

# GRASSLANDS TRIALS UNIT

## FALKLAND ISLANDS



The purpose of this report is to provide an easily read summary of the GTU' activities during the period 1975 to 1980. More detailed information on some points may be available on direct application to the Grasslands Trials Unit.

Over a year has elapsed since the report was written and it may be obvious to some that current findings and ideas have superceded those presented. It is intended to update this report from time to time.

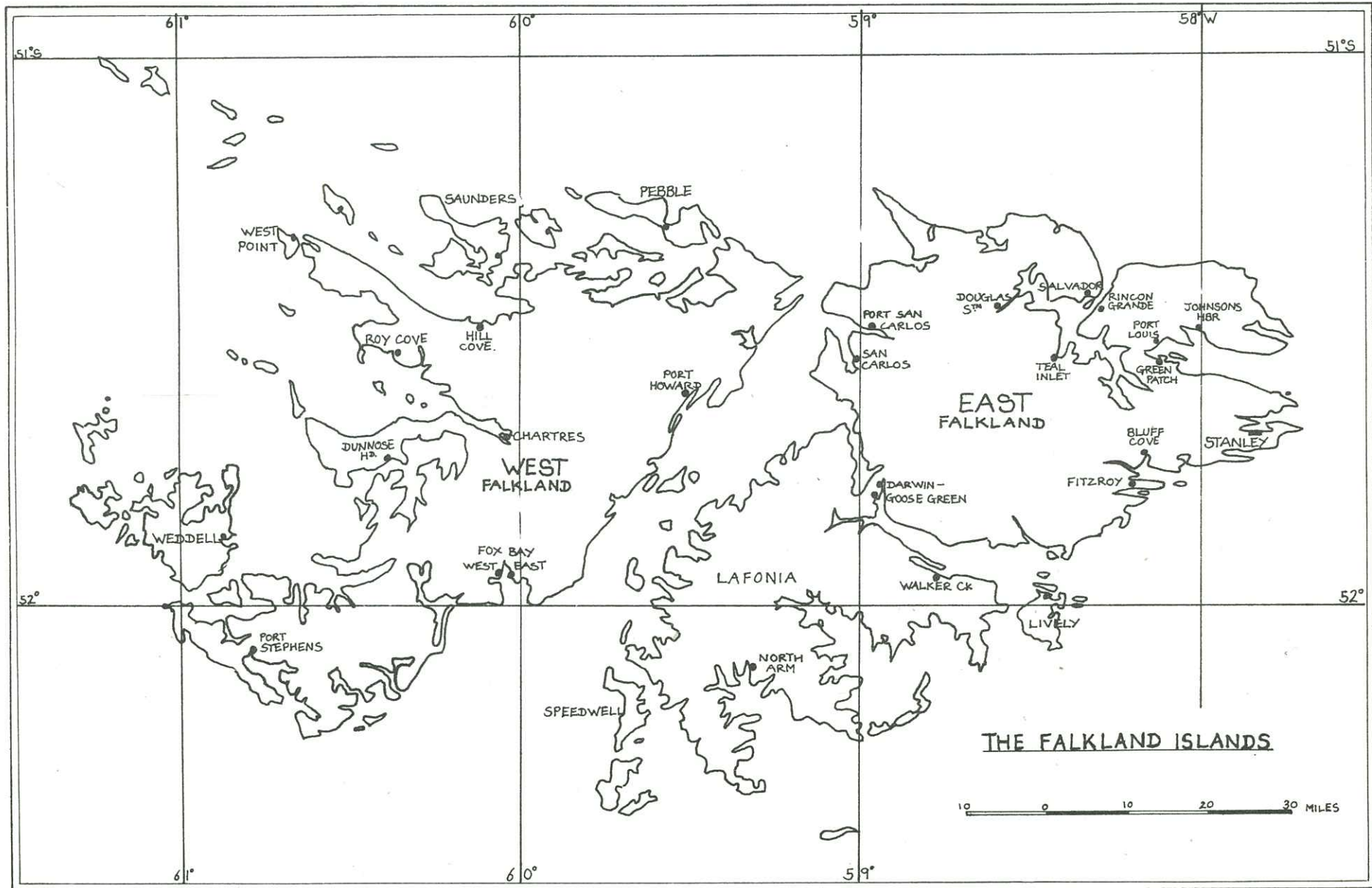
I hope you will find the booklet interesting and instructive.

We will be pleased to receive any comments be they adverse or complementary.

John A. Ferguson  
Team Leader  
Grasslands Trials Unit  
Stanley.

*With the Compliments  
of the  
Grasslands Trials Unit*

*Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.*



THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

0 10 20 30 MILES

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

2  
3 The Falkland Islands lie 480 miles (770km) North-East of Cape Horn,  
4 between Longitudes  $61^{\circ}$  and  $57^{\circ}$  West and Latitudes  $51^{\circ}$  and  $53^{\circ}$  South. There  
5 are two large islands, East Falkland and West Falkland and many smaller ones  
6 giving a total land area of some 4,700 square miles (a little less than  
7 12,000 sq km). The islands are treeless grasslands and moorland and rocky  
8 hills rising to 2,312ft (about 705m.), except in the South-West of East  
9 Falkland where the terrain is more undulating. There are approximately  
10 1,800 inhabitants, half of whom live in the capital of Port Stanley while  
11 the remainder live mainly in sheep station settlements situated in sheltered  
12 inlets around the coast. Agriculture is the principal industry with  
13 approximately 580,000 sheep being shorn annually.

14 The Falkland Islands is a British Colony.

1 THE GRASSLANDS TRIALS UNIT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

2  
3 Introduction

4 The Grasslands Trials Unit (GTU) of the Falkland Islands was set up  
5 in 1975 to carry out investigational work on the vegetation and livestock  
6 of the Falkland Islands with a view to developing improved sheep farming  
7 systems. Many reports have been produced on the Falkland Islands and an  
8 even greater number of recommendations made to increase agricultural output,  
9 but the effect of such advice was limited because little was known of the  
10 biology of the islands' agriculture and the constraints on production imposed  
11 by the environment. The GTU investigates many aspects of Falkland Island  
12 Agriculture in order that subsequent changes in land or sheep management  
13 will be based on scientific information.

14 It is intended that this short report, and subsequent reports, will  
15 provide a summary of the available information for those interested in  
16 Falkland Island Agriculture. Much of the data presented are from few  
17 measurements and must be thought of as provisional or preliminary. Most  
18 of the data were collected between 1975 and 1980 by the GTU. Some of the  
19 more important questions yet to be answered before any major agricultural  
20 changes may be recommended are listed at the end of this report.

21 A list of technical terms used is appended.

1 Climate

2 The only comprehensive meteorological data available are from Port  
3 Stanley (Latitude 51°43'S, Longitude 57°52'W) and some of the information  
4 is summarised in Figure 1. Some less detailed information is available  
5 from a few settlement records.

