from the Luxton family, Chartres along with £50 from SAAS. Reserve Champion Ram was owned by Coast Ridge and won £50 from Falkland Landholdings Limited.

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

A silver challenge cup + £75 for the fleece with the highest commercial value - all prizes presented by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, which was won by Goring Station with a fleece having an estimated gross value of £ 29.90. Second and third prizes went to Mount Kent (winning £50 & £25 respectively with fleece values of £25.86 and £21.87 respectively).

£100 for the best dual purpose ram (wool and meat) was won by Coast Ridge. The 2nd prize of £75 was won by Coast Ridge and 3rd prize of £50 went to Teal River. All prizes presented by the Falkland Islands Meat Company.

A challenge cup and replica for the farm with most points in all classes is donated by Mr & Mrs Owen Summers and was won by Goring Station, plus £50 from Cable & Wireless.

Additional competitions

In the guess the sheep weight competition the winner received £25 from Meredith Fishing Co, which was won by Carley East who guessed closest with 38.7kgs (actual weight was 39.1kgs).

The winner of the fleece weight competition received £30 from RBC, which won by Hugh Delignieres, who was closest with a guess of 3.5 kgs (actual weight was 3.5 kgs).

The winner of the micron estimate competition received £50 from Falkland Landholdings, which was won by Adam Huckle who guessed 18.2µ (actual micron was 18.09 µ). Runner up was Diane Betts who guessed 18.3 µ. She won £25 from the Rural Business Association.

The sheep judging competition for the under 21's was won by Niall Evans. He won a £50 voucher from the Department of Agriculture. Runners up were Dion Robertson & friends who won £25 from the Falkland Islands Wool Company. 3rd prize went to Marilou Delignieres who won £25 from Newton Investment.

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 & the barbecue with meat supplied by Rincon Ridge & Coast Ridge (burgers & sausages by Shirley Knight), cooking by Tex, Leon, Justin, Monica, Felicity & Fayan and Tex & Mandy for cookers
- Keith for transforming the wool shed with assistance from Justin, Nuala & Reuben in setting up pens & fleece tables
- Tony Mills & Paul Robertson for judging the special categories and all those who did the sums afterwards, along with Marlene for the photographs
- The Department of Agriculture for their assistance before and after the event, in particular Katrina and Gordon
- H.E. The Governor for presenting the prizes
- The committee of the Southern Cross Social Club
- And not forgetting the residents of Fox Bay for being excellent hosts

Scientists aim to curb burping sheep

Source: Ananova.com

Australian scientists are aiming to breed sheep that burp less to help tackle climate change.

The scientists have been trying to identify a genetic link that causes some sheep to belch less than others.

They say burping is a far greater cause of emissions in sheep than flatulence, reports the BBC.

John Goopy, from the New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment, said: "Ninety per cent of the methane that sheep and cattle and goats produce comes from the rumen, and that's burped out.

"Not much goes behind - that's horses."

Scientists in New South Wales have been conducting experiments in specially designed pens where they measure how much gas sheep emit by burping.

They have found, from tests on 200 sheep so far, that the more they eat, the more they



belch.

But even taking that into account, there appear to be "significant differences" between individual animals, Mr Goopy said.

The scientists' goal in the long term is to breed sheep that produce less methane, which produces many times more global warming than carbon dioxide.

"We're looking for natural variations so we'll steer the population that way," said Roger Hegarty, from the Sheep Cooperative Research Council.

Dates for the Diary

16th February Pancake Day

28th February - Sports Week - more details to follow in February Wool Press
3rd March East Sports are being held at Goose Green and the West Sports at Port Howard.

10th March Dog Dosing (Droncít)

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



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

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

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

All contributions are gratefully received.

SUMMER BARBECUE

Bread rolls

By Siân Ferguson

Ingredients:

2 lb bread flour (white, brown or a mixture)
3 x 7g sachets of yeast
2 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 pint tepid water

Method:

Place all dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Add half the water and mix together. Slowly add the rest of the water. Flour a workspace and knead dough for five minutes. Cover and place the dough in a warm, draft free area to rise for 30 minutes. Then line a tray and split dough into 12 balls, placing about an inch apart on a tray. Cover and leave to rise a warm, draft free space for 30 minutes.

Cook at 180°C for approx 20-25 minutes, until brown on top and hollow sounding when tapped. Turn out onto a cooling rack!

Makes 12 medium sized bread rolls



The Wool Press makes no guarantees about the weather being fit enough for barbecues, although we hope you will have the chance to try out these recipes this summer!

Recipe Spot



Homemade burgers

By Siân Ferguson

Ingredients:

1 kg mince (mutton or beef)
1 medium onion
1 clove garlic
2 tablespoons red wine (optional)
1 egg
5 rashers of bacon
1-2 tablespoon mixed herbs
1 tablespoon vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Chop onions, garlic and bacon in a large bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix thoroughly together.

Makes approx 10 medium sized burgers, suitable for freezing

Barbecue Sauce

By Sarah Bowles

Ingredients:

1 tin tomatoes
1 onion
4 tbsp sugar
4 tbsp vinegar
3 tbsp Lea & Perrins sauce
2 tsp mustard powder
Salt & Pepper

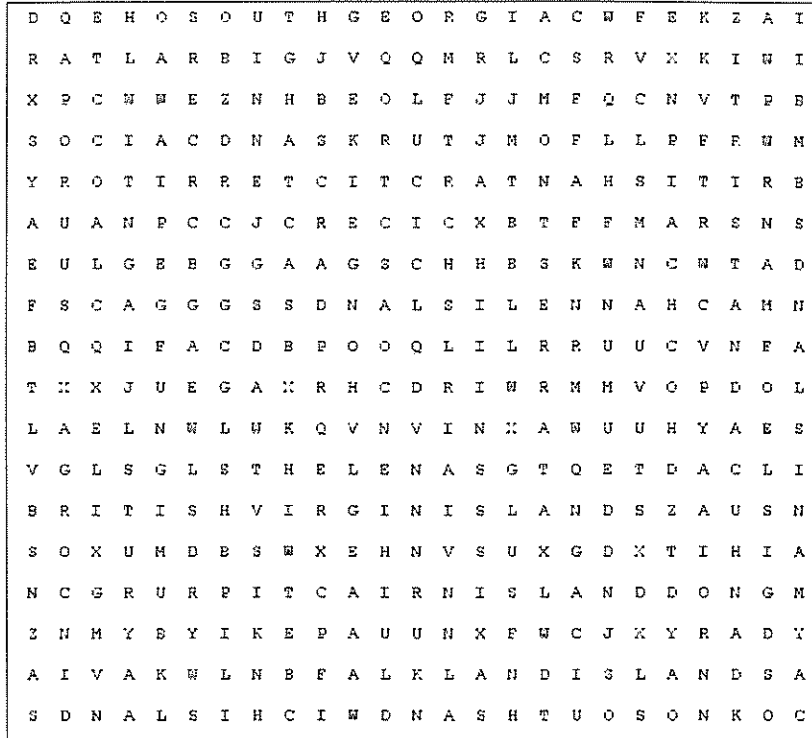
Method:

Dice onion and fry in a little oil. Add tomatoes and remainder of ingredients and bring to the boil.

For a larger crowd, double the amount.

PUZZLE PAGE

WORD SEARCH



You will find below the 18 British Overseas Territories and Dependencies.

Can you find them in the Word Search above?

Watch out though, one of them is missing.

Good luck!

- Anguilla
- Ascension
- Bermuda
- British Antarctic Territory
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands

- Cayman Islands
- Channel Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Isle of Man
- Montserrat

- Pitcairn Island
- South Georgia
- South Sandwich Islands
- St Helena
- Tristan da Cunha
- Turks and Caicos

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

DINGBAT BRAIN GAMES

Flex your brain
Free your mind
Think laterally

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

OLD

DETTEC

Answers from last month....

Brainteaser: A dentist

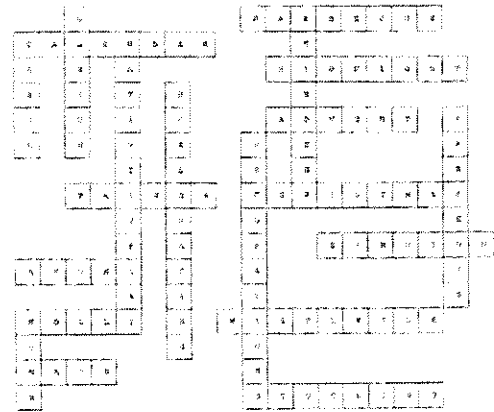
QUITE

Quite right

SHOW

Side show

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



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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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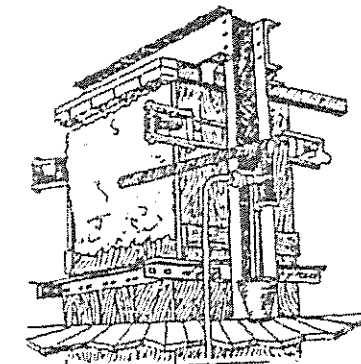
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Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

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EDITORIAL

After the very late start to grass growth this spring due mainly to the unseasonably cold November, it is pleasing to see plenty of feed and sheep and cattle generally in good condition throughout the Islands.

Tony Mills has presented a very timely article on ways of managing your lamb, mutton and beef business which for many farms that are managing it well is adding substantially to total farm profitability. He points out that with the conflicting tasks of shearing, lamb marking and getting sheep and beef cattle ready for market it requires considerable planning and regular monitoring of stock condition to ensure animals that are contracted to FIMCo are ready at the time and to the carcase specification agreed.

Ian Campbell points out in one of his articles that organic wool is difficult to produce in most sheep producing countries other than the Falklands as sheep lice are a problem that have to be chemically treated.

Susan Campbell has prepared an article on copper deficiency in sheep and cattle in which she outlines the symptoms of copper deficiency in both species and the best supplementation methods. Zoë Luxton has also prepared an article on another trace element selenium, in which she points out that selenium is necessary for growth and fertility in livestock and selenium deficiency causes white muscle disease in lambs, foals, pigs and poultry.

I would like to thank Adam Cockwell for providing the information and pictures for a most interesting article on the Concordia Bay and Workboat Services and the issues it deals with on a daily basis.

Ian Campbell has also provided a very insightful article on exchange rates and how they affect world wool prices. He points out that currently the Eastern Market Indicator has reached the highest level since April 2008 but there are downsides for you to read about. The AWEX wool price summary on the previous page is interesting with 22 micron wool selling for 525p/kg clean and 32 micron wool selling below 200p/kg clean in late December 2009.

Zoë Luxton provides a second interesting article on the post mortem examination of a lamb that came in appearing healthy and eating well but was unable to walk-the likely reason found was interesting.

Ian has contributed a further article on the critical need for farm businesses to have a plan setting out the aims and short and long term goals of the business to be successful.

East and West Sports Week programmes, details on the Saladero ram and cattle sale on the 17 March along with other key dates for the diary are included in this month's issue.

Enjoy your read. Let your hair down during sports week and don't be backward in coming forward if there is something I or other DoA staff can help you with. Call Katrina on 27355.

Regards,

Mr Mac MacArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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ACTIVELY MANAGING YOUR MEAT BUSINESS

By Tony Mills

Farmers have always been involved in both the wool and meat business since the introduction of sheep and cattle. One of the main attractions of sheep over cattle is that you get both products from them and you will get some income even if the seasons go against you. In general, because wool has been the main focus, the meat aspect is often considered very much the second cousin and as such doesn't always receive the same level of effort or time. Also in the Falkland Islands there is a long history of subsistence with regards to meat.

Because of improvements in export technology, fluctuating fortunes of commodity markets and changing consumer requirements, meat/protein has become a more valuable commodity. With the Falkland Islands being exposed to the world commodity markets this has meant some changes are required to the rural business. Farmers now have some very clear options to derive meat income along with wool to improve total farm income. There is the standard mutton from cast for age/culled sheep, young sheep both old season (OSL) and yearling lamb (YL), prime or new season lamb (NSL) and beef. All of which are able to be sold locally and since 2002/03 exported to the world.

The main changes to the meat business are that a more concerted effort is required to produce a quality meat product to meet consumer requirements. The meat industry here is still very much in the development phase unlike the mature industries in Australia, New Zealand or the UK. As people become more attuned to the benefit of the additional income then so too will the management effort.

Since I have been here I have seen a very quick adaptation by some farmers to the changes

required to make meat production an important component of a profitable and sustainable farm business. The following is a quick summary of some of the steps/decisions taken by these farmers which I hope will stimulate some debate or thought as to how they would fit into your own business. It goes without saying that having a meat business clashes with the wool business at the busiest time of the year so some careful planning is required and even this won't avoid some long hours in the saddle.

Mutton:

- Conscious decision to hold back wethers for sale during the lucrative September to November period;
- Shearing as soon as possible to allow for a boost from early growth to meet market specifications;
- Manually assessing animals to take advantage of the naturally good performers thereby enabling the efficient use of pastures for those needing a little more assistance.

Lamb – OSL, NSL and Yearling:

- Balancing lambing time keeping in mind teeth eruption;



- Immediately post shearing, weighing and body condition scoring;
- Regular monitoring (bodyweights, condition and teeth) of animals destined for the abattoir prior to end of December;
- Identifying top, middle and bottom animals based on liveweight to improve end price result and decide whether to keep as wool growers or sell for meat;
- Live assessment prior to delivery to better meet price grid and therefore improving the net price result;
- Regular communication with FIMCo re delivery dates, numbers and specifications.



the liveweight loss over winter but also the time it takes to change body condition. If you had a good legume based pasture this timeframe is in the range of 8 to 10 weeks. Some of the better growth rates that were being achieved on improved pasture were in the range of 150 to 320 grams per head per day (g/hd/day). Generally speaking the higher growth rates were for a shorter period of time so I wouldn't budget on achieving that level over 3 months. It would be feasible to budget on 150 to 170 g/hd/day and I would then suggest your finishing time would probably extend out to 12 weeks. This time frame is based on achieving a grade of 3L. Assisting those farmers who asked also gave me a better understanding of how important the pasture improvement component of FIP is in helping reach their productivity targets as well as the long term focus on genetics and getting the right mix.

There also seemed to be a target price of £20.00 for an OSL which was used as a threshold in deciding if the animals would be slaughtered this year or held over to cut either one or three more fleeces off before selling as mutton. Some of the reasons for this were the overall price of both meat and wool (taking into account deaths) received off the older

Cattle:

- Regular monitoring of liveweights;
- Updating skills on live animal assessment.

Another common theme with these farmers was following their animals through the chain to the point of grading and hanging up in the chiller. This has then allowed them to marry up the season, their management and animal selection with the objective feedback from the abattoir. They have also utilised the skills within the Department of Agriculture. This involved assistance with live animal assessment and as an independent sounding board on grazing management and crop and pasture production, with the aim being to deliver cattle and sheep on time and to specification.

By no means has this been a one way exchange of knowledge. I, especially, have been able to gain a better understanding of the time it takes for sheep to not only recover



animals and how it compared to the current price, the price needed to help cover costs and make a profit and an overall property benchmark of earnings per hectare/head. This target also begs the question of whether profit or actual price is the deciding factor. The most profitable sheep are usually the first ones sent, especially if they meet the market specifications straight off grass.

In conclusion, it is quite obvious that the meat business does require a more active

management. This is usually precluded by some form of serious planning and hours of hard yakka. If these steps are taken by all sectors of the industry a better outcome is usually achieved. The meat industry can also accommodate the valid decision to hold over animals for mutton rather than lamb. There is also scope to continue to develop the beef industry and maybe even substitute the beef imports. As always the Department of Agriculture can and will assist when contacted.



ORGANIC WOOL IS HARD TO GROW ELSEWHERE

Ian Campbell

You may remember Tony Mills and a fellow called Mac Drysdale wrote an article about growing organic wool in Australia in the October 2008 Wool Press. Well, I notice an article in the latest "Australian Organic Producer" about the same man.

Mac has now converted his Certified Organic farm into a specialist lamb producing enterprise. There are a couple of reasons why Mac has done this.

Lice is too big a problem

Mac just cannot get on top of the lice problem. Lice are a very difficult pest to treat even without limiting yourself severely about the options you can use due to organics. The Falklands eradicated lice 30 years ago or more, and thanks to the diligence and persistence of the previous generation of farmers you are now in an excellent position in not having to treat this pest.

Organic meat prices are excellent

Whilst the option for organic meat is not yet here with FIMCo it is something we will hopefully be working towards in the future. Premiums for organic lamb Mac is receiving are 30% on top of what is considered a very good price for lamb at the moment.

The premiums were better in meat

Mac felt that he was only able to achieve about a 10% premium for his wool and the lice treatment just made it too hard to persist with. We are hoping, on our types of wool here, to do better than this but it is as yet untested. The first fully accredited Falkland Island organic wool is going to be sold soon and hopefully we will be able to collect some real data on this shortly.



COPPER DEFICIENCY

By Susan Campbell

Copper deficiency is normal in peaty soils and so would be expected in the Falkland Islands. Although it has been reported in animals in some areas, and at some times in the Falkland Islands, official trials have not found it when they have gone looking for it.

Both are possible as it is most likely to happen some years and not others, particularly in cold wet winters. Within a flock some animals may be deficient while others are not; depending partly on what they are grazing on. Some plants in the Falklands have higher concentrations than others. Many plant samples that are tested are deficient though, and the soil types where they grow may be well expected to be deficient too.

Trace element nutrition is complex. Another reason for copper deficiency may be the interactions of other competing elements such as molybdenum, sulphates, calcium, zinc, iron and cadmium which will all decrease the availability of dietary copper to animals. It is also affected by soil pH and liming.

The symptoms of Copper deficiency in cattle include:

- Pale coat colour especially around the ears and eyes, the coat may also be rough and sparse.
- Retarded growth – responses to copper supplementation may improve growth rates by 10-15% if deficiency is considerable and long term.
- Diarrhoea – this is a variable sign of copper deficiency and of course could be caused by a number of other conditions.
- Skeletal defects in calves may occur with copper deficiency and are seen as swelling and stiffness of the fetlocks.
- Infertility may occur with prolonged copper deficiency but copper supplementation given to heifers at

mating may also suppress fertility.

- Anaemia is a rare sign of copper deficiency

Serological tests performed at Saladero and Shallow harbour on cattle have confirmed the presence of copper deficiency.

The symptoms of Copper Deficiency in sheep include:

- Wool abnormalities such as steely wool where there is a loss of crimp, loss of elasticity and reduced tensile strength. Greying or loss of pigment in dark wool is a sensitive sign of copper deficiency.
- Enzootic Ataxia (swayback) is a condition of lambs born to ewes with low copper levels. During the last 2 months of gestation copper is essential for the development of the nervous tissue. The condition is seen as staggering or paralysis especially of the hind limbs which may be seen at birth or up to six weeks following birth. It may be seen as difficulty getting up or be precipitated by being scared or chased. Treatment of affected lambs is unrewarding so prevention is important.
- Anaemia may occur if sheep are severely copper deficient.
- Bone fragility in lambs may be seen by spontaneous fractures especially of the long bones and ribs. This is common when Molybdenum and sulphates are applied in fertilizers competing with copper for absorption.

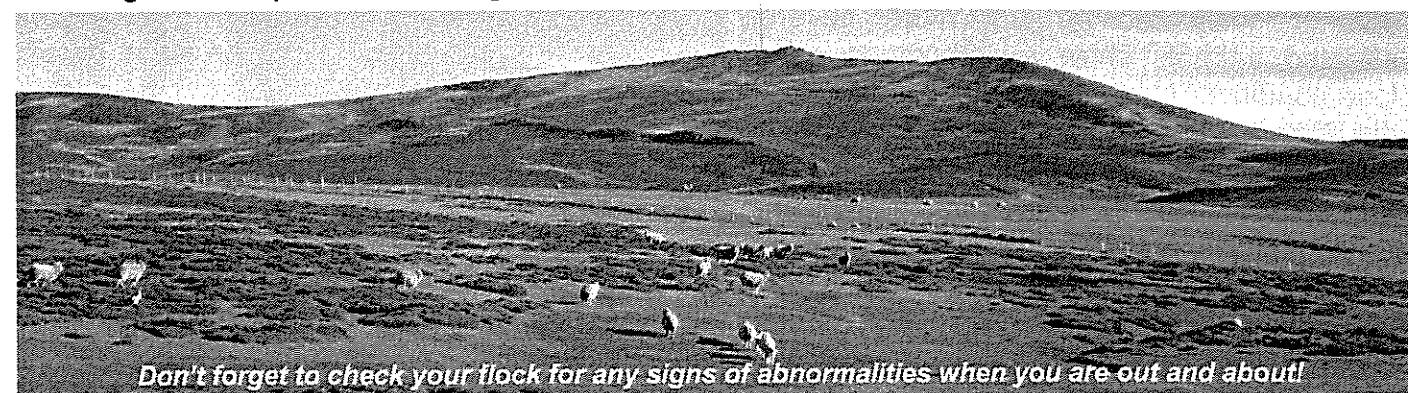
Ideally copper supplementation should be given in a bolus such as CoSeCure (a cobalt, selenium and copper supplement) a month before joining to ensure that levels are up in time for joining. It would then require annual replacement.

Supplementation may also be given by injection with various copper treatments or oral drenching with copper sulphate both of

which are relatively short acting. Copper can also be supplemented by being included in the fertiliser mix for reseed, possibly every 5 to 10 years, especially if Molybdenum is included.

However, giving copper to animals that are not deficient may well have a lethal effect, so knowing is all important. Testing animals for

copper deficiency is best in late winter to spring when levels are at their lowest and can usually be done by blood sampling although support for these results by the collection of livers from animals at slaughter is valuable. Measuring the response to copper may in fact be the best way to assess whether or not there is a meaningful deficiency.



Don't forget to check your flock for any signs of abnormalities when you are out and about!



A LOOK AT SELENIUM

By Zoë Luxton

Introduction

Less detailed information is known about the trace element selenium, and while more and more information is being discovered, it is proving that selenium has many varied and complex roles in the body. Over 30 different selenoproteins (combinations of proteins and selenium) are recognised, each with their own distribution and local function.

Despite its many, many roles, selenium is present at lower concentrations in tissues than most other essential elements.

Selenium in forages

Natural selenium concentrations in feed and forages vary exceptionally, widely depending on the part of the plant sampled, the season and climatic conditions and the selenium status of the soil. Legumes tend to contain less selenium than grasses. Regular heavy use of super phosphate fertiliser can reduce selenium concentrations.

Because of the vast variability of selenium in pastures and forages and the lack of information about how animals absorb and control selenium uptake – measuring pasture selenium levels is not a very accurate way of assessing whether stock is at risk from selenium deficiency.

Selenium in animals

While little is known about the control of selenium absorption in animals it is known that it shares a common absorptive pathway with molybdenum and sulphur so selenium uptake may be vulnerable to competitive uptake from these two elements.

Selenium is necessary for growth and fertility in animals and for the prevention of a variety of disease conditions. One of the main functions of several of the selenoproteins is as an antioxidant – terminating reactions by tissue damaging free radicals.

One of the most common disease symptoms seen in selenium deficiency is white muscle disease (WMD). WMD is a degenerative

disease of striated muscles and the lesions are most likely initiated by free radical damage. In lambs the disease symptoms are most commonly seen at 3-6wks of age, and, like calves, lambs show muscle stiffness, irregular and fast heart rates and have trouble breathing.

Very mildly affected animals can spontaneously recover but more severely affected animals show reluctance to move, lose condition, exhibit respiratory distress and die. Calcification and white streaks are often seen in affected muscles in post mortem examination.

WMD is also seen in foals and poultry and poultry and pigs also show symptoms of other diseases that are due to selenium deficiency.

In all animal species selenium deficiency results in impaired reproductive performance in males and females and animals with low selenium are also thought to have lowered resistance to disease. Sub-clinical selenium deficiency (no overt clinical signs) can result in simply unthrifty lambs with poor growth rates.

Selenium levels from animals can be measured in blood serum and selenium can be supplemented in a variety of ways – often via selenium incorporated into drenches.

Selenium poisoning

Selenium is the most toxic of the essential trace elements and toxicity can occur, not only from overdosing of supplements, but by the natural overdose from pastures grown in high selenium areas. Some plants in areas where soil selenium levels are high act as 'selenium accumulators' and thus deliver high amounts

of selenium to stock when such plants are eaten.

Chronic selenium toxicity is characterised in livestock by dullness, lack of vitality, emaciation, coat roughness, loss of hair and sore, sloughing hooves. Acute toxicosis from selenium is characterised by salivation, respiratory distress and circulatory failure. Toxicosis (unless through accidental overdosing) is unlikely to be an issue here in the Falklands.

Selenium in the Falkland Islands

As with most elements, Whitley found pasture and liver levels of selenium to be generally moderate to low and there were also varied responses to selenium supplementation in the few small trials he wrote about. He concluded that while selenium levels were quite low, selenium was far from being the main limiting factor in poor growth of sheep in the Falklands.

He did postulate however, that better management and feeding of sheep that resulted in lambs growing faster may mean that selenium supplies become inadequate compared to growth rate, thus inducing selenium responsive conditions in the sheep. This is something to be aware of.



For Sale

160 Ewes, 4-5 year old, in very good condition

No reasonable offer refused, but seafreight to buyer's account

Reason for sale - surplus to our requirements

Available now, could be lifted off by Concordia Bay weekend of 20/21 February

Contact Mike Rendell, Bleaker Island

Phone 32491/21084 Email mrendell@horizon.co.fk



Wednesday 17th March 2010 at Saladero

The NSF Ram and NBH Cattle Sale 2010

Order of the day

- Inspection of stock at 10am
- Auction commences at 11.30am



Stock for sale

- NSF Polwarth Shearling Rams
- NSF Elite Ex-Stud Sires
- SAMM Shearling Rams
- Dohne Merino Shearling Rams
- Afrino Shearling Rams
- NBH Angus Bulls
- NBH Angus Heifers

All sale stock will be at the Saladero shearing shed

Sale catalogues

Catalogues will be ready towards the end of February and will be posted out as soon as they are collated.

Refreshments

There will be tea and coffee available throughout the day.

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

Ferry information

Workboat Services have kindly put on a ferry service for the day and the crossing times are:

Port Howard to New Haven - 8am
New Haven to Port Howard - 6pm

Could everyone please book with Workboat Services in good time as there are limited spaces.

Could all those requiring a lift from New Haven and back please let the DoA know asap so we can arrange transport.



Please note that if the ferry has to be cancelled due to bad weather, the sale will be postponed until the next day, the 18th March. In this eventuality, the DoA will do all it can to inform people at the very earliest opportunity.

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

For more information

If you have any queries, then please telephone the DoA on 27355 or email lellis@doa.gov.fk

WORKBOAT SERVICES LIMITED

The Concordia Bay and Workboat Services are now familiar names in the Falkland Islands, replacing the Tamar in the role of supply vessel and providing a cross sound ferry service.

Forming the company

Workboat Services was formed in 2002 by Dan and Marie Loveridge, with a view to developing a business in the Falklands maritime sector, with a particular interest, at the time, of the possibility of a harbour 'workboat' service in Stanley. In early 2006 Workboat Services became a joint venture between Dan and Marie Loveridge, Fortuna Limited and Holyhead Towing Limited. Today, the company is wholly owned by Fortuna and Holyhead Towing Limited.

Workboat Services employs a crew of eight to work on the Concordia Bay and three people in the office.

Acquiring the Concordia Bay

The Concordia Bay is a 45.5 metre landing craft which was bought by Workboat Services direct from the builders in Malaysia in 2006. The vessel was chosen as she met the requirements of the trade in the Falkland Islands for which she was intended. During the process of negotiation and discussion with the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), it was decided that the vessel would be required to carry up to thirty passengers, so considerable alterations were carried out before the vessel left Malaysia to comply with passenger regulations.

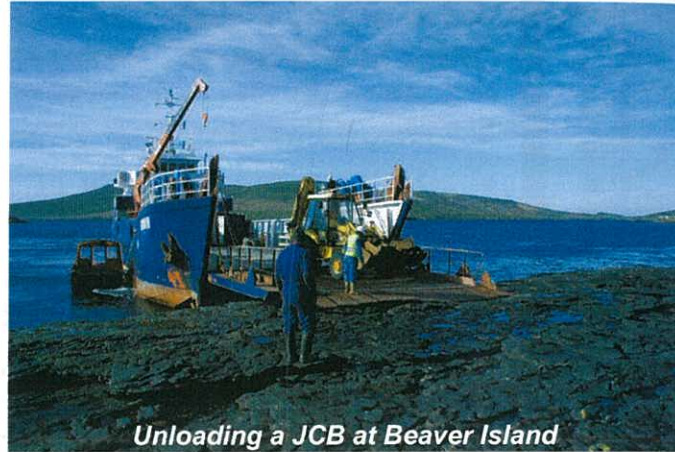
Providing a cross sound ferry service

Workboat Services are still in an interim phase with the development of Port Howard not complete so this leads to an annoyingly high number of weather delays at the moment, but in general, Workboat Services are pleased with the ferry operation so far. Once Port Howard is complete it will make everyone's life considerably easier and safer and, while there can be no guarantees of no weather delays, the Concordia Bay should be able to sail in a wider range of winds.



Approaching New Haven after a ferry crossing

Photo: Siân Ferguson



Unloading a JCB at Beaver Island

The relationship between Workboat Services and FIG

FIG charter the Concordia Bay from Workboat Services and as part of this, the vessel is operated as required by FIG in the agreement. FIG set all the tariffs after discussion with Workboat Services and the schedule is now designed by Workboat Services and approved by FIG. Policy decisions, for example, over consolidation, are set by FIG.

In late 2009 Workboat Services redesigned the original FIG schedule based on experience in the first season and from feedback from the customer survey. The feedback on tariffs has now been passed onto FIG for them to consider.

Running a crucial supply service to West Falklands and the Islands

There are both positive and negatives for any vessel engaged in such a wide range of work as is carried out in the Falkland Islands, which has an impact on the supply service the Concordia Bay provides.

The Concordia Bay does not have a hold like the Tamar meaning that cargo has to be containerised which can make life more difficult at times, but on the other hand she has a beaching ability and a bow door so can unload heavy plant onto islands with suitable beaches. Since beginning operations in the Falkland Islands, the Concordia Bay has delivered plant to New Island, Beaver Island and Bleaker Island, something which would have been unthinkable in the past. Work is ongoing to identify suitable beaches around the islands.

The islands supply work is currently working well and fairly straightforward, apart from the obvious exception of Sea Lion Island. Proving difficult for vessels in the past, this is now more so as with added pressure of scheduled ferry crossings, the Concordia Bay cannot wait for the weather to improve if it is unsuitable.

Looking back on the past eighteen months

Workboat Services are happy with how the first eighteen months have gone since the Concordia Bay

AND THE CONCORDIA BAY



A full load of containers for Trant

arrived in the Falkland Islands. It has been a very busy time for all and the addition of all the Trant work to Albemarle right at the start of the operation certainly did not make the transition from the old service to the new any easier.

There have been difficulties for Workboat Services and with hindsight some things could have been done in a different way, but their concern is with providing the best ferry and Island delivery service they can and they think they have achieved that. When you consider that the service started from absolutely nothing, with no facilities whatsoever at New Haven until PWD started work there in late 2007, they believe everyone can safely say it has gone pretty well.

Providing livestock runs during the abattoir export season

During the 2008/2009 season Workboat Services had some difficulties fitting in the deliveries to FIMCo. This was due to a number of reasons, not least was that the previous schedule did not allow enough contingency time for collecting all the animals from the islands if there were weather delays. The schedule has now been redesigned to make better use of the vessel over the summer months and Workboat Services believe they now have a much more workable system. The work for the vessel is prioritised in the following order from highest to lowest; ferry crossings, island deliveries, FIMCo deliveries, Trant and any other subcharters, FIG work.

Meeting the needs of the Falkland Islands

Workboat Services are conscious that they are a vital lifeline to West Falkland and to the islands and take very seriously the delivery of that lifeline. They feel they meet the demands well within the restrictions which are in place, but there is always room for improvement.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to please all the people all of the time and what might seem like an excellent idea to one person or group seems terrible



Delivering a container to Weddell Island

to another, so they try to tread the middle ground to give the best service to as many people as possible.

They welcome all feedback from customers, as ultimately the only way to gauge public opinion is for the public to give it.

If anyone has any concerns or suggestions on how Workboat Services should be running the service, then Manager Adam Cockwell will be happy to hear from you - at the very least he may be able to explain why they do something a particular way.

