P/WOO/1#31



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 27 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1992

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The Wool Press is Published by the Department of Agriculture Editors - David West and Mandy McLeod

EDITORS PAGE

With Christmas and the arrival of the stud flock we were unable to print a January issue of "Wool Press" so here is a bumper two month issue ! Devoted fans of "Diary of a Farmers Wife" previously printed in the Penguin News will be pleased to see that we have acquired monthly extracts from this distinguished journal.

If you would like to contribute to the March edition please send in any articles, cartoons etc. by 27th February.

With the National Stud Flock a hotly debated subject in the islands at present I was amused to read the following piece in "The Sheep Farmer" magazine ; " A sheep farmer in Australia got a contract to sell some of his best Merino rams to an Arab country. So good was the price he was offered that he decided to travel with them to make sure that they arrived in perfect condition. The Arabs were so delighted with these superb rams when they arrived that they ate the lot !!!!!

DAVID WEST MANDY McLEOD



"Who the hell's been cutting holes in the shearers' quarters curtains?"

33 The Circuit Cheadle Hulme Cheshire SK87LF

Dear Mr West,

I have been given your name by the National Sheep Association of which I am a member. Until next June I am on a sheep and beef course. I am 21 and have worked on a variety of farms (Dairy, Corn, Sheep, Beef and Vegetables) in the U.K. for the past 5 years, including last year when I had 100 ewes myself. I have a preference for work with sheep.

I am enquiring about working in various areas and would very much appreciate it if you could put me in touch with a potential employer in the Falklands. I expect to get aroung 150 a day standard shearing this season.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Pease

*createries/createries

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The sub-committee set up by the Farmers Association to look into animal welfare in the Falklands has now reached a stage where it is able to present to the Farmers Association Committee members a suggested "Code of Practice" for the treatment of animals in the Falklands.

It is hoped that as soon as the information has been presented to the committee and commented upon it can be published in the WOOL PRESS for all farmers to study. The Chairman of the Farmers Association then hopes that a full scale debate will take place after this years Autumn farmers open day where members of the legal profession including the Attorney General will be in attendance.

The sub-committee have already found that there will have to be a number of changes in the law if what is considered to be common farming practice in the Falklands is to continue.

I think we can all look forward to a lively constructive debate after the open day!

ROBIN LEE January 1992

ORF, SCABBY MOUTH OR CONTAGIOUS PUSTULAR DERMATITIS

Three names for the same disease, which is currently affecting about half of the sheep that were recently imported from Tasmania.

Orf is a viral disease, caused by a parapoxvirus which can only replicate in the skin and causes the lesions around the mouth that gave the disease its common name. It also causes lesions around the coronet, often in older lambs which can be more persistent. Sheep and goats are most commonly affected, however other species, like musk ox and mountain goats and also man can become infected.

The first signs are small scabs around the corners of the mouth which may quickly spread and increase in thickness and size, giving the appearance of dark wart-like lesions, which may prevent the lamb from sucking. The ewes udder may become infected from the lamb and this will result in her not allowing the lamb to continue to feed. At that stage an increased mortality of lambs can be expected. In older animals some severe cases may prevent the animals from eating, but in general no great problems are to be expected.

In the individual animal the lesions will persist for a period of 3 - 5 weeks, but in a flock this may obviously be much longer as not all animals will become infected at the same time. The disease is readily transmitted from one animal to the next and in a flock usually a great percentage will become infected. As a small abrasion on the skin will aid the virus to penetrate into the tissues outbreaks are often seen when sheep are forced to graze on pasture that can induce those abrasions, like gorse, oat stubble etc.

One big problem is the persistence of the virus which lies in great numbers in the scab material and which will retain its infectivity for, in some cases, years, and even under very unfavourable conditions for at least six months. Thus it can remain infective enough to be passed on to the next generation of lambs which are fully susceptible. Recovered animals may also continue to carry the virus and they may present another source of infection. As it is difficult to test for the virus in the environment, the only way of determining whether the virus has been eliminated from a flock, is to expose some susceptible sheep to the flock, in conditions that should favour infection.

In the flock of Tasmanian sheep the disease was possibly introduced by one or more healthy looking carriers, which then passed it on to the others who had been grazing on very short pasture, to get their weight down for the flight, thus allowing some abrasions to develop around the mouth. Within a week to ten days the number of infected sheep had increased from about 40 to 260+, and due to the vaccination programme that was carried out in Tasmania prior to their departure more can be expected over the next few weeks. A week or so after numbers stabilise they should show a decline, at a somewhat slower pace until all lesions are resolved. Two months after that one could introduce the first susceptible animals into the flock, to see whether they would develop the disease over time. The real test comes at lambing when a new crop of lambs is born with no previous history of infection, if the virus persisted in the environment these lambs would develop orf.

The present outbreak of "pink eye" which is also affecting the flock should follow a similar pattern, i.e. affected numbers will continue to increase to a peak from which there will be a slow decline. Unfortunately some eyes may be permanently damaged and the sheep remain blind in one or both eyes, although in general, the majority of eyes are fully restored.

M REICHEL JANUARY 1992

EXTRACTS FROM STEVE WHITNEY

The following extracts concerning Orf and Pink Eye in the Falkland Islands were taken from Steve Whitneys report "Veterinary Research and Disease Control in the Falkland Islands 1976 -1983".

"C/. Contagious Pustular Dermatitis (Orf)

Davies (1971) reported that this generally benign disease which principally affects lambs had a "wide but local distribution in the Falklands".

A disease - probably orf - had been reported as a sporadic condition affecting sheep at Hill Cove and Port Stephens (L.G. Blake, P. Robertson; pers, comms respectively). The disease occurred in sheep grazing certain particular areas and was reported as being a "mild" condition with no fatalities.

In the 1980/81 season, outbreaks of orf occurred on Weddell and Beaver Islands and primarily affected lambs causing the characteristic mouth lesions (scabby mouth). It is possible that the disease first occurred on Weddell Island and was transmitted to Beaver Island by the movement of sheep. Since the initial outbreaks the disease has not been seen on Weddell but is an annual event on Beaver Island. The greatest incidence is in lambs and hoggs grazing an area where there is much <u>Poa</u> robusta (a short spikey grass).

In 1981, an outbreak of orf affected ram hoggets at Hill Cove and the virus was identified by electron microscope in scab samples sent to Edinburgh (A. Rowland; pers. comm.) In this instance, the primary injury to the lips of the sheep which permitted entry of the virus and which probably acted as a mechanical vector was gorse (<u>Ullex europeaus</u>). The sheep were in a paddock in which the grazing was short and in which there were many trimmings from the gorse hedges around about. None of these outbreaks was "severe" but, in each case, several young sheep were adversely affected and it is possible that, as a consequence, some may have died. The disease rapidly resolves when animals are removed from the predisposing cause (i.e. the <u>Roa robusta or gorse</u>). The possibility exists that some of the very scabby and deformed ears often seen in lambs at marking time may either be the result of infection with orf virus or , alternatively, with Dermatophilus congolese bacteria. Distinction between these two possible causes is difficult.

It is probable that orf virus is widespread through the Falkland Islands but only sporadically causes disease on a flock scale when conditions for its transmission are correct. Its presence should be recognised because of its zoonotic potential.

(iii) Contagious Ophthalmia (Heather Blindness or Pink Eye)

This rickettsial disease was reported by Munro (1924), Gibbs (1946), Fern (1956) and Davies (1971) and was described as being "widespread geographically but many farms are not affected and other farms only see it in certain years". It is reported that the incidence was greater in Spring.

No cases of contagious ophthalmia were seen and no reports of outbreaks received between 1976 and 1983. However, the recent changes in the intensity of shepherding sheep may have meant that outbreaks have not been seen and so not reported. Heather blindness is most commonly seen in young sheep and the disease is of short duration but may cause temporary total blindness resulting in mis-mothering of lambs or death by falling in ditches. The disease is most readily transmitted when sheep are gathered and drafted through dusty races such as at lamb marking and (in years gone by) at dipping times. (The cessation of compulsory dipping may be a factor in the decreased incidence of this disease.)"



"Well, what have I always said?...Sheep and cattle just don't mix."

ESTANCIA SHEARING COMPETITION

The FIBS coverage of the shearing competition on the 29th December will have put you all in the picture, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our first effort such a success.

I must admit to approaching the event with some trepidation and a number of misgivings but Tony was not to be deterred. We are now debating in the same vein as to whether it is to become an annual event or leave it as a "one off".

The weather was kind to us and many people were able to enjoy the day. Liquid refreshments were supplied by Ray Newman's Portakabin bar - and I rarely saw the Burger Van without a queue, not to mention the great Bar-b-q masterminded and operated by Mike, Jeannie and Kathleen.

Unfortunately, the fun events we had hoped to go on to in the afternoon never materialised because of the large number of entrants in the Shearing Competition. There were 27 in the open competition which gave the spectators some superb shearing. We were pleased that there were enough entries to allow Novice, Junior and Intermediate classes. Hopefully, numbers for these classes will increase if there is a next time!

Obviously the entrants really made the competition a success, but we must not forget the many people who helped in so many ways, both during and before the competition. Special thanks to Brook Hardcastle for co-ordinating it all on the day. Without him it would never have run so smoothly and without Eileen we would not have had the accompanying spinning and knitting competition.

THE SHEARING COMPETITION RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Novice (three entries only)

1.	Jan Clarke (Tankard	, two combs,	£40)	19.42	min
2.	Gillian Phillips (o	ne comb, £25)	27.05	min
3.	Jackie Newman (one	comb, £15)		31.23	min

Junior (three entries only)

1.	Lee Molkenbuhr (hand piece, two combs, £20)	15:10 min
2.	Tony Richards (one comb, £50)	15.36 min
3.	Missi Durdy (one comb, £25)	16.33 min

Intermediate (four entries)

1. Shane Clarke, 108 pts (Tankard, pendulum, two combs, £60)

- 2. Mary Howlett, 133 1/2pts (one comb, £50)
- 3. Christopher May, 182 1/2pts (one comb, £25)

Open shearing competition

27 shearers entered and shore five sheep in the first round in heats of four. Eight shearers reached the semi-final:

H.Grierson, 61 1/2 pts
C.MacDonald, 85 1/2 pts
G.Bayne, 52 1/2 pts
K.Eda, 95 1/2 pts
C.Wietini, 65 1/2 pts
J.Jones, 40 pts
P.McKay, 45 1/2 pts
R.Short, 64 pts

Four shearers made it into the final heat and had to shear 10 sheep. They were judged for time, given half a point for second cuts on the board and also for the finished job looking at cleanness of the sheep and were placed in the following order:

		board	job	time	total points
1. 2. 3.	Peter McKay, Geordie Bayne, John Jones,	27 1/2 28 20 1/2	61 79 100	19:30min 19:40min 19:39min	93 113 126 1/2
4.	Hugn Grierson,	30 1/2	99	18:40min	129 1/2

Fred Betts, a veteran shearer on holiday in the Falklands awarded all prizes, giving winner, Peter McKay a hand piece, two combs and £20, Geordie Bayne a comb and £50 and John Jones £25 and one comb. Peter McKay was also the winner of Cleanest Pen of Sheep and received £15, two combs and eight cutters.

Thank you all for coming along and adding to the fun; and to those who got roped into a job - your help was appreciated.

AILSA HEATHMAN JANUARY 1992



WEST FALKLAND SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING 1992 PORT HOWARD

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 23rd February ; 6.30 p.m. Committee Meeting.

Monday 24th February; 9.30 a.m. Dog Trials & Barbecue Lunch at Harps Farm - Courtesy of Mr.& Mrs. R Smith

Tuesday 25th February ; 9.30 a.m. Horse Racing.

Wednesday 26th February; 9.30 a.m. Shearing Competition - Hosted by Bold Cove and Manybranch Farms.

2.30 p.m. Foot Events - at Port Howard.

Thursday 27th February; 9.30 a.m. Gymkhana. 2.30 p.m. Steer Riding. 5.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting. Evening Fireworks Display & Prize Giving.

EAST FALKLAND SPORTS WEEK

ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING 1992 GOOSE GREEN

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 23rd February; *Dog Trials - Course open 3 - 5 Monday 24th February; 9.30 a.m. Horse Racing. 9.00 p.m. - 1.30 a.m. Dance.

Tuesday 25th February ; 9.30 a.m. Gymkhana. 4.00 p.m. Football Match.

Wednesday 26th February; 9.30 a.m. Shearing. 2.30 p.m. Polo. 8.00 p.m. AGM. 10.00 p.m. Fireworks.

Thursday 27th February; 10.00 a.m. Childrens Sports (includes mounted events). 2.30 p.m. Steer Riding. 9.00 p.m. - 2.00 a.m. Dance***. 11.00 p.m. Prize Giving.

*** Admission - One £2.00 ticket purchased at the meeting * Entries for the Dog Trials + Accommodation to be in by 7th Feb.

My thanks to Ann Robertson and Alison Hewitt for the above sports week information.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK

As everyone is now aware, the National Stud Flock of 500 ewes and 25 rams, plus an additional 125 sheep purchased privately, arrived at MPA not long after midnight on January 7th. Our thanks must go to Air Movements personnel at MPA for ensuring that all the animals were safely off-loaded in the minimum amount of time possible.

The sheep were transported in their crates from MPA to a holding paddock at Mare Harbour by Bonner's Haulage. Paul ensured that this difficult operation was completed with a minimum of mishaps. By 9 am the following morning all the sheep were settling into the holding paddock which had been erected by Keith Heathman. Due to an outbreak of Orf in the flock it had been decided that all the sheep would be transported to Sea Lion Island for an extended guarantine period.

On Monday the 9th, Paul Bonner and his men were again involved in transporting the sheep to the main jetty at Mare Harbour for loading onto the Forest for their voyage to Sea Lion. Four voyages were required to move the whole flock and all the sheep were safely landed on Sea Lion by Captain George Betts and his crew, which was a tremendous achievement.

The flock is now being cared for by the Department of Agriculture and Falkland Landholdings' staff. The health of the flock is being carefully monitored and frequent visits are being made by Michael Reichel (Veterinary Officer).

The two main areas for concern at the moment are the continuing Orf problem and an outbreak of `pink-eye' which could have been exacerbated by the unavoidable stress which the sheep have been subjected to. The length of the quarantine period has yet to be decided, although it could be prolonged until the ewes have produced their first lambs.

As the owners of privately purchased animals will wish to see a return on their investment as soon as possible, alternative breeding arrangements for these animals is being investigated. For example; obtaining fresh semen from private rams for A.I. on the owners farm, and mating private ewes during the guarantine period.