6 The growing season, as defined by the 10cm soil temperature being  
7 greater than 5.5°C, is from mid-October to late April at Port Stanley.  
8 The date on which this temperature is reached at Stanley, Darwin, Port  
9 Howard and West Point is shown in graphical form on Figure 2. The 10cm  
10 soil temperature at Port Stanley is unlikely to exceed 10.5°C during even  
11 the warmest months (December to February). Air temperature rarely rises  
12 above 20°C or falls below -6°C and ground frosts may occur in any month.  
13 Wind speed averages 17 knots (8.5m/s) with approximately 50% of the winds  
14 blowing from between the South-West and North-West. Snow seldom lies more  
15 than three or four days. Rainfall is far from uniform throughout the islands  
16 (ranging from about 300mm to more than 650mm annually) and occurs in every  
17 month. At Port Stanley, where rainfall is high, a soil water deficit may  
18 occur from October to March.

19 The constant winds and frequent occurrence of frosts make arable  
20 farming difficult. It may be concluded that climatically the islands provide  
21 a relatively poor environment for agriculture.

22 Soils

23 Soil characteristics are largely governed by:-

- 24 a. underlying bed rock;  
25 b. sand and rock deposited by the sea, glaciers and wind;  
26 and c. climate.

27 The cool, maritime climate and low soil bacterial activity have com-  
28 bined to promote the formation of fibrous peats throughout the islands. It

1 is only in very small areas that mineral soils are encountered. In general  
2 natural fertility is low except where penguins or seals have manured the  
3 land.

4 Laboratory analyses indicate that camp soils are acid (typically in  
5 the range pH4.0 to pH5.0). Organic content is high, usually greater than  
6 35% and often in excess of 70%. Phosphorus is generally deficient while  
7 potassium and magnesium levels are usually adequate. In settlement paddocks  
8 where stock pass through in large numbers, and in some coastal strips where  
9 sea creatures have manured the land phosphorus levels are often higher.

10 Soils are often shallow, but in some areas acid peats occur which may  
11 reach several metres in depth. Conventionally soil acidity is corrected by  
12 the use of lime. It has been calculated that to raise soil pH to 6.5 (a  
13 level acceptable for arable cropping in Europe and elsewhere) about 15 tonnes  
14 per hectare (6 tons per acre) of ground limestone are required. For grass-  
15 land, however, a pH of 5.5 is adequate requiring dressings of 6 tonnes per  
16 hectare (2.5 tons per acre) of ground limestone. There is no source of  
17 limestone in the islands, shell-sand deposits are inadequate and, at present,  
18 internal transport difficulties prevent movement of large quantities of  
19 material overland even if the lime could be imported economically.

20 With one or two exceptions, imported concentrated chemical fertilizers  
21 have only been used to provide a crop of hay or help to establish a small  
22 area of forage for settlement cows during the winter. Present GTU experi-  
23 ments will quantify the need for such fertilizers in establishing and main-  
24 taining pastures sown with introduced species.

#### 25 Pasture agronomy

26 The agronomy programme is divided into two major studies:-

- 27 1. the natural vegetation:
- 28 2. sowing of introduced grasses.

TABLE 1

Plant communities important to the sheep industry

Principal species present

Community	Scientific name	Common name
1. Coastal green (5,000kg DM/ha)	<u>Poa pratensis</u>	smooth stalked meadowgrass
	<u>P. annua</u>	annual meadow grass
	<u>Gunnera magellanica</u>	pigvine
	<u>Juncus scheuzerioides</u>	small jointed rush
2. Valley green (6,000kg DM/ha)	<u>P. pratensis</u>	smooth stalked meadowgrass
	<u>G. magellanica</u>	pigvine
	<u>Blechnum magellanica</u>	fern
	<u>Festuca magellanica</u>	native fescue
	<u>Deschampsia flexuosa</u>	wavy hair grass
3. Bogged white grass community (4,500kg DM/ha)	<u>J. scheuzerioides</u>	small jointed rush
	<u>Cortaderia pilosa</u>	white grass
	<u>P. pratensis</u>	smooth stalked meadowgrass
	<u>G. magellanica</u>	pigvine
	<u>B. penna-marina</u>	small fern
4. Lax white grass communities (700 - 3,000kg DM/ha)	<u>F. erecta</u>	land tussac
	<u>C. pilosa</u>	white grass
	<u>G. magellanica</u>	pigvine
	<u>B.penna-marina</u>	small fern
	<u>Myrtealo nummulara</u>	
	<u>Festuca sp.</u>	fescues
	<u>Luzula alopecusis</u>	
<u>Bryophytes</u>		
<u>Oreobolus obtrusangulus</u>	oreob	
<u>Baccharis magellanica</u>	christmas bush	



1 1. Natural vegetation

2 Table 1 summarises those principal naturally occurring plant com-  
3 munities identified by the GTU as being important to the sheep industry.  
4 Estimates have been made of annual dry matter production. Coastal and valley  
5 greens provide high quality feed for the sheep but are estimated to comprise  
6 only 5% of the total land area. Whitegrass (Cortaderia pilosa) communities  
7 account for 40 to 50% of the land area, but provide forage of relatively low  
8 feed value. Diddle-dee (Empetrum rubrum) is generally regarded as of little  
9 value to grazing stock. Laboratory analyses are being carried out to  
10 determine feed values of some of the more important species.

11 Whitegrass growth, early in the season, is slow but it accelerates  
12 during midsummer. Dieback from the tip has been found to occur in December  
13 and increases through the season. Other species also grow slowly in the  
14 early part of the season, possibly due in part to lack of moisture and low  
15 soil temperatures. The GTU has found that on average only 23% of the  
16 available feed in whitegrass is green. Burning removed about 80% of the  
17 standing material. When compared with an unburned patch the ratio of green-  
18 to-dead whitegrass was three times greater in the first year following  
19 burning. To maintain the high green-to-dead ratio following burning it is  
20 essential to change grazing management. Studies are being undertaken at  
21 North Arm (Peat Banks and Sound camps) on a lax whitegrass community to  
22 record changes in the amount and quality of individual grass species under  
23 one such system of controlled grazing.

24 Diddle-dee is the second most abundant plant species after whitegrass.  
25 Attempts have been made to improve camp dominated by diddle-dee by its  
26 partial destruction with a flail mower, the theory being that:-

- 27 a. finer grass species would be encouraged;  
28 and b. young diddle-dee of better feed value would grow.

1. Results are inconclusive, but close flail mowing will kill diddle-dee.

2 Tussac (Poa flabellata) at one time was more widespread, but through  
3 uncontrolled grazing is now restricted to specially preserved areas (e.g.  
4 islands and points) and may be used for overwintering dairy cows and horses.

5 In its present state the production potential from the natural vegetation  
6 is low and is unlikely to sustain high levels of individual animal output.

