

THE WOOL PRESS

July 2010

Volume 246

£1.25

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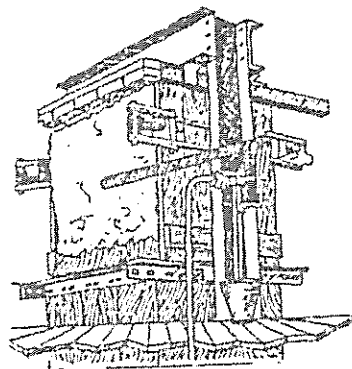
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Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

We are past the shortest day and despite a recent good fall of snow conditions for livestock and farmers have been considerably improved when you think back to what 'Hughie' provided from above weather-wise last winter.

Glenn Ross, MLA has called a team of people together to work on solutions to the earwig problem and our first article describes the role of this team known as Bug Busters. The first initiative of the team to get a survey questionnaire out has resulted in a tremendous response with over 150 questionnaires already returned to the DoA.

Ian Campbell has written an interesting article about all the key factors that contribute to poor lambing percentages and points out the incremental effect many of these factors can have on your ultimate lamb marking percentage. Getting all 'the ducks you can influence in a row' is the paraphrased message.

Great to welcome Sam Cockwell, yet another young Falkland Islands graduate back to an interesting job in the Islands. Sam has recently been appointed as Project Leader for an important study of the interactions between livestock and birds throughout the Falklands. He is looking forward to meeting and renewing acquaintances with farmers during Farmers' Week.

Zoe Luxton has continued her series of articles on common hip and pelvis problems in farm dogs. Prevention of injuries through investment in a decent dog box or harness for the back of the quad, Zoe points out may save you having your dog out of action and you having to do the barking yourself! Also early treatment of non-weight bearing lameness in dogs should be brought to the vet's attention early to prevent long term injury complications setting in.

Andy Pollard had some difficulty writing about the professional development he is about to undertake studying at Lincoln University in New Zealand. Rightfully he feels guilty about the increased workloads all his hardworking colleagues will take on whilst he is away. He will be studying aspects of agronomy, peat soils, brassicas, forage cereals

and grazing management and plans to get around many farms and high country stations to check out legumes and other pasture species selected under similar harsh hill country conditions to those here.

An article looks at the fact that Europe is only 80% self sufficient for its sheep meat consumption and that lamb production across Europe is declining significantly. As Australian and New Zealand lamb production is down also and both countries are major exporters to the EU this augers well for the Falklands lamb industry in the future.

SeAled PR have provided a most insightful article on the Rural Business Association (RBA) and its roles as a farm lobby organisation. Also the role that SeAled PR plays as secretary for the RBA is discussed.

The 'historian' in our team-or is it just that he has seen more summers than many in the DoA, has made some very interesting observations on key sheep management issues. Through reviewing reports from Dr. Steve Whitley and Dr J.A.Ferguson, Tony Mills is asking why faecal egg sampling is not being used more widely by farmers, and discussing the issue of matching optimum feed supply at lambing to optimum ovulation time of ewes. Also weaning and time for sheep to reach maturity. Food for thought and well worth the read.

Last but not least the Farmers' Week programme is laid out in full. For those that are serious about making their farms profitable and ensuring FIMCo and the Falklands economy is economically sound there are a lot of exciting presentations involving both farmers discussing their experiences in conjunction with DoA team members.

Enjoy your read and plan to come to Farmers' Week-you just might be surprised how interesting it will be.

Regards to all,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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BUG BUSTERS

By Mac McArthur

Glenn Ross, MLA, has called a team of people together to work on solutions to the earwig problem. The working group is aptly named Bug Busters and presently consists of nine people with a wide range of knowledge and practical expertise.

The team currently has Glenn; Michael McLeod; Brian Summers; Tim Miller; Nick Rendell; Shona Strange; Chris McLean; Katrina Stephenson and myself. Other members with particular knowledge and expertise are to be invited to join the team.

One of the aims of Bug Busters is to identify where and in what numbers earwigs are present during the summer particularly and also where they haven't got to yet. A brief questionnaire to survey the situation throughout the Islands is being sent out to all households in Stanley and Camp. Please take a couple of minutes to fill it out and either return it to the post office (a box has been set up), or the DoA office.

Hopefully from this information Bug Busters will be able to map reasonably accurately where they are and where they haven't got to yet.



Other aims of the team are to try and assess which chemical treatments work, don't work or are partially effective and to try to develop methods to prevent them spreading to islands or Camp areas that they have not yet reached. An example is not using cardboard boxes to transport food and other goods as these seem to be very effective carriers of the little brutes as they crawl into the cardboard corrugations and are hard to detect.

A dedicated Bug Busters email address which Katrina will monitor daily has been set up for people to provide information on and ask questions etc. It is bugbusters@doa.gov.fk

If you have any insights to provide or questions please email in or ring Katrina on 27355.

Dates for the Diary



5th - 9th July

Farmers Week

See page 15 for the full programme or go to www.agriculture.gov.fk

14th July

Dog Dosing Day (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

Falkland Day

5th September

Clocks go forward one hour

4th October

Peat Cutting Monday

Public Holiday - all government departments apart from those providing essential services will be closed.

MAKE EVERY POST A WINNER

By Ian Campbell

Sometimes in agriculture we look for a simple solution; one single strategy which if implemented, improves everything. For long term items though this is rarely the case.

Often a problem- and I will look at low lambing percentage as an example - is not a result of something major going wrong - but the additive effect of many small things that are not quite as right as they could be.

This is both good and bad. Good in the sense that as we start to change things then we can start to see progress, but bad in that it is not something we can fix with one fell swoop.

Anyway so much for the theory - let's look at lambing percentage as an example.

We will begin by looking at the proportion of pregnant sheep. Ewes will cycle (ovulate) based upon the time of the year or day length. Generally I suspect most ewes here are fertile when the rams go out - it should be towards the natural end of the breeding season.

Apart from season ewes can stop cycling if they are too thin - but that should not be a problem at that time of year either. So long as there are enough healthy fertile rams - most ewes should get pregnant within two or three cycles - although invariably some will not for a range of possible reasons;

Insufficient ram power, skinny ewes, maybe large mating camps where mobs break up might be reasons why low numbers of ewes become pregnant. My understanding is it is pretty rare here.

Next we look at losses during pregnancy. After the first couple of weeks these should be low. For the first three months the demands on the ewe due to pregnancy are not great and the ewe will grow fat or lean due to the intake she is eating rather than the parasitic effect of the embryo or foetus.

The foetal "parasite" effect kicks in hard

though for the last two months which is when she needs to either eat more or she strips the condition off and that is of great concern. Losses are not often due to foetal death though, unless towards the end stresses like rough handling or locking for too long off food can cause an issue.

The obvious loss occurs at lambing. Unfortunately the ewes are often on reducing levels of food during pregnancy which is the opposite of ideal. As a result there are a number of consequences which I will not labour on as they have been discussed a lot in the past. Simply; low birth weights, lethargic lambs, low milk production, prolonged weakening labours and a delay in the onset of lactation will increase the chances of lambs not surviving.

Providing additional food towards the end of pregnancy, either by keeping ewes out of lambing paddocks as long as possible or with crops or whatever suitable means will help the energy balance greatly in favour of a successful lambing.

Once born and mothered up the losses should not be great. Better food will make the ewes milk better and the lambs grow faster and fatter. Obviously natural hazards like ditches should be avoided or remedied but the lamb-ewe systems generally is a more stable one than the pregnant ewe system.

So the way to improve lambing percentage is a whole series of steps not one jump. Very similar processes occur in reducing losses from marking to weaning, from weaning until hogget shearing and so on. It's all about making every post a winner and looking after the little things, the big things will then look after themselves.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with all the news and information in the Department of Agriculture or receive our wool reports and market updates, then don't forget to let us know if you change your email address!

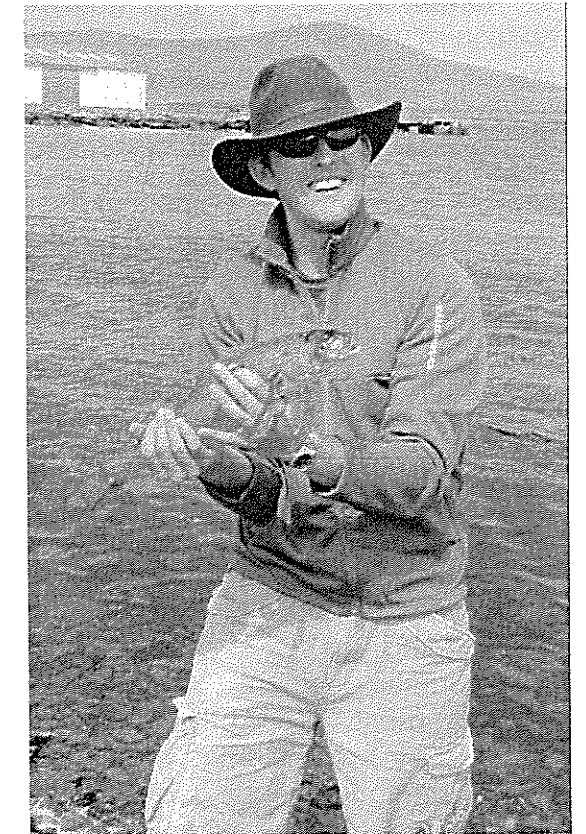
INTRODUCTION TO THE RAPTOR PROJECT

*By Sam Cockwell
Falklands Conservation*

Over the next five months Falklands Conservation, in combination with the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Planning Department, will be studying interactions between livestock and raptors, namely Turkey Vulture, Striated Caracara (Johnny rook), Crested Caracara (Carancho) and Southern Giant Petrel (technically these are not raptors but they are known to interact with livestock in some parts of the Falklands). There will be several experts visiting the Islands over the next three months to assist in the study of these birds.

For those who I haven't met my name is Sam Cockwell, I grew up in Fox Bay and I left the Falklands for the UK in 2002 to study in the UK. I graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Environmental Science, and am very excited about the prospect of working with farmers and other camp residents to investigate the conflicts between raptors and sheep farming. I am hopeful that working together, we can identify some means of reducing and managing these conflicts.

The aims of this project are to build a picture of the situation that exists in the Falklands, firstly by speaking to landowners and farmers from right across the Islands. Secondly, we will evaluate trapping and tagging methods on individuals of each species to determine which method is most successful. Thirdly, we hope to build a picture of where, when, and how often there are conflicts between livestock and each of these bird species. This project brings together scientific data and



observations by farmers to build a clearer understanding of the situation and how best to move on in the study. This project is intended as a pilot study to help us build a case for a multiyear study to fully evaluate the situation and develop a strategy for reducing the conflicts between raptors and livestock to the benefit of both farmers and bird species.

I am looking forward to Farmers' Week and hope to get the chance to speak with as many people as possible. In subsequent weeks we will be travelling to camp to begin the fieldwork part of this project. If anyone has any queries I will be contactable at Falklands Conservation either by phone (22247) or email (sam.cockwell@conservation.org.fk)

SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?!

DON'T LEAVE IT... ..OR SHOOT IT
Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS
OUR BEST DEFENCE**



HIP AND PELVIS PROBLEMS

By Zoë Luxton

Continuing our look at common causes of lameness in dogs:

The most common hip complaint we see is degenerative joint disease in older dogs; we talked at length about this in the first article of the series (WP May 2010) so all I will mention here is that the hip is a common site for joint inflammation problems (arthritis) and creaky old dogs would most likely benefit from some of the supplements, treatments or management tips mentioned in that article.

In a mostly working dog population such as ours, I would say that the second most common thing we see is dislocated hips due to a traumatic incident. Younger dogs are presented most often but this is probably because they are the ones in full time work that can be found leaping over fences and falling off the back of bikes! Investing in a decent dog box or a harness for the back of the quad is highly recommended by the Veterinary Department! Dislocated hips however, do not always have to be due to being run over or getting hung up. If hips are 'dysplastic' it means they are not very well



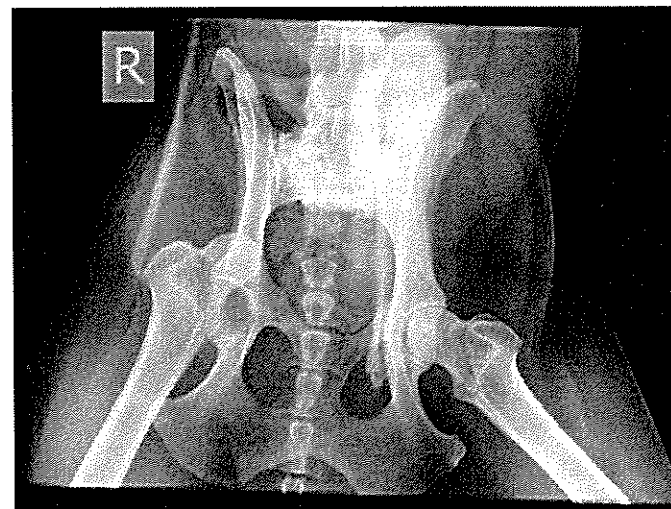
developed. The sockets in the pelvis and the balls of the hip joints can be poorly shaped and quite flat, meaning that the hip is not a nice tight socket joint. It is thus much more likely that the femur is not going to stay linked into the pelvis like it should. Hip dysplasia is hereditary and luckily in collie dogs it is rare. It is a condition much more likely to be found in Labradors or German Shepherds.

An acutely dislocated hip will mean your dog cannot weight bear on the affected limb and they often hold the leg in a tell tale position, hanging down with the foot swinging underneath the body. Hips usually dislocate craniodorsally – this means the ball of the femur comes out of the socket and sits above (dorsally) and forward (cranially) to its normal resting position in the pelvic socket (acetabulum).

To examine a hip have your dog lying on its 'good' side with the injured side uppermost, or have it standing facing away from you. Place a hand gently over the affected hip and with your other hand manipulate the leg in circular motion, circling forwards is normally easier. This obviously can be very painful for the dog so have someone firmly holding the sharp end. What you are feeling for is any clunks or grinding, which basically indicates bone rubbing on bone as opposed to a nice normal

lubricated joint running smoothly. You will also feel resistance to the nice, normal circular movement. Another way to tentatively diagnose a dislocated hip is to lie the dog on its back and stretch out its hind legs. Because the femur is normally dislocated cranially the limb that is dislocated is noticeably shorter than the unaffected one.

High femoral fractures or fractures of the ball of the femur can give similar symptoms and the definitive diagnosis can really only be made by x-raying the dog.



I am not going to give any advice about relocating hip dislocations. Firstly it is a painful procedure which is carried out much more easily while a dog is anaesthetised and the muscles around the hip are relaxed. Secondly any fracture may be made much worse by such manipulation so really x-rays should be done beforehand to confirm that it is actually a hip luxation (dislocation) you are dealing with and where the ball of the femur is lying in relation to its socket.

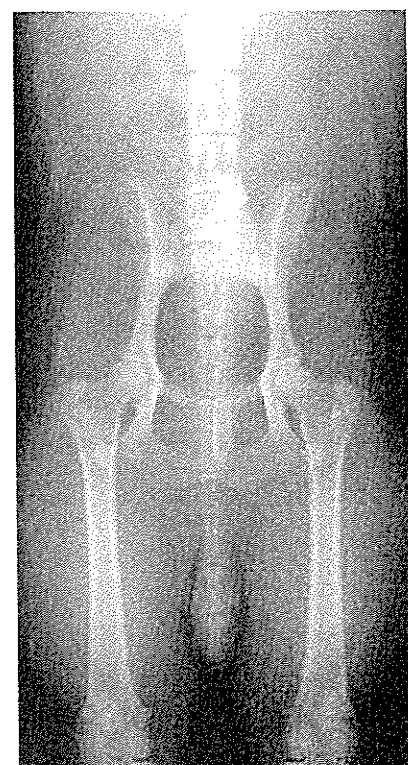
Once diagnosed as a dislocated hip we will try manual manipulation to replace it. This can normally be done, but keeping the hip in the socket is the tricky part. If the incident that resulted in the hip dislocation was severe, all the muscles and ligaments surrounding the hip joint will be damaged also, so there will be much less tissue to hold the hip in the correct place. For this reason we normally sling the back leg up so there is no weight exerting pressure on the hip joint, thus giving it time to rest and heal. The sooner we can do this, the much better chance the joint has of staying

relocated as if a hip is dislocated for many days the muscles around it tend to start contracting and holding the femur in the abnormal position. If manual relocation and rest and bandaging do the trick you can expect your dog to have to have strict rest for 2 weeks and then light duties with a slow return to work over the next 2-3 weeks.

If we cannot manipulate the joint back into place or if the joint will not stay relocated we will have to resort to surgery. There are various options. In some cases you can simply put the femur back into its socket and firmly sew the joint capsule and surrounding muscles up. This is only possible if the muscles and capsule have not been shredded by the joint dislocating in the first place. In light to medium sized dogs you can remove the ball of the femur and a false cartilaginous joint will form between the pelvis and the remaining top of the femur. Recovery from this takes longer but is usually pretty successful. There are also various other methods for holding the femur in the acetabulum – you can try pins, toggles and wires – all are fairly major orthopaedic procedures with varying success rates depending on the individual case.

Vehicle accidents and other traumatic incidents can also result in broken pelvises but as dogs are much sturdier this is an injury we see much more of in cats. Luckily for cats they are generally light and even severe pelvic fractures can mend with strict rest, pain relief and time. Heavier dogs are sometimes not as lucky but as long as the pelvic fracture is not too displaced (ie the fracture ends are still close together) rest and pain relief may be enough. More displaced fractures would need surgical fixation, something we are not very experienced at here. Pelvic fractures can cause symptoms as mild as an unsteady gait to more severe neurological damage to the point where the dog cannot stand up and does not have control over its bladder or bowels – in this latter case the prognosis is very guarded.

The main message again is that any non-weight bearing lameness should be seen by a vet as soon as possible and if you are in any doubt, rest the dog and ring in.



Right: A normal dog pelvis.

Above right: X-ray showing dysplastic hips

Opposite page: X-ray showing dislocated hip

BACK TO SCHOOL! – POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

By Andy Pollard

Siân has asked me (or maybe that was told me!) to write a Wool Press article describing the course that I will be studying in New Zealand, and also to provide information to farmers as to who they should contact in my absence.

This is without doubt the hardest Wool Press article I have had to write. Whilst I feel very lucky that I have been given this opportunity and am very excited about the prospect, I am also wary that I am increasing the workloads of my colleagues whilst I am in New Zealand. I am hopeful that this can be sorted out on a Friday evening with a couple of cases of beer upon my return!

Where and what I am studying?

Lincoln University is located in the township of Lincoln approximately 15-20 minutes outside of New Zealand's biggest city in the South Island, Christchurch. The University has hosted famous folks in the past including our own Mac McArthur, Tony Blake, Nick Pitaluga and the late Robin Lee.

The qualification I will be seeking is a Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Science. Once this has been achieved I will then be allowed to complete the research requirement and write a thesis to obtain a Masters in Agricultural Science.

The course will largely be focused around agronomy, but it is hoped that I will be able to fine-tune my studies to incorporate peat soils, brassica and forage cereals and grazing management.

I will depart the Falklands on the 26th June and return in mid-November after the completion of semester one. I will then head back for semester 2 in February, returning again in late June.

What else does this opportunity offer?

Whilst the course I am studying will be full time, visiting New Zealand will give me the chance to hopefully visit key agricultural facilities such as Wrightson/PGG seeds, Balance Fertiliser Company, Hill Laboratories (soils), research stations and most importantly some Kiwi farmers!

It is essential that we are up to date with the latest technologies and develop contacts in a country that has many similarities to the Falkland Islands. Those of you that subscribe to the NZ Countrywide magazine will be aware of this, those that don't please look at the DoA back copies and I think you will be surprised.

Points of contact in my absence

Whilst away I will still be monitoring government emails and will try to respond to people as soon as is possible. Tony Mills should be your first point of contact regarding the FIP programme (this includes sending in the invoices). Ian Campbell will oversee plant Bio-security and Environmental issues.

Finally, if anyone has specific areas they would like me to research whilst in New Zealand, companies/farmers to talk to, friends that I could meet or contacts for tickets to any rugby matches!! Please don't be shy.

DECLINING LAMB PRODUCTION IN EUROPE

By Mac McArthur

The EU is only self sufficient for 80% of its sheep meat consumption and production of lamb across Europe is declining significantly. This can only be good for Falkland Island lamb producers and FIMCo.

Regional Production

In the Southern EU (Spain, Greece, Italy, Romania etc.) most sheep farming is dairy

orientated and wool is seen as a nuisance by product where the cost of shearing often exceeds the value of the wool.

In the Northern EU (UK, Ireland, the Netherlands) sheep farming is mainly for meat production and lambs are slaughtered at more than 13kgs carcass weight. France has an intermediate position where 25% of ewes are milked and 75% produce sheep meat.

In Greece, where most sheep are milked, lamb carcasses average 9.5kg, whereas in Belgium where breeds like Texels are used, lamb carcasses can reach 19.5kg

Ireland and the UK are the two major exporters of sheep meat and France is the major importer of lamb and in Southern Europe the market in light lambs is very strong. Spain and Italy are net importers of French, Hungarian and Romanian lambs.

Sheep Numbers Decline

Sheep numbers in Europe declined by 26% between 1990 and 2008 and the trend has been similar in most European countries.

In the UK there was a substantial drop in sheep numbers during the 2001 Foot and Mouth disease outbreak and the Spanish flock went into sharp decline as a result of Blue Tongue outbreaks after 2003. A strong argument for the Falklands to have sheep and cattle tagged and fully identified is; if we were unlucky enough to have an exotic livestock disease outbreak and can't identify stock to farms in a robust system, all our export meat markets into Europe would be closed until we could.

EU Deficit in Sheep Meat

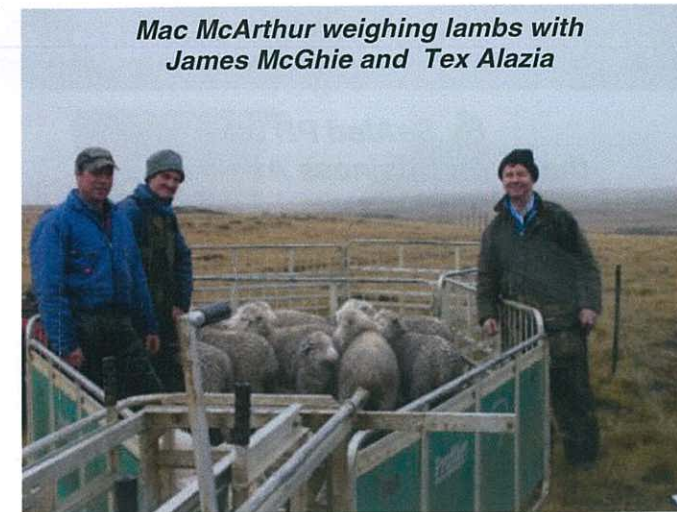
Currently the EU has a 23% deficit in sheep meat and the shortfall of demand over supply continues from a total shortfall in 2008 of 276,000 tonnes carcass weight of lamb and sheep meat.

The UK is the biggest sheep producing country in Europe and is the largest importer of lamb mostly from New Zealand (7%) and Australia (25%). The annual tonnage imported is around 100,000 tonnes. New Zealand is increasingly supplying chilled product rather than frozen, which competes directly with fresh European lamb product. In 2008, chilled sheep meat accounted for 28% of total EU imports from New Zealand.

Decrease in Consumption

About 80% of lamb production in Europe is concentrated in the UK, France, Spain, Greece and Italy. In Southern Europe, consumption is mainly of lamb around 10 kg carcass weight, mainly emanating from dairy flocks. In Northern Europe carcasses tend to be heavier being between 18 and 22 kg.

Mac McArthur weighing lambs with James McGhie and Tex Alazia



In Europe, lamb consumption is seasonal and when either home grown or imported lamb is in short supply consumers readily turn to chicken, fish and seafood or beef products. Sheep farmers' incomes are generally low so fewer farmers run sheep and flock numbers, as a consequence, continue to decline.

Opportunity for the Falkland Islands

With both the Australian and New Zealand sheep flock numbers at an all time low and declining, European lamb retailers and consumers must be wondering where their lamb roasts and other products will be coming from in the future.

World prices are being positively affected by lower lamb volumes being available; however, the better prices remain for fresh and chilled product - not frozen. Higher prices are paid for chilled/fresh product which is mainly bought by wholesalers and butchers and also for heavier lambs than we can produce readily here (20 kg+) in large volumes and at particular times of the year.

The highest price paid for these specialist chilled, heavy carcass weight lambs marketed at particular times of year are not available for the type of lighter weight, frozen lamb carcasses produced from the Falklands.

Apart from the locally consumed lamb the majority of the lamb product that FIMCo produces is sold to the UK, Spain, Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Sweden in the main. This declining production of lamb in Europe and the Antipodes at least for the immediate future, would appear to be very positive for lamb producers, FIMCo and the Falkland Islands economic growth.

COMPANY PROFILE

By SeAled PR and the Rural Business Association

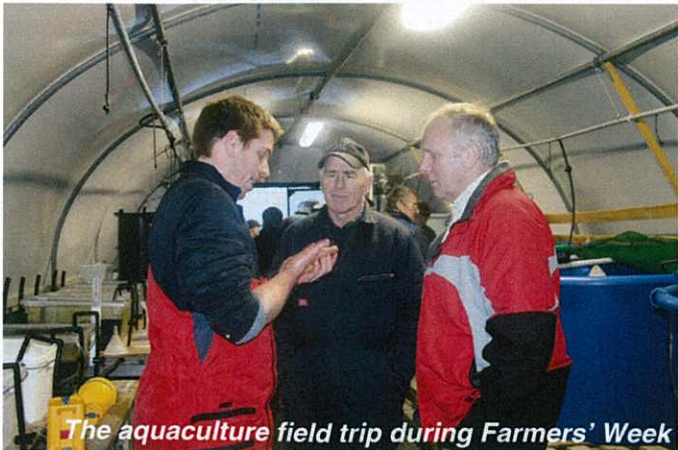
The Rural Business Association (RBA) was formed shortly after the subdivision of the larger farms, when it was felt that an independent body of sorts was required to represent the views and concerns of farmers and camp residents.

The RBA was initially known at the Farmers Association, however the name change occurred when the association began to represent non-farming but rural related businesses as well as the farming community. This resulted in the individual businesses feeling they had a stronger voice through this independent body.

The committee consists of a chairman, vice chairman and seven members. At present, these are; Richard Stevens, Bobby Short, Owen Summers, Keith Alazia, Mike Evans, Justin Knight – vice-chair, Louise Pole-Evans, Susie Hansen and Raymond Evans – chairman. SeAled PR provides the secretarial service.

The role of the committee, which is purely voluntary, is to represent their members and try, if need be, to help them resolve any problems that they may have with their business. The role of each committee member depends on where they are and who is best suited and located, to attend or help with a particular problem.

The RBA is involved in many committees related to rural matters. There are members

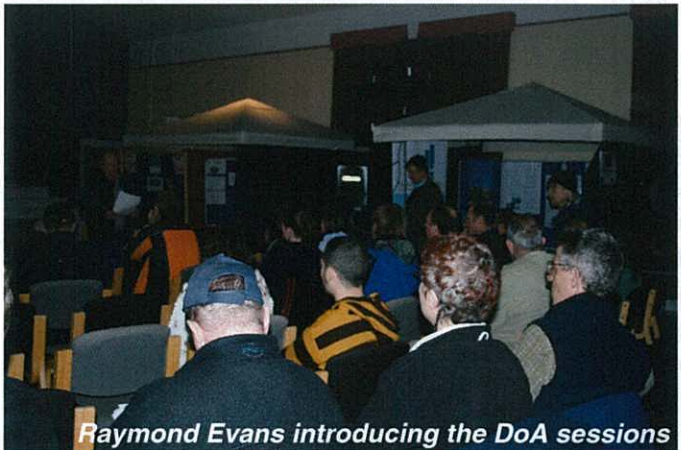


The aquaculture field trip during Farmers' Week

and committee members serving on relevant committees in addition to that of which the RBA is responsible for organising (Farmers' Week and the RBA Sheep Show). Importantly the RBA negotiates, for the agricultural sector, the contract shearing agreement annually and also organises insurance for many farm's shipment of wool.

Via SeAled PR, the RBA membership provides services such as; committee minute taking, research work, circulation of minutes from relevant committees of which the RBA is represented. Also the RBA is ready to help with any issues that it's members may have and they can call upon the office for any administrative or research help that they may need. In addition to these services, the association will lobby for answers to questions posed by members.

As well as the above, a full membership gives individuals the right to put themselves forward as a committee member, to take part in the voting of new committee members, and to attend all RBA meetings, including those held during Farmers' Week.



Raymond Evans introducing the DoA sessions



Judging at the 2010 Sheep Show

THE RURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Craft items on sale at the 2010 Sheep Show



Lisa Watson of SeAled PR

Members can benefit from the RBA in many ways as they are represented on committees relating to rural matters. If members have a problem, their concerns can be presented to the appropriate organisation. The RBA can and do lobby the elected MLA's on related topics.

Annual rates for a RBA membership:

- Full membership: £100.00
- A friend of the RBA: £20.00

All committee members are happy to receive calls/emails and will provide advice when possible.

Raymond Evans – Chairman



HE The Governor presents a prize to Fitzroy farm manager Alan Eagle

Raymond has been on the RBA Committee on and off for several years, having initially joined because he felt that as a farmer he needed an association to help represent his views on matters that were of

concern to him and which would benefit his business and way of life in Camp.

At present, Raymond is the Chairman and chairs committee meetings, many of which are held during Farmers' Week. His role as Chairman is to help organise meetings and to ensure the smooth running of the association. Where possible, an understanding of people's views and above all, respect for individual's wishes and situations is of great importance to him.

Raymond hopes that what he does helps some people in some way with their business concerns and with information needed by being an active member of the committee. He enjoys being involved in all the RBA matters and being able to give assistance to others.

SeAled PR – RBA Secretary

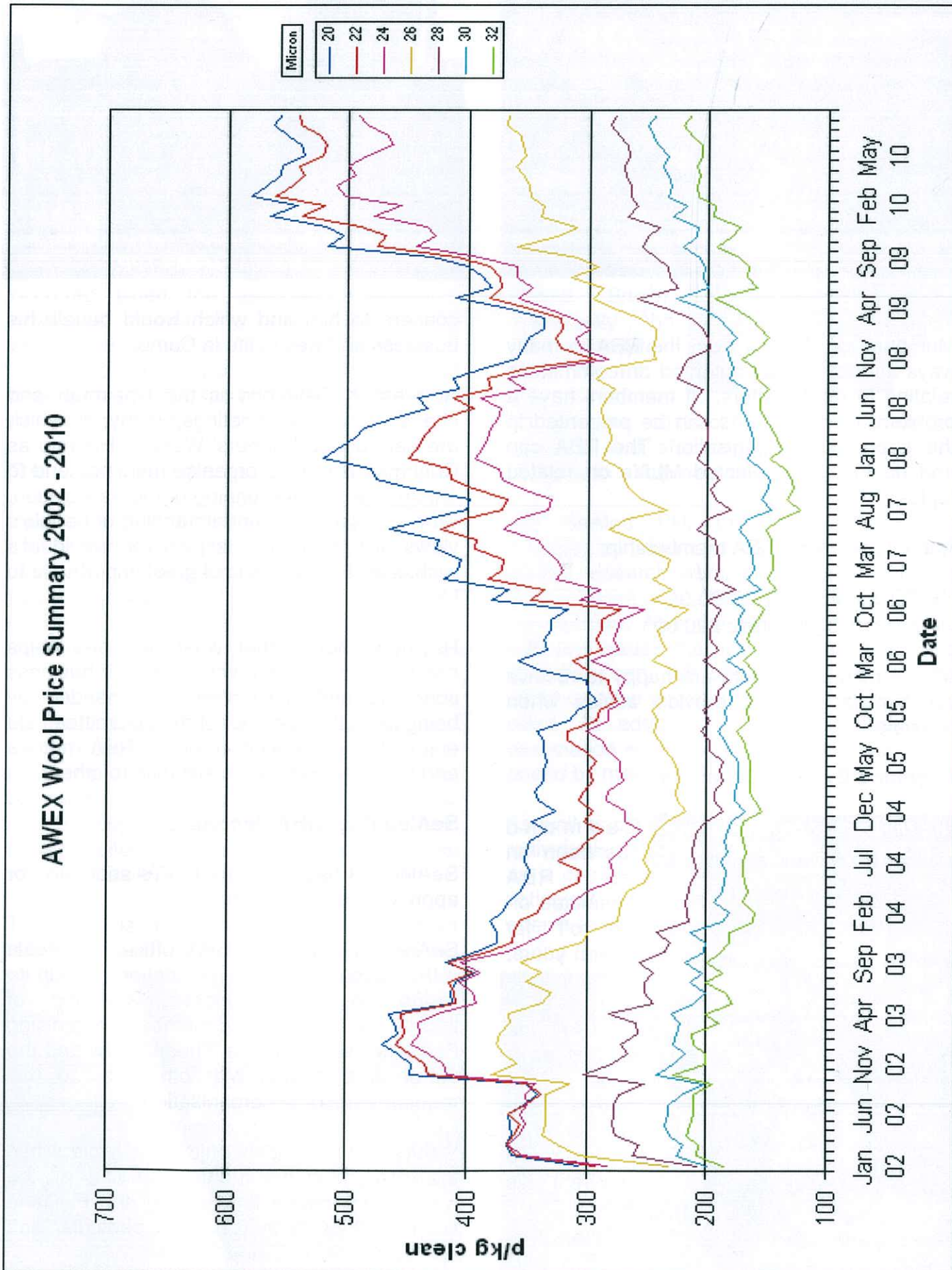
SeAled PR has been the RBA's secretary for approximately five years.

SeAled PR runs the RBA office and deals with; accounts, communications, minute taking, insurance, queries, sourcing of information for individual members, organising Farmers' Week and the Sheep Show and the set-up and dealing with other day to day requirements of the organisation.

SeAled PR thoroughly enjoys their role within the RBA and all that it entails, as after all, the rural community is the heart of the Falkland Islands although they have a particular soft spot for the RBA Sheep Show!

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



ANOTHER LOOK INTO THE PAST

By Tony Mills

It may just be time to start accusing me of being a little bit too nostalgic. Des Humphries' article spurred me on to have a look at some of the key pieces of review work that I have had on my desk for at least a month.

I have never subscribed to the opinion that looking back is a negative. The past generally provides a good stepping stone to the future and of course there is that old adage of learning from your mistakes or those that have walked before you. Looking back should be the first place researchers/advisors start when confronted with a current issue as this look backwards is the basis of their work aimed at finding a solution to the problem at hand.

This brings me to the work I had sitting on my desk. One piece was the writings of Steve Whitley and the second was a piece authored by Dr J.A. Ferguson. No this isn't John Ferguson current GM of FIMCo, or at least I don't think it is!

In both authors work there were a couple of areas that twiggged my interest. The first of these was their comments on internal parasites. Interestingly Whitley commented that faecal egg counts were not an accurate means of estimating the influence of worms on sheep productivity, how the world has moved on. Further research in this area has now shown that this technique is a very important monitoring tool and forms the basis of best practice in internal parasite management. It is also the technique used to find those animals that have an innate resistance to internal parasites.

The other interesting aspect of the author's writings is the pattern of worm burden development and the classes of stock affected. The pattern is described as an increase in hogs during their first winter followed by a very rapid and substantial increase up to November when they are shorn. There is also a secondary peak in late summer. Not too dissimilar to the pattern I

noticed and recorded in the wether trial sheep at both locations (East and West) and a finding of the review that Susan Campbell completed on internal parasites in the Falkland Islands. Whitley also notes that the general source of the infection can be attributed to their contemporaries from the preceding year.

This begs the question as to why more faecal samples are not received in our labs prior to shearing and how many hogs would be treated at shearing. It also brings into question why the same class of sheep is grazed in the same paddocks year after year especially when noted that hogs grazed on 'rested' paddocks had noticeably lower incidence of parasitic burdens. Lambs were also noted to have a substantial build up in their first autumn. Additionally the comment is that lambs, hogs and shearlings carry significant burdens however much lower burdens are recorded in adults. This is still the same message that is delivered today. Why hasn't there been much of a change in the way this drain on production is handled?

The second area of interest was the comments by both authors on reproduction. In Ferguson's review of the two pasture system for ewes he notes the following key points:

- The natural pasture is not good enough to permit the application of this system of management and achieve marked increases in production;
- About 90% of ewes produce lambs at lambing time;
- Most lamb losses occur from birth to marking and no advantage of late lambing (mid Nov) has been demonstrated.

He went on to describe some key points where an area of improved pasture (reseed) was included in the system.

In this situation the following were some of the key points:

- The provision of extra high quality feed at the critical periods will result in more lambs surviving to weaning;
- Most of the extra lambs at weaning are achieved by improving lamb survival to marking.

At the time of Ferguson's review the growing season was defined as occurring between mid October to late April in Stanley. This led to the recommendation that lambing should be delayed until the end of November to ensure sufficient extra grass to reduce lamb mortality. However when this is compared to the time of the maximum ovulation, was this really the best option? Further studies relating to ovulation showed that based on ovulation rate mating should occur from mid May and not mid June or later.

This is also backed up by Whitley's review and demonstrates that the reproductive and pasture cycle in the Falklands are not a very good match. These reviews also showed that ewes in average body condition or better (2.0 to 2.5) readily come into season and produce viable lambs and those in poor condition (1 to less than 1) had difficulty in exhibiting oestrus or retaining the conceptus.

The final topic of interest was on weaning and time to reach maturity. Ferguson, in his commentary about future systems in Falkland Islands agriculture, states that small gains

only in weaning percentage are likely through increasing the number of lambs born, while large improvements in output are to be expected by keeping alive what is born. He goes further to state that provision of superior pasture to the ewe one month prior to lambing until marking results in a substantial increase in the number of lambs weaned.

Whitley also notes that under the extensive system of grazing it is known that many ewes do not maintain their lactation until the lambs are officially weaned. He goes further to state that in some instances lambs show higher growth post weaning than pre-weaning and this can be attributed to poor ewe nutrition and lack of quality milk supply. It also suggests that lambs are quite capable of digesting grass from about 6 to 8 weeks of age without the additional nutrition of milk from their mothers. He concludes that early weaning should be a practical option and warrants further investigation. Both authors state that sheep in the Falkland Islands continue to grow up until the age of 4. This is quite a bit later than in other parts of the world and goes a long way in explaining the past management practices in relation to first mating for young ewes.

As some family matters and work commitments will take me away from the Falkland Islands prior to Farmers' Week I hope everyone will enjoy and find stimulating the programme that is planned. I also would look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible to discuss all the aspects mentioned in this article upon my return.

Farmers' Week Information

General information

Both the Rural Business Association and Department of Agriculture Farmers' Week sessions will be taking place in the Town Hall, unless stated otherwise.

There will be an Expo breakfast served between 9am and 10.30am on Monday morning, courtesy of the RBA.

There are lunches provided in the Town Hall refreshment room on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

If you would like to know more about the RBA sessions, please call their office on 22432 or email rba@horizon.co.fk

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

This year, the Department of Agriculture has adopted the theme of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The aim of this initiative is to promote the important role biodiversity plays in our every day life and work towards conserving natural resources for future generations.

For more information, go to www.cbd.int/2010

Department of Agriculture sessions

The Department of Agriculture sessions are open to everyone.