The National Stud Flock Breeding and Advisory Group will meet during the first week in February. This group will examine plans for the Stud Flock and advise on their implementation. The National Stud Flock Breeding and Advisory Group is composed of the following members:

Margaret Goss - representing East Falkland. Ron Binnie

Nigel Knight - representing West Falkland. Jimmy Forster

Owen Summers - ex officio for Department of Agriculture. Robert Hall

Robin Lee - ex officio for Falklands Land Holdings.

Breeding management of the flock will be facilitated by the use of a computer based recording package, "Flockmate", developed by the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture.

We will, of course, keep farmers informed as to the progress of National Stud Flock and the private sheep on Sea Lion Island. If further information is required on any aspect of the project do not hesitate to contact the Department of Agriculture.

ANDREW HENWORTH JANUARY 1992

AI RESULTS 1991

The questionnaires covering the 368 inseminated ewes in the 1991 season have now been collated. 197 ewes being reported to have conceived to the artificial insemination; that is an overall conception rate of 54%.

In total, 203 lambs were born and survived the first 24 hours. which represents an overall lambing percentage of 55.2%. This figure is not guite the same as the traditional lamb marking percentage, but compares reasonably well with what I would expect for the season in the main flock.

106 of the lambs were the result of single pregnancies, with 7 (6.6%) dying after the first 24 hours, 97 the result of multiple pregnancies of which 34 (35%) died after the first day. Those lambs are obviously weaker and / or the ewe unable to supply an adequate guantity of milk for two or more lambs. The higher mortality in the multiple birth pregnancies may also be a good reason to decrease the amount of fertility stimulating drug.

Interesting differences between the various rams that supplied the semen could be observed:

MOUTERE (M 1031) had a conception rate of 61.7%. BIRCHFIELD BOB had a conception rate of 64%. FAIRFIELD COMEBACK had a conception rate of 53%. ROCKTHORPE had a conception rate of 58.3%. DUNGROVE (CORMO) had a conception rate of 53.5%. GLENESK 89-68 had a conception rate of 9.4%.

The low conception rate of the GLENESK 89-68 prompted us to check the semen in our laboratory but no obvious faults were detected. However, the conception rate is appallingly low and on five different properties, so the ewes can almost totally be ruled out as the cause. I have been in touch with Stuart Robertson in Tasmania and we are hoping to come up with an explanation.

MICHAEL REICHEL JANUARY 1992



DIARY OF A FARMER'S WIFE

After our gathering exploits / disasters call [em-what-you-will, things have steadied down a little. Just a little! I'll draw a the drafting as it's too painful and fresh a memory over veil but shearing went well. This was due to our having an yet, excellent contract shearer who was quite happy to take on all the Normally the Boss would shear along side him, but young sheep. as he is still suffering aches and pains and the shearer Was happy to tackle all the sheep, it seemed sensible to let him have We are starting to see real returns from our invest-'em all! ment in Merino blood: the wool is much softer as well as finer. This makes for harder shearing but in better times will also make for a better wool cheque. We now have a good number of half-bred rams from which to choose our main flock sires for next season. This year we are looking carefully at fleece weights when selecting the best rams to keep.



It was good to meet the current vet for the first time. He came out to tackle various jobs including the marking of young tomcats - Chivers and Hartley. Hartley came around peacefully from his op' but Chivers tookthings to heart and went AWOL the Portakabin (which was in used as a post-operative recovery ward). I finally spotted a ginger confused and anxious face way back underneath \mathbf{the} old bunk beds which I use as shelves to store cones of wool, and hauled him out (carefully) the scruff of his by neck. "What the heck did he go under for?" I wondered aloud. there "Probably searching for his missing bits" replied the Vet.

Another veterinary job involved the horses but this wasn't easily achieved as the wretched animals managed to melt into the landscape. It took three sorties into the horse paddock before I spotted them lurking in a hollow. The Vet was extremely patient, but it was a good job he was overnighting with us.

aspect of his visit was the inspection of teeth for any One done by volcanic dust (animal teeth I should stress, damage anyone is in any doubt). Our sheep are not as badly in саве affected as some other farms' flocks apparently, but the horses teeth are rounded and polished like pebble jewellery instead of being their usual sharp and jagged shapes. Keen to assist with this tooth project, the Boss disappeared in search of specimens, returning some minutes later, knocking on the window to summon the Vet and myself outside. There he stood looking like something from a low budget Hammer Horror film, or an extremely Grimm

fairy tale - triumphantly brandishing a severed sheep's head that was dripping blood everywhere.... It's at times like this that I could happily turn vegetarian! (Perhaps I should explain that the head came from a recent casualty of the post shearing weather - and not from a victim of the boss's enthusiasm for practical research).

Life lurches along in a funny old way. One minute I'm cursing the dust and thinking of emigrating on the plane that brings in the stud flock from Tasmania - and the next minute I'm full of wonder at the sight of myriads of delicate Pale-maidens and thousands of chirpy daisies, brightening the ground all around our home.

If they can survive the doom and gloom, then surely I can do the same?

GOAT UPDATE

Since their arrival in the islands, the original importation of 61 female and 5 male goats (plus one kid born at sea) has been reduced by the death of four adult females (does) and one of the males (bucks). The last few months has seen an increase in the population with the addition of 38 kids to the herd. The grand total of animals now stands at 100.

As was expected, the move from Northern to Southern Hemisphere had long reaching consequences on the reproductive performance of the does' and as a result, only 28 does successfully conceived and are now rearing kids - 10 sets of twins and 18 singles comprising of 20 males and 18 females. All the kids are growing well, the site at Darwin having provided a good area for kidding in terms of nutrition and shelter. Sam Sinclair will testify to the fact that the kids, like their mothers, are extremely active, agile and boisterous to say the least. His help and that of Tony McMullen is much appreciated.

The first phase of a nutritional trial involving the goats was also completed in December. The trial will extend over a period of twelve months and is designed to evaluate the intake and selection preferences of the animals in order to assess their compatibility with sheep. With this information, we shall have a clearer idea of whether goats can be run with sheep in a complimentary rather than competitive fashion.

JO BAUGHAN JANUARY 1992

WHY THERE?

Everyone has different views and ideas on matters common to all of us and since many people have chewed the rag with me over my views on fleece inspection points both here and overseas, I will try to briefly toss the argument open.

Virtually all stockmen, stud breeders, show judges, scientists and recognised publications state the area best suited for fleece inspection being the mid-side. WHY? Because "It represents an average (micron or whatever) of the fleece as a whole" Absolutely sound. I have no quarrel or dispute with this. Where my doubts lie is in the wisdom of always only having an "average".

Recently acquired Australian publications shown to me by theDepartment of Agriculture indicate that the research carried out there showed that the fibre diameter from shoulder to tail varied only up to 4 microns and held that this was not readily detecta classer. Apart from the fact that several thousand able by expert woolsorters once employed to dismantle fleeces on a quality count basis would hotly dispute that one. I believe that the variation quoted, will, as most things are in "Oz", be being said over the back of a flock of fine, even fleeced Merinos. Fair It's a bit odd though if you know your flock does have enough! animals in it (which can breed others) with a variation which can produce a downy feeling `A' shoulder and a paintbrush quality tail end all on the one animal! You couldn't really subscribe to idea that there was only 4 microns variation possible in it the and must be laughed off a sorting board.

So all the while one is taking the trouble to eliminate the chain of propagation of these faulty sheep but still having to sell what they grew over the previous twelve months, as well as having to select breeding animals with its presence in mind. It has to be fair to treat that product accordingly. Why throw the good bit in with the 'C' or 'X - bred' line? Why keep the animal breeding if a check of the mid-side reveals the classers idea of a 'B' ?

The micron can "run off" or "blow out" at the rate of a micron a year (or worse)! a trait particularly noticeable in cross-breds and fine tuned unstabilised crosses. You would only be bringing on more coarse tailed breeders if the fleece wasn't looked at as a whole as well when selecting studs especially. So why not look to the worst part first? It has to get better as you move forward doesn't it? After all, if some sheep can grow identical looking britch wool to that of the shoulder, then one can't be blamed for wanting to look at the tail first. How vital is this mid-side average in this case?

One thing last years visit to Tasmania convinced me of was that pre-shearing classing of breeding ewes is worth the most when making radical improvements. We have stated this with this years replacements and nothing that didn't rate an 'A' or 'B' grade fleece went for the main flock use. Combined with a heavy culling programme for coloured fibre and running hair fault, I await our separate bale test results eagerly. There is no way we could objectively select on visual appraisal, many of the 370 - odd culls on the basis of a mid-side lock. I would rather know the worst, or one is deluded into thinking that the variation between mid-side and tail is going to be too little to be concerned with.

In years to come I hope it will be, or we are really in trouble! We're not there yet.

N.PITALUGA JANUARY 1992

"WONDER" LEGUME!

I recently received a letter from Aiden Kerr in Australia wishing all his friends a merry Christmas and a happy (merry-hic!) New Year.

His letter also included details on Caucasian clover (*Trifolivin ambiguum*). Bob Reid (some of you may remember) was a camp teacher on Bleaker Island in the early 1960's and is now working for the Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture) in Tasmania. He comments that Caucasian clover could do "wonders" for legume based pastures in the Falklands.

This particular legume has been successfully used in revegetation trials in the Central Plateau of Tasmania, an area not unlike the Falklands in climate and soils. Seed has been requested and will be planted along with other legumes and grasses. Let us hope that Bob has found the "wonder" legume for the Falklands.

G_HOPPE JANUARY 1992





ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR CLIP CLEAN?

STAINS, DARK FIBRES, SKIN PIECES, BALING TWINE, PACK MATERIAL AND FOREIGN OBJECTS ARE COSTING OUR INDUSTRY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER YEAR. CONTAMINATION IS THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINT MADE BY PROCESSORS IN REGARD TO CLIP PREPARATION. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS THE GROWER AND/OR CLASSER TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CLIP IS NOT CONTAMINATED. ARE YOU CULLING ANY BLACK AND SPOTTED SHEEP? Black and white sheep should not be run together, as individual fibres can be transfered between sheep. If black sheep are still on the property always shear separately after all white sheep have been shorn and thoroughly clean the shed afterwards. ARE YOU COLLECTING BALING TWINE FROM PADDOCKS, YARDS AND THE WOOLSHED? Baling twine is causing considerable losses to processors. These losses will ultimately be passed back to you, the grower. ARE YOU ENSURING THAT THE SHED IS CLEAN WITH ALL CONTAMINANTS REMOVED AND THAT IT STAYS THAT WAY DURING SHEARING? ARE YOU PROVIDING LABELLED BINS/BASKETS FOR: STAIN? BLACK WOOL? SKIN PIECES? ARE YOU PROVIDING RUBBISH BINS AND ASHTRAYS IN HANDY PLACES AROUND THE SHED? These should be clearly labelled and cleaned out regularly. ARE YOU CHECKING TO ENSURE THAT ALL FOREIGN OBJECTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM AROUND THE PRESS? ARE YOU CHECKING WOOLPACKS FOR ANY LOOSE PACK MATERIAL? Loose fibres should be placed directly in a rubbish bin. DON'T RUBBISH YOUR WOOL

OR IT MIGHT NOT CONTINUE TO COMPETE AGAINST CONTAMINATION FREE SYNTHETICS.

For further information, copies of these sheets or the "Code of Practice for Preparation of Australian Wool Clips" please contact the Australian Wool Corporation.

The most common forms of contamination include:



WITHIN CLIP

*STAINED WOOL

one staple of stained wool (urine stains are the worst offenders) in a bale of white wool can prevent it from being used for white or pastel cloth.

*BLACK AND COLOURED FIBRES

one staple of black or coloured fibre in one bale of white wool is enough to prevent it from being used for white or pastel cloth.



*SKIN PIECES

can damage machinery and cause blotchy dye uptake.

FOREIGN OBJECTS

*BALE TWINE AND STRING

polypropylene bale twine and string will spread through the wool during processing causing the yarn and final fabric to be marred.



*BALE CAPS AND PACK MATERIAL

bale caps and bags cause blocking and damage to machinery. Parts torn off will fibrillate and spread through the wool during processing. The result is unevenness of the yarn as well as uneven or blotchy dye uptake, particularly, when the yarn or fabric is dyed a darker shade.



***TOOLS AND METALLIC ITEMS**

bale hooks, press handles, spanners, pliers, cans, bale fasteners, wire etc. will cause extensive damage to processing machinery.



*CIGARETTE BUTTS, PACKETS, MATCHES, PAPER can spread through the wool during processing causing uneven dye uptake particularly when the yarn or fabric is dyed a darker shade.



*MISCELLANEOUS CLOTHING AND RAGS can damage machinery and cause uneven dye uptake.

QUALITY CONTROL.

The phrase "Quality Control Centre" is one that is applied to the well run wool shed. This is because during the stages between the shorn fleece being picked-up from the shearing board and being pressed for export, the farmer and his staff have the opportunity to improve the product that is being offered for sale. "Improving the product" means that the fleece is made more suitable for purchase by the manufacturing customer.

Fibre diameter, fibre length, colour and vegetable matter content are factors which are particularly important to the manufacturer. Locks, stained wool, necks and contaminants are removed and wool is classed, because accurate skirting and classing improves the product in respect to these factors.

For the farm to maximise its income from selling consistent and improved guality wool, the faults must be completely removed, yet all good wool should be left on the fleece, all the time. Control of this quality improvement process is part of woolshed management. Methods of control include observing the job being done and checking both ones own work or that of helpers/employees. The following are easy checks that can be done each spell:

1. ODDMENTS: Check oddment bins every so often to ensure fleeces are not being over skirted. The stained wool bin should only have stained wool in it, whilst the necks bin should only contain short, cotted wools with vegetable matter and Kemp fibres; neither bin should have stain free full length fleece wool.

2. FLEECES: Fleeces should be checked for under-skirting by the classer and farmer unrolling odd fleeces and checking that all faults have in fact been removed.

3. CLASSING: Classing should be checked every spell by just going into each bin and ensuring that the lines of wool are being classed consistently.

Control necessitates not only checking these points regularly, but also correcting things that are wrong and encouraging those who are doing their job well. Simple practises such as observing and checking work, will ensure that a woolshed is indeed a guality control centre.

ROBERT HALL. FEBRUARY 1992.



"We think he has contacts Vicar, every time he has a hangover it rains!"

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW REPORT 1991

The standard of entries in the `fifth' West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show can only be described as increasing in excellence, this was the opinion of not only the progressive and innovative farms that sent or brought rams and fleeces to Fox Bay Village, but also of those that came to observe, judge and generally have a good time'.