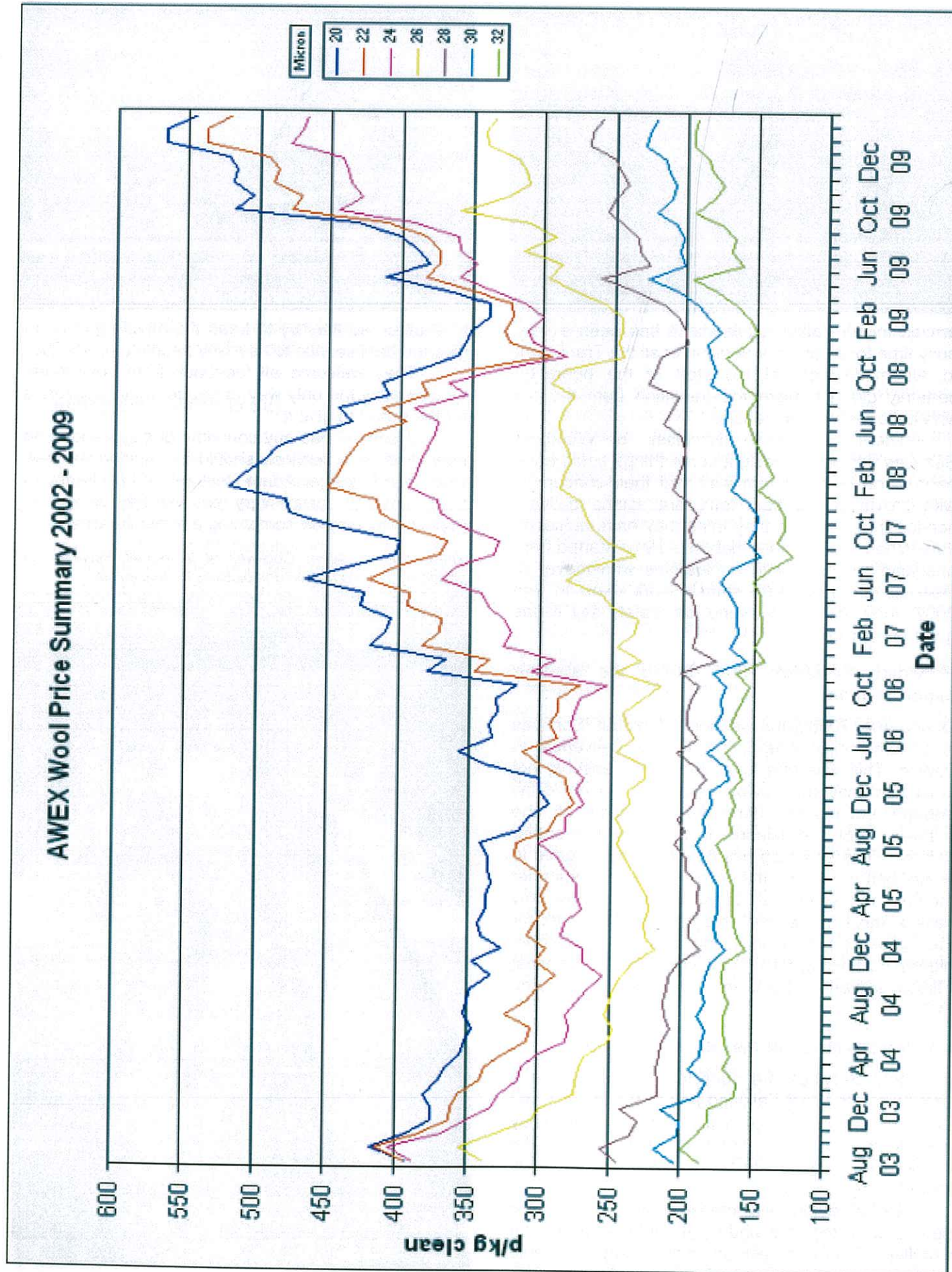
Thank you to Adam Cockwell at Workboat Services for providing the information and pictures for this article.



A full deck of trucks

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



EXCHANGE RATES AND WOOL PRICES

By Ian Campbell

When we do the wool report we look at AWEX prices and convert them to pounds at the exchange rate of the day. If the exchange rate drops and the \$AUD wool price remains the same then the £FKP wool price will go up.

A low valued currency is good for exports and bad for imports. Exchange rates dropped through 2009 from a high of £1 to \$2.30 to a low of £1 to \$1.72. This change alone will increase AWEX prices by 34%. In effect a weak pound makes buying Falkland Island wool cheaper than buying Australian wool and vice versa.

As I write - the news has come that the EMI (Eastern Market Indicator) has reached its highest level since April 2008 but is flattening out. Looking at our data which is quoted in pounds, we are seeing the best wool prices in 21 years. This is all because a reasonable wool price and a very good exchange rate are coinciding.

So is this a cause for celebration? Well, yes and no. The prices were pretty good 21 years ago, but 21 years of inflation has eaten a

huge chunk. 21 years of 3% inflation is actually 80% because it compounds. If the prices really are as good now as 21 years ago - they would need to be 80% better in actual terms.

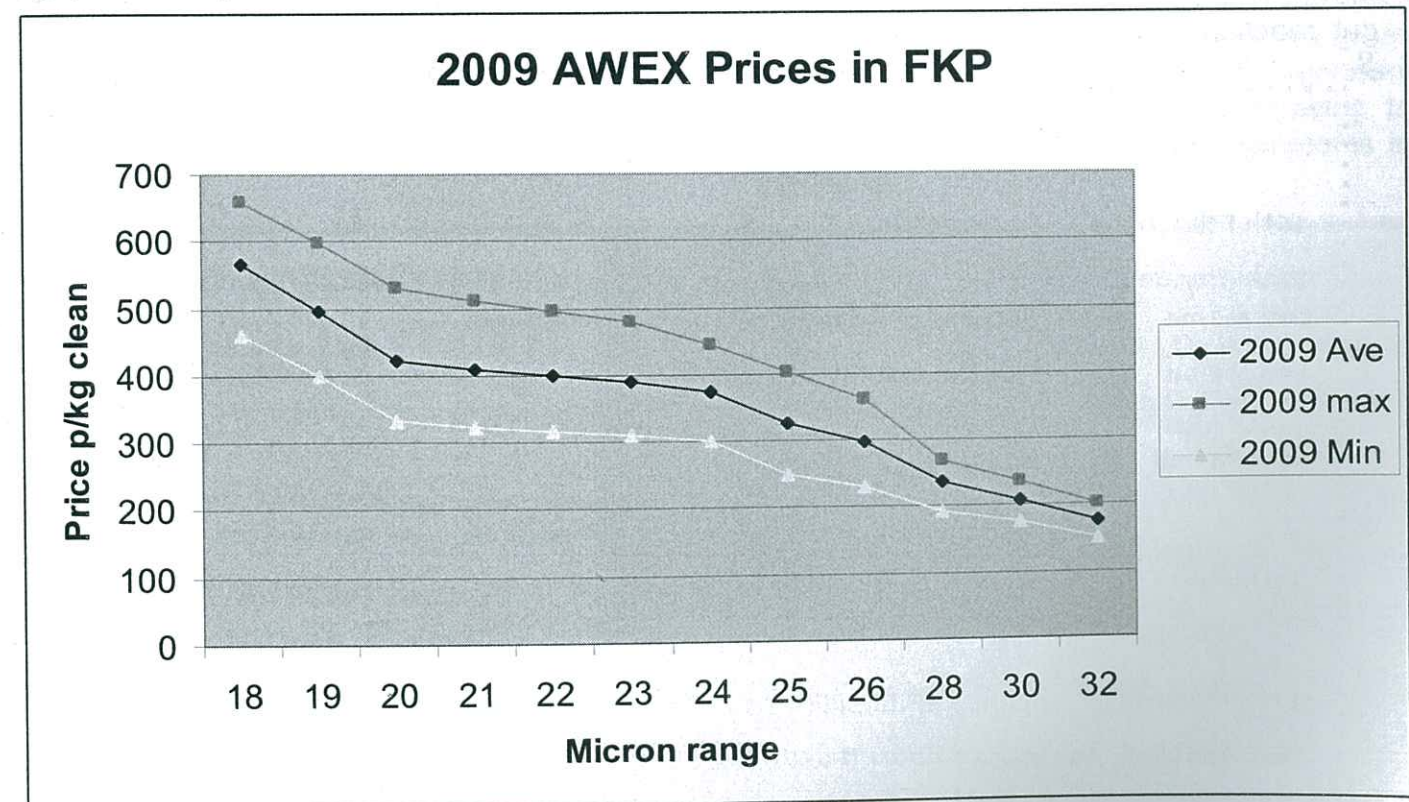
The Falkland pound is tied to the British pound - so the economy of the UK, or more to the point the value of the pound, will be interesting to watch over the coming months - if not just to see how it affects our wool prices.

Is there a role for forward contracting wool?

Now that the dust has settled on 2009 and before I file away a whole year of wool reports I thought I would look back to see what trends happened. More importantly can we learn anything that might be of use in the future?

The AWEX* graph we often publish shows many things, but the relevant ones to this discussion are:

- There is no consistent "best time of the year" to sell wool
- Wool prices fluctuate quite a lot and are hard to predict



So when is the best time to sell wool? The pragmatic solution is to sell when the wool is ready. An early sale date gives an early cheque and a much needed infusion into the bank account. A very valid reason I know, but sometimes just by holding off for a few more weeks the market might change dramatically, but in either direction!

Nobody wants to sell wool at the lowest point and it will be pure luck if we sell at the highest point.

The graph on page 13 shows the highest, average and lowest AWEX* price for each wool micron in 2009. As can be seen the price for 22µ wool ranged from just above 300p to 500p per kg - so choice of market date was important. Strong wools are more steady and fine wools are more volatile but this is the 'spokes of the wheel' effect. The higher the price the bigger the actual value of the percentage change.

Getting the maximum price is a bonus, getting the average price is OK but getting a very low price is just unfair- though somebody has to do it. But how can we reduce our exposure to market risk?

Obviously the strategy of watching the market moves and picking a good time to sell is the gut reaction. How do you know when it is

peaking- and if you had held off selling 21 years ago until the price was a couple of pence higher it would still be sitting in your shed.

Another strategy is to spread your selling dates. Sell some wool early (hogget wool might be ready early) and sell some later - you then have a couple of markets covered.

Another is to sell using a forward contract. You have a pretty good idea of how much wool you are going to sell next year. Would you be prepared to accept a price for it before they are shorn if it is a reasonably good price? Of course if the spot market gets better you lose, but if it gets worse you win.

But if you know that your cash flow is going to be enough to do the things you have to do and you are protected from a crash in the wool price- is that a better place to be?

One last thing. I know I often encourage people to talk to me about articles I write in the Wool Press- perhaps this time I will encourage you to speak to your wool broker instead.

**AWEX prices are a gross price and nett Stanley prices will be somewhat lower as costs of freight and commission are taken out.*

A RECENT INTERESTING CASE SEEN IN THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

By Zoë Luxton

A twelve week old female lamb was presented to us unable to stand or walk. All four of its legs appeared to buckle underneath the lamb, which was otherwise alert and well, eating happily while sitting down. There were still pain and withdrawal reflexes present in the limbs but no proprioceptive reflexes (ie the lamb could not place its feet in the right manner to be able to walk).

It was difficult to tell whether this inability to stand and walk was due to a neurological problem (in its brain or spinal cord) or a muscular problem (severe weakness in the muscles due to a nutritional problem or disease process).

As no other lambs in the mob were affected it was assumed to be less likely related to nutrition or infectious disease. The lamb was euthanased and we carried out a post mortem examination.

A malformation of the neck vertebrae was noticed. This had not been noticeable while the lamb was alive but there was an obvious kink in the backbones at the cervico-thoracic junction (where the neck vertebrae join the chest vertebrae).

When the spinal canal was dissected we could see an obvious bony growth protruding into the spinal canal where the malformation of the vertebrae occurred. We had left the spinal cord in place and could see that this smooth bony protuberance was compressing and flattening the spinal cord. This damage is most likely to have been the cause of the neurological symptoms seen and the reason the lamb could not stand or walk.

It is probable that this malformation had been present since birth but as the lamb was now rapidly growing, so was the bony growth, to the extent that it was seriously compressing the spinal cord.

A small calcified plaque was also be seen in the heart muscle which could be indicative of selenium deficiency so muscle samples have been sent to a UK laboratory for analysis. However we feel that on the basis of what we found in the spinal canal any nutritional problem would be a sub-clinical coincidental finding.

Often post-mortem examinations are unrewarding in that you cannot see any gross abnormality and have to rely on laboratory analysis for answers so it was pleasing to have an obvious reason for the symptoms in front of us.

Dates for the Diary



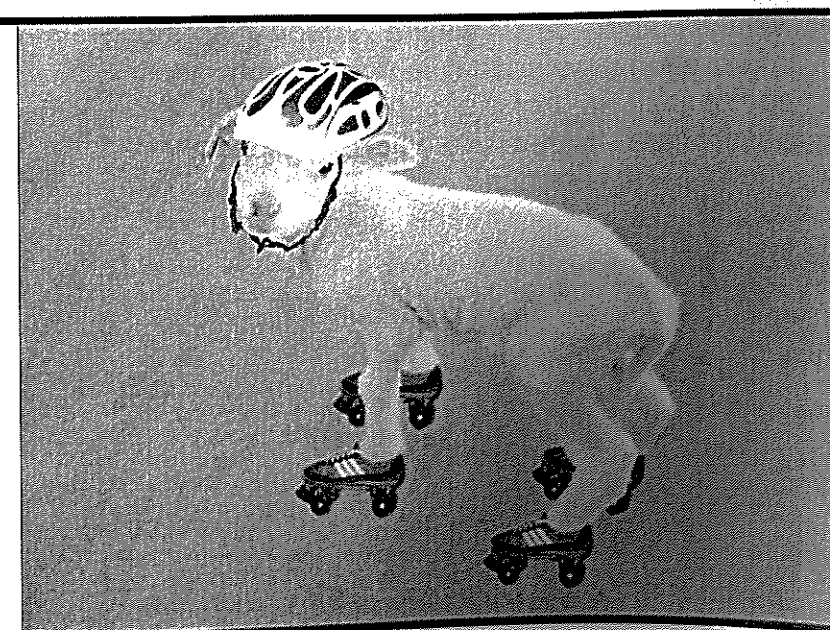
- 16th February Pancake Day
- 28th February - Sports Week - East Sports are being held at Goose Green and the West Sports at Port Howard. See page 17 full the full programmes.
- 3rd March
- 6th March Falkland Islands Horticultural Society's Garden Competition, Stanley (phone 21977 or 52051 or email skippy@cwimail.fk to enter your garden)
- 10th March Dog Dosing (Droncít) 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
- 13th March Horticultural Show - 2pm in the Parish Hall. Entries to be received on the Friday evening. Contact Siân on 21977, Niki Buxton on 52051 or email skippy@cwimail.fk for more details.
- 17th March Ram & Bull Sale - Saladero
- 2nd April Good Friday (Public Holiday)
- 4th April Easter Sunday

**SEEN ANYTHING
STRANGE LATELY?!**

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

**Call the Veterinary
Section on 27366**

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE
IS OUR BEST DEFENCE**



FARM BUSINESS PLANNING - THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP TO EDS?

By Ian Campbell

Background

The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) is aiming to chart the growth in the overall Falkland Island agricultural economy for the next 10 years. Projections are discussed for growth in sheep flocks and cattle herds, fibre diameter change, meat carcasses, genetic progress - even horticulture.

Concurrently there is also the FIMCo review - whereby the FIMCo business plan relies on a continued expanding commitment to FIMCo by livestock suppliers. There is also a Rural Development Strategy, suggesting a strong Camp community supported by a vibrant agricultural sector amongst others.

But how do these plans affect any one of the 80 plus commercial farms in the Falklands? Each of these farms (except for 3) are privately owned, independent businesses. The business pathway they take into the future is entirely their decision. For them the suggestions in the EDS are just that. So how can such strategies ever be implemented?

They are well researched

The EDS, RDS and FIMCo review consulted widely and are based upon sound information. As such it is presumably good advice. It is hopefully the reference for government in deciding where to place their efforts. The genetic direction of say the National Stud Flock and National Beef Herd, for example, are firmly linked to the outcomes of the EDS, FIMCo Review and RDS. These documents are also useful in deciding priorities for FIP spending or agricultural research projects.

The next step

The logical next step is for farm businesses to do their own business planning. The

overarching strategies can be used as a reference text for them, or they can choose something completely different as a goal. Either way they will have at the end of the process the basis for their own Farm Development Strategy.

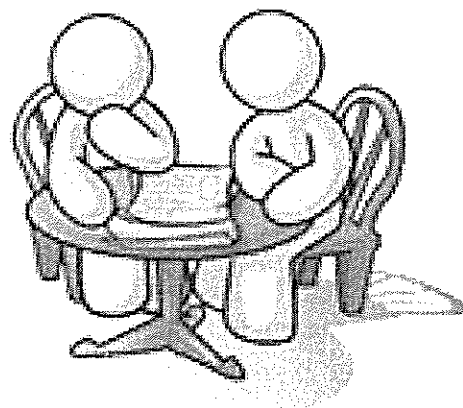
A farm business plan

A farm business plan sets out the plan for the farm for say the next 10 years. The advantages in so doing are many, but perhaps the essence is that a clear definition of the aims will help both daily activities and future planning and strategies to evolve in a logical rather than ad hoc manner.

Good farm business plans will have clearly defined goals in each of the following major areas.

- Physical farm plans (fences, water, races, yards etc)
- Personal plans (who is involved, secession planning, expectations)
- Production targets (kg of wool, livestock numbers, projected sales)
- Genetic goals (types of sheep or cattle, fibre diameter etc)

If people need help - we are more than happy to provide it, or if there is a demand we could run some workshops.



SPORTS WEEK PROGRAMMES

It's nearly that time of year again, when everyone flocks down the road or on the ferry for a few intense days of sports, entertainment and beer with some singing and dancing thrown in for good measure. If you are thinking about going along to join in the fun, 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 - Goose Green

Sunday 28th February

Horse racing at 9am
followed by a gymkhana
Dance in the evening

Monday 1st March

Horse racing at 9am
followed by a gymkhana
Dance in the evening

Tuesday 2nd March

Dog trials & fun events at 9.30am
Asada/barbecue at 6.30pm
AGM at 8pm

Wednesday 3rd March

Children's sports at 10am
including mechanical bull
Dance at 9pm
£2 on the door
Prize giving at 10.30pm

*For more information contact Diana Aldridge
All times are given in Stanley time*



West Sports - Port Howard

Sunday 28th February

Foot events outside Port Howard Lodge at 10am
including the annual rounders match
Mechanical bull at 8pm

Monday 1st March

Shearing competition at 10am
Gold cup racing at 8pm

Tuesday 2nd March

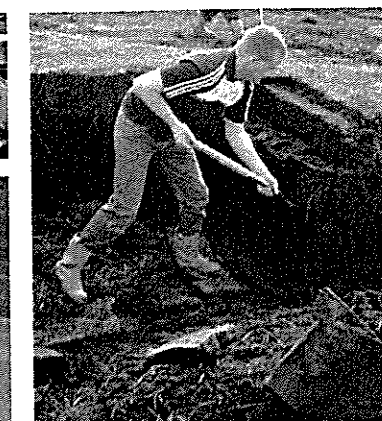
Peat cutting competition at Mount Rosalie at 10am
followed by the treasure hunt
Children's party at 5pm
Darts competition at 9pm

Wednesday 3rd March

Dog trials at 10am
Children's sports to run at the same time
AGM at 5.30pm in the Port Howard Social Club
Prize giving at 9.30pm

There will be golf tournament during the week
organised by Rodney & Carole. Interested persons
should contact them on 51154, 51756 or 42198

*For more information contact Susan Hirtle
All daytime events will start at 10am
All times are given in Stanley time
There are dances in the evening*



FALKLANDS WEATHER UPDATE

By Siân Ferguson

January 2010 saw temperatures slightly above average and slightly lower than normal rainfall and sunshine recordings.

The average temperate for the month was 15.8°C (0.5°C above normal). The highest temperature of 21.2°C was recorded on the 28th and the lowest of 1.9°C was recorded on the 4th.

The wettest day was the 9th, with a total of 11.6mm rainfall recorded.

There was 215.7 hours of sunshine throughout January, which is below the monthly average of 228 hours. The sunniest

day was on the 20th with 13.5 hours recorded.

There was no sleet or snow recorded for January, but hail was reported on 8 days (compared to the normal of 5). There were no days with fog recorded and 2 days of thunder.

The average wind speed for the month was 15.6 knots, slightly below the average of 15.4 knots. The highest gust recorded for the month was 55 knots of the 24th. There were 19 days with gusts in excess of 33 knots (the average for the month) and gales were recorded on 6 days (1 day above average).

Thanks to the MPA Met Office for the monthly weather data and everyone who sends in their monthly rainfall totals.

Falklands Rainfall Totals

	2009											2010
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Stanley	44.5	51.5	90	95	31.5	28	90	20.5	23	87	48	87
Average	57	59	58	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74
MPA	52.6	60.6	106.3	105.4	46	159.8	58.1	29	44.2	94.1	83.3	56.2
Average	48	56.1	58.2	50.8	56.5	45.5	38	33	34.8	41.1	57.1	61.5
Bleaker Island	20	30	-	67	30	30	-	17	19	41	36	21
Blue Beach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	25
Cape Dolphin	38	43	74	65	18	12	13	9	17	25	21	19
Darwin	37.5	46.5	91	87.5	33	37.5	19.5	18	32	64	42.5	43.5
Dunbar	72	45	121	136	45	63	58	20	58	79	75	35
Fern Ridge	52.5	47	80.5	86	31	65.5	49	16	28	57.5	29	33.5
Goose Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	16	21	23	17
Head of the Bay	53	54	110	105	34	45	64	22	30	75	37	35
Hill Cove	110	77	60.5	101	63	60	86	-	44	113.7	40	30
Moss Side	30	52	82	98	30	-	54	13.5	23	58	31	31
North Arm	22	31	63	87	46	31	21	12	14	41	40	31
Paragon	34.5	-	78	81	9.5	9.5	12.5	6.5	12	23	-	-
Pebble Island	50	49.5	60	107	31	32.5	56	13.5	22	66.5	29.5	27.5
Port Howard	75	68	118	135	57.5	89	70.5	33.5	40.5	101.5	49.5	44.5
Saladero	37	39.5	71	69.5	24	28	22	14	17	59	37.5	31
Salvador	50	33.6	80.5	89	32.25	31	47.25	25.5	30.75	76.5	35.25	36
Shallow Harbour	41	30	75.5	71.5	31.5	62	57	19.5	26	60	30	30
Swan Inlet	35.5	35.5	82.5	81	31	30	55.5	19.5	29	73	51	36
West Lagoons	75	59	75.5	112	58	69	79	-	56	93.7	32	27
Wineglass Station	37.5	43	100.5	75.5	35.5	50	137	15	60	91.5	-	-

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by Felicity McArthur, Stanley

Hummingbird Cake

Cake ingredients

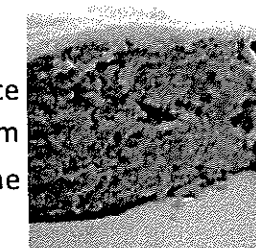
450g can crushed pineapple in syrup
 1 cup plain flour
 1/3 cup self-raising flour
 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
 1 cup brown sugar
 1/2 cup desiccated coconut
 1 cup mashed banana
 (approx 2 overripe bananas)
 2 eggs, beaten lightly
 3/4 cup vegetable oil

Cream cheese frosting ingredients

60g cream cheese, softened
 30g butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
 1 1/2 cups icing sugar mixture

Method

Preheat oven to moderate (180°C). Grease a 23cm square slab cake pan and line base with baking paper.



Drain the pineapple over a medium bowl, reserve 1/4 cup syrup. Sift flours, soda, spices and sugar into a large bowl. Stir in the pineapple, reserved syrup, coconut, banana, eggs and oil. Pour into the prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes. Stand the cake for 5 minutes and turn onto a wire rack to cool. Spread the cold cake with cream cheese frosting and decorate with flowers if desired.

Cream cheese frosting method – Beat cream cheese, butter and essence in a small bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy and gradually beat in icing sugar.

Rattling dog had eaten 13 golf balls

A dog had 13 golf balls removed from his stomach after his owner noticed his stomach was rattling.

Chris Morrison noticed an unusual sound from the stomach of his black labrador, Oscar, who he regularly walks on a golf course near his home in Dunfermline.

When he took the five-year-old to a vet, he was stunned to find 13 balls were lodged in the dog's stomach, reports the Daily Telegraph.

Mr Morrison, a planning administrator, said one of the balls had been in her stomach so long that it had turned black and was decomposing.

He said: "He finds golf balls like truffles. We're not sure how long exactly this happened over - but it must have been a fair period, several months at least."

"I felt his stomach and heard them rattling around. He normally brings a few home, but I had no idea he had eaten so many."

"It is normally around the ninth and twelfth fairways that we go around - and he just goes and searches for them wherever the golfers lose them."

The balls were removed two weeks ago in an hour-long operation conducted by Bob Hesketh, 40, a vet from Rosyth.

He said: "It was like a magic trick. I opened him up and felt what I thought was two or three golf balls. But they just kept coming until we had a bag full."

Oscar is now on the road to making a full recovery after a special post-operation diet of watered down food, but he now has to wear a muzzle during his walks.

Source: Ananova.com

PUZZLE PAGE

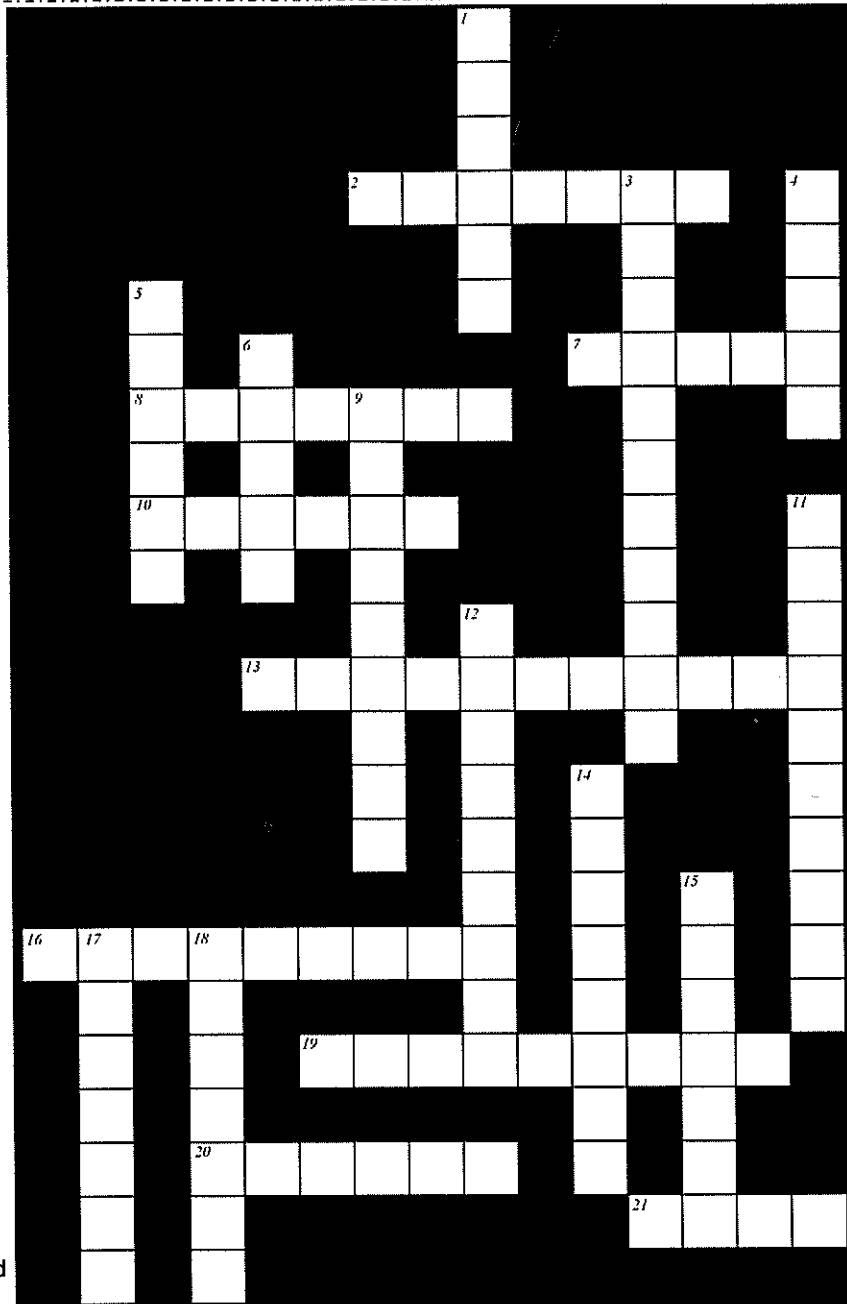
Geography Crossword

Across

- 2 - What is the popular tourist attraction on Saunders Island (3,4)
- 7 - Which island lies North West of Pickthorne (5)
- 8 - Somewhere you might visit at Wreck Point (4,3)
- 10 - Which island lies South East of Great Island (6)
- 13 - Which farm/location on West Falkland might also be called Double Creek (6,5)
- 16 - Which West Falkland farm would you expect to find reindeer on (9)
- 19 - Which farm lies between Philomel and Coast Ridge (9)
- 20 - Which is the Southern most farmed island in the Falklands (6)
- 21 - What island lies between Fox Bay West and Fox Bay Village (4)

Down

- 1 - Which farmed island lies South of Fitzroy farm (6)
- 3 - Which farm has the land furthest North in the Falklands (4,7)
- 4 - What island off Port Howard is inhabited by foxes (5)
- 5 - Which island will you find guanacos on (6)
- 6 - What month does the worlds most Southerly marathon take place (5)
- 9 - Which popular attraction lies furthest South on East Falkland (4,5)
- 11 - What is the most Western tip on West Falkland (4,6)
- 12 - What is the most Southerly island in the Falklands (9)
- 14 - On which East Falkland farm might you find the Congo Ponds (5,3)
- 15 - Which is the third largest island in the Falklands (7)
- 17 - Which farm lies East of Elephant Beach (7)
- 18 - Which West Falkland farm has been renamed Doyle (4,3)



Riddle Corner

Around the corner there is a tree.
Under the tree there is a school.
In the school there is a desk.
Behind the desk there is a bell.
Behind the desk is a teacher.
What is her name?

Dingbat Brain Games

Flex your brain
Free your mind
Think laterally

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

C C C C C

Y
L
L
E
B

January Solutions

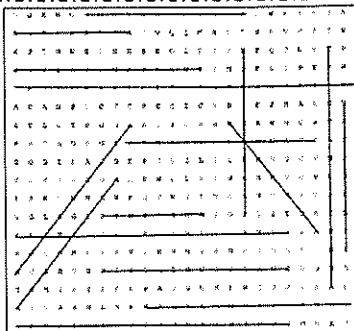
OLD

Growing old

BETTER

Better half

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



THE WOOL PRESS

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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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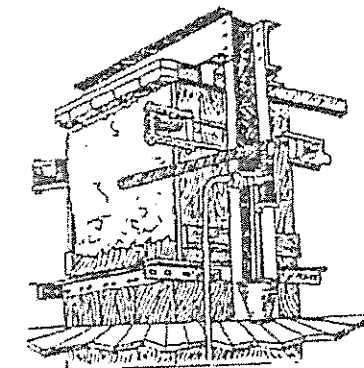
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Plus all the usual features and more!



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EDITORIAL

This edition of the Wool Press has some timely contributions of immediate relevance to the forthcoming NSF Ram and NBH Cattle sale. Tony and Mac have provided articles respectively on rams and cattle. Both articles provide information on the criteria used to assess animals and points to consider in choosing rams or cattle. The Saladero Ram and Cattle Sale is being held on Wednesday, 17 March, and we hope to see you there. With luck, the weather will play its part in terms of ensuring logistics run smoothly for those travelling from the West, although February saw little improvement in our summer.

Ian also has an article on the National Stud Flock which looks at the longer term development and direction of the flock. This is a critical issue, and there should be an opportunity to discuss this at Saladero. There will need to be widespread consultation before any decisions are reached.

The Wool Press welcomes Arturo de la Fuente (OVS) and the return of Nigel Eaton (MHI) for another FIMCO export season. Arturo and Nigel introduce themselves in an article setting out some of their previous experiences. An EU inspection mission is scheduled for later in the export season which will require significant veterinary input. The previous inspection was in 2002. Further work on the review of FIMCO is ongoing.

An Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting took place on 25 February. This was the first meeting for some time and the first meeting since the election. One of the issues on the agenda is picked up here by Ian and Andrew in an article on the changes proposed to the FIP scheme. Again, there will be further opportunities for consultation on this. Apart from that the Committee considered papers on the unsuitability of goats in Falklands agriculture, proposals on a research project in relation to hydatid eradication, and an update on the FIMCO Livestock Suppliers Working Group. There was also a short item on the trial use of fishmeal as a fertiliser using an experimental plot at the Becks Farm. All the papers were in the public part of the meeting and are readily available.

A short account of the faecal egg counting service offered by DoA is provided by Gordon.

The historic settlement of Port Louis is the setting for this month's farm profile in an article by Amy and Petra Gilding. They discuss a diverse range of farming and camp issues. The riding centre looks very impressive. I have to confess to embracing the advent of what were then 3-wheelers, with indecent haste, but it is good to see the horse still has its place.

Finally, don't miss the fashion section!

Mr John Barton
Director of Natural Resources

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THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL STUD FLOCK

By Ian Campbell

The National Stud Flock (NSF) started with a nucleus of Polwarth sheep imported in 1992. Since that time additional pure Polwarth semen has been imported and used, as well as embryo transfers into recipient ewes to build numbers.

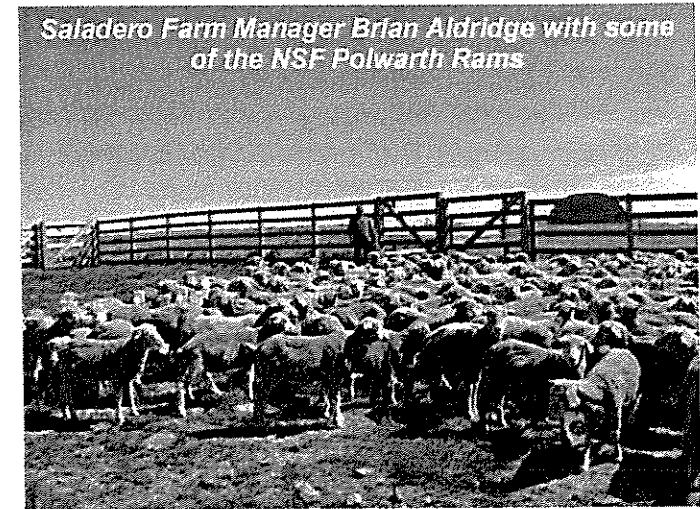
Today the NSF is run at Saladero and consist of a flock of 400-500 breeding ewes. Arguably this is one of the best pure Polwarth flocks left in the world, and probably one of the last. Polwarth flocks in Australia mostly ended up crossing to Merino rams to produce a comeback flock, and after a few generations of that they are now just part of the huge and diverse breed of sheep loosely known as the Merino.

We can continue with the Polwarths here but we are not likely to make much genetic improvement. The number of ewes is small as far as a population goes, and with the lambing rates and death rates as they are here, there is rarely the luxury of being able to cull many ewes at all for genetic quality. All the selection pressure is done on the ram side where we select for Index (Clean fleece weight, fibre diameter and body weight) and also for sound visual traits.

Without new introductions of fresh blood, it is unlikely we can improve them much more, and we will inevitably start to get some inbreeding depression anyway - so what do we want to do given there is not really any obvious Polwarth semen available for importing.

How important is it we stay pure to the Polwarth breed?

Breeds have a role. Ideally with a registered animal you know just where you stand with the type of animal you purchase. It should not carry any recessive bad traits like black wool or horns etc. but they also limit the gene pool. Obviously other breeds could offer something to the flock - but are these things ideal? Is it worth sacrificing the integrity of keeping a pure breed.



Saladero Farm Manager Brian Aldridge with some of the NSF Polwarth Rams

By importing other types of sheep into the Polwarth NSF we would be creating a composite breed. A Falkland Island type that could be selected specifically for the environment here and the best wool and carcass compromise (dual purpose sheep are always a compromise) that we choose to aim for.

My understanding is a lot of people realise that a Merino ram could offer the chance to both fine up and bulk up the wool clip - but they fear it may breed a sheep less suited to these conditions and with possibly poorer carcass traits. I will point out that many lambs slaughtered elsewhere have a lot of Merino in them, and I must also add that within that broad category Merino - there are many types, strains and bloodlines. Some are clearly unsuitable but some might be excellent. I don't profess to know the right strains.

We also have a share in a number of other breeds in joint venture flocks, Dohne, SAMM and Afrino. Both DoA and our joint venture partners have invested a considerable cost and effort into these flocks. What is their role?

I see there are two possibilities.

1 - Keep the pure flocks going so people can purchase pure rams to either:

(a) breed their own flocks towards that pure line over several generations

or

(b) breed a composite or crossbred commercial flock themselves with a range of sire breeds rotated, or mixed together.

2 - Incorporate the breeds into the NSF to produce a NSF composite flock

I personally favour the second option. One or more of the other breeds could be brought into the NSF. In the first few years they will be additional families, but over time as they contribute sires to use over other families this description will be lost.

I see a number of advantages and possibly some disadvantages.

Firstly it resolves the problem of not being able to find any suitable Polwarth genetics elsewhere - certainly from anywhere we have semen import protocols set up with.

Secondly is the creation of hybrid vigour. Mating diversely bred sheep removes any inbreeding issues and should produce vigorous offspring - particularly early on in the program.

I also believe it makes sound economic sense. It is good use of the past investments by FIG in importing and preserving these genetics, and should postpone the need for future costs importing genetics for a few generations at least. Also it reduces effort since there is just one rather than 4 flocks to manage.

Next it could boost the numbers of ewes. We need more ewes than we currently have to produce the required number of rams for sale without an expensive embryo programme, especially if we want to only offer the better rams for sale and continue to cull the poorer performers.

But there is the issue of the loss of trueness to type. The main issue here will be a possibility of more variation in wool type and maybe you will need more wool lines or expect more variation in wool measurements. I expect this to be less of an issue because they have similar genetic goals and are more similar for example than if I were arguing for the introduction of a more extremely different breed like a Romney.

Finally there is the problem of risk. If it doesn't work then we cannot go back, you will never unscramble the egg. The main risk is that the adaptation to the Falkland conditions I believe the NSF is now showing might be lost, but we can insure ourselves here by looking at things like faecal egg count in our selection strategy.

I admit to being only a shared custodian of this flock for a short time, and a genetic policy change like this has long term repercussions - I feel such a policy change needs to come from the Falkland farming community - not an overseas consultant. We will plan on having a short discussion about the DoA flocks on ram sale day. Don't be constrained by that though, please do not hesitate to email, phone or visit to discuss this whole issue with any of the advisors here at any time.

CHOOSING YOUR RAMS

By Tony Mills

The next annual ram sale is coming up next month. This provides you with an opportunity to revisit the direction you are heading with your flock and assess what your current production objectives are and do they need to be changed.

The approach we've taken with the NSF is to set a breeding objective based on the economic production characteristics of fleece weight, fibre diameter and bodyweight. The process used to meet this objective is to collect data on these production characteristics and also collect data on more subjective characteristics that are deemed important by the market place e.g. face cover, structural faults of the legs, frame or mouth and obvious wool faults (black spots).

The tool we use to process the objective or measured characteristic is a selection index which is based on a micron premium and includes bodyweight. The reason for this is that it has been decided to meet the long term market trend of obtaining higher prices for finer fibre diameter and accommodate the growing world meat market. The index allows us to place positive pressure on characteristics that are normally antagonistic e.g. reduce fibre diameter and maintain or increase fleece weight.

The micron premium is set at 8% which means that for a decrease of one micron then we expect to be paid an additional 8% for this change. The selection index also allows us to use all these characteristics simultaneously to select superior animals. This slows down the rate of improvement because we are using more than one characteristic however it will also keep us on track to meet our breeding objective and as alluded to above it ensures that selecting for finer wool does not then lead to smaller sheep or lower wool cuts. In last years sale catalogue and this year's catalogue we will again be reporting the index ranking for the 6% and 3% micron premium plus bodyweight. Each of these indexes is less weighted towards fibre diameter and therefore places more emphasis on the other characteristics.

The subjective characteristics we examine are scored against a key that has been developed in Australia. It covers the three key areas of wool quality, conformation and breech traits. The first two areas are more closely aligned to long term selection in the Falkland Islands however the breech section does have some relevance when considering the development of wool around the udders. Each characteristic within these areas is scored on a basis of 1 to 5 with 1 being the best level and 5 being the worst. We then marry this visual data with the measured data and use them both in the final selection process for sale and stud rams. There is however more emphasis placed on the measured data in this process.

It could be said that if this data is not being collected how do you know what direction you are going in or if you've met your target. One way to know if you are heading in the right direction is to examine your mature (Shearlings - 2nd shearing up) ewe flock wool test results over the last five to ten years. This is because sheep have basically matured by 15 months of age and it is likely that their fibre diameter and fleece weights will change only slightly and secondly you will be covering a number of different seasons so you are going some way towards seeing a genetic trend rather than a result affected by one season. If you keep mature wethers then the same could be done by looking at their results. It is best to do a weighted average using all your fleece lines and the DOA can help with this.

It is also best to source rams from a seedstock supplier that is heading in the direction you want to go. If you were to look at the NSF ewe flock results we are meeting our objective of reducing fibre diameter while maintaining or increasing fleece weight and bodyweight. We are also continually identifying those animals with visual faults and remove them from production.

What are your objectives or ideas of the animals you would like to produce? How do you select animals to meet this vision? How do you know if you are getting there or are there already? Can we help you?

SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?!

DON'T LEAVE IT... OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366



*ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE
IS OUR BEST DEFENCE*

PURCHASING PERFORMANCE TESTED CATTLE

By Mac McArthur

An opportunity for farmers to buy National Beef Herd fully performance tested Angus bulls and heifers comes up at the Saladero Ram and Cattle Sale on Wednesday 17 March. On offer are 2 approximately 40 month old embryo transfer (ET) bred bulls, 2 sixteen month old bulls and 4 sixteen month old heifers.

Weaning and Yearling Weights

What is the difference between buying performance tested and non performance tested cattle? If we look at the actual performance data for the 2 ET bred bulls below there were 4 bulls grazed together and treated similarly.

Sire	Dam	200 Day Weight (kgs)	400 Day Weight (kgs)	Scrotal Circumference (cm)
Perry Power Design	W50	225	303	40
Perry Power Design	R39	229	297	42.5
Average of the four ET bred bulls tested		224	304	39

The 200 day weights are the actual weaning weights adjusted to 200 days so that the calves born on different dates can be compared. The 200 day weight mainly measures the dam of the calf's milking ability. However as milking ability is a highly inherited trait the calf of a high milk producing cow will inherit those genes from its dam as well as fifty per cent of its potential to produce milk from its sire. If the sire of the calf comes from a line of cattle like the Te Mania Angus cattle which have been strongly selected for superior milk production for many generations if the calf is a heifer it will be a superior milker also.

As the average 200 day weight of the 4 bulls was 224 kgs. both of these bulls had dams that produced above average amounts of milk.

The 400 day weights reflect each bull's ability to put on weight (muscle, bone and fat). This is a weight taken around 13 months old and adjusted to 400 days so all bulls in the group can be compared. With the short growing season in the Falkland Islands it is critical that young cattle have the genetic potential to

grow fast and fatten fast.

Young cattle put on muscle and bone first and lay down fat as they mature. If young cattle have been selected from parents that have above average growth rates and also the right early maturity type with good quality reseeds or crops they can be finished here under 2 years old.

In the example above as the average 400 day weight is 304 kgs. both these bulls are slightly below the average of their group on 400 day weight.

Scrotal Circumference

Scrotal circumference is an indicator of fertility in bulls and these two bulls are in the high range for Angus with both being above the average for the group they were tested in. All bulls in the sale have high scrotal circumferences in the normal range for bulls of their age.

Scrotal Circumference and Female Fertility Traits

Scrotal circumference of a bull is highly correlated with the age at puberty of his heifer

progeny. Heritability estimates for female reproductive traits are generally low, while heritability estimates of testicular traits are moderate to high.

Research has shown that for every centimetre increase of a sire's scrotal circumference over the population average, one can expect a four day decrease in the age at onset of puberty in heifer offspring. It is well accepted that sires with above average scrotal circumference should produce female offspring that reach puberty sooner and have greater lifetime reproductive potential.

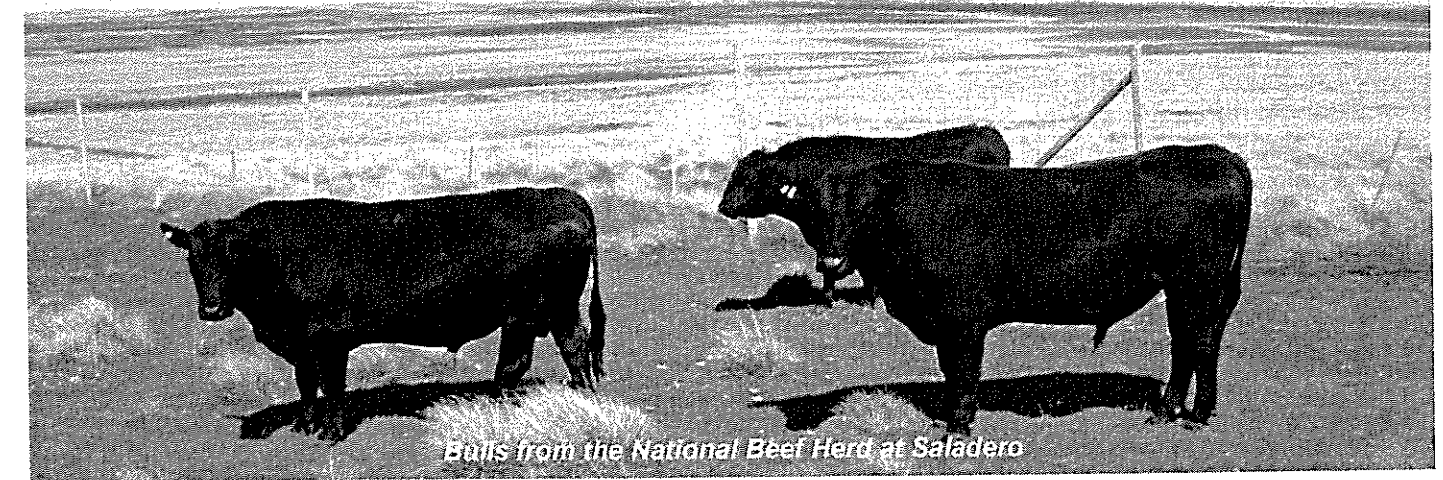
Tagging and Recording Cattle

Knowing the growth performance of your cattle and being able to objectively select your best breeding bulls and females requires cattle to be tagged and accurate records kept. For people that haven't previously tagged their cattle it is often quite a revelation to them how much valuable management information

immediately becomes available to improve their beef enterprise and profits.

The reason that all cattle (and sheep) that are consigned to FIMCo to be processed must be tagged with a numbered tag that can be linked back to the property that the livestock came from, relates to the traceability requirements of the European Union (EU). As FIMCo is an accredited EU export works exporting lamb and beef, to meet the EU audit requirements all livestock whether for export or local markets must be identified back to the farm they came from. The auditors to check this and other compliance issues will be visiting the Islands shortly.

So tagging and recording cattle has a double banger benefit and as well as benefiting your hip pocket nerve through knowing which are your most productive livestock you are also advancing your meat industry through ensuring compliance with your customers in the EU.



All cattle offered for sale have all been performance tested and will be presented with their 200 day and 400 day adjusted weights relative to the average of the group they have been tested with.

- 200 day weights indicate their dam's ability to produce milk. All these sale cattle are carrying genes for superior milk production and if you are interested in improving this important trait in your herd think about investing in both bulls and heifers
- 400 day weights indicate the individual's ability to gain weight. With the relatively short pasture growing season and the price advantage of fattening cattle in late winter/spring at around 2yo-fast growing, early fattening genes in cattle mean £'s in your pocket

All bulls have been semen tested with good results and the scrotal circumferences of all bulls measured are in the normal range for their age.

If you are not interested in buying bulls think about the advantages for your farm of leasing NBH bulls. The bulls are all quiet and easily transported. Costs are £12 per calf born and the costs of transporting the bulls are borne by the farmer leasing the bull.

**Arturo de la Fuente
Official Veterinary Surgeon, Sand Bay Abattoir**

I have been working, as a veterinary inspector in the meat industry since April 2001 in many different type of plants, red and white meat abattoirs, cutting plants and cold stores, small and large. Before I came to the Falkland Islands I was working as a Veterinary Officer (Team Leader Official Veterinarian, as it is named now in UK) in the Manchester area with two plants under my direct responsibility (one a red meat abattoir, sheep and cattle, and one white meat plant, broilers). I was also attending a few more plants within the cluster. I have worked in this position since April 2008.

I have been working since 2001 mainly in England and Spain but I have been working in Portugal too. In England I worked as Veterinary Officer mainly but I worked for Defra too, during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak. In Spain I have worked for the local government, from 2007 until 2008 as Official Veterinarian mainly, dealing with the control of TB, Brucellosis, Blue tongue, Ovine and Bovine census and animal identification issues. In Portugal, I worked for a private practise with veterinary medicines (sale- advice etc...).

I found about the position available in the Falklands through a UK veterinary magazine called Vet Record. There are different aspects of the position that have attracted me from the beginning. I already knew the job so it would not be very complicated for me to adapt to the plant here in the Falklands or at least I hoped so. The fact that the job only lasted for 4 months or so a year was also interesting for me because it would give me time to try new things back home. I always wanted to travel so this was an excellent opportunity to see another part of the world. Basically these are the three main reasons for me to apply for the position of Veterinary Officer in the Falklands.

I think that the hygiene standards at Sand Bay abattoir are above the UK average, the management team is dedicated and co-operative and the work force is very committed to their work.

The Falkland Islands are an incredible place with so many places to visit. I have visited Gypsy Cove and Volunteers Point, so far (I tried to visit the light house near Stanley but the road was closed). Gypsy Cove is a wonderful semi-wild beach with a pleasant on foot route around. Volunteers point was an incredible beach with two magnificent penguin colonies and with that white sand so dense and compact that you can walk over it as if on normal ground. I liked them very much. As for my relationship with the people, every body has

treated me with respect and even kindly, so I feel integrated and have already made friends in and outside the plant.

I will be very happy when the European audit at the abattoir is finished and passed, mainly because it may disturb our usual work pace. As for the other aspects of my life here, I'm very pleased.



L-R: Arturo de la Fuente and Nigel Eaton

**Nigel Eaton
Meat Hygiene Inspector**

Hi everyone. I'm back again for my second season as Meat Hygiene Inspector at Sand Bay Abattoir. It's a real pleasure to be here and I'm looking forward to seeing all the friends I made last year. Hopefully I will be able to visit many of the sights and attractions I was unable to see last year.

When I returned home last May, there was not a lot of work locally, so I went to Denmark to try my luck. Unfortunately the recession had bitten hard in the Scandinavian counties and there were no opportunities for any permanent positions in meat inspection. I returned to the UK and took a locum job, covering six abattoirs in the South West of England, which lasted about four months, but which time I'd had enough of setting off to work at 2.30am Monday mornings.

More recently I have been working closer to home covering two plants in the East and West Midlands. Hopefully this years photograph will be better than last years, it couldn't be any worse!



**The NSF Ram and
NBH Cattle Sale 2010**

Wednesday 17th March 2010

Stock for sale

- NSF Polwarth Shearling Rams
- NSF Elite Ex-Stud Sires
- SAMM Shearling Rams
- Dohne Merino Shearling Rams
- Afrino Shearling Rams
- NBH Angus Bulls
- NBH Angus Heifers

Order of the day

- Inspection of stock at 10am
- Auction commences at 11.30am

Refreshments

There will be tea and coffee available throughout the day.

All sale stock will be at the Saladero shearing shed

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

Ferry information

Workboat Services have kindly put on a ferry service for the day and the crossing times are:

- Port Howard to New Haven - 8am
- New Haven to Port Howard - 6pm

Could everyone please book with Workboat Services in good time as there are limited spaces.

Could all those requiring a lift from New Haven and back please let the DoA know asap so we can arrange transport.

Please note that if the ferry has to be cancelled due to bad weather, the sale will be postponed until the next day, the 18th March. In this eventuality, the DoA will do all it can to inform people at the very earliest opportunity.

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

If you have any queries, then please telephone the DoA on 27355 or email lellis@doa.gov.fk



FARM IN PROFILE: PORT LOUIS

FARM INFORMATION

Property Name: Port Louis

Location: East Falklands

Farm size: 17,500 hectares

Sheep: 3,500 approx

Owners: Peter & Melanie Gilding

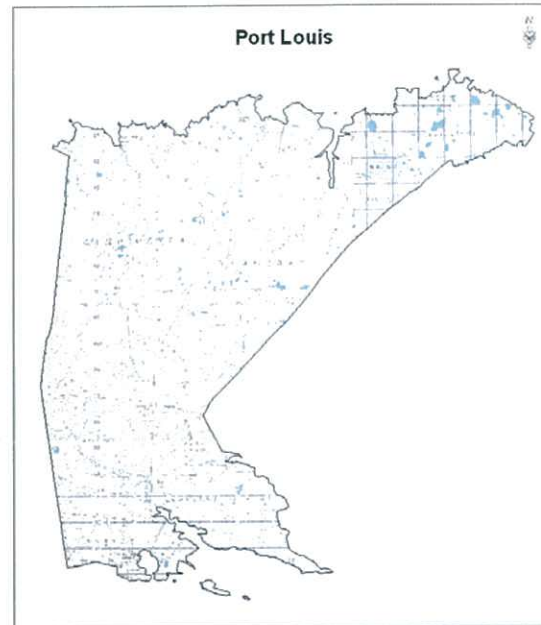
Children: Amy - 16 years old
 Petra - 16 years old
 Leila - 11 years old
 James - 5 years old

Article by Amy & Petra Gilding

Our family bought Port Louis in 1997 because they wanted to offer us the opportunities that come from living in camp.

Port Louis is the original settlement in the Falkland Islands and was founded by the French in 1764. By the 1830's it was the Government cattle farm with 3,000 head of cattle and the remains of the old gaucho corrals can still be seen today. Presently Port Louis is home to not only our family, but also Jenny and George Smith who are responsible for the management of the farm without whose experience, patience and good humour Port Louis would not be what it is today. Together, we all help on the farm, contributing in our own individual ways. We try to combine the older Falkland traditions with new ideas from experiences we have gained from travelling.

Port Louis is an operational sheep farm running Corriedale sheep primarily for wool. At



George training Melanie's mare

the moment we have approximately 3,500 sheep and we are in the process of increasing this number by stocking the North Coast of our farm for the first time in over 10 years. George and Jenny are very much the experts when it comes to sheep and cattle and they have our full support in farming Port Louis in an entirely traditional Falklands way. We also rely on help from our friends and neighbours at busy times like gathering, drafting and shearing and also with cattle work.

Our land is not only used for the grazing of sheep. In 1997 our mother imported 7 Welsh Mountain Ponies from England. Today, 12 years



Gathering the ewe flock



George, Jenny and Melanie lambmarking

FARM IN PROFILE: PORT LOUIS



The three of us on three of our Welsh Ponies at the farm gate

later, Port Louis is not only home to those original 7, but also an additional 16 others that we have bred and trained here on the farm. We register the ponies we breed with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society in Wales under the prefix Anson. This is the name which Governor Moody chose for the new town he planned to build at Port Louis (after the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Anson). We wanted to keep a link with the history.

What we hope to do with our ponies is to create a riding centre for children in the Falklands to come and learn basic horsemanship. Our goal is to give our riders the confidence to enable them to be the best rider they can be. We have been building a strong foundation for our riding centre which currently consists of a heated tack room, an indoor riding arena, an outdoor training ring, and miles of open land just waiting to be seen from the back of a horse.

Since 1997 our parents have continually invested in the farm, improving the standard of the houses and buildings to ensure that Port Louis looks its best for the many visitors. There is always something new being planned and in the pipeline at the moment is an outdoor riding arena surrounded by a gorse hedge that our Dad is working on.



© Norman Clark

Visit by HRH Princess Anne



Pony work in the indoor arena

George and Jenny are just completing the renovation of a small house which in the past was the original Cookhouse. This will be their new home and they are looking forward to moving in soon. A small museum will be built in the future and it is our intention to move into tourism so a visitor centre will also be needed to cope with these tourists.

The last 12 months have been busy for everyone here with the visit of HRH Princess Anne and her husband in March. We had the nerve wracking job of riding our ponies in front of them after they had been given a history tour by our Mum and Dad.

We always welcome visitors and only ask for a telephone call should you wish to pay us a visit. Only recently we had over twenty members of the Commonwealth Games Association accompanying the Queens Baton.

Camp Education deserves a mention in this article. All three of us benefitted so much from this department. The staff under Mr. Fogerty gave us a really good start and we found it no problem when we started at the Junior School when we were ten.

Our education now may be of interest to readers of the Wool Press as we do our schooling over the internet in a system run through the University of Miami. One of the most important things about this is that we can continue to live at Port Louis and work with horses every day.

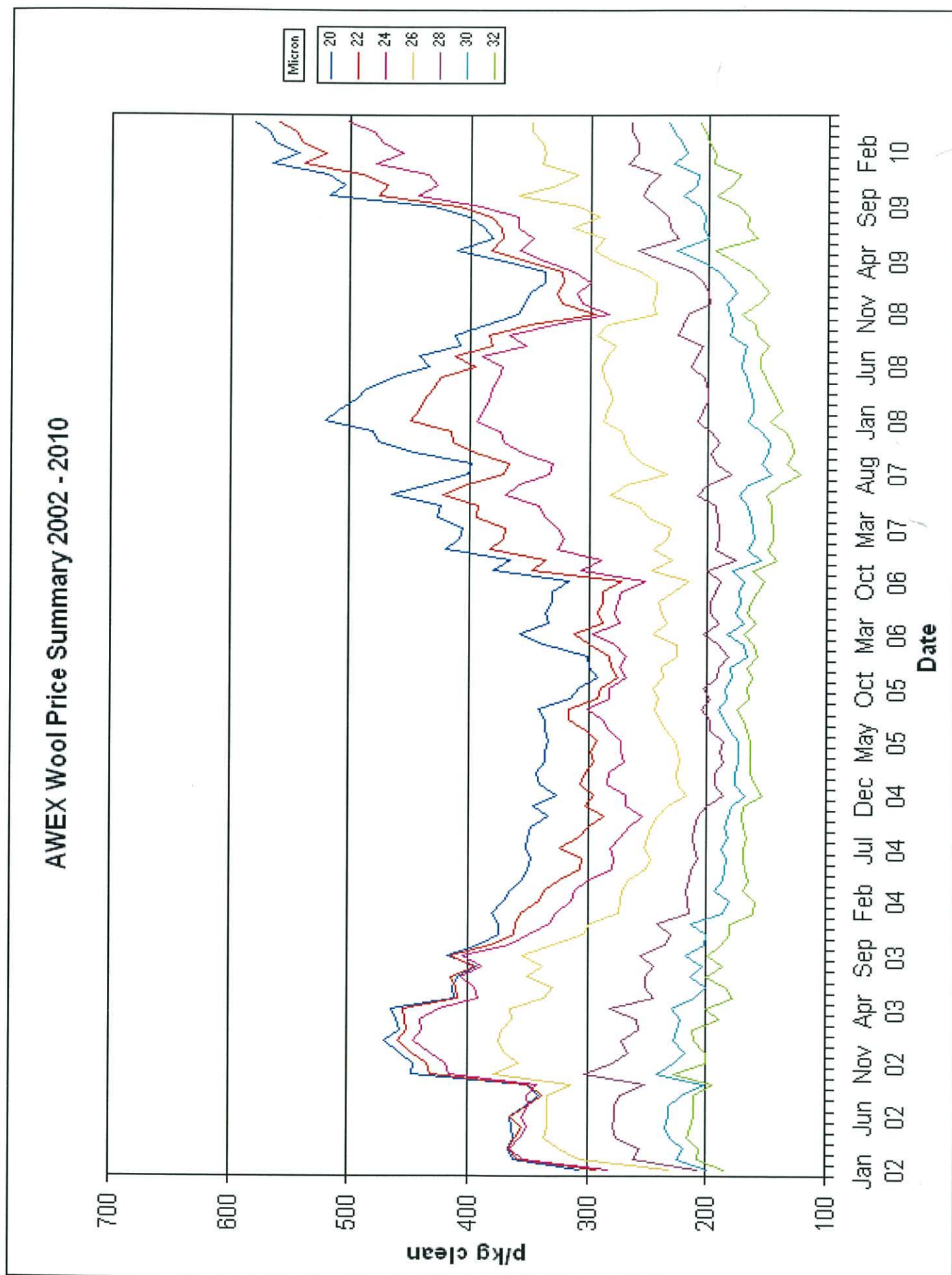
Port Louis is the single most important thing to us all and we all hope that we can continue to live here by developing what is around us so that we and our brother, James, can all make a living in the future.



Peter and James plant at least 400 trees each year all over the farm

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FIP SCHEME

By Ian Campbell & Andrew Pollard

At the recent AAC meeting, the first since the new Council was elected; a number of changes to the way the FIP Scheme is to be assessed and evaluated were proposed.

The major change related to co-investment of money by the farm business. Up to £6,000 per farm is likely to be available next financial year under the scheme, but to qualify the farm business must be prepared to put in at least one pound for every three the FIG provides towards the overall cost of the funded project.

This change has been mentioned quite a bit already, and a number of farmers have been doing this anyway in the past of their own volition. It is very much in line with the original concept back when the PIP was initiated.

The other major change relates to evaluating the project. Up until now the ability to demonstrate a potential 3:1 return on the investment over ten years, along with the four main criteria has been main focus for evaluating FIP plans. In line with the concept of the farmer taking on some of the investment and therefore some of the risk, this restriction has been lifted. Under the new scheme the farmer has to have an approved business plan. If the proposed FIP project is required as a part of implementing that business plan, then it would be eligible for funding.

Don't be intimidated by the business plan. It will be the farm's business plan and will be a pretty basic one. The plan will centre on what the farm is going to produce, how, and what

are the things that need to change to be able to do this better. Obviously the business plan needs to be putting the farm into a better financial position down the track, but the 3:1 rule is no longer the key.

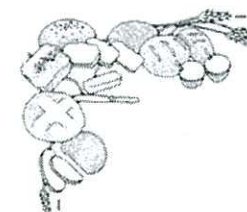
For example if the business plan includes a scheme to fatten lambs for the abattoir, then the project might be to put in oats one year, turnips the next, then sow a pasture in year three. Similarly if you set genetic goals for sheep which are better than the current flock the project might be to purchase and use some particular semen and so on.

The same general things will be funded as in the past, for example;

- Pasture improvement for defined strategically important needs.
- Fertilizer use to prolong the life of quality reseeds.
- Genetic improvement programs.
- Fencing or ditching to reduce stock losses.

Our next task is to establish a simple business plan template so that putting down a business plan will not be an onerous task. I am sure many people currently have a business plan on paper and everyone will have one in their heads, and we just need to document the essence of this - on one page is the challenge - so that it is easy to do - but meaningful.

We will be discussing the changes at the Saladero ram sale day, so if you are interested come along. As always we are happy to talk to you about this anytime and any place - give us a call or an email.



Falkland Islands Horticultural Society

Flower, Vegetable & Home Produce Show

Show opens at 2pm
Prize giving at 4pm.

Admission to show:
Adults - £1.00
OAPs & children: 50p

For more information contact:
Tim Miller - 21498 (evenings),
Nikki Buxton - 52051 or email - skippy@cwimail.fk

Please take exhibits to the Parish Hall between 6pm - 9pm on Friday 12th 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

Saturday, 13th March in the Parish Hall, Stanley



THANK YOU

TO THE 15 FARMS THAT HAVE REGISTERED SOME OR ALL OF THEIR CATTLE. YOU ARE HELPING YOUR MEAT INDUSTRY DEVELOP. WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE THE CATTLE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM IS ADVANCING AND PROTECTING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS' MEAT INDUSTRIES. THESE INDUSTRIES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE GROWTH AND LONGTERM STABILITY OF THE RURAL ECONOMY AND MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED. CONCISE HERD RECORDS ARE INVALUABLE FOR PROFITABLE HERD MANAGEMENT.

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SUPPLYING FIMCO WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO START DOUBLE TAGGING AND LISTING THIS YEARS' CALF DROP AND COMPILING A LIST OF THE REST OF YOUR MOB (AS AND WHEN YOU CAN) AND GET THEM REGISTERED.

EXISTING CATTLE THAT ARE NEVER GOING TO LEAVE THE FARM CAN BE REGISTERED WITH ONE EAR TAG ONLY (BUT TWO IS PREFERABLE FOR ACCURATE RECORD KEEPING IN THE CASE THAT THE TAG IS LOST).

THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION NEEDED FOR REGISTERING YOUR CATTLE IS THE TAG NUMBERS AND ANIMAL DESCRIPTION. EXACT DATE OF BIRTH AND DAM/SIRE INFORMATION IS HELPFUL FOR MANAGEMENT BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SARAH AT THE VETERINARY SECTION ON 27366 OR SBOWLES@DOA.GOV.FK

DONT DELAY, SORT OUT YOUR MOB TODAY!!

FAECAL EGG COUNTING SERVICE AT THE DOA

By Gordon Lennie

This is a free service for all farmers and all that we require is 10 random faecal samples from a particular mob of sheep.

Cattle samples can be done as well, but this needs to be from animals up to a maximum of 12 months of age.

The collected samples need to be kept refrigerated until they can be sent to the laboratory for testing. The cut-off time to send in samples during the week is Thursday afternoon (before 4.30pm).

To prepare the samples for testing in the laboratory involves breaking up the faeces in water/sieving and finally centrifuging.

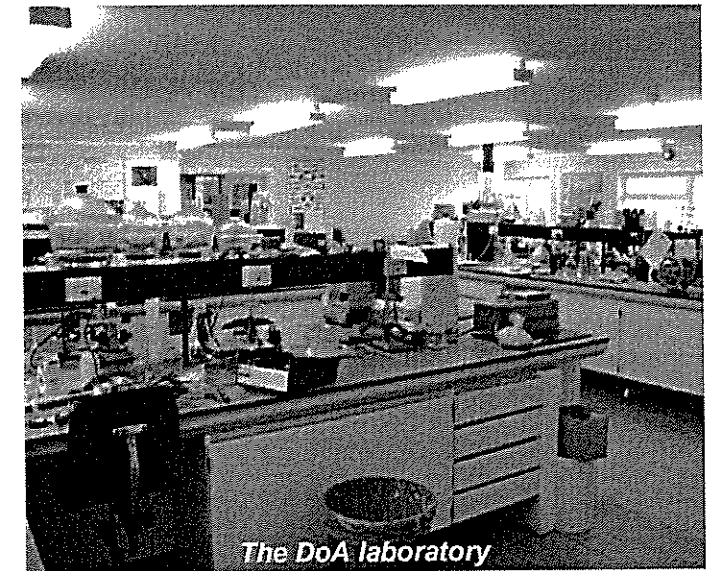
The final stage involves the addition of a saturated salt solution which cause the eggs to float. The floating eggs are then counting under the microscope in a special counting chamber (paracytometer).

Sample results are usually available within 24 hours of the DoA receiving the samples. The

results will include recommendations and detail any necessary follow-up testing.

If you require any collection kits for your farm please ring 27355 and we can arrange to mail these out to you immediately.

Kits can also be collected directly from the DOA laboratory or from the Vet's reception. Call us on 27355 or email glennie@doa.gov.fk for more information or to get a test kit sent out to you.



Public notice

FIG Environmental Studies Budget 2009/10 – Round Two

The Falkland Islands Government provides funding to help people in the Falkland Islands to conduct activities which benefit and enhance the environment. Anyone can apply for assistance from the 'Environmental Studies Budget', including owners and managers of land, non-government organisations and international scientists that conduct research and conservation activities in the Falkland Islands.

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 ESB has a formal application and decision making process. This is the second round of funding this financial year, with a small amount of money remaining for allocation.

The deadline for applications is Monday 15th March 2010. The application form can be obtained from the Environmental Planning Department. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the EPD Environmental Officer prior to submission and he can also help draft your application. Where possible, some level of co-funding or in-kind costs (e.g. labour, equipment) is desirable.

Please contact the Environmental Planning Department to obtain an information pack (28480, fwallace-nannig.planning@taxation.gov.fk).

Prince of Wales shows the way to lead wool back into the fashion fold

By Valerie Elliott, Countryside Editor

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the sweater along comes a man with a plan, in double-breasted wool.

The Prince of Wales is attempting to rebrand a material favoured by the nation's grandmothers — and Val Doonican — as a fashionable and eco-friendly fabric that consumers will choose for clothes and home furnishings. The scheme, to be launched tomorrow, aims to help sheep farmers by boosting the price of wool worldwide. In Britain the average price for a kilogram in 1997 was 93p. Last year it fell to 66p.

The Prince hopes to recreate enthusiasm for a product that during the Middle Ages was this country's most important trading commodity. The intention is to establish a new green label for woollen products and for shops to give a commitment to promote wool.

A wool week, backed by John Lewis and Marks & Spencer, is planned for September, just before London Fashion Week, when shoppers start to plan and buy their winter wardrobe.

Nicholas Coleridge, the managing director of Condé Nast publications, has the pivotal role of enlisting retailers, designers and manufacturers to the cause.

The Prince hopes to encourage a return to woollen carpets and rugs instead of wooden flooring, and for woollen clothes that last instead of the "fast fashion" trend for cheap, synthetic, throwaway garments that are being dumped in landfill sites. The project must also embrace Commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand for it to have any chance of success.

The value of British wool is particularly affected by prices in New Zealand, which are now at their lowest level for 50 years. Mr Coleridge said: "We want to make wool something desirable, so it will affect wool prices. The plan is to try and overturn some myths and to talk up the beauty of wool and the eco-benefits of wool, which lasts longer than synthetic materials and is fully bio-degradable. This way we hope to re-awaken interest in wool."

Top designers and labels such as Burberry, Jasper Conran, Paul Smith, Alice Temperley and

Savile Row tailors such as Gieves & Hawkes are already using wool. The key is to boost its use in the middle and value retail markets, he said. Part of the problem is that wool is often seen as bulky.

"The secret is to make wool look sleeker," he said. "It does not always have to be used in a great big Arran sweater. I wear woollen suits, woollen jumpers at the weekend and in this weather in the office."

"We must also destroy the myth about synthetic carpets being more fire-resistant than woollen ones. Nine out of ten out-of-town sales assistants will say that, but it's wrong. Wool is more fire-resistant."

Mr Coleridge, who already helps with the Prince's Trust charity, is anxious to keep farmers in business, to keep sheep in the hills and help to preserve the landscape. He can see three different flocks from his Worcestershire country home.

The Prince identified the need to boost wool prices two years ago after complaints from upland farmers and tenants of his Duchy of Cornwall estate. He was aware of the low prices paid for wool from his own organic flock of just under 200 Lleyn and Hebridean sheep.

Farmers once expected their annual wool cheque to cover the cost of feeding a sheep for a year, nowadays about £3 to £4. But today shearing and removing the fleece costs from £1 to £1.40. With the average fleece weighing 1.5kg, farmers last year made just under £1 a fleece and no profit from wool.

The Prince turned to John Thorley, director of the Pastoral Alliance and former chief executive of the National Sheep Association, to plan a comeback for wool, just as he has led a renaissance for mutton.

A year ago key figures from the British Wool Marketing Board, farmers, manufacturers and fashion experts like Mr Coleridge met at Clarence House to plot a revival, called simply The Wool Project.

Sir Stuart Rose, chairman of Marks & Spencer, confirmed his support, saying it was an important step in supporting his farmer suppliers and that he hoped to offer more wool products in stores.

Andy Street, managing director of John Lewis, said two thirds of the company's carpet sales are British wool products and he hopes to develop more woollen goods.



Val Doonican famously favoured wool sweaters when performing

Why we should all cosy up to the 'new' wool

By Luke Leitch

Hats off to the Prince of Wales for launching this crusade to rehabilitate wool. Not only is it a noble cause, it is an achievable one. There's absolutely no reason why wool can't become the porridge of the fabric world — a recently rediscovered, long-overlooked staple that becomes suddenly chic. For centuries, wool was our raiment of choice. As well as being warm, however, it was also heavy, prickly, and bulky. So as alternatives became available we rushed to wear them.

Now, though, milling techniques mean that wool can be the equal of almost any rival material. On Savile Row wool has never not been the material of choice. Italian firms such as Loro Piana and Ermenegildo Zegna have long worked alongside the best wool producers to refine the product. The softest, supplest merino has a micron measurement almost as low as vicuna or cashmere. Wool can be woven to be as light and breathable as almost any cotton or silk. And it can be treated to be rendered as water-resistant and ski-slope-suitable as the swankiest of trademarked artificial materials.

Ethically, wool has everything going for it. Mulesing — the southern hemisphere practice of surgically removing skin on the sheep's buttocks to protect from flystrike — is being phased out. And sheep are hardy grazers perfect for otherwise uncultivated land. Compared with cotton (iffy working rights in central Asia, pesticide pollution) cashmere (desertification in China, water pollution) and synthetics (based on fossil fuels), wool has the moral highground.



M&S Autograph Merino Wool Blend Tights. The ultimate in luxury, these merino wool tights are part of our exclusive Autograph collection. Designer style and quality at high street prices

CASE STUDY

Farmer changes to whiter Lleyn sheep to get better price for wool

Most sheep farmers rear for meat, but Malcolm Corbett, 58, who keeps a flock of 750 in the Redesdale valley near Otterburn, Northumberland, is also keen to get the best possible price for his wool.

He has therefore changed the breed of sheep he keeps from the traditional Scottish Black-face that is popular in the uplands to a white-faced, white-fleeced breed from the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales.

The whitest wools achieve the highest prices because they can be dyed, whereas the black and grey fleeces from hardy hill sheep are coarse and too dark to dye, so fetch very low prices.

Despite his enthusiasm for the Lleyns, his last cheque was just £600, £1 for each fleece, while the average cost of shearing a sheep can be as much as £1.40.

"It is not a vast sum, but I can tell you that it is far higher than many farmers," he said. "I have a friend who keeps Herdwick and Swaledale sheep and he got about 33p a fleece, a cheque of £300 for 1,000 fleeces. There are some with very hardy breeds who get as little as 20p a fleece." He blamed much of the problem on our "throwaway society" and the fashion for buying cheap clothes.

"My father had two woollen suits from Otterburn Mill and they were the only two he had in 25 years. Wool lasts, but these days youngsters don't buy clothes to last.

"Prince Charles is a great traditionalist and has generated a renaissance in the market for mutton. Let's hope he can do the same and raise the profile of wool."



Rural Business Association Sheep Show 2010

to be held on the 10th of April, hosted by Fitzroy Farm

List of Classes

Class 1, mature ram over 24 months of age .

Class 2, shearling ram over 12 & less than 24 months of age

Class 3, ram hogget less than 12 months of age

Class 4, mature ewe over 24 months of age

Class 5, shearling ewe over 12 months & under 24 months of age

Class 6, ewe hogget under 12 months of age

Class 7, pen of three flock hogget's (male or female) under 12 months of age

Class 8, pen of three flock shearlings (male or female) over 12 & under 24 months of age

Class 9, ram of any age suitable for producing prime lamb

Class 10, ewe of any age suitable of producing prime lambs.

Class 11, pen of three weaner prime lambs

Class 12, under sixteen open entry

Class 13, Dual Purpose Ram

Class 14, Dual Purpose Ewe

All entries should be sent to SeAled Pr, Brandon Road, Stanley no later than 6th of April but before this date would be appreciated.

Further details on stalls will follow, but should anyone want to have a stall at the sheep show please call the RBA office on 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk.

Dates for the Diary



- 10th March Dog Dosing (Droncit)
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
- 13th March Horticultural Show - 2pm in the Parish Hall. Entries to be received on the Friday evening. Contact Sian on 21977, Nikki Buxton on 52051 or email skippy@cwimail.fk for more details.
- 17th March Ram & Cattle Sale - Saladero, telephone 27355 or email lellis@doa.gov.fk for more details
- 2nd April Good Friday (Public Holiday)
- 4th April Easter Sunday
- 10th April RBA Sheep Show - Fitzroy
- 22nd April Dog Dosing (Droncit)
Please remember to contact the Veterinary Service on telephone no 27366, fax no

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

From the BBC Good Food Website

easy chicken tangine

ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
8 skinless boneless chicken thighs , halved if large
1 onion , chopped
2 tsp grated fresh root ginger
pinch saffron or tumeric
1 tbsp honey
400g carrots , cut into sticks
small bunch parsley , roughly chopped
lemon wedges, to serve

method

Heat the oil in a large, wide pan with a lid, add the chicken, then fry quickly until lightly coloured. Add the onion and ginger, then fry for a further 2 mins. Add 150ml water, the saffron, honey and carrots, season, then stir well. Bring to the boil, cover tightly, then simmer for 30 mins until the chicken is tender. Uncover and increase the heat for about 5 mins to reduce the sauce a little. Sprinkle with parsley and serve with lemon wedges for squeezing over.



tip: chicken breasts

You can make this dish using 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts instead of thighs. Simply cut them in half and reduce the simmering time to 15 mins.

steamed rhubarb pudding

ingredients

350g fresh rhubarb , cut into 4cm lengths
200g caster sugar
1 tsp ground ginger
125g unsalted butter
few drops natural vanilla extract
2.5 cm medium eggs , beaten
175g self-raising flour

method

Cook the rhubarb with 75g/2½oz of the sugar and the ginger over a gentle heat for 2-3 mins until just starting to soften. Remove from heat. Grease a 900ml pudding basin. Put butter and remaining sugar in a bowl and cream together. Stir in vanilla extract, then beat in eggs, a little at a time. Sift in flour and carefully fold into the mixture. Spoon rhubarb into the bottom of the basin, then spoon the sponge mixture on top and level off surface. Butter a piece of greaseproof paper slightly bigger than the top of the pudding basin. Make a pleat in the centre and secure over the top of basin. Repeat with a piece of foil, then secure the whole thing with string. Place in a pan half filled with simmering water. Cover and cook for 1½ hrs, checking regularly that the pan does not boil dry. Remove cover, invert the pudding onto a plate, then carefully lift off the pudding basin.



PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

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

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.

Optical Illusion



Can you spot the dog in this picture?

Dingbat Brain Games

PIPE

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

DOOR

Flex your brain
Free your mind
Think laterally

Riddle Corner

Riddle One

Feed me and I Live
Give me Drink and I Die

What Am I?

Riddle Two

What comes next in this sequence?

0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21...

Bonus point - What is the name of this sequence?

February Solutions

Riddle Corner - Isabel

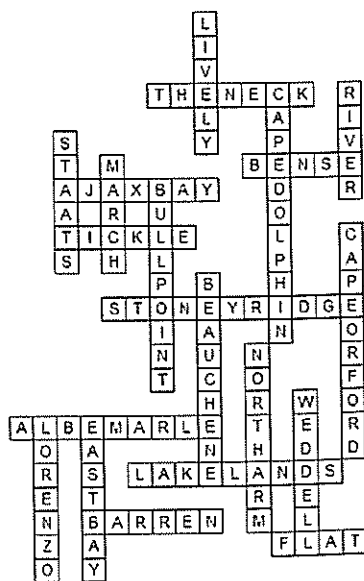
Y
L
L
E
B

Belly up

C C C C C

Middle C

Geography Crossword



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sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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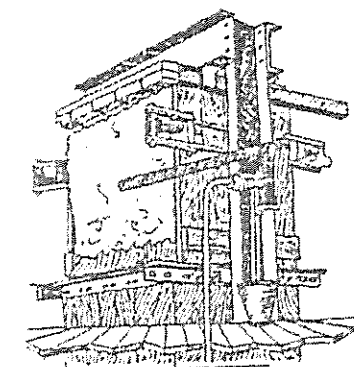
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Plus all the usual features and more!



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EDITORIAL

Having spent last week visiting farms on the West and being involved with the 15 people who attended the wool classing workshop at Fox Bay, I was pleased to observe that with recent warmer weather grass is still growing and most farmers are confident their ewes will be joined in better condition than they have for some time. So hopefully we will see considerably better lambing percentages and better weather than we did last spring-wouldn't be hard.

Ian Campbell has written a thought provoking article that encapsulates the issues involved in the future of farming and for that matter the future camp and the Falkland Islands' economy.

Tony Mills has encapsulated in his article the key points that farmers made during the forum on the future direction of the Polwarth National Stud Flock and the SAMM, Dohne and Afrino joint venture ram breeding flocks. If you have further comments on this important issue let Tony know on 27355.

Ariane Goss, our work experience student who spent a week working with the veterinary team and other staff, wrote a diary of her weeks experience highlighting the diversity of roles the DoA is involved with. We wish her well in her future studies.

Ian summarised the key issues demonstrated and discussed during the 2 well attended wool classing workshops held recently at Race Point and Coast Ridge woolsheds in his second article. Our thanks to John and Michelle Jones, Nigel, Shirley and Keith Knight and Tex and Mandy Alazia for providing the venues and excellent tucker.

Steve Pointing has produced an article on the most recent reindeer roundup which he described as both an enjoyable and frustrating experience and hopefully the experience gained will ensure the next one is 100 per cent successful.

Siân Ferguson, with some help from Lucy Ellis, produced the excellent report on the highly successful ram and cattle sale at Saladero where all but 12 of the 167 rams offered were sold.

Thank you to Jan Cheek MLA for her excellent article on the visit of the MLA's to Hope Cottage. Also for her clever pun in the article on 'much food for thought' as much of the time was spent looking at the large investment the Phillips family have made into producing lamb, sheep and cattle feed which will be converted into human food for local and export consumption after processing at FIMCo.

Shona Strange has contributed an article about how to collect insects, spiders and bugs so they can be identified and an assessment made on their potential to become invasive in the Falklands.

Powersense and the FIDC have contributed practical notes on charging batteries, equalising them and managing inverters. A useful guide to those with problems in these areas.

Enjoy your read and remember if you require further information on a subject, have comments to make or wish to talk to someone about agricultural, veterinary or biosecurity issues we are only a phone call away on 27355.

Mr 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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THE FUTURE OF FARMING IN THE FALKLANDS

By Ian Campbell

The current discussion about the future of FIMCo goes a lot further than whether or not we want an export abattoir - it goes straight to the heart of whether we want an agricultural sector in the Falklands.

Farming in the Falklands is constrained by a number of factors. The soils are intrinsically poor and the climate makes farming difficult. To make it harder still, the costs of importing essential requirements and of exporting produce are high, so inputs need to be very effective, and the produce needs to be of high value.

With true spirit, the country has developed a wool industry that they are rightly both proud of and good at. But let's not be too romantic about that. Over twenty years ago the price of wool fell (in actual pounds) and has now eventually got back to where it was then; thanks only to a record low exchange rate for the pound. Twenty years of inflation for everything else you buy has done nothing to improve the price of wool. What's more the low pound is going to make imports even more expensive.

In 2008, the Falklands exported about 1.5 million kg of greasy wool for an average price of £1.77/kg. Back in 1988 the price was similar to now and we exported 2.6 million kg. Eighty percent of the income from most farms comes from selling wool. As people tend to say these days - go figure! The gross income from many farms leaves very little in wages for the farmer once all the essential farm costs are met.

I doubt the farmers in 1988 were living a life of luxury. Even if they were, the twenty years of frugally cutting as many expenses as they can, and then reducing their own labour inputs as they are forced to go off the farm to earn a quid, are starting to impact deeply on the whole system. The infrastructure is in need of some essential maintenance and there is a big need for some long postponed capital expenditure.

Diversification providing another farm income stream, to supplement the income from wool, is essential. So many people have dreamed of different possibilities, some schemes have even become notorious. Grazing animals is the only logical farming system and meat of some description, (fast becoming a luxury item in many countries) is the only solution after wool. What's more we already have an infrastructure of dual purpose (ie meat and wool) sheep in place.

The number of lambs needed by the FIMCo business plan needs to grow considerably and this was discussed in the Wool Press previously (November 2009). This is an ambitious projection, of that there is no doubt it is possible; but it will take a concerted effort.



A number of things need to change. Ewe flock increases need to be achieved but this has to be driven by better lambing performances and lower mortality rates in young sheep. The key to this is improved nutrition. We cannot improve pastures over the entire Falklands, but if farms have an area (less than 1% of their land is enough) that is fertilized and sown to pasture or crop, the impact of this when used strategically in times of need would be enough.

Lambs need to be managed, moved around, treated if they get wormy, and nurtured into the weight category needed by FIMCo. It does take time, effort and commitment, but some have already decided it is worth it and are doing it successfully.

Government needs to invest handsomely if it is to happen and herein lies the sting. If government invests, they will expect the farmers to get the required number of stock to FIMCo – it would be their side of the bargain. If Government decides that this is indeed the way forward for agriculture, how will the farming community react to this?

The farmers are quite rightly running their own independent business with their own business objectives. From where I sit I see this as an opportunity for farmers to be able to expand their farming business and diversify by selling meat to FIMCo; but it is what the farmers want that counts.

If Government is not convinced the farming community is right behind them on this, they will not, and should not, invest the money.

There are two possible outcomes nobody wants to see at the end of this. A state of the art abattoir with no stock to process, or an abattoir no longer able to process the number of stock available.

There are also two possible outcomes where most people might want to see one or the other. A domestic abattoir, providing economically priced, quality meat to the people of Stanley, or a profitable export abattoir selling premium Falkland Island lamb and beef to the discerning world market. There is apparently and unfortunately no half way point.

The first scenario does not do anything for agriculture (including FIMCo and the Falkland Islands economy), it can be achieved by a few people close to an abattoir running a few sheep and cattle and the rest of camp just becomes a part time wool farm. The second will need to be driven by an active and motivated agricultural sector and all of camp - East, West and Islands will need to be actively involved.

There are some big stakes involved here, but as I said at the beginning it is not just the future of FIMCo we are talking about. It is the future of farming.

Rural Business Association Sheep Show hosted by Fitzroy Farm, 10th April

All sheep entering the show will **not** need movement tags as they are all issued a number and tagged by the RBA on arrival. All paperwork will also be dealt with by the RBA and handed into the veterinary service following the show. All we ask is that all sheep tags placed on sheep by the RBA stay on until their return to the farms.

All entries must be emailed, faxed or posted to the RBA office no later than the 6th of April.

All entries to the show should be penned no later than 10.30 am. Judging will take place between 11am and 1.30pm.

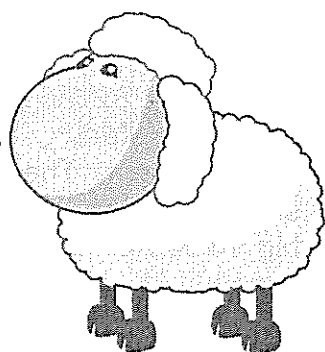
There will be stands at the show with cakes, cards, hand crafted wood, veggies, artwork and much more on sale.

Michele's cafe will also be there serving hot food and for over 18's there will be a bar run by Dennis.

Prize giving will commence at 2.30pm with His Excellency the Governor presenting the prizes.

For all those of you who won cups and shields last year could you please bring them along to the show.

We look forward to seeing you all there.



FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE KEY SEEDSTOCK SUPPLIES IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

By Tony Mills

The recent ram and cattle sale provided the industry with a good opportunity to discuss the future direction of the Polwarth National Stud Flock (NSF) along with the breeding joint ventures based on Dohne, SAMM and Afrino genetics. This sale marked the largest offering of rams since the establishment of the NSF and the joint ventures so it was also a good test and indication of the demand for the current seedstock available.

When considering both price and clearance level, a quick glance over the board suggested that there still remains a high level of demand for the NSF rams. Within the new breeds there was good demand for the SAMM rams, however there was a lower level of clearance for the Dohne and Afrino rams. I think the market signal for the Afrino rams was pretty clear but a little grey for the Dohne rams.

With the sale over, the discussion centred on what should be the future direction of the breeds on offer in the Falkland Islands. The main issue with the Polwarth flock is the narrow pool of material available to invigorate and improve productivity in the key financial traits (i.e. fleece weight, fibre diameter and bodyweight). Overall I believe it was agreed that a change was required and that the type of genetics that should be considered should still be predominately selected for wool production with an ability to produce a reasonable carcass either as a lamb or mature sheep. The other important considerations should be ease of care (e.g. wrinkle free), fertility and survivability. It would seem that the most likely candidates are Merinos bred in a similar environment, maybe from New Zealand or Australia, animals that are known to perform in a similar environment.

There was a positive vote of confidence in the SAMM's as most producers saw them as a good cross breed option with the result being an animal that will produce reasonable wool, a good carcass and assist in improving fertility. It was impressive that the amount of wool on

the purebreds was a concern and that improving this should still be a focus in selection. Overall the group present thought that the sale could have handled a higher number of SAMM rams.

The future role of the Dohne was not as clear cut. There were 35 rams on offer with 51% being cleared during the main sale. Since the sale, a further 11 have sold. It would appear that some people still see the Dohne as having a role in a cross breeding programme which will aid the improvement of wool and carcass quality, however there are concerns over their ability to survive in this climate. It would seem some further work needs to be done so the jury is still out on this one.

The future of the Afrino was relatively clear in that there was a very low level of demand for this type of animal. The clearance result was slightly clouded by the fact the rams on offer were mainly horned as this is a trait heavily selected against here. Also our ability to source good genetics at a reasonable price is constrained as at this point to expand the breed, an embryo transfer programme is required. If the demand is not there then it wouldn't seem appropriate to continue to invest heavily in lifting the numbers.

I don't think that the discussion on the mix of breeds is completely closed and would appreciate and welcome feedback. It is an important decision that needs to have open and robust discussion to arrive at an appropriate conclusion. While you are considering your response to me I would like to reiterate the following point that I have heard from within the farming community and this is that the right **type** of animal is what we are after and focusing selection on the key traits that ensure our profitability is the way forward. It also should be remembered that generalising about a breed is a distraction because the reality is that there is as much variation **between** breeds as there is **within** breeds. This is something you see everyday with your own animals given there is always a lead and a tail in a mob.

WORK EXPERIENCE DIARY

During the week of 22nd to 26th March, the Veterinary Service hosted work experience student Ariane Goss. Throughout the week, Ariane kept a diary of her week to share with Wool Press readers.

"For my work experience week I applied for the Veterinary Department where I was interviewed and was offered the placement.

I was born in the Falkland Islands, into a family which grew up in camp, lived and worked on farms such as Goose Green and North Arm. When I was younger I always liked animals ever since then, I have always been interested in animals and because of that and a like for farming, I would go and help with lambmarking etc. When I leave school I would like to go onto further education to become a veterinary nurse.

There are many reasons why I chose the Veterinary Department, the main reason is because I like animals and am interested in

animals for a career. It would also allow me to see what being a vet is really like and to gain experience. This work experience week also allowed me to see what I have to do to become a veterinary nurse.

This week has been really varied and I was able to see and experience veterinary procedures. On Monday I observed consultations and done some data entry into the computer. On Tuesday I observed a couple of surgical procedures as well taking animals down to the KEMH to be x-rayed (which was definitely a different experience). On Wednesday I went out to Saladero to class 2008 drop ewes. On Thursday I observed a couple more surgical procedures. Finally on Friday I went on a fishing vessel with a vet to check freezer temperatures and the cleanliness and hygiene onboard the vessel.

I have really enjoyed my work experience week at the Veterinary Department. Thank you to everyone who made me feel welcome."

Ditching Opportunities

By Mel Lloyd.

I have purchased a 10 ton digger and lorry to transport it on from job to job.

It is my intention to start ditching and other work on East Falkland during the winter so I can iron out any teething problems while close to my garage. Then about September time move to the West and make myself available for hire for any excavating work, ditching, save sheep water holes, tidying up rubbish dumps, trenching etc.

Therefore when submitting your next FIP plans you may wish to consider applying for ditching being done in your Hog and Ewe camps. My intended rate will be £18 per hour plus cost of fuel used. From previous experience ditching I would expect a work rate of approx 60/75 metres on one ditch side per hour, everything depending on ditch depth and hardness of ground beside it etc.

I will have three buckets, a wide one for ditching, one for general excavating and one narrow for any trench work.

For more info please call me on 51533 evenings.

WOOL CLASSING UPDATE

By Ian Campbell

Last month the Department held two wool classing updates. Both the East day at Race Point, and the West day at Coast Ridge were well attended.

Discussion at both venues was interesting and informative, and some of the things discussed are listed below.

The Role of a Classer

The wool classer works for the industry as a whole in assuring quality, and for the farm business in terms of marketing a wool clip to best value. The two roles fit well together.

Contamination and QFW

Some interesting sources of wool clip contamination were reported upon. It is salient to think that wool competitors (synthetics) have no similar problems and it remains to be ever diligent in



Contamination found in the NSF wool during skirting

keeping that competitive edge to a minimum.

QFW remains the standard to which all clip preparation should attain and has been criticised because it does not pay a specific dividend. Keith Knight summed it up perfectly saying that it has an important role in demonstrating to wool buyers that we in the Falklands are serious about addressing this whole of industry problem. If wool buyers and processors have no confidence in an industry they will go elsewhere.

Crutching sheep for wool quality preparation



Farmers examining the different lines used at Saladero

was also discussed and Tex Alazia said that while there are difficulties in perhaps justifying an extra expense on wool quality alone, this is irrelevant. The significant improvement he has demonstrated in reducing lamb mortality with the cleaner area around the udder was enough in his eyes to clearly recommend the procedure.

Skirting and Line development

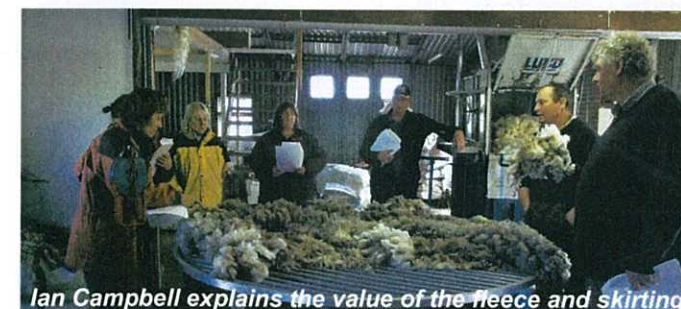
Light skirting was agreed by all to maximise returns, however it was also stressed that if things needed to come off the fleece wool- especially cotted necks and stain, then it was essential it did. Removing fribby bits with fingers rather than grabbing handfuls was seen as important. In the NSF example used, the price of pieces was downgraded by about £1/kg compared to fleece wool.

The number of main fleece lines and the difference between them was discussed. More lines means more selling costs, but it also means more uniform lines and more accurately defined lines. It was suggested these are some of the issues you should discuss with your broker before shearing to know what the current market signals are about these issues.

The Paperwork

Correct bale branding, and sending clear written specifications to the broker and wool testers about lines and descriptions was where we finished the days. Duplicate numbered or ambiguously numbered bales are a problem which should be resolved on farm rather than FIPASS and can be picked up during that process.

Special thanks to John and Michelle, Nigel and Shirley, and Tex and Mandy for providing the excellent venues and lunches.



Ian Campbell explains the value of the fleece and skirting

REINDEER ROUND UP – FEBRUARY 2010

By Steve Pointing

In the middle of February 2010 a further attempt was made to have a complete muster of the reindeer herd situated at Albemarle. A similar attempt was made in January 2009 and you can read about it in the March 2009 WP edition (vol 230). After that unsuccessful attempt some recommendations were made as to what needed to be done in the intervening year in order to increase the chances of subsequent round ups being 100% successful.

Well many changes were made in the intervening year but I am sorry to have to report that the 2010 round up was still not 100% successful although great progress has been made from the year before.

One of the most important recommendations made in 2009 was that the reindeer needed to be visited on a much more regular basis so that they became accustomed to the presence of human beings. As many of you will know the management of Albemarle Station changed in the course of 2009 with Gonz Hobman and Helen Wallace taking over the running of the farm from August onwards.

Unsurprisingly for new tenants the situation with the reindeer herd was not their top priority – they needed to make an income from the sheep and that is where their effort was directed. Despite having limited time available Gonz and Helen did, however, manage to make some alterations to the Shanty paddock and build a new mangera in the Kit's Camp paddock to help direct the reindeer into the newly constructed gateway in the northern fence line of the Shanty paddock.

You will see from one of the photographs in this piece that during fence construction some of the reindeer came up to Gonz and were happy to accept feed from a bucket. So a great deal of progress has been made in this area and if more time had been available to Helen and Gonz I believe that the reindeer could have become even tamer during the year. Gonz tells me that he should have more time available in 2010 and he seems keen to

spend some of this with the reindeer herd.

On arrival at Albemarle Timmy Bonner and I headed straight out to the Three Crowns/Kit's camp area of Albemarle and in the course of the next 2 or 3 hours we managed to round up the largest group of reindeer and entice them in to the Shanty paddock and close the gate behind them. What a start – we really thought that the Gods were smiling on us. We settled down for the night in the Shanty thinking all we'd need to do in the morning was to get the reindeer into our newly constructed mobile cattle pens.

Wednesday morning dawned bright and clear. We heard Gonz arriving on his quad bike and he then did a sweep of the shanty paddock only to report that there was no sign of any reindeer and that they had broken out through a corner of the fence at the seaward end of the paddock. Not a good start to the day!