RBA FARMERS' WEEK PROGRAMME - 5TH TO 9TH JULY 2010

Monday 5th July

Main hall of the Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

9am - 12pm	Rural Expo (organised by the Rural Business Association) <i>The Department of Agriculture will be hosting a stand at the Expo. The Rural Business Association and the Falkland Islands Meat Company will be providing breakfast between 9am and 10.30am</i>
11am - 12pm	Rural Business Association committee meeting <i>In the Refreshment Room</i>
12pm	Lunch (not provided)
1pm	Workboat Services
2.30pm	Smoko
3pm	Rural Business Association Annual General Meeting <i>Rural Business Association members only</i>
5pm	Wool Company Annual General Meeting
7.30pm	Rural Business Association Party <i>Millers Bar - children welcome</i>



Tuesday 6th July

Main hall of the Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

9am	Fire training and Falkland Islands Government Air Service presentation <i>FIGAS Air Terminal</i>
10.45am	Smoko provided by Civil Aviation on-site
11am	Falkland Islands Development Corporation
12pm	Lunch provided by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation
1.30pm	Falkland Islands Meat Company
2.45pm	Smoko provided by the Rural Business Association
3.15pm	Power Station and wind turbine site visit <i>Wind Farm</i>
7pm	FIODA Variety Show

...continued over the page

Wednesday 7th July

Main hall of the Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

9am	Introduction to the Department of Agriculture sessions	Glenn Ross, MLA
9.05am	Role of the Department of Agriculture	Mac McArthur
9.20am	National Stud Flock future breeding plan	Ian Campbell
10am	Hydatids Trial	Steve Pointing & Zoë Luxton
10.30am	<i>Smoko provided by the Department of Agriculture</i>	
11am	National Beef Herd achievements and future breeding plan	Mac McArthur
11.30am	Beef 20/20 project progress & FIMCo link	Mac McArthur & Ian Campbell
12pm	<i>Lunch provided by the Falkland Islands Meat Company</i>	
1pm	Falkland Islands Meat Company	
2.45pm	<i>Smoko provided by the Rural Business Association</i>	
3pm	Tourism presentation	
6pm	His Excellency The Governors' Reception <i>Government House, invitation only</i>	
7.30pm	Falklands Conservation Curry Night <i>Stanley Arms, invitation only</i>	



Thursday 8th July

Main hall of the Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

9am	Environmental Planning & Conservation - Biodiversity	
9am	Environmental Planning & Conservation - Biodiversity	
10.15am	<i>Smoko provided by the Department of Agriculture</i>	
10.45am	Introduction to Department of Agriculture Thursday sessions	Mac MacArthur

Thursday 8th July - continued

10.50am	The task ahead - how do we get to 66,000 in 10 years	Ian Campbell
11.25am	Factors affecting lamb survival	Zoë Luxton
12pm	<i>Lunch provided by the Department of Agriculture</i>	
1pm	Lifting lambing percentages - what works for us <i>Followed by a group discussion</i>	Donna Minnell
1.20pm	New Season Lamb - what works for us	Keith Alazia & Steven Dickson
1.30pm	Factors affecting hogget survival	Susan Campbell
1.50pm	Survival - what works for us	Paul Robertson
2pm	Old Season Lamb - what works for us <i>Followed by a group discussion</i>	Paul Phillips
2.20pm	Increasing ewe flock size	Ian Campbell
2.40pm	Tools the Department of Agriculture can offer to help you monitor <i>Followed by a group discussion</i>	Mac McArthur
3pm	<i>Smoko provided by the Department of Agriculture</i>	
3.30pm	The need to get away from 80% wool	Ian Campbell
3.50pm	Getting behind the Falkland Islands Meat Company <i>Followed by a group discussion</i>	Raymond Evans
4.30pm	Summary and close of Department of Agriculture sessions	Mac McArthur
7pm	Hillside Meal <i>Hillside Camp, invitation only</i>	

The Department of Agriculture sessions are open to the general public.

For more information, please call us on 27355 or email sferguson@doa.gov.fk

Copies of the Farmers' Week programme can be downloaded from www.agriculture.gov.fk or contact us and we can post you a copy.

The Department of Agriculture will be providing the morning smoko on Wednesday and both the smokos and lunch on Thursday.

...programme continued over the page

Friday 9th July

Main hall of the Town Hall (unless specified otherwise)

- 9am **Councillors question and answer session**
Rural Business Association members only
- 10.45am **Smoko provided by the Rural Business Association**
- 11am **Falkland Islands Meat Company question and answer session**
- 12pm **Lunch provided by the Rural Business Association**
- 1pm **Falkland Islands Government Air Service review update**
by Members of Legislative Assembly
- 2.45pm **Smoko provided by the Rural Business Association**
- 3pm **Land based tourism destination opportunities workshop**
- Evening **Camp Education Dance**
£4 on the door and 18 years plus only

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by Krysteen Ormond, Stanley

Easiest and Yummiest Chocolate Pie

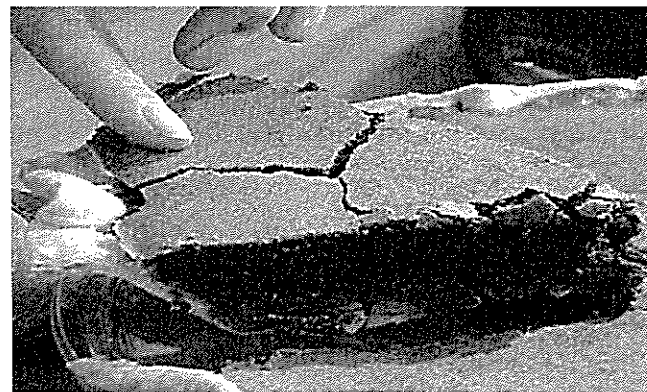
Ingredients

For the pastry:
(you could use a pre-baked pie shell if you want)
225g plain flour
110g butter
80g sugar
1 medium egg
splash of milk

For the filling:
250ml cream (has to be packet cream)
2 tablespoons sugar
300g Bournville chocolate, chopped into little pieces
100g butter (not margarine)
4 tablespoons cold milk

method

Rub the flour and butter together until it resembles fine crumbs, stir in the sugar. Beat the egg and add to the mixture with enough milk to make a soft dough. Grease and flour a standard 9" round tin, and line with the pastry. Prick the base of the pastry several times, and bake at 180oC for about 15



minutes, until it is crisp and browned.
In a pan, mix the 2tblsp sugar and the cream, bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, add the butter and chocolate and stir until melted, and smooth. Slowly beat in the milk a tblsp at a time. If the mixture looks like it has split, stir well and leave to cool for 5 minutes before adding the rest of the milk.
Pour the chocolate into the pie crust, and leave to cool at room temperature for 1-2 hours. Serve at room temperature.
The filling should stay soft, and cut with the consistency of butter.

FARM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK INDEX

By Siân Ferguson

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

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

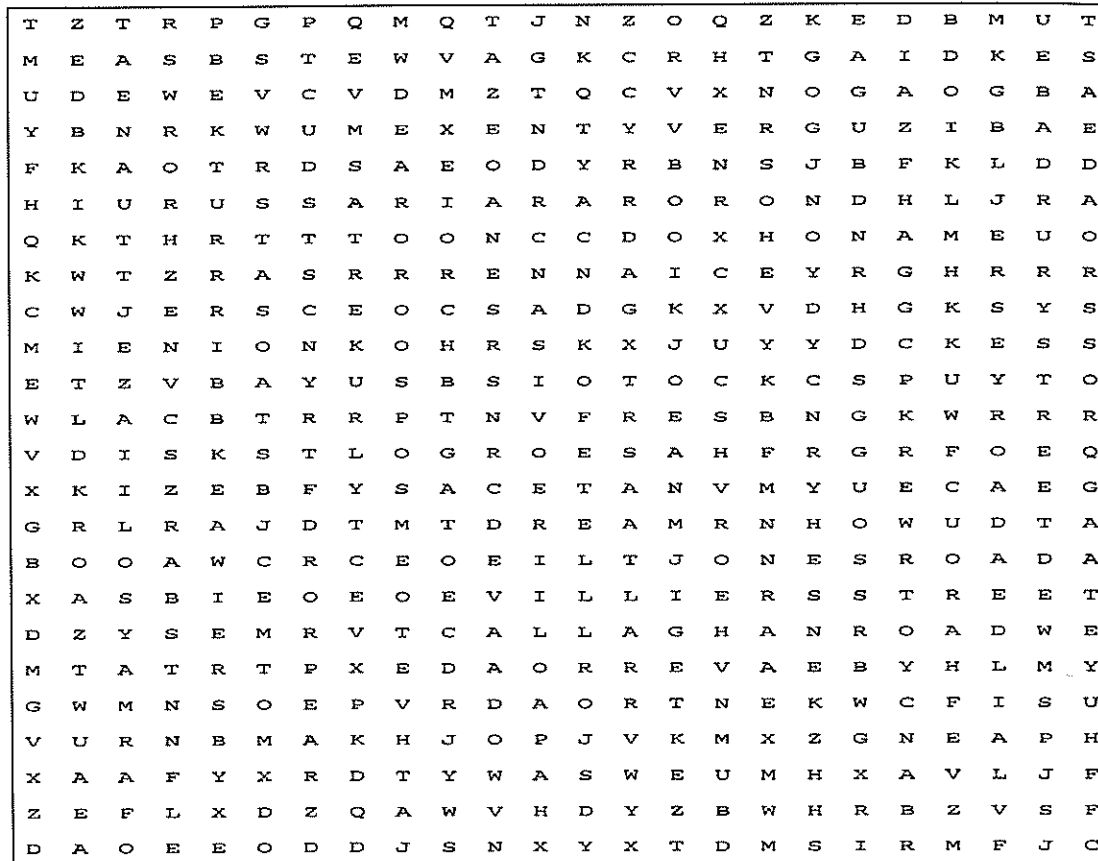
If you do not have a FMH and would like one, or have any questions, please get in touch with me.

		Section/Sheet	Recently Updated On		
General	Livestock & Wool	Clip Preparation Guide	January 2009		
		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		
		Table for FIP Genetics Plan	April 2010		
		Wool Sample Summary Sheet	January 2009		
		Wool Test Request Form	September 2009		
		General	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					
Finance	Veterinary			Advice for the use of Estrumate	January 2009
				Animal Movement Certificates	September 2008
				Beef Kill Report Form	November 2009
				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		
Legal & Codes of Practice	Veterinary	TB Monitoring on Farm	August 2008		
		Veterinary Fees	September 2008		
		Veterinary Diagnostics	September 2008		
		Worming Horses			
		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					
General	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			
		Video's	December 2008		
		Volume and Temperature			
Weight					
Finance	Finance	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			

Puzzle Page

Word Search - Street Names

- Allardyce Street
- Barrack Street
- Beaver Road
- Biggs Road
- Brandon Road
- Brisbane Road
- Callaghan Road
- Davis Street
- Dean Street
- Drury Street
- Eliza Cove Road
- Fitzroy Road
- Goss Road
- James Street
- Jersey Road
- Jones Road
- Kent Road
- King Street
- Race Course Road
- Ross Road East
- Ross Road West
- Short Street
- Villiers Street



June Solutions

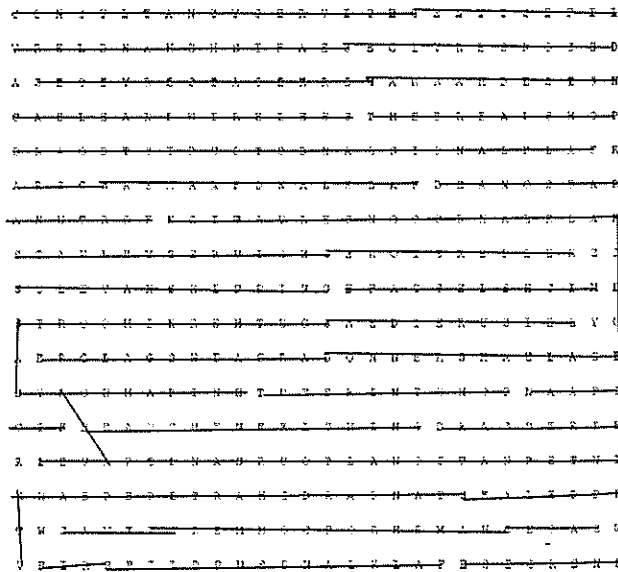
What is:

The beginning of eternity
The end of time and space
The beginning of every end
And the end of every place?

Answer: The Letter 'e'

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?

Answer: The Match



Many Eyes

A skin have I, more eyes than one. I
can be very nice when I am done.
What am I?

Cannot Be Seen

I'm so fast you can't see me, though everyone sees
straight through me. I don't stop until I die. What am I?

THE WOOL PRESS

August 2010

Volume 247

£1.25

Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

sferguson@doa.gov.fk

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Wool Price Trend Over Time Graph - page 5

Selecting Rams For Organic Farms - page 6

Boosting The Bottom Line - page 8

Tussac Restoration With Falklands Conservation - page 9

Vegetation Mapping At Saladero - page 10

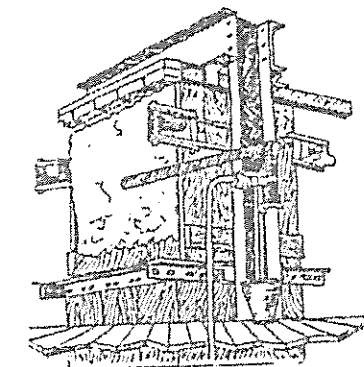
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Bale Branding - page 14

The Coming Famine - page 18

Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

The 2010 RBA Farmers Week seemed to go well with good participation in the main events. There was the usual varied programme, and Siân provides an account of the week in these pages. The Department of Agriculture sessions were split with a range of subjects being covered on the Wednesday morning. On Thursday the day was themed around delivering the numbers of animals necessary to achieve the FIMCo business plan; delivering the 66000 lambs in 10 years. The sessions on this involved DoA personnel, anchored by Ian Campbell in particular, together with farmers from East and West. This proved to be an informative and interesting day. The conclusion to the day could be summed up as recognizing that whilst the target is ambitious it is achievable. This was obviously an encouraging outcome. No one was pretending it will be easy, it will be a major but hopefully rewarding task for all involved in Falklands agriculture. One of the last sessions of the day was delivered by Raymond Evans emphasizing the benefits of supporting the FIMCo business plan. That message is expanded upon in this Wool Press in an article by Ian. It is also good news that the next phase of FIMCo development is going ahead.

Elsewhere in this edition, the Vets are focusing on worms. Firstly, Zoë outlines some investigatory work on hydatids. If the final push can be delivered to eradicate hydatids it will have significant benefits in terms of disease status, cost saving and reduced health risks. Susan highlights the genetic approach to managing parasites which has a general benefit, but is particularly relevant to organic farms. I will gloss over the sample collection protocols involved in such projects.

There are a couple of contributions on vegetation. Sarah and Ali from Falklands Conservation describe the relatively low tech, but potentially highly effective tussac replanting programme at Elephant Beach and elsewhere. Meanwhile Sergio and colleagues describe the high tech application of satellite imaging of vegetation to farm management.

Mac previews a book on 'The Coming Famine' which expounds on the risks to global food security. Water appears to be referred to as the future 'white gold'. Toothfish which provide the basis of a small Falklands fishery has often been referred to as white gold in the past, with a sale price at times of around \$17 per kilo. One of the conclusions seems to be that global food supplies will have to increase. The FIMCo projections could play their part in that! In any case it looks as if there should be a healthy market for Falkland Islands lamb into the future.

Best regards,

John Barton
Director of Natural Resources

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By Ian Campbell

The recent decision by the government to support the FIMCo Review recommendations and Business Plan was a bold move; but an essential one in regards to ensuring the survival of agriculture as a viable industry into the future.

Having said that the supply of livestock to FIMCo from the farming community is critical to the success of this upgrade. It is a two way street. Changes will need to be made to many of the ways things are currently done on farms and these will also require investment in time and money.

I have written recently, and also presented a paper at Farmer's Week, on the problems associated with an agricultural industry overly reliant on a wool income stream. As I said then it is dying the "death of a thousand cuts" and desperately needs the new string to its bow that FIMCo can provide.

A domestic meat industry alone will not be of sufficient size to provide the additional income boost to farms. The annual meat demand from Stanley is not at the moment entirely serviced from camp, with some imported product that could still perhaps be substituted, but with basically little room for significant growth. Stanley demand is also pretty flat whereas export demand can be concentrated in the summer and autumn months when animals are fatter.

MPA and cruise ships are often quoted as possible markets- but to supply these markets is exactly the same as supplying export markets with regards to auditing and quality control standards.

The types of volumes needed to make FIMCo viable in their 10 year plan are quoted by David Waugh and the Suppliers Group as "ambitious but achievable." The significant increase in volume that a meat export industry achieves is the only realistic thing anyone can think of to boost farm incomes. It should in fact put total meat income into a similar ball

park for many farm businesses as wool income is in now.

Investments will particularly need to be made in pasture improvement and crops for strategic use, labour in managing, monitoring and marketing livestock, and capital improvements on things like sheep and cattle handling facilities. Further thought needs to go into planning for this on each farm. Breaking out of the incredible downward spiral of increasing costs and reducing wool incomes will be a difficult task. Hopefully DoA and others will be there with you assisting in training, decision making and various business tools as well as the FIP and labour schemes.

I see not only farms gearing up to produce lamb, but mutton and beef as well. Depending on their mix of ground it might be new seasons lamb, yearling lamb, and if wether flocks are run then wether mutton too. Wether flocks can be kept relatively young and productive by selling off and replacing them when they still have a good quality carcass. Similarly some ewes might be culled (spots, poor mothers, barren etc) and provide ewe mutton that are not too old or thin to be of carcass value.

Good quality breeding beef cattle numbers should be encouraged to expand and I think they work very well along with sheep on most farms. I am sure however that proper efficient and modern handling facilities like races, crushes and loading ramps are essential if the management, monitoring and marketing tasks are to be made far less stressful (to man and beast), dangerous and time consuming than they are currently.

Nobody can compel people to produce animals for FIMCo. The decision needs to be made by each farm business and be based upon business principles. It should be right for the business to produce animals when it pays them good money and also provides other benefits (reductions in grazing pressure, cash flow etc.) and so should be a wise decision. Real figures provided at Farmers

Week however demonstrated that this could be the case, however each farm should try to work this out for themselves.

Some businesses for whatever reason may not wish to provide stock for FIMCo, however they hopefully can still choose to show a cooperative spirit towards those who do and the industry in which they are a part of. Traceback systems for cattle are essential if FIMCo is to access international meat markets and all Falkland Island cattle will need to comply - not just those destined to FIMCo. It is unfortunate but the "customer is always right" rule is applicable here. Australian farmers (who get far less from the EU than Falkland Island farmers do) are also

annoyed at the constraints the EU puts on them, but are also forced to comply. It is just one of the costs in doing business in the international arena.

To sum up I think the only way farming can have a future here is to expand the individual businesses into a new diversified income stream, while maintaining a similar level of wool production and income. The only way I can see that is to significantly develop the meat production from most farms.

So we all need to get behind FIMCo. Not for their benefit but for yours.



HYDATIDOSIS – THE NEXT STAGE TO ERADICATION

By Zoë Luxton

Introduction

As most of you will know, hydatid cysts are the intermediate stage of the life cycle of a tape worm called *Echinococcus granulosus*. The worms' lifecycle rotates between dogs and sheep. Dogs are the definitive hosts, the animal in which the worm matures and reproduces. Worm eggs are passed out onto pasture in dog faeces and are ingested by sheep. The eggs hatch, larvae migrate to organs in the sheeps' body (commonly livers and lungs) and a cyst develops. Inside the cyst are many protoscolices. When a dog eats the cyst, the protoscolices attach to its intestinal lining and develop into an adult worm and the life cycle starts again.

A cyst in a sheep has very little consequence for the sheep, however if a human was to accidentally ingest some worm eggs and a cyst were to develop it could have serious medical consequences. Because hydatidosis is zoonotic (ie can pass from animals to people) its eradication is desirable – thus the dog dosing programme and offal disposal requirements that we are all familiar with.

Current information:

Based on examining every single sheep carcass that passes through Sand Bay Abattoir and farmers examining sheep killed on farms, the current estimated prevalence of hydatid cysts in sheep is approximately 0.008%. This is an extremely low number and we would like to tentatively declare ourselves free of hydatidosis but we feel we need to do some final research before we can do this.

The proposed trial:

The basis of hydatid monitoring relies on us examining sheep, but we can only examine the small percentage of Falkland Island sheep that pass through the abattoir. So, we would like to look at the other part of the life cycle in dogs. We propose to collect a faeces sample from every dog in the Falklands and test it to see if there is any evidence that the dog has recently been exposed to the *E.granulosus* worm. Theoretically all the tests should be negative but any positives will show that there is a flaw somewhere in the eradication programme that we can then focus on. We are hoping that the few cysts that have been found in past years in sheep carcasses are

old cysts that have been in the sheep for long periods of time. Hydatid cysts are very slow to develop and indeed the cysts were found in mature sheep.

What do I need to do?

The ideal time to collect faeces is when the previous dose of worm pills is wearing off so we propose to **NOT DOSE ON THE NEXT PROGRAMMED DATE OF WEDNESDAY 25TH AUGUST**. Then we will collect faeces samples throughout the month of September and prepare them for analysis. **WE WILL THEN DOSE AGAIN AS NORMAL ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER** while we await the results.

All farms will be sent faeces collection kits and instructions (a poop scoop bag and a submission form!). We will try to arrange to visit farms with large numbers of dogs to help you out with the collection process.

We need 10g of faeces from each dog, that's about a heaped tablespoon full!

Faeces needs to be collected fresh but if you

have a dog kennelled on their own in a clean kennel for a night you can collect anything they have produced overnight. You can collect poo as and when you get the chance over the month of September, you don't have to collect it from every dog on the same day. On the day you collect a sample you can do one of 2 things with it. You can send it directly to us (ie if there is a plane or you are coming to town) OR you can freeze it and send it to us when there is a chance. We will then prepare the sample and store it until we have all the samples ready to be sent to UK.

All dog owners outside of Stanley will be sent instructions and forms. All Stanley owners were issued with a kit when they presented their dogs for dosing on 14th July.

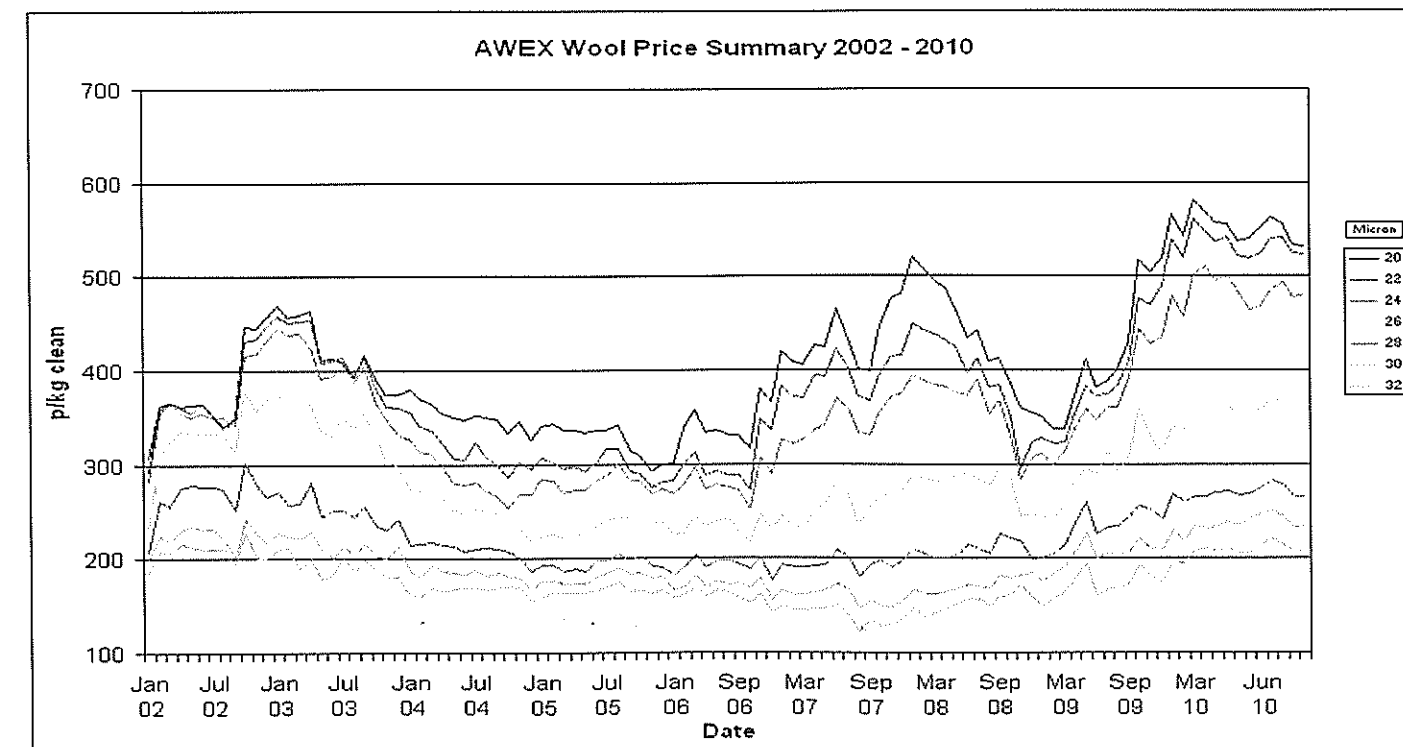
If you have not received any poo collecting kits by the end of August please let us know on the number below.

If anyone has any questions or comments give us a ring on 27366 or email one of us at the vets zluxton@doa.gov.fk, spointing@doa.gov.fk or scampbell@doa.gov.fk



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



SELECTING RAMS FOR ORGANIC FARMS

By Susan Campbell

Organic farms have limited methods by which to control internal parasites. One is early weaning, another is using cattle or dry sheep to mop up parasites on pasture. However ultimately the number of parasites in the animal can best be managed by good nutrition and genetics. For this reason it is essential that when selecting rams for organic farms you think carefully about ensuring you are bringing the right genes into your flock.

The genetics for resistance to parasites is moderately well inherited making it well worth breeding for. The results of your efforts will not become immediately obvious. The selection and breeding for parasite resistance usually takes up to 9-13 years before you can expect to see some results in a normal flock this equates to one less drench a year. However between a total of 11 -16 years of selection for parasite resistance will usually result in drenches no longer being needed.

It would appear that compared with some of the newer introduced breeds the Falkland Island Polwarths have some reasonable degree of resistance. One assumes this is a case of years of natural selection without drenching. Despite this though there is still a reasonable amount of variation between the best and worst of the National Stud Flock (NSF) Polwarth Rams when it comes to internal parasite resistance.



Lambs gathered on an organic in conversion farm

The question was asked at Farmers' Week is there any reason that the rams with low WEC (worm egg count otherwise known as faecal egg count) would be the lower index rams and the higher index rams have higher WEC? This I believed to be an anomaly so we have done a few graphs. There is no relationship positive or negative between the WEC and the weight of the rams (see diag1) and a very small negative relationship between the index and WEC of rams (see diag 2).

The same work has been looked at in large numbers of Australian Merinos and there is no correlation at all between WEC and wool traits or weight. So half your top indexed sheep will have above average WEC and half of them will have below average WEC. I think if we had the numbers here we would find the same thing.

It is important to remember that although the NSF rams were measured with these WEC they were then drenched so the full affects of having long term worm burdens were then mitigated. If there is a relationship at all in these traits the only explanation for it would be that the rams that have a good resistance are expending some energy and protein into producing the antibodies required for the resistance this however would be negligible compared to the protein and energy loss due to high worm burdens in untreated sheep.

So when selecting Rams from the NSF it is important if you are looking to lower your worm burdens on your property as you should be on an Organic Farm that you select rams that have a WEC lower than the average for that years rams. The more you are prepared to concentrate on that trait the lower the WEC you should look for.

It is being discussed whether we should include the WEC in the selection index of the NSF and thus include this as part of the selection criteria. I feel that since we have achieved the goals for the other selection criteria and 40% of the Falklands going into Organic this would be a highly desirable thing to do.

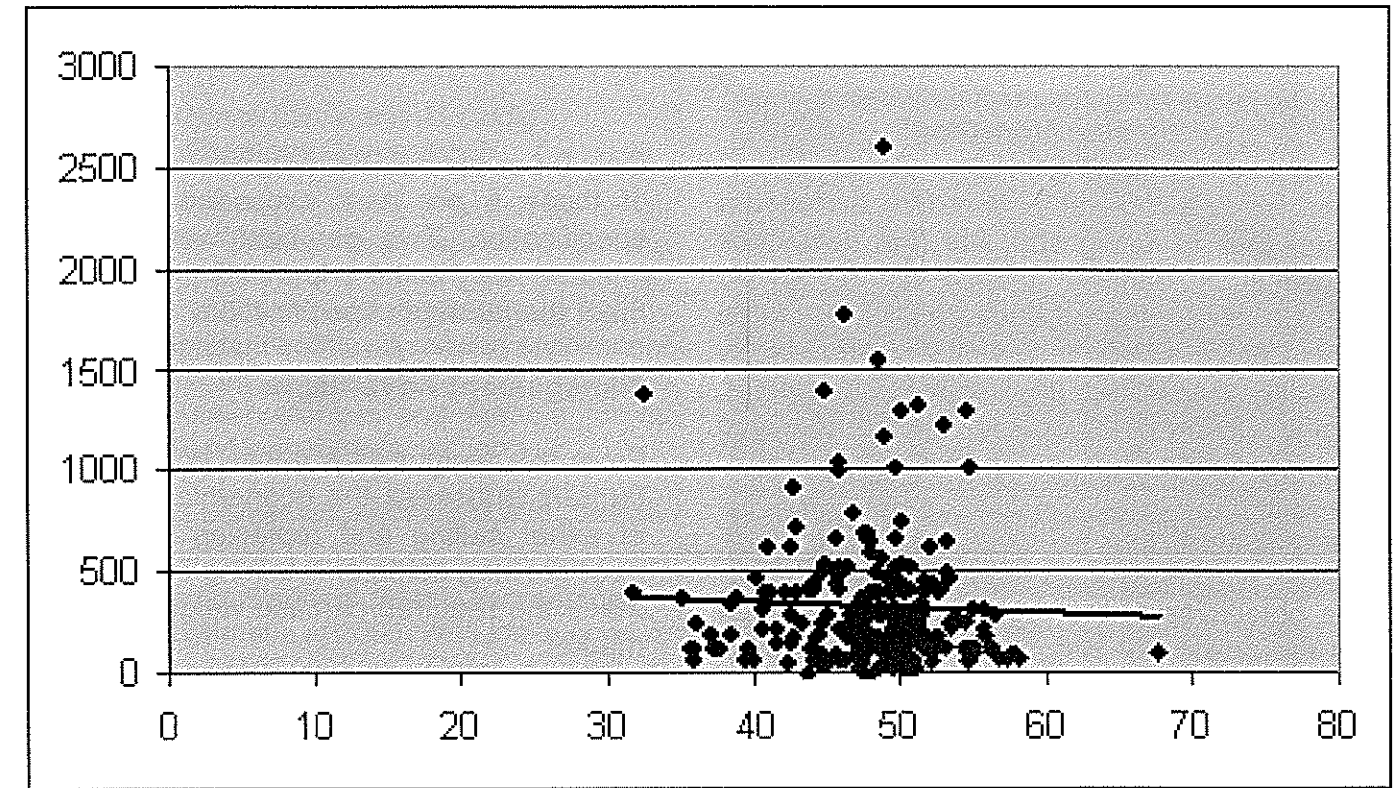


Diagram 1

The relationship between WEC and weight in the NSF Polwarth Rams in 2010. No correlation is found between these two traits.

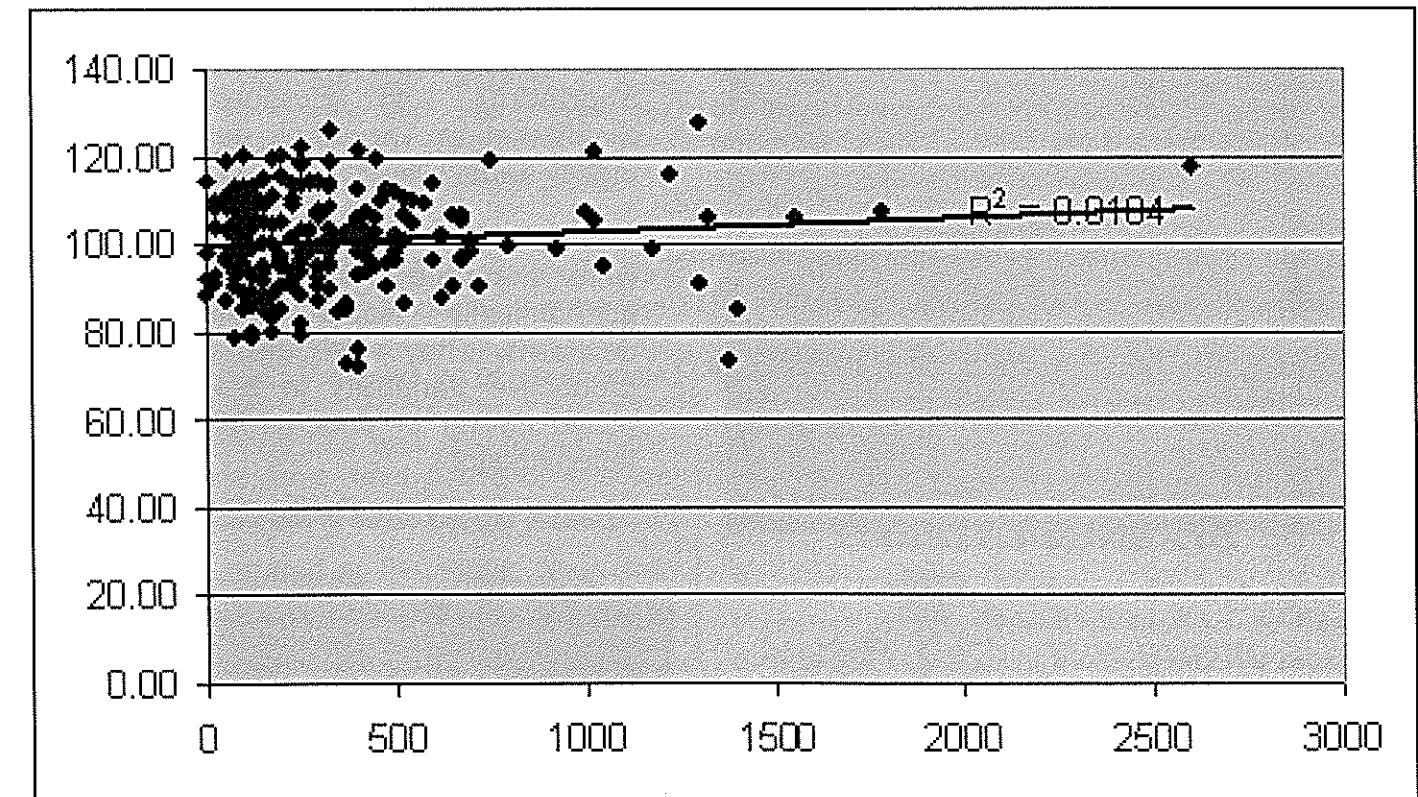


Diagram 2

The relationship between the Index and the WEC in the NSF Polwarth Rams in 2010. There is an extremely small trend (as shown by the black line) showing that the higher indexed rams may have a slightly higher WEC. However there is still ample opportunity to select rams with high indexes and low WECs.

BOOSTING THE BOTTOM LINE

By Mac McArthur

I was reading recently of a farmer discussion group that is using the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) technology to better manage the productivity of their cattle herds. Eight family farms that were mainly targeting the European Union (EU) market, turning off 2 year old cattle to meet the rigid carcass specifications were involved.

Trial Procedures

The objectives of the project were to monitor the individual live weight performance of the steers and heifers grazing improved pastures. Each double tagged animal had the management tag (paddock readable) and the NLIS & Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID button tag) numbers recorded. Also the sex; live weight; breed composition and age of each animal were recorded.

The calves were inducted into the data base from weaning and initially weighed every 4 months and then at 6 monthly intervals. This live weight gain information was used to identify the poor performing cattle at a young age.

On one farm the 144 steers gained an average of 0.53 kg /day and were sold directly to the abattoir as they reached the required live weight to meet the carcass specifications over the period March to August.

Only 9 per cent of the mob failed to grade and of those 5 per cent exceeded the 4 tooth specification. Two per cent were under the carcass weight and a further 2 percent did not meet the fat depth specification.

Management Advantages

From this weight data it was possible for the farmers to assess the economic ramifications of either selling and replacing the identified poor growing cattle or retaining them until they made the required carcass weight for another market.

The database was extended to include the individual cow information such as breed composition, age, body condition score, pregnancy test results and whether the cow was wet or dry.

Results indicated the most productive breed composition and the most fertile cattle. Generally these were composite cattle carrying Brahman, British (Angus, Hereford or Shorthorn) and European (Charolais, Simmental or Limousin) genes in approximately equal proportions.

The main advantages to the farmers involved were that they had the data to make economically viable herd management decisions. They were also able to manage productive variability in their herd through active culling of poor performing cows and fattening stock.



TUSSAC RESTORATION WITH FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

By Sarah Crofts and Ali Liddle
Falklands Conservation

Tussac restoration projects are beneficial on all counts to the islands and especially on the mainland where it is identified as a priority habitat for protection in FIG's Biodiversity Strategy 2008 – 2018. It is important both as a grazing supplement and for wildlife and for this reason it is a common interest to conservationists and farmers for its management and long-term protection.

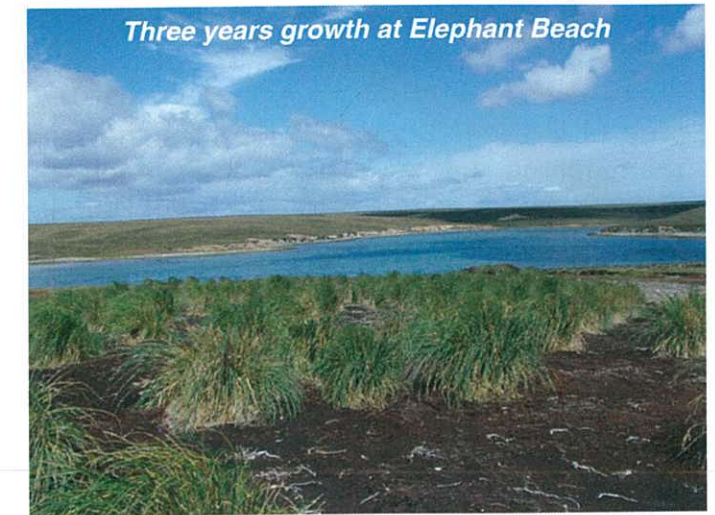
Case Study: Elephant Beach Farm tussac project 2005 – 2010.

Ben Berntsen at Elephant Beach Farm started a replanting programme in 2005. With the support of Falklands Conservation Small Grant Scheme an area on the north coast known as Black Point was fenced off for restoration. Overgrazing in the past had resulted in a large vegetation decrease leaving areas of bare peat. Ben was keen to get tussac back on the land with a long term view to winter grazing for cattle and sheep.

The first planting took place in September 2005; tillers were collected from Cape Dolphin and planted by volunteers with Falklands Conservation. The success of the project has far exceeded all expectations with the tillers trebling in size within the first 12 months and now 5 years on there are large areas of tussac which are now self-seeding and extending beyond the initial areas.

The Elephant Beach tussac planting weekend is an annual event and, with Ben planning to fence off new areas of camp in order to extend the tussac plantation, the work is set to continue for many years to come. The measure of the success of the project is that this winter, just 5 years on from the first planting Ben was able to put cattle into the plantation for a short period of time for some valuable winter food.

Tussac is best planted in the winter when the ground is wetter, and also because there is less wildlife to damage the young plants such as Magellanic penguins. Fencing off bare soil near existing plantations can allow tussac to regenerate naturally, but new planting schemes are favoured for a quicker result. Typically the tussac planting involves large numbers of volunteers and encourages families and children to join in to make the event more sociable. In terms of labour two days of work per year by a team of able volunteers is all that is needed for a successful planting scheme...oh and a few cases of beer!



Tussac planting schemes will also play an important role in habitat restoration on cleared minefields, in particular those in coastal proximity and vulnerable to soil erosion. The recently cleared Surf Bay minefield is currently undergoing restoration trials by Falklands Conservation with the support of FIG's Environmental Department. Tussac grass and native blue grass has already been planted at the site and it is hoped the trials will lead to best practice guidelines for restoration at cleared coastal mine field sites in the future.

**SEEN ANYTHING
STRANGE LATELY?!**

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

Call the
Veterinary Section
on 27366



**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE
IS OUR BEST DEFENCE**

VEGETATION MAPPING AT SALADERO

By Sergio Radic, Sergio Opazo
and Jim McAdam

One of the most important tools for the farm manager is knowledge of the vegetation composition of paddocks on the farm. Remote sensing is one way of building up that knowledge. The aim of this study was to determine vegetation types on a farm in the Falkland Islands using remote sensing information, and then estimate sheep carrying capacity for the farm using GIS (Geographic Information System) techniques developed for a similar region (Tierra del Fuego, Chile). The study area was at Saladero, East Falkland, operated by the Department of Agriculture (DoA).

wavelengths which can then be related to characteristics of the vegetation) of 30x30 m, however in this work we used an image with smaller pixel size (4x4 m/pixel) (see figure 1), because this will help give the greatest resolution and the highest detail of the vegetation. This is especially the case with smaller paddocks. Logically, taking the average vegetation cover over a 900sq m area (30x30m) will be far less accurate than over 16sq m -almost 50 times less accurate!

This farm was sub-divided into different vegetation cover types (e.g.: Whitegrass community, greens and dwarf shrub). With specialised software an unsupervised vegetation map was created (see figures 2 and 3). Then with field data collected (to

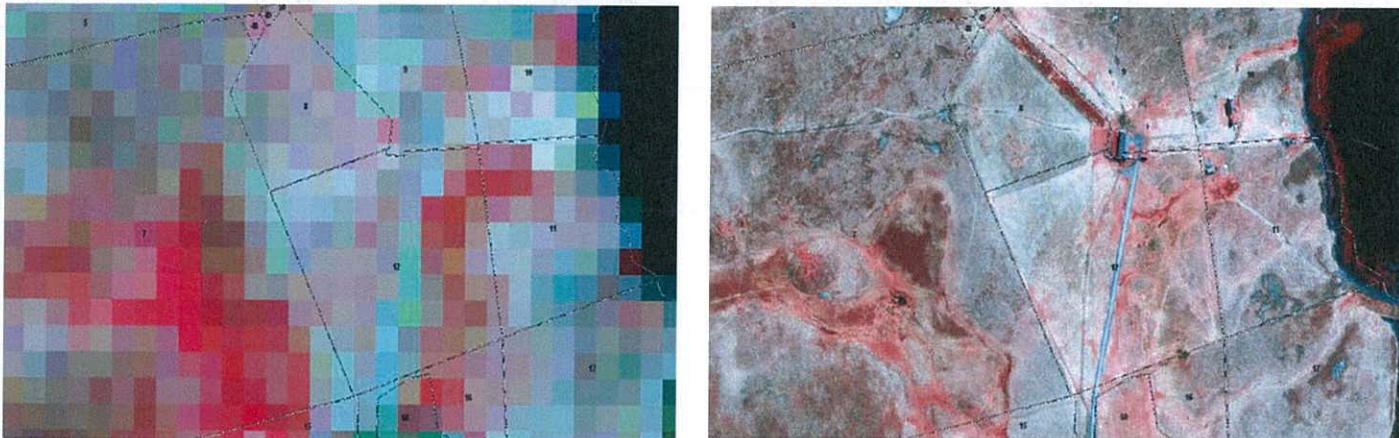


Figure 1: Left image shows a Landsat image (one pixel is equivalent to 30 x 30 m). Right image shows an Ikonos image (pixel of 4 x 4 m) of Saladero area.