The fleece table sagged under the weight of 77 fleeces, 36 of these were in the Hoggett fleece class, 23 in the 'Fine wool' class and 18 in the 'B' wether class.

The individual pens bulged with twenty six extremely handsome rams, seven of these were in the A.I. progeny hoggett class, eleven in the local progeny, hoggett class and eight in the Mature Ram Class. As usual each entry was allocated a number, no names were displayed.

After the entries closed the visitors and residents alike moved to the New Social Club where inside liquid refreshment could be obtained in vast quantities. Outside in the same quantity more solid sustenance could be obtained, this was of course at the Barbecue' once again in the capable hands of Richard and Griz Cockwell. The focus of attention for all present then reverted to the 'Woolshed' where the ominous task of judging the entries began, Judging was the same as last year and by Public Ballot. Interested members of the public who considered themselves capable of such a difficult task started off by Judging the Ram Hoggett classes, this was followed by the Mature Ram class. Each ram was judged individually by awarding points out of ten. Rams they considered to be the best would be allocated higher points than the ones they considered less worthy.

The fleeces were judged differently, here the participants were asked to select what they considered to be the five best fleeces in all three 'Fleece classes'. Their five were also ranked in order of preference. After the judging votes were collected and added together. Those entries with the highest number of votes won that particular class. Prizes being awarded for the entries with the four highest number of points. The collating of the results was carried out admirably once again by the Show Secretary Niamh Howlett.

At 6.00pm all assembled for the prize giving, Doug and Eileen Howlett kindly agreed to distribute the prizes at this years show. They are the parents of Steve Howlett who as most people know contributes a great deal towards the success of the `show'.

THE PRIZES WERE AS FOLLOWS

'Full Wool Ram Hoggett' (A.I.Progeny) 1st Fraser McKay, Teal River - 383 points; 2nd Bernard Betts, Boundary Farm - 377 points; 3rd Leon Marsh, Rincon Ridge - 299 points; 4th Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm - 283 points.

'Full Wool Ram Hoggett' (Local Progeny) 1st Dave Dunford, Saddle Farm - 320 points; 2nd Bernard Betts, Boundary Farm - 303 points; 3rd Bill Luxton, Chartres - 247 points; 4th Bernard Betts, Boundary Farm - 242 points. 'Full Wool Mature Ram' 1st Bill Luxton, Chartres - 335 points; 2nd Dave Dunford, Saddle Farm - 307 points; Bill Luxton, Chartres - 283 points; 3rd 4th Nigel Knight, Coast Ridge Farm. The Champion Ram this year was owned by Fraser McKay; The runner up was a ram owned by Bernard Betts. Fleece Wool, 'Hoggett Wool' Class 1st Bill Luxton, Chartres - 64 points; Dave Dunford, Saddle Farm - 56 points; 2nd 3rd & 4th went to Bill Luxton, Chartres - 51 & 36 points. 'Fine Wool Fleece' Class 1st Clive Wilkinson, Dunnose Head Farm - 103 points; 2nd, 3rd & 4th went to Bill Luxton, Chartres - 97, 78 & 76 points respectively. 'B Wether' Class 1st Bernard Betts, Boundary Farm - 89 points; 2nd & 3rd Bill Luxton, Chartres; 4th Roger Edwards, Lake Sullivan Farm. The challenge cup for the farm with the most points in all classes went to Bill Luxton. Bill Pole-Evans made the closest guess to FRAZZLES actual weight. The best guess at the weight of a ewe hoggett fleece was won by Alistair Marsh. The best guess Fibre Diameter taken from a midside sample was shared by Sally Blake and Leon Marsh. Dunnose Head Farm won the 'Finest Tested Bale' competition with a bale of Hoggett wool with an average test result of 22.1 micron. The Sheep Judging competition for the under 21's (newly introduced to the Ram & Fleece Show) was won by Emma Edwards, with Jeffrey Halliday as runner up. The organisers would like to take this opportunity to thank sponsors, entrants and the general public for their support, interest and enthusiasm. A special mention must go to the Department of Agriculture Sub-Centre at Fox Bay for their invaluable support. Thanks also to the committee of the Southern Cross Social Club, FIGAS for carrying fleeces free of charge, THE WOOL PRESS and FIBS for keeping everyone informed, and last but not least, the residents of the Fox Bays for entertaining visitors so well.

11

N.A. KNIGHT CHAIRMAN W.F.R. & F.S. JANUARY 1992

CARE OF YOUR HANDPIECE

The following article has been extracted from a recent New Zealand Wool Board leaflet and was written by their senior shearing instructor Peter Carver.

Fault Finding

Grinding:

As 90 per cent of supposed handpiece malfunctions are due to poorly ground gear, first ensure that your combs are evenly ground over the whole surface with no white hairlines visible on the cutting edges. Cutters must be evenly ground over the whole surface with no dull tips. Check the performance of the handpiece properly sharpened gear before taking any other corrective with measures.





The comb bed or base plate:

In order to keep weight to a minimum, the body or handle of the handpiece is kept quite thin. This means it can be easily distorted by rough treatment. Constant dropping on the floor or being kicked from the shearer's hand to smash against the wall can bend the comb bed well beyond the manufacturer's tolerance.

The distortion of the comb bed is the second most likely reason for handpiece malfunction - after poor grinding. It is difficult to diagnose but chattering of the handpiece is one indication. A correctly aligned bed will be parallel to the screw bushing and at 90 degrees to the tension bushing.



It is quite common for the fork yoke retaining spring to become sufficiently bent to actually divert the tension from the tip of the cutter to the base of the cutter.

This happens particularly with Lister handpieces. The handpiece will not cut and a polished mark will be visible on the back of the cutter where the retaining bar has been rubbing. If the spring is not functioning correctly, the best course is to remove the front section of it.

Tension assembly:

Check that the tension nut is lubricated only with a few drops of oil. If the nut is packed with grease it will not apply a constant even tension and the cutter will not cut. Another reason for having to apply more tension is when the screw busing (Sunbeam part No Sh28587a) comes loose and gradually unscrews from the body. Considerable care is needed when tightening this bush as the flanges which locate the tension spring are quite brittle.

Note too that excessive wear on the sliding sleeve tension pin, or top cup, will give uneven tension across the throw of the fork yokes. it will then be necessary to replace the tension sleeve, the tension pin and the top cup in the fork (Sunbeam, part Nos. 76259A, 76260A and 27602A).

Centre post and cup:

The centre post of the handpiece is - unfortunately - adjustable. With normal use the back of the post wears against the back of the bottom cup to form a smooth complementary pivot surface. Once this surface is created it is most important that the post is not moved from its original working position. The post setting is not critical and will have little effect on how the handpiece cuts. Do not adjust the post setting unless you are installing a new post and bottom cup along with your new season's supply of cutters. if for some emergency reason the post is removed or comes loose, post and cup must be replaced so that both have their worn surfaces to the back.

Parts:

Make yourself familiar with the parts of your handpiece and order them by the correct description and part number. Replace the centre post and bottom cup and the tapered spindle pin with each new string of 40 or 50 cutters. Other parts which may need replacing at this time would be the drive cogs and the joint guard i.e. the back leather. ł



AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

Monday 13th January saw the completion of a three day course on Wool handling and Book Keeping for this years ATS (Youth) trainees, my thanks go to all concerned especially Derek Short and the owners of Estancia and Bluff Cove farms. This course was the last of the monthly training courses for the 1990/91 ATS (Youth), at the beginning of March the trainees will undertake a series of practical assessments in the following subjects;

> Shearing Wool handling Tractor driving Welding Book keeping

The results of these tests combined with all marks achieved during the year will determine the most successful trainee. Australian exchange student, Roger Hunt, asked me to pass on his thanks to all the farmers he met during his time in the islands, unfortunately Roger had to cut short his exchange visit for family reasons, on his departure Roger said he had enjoyed the trip immensely and hoped to return to the Falklands one day. Tony Richards our other exchange student is currently working at Pebble Island.

Lee Molkenbuhr and Jeffrey Halliday (top trainees from the 1989/90 course) will be leaving the islands on Wednesday 25th March and will be undertaking a similar programme of work experience to that devised for Lisa and Russell in South Australia.

We have selected two school leavers for this years ATS (Youth) course which will start around mid - late March. If you are interested in hosting a trainee for all or part of their programme and able to offer beneficial work experience for 1991, please could you contact me as soon as possible.

Hopefully, by now, most farmers in the Islands will have seen our wool preparation video, if there are any farmers who would like a follow up advisory visit or training course during their ewe shearing please contact us now.

DAVID WEST JANUARY 1992

NEW PRODUCTS

STENCILS COME TO AN END

The wool bale stencil days may be coming to an end, according to a report in the December edition of the New Zealand Farmer.

It states that farmers in New Zealand will be buying around 55,000 woolpacks with a tough plastic label sewn in to one of the top flaps. On the label there are spaces to fill in the farm brand, description of contents and the bale number using a felt tipped pen.

The packs are a trial shipment organised by the Wool Board and the patent holders and label manufacturers. In Otago 5,500 packs will be closely followed through the woolstores and the shipping process. Each label carries a bar code and a corresponding unique number. Shipping labels will be produced for the brokers that correspond to the bales from the farm. Instead of covering the bales with stencilled shipping instructions, the broker will simply apply the adhesive shipping label over the farm label. This is just the first step. The day should come when the broker scans the bar codes on incoming woolbales. When the shipping instructions are received from the exporters, the broker will print out its own adhesive labels, numbered to match the numbers on the bales in store.

The system will allow a bale to be traced from one side of the globe to a woolstore and farm on the other side. Overseas mills have struggled for years with wool bales they cannot identify because of unreadable brands. The new labels are claimed to be the best solution yet. The label manufacturers say that they can be damaged by cats claws or bale hooks but they are placed where that is most unlikely. An ordinary stencil brand can be used on the bale as well so long as it does not obscure the label. Dark, spirit based felt tipped pens are used for writing on the labels. Ball point pens are not recommended. A rubber stamp of the farm brand is also accepted.

In summary, the benefits are to the farmer (no stencilling labour and gear), the broker (ditto plus a more accurate re-branding operation) and the industry in general. J.



MANDY McLEOD JANUARY 1992

HOME GROWN IDEAS

ADJUSTABLE ROUSIES SWEEP

A cheap adjustable length rousies sweep can be quickly constructed for under £5.00 (far less than commercially available ones) by using a telescopic mop / paint brush handles available from Lifestyles or Homecare and the side section from Marley PVC chuting (as used with swish cladding).



The sweep blade is cut from the chuting as shown above and can be made to any length desired, the length of the blade is not restricted by the kinks which are found when using a plastic container as an alternative blade. Three blades can be made from one piece of chute if the bottom is used as well (see above).

N. PITALUGA SALVADOR

SHEARING SHED IDEAS FROM NEW ZEALAND



A quick way to secure a decoy sheep in the catching pen. The two cords have a knot at the end. They pass round the body of the sheep and are dropped into saw-cuts in the top board. The sheep will stand easily.

WANTED AND FOR SALE

As a new feature we will be printing private advertisements for agricultural goods wanted or for sale from farmers. We will not print trade advertisements. If you have any contributions for this feature please contact the Editor.

FOR SALE

SPARES FOR ROADLESS FORDSON TRACTOR

QTY	ITEM	PART NO	£
1 1 3 2 1 2	<i>OS Axle Shaft Assembly Hub Dust Covers Retaining Plate Stub Axle Sleeve Seal Housing Driving Pinion</i>	A 22243 22250 21887 22242 22246 22294	80.00 50.00 3.00* 3.00* 36.00 3.00*
6	Nut Bearing Adjustment	22253	1.00*
1	Spigot	22233	9.00
1	Swivel Spigot	21579	11.00
4	Slotted Nut Pinion Flange	22297	1.00*
6	Seal Axle Shaft	22226	3.00*
5	Seal Driving Pinion	22292	3.00*
4	Seal Housing	24074	3_00*
1	Bearing Driving Pinion	22291	19.00
2	Adjusting Nut	2.2284	1.00*
6	Journal & Bearing Kit	22222	15.00*
2	Bearing (Pinion)	22290	15.00*
3	Bearing	24278	20.00*
40	Driving Plate	20893	0.50*
40	Friction Disc	21656	0.50*
2	Clutch Shaft & Flange	21970	30.00*
1	Control Spring	23907	10.00
1	Flange Driving Pinion	22195	10.00
2	Trust Pad & Screw	22287	5.00*
6	Gasket	21423	1.00*
		* eac	n

All the above are available from Rodney Lee, Manager, Port Howard Farms, West Falkland.

FOR SALE

Available from March, cull ewes, various ages from four years upwards. Suitable for non fussy breeding or dry running. Also later on, choice of various ages Corriedale and Corriedale -Polwarth cross rams from shearling upwards. Surplus of numbers forces disposal of otherwise usable stock. Contact Salvador Farm on Tel 31199 for further details.

WONDERWOMAN!

I read the following amusing article in SHEARING MAGAZINE.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A FEMALE SHEDHAND

No qualifications and no experience needed but you must:

? Swear like a trooper, drink like a camel, move like a lizard, have eyes in the back of your head and be able to lift, bend, twist, stretch and pull all at once.

? Cope with poor light, ventilation and hygiene, cold, heat, dust, noise and dirt.

? Be able to work with a hangover and live on Alka-Seltzer.

? Be ready to work at short notice, picked up at 6am and squashed in a van with a maniacal driver.

? Have a stomach for the sight of mastitis, maggots, the smell of rams, etc.

? Know first aid and be handy with a needle.

? Be willing to go behind a tree, coping with thistles and the wind.

? Accept the sight of shearers changing at the end of the day.

Engage in stimulating, intelligent conversation with them.

? Be willing to wait at the pub until the driver takes you home.

? Accept that your pay comes six weeks later.

KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON YOUR BROOM AND YOU MIGHT MAKE IT

I think that with a little imagination and a few extras like "can organise and cook meals and provide smoko's while classing" this list of requirements can be adapted to the Falklands situation.

MANDY McLEOD JANUARY 1992

?



LAST MONTHS

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

RECIPE PAGE

Both of this months recipes have been sent in by Ailsa Heathman of Estancia Farm.

FUDGE CAKE

This is more suitable as a dessert .

BASE

TOPPING

5 oz margarine 2 oz brown sugar 1 egg 1 teaspoon vanilla essence 250 g digestive biscuits (crushed) 3 oz coconut (optional) 4 oz butter

4 oz brown sugar

2 tablespoons syrup

4 tablespoons condensed milk

You will need a 8" - 9" square tin (greased).