Much of the rest of that day was spent trying to get the reindeer back into the Shanty paddock and we finally succeeded again in the early afternoon. We then constructed our mobile yards at a point in the paddock where we thought we had the best chance of getting the reindeer to run into them. About three hours later after circumnavigating the perimeter of the paddock several times we eventually managed to get 13 out of the 40 reindeer in the group into our mobile yards. It wasn't enough to do all the things we'd have liked to do with them (castrations, ear tagging etc) but it was a big step forward from the previous year.

We were, however, able to observe the reindeer at very close quarters and even lay hands on a few of them. Generally the reindeer are in excellent condition with this year's fawns already about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of their mothers. We were visiting in February – 4 to 6 weeks before the start of the mating season. At this time the reindeer had formed themselves into groups. The largest group consisted of 40 animals and this is the one that we managed to get into the Shanty paddock. It consisted of the adult females and their young and yearling males and females.

We also noticed a further 2 groups of bachelor males – one group of 5 large stags and another of 6 slightly smaller, younger stags. Without observing them on a more regular basis I do not know how these groups realign themselves in the breeding season and for how long the males may join the main group. This would be useful information to collect and would probably be best done by the farm manager who is on the property all year round.

During our visit we noticed that the reindeer spent quite a lot of time happily grazing the diddle dee and we also checked to see if there was any damage to the large stands of tussac in this area. I am pleased to be able to report that the established tussac appears to be in rude health and that new young plants were appearing above the ground all around the established stands. At this point in time and with the current stocking density (max. 60 reindeer in 600 hectares of grazing) the tussac does not appear to be suffering at all.

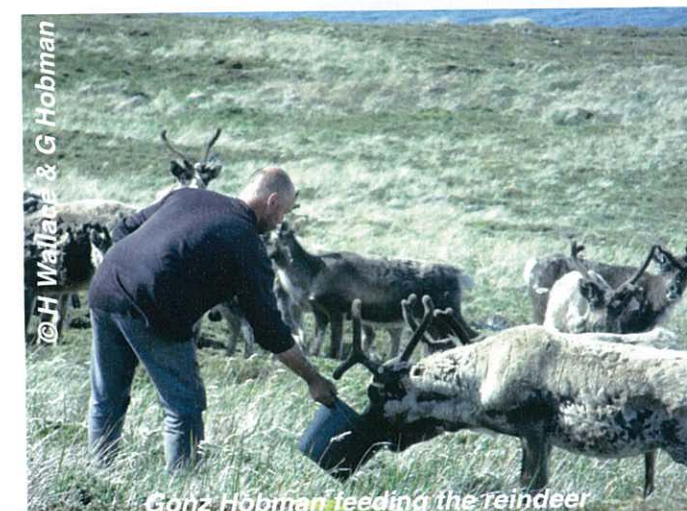
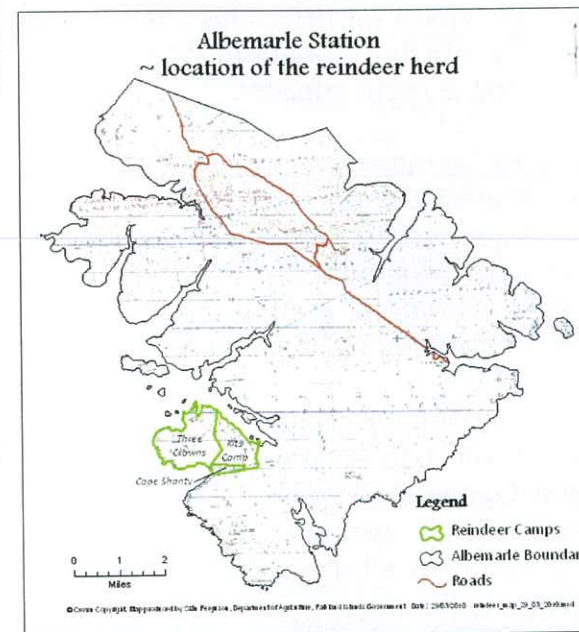
The next attempt

We came very close this year to getting all the reindeer in the main group into a temporarily erected set of yards. We think we could do even better at our next attempt if the following steps are taken over the succeeding months:

1. For Gonz and Helen to visit the reindeer on a much more regular basis and offer them some feed. There is no doubt that the reindeer are easier to handle when they are used to the presence of human beings rather than seeing them just once a year.
2. To keep open the gates into the Shanty paddock so that this area becomes part of their normal grazing territory.
3. At some stage to construct a holding facility at or near the gateway into the Shanty paddock so that the reindeer can move through this area and not be frightened by the construction when the next round up attempt is made. This is an obvious problem with temporarily erected mobile yards.
4. To divide the Shanty paddock in two with each area being about 12

hectares. This would mean that the reindeer were contained in a smaller area and should make the final rounding up process a bit easier.

It was both an enjoyable and frustrating experience but I am very hopeful that our next attempt will be even more successful than our most recent one.



REPORT ON THE NSF RAM & NBH CATTLE SALE

By Siân Ferguson

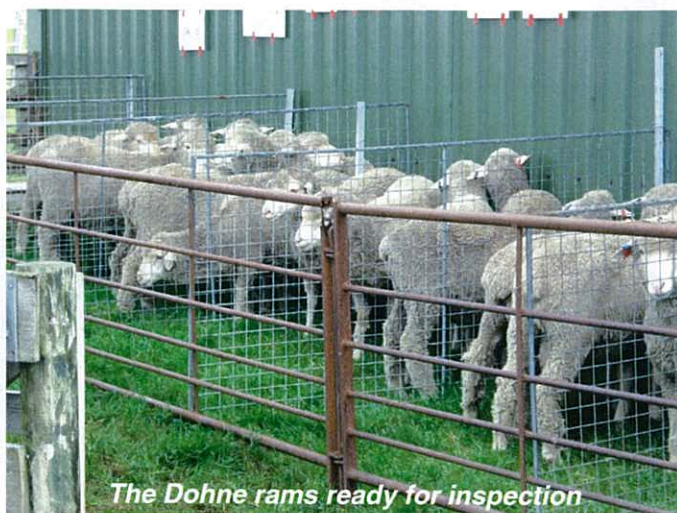
Despite being postponed by one day due to the weather forecast prohibiting the ferry to transport West farmers, the annual Ram & Cattle Sale held at Saladero on Thursday 18th March was a great success.

Saladero attracted around 60 farmers and other interested persons, who all had the chance to view the Polwarth, SAMM, Dohne Merino and Afrino rams being offered for sale, along with some of the bulls and heifers from the National Beef Herd.

When arriving at Saladero, everyone was greeted with barbecue smells, kindly provided by the Galley Café, who kept the crowds full all day. There was then the opportunity to closely inspect all the animals offered up for sale during the day.

Director of Natural Resources, John Barton then welcomed the crowds and opened the sale, before the Helmsman Auction commenced. All the animals were offered for sale simultaneously and bidders remained anonymous by placing their bids on a piece of paper and if the bid was higher than that already offered on the sale board, this was then the successful bid at that time.

The competition between farms this year was very fierce, with the bidding taking place for over two hours, before auctioneer Tony Mills



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finally ending the sale when no bids had been received for two minutes.

There were a total of 96 Polwarth shearing rams offered for sale, 76 were sold, with the highest bid reaching £280. There were 15 Polwarth mature rams available and 13 were sold, with the maximum sale price reaching £350. All of the 11 SAMM rams offered for sale were sold at the auction, with the highest bid reaching £190. There were 35 Dohnes for sale and 29 were sold, with the maximum price reaching £65. A total of 7 Afrinos were available for sale and 2 were sold through the auction, both at the reserve price of £50.

There was 1 Polwarth x Dohne shearing ram available and 2 Polwarth shearing rams with no family or pedigree information and the highest bidding price on this lot was £55.



AT SALADERO ON 18TH MARCH 2010

There were 2 mature Angus bulls available for sale, neither of which were sold. There were also 2 young bulls available and 1 was sold at £300. There were 4 heifers put up for auction and these were all sold through the auction, with the highest bid reaching £310.

After the sale, 22 rams (Polwarth shearlings and matures) were allocated to farms through the Farm Improvement Programme. Eleven rams remained unsold (Dohne and Afrinos).

After the sale, the DoA led a discussion on the future of the Polwarth National Stud Flock. Due to a worldwide shortage of Polwarth genetics, the future of pure-bred genetics is uncertain as there is the risk of in-breeding if we are restricted to only using bloodlines already established in the Falkland Islands.

There is the option of introducing bloodlines from sheep of a different breed but similar to the Polwarth to create a composite breed and some farmers suggested a Merino type may be suitable.

The DoA would be interested to hear from anyone who has a view on what direction the Polwarths should take, so please contact us.

We would like to thank everyone who helped out to make the Ram & Cattle Sale a success, especially to Goose Green for the loan of gates, Workboat Services for getting the people from the West to the sale and home



again and Trudi, James, Beverley and Amy for the barbecue.

Finally, thank you to everyone who turned up and we hope to see you again next year.



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MLA VISIT TO HOPE COTTAGE

By Jan Cheek
Member of the Legislative Assembly

In early March Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to view Hope Cottage land improvements with some members of the Department of Natural Resources. Glenn Ross, Sharon Halford, Emma Edwards and I were able to take up the offer. During our tour we saw improved areas and feed crops for strip grazing. We saw large areas of healthy looking pasture, evidence of many years' hard work and investment by Terrence Phillips and his family. Paul Phillips took time to describe some recent trials and future plans to further develop the land. This has particular

relevance to finishing animals for the abattoir as well as improving the condition of breeding animals.

The contrast between improved and unimproved areas was a striking demonstration of what can be done and made to work for a particular farm with a huge amount of commitment by the farmers. Some issues, for example the high cost of fertilizers, remain unresolved but it seems that solutions are being explored.

All the MLAs came away with much food for thought and a broader understanding of some of the issues involved.

Left - Paul Phillips with MLA's Emma Edwards, Glenn Ross and Sharon Halford, along with Mac McArthur of the DoA

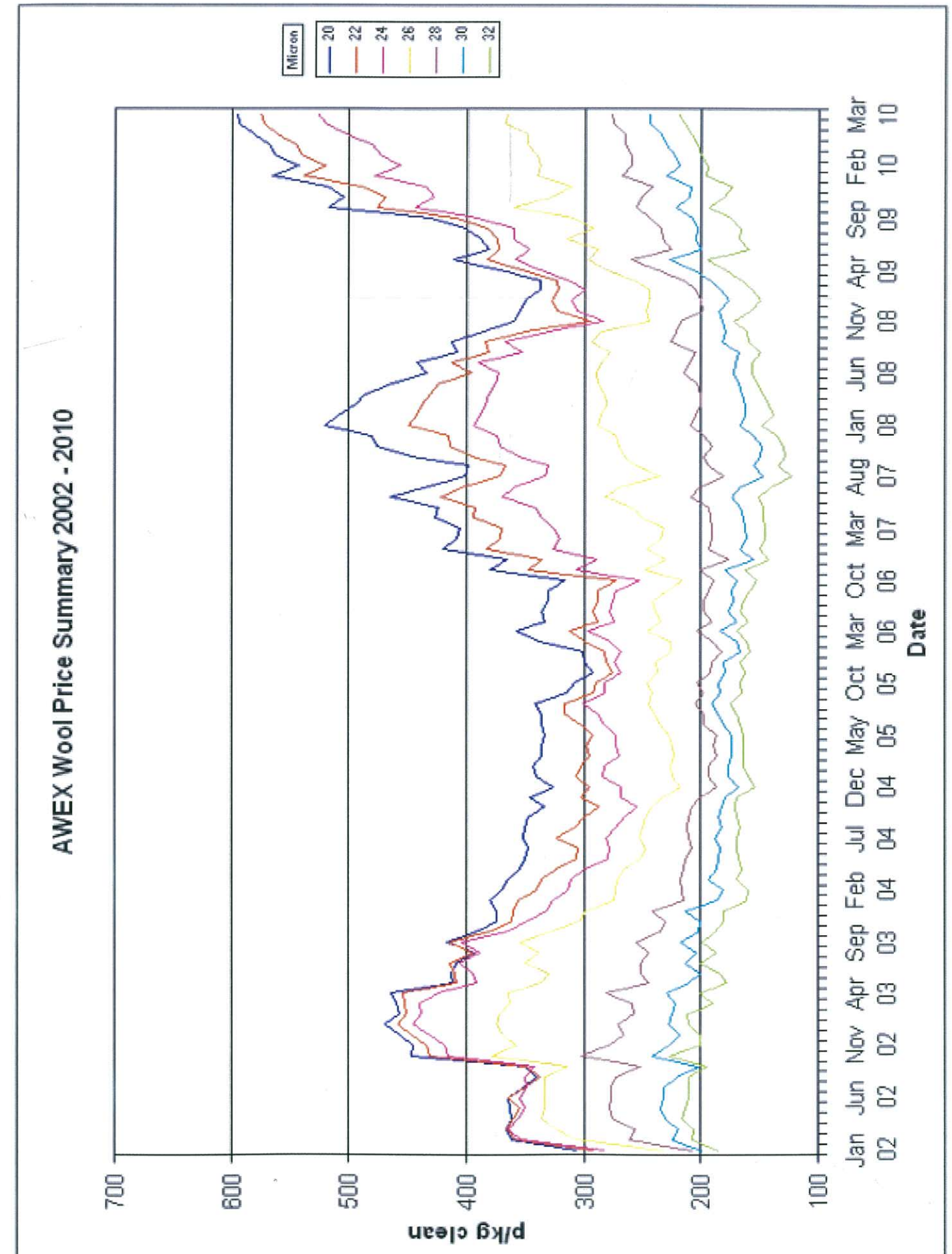


Right & Below - Paul Phillips shows the MLA's, members of the DoA and fellow farmers around his improved pasture at Hope Cottage



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



ALIENS or INVASIVES

IF YOU SEE
ANYTHING
UNUSUAL

PLEASE

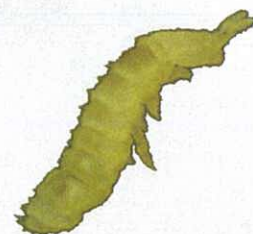
DO NOT DESTROY

BUT

GENTLY PLACE INTO
A CLEAN CONTAINER
AND

BRING TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOSECURITY SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



SEEN ANYTHING UNUSUAL LATELY?

By Shona Strange

The Department of Agriculture would like to identify as many unknown species of insects, spiders and bugs in an attempt to establish those which might become invasive.

Therefore if you see anything unusual or anything that you are not sure about, the DoA would be very grateful if you would please collect a small sample of specimen, before destroying the remainder. You can do this by following the steps below.

How to collect a specimen for analysis at the DoA

Firstly, obtain a suitable clean container with a lid (the DoA can provide containers of various sizes).

Gently place the specimen into the container, taking care not to damage delicate body parts, particularly the wings, legs and antennae. A dampened fine artists paintbrush, a sheet of paper or thin cardboard or a small pair of tweezers may be useful for moving the specimen.

Make a few small holes in the lid of the container to allow the specimen to breath.

Label the container with the following details:

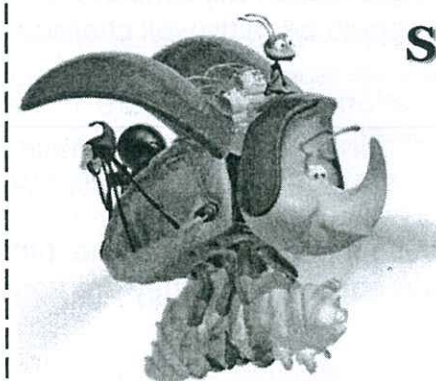
- Your name, address and contact details
- The date and location the specimen was found
- The numbers and frequency of the specimen sighted
- If there is any damage being caused by the specimen
- Any other relevant details

Deliver the specimen to the Biosecurity Section of the Department of Agriculture. We are located in Stanley on the South side of the Bypass Road, West of the Stanley Services fuel station.

We will then attempt to identify the specimen, but the identification process may take some time as we may need to photograph and preserve the specimen and send onto the UK for assistance with identification.

Once the specimen has been positively identified, we will notify the person who collected the specimen and provide some advice on the best practice for control.

For more information, please contact Shona Strange on telephone 27355 or email sstrange@doa.gov.fk



SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?!

DON'T LEAVE IT... OR SHOOT IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST DEFENCE

CAMP POWER NOTES

By Powersense and the Falkland Islands Development Corporation

24 hour Power Systems Care and Maintenance of Batteries

This information was printed in 2002 but is still current and has been prompted by recent enquiries.

The main concern seems to be batteries that are not holding their charge or not charging properly.

The usual reason for this is that the diesel generator is not recharging the batteries sufficiently in calm periods. The battery must be allowed to absorb the charge deep into the plates and this takes time. Cutting this absorption time short because the voltage has reached the preset value or the E-meter has returned to zero will not charge the battery properly. This is deficit charging and is not recommended.

Three stage charging

Charging a lead acid battery is a 3-stage process:

- 1 - Bulk
(Constant current, increasing voltage.)
- 2 - Absorption
(Constant voltage, decreasing current)
- 3- Float
(Float voltage, trickle current)

On starting the diesel generator, the charger in the inverter will automatically go into bulk mode to get the battery voltage up to 57.6V as soon as possible. (28.8V in 24 volt systems) This might take an hour or two. Once the voltage has got to the bulk charge voltage, the battery will start to absorb that charge. Most people think that the battery is fully charged when this voltage has been reached but this isn't so, the charge has to be absorbed by the battery plates. This can take another 2 or 3 hours.

During the absorption stage, the current flowing into the battery gradually falls time as

the charge in the plates builds up.

At the end of the absorption stage, the charger changes to float charge mode. The battery now should be fully charged. The float voltage is 53.6V for a 48 volt system and 26.8V for a 24 volt system.

However, very often the generator is turned off before the absorption stage. Battery manufacturers emphasise that a battery must never be taken off charge before the complete recharge cycle has been completed.

Equalisation

During use, some areas of the battery plates become coated with chemical deposits, which seal that part of the plate and effectively reduce the capacity of the battery. This is sulphation and is a quite normal. This process is accelerated if the battery is not regularly charged fully.

Not all the cells are identical and therefore after a while some cells may be at different charge states than others. Both these factors can reduce the operating capacity of the battery.

Equalisation is a slight overcharging of the battery, which removes the chemical deposits and brings all the cells to a high stage of charge. This shouldn't be done every week but 6 – 8 weekly should be sufficient.

How to equalise.

You must have adequate distilled water available, as equalisation will consume water. The batteries should be fairly well charged.

1. Top up batteries so plates are covered. Do not overfill. Replace caps.
2. Ensure there is good ventilation around the battery.
There is no need the open the battery caps when equalising as they are vented.

Trace inverters

1. The Trace inverter has a built-in equalisation function, which is activated from the main on/off menu.
2. Start the generator and then select EQ on the Set Generator/Gen Menu button. The orange bulk light should flash during equalisation.
3. Equalisation should take the voltage to 60V (30V for 24V systems) and hold it there for 1-2 hours. On completion the inverter will return to float. (steady green light)

Outback inverters

1. The Outback inverter must have the MATE controller connected in order to equalise.
2. Press the AC IN key four times to bring up the Charger Mode Control screen.
3. Press EQ to bring up the Equalize Control screen.
4. Select START and two screens are displayed.
5. Press YES to start the equalizing charge cycle.
6. Once the equalizing process has started, you can stop it at anytime by selecting STOP from this same control screen.
7. On completion the inverter will return to float.

All inverters

During this time the batteries will bubble and gurgle and get warm to the touch. The whole process may take 3- 4 hours Leave to settle and when the gurgling has stopped, top up the water level.

NB - This only applies to tubular plate wet lead acid batteries.

NEVER try to equalise any other type of battery, it can explode.

Inverter setup

For the inverters to equalise properly, the inverters have to be set up with the correct equalisation voltage and the equalisation absorption time.

	Equalisation voltage	Absorption time
48v systems	60 volts	2 hours
24v systems	30 volts	2 hours

For the Trace inverter, instructions are under the battery charging section (10) in the manual, and for the Outback inverter, instructions are under the battery section. Remember that for the Outback inverter each FX module has to be separately programmed using the PORT button.

Stanley Services Scholarship

The Stanley Services Scholarship is aimed at candidates that are 21 years of age and above. It can be applied for by the more mature students or individuals who wish to retain or gain specialist/ additional training to further their career within the Falkland Islands, or may be used as a contribution to post graduate studies. This could take the form of paying course fees, helping with accommodation and/ or travel costs.

No formal qualifications are required, however the driving factor behind the award must be of relevance to the future development of the individual and to the Falkland Islands.

Interested persons can obtain an application form and additional information from Gary Perrens at Stanley Services Ltd on tel: 22622 or email: gperrens@stanley-services.co.fk

Closing date for applications is April 30th 2010.

All applications should be return to Mr G Perrens, Stanley Services Ltd, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

The following newspaper clipping by was provided by Sukey Cameron, Falkland Islands Government Representative and appeared in The Times newspaper on 15th February 2010.

Baa, baa, red sheep: lambs protected from cold

Feckenham A farmer has bought warm coats to protect his newborn lambs during the cold weather. Will Willison, 37, who runs the Stables Farm Shop and Tea Room in Feckenham, Worcestershire, ordered the "Lamb Mac" outfits to protect his 190 Welsh Mule-Suffolk crosses. The red plastic coats from New Zealand, which cost 8p each, provide the lambs with a valuable layer of insulation and also help to deter foxes. Mr Willison said: "They do look a bit odd in the field, but the lambs grow out them within one week and by then they have grown a coat of their own."



Dates for the Diary



- 10th April RBA Sheep Show - hosted by Fitzroy farm
- 21st April Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday - all Government departments will be closed, apart from those providing essential services
- 22nd April Dog Dosing (Droncít)
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



LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE FORMS

We will be sending out the 2009/2010 Livestock Ordinance Forms in early May.

It is a legal requirement to complete and return these to the Department of Agriculture before the 30th June each year.

Please contact Siân as soon as possible if you are planning on being away in May & June, so that we can arrange for your Stock Returns to be completed before you go away.

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by Felicity McArthur, Stanley

crunchy peanut biscuits

ingredients

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 cup raw sugar
- A large egg

method

Mix all the ingredients together. Place a teaspoon of the mixture on a baking tray. Bake in a moderate oven for ten to fifteen minutes.

A quick and easy recipe for everyone!



We would like to hear from cooks for all levels, experiences and ages to share their recipes with our Wool Press readers. You can send you recipes into us by:

- email: sferguson@doa.gov.fk
- fax: +500 27352
- post your recipe to The Wool Press Editor, Department of Agriculture, Stanley
- or pop into the Department of Agriculture

THE WOOL PRESS

Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

What we can offer you...

Annual Subscription Rates

- Local - £18.00
- Overseas (airmail) - £37.00

Would you like to keep others (either Stanley or overseas) informed of the latest news and developments in the farming industry?

Are you tired of picking up your copy each month from the store?

Do you have an elderly relative retired from camp that would appreciate an annual subscription as a gift?

Then get in touch and we can do the rest!!

Advertising

Wanting to advertise your products or services to the farming community?

Looking for a cheap way to place a personal or wanted ad?

Contact us and we can offer you a colour or black and white option, ranging from £5.00 a black and white quarter page advert to a full blown colour advert for just £30.00.

Personal ads (up to six lines) for only £3.00

Alternatively print your own flyer and we'll include it in our mailing list - contact us for prices.

PUZZLE PAGE

Word Search

Can you find all the months, days and seasons in the grid below?

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

Riddle Corner

What Am I?

I am a pinkish color,
and have a roundish shape in you.
I am very soft, and you should protect me,
because I am very important,
and you need me to live.
All the other animals need me,
but not plants.
For their size, I was small in a dinosaur,
and I am much larger in you.
Now tell me, what am I?

Hint - use me to solve this riddle.

Dingbat Brain Games

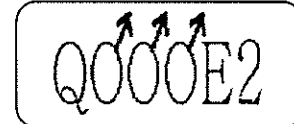
Flex your brain
Free your mind
Think laterally

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

Sudoku

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

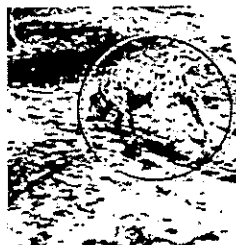
Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.



March Solutions

PIPE

DOOR



Left - downpipe
Above - back door

Riddle One

Fire

Riddle Two

What comes next in this sequence?

34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610, etc

Bonus point - the Fibonacci sequence, where each number is the sum of the previous two numbers, starting with 0 and 1.

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

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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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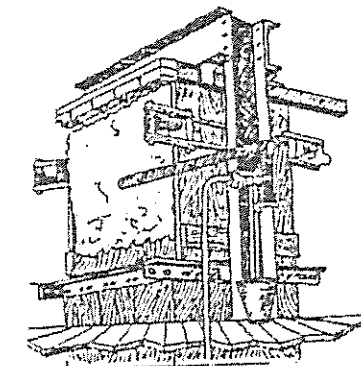
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EDITORIAL

There is a quote along the lines of 'the flap of a butterfly's wing in Brazil can cause a tornado in Texas'. I don't know about that, but a volcano in Iceland scuppered the EU veterinary inspection mission to the Falklands. It seems almost as unlikely as the butterfly business although it is explained by the extensive shut down on flying across Europe. The EU conducts such inspections to ensure that the processes and procedures in countries exporting meat (the same process happens for fish) satisfy the standards required by the EU. The EU inspection mission is likely to be re-arranged for the 2011 export season. The additional year will allow further progress to be made on updating necessary legislation.

I did take the opportunity to visit the Sand Bay abattoir prior to the end of the export season. Mutton were being processed on the day and the whole operation looked very impressive with processing happening at a rapid pace.

There has been some debate about overall sheep numbers compared to previous years which is also relevant to the potential of the abattoir. This month's Wool Press has a couple of complementary articles relevant to the issue. Firstly, Tony has an article on factors relevant to maximising the numbers of lambs born. Andy follows with a contribution which extends this to improving survival rates for lambs.

There was a good turnout for the RBA sheep show at Fitzroy, and Sarah Clement sets out the results and reports on the event. On the veterinary front, Zoë looks at arthritis in the first part of a series examining lameness in dogs.

The Wool Press includes a media item on the 're-appearance' of the self-shearing sheep. I say re-appearance as I seem to recall this idea emerging quite a few years ago. It may not catch on here as wool is a much more valuable commodity.

Finally, the official end to summertime has come and gone with the clocks changing. There may not be much nostalgia for the recent summer at least not weather wise. However, I now see from Andy's analysis of rainfall data that it was simply 'bucking the trend'. In fact a return to previous times of higher rainfall could be advantageous for pasture productivity.

John Barton
Director of Natural Resources

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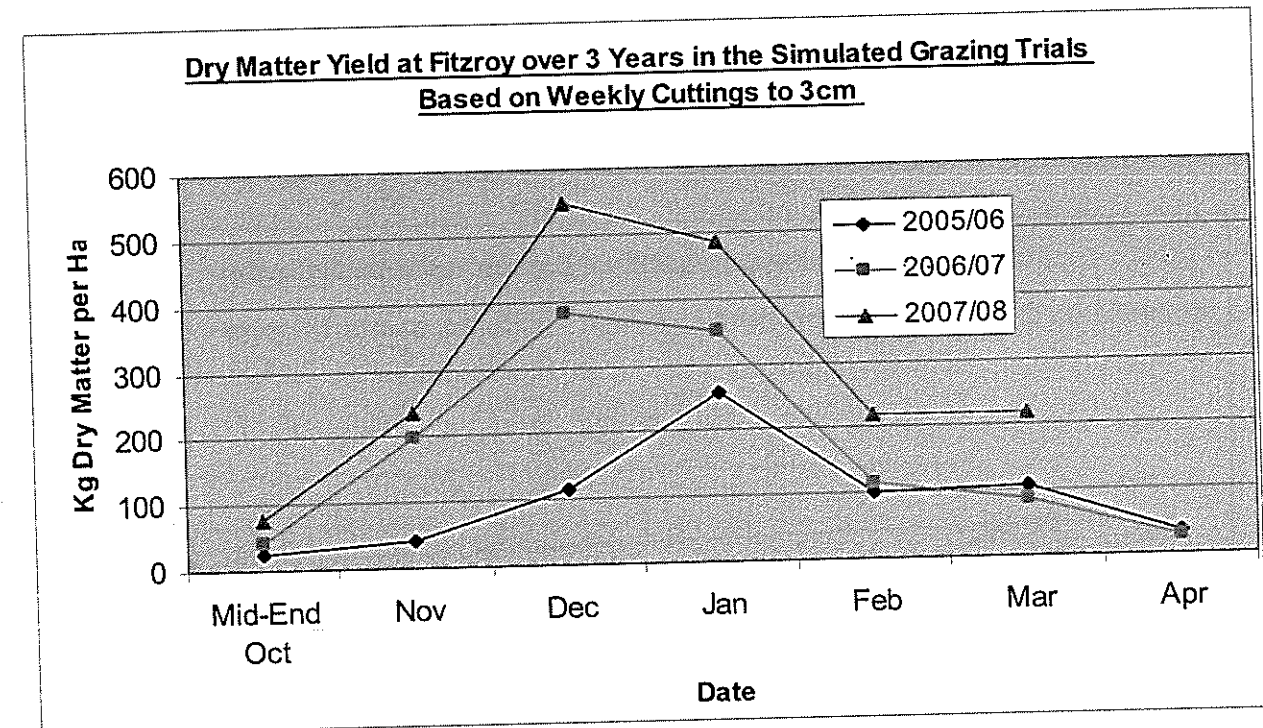
RAINFALL PATTERNS DURING THE GROWING SEASON

By Andrew Pollard

The simulated grazing trials at Fitzroy in 2005/06 to 2007/08 demonstrated that in the Falkland Islands the growing season lasts

approximately five months, and ranges from November through to March (see figure 1). There is very little growth outside of this time period.

Figure 1 Pasture growth curve at Fitzroy over 3 years



Pasture growth is mainly influenced by:

- Soil temperature (shallower soils will warm up earlier)
- Soil moisture (shallower soils will dry up faster)
- Moisture loss (will also be affected by wind)

- Day length
- Soil fertility

Monthly rainfall is measured on many farms and rainfall data is published in the Wool Press on a regular basis. There are full data sets for 8 sites, over 5 years (see table 1).

Table 1 showing rainfall (mm) during the growing season (Nov-March)

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Average
Bleaker Island	283	258	128	117	136	184
Head of the Bay	261	284	186	176	275	236
MPA	274	307	242	240	361	285
Pebble Island	175	216	127	203	198	184
Port Howard	327	381	273	326	342	330
Saladero	182	174	112	164	231	173
Stanley	271	218	200	200	357	249
Swan Inlet	225	252	155	160	221	202
Average	250	261	178	198	265	

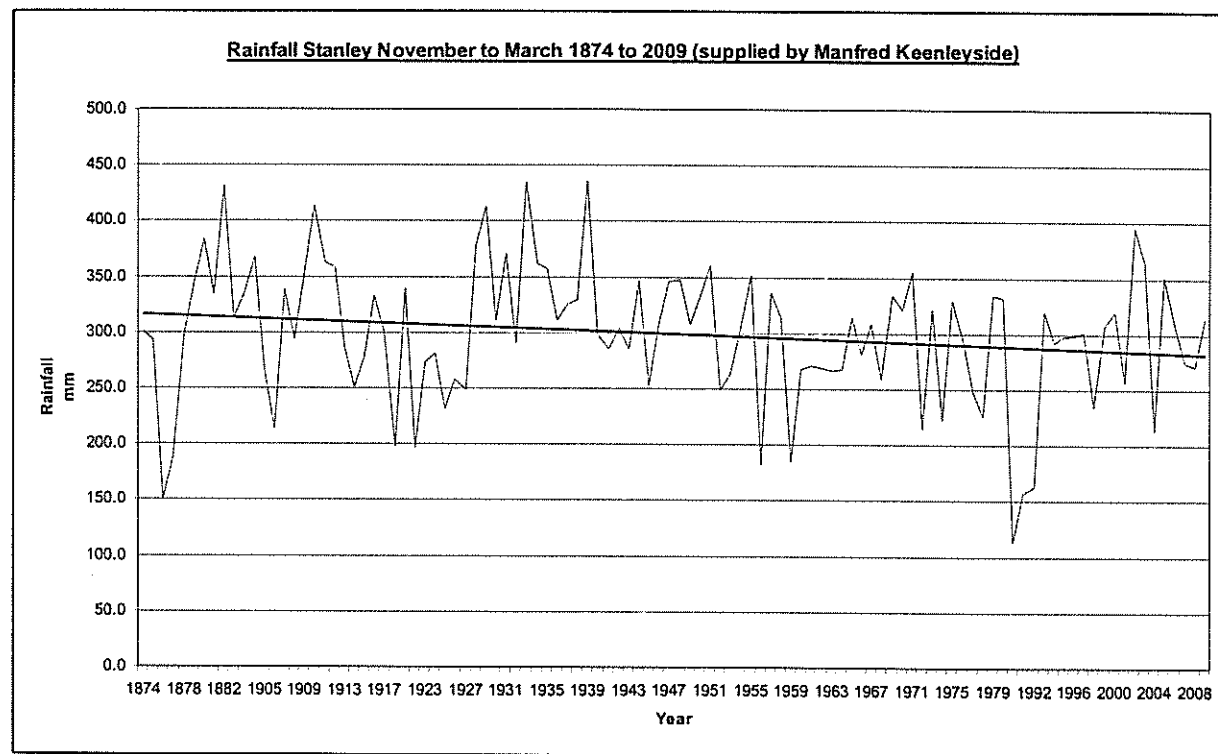
This data indicates two main trends:

1. Some areas of the Falklands receive a lot more rainfall during the growing season than others. This suggests that they should therefore be able to grow more pasture per unit area (soil fertility, soil temperature, shelter also impacts on this). Areas with low rainfall are going to find establishing pasture and growing forage crops more difficult.
2. The average rainfall across all the sites was very low in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

It is therefore likely that pasture growth would be lower in comparison to other years, and subsequently impact on livestock productivity. The low rainfall in 2008/09 would have the knock on effects of following a previous dry season, this might help to explain some of the poor lambing results in 2009.