## 7 2. Introduced pastures

8 Introduced grasses have been sown throughout the Falkland Islands since  
9 the early 1950's, particularly in the drier less-productive diddle-dee areas.  
10 Generally Yorkshire fog (Holcus lanatus) and occasionally bents (Agrostis spp.)  
11 were introduced, usually without fertilizer. Other species such as cocksfoot  
12 Dactylis glomerata, red fescue Festuca rubra and perennial ryegrass Lolium  
13 perenne have been tried, but Yorkshire fog has been the most successful.  
14 Many such reseeds have regressed. Some of the early work of the GTU looked  
15 into the possibilities of their salvage and improvement of output by top  
16 dressing with fertilizers and the introduction of other grass species. In  
17 some instances the old reseeds responded to applications of lime and phosphates  
18 and/or the introduction of other pasture species.

19 Direct drilling of pasture species into open camp by means of a Bettinson  
20 3D drill was tried in several places. One was at Roy Cove on diddle-dee  
21 ground, while another was at Goose Green on whitegrass camp. On both sites  
22 Yorkshire fog was drilled and it established and grew without the aid of  
23 fertilizers, but no spreading from the drills occurred. Stock were attracted  
24 onto the whitegrass area at Goose Green within the first year of drilling  
25 and this in turn may improve the utilisation of the natural vegetation and  
26 thus its quality. It has not yet been possible to assess fully this technique  
27 in the Falkland Islands, but it must be noted that direct drilling is proving  
28 to be of only limited use in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

TABLE 2

Soil analysis on experimental reseeds

Site	pH	Soluble P (ppm)	Soluble K (ppm)	Organic matter (%)
Teal Inlet (Picaso)	4.80	2.8 VL	560 VH	37.7
Goose Green (Hope Cottage Rincon)	4.25	3.2 L	760 VH	23.4
Chartres (Goring)	4.80	0.6 VL	600 VH	36.3
Roy Cove (Herbert Stream)	4.40	0.26 VL	400 H	33.8

L = low      H = high      VL = very low      VH = very high  
 (\*pH5.5 acceptable for pastures on high organic matter soils)

1 More recently the GTU has turned its attention to establishing large  
2 areas of reseed using both introduced species (red fescue, cocksfoot,  
3 perennial ryegrass, smooth-stalked meadow grass (Poa pratense) and common  
4 bent (Agrostis tenuis)) and compound fertilizers. Trials at Roy Cove and  
5 Chartres on the West, and Goose Green and Teal Inlet on the East have shown  
6 that a seed mixture containing these species sown at 28kg per hectare (25lb  
7 per acre) with 250kg per hectare (2 cwt per acre) of FISON'S 'HEAVY LAND'  
8 (12:24:0) will establish and grow following rotovation (on its own), or  
9 rotovation and burning of the resultant trash. Table 2 indicates soil  
10 chemical analysis of the four sites. No particular species has done con-  
11 sistently well or consistently badly in the first year of study.

12 In a study which started in January 1980 at Teal Inlet the establish-  
13 ment of introduced grass species was improved by the inclusion of lime in  
14 the seed bed. The addition of nitrogen also increased the percentage ground  
15 cover, but the response to phosphorus was unclear in this trial. With the  
16 highest level of nitrogen at 64kg per ha (51 units per acre) the inclusion  
17 of lime did not improve the level of establishment. The information from  
18 this experiment is still to be fully analysed. Further work is planned and  
19 in progress.

20 After a sward is established it is important to know what further  
21 fertilizer dressings will be required to maintain it, and how often such  
22 applications are needed. Early trials (again assessing ground cover) at  
23 Teal Inlet and Goose Green on East Falkland showed that on reseeds in their  
24 second season both nitrogen and phosphorus together increased ground cover  
25 of introduced grass species when up to 64kg/ha (51 units/ac) nitrogen and  
26 64kg/ha (51 units/ac) phosphorus were applied. Only at Teal Inlet did  
27 ground cover improve with the dressing of phosphorus alone. The sown  
28 grasses failed to respond to either nitrogen or phosphorus at Roy Cove

1 and Chartres on West Falkland where water may have been limiting. The  
2 addition of potassium fertilizer had no effect on any site.

3 From time to time clovers have been introduced. In particular white  
4 clover (Trifolium repens) has been tried both with and without inoculation  
5 of nitrogen fixing Rhizobia. Results have been variable but the acidity,  
6 the general deficiency of phosphorus and other factors make widespread  
7 establishment of effective nitrogen fixing clover unlikely at present.  
8 Much development work in the laboratory and field is required, but it is  
9 intended to drill some inoculated clover seeds into the above-mentioned  
10 reseeds when soil fertility has improved following heavy grazing.

11 The study of the introduction of exotic pasture species both with  
12 and without chemical fertilizers is still in its infancy, but so far the  
13 indicators are favourable. Input-output relationships will be determined  
14 both from the biological and economic points of view in due course.

TABLE 3

Present Performance of Falkland Island Sheep  
(expressed as percentage of ewes put to ram)

	Lambs marked	Lambs weaned/ dipped	Hoggs shorn	Hoggs reaching 2½ years of age
Male	32	28	26	23
Female	34	31	28	25
Total	66	59	54	48

Typical recorded body weights:

Adult ewes at mating	36 - 48 kg
Lambs at birth	3.5 - 4.5 kg
Lambs at weaning	18 - 25 kg
Adult weathers after shearing	50 - 55 kg

Overall stock losses (excluding culls and consumed)	11%
Annual loss of adult sheep	10%
Average wool produced (all classes)	3.59 kg

1 Animal production

2 Present production and performance

3 Today the majority of sheep in the Falkland Islands are of the Corriedale  
4 type, although many other breeds (including Merino, Cheviot, Polwarth,  
5 Romney and Lincoln) have been introduced from time to time. It is difficult  
6 to obtain meaningful averages of sheep performance in the Falkland Islands,  
7 but in Table 3 there is a general summary of stock outputs and losses. These  
8 data are from stock record books from about half of the Falkland Island farms  
9 and information from measurements and trials by GTU personnel. It is clearly  
10 illustrated in Table 3 that stock losses are high and lamb weaning weights  
11 are low, emphasising that undernutrition is a major factor limiting output.

12 Studies are being carried out in flocks managed in both traditional  
13 and non-traditional units to obtain more exact information on animal performance  
14 (e.g. cycles of body weight and condition, wool growth and yield). Figures  
15 3, 4 and 5 illustrate typical cycles of body weight and total wool yield of  
16 all classes of dry sheep. To obtain such information groups of sheep are  
17 weighed, have their fatness assessed and their wool specially marked on  
18 seven occasions throughout the year.

19 Adult dry ewes and wethers have their maximum rate of wool growth  
20 during March and April when their body weight and fatness are greatest.  
21 Wool growth is least during periods of nutritional stress: breeding ewes  
22 have least wool growth from mid-pregnancy to marking time: adult dry ewes  
23 grow least wool in August to September, and wethers, which are typically  
24 run on poorest camps produce least wool in the period July to December.

25 Reproduction

26 Within the programme of study of animal production emphasis is laid  
27 upon obtaining more information on the capacity of the Falkland Islands  
28 sheep for reproduction. A series of investigations have been designed to

1 determine:-

- 2 a. The ovulation rate and its seasonal pattern;
- 3 b. Mating success;
- 4 c. Embryonic and foetal mortality;
- 5 d. Lambing percentage (number of lambs born, marked and weaned).