To make the base, melt the margarine and sugar over a gentle heat. Add the egg (beaten), essence, crumbs and coconut. Mix well and press into the tin. Chill until firm.

To make the topping, melt the butter, sugar, syrup and condensed milk and bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for seven minutes stirring constantly. Pour over base and leave to cool.

MELTING MOMENTS

8 oz butter 8 oz flour 4 oz brown sugar 2 oz drinking chocolate 2 oz rolled oats chocolate drops to decorate

Cream together the butter and sugar. Fold in the flour and drinking chocolate and mix well. Roll into balls then roll in the oats. Place on a greased tray and flatten with a fork. Place a chocolate drop in the centre of each and bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for about 12 minutes.

IF ANYONE HAS A RECIPE OR RECIPES THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR (WOOL PRESS) AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PRINT THEM.

F.I. SURNAMES WORDSEARCH

by Emma Edwards

WPUWILKINSONSUMMERSF HOSPRUCEANIPECHEEK RO T LMORRISONEDRETROPC \mathbf{R} \mathbf{T} \mathbf{E} KAEHASEDWARDSPEVHS N ECTGATVIHESSBIGGSAT EVICHRACDVNTTEKCUBT E Y AMMENKHNOATGTNAPI \mathbf{E} \mathbf{R} ANRBSSEOTUXDONURUK \mathbf{R} O SOROASXLLIGCMNOAC S FW TRCNTTUONRNOTFILCBE L HBCHALLIDAYCAMBELLRA GJMWGNALIGOODWI NAOGN T ANDENANDERSONFORDU \mathbf{D} N F LS EMEI LANPNECKKX S \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} RSCSCI ZHTIMSNRESOO LRRKNPSGGABOGTEOOS N \mathbf{E} LAAAGLEADELLONMGTC E L LYHMYFECWHIARRI \mathbf{T} U L M C MARSHORTKILUKEEKLC \mathbf{E} M SMIHHTDNARTREBONNE RF

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BERTRAND	BETTS	BIGGS	BINNIE	BLAKE
BONNER	BUCKETT	CAMBELL	CHEEK	CHATER
CLARKE	CLIFTON	COUTTS	DAVIS	DICKSON
EDWARDS	EVANS	FELTON	FERGUSON	FORD
FORSTER	GLEADELL	GOODWIN	GOSS	HALLIDAY
HANSEN	HEA THMAN	JAFFRAY	KING	KNIGHT
LANG	LARSEN	LEE	LUXTON	MARSH
MAY	McCORMICK	McGHIE	McGILL	McKAY
McLEOD	MCRAE	MORRISON	NAPIER	PECK
POLE-EVANS	PORTER	ROBERTSON	ROSS	ROWLAND
SHORT	SMITH	SPROCE	SUMMERS	TURNER
WATSON	WHITNEY	WILKINSON		

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CROSSWORD

by

Mandy McLeod.

ACROSS

1	Voorg first grooting
1.	Durg deviced from popping.
ю. О	Old mana far part fina
9.	Old name for peat fire.
12.	GOIGIISN.
13.	Animal between 1 & 2 years
10	OI age.
10.	Definitely not.
17.	TWICE.
18.	Noah s Doat.
19.	Receive / acquire.
21.	Add.
23.	One who uses.
27.	Very large mammal.
28.	Fish eggs.
30.	Feathered creatures.
31.	Seeing organ.
32.	Sheeps' coat.
35.	That object.
37.	Large.
38.	Peat chopper.
41.	Enemy.
43.	Feline.
44.	Place for growing
	flowers and vegetables.
47.	Small imperial measurement
49.	Water bird.
52.	Amphibian.
53.	Place to watch birds.
54.	Note.
55.	Male.
56.	Kind of Marten.
57.	Single foliage.
58.	Christmas type tree.

DOWN

1.	Shel	ltered	por	t.

- 2. Small horse.
- Less age than. 3.
- 4. Horse colour with white hair mix.
- 5. Apple seed.
- 7. Mohammed for example.
- 8. Damp.
- 10. Horse tack.
- 11. Hearing organ.
- 14. Religious Knowledge.
- 15. Castrated male horse.
- 17. Sand hill.
- Exam. 20.
- 22. Put down gently.
- 24. Settee.
- 25. Long fish.
- 26. Type of Antelope
- 29. Ι.

- 33. Make art by scratching?
- 34. Successfully hold.
- 36. To rot.
- 37. Blood carrying vessels.
- 39. Wear away.
- Male honey bee. 40.
- 41. Gave food to.
- 42. Not off.
- 45. Location.
- 46. Flat fish.
- 48. Male Swan.
- Exploration for this 50. to start soon.
- Drink made from 51.
- dried leaves.
- 55. Hello.

P/WOO/1#32



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 28

MARCH 1992

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PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



The Wool Press is Published by the Department of Agriculture Editors - David West and Mandy McLeod

EDITORS PAGE

Welcome to the March issue of WOOL PRESS. This will be my lagt edition as one of the Editors and I will be leaving the magazine in the very capable hands of Mandy McLeod and Robert Hall. One of the original aims of the magazine was to keep farmers informed of developments taking place within the Department of Agriculture and on any issues which affect the farming community of the In the beginning it was suggested that we could not Falklands. maintain a regular monthly magazine with agricultural news and information, I am pleased to say that 28 issues later the WOOL is still going strong and has a circulation of over 150 PRESS copies each month. Most of the issues have at least one contribution from farmers in camp and I would like to thank all those people who have contributed so far. Please keep sending the articles in.

To my mind it is the farming community which make the Islands a unique and special place to live and work and I feel very privileged to have visited so many of the farms during my contract. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have met for their hospitality and wish all the Islands farmers and the Department of Agriculture well for the future.

DAVID WEST MARCH 1992



ACCOUNT BOOKS

Having held the account books since they were printed, F.I.D.C. have recently asked the Agricultural Department to administer their invoicing.

If there are any farmers operating their accounts on a calender year basis, who still have not obtained their books they should contact the Department for a replacement set.

After visiting a number of farms conducting Grant Reviews it seems that most farms are entering their financial transaction in Book 1. However, there appears to be difficulty in linking this information with Books 2 and 3. In contrast, there are farms where the books are being used as a complete accounting package and even used for tax purposes.

The stock of the current set has reached the point where we must consider re-printing another batch. This consequently provides an ideal opportunity to re-vamp the series. This is with the aim of making them both more user friendly while at the same time make them more useful for management purposes.

A number of simple amendments that we feel would improve the effectiveness of the books by simply adding a few extra columns to include:

An invoice number column, this would allow easier cross checking of statements particularly in the case of the F.I.C., where invoices are often carried over from one month to another. Division of the miscellaneous materials column into livestock and other items. Division of the capital expenses column between fencing, machinery and buildings would aid clarity. Other possible revisions include adding an opening and closing balance to assist in reconciling entries with bank statements. Provisions in the book need to be made for farms who continue to operate a farm store (where store transactions are handled as part of the general farm accounts).

The design of any amended version must also allow for a more convenient method of completing the summary sections. This could be achieved by operating a file system with detachable sheets. Detachable sheets would allow the farmer the luxury of starting a clean sheet.

As the Department continues to carry out Grant Reviews we would welcome farmers comments on existing accounting procedures and any possible amendments.

We aim to seek the advice of all interested parties before any revisions are carried out.

ECONOMICS SECTION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FEBRUARY 1991

FARM OPEN DAY

The 1992 open day is to be held at Goose Green on the 12th March. The day will involve visits to the goat grazing trial at Goose Green, with the opportunity to look at Grass Grub damage on route.

The day will give people an opportunity to have a look at the machinery and equipment that will be on show around the farm; and to see the displays by the Department of Agriculture that will be taking place in the shearing shed. These will include:

Condition scoring of ewes; Brucella ovis eradication campaign; Cashmere goats and goat experiments; Grass grub experiment; Lamb marking equipment; Wool weighing systems; Tanning and curing skins; Orf; A.I.

Transport will be arranged from Goose Green to Stanley where talks will take place in the evening. Talks will be conducted by the Department of Agriculture, the Animal Welfare Committee and Farmers Association, the venue being the Town Hall in Stanley.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

With the busy shearing season coming to an end it is perhaps time to think about training courses for the Winter period. We can offer practical training courses at any venue in the following subjects: Arc Welding; MIG Welding; First Aid; Sheepskin Curing; Book Keeping; Generator Maintenance; Tractor Hydraulics; Lambing; Sharpening; Woodwork and Metalwork Skills; Veterinary Tool Sheep Dog Handling; Shearing; Wool Classing. These are Skills: but some of the subjects in which we have already run courses, this list is by no means complete and providing we have a reasonable demand for a course we can arrange a practical session on any agricultural topic.

If you have a request for training in any of the above or a new subject then please contact either your area training organiser or Hugh Marsden and Mandy McLeod at the Department of Agriculture. Whatever your training request we will endeavour to provide a locally organised practical training course.

A.T.S. (Youth) HOST FARMS

We will be selecting host farms for our two 1992/93 trainees by the middle of March. If you would like to be considered as a suitable farm for all or part of their work experience, please contact either myself or Mandy McLeod as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

DAVID WEST MARCH 1992

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

The following is a <u>PROPOSED</u> CODE OF <u>PRACTICE</u> and is still open to suggested alterations. If any farmers have suggestions to make there will be an opportunity in the evening of the Farm Open Day to put their views forward. The Attorney General will be present at the meeting to answer any questions on the legal side.

SHEEP

SHEARING DATES All main shearing should take place between mid October and March 31st. The only exceptions to be:

Pre lamb shearing Scrag shearing Mutton shearing

SHEARING CONDITIONS Farms should abide by GEU/SOA rules. The maximum time any sheep should be kept in a shearing shed without food and water is to be 48 hours. Every holding paddock should have good shelter and a water supply. The recommended shed capacity is 4 square feet per sheep. Shorn sheep should be returned to their normal grazing camps as soon as possible after shearing. As much shelter as possible should be provided in clippy paddocks.

LAMBMARKING Castration by rubber rings should be avoided four weeks after the end of the lambing period. Castration after this period should be done using a standard clamp method. If a vet is not available a knife may be used but it is not recommend from an animal welfare point of view. Care should be taken when releasing lambs from a marking board.

Large numbers of ewes and lambs should not be forced into small pens at lambmarking.

MASS KILLING The three acceptable methods of disposing of sheep are stunning with a proper device, shooting and or slitting of the throat. It is more important to cut the blood vessels than to break the sheep's neck.

Sheep awaiting killing should be treated in a humane way and not starved of food.

TYING DOWN Sheep should not be tied down for long periods, two hours is suggested as a maximum period. When legs are tied together they should not be tied too tightly and should be tied with a wide rope or similar material. The Vet will supply AWC with information on how best to tie animals down.

EYE LOCKING All sheep should have any wool that is growing in front of their eyes removed if their vision is impaired to the extent that it endangers their life e.g. where there is a danger that they might fall into ditches or streams.

DOGS

PILLING Recommended method of pilling is to use meat to disguise the pills. Dogs can be persuaded to swallow pills by the owner using his fingers. If pilling guns are used the end rubber should be kept in good repair and have no sharp or rigid edges. CAGING Minimum size of a double cage should be 12×6 . The ideal cage should have a concrete floor with a slatted wood, easily cleaned, false floor. Minimum size for a kennel should be $2 \times 3 \times 3$ to allow to dog to stand up turn around and lie down. Where possible dogs should be let out once a day. Feeding should be daily. Water should be available at all times. Cages should be cleaned once per week. Dogs should be drenched or pilled against internal parasites on a regular basis.

DISPOSAL If a vet is not available the dog should be disposed of by shooting in the head. The person should be experienced at this method of disposal and the dog should be properly restrained. Drowning is not recommended. Dogs that have been disposed of should be buried.

HORSES

GENERAL Horses should be kept in good condition, where horses are seen to be losing body condition they should be moved to better pasture. Horses hooves should be trimmed regularly and kept free from cracks. Horses should be drenched against internal parasites when necessary. They should also be checked for lice from time to time especially in the early spring.

HORSE GEAR Gear should be removed from horses when they are not being used. Cinches should be kept in good repair. Horse rugs should be kept clean and free from hair. Bits should be of a proper size and shape and protected against chafing.

CASTRATION Castration by knife should only be done by an experienced person if a vet is not available.

DISPOSING OF This should be done by an experienced person by shooting in the head if a vet is not available.

CATTLE

GENERAL Calves should not be weaned onto pastures without supplementary feed unless they are at least four months old. All animals should be tamed and kept in a manageable state. Herds of cattle should not be left to roam for more than a year. All unwanted bulls should be castrated.

CASTRATION Rubber rings should not be used after two weeks. After this time the clamping system should be used in preference to a knife.

DISPOSING OF This should be done by shooting in the head. The animal should be restrained or in a small enclosure. Hydatid laws apply to cattle as well as sheep.

Cattle left to graze small islands should be checked at least twice a year.

Dis-budding: Maximum age limit using the "hot iron" method should be two weeks without anaesthetic. After this time local anaesthetic is to be used. The chemical method can be used up to three months after birth.
ABANDONED CATS A system of fining people who abandon domestic cats should be introduced. Any cat that is unwanted should be put down.

FEEDING Cats should be well fed on a regular basis. Their diet should be well balanced.

MARKING All cats should be spayed or castrated unless they are required for breeding. This should be done by a qualified vet where possible.

DISPOSING OF This should be done by shooting in the head if a vet is not available. Drowning is not recommended.

POULTRY

FEEDING Birds should be fed on a regular basis and have access to fresh water at all times.

GENERAL Housing should be kept clean and free from draft. Birds should be checked for lice from time to time. Hen runs should be a reasonable size.

WILDLIFE

PROTECTED BIRDS AWC to write to the Attorney General and ask for a list of protected birds and to ask if it is legal to take eggs from protected birds.

SHOOTING People should make every effort to find and destroy wounded birds when shooting.

JOHNNY ROOKS Farmers should be able to obtain special permission to destroy these birds in some ewe camps.

SEALS Some farmers should have the right to reduce numbers in fishing areas agreed by the Governor.

TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

LANDROVER OR TRUCK It is recommended that animals should be free standing with proper protection against injury and overcrowding. Bedding should be provided. The vehicle should be well aired.

BY SEA Adequate penning should be provided. The carriage of animals on deck should be avoided if possible. Below deck good ventilation should be provided. Protection and proper penning should be provided to avoid overcrowding and injury.

BY AIR Sheep should be placed in a large waterproof bag with the head exposed and care should be taken when tying down to avoid restricting blood circulation to the legs.