Figure 2 shows the average rainfall from historic Stanley data over the months November through to March. There is a declining trend of rainfall over the growing season..

Figure 2 showing historic Stanley rainfall from November to March



Earlier we mentioned that rainfall was one of the key factors for pasture growth. A declining rainfall trend would suggest lower pasture growth, having a nutritional impact on the livestock, resulting in lower lamb marking percentages, higher death rates, lower wool production etc.

Some common questions/comments include:

- Why are stock numbers declining?
- Farm x used to be able to run this many sheep
- I remember 30 years ago getting better lamb marking percentages

A lower rainfall in the growing season could be the answer to the above. I believe there is

a collective feeling that temperature over this period has also declined another key component of pasture growth.

Can we blame the climate entirely ?

Those farms cropping or establishing pasture in lower growing season rainfall areas need to be even more stringent on conserving soil moisture than those with higher rainfall (remember this is relative to FI, even the higher rainfall areas are relatively low compared to other countries).

Monitoring of stocking rates in camps also needs to be considered, whether rotating animals or being set stocked. This needs then to be compared to the productivity levels of the livestock.

CAN I INFLUENCE MY POTENTIAL LAMBING RESULT?

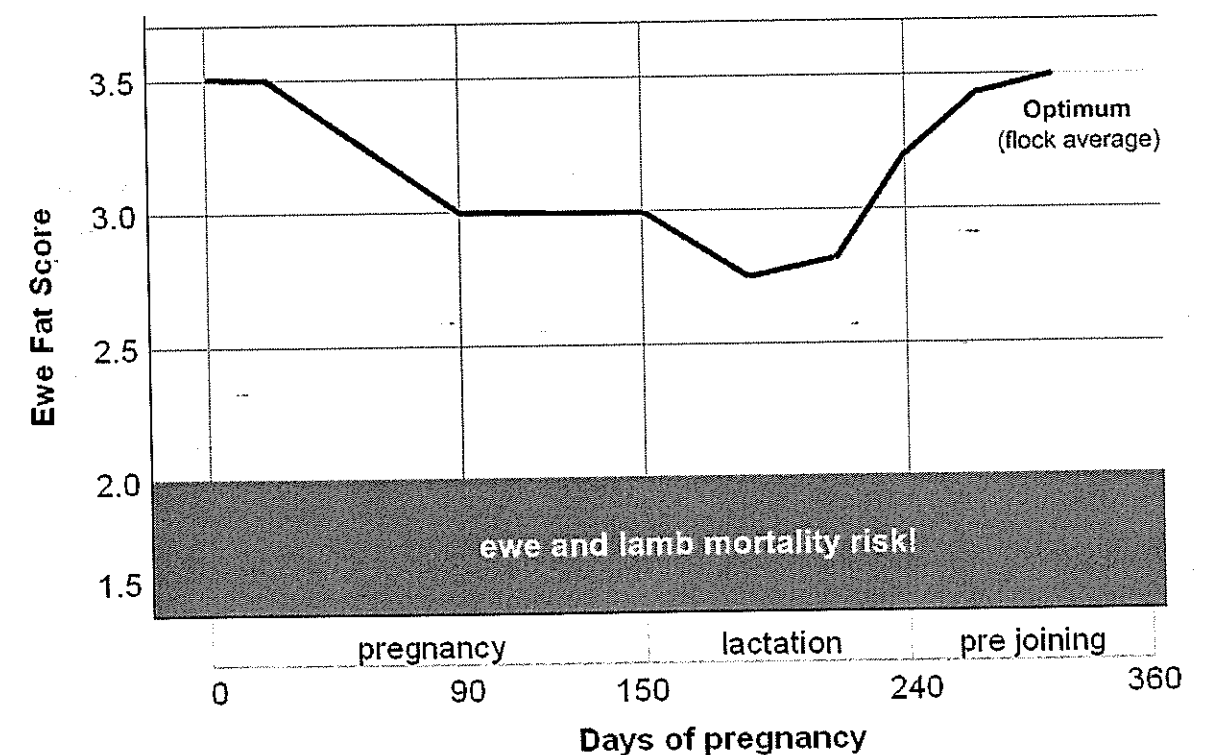
By Tony Mills

I would imagine most producers have sorted out their ewes and have probably got them in camps ready for the boys to be let out to play. Some people have probably put some rams out for certain groups of ewes in time for Xmas lambs or to avoid bad weather conditions at lambing.

I am sure that in the past many of you have been exposed to the idea of having the ewes

in the best condition possible because that will improve the output at the other end – greater numbers of lambs born. I do not really want to go over old ground, however I think this idea is still very pertinent to your business today as it has always been. What I am hoping to do is stimulate some discussion on how this can be best done, learn how this principle relates to the Falkland Islands and maybe even identify a number of practices that could be employed to address the issue of stagnant or falling lambing percentages.

Figure 1. Merino ewe fat score profile – Spring Lambing (Source: Dr Sue Hatcher Lifetime Wool, DPI NSW)



I have used this profile as I believe it best matches the trend we would expect to happen here in the Falkland Islands. However that is where the similarity ends. For the sake of creating a robust discussion (or as Rosie would say, an argument) I believe in general that ewe condition is overestimated at joining and consequently pre-lambing. I venture to

state that the part of the curve which flattens out at score 3 at 90 days through to 150 days of pregnancy is actually sitting at 2 or more likely 1.5. The principle that is being illustrated above stands up whichever part of the world you are working in however the challenge that I see is being able to apply it here in the Falkland Islands.

Following are some of my thoughts on how to address the issue however in putting them forward I am not trying to tell you that this is what you should do. I think there are many ways to get to the same end point. What I want is to have some discussion to identify these ways and put them forward to the wider community and even educate me in the process.

The first idea is to manually body condition score. I think there are a number of opportunities, one of which is post weaning, say early to mid February. I think this gives you the opportunity to address any low score ewes prior to the end of the growing season and in enough time to leave some residual pasture for the spring break. I have observed a reluctance to condition score here but I'm not sure why that is. I was taught the process some 20 years ago and still find it the best way of checking my visual assessment off the back of a bike.

The second point would be managing internal parasites. I would suggest that the first opportunity to monitor the level of infection would be at least 8 weeks pre lambing. This would probably involve the gathering of a cut of ewes and picking up fresh samples in a paddock. This sort of interruption at this point would have minimal impact on the ewe and lamb and it would also give you a chance to determine visually the ewe's condition. Of course if you could do a manual condition score then that would be ideal.

If you pre lamb shear then that would also be a chance as you could if necessary drench them at this time. At this time you will also have a better understanding of the ewe's condition and your likely result. Another opportunity is when you're weaning. Since I have been here I have witnessed serious issues with internal parasites which have gone unchecked because of some past advice or research. I have also witnessed the approach of a producer who monitored this issue and treated the ewes if it was necessary. They have now got ewes in condition score 2.5 plus prior to joining going into a spelled camp with insignificant worm burdens and will be well on the way to achieving their target.

The third point would be to have a Brassica crop available to boost the feed profile for the last 6 to 8 weeks of pregnancy. If it was able to last into early pregnancy that would be superb, although I don't think that is possible. If the ewe's condition score was 1.5 at this time then it may have minimal impact however if their condition was 2 or slightly better then I believe that this would have a significant impact on lamb survival. I do think that it would be very difficult to improve the condition score off native pasture however someone may be able to tell me otherwise.

The fourth point would be to time lambmarking for about 2 weeks after the last possible lambing date. I am aware of a producer that is doing something similar to this along with having marking pens within or as close to as many lambing camps as possible. This along with a large pen and plenty of time to allow mothering up is having a positive impact on their lambmarking percentages.

One of the big pushes from within our walls has been the target of 40kgs bodyweight for the maiden (18 months old) at first joining. While I think this is achievable for a small percentage of maidens on most farms and even a greater proportion on some farms I do think that doing this without matching the body condition score would minimise the impact of achieving the bodyweight. Yes I am saying that you can have this bodyweight without being at the appropriate condition score. I also think there is something in the comment by those 'old timers' when they tell you that a ewe here is best to have her first lamb when she is rising 3.

I would suggest that the conditions experienced by the majority of hoggets in their first year delays maturity and therefore they need sufficient time to recover this lost ground. I would also suggest that the most achievable target is probably a body condition score of 2.5 with the trick being not letting it drop below 2 throughout winter.

As always I would welcome any comments and I am open to be told I have got it wrong even though Rosie may dispute this!!

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG SHEEP DEATH RATE AND REPRODUCTIVE RATE

By Andrew Pollard

Before the provision of an abattoir, decision making on farms was relatively simple. The main farm strategy was to breed replacements or buy from those who have surplus, and make the most of meat opportunities locally.

Farm decision making has become a lot more complicated and farms differ in two main ways:

1. Low reproductive rates and/or high death rates. These farms struggle to produce their own replacements and also struggle to buy replacements unless they are prepared to pay the meat value which is a lot higher than historical prices. These farms therefore tend to decrease in stocking rate and/or stock get older and less productive.
2. Higher reproductive rates and/or lower death rates. These farms produce surplus stock and want to sell them for their best return. These farms have the opportunity if required to change flock structure, carry more stock if the feed is available and reduce the age of their flock.

In most cases the farms with poorer camp are in scenario one and those with better camp in scenario two.

In scenario one, the farm aim needs to become self-replacing, surviving without the need to find further income by either diversifying further or looking for opportunities off farm.

There will of course be farmers who want to earn income off farm regardless and that is fine, their choice.

Utilising the Department of Agriculture's Gross Margin model we can take a look at what the balance is between reproductive rates and young sheep death rates (lamb marking to

shearing) on maintaining flock numbers. In these scenarios the following assumptions have been used:

- Flock maintained at 5000 DSE's
- No sheep sold until they are cast at 7.5 years of age (ewes and wethers)
- Death rates of shearlings and older have not been altered, averaging about 9-10%
- No ewes are joined at 1.5 years of age

Table 1 Young Sheep Death Rates and Required Lamb Marking Percentage

Death Rate (Lamb Marking to Shearing)	Lamb Marking Percentage
30%	72%
25%	67%
20%	63%
15%	59%
10%	56%
5%	53%

Table 1 demonstrates, for example, that at a death rate of 30% a lamb marking of 72% is required to maintain flock structure at the assumptions outlined above.

If this death rate is reduced to 10% a lamb marking of 56% will maintain flock structure with the same assumptions.

If analysing your own farm situation and they do not line up, it is likely that your mature sheep death rates are different to the assumption, your cull for age is different or that you are joining some or all the ewes at 1.5 years of age.

If funds were unlimited it would be desirable for the farmer to look at addressing both young sheep death rates (particularly ewes) and the lamb marking percentage. Since funds are limited priorities have to be made.

The following lists some of the strategies to address these priorities:

Young sheep death rate

- Nutrition post weaning (turnips, oats, legume based pasture, spelled camp etc)
- Nutrition in winter/early spring (swedes, concentrates, conserved crops, spelled camp etc)
- Strategic worm control and putting into clean camps
- Husbandry techniques such as eye locking and breeding out wool blindness
- Ditching young sheep camps
- Condition of the ewe at lamb marking for early weight gain

Lamb marking percentage

- Nutrition of ewes and rams prior to joining (turnips, oats, legume based pasture, spelled camp etc)
- Nutrition in winter/early spring (swedes, concentrates, conserved crops, spelled camp etc)
- Nutrition of ewes in growing season (crops, legume based pasture, managed grazing etc)

- Wet and dry ewes
- Strategic worm control and putting into clean camps
- Ditching ewe camps
- Smaller joining paddocks, but not at expense of nutrition
- Body size of ewes (often associated with selecting solely for micron)

I am certain that you can add to these lists and I would welcome your thoughts.

Over the past year I have worked through the stock returns of nearly all the farms, putting in data for the last 9 years. This provides simple analysis of many factors such as death rates, lamb marking, £wool/sheep, greasy fleece weight/sheep etc. These are available for any farm if you are interested.

One thing I have noticed is that on paper it appears that farms have found it easier to reduce young sheep death rates as opposed to lifting lamb marking percentage.

Whilst increasing lamb marking percentage and lowering the death rates should be the main aims for any farm, have a think about which one is more achievable in your own farm situation.

Dates for the Diary



2nd June	Dog Dosing (Droncít) 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
14th June	Liberation Day - Public Holiday
19th June	Midwinter Swim - Surf Bay
5th to 9th July	Farmers Week - more details to follow
14th August	Falklands Day

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RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SHEEP SHOW

By Sarah Clement, SeAled PR

Rural Business Association Sheep show entries increased by 20% this year, with high participation in the two new classes intended to show-case the dual purpose breed of sheep suitable for the production of prime meat and wool.

21 dual purpose ewes were transported to the Fitzroy shearing shed along with 11 dual purpose rams, 43 meat breed animals and 95 wool sheep.

Elephant Beach farm owned by Ben Berntsen claimed most points in the wool classes, with the other prizes going to the fine wool of Mt Kent, Blue Beach, Home Farm, Lorenzo and North Arm.



Tyrone and Sarah Whitney's Home Farm took Champion Ewe (owned by daughter Olivia) with their dual purpose winner, while Goose Green picked up Champion ram with a wool breed animal.

Fitzroy, North Arm, Home Farm and Lorenzo claimed the meat breed prizes while Goose Green, North Arm, Home Farm and Blue Beach impressed the judges with their dual purpose animals.

Around 150 visitors enjoyed the food, drink and crafts on sale and most stayed on to applaud loudly at the prize giving, with prizes



presented by His Excellency the Governor Alan Huckle.

In a show with such strong East Falklands participation it was perhaps appropriate that the judges were top heavy with Westers, Justin Knight, Louise Pole-Evans, Sammy Hirtle and Tim Blake, as well as Ron Binnie of Texel Valley on the East.

The RBA committee were, "delighted by the increased participation and very grateful to, all of those who so willingly helped out with the organization, the hard working judges and the generous sponsors".

Thanks also must go to the stall holders and Dennis Whitney for running the bar.



Please see page 13 for a list of prize winners.

Top: visitors have a go at guessing the fleece micron.

Far left: the sun shines bright for the crowd gathering at the Fitzroy shearing shed

Near left: the art and craft stalls attract much interest on the day

SATURDAY 10TH APRIL 2010, FITZROY FARM



Thank you to SeAled PR for the photographs accompanying this article. Centre: items on sale and show from the Guild of Spinners and Weavers. Clockwise from top left: Governor Alan Huckle presents a prize to Fitzroy farm manager Allan; crowds gather to inspect the show entries; Lisa Watson of SeAled PR assisting the show judges; judges Justin Knight and Sammy Hirtle at work; the food stalls are kept busy throughout the day; Margo Smallwood explains the spinning process.



SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?!

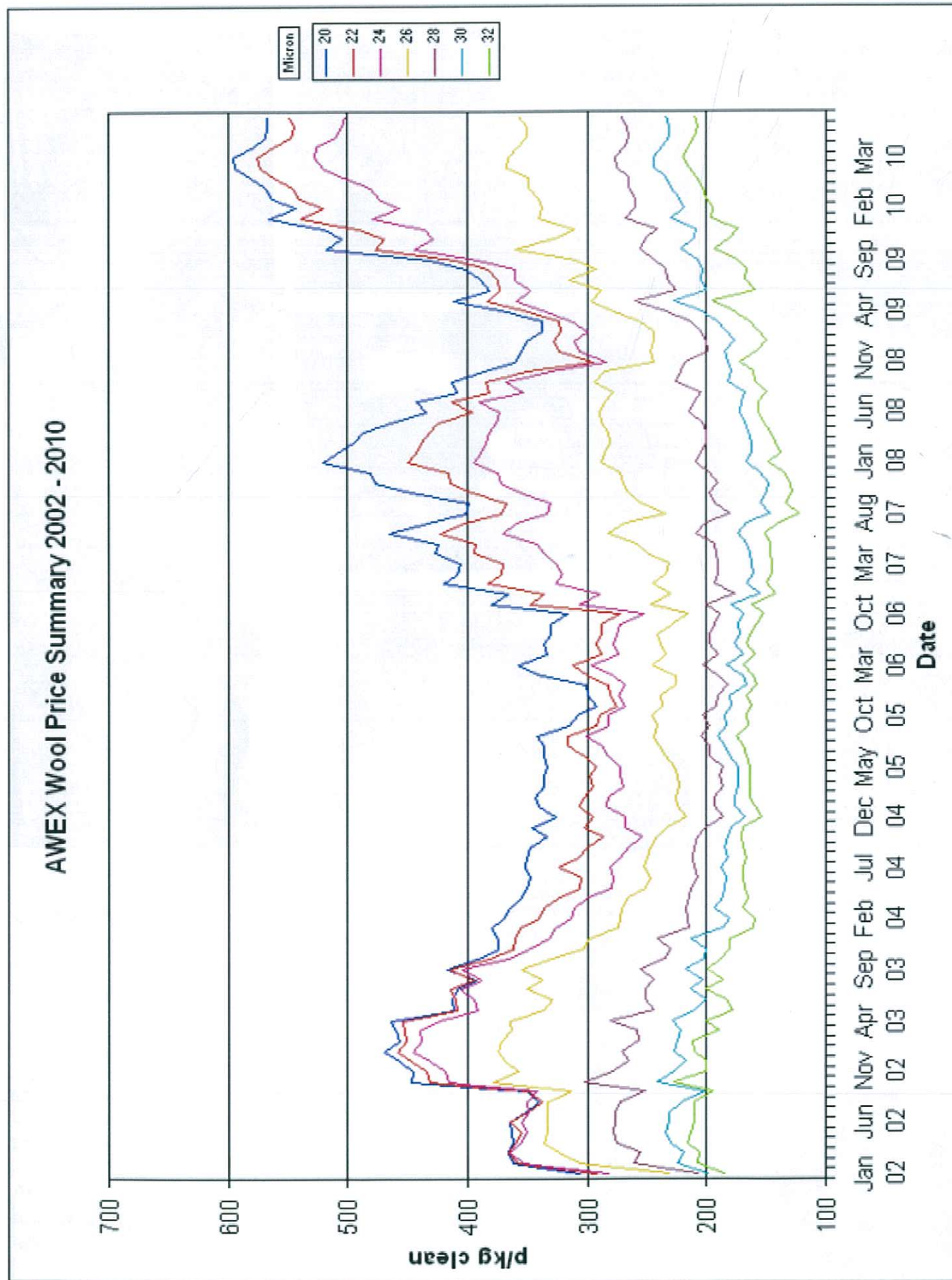
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WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



RBA SHEEP SHOW PRIZE WINNERS LIST

Class 1: Mature ram over 24 months

- 1st North Arm
- 2nd North Arm
- 3rd Lorenzo

Class 2: Shearling ram

- 1st Elephant Beach
- 2nd Home Farm
- 3rd Lorenzo

Class 3: Ram Hogget

- 1st Elephant Beach
- 2nd Blue Beach
- 3rd Blue Beach

Class 4: Mature Ewe

- 1st North Arm
- 2nd Home Farm
- 3rd Blue Beach

Class 5: Shearling ewe

- 1st Elephant Beach
- 2nd Home Farm
- 3rd Elephant Beach

Class 6: Ewe hogget

- 1st Blue Beach
- 2nd Blue Beach
- 3rd Mt Kent

Class 7: Pen of three flock hoggets

- 1st Blue Beach
- 2nd Mt Kent
- 3rd Mt Kent

Class 8: Pen of three flock shearlings

- 1st Mt Kent
- 2nd Elephant Beach
- 3rd Home Farm

Class 9: Terminal sire of any age suitable for producing prime lambs

- 1st Home Farm
- 2nd Fitzroy
- 3rd North Arm

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

- 1st Fitzroy
- 2nd Lorenzo
- 3rd Fitzroy

Class 11: Pen of three prime weaner lambs

- 1st Fitzroy
- 2nd North Arm
- 3rd Fitzroy

Class 12: Under 16's entry

- 1st North Arm – (owner: Logan Dickson)
- 2nd Goose Green – (owner: Kia Alazia)
- 3rd Home Farm – (owner: Olivia Whitney)

Class 13: Dual Purpose Ram

- 1st Goose Green
- 2nd North Arm
- 3rd Home Farm

Class 14: Dual Purpose Ewe

- 1st Home Farm
- 2nd Blue Beach
- 3rd North Arm

Most points in classes (1-8)

Elephant Beach

Champion Ram

Goose Green

Champion Ewe

Home Farm

Guess the weight of the sheep:

Lisa Jaffray

Guess the micron of the fleece

Kim Chater

THE WOOL PRESS

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LAMENESS IN DOGS – THE COMMON PROBLEMS WE SEE.

By Zoë Luxton

It seems like a long time since I have written about anything medical for the Wool Press so over the next couple of issues I thought I would discuss the most common reasons for lameness that we see in dogs (beyond your run of the mill muscle strain, pulled nail, cut pad etc).

1) Arthritis:

The word arthritis means joint inflammation and has many causes; infection, trauma, immune-mediated and degenerative changes. The most common sort of joint inflammation that I see as a GP is old age joint problems.

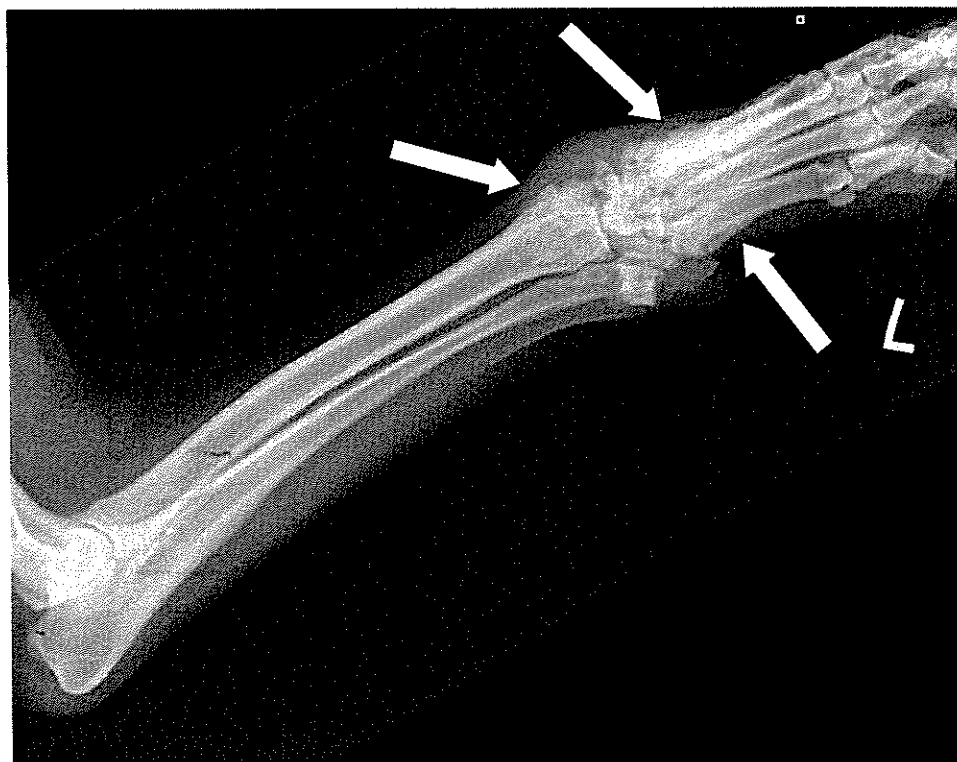
When we refer to a creaky old dog with swollen joints as 'arthritis' we strictly speaking should say that the dog is suffering from degenerative joint disease as the initial process is not actually inflammatory. As the joint degeneration progresses however, inflammatory mediators are released from damaged cartilage cells that line the joint and these cause more cartilage and collagen destruction thus more joint damage and pain. There is pain and swelling as bone rubs on bone where the cartilage is destroyed and

new, rough bone begins to develop in abnormal places within the joint, which in itself is uncomfortable. Bits of new, arthritic bone can chip off causing much discomfort.

Degenerative change within a joint is started off by 2 main causes; one is wear and tear – many years of jumping in and out of vehicles, gathering on rough terrain and being very active simply wears down the cartilage in the joints. The second cause is joint instability following an injury, even if the joint is repaired, or seems to heal on its own, invariably over time the slight extra movement in the joint will lead to cartilage destruction and the tell tale signs of stiff limbs, pain and lameness.

These causes, especially simple wear and tear, are pretty much unavoidable in working dogs (and people!) but there are some things you can do to repay your hard working canines when their joints start to age.

Use your common sense: If your best 12 year old dog is as lame as a 3 legged horse when you come back from a long day out, don't ask him to keep coping with work that causes him to be in pain. Reduce his work load to shorter gathers and pen work that his



A dog carpus (wrist) showing severe degenerative joint disease

The arrows show areas of arthritic change

A normal dog carpus

Note the much smoother bones and clear joint spaces



old limbs can cope with. Several short bursts of work/exercise in a day to keep the joints mobile are much better than one long stint of work every 3 days.

Weight watch: Fat dogs exert more pressure on sore joints and are not as mobile. Over feeding something to the point of obesity is as cruel as underfeeding something to the point of emaciation.

Keep them comfortable: Especially over winter months. Accommodation should be water proof and as drought free as possible. Sleeping areas should be raised off the ground and some sort of soft bedding should be provided.

Use painkillers: NEVER give dogs ibuprofen based drugs like Nurofen as it is toxic to them

but there are several other types of non-steroid anti-inflammatory pain killers available for use in animals that can be provided by the Veterinary Section. One we use often is a liquid called Metacam. It can be given every day if necessary and is easily administered by mouth once daily. These non-steroidal pain killers work by inhibiting an enzyme in the inflammatory mediator pathway and all the time more modern drugs are being developed that are more and more selective for the enzymes they inhibit. Some of the older non-steroidal medications inhibit a broad range of inflammatory mediators, including some that are actually helpful and needed for normal healing pathways. Steroid medications can also reduce inflammation and decrease pain but tend to inhibit the useful pathways too and can have more general side effects than the non-steroid drugs. Non-steroidal medications should NOT be given with steroid based drugs.

Use joint supplements: Things like glucosamine and chondroitin are commonly used and advocated for humans and they are perfectly safe to use in dogs also. While such supplements do not cause instant pain relief like 'pain killers' do they do inhibit some destructive enzymes and inflammatory mediators. They also supplement some of the components in the cartilage in the joints thus the cartilage is thought to be protected and repaired to some extent so the joints run more smoothly and are therefore less painful.

You won't see immediate results with these supplements but I have known geriatric dogs that have been able to come off long term painkillers and be comfortable simply on joint supplements so I think they are worth a try. It is never too soon to start supplementing joints that work hard.

As with anything, if you would like to make a comment or ask any questions please do not hesitate to ring the Veterinary Section on 27366 or email me on zluxton@doa.gov.fk. Next issue we will take a look at ruptured cruciate ligaments which several of you probably have heard of in dogs.

FIG Environmental Studies Budget 2010/11

Public notice

From the Environmental Planning Department

The Falkland Islands Government provides funding to help people in the Falkland Islands to conduct activities which benefit and enhance the environment. Anyone can apply for assistance from the Environmental Studies Budget (ESB), including owners and managers of land, non-government organisations and international scientists that conduct research and conservation activities in the Falkland Islands.

Projects eligible for ESB funding must assist in the management or enhancement 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 ESB has a formal application and decision making process with the Environmental Committee responsible for the allocation of funds. This year all the available funds will be allocated in one round in July 2010.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 21st June 2010**. The application form can be obtained from the Environmental Planning Department. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the EPD Environmental Officer prior to submission and he can also help draft your application. Where possible, some level of co-funding or in-kind costs (e.g. labour, equipment) is desirable.

Please contact the Environmental Planning Department to obtain an information pack
(28480, nrendell.planning@taxation.gov.fk).

FALKLAND RAINFALL TOTALS

Thank you to everyone who sends in their monthly rainfall figures.

	2009								2010			
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Stanley	95	31.5	28	90	20.5	23	87	48	87	70	65	29
Average	58	50	46.5	45.5	41	39.5	46	68	74	57	59	58
MPA	105.4	46	159.8	58.1	29	44.2	94.1	83.3	56.2	90.2	37.1	31.2
Average	50.8	56.5	45.5	38	33	34.8	41.1	57.1	61.5	48.2	55.4	57
Bleaker Island	67	30	30	-	17	19	41	36	21	22	16	16
Blue Beach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	25	52	41	-
Cape Dolphin	65	18	12	13	9	17	25	21	19	47	37	26
Darwin	87.5	33	37.5	19.5	18	32	64	42.5	43.5	59.5	32.5	23.5
Dunbar	136	45	63	58	20	58	79	75	35	45	65	38
Fern Ridge	86	31	65.5	49	16	28	57.5	29	33.5	41	40.5	18
Goose Green	-	-	-	21	-	16	21	23	17	-	17	19
Head of the Bay	105	34	45	64	22	30	75	37	35	76	52	37
Hill Cove	101	63	60	86	-	44	113.7	40	30	86	60.5	-
Hope Cottage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	37	16
Moss Side	98	30	-	54	13.5	23	58	31	31	71	13	32
North Arm	87	46	31	21	12	14	41	40	31	32	20	19
Paragon	81	9.5	9.5	12.5	6.5	12	23	-	-	38	12	18
Pebble Island	107	31	32.5	56	13.5	22	66.5	29.5	27.5	32	42.5	18
Port Howard	135	57.5	89	70.5	33.5	40.5	101.5	49.5	44.5	83	63.5	22
Saladero	69.5	24	28	22	14	17	59	37.5	31	66	37.5	22
Salvador	89	32.25	31	47.25	25.5	30.75	76.5	35.25	36	71.75	51	-
Shallow Harbour	71.5	31.5	62	57	19.5	26	60	30	30	51	43	14
Swan Inlet	81	31	30	55.5	19.5	29	73	51	36	41.5	19	20.5
West Lagoons	112	58	69	79	-	56	93.7	32	27	86	64.5	-
Wineglass Station	75.5	35.5	50	137	15	60	91.5	-	-	-	-	-

The self-shearing sheep that will save farmers thousands of pounds

THE SHEEP THAT SHEAR THEMSELVES

By Luke Salkeld, Daily Mail, 9th April 2010
Article forwarded by Sukey Cameron, FIGO

With rather tatty-looking fleeces, these animals could be forgiven for seeming a little sheepish about their appearance.

But they are actually one of the most advanced flocks in Britain - being among the country's first self-shearing sheep.

The animals have been specially bred to shed their winter coats naturally when spring arrives, saving farmers thousands of pounds a year.

Wool has fallen so dramatically in value recently that its sale no longer covers the cost of shearing - leaving the task no more than a nuisance for flock owners.

That led breeders to import rams from foreign varieties such as the Barbados Blackbelly, which sheds wool naturally, to create the new breed called Exlana.

Without their normal thick coats, the sheep are also more resistant to parasites, and need less medication and costly chemical treatments.

Now, instead of spending precious time and money shearing their sheep, farmers simply wait for the light coats to 'moult' in the fields.

The wool, which is shorter and more sparse than a traditional British sheep, begins shedding

around the animal's neck and legs, often leaving a temporary patch in the middle.

Where a normal sheep would produce up to 20lb (9kg) of wool, the Exlana - whose newly coined name from the Latin means 'used to have wool' - yields just 1lb (500g).