6 Ewes were slaughtered at intervals during the 1980 breeding season (February  
7 to July) to determine the pattern and rate of ovulation in groups of adult  
8 and maiden ewes on Pebble Island (see Figure 6). The information from this  
9 study, that ovulation is at a maximum in May, is supported by limited data  
10 from North Arm and Goose Green.

11 Detailed records from Pebble and elsewhere indicate that in general  
12 almost all ewes are mated at least once. Slaughter experiments show that  
13 embryonic and foetal mortality during early and mid pregnancy respectively  
14 are both about 10 and 3%. GTU records indicate that 90-95 lambs are born  
15 per 100 ewes put to the ram. This contrasts with the marking and weaning  
16 percentages reported in Table 3. It becomes simple to calculate the  
17 principal period of loss knowing the number of animals conceived, born,  
18 marked, weaned and shorn.

19 Lamb birthweights of 3.5 to 4.5kg and weaning weights of 18 to 25kg  
20 are low to normal for the Corriedale breed indicating a lack of adequate  
21 nutrition. It is generally recognised that lambs with low birthweights are  
22 more likely to die at lambing time. Similarly the low weaning weights are  
23 likely to affect the animals lifetime performance.

24 These facts on sheep performance and reproduction permit several  
25 conclusions about the sheep in the conditions generally prevailing in the  
26 Falkland Islands:-

- 27 a. Lambing percentages are unlikely to reach more than 100%;
- 28 b. Sheep are often very short of food particularly during late winter



1 and spring;

2 c. Stock losses, particularly in young stock, are high.

3 These conclusions in turn indicate ways whereby increased output is probably  
4 best achieved:-

5 a. Improvements in reproductive rate through keeping alive the animals  
6 born;

7 b. Increases in individual wool production will be achieved through  
8 improved nutrition and other factors.

9 Further investigation is required. The genetic potential for ovulation  
10 of the Falkland Island sheep and the ewe's ovulatory and reproductive  
11 responses to changes in body weight and condition before mating will be the  
12 subject of a new study.

### 13 Animal health

14 Many aspects of the animal health and animal production programmes  
15 overlap. For example, in investigations into young stock losses, the role  
16 of endoparasites or metabolic disorders must be considered.

#### 17 Diseases and their control

18 Many of the diseases common in farm animals of temperate zones are  
19 not encountered in the Falkland Islands or have not yet been discovered.  
20 The nature of the soil and very extensive system of sheep farming probably  
21 prevents many diseases (such as foot rot) which have been introduced in  
22 imported sheep in the past. Sheep scab (caused by Psoroptes communis var  
23 ovis) was introduced but has long since disappeared, and recently the ked  
24 (Melophagus ovinus) has all but been eradicated. Extensive lesions (Caseous  
25 Lymphadinitis - known as boils) may be observed in lungs, livers and carcasses  
26 of slaughtered animals. The economic significance of this problem cannot  
27 be accurately assessed, but it is believed to be the cause of a significant  
28 invisible loss by reducing animal output through discomfort, tissue damage

1 and debility.

2 Hydatid cysts have been recorded in recent years in animals and  
3 humans. Before the start of the eradication campaign in 1970 over 30%  
4 of sheep were infected. By 1979 the incidence in adult sheep was less than  
5 10% due to strict control of offal disposal, dog kennelling and a compulsory  
6 dog treatment programme using Droncit (Praziquantel - Baer).

7 There is a joint GTU/Sheep Owners Association programme now in progress  
8 to eradicate Brucella ovis - a major cause of epididymitis. All rams are  
9 blood sampled annually and the sera screened for the presence of B. ovis  
10 antibodies by the complement fixation test. The national incidence in 1980  
11 was 5.6% with 15 out of 34 farms being infected. All rams producing a  
12 positive reaction to the test are slaughtered as potentially less fertile  
13 animals. To be declared B.ovis free a farm will be required to have two  
14 successive years without any ram producing a positive reaction to the test.  
15 At least a further two or three years will be required to eradicate the  
16 disease.

17 Other problems relating to health

18 Several mineral imbalances may occur in the Falkland Islands sheep.  
19 Favourable economic responses to administration of cobalt bullets have been  
20 recorded on some parts of West Falkland, with reductions in mortality of  
21 both young (hogg) and adult stock. The cause of this apparent deficiency  
22 has been studied but this is a notoriously complex subject and progress in  
23 understanding the problem has been slow. Further trials involving minerals  
24 are not planned at present.

25 Worms are known to exist in the Falkland Islands sheep. The following  
26 species have been recorded:-

27 a. In the stomach:

28 Haemonchus contortus

1                   Ostertagia circumcincta

2           b. In the small intestine:

3                   Trichostrongylus vitrinus

4                   Nematodirus filicollis

5                   Strongyloides papillosus

6                   Moniezia expansa (tapeworm)

7           c. In the large intestine:

8                   Chabertia ovina

9                   Trichuris ovis

10          d. In the lungs:

11                   Dictyocaulus filaria

12   Ostertagia sp., Trichostrongylus sp. and N. Filicollis are probably the most  
13 economically important.

14           It has generally been believed that gut parasites have little effect  
15 upon sheep production in the Falkland Islands. But it is well known else-  
16 where that the presence of worms reduces the condition of sheep and their  
17 ability to survive harsh conditions. Preliminary observations indicate that  
18 some young sheep in the Falkland Islands may become very heavily infected  
19 with worms after weaning. Monitoring programmes and investigations involving  
20 management changes and the use of anthelmintic drugs are helping to measure  
21 the effect of worms upon sheep production and mortality.

22           Changes in systems of production which may involve heavier stocking  
23 rates or periods of stock concentration will possibly bring about changes  
24 in animal health. It is very important to monitor animal health when alter-  
25 ing systems of production.

26           Goose study

27           Part of the GTU remit is to study the Upland and Brent geese with a  
28 view to quantifying their impact upon production.

1           During the last three years an understanding of the Upland Goose life  
2 cycle, population dynamics, diet and food requirement has been formed.  
3 There is now some information on seasonal changes in population density on  
4 various pasture types on East Falkland. Geese are attracted to reseeded,  
5 but control by shooting is unlikely to be effective since geese move in  
6 from elsewhere. Scaring devices are also unlikely to reduce goose damage,  
7 for the Upland Goose is indifferent to man's presence and unfamiliar objects  
8 and sounds.

9           Indirect methods of control are more likely to succeed. For example  
10 reseeded should be sited away from water to prevent heavy grazing by shedding  
11 flocks. The GTU will be studying the effect of reseeded grass length and  
12 quality on goose numbers in order to obtain an idea of the form of pasture  
13 management which produces a sward least attractive to the goose during  
14 different seasons.