With a digital treatment of satellite data (high quality image) it is possible to determine the types of vegetation covering the study area. Subsequently, the dominant species in each previously identified community must be identified. With this information, we can estimate the potential productivity of the farm and associate this with sheep carrying capacity using a procedure tested and used in Magallanes Region of Chilean Patagonia.

Today the most common remotely sensed (from satellite) data imagery used has pixels (square areas of the earth's surface over which mean reflectance of the vegetation cover is remotely captured over a range of

“ground truth” the satellite imagery) the supervised classification was carried out. This means that on field, the vegetation map is checked on a specific spot to prove the accuracy of this map. On figure 2 and 3 it is possible to see the differences for these two kinds of images for a paddock of 359 hectares at Saladero.

The left hand images on figures 2 and 3 show different colours that can be related to different vegetation types. In this case the red colour is showing more vigorously growing vegetation communities, such as green valleys.

VEGETATION MAPPING AT SALADERO

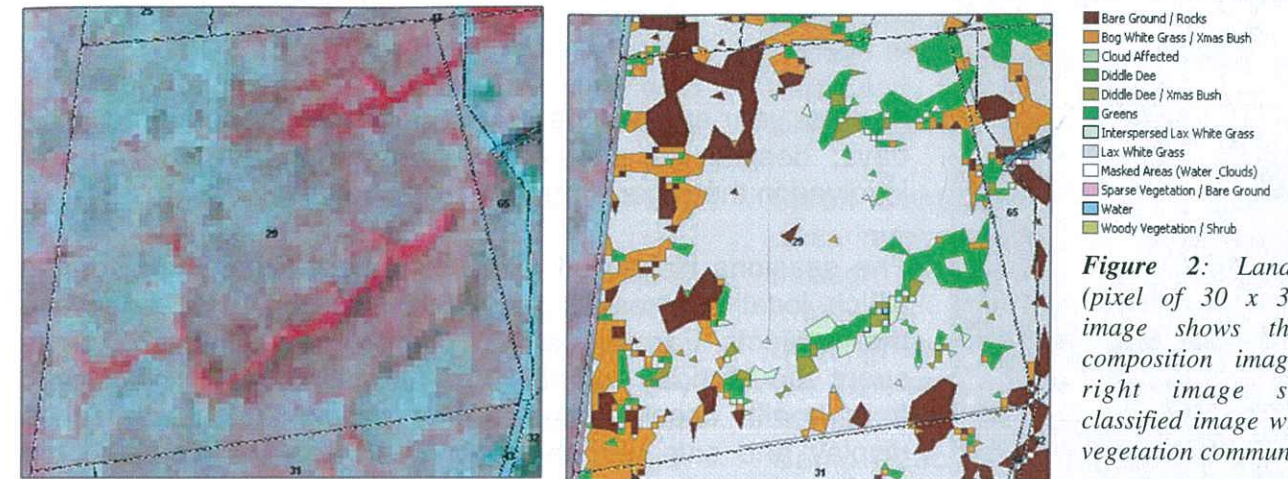


Figure 2: Landsat image (pixel of 30 x 30 m). Left image shows the infrared composition image and the right image shows the classified image with different vegetation communities.

The Ikonos image has four spectral bands which cover the infrared and visible channels, compared to the Landsat image, which has seven bands, covers infrared, SWIR (short wave infrared) and visible channels. However the scale and definition from the Ikonos images are much better because of the higher spatial resolution. The scale in Landsat could be maximum 1:50,000 and Ikonos 1:5,000.

for monitoring the dynamic nature of the whole farm environment.

We would like to acknowledge the help of everyone in the Falkland Islands who helped us with this work, and for each institution that supported this project - Shackleton Scholarship Fund, Department of Agriculture in the Falkland Islands, Agri-food Biosciences

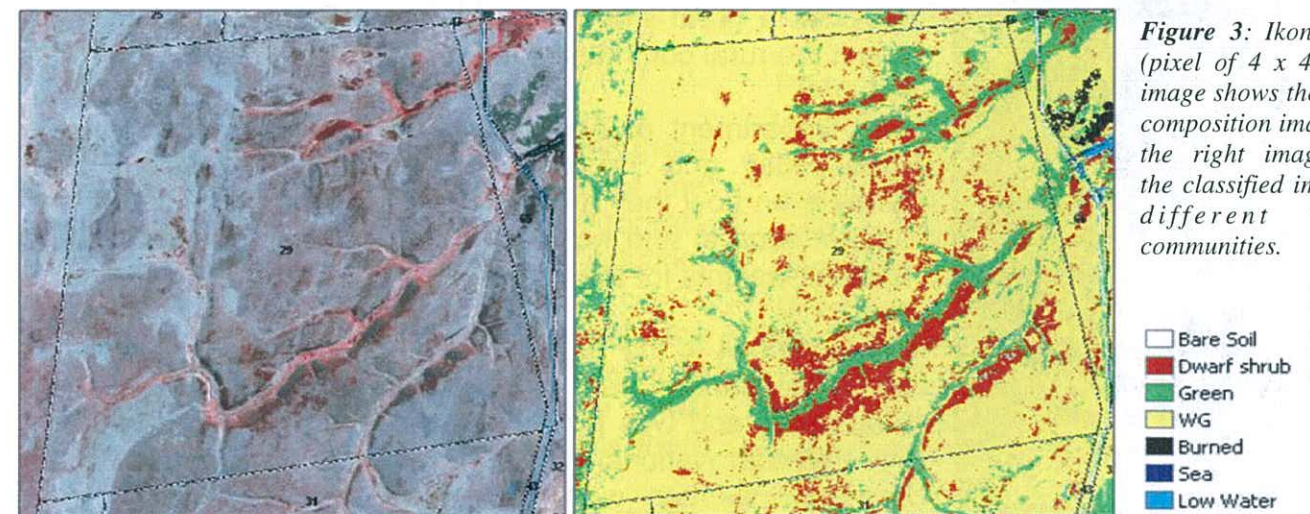


Figure 3: Ikonos image (pixel of 4 x 4 m). Left image shows the infrared composition image and the right image shows the classified image with different vegetal communities.

This level of detail allows a more accurate description of the farm, however the cost of the imagery is higher (US\$ 12 American Dollars / km², minimum to buy 50 km²).

Likely benefits of this technique to the Falkland Islands could be: - help in farm decision making; avoiding overgrazing of grassland; quantify the area of vegetation communities on the farm; delimiting areas of higher biodiversity and environmental value;

Institute – Belfast, United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust and Universidad de Magallanes.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us by email:

sergio.radic@umag.cl; sergio.opazo@umag.cl
or Jim.McAdam@afbini.gov.uk

FARMERS' WEEK FESTIVITIES

By Siân Ferguson

Another year and another Farmers' Week gone in a few short days, despite the months of preparation put in by those involved in the organising.

The sessions kicked off with the annual Rural Expo, during which local businesses have the opportunity to show-case their projects. Farmers, school children and Stanley residents spent the Monday morning visiting the stalls, which ranged from health checks with hospital staff, business goods on display and sale and the opportunity to win sweets at the biodiversity stall, organised by the Department of Agriculture. Everyone was kept well-fed by the SeAled PR girls, who cooked the popular breakfast, provided by the Rural Business Association (RBA) and the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo).

The Expo, which is organised by the RBA, is an important part of the week according to Sarah Clement of SeAled PR, who says it gives everyone the chance to get together in a relaxed environment and ask questions in a more confidential manner directly to stand holders. She added that the Expo also provides a great way for the youth of Stanley to learn more about the rural community and related businesses.

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) held sessions on the Wednesday and Thursday, which included sessions from farmers on how they are improving lambing percentages and hogget survival and working to increase animal numbers and carcass weights for the abattoir.

Ian Campbell of the DoA ran through a number of scenarios on how farmers can work towards meeting the FIMCo projections and was joined by Mac McArthur in the future of the Polwarth National Stud Flock, Angus National Beef Herd and how we can work towards a successful beef export industry. The wool, meat and beef sessions ended with Raymond Evans (RBA Chairman) emphasising the importance of farmers working together to support FIMCo during his time slot.

Veterinary staff updated farmers on how the Hydatid trial would work and during the session on increasing lamb survival, there were a few shocked faces around as Zoë Luxton roped everyone into her 'Farmers Fortunes' game, which soon turned quite competitive!

The DoA sessions came to a close with a short update on all the veterinary and agricultural tools and services available and a round-up of all the discussions held during the week. A copy

of all the DoA presentations is available on cd for anyone interested, or you can download them from our website www.agriculture.gov.fk

The DoA would like to thank the farmers who defied their nerves and delivered very interesting presentations and to everyone who came along and participated in any way during the week.

Outside of the allocated DoA slots, the RBA had organised a wide variety of presentations and workshops, the Medical Services Levy, shipping consolidation and employment laws seemed to be of particular interest to farmers.

All of the sessions throughout the week were well attended and Sarah Clement commented that the feedback they have received so far has been very positive and she thought the week had gone extremely well.

One new topic introduced was Environmental Planning and Falklands Conservation presenting their aims of the raptor project. The tourism sessions also attracted a good crowd, particularly the land based tourism workshop, which was held on Friday.

Sarah Clement would like to thank everyone who was involved in the stalls and sessions through the week, to FIMCO for supplying meat for the FIMCo breakfast, John Birmingham for his assistance in setting up the hall and finally to FIODA, Government House, Falklands Conservation, the MoD and Camp Education for supplying entertainment throughout the weeks evenings and FIMCo, FIDC, and the DoA for hosting lunches. Sarah added that they hope that all who attended the RBA party had a great night!

Pictures: kindly provided by (and copyright of) the DoA, SeAled PR and Penguin News.



TAKE CARE WITH CHEMICALS

By Ian Campbell

With the emergence of the pesky earwig there are all sorts of ideas springing out of the woodwork for their control. From elaborate traps to a size 12 boot (my preferred solution) to a range of chemical applications.

One of the good things about the Falklands is the fact we don't often need to use chemicals for anything- but as a result neither the legislation nor the culture is there to be wary of them.

Some agricultural chemicals are nasty, some are safer but all need to be treated with absolute respect.

Chemicals pose a number of threats and these need to be addressed. Obviously there is the threat to your own health, your family and your pets. Enough murder mysteries have been written involving a mysterious substance from the garden shed and that is always on the cards. (Accidental poisonings I mean!) Most chemicals contain solvents etc and can be absorbed through the skin so be particularly careful when handling the concentrate and use the correct Personal

Protection Equipment (PPE). Thoroughly wash any contaminated area immediately.

Chemical injury is not only the dramatic convulsions with blood coming out of every orifice we see on the movies. More insidious problems - even apparently unrelated things like cancer or psychological issues - may be linked to chemical exposure so it essential to be safe rather than sorry.

Secondly they pose a threat to export industry. Australia nearly lost its meat exports due to chemical residue in meat and this is a great advantage to Falkland Islands production systems so it needs to be kept that way - because the customers do check. Links from chemical use into the food chain are not always obvious.

The best advice is to read the label. Follow safety instructions and don't use the chemical in ways that are not acceptable on the label. Particularly be aware of whether it is an appropriate chemical to use over surfaces in the house and kitchen.

Finally don't forget about the easy option- that of the size 12 boot - it is cheap, efficient, and it is also organic.

BALE BRANDING

The following letter was sent out to all farmers...



Falkland Islands Government

The Department of Agriculture Stanley Falkland Islands
Telephone: +500 27355
Facsimile: +500 27352
e-mail: lellis@doa.gov.fk Website: www.agriculture.gov.fk

12th July 2010

Recommended Bale Branding

Dear Farmer,

Please find enclosed a laminated sheet showing recommended branding of bales. It is laminated so you can pin it up in the shearing shed if you so wish.

The reason the we are sending this to every farm arises from a discussion held during the DoA sessions at Farmers' Week. There appeared to be quite a lot of confusion about what bale marks were required and it was asked if the DoA could provide a sheet showing the preferred branding.

The recommendations come from across the board of those involved in the wool industry in the Falklands, not solely from the DoA.

Below are some of the most pertinent reasons for branding on two sides and both ends of your bales:

- Increases bale identification
- Handling/transporting and stacking increases friction which rubs the ink off the bales (hence bale identification problems)
- Minimises double and triple handling
- Greatly assists lotting of bales for coring and stacking
- To minimise the risk of incorrect bales being containerised for shipping
- To minimise incorrect bales being sent to the wrong destination

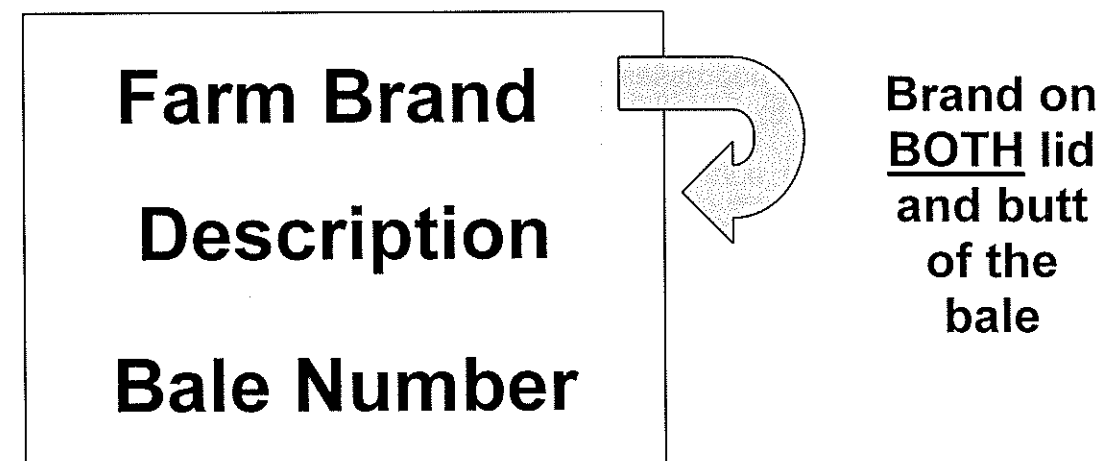
If you have any comments to make or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 27355 or email: lellis@doa.gov.fk

Yours sincerely,

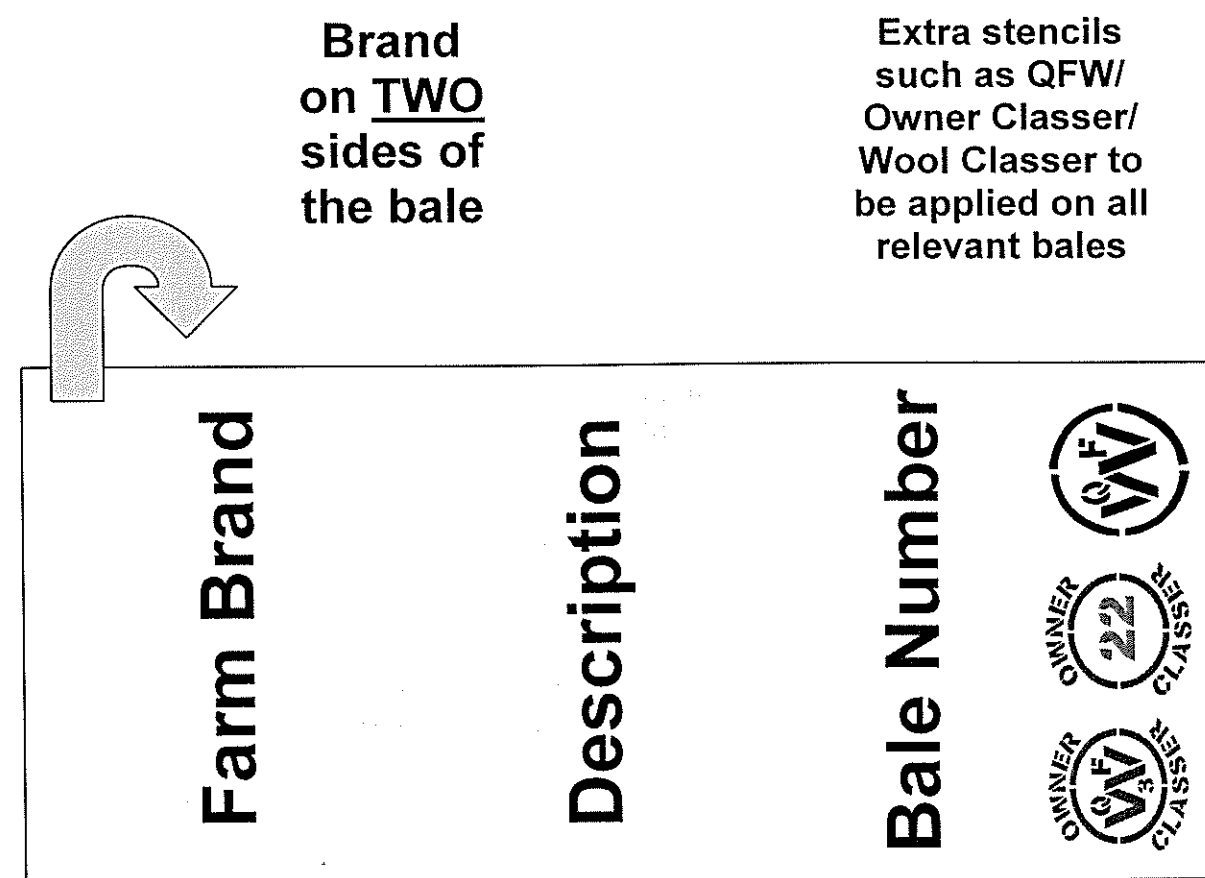
Lucy Ellis
Assistant Agricultural Adviser
Department of Agriculture

Recommended Bale Branding

THE ENDS OF THE BALE...



THE SIDES OF THE BALE...



THE COMING FAMINE

By Mac McArthur

Science and agricultural writer Julian Cribb from Australia has written a book entitled 'The Coming Famine' to be published soon. He has also provided keynote addresses at forums about the future risks to global food security.

He points out that in coming decades the world faces the risk of major regional food crises that are likely to lead to conflicts and massive refugee movements globally. This will be driven primarily by emerging scarcities of all the primary resources required to produce food.

World population Growth

In 1950 there were about 2.5 billion people living in the world and in 2050 there are likely to be around 9.3 billion people. However due to strong economic development many people can afford diets richer in protein so that 9.3 billion people will eat as much food as 13 billion people at today's nutritional levels.

To meet such a demand global food production must rise by 110 per cent in the coming 40 years according to the United Nations Environment Program.

Constraining factors

The following factors affecting global food security are impacting negatively on farm productivity:

- Surface water availability to agriculture declining due to burgeoning city demand
- Ground water decline
- Decline in arable land area available
- Increased soil loss
- Applied soil nutrients far exceeded by losses
- Agricultural R&D in significant decline world wide
- Wild caught fish and marine harvests are dwindling
- Production of bio-fuels are replacing

- food crops
- Half of the world may face regular drought by 2050

Of these significant constraints to global increases in food production the only one that is uncertain is what the impact of global warming and climate change will be. The rest are well documented, have been measured and all are relatively predictable.

Water-white gold

Urban city demand for water for the first in history is outstripping agricultural demand as city users outbid irrigators. It is predicted in 2050 that cities will consume half the world's fresh water, reducing that available currently to agriculture by a third.

Ground water reserves are depleting at alarming rates worldwide with water tables in China and India falling by 2-3 metres annually. Ground water levels and rivers are dropping worldwide as they are pumped dry. Research suggests that by 2025, water scarcity may cause an annual loss of 350 million tonnes of food. This is roughly equivalent today's entire United States annual grain crop or the total world rice harvest. Clearly millions would starve.

The challenge

Future farmers backed by politicians 'political will' to invest in agricultural R&D have a massive challenge to double food production using only two thirds of the currently available water. To achieve this there will need to be a 200 per cent improvement in water use efficiency across all irrigation crops in every country in the world or alternatively a massive switch to rain fed agricultural technologies and farming systems.

Falkland Islands farmers and consumers need to recognise the fortunate situation they are in having available significant R&D and extension services through the FIG support of the DoA. Many major food producing countries around the world including the UK,

Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to name a few, have in recent years significantly reduced or stopped funding agricultural R&D and extension, partly because their constituencies are essentially city based with voters not a bit concerned or interested where their food comes from or who produces it.

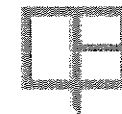
Maybe one day the Falkland Islands will be exporting its abundant 'white gold' (water) as well as alleviating famine through exports of significant quantities of meat, vegetables and other agricultural products to starving

neighbours.

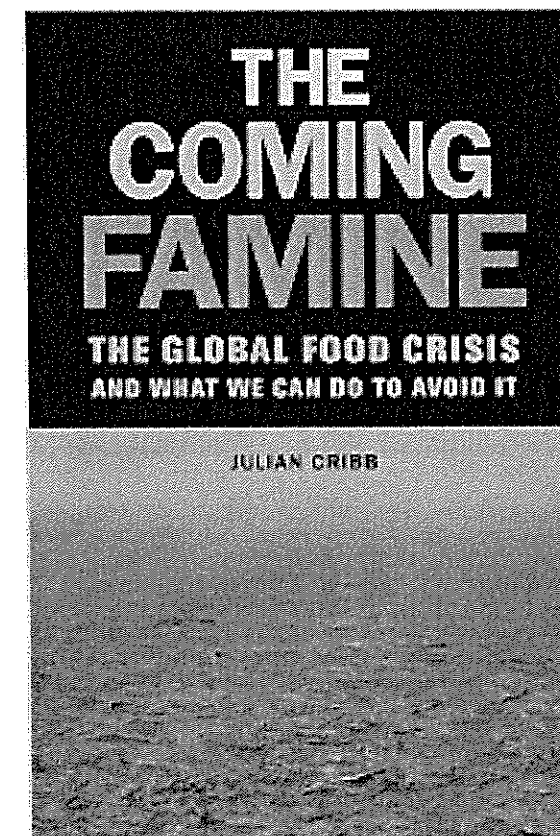
Next month look out for further viewpoints from Julian Cribb on the critical loss of agricultural land through erosion and other affects world wide.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on the keynote address prepared and presented by science and agricultural writer Julian Cribb at a conference held in Sydney, Australia on 21 October 2009.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS



FORTHCOMING FALL 2010

The Coming Famine

The Global Food Crisis and What We Can Do to Avoid It

JULIAN CRIBB

"This book is not just a warning but offers sound guidance for the needed actions; easily understandable but suitably comprehensive."

—Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute

"An erudite and learned analysis of humanity's greatest challenge. This is a book all thinking people should read."

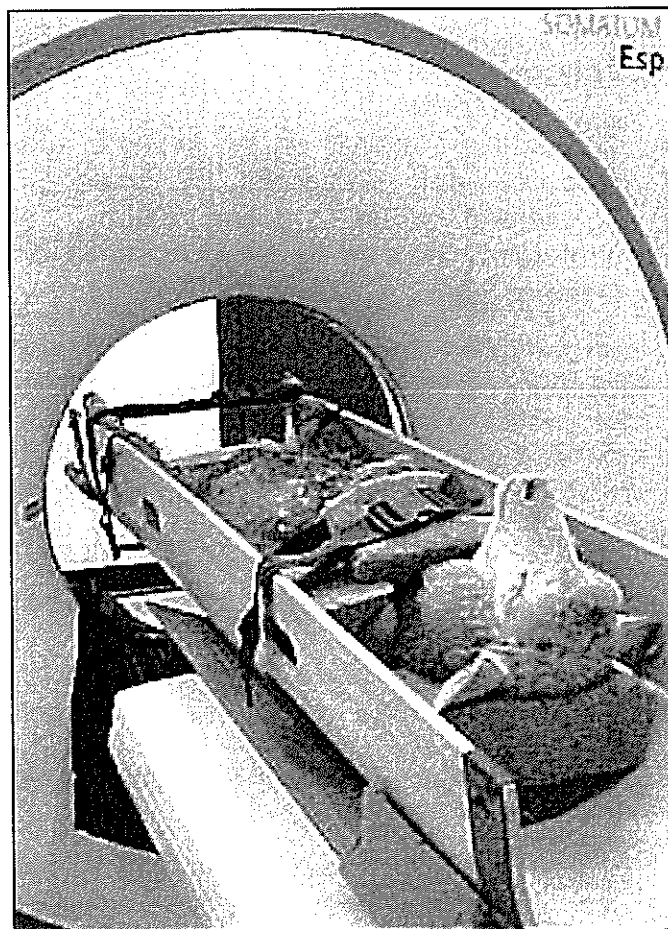
—Professor Lindsay Falvey, University of Cambridge

In *The Coming Famine*, Julian Cribb lays out a vivid picture of impending planetary crisis—a global food shortage that threatens to hit by mid-century—one he argues that would dwarf any in our previous experience. Cribb's comprehensive assessment describes a dangerous confluence of shortages—of water, land, energy, technology, and knowledge—combined with the increased demand created by population and economic growth. Writing in brisk, accessible prose, Cribb explains how the food system interacts with the environment and with armed conflict, poverty, and other societal factors. He shows how high food prices and regional shortages are already sending out shockwaves in the international community. But, far from outlining a Doomsday scenario, *The Coming Famine* is a strong and positive call to action, exploring the greatest issue of our age and providing practical suggestions for addressing each of the major challenges it raises.

Julian Cribb is an award-winning journalist and science writer and the author of *The White Death*.

FORTHCOMING FALL 2010
224 pages, 6 x 9", 9 line illustrations, 3 maps, 13 tables
Weather & Climate, Global Studies, Global Anthropology
Wash
978-0-520-26071-9

GET WOOL SOON



The Sun, 21st May 2010

THE sheep might think it's all a baa-d dream, but this hi-tech CT scanner is giving Britain leaner, healthier lamb.

Animals are sedated, given a comfy pillow and then slid into the machine - normally used in hospitals - to measure their muscle, fat and bone. The mobile scanner, developed at Edinburgh's Scottish Agricultural College, means farmers know which beasts to breed from to get less fatty meat.

Provided by Heather May, Stanley

Sassafras to Surry Hills

*Provided by Mac McArthur
Department of Agriculture*

Sassafras, Tasmania, beef farmer Kel Sharman was astonished to learn that meat from a beast he sold for \$5 a kilogram was now on sale at a butcher shop in inner Sydney for \$69 a kilogram says a report in *Stock and Land*.

Responding to contact from Sydney Morning Herald journalists tracing the origins of a basket of food products sold in Sydney, Sharman said: "You are joking. I'm in the wrong line of business."

Every piece of meat sold in Australian can, theoretically, be identified and traced back

to its source paddock, with the barcode on its packaging linked to the NLIS ear tag fitted when each calf is born.

But in practice tracing meat to its source can be difficult says the paper because of the complex and often disjointed relationship from the retail shelves to the farm, via the abattoir, transport, storage and distribution companies - but in the case of Mr Sharman it showed how effective it can be.

Acknowledged source June 28, 2010
**TE MANIA ANGUS WEEKLY
RURAL UPDATE**

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Provided by Felicity McArthur, Stanley

Lemon Syrup Cake

Ingredients

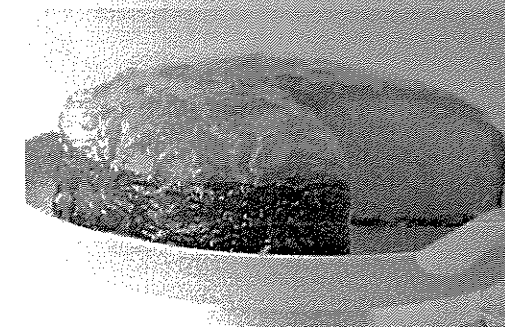
250g butter, softened
1 tbs finely grated lemon rind
1 cup (220g) caster sugar
3 eggs
1 cup (250ml) buttermilk
½ cup (80ml) lemon juice
2 cups (300g) self-raising flour

Lemon syrup

½ cup (80ml) lemon juice
¼ cup (60ml) water
¾ cup (165g) caster sugar

method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C for a fan assisted oven) and grease a 24cm baba tin. Beat butter, rind and sugar in a small bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and fold in buttermilk, juice and sifted flour, in two batches. Spread the mixture into the pan. Bake cake for about 50 minutes - cover



with foil if it is browning too quickly. Stand the cooked cake in the pan for 5 minutes then turn onto a wire rack tray. Meanwhile, make the lemon syrup, pour syrup over hot cake and serve warm.

Lemon syrup

Stir ingredients in a small saucepan over heat, without boiling, until sugar dissolves. Simmer, uncovered, without stirring, for 5 minutes.

Chef's note: This cake is best served warm as a desert cake.

Dates for the Diary



14th August	Falkland day
5th September	Clocks go forward one hour at 2am
4th October	Public Holiday - Peat Cutting Monday
6th October	Dog Dosing Day (Drontal) <i>Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fj and advise when your dogs have been dosed</i>
31st October	Halloween

Puzzle Page

Sudoku

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

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

Good luck!

Riddles

TRUE STATEMENTS:

- A. The number of false statements here is one.
- B. The number of false statements here is two.
- C. The number of false statements here is three.
- D. The number of false statements here is four.

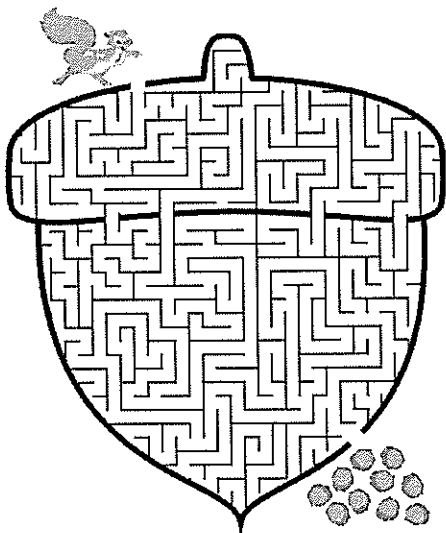
Which of the above statements is true?

Trivia Time-Out

1. What is a pollywog?
2. Where did the orange originate?
3. List the four options for our new port?
4. In what does a fellmonger deal?
5. Who created the famous Willow Pattern ware?
6. Who said recently in the 'Give us two minutes' "There is not a horse that can't be rode, there is not a man that can't be thrown"?
7. Which of our famous ship wrecks arrived at her final resting place in 1936?
8. Which animal is the symbol of the World Wildlife Fund?
9. What is an emmet?
10. Which sea is really the world's largest lake?
11. Which European nation was the first to drink tea?
12. Who sent the memorable message back to the Falklands, "In the rush and confusion of battle, I have forgotten that there is a prisoner in the cells. If he has not been released already, can someone kindly let him out!"
13. What is the colour of yak's milk?
14. If you owned a lapin coat what would it be made from?
15. In 1916 who complained that he was colder in Government House than what he had been in Antarctica?
16. Where is Wagga Wagga?
17. If you were to visit the Houses of Parliament in the UK which would be your nearest Underground Station?
18. What is a Shadrow?
19. What is the local name for the Black-browed Albatross?
20. Name the new Governor designate?

Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns

Kids Corner



July Solutions

Many Eyes

A skin have I, more eyes than one. I can be very nice when I am done.

What am I?

Answer: A Potato

Cannot Be Seen

I'm so fast you can't see me, though everyone sees straight through me. I don't stop until I die. What am I?

Answer: A Blink of an Eye

Handwriting practice lines with dotted midlines and dashed descenders.

THE WOOL PRESS

September 2010

Volume 248

£1.25

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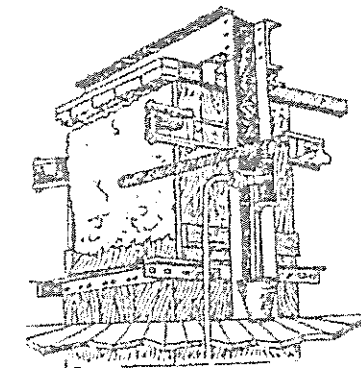
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Edited by Siân Ferguson

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

Hello everyone. Welcome to another information packed Wool Press. In fact, there is so much information inside that I don't quite know where to start.

It's always good to receive an article from a farmer so please read Riki Evans' piece on the FLSWG and heed his request for more ideas and comments on where to go from here.

Ian Campbell has been especially busy this month and has contributed 3 articles to this publication. All of his articles are worth reading but personally I found his article on Merinos and the fineness of wool particularly interesting. Ian contends that 22µ wool is not very fine at all; in Australia it is not considered really fine until you drop below 20µ. Ian goes on to say that the wool is only too fine if the sheep fails to thrive. I think many of you out there might have a different take on that issue. Ian's other 2 articles are connected with beef and fertilisers. On the first subject he points out that beef farmers need to get their conception rates up simply to meet the domestic demand for beef – only 792 calves born to beef cows in 2009/10, half of which will be female, and the annual local demand is for about 400 prime cattle each year; and on the second topic he draws our attention to the fact that wool is made up from Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) and Sulphur (S) and that these chemical substances are extracted from the pasture that the sheep eat – but you can't keep extracting these elements indefinitely without putting something back into the soil.

This ties in very well with Mac's article on the degradation of agricultural land worldwide. His article doesn't make for very comfortable reading.

Lucy Ellis has submitted a couple of articles in connection with wool production – one about Quality Falklands Wool (QFW) and

what it stands for and the other about how well the "new" coring machine has been used this season. Please take note of her two main concerns – namely that you keep your bale weights below 200kg and that the bales arrive at the warehouse in a respectable condition. There is no excuse for them to arrive covered in dust and mud thrown up from the road. Please ensure this doesn't happen in future otherwise the veterinary section will not be signing wool health certificates to say that the product was transported in an "hygienic" manner. Be warned! Lucy has also contributed a joint article about ewe scanning with Zoe – this can be a very valuable on-farm management tool. Zoe alone has supplied further information about how to package and send in your dog poo samples. Please follow those instructions carefully – otherwise we'll be getting an earful from FIGAS.

It was lovely to read Susie Hansen's account of her and Henry Boughton's attendance at the 24th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Edinburgh earlier this year. Please note what she has to say about the RASC wanting a representative from the "next generation" at the next Conference in Zambia in 2012 and about the usefulness of attending the pre-conference tour.

Last, but not least, I and all the members of the DoA would like to add our congratulations to the great show given by Jan Clarke and Lee Molkenburh at this year's Golden Shears competition in Built Wells. Like Tanya, I too think it is a little sad that the Overseas Games Association couldn't provide even a small proportion of the funding to attend such an important international shearing event.

Regards,

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

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UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE FIMCO LIVESTOCK SUPPLIERS WORKING GROUP

By Riki Evans

The FIMCo Livestock Suppliers Working Group (FLSWG) was formed as an offshoot of the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) review process. The sole purpose of the group was to advise on the area of the review concerning livestock supply to the plant and, in particular, the possible projected stock numbers going forward.

The group comprises members from various sections, including the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), the Department of Agriculture (DoA), the Policy unit, the Rural Business Association (RBA), FIMCo and farmers from the East, West and Islands who are active FIMCo suppliers.

The group has fulfilled its primary role, coming up with some ambitious, but achievable, projections which formed part of the FIMCo review. By drawing on the experience and, more significantly, the financial achievements of some of its members, the FLSWG has been instrumental in helping Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) understand the vital significance of FIMCo to the agricultural industry.

During Farmers' Week, the group was able to demonstrate that some farms are already achieving the type of lamb production required to reach the possible numbers predicted in the review. The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has now put its support into driving FIMCo towards viability in the long term and we would like to credit them for taking a tough decision in difficult times.

So, ultimately the job of the FLSWG is done. Or is it?

It has been well publicised in recent months that FIMCO will not succeed without the support of farmers and it was felt that the FLSWG may have a role to play in helping facilitate the increase in supply that is needed to fulfil the projected throughput.

Quite how the group can be reshaped to do this has yet to be decided, but one important requirement will be that many more suppliers will need to be involved so it can be of the best possible benefit to the meat



industry.

If anyone who has not been involved so far has any ideas or comments about how this group could develop or any opinions of any sort, members of the group would be more than pleased to hear them.

It is envisaged that the core group will be expanded by another five members from the farming community in the near future. The group is due to meet again in the next two months and more information should be available after that meeting.

Contact information for members of the FIMCo Livestock Suppliers Working Group

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THE "M" WORD

By Ian Campbell

Merino. The word here has been given honorary four letter status by some, although others will recognise the important role it has played and will play in the future in the ideal Falkland Island sheep.

Of course the unique contribution from the Merino influence we all want is fineness. Finer wool is worth a lot more and that is shown each week in the wool report and each month in the wool price chart in the Wool Press. A few microns finer means an extra pound per kilo - or an extra three or four pounds per fleece.

Whilst the extra money available for fine wool is indisputable - I am told that the choice of ideal micron here is decided upon by the environment rather than what makes the most money. Dead sheep don't earn any money - and if sheep don't thrive here there is no point in running them. Well let's look at a few of the issues.

What are Merinos? - A merino is a type of sheep rather than a specific breed and there are a huge range of sub groups. In Australia there are many strains that were bred for wool (Peppin, Saxon, South Australian etc). Other parts of the world went more dual purpose or meat types. Some are desert animals, some are high country, some are excellent mothers some are lousy, horns or polls, wrinkled or plain, and so on.

The Polwarth is essentially a Merino with some Lincoln infused to give the long fleece characteristics. Cormos are essentially the same (Merino crossed with Corriedale - which itself is another strain of Merino Lincoln cross).

A major contributor to the current genetic make up of Falkland Island sheep is the National Stud Flock (NSF). Introduced in 1992, over 40 farms have used rams from the NSF flock. Because there are no comparable quality Polwarth flocks we can import semen from we have made a decision to introduce some Merino rams into the flock using Artificial Insemination.

Ideally we could show figures from the NSF, one of the finest flocks of sheep here, (as in micron) to see how well they lamb each year compared to the average. Unfortunately a long running embryo transfer and AI program make such comparisons meaningless.

Trade offs - There is no such thing as a perfect sheep - if you want to excel in something you trade off another trait. So far as fineness goes the saying here is that if you go too fine the sheep get too soft and that means they don't handle the weather and if the mothers don't die the lambs might. This raises a number of questions.

1. How fine is too fine - I notice the economic Development Strategy mirrors the NSF goal in stating the ideal micron should not go below 22 μ (when I say I notice I will own up to writing it - but will claim I was bullied into agreeing to this as well). Twenty-two μ is not at all fine; most Australian Merino wool is finer than 20 μ .

Nonetheless the finer you go the more the wool is worth. Looking at the historical farm statistics average fleece weights have changed little since 1992 - perhaps not what we would like to say but if they at least stay the same weight and get finer then that is a win- and the average fibre diameter of Falkland wool is falling slowly.

Interestingly last year's average wool prices for each micron showed the biggest incremental changes when you go finer from 26 to about 23 μ . Going finer again from 22 to 20 μ wasn't all that lucrative, but then it started to show big increments once you got finer than 19 μ . Anyway that was last year - most years are different.

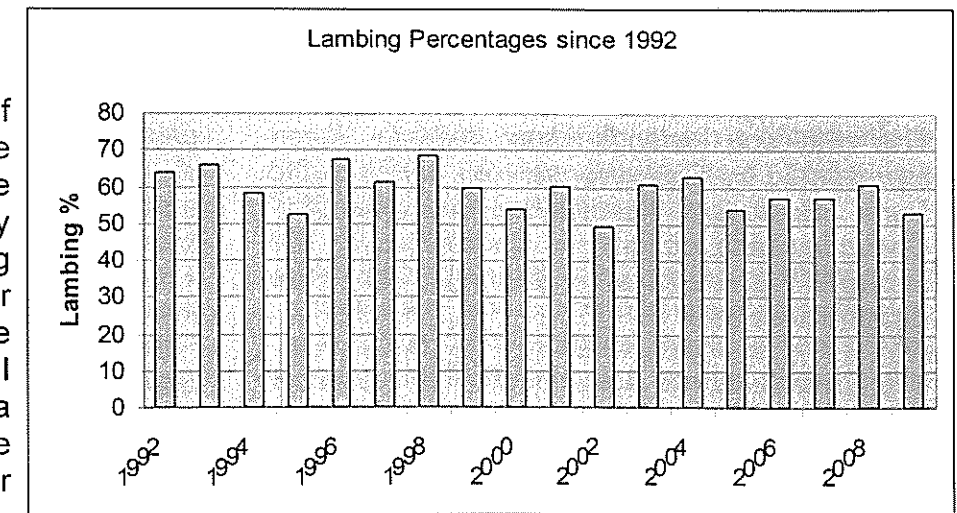
It is only too fine if it means the sheep don't thrive.