The new ewes are estimated to save farmers £8 per animal per year in labour costs - which could equal thousands of pounds a year for a full flock.

Breeder Peter Baber, 54, who runs a farm in Christow, near Exeter, Devon, is spearheading the group of nine farmers who are developing the sheep.

The winner of Sheep Farmer of the Year 2007, said: 'It's totally changed the way we work. It is the most forward-thinking step in British sheep farming for a long time.'

'We used to have normal, woolly sheep at the farm and had to spend hours shearing them in the spring. But the value of wool has reduced so much recently that it's no longer economically.



Cutting the costs: the self-shearing Exlana sheep

Notices from the Department of Agriculture

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 30th June 2010.

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

There are a couple of sections we would like to draw your attention to:

Cast sheep - the sheep included in cast sheep should not be included in the other sheep categories and count towards the total sheep on your farm. For example, if you have 10 rams, 500 wethers, 500 ewes and 33 cast sheep, the total sheep on your farm should be 1,043.

Number of cows mated in previous year to produce this year's calves - this is under where you enter your cattle numbers and is quite often overlooked when stock returns are filled in.

If you do not have your wool sales figures back from your wool broker, then please let me know and we can arrange for these to be sent on after the deadline.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone 27355, fax 27352 or email 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 asap so we can send a replacement.

Thank you,

Siân Ferguson

Planning to pregnancy scan your ewes?

Cost per ewe:

- 5 pence per sheep

When:

- for wet/dry 40-45 days after ram removal
- for twins/single/dry 60 plus days after ram joining
- no more than 90 days post joining

Facilities needed:

- pens and race
- continuous supply of hot and cold water
- power supply
- sufficient workforce

Other information:

- ewes need to be off food and water overnight/twelve hours before scanning

More information is available in your Farm Management Handbook or online at

http://www.agriculture.gov.fk/publications/fmh/livestock_and_wool/scanning.pdf

If you are interested in scanning your ewes, please contact Lucy Ellis or Zoë Luxton on 27355 to book.

Farm Improvement Programme

If you are interested in applying for FIP funding for the 2010/11 financial year and haven't received a copy of the forms via email, then please call the DoA on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

If you would like more information on the programme or assistance with completing the application, then please contact any of the Agricultural Advisors on telephone 27355 or email apollard@doa.gov.fk

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by Terrianne Ormond, Stanley

Classic Monkey Bread

ingredients

- 1/4 cup water, warm (40°C)
- 2 1/2 tsp active dry yeast (.25-oz)
- 3 - 3 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 3/4 cup milk, warm (40°C)
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground allspice
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

method

Lightly grease a standard 10-in bundt pan (ring tin) with vegetable oil. Set aside.

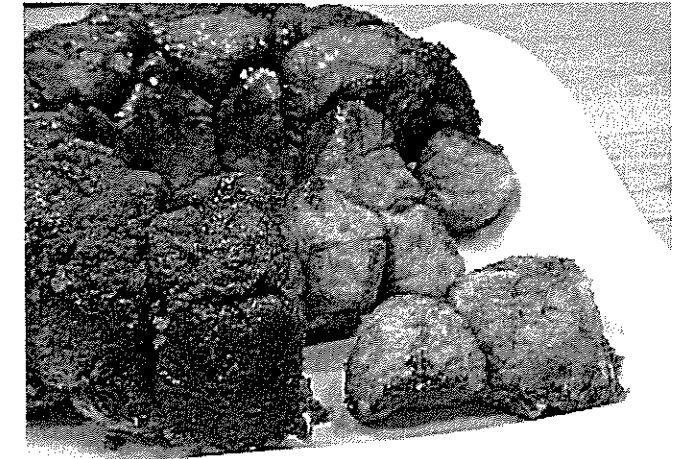
In the bowl of a stand mixer (all mixing can be done by hand, as well), combine warm water and yeast. Let stand for 2 minutes, until yeast is slightly foamy.

Stir in 1 cup of the flour, along with the salt, sugar, vanilla, egg, 2 tbsp melted butter and warm milk.

Mix well, until dough is fairly smooth. Put the dough hook attachment onto your mixer and gradually add in the remaining flour, mixing at medium speed until dough comes easily away from the sides of the bowl. Knead for 3-4 minutes on medium speed. Remove dough hook and cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough rest for 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, whisk together brown sugar and spices. Place melted butter in a nearby bowl and get a fork out, as well.

Turn dough out onto a very lightly floured



surface and gently deflate so that dough is relatively flat (maybe 1/2-3/4 inch thick) Using a knife or a bench scraper, cut off small pieces of dough to form 1/2 to 1-inch balls (I prefer slightly smaller ones, personally). As you cut each piece of dough, roll it into a ball in the palms of your hands. Dunk each ball in butter, use the fork to remove it and transfer it to the sugar mixture to be thoroughly coated. Place all coated dough balls into prepared bundt pan.

Once all balls have been coated and placed in the pan, cover the pan lightly with plastic wrap and let bread rise for 60 minutes, until almost doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 180°C while the bread rises.

Bake for 30-35 minutes. Bread will spring back when lightly pressed.

Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a serving platter. Eat immediately (or reheat leftovers), as the bread is best served warm and gooey.

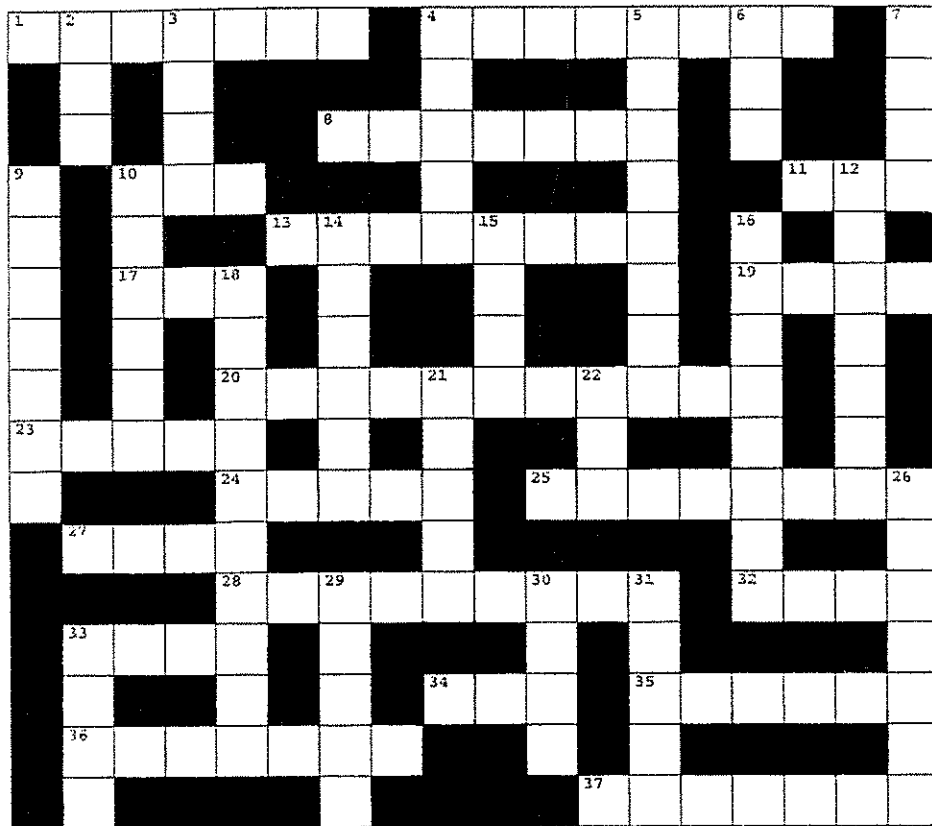
Serves 10 (or 4-5 people with a sweet tooth!)



We are urgently needing your recipes for the Wool Press! Please fax them to 27352, email sferguson@doa.gov.fk or post them to the Wool Press, Department of Agriculture, Stanley

Puzzle Page

Crossword



Across

- 1. To forgo (7)
- 4. Riding without a saddle (4,4)
- 8. Saviour (7)
- 10. Bill, yet to be paid *informal* (3)
- 11. Female parent of an animal (3)
- 13. Electronics brand (8)
- 17. Noise of a puppy (3)
- 19. Noise of a pig (4)
- 20. Winding street in Stanley (5,6)
- 23. Popular Sunday meal (5)
- 24. Structure (5)
- 25. Ferry terminal (3,5)
- 27. "off the ...", ad lib (4)
- 28. "... Finest", quality assurance scheme (9)
- 32. To injure (4)
- 33. Against (4)
- 34. Device used to record location *inits*(3)
- 35. Period of teaching (6)
- 36. Popular stop after Government House during Farmers' Week (4,3)
- 37. One of the seven dwarves (7)

Down

- 2. A lambs cry (3)
- 3. Girls name (4)
- 4. A herb (5)
- 5. Dairy, now closed (8)
- 6. Small bear (3)
- 7. Rumbling sound (4)

- 9. Core of the traditional central heating system (7)
- 10. Vehicle manufacturer (6)
- 12. Famous racetrack (7)
- 14. Risk/danger (6)
- 15. Girl/young lady (4)
- 16. Popular two-nighter location (5,3)
- 18. Where you get your two-metre licence from (4,6)
- 21. Sign up (5)
- 22. A cereal crop, often used to make bread (3)
- 26. Peppercorn/minimal (7)
- 29. Pastel colour (5)
- 30. Space agency *inits* (4)
- 31. Tomato based sauce (5)
- 33. Land measurement (4)

Dingbat Brain Games

Flex your brain, free your mind, think laterally

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

Golden Gate
H₂O

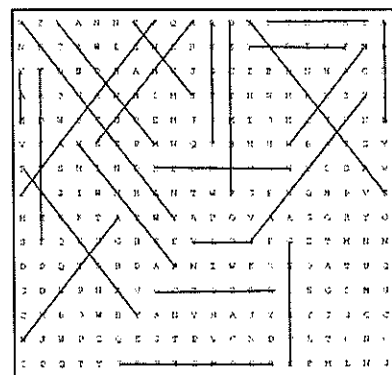
ACTIO

T R O
O

These will be the last of the dingbats. If you have a favourite type of puzzle, let us know and we could include it in the Wool Press

April Solutions

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



Riddle Answer - I am a brain

E I G
G H T HT

Pieces of eight

Q O O O E 2

Three men in a boat

print

Small Print

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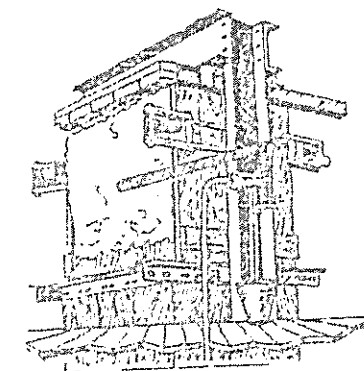
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Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

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Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

Hasn't it been a great Autumn so far – both April and May have had a plentiful supply of sunshine and not too much rain or stormy conditions? What a contrast to earlier in the year when it appeared to be too much to ask to have 2 consecutive dry days – but that extra rainfall appears to have worked wonders as far as stock condition is concerned. You can read John Ferguson's article outlining what a good export season this has been at FIMCo both in terms of numbers and quality of stock being supplied to the abattoir. There is no doubt about it but that farmers supplying FIMCo are definitely "upping their game" and supplying a product that better meets the requirements of the market – both at home and overseas. Well done to all concerned.

However that doesn't mean you can rest on your laurels and put your feet up. No matter how good that sheep or cow might be it can always be improved upon. So for those of you already producing beef or thinking of going down that route I recommend that you read Mac's article on pregnancy testing cows and when to wean calves. But while meat production is growing in importance in the Falkland Islands it still has a long way to go to catch up with wool and in Ian Campbell's article you can read what Ian thinks are the future prospects for this product. Although it is useful to consider what the future might bring it is equally important sometimes to look back and see how we got to where we are now. Tony Mills does this in an article based on a publication by Des Humphrey which considers the development of the Merino in Australia over the past 50 years. It makes interesting reading and I particularly liked the pictures conjured up in my mind of "good" ewes looking like Jayne Mansfield and "poor" ones looking like Twiggy. From now on you can compare all your ewes with famous actresses and models and your rams with your favourite actors or footballers!

Gary Finchett has kindly submitted an article telling you something of his background and the wide range of duties he now oversees. Take a very good look at his photograph and commit it to memory so that you aren't inadvertently caught speeding while driving down the MPA road. Zoë has carried on with her series of article on causes of lameness in small animals - this time looking at cruciate ligament injuries, something we see on a fairly regular basis. Gordon Lennie gives you a quick refresher on how to collect soil samples for analysis and there is information on how and when to apply for a Conservation small grant on the penultimate page.

Having just watched Sophie Dahl make a flourless chocolate cake on the TV you can find a recipe for an eggless chocolate cake inside the back cover. I wonder if it's possible to make an eggless, flourless chocolate cake – answers to Siân for the next Wool Press please.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

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WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR WOOL?

By Ian Campbell

The current debate as to whether we need to diversify agriculture, which I discussed in the April Wool Press, demands we need to think critically about the future of an agricultural community based on specialty wool production. So what are the future prospects for wool?

Firstly I will admit that crystal ball gazing is not something I am comfortable doing. I think all I can do here is to look at some facts and maybe see if we can draw any conclusion from them. If I have got something wrong, please let me know.

Fact 1. Most Falkland Island farms are specialist wool producers

Looking at farm income statistics, which admittedly are not perfect, the typical Falkland Island farm receives 80% of its farm income from wool sales. The remainder comes from meat, vegetables etc. This makes them in my mind and for the purpose of this discussion, specialist wool producers.

Fact 2. The long term price of wool is falling in real terms.

If we look at the last thirty years world wool prices they fluctuate wildly, but if we iron out a trend the average price of wool has increased over that time, in actual terms, by 25%. At the same time inflation has doubled – a pound now can only buy half of what it could 30 years ago. Therefore the real price of wool has dropped over this time. Is there reason to believe it might recover though? We need to look further.

Fact 3. Wool in general is becoming less popular

The world production of wool is dropping consistently. Normally a drop in supply of an item generates an increase in price, but this has coincided with the price drop in real terms as discussed above. In other words the drop in supply has been more than compensated

for by a drop in demand.

There is an exclusive market niche in top end garments that drives the micron premium up and is driving the supply to be finer, but on the whole there are a huge range of competitive alternatives available. The synthetic fibre market has grown enormously at the same time, indicating a drop in interest in wool has occurred during a time of growth in overall textile demand.

Fact 4. Falkland Island microns do not have a strong demand

Most Falkland Island wool is in the 21-26 micron range. It will sell consistently, however the prices for these wools are far less than finer wools; and the price differential will most likely remain. Unfortunately the choice of micron has to be based upon what sheep perform best in the Falkland Islands environment rather than what is the demand for these wools on the world market.

Fact 5. Operating costs are growing at a faster rate than the price of wool

I don't have the figures to back this one up but we all know this to be the case. The price of wool is not growing as fast as the cost of freight, of labour (eg shearing), and of inputs like fertilizers and drenches. How many kg of wool did it take then, and does it take now, to fill the tank of the Rover? Hence the profit in wool growing is being eroded even further than gross income figures suggest.

Fact 6. It is difficult to see major lifts in production - or reductions in micron to increase the unit price- completely solving the issue

There is no doubt the wool is getting finer as people are finding finer wooled sheep that can produce here. There is also no doubt that some are increasing production, either per head or by increasing flock sizes per farm. Such methods are important- indeed essential- but will not go so far as eradicating the issue.

So what is going to happen?

It will be inevitable that wool farmers will need other sources of income to keep afloat. Government assistance and off-farm income are going to have to increase in order to provide a comfortable existence if another farm income source is not found. The trouble with off farm income is that it takes labour away from the farm which means inevitably a drop in production, and a further driving down of farm income.

I admit to this all sounding pretty depressing so far but I don't believe we should pretend it is anything other than it is. There is however some good news.

Wool income is well up at the moment (well above the trend line- a large component is

exchange rate driven). Also the quality of wool from here is often very good in terms of colour and freedom from pigmentation, and has excellent yield and staple characteristics, so it will still have plenty of buyer interest. Wool like this from dual purpose sheep has a definite market niche and is becoming less available on the world market as other people in other places are chasing either fineness, or settling for the much coarser wool associated with meat breeds.

Maintaining wool income, whilst at the same time developing another income source, is essential. Quite a few farmers are showing they can develop a meat income in addition to the wool income and I can see no other way of maintaining a sustainable Falkland Island farming community.



TIME TO PREGNANCY TEST COWS AND WEAN CALVES

By Mac McArthur

NBH Pregnancy Rates

Recently the National Beef Herd (NBH) cows and maiden heifers were pregnancy tested by Steve Pointing at Saladero. The result was a 70 per cent pregnancy rate which was considerably better than the pregnancy rate from this herd last year (45 per cent check?). In 2008 with maiden heifers we had a 94 per cent pregnancy rate and one set of twins - a defacto 100 percent.

Interestingly all the NBH cows and heifers were inseminated with semen from Te Mania and Lawson Angus seed stock herds in Australia and then a young NBH bull fitted with a chin ball harness was immediately introduced. In the first 17 days (one oestrus cycle) he marked only 6 females so it appeared that the pregnancy to AI using a new synchronisation method was an excellent 70 per cent.

Nutritional Anoestrus

This pattern of excellent to poor pregnancy

rates in beef cows in consecutive years is a common observation on farms in the Falklands. The likely cause is nutritional anoestrus or inability of the cow to rear her calf and start cycling again to get in calf when the bulls are introduced.

To overcome this problem some farmers run twice the number of cows they need to produce steers and heifer replacements. Through joining half the cows each year and often weaning the calves much older than six months this is an expensive way to produce beef.

If you have a 100 cow herd and only 50 of these cows potentially calve each year you are grazing the 50 dry cows for no income. Each cow eats as much as 10 sheep on average, (DSE's). Without these dry cows you could be running another 500 wethers or a slightly lesser number of ewes.

Feeding management

If you are serious about beef production and plan to make optimum profit from your beef herd you need to consider the feed gaps and

management of the herd that is crucial to obtaining high pregnancy rates.

The critical time for pregnant cows is the 3 months prior to calving (last trimester of pregnancy). Cows need to be on feed that will allow them to adequately nourish the growing foetal calf and gain body weight over and above the calf weight to ensure they are in good condition to calve easily and milk well to rear a heavy calf at weaning.

For many herds which calve in October/November this last trimester coincides with July-September when there is no growth and rangeland camps often aren't able to provide the nutrition cows close to calving need.

Growing swedes, buying in supplementary feed and ensuring early oat crops and high quality re-seeds are available as soon as growth starts in the spring are some of the ways of overcoming this feed gap for pregnant cows. They all have various costs attached but if you plan ahead and do a budget on the cost of these inputs you may well be surprised at the profitability of joining all your cows to calve annually.

Partial Budgeting of Profitability

Data from farms that are producing young beef turned off to FIMCo's carcass specification between 18 months to 36 months old and are utilising genetically well bred beef cattle and ensuring they are growing optimally up to this age, show good profitability.

Taking into consideration the costs of growing swedes, high quality re-seeds, AI or bull costs etc. the total production cost is around £300/head to get a young steer to meet the FIMCo specification premium grade.

How well you have looked after that steer and its dam from the last three months of her pregnancy, whether or not she got back in calf and how fast that steer grew and fattened and when you sold it defines your profitability.

In this lucky country FIMCo provides you with a beef price schedule that holds for a year. In the majority of beef producing countries the

price schedules for over the hooks carcass sales usually only hold for a week or two and auction prices vary by the minute and day.

The following table sets out your potential profit if your costs of production ranges from £250 to £300/head turned off and your young cattle are between 18-36 months old with between 5-13mm of fat and you have a contract with FIMCo to supply cattle.

Carcass Weight (kgs)	Potential Profit per Head (£'s)			
	Feb to June	July to Sept	Oct to Nov	Dec to Jan
200	40	40	80	60
220	69	74	118	94
240	98	108	156	128
280	156	176	232	196
Estimated Cost of Production per head (£'s)	250	300	300	280

Weaning Time is Crucial

To ensure that cows are able to maintain the required condition and put on weight over the winter it is important that calves are weaned around 6 months old, drenched and put onto a clean camp with good feed to ensure continued steady growth to meet the required weights and fatness at young ages.

Ideally calves should weigh on average at least 220 kg at 6 months old. This years NBH weaners, weaned in early May averaged 246.6 kg but had a wide variation from 287 kg to 211 kg suggesting that at least a couple of the cows in the herd are suspect for not reaching optimum milk production and might be culled particularly if they are empty.

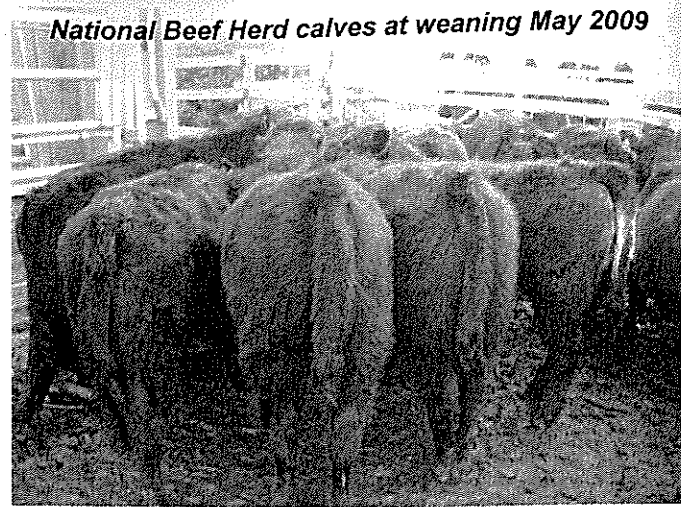
If you join your cows for 6 weeks (approx. 2 oestrus cycles) it is possible to weigh all your calves at weaning and calculate a 200 day weight which is a good indicator of a cow's milking ability. If you cull the poor milk producers in your herd you will improve your average weaning weights, potential finished

weights and lessen the time to get to these weights. DoA staff can assist you with this weaning weighing and also assist you to calculate the 200 day weights on the Herd-master software programme.

Diversification

Wool prices are at a 20 year high this season but so are lamb and beef prices on world markets. Inevitably wool and other prices will fluctuate in the future relative to one another and 'not having all your eggs in one basket' if you can manage it, has significant advantages over a single farm enterprise.

Beef cattle don't require the labour input for shearing and lamb marking etc. that sheep do but they require good solid, if not electric, fencing and a workable set of cattle yards and a crush.



A number of farms are making good profits from running beef cattle that calve annually over a 6 week period in conjunction with wool, lamb and mutton enterprises. If you are interested in increasing your farm profitability and assisting FIMCo to be a long term sustainable and profitable business give the DoA a call on 27355.

CRUCIATE LIGAMENT INJURY IN DOGS

By Zoë Luxton

"She's done her cruciate" are words that are probably familiar to several of you dog owners. You will certainly remember if your dog has had a cruciate ligament rupture repaired as they will have returned home to you with a scarred, bald knee and instructions that they must be strictly rested for at least 6 weeks – instructions that tend to make even the strictest dog owners sigh – you try keeping a collie or a kelpie still for more than 6 days!

Cruciate ligaments are the criss-crossed ligaments found in the knee joint and are the ligaments needed to stop the tibia (shin bone) sliding forwards and backwards under the femur (thigh bone). The collateral ligaments stop the bones sliding sideways over each other.

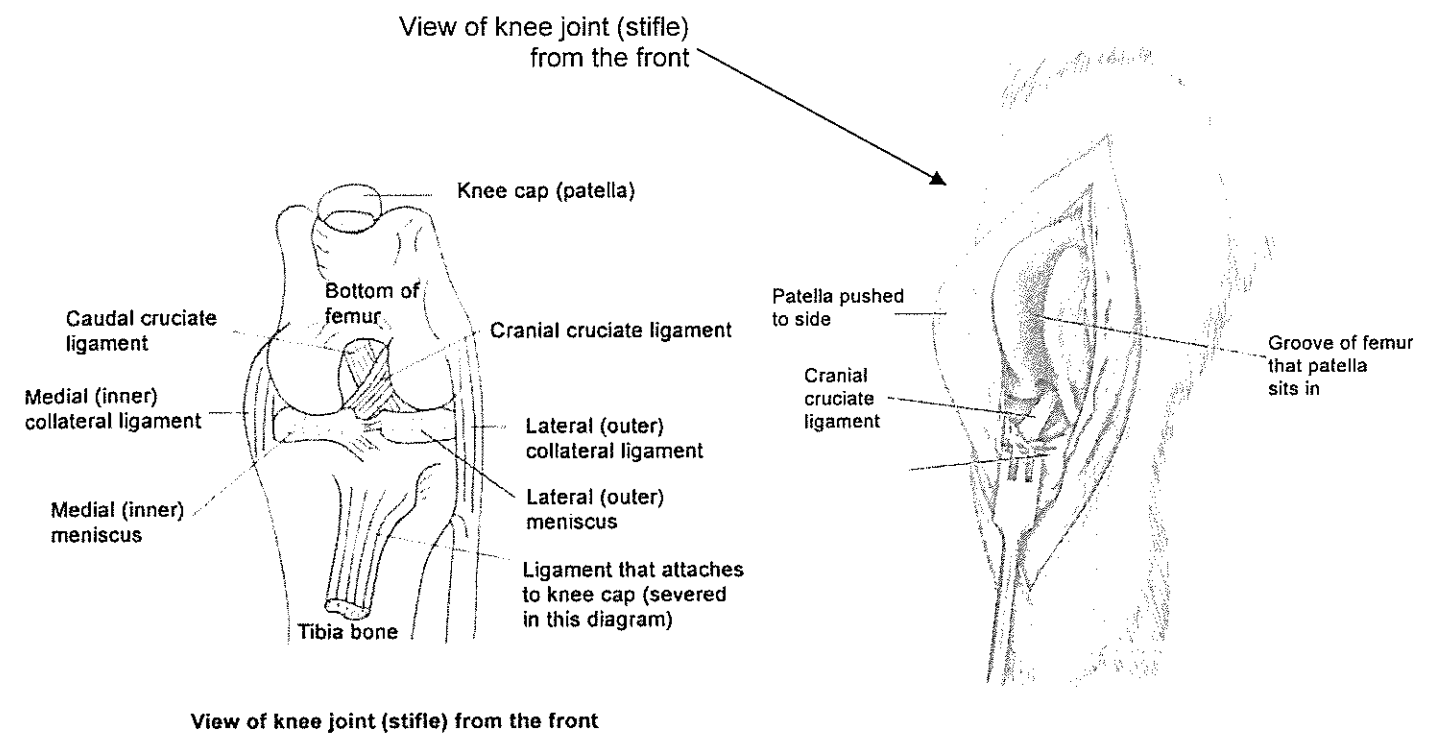
The cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) is the most commonly ruptured ligament in the dog. Rupture can occur due to severe trauma (common in young working dogs that twist suddenly or jump awkwardly) or after some degenerative changes in the ligament have

occurred and thus minor trauma can cause a partial tear or complete rupture (more common in older dogs).

If the CCL is ruptured the knee joint rolls and slides in an abnormal fashion and in many cases the medial meniscus (soft joint cushion between the femur and tibia) is torn or detached also adding to the swelling and discomfort in the joint. As the stifle joint is unstable, degenerative joint disease begins. (see last Wool Press)

It is feeling this joint instability that aids in the diagnosis that the CCL is partially or wholly ruptured. By holding the femur and knee cap firmly in one hand and the head of the tibia in the other you can easily move the tibia forward and backwards if there is damage to the ligaments and quite a 'clunk' is felt as the bones abnormally moved over each other. In a normal joint with intact, strong ligaments this forward movement of the tibia in relation to the femur cannot occur.

Dogs with total cruciate rupture normally show a sudden onset non-weight bearing lameness on the affected limb. If a ruptured CCL is left



untreated, about 10 days after the injury the dog will start to very gingerly use the limb again and it would continue to improve. The knee joint would get very thickened and the muscles of the thigh would waste where the leg was not being used properly. The continuous joint instability will cause inflammation and pain and degenerative joint changes. In large dogs it is almost always preferable to repair a complete CCL rupture surgically but even then return to normal activities will take 5-6 months. In very small dogs and cats, strict rest and leg support may suffice in the case of total CCL rupture.

There have been many different methods suggested for surgical repair of ruptured cruciate ligaments. One method we use commonly here is to free up a piece of connective tissue from the thigh and fold it down through the stifle joint and fasten it to the tibia to basically mimic what the ligament itself would do. It is important to also clean up the joint as much as possible as pieces of damaged ligament or pieces of damaged menisci will continue to cause discomfort.

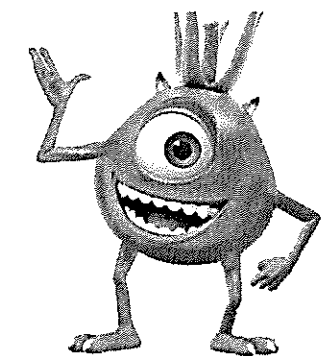
Partial rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament or rupture of the caudal cruciate ligament can also result in lameness and joint instability but the leg muscles can compensate in these situations better so often rest, limb support and pain relief are sufficient treatment

methods.

Non-weight bearing lamenesses should NEVER be ignored, prompt treatment may mean a better prognosis and full return to work.

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366 or email zluxton@doa.gov.fk for more information.

SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?!



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

**Call the Veterinary Section
on 27366**

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS
OUR BEST DEFENCE**

SOIL TESTING SERVICE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By Gordon Lennie

Farmers who are looking at putting in reseeded or any crops (in the initial year of cultivation), are required to put in a soil sample for approval for FIP funding.

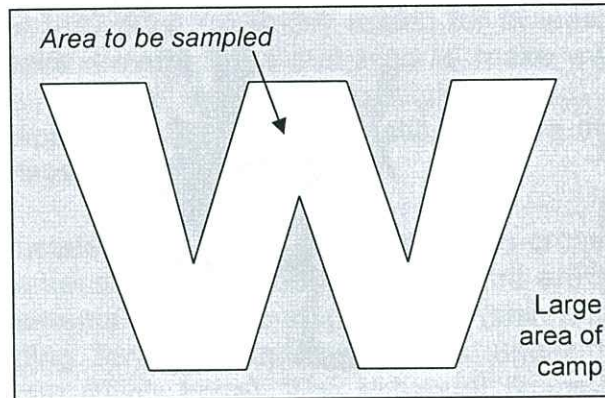
For all FIP samples a pH test is necessary to check the actual pH value of the area before any cultivation takes place.

A cut-off minimum pH value of 4.60 is required before an area can be given approval for FIP assistance funding.

Soil Sampling:

Ideally soil samples should be taken using a soil auger which enables "cores" of soil to be taken below the surface. If a soil auger is unavailable then a piece of narrow rigid tubing may be used. A garden trowel will also serve to take soil samples.

You should avoid taking sample cores from areas near watering holes/ gates/ dung or urine patches or where stock shelter. When sampling a large area of camp it is customary to take cores in the shape of an imaginary "W" "covering the area being sampled.



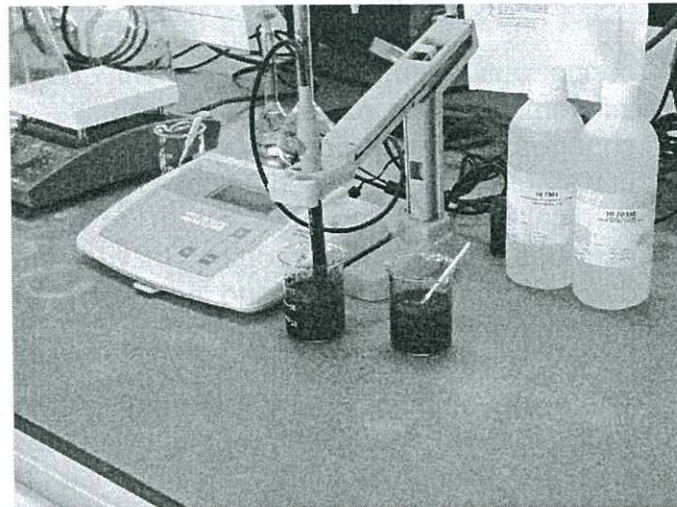
Core depth should be around 6 inches. It will also be easier to take the cores if the surface vegetation is removed with a spade first. If you are sampling from a large area (~ 4 ha) then you should take around 25 individual cores to get a good representative sample from the area. It is best to collect these in a bucket. The collected cores are finally mixed

in a bucket and sub-sampled to produce a sample for submission to the lab (1 kg approx). If the sample contains a lot of roots then you should aim to take a larger sample (1.5 kg).