#### 15           Systems of animal production

16           Only after extensive collection of data, study and experimentation is  
17 it possible to construct new systems of animal production and management.  
18 Nutritionally, the three most important periods of the breeding sheep year  
19 are:-

- 20           a. one month before to one month after mating;
- 21           b. one month before lambing starts;
- 22           c. during early and mid lactation.

23           Figure 7 illustrates the food requirement curve of a breeding ewe  
24 throughout the year.

25           The two-pasture system for the management of breeding ewes aims to  
26 provide a method of budgeting or rationing available feed so as to make the  
27 greatest possible nutritional impact upon lamb production. In the Falkland  
28 Islands this has been achieved by fencing within ewe camps to separate the

1 best quality natural herbage (valley and coastal greens) from poorer areas.  
2 The sheep graze the better areas before mating and again from late pregnancy  
3 through to weaning. At other times of the year when their food requirements  
4 are less they are herded into the poorer area thus resting the better quality  
5 pasture. Experience of this method of lamb production is limited and on  
6 some farms success is more likely than on others. Small improvements in  
7 lamb output by some farms are claimed, while no benefit is observed by  
8 others. It is probable that in some cases advantages will always be small  
9 because of insufficient high quality feed in the better area to merit the  
10 change in management. By reseeding, more high quality pasture is made  
11 available in the better areas. The GTU is now investigating the effect of  
12 reseeding upon output in such a system of management.

13 Other non-traditional systems of sheep production have been investigated  
14 e.g. rotational grazing of natural vegetation. The GTU is measuring and  
15 recording changes in production associated with one system.

16 Questions yet to be answered

17 What is the Falkland Islands sheep's response to improved nutrition  
18 throughout the year? It is planned to determine the breeding ewe's reaction  
19 to changes in body weight and condition prior to and during mating. Will  
20 young stock losses be reduced with improved nutrition or are the principal  
21 causes of loss the terrain or management? Will more wool be cut if dry  
22 sheep are better fed? What is the best cycle of weight and body condition  
23 for maximum wool growth in the Falkland Islands?

24 How does the natural vegetation respond to heavy grazing? What  
25 happens to introduced species when sown into natural swards with and without  
26 concurrent changes in management in the Falkland Islands? What are the  
27 economic responses to fertilizers in the Falkland Islands? How is sown  
28 pasture best managed for its maintenance and to make the greatest impact

1 upon production?

2           There are still many other questions to be asked and answered before  
3 real changes in systems of production can be made. To date many innovations  
4 have been introduced to bolster traditional methods of production. The GTU  
5 seeks supports for both traditional and new systems of wool and lamb production  
6 for the Falkland Islands.

Appendix

Technical Term

1		
2		
3		
4		
5	exotic	introduced, improved
6	regressed	deteriorated
7	rotovation	cultivated by rotovator (rotary hoe)
8	innoculation	introduction of small quantities
9	embryonic	early stage of lamb in female
10	foetal	later stage of lamb in female
11	ovulatory	egg producing potential or capacity
12	endoparasites	internal parasites e.g. stomach worms

1 Project personnel in August 1980

2 J A FERGUSON Sheep production specialist and Team Leader  
3 R S WHITLEY Veterinary Surgeon  
4 A S GRIEVE Veterinary laboratory technician/biochemist  
5 MISS M R BURKETT Pasture agronomist  
6 A E WATSON Agronomy assistant  
7 N KEENLEYSIDE General Assistant  
8 MRS S HALFORD Secretary  
9 Previous personnel  
10 C D KERR Sheep management specialist and Team Leader  
11 until November 1979  
12 J H McADAM Pasture agronomist  
13 R W SUMMERS Goose Officer  
14 J HARRADINE Goose Officer  
15 MISS H ROGERS BIOCHEMIST  
16 T P MAITLAND FIELD OFFICER

17 The GTU thanks all persons who aid and support its work throughout  
18 the islands. The co-operation of all farm managers is especially acknowledged.

19 The GTU is funded by both the Overseas Development Administration,  
20 Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH and the Falkland Island Government.

21

22

23 August 1980

24

25

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FIGURE 1.

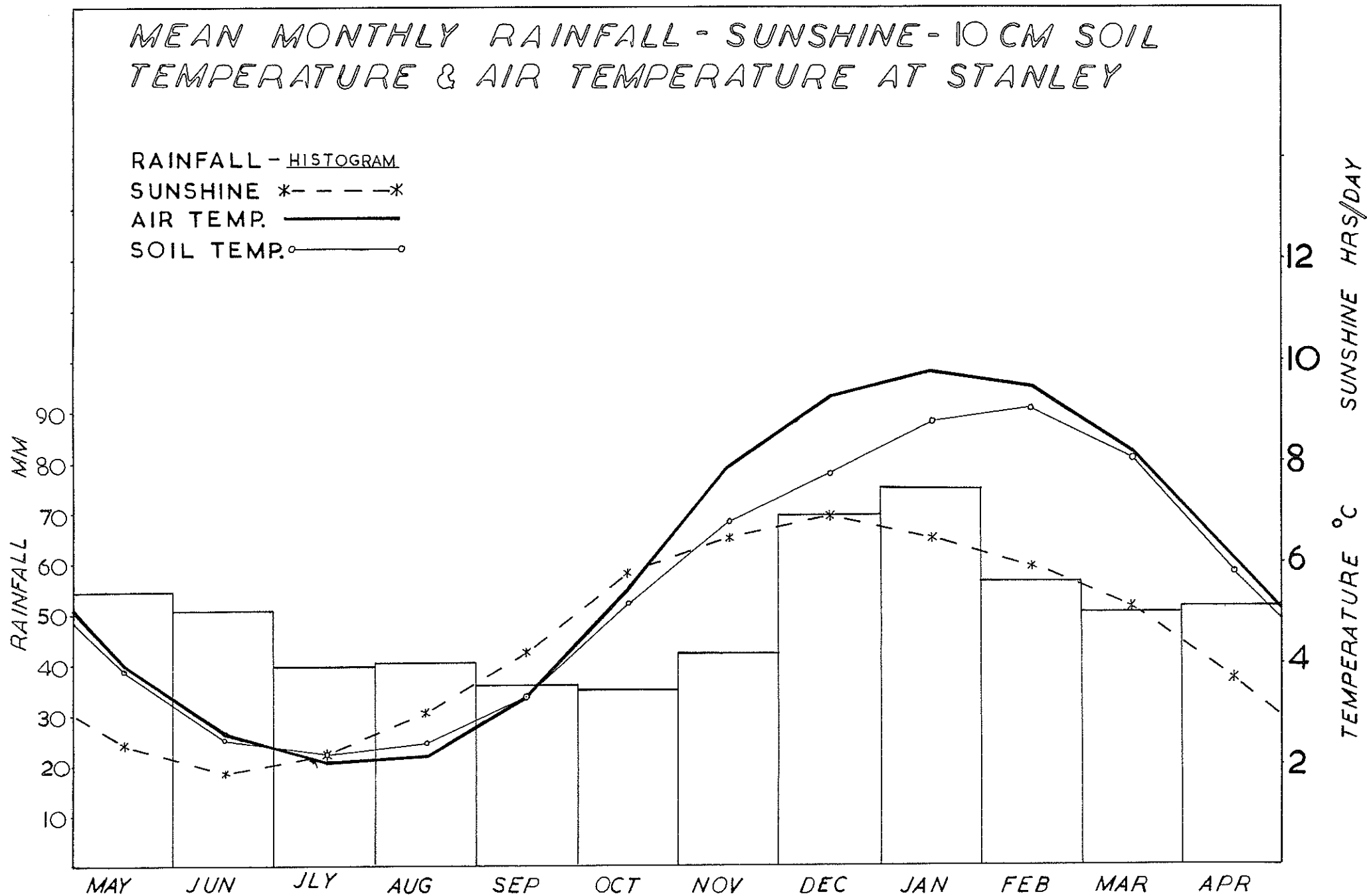


FIGURE 2.