GENERAL

FOOT CARE All animal owners to regularly check and care for the feet, claws and hooves of all animals in their care.

CATS

GET THEM BACK ON THEIR FEET!

With the ewe and lamb gathers and weaning almost finished for this season, I wonder how many people had trouble with lambs getting dehydrated exhausted and collapsing with cramps, often the smaller, weak lambs already scouring from worms or one that is lame from a broken leg. They can be a problem waiting to happen on a long gather and drive on a hot day, especially if coming from a camp a little tight on grazing and low in easily accessible drinking water.

Obviously one gathers at the pace of the slowest, keep the dogs from hurrying them and rest the flock when possible at gates on the drive. For those farms using trikes and quads, a cojinillo over the bars and a bungey spider gives good carrying space to rest weak stock and small trailers at the gate where the drive starts are invaluable for carrying ewes and lambs to prevent total exhaustion. This year we also filled an old drench containers with water, and with the drench gun attached could administer first aid while out in camp.

But what does one do with those lambs that can't get up and walk away from the trailer or bike once at the final destination? When you have 10 lambs lying on their sides, you can't just leave them and hope for the best, as the turkey vultures will be delighted to make them their supper. A useful tip if a sheep does have to be left in camp for a while whilst unable to walk, until they can be dealt with, is put them in bulrushes where turkey don't like to go. Harder for you to find, on returning too, but safer for the sheep!

What we have tried this season, here at Salvador, has helped save at least 10 lambs which would normally have been killed. They all received the correct dose of panacur worm drench, followed by at least 1/2 pint of water solution, at least 3 times a day, more if they would take it. We mixed a pint of warm water, with 2 dessert spoons of sugar and a teaspoon of salt. Making sure their heads weren't tipped back and setting the drench gun on 7.5ml, to prevent choking, we got the fluid down the lambs. Some lay on their sides for up to 3 days, then learnt to sit up, crawl, then walk and have now returned to camp healed! Obviously some didn't make it and had to be killed to be humane, but don't give up too early, give it at least 3-4 days to work. Keep sitting the lamb up or turn it onto the other side to prevent static pneumonia. If they can't nibble grass, give them lamb milk replacer to keep their energy levels up as well as fluid replacement.

We also gave drench and water to other weak lambs not in such drastic states of collapse, and within minutes of having 200 ml of water they were fully recovered. About 30 received this treatment and an overnight rest in a garden or small pen by the wool shed, to be taken out to the weaning camp by rover to prevent further stress the next day.

About 100 daggy lambs were also drenched and any wet ones cleaned up with the hand shears to prevent fly strike, which has to be watched for in those stuck on their sides, we know, because one did get maggots, but made a rapid recovery once treated. Has anyone else had similar problems this season or have a better method to speed their recovery? We have built a cradle to support them in an upright position, to help regain their balance, but it only helps some cases. The pleasure of turning a lamb back to camp, fully recovered, after putting a lot of time and effort into it is a real reward, as well as considering the financial implications of losing stock, so, persevere and good luck!

ANTOINETTE BENDYSHE MARCH 1992



Having just returned from West Falkland, were conversation turned to eliminating black wool from white sheep, I re-read an article from the Australian magazine Wool Technology and Sheep Breeding, titled "Age-related Changes in Pigmentation of Adult Merino Sheep". (Spotted and kindly sent to me by Clive Wilkinson!) "Dark fibres are a recognised fault which reduce the profitability of processing and the competitiveness of wool from different countries and with synthetics." The article's summary makes interesting reading, particularly as the culling season is back:-

The "paper investigates the relationships between various types of pigmentation (coloured fibres) on white Merino sheep and the change in these characters between 1.5 and 5.5 years age. Two large effects are documented and their possible origins discussed:

Firstly, Merino sheep with and without pigmented leg hairs differed for many types of pigmentation including pigmented fibres in the fleece. Those sheep without leg hair pigmentation generally had lower levels of other types of pigmentation than sheep with pigmented leg hairs. The associations between non-fleece pigmentation and pigmented fibres in the fleece were largely eliminated once the sheep with pigmented leg hairs were excluded. Sheep without pigmented leg hairs had a minor incidence of isolated pigmented fibres in the hogget fleece, and age-related pigmented fibre spots in later adult life, relative to sheep with pigmented leg hairs.

The second large effect documented is the difference between the main fleece region and the points in regard to persistence of pigmentation throughout adult life. Most types of non-fleece pigmentation had high repeatabilities (ie. occur in such sheep every year) and either increased in degree or remained unchanged between 1.5 and 5.5 years. In contrast, isolated pigmented fibres in the fleece showed a dramatic decline in concentration in the first few years of adult life.

In a practical sense, this report provides further scientific support for the traditional practice of culling Merinos which show leg hair pigmentation. Little justification is evident from these sheep to support culling animals without pigmented leg hairs that have other types of non-fleece pigmentation. However, this study involves only phenotypic (visual) relationships though the genetic consequences seem likely to be similar.

The traditional practice of selecting against all types of pigmentation in Merino sheep would have an indirect effect on reducing expressivity and incidence of pigmented leg hairs and associated pigmentation, including isolated pigmented fibres in the fleece, but is not considered efficient based on this experiment."

In short, selection against sheep with pigmented leg hairs, MAY be the most accurate and efficient method of reducing coloured fibre readings for Falkland Island wool.

ROBERT H.B. HALL. MARCH 1992.

DIARY OF A FARMER'S WIFE

The rain teems down as I write, as it has done for the past thirty six hours and the Boss is hunched over the kitchen table, hurriedly designing an Ark. He keeps muttering about cubits and things, but I don't think our calculator can cope with such archaic measurements. He hasn't had time to work out embarkation or quarantine protocols, and if those black clouds are anything to go by he will have to forget them. I reckon we should just caulk up the shearing shed and cast her adrift on the tide, with whatever animals we can grab. Anything that turns out to have an orful (sorry, awful) disease can be chucked overboard later on after we've sailed.

Why is it that whenever we are about to shear sheep, the heavens open? It's weird the way the rain is localised, and rather annoying. Less than thirty miles away, as the clouds go, other farmers have got dry sheep. Short of spin-drying all our ewes, they won't be dry for days. What with the weather, and being let down by a shearer, Bang goes Sports for us...

The Boss went out today to check that none of the ewes were cast, with their heavy wet fleeces. He discovered water cascading off the hills and valleys flooded. Natural and man-made bridges were invisible and ponds had been created where ponds have never been seen before. (One of our Merino-cross rams had actually drowned, but this wasn't as upsetting as it might have been; Number 19's time was up anyway and he had been selected for the burdizzo treatment). The Boss squelched back home from his tour of inspection, shaking his head. He can see only two benefits from the deluge. Firstly, the green where our sheep hang out all too regularly will have been thoroughly power-washed, and secondly, the wool should be pretty clean when it's finally shorn.

To change the subject: It's Heritage Year folks, and we should all be wearing soppy grins and waving sparklers... Who said "Naff off"?? Now, now, tut tut, - that's not the spirit at all. Surely all farmers should be <u>delighted</u> that town is once more having lots of parties, goodies, jollies, knees-ups and frivolities, whilst camp trundles on as normal?

It annoys me to think that all we'll have to show for 1992 is a lot of empty fireworks cases, a few flower-tubs on the streets of Stanley, and a hefty list of air-fare bills. I'd far rather have seen a more constructive (literally) expression of the spirit of the year. Perhaps a fireproof building with micro-fiche facilities to house the Archives? I understand that as things are, the entire historical records of the Islands could go up in smoke at any time, rather like the fireworks displays in fact.

O.K., I'll stop moaning. It's not easy to be cheerful though. Today my pet lamb died, having got herself cast and subsequently drowned during the heavy rain last night. The Boss and I took her out into camp to dump her in a deep ditch (I wasn't sufficiently heartbroken to dig her a grave), but everywhere was overflowing. The Boss hurled the lamb ditchwards, but she floated away downstream looking like a Hindu corpse on the Ganges. I felt we should have covered her with flower petals and then set light to her...

The success of small ruminants (sheep and goats) within world agriculture is quite phenomenal. Their current numbers are estimated* to be 1.2 billion sheep and 0.5 billion goats. Large sheep populations are commonly associated with Australia (138 million), the Commonwealth of Independent States (USSR of old) (137 million) and South Africa (30 million) In fact, 53% of the world's sheep population and a staggering 95% of the world's goat population is to be found in the developing countries. The reasons for this are as numerous as they are diverse but for the small farmer in developing countries the advantages of keeping sheep or goats in preference to cattle or buffalos are associated with their:-

Small size.

A lower capital cost makes the purchase of a sheep or goat less daunting and more affordable to the small farmer. A smaller sized animal is easier to handle by children or by the elderly whose job it frequently is to look after the stock, similarly, construction of suitable housing from locally available materials is simplified. A smaller sized animal also means smaller faecal pellets and this is very often the simplest and cheapest means of achieving uniform fertilizer distribution on a terrace or field destined for crop production. Finally, a small ruminant gives yields of milk or meat which are well suited to the needs of the family of a subsistance farmer.

Reproductive efficiency.

The earliness of sexual maturity in small ruminants compared to large ruminants provides for a shorter generation interval and hence, more potential for selection over a fixed time. Short Gestation intervals and lactation lengths, coupled with the lack of photoperiod anoestrus is often better suited to match the seasonally fluctuating supply of green fodder available. The short gestation period also allows a more rapid reaction to rebuild herd or flock numbers following disasters or to increase stock numbers in response to local market demands.

Feeding behaviour.

Sheep and goats are selective feeders, from a poor quality pasture or range land, they are able to select a better quality diet than cattle or buffalos. Goats in particular are able to utilize a broader range of plant species.

Land degradation is often blamed on goats whereas the degradation has often occurred as a result of large ruminant grazing with the consequence that only small ruminants are subsequently able to utilise this land because of their selective abilities. In many parts of Asia, small ruminants are used specifically to graze young pastures on newly sown, unstable slopes - conditions under which cattle or buffalos would be of no use. Finally, goats are often used to control bush and rehabilitate rangelands overtaken by noxious weeds or shrubs.

Health.

In parts of Africa, where infestations of Foot and Mouth, Rinderpest and Trypanosomes are heavy, cattle herding is an impossibility. Being less susceptible to these diseases, such areas are often found carrying small ruminants allowing otherwise redundant land to be utilised. Small ruminants are also less susceptible to dehydration and heat stress than large ruminants a factor very important in arid conditions.

Socio-economic considerations.

Unlike beef (or pork), there are no major religious taboos on the consumption of either goat or sheep meat - and it is much easier to slaughter a small ruminant than a large one. Goats and sheep often form part of complex religious ceremonies and thus they fulfil a social obligation. Transport to market (or to the place of sacrifice) can be `on the hoof' with less worry about food and water for the animals on the often long trek involved in reaching the destination. In some areas of the world, sheep are to be found as pack animals, negotiating steep tracks impassable by large ruminants.

It is evident then that small ruminants owe their well deserved popularity to many factors other than to meat and fibre production alone. All over the world, farmers are keeping sheep and goats for a variety of reasons, thus ensuring that the success story of small ruminants in todays agricultural systems will continue unrivalled.

*FAO quarterly bulletin of statistics. Issue 4, 1990.

Jo Baughan March 1992.



OFFAL SURVEY 1991

During the past year the laboratory and staff of the Department of Agriculture have spent considerable time inspecting sets of sheep offal at the Stanley Butchery. At the time of inspection, the lungs, livers and hearts of each set were examined for evidence of hydatid cysts (Echinococcus hydatidosus), bladder worm (Taenia hydatigena) and "boils" (Caseous lymphadenitis). Because sets of offal have been separated from the sheep carcass at the time of inspection it is not always possible to relate a finding back to the animal, and sometimes to the farm. Because only a small proportion of sheep of the total Falkland Islands kill are killed through the Butchery, the data here can only be indicative of the progress of the hydatid campaign, they do not present an accurate figure (that is why we ask you to send in your offal records after every dog dosing day, in order that these records become more accurate, for Stanley and Camp).

From January to December 4,194 sets of offal were inspected and 5 hydatid cysts discovered. This represents an annual incidence of just over 0.1%, i.e. only every 1000th sheep now carries the infection. This is quite a change from 20 odd years ago, when almost every other sheep was infected.

158 bladder worms were detected (3.7%), almost 40 times the incidence, which is probably explained by the shorter time (less than six weeks) this tapeworm takes to develop to maturity in the dogs gut, and the greater number of eggs it produces.

1,383 sets with "boils" were found (33%), but in sheep from some farms rising to over 40%. In other countries boils are usually found in the meat, originating from old, unattended shearing and castration wounds which have become infected with the bacterium. In the Falklands it tends to cause abscesses more commonly in the lungs (although there are still plenty of abscesses in the meat, as the Butchery finds to their dismay) and a trial is currently being conducted to determine how this impairment of lung capacity impacts on the performance of the sheep. Basically I am comparing vaccinated, protected sheep with normal, unprotected ones and measuring their performance.

The above results indicate that hydatid cysts are continuing to decline, however, it is still around today and our vigilance is required for a few years yet.

MICHAEL P REICHEL MARCH 1992

KIDDING AT LAMB MARKING.

For any shepherd or farmer to effectively manage his average flock performance, indicators such as marking percentage, weaning percentage, average fibre diameter and average fleece weight are calculated. These figures are only of any value if they are used to assess the farm's performance that year with similar figures for other years, or to compare with performances of similar farm types that same year. Alternatively these actual figures can be used to compare with the target figures that were aimed at by changed or improved management. Above target figures may indicate a successful policy, whilst below target figures may indicate that things need improving, (assuming the targets were realistic in the first place and that changes were not solely due to unusual weather!)

Indicator comparisons are valuable in management as they focus on the factors that influence farm profit. Comparisons encourage questions to establish why positive and negative variations in the indicators occurred, so that farmers can promote positive changes and hopefully prevent further negative changes.

For performance indicators to be usefully compared one must only compare like with like. Figures used in comparisons must be calculated for the same animals at the same time of year.

Arguably the most useful lamb marking figure in the Falklands is:

Lambs marked at 6 weeks. ----- * 100 = % Ewes put to the ram.

To obtain a higher "marking" percentage, one increases the figure on the top side of the division sum (the number of lambs marked) ie. by marking earlier than normal. Alternatively a higher "marking" percentage can be obtained by decreasing the number on the bottom side of the division sum (ewes), ie. by counting only the number of ewes actually gathered at lamb marking!!

Using the methods described to produce high "marking" figures etc, means that management will be oblivious to both things going right or wrong on the farm; in short it will loose touch with reality and be kidding only itself!!