2. - Are finer sheep poorer mothers? - We do not measure the average fibre diameter of all wool sold; however, that which we have tested has gone down a couple of micron at least in the last 10 years or so but what has happened to lambing percentages? The graph to the right shows the lambing percent-

ages since 1992.

Whilst there is a lot of fluctuation between years there is very little trend - and if there is there are other reasons why it might have dropped including taking out some of the labour and some of the more productive areas since 1992. I am sure the fluctuation - like a low percentage in 2009 - is due to the season, and last year was a shocking one.

3 - Does the extra income compensate for softer sheep? I think it is essential that both sides of the budget sheet are looked at. Yes, no doubt there are some hardy and well adapted 28 μ ewes around but they don't earn much wool income. I would argue a sheep like that is a specialty meat breed and an unfair comparison - but the lamb income needs to be considerably better. Current fleece value for a 26 μ fleece is £8.88 and for a 23 μ fleece it is £12.85, so it is £4 better.



If it comes at the cost of a couple of percent less lambs born, or if the lambs are a kilo lighter at sale date, or if the ewes need an extra bit of drench - you should still be better off.

Summary

People should not be intimidated by the decision to put some more Merino into the NSF. It is essentially a Merino flock anyway. As far as people having tried Merinos here in the past and they haven't worked - well they just didn't try the right Merino.

PACKAGING UP YOUR POOP!

By Zoë Luxton

If you haven't already done so you will all shortly be receiving some poop scoop kits for you to collect a sample from each of your dogs as a further step in the hydatids eradication scheme (see last months Wool Press for details).

For those of you returning your samples to us via the postal system and/or FIGAS please remember the following when packaging up the samples:

The packaging must include:

- A leak proof primary receptacle (the Poop Scoop bag)
- A leak proof secondary package (the second plastic bag)
- Other than for solid infectious substances, absorbent material, such as cotton wool, in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents placed between the

primary and secondary bags (for a normal firm faeces sample you should not need this absorbent packaging - we would prefer no liquid samples please!!)

- And a rigid outer package (a tuppaware box or old margarine container for example)

You can then put this package into the envelope your kits arrived in and send it back to us

The packaging must be labelled accordingly as infectious or medical sample

In addition, the pilot in command of the aircraft must be informed, by the shipper, prior to the goods being loaded on the aircraft.

If you have any questions about the trial or the collection and packaging of your samples please call us at the Vets on 27366.

24TH COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE OF THE

The Falkland Islands has recently been represented by Susie Hansen (on behalf of the Rural Business Association) at the 24th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference of The Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth.

The Rural Business Association (RBA) are now members and therefore were able to receive a grant for a representative to attend the event, which was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Susie was lucky enough to be in the UK on holiday at the time and attended the conference with Henry Boughton, who owns and runs the tannery at Hill Cove.

Report by Susie Hansen, Hill Cove

This was the 24th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference with almost 200 delegates plus spouses from 21 countries. The conferences are held every two years in different countries, the last couple being in Canada and New Zealand. The next is to be held in Zambia in 2012.

The conference was an interesting experience. Henry and I arrived late Saturday having missed the pre-conference tour as we both felt we couldn't spare the extra week to go on that. Sunday we were able to get our conference packs and find out what was expected of us and then had the rest of the day free so visited the last day of the Royal Highland Show. Monday was straight into 3 days of full on presentations starting at 9 in the morning and going on all day. This didn't give us much time to get to know

people etc, most people who had been on the pre conference tour (which was probably the most interesting part) had all met and got to know one another beforehand. We were treated extremely well and almost like celebrities being the first time they had representation from the Falklands, we spent most of our time answering questions and explaining about life here, so it was a very good PR exercise for the Falklands. They would very much like to have representation from a next generation RBA member at the next conference.

The programme covered Scottish and Global agricultural affairs. Presentations consisted of topics such as world economics and how farmers worldwide need to increase production to keep up with the increasing world population. Co-Operatives for farm machinery & labour rings were discussed. There was also much talk about aid in Africa, poverty & aids.

Fraser Scot head of Farming Operations for the Co-operative Farms responsible for arable potatoes spoke about Co-operative farms in a family run businesses including food retail, banking, insurance etc and how global food production needs to increase by 80% by 2050 when the world population is estimated to be 9 billion people.

An interesting talk was given by Robert Graham of Graham Dairies of Scotland on how in 2009 they increased their turnover by 20% to £40million. They run 600 Jersey cows and 100 Limousins.



Left: Edinburgh Castle
Below: Texel ram at the Highland Show



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Bern Kotelko from Alberta did a presentation about anaerobic digestive systems; delegates had visited his farm during the last conference in Canada.

One of the most interesting talks for me was by Julie Fitzpatrick who among other things is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Research Committee; she talked about science and livestock sectors & the mission to prevent & control disease in livestock. She talked a lot about exotic diseases but also some interesting stuff about worms in sheep & resistance to types of drugs. Although a lot of the information about worms has probably pretty much been covered here already by Susan Campbell.

What impressed me most was the enthusiasm from the 'Next Generation' (under 35 year olds) a very enthusiastic bunch of youngsters, some of whom were farmers. There were several from Australia & New Zealand and also South Africa. Apart from the 'Next Generation' there were very few farmers there or people heavily involved in farming. A lot of the people were connected to the big Agricultural Shows world

wide, so there was pretty much a representative there from every country that holds large Agricultural Shows.

Princess Anne attended the last morning of the conference, she mentioned the Falklands when she stood up to address the conference which drew a lot of attention to us. Lord Vestey (Chairman of RASC) also mentioned us in his presentation during the conference and at his speech at the dinner at Signet Library.

We met some very interesting and influential people, many of whom had a great interest in the Falklands and several of whom are keen to come to visit the Islands.

I should eventually be sent copies of all the presentations on discs which I will hopefully be able to copy for any RBA members who might be interested.

Below: Henry & Susie are in in far right corner at the back. Lord Vestey is sixth from left in front row (glasses) and Billy Yarr OBE - Honorary Secretary who organises the Conferences is on right (front row).



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO BEEF?

By Ian Campbell

The discussion about the upgrade of FIMCo has concentrated around the increase in the number of lambs being slaughtered in the export season. It is good stuff but what is happening to beef numbers?

The Falkland Islands is still not self sufficient in beef. Particularly with the oil men in town, who want to eat their steaks, the demand is not able to be met. Significant amounts of frozen beef are currently coming in from South America and even the EU.

This I believe is a sorry state of affairs in a country that can and does grow very good beef.

FIMCo needs more than a beast per day on average, and the domestic market could easily take 400 prime cattle each year. The latest farm statistics (2009-10) shows 792 calves born to beef cows. If the females are kept as breeders then there will not be enough 2 and 3 year old cattle in a couple of years either. Like the lamb industry- things need to change with beef as well. Once the prime domestic market is filled we can then look at prime beef export.

There were 2,431 beef cows in the Falklands last year and they had a 32% calving. Somehow or other this needs to at least double. Just like the lamb industry there needs to be some radical changes made - but

it is worth it as good sized premium cattle can make in excess of £400 each.

The Beef 2020 program is attempting to turn the beef industry around here but essentially the main things that need to change are;

- Each cow should calve each year over the same couple of months
- Calves are weaned when 6 months old so cows do not drop too far in condition for the next calving in just 3 months time
- Non productive beef cattle should be cleaned out for export (if FIMCo offers this again next year) and the effort should then go into the productive cows and calves

There are so many good reasons to increase beef production in the Falklands. Hopefully now the uncertainty about future demand has been solved by FIMCo and FIG, I think it should be a priority on many farms.



SHEARING DATES REMINDER



Shearing is permitted from 15th October to 15th of March using standard combs.

Cover combs may be used from 15th September until the 30th April.

The only shearing permitted outside these periods will be of animals which are slaughtered off the shears. The slaughter should take place within 2 hours if the animals are not penned in the building and in any case not later than 24 hours post shearing.

A recording of the latest weather forecast can be heard on telephone number 32500.

FALKLANDS SUCCESS AT THE GOLDEN SHEARS

By Tanya Lee

The Royal Welsh show is held every year and always draws a large crowd but with the Golden Shears being held there this year the numbers of people going through the gates each day was massive. On the day of the finals there were over 80,000 people through the gates! The commentators estimated about 8,500 people watched the shearing finals that day. The hall that the shearing was held in was absolutely packed and the street outside plus another seating area outside was full to capacity.

The atmosphere was unbelievable, obviously the Welsh had huge support but the crowd in general was awesome. There was some friendly banter between the Welsh and the English so when Mark Fox and Steven Lloyd came on to the stage there were some boo's but they just waved to the crowd and it was all in good fun.

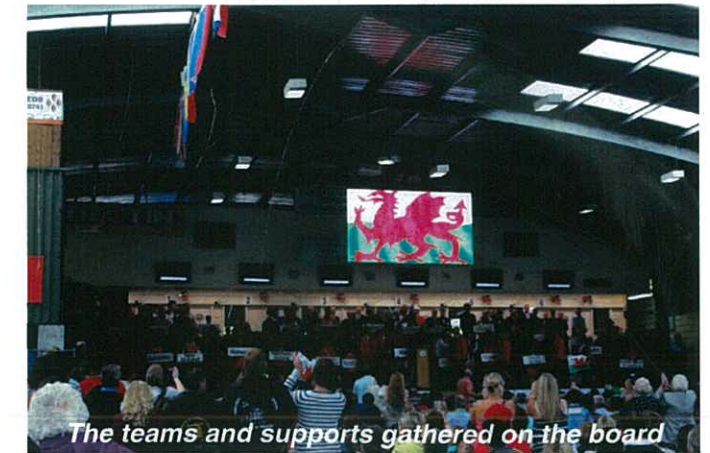
Falkland entries Jan Clarke and Lee Molkenburh had a lot of support from home but also from the Welsh. They've both shorn in Wales and are quite well known amongst the farming community, the commentators mentioned they had a lot of local support and said they were well known for their clean shearing. At the end of the competition even David Fagan of New Zealand congratulated them and said it was really impressive and great to see them at the event.

The Falkland Island supporters were obviously me and Martha, Stephen Jennings, James and George Butler, Keith Whitney, Derek McGill, Stefan Clarke, Ewen Bonner, Lucas Berntsen, Gillian Williams, Carol and Terrence Phillips, Sheena Newman, Paula Newell, plus there were some familiar faces of rousies and shearers that had been down here.

Both the boys were really nervous on the build up to the competition and the night before I think Lee was even having nightmares about cutting sheep! But after it was finished they were

so pleased and excited. I think they were proud to be representing the Falklands and bringing awareness about the Falklands in such a positive way.

I think it's a little sad that they couldn't get more support with the funding here. Competing in these competitions is considered a sport now and the



Overseas Games Association, which raises money from the community, wouldn't help with funding on this occasion. Competing in these events does help bring the Falklands as much publicity and attention as competing in the Commonwealth Games, Island Games etc.

On behalf of Lee and Jan I'd like to thank everyone who donated or contributed in anyway to the fundraising so they could represent the Falklands and also everyone who supported them during the competition here and also at home.

Results

Jan and Lee took home 6th place in the Team Shear Competition, with a time of 15:05 and a score of 58.05. They had the cleanest pen of sheep in the top six. The winning New Zealand team had a final of 48.70.

In the individual competition, Jan and Lee were placed 11th and 12th, with scores of 36.6 and 37.9 respectively. The winner of the event, Cam Ferguson, shored his 20 lambs in 11:45.

Young shearer, Stefan Clarke also entered competitions during the event, reaching the semi-finals in three events.

Pictures by Tanya Lee



CORING UPDATE FOR THE 2009/2010 SEASON

By Lucy Ellis

The 09/10 core sampling season has finally come to an end. This is the second season that the core/grab machine has been in use and it has certainly proved that it was worth every penny it cost.

Last season 321 bales were cored by hand but this time around, every bale was machine cored and two properties grab sampled their bales too.

Last season a total of 4875 bales were cored from 33 farms whereas this season 5170 were cored with a record of 46 farms participating. This is a fantastic result not just for the farming community but the Islands as a whole as it shows that growers are fully utilising the benefits of the whole coring process to achieve greater economic return.

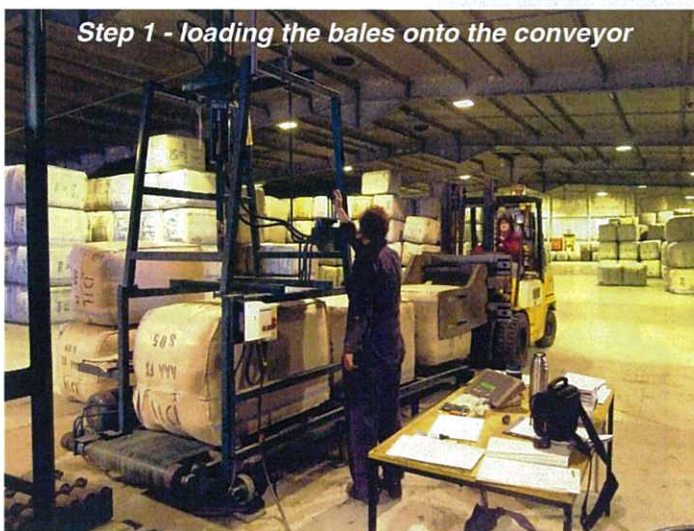
With the Wool Co staff now fully running the wool warehouse on FIPASS, there has been a marked improvement in the overall efficiency of the facility.

However, that efficiency could be further improved with growers adhering to the following points:

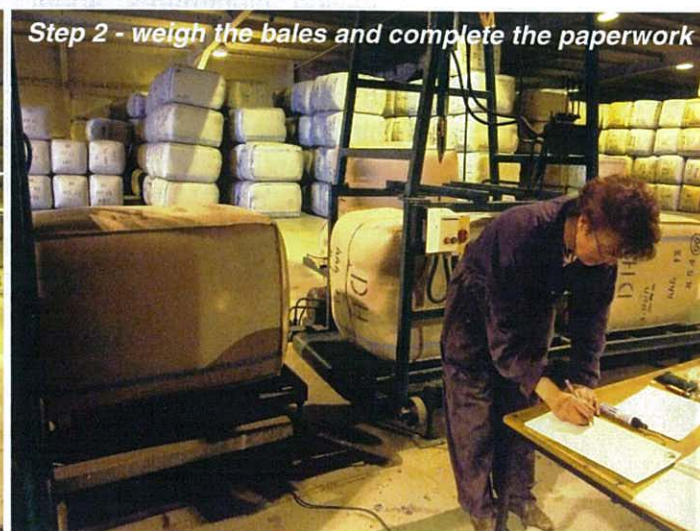
- It is imperative that growers send in their bale specifications either before their bales arrive at the warehouse or with them – until the bale specifications are received, no coring of those Lots

will proceed.

- Bale specifications need to be clear and precise. Apart from bale numbers and weights, the instructions should also include which bales are to be cored in which Lot, which are not to be cored and which are to be interlotted.
- Instructions concerning who will be shipping the bales, whether cored or not, is also necessary as Wool Co staff then know where to separate and stack bales.
- Bales need to have farm brand, description and bale number on TWO sides of the bale and BOTH ends. Bale brands tend to fade with transportation and handling plus having the description on the ends hugely assists lotting for coring and stacking for shipping.
- Before sending your bales in, check for duplicate numbers! You may not think this happens a lot, believe me, it happens far too often.
- Check that individual bales do not have different numbers on them, by that I mean that bale number 24 might have that number on the side and one end and have number 25 on the other end – once again, a very common and annoying occurrence. The same applies to descriptions, please check they are the same all over the bale.



Step 1 - loading the bales onto the conveyor



Step 2 - weigh the bales and complete the paperwork

CORING UPDATE FOR THE 2009/2010 SEASON

- Check that what you have on your bales, especially description, is the same as what is on your bale specifications – again, a common occurrence and one that could cost the grower a fortune if say, a bale mistakenly marked as A Wool was in reality STN PCS but got cored as A Wool!

There is one further point regarding bales that has become an increasing problem during this last season and that concerns bale weights. The core machine was obviously designed to handle bales of no more than 190kg, 200kg at a push. Very heavy bales have bent the core tubes and have seriously strained the bale flipping device; in fact, the overweight bales have to be physically pulled out of the machine. Wool Co might, justifiably, have to make the decision not to core bales over a maximum of 200kg to prevent further damage to the machine. So, for those of you who core locally, please could all pressers, whether it is yourself or a hired presser, ensure that your bales weigh less than 200kg.

My last point directly concerns all growers and that is the state that a large percentage of bales arrive in the warehouse in. This season has been by far the worst with bales being

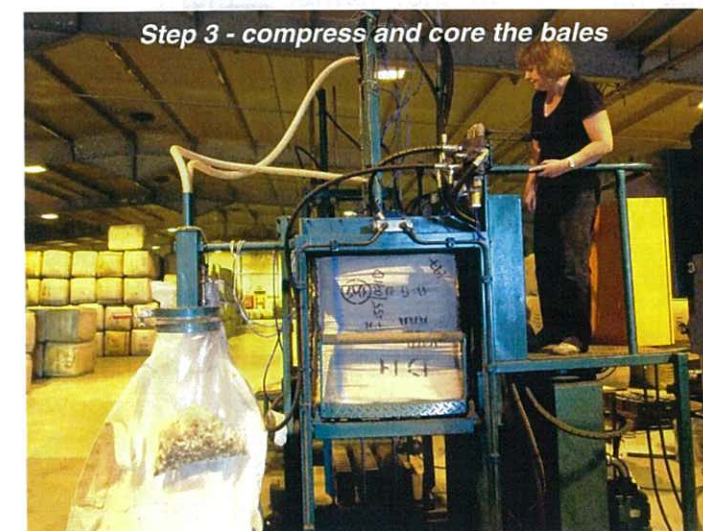
presented covered in thick dust, stones, and mud and when the road is, or has been, wet, smothered in a thick blacky brown goo. Some bales were so covered in muck it was very difficult to decipher what was written on them. Apart from the possible damage to the bale contents and the possible loss of earnings what do you think the people who have bought these bales will think when they see them? Do you think they'll be keen to buy more of the same next year? Doesn't bear thinking about, does it?!

May I suggest that whether you transport your bales yourself or use a haulier, please ensure all bales are more than adequately covered irrespective of road conditions.

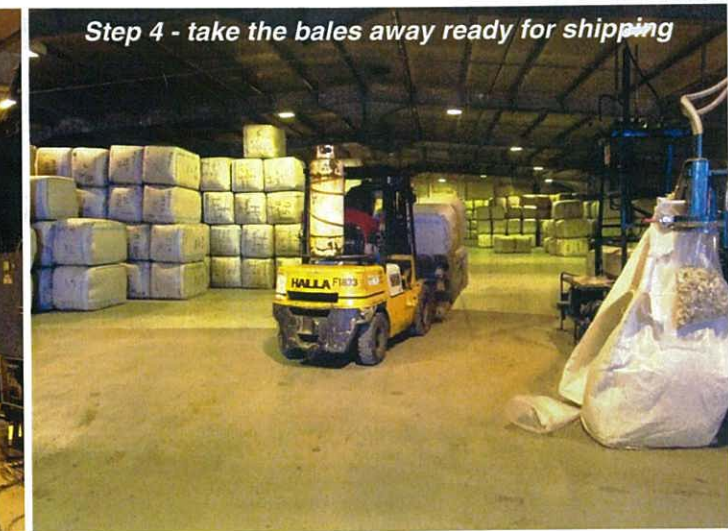
If anyone would like any information regarding the whole coring process, please contact me on 27355 or e-mail lellis@doa.gov.fk or Rodney Lee, Falkland Islands Wool Company, on 22297 or e-mail enquiries@wool.fk



The Wool Coring and Grab machine in action at FIPASS



Step 3 - compress and core the bales



Step 4 - take the bales away ready for shipping

PEAK LAND

By Mac McArthur

Last month I wrote about a book that has now been published entitled 'The Coming Famine' written by Julian Cribb. This article looks at the loss of agricultural land through erosion, desertification and massive degradation which has occurred throughout the world since the early 1900s.

Serious Loss of Agricultural Land

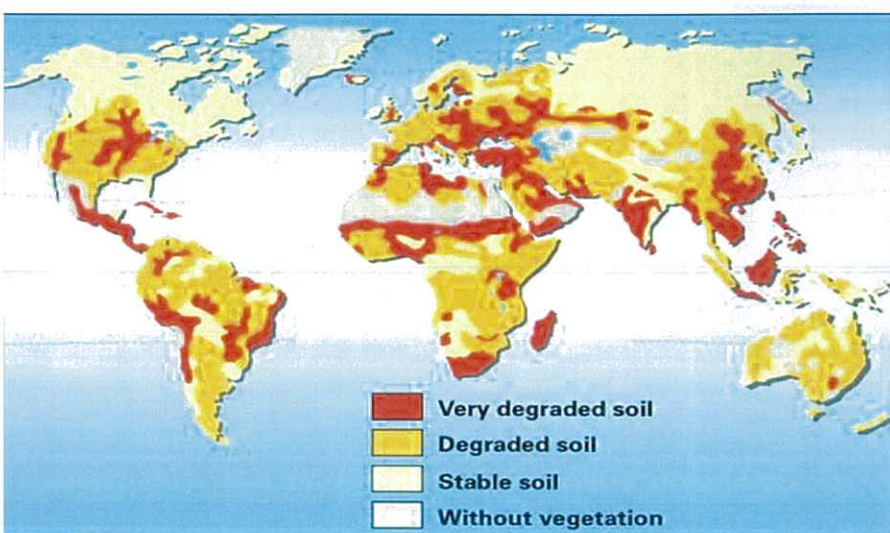
At the start of last century the area of agricultural land available to provide food for each human being in the world was 8 hectares (ha). Today it is 2 ha. and it is predicted by the United Nations statisticians that it will be 1.6 ha. by 2050.

In 1990 a study* found that 15 per cent of the world's land area was seriously degraded. Two years ago an FAO satellite study established that 24 per cent of the Earth's surface was suffering significant degradation. The FAO study indicated that over the past quarter of a century we have been degrading close to 1 per cent of the world's farm land every year.

If we have already lost 24 per cent and we continue to lose 1 per cent from here to 2050, clearly there is going to be little agriculturally productive land left for farmers to produce food off. On this rapidly diminishing land area farmers need to double the amount of food produced to feed the rapidly growing world population.

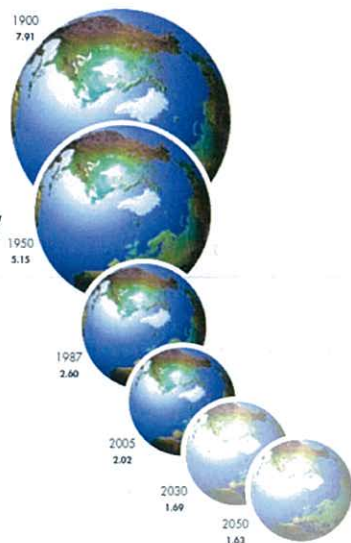
To put it another way, between 1990 and 2005, global demand for food grew 15 times faster than the area of farmland needed to produce it.

Unlike the rest of the world where cities are



Right: Area of Land per person available to produce food 1900-2050

Left: Picture World Land Degradation



devouring the world's best farm lands both for urban sprawl and recreation, as well as its water, the Falklands doesn't have this problem. However it seems to me that limiting livestock production by destocking and locking up significant numbers of islands and farms for conservation purposes only is not in the long term interests of all Falkland Islanders and the economy.

Fortunately in the Falklands there has been some but relatively little erosion and other land degradation and many farms have active programmes to replace tussac and repair eroded clay patches. The challenge here is to produce more crops and improved pastures to provide increased quantities of lamb, mutton, beef and wool from land of relatively poor quality compared to some of the more productive farmland of the major food producing countries.

We are meeting part of this challenge with the current level of knowledge on how to produce crops and pastures from some fairly acidic peat soils. Certainly there are gaps in our knowledge of fertiliser, trace element requirements and how we ensure that farmers obtain top crops every year. However we have our 'secret agent' Andy P. in New Zealand absorbing knowledge and practical methods to solve some of the missing links in the jigsaw puzzle.

Conservation of wildlife and sustainable farming systems work in harmony here and the dangers of lightning strike fires of ungrazed country which must have devastating effects on small bird populations and often causes significant lasting erosion should not be ignored.

* Reference. Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (global study published in 1990 by UNEP and ISRIC in cooperation with Winand Staring Centre, ISSS, FAO and ITC)

FANCY A "QUALITY" PRODUCT?

By Lucy Ellis

With the shearing season fast approaching, I thought it might be a good idea to give the QFW scheme a bit of an airing. Below is an explanation of the why's and wherefore's of how the scheme was put in place and what it all stands for:

The QFW scheme is about setting and maintaining standards that will result in the highest level of wool preparation, will limit the risk of BCF (black coloured fibres) readings above 5 bcf/100 grams and any foreign body contamination and will give buyers confidence that the product they purchase is of a consistent quality.

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

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

As the QFW scheme is "owned" by the RBA which in turn is farmer run, we feel that the introduction of the self-audit was the logical step to take to make the scheme more farmer driven, have more responsibility in decision making and more ownership.

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

Stencil holders should also be aware that they

The Quality Falkland Wool logos



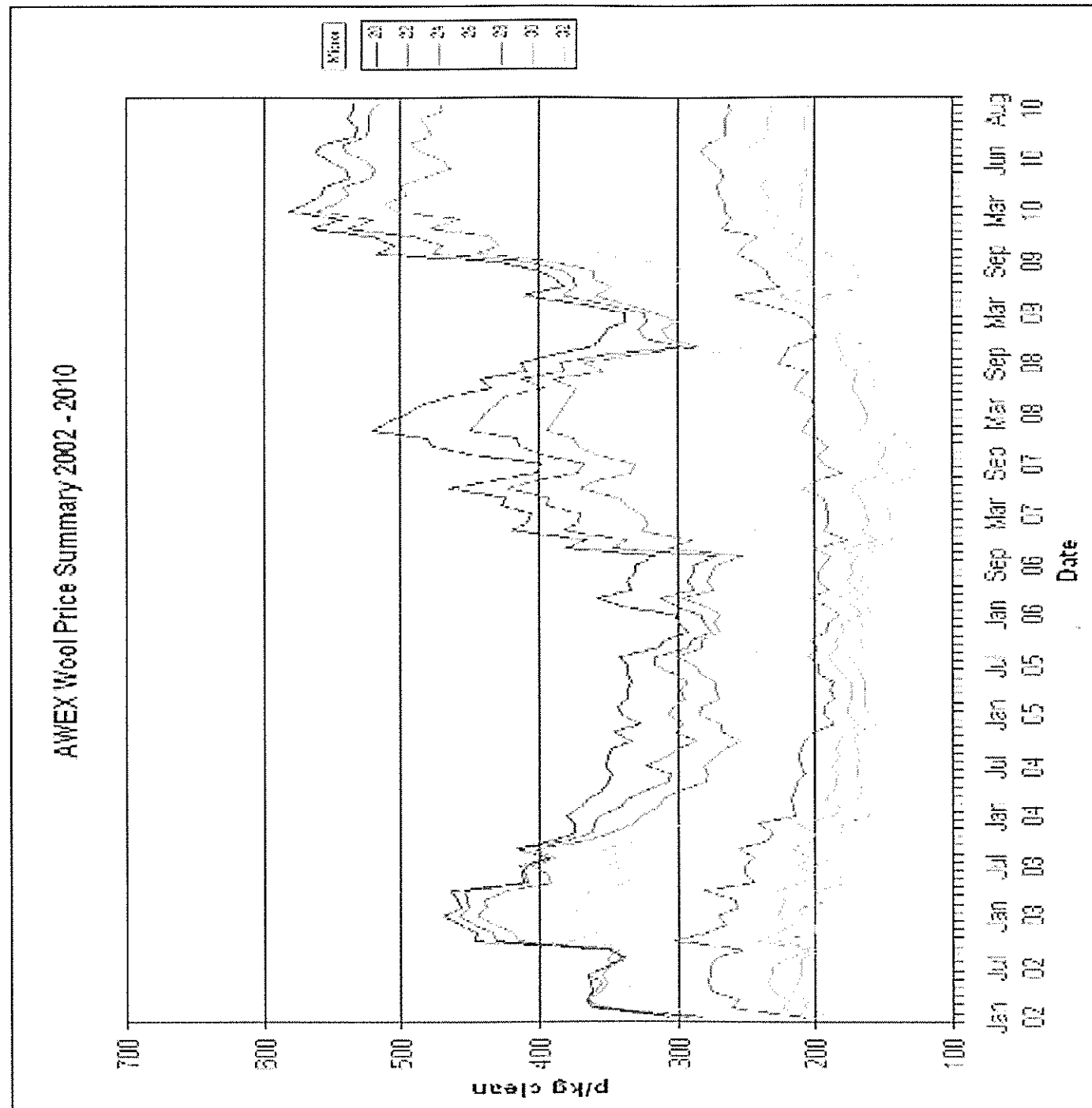
do not have to apply the stencil to all their bales. If the bale/s in question does not meet the standards required, do not apply the stencil. This could come about due to too many sheep being shorn in any given day and the wool handling and preparation being compromised or the wool being damp (I know,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

For those of you who have taken over properties that have previously been QFW accredited, have you considered re-activating the stencil? As your shed and yards have previously been passed, it should be a case of checking to see that nothing disastrously detrimental has occurred in the meantime and then, once shearing starts, a visit just to get an idea of your wool handling and preparation practices. I can promise you that it is a relatively harmless process but one that might just benefit you at some point.

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

More information on the QFW scheme can be found in your Farm Management Handbook or on the DoA website www.agriculture.gov.fk under the publications section.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME



THERE ARE FERTILISERS AND THERE ARE FERTILISERS

By Ian Campbell

Fertiliser prices the world over are increasing for a range of reasons and when we add an increasing freight rate on top they go up even more. Understanding the fertiliser types and prices is an important part of making fertiliser decisions cost effective.

The economics of fertiliser use is about costs versus returns which in this case means a response. If we start in terms of responses, these can be seen in a number of ways.

A growth boost - extra dry matter production

I guess this is what we first think of - getting more food from the area concerned. Growth responses here can be very dramatic and a well fertilised area may easily produce twice or more what an unfertilised area produces. Extra feed is really only important here if it is good quality feed, so we only look for boosting improved pasture or forage species - most farms have plenty of poor quality feed on hand.

Quality improvements

Quality manifests itself in several ways. Adding a nitrogenous fertiliser for example may increase the protein levels in any given forage plant and hence improve its quality. A fertiliser, if it reduces soil nutrient deficiencies, may also allow an intrinsically better quality plant (say a rye grass plant) to grow where a poorer quality plant could only grow before - another way of improving quality. An extension of this concept is persistence of improved species. Reseed quality may remain if there are sufficient soil nutrients for the better quality improved species to persist.

Difficult economics

Straight away we can see there are short, medium and long term gains to be made hence making it hard to put a single value on the response to a fertiliser. An application of a phosphorous fertiliser for example can have measurable benefits for years to follow whereas a nitrogenous fertiliser is a single hit wonder.

N:P:K!

There are a number of elements that a fertiliser can provide; and nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the important ones. The percentage of each in different fertilisers is known and you can calculate the cheapest way to buy each.

For example Urea is 46% N. If it costs £400/tonne then this works out at 40p per kg, and 87p per kg of nitrogen. Hence you can work out the cheapest way to purchase a single element. Triple super for example is cheaper per unit of P than single super because you save so much freight. Of course it gets complex when you bring in multiple elements. Superphosphate contains phosphorus, but also sulphur and calcium- all three of which are potentially important here.

What do we need?

N - Nitrogen. Whilst it gives a great boost N has little lasting effect on the soil. High carbon soils grab nitrogen quickly and so it is of short term use - allowing better seedling establishment or boosting a good quality species in the peak of the growing season for extra production.

P - Phosphorous. Important for establishment and persistence of legumes in particular, but also grasses and herbs, it is also an important animal nutrient as well.

K - Potassium. Important plant nutrient and plant tissue is high in K. Animals move it around a paddock over time as they don't graze and waste over the same areas at the same rate. Potash is particularly lost when hay cutting and selling occurs.

Ca - Calcium. Often applied as part of a soil neutraliser like lime or calcified seaweed it is an important plant and animal nutrient. Rarely is it applied for its own sake, but perhaps it should be considered- calcium is particularly low here.

S - Sulphur. Similar to calcium it is often a bonus in superphosphate and gypsum and rarely considered as a major nutrient. It is however in high concentrations in wool and is

continued from page 15...

therefore exported when we sell wool. (Wool exports a high amount of N,P,K and S and you can add Ca to the list when selling meat).

Trace Elements. There are a number of trace elements often added to fertiliser if needed. Trace elements are a complex issue and worthy of their own study - if you add one you are just as likely to upset the balance of another. A general rule is that if it is needed by a plant you add it to fertiliser; if it is needed by an animal (such as cobalt in the West) you give it to the animal.

Conclusion

A fertiliser application at sowing is a great way to insure the crop does well. The considerable investment in breaking new ground and purchasing seed is made far more profitable and less risky by adding fertiliser into the mix. Nitrogen and phosphorus are what we are looking at here.

As to whether the established reseed needs to be given top dressings of fertiliser is a moot point. My own view is definitely yes - there is little doubt it will give a boost in yield and help it persist and hence delay the expense of reseed. The question is "Does it pay?" to which I would answer "So long as it is used wisely and strategically then yes it will".

In a well performing legume based pasture hopefully the legume will be fixing nitrogen, and the grasses will ultimately benefit from extra N in the dung and urine, so ideally all we need to add is P. If you cut and sell hay (rather than feeding it back on the same area) then you may well need to watch K levels do not decline too much - you may need to factor this in when you price your hay.

BURNING PERMITS

The open season for camp burning is the 1st April to 15th September each year (inclusive).

Therefore, if you would like to carry out any burning outside of these dates, you are legally required to obtain a burning permit from the Department of Agriculture before burning commences.

To apply for a permit you need to:

- Apply in writing to the Department of Agriculture, fax 27352 or email kstephenson@doa.gov.fk including the date(s) you intend to burn
- Provide the Department of Agriculture with a map of the area you intend to burn
- Apply to the Department of Agriculture in writing if you intend to change the date of the burn

Before you burn you need to:

- Notify the Chief Police Officer on telephone 28000
- Notice the owners/occupiers of any farm lying within two miles of any area you intend to burn

A copy of the guidelines has been included on the right hand page for your information.

For more information on burning permits or the Grass Fires Ordinance, please see your Farm Management Handbook or visit www.agriculture.gov.fk/publications/fmh.htm

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GUIDELINES FOR BURNING

These guidelines are based on the ARC Farmlink Fact Sheet from July 1986. Pasture seeds germinate best in a firm, fine seedbed. The object of burning following rotavation is to destroy the loose, spongy trash, which would otherwise adversely affect germination. Therefore the aim should be a good, clean burn.

WARNING! BURNING OF TRASH CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

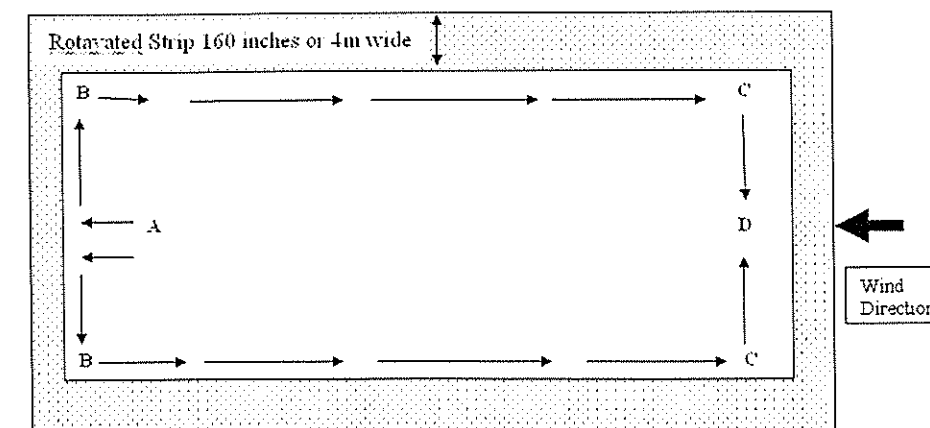
Special attention to detail is necessary to ensure that the operation is completed safely and effectively.

PREPARATION

1. Notify the Senior Agricultural Advisor/Office Manager and Chief Police Officer of the intention to burn at a named site over a prescribed period of time as per the Grass Fires Ordinance 2002.
2. Notify neighbors by telephone call.
3. Have a tractor with matching rotavator on site. Set the rotavator to work at a depth of about 4 inches so that it will bring up fresh damp soil to make a firebreak. The firebreak should be at least 160 inches wide (2 passes of an 80" Rotavator). The firebreak should be rolled to compress the wet material.
4. Arrange for a gang of 4 to 6 people to be available. At least one should be a tractor driver experienced in rotavating. It is desirable for the gang to be able to keep in touch with one another by 2m radio.
5. Prepare about 6 "torches" by tightly rolling pieces of bagging around the ends of 4-5 feet lengths of fencing wire. A supply of diesel is also required to soak the torches in prior to igniting them.

PROCEDURE

1. As soon as the trash is thoroughly dry, a day should be chosen when there is a steady light wind of about 5 to 10 knots and no threat of rain. Use the weather forecasts. Do not attempt to burn too early in the day. About mid-morning is soon enough after any dew has dried off. However, preparations can start earlier by rotavating a firebreak of 2 rotavator widths around the perimeter of the cultivated areas, with rolling to compress the wet material.
2. The direction of the wind dictates the spot where the trash is first ignited. This should always be on the downwind side. See diagram. (On next page).
3. Two people only are needed for actually lighting the fire. A larger number can cause confusion. Both should start at "A" about 10 yards from the downwind edge of the area. They should move to points "B" lighting the trash every 2 or 3 feet. This small patch should be allowed to burn out to form an additional firebreak.
4. The 2 people should then move at approximately the same speed and keeping abreast of one another to points "C" lighting the trash as they go. Once at points "C" they should move quickly to point "D" igniting the trash evenly. During this process the other members of the gang will be kept busy soaking and lighting the spare torches.
5. During the burn the borders of the area must be checked constantly in case the fire jumps the firebreak. If it does it should be put out immediately by beating or rotavating.
6. If conditions are right and the above procedure followed, the fire will burn itself out quite quickly. Odd pockets may smoulder on and these should be extinguished by beating or rotavating. The site should not be left until the fire is out or safely under control. It should be visited at least once daily for at least 14 days to check that there have not been any flare-ups.



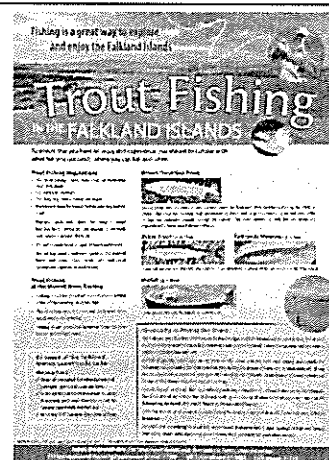
Generalised layout for a reseed burn.

Trying your luck with trout fishing this season?

To help you have an enjoyable fishing experience, please remember these simple guidelines:

- The trout fishing season runs from 1st September to 30th April each year (no licence needed)
- The daily bag limit is six fish per angler
- Permission must be sought before entering private land
- Do not transfer trout or eggs between waterways
- Special legislated conditions apply to the Murrell River and some other rivers have additional limitations imposed by landowners

For more information or to download the Trout Fishing poster, visit www.epd.gov.fk



PLANNING TO PREGNANCY SCAN YOUR EWES?

By Zoë Luxton & Lucy Ellis

We have updated our scanning guidelines and renewed our booking form so we can make sure we get all the right information from you when booking in your mobs for scanning. The booking form can be sent to you electronically or in hard copy or you can just ring in to book in your scanning and we will fill in the form at this end.

Cost per ewe:

- 5 pence per sheep

Facilities needed:

- Pens and race – a temporary race made out of pens/gates is fine. For optimum flow of sheep have the panels before the scanning crate solid or covered so the sheep cannot see the scanner.
- A continuous supply of hot and cold water – access to a working kettle is fine for the hot water supply.
- A reliable power supply.
- Sufficient workforce – 1 person to work the crate/drafting gates, 1-2 people to push sheep up the race and fill pens and 1 person to write tag numbers etc if required.

Other information:

- Ideally ewes need to be off food and water overnight/twelve hours before scanning. Accurate scanning with a full rumen is both difficult and hard work.
- Having the ewes half bellied make the job much quicker and easier

Naturally mated ewes:

- A short joining period of 34 days (2 cycles) is advisable. This will mean that all pregnancies from the joining period can be accurately detected from 45 days after the rams were taken off. Added benefits of a short joining period are:
 1. a short and concise lambing period
 2. a shorter time period needed to be spent shepherding
 3. all lambs will be nearer in age for weaning/lamb marking
- Longer joining periods may mean that two scanning sessions are needed to accurately detect all pregnancies which will obviously be more costly and time consuming.

AI ewes and Cover Rams

- Any ewes that don't conceive at AI should cycle and be fertile again 17 days after the AI attempt, therefore to ensure a concise lambing period put your cover rams out 2 weeks after the AI date for 35 days (2 cycles).