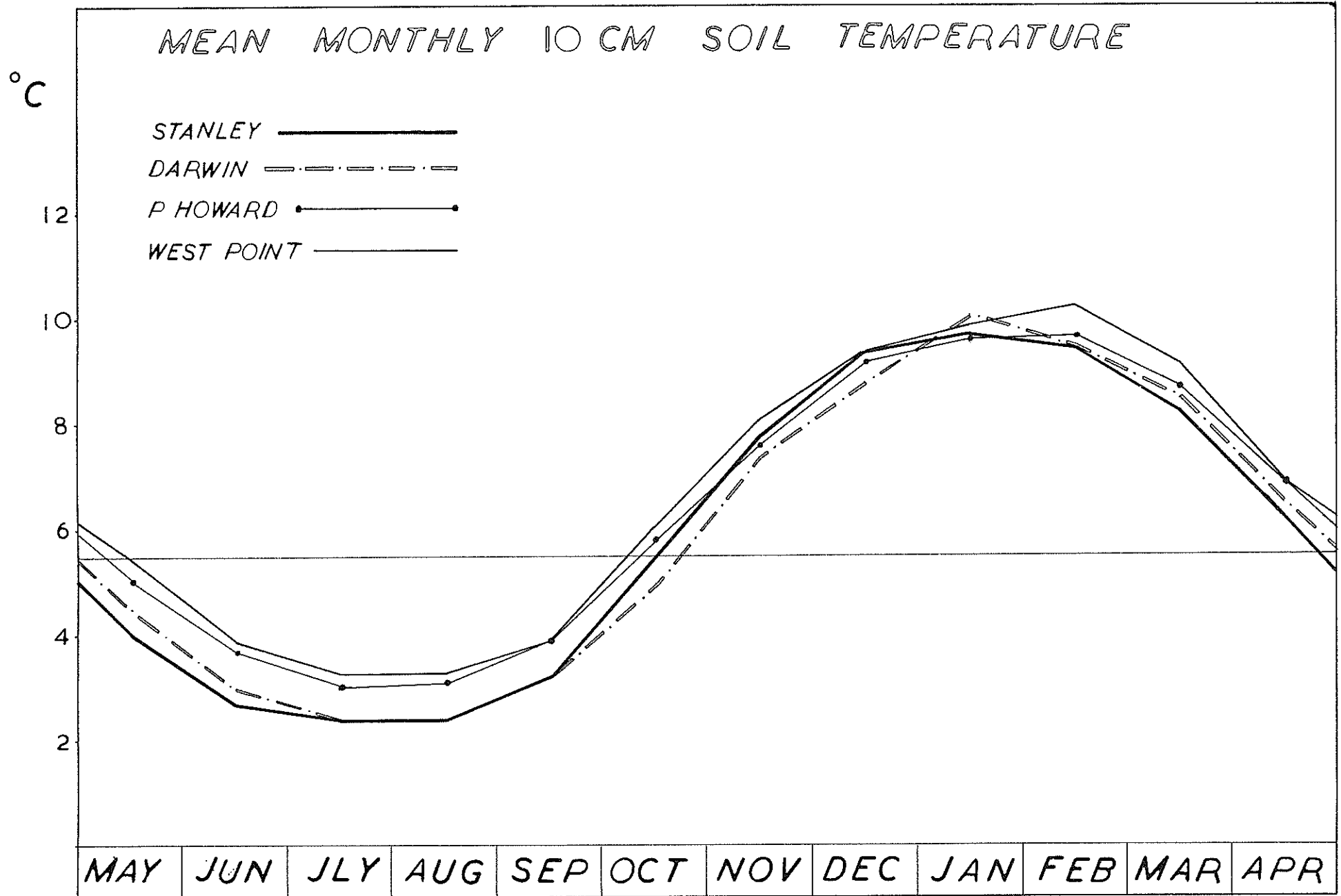


FIGURE 3

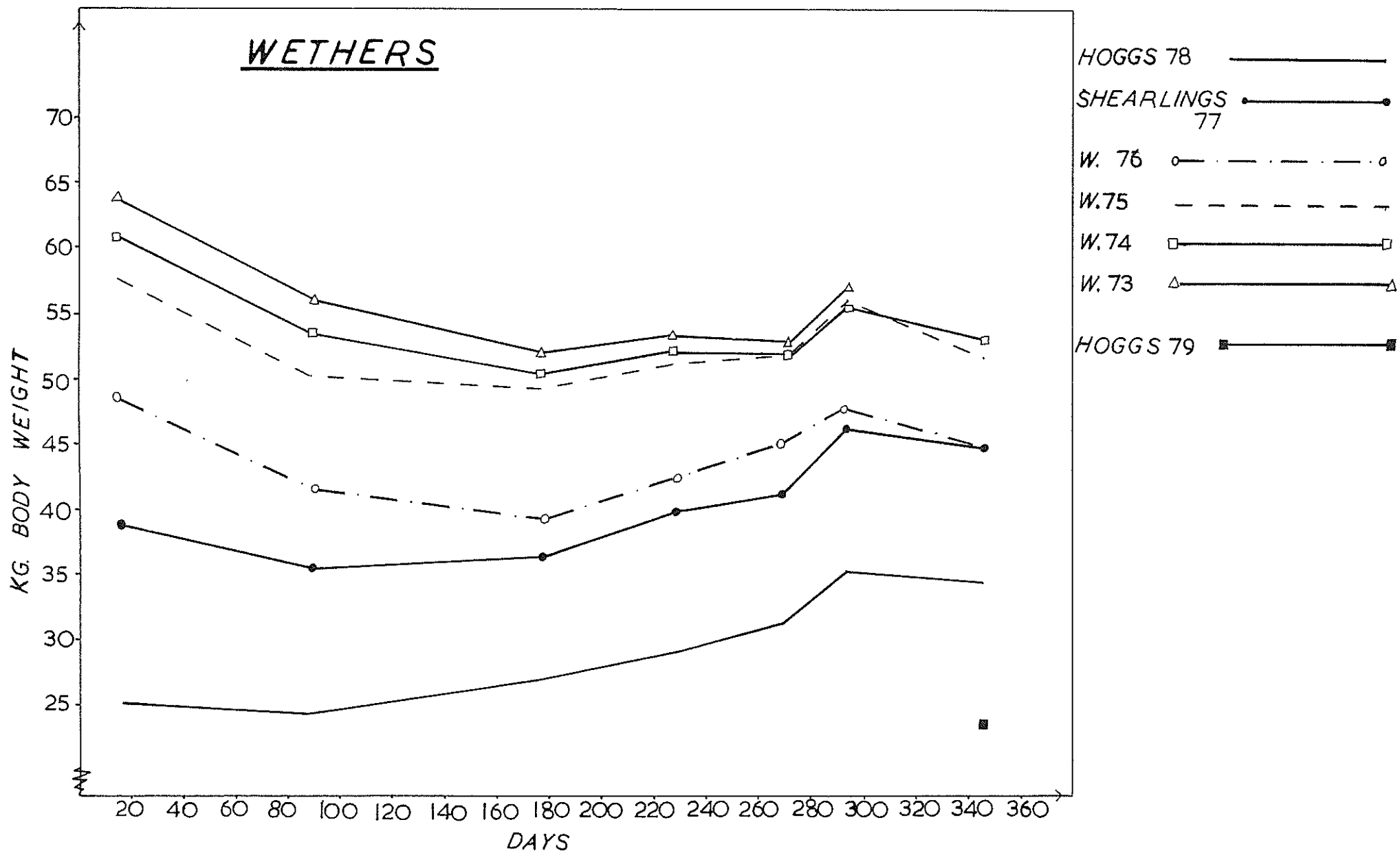


FIGURE 4