ROBERT H.B. HALL. MARCH 1992.

SHEARING HEADS FOR HI-TECH FUTURE

Chemical shearing or biological deflecting is on target for commercial reality, according to a wool harvesting report tabled in November at the Wool Council's half-yearly meeting in Geelong.

Members of the Australian Wool Research and Development Corporation's wool harvesting committee, Michael McBride said that biological defleecing had now been trialled on 1000 sheep in a range of districts in New South Wales. Mr McBride said that Coopers Pitman Moore were now producing by a fermentation process the defleecing agent EGF, (epidermal growth factor hormone) for a dose cost of \$1. The formula was as close as possible to native EGF and was described as having "a good biological activity."

In research trials to date, fertility and lambing results had not been affected. Mr McBride said that Coopers and the CSIRO were working towards a commercial release of the biodefleecing technology in early 1993, but Mr McBride said that the problem area was in the cost and time in the donning and doffing of coats. These coats are required to retain any wool that was prematurely shed. Two types of coat with velcro strips to fasten the coat along the back-line have been used to date. Mr McBride said that CSIRO had already reproduced a prototype coat donning device, although this would still require manual input for insert over the sheep's legs.

Coopers Pitman Moore had been using a Harrington race to fit the nets or coats at a rate of 50 an hour. Mr McBride said that while the biodefleecing did not require skilled labour, the removal process would involve someone in the shearing position bent over the animal.



SEMEN SUMMER SALE BONANZA!

EVERYTHING MUST GO

IF YOU HAVEN'T PLACED YOUR SEMEN ORDERS YET FOR 1992 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FOLLOWING.

WE HAVE IN STOCK:

		Pric	ce per straw
1	straw	Cormo Dungrove 485-87	£18.00
10	straws	Seaway Ferere Fresian	£12.00
16	straws	Birchfield Bob 1/86 80/90	
		(Polwarth)	£23.00
17	straws	Birchfield Bob 1/86 347/90	
		(Polwarth)	£23.00
17	straws	Flaxton Merino 174/88	£25.00
10	straws	Taheke Rampage Dictator	
		(South Devon)	£11.00
8	straws	Lincoln Red	£12.00
14	straws	Shorthorn	£12.00
12	straws	Limousin	£12.00
4	straws	Red Poll	£12.00
18	straws	Moutere Merino	£33.00
10	straws	Rockthorpe Polwarth	£18,00
1	straw	Fairfield Merino Polwarth	£23.00
14	straws	Comeback Fairfield	£18.00
2	straws	Glenesk 86-	£18.00
5	straws	Strathblane 47 Corriedale	£20.00
1	straw	Sannen goat	

IF YOU WISH TO PLACE AN ORDER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CONTACT EITHER JUDY SUMMERS AT THE FARMERS ASSOCIATION OR THE VETERINARY OFFICE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DONT'T DELAY, ORDER TODAY!



HOME GROWN IDEAS

The following is more a useful tip and may come in handy. It was sent to the Wool Press by Nick Pitaluga at Salvador who "filched it" from an old American 4 x 4 magazine.

If you have a burred and rusty bolt or nut and a tap and die set is not available, try simply cutting across the threads on either the nut or bolt with a fine toothed hacksaw, making 2, 3 or 4 grooves for the dirt to escape through. Used with penetrating oil or diesel this is particularly good for wheel studs, U-bolts and engine block threads where it is a bit inaccessible to swing a T-bar. Except in high torque requirements, nuts and bolts can still be used.





'Why can't you use axle stands like everyone else?'

RECIPE PAGE

TREASURE ISLAND (mini pizzas)

Topping

8oz plain flour 1 tsp cream of tartar 1/2 tsp bicarbonate 1/2 tsp salt 2oz margarine 4oz milk and milk to glaze 2 tblsp oil 1 chopped onion 1/2 tsp dried marjoram 1 x 14 oz can tomatoes salt & pepper 5oz grated cheese

Method

Base

Sift flour, cream of tartar, bicarbonate and salt into mixing bowl, rub in margarine until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add milk to make soft dough knead lightly, roll out to 1/2 inch thickness, cut into two and a half inch inch rounds and place on a greased baking sheet and brush with milk. Bake until golden approx 10 mins at 425 F. Cool on wire rack.

To make topping heat oil in a pot, add onions and fry until soft. Add marjoram, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Cook for 3 minutes. Cut scones in half and place spoonful of tomato mix on each half. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bake until cheese is golden and bubbling.

CORNFLAKE COCONUT CRISPS

Ingredients

125 gr butter, 1 tsp vanilla essence, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1/2 cup coconut, 1/2 cup sultanas, 1 cup self raising flour, 2 cups cornflakes lightly crushed.

Method.

Beat butter, essence, sugar and egg until light and fluffy. Stir in coconut sultanas and flour. Roll small balls of mixture in cornflakes. Bake in moderate oven until lightly browned. makes about 40.

SUSIE BONNER MARCH 1992

WANTED AND FOR SALE

FOR SALE... available now! Cull ewes, various ages from four years upwards. Suitable for non-fussy breeding or dry running. \$1.00 per head.

FOR SALE... Lister LD-1 1.75 Kw generator with overhauled alternator, meter panel, contacts and remote shut off. Also... Lister 12/2 6Kw (water cooled with radiator) generator. 1500 hours since major alternator overhaul. Offers considered for both.

FOR SALE... Set of 5 Michelin XCL 900 x 16 tyres on or off wide 5 stud L/R rims. Price negotiable.

WANTED... (1) 15 inch L/R wheel rim.

All enquiries / offers on any of the above, please contact Salvador Farm, phone 31193 or 31199, or see Nick at Farmers open day.

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Last Months Crossword Solution

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CROSSWORD

by

M.McLEOD

ACROSS

2.	Annual event.
11	Identification
12	Garden tool.
13	Flat fish
15	Weed
17	Ramous footballer from Brazil
18.	Wind flower.
19	Off white
22	Fishing implement
23	Light beetle larva
27	Perform a deed
28	Negative
29	Japanese currency.
30.	Common F.I. bird.
35	District Attorney
36	One who dreams.
38.	Falkland Islander.
40	Week ending (abbrev).
41.	Set off.
42.	Wool.
43	Everything
45	Not off.
46	Honey producer.
47.	Look after.
49	Worshipped image.
51.	Long net.
52	Rager.
	Tregor .

DOWN.

- 1. Flightless bird.
- 3. Coniferous tree.
- 4. Unusual.
- 5. That time.
- 6. Shoe bottom.
- 7. Us.
- 8. First garden.
- 9. Curly green veg.
- 10. Store.
- 14. Exist.
- 16. Malay garment.
- 17. Not rich.
- 20. Hen house.
- 21. F.I.s most common vehicle.
- 23. Male goose.
- 24. Recorder, flute, etc.
- 25. Yorkshire river.
- 26. Belonging to me.
- 31. Perennial flower.
- 32. Mend socks.
- 33. Raw metal.
- 34. Bird of prey.
- 37. Small tunnelling animal.
- 39. General writing surface.
- 43. Can do.
- 44. Highest or lowest card?
- 45. Black stuff.
- 48. Before the telephone.
- 50. Alright.



P/WOO/1#33



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 29

APRIL 1992

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The Wool Press is published by the Agricultural Department

EDITORS - M.McLEOD and R.H.B.HALL

EDITORIAL.

Welcome to the April edition of the Woolpress. This issue has a varied selection of articles, which include two concerned with Sheep Welfare. The subject of Animal Welfare is rightly attracting increasing interest and comment, however several key points are worthy of mention:-

There should only be one objective in establishing an "Animal Code Of Practice", and that is to ensure the WELFARE of Animals. All such codes must be feasible, however the recent debate focussed more upon what was "impossible", slightly more expensive or time consuming. It was noticeable that reference was made mainly to U.K. standards, rather than to the more feasible New Zealand or Australian standards, suggesting that the Falkland's Code may have been aimed at countering E.E.C. legislation instead of improving Animal Welfare. Finally the debate to date has been restricted to the farming community; it would now be healthy to see the press and the general public included in future discussions, (during Farmer's week for example.)

April will see the Winter Whitegrass trial start up again and sponging for A.I. begins in the middle of the month. Now is the time to give ewes and rams their pre-mating checks.

Our very best wishes to David West, who returns to England this week. David the "Agric-workaholic" has achieved a tremendous amount as Training Officer during the last 33 months and is a friend who will be greatly missed.

The Editors.



'... don't worry, she'll take it eventually, – your Father knows all the old traditional techniques ...

SHEEP WELFARE.

The Animal Welfare Committee's "Proposed Code of Practice" was "discussed" on Farmer's Day. Debate was, is and will be heated for some time.

Several references were made to British Animal Welfare Legislation and Codes, however few references were made to the Australian nor New Zealand situation, despite the fact that they have much in common with the Falklands situation: sheep, vast stations, expensive labour etc. The following are extracts from the New Zealand Aglink series "Sheep: Welfare - Code of Minimum Standards."

The only objective:

"Recommendations and minimum standards are set out for the guidance of people engaged in any way in the management of sheep, to ensure the welfare of animals."

"Lamb docking and marking:

These tasks are best done when lambs are less than three weeks of age. The tail should be left long enough to cover the anus in ram lambs and the vulva in ewe lambs. Precautions are necessary to avoid permanent mismothering, especially in large flocks or in larger paddocks.

Marking should be done by skilled people or under the supervision of a skilled person, and all utensils must be clean, disinfected, and in good order. The lambs should be inspected afterwards. Docking during bad weather increases the risk of infection and should be avoided.

Minimum Management Standards:

* Sheep should be inspected for signs of distress, injury, or disease, including flystrike, at intervals appropriate to the husbandry system and season.

* Shepherds should apply sound principles of hygiene in all aspects of sheep operations, especially at assisted lambings, docking, castration, and shearing.

* All sheep-handling procedures should be performed skillfully and with due consideration for the animal's welfare.

* Management techniques should be altered if they prove to be a cause of distress, injury, or disease.

* Dogs must be under control, and dogs known to bite should not be used in yards unless they are muzzled.

Water:

Mature sheep should have access to a source of water every 36 hours, and young sheep every 24 hours.

Minimum Feeding Standards:

* Newborn lambs must be provided with colostrum or a substitute within 24 hours of birth.

* Sheep should be provided with food of sufficient nutritive and water content to maintain health and vigour.

Minimum Health Standards: Sheep owners should act immediately or consult a veterinary surgeon without delay when sheep show: * serious injuries such as deep wounds, severe haemorrhage, or damage to the eye; * symptoms suggestive of a serious disease. Sheep owners should provide treatment, and seek expert advise when appropriate, and if sheep show: * marked lameness; * persistent ill thrift or ill health; chronic symptoms of catarrh, loss of appetite, severe scouring and loss of weight; * suspected bone fractures.

Slaughter.

Sheep awaiting disposal should be treated with the same concern as those being retained. Sheep should be slaughtered by a competent person."

N.B. In 1988-89 this covered 64.6 million N.Z. sheep.

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"And I'm telling you, I've been here for hours and they haven't eaten a thing!"

MARKING LAMBS

Following the recent meeting during the Farmers Open Day at Goose Green, I thought it may be of interest to review the U.K welfare code and general practices concerning castration. There are aspects of this code which are obviously unworkable in the Falklands, but there are also several points worth thinking about.

As the law stands at the moment in Britain, no person under the age of 17 is allowed to castrate sheep by any method. Once the animal is over 3 months of age the castration must be carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon and under anaesthetic. The aim of castration is to remove the testicles or render them non-functional to prevent the animal from breeding. This enables both sexes to be run together after the age of puberty.

Whatever method is chosen to castrate lambs it will cause them pain and so animals to be castrated should be 100% fit and healthy to minimise losses through stress and possible infection. A lamb with any abnormalities of the scrotum or testicles should not be castrated - for example, a scrotal hernia where a loop of gut has descended from the rest of the intestine in the body cavity down into the scrotum. Castration of such a lamb by any method will cause death, either through the gut being strangled by a rubber ring, crushed by the Burdizzo, or the loop of gut falling onto the ground when the scrotal sac was opened.

All castration carries a risk of infection - even rubber rings and Burdizzo where there are no open wounds. These two methods cause the blood supply (and so oxygen source) to the testicles to be cut off creating conditions suitable for certain types of bacteria which can thrive without oxygen (eg.Tetanus). Because of this infection risk, it should be carried out as hygienically as possible and lambs let down onto clean areas of pasture.

METHODS OF CASTRATION

- 1. RUBBER RINGING. This is the most widely used method in the U.K. and should be carried out in the first week of life only, but after the lamb is 24 hrs old as ringing makes the lamb lie down and may prevent it from suckling the first crucial feeds of colostrum.
- 2. BURDIZZO. This method involves crushing the spermatic cord with a specially designed tool, cutting off the blood supply to the testicles. It is a less suitable method for lambs (compared to cattle) as each cord needs to be crushed twice to ensure proper castration, and this is a skilled, time consuming job.
- 3. SURGICAL / OPEN CASTRATION. Hygiene is of the utmost importance with this method.

TAILING

This is usually done by the rubber ring method leaving enough tail to cover the vulva in the ewe and the anus in the male. Here in the Falklands it is usually the knife method that is used although the bloodless tailer shown at the Open Day may make a few people change from going home soaked in blood after a days lamb marking!

FIONA DICKSON APRIL 1992 BIORA DICK: APRIL 1995

G'DAY

In many ways the Falkland Islands are similar to home - KANGAROO ISLAND, being 100 miles long and 50 miles across at the widest point. Sheep grazing is the principal agricultural industry. Travel to Adelaide (South Australia's capital city) is a half hour flight from any one of the four airstrips on the island. Most farmers communicate to each other by means of a 40 channel VHF radio. Stock work is carried out by motorbike and / or light truck. A handful of farmers still use horses.

There is an annual show which, over the course of a day, hosts a shearing competition, sheep / fleece competition and sheep dog trials.

The capital of Kangaroo Island is Kingscote with a population of 2,500 (overall island population: 5,000). We have a diverse selection of wildlife with many birds, a seal colony and penguins.

Many Kangaroo Island practices are however, very different to the Falklands way of things. Having a population of 5,000 allows for a better road infra-structure, being able to travel anywhere in 2 - 3 hours (110 maximum speed limit). A ferry service operates between Kangaroo Island and the South Australian mainland. It is an 11 mile crossing which takes one hour. The Island is densely populated with many species of native trees and shrubs. These trees, when cleared for farming become our fuel supply for the wood stove and open fire place.