- It is important to have raddle or harnesses on your rams. Marked ewes can be assumed to be cycling and not to have conceived via AI so if they are scanned pregnant it can be noted that this is probably to the cover ram rather than the AI.
- Scanning should occur between 70-90 days after the AI date.

Location

- Ideally we would scan in a shearing shed so there is easy access to water and power and the ewes can be brought in the day before and fasted overnight. However we can scan outside as we have a frame and tent for the scanner, we just need to know if we need to bring it. We also have portable pens so if need be we can scan right there, in your ewe camp, thus less gathering and moving of your ewes.

The benefits of scanning

- Identifying multiples/pregnant/not-pregnant thus allowing you to use pasture and budget for feed accordingly for what the ewes require as opposed to wasting feed on dry ewes.
- Estimating conception rates and thus lambing percentage to enable you to forecast meat or wool income.
- Able to remove any ewes that continually do not get in lamb.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR SCANNING

Contact Lucy Ellis (27355 / lellis@doa.gov.fk) or Zoë Luxton (27366 / zluxton@doa.gov.fk). We will need to know the date of AI/rams in/rams off.

More information is available in your Farm Management Handbook or online at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.fk/publications/fmh.htm>

Right - the scanning booking form, which is available by post, email, on-line or a copy can be found in your Farm Management Handbook

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHEEP PREGNANCY SCANNING BOOKING FORM	
If ram joining date between different mobs are 5 days apart use separate booking form.	
Name:.....	
Address:.....	
Tel:..... Fax:..... E-mail:.....	
Site where scanning will occur if different:.....	
In shed: Y/N Hot and cold water available: Y/N Electricity: Y/N	
NATURALLY MATED EWES	
Procedure: TSD (Twins, Single, Dry) Number to scan: <input type="text"/>	
(ring ear) WD (Wet, Dry)	
Date Ram joined:..... Date Ram removed:.....	
ARTIFICIALLY INSEMINATED EWES	
Procedure: TSD Number to scan: <input type="text"/>	
WD	
Date of AI:..... Date cover ram in:.....	
Were harnesses used on cover rams? Y/N	
Further information or comments:.....	
.....	
.....	
DOA USE ONLY:	
Optional date for scanning:.....	
Confirm date for scanning:.....	

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

From Sarah Boye, North Arm

Iced Cinnamon Ring

Dough

12 oz flour
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 oz yeast
1 tsp sugar
1/3 pint milk & water
1 egg beaten
1oz marg/butter

Sieve flour and salt into a basin. Add sugar & yeast and stir in the liquid. Add beaten egg and melted marg/butter and mix to a light soft dough. Knead well and set in a warm place until doubled in size.

Ingredients

Rich bread dough – as above
2oz butter/marg
4tbsp sugar
3tsp cinnamon
White glaze icing
4oz raisins/sultanas etc...
2oz chopped glaze cherries



Method

Knock back dough and roll into a large rectangle. Brush surface with melted fat and sprinkle sugar over evenly. Sprinkle fruit & cherries over the whole rectangle and top with the cinnamon.

Roll up tightly like a swiss roll and pinch the ends together firmly to create a ring. Cut slashes 3/4 of the way through the dough all the way around.

Place on a lightly floured tray and bake in the centre of the oven, gas mark 4 for 30 – 40 minutes, when golden brown and cooked, cool on a rack. When cold drizzle with glaze icing and tear/cut into pieces – enjoy!

Dates for the Diary



1st September	Start of the trout fishing season
5th September	Clocks go forward one hour at 2am
15th September	Last day of the open burning season - from 16th September, all camp permits will require a permit, obtainable from the DoA.
	Shearing season starts - cover combs only until the 15th October
4th October	Public Holiday - Peat Cutting Monday
6th October	Dog Dosing Day (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
31st October	Halloween

Puzzle Page

Sudoku

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

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.

Good luck!

Cool Riddles

Which side of a cat
Scientists have proven that cats have more hair on one side than their other side. Some people believe that this is because when cats lay on their side they need insulation from the cold on the floor or ground. Which side of a cat has more hair?

What am I?
I can sizzle like bacon,
I am made with an egg,
I have plenty of backbone, but lack a good leg.
I peel layers like onions, but still remain whole,
I can be long like a flagpole, yet fit in a hole.
What am I?

Trivia Time-Out - Animals

1. True or False? Mice live for up to 10 years.
2. What is the name of the phobia that involves an abnormal fear of spiders?
3. True or False? Cats spend an average of 13 to 14 hours a day sleeping.
4. How many pairs of wings does a bee have?
5. What type of animal is the largest primate in the world?
6. Is a shark a fish or a mammal?
7. True or False? Owls are far-sighted, meaning that anything within a few inches of their eyesight can't be seen properly.
8. What is the name of an adult female horse?
9. What are baby goats called?
10. What is the tallest animal in the world?
11. True or False? Rabbits are born blind.
12. True or False? Owls can turn their heads completely backwards, allowing a 360 degree view.
13. The fear of what animal is known as 'arachnophobia'?
14. How many bones do sharks have in their bodies?
15. The average lifespan of dogs is around 5 to 8 years, 10 to 13 years or 15 to 18 years?

August Solutions

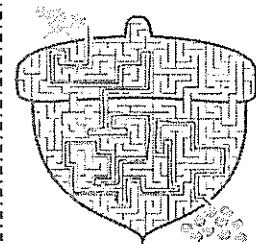
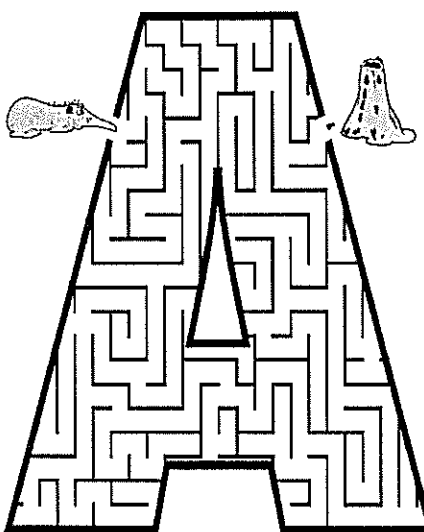
Trivia Time Out Answers:

1. A tadpole
2. China
3. Port Harriet, Stanley Harbour, Navy Point, Ordnance Point
4. Animal skins
5. Thomas Minton, English Potter at Stoke-on-Trent in 1789
6. Bobby Short
7. The Lady Liz
8. The Giant Panda
9. An ant
10. The Caspian Sea
11. The Dutch
12. Police Chief Officer Ronnie Lamb in 1982
13. Pink
14. The fur of a common or angora rabbit
15. Sir Ernest Shackleton
16. New South Wales - Australia
17. Westminster
18. An iron cooking pot with a lid and rings on the sides
19. Mollyauk or Mollymawk
20. Nigel Robert Haywood CVO

True Statements:

Option "C" is the answer: three statements are false. Since each statement concludes that there is a different number of false statements, that proves that only one statement can be correct (hence the object is to decide which statement is true). Given that one statement is true, by definition, the other three *must* be false!

Help the Ant Eater through the Maze to Ants.



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

THE WOOL PRESS

October 2010

Volume 249

£1.25

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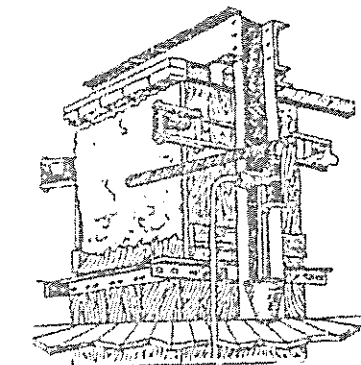
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Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Siân Ferguson

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

What magnificent early lambing weather we have had in September capped off by a relatively mild winter - lets hope it continues.

Ian Campbell has come up with six excellent reasons why if you don't have a well constructed set of sheep or cattle yards that are easy to hold and work livestock in that you can ask FIDC for a loan to construct yards. They must be part of the development of the farm business and information on these loans is through direct contact with FIDC.

Susan Campbell has written a thought provoking article explaining why it is preferable to spey or castrate working dogs that are not going to be bred from. If they are not neutered both bitches and dogs need to be regularly checked for cancer, chronic pain and other ailments which they are generally more prone to than neutered dogs.

Our travelling correspondent Tony Mills has written a travelogue of his visits to two highly productive performance tested Merino studs with sheep that are producing genetic material suitable for incorporation into the National Stud Flock. He also writes about his training in the use of the ultra sound for assessing carcase characteristics of live cattle and attendance at a major sheep industry seminar that was very relevant to the improved sheep meat and wool productivity issues the DoA staff and farmers are working on here.

Our long awaited 'epistle from the apostle' in the Shaky Isles is in this month's Wool Press. Andy P. has provided an amusing account of his adventures surviving the earthquake, the after-shocks and the dreaded DB lager. Despite all the distractions of the Bledisloe Cup rugby, husband crèches for women who want to shop alone Andy assures us he is working hard at his Lincoln University studies.

Dan Fowler has produced an interesting piece on the Darwin Initiative cooperative project that he is the Falkland's research leader for. The

project which is researching ways of reducing the impacts of the invasive brown/sea trout on our native zebra trout hopefully will produce practical ways of protecting and growing the remaining populations of zebra trout.

Tony Mills has in his inimitably quiet, reserved manner asked a few key questions about why improved sheep reproduction rates haven't been achieved across the Islands. Also why are brassica and other crops not being used more extensively on more farms? Tony is genuinely interested in discussing these issues with farmers; on farm; in the DoA office; at smoko; lunch; supper or even sharing a drink to find solutions to help farmers produce more meat, wool and profits.

Zoë Luxton has written the third article in a series on injuries to dogs. This article looks at bone fractures and how initial bandaging of these injuries should be done when dogs are to be transported prior to being treated.

Ian Campbell has prepared an interesting item on what is happening around the world as far as organic wool marketing is concerned. Wool is one of the very few organic agricultural products that haven't boomed but market analysts are still optimistic about its future.

Sam Cockwell has written about progress with his interesting raptor/livestock interaction project and Farrah Peck has introduced herself as the new office administrator and 'Jill of all trades' at Falklands Conservation.

There are a couple of contributions on care of calving cows and conservation to complete this information packed edition. Ring Katrina on 27355 to make contact with DoA staff if you need more information or want to discuss any issues raised.

Enjoy your read.

Best regards,

Mac McArthur
Senior Agricultural Advisor

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CARE FOR CALVING COWS

By Mac McArthur

With spring now pretty well sprung, attention to cows that are due to calve in October and November is paramount if you are going to have them milk well and then get them back in calf. In fact ensuring that your pregnant cows are in fat score 3 (7-12 mm P8 site, 4-7 mm 12th rib) prior to the last 3 months of pregnancy and being fed well enough to ensure they are maintaining this body score is the key to getting cows to calve every year.

Annual Calving

Having cows calving annually around the same time each year requires excellent nutritional management. Achieving this requires forward planning to ensure that quality feed is available at the time the cows require it.

Having a calf and milking well enough to raise a decent calf that is 200 to 220 kg at weaning (6 months old) effectively doubles the energy requirement of the cow. Under extensive grazing on whitegrass camps this is a big ask. As a consequence cows need to metabolize body fat reserves to provide this energy.

Time to Return to Oestrus

Cows that don't go into the winter carrying at least 4-7 mm (12th rib) of fat cover or are unable to gain it prior to calving are going to struggle to calve easily and meet the milk production demands of their calf. After calving, cows require time and food energy for their bodies to recover from delivering a calf and return to oestrus. This time to return to oestrus is directly related to the cow's condition score at calving. Cows that are in ideal condition normally start cycling again within 55 days after calving and cows that are carrying less than this amount of fat may take up to 85 days or more.

The average beef cow is pregnant for 283 days if she is in good breeding condition and returns to oestrus in 55 days so has only 27 days to get in calf if she is going to calve at the same time each year. If joining is only for 6 weeks as it should be, the early calvers

have 82 days to get in calf from calving but many of the later calving cows will only have from 42 to 56 days (6-8 weeks) which means even those in ideal condition score for breeding will be pushed to get in calf in time.

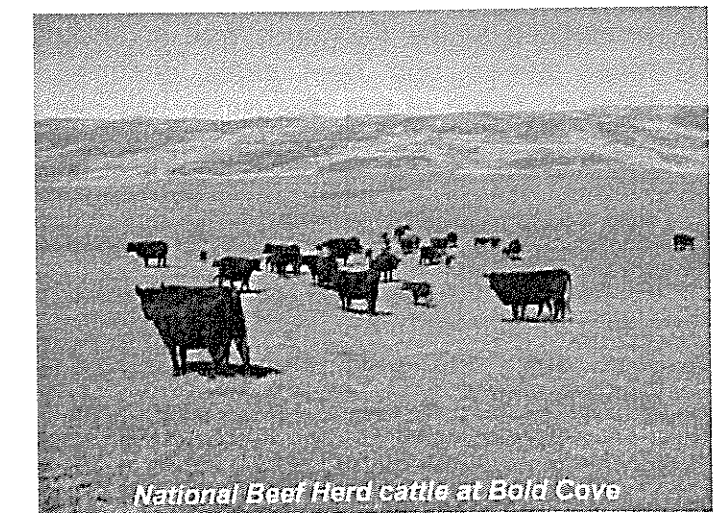
Joining Maidens

Maiden heifers that are above 330kg and are carrying 4-7 mm of fat should be cycling well and can be joined as rising 3 year olds. It is important to join them for the first time to known (recorded) low birth weight bulls, preferably 4-6 weeks prior to the older cows. Maiden heifers at calving need more food energy than mature cows as they are still putting food energy into their own growth as well as milk production and returning to oestrus, so will take longer than the 55 days on average that older cows do.

To ensure that you are introducing highly fertile heifers into your herd it is important to join them earlier than your main herd for 6 weeks, pregnancy test them 10 weeks after the bulls have been removed and cull any that are not pregnant. Research shows that heifers that are up to joining weights and in good condition that don't get in calf to fertility tested bulls over a 6 week joining will be infertile or lowly fertile throughout their lifetimes.

Nutritional Anoestrus

Nutritional anoestrus is a major problem on many farms across the Falklands and it is not uncommon for a farm to run twice the number of cows required to produce the numbers of calves wanted. If you think about the basic



economics of this practice they don't stack up very well. If you require 45 calves annually to provide heifer replacements, sell weaners and or finish 2 year old beef, you should be able to achieve this with a herd of around 50 cows. If instead you run 100 cows and only join half of them every second year you are running half the cows for no return. They are eating the feed of 500 dry sheep equivalents (50x10 DSEs) from which you could have produced lambs and wool.

Ensuring that cows have adequate nutrition to be in ideal condition as well as weaning calves when they are 6 months old (ideally weighing 200 to 220 kg), are both critical to annual calving and a profitable beef enterprise. If your cows have the genetic potential and the feed to milk optimally you may be able to get a proportion of your weaners that have fat cover of 5mm or above sold to FIMCo for good prices and lighten off your stocking pressure as well as providing a cash flow.

If you wean your calves at 6 months, the cows

are effectively dry for 3 months before they calve again. This gives them the opportunity to maintain or improve their condition over winter and consequently start cycling relatively quickly after calving.

Supplementary Feeding

To meet the nutritional requirements of cows to ensure they calve annually may require supplementary feeding of cattle nuts, silage, carefully managed tussac or sowing of oats and brassicas. Clearly, added costs are involved, but if you do your sums at the present FIMCo schedule prices there is good money to be made. A rough guide is that with supplementary feeding on brassicas and high quality reseed pasture it costs (variable cost) around £150.00 to get a 2yo beast up to the FIMCo spec of 5+mm and depending on carcase weight the profit can be between £100-£250 per head depending on the transport distance to FIMCo.

Better than being all shook up in the 7.1 earthquake and the 600+ after shocks that Andy P. has experienced recently in Christchurch in the Shaky Isles!



SIX REASONS TO BUILD A NEW SET OF YARDS

By Ian Campbell

Recently there have been many articles in the Wool Press and discussions at Farmers' Week about increasing the level of livestock production in the Falklands and in particular those sheep and beef cattle destined for FIMCo. Much of this discussion has centred around nutrition and management factors but another big aspect of management is having and using effective handling facilities.

A well constructed set of sheep or cattle yards, designed to handle your typical flock or herd size, has a lot going for it. As an example I am sure the reluctance shown by some towards the cattle identification scheme is a symptom of inadequate handling facilities

making it difficult, strenuous and dangerous rather than being a true reflection of people's right not to tag cattle. Straight away there are three very good reasons to construct a good set of yards, I thought I could see how many I could find.

1. **Safety.** Particularly with cattle; a well constructed handling facility enables many jobs to be done safely and efficiently, while greatly reducing the danger of injury to the operators. It is also less likely to injure animals (aka bruise the meat) so there is a meat quality aspect to this as well. Escape routes, gates that work well, gate catches that hold and the type of ground underfoot (no rocks to trip over) are all important safety aspects.

2. **Saves work.** Well designed and constructed yards mean people spend less effort moving stock around the yards, getting the job done quicker and more efficiently, perhaps with less people required, which is better for all concerned. This has many other benefits as well.

3. **Less stress.** Stressed animals become dangerous animals. If you stress them once it is harder to get them back next time. Stressed animals also become tough meat- another quality issue. Stressed farmers are more likely to make mistakes. Interestingly, strong cattle crushes with little slop and noise are far less stressful than rattley crushes with a bit of give in them for the animals to work on. Stressed animals loose weight and fatness which costs you. They also mean less stress for the veterinarian who happens to have his/her arm in up to the shoulder.

4. **The job will get done.** We often suggest weighing and condition scoring, drenching, pregnancy diagnosis, yard weaning etc- all jobs that need a good set of facilities or they just do not ever get done. A number of things are placed in the "too hard" basket that should just be simple routine. I am sure that many productive farm practices including DoA recommendations are often not followed for these reasons.

5. **Quality.** Already mentioned with bruising and stress but deserving of some more discussion. Jobs also get done properly ("Have I drenched that one? We'll give it another to be sure.") and that is an important aspect to quality. Animals spending less time in the yards will have more time back on feed and so on.

6. **Investment.** A good set of yards should make your livestock business more profitable in the short term and is also a good capital investment which should improve the value of the farm.

So that is 6 good reasons. Obviously though they are expensive. Steel, heavy timber,

concrete - all words that get the cash register ringing in earnest.

I am sure that the innovation Falkland Islanders are renowned for will allow for some imaginative solutions - particularly in the holding rather than working sections, yet quality facilities will always cost money.

FIDC can lend money for the purchase or construction of yards, as long as they are part of the development of the farm business and you have all the plans etc. to demonstrate this. If you want information on these loans please contact FIDC direct. It is also an allowable use of labour scheme funds to work on cattle and sheep handling facilities. DoA manages the labour scheme. With access to both these schemes the construction of new yards should be a little less onerous than it otherwise might be.

For cattle yards start small with a crush, bailhead, circular race and forcing pen and one holding yard for the number of cattle you are normally handling. Then build on pens as you need or can afford them.

Mac tells me that he visited a farm recently that had built two lamb marking and mothering up pens with used corrugated iron sheets capped for safety, a few posts and some sheep netting and recycled fishing net for a very minimal cost. The outcome will be considerably reduced droving of stock and considerably reduced mismothering losses - it will probably pay for itself in the first few hours of lamb marking...

Finally, if you need help on site location or design and layout, we are more than happy to help there. If you are going to invest money and time into a new set of yards then it is important to plan them out well and to look at many of the lessons people have learned about efficient and effective livestock handling facilities.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN UNSPEYED BITCHES AND UNCASTRATED DOGS

By Susan Campbell

It is common in camp for dogs and bitches to remain unneutered. Although I have previously discussed the virtues of neutering dogs of both sexes I do understand that a source of puppies has to come from somewhere so there is good justification for leaving excellent working dogs which are free of genetic faults unneutered if you want to breed from them.

However this does come with its draw backs. As well as the obvious one that you have to keep the bitches well away from the dogs when they are on heat unless you are intending to have puppies, both bitches and dogs are more prone to health issues if they are left unneutered and their life spans are normally expected to be reduced.

In many countries where annual vaccinations are routine the vet will do a complete examination of the animal and this is an opportunity to pick up on many things at an early stage. In the absence of this may I recommend that it is really a good idea to do your best to give your own dogs the once over a couple of times a year if not more often. Have a good look at every aspect of the dog and run your hands over its body checking for lumps and swellings or any signs of pain. Systematically flex and extend all joints and see if there are signs of pain in any of these too. Unfortunately our animals are not good at letting us know when they are in chronic pain and we really need to go and look for it.

Unneutered dogs are far more prone to prostate cancer and of course can potentially get testicular cancer. Both of these are most common in older dogs and are something you can easily look out for. With a dog with prostate problems the first sign is often straining when defecating and possibly constipation. This will usually be backed up by an examination by a vet which will show an enlarged prostate. Quite often if the enlargement is non malignant it can be

resolved by castration of the dog at this stage. However if it is malignant then it usually will be fatal at some stage.

Unspeyed bitches are more prone to mammary gland tumours. These will occur more often in bitches that are speyed after they have had a heat than if speyed before they have a heat and then more often in bitches that have puppies than those that don't. To keep an eye out for these tumours you need to feel the tissue along the belly and around the teats for any lumps. Often they start out as just a pea-like lump but will grow considerably, eventually there may be multiple lumps and these can soon ulcerate at which point little can be done. So the lesson here is the sooner they are removed the better the chances for the bitch as these tumours can also develop secondaries in the lungs in particular.

In addition to mammary gland tumours bitches need to also be watched for infections of the uterus. This potentially lethal condition may present as prolonged heats, bloody, purulent or cloudy mucoid discharge from the vulva, or in the case of when the cervix is closed the pyometra will have no discharge and they may present as no more than the dog going off colour or often they may be drinking and urinating more, possibly vomiting and have a distended abdomen. Suspected pyometras are an emergency and the dog should be seen as quickly as possible.

If you notice anything unusual on your dog or in the apparent health of your dog we are just at the end of the telephone and it never hurts to ask us what we think. Please don't leave it thinking it will get better; we much prefer to see the animal at the outset of the illness rather than when it is well established.

AUSTRALIA VISIT JUNE/JULY 2010

By Tony Mills

While I was in Australia the opportunity was taken to carry out some work on behalf of the Falkland Island Government. This included visits to two of Australia's leading Merino sheep studs, training in the use of ultrasound for live beef carcass assessment, developing future linkages with key research and extension organisations and attendance at a one day seminar relating to sheep production.

Sheep stud visits

The first sheep stud visited was Leahcim Poll Merino & White Suffolk Stud, Snowtown South Australia. The sheep business is run over two properties where the average rainfall ranges between 220 (pastoral country) to 470 mm (improved pasture) per year. Leahcim Poll Merino stud has a balanced approach to selection using both visual and objective selection tools. This has led to Leahcim being a registered SRS[®] stud as well as using the services of Sheep Genetics Australia (SGA) and their analysis used to generate Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's). This stud has also been exporting genetics to Jose (Pepe) Marin located outside of Punta Arenas for the past 12 years. They have been heavily involved in developing sires with low breach wrinkle scores that has led to them not mulesing for the past 6 years. Their health focus also extends to internal parasites. Leahcim would be considered a fine to medium wool producer.

The second stud visited was Centre Plus Nucleus Stud located at Tullamore, New South Wales (NSW). This district is commonly referred to as a mixed farming area producing grain crops, cattle and sheep with the ability to breed as well as fatten. Centre Plus is well known for using the latest scientific techniques along with good management focussed on selecting an all purpose Merino. Centre Plus has for many years used a group breeding structure which has a current membership of 18; utilising approximately 20,000 breeding ewes. The aim of this structure is to exploit a diverse genetic pool

from diverse environmental backgrounds in order to improve economic and commercially relevant traits.

It could be said that the objective approach is their starting point; however they have also been keen to use visual appraisal methods (including scoring skin traits used in the SRS method of classing) and have actually been instrumental in developing some key industry tools (e.g. Visual Sheep Scores booklet) that are now being utilised to develop new ASBV's (breach wrinkle score). Like Leahcim there is a focus on animal health especially selecting for internal parasite resistance.

Ultrasound training

The DoA has an ultrasound which can be used to assess the eye muscle area, subcutaneous fat tissue (12th rib and P8 site) and intramuscular fat tissue of live cattle. To get the best use out of this machine two days of scanning training was organised with Matt Wolcott, Animal Genetics Breeding Unit (AGBU), University of New England, Armidale NSW. Matt is the person who trains and accredits all scanners in Australia. Because of this training the DoA is now in a better position to assist the beef industry through improved live assessment technology which can enhance the current skills of producers.

Meetings with key industry service personal

I had the opportunity to meet with staff within some of the key organisations supporting the sheep industry in Australia. The first of these were staff from Industry and Investment NSW (formerly the Dep't of Agriculture). We now have an updated version of the Rampower Indexing tool which is used as part of the selection process for the NSF and JV flocks.

I also took the opportunity to meet with Associate Professor Geoff Hinch based at the University of New England (UNE), Armidale. Professor Hinch oversees the reproductive efficiency project within the Sheep Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). The

core charter of this project is to provide practical tools for producers to improve the reproductive efficiency of their sheep. This project has already developed the following workshops which are being taken up by the industry:

- Scanned ewe management
- Lifetime ewe management
- High performance weaners

Sheep Genetics Australia (SGA) also has an office on site at UNE. As one of my old college classmates works for SGA I took the opportunity to visit him while on site. This proved beneficial as he was able to provide the DoA with two web based tools that can help assist with the data management of the National Stud Flock including determining the level of inbreeding and mate selection should we want to move away from the current 'Family' mating structure.

'It's ewe time' seminar

I was able to attend a major sheep industry seminar held in Dubbo, NSW relating to sheep production. The day was attended by approximately 250 sheep producers. There were eight sessions covering the following topics:

1. Ewe selection and the use of the key EBV's available in LAMBPLAN and MERINO SELECT;
2. Weaning more lambs;

3. Sheep health with a focus on internal parasites;
4. Business management focusing on labour saving investments and calculating costs of production;
5. Turning pasture into product and pasture budgeting;
6. Profitable finishing systems;
7. Meat quality and the genetic and on-farm management links
8. Summary of the sheep industry and the opportunities that exist.

It was very apparent from discussions during the breaks that highly profitable producers and those working on their enterprise to become more profitable had or were adopting the following practices:

- Grazing management – rotational and/or rotational and set stocked (shorter periods not annual)
- Improved ewe nutrition – especially pre-lambing
- Live animal assessment – for marketing and management
- Internal parasite control
- Use of ASBV's balanced with visual selection
- Analysing the business (especially developing cost of production) and
- Labour efficiency (more often related to capital investment)

Wanted...

Two used tractor tyres size 14.50x 28 (or thereabouts in 28" rim size)
Condition/tread not so important as long as fit enough to hold tubes to rims & take some weight.

Also 4 x 15.3" tractorgrip (paddle) rims for Land Rover in good useable condition.
(There must be a few 'retired' sets of these around by now..!!)

Also wanted... set of hoodsticks for 110 or 130 Hi-Cap back box

Phone or email Nick at Gibraltar Station.

CONSERVATION AT SALADERO

By Mac McArthur

Saladero, the DoA's research, development (R&D) and demonstration farm, has recently attracted a pair of black necked swans which have taken up residence on one of the ponds. The pair appear to be well settled and hopefully they will nest and produce some cygnets this spring.

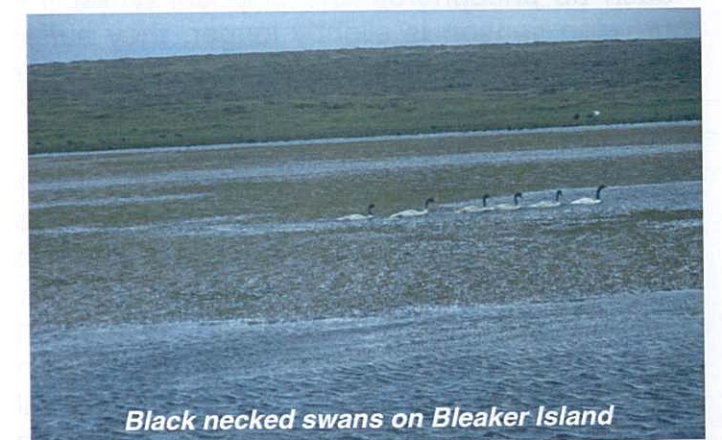
Conservation and farming go hand in hand throughout the Falklands and farmers, as custodians of the land, are conservationists of plant, bird and animal species and ensure that their farming enterprises are in harmony with penguin rookeries, other bird and mammalian breeding colonies.

I find it interesting that last summer at Saladero in an area that had been grazed quite heavily by sheep and been mown a significant number of times, the native yellow pale maiden flowers was observed by a vigilant DoA staff member. In an area that they had previously been observed but which has subsequently been fenced off from stock they were nowhere to be seen. So judicious grazing with domestic livestock can enhance the long term thriving and sustainability of native plant species.

The R&D work that Drs. Sergio Radic, Sergio

Opazo from the University of Magallanes and Jim McAdam from Queens University, Belfast are involved with using state of the art satellite technology to identify native and other plant species on camps have great potential to develop long term sustainable stocking rates for the Falklands. Also Dr Rebecca Upson's research work looking at grazing management effects on native species will provide some valuable data for improving the sustainability of rare native plants in harmony with productive agriculture. Improved sustainable grazing management methods, stocking rates and timings of grazing will ensure better long term sustainability of both our native species and of agriculture in the Falklands.

Hopefully spring at Saladero will bring loads of lambs, cartloads of calves plus some cygnets to 'swan around'.



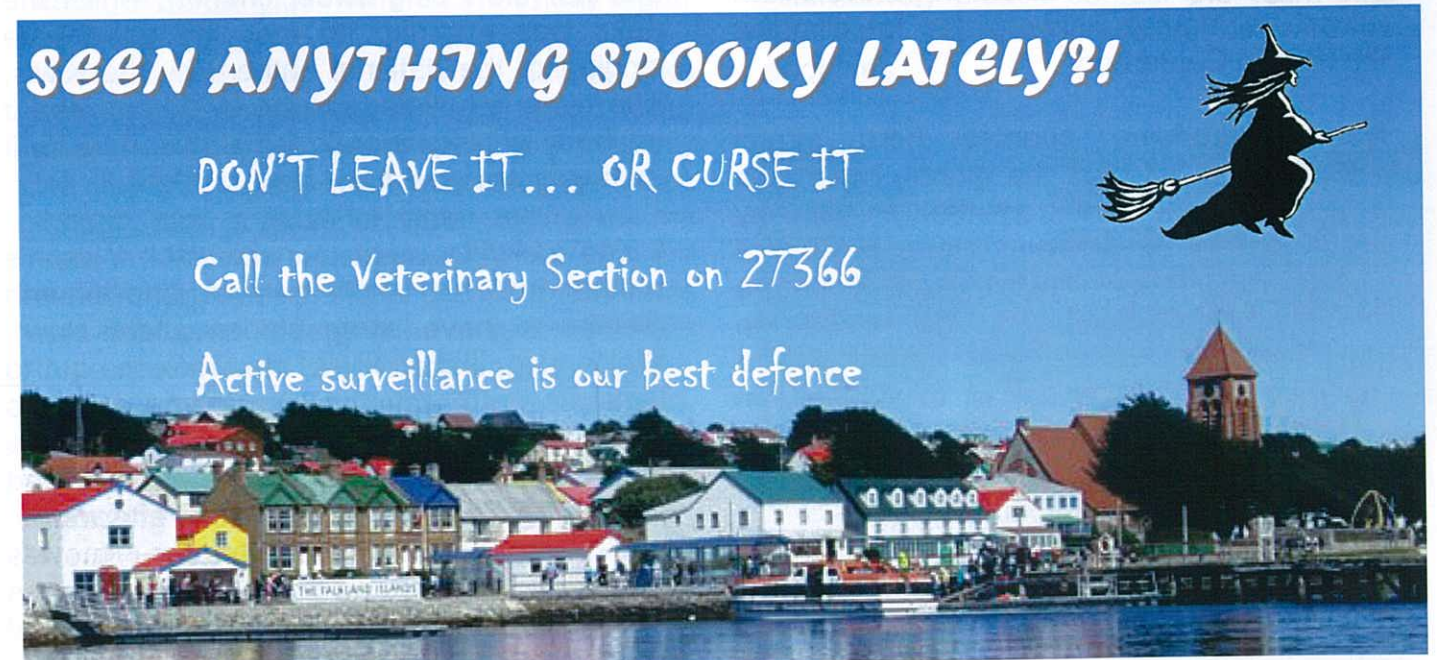
Black necked swans on Bleaker Island

SEEN ANYTHING SPOOKY LATELY?!

DON'T LEAVE IT... OR CURSE IT

Call the Veterinary Section on 27366

Active surveillance is our best defence



By Andy Pollard

Walking back from the city centre along Oxford Terrace, daffodils are flowering, trees are budding and the scent of blossom is strong. Before the Knight boys think I have been smoking the indigenous plants, the point I am making is that spring is kicking in and it is welcomed!

I am currently in New Zealand doing postgraduate studies in agronomy at Lincoln University. The University is a rural campus and stretches back over 125 years (so Mac and Blako were not original students!). You may ask why Lincoln? Firstly, the University is world renowned for its teaching and research in agricultural sciences. There are also many similarities between South Island NZ and the FI. The soils were originally acidic (many hill farms still are) and are deficient in nutrients such as phosphorus and sulphur. Whilst the growing season is slightly longer, they suffer from moisture in summer and cool winter temperatures just like the Falkland Islands.

Since the 1950's, New Zealand has been famous for its perennial ryegrass and white clover pastures. These species are great in areas where moisture is not limited (shallow root systems). The white clover is a good companion supplying nitrogen through fixation to the grass. In drier areas in summer, several other legumes and cocksfoot in particular are valued as more suitable plants for climates like here in Canterbury.

The postgraduate courses here attract students from all over the globe. There is a large contingent here from the US, Norway and Indonesia. My fieldwork group consists of a guy from the Philippines, an Indian, a Sri-Lankan and a Paddy. I am hopeful that we have kept experimental error to a minimum despite the lack of cohesion from supporting different football and cricket teams (actually the paddy is a Man U fan too!).

It would be impossible writing an article without mentioning the biggest sporting achievements in this neck of the woods. The

All Whites stole the headlines by being the only unbeaten team in the World Cup. Ladies, please see the picture below, this is great advice if you want your shopping to be relaxing and Mr Alazia I am sure you would have appreciated this approach in the UK! I left the FI before the real disappointment of the English performance kicked in. However, upon arriving in New Zealand tired after the long flight and petrified of customs as my VI-SA was still in progress the ice was broken when a huge Maori customs officer looked at my easily identifiable British passport and burst out laughing. At this point in time I knew England were out and probably by more than one goal. It's a funny game football, when you can go from booing the Germans one week to hugging them a week later because they just beat Argentina!



Of course the All Blacks are in full flow too, running over the Springboks and Wannabies twice. I managed to watch the Bledisloe here in Christchurch (not wearing my England shirt and nor did I sing sweet chariot); whilst the haka was inspiring so was the passionate singing of the national anthem by the Kiwis. The hype is building for the world cup and if anybody is lucky enough to get over here for it I am very envious, it will be a cracker!

I was lucky to meet up with Jack Wilson's brother and his family here in Christchurch (seems to have some stories about Hew). Welcoming, like all kiwis, they took me out to Little River to watch a local game at grass roots level. Apart from stepping over the touchline in eagerness to play I was dragged into the bar to sample the local DB afterwards. The beers were like in the movies (longnecks) and after a gut full of these it was back to their house to watch the International



game. Anyway I would like to think I represented the FI well on this occasion until the following morning. Up early and dry as a bone, I helped myself to the kettle, whacking it on the gas. The realities of the DB hit home when I realised the kettle on the gas hob was actually electric and the fumes of melting plastic soon filled up the room.

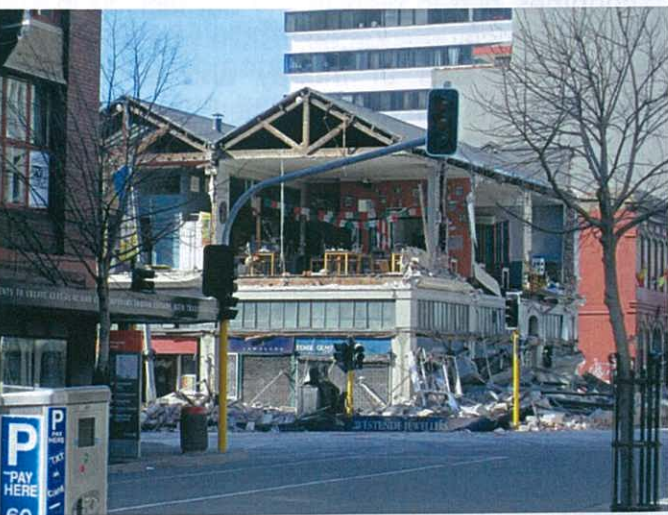
I actually wrote this article to go in last month, but due to the number of contributions I was left out till October. In hindsight I guess Siân forecast what was going to happen next; a devastating earthquake that hit Canterbury. Luckily there was no fatalities, perceived here as a modern day miracle. It was so lucky that the earthquake occurred at 4.30am on a Saturday morning as opposed to during the day in a bustling city. I might add that the earthquake occurring was not a result of me taking any Kiwi girls home on the Friday night!

I was awoken by a terrifying rumble (like having a train running through your house) and of course the violent shaking (I honestly felt sea sick after), what was really bad luck though was a glass of water falling on me from my bedside table. I now know that in the event of an earthquake to get under the table and hold onto its legs (I have a small coffee table which would have made an amusing video for YouTube, watching me try to get under it for the subsequent tremors), this is useful advice as my reaction after feeling stupid squatting under my doorframe was to run into the street solely in my boxers. The earthquake may have been 7.1 on the Richter scale, but the subsequent shock was probably more for

the neighbours University was cancelled for a week and even now we still cannot fully access the literature in the library.

I utilised this time to help the student workforce, 3000 strong, formed on Facebook, to clear the silt from badly affected suburbs (the silt was a particular concern for flooding as Canterbury has also had its annual rainfall in less than 3 months since I have been here). An elderly lady showed me around her house, which had moved a whole foot, an entire street in the eastern suburbs we were on will have to be demolished. Kiwis to their credit don't sit back and admit defeat; the attitude instead is for a community to rally together and help those that need it. This may be by comforting, by finance or put simply "a bit of muscle". Thankfully nearly 3 weeks on we are only receiving sporadic aftershocks, two today so far (11am). I now know why Mac refers to them as the Shaky Isles!

Whilst enjoying my time in New Zealand (yes, even after the quake), the main reason why I am here is to study. Bringing back to the FI the principles and latest research and techniques in agronomy. The contacts being made here are vital to that success when I return to the Islands. Whilst I am going to miss out on spring in the FI (I return mid-November) please feel free to email me with any questions, I am accessing DoA mail. Alternatively please contact the team who I am sure will gladly assist you with your enquiries.



AN UPDATE ON THE DARWIN PROJECT

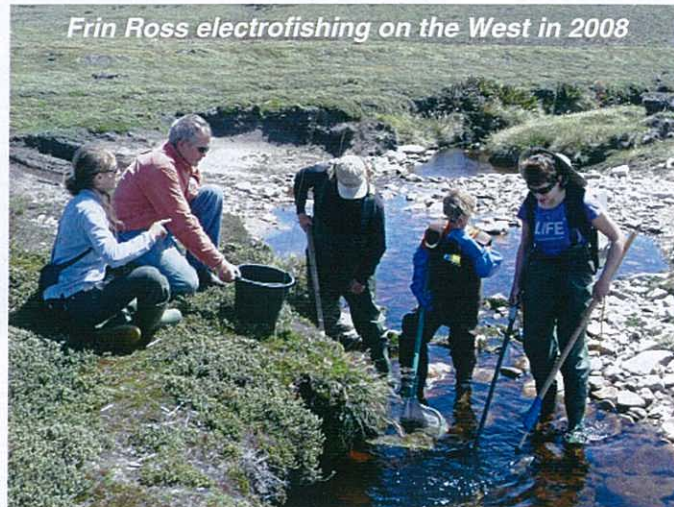
By Dan Fowler

Scientific interest in zebra trout first began in the 1830s when Charles Darwin collected an unnamed fish during his trip to the Falklands. Some time later in Britain, a man named Leonard Jenyns studied Darwin's specimen, christening the fish the zebra trout (scientific name *Aplochiton zebra*). We know now that it is not a proper trout, (a member of the salmonid family) but is in fact a galaxiid, making it a member of the same family as the Falklands minnow (*Galaxias maculatus*).

It took over 160 years before anyone showed any further scientific interest, when Dr Robert (Bob) McDowall visited the Islands in 1999 with his co-workers to survey the zebra trout in the Falklands and investigate their abundance (incidentally, I'm pleased to say Bob still has an interest in the Falklands and has agreed to be an advisor to the new project). His brief survey suggested that an introduced salmonid (the brown/sea trout) was taking over what was previously zebra trout territory. Later work by FIDC's Aquaculture Project and Dr Katherine (Frin) Ross confirmed that this is the case; brown trout are spreading and zebra trout are declining. Sadly, no-one ever found the money to do more than conduct brief surveys highlighting the decline of zebra trout. Until now.....