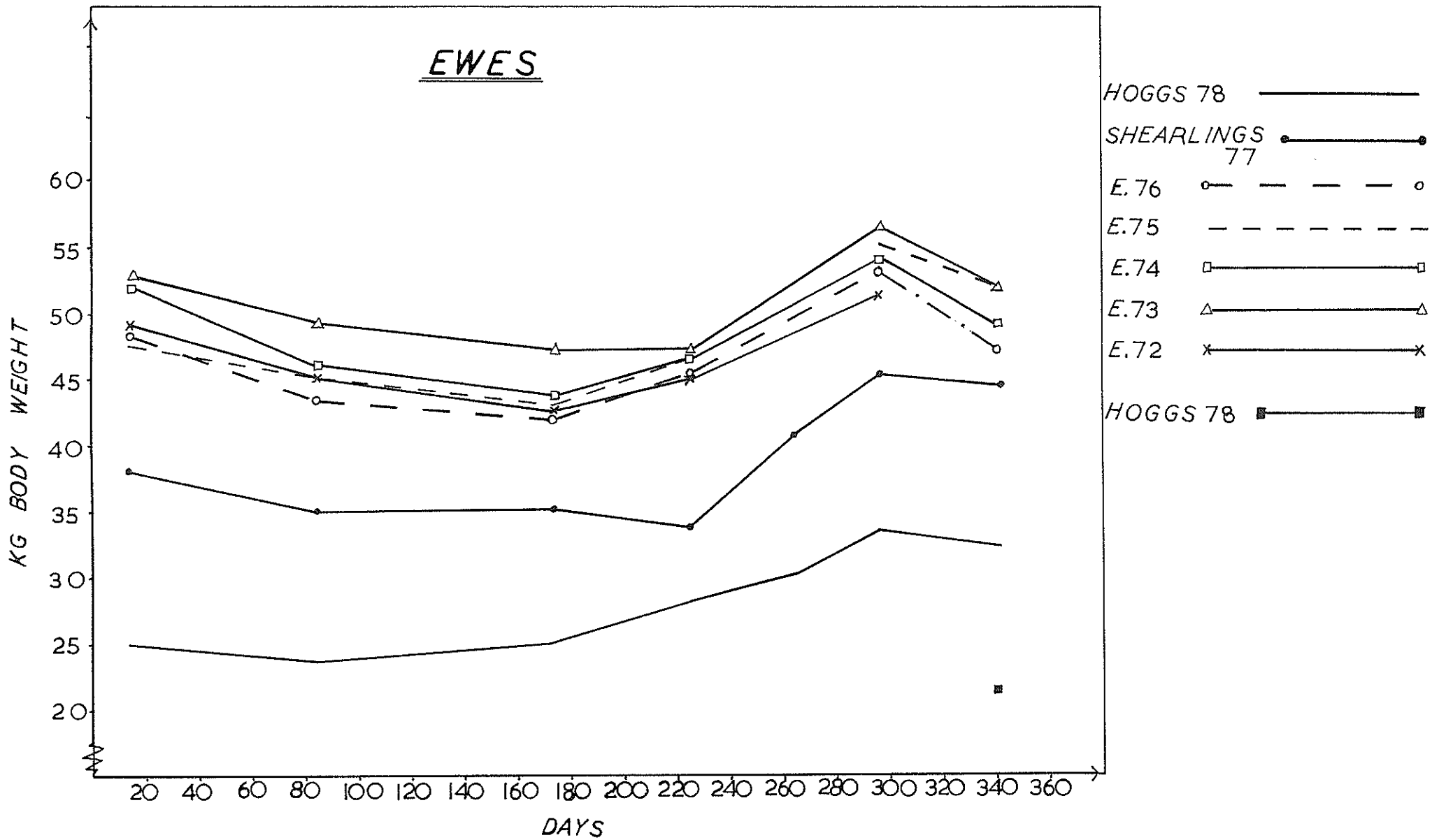


FIGURE 5

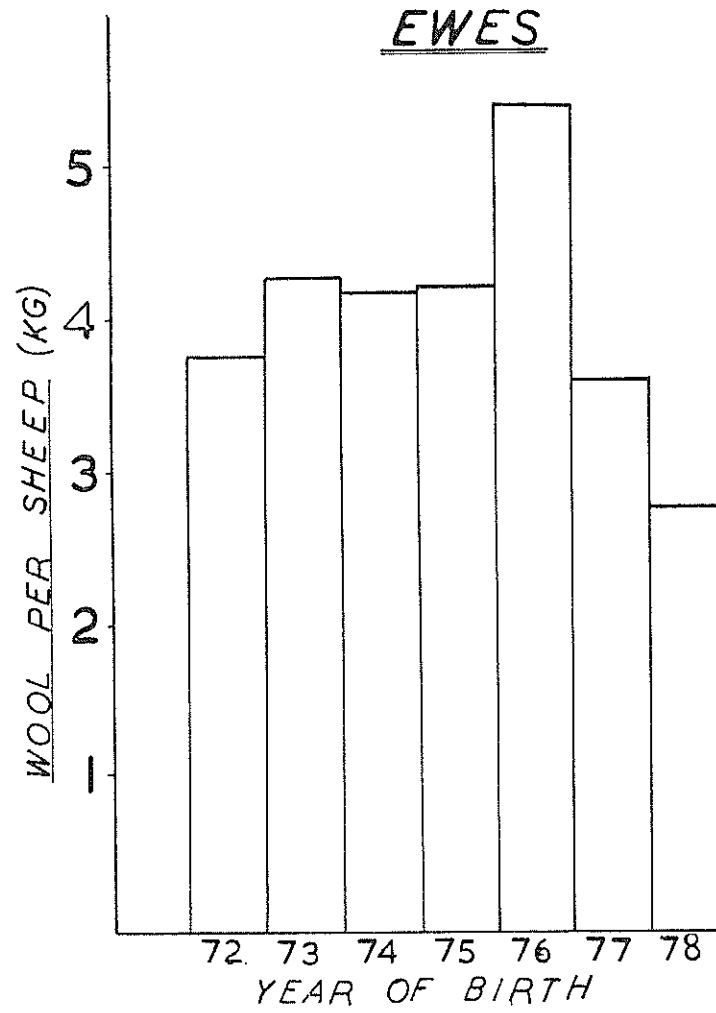