Once the sample is received in the DOA lab, it is given a lab reference number and the site details noted. The cores are spread out onto a plastic sheet and broken up into fine crumbs. The sample is well mixed before further sub-sampling.

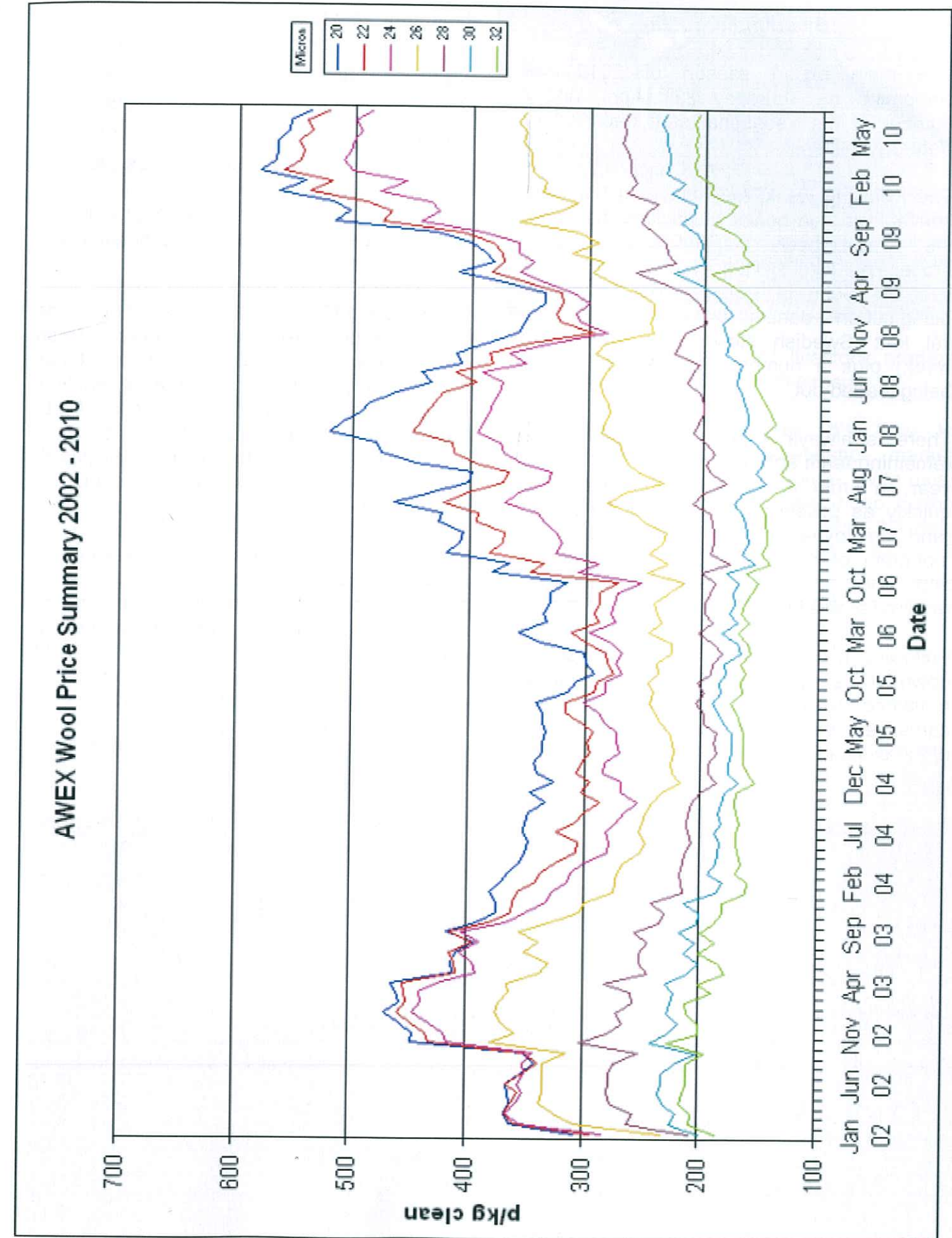
The subsample is then spread out over a tray lined with newspaper and air-dried in the oven at a low temperature. The dried soil is finally sieved through a 2mm sieve with all roots/ twigs and stones being removed.

Soil sampling at the DoA



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



By John Ferguson

The main export season of 2010 was completed on Thursday 22nd April, and a number of the seasonal staff departed on Saturday 24th.

The following week, the remaining team has concentrated on boning & packing the last of the export beef, completing the frozen processing for PL Handel in Sweden (with over 14,000kg of frozen chops/necks/flaps being cut on 3 bandsaws then packed for Får i kål kott 'Swedish stew packs' during the week) plus a number of reefer containers being loaded out.

There is always a lot of pressure on the remaining team and admin staff at this time of year, in order to 'clear up' the season as quickly as possible, get the final containers (and employees..) away and produce the mountain of export shipping documentation and end of season staff administration required at this time.

Following a difficult start, the season settled down in early February, and production remained pretty much on the plant limit of 500 carcasses per day from mid-Feb until the end of the season.

Lambs (OS/YL)
Lambs (NSL)
Sheep

	Budgeted	Actual
Lambs (OS/YL)	5,000	5,507
Lambs (NSL)	11,500	9,199
Sheep	18,500	21,580
	35,000	36,286

This is by far the most consistent productivity to date, mostly down to fewer problems with livestock transport.

In addition, 115 head of manufacturing grade cattle were processed for export during March & April. The analysis of the beef export trial has yet to be carried out. From a practical perspective, the plan of integrating beef into the sheep & lamb season seems to have been more successful than anticipated, although there are some changes required for future production.

The quality of sheep & lambs processed was much better than other years, which demonstrates the positive way that producers are responding to the pricing schedules. It was particularly noticeable with the Old Season & Yearling Lambs, of which only 0.8% was below the min standard of Fat Class 2. It was also very encouraging to have more producers visit the plant and see how their animals dressed out.



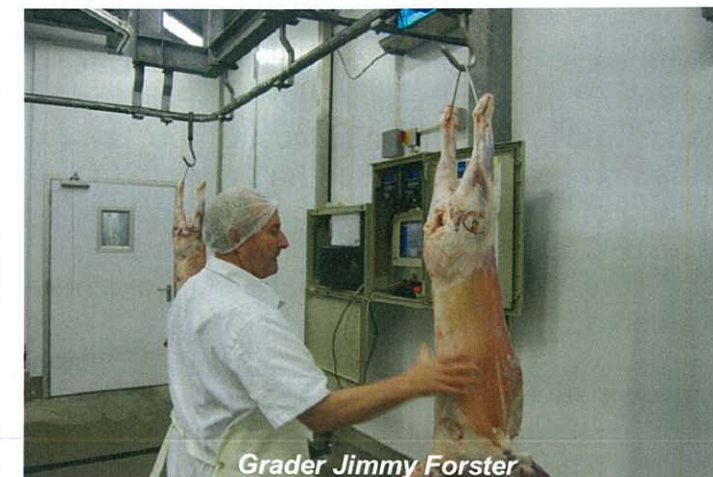
The export cutting and packing room

Mutton quality has also markedly improved, and a number of farms even targeted the lower end of the quality scale, in order to get as many of their animals sold as possible. Swift feedback from the plant on previous lots processed allowed farmers to better judge the 'cut off' in terms of being paid or not. Despite this, only 0.5% of the 22,500 mutton processed so far in 2009-10 has been below the min grade of FC 2

New Season lambs were also of a good quality, and for the first time, like with mutton several producers deliberately targeted the lower end of the scale in order to sell as many of their 'bottom end' lambs as possible – in addition to the better quality lambs. This was mainly for those who have terminal sire lambs to sell.

FIMCo also considered this a trial to see how many of this grade there were, and we were fortunate enough to get export cuts from lambs as low as 8kg. In other years the min cut specification has been from 9kg lambs up.

All of the above clearly shows the change in farmers' approach to livestock finishing and



sales, and producers and livestock graders are to be congratulated on this result.

Now the season is over, it's time to concentrate on the domestic market production over the winter months. With most producers wishing to sell their sheep during the export season or in the spring, the next few months are looking difficult in terms of mutton availability, so any farmers with mutton to sell during this period are encouraged to take advantage of the better prices at this time of year and contact FIMCo. With the much lower requirements per week, even an lfor Williams trailer load works in well.



Farmer Paul Phillips checking how his old season lamb dressed out

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

By Tony Mills

It was nice to receive an email from Des Humphrey, a past visitor to the Falkland Islands who is well known to most of you. Des passed on some information he presented to a group of sheep producers based in central western Queensland about sheep breeding but more specifically about the much commented on Merino.

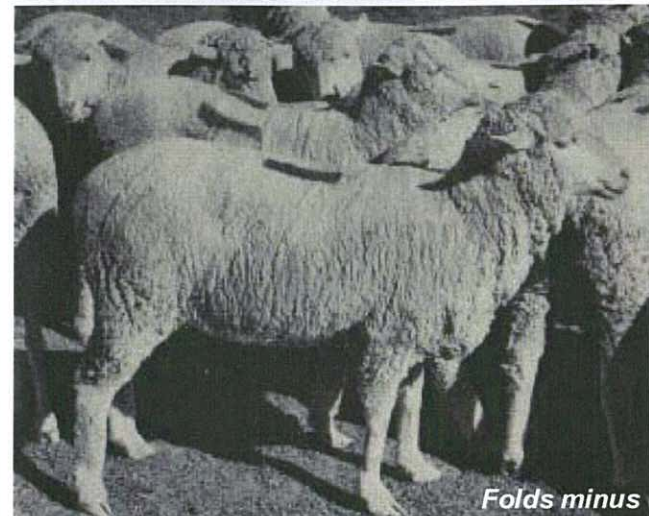
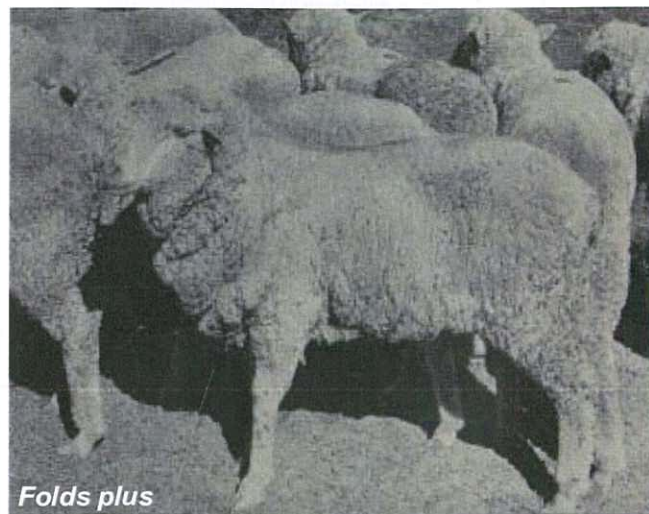
This was in response to the article on the future direction of sheep breeding in the Falkland Islands (April 2010). I have a copy of Des's full article if people are keen to read it but in lieu of that here is a summary of some of the key points.

The first interesting point of Des's presentation is about the change in the Merino from its introduction into Australia. It is well known that the origins of the Merino are closely tied to the importations of the Spanish Merino. It may not be so well known that about 25 different breeds were thought to have been crossed over the Spanish Merino to form the original Australian Merino types with many of them being European meat breeds. In essence this would make it a composite sheep. The other notable change was in the Merino's production. Des mentions that the change in wool cut alone over fifty years went from about 1 kg to 4 – 5kg and that this lift can be attributed to crossbreeding and careful selection.



Falkland Islander Vikki Lee during her time spent with Des Humphrey learning to class wool

Two groups classed out from the same base stock into folds plus and folds minus



Des also points out that a lot of the look of the Merino has been largely influenced by the show ring which has probably suppressed some key characteristics and as such a plain bodied Merino that was possibly a twin was frowned on. Is this still the same view today? I would suggest not entirely but how new are these ideas of a Merino that is easier to shear but still very productive? Des follows on to recount some key research carried out by CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) animal production researchers at Trangie in the 1950's.

The foundation of this work was to breed a heavy cutting, fertile, medium wool flock using measured performance within a logical breeding programme. Independent culling levels were included for excess skin folds and

face cover, along with broad crimping wool and the failure to wean a lamb annually. All of this was carried out in the context of the future role of the Merino which included:

- Continued demand for soft handling 60 – 64s (23 to 22 micron) wool
- Continued demand for cast for age Merinos with good wool production and large frame size suitable for cross breeding and meat export (mutton)
- Continued demand for wether weaners for wool production and eventual meat export.

The work goes further to describe the ideal animal which some today might call it by the name of 'SRS' or 'Elite Wool'. The outcome was that over twenty years of selection the selected flock outperformed the original stud flocks they were compared against.

Des describes a second trial carried out by CSIRO which worked on the net productive rate (NPR) of a plain bodied Merino ewe and a wrinkly ewe from within the same medium wool flock. The key criteria were age at first joining, number of joinings until cast for age, death rate, number of lambs born and weaning percentage. Progress was defined as follows:

- 100% if flock numbers just maintained
- Less than 100% - purchase of replacements necessary
- Over 100% - enabled culling of ewes and therefore an increase in all aspects of productivity.

The net result of this work over four generations showed that the fold minus group had NPR of 225% compared to 125% which allowed a culling rate of 56% of the maiden ewes.

The production trait that is seen as the weakest link for the Merino is fertility. This trait was the basis for another trial by the same group of researchers from CSIRO. The premise this time was to work on a dual purpose role of the Merino with wool being the by-product of meat. This was also being done in the context of meat becoming a more

valuable product as wool became under increasing pressure from synthetic fibres. The following was the statement that defined it all 'lamb and mutton will give the sheep farmer his main economic return, with wool as an important additional source of income.' The focus on improved reproductive performance, growth rate of the lamb and mature body size was to occur but not at the expense of the key attributes of fine apparel wool, lean meat, and the ability to join for lambings at any time of year.

The ideal ram from this selection process was described as having a heavy bodyweight and carcass size with little evidence of skin folds and a tendency towards a bare head and points. The ideal ewe was one who had reared multiple progeny with high weaning weights each year of her commercial life. Are these the same ideas behind the current breeding strategies of sheep breeders?

Des concludes his presentation with a look back at the views of one of the Merino industry's most influential sheep classers, Gordon McMaster. Gordon McMaster was once quoted in the 1980's as stating that a productive ewe was one that looked like Jayne Mansfield (plenty of front) where as the culled ewe looked like Twiggy – no front and a mini skirt on! More recently this same classer stated that a profitable operation should derive 60% of its income from meat and lambs and 40% from wool (medium – strong). He went further to state that you need one kilogram (kg) of wool for every 10 – 12kg of bodyweight and if you go too far with wool then you will suffer a drop in lambing percentage. His prediction was of a Merino that will almost look like a White Suffolk with quality wool. He went further to state the Merino flock in its present form was unsustainable and we must look towards a multi-purpose animal.

There is much food for thought from within this presentation with one being the focus on selection. One producer here has described this to me in relation to the discussions about the various breed choices as if you select for it you will get it! Breed then tends to become less important than type!

INTRODUCING THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

I'm very pleased to be asked to write this article for the Wool Press.

I am Gary Finchett, the Director of Community Safety and Chief Police Officer of the Royal Falkland Islands Police. I'm also the Principal Immigration Officer and Officer in charge of Stanley Prison. I also have responsibility for the overall direction of Customs & Immigration, Fire & Rescue Service and the Falkland Islands Defence Force. These combined services fall under the Community Safety Directorate of the Falkland Islands Government as their primary purpose is the same – to make people who live in, work in and visit the Falklands Islands safe and feel safer.

I live in East Stanley with my partner Alison who is a nurse. Outside of work I enjoy walking our two dogs, music, photography and visiting Camp. I'm a keen motorcyclist having ridden across most of Europe and also to the Arctic Circle in aid of Hope House Children's Hospices in the UK which was a fantastic experience.

Prior to joining the Falklands Islands Government I served for 31 years as a police officer in the Cheshire Constabulary in the UK. I started my career as a Constable in the City of Chester undertaking a wide variety of uniformed duties, including traffic patrol, where I dealt with serious and fatal road traffic collisions. Sadly excessive speed, alcohol consumption and the failure to wear seat belts played a part in many of these accidents as they do to this day.

As a Sergeant I was responsible for community policing, child protection and domestic violence issues, which highlighted the fact that we often don't know what is going on behind closed doors; young people are particularly susceptible to pressure from older people and protecting vulnerable people from harm is everyone's business. In March 1993, I was on duty in Warrington when the IRA detonated two bombs in a busy street in the town centre which took the lives of two children and injured over 50 others. This

Gary Finchett



event and others since have taught me that that major incidents can happen anywhere at any time and that there is no room for complacency regarding public safety.

I was promoted as Chief Superintendent – Area Commander for Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn in Cheshire in 2007 where I was responsible for all aspects of policing. That same year I dealt with public shock and anger after a 47 year old father of two, Garry Newlove, was murdered outside his own home in Warrington by a group of youths. I realised that alcohol and substance misuse by a small hard core of young people ruined lives, including their own and that the police, other partners and the public need to proactively tackle these issues to make communities safer.

I was attracted to my current post in the Falkland Islands by the diversity of the role and saw opportunities for the Police, Customs & Immigration, Fire & Rescue and FIDF to work even closer together and make them more effective under a single Community Safety directorate. Already, Heads of Service have found substantial efficiency savings without reducing the level of service provided to the public and this work needs to continue to ensure we are as effective as we can be, bearing in mind public finances are extremely tight. I was also enticed by the thought of

working in such a special place with its unique history, unparalleled scenery and diverse wildlife. You can see why so many people choose to live, visit and work in these wonderful Islands.

My initial views of the Falkland Islands after 5 months here is that it is a spectacular and fascinating place. There is, literally, nowhere else like it on earth. People are extremely resilient, self sufficient and look out for each other here. They feel safe and have every right to do so as serious crime is very rare and with the support of the community we identify and deal with offenders quickly.

However, there can be no room for complacency regarding community safety and my priorities for the police include increasing public confidence in the service, responding effectively to people when they are in need, preventing and investigating crime and disorder, protecting vulnerable people and effectively managing serious incidents. Police officers will specifically be concentrating on reducing the number of serious and fatal road traffic collisions, reducing crime and repeat incidents of anti-social behaviour and increasing the volume of crimes detected.

I'm very keen to ensure that people living outside Stanley receive policing services tailored to their specific needs. We are not 'Stanley Police' we are the 'Royal Falkland Islands Police' and are charged with policing the whole of the Islands. Whilst the roads network and better communications has meant that communities in Camp are less isolated than was previously the case, I am very conscious of the fact that people need to be reassured that the emergency services will respond to them when they are in need. I intend to seek your views on how we can best provide policing services in Camp.

It is vital that you continue to support the police and other emergency services in helping us to make you even safer. You can help us by:

➤ Reporting crime and suspicious incidents

The Falkland Islands enjoys a very low crime

rate, however I need **all** crime to be reported so I can target police and other resources where they can make the most difference. I still believe some offences such as theft, damage, sexual assaults and domestic violence are not being reported.

➤ Reporting suspicious incidents

If you see something that doesn't look right, it probably isn't. Let us know about it and we'll take a look. Even if nothing is untoward, it is better to be safe than sorry. If in doubt, give us a shout!

➤ Taking personal responsibility for your own safety and that of others

Please enjoy alcohol responsibly. The emergency services are dealing with too many alcohol related incidents, especially assaults, criminal damage and drink driving. The performance of people operating agricultural and other machinery is also impaired by alcohol and can lead to accidents. Likewise, people who have consumed alcohol are more likely to become a victim or a perpetrator of crime. Everyone has the right to enjoy alcohol responsibly but they don't have the right to drink themselves into a state whereby they become a risk to others.

When driving a motor vehicle don't drink and drive, keep your speed down and wear your seatbelt at all times.

Always let someone know where you are going, especially when in camp as it makes it easier for us to find you should you get into difficulties. Carry some means of communication where practicable.

I would be very interested to hear your views on what we can do together to make the Falkland Islands even safer. I'd also like to know what priorities you want the police and other emergency services to concentrate on to achieve this goal.

I have been out to camp to speak to people and intend to continue these visits. However, If you would like to speak to me in the meantime I can be contacted via Stanley Police Station on 28100.

FARM MAPPING SERVICES

The Department of Agriculture offers a free mapping service to everyone interested in plotting their fencelines or working on their farm maps.

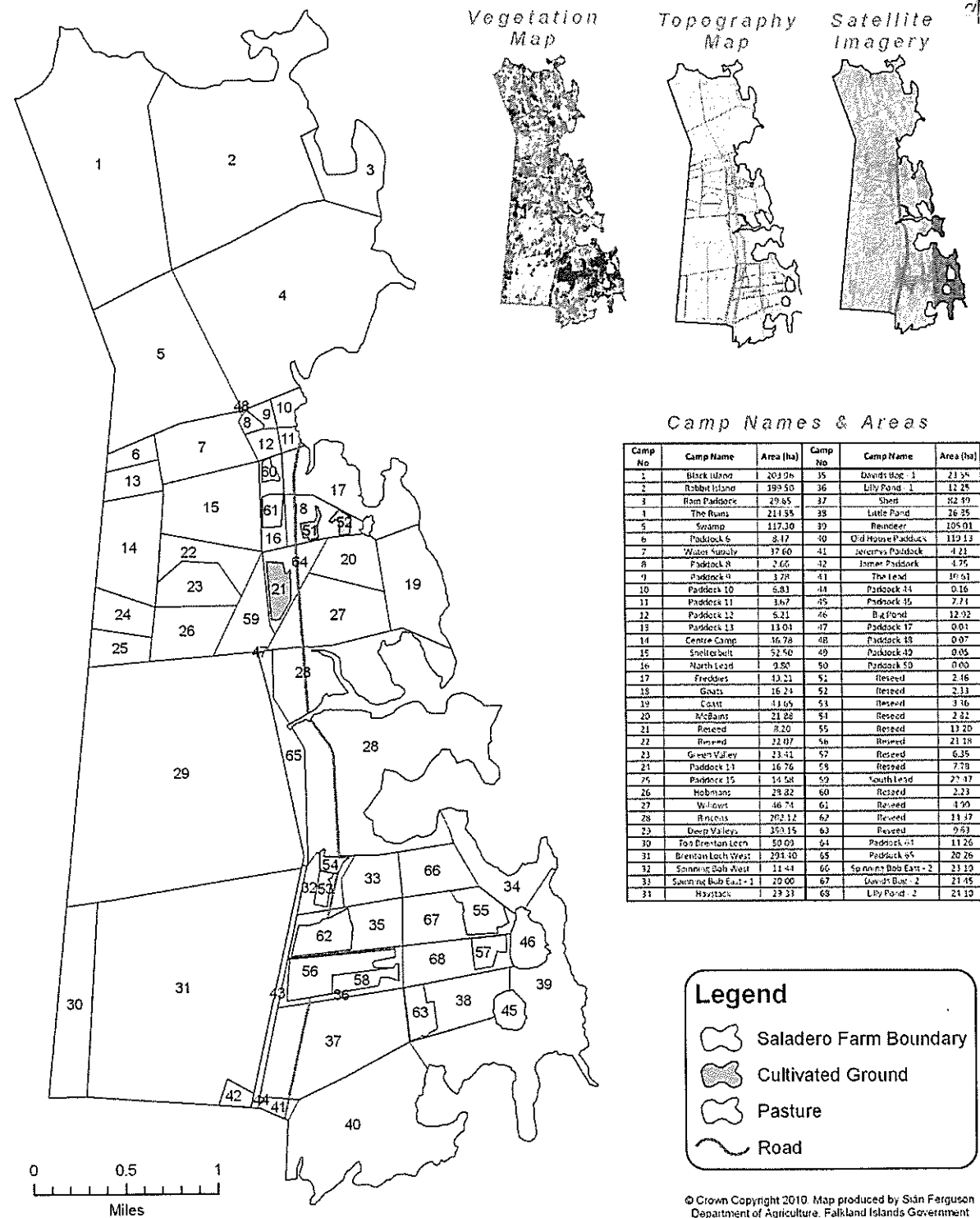
We can work out camp areas, add vegetation data, topographic sheets or satellite imagery to your farm boundary or colour code different

pasture improvement works you have carried out.

There are also a number of GPS units available to borrow and we can run you through the mapping process.

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

Saladero, East Falkland



© Crown Copyright 2010. Map produced by Sian Ferguson, Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FARMERS' WEEK PROGRAMME 2010

Please see below the RBA timetable for Farmers' Week, which will be taking place this year between Monday 5th July and Friday 9th July.

If anyone has any queries or would like to book an Expo stand please do not hesitate to contact Sarah or Lisa on 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk

Information on the Department of Agriculture sessions will be included in the July Wool Press and a programme will also be emailed & posted later this month. For more information, please contact us on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Farmers' Week Timetable

All events are taking place in the Town Hall unless stated otherwise.

	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Evening
Monday 5th July	Rural Expo	-	Workboat Services	RBA Party (Millers Bar)
			RBA AGM	
			Wool Company AGM	
Tuesday 6th July	FIGAS (Air Terminal)	FIDC	FIMCO	FIODA
	FIDC		Power Station & Wind Turbine Site Visit	
Wednesday 7th July	DoA	FIMCO	FIMCO	Government House
			Tourism	Falklands Conversation
Thursday 8th July	Environmental Planning & Conservation	DoA	DoA	Hillside Meal
DoA				
Friday 9th July	Councillors Q & A	RBA	FIGAS Review	Camp Ed Dance
	FIMCo Q & A		MLA's	
			Tourism Workshop	



Conservation Small Grant Scheme.

Looking for some financial assistance for a small environmental project in the Falklands? Can we help you achieve this?

The Falkland Islands Conservation Grants Scheme was established from a bequest to Falklands Conservation by Mrs Joan Kenneally. Grants are awarded to individuals or organisations based in the Falkland Islands. Grants will not normally exceed £1000. Applications will be accepted until 31st July each year, and grant allocations made by 15th August

Suitability

Grants are awarded for practical conservation, research and/or wildlife education projects in the Falkland Islands.

Some examples of appropriate projects are:

Restoration/protection of tussac grass through planting, management or fencing;

- Control of rodents/cats to reduce impacts on wild birds;
- Control of invasive plants (gorse, thistle etc.) where these are damaging native habitats;
- Wildlife surveys, especially for nature reserve areas or areas of wildlife importance such as Important Bird Areas;
- Provision of on-site tourism information and/or guidelines on Falklands wildlife including signs or leaflets for wildlife sites;
- Construction of bird hides for visitor use;
- Enhancement of wildlife and bird habitats such as construction of artificial islands in ponds and lakes for nesting birds.

Please contact the FC office for grant forms and advice on suitability of your project or email: craig.dockrill@conservation.org.fk

Taken from the 2010 South Australian Stud Merino Annual Directory

Wool makes a comeback as Carbon-friendly fibre

By CATHERINE MILLER

WOOL is poised for a renaissance as the planet-friendly fibre. Late last year, a group of Australian and international wool industry representatives formed the Wool Carbon Alliance to market the natural benefits of wool as the ideal fibre to help combat global warming.

The Australian Wool Innovation initiative is encouraging consumers to wear and walk on wool, and sleep with it to reduce their carbon emissions while, at the same time, boosting sales.

WCA chairman and AWI board member Chick Olsson said it was important, if Wool Poll was to succeed in maintaining a 2 per cent levy, that future grower funds were focused on telling wool's story: that its environmental benefits are made only from sunlight, water and grass.

AWI marketing strategies will explain wool is made of up to 50pc carbon stored in a stable form and has the ability to biodegrade without harm to the environment.

One of the latest campaigns encourages consumers to reduce their reliance on fossil

fuels by putting on a woollen jumper and turning down the heating.

The European Commission says a household can cut its CO2 emissions by up to 300 kilograms a year and energy bills by 5-10pc simply by reducing its heating by just 1C degree.

"Consumers don't need a lot of convincing with most knowing that wool is produced in interesting places where not much else will grow," Mr Olsson said.

"Wool has a great role to play in their lives and they can save the planet too," he said.

WCA's vision includes Woolmark swing tags displaying wool's carbon footprint measurements.

Mr Olsson said the committee had also recommended researching a new life cycle of wool from the paddock through the wool pipeline to the consumer.

Further recommendations include a database of scientific evidence to support the marketing of wool's environmental credentials.

"We are fully convinced ruminants are not the notorious emitters people are saying and emissions are dealt with by the planet naturally and at a much greater rate



WOOLLY TIME: WCA chairman and AWI board member Chick Olsson says it is "wool's time" to help the planet and sell more product in the process.

than industrial pollutants," Mr Olsson said.

Research had shown wool was also a carbon store with each kilogram of greasy wool shown to store about 1.3kg of CO2.

Mr Olsson said it was "wool's time" to help the planet and sell more wool in the process.

"Before the global financial crisis, consumers were picking up wool and now we are seeing them come back to it," he said.

"The very cool northern hemisphere winter is all in our favour and there is a massive shortage of quality wool.

"We will see 1100-1200c/kg this year but we just need to make sure we are able to sustain these prices."

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by the Sealed PR girls, Stanley

Eggless Chocolate Cake

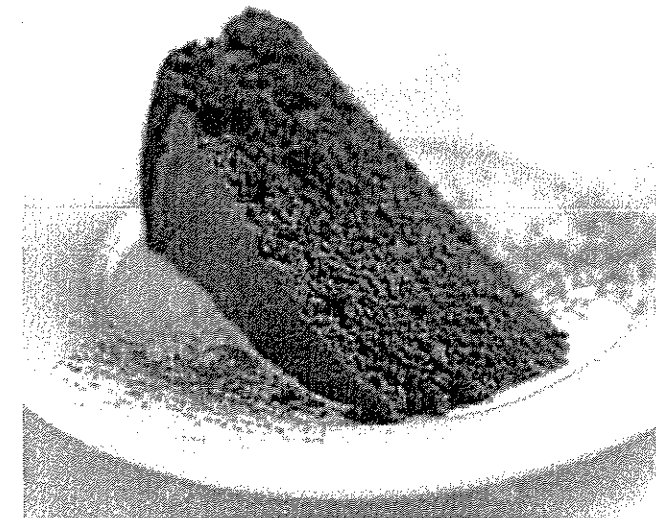
ingredients

- 6oz butter or margarine
- 4oz sugar
- 2 tbspoons syrup
- 1 cup of milk (about two thirds of an average mug)
- 6oz plain flour
- 2oz cocoa
- 1tsp baking powder
- 1tsp bicarb
- 1tsp vanilla essence (optional)

method

Melt the butter, sugar, syrup and milk in a saucepan. Stir in the flour, cocoa, baking powder, bicarb and vanilla essence (if using).

Pour into a lined and greased loaf tin/round cake tin. Cook for about 45 minutes on gas mark 4/180°C



then test with a skewer (if the mixture sticks to it, cook for a little longer).

You can make this recipe even more evil by adding some chocolate chips into the mixture!



We are urgently needing your recipes for the Wool Press! Please fax them to 27352, email sferguson@doa.gov.fk or post them to the Wool Press, Department of Agriculture, Stanley

Dates for the Diary



- 14th June Liberation Day - Public Holiday
- 19th June Midwinter Swim - Surf Bay
- 5th to 9th July Farmers Week - Sessions mostly being held in the Town Hall
- 14th July Dog Dosing (Drontal)
Please remember to contact the veterinary Service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed
- 14th August Falklands Day

Puzzle Page

Word Search - F.I. businesses

- Argos
- Bargains galore
- BAS
- Beauchene Fishing
- Bonners Haulage
- Brasserie
- Byron Marine
- Cable and Wireless
- Chamber of Commerce
- Consultancy Services
- Deanos Bar
- Décor Services
- Energise
- Falkland Farmers
- Falkland Islands Tourist Board
- Falklands Conservation
- Falkland Supplies
- FIC
- FIDC
- FIRS
- Fortuna
- International Tours and Travel
- Jaytec
- Kelper Stores
- KTV
- Leisure Ideas
- Lifestyles
- Micheles Cafe
- NAAFI
- RBA
- Satec
- Seafish Chandlery
- SeAled Pr
- Southern Imports
- Standard Chartered Bank
- Stanley Services
- Sullivan Shipping
- The Bread Shop
- The Print Shop
- Warrah Design
- Workboat Services

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

May Solutions

**Golden Gate
H₂O**

Water under the bridge

ACTIO

Missing in action

R O
T O

Square root

Riddles

What is:
 • The beginning of eternity
 • The end of time and space
 • The beginning of every end
 • And the end of every place?

You are lost and alone in the woods. You stumble across an old cabin, and decide to stay there for the night. You want some heat and light, but the only things you find in the cabin are a candle, an oil lamp and a wood burning stove. You look in your pocket but you only have one match left. What do you light first?