Prior to Winter, most farmers put in a hay mixture and barley or oats for either sale or stock feed during summer. We have 32" of rainfall per annum on our property "RICCORANG", with 4,500 merinos on 1,300 acres. We have our share of farm nasties though; fly-strike, lice, footrot, many grass munching bugs and a few annual bush fires to heat things up. Feral animals are a problem of great concern. They include wild pigs and goats. There is also a problem with Wallabies, Possum and of course, Kangaroos!!

On the brighter side, Kangaroo Island has very few weed problems compared with the mainland, no foxes or rabbits and a generally assured rainfall and equitable climate. Cattle numbers fluctuate between 7,000 and 12,000. Sheep numbers have gradually increased since the early 1970's as more new land has been brought into production. In 1979 / 80 there were 928,000 sheep on Kangaroo Island and in 1989 / 90 there were 1.24 million.

An average Kangaroo Island farm has a total area of 1,848 acres; an arable area of 1,381 acres; stocking rate of 4 sheep per acre; wool shorn : 20,092 kg; Average micron : 23; Average wool cut per acre is 14.37 kg; Average farm debt is \$177,110. 75% of farms have debt.

Finally, I would like to say a special "Thanks" to the host farmers and their families. Thank you for the experience and for giving us a go!! I hope this exchange scheme can continue and grow, it is people such as you that make the programme possible.

TONY (OZ) RICHARDS APRIL 1992

CHOOSING A BREEDING OBJECTIVE.

The majority of farmers will be "putting their rams out" within the next 7 weeks, so now is a good time to review one's breeding policy.

Every successful breeding policy needs an aim or objective, that must be followed consistently. A breeding objective is a statement of traits (production characteristics) that the breeder wants to improve, and the emphasis to be given to each. The idea that one is trying to produce a "better" Merino, Polwarth or Corriedale type animal, is NOT a proper breeding objective!!

The aim of most sheep breeding is to increase the long term profitability of the flock. This means selecting heavier fleeced animals, probably with finer wool, which can survive and reproduce in the Falklands. The emphasis is on long term profitability, whether you breed all your own breeding stock, or buy some animals from elsewhere.

"Traits which influence profitability have several important features:

Each trait must be heritable. In practical terms, this means that the trait must be able to be improved by selective breeding. Fortunately, most traits of interest to wool producers are moderately to highly inherited, for example fleece weight, fibre diameter and body weight.

Each trait must be definable, by either visual or objective methods. For example, lifetime wool production, mature body weight, wool colour, wool blindness, are all definable.

Each trait must have economic value. Improvement of a trait that has no value will have no effect on the profit of the commercial producer (ie. selecting against sheep with pink noses!). Furthermore, every trait included in the breeding objective reduces the potential speed of improvement in the other traits.

This means that breeding for economically unimportant traits will cause financial losses, because not much progress can be made in the traits that do have real economic value. However, if all traits that are worth money are included in the breeding objective, profit is maximised, even though gain in each trait is reduced."

In short, when selecting animals to breed from or animals to cull, it is wise to consider any such action in relation to the farm's breeding objectives and the goal of long term profitability.

ROBERT H.B.HALL. APRIL 1992.

LETTER'S PAGE.

The Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association Limited.

SHEARING CONTRACT - 1991/1992 SEASON.

Our attention has been drawn to a misunderstanding about the shearing payment for the season now coming to a close.

The following four paragraphs show the position reached with the two main shearing contractors in September 1991:

"It was agreed that the rate should be increased by the COL percentage but a request from the shearers for a further 1 pence (1 p) /sheep could only be referred to the FIG which had been asked in July to consider some basic wage assistance for full-time farm employees.

The SOA contacted Mr Richard Wagner who confirmed that the FIG would be making further grants available to farms for augmenting the basic wage and assistance with general running costs.

Mr Wagner recommended that the SOA should consider making the requested additional increase of 1 p/sheep in the shearing rates from the new general income subsidy as the FIG cannot provide such a subsidy and then, in addition, cover each additional expense.

The SOA sub-committee met again to consider this response, agreed with Mr Wagner's recommendation and advised the GEU that a further 1 p would be added to the Shearing Contractor rates for the 1991/92 season."

Unfortunately, the agreed additional 1 p per head was omitted from the Agreements signed by the GEU, the two contractors and the SOA on 27 September 1991.

The omission was corrected by a broadcast announcement in February this year. Some farms have paid the extra 1 p but others have not and the reluctance to do so by the latter is understandable in the circumstances.

The SOA apologises for the earlier failure to include the 1 p in the Agreement and urges all farmers who employ the two contractors signing the negotiated shearing agreement, to pay the additional amount for all sheep shorn in the 1991/92 season.

A new method of communicating and applying the Shearing Agreement will be discussed at meetings this winter and if accepted, it will be used for the 1992/93 season.

R. M. Pitaluga Chairman - FISOA

24 March 1992

HORSE COLOURS

In this age of motorbikes and four-wheelers the horse has taken the back seat on many small farms simply because it is so much easier to use the former for gathering. However, there is a minority of us who ride our horses as a hobby (if only in the weeks leading up to sports)! So with Sports Week still fresh in our minds, I decided now was a good time to put pen to paper.

I have chosen the subject of horse colours as it has been suggested to me to do so on several occasions.

Maybe you are from the U.K. and wonder what we are talking about when we say a horse is a Colorao or an Alazan, or maybe you are like me and have trouble trying to decide what colour a Bay or a Chestnut is when reading the latest Dick Francis!

Whatever, I hope this list of some of the most common colours seen around the Falklands is of use or interest to you.

FALKLAND

Alazan Alazan Dorado Tostado Ruano Colorado Requemado Colorado Doradillo Zaino Zaino Colorado Zaino Negro Zaino Pangare Oscuro Tordillo Tordillo Plateado Tordillo Rodado Tordillo Sabino Tordillo Safranado Rosillo Rosillo Colorado Rosillo Rubio Rosillo Gateado Moro Bayo Bayo Naranjado Bayo Blanco Bayo Ruano Bayo Gateado Cebruno Overo Manchado Tobiano Colorado Tobiano Negro Overo Rosado Overo Azulejo Malacara Pampa Picazo

ENGLISH

Chestnut Golden Chestnut Liver Chestnut Roan Dark Bay Bay Light Bay Brown Bay Blood Bay Dark Brown Mealy Bay Black Grey Silver Grey Dappled Grey Grey with white specks Grey with white specks Strawberry Roan Red Roan Chestnut Roan Striped Roan Blue Roan Dun Orange Dun Light Dun or Claybank (U.S.) Palomino Striped Dun Mouse Coloured Pinto; Paint Mottled Skewbald Skewbald Piebald Chestnut and White Blue and White White Faced White Cheeks and Forehead Black and White legs and Face All names ending in "ado" are cut short to "ao" making Colorado into Colorao; Tostado into Tostao and so on.

Thanks to Sally for lending me the book which helped me get the spellings right, also I think I know what colour a Chestnut is!

DAVINA PECK APRIL 1992



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

'... you may not believe this, Ferdy, - but I once actually met a cow, y' know'



'... you may not believe this, Ferdy, - but I once actually met a cow, y' know'

THERE ARE TEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO CARTOONS CAN YOU SPOT THEM?

TREES AS SHELTER BELTS - Part 1

This is the first of a series of articles on shelter belts, the focus of which will be on the use of trees as a viable option for the establishment of shelter belts.

Why do we need shelter belts - why trees? There is little doubt that almost everyone recognises that there is a need for shelter of some form in the islands, because in many cases the natural shelter in the form of rocks, valleys and tussac, although widespread and available, is in no way adequate.

Agroforestry is one area that is receiving a high profile (and lots of money) in Europe and down-under. The aim is to provide sheep with an environment (shelter) that encourages better animal performance and trees that can possibly be used for timber production.

It is probably not desirable to cover vast expanses of the Falklands with trees, however, the need is present for improved shelter for livestock.

As efforts to improve the landscape in and around Stanley and camp move forward, the use of trees for amenity purposes is a natural progression and one that is adopted almost universally. Within the smaller camp settlements; trees have a role in providing much needed shelter as well as improving the visual appearance of the settlement. Strategically placed shelter belts / trees could help reduce sheep losses and have a significant impact on survival and recovery after stress. The crucial question of where should they be established will be covered in next month's article.

There have been numerous reports commenting on attempts to grow trees in the Falklands, most of which have failed. The reasons for the failure are as varied as the types of trees that have been imported and grown. Dallimore (1959) reported the following:

"Planting schemes, visually of a very half-hearted character, have been suggested from time to time, but whether from apathy, lack of general sympathy,..they have not materalised and the introduction of young trees or tree seeds has not gone beyond the individual effort of a few settlers..."

Despite the change in heart and a greater effort made from 1920 when James Reid was appointed as "forester", efforts were of very limited success with fews trees remaining, noteably the plantation at Hill Cove and trees around Government House. Effort by Tim Miller and others are proving that with perserverance and commitment of time and resources, trees will grow in the Falkland Islands.

A shelter belt can provide many advantages, a few are listed:control of wind; improve the environmental conditions for plants, animals and people on the lea-ward side; increase the output of grazing land; help to reduce erosion where it is a problem; they yield timber.

G. HOPPE

NEW SHEARING RECORD

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE MARCH 1992 EDITION OF SHEARING MAGAZINE

THROUGH THE PAIN TO 664

"I looked around the pub that night and everyone was so happy, and I thought how the atmosphere would 've been so different had the cramp got the better of me. It's a fine line" Edsel Fordes words about the day he set a new world record.

The cramp got to him in the last run, in the calves and in the fore-arms. He had been drinking plenty of fluid; it was just fatigue. It was here that the coaching of Ken Hodge, Olympic team psychologist, helped him. "Putting the pain aside". He and other record holders talk about the mental effort, the "focussing". It goes hand in hand with physical preparation. If you are confident about your fitness, the mental problem shrinks.

He had his early worries on the morning because of the muscle spasms that had stopped him the previous week. It was only after the first 15 minutes (19 sheep), he says that he felt the glow of confidence. And the psychology? "If a sheep was kicking, I would slow my hand down, shear it, then put that aside and get back into my rhythm."

The record was a team effort with sheep being put repeatedly through the race for selection, other helpers were up all night curtaining the pens to keep the first sheep warm and two days were spent by others working on handpieces, combs, cutters and plant; and in case of a power failure an air conditioning unit was brought in.

A computer programme was used which clocked up each sheep. There was a masseur on hand and some fifty "officials". Edsel had to average 49 seconds per sheep. The runs went like this: 152, 131, 130, 127, 124 which gave a total of 664 which was 8 sheep ahead of David Fagan's record.

Edsel Forde finished "My Hardest Day" 3 kg lighter, very grateful to his friends and grateful to get on with his life. He will never do it again, he says, but he will cheer on the next person who climbs the mountain!



AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME MORATORIUM

As farmers will shortly be receiving payment on their first shipment of wool, this months issue of The Wool Press provides a useful opportunity to reiterate the protocol regarding the assistance programme. The condition of the programme with respect to capital expenditure is therefore brought to the attention of farmers, and is as follows:

"Applicants agree to an embargo on all uncommitted future capital expenditures which can reasonably be postponed during the term of the loan, including capital expenditures previously approved under the farm's " 5 year Development Plan". Exceptions may be granted for EDF funded projects or other essential improvements and such approvals must be obtained in writing in advance from the Department of Agriculture."

Although farmers have, in general, adhered to this condition there have been reports of significant capital purchases being made by farms operating under the assistance programme. These cases naturally bring into question the aims and objectives of the assistance programme amongst the wider population of the Falklands. Violations can only serve to disadvantage the farmers for whom the assistance programme has meant the difference between economic collapse and survival.

The Department of Agriculture have provided a number of exemptions to the moratorium to allow for essential capital expenditures (such as generators.) The granting of exemptions has, however, required an investigation of the financial circumstances of the farm concerned. We would be happy to consider further exemptions between now and the end of the current assistance programme. The position regarding EDF materials is obviously now more clear than that originally stipulated. These projects are exempt from moratorium on capital expenditure and do not require Department of Agriculture approval.

We remind farmers of the penalty for the violation of the assistance programme conditions. This clearly states : "Violation of these conditions may result in demands for repayment of any assistance received under this programme and the forfeiture of the applicants right to further assistance under any future general assistance schemes."

ECONOMICS SECTION

DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE.

Major events of the past few weeks have been the Boss's umptieth birthday, and the mini hurricane. As far as the storms were concerned we got away with only minor damage, - I'm not so sure about the birthday though. The Boss went rather quiet, and Ŧ caught him peering anxiously in the bathroom mirror more thanonce that day. I've tried boosting his ego by comparing his looks to those of Clint Eastwood, - but as that particular hero of mine is now pretty grey and wrinkly too, this tactic iε а loser.

Today marks another birthday on the farm. Floss's pups are now one year old. Ben is back with us again, having disgraced himself by chasing penguins at his new home. His sister Midge turned out to be less than interested in sheep, and extremely soppy, so she has gone into town to be a family pet. Apart from digging holes all over their garden, and eating her water bowl, she seems to have fitted in well with her new owners. We still have Jan, Meg and Sky but the Boss hasn't had much time to spare so their training has been postponed.

Now that straggling is over and the coloured sheep shorn, there's almost an end-of-term atmosphere. We still have some peat to cart, but with all this rain we've been having this shouldn't matter too much. In a normal season, we have to cart at Christmas or our peat tends to crumble. Another effect of the rain seems to be the plethora of berries everywhere, - great masses of colour. When we drove the hoggs away they kept stopping to feed on them.

Trug (a Merino) and the halfbred main flock rams are now safely contained in a good paddock, with two offset electric wires to foil them. These are putting out a real whack, and soon after the power was switched on I spotted a hefty ram becoming suddenly airborne backwards (like a bizarre Babycham advert) on testing the new barrier. He stood for a while, shaking his head and gazing bemusedly at the wires which had bitten him, and I doubt if he went near that fence again.

The other two Merino rams, Basket and Willow, live around thehouse paddocks to avoid clashes with Trug, who took an instant dislike to Willow when he arrived here. He wasn't at all aggressive when Basket arrived last year, but perhaps that was because Basket was somewhat lacking in libido and probably didn't strike him as any competition to worry about. (At one stage we even tried to get male hormone injections for him, being desperate to see our investment earning his keep). He did get his act together eventually, I'm glad to say, and fathered some really nice. large lambs. This year he is well orientated to the southern hemisphere and is raring to go. He's been rolling his eyes and making lewd suggestions to the coloured sheep, which were shorn after the last of the white stragglers, but these are now safely out of his reach. We should get a decent crop of lambs off him, We are hoping for good results from Willow, too. with luck. He has superfine, dense wool, plus good body size but not too many of the dreaded wrinkles. He's also of a placid temperament, unlike the almost feral Trug who snorts and whistles at people and dogs alike.