As of last month, a new project was born. FIG teamed up with Swansea University, Universidad de Los Lagos (Chile) and Oregon State University to put together a successful bid for a two-year project entitled, 'Reducing the impacts of invasive salmonids on native galaxiids'. Fittingly, the funding has come from the Darwin Initiative, a scheme which assists countries rich in biodiversity but lacking in sufficient financial resources. Chile was awarded an equivalent sum of money and is running a similar project on galaxiids there (zebra trout and minnows are found in Patagonia too). By working together we're hoping to learn from each other

Juvenile zebra trout



Frin Ross electrofishing on the West in 2008

and maximise the conservational benefits.

I've been appointed as the project's Falklands researcher and it is my goal to fully understand the current plight of galaxiids and to find practical ways to protect the remaining healthy populations of zebra trout. We're looking at captive breeding of zebra trout for release, keeping brown trout out of certain areas, and creating refugia - areas where zebra trout can live free from the threat of brown trout.

To understand what the zebra trout are up against, we'll need to understand the brown trout population and the interactions between the two species. Aside from protecting the zebra trout, as an occasional fisherman I'm hoping the work we do on brown trout can improve the fishing. Sea trout fishing in the Islands is good, but I'm reminded of a farmer who approached me wanting guidance on river management, as he felt his fishing river was not achieving its full potential. At the time, I didn't know too much about river management, and truth be told I still don't, but as the project moves along this will change, and I'm keen to pass this knowledge on to anyone that is interested. Whilst protecting galaxiids is my first priority, for better or worse sea trout will forever be a part of the Falklands environment, so we should maximise the economic and recreational benefits it can bring to the Islands where responsible to do so.

All the previous work has given me a rough idea of where zebra trout and minnows can and can't be found, but there are still a lot of knowledge gaps. Over the next six months I'll be out and about in the Falklands, wading through streams, speaking to farmers, exploring, and probably getting lost and bogged, all in an attempt to bring everybody's knowledge together to build the complete picture. I can't wait.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT REPRODUCTION RATES

By Tony Mills

I would think that this topic is one of the most discussed within the farming community of the Falkland Islands. The ability to reproduce enough replacements has long been a problem and it, along with death rates, is the key driving force behind the sustainability of the industry.

After attending the sheep seminar and driving approximately 8,000 kms when in Australia I found myself pondering why significant advances in the reproduction rate have not been made Island-wide.

Below are some of my ponderings. As always I do this to promote further discussion and am more than happy to do this on-farm. As someone politely put it 'the weather is warming up so no doubt like the blue buzzers the DoA will be out and about!'

Breed – Is this really the issue or is something else at play? I have done a preliminary analysis of past lambmarking data and found that even when you go back to say the 60's and 70's some of the properties that ran strong wool breeds that were considered to be more suited to the Falkland Islands still had lambmarking percentages in the 60's. Munro (1924) states quite strongly the suitability of the Romney to the environmental conditions experienced here. However he also mentions that these animals were still not performing to their productive potential.

Do finer wool sheep require better or more feed? I haven't really found a good explanation of this theory and would like to discuss it further. My training tells me that nutrient requirements depend on climatic conditions, rate of growth, liveweight, or stage of pregnancy and lactation not how fine an animal's fibre is.

Selection – Has there been too much emphasis on fibre diameter? For quite a long time now profitability of a wool sheep business has been linked to fibre diameter and it is a long held trend that finer wool has a higher value. I would suggest that this has

been the major focus of change by the majority of sheep breeders and even those of us that have held Ag advisory posts. I also think that maybe with the latter a key message that might get lost is the need to consider all traits that are important to maintain profitability i.e. fibre diameter, fleece weight, body weight and fertility. I note that in Davies et al (1971) the comment was made that of 18 farms surveyed only one mentioned wool weight as a prime trait to select for but wool quality was the major selection characteristic. Only 3 farms looked at aspects relating to fertility and that was in the rams.

How do producers select for fertility? At Saladero we have been using the scanning and lambing data to identify those ewes that are dry or not rearing a lamb. I have a strong bias towards using the technique known as wet and drying. I am not sure it is widely used here and wonder, why not? Is there something that is more useful being used?

Nutrition – Why is there not more crops being used? This is one I can't get my head around. It is quite well recognised here that nutrition is key. But why is there a lack of adoption of improving country to utilise crops that are proven to grow here? I have had it mentioned to me on numerous occasions that when some cropping was carried out there was an immediate and positive response in lambmarking percentage and death rates. I would have thought that this would have been enough incentive to keep going. What am I missing? Could this be an opportunity lost given the numerous comments about the condition of the native pastures and the long occurring encroachment of low value species such as diddle dee and small fern. I believe that producing brassica crops for ewes to feed on in the last trimester of pregnancy will improve lambing percentages. Can someone advise me why it is not being used on a larger scale?

I would genuinely like to discuss the items mentioned above with as many producers as possible. I would also hope that from these discussions tangible gains can be made.

FRACTURES

By Zoë Luxton

In previous articles we have discussed joint disease, hip problems and ruptured cruciate ligaments as causes of lameness in dogs. The final topic that we will mention today are fractures. It is very difficult to write a general article about fractures as the type, location and clinical signs will be different for every single case.

Hairline fractures or fractures of smaller bones will cause lameness but often the dog will still be using the limb to some extent. At the other end of the scale are displaced, comminuted (several fragments) fractures of the long bones which render the dog unable to bear any weight at all due to pain and mechanical reasons.

Diagnosing severe fractures is usually fairly straightforward, the animal will be showing signs of pain, the area will be very bruised and swollen and the limb will be unable to bear any weight. The fracture may be a compound fracture ie one of the fractured ends of the bone may have penetrated through the skin and be visible, or at least easily palpated under the skin having penetrated through the soft tissue below.

Less obvious fractures will still be extremely painful and careful, gentle palpation of the limb will often reveal a particularly painful spot. As you move all bones and joints gently under your hands you may feel 'crepitus' which is the creaking or grinding of bone moving against bone or you may just feel a click or a snap in an area where you normally would not.

Regardless of the type or extent of the fracture, an x-ray is still the most useful diagnostic tool as it will confirm or rule out fractures that are not so obvious and will show us the extent of the severity of a larger bone injury. It's the same old message, if in doubt, keep the dog quiet and give us a ring.

First aid wise; pain relief and immobilisation of the fractured area are the most important

things. If you have animals and do not have easy access to veterinary supplies it is quite useful to keep a vet box with a small amount of Metacam or similar painkiller suitable for dogs and cats. Remember that neurofen based drugs are highly toxic to dogs and paracetamol and aspirin must be given with careful regard to the animals weight and general health. Paracetamol is toxic to cats.

A support bandage for a fractured limb can be fashioned out of pretty much anything but we can supply you with one or two rolls of bandage and some dressings for a vet box also.

If you are bandaging up a limb to give it support prior to the dog coming to the vets there are one or two important things to remember:

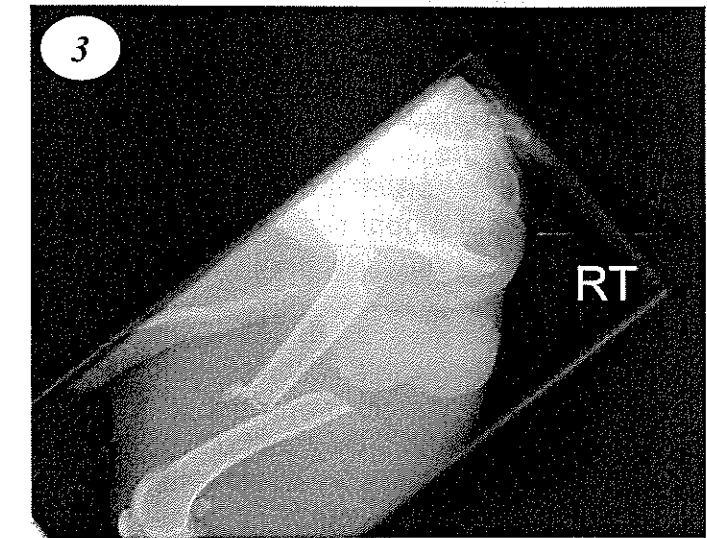
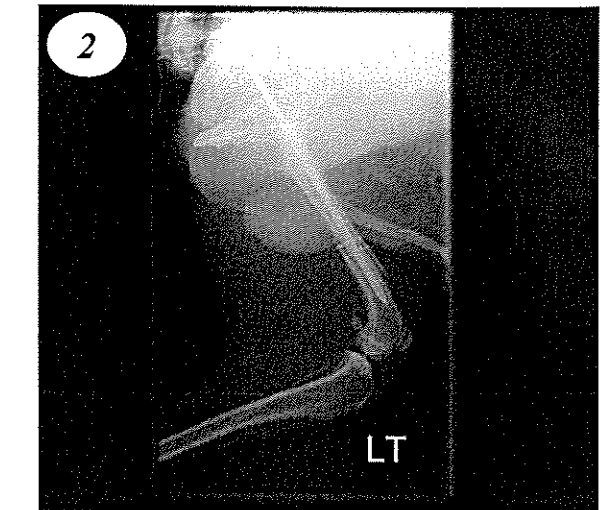
- Cover any open wounds with a proper dressing – a band aid is fine, just make sure there is a soft, absorbent, non-sticky area to cover the whole of the wound. Then bandage over the dressing.
- Do not bandage too tightly – although we want to provide support to the limb if it is swollen and bruised having it squeezed under a tight bandage will cause more pain and cause further tissue damage. If a joint is fractured or dislocated the displaced bones may be pressing on important nerves or blood vessels so squeezing the area tighter under a bandage is likely to cause more damage – so bandage with care.
- If the injury seems to be mid-limb, bandage the whole limb – especially down over the dogs toes. This will prevent the foot swelling below the bandage which again is uncomfortable and causes circulation problems.
- Take care if using a splint or stick to give support. Ensure that no chaffing or further injury can occur. The best way to support a limb is to apply a good

thick layer of soft bandaging or cotton wool and then firmly wrap an outer bandage layer over this. Make sure you can snugly fit your finger down between the bandage and the skin.

Call us on 27366 or 55366 (out of hours emergency mobile).

X-ray captions:

1. comminuted fractures of a dogs metatarsals (foot bones) – the foot was immobilised in a cast and



2. a more oblique fracture of a femur repaired with a pin and wires
3. a displaced transverse fracture of a dogs right femur

Dates for the Diary



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 4th October | Public Holiday - Peat Cutting Monday |
| 6th October | Dog Dosing Day (Droncít)
Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fz and advise when your dogs have been dosed |
| 31st October | Halloween |
| 5th November | Guy Fawkes Day |
| 1st December | Saladero Day
To include brassica cropping, pasture production, balloting of leased bulls and live-stock production (sheep and cattle). |
| 29th December | West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show
Contact Nigel Knight on telephone 42094 or email n.knight.coastridge@horizon.co.fz for details (more information to follow in the December Wool Press) |
| February 2011 | Field days at Bold Cove and Port Howard |

ORGANIC WOOL - WHAT IS HAPPENING?

By Ian Campbell

Last year for the first time there was some fully accredited organic Falkland Island wool offered to the market. It is hoped that this year for the first time there will be significant quantities of accredited organic wool offered, maybe over one third of the total Falkland Island wool clip if the audits go well.

Organic products the world over are making premiums well above those produced and marketed conventionally. Everything, that is, apart from wool it might seem.

Generally it is thought that globally there has been a premium of around 5%, rather less than the 15% hoped for. If that remains the case it is barely enough to even compensate for being in the scheme - let alone make it a profitable decision. If it does not improve then it is likely that global supplies of organic wool will fall - and I am sure they will fall from here too.

Hopefully though this will improve. There are a number of organic farms about due for full accreditation, and if they pull out now they will be back to a three year scheme to qualify again so it is a tough choice. Organic production is a long term strategy.

Recently the Australian Organic Market Report was released - this was a very positive report highlighting the Australian organic industry is about to cross the \$1 Billion mark. It is not only food that is selling well either - one can understand people particularly interested in the food they eat being organic. It is also cosmetics, cleaning products, all sorts of things; and interestingly many textiles. People are paying more for organic cotton, silk, even hemp, so wool is really the odd one out. At this stage at least.

The market analysts are still optimistic about wool. Some very large companies are committing themselves to organics as a general policy and this should include wool. There is not a lot of organic wool available yet, and most woollen mills need a lot to keep

them going. Australia and Argentina both produce significant amounts of organic wool, but wool from the Falklands has the potential to have a significant effect on the world stocks of organic wool - if it just a critical mass they are waiting for this may help. All it will take is one major clothing manufacturer to decide they only want organic and away it will go.

The organic world often relies on agreements based upon equivalence. By way of example the UK Soil Association and the Australian Certified Organic (ACO) may have slightly different farm production standards for wool, but a woollen mill can accept either association's wool as they are essentially equivalent. So ACO may certify the greasy wool and the Soil Association the scouring, knitting or weaving mills etc. The final item may then have a Soil Association logo.

If British or Japanese organic mills want to start buying our wool hopefully we will be ready for them soon. But there is a limit to how long producers here will maintain their accreditation, so lets all hope something happens soon. The mulesing issue in Australia, although not organics as such, might hopefully bring the whole issue of ethical wool production standards to a head - and I think organics could eventually benefit from that.

Currently we are promoting Falkland Island wool at a huge organic textile fair in Japan and our message is a simple one.

南太平洋に位置するフォークランドアイランドは、本来の自然環境がそのまま存在する、世界で最もオーガニック農業が行われている国です。

Or for the benefit of those Wool Press readers who cannot read Japanese:

"In the pristine environment in the South Atlantic Ocean the Falkland Islands is the most organic agricultural country in the world."

UPDATES FROM FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

Raptor-Livestock Interactions Project by Sam Cockwell

Overview

In June, Falklands Conservation, in conjunction with the Environmental Planning Department and the Department of Agriculture, began a project to investigate the impact of birds of prey (raptors) upon livestock within the Falkland Islands. This six month project is intended to develop techniques for monitoring the movements and behaviour of the birds, and determine farmer's views of the situation and their experiences with raptors. In order to accomplish this we are testing several methods for capture and tagging of birds, and also speaking to a number of farmers.

Progress

The project that started only 14 weeks ago has been going fantastically; and I would first like to thank everyone for their help and interest. We have been catching Southern Caracara (Carancho) at Teal Inlet, Turkey Vulture at Eliza Cove and Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) at Fox Bay, Port Stephens, South Harbour, and Saunders Island. We have trialled four different methods of capture: a hand-noosing method which worked really well for Striated Caracara on Saunders Island; a wire ring with light nooses that is placed over a carcass was also quite successful; and we have also used a line with several snares. The final method we are currently trialling is a cage trap with a remotely operated door. Once refined, this method will be extremely effective, and the beauty of it is that it can be used very selectively.

We have also interviewed 10 farmers, but I

Introduction by Farrah Peck, Office Administrator

I took over from Carol Peck as Office Administrator at Falklands Conservation at the end of May. Since joining the team I have been involved with a variety of projects and activities.

In the very first week of work I was encouraged to get involved with the Bag for Life campaign to raise awareness of plastic pollution and to reduce the amount used in the Islands. After a frantic evening of transforming a pile of plastic bags and a roll of insulation tape into an outfit I was teetering on the edge of Eliza Cove tip's ramp, holding my rustling bag-skirt in place from the strong breeze. The subsequent photographs were plastered all over Stanley and the newspaper - a great introduction to Falklands Conservation and what they get up to!

In July I went on a day trip to collect tussac tillers with other conservation volunteers. We went by Sullivan launch to Kidney Island and spent a few good hours hauling loose tussac from the impressive bogs. This tussac was destined for the restoration of Surf Bay minefield, which a few months on seems to be taking well. Kidney Island was full of sealions, so I'm afraid I didn't venture far into the tussac in case one charged out - wimp you say? Probably yes!

Also in July I took part in organising Falklands Conservation's involvement in the annual Farmers'

would like to reassure everyone that if I have not yet tried to contact you it's not because I've forgotten or that I'm ignoring you! This project has many different elements to test and bring together, and we remain hopeful of extending the project by an additional 2-3 years. So, I definitely have it in mind to chat with everyone about their own experiences and feelings about raptors and the effect on farming.

Over the next few months we will be observing ewes and lambs to gather data on the impacts of raptors. In December, we will also study the movements and behaviour of Striated Caracara on Saunders Island.

When we have completed the project, we aim to share what we have learned with landowners and policymakers; and work together to resolve the conflict between the Falkland Islands birds of prey and the livelihoods of Islanders.

If anyone has any views they wish to share or any feedback, I am always contactable by email on sam.cockwell@conservation.co.fk, or 22247 at the office during working hours. I am interested if anyone has seen any tagged birds, especially Caracara species.



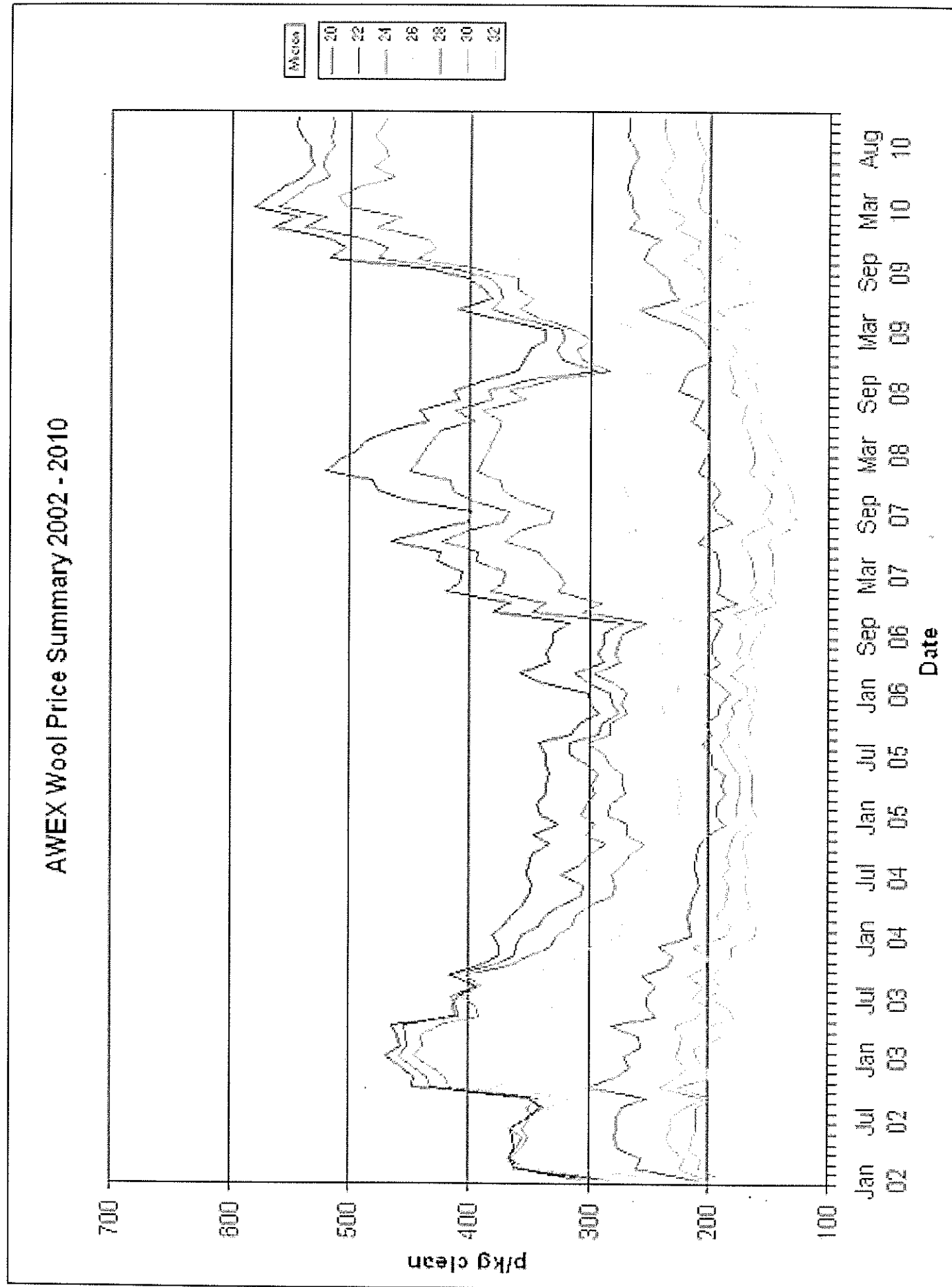
Week. The Town Hall Expo went very well for us and we managed to catch up with land owners to discuss possible projects for this summer. The Curry Night at the Stanley Arms was also rather successful and even a short sing-song was provided! I enjoyed our Curry Night and was pleased to see a good attendance and people having a fine time. Hopefully I will see you all there again next year!

From the beginning of September the majority of my time has been taken up with preparations of the Falklands Conservation Ball - our annual fundraising evening of fine dining, raffle drawing, cocktails and dancing! I have never experienced the planning of such a large event before and I'm glad that Ali Liddle is firmly at the helm this year. The FIDF Drill Hall is transformed into an expanse of glossy wall coverings, twinkling lights and subtle sparkle. With this year's new addition of a cocktail bar and a dance floor equipped with disco ball I'm looking forward to donning my ball gown!

Finally as the spring turns to summer I will be Falklands Conservation's first point of call for tourists as they come into the office. It's set to be a busy few months, and when the cruise ships aren't in I hope to be out and about around the Islands to help with various projects.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

From Siân Ferguson, Stanley

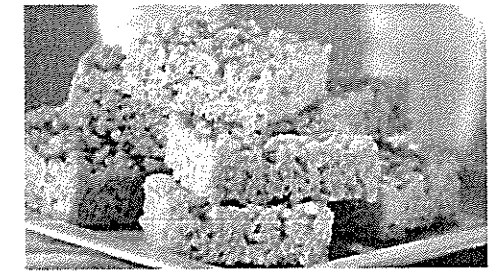
Rice Krispies Treats

Ingredients

3 tablespoons butter or margarine
10 oz regular marshmallows
Or 4 cups miniature marshmallows
6 cups Rice Krispies

Method

In large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add Rice Krispies. Stir until well coated. Using a buttered spatula, evenly press mixture into a greased pan. Cool. Cut into 2-inch squares. They taste the best if they are eaten the same day!



This was a particular favourite of mine during college and as this is my last Wool Press (I leave the Department of Agriculture on the 30th September), I thought I had better contribute something!

Thank you to everyone I have worked with over the past five years, it's been an informative and enjoyable period, but the time has come to leave. Goodbye!

Family's flood of Joy

A newborn foal has become best friends with a family's cats and dogs after being rescued from floods.

Shetland foal Joy was found practically entombed in freezing cold mud in recent flooding in Victoria, Australia.

Rescuers dug her out and rushed her home where, in front of a roaring fire, she started to show signs of life.

Still less than two weeks old, Joy is now being cared for by Quest Equine Welfare president Rebecca Atkins at her home.

Her main playmates are two dogs, both taller and twice as heavy as she is, and she also loves snuggling up to cats Miffy and Willy for a snooze.

Ms Atkins said: "She needs a bottle of mare's milk formula every 40-45 minutes, then a 30-minute nap then

play and prance time, and then we go through it all over again.

"It will be worth it if she survives because we can call her our greatest ever little miracle."

She is now virtually recovered from her ordeal, though her right eye is ulcerated as a result of her head being left packed in mud and it is unsure whether this will heal.

Source: Ananova.com



Puzzle Page

Trivia Time-Out

- How much did the Penguin News cost in the year 2000?
- What is the only cat native to the Old and New World?
- In the British Army, what is a 'wad'?
- Only two mammals lay eggs. One is the spiny-anteater, what is the other?
- In which country would you find the world's biggest pyramid?
- What was the good news for dogs in 1835?
- The fastest creature on two legs is what?
- What is the capital of Greenland?
- What is L in the phonetic alphabet?
- How many scoring zones are there on a conventional dart board?
- Which famous artist also invented the scissors?
- In which country is the driest place on earth?
- In which direction do the Chinese read?
- What colour are the eyebrows on the Mona Lisa?
- Which is the world's most widely used vegetable?
- Which animal is faster than a horse, can go longer without water than a camel and can see behind without moving its head?
- Why were women not permitted to watch the original Olympic Games?
- How many eyes does a bee have?
- Which wood are cricket stumps usually made from?
- From what ancient sporting activity does the word 'crestfallen' come?

Sudoku

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

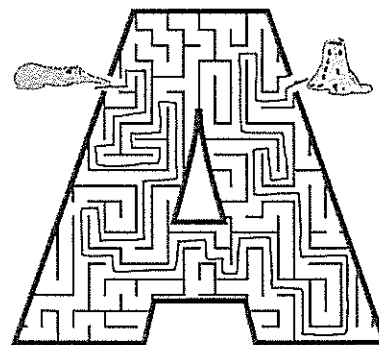
Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Good luck!

September Solutions

Animal Trivia

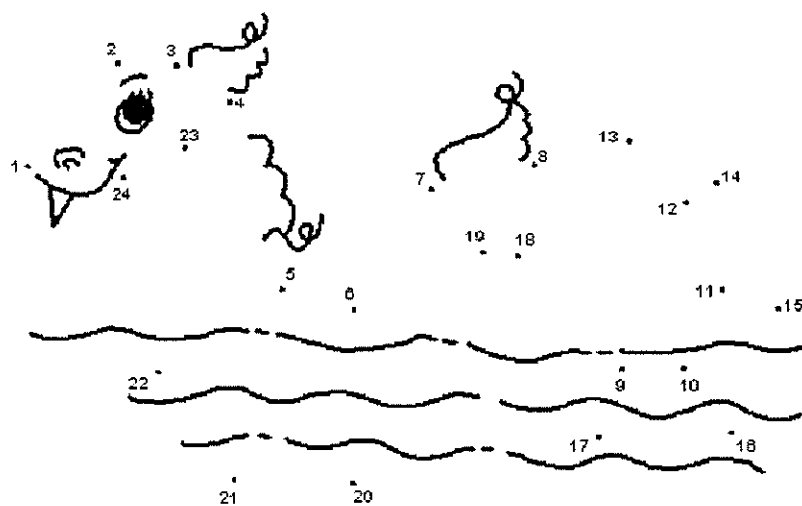
- 1 - false. 2 - arachnophobia. 3 - true. 4 - 2. 5 - gorilla. 6 - fish. 7 - true. 8 - mare. 9 - kids. 10 - giraffe. 11 - true. 12 - false. 13 - spiders. 14 - none. 15 - 10 to 13 years.



What am I?

- 1 - The outside.
2 - Snake

Dot-to-Dot



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

THE WOOL PRESS

November 2010

Volume 250

£1.25

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Body Weight And The Occurrence Of 'Rickets' - page 5

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So You Want To Work In Agriculture... - page 13

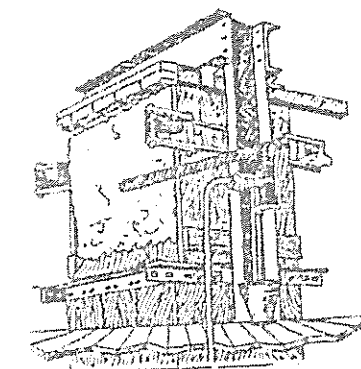
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Take Care With Dogs Travelling On Quad Bikes - page 16

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Plus all the usual features and more!



Edited by Lucinda Lowe

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

In writing these editorial contributions to the Wool Press, I usually look through the articles to see if there is a theme, no matter how tenuous it might be. This month the contributions cover a wide range of domestic and international topics and issues. If there is a theme it might be to do with the opportunities in agriculture at this time.

Animal health is the subject of a number of articles. Zoë reports on the results of an interesting trial assessing the benefits of using vitamin D supplements to ward off rickets. Sue and Steve write on safeguarding dog health with items on looking after teeth and the potential perils of dogs commuting to work on quad bikes.

In terms of the 'opportunities theme', Mac describes the expanding possibilities for beef production both for the domestic market and the export market. He also contributes an item on the stem cell revolution and its relevance to breeding programmes. Staying on meat we thank Jack Allolio for contributing a useful report on the World Meat Congress held recently in BA. Jack sets out a range of interesting, and some quite staggering, statistics in terms of meat production in southern South America, together with information on prices which generally seem to be on the rise.

Talking of rising prices, wool has not been left out. Ian comments on current wool prices and the factors that have led to the upward trend. Shelley Nightingale reports on the progress being made with MPM breeding at West

Lagoons Farm. The reduction in micron has certainly exceeded the target in the Islands Plan! It must be pleasing to see the improvement in prices for finer wools and indeed all wool. Rising prices for wool and meat are good of course. However, lest we get too carried away they are only one side of the equation and production costs are unlikely to have remained static.

Finally, Ian contributes an article on opportunities in working in Agriculture. This is aimed particularly at young people looking at embarking on a career in agriculture. It looks at some of the options and highlights the training opportunities available here.

Readers will notice that the October 2010 edition was the last to be edited by Siân Ferguson. Siân has left however she continues in the agriculture sector as DoA's loss is FIMCo's gain. We wish her well in the new job. Teenie Ross is due to join the department later in November and in the meantime Lucinda is holding the fort.

Earlier this week I was kindly sent an email link to the British Pathé news site (remember the newsreels in the cookhouse). The item of interest showed the *RMS Darwin* loading wool at Teal Inlet. Seeing the *Darwin* again brought back a few queasy memories. It was fascinating to see photos and people from 1969. You never know what is going to turn up on the web, but I should sound a note of caution on the download size of some of the images.

John Barton
Director of Natural Resources

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By Mac McArthur

Increased Quality Beef Demand

With the oil and gas exploration employees enjoying the high quality, relatively inexpensive Falkland Islands beef, both on the rigs and in the restaurants in Stanley, demand for finished young cattle has increased considerably. Other new market outlets include the NAAFI and family store, at MPA as developing markets for fresh young beef. Prior to these new markets for beef being developed, FIMCo was processing around a beast a day on average (365 per year) and is currently processing around 400 a year.

Surprisingly the Falklands has for some time imported both from South America and the UK significant tonnages of fillet, sirloin and processed beef burger patties (estimated equivalent of around 100 head of cattle annually) and with the increased demand from the oil and gas exploration industry this amount of imported beef has recently been increased.

Export Beef Market

Last year, FIMCo purchased 115 older cattle for a small export trial and was aiming at purchasing around 200 head. This year FIMCo will be purchasing older cattle that are carrying at least 3-4 mm of subcutaneous fat to provide manufacturing type beef which is mainly sold to the foodservice industry (schools, hospitals, service clubs etc.).

For those farmers still carrying old beef, cull cows that can be fattened up or other relatively unproductive 'grass guzzlers' that previously there has been no market for, this is your opportunity to quit them and replace them with genetically superior, polled, quiet young cattle that you can make money from if you manage them properly.

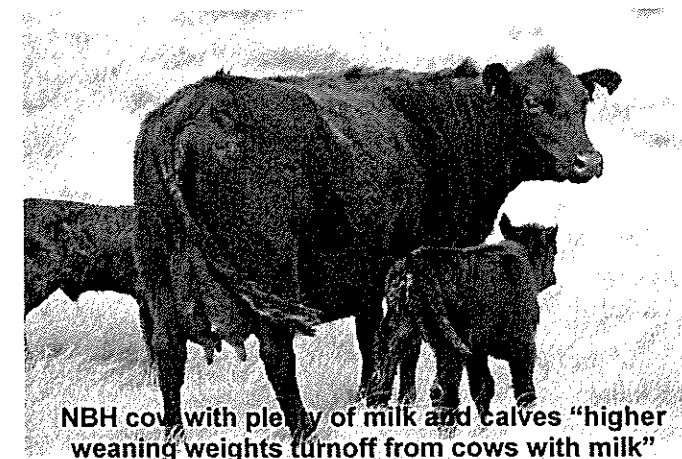
Following a successful trial with manufactured grade beef for export in 2010, FIMCo are looking to develop this further in 2011 and are looking to increase the price for 3-4 fat score.

Change Brings Opportunity

With the steadily increasing demand for both quality young cattle and older finished cull cattle there are emerging opportunities for farmers that have beef cattle and are prepared to manage them well and improve the genetics to meet a number of markets.

The defined markets are: (a) producing weaners and selling them on a pence/kg basis to a fattener; (b) marketing weaners straight off their mothers with 5mm minimum carcass fat (young beef); (c) marketing steers and heifers from 18-36 months with 5mm plus of fat (prime beef); (d) marketing cattle older than 36 months (mature) or (e) providing cull cows and old beef that have at least 3-4mm fat for the export market.

These 5 different markets provide farmers from all parts of the Islands an opportunity to do their homework on the costs of producing



NBH cow with plenty of milk and calves "higher weaning weights turnoff from cows with milk"



NBH cows and calves "forward plan calf crops-3 year lead time"

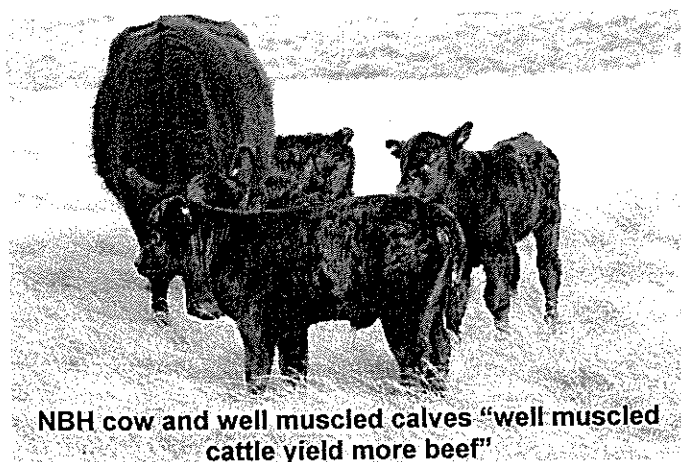
and transporting their cattle to FIMCo or consider selling them as weaners for someone else to finish on quality re-seeds, crops or carefully managed tussac over the winter months.

Contracts Critical

With the increasing demand for beef cattle of all ages it is vital that the supply throughout the year matches up with the demand for processed beef that FIMCo has on any one day, week or month. FIMCo is now offering contracts for the supply of certain specifications of cattle to FIMCo at defined times. For this contract system to work it must be accepted that it is a two way obligation and just as FIMCo needs to honour the agreement and take the number of cattle from farms at the times agreed, farmers must also meet the agreement to provide the number of cattle at the agreed specification on time.

To do this will require very close liaison and regular communication with Dave Roberts the FIMCo Logistics Officer. Checking that cattle are growing and finishing at the expected rate particularly through the winter and spring months is vital. If there is a feed shortage or the cattle are not fattening as well as you expected, Dave must be informed as early as possible so he can adjust his schedule and find other cattle to fill this supply gap.

Ultimately penalties for non or late supply may well have to be introduced and possibly compensation paid if FIMCo is not able to meet its contracted obligations .i.e. a fully two way obligation.



Yards/ Handling Equipment

If you are serious about making money out of beef cattle you have to be serious about having workable yards, with a crush and head bale. If you don't have workable yards there are funding options available.

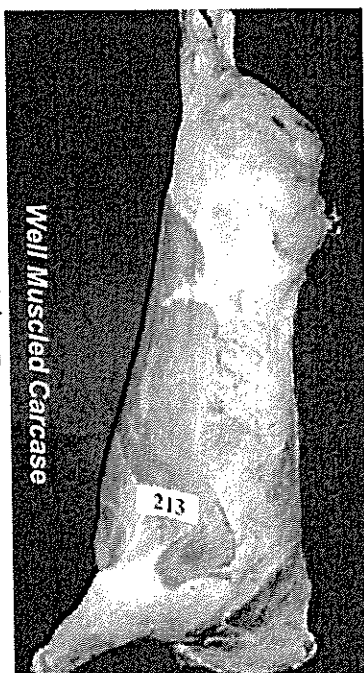
Opportunity

It is said opportunity only knocks once. Time to do your sums for your farm and decide whether or not beef production to meet the variety of markets both current and emerging is for you or not. Keep in mind the time from joining cows and bulls to a cheque in the bank account for 2 year old finished cattle is 3 years so your planning horizons need to be long term.

With the export market that FIMCo has developed, all beef that meets the specifications (even down to 1-3mm fat) now has a market. Once the local market is fully supplied the surplus beef processed can be frozen for the export market, unlike the situation some years ago when beef producers had no market except a very small local market.

If you have a mob of semi wild 'grass guzzlers' that you are going to have to tag before 2012 it might be worth talking to FIMCo and seeing if they will take them for the export market this summer when they are carrying 3-4mm of fat plus.

If you need more information call Katrina on 27355 and she will put you through to a DoA officer. Alternatively if it is a FIMCo enquiry talk to John Ferguson or Dave Roberts on 27013.



INJECTING HOGGETS WITH VITAMIN D TO ASSESS BODY WEIGHT AND THE OCCURRENCE OF 'RICKETS'

By Zoë Luxton

Abstract

Near the end of Winter 2009 there were one or two instances of hoggets developing 'rickets', the term used to describe the syndrome of bowing legs, lameness, weakness of bones and enlarged joints. Articles in the November and December 2009 WP looked closely at the relationship between calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D and their role in the development of bone and what happens when they are deficient. Overall a gross deficiency of vitamin D is the most likely cause of rickets and a basic pilot trial was performed to assess the benefit of injecting hoggets with a vitamin D supplement before winter. No significant statistical difference was found between the average weight of the mob injected with vitamin D and the mob that wasn't.

Introduction

Vitamin D is an important component in the mechanism of how ruminants absorb dietary calcium and phosphorus. If there is a deficiency in vitamin D activity, calcium and phosphorus absorption will be reduced³. Calcium and phosphorus are needed for normal bone growth. Vitamin D is obtained via the diet or by production in the skin when it is exposed to sunlight. Skeletal demineralisation and the clinical symptoms of bowed limbs, lameness, weakness, enlarged joints and pathological fractures in growing sheep are generally thought to be due to vitamin D deficiency (so that adequate calcium cannot be absorbed) rather than a gross calcium deficiency. However, calcium is low in acidic soils so it is possible that the gross amount of dietary calcium intake is also below recommended levels in many parts of the Falkland Islands. Through his work in the Falkland Islands, Sean Miller (2003) showed that vitamin D, phosphorus and calcium intake of sheep varied throughout the year, generally being lowest over autumn/winter which you

would expect with poor pasture growth. He found that calcium intake did not appear to fall below the maintenance level required in sheep and calcium availability in summer was not a limiting factor for weaner growth. However, plasma concentrations of vitamin D were shown to be low between March and October which is consistent with other seasonal vitamin D studies from similar northern latitudes to our southerly one². Phosphorus was found to be below recommended maintenance levels for weaners and shearlings during winter and spring but he saw no obvious clinical signs of a widespread phosphorus deficiency. Sub-clinical symptoms of phosphorus deficiency however, can include reduced appetite and thus decreased food intake. This investigation into phosphorus rather than simply vitamin D warrants further studies beyond the scope of this basic trial. Poor pastures, restricted access to native pasture and low hours of sunlight over winter can make growing sheep at risk of skeletal demineralisation and bone deformities. This simple, cost effective trial was proposed to see if the administration of an injectable vitamin D supplement significantly affected the growth rate and clinical well being of hoggets.

Method

In May 2010 a random sample of 100 ewe hoggets were selected from the 2009 drop. 50 ewes were tagged, weighed and injected with vitamin D (Hideject, Bomac) at a dose rate of 5500-6000IU/kg⁴. A further 50 were simply weighed and tagged to act as a control group for comparison. Three months later the hoggets were re-weighed and the injected group given a second dose of vitamin D. Just prior to shearing (2 months later) the hoggets were weighed for a final time. Throughout the trial period all ewe hoggets were treated the same. They were all worm drenched on the basis of FEC results, wigged once and grazed on swede crops and native pasture. The average weight for the injected and

non-injected sample mobs were calculated for each date and a basic statistical analysis performed.

Results

Throughout the trial period no clinical cases of rickets were observed. There were a number of hoggets lost to follow up at the third weigh in, invariably some had died but no sheep were seen to be showing clinical signs of skeletal demineralisation. Several of the hoggets had been missed at drafting for the third weigh as wool growth was such as to obscure some of the tags.

Weights of Hogget's

DATE	18/05/10	17/08/10	12/10/10
INJECTED HOGS AVERAGE WEIGHT	21.9KG	26.0KG	27.9KG
NON-INJECTED HOGS AVERAGE WEIGHT	22.0KG	25.5KG	28.2KG
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.867081 608	0.49278 26	0.93702 47

At a glance it can be seen that at the end of the trial the hoggets in the NON-injected group actually had a slightly higher average weight. Even without a statistical analysis it can be seen that our theory that injecting Vitamin D into hoggets increases bodyweight and physical condition is not upheld in this instance.

A statistical analysis was still carried out on the average weight of both groups at the time of each weighing to check that the weight differences were not statistically significant and were in fact simply due to individual variation between the sheep in the sample groups. Finding out that injecting vitamin D actually caused a significantly lower average weight would be just as useful to know!

The P(T<=t) value above is a statistical value that indicates the likelihood of getting the observed results if the injection of vitamin D made no difference at all. The cut off limit for the P-value is commonly 0.05 so if the P-value is less than 0.05 it means that there is

a less than 5% chance that we would have obtained the observed weights if the vitamin D made no difference to the weights of the sheep and then we would accept the alternative theory that the Vitamin D DID make a significant difference. In this trial all the P-values were **over 0.05** meaning that there is a higher chance that we would have observed these weights regardless of whether we had administered the vitamin D or not and thus there were no statistically significant differences in the average group weights.