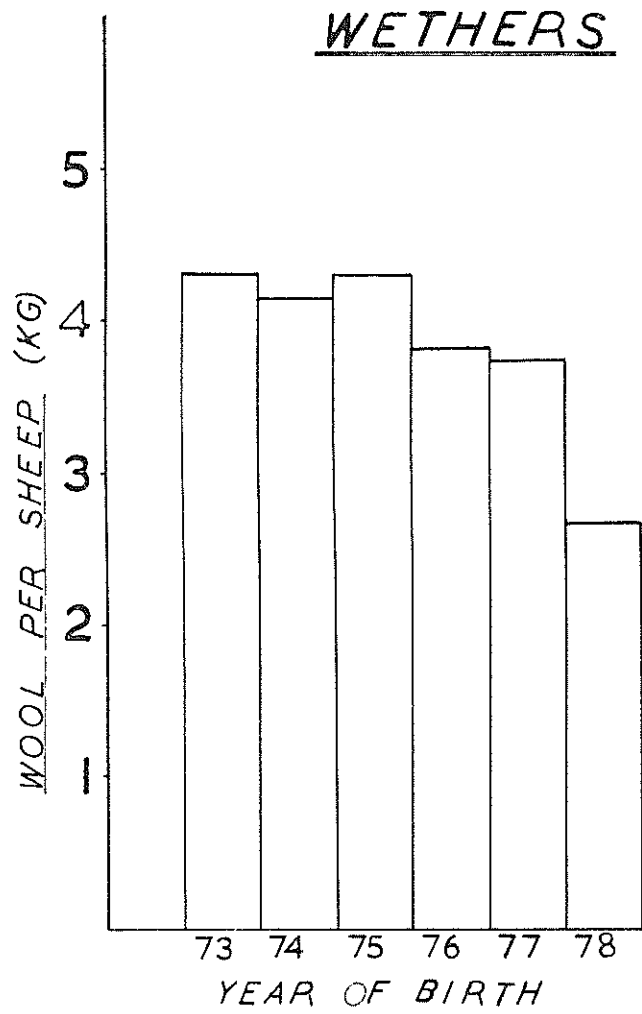


FIGURE 6

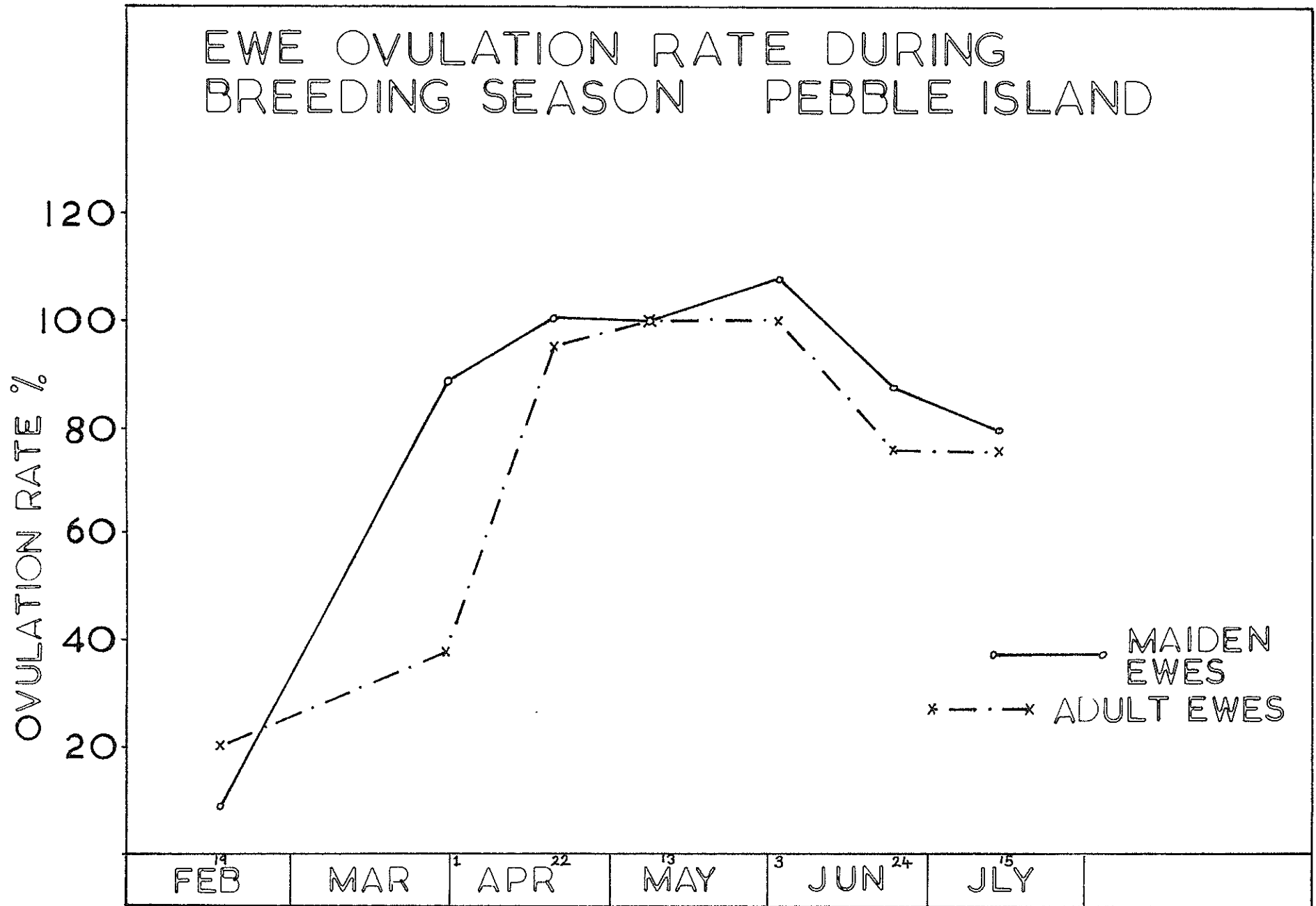


FIGURE 7