Discussion

While it cannot be argued that a relative or absolute deficiency in calcium, phosphorus and/or vitamin D causes problems with the development of bones and therefore normal bone growth, it would appear that supplementing hoggets with vitamin D in this instance has not led to significantly better body weights. Is body weight the best parameter to measure to compare the effects of vitamin D supplementation? Certainly it is one of the easiest to measure and generally a deficiency in any gross or micronutrient tends to retard growth. However, if there is a deficiency in calcium/phosphorus/vitamin D it is often the best fed, fastest growing lambs that suffer the effects as they need more of these minerals compared to lambs on poorer pasture that are slower growing. The most effective way to assess what is occurring within bones is to send samples of bone for analysis but this obviously involves sacrificing a number of sheep and is beyond the scope of this basic pilot trial.

Several hoggets were lost to follow up by the third weighing. Invariably some had died and some were missed at drafting. It may be prudent in further trials to try and examine any dead hoggets by post mortem and send bone samples for analysis. Four more of the uninjected hoggets were missing than the injected ones but we cannot really draw the conclusion from this that more uninjected ones died as there has been no survey of dead bodies and it is known that the drafting was difficult due to wool obscuring tags.

No gross cases of rickets were seen in the hoggets over the course of the trial and from

the Met Office information below, I would imagine it is because there were actually sufficient amounts of these nutrients naturally available over this 2010 winter. The table below shows average hours of sunshine for winter 2009 and 2010 and it is obvious there has been considerably more sunshine this year compared to 2009 and general average hours thus leading to better vitamin D manufacture in the sheep's skin and better pasture growth and thus better availability of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D anyway.

MPC Sunshine Data (April to October 2009 and 2010)

	Sunshine 2009 (hrs)	Sunshine 2010 (hrs)	Average Sunshine (1986-2010) (hrs)
April	74.5	127.8	112
May	88	104.8	83.4
June	64.4	66.8	60.7
July	54.6	65.2	65.8
August	76.8	107.9	97.7
September	151.1	168.1	133.8

A repeat of this pilot trial over several winters to see if there is a significant difference between sample group weights when there are low sunshine hours would be ideal and indeed it is hoped that this is what we will be



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able to carry out. If significant differences in survivability, growth rate etc was to be found over winters with low sunshine hours the difficulty lies in predicting when sheep would benefit from a vitamin D supplement.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Hew and Sue at Blue Beach for providing the sheep and manpower required to run this trial. It is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Nick Gouldin at the MPA Met Office for providing the figures above.

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MPM BREEDING IN THE FALKLANDS

By Shelley Nightingale
West Lagoons Farm

Six years ago Peter and I decided it was high time to do something to improve our flock, mainly to breed finer wool without wrinkles, but also to keep and improve on both wool and body weights.

We attended a workshop in Patagonia run by Dr. Jim Watts, pioneer of the SRS® (soft rolling skin) method of sheep selection, in 2004. We also saw the evidence of success of this method on several farms.

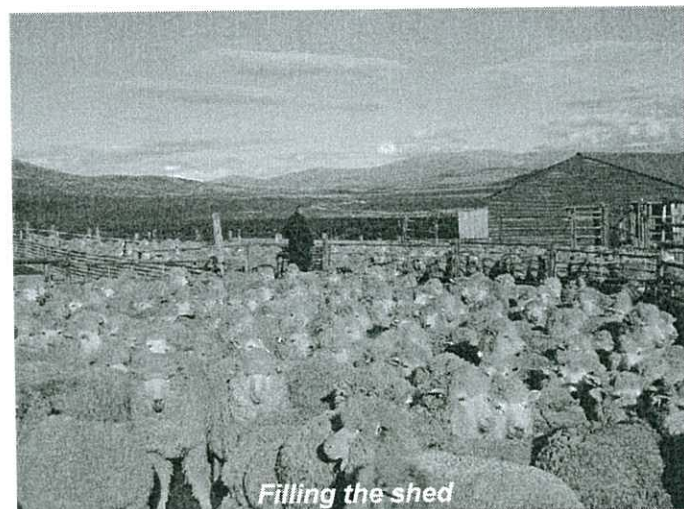
Our entire breeding flock has been classed each year since by Wally O Connor, whom we met at the workshop.

We have carried out extensive Artificial Insemination programmes each year.

I would be the first to admit we made some management mistakes, and coupled with a few bad lambings, has resulted in slower progress than there should have been.

Then there is the Falklands factor..... Even so, as a result, our average flock micron has dropped by 3.3µ; whilst maintaining body and wool weights, both of which are now gradually improving.

Now our younger ewes and rams are well into the 2nd cross so would expect some pretty good lambs this year, and a marked improvement.



Filling the shed

This year, we had 960 ewes inseminated, our largest programme to date.

Fingers and toes crossed for the 29 and 30 October for decent weather.

This year I suddenly realized the wool coming off the shearling and young ewes was looking and feeling pretty good; awesome in fact.

These fleeces are now much more common in our flock than before.

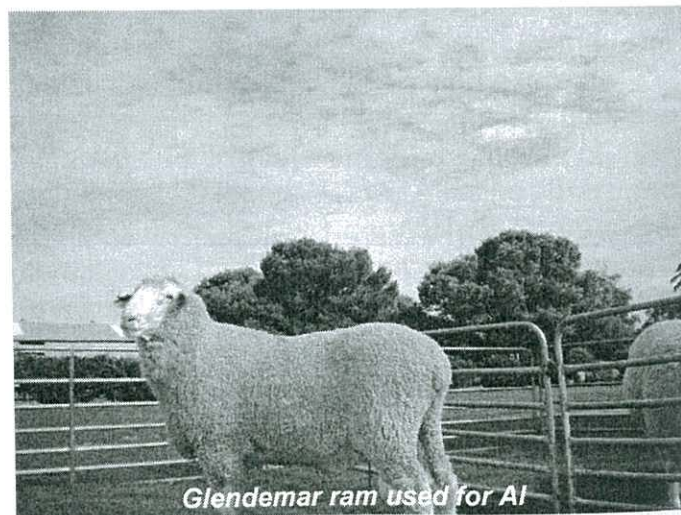
So thought it was high time for an update.

We are also hoping to get some sheep off to FIMCO, so hope for good results there.

Finally, I was interested to see that Tony Mills had visited some properties in Australia doing the same kind of thing as we are. He mentions visiting Leahcim Poll Stud, which is interesting, as although our semen for A.I. comes from Glendemar Pty, under MPM breeding, a lot of the ram pedigrees include Leahcim sheep.

Got there first, Tony!

Anybody interested in how these rams shape up could look at the results of the last sale, log on to www.thefarmtrader.com.au and go to Glendemar page.



Glendemar ram used for AI

West Lagoons
MPM
FALKLANDS
Multi Purpose Merinos



Wool from two year old ewes from West Lagoons farm 2010.



EWES PURCHASE SCHEME

Just a reminder that the ewe purchasing scheme is still operating. If you want to buy young ewes we will pay one third of their cost.

This is to help build up peoples breeding ewe flocks if they want to. Contact Ian Campbell for details; icampbell@doa.gov.fk or telephone 27355.

If you have ewes to sell or you want to buy ewes but don't have any lined up yet, contact us too and we will try to put you together.





Jack Allolio
Wool & Sheep Consultant,
B.A.

Report on the 18th. World Meat Congress held in B.A., 27-29 September 2010

Over 1,000 scientists, processors and traders from over 40 countries, met with farmers at this congress to analyse and tackle the challenges and opportunities offered today by the red meat markets worldwide. Cattle & pork were important subjects, but I concentrated on our own market; sheepmeat & lambs. *Both the Uruguayan and Chilean delegates expressed their pleasure at having this kind of event "just around the corner", with a lot of technical, statistical & marketing information available.*

Uruguay had an important number of delegates representing their complete meat value chain. My first interview was with Dr. Eng. Pablo Caputi, Director of INAC, their National Meat Institute. He commented: "Our countries will soon be responsible for the export of half the animal proteins in the world. That implies rights, and also obligations."

In Uruguay, agriculture and livestock generates about one third of the country's Gross National Product. Apart from INAC, other institutions are involved, such as INIA- (National Institute for Farming Research), SUL (Uruguayan Wool



Pablo Caputi



Secretariat), the government's Plan Agropecuario, FUCREA (Uruguayan Federation of Agricultural Research Groups), the farming associations and of course, the processing industries (exporting abattoirs).

One of our challenges is to achieve a higher degree of cooperation between these institutes. Unlike Argentina, where meat exports only represent 10-20% of production, in Uruguay they represent 60-70%. The promotional role of INAC is totally in line with national interests. In our view, to guarantee a good supply of the domestic market, we must make viable the whole meat sector, including exports.

There is important interaction with Brazil at private industry level, with significant Brazilian investment both in farming and also in processing. However, cooperation with their research institutions is only moderate, probably because their internal market is so big that it takes up all their efforts.

As an activity prior to the Congress itself, the



2nd Economics Workshop IMS was held in Montevideo between September 22nd-24th, with 50 specialists from more than 20 countries attending, discussing the agenda under the title "*Facing the challenges of meat to achieve sustainable growth*".

In Uruguay, the national flock is probably below 9 million head, but all conditions are set for sheep numbers to grow again. Taking into consideration the much shorter biological times compared with cattle, recovery will be visible if market conditions help (as it happens right now both for lambs, sheepmeat and wool).

Uruguay exports 20-30,000 tonnes of slaughtered sheepmeat and lambs. To be considered sustainable, that figure should be below 20,000 tonnes at least until lambing rates improve. Export prices are very good at the moment, as so far in 2010 the average value of sheepmeat and lamb exports has been US \$3,426 per tonne. This is an improvement of nearly 34% above the average of last year which was US\$ 2,557 per tonne. Compared with beef, the export value of sheepmeat & lambs is US\$ 500 above, something which has not happened since 2005. This reflects how good the business is right now. In early September the price of lamb was nearly US\$/kg 4.50 (slaughtered carcase). At the same time, heifers fetched US \$/kg 3.21 slaughtered.

Fabio Montossi, Eng.Ph.D, who works from Tacuarembó in the North of the country, is Director of the Uruguayan National Beef and Sheepmeat Programme and is also a mentor of their successful Fine Wool Project.

I asked him to tell us about the successful heavy lamb project, which he described as a good example of horizontal integration of the meat value chain. He answered, "It was launched in 1996 by SUL, with support from the Ministry, the San Jacinto exporting abattoir and Central Lanera Uruguay, the exporting Cooperative. It also obtained subsequent support from INIA, the Research

Institute, the National Meat Institute and the University, in a joint work including technical information on feeding, management, genetics and animal health, helping its adoption throughout the country. The typical product is a castrated male lamb live weighing 35 to 45 kg, aged between 8 to 12 months and with a body condition between 3.5 to 45".

The main focus is on the sheepmeat quota of Uruguay at the EU of 5,800 tonnes a year, which the country usually fulfills. They also sell within Mercosur, mainly to Brazil.

Development of this product has met approval from all parts of the value chain and also from abroad, due to its productivity, quality, profitability and consumer acceptance.

INAC & INIA carried out quality audits in 2002-03 and again in 2007-08, which ascertained the important progress achieved, best reflected by the maximum slaughter figure of one recent season, which was of nearly one million lambs. At the same time improving animal welfare and introducing better management practices. They also carried out tasting ses-



sions by European consumers, comparing with the respective local products.

The advantages of Uruguayan lamb are attributed to their natural grassland feeding.

At the moment of writing these lines (22 October, 2010) I learnt that they have already surpassed a carcass price of US \$ / kg 5.00 with a slaughter yield of around 48 per cent.

No doubt currently the most profitable business in Uruguayan lamb production".

Juan C. García González, Agr. Eng., Gral. Manager of Consorcio Ovino S.A. (Chile)



Juan C. Garcia

"Our company is one of the "technological consortiums" created in Chile in the last 5 years, for very different economic activities including agriculture.

We operate with a foothold both in the regions of O'Higgins & Magallanes, and have adopted a pro-active stance with FIA, the Foundation for Agricultural Innovation as our strategic partner. In our first step we launched 18 R & D projects, and for our second step we have 13 new ones. Chile presently has around 3.9 m. sheep, and growth since the last census is estimated at around 6 %. Magallanes accounts for 56,7 %.

The country has a sheepmeat quota of 6.200 tonnes at the EU, with a total of 7 exporting abattoirs now operating. The 2009 slaughter figure of 780.000 head represents a very low extraction rate. Exports in 2009 were: US \$ 26.6 m. sheepmeat; 15.5 m. for wool and 1.4 m. sheepskins."

García considers that prior to the scanning of ewes, feed supplementation, balanced animal loads, grassland & sheep management, genetics and animal health, it was necessary to develop better marketing

channels, with improved demand and guaranteed payment, to replace informal trade which is still important in the "Lakes & Rivers" regions Center/South.

Dr. Tomás de Estrada, President of the Argentine Hampshire Down Breeders Association, explained in perfect English his proposal on the subject "Sheep production and trade within Mercosur";



Dr. Tomás de Estrada, President of the Argentine Hampshire Down Breeders Association

"Our proposal was discussed in meetings with breeders from Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil & Argentina, trying to generate a horizontal integration between our production, taking advantage of the technical and marketing experience in all of our countries.

One of our challenges is to re-create a "sheep culture" as an indispensable part of any serious proposal. Our priority is achieving a superior lamb, which when weaned permits us obtaining a carcass of 16 to 17 kg, with a slaughter yield of around 52 %. Or as alternative, a lighter lamb suitable for fattening to a weight of 20 kg. No doubt the Uruguayans are the example we should



Richard Brown

follow. Beyond Patagonia and TdF, we promote mixed grazing of sheep, which is done in the North with Herefords, and also grazing meat sheep breeds on soja fields, as means of better use of available land".

By Ian Campbell

It is vital that young people are being encouraged to work in agriculture, but the entry point into farming is poorly defined and very variable. On the one hand that is good. Many different pathways get you to the same point but on the other hand it can be hard to get started.

The easiest way of course if you live on a farm is just to start work on it. Easiest is not always the most ideal and I can see a few issues with that.

Firstly the farm was performing to a production and income level without your (full) input and unless Mum and Dad are ready to retire, then the farm will need to increase its production and profit to pay your wages. This might happen; but it needs to be made to happen. Plans need to be made so that the extra labour going into the business is fairly rewarded with extra income.

What are the long term plans for the farm? If two or three siblings all want to have a go then the critical mass might be reduced and it will become non viable. It is important that moving onto the farm is well planned through - succession planning is an important aspect. There is often a conflict between family businesses and romantic attachment to home that makes this a hard topic to deal with.

Secondly Mum and Dad might I am sure be the best farmers in the world - but there might also be other ways to do the same thing. It is always good to see how other people approach the same tasks - then you can decide the best way to do things for yourself. This is particularly the case if they have different enterprises or put a different emphasis on certain aspects.

Learning on the job is a very good way to pick up the basic skills. Stock handling, tractor driving, gathering, rousabouting and so on. The business skills, book keeping, decision making, strategic planning... these are often

the more difficult skills to learn and are arguably just as important.

A good idea if you do go back onto the family farm is to take on a particular aspect and make it your own. It may even be a new enterprise that you develop, or possibly a part of an existing one - you might be the beef manager for example. This gets you out of the comfortable role of just having to follow orders and another persons plans and into the business aspects of planning and taking full business responsibility for something. The greater the challenge the greater the reward.

So if you don't have access to a family farm, or even if you do; try to experience a few different farms. I think it should include a small family farm, a large corporate farm with plenty of staff, and even an overseas farm in a place like Australia, New Zealand or the Scottish Highlands. Many farms in England for example will be interesting enough but they will require a lot of skills that you may not need here, but it does all help I am sure.

Of course shearing shed skills are important and the above also relates to those wishing to work specifically in the shearing industry. Try to get some varied experience, plan what you want to be doing and speak to those in the industry about it. Learning those skills on the job is the tried and true way, although there are courses like wool classing if you want to follow that particular interest.

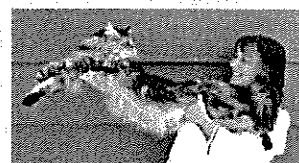
Formal training in agriculture is more difficult. I did a degree in agricultural science which is designed to give you a career in research or advising rather than farm work. There are however colleges that have a more practical bent and certainly if they offer quite a bit of the business skills- planning- budgeting- monitoring the health of the business etc, then these are a very good option too.

The best thing to do is to get out and about and talking to people in the industry. We can offer help through the training scheme. We have a number of farmers on our books looking for trainees at the moment. We will

contribute up to £3,000 per farm for a few months training. If people want to give this a go then please contact us for more information.

If you are interested in the trainee program - either as a trainee or a hosting farm - then please contact us at the office and we will send you more information.

The World Longest Cat



A US cat has broken the Guinness world record for the world's longest domestic cat.

Stewie, a five-year-old Maine Coon cat, was certified as the new record holder after measuring 48.5 inches from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail.

His owners, Robin Hendrickson and Erik Brandness of Reno, Nevada, said they decided to try for the record after hearing people say they were

amazed by Stewie's length.

"We realized that Stewie was exceptionally long about three years ago," Mr Hendrickson told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "Everyone says, 'Wow what a long cat!'"

Stewie was certified by Guinness World Records as the world's longest domestic cat. The record was previously held by another cat that measured 48 inches.

Source: Ananova.com

WATCH THOSE TEETH

By Susan Campbell

Teeth are as important to dogs as they are to humans and poor health of teeth can lead to many problems, not least of which is pain. Pain is not easily detected in animals so it is important that we look out for sources of potential pain without relying on seeing the signs of pain. In 80% of dogs over the age of 3 there will be signs of periodontal disease yet it is generally considered that only 5% of dog owners are aware that their dogs may have a problem.

It is common for dogs teeth to only be noticed when an animal stops eating or a large swelling occurs such as might be found due to a tooth root abscess. However, regular checking of your dogs teeth is a vital part of ensuring its health and well being. If you find that there is a significant build up of tartar, broken or chipped teeth, gum recession, redness or bleeding of the gum around the base of the teeth then it is probably time to let us have a look. The most common teeth to

develop tartar are the back molars and checking them properly requires you to pull the lip right back to view them adequately. These should be cleaned properly to prevent further damage to the periodontal tissues.

Cleaning of dog or cats teeth requires us to anaesthetise the animal and then clean the teeth using an ultrasonic scaler and then polish the teeth to try and slow the development of new tartar.

In addition to the build up of tartar and the consequences of this to the teeth and gums of the dog it is not uncommon to see broken or worn teeth where the pulp is exposed or discoloured teeth which have become pink through to black as the result of damage to the tooth. All of these should really be removed as they will at some stage cause the dog a problem and considerable pain which may not be detected. Some of these can be avoided by not giving the larger very hard bones to dogs. These types of bones are particularly renowned for causing slab

fractures of molar teeth.

When cleaning an animals teeth we also investigate the condition of all the teeth and decide which teeth need to be removed. On occasions it is beneficial to radiograph the mouth also as this gives us a more complete picture of the degree of periodontal disease and the necessity for teeth to be removed.

Keeping dogs teeth clean is best done using a

STEM CELL REVOLUTION

By Andrew Norris, 03 Sep, 2010 04:00 AM

NEW technology involving stem cell implants from British breed bulls into Brahman bull testicles could lead to a much greater uptake of breeds like Angus in the Top End.

The CSIRO's breed engineering team for Food Futures has been toiling away for the past few years developing this technology which is expected to take artificial breeding to the next level and could significantly lift the value of northern Australia's beef industry.

Theme leader for the team, Nigel Preston, based at Cleveland near Brisbane, said the introduction of British breed genetics into Brahman dominated herds could greatly increase the meat quality, and hence the value of the individual crossbred offspring, by as much as 30 per cent when compared to the purebred Brahman.

With the large herd sizes in the Top End,



toothbrush but as I think it highly unlikely that many farmers will be out there doing that to all their dogs then, the use of not such large bones covered in meat which they are forced to chew off, dry food or vegetables such as raw carrots do help a little. Looking after teeth will prolong the life of your dog and helps to prevent diseases that may occur in other organs so their care is generally considered a good investment.

artificial insemination has not been practical on a large scale, and with the need for bulls to handle ticks and the harsh environments, simply putting a pure Angus or Hereford bull out with the cows was not a workable solution.

Mr Preston said the Brahman was tick resistant and suited to the extremes of the north. So what if the Brahman bulls could do the artificial inseminating for them?

He said the issue with the northern herd was the six million or so Brahman and Brahman-derived cows needing to be covered - but what better way to do it than with bulls?

"What if you had Brahman bulls with Aberdeen Angus semen in their testes?" Mr Preston said.

This research was kicked off using rams in December 2008, as sheep were smaller and easier to handle.

Once they had success with sheep, they then switched their focus to cattle, which Mr Preston said were trickier due to their size.

The young Brahman bulls (five to six months and less than 200 kilograms) had their own stem cells "knocked down" with irradiation using a similar dose to a CT scan, which did not affect their somatic cells.

They had a few days of recovery before an ultrasound-directed needle was used to introduce the donor spermatogonial stem cells (or teste cells) from the chosen donor bull

such as an Angus.

These young Brahman bulls then matured as sperm surrogates which could be used to sire Angus-cross calves in areas where Angus bulls would struggle to survive. Mr Preston said this would allow commercial breeders to expand the use of elite genetics and would also have benefits in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa to increase the rate of genetic improvement in species such as goats.

"It's ideally suited to systems where traditional artificial insemination isn't practical," he said. Project leader, Sigrid Lenhert, said the 30pc increase in value was based on the extra dollars a grain-finished crossbred Angus/Brahman carcass would bring at the abattoir, compared to a pure Brahman carcass. She said this profit prediction relied on a vertically integrated production system, where the producer who bred the calf could also background and finish it appropriately and market it advantageously.

At this stage, it was also unlikely all the matings from a surrogate Brahman bull would be Angus-cross, as the bull would also provide some of its own sperm, produced alongside the donor's. Therefore, the Brahman bulls still had to be good quality. "We would source the type of high-grade bull calves producers are already happy to use, and carry out the procedure before they have reached puberty," Ms Lenhert said. "The technology in the form we currently envisage it being applied, therefore, offers the opportunity to wean a percentage of crossbred calves from an otherwise pure

Brahman production system."

NSW stud cattle breeder, Greg Chappell, Dulverton Angus, Glen Innes, said such technology could accelerate the rate of genetic improvement in the northern Australian beef herd. He said when combined with tools such as DNA markers, the superior bulls could be identified and their genetics used more widely.

Mr Chappell said this could also bring much faster gains than the introduction of estimated breeding values had, as the gains on Breedplan were normally diluted when they reached the commercial end of breeding. And he saw it as a great tool to get the most profitable genetics into the commercial sector quickly – a great help for producers stuck in a price-taking position. "If we're going to make any real price gains, they're going to have to come from improvements in performance against specification," he said. "This is everything from market specs to parasite resistance." He said by using the DNA marker technology, the sperm surrogate technology could be used to get the right genetics into the right environment.

Mr Chappell said this could be seen by some bull breeders as potentially reducing their market, but "at the end of the day we need diversity for different environments and markets". "We need to be making more progress – in my lifetime the gains we've made have been miniscule," he said.

TAKE CARE WITH DOGS TRAVELLING ON QUAD BIKES

By Steve Pointing

Zoë has written some really interesting articles over the past 6 months on lameness in dogs and has described some of the more common conditions that we encounter.

One or two camp dog owners have asked me why do there seem to be more injuries to dogs now, than there were in the past, and this has

got me thinking.

In the past, dogs would either have run alongside the shepherd who would have been on horseback, or in more recent times, been carried in the back of a land rover until their services were required.

Nowadays one of the most common practices is to carry your dog on the back of your quad

bike and I think this may have contributed to the increase in certain kinds of injuries to farm dogs.

The quad bike is close to the ground and dogs get used to jumping on and off it at regular intervals.

Most of the time they do this without causing any problems but occasionally they may jump off before the quad bike has come to a complete halt or they may jump out onto a piece of very uneven ground.

This is the occasion when an accident is most

likely to happen – an over extension of a joint or a nasty twist of a knee or a hip.

It all happens in the space of a few seconds. You may never be able to totally prevent such accidents from happening but you can help to minimise them by having your dog securely attached on the back of the bike, not trying to carry too many dogs for the space available and making sure the dog doesn't jump off a moving vehicle.

As I read somewhere the other day "It is better to have a strong fence at the top of a cliff than an ambulance at the bottom".

WOOL PRICES LOOKING GOOD

By Ian Campbell

I hate to tempt fate but at the time of writing, two things have happened relating to the wool market that are of note.

Firstly the AWEX prices in AUD\$ are the best they have been for a number of years. Whilst this is as close to a world wool price as we can get I will also say that, as you would expect, other international markets are equally as good.

The second thing that has happened is that the pound has dropped – certainly relative to the AUD\$, and that makes Falkland Island wool cheaper for people setting out to buy wool.

This time last year the wool prices were 40-50% better than the terrible prices the year

before and this year they are 20% better again so that is a vast improvement over the last couple of seasons.

A lot of people have forward sold wool this year to guarantee a piece of this action. Forward selling will ensure you get a price you deem to be good now; the key is to accept that as taking a lot of the risk out (remember prices 2 years ago) and if by chance prices improve above the forward contract then good luck to those that get it, including in many cases a significant portion of your own clip, as it is not often the entire clip that is sold forward.

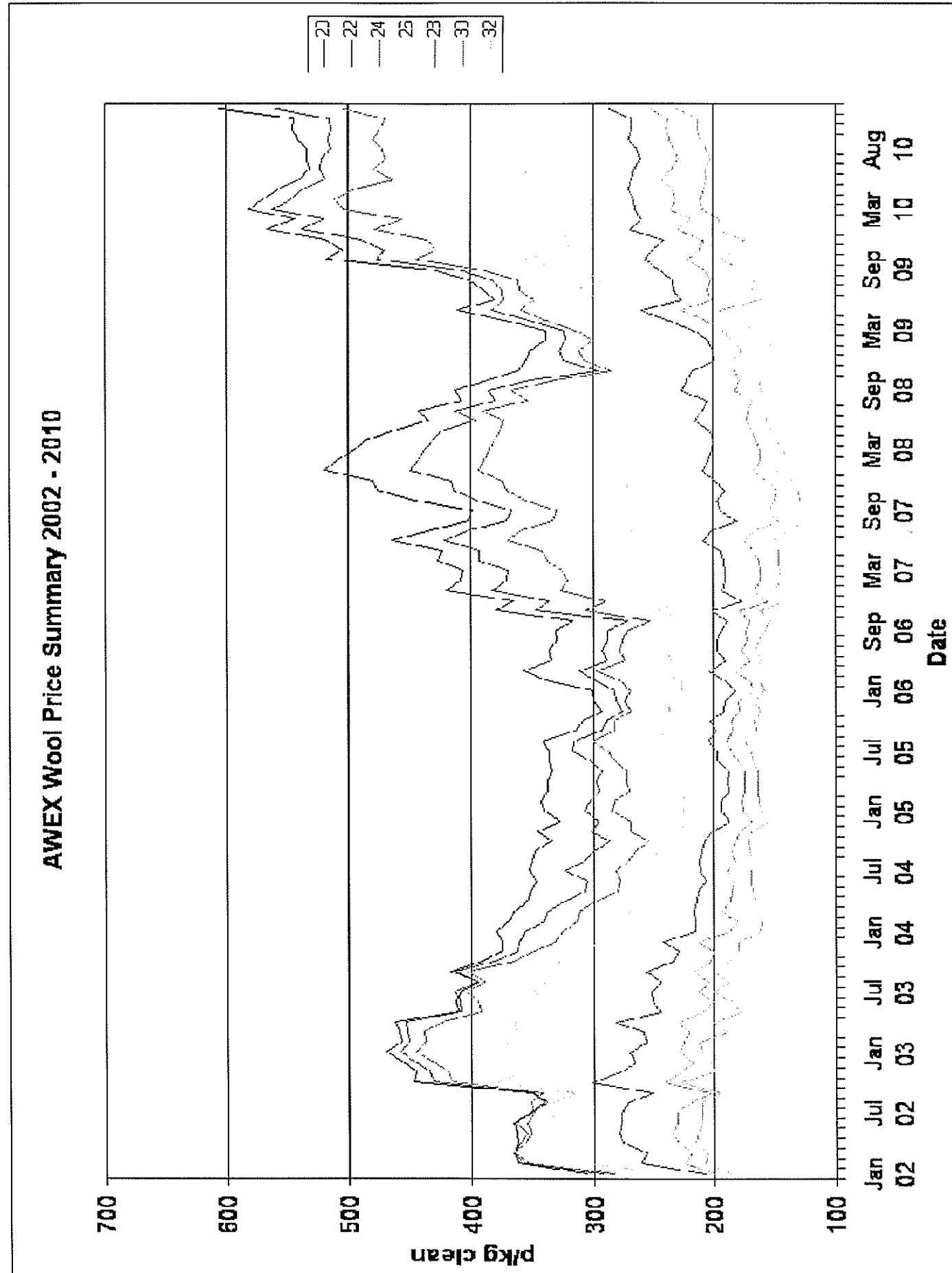
Shearing, wool carting and wool coring are happening in earnest as people are keener this year to sell their wool than they have been for a long time.

The reason is supply driven. Once again two factors are in play. The first is that world wool production has dropped considerably (droughts, changing enterprises, good mutton prices) and the second is that the vast wool warehouses supplying wool processing plants are now kept much more empty as the economists are telling the processors not to keep such huge supplies in the back room – keep the pipeline shorter is the way they describe it.



WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Potato Dogs

From the Twilight Bridge website

INGREDIENTS

- 4 medium baking potatoes
- six and a half ounce (180g) can of hot dog sausages
- 2 tsp. curry paste
- 4 oz. (125g) button mushrooms
- 1 oz. (25g) butter

METHOD

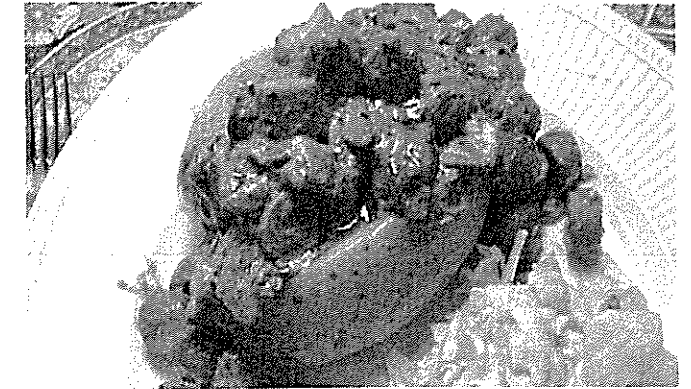
Scrub the potatoes and pierce with a fork

Microwave on full power for 18-20 minutes

Wrap potatoes in foil while making filling

Melt the butter in an oblong microwave bowl for about 30 seconds on full power

Stir in the mushrooms, cover and cook on full for



2 minutes

Stir in the curry paste and place the sausages into the mixture

Cook for 2 minutes on full power

Cut open the baked potatoes and share the sausage and mushroom mixture between them

Dates for the Diary



- 17th November Dog Dosing Day (Dronoit)
Please remember to contact the veterinary service on telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fj and advise when your dogs have been dosed
- 1st December Saladero Day
To include brassica cropping, pasture production, and livestock production (sheep and cattle).
- 29th December West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show
Contact Nigel Knight on telephone 42094 or email n.knight.coastridge@horizon.co.fj for details (more information to follow in the December Wool Press)
- February 2011 Field days at Bold Cove and Port Howard

Puzzle Page

Trivia Time-Out

- When did Europeans first discover the Falklands?
- Where, roughly, will you find the Falkland Islands?
- What is the approximate population of the Falklands (excluding military personnel)?
- On which of the Falkland Islands do the vast majority of the population live?
- What is the name of the capital of the Falkland Islands?
- What is NOT one of the major industries of the Falklands?
- While on the Falklands, people love to spot the plentiful penguins. How many different species breed on the islands?
- There are military flights to the Falklands from Brize Norton, in the UK. From where could you catch a regular, scheduled flight?

Sudoku

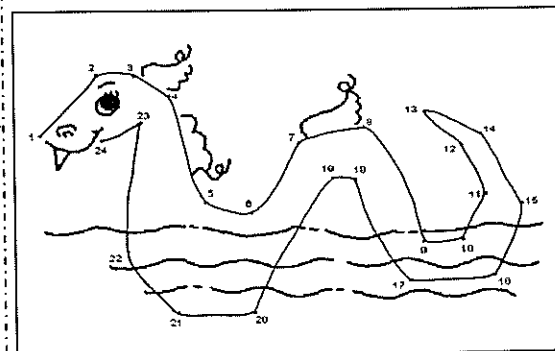
		7	4	2
2	6		9	3
8		2	9	5
	8	9	6	4
5		7	4	9
9	7		8	5
	8	4	3	
4	1		2	9
5	6	1		6

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

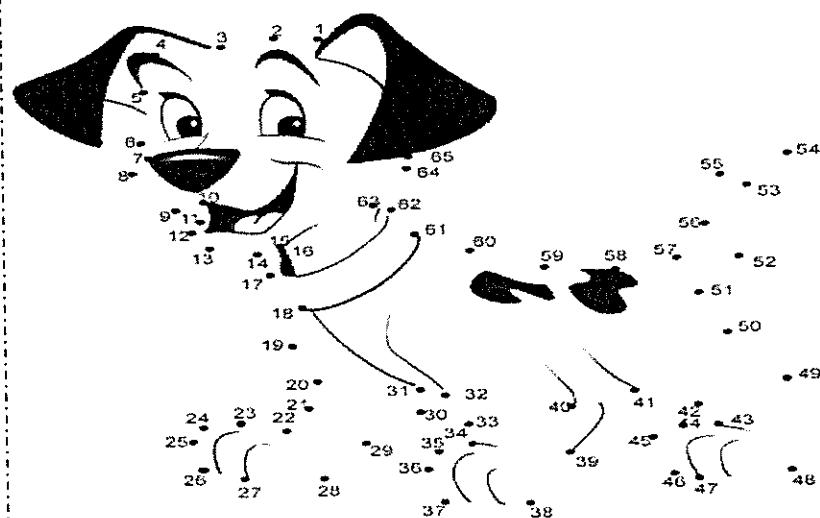
Good luck!

October Solutions

- 60p
- The lynx
- It is the slang for a sandwich
- Duck-billed platypus
- Mexico
- Dog fighting was made illegal
- The Ostrich
- Nuuk
- Lima
- 82
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Chile
- Top to bottom, right to left and 'back to front'
- There are no eyebrows on the Mona Lisa
- The onion. (Potatoes and tomatoes are produced in greater quantities but are less widely used)
- The Giraffe
- Because all the competitors were male - and naked
- 5
- Ash
- Cock fighting



Dot-to-Dot



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

THE WOOL PRESS

December 2010

Volume 251

£1.25

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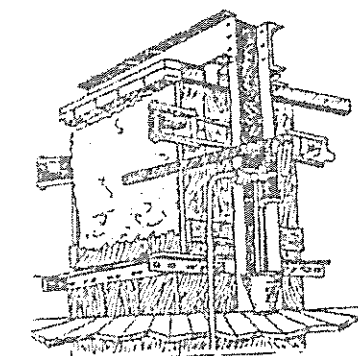
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Edited by Lucinda Lowe & Teenie Ross

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

Christmas is coming – the geese are getting fat. That's how a well known nursery rhyme starts but, in the case of the Falkland Islands, we hope it applies to all those lambs and beef animals in readiness for the new export season that starts in January 2011. This recent rain should have helped with pasture growth – although it would have helped more if it could have been accompanied by slightly higher temperatures too.

In two articles in this month's Wool Press you are asked for your thoughts – one in connection with wandering livestock, which has become a bit of a hot topic in certain quarters, and the other on whether we ought to re-consider shearing dates within the Falkland Islands. If you've got an opinion on either subject please do take the time to contact the authors of the articles as this is the only way we can incorporate your views into any new rules or regulations that might need to be implemented.

A farmer recently asked me for more information on what he should look out for at calving time so I hope that he and the rest of you will find my article on this subject useful for the future.

The other main themes in this edition seem to revolve about agricultural apprenticeships and

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

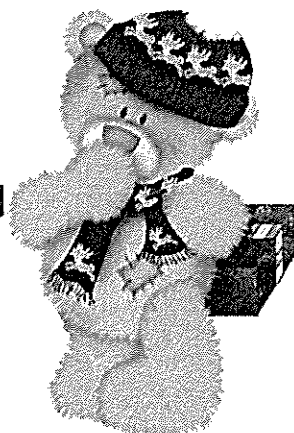
what you can learn about agricultural practices from overseas.

On the former you can find some information on how to apply for a new training course in Agriculture to be run by the Government Training Centre and on the latter Andrew Pollard tells us about a recent conference he attended in New Zealand and Mac asks whether any of you would like to visit the "Shaky Isles" (and/or Chile, Uruguay and Australia) on a farm study tour in Autumn 2012. If you are interested please get in touch with him or Katrina in the next two weeks.

And last, but not least, I'd like to take this opportunity of saying farewell to Lucinda Lowe who has been with the Department for two years and welcome to Teenie Ross who has just joined us. To the former we wish you all the best for the future and to the latter we hope you settle in quickly and enjoy your time working here.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The staff at the Department of Agriculture would like to wish all farmers and Wool Press readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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WANDERING LIVESTOCK - WHAT IS THE LEGALITY?

By Ian Campbell

There have been some issues recently with wandering livestock and it is an opportune time to consider what the laws and people's rights currently are. This has been discussed at AAC and they would like to know the farming communities views on this before deciding to change or adopt legislation to deal with it more comprehensively than current laws allow.

I am told it is the accepted Falkland Island way that when a neighbour's sheep gets in with your flock then you pull it out at shearing and take it back- keeping the wool as your share of the production and insult costs. No laws required; most people are happy with this solution.

That's fine if it is a wether or ewe but what if there are more issues than just a bit of grass eaten over a few months and a trip to the neighbours shed.

Wandering rams and bulls can mate high numbers of ewes or cows in a short space of time, causing lambing or calving at less than ideal times and also potentially sets any genetic improvement programme back for a long time as well as disrupting routine practices such as shearing ewes. Wandering livestock can also spread diseases - fortunately not a huge issue here at the moment.

Fences

Obviously the wandering livestock at some stage got through a fence. Boundary fences are a shared responsibility and if the fence is deemed inadequate then it is up to the property owners to negotiate for it to be repaired or replaced at joint expense. If a neighbour refuses to help with fencing issues you don't need to put up with that and the law is currently very clear on this. If agreement cannot be reached then FIG can mediate and this is all clearly outlined in the ordinances.

Civil rights

The right to sue for damages is always present. This fortunately is not a litigious society, but that very fact should not be grounds for people not caring about their legal and moral responsibilities. If damage has been caused to you by a neighbour's irresponsible behaviour, it is your right to be able to "see them in court".

Whose responsibility is it?

Fertile rams and bulls will get through even the best fences if they choose to. Having unmated cycling females in the next paddock is a huge temptation. Farmers have the right to stock paddocks they own when, where and with whatever animals they like. Clearly if a ram gets into ewes the owner of the rams should note their ram is absent and the owner of the ewes should also note a foreign ram. The Code of Practice on supervision states...

"Owners and managers, including absentee owners and managers, should ensure that sheep are inspected with sufficient frequency to ensure that they are in sound and healthy condition. The frequency and thoroughness of inspection should be related to the likelihood of risk to welfare of the sheep in relation to food, water, and protection against natural disasters."

Clearly the normal or expected manner of supervising extensive flocks of sheep here is inadequate to resolve potential issues such as this. One method often noted here is the extreme raddling on rams to make them stand out - but this only works if and when flocks are being closely checked.

Possible changes

There are any number of possible changes that could be made to legislation but FIG does not want to impose more restrictions on people's rights in farming than are necessary. At the moment we would like to get people's suggestions for changes to either the legislation or the Code of Practice.

One thing we have done is to see how this is dealt with in other places. Other countries are often more restrictive about farmer's rights and the issues relating to trespassing livestock, but the impetus is driven far more by disease spread (diseases like footrot and lice we don't have here) and the governments (in Aust, NZ and UK) seem to steer away from issues relating to unwanted pregnancies, leaving them to neighbours to sort out amicably or otherwise! They also often have systems of impounding stock and fine payments before release etc.

- Should we impose more stringent restrictions on where people can keep fertile animals or impose more frequent and efficient monitoring?
- Should we require better quality fencing and containment of livestock?
- Should we bring in a system of fines and or compensation for people suffering economic loss due to wandering livestock?
- Is there something else we should do?

Please send us your thoughts.

BIOSECURITY

By Ian Campbell

Biosecurity is possibly one of the lesser understood roles of the Department of Agriculture. Being an isolated group of islands the Falklands does not have many of the insects, pests and diseases found elsewhere, and the role of biosecurity is to keep it that way. The Customs Department also has a major role in biosecurity.

With international travel the way it is now, contaminated products can come in that have the potential to destroy goods, farmland or wildlife. Earwigs are the classic example. They came in somehow at sometime but have since spread and adapted to the Falkland Islands far too well.

All countries have biosecurity regulations. Some notable issues around the world are a delightfully named sea weed called sea snout which is potentially spread by contaminated fishing gear, animal diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease spread in meat or milk products, and plant fungal diseases that survive in mud on dirty boots.

Commonly we are asked about spiders that come in containers with building materials, weevils in dried food products, borers in old wood and unusual weeds that come up where stock have been fed. We would encourage people to bring samples in for identification - and of course to destroy anything they think may have come in as soon as they see them.

Biosecurity is seen as a nuisance - having bags checked etc at the end of tedious flights, food or souvenirs confiscated and in most countries heavy fines levied, but from the country's and the environment's point of view it is well worth it.

Recently we have lessened the burden and allowed some specific fruits to come in but this has been based upon a comprehensive pest risk analysis (PRA). What are the pests these fruits might be expected to have and what are the risks here if they do? For example if a pineapple disease is released here what damage will it do - presumably none on the surface but some diseases (such as aphids) do spread to a large range of hosts, so the risk is often greater than may be first thought. Things like pineapples, avocados etc are not on the list of allowed personal imports because either we have not done the PRA or the risks have been considered unacceptable.

Recently, with the change to shipping we have had to work hard to develop new protocols to import from Brazil and this has been at times testing for all concerned. We just need to bear in mind it is all for the future of the wellbeing of the Falklands. If it all seems like too much hassle - just stop and think.

We don't want another pest like the earwig do we?

SEEKING FEEDBACK ON SHEARING DATES

By Tony Mills

From time to time the Department of Agriculture receives feedback on topics that have strict guidelines which the industry is to adhere to and we are required to monitor. Often these guidelines have a specific history and the decision made was based on the best information at the time.

The one I am seeking feedback on fits squarely in this category and impacts the whole industry. I believe that when such an occasion arises, before a decision is made all opinions should be considered.

So I would very much appreciate feedback on whether the current guidelines for shearing

dates should be altered. For your reference the current guidelines are:

1. Cover combs may be used from the 15th September until the 30th April.
2. Shearing is permitted from the 15th October to the 15th March using standard combs.

The only shearing permitted outside of these periods will be of animals which are slaughtered off shears (normally within 2 hours and no later than 24 hours post shearing).

If you would like to provide feedback please direct to me either by phone (if you have a spare hour!!) or by email (tmills@doa.gov.fk).

MAD OLD MAN GIVES FAULTY ADVICE!

Hopefully that caught your attention!

This is a plea from the coring team at the Wool Warehouse - can we please ask that you ignore advice saying that you do not need to brand both sides of your bales - **YOU DO**. It is causing huge problems for us: if the only branded side is face down and the two ends are jammed up between other bales we have no idea what or whose that bale is.

A wee reminder too: can you please make every effort to keep those bale weights to below 200kg's. A huge thank you to those of you who have - keep up the good work!

DATES FOR
THE DIARY

- 22nd Dec Dog Dosing Day (Droncít)
Please remember to contact the veterinary Service on telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed
- 29th Dec Ram & Fleece Show
Coast Ridge Farm, Wool Shed
- 2nd Feb Dog Dosing Day (Drontal)
Please remember to contact the veterinary Service on telephone 27366, fax 27352 or email imports@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed

WHAT HAPPENS IN A NORMAL CALVING AND WHEN SHOULD I INTERVENE?

By Steve Pointing

Many cows will already have calved by the time you read this but there may still be some that haven't and I hope this will provide you with some useful information on what is perfectly normal and when you might need to intervene or call for advice.

Normal Birth

This can be divided into 4 stages, although it is a continuous process and often the stages overlap.

Preparatory stage

This stage is characterised by enlargement of the udder, loosening of the vulval area and appearance of thick mucus hanging from the vulva. However, these signs may not always be obvious.

Cervical dilation (1st stage of labour)

This is the true onset of birthing or labour. The cervix relaxes and dilates, and as the uterus starts to contract, the calf is forced into the birth canal. Animals at this stage will often look uneasy and uncomfortable. Sometimes at this stage farmers will want to interfere, such as by moving them or, even worse, running them into a yard to have a better look. This stage may normally last for **1-3 hours**.

Expulsion of the calf (2nd stage of labour)

As the calf is pushed into the birth canal by contractions of the uterus, the membranes (i.e. what later becomes the afterbirth) rupture at this stage. At the same time as the membranes rupture there is a gush of fluid from the vagina but you will only see this if you are standing close by at the time it happens. If you arrive after the event you may notice that the cow's hind legs are very wet or see a large puddle on the ground. Animals which remain in this stage of labour for **more than 3 hours**, and this especially applies to

heifers, require further intervention (i.e. more than 3 hours from when the "water" breaks).

Expulsion of the afterbirth (3rd stage of labour)

The expulsion of the afterbirth should be completed **within 3 days** of calving. Animals with afterbirth retained for longer **than 5 days** require veterinary attention. It tends to occur more often in animals that have experienced calving problems so you need to keep a closer eye on such animals post birth.

Calving Difficulties

Calving difficulties often arise from calves simply being positioned incorrectly when they enter the birth canal. Another common cause is the calf being oversized in relation to the cow's birth canal (*foeto-pelvic disproportion*). This is often related to:

- Heifers being mated to the wrong type of bull (eg a large framed bull) or
- Dams being overfat at the time of birth. Ideally cows should be in medium body condition with a **condition score of 2.5 - 3.0**.

What Can I Do When I Find A Cow With A Calving Problem?

Firstly – don't panic! Early detection of problems is the best means to avoid complications. Close to calving time it pays to check animals preferably 2 or 3 times a day, but without overly disturbing them. Heifers in particular should be kept close to home so that they can be kept a close eye on.

Intervening when some types of calving problems arise can be undertaken successfully by farmers if a few important points are taken into account. The following items of equipment should be available:

- a halter
- 3 ropes – 2 for the legs and 1 for the head
- lots of lubricant. We tend to use a

special obstetrical lubricant but in the absence of this any cooking oil or paraffin oil can be used

- disinfectant, soap and a bucket of warm water.

If there is an opportunity, the animal should be put in a race or crush (or alternatively the bale in your milking shed). Be warned, however, that there should be a means of getting the cow out in the event she goes down during calving. The easiest way to do this is to have her in a crush, with a halter on her head and opening the side gate of the crush if she goes down.

Once the cow is suitably restrained and her rear end is cleaned up with disinfectant/soap, apply lots of lubricant onto your hand and into the vulva and manually assess what the problem is. Use your hands as your eyes and picture the calf in your head as you run your hands over the surface of whatever you find inside the pelvis. Determine if the calf is still alive by pinching one of its claws, pressing a finger in its mouth or touching the eye – if alive, the calf should flinch.

It is impossible to describe every possible scenario in this article and in many cases veterinary attention will be required. However, some situations are easily rectified by the farmer. Whoever is doing the manipulation, the aim is to get the calf into the normal delivery position (figs 1 and 2) in which the forelegs are stretched out in front with the head resting between them, as if the calf is "diving into water". Ensure you have 2 fore legs, rather than one fore leg and one hind leg or 2 hind legs. If 2 hind legs are being presented you can usually feel forward as far as the tail where the two legs meet. The distinguishing feature is that all the foreleg joints below the elbow bend towards the rear end of the calf, whereas the hind leg has a joint (hock or ankle) that bends towards the head.

FIG 1

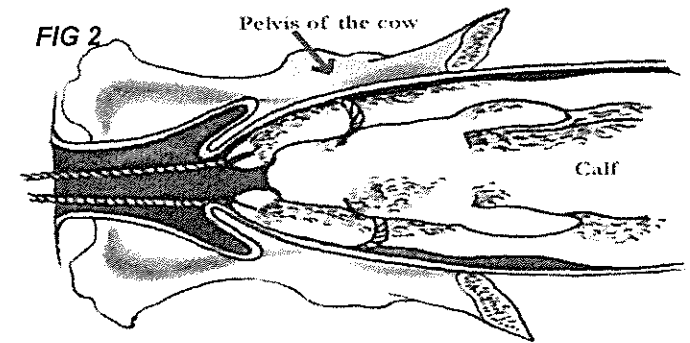


FIG 2
The picture above is looking down onto the calf as if you are above the cow.

The calf needs to be in the normal birthing position before attempts to "pull" the calf are made. If this is achieved then place a leg rope on each foreleg with one throw above the fetlock and one throw below to distribute the tension. If you can get your hand far enough into the vagina it is also useful to place a rope around the calf's head – by slipping the noose behind both ears and into the calf's mouth ensuring that the tongue is below the rope. Place more lubricant around the calf and in the vagina (a syringe or rubber tube can be used for this) and then alternate the tension on each foreleg so that the calf is "walked out" (rather than putting constant tension on both leg ropes simultaneously). The rope around the head can be used to keep the head straight and as a third point for pulling. One strong person should pull the legs whilst an assistant should help guide the head and work the vulval lips over the calf's head. For a standing cow, the calf should be pulled downwards towards the ground; for a cow lying on her side then the same trajectory of pulling should be adopted. Under no circumstances should winches or vehicles etc be used to pull calves. The only role of a winch is to hold any gain you may have made before you make your next pull. It is best to time your pulls to coincide with the times the cow pushes.

Abnormal Presentations

You might find any of the following scenarios when you put your hand inside the cow:

- breech birth – when only the backside is presented but no legs. The most obvious feature is the calf's tail.
- head bent to the side, but forelegs still presented normally

- one fore leg and one hind leg coming together
- cervix not properly dilated (difficulty getting hand into the uterus)
- uterus twisted (appearing as though the cervix is not dilated)
- heifer/cow is exhausted and contractions have stopped
- deformed calf
- dead calf – these are generally more difficult to deliver than a live calf owing to lack of lubrication and a live calf actually assists its own birth.

After Care

In all cases where there has been interference to the normal birth process, an injection of long – acting penicillin for the cow is worthwhile. The stress of calving often leads to weak calves, so attempt to lay the calf on dry hay or ground out of the wind. Rub a little afterbirth on the nose of the cow when she is still in the crush and leave them both in a

small yard or paddock undisturbed. Calving paralysis sometimes occurs with various degrees of severity – from just being a bit unsteady on the hind legs through to being unable to rise at all. Veterinary attention is required for these cases, but the general rule is that if there is no improvement within 7-10 days, then it is not worth persevering with and the cow should be humanely dispatched.

Concluding Remarks

- Regular supervision without disturbing animals is essential for early detecting of problems.
- Don't jump in too early and assist.
- Record the time you make your observations.
- Use LOTS of lubricant.
- Be 100% sure the calf is in the right position before you attempt to pull.
- Seek veterinary advice if you have any concerns or reservations.

Agricultural Apprenticeship
Help to make a difference

The Training Centre is currently looking to recruit farmers who would be interested in training a 15-25 year old apprentice.

All private sector employers will receive 50% funding from the Training Centre for apprenticeship wages. All NVO, training and any overseas training will be 100% funded by the Training Centre. If a consortium of farmers wishes to place a bid for an apprentice this will be given consideration by the Vocational Board.

If you would like to get involved with the Agricultural Apprenticeship Scheme and require a pro-forma and an information pack then please contact the Apprenticeship Scheme Co-ordinator, Marcus Morrison on tel: 27025, fax 27137 or e-mail: mmorrison.training@sec.gov.fk.

Sign up to the Apprenticeship Scheme today and help develop a workforce for the future.

Please see page 12 for full advert.

SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY?

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OR SHOOT IT...

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Section on 27366

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NOTICE: Please be aware that Darwin Shipping Limited has changed its name to Falkland Island Shipping Limited.

New Contact Details:
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Tel: (500) 27629 Fax: (500) 27603
Email: jimmy.forster@falklandislandshipping.com
FIC Office: stanleyoffice@falklandislandshipping.co200m

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LUCY HAS DONE IT IN A FIELD

TONY HAS DONE IT IN A SHEARING SHED

.....We're talking about *SCANNING* of course!

Ewe pregnancy scanning...
A flexible, affordable, reliable method of determining conception rates and allowing you to manage ewes and feed in the most economic manner to ensure maximal lamb production.
Plan now! Contact lellis@doa.gov.fk or zluxton@doa.gov.fk for more information.

IS IT TIME TO TRAVEL AND LEARN ABOUT BETTER FARMING PRACTICES?

By Mac McArthur

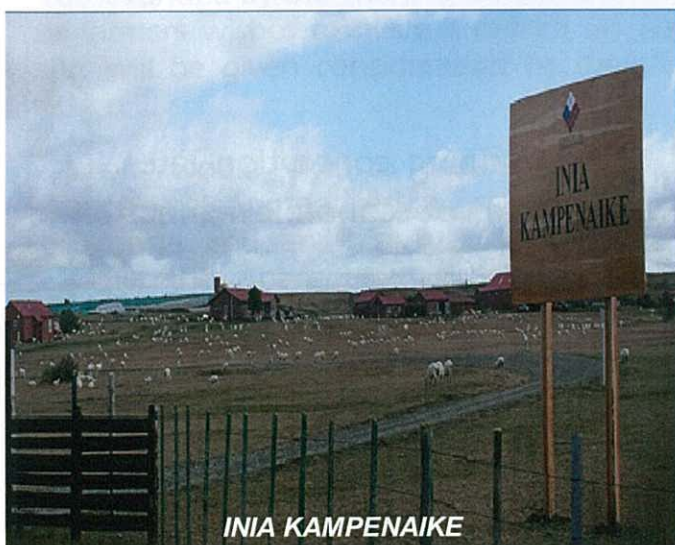
A record price for NSF hogget wool of 688 pence/kg (nett price Stanley) has just been notched up for a line of 4 bales of 19.1 micron wool classed by Ian Campbell and sold through WoolCo. Meat prices world wide are relatively high and recognition by some politicians and world leaders that world food security is a problem, augurs well for farmers that are prepared to adopt new technologies and management methods in the future.

Maybe this is a good time for farmers to get out and about and have a look at what is improving farming profitability in Chile, Uruguay, New Zealand or Australia and is relevant to adopt here.

Research Stations



Knowledge is power, according to the classics. Close to the Falklands, in Southern Patagonian, Chile and Uruguay, lamb, wool and beef production are major industries being carried out often with similar climatic, soil and resource constraints to those here.



The Chilean Institution for Agricultural Research (INIA), agricultural research stations Kampenaike (near Punta Arenas) and Tamel Aike in region XI (Coyhaique), are researching sheep and cattle production, improved pastures, grazing management and crop production and alternative horticultural products (berries, etc...) - all very relevant to improving farm productivity in the Falklands.

The performance recorded Herefords that were imported to the Falklands in 2004 were selected from the Kampenaike herd.



Herefords being loaded into lorries ready to be shipped to the Falkland Islands

Progressive Farms

Throughout Chile and Uruguay there is considerable agricultural development and investment by New Zealand and other international farmers and farming companies partially due to the relatively low cost of land. Many of the livestock production technologies, management methods and pasture improvement techniques have direct application here. To visit some of these farms and hear directly from the owners and managers how and what they are achieving in terms of livestock turnoff and general farm productivity would provide valuable knowledge and practical alternative methods of improving farm profitability in the Islands.

Meat And Wool Processing

The Simunovic Company has a major modern lamb, mutton and beef processing plant in

Punta Arenas. This plant would be interesting to go through to see and hear how their large scale livestock processing plant operates. Discussion on how their livestock pricing schedules, transport costs and systems are organised relative to ours would also be beneficial.

WoolCo has a number of companies in Uruguay, that regularly buy Falkland Islands wool and recently we had a visit from a couple who are based in Montevideo and are involved with processing high quality suiting and dress textiles from fine wool.

University Of Magallanes

A number of research projects which have been carried out in part at Saladero and other parts of the Falklands by Sergio Radic and Sergio Opaza in conjunction with Jim McAdam from Queens University Belfast are important for farmers to have better understanding of. One project, in particular utilising state-of-the-art satellite technologies, is likely to assist farmers optimise their stocking rates on different camps, profitability, sustainability of resources and optimum times for shifting stock to gain the best quality grass production in the future.

New Zealand And Australia

I'll leave it to Andy to tell farmers over time



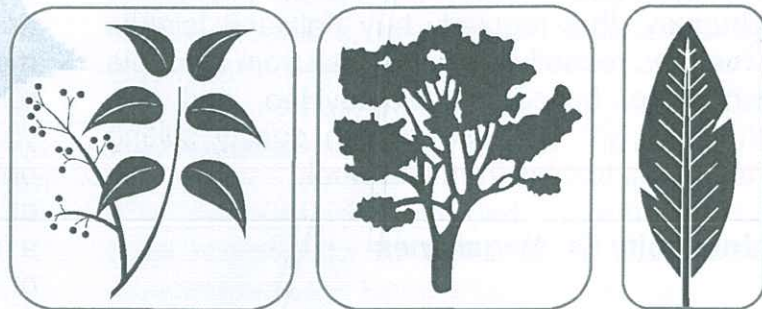
Do you have a recipe that you would like to share?

We are always eager to include recipe contributions from readers. All you need to do is send your recipes in via fax number 27352 or email tross@doa.gov.fk

Thank you!!

Apprenticeships 15-25yrs

Apprenticeship in Agriculture



At first the Agricultural Apprenticeship will be a 2 year '**Apprenticeship**' incorporating a Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) Level 2 Diploma in Work Based Agriculture and Functional Skills to level 2 (equivalent to GCSE A*-C).

If after the 2 years the apprentice has shown the right aptitude and attitude then they can be moved onto an '**Advanced Apprenticeship**', equivalent to A-levels, incorporating a Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) Level 3 Diploma in Work Based Agriculture.

Experience will be obtained by working a 5 day week. At some stage during the apprenticeship the apprentice may be expected to attend training and work experience with the Department of Agriculture and at the Training Centre. The following awards will also be undertaken during the apprenticeship.

QCF Level 2 Diploma in Work Based Agriculture award breakdown that will total 27 credits:

1. 201—Monitoring and maintaining health and safety
2. 202—Maintain and develop personal performance
3. 203—Establish and maintain effective working relationships with others
4. 204—Prepare and cultivate sites ready for planting crops
5. 206—Maintain the healthy growth of crops
6. 211—Establish and maintain conditions appropriate to the welfare of animals
7. 213—Prepare feed & water supplies for livestock
8. 220—Monitor and maintain livestock on outdoor sites
9. 222—Prepare for the shearing of livestock
10. 229—Select and transfer livestock
11. 236—Prepare and operate a tractor and attachments
12. 240—Maintain equipment and machines
13. 241—Establish animals in a new environment

Functional Skills to level 2 - Application of Number, Communication, Information Communication Technology

NZ CONFERENCE AND FUTURE RESEARCH THOUGHTS!

By Andrew Pollard

"We've moved heaven and earth, well at least shaken the earth – to ensure you will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience at this year's joint conference on Food Security from Sustainable Agriculture". This was the opening conference statement from Lincoln University's Professor of Plant Science (and conference chairman) in New Zealand two weeks ago. Initially he refers to the Canterbury earthquake, but then also proceeds to highlight the coming together of various societies: NZ Grassland Association (which includes many farmers amongst its membership); Agronomy NZ; NZ Society of Soil Science and Australian Society of Agronomy. Unfortunately it is a rare occasion when a cross section of farmers, scientists, extension officers and agri-business get together (never mind crossing the Tasman) and whilst the scientific papers, daily plenary papers and field trips were the 'guts' of the conference, the net-working and discussion (through morning coffee or the evening Steinlager) makes these occasions a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It wasn't surprising that the main focus centred around key presentations on two of the largest global issues of both today and the future:

- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
- Feeding a rapidly increasing world population.

These are big topics, each meriting an article on their own. In this article I am just sticking to the agronomic effects. It is likely that temperature changes will allow plants to grow in climates where they couldn't grow before and vice versa. Major concern lies with the hotter countries, and particularly those that already have issues with water. On a positive note, CO₂ is required for photosynthesis, providing water, sunlight, nutrients etc are non-limiting an increase in photosynthesis and dry matter production should be achieved.

It is estimated that during 2010 global pop-

ulation will exceed 6.9 billion people, increasing to 9.15 billion by 2050. To feed this population will require exploitation of yield gaps in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and steady gains made by plant breeders. Several key technologies, notably conservation tillage and transgenic crops, are still used on only 10% of the world's crop land and are expected to expand. Increasing pressure will be exerted to livestock systems as better efficiencies are achieved by growing crops to feed people as opposed to growing pastures to feed livestock and then humans eating the meat. This doesn't consider unsuitable land for cropping (hill country for example) and the importance of a pasture phase for putting carbon back into the soil and providing its structure and reducing environmental issues such as nitrate leaching.

A conference involving Australians would not be complete without a large focus on water-use efficiencies. It was ironic that at the time of the conference many farming parts of Australia have had an unusually wet spring. An increasing population will also exert pressure on this resource and is probably the number one divider between urban and rural populations to date.

As the conference was located in Canterbury, it was no surprise that presentations and discussions surrounding dry land pastures dominated the agenda. Dry land pastures are defined as being limited by moisture in summer months, in Canterbury little growth occurs between November to February. Farming pasture can therefore be divided into those that are stressed by water and those that are not (pH in most scenarios not an issue due to liming). Defining this is very important as it affects the pasture species that you will establish. Basically where soil moisture is not limiting (rainfall or irrigation) you grow perennial ryegrass and white clover. Where soil moisture is limited you grow lucerne (alfalfa), where lucerne cannot be grown you grow cocksfoot and subterranean clover. Relating this back to the FI, I make the following generalised statements:

- Perennial ryegrass and white clover are

- generally unsuitable.
- Cocksfoot should be our first choice grass (Reed canary grass offers potential).
- Sub Clover is unlikely to set seed and therefore is unsuitable.
- Alsike clover and lotus species best choice legumes.
- Can we grow lucerne if we correct soil pH? (Deep cultivation may need to be addressed here too to break iron pan).

- Nitrogen fertiliser responses and nitrogen fixation of legumes. Nitrogen is key for photosynthesis and water use efficiency.
- Root growth and how affected by low pH (aluminium toxicity) and physical soil attributes (clay sub-soil and the iron pan).
- No tillage (spray and drill) v cultivation (initial cultivation necessary). This is deemed the biggest change in agriculture in the past 50 years.
- Trace elements (particularly molybdenum).
- Grazing trials to evaluate persistence of sown species.
- Evaluation of new species *Trifolium tumens* and a hybrid between *Lotus corniculatus* and *Lotus pedunculatus* are being trialled in NZ at the moment.

Papers presented covered many topics, far too many to be covered in this article. I have attempted to summarise some of the keys that I believe we need to target:

- Estimating potential pasture/crop yields using climatic data (temperature, rainfall, evapotranspiration and solar radiation).
- The gap between actual yields and potential yields can then be assessed and attempts be made to narrow the gap.
- Relationships between calcified seaweed, soil phosphorus and fertiliser P on legume establishment, growth and persistence.
- Soil water holding capacity (depth, soil type, aspect, slope, bulk density etc) and how it affects establishment and yield.
- Can we establish Lucerne if pH is lifted?

Most of the above I will expand on in future articles. I also hope to catch up with you all before I head back to NZ in late February.

After hearing about the amount of beer the Aussies can drink. I can tell you that at the conference reception they were all under the table after 2 beers. In truth it was more to do with the 5.0 magnitude aftershock than the beer, but hey let's not ruin a good story!

PREPARATION OF DOG FAECES FOR HYDATID (*ECHINOCOCCUS GRANULOSUS*) TESTING

By Gordon Lennie

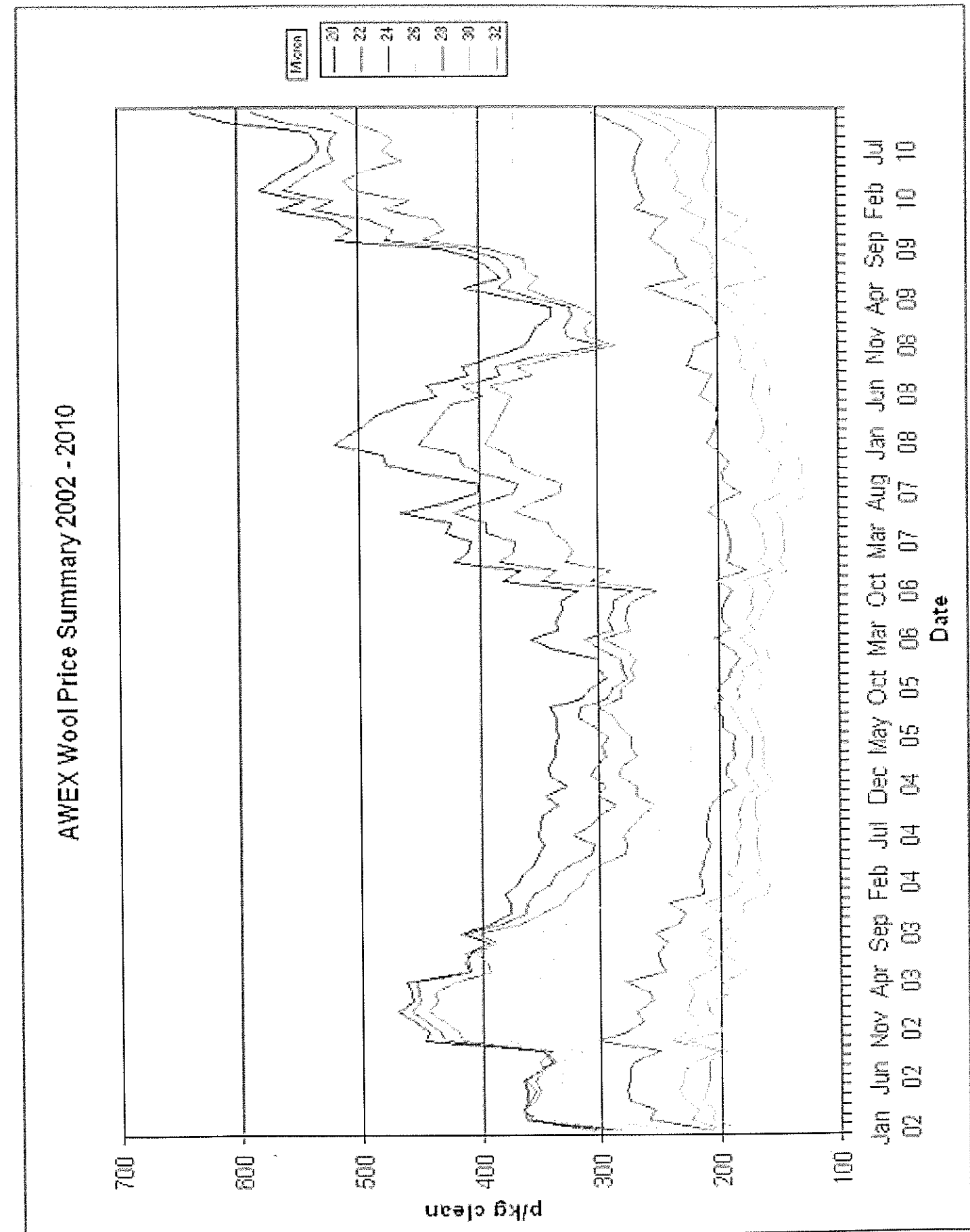


During the months of September/October 2010, dog faeces samples were collected from a total of 568 dogs living in camp and Stanley/MPA. This number represents the total dog population of the Falkland Islands. On arrival into the DOA laboratory, all the dog faeces samples were given a lab number and entered onto a spreadsheet (dog's name /owner/ address). The samples had to be defrosted for 1-2 hours before they could be weighed out. Because of the smell, I utilized the lab's fume cupboard to carry out all the weighing/mixing of the faeces. Two samples were weighed out from the original sample. The first sample (of at least 2g) was weighed into a plastic universal vial and covered/ fixed in 95% ethanol. This is to be kept for PCR

analysis and will only be tested on any dog faeces with a positive Elisa test result. The second sample (0.5-1g) was weighed into a small bijou vial and topped up with formal saline solution. This was mashed up with a wooden spatula to form a slurry before centrifuging at 2500rpm. After centrifuging some of the supernatant was taken off and stored in a labelled eppendorf tube. This sample is to be tested by Elisa for the detection of *Echinococcus* specific antigens. If the dog has had the adult tapeworm in the past few months, then this test will show positive. The PCR analysis involves DNA being extracted from the faeces and amplified to determine the exact strain of *Echinococcus granulosus* in the sample. All the samples have now been despatched to the testing laboratory (arrived 15th Nov) at the University of Salford (Manchester), with results expected sometime in January 2011.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2010

BATTLE DAY - Wednesday 8th Dec
CHRISTMAS DAY (25th Dec) - Monday 27th Dec (in lieu of)
BOXING DAY(26th Dec) - Tuesday 28th Dec (in lieu of)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (27th Dec) - Wednesday 29th Dec (in lieu of)
 * **GOVERNMENT HOLIDAY** - Thursday 30th & Friday 31st Dec

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2011

NEW YEARS DAY (1st Jan) - Monday 3rd Jan (in lieu of)
GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 22nd Apr
HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - Thursday 21st Apr
LIBERATION DAY - Tuesday 14th Jun
PEAT CUTTING MONDAY - Monday 3rd Oct
BATTLE DAY - Wednesday 8th Dec
CHRISTMAS DAY (25th Dec) - Monday 26th Dec (in lieu of)
BOXING DAY (26th Dec) - Tuesday 27th Dec (in lieu of)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (27th Dec) - Wednesday 28th Dec (in lieu of)
 * **GOVERNMENT DAY** - Thursday 29th & Friday 30th Dec

DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2011/2012

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

Thank you for your assistance.

DATE	DRUG
Wednesday 2 nd February 2011	DRONTAL
Wednesday 16 th March 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 27 th April 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 8 th June 2011	DRONCIT
Wednesday 20 th July 2011	DRONTAL
Wednesday 31 st August 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 12 th October 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 23 rd November 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 4 th January 2012	DRONTAL



CHRISTMAS CACKLE

MEERKATS EXTREME SPORTS



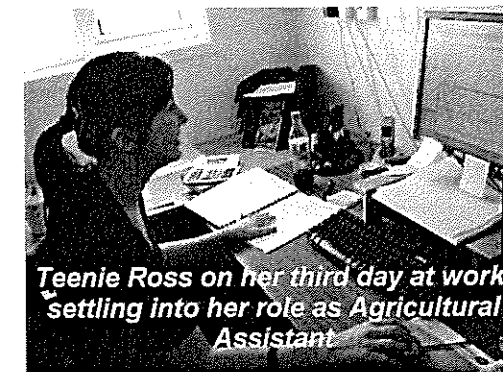
Meerkats have discovered extreme sports in a new wacky calendar featuring the mammals getting their fur ruffled in pursuits ranging from skydiving to skateboarding. The Maverick Meerkats 2011 calendar is available from www.maverickartsclub.com

Source: Ananova.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF STAFF, TEENIE ROSS.

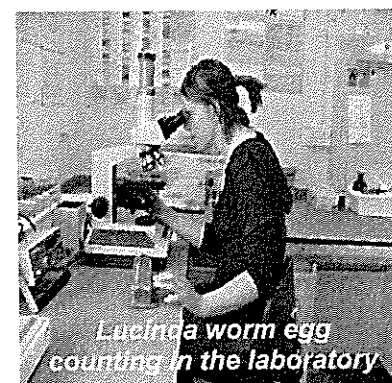
Following the recent departure of Siân Ferguson from the department. Teenie Ross will be taking up her role as an Agricultural Assistant.

You can hear from Teenie in next months issue.



Teenie Ross on her third day at work, settling into her role as Agricultural Assistant

AND A FAREWELL TO THE LABORATORY ASSISTANT, LUCINDA LOWE.



Lucinda worm egg counting in the laboratory

I would like to share my appreciation by saying a **BIG** thank you to everyone within the department for everything they have shown and taught me over the past two and a half years. I would also

like to say a **HUGE** goodbye to both the DoA staff and farmers. I will take great pride in taking the new skills and knowledge that I have gained, and use them to the best of my ability elsewhere.

Since starting with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) back in 2008, I have achieved a lot. I think the main achievement I have noticed is the boost in my confidence; the ability to interact professionally and confidently with people who I don't know. I have learnt a lot from each of the DoA sections. See below:

VETERINARY SECTION

- Ewe scanning,
- Prepared and tested blood samples,
- Helped prepare blood smears,
- Answering the phone and making appointments,
- Adding data for the cattle ID,
- Helping out with the Health/Fish Certificates,

- Scrubbing up and helping in surgery; doing injections and monitoring the animals breathing, etc...

LABORATORY SECTION

- Prepared & sampled faecal samples; making up the salt solution,
- Prepared wool for sampling (in 2008),
- Prepared & sampled fish samplings for the KEMH for testing,
- Germination testing (assessing seeds for growth over a 21 day period).

AGRICULTURAL SECTION

- Preparing, making and sending out of the Wool Press, Farming Statistics and Biennial Report,
- Answering the reception phone
- Doing the staff meeting notes,
- Helping out with Saladero functions, such as the NSF & NBH sales.

BIOSECURITY

- Helped out with some inspections down at FIPASS,
- Assessing, taking photo's and sending off insects brought into the department.

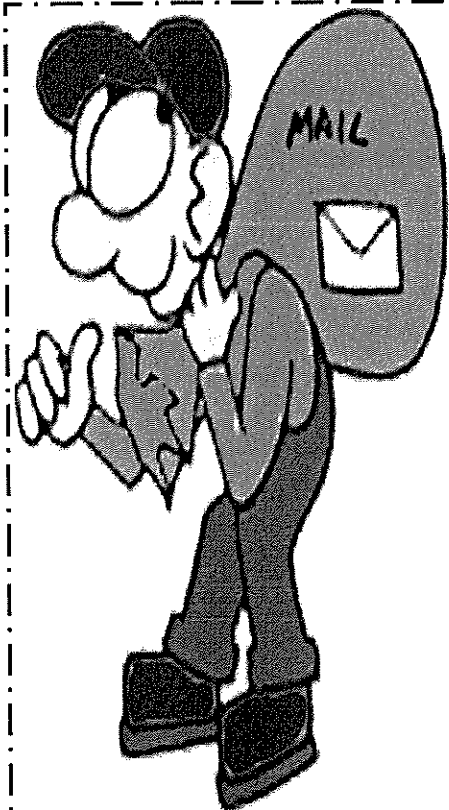
Working within the government sector has given me the opportunity to undertake training centre courses. These are:

- Effective Writing (in 2009) – this has helped me with the staff meeting note taking and Wool Press & Biennial Report production.

- Managing Your Time (this year) – has helped me manage the tasks above and other odd jobs that are handed to me.
- Customer Service (2008) – has helped me gain confidence in talking to people, and in the work that I do or produce, it

also has helped me with my telephone answering skills as well.

- Communication Skills (2008) – this has helped me with talking and helping out visitors, as well as people within the department.



Hard copies of the wool press will no longer be sold in shops after December 31st 2010. If you require a copy every month, you can either pop up and see us and purchase one, or sign up for an annual subscription.

Subscribing to the Wool Press?

Annual Subscription Costs:
Local - £15 per year
Overseas - £37 per year

If there are any farmers that wish to have their copy of the Wool Press sent to them via email. Please contact Katrina Stephenson (kstephenson@doa.gov.fk) or Teenie Ross (tross@doa.gov.fk) at the Department of Agriculture, by email or phone (00) 500 27355. Please send a reply to this no later than the 31st December 2010.

PLEASE BE AWARE

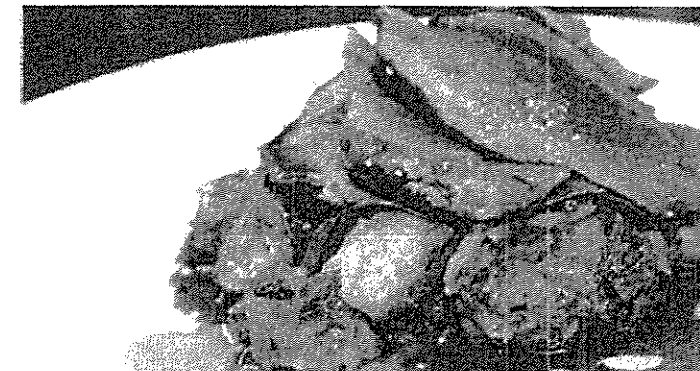
Wool Presses emailed to you will be in PDF format, so you will need Adobe Reader to open the Wool Press file.

WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

Country-Wide Magazine—October 2010 Issue—P78

Lamb tenderloin with Spanish potatoes (serves 4)

- 4 lamb tenderloins
- 100ml olive oil
- 4 small potatoes, boiled and cut into 1cm squares
- 1 red onion, finely sliced
- 400g tin chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 400g tin chopped Italian tomatoes
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 tsp smoked sweet Spanish paprika
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 tbsp parsley, finely chopped
- 100g baby English spinach
- Sea salt and pepper to taste



Heat 80ml olive oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add potatoes and cook until golden brown all over. Add onion and cook for 3 to 4 minutes till softened.

Add garlic and cook for a further minute before adding paprika.

Cook the spice out for 15 to 30 seconds before adding chopped tomatoes, making sure that the garlic doesn't burn.

Add chickpeas and sugar and place into a 180°C degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from oven and adjust seasoning to taste.

In a hot saucepan with 20ml olive

oil, colour the lamb on both sides before placing into a 180°C degree oven for 2 to 3 minutes.

Remove lamb from pan and let it rest for 5 minutes before carving.

Divide the chickpea mix between four large plates and top with parsley and a small handful of baby spinach before finishing with the lamb. Serve immediately

Enjoy.

The 24th West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show

When: Wednesday 29th December	Entries: 9am - 12am
Where: Coast Ridge Shearing Shed, Fox Bay	Judging: 2.30pm - 4pm
Contact: Nigel Knight/Keith Knight Coast Ridge Farm	Prize giving: 6pm in the Wool Shed by H.E. The Governor.



All times are in Stanley time

N.B. would all intending entrants please indicate the probable number of rams or fleeces to be exhibited so that sufficient pens/tables can be prepared.

The fleece with the highest commercial value, best Dual Purpose ram, Champion ram and Reserve champion will be judged on the day by two experienced 'Wool People' all other judging will be done by popular votes.

The judges decision is final.

Where replicas are given, challenge cups are perpetual.

Entries may be sent to Fox Bay c/o N. Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or be brought to the Wool Shed on the day. FIGAS will again kindly fly fleeces FOC.

The usual Ram/Fleece classes plus the FIMCo Dual Purpose Ram Class. Mid-Day BBQ as usual.

Competition Notes:

- Rams in Class 1 should not have any permanent incisor teeth erupted
- Rams in Class 2 should only have two permanent incisors
- Please note that fleece entries should be skirted fleeces only; no neck, belly or stains, these should all be removed before the fleece is rolled

The Department of Agriculture's Biennial Report July 2008 to June 2010

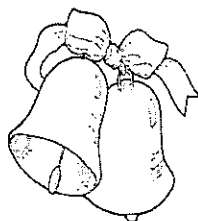
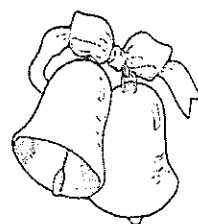
If anyone wishes to obtain a hard copy, please come and visit us at the department.

ALSO

Available free on CD

Please phone up for a free CD

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



Puzzle Page



Sudoku

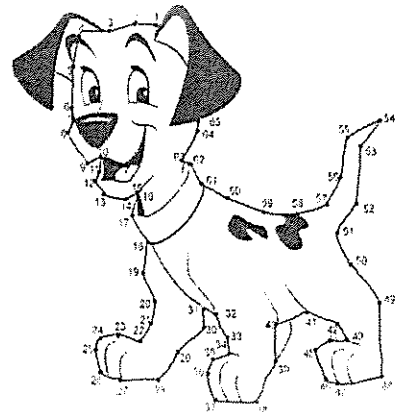
	3	7	1				6	
					4	1	5	8
1			5	2		9		
	8			1		4		2
	9		6		2		8	
7		5		4				1
		2		6	8			5
9	7	4	3					
	5				7	3	4	

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.

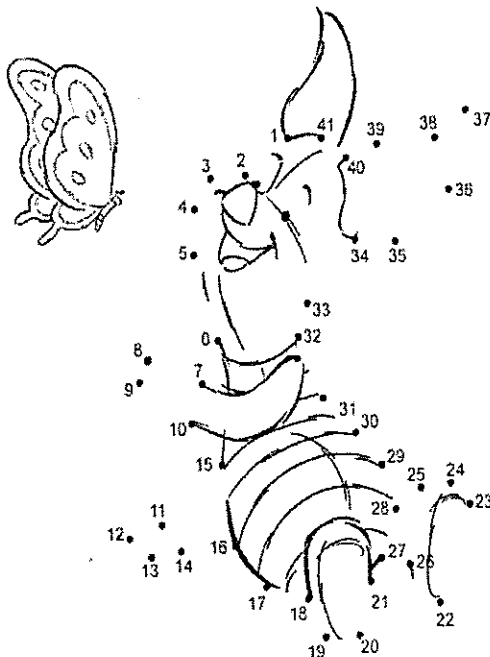
Good luck!

November Solutions

- 1592
- 400 miles East of Tierra del Fuego
- 2,400
- East Falkland
- Port Stanley
- Meat
- Five
- Santiago, Chile



Dot-to-Dot



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