NEW PRODUCTS.

Rutland Electric Fence Co. Ltd, have just advised us of their new plastic dropper Pt.No.23-510 which is manufactured in U.V. stabilised polypropylene. It is 950mm long and is designed to replace the "Electrowood" or Insultimber fence line dropper. The dropper is attached to the fence wire by a preformed wire tie Pt.No.23-520.

The advantages are claimed to be:

1. Plastic replacing hardwood (which is proving more difficult to obtain), will aid the environment.

2. It costs less to purchase as freight costs are lower. A box of 100 plastic droppers weigh 25 kilos while a bundle of 100 electrowood droppers weigh 125kg.

3. 100 plastic droppers retail price is £90.00.

100 electrowood droppers retail at £110.00

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AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHEME

March has seen the departure of Lee Molkenbuhr and Jeffrey Halliday as the most recent participants in the Australian Exchange programme. They will be spending approximately six months in South Australia working on several farms and being involved in various aspects of sheep farming / wool production.

Tony Richards also left the Falklands on completion of his six months exchange. Roger Hunt who arrived in the Falklands with Tony in October, had to leave in January due to his fathers illness. Many thanks to those farmers who hosted them. We are hoping that the scheme will continue with as much success and enthusiasm and plan to have more exchange students in the future.

Locally we have two new A.T.S.(youth) trainees starting this month. They are Suzie Clarke and Ricky McCormick. Suzie will be working in the Hill Cove area, sharing her time between Boundary Farm, Main Point and Shallow Bay. Ricky will spend his year between Lively Island and Spring Point.

A newsletter will be put together shortly and sent around to all farmers. Now is the time to start thinking of what courses you may be interested in. It is up to you to let us know what you need to a certain extent, and we will endeavour to comply.

MANDY McLEOD

RECIPE PAGE

CARAMEL COCONUT SLICE

BASE

1/2 cup plain flour, 1/2 cup self raising flour 1/2 cup coconut, 1/2 cup sugar, 100g melted margarine. Grease 25cm x 30cm Swiss roll tin. Sift flours into a bowl, stir in coconut sugar and margarine, press evenly over base of tin. Bake for approx 12 mins or until lightly browned. Cool.

CARAMEL FILLING

400g can condensed milk 2 tblsp syrup, 1/4 cup brown sugar,60g melted margarine. Combine all ingredients in bowl and mix well. Spread filling over base.

COCONUT TOPPING

2 eggs lightly beaten, 1/3 cup sugar, 2 cups coconut. Combine all ingredients in bowl and mix well. Sprinkle topping over ready filled base. Bake in moderate oven until topping is lightly browned. Cool in pan, then cut into squares.

SUSIE BONNER APRIL 1992

CHOCOLATE TREATS

INGREDIENTS

Cooking Chocolate (milk, white or plain); Assortment of nuts, marzipan, dried fruit, (or anything else that can be dipped in melted chocolate).

WHAT TO DO

Break the chocolate into a small bowl and stand the bowl in some hot water to melt the chocolate. Dip rolled or shaped marzipan or nuts etc, individually into the melted chocolate. A cocktail stick is handy to stick in each item for dipping to help minimise chocolate fingers!! Place treats on grease proof paper and put somewhere to cool.

These can be a nice personal gift if put in a decorated box, or even a good Easter egg substitute for the children which you can fill with all the nice things that you know they like, or just something different to spoil yourself with!

MAGGIE BARKMAN APRIL 1992

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK UPDATE.

Diane Betts is now the on-site manager of the National Stud Flock. We wish her well with this challenging job.

It is hoped that Lucy Ellis will agree to being the occasional "relief" for when Diane is away from Sea Lion Island. Thanks must go to Lucy and other individuals who have helped with the running of the flock, to date.

The additional paddocks required by the 20 single sire mating groups, are currently under construction.

Purchase of the computer sheep breeding package "Flockmate" has been both approved and ordered, from Tasmania, Australia.

R.H.

WANTED / FOR SALE

STILL AVAILABLE - some surplus Polwarth / Corriedale cross rams.

FOR SALE - Lister 12/2 (water cooled with radiator) generator, 6 kw, 1500 hours since major generator overhaul, 650 R.P.M. engine, low fuel consumption. upset price £500.

FOR SALE - 7000 gallon fibreglass water tank. As is, where is (halfway up Estancia Mountain), ex Goose Green camp. Reason for selling - no longer required for intended use. Upset price $\pounds 1,200 \text{ O.N.O.}$

WANTED - 15" L/R wheel rim ("paddle" rim).

SWAP - Lister LD-1 cyl.head complete, for good SL-1 head (or something useful).

For further details or offers contact Nick Pitaluga, Salvador.

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LAST MONTHS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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CROSSWORD

by Mandy McLeod

ACROSS

1.	Not dirty.
4.	Mountain, Farm and Road.
9.	Get done.
10.	Earths atmosphere.
11.	Falklands Capital.
13.	Cattle noise.
14.	Car roadworthy test.
16.	Before the hour.
18.	Myself.
19.	Not any.
22.	Wool for instance.
23.	Traditional F.I.
	Winter meat.
25.	Heat (as in wine).
26.	Village on West Island.
28.	Silage maker.
30.	Next to.
31.	Part of skeleton.
34	Senior Aircrafteman.
37.	San Carlos.
38.	Small attractive cave.
39.	365 days.
10.	ΰε.
11.	Instead of "a" if
	preceding a vowel.
13.	African Dwarf.
4.	Wool measurement.

DOWN

- 1. Punctuation pause.
- 2. Fuss.
- 3. Average level of performance.
- 4. Seasonal Hat.
- 5. Pose for painting.
- 6. Teach.
- 7. Synthetic fibre,
- 8. Below zero.
- 11. Cooking utensil.
- 12. Burial vault.
- 15. Sheep farms final product.
- 17. To be inspected for Hydatid cysts.
- 20. Alternative.
- 21. Large bird.
- 24. Not hard.
- 25. Belongs to me.
- 27. An analysis.
- 29. Rectangular.
- 30. Struck by flies.
- 32. Not in.
- 33. Black (poetic).
- 35. Top card.
- 36. Object to sit on.
- 37. Donkey noise.
- 42. Not off.

VIDEO TITLES.

The following updated list contains all video titles that are currently available from the Department of Agriculture. These videos can be obtained from the Department, via Mandy McLeod, on a free loan basis.

Electric Arc Welding * Mig Welding * Fish Farming Documentary * Sheep Documentary * New Zealand Ag Re-ports Nos 2 - 4 * Hydraulics - Electrics - Ford * Dog Training - Border Collies/The Basics and Beyond * A Guide To Lambing * Taming The Ewe * The Chain Saw - Its Safe & Effective Use * ATS Landrover Test * ATS Introducing the Diesel * Raising & Management of Goats * Cashmere Producers of N.Z. on Goats * Introduction to Wind Brosion * Case International Tractors * Dairy Farming * Pig Production * Stock Handling Systems -Boral Cyclone * Farm For The Future With Cyclone Fencing Today * Breeding Management of Sheep * Management of the Pregnant Ewe * Sheep Husbandry * Birth to Weaning (Sheep) * B.S.E. * Poultry Production * How To Get The Most From Electric Fencing * Overturning Tractors (Safety film * Tractor Safety On Slopes * Electrical Safety On The Farm * Livestock Handling * Australian Shearing Shed Design * Gallagher Fencing Guide * The Sheep Machine - Increasing Efficiency In The Shearing Shed * The Sheep Machine - Increasing Efficiency In The Shed & Future Sheep Handling Systems * Advanced Wide Comb Shearing * Training The Working Sheep Dog * Hor-sing About Hoof Care For Your Horse * Safety Side Up -Crop Protection/Chemical * A.B.C. of Diesel Engines * The Sheep Machine - Making Wool Growing Easier & Sheep Handling Facilities Yards * Wool Situation In Japan -New Age For Wool * Quality Shearing * Grinding Wide Combs From The Fall Of The Hammer * Fiat Agri Tape * Ag Link March 1990 - No. 1 * Bugle Sheep Yards * Grinding Shearing Combs * Sheep Classing Parts 1 & 2 * Ag Link No. 2 * Pressing For A Change * Measured For The Market * Testing Wool * A Fabulous Fibre * Care Of Your Hand-piece * Fitness For Shearers * Correct Grinding * New Products - Beadbuster/4 Wheel Bike Atch/Mercedes Trac-tor * Ag Link June 1990 No. 3 * I.A.E.A. Promotion Video * Ag Link (Alternating Power) No. 4 *Ag Link (AYE) No.5 * Electric Fencing * Dog Handling * 4 Wheel Bike & M.B. Track * Selection Of V57, V63, V61-Pressing/Grinding & Care Of Handpiece * Fleece To Fashion * Horse Breaking * Contamination: Wool Future At Stake.

> The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Department of Agriculture.


P/WOO/1#34



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 30

MAY 1992

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PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors - M.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL

Here we are again with another edition of the WOOL PRESS! In each issue we try to be as informative as we can on current and seasonal topics that are farming related. If you have any articles that you think may be worth printing, or you may wish to write an article yourself, or have a home grown idea or recipe to share. Send any contributions to the Editors. It's your publication!

As it is coming up to the tupping season and private purchase rams are being "released" from Sea Lion Island, we envisage a lot of "activity" in the camp over the next few weeks or so. To put your ewes in the right mood, we have got a page three feature that you might like to show them - pictures of the imported rams!

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THE "CHIPPENDALES" ??



PAGE 3

MARKETING OF FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL

The marketing of Falkland Islands Wool is once again a topic for discussion, with Colin Smith planning to retire in 1998. As D.S & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd market approximately 90% of the islands wool it is appropriate that some thought should be given to future marketing. In order to do this it is necessary to examine some of the options which are potentially available for the marketing of agricultural produce.

Merchants.

Merchants are dealers who buy and sell on their own account as a principal to the transaction. Merchants purchase the commodity from the producer and resell at a profit. In order to maximise profit, merchants will normally wish to buy at the lowest price and sell at the highest.

Agents.

Agents act as intermediaries between the producer and the purchaser, selling the goods for the producer on a commission basis. Agents bring sellers and buyers together and normally arrange contracts for the benefit of their principals, the sellers.

Marketing Boards.

Marketing boards are statutory bodies to which producers of a particular commodity must sell their product. One of the main functions of one type of marketing board is to guarantee price stabilisation and ensure rapid payment to producers. At the start of a production year, a marketing board sets a guaranteed price for the commodity. The board then deducts from this its estimated marketing costs which can include collection, grading, storage, and sales costs etc and also items such as research and promotion. The board then produces a price schedule for the product, which should reflect changes in the relative market price for each grade of produce achieved during the previous year and provide the producer with an average guaranteed price, less marketing costs. The purpose of this pricing mechanism is ideally to eliminate short term fluctuations in prices to producers, but pass on price trends and market differentials between different grades of produce. Any surpluses which this type of marketing board may make are transferred into its reserves. The reserves are used to meet any shortfall between the proceeds from future sales by the board and the guaranteed price paid to produ-If at any time the proceeds from sale of produce are cers. insufficient to meet the guaranteed price and the reserves are insufficient to make up the deficit, then a deficiency payment is required from government which normally has to be repaid from any surpluses which are made in future years.

CURRENT OPTIONS FOR MARKETING FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL

Merchants.

The demise of Falkland (Woolsales), a subsidiary of the Falkland Islands Company in the latter half of 1991, was followed by the formation of a new company, Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Ltd, a subsidiary of D.B. Holdsworth Ltd. This company fulfils the merchanting role left by Falkland (Woolsales), selling greasy, scoured and tops to manufacturers. Producers are paid for their wool, according to micron, in Bradford and are therefore responsible for paying freight, core testing charges etc. In other words the producer is made an offer for his wool in Bradford and Falkland Island Woolsales Ltd act as principals. This company currently handles less than 10% of Falklands wool and appear to be moving into South American wools. Standard Wools Ltd, another merchant, still purchase from one large farm and are likely to continue, but not expand their interest in Falklands Wool.

Agents.

D.S & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd is the only agent active in Falkland wool and only acts on behalf of Falkland Island farmers. This company seeks enquiries for wool from a wide range of prospective buyers on the world market. The farm remains the principal and contractual party. Sales are arranged on a lotting basis, thus wool from a number of different farms may be used to produce marketable lots to meet buyers demands and achieve the highest price possible to the benefit of the producer and the agency. The agents function is fulfilled by the preparation of sales contracts, sales invoices and the provision and arrangement of all other services necessary to deliver the wool to the buyer and deposit the proceeds, less a 2% commission and $\pounds 25$ lotting fee, and other direct marketing costs, into the producers account. Producers also benefit from the provision of regular market information and active promotion of Falkland Islands wool as a distinct and quality product. This latter aspect derives from the agents function in establishing continuity of demand.

The Future for the marketing of Falkland Islands Wool.

"There will always be someone who will buy our wool " is a statement which was made quite recently. This is probably quite true, but at what cost? The point is however, that Falklands wool should of course be marketed to the maximum short, medium and long term benefit of every producer and the industry as a whole. Colin Smith is going to retire. The future of D.S & Co. (Falkland Farming Ltd) and the continuation of its activities is potentially therefore, in doubt. This leaves an opportunity which could be taken advantage of by an existing operator in the market, or some entirely new concern.

Colin Smith has however, offered to pass on the agency to a local successor while in the meantime providing the necessary induction and training required for this successor to run the business. The proposal put forward is subject to discussion and adaption. Of course there is nothing to stop anyone setting up a similar concern now or at anytime in the future. Continuation of D.S & Co. in some form does however present an opportunity to continue the work of this agency while placing its control in the hands of local farmers and /or a successor with local experience and commitment to the colony. The benefits of continuation of the agency in an adapted form, for example being run by a U. K based manager but owned by local farmers and producing a profit which can be re-invested in the company, or distributed as dividend, include being able to take advantage of the obvious experience of Colin Smith and utilising the existing contacts of the company, but also continuing to strengthen the link between Falkland producers of wool and their market. This has obvious benefits in continuing to ensure that Falkland wool achieves the best price possible for individual producers and ensuring its promotion as a distinct and quality product for the long term benefit of the industry.

This proposal is obviously quite different from suggestions put forward in the past for a Falkland Islands Wool Board. Wool board proposals have understandably not met with a favourable response from different sources, due to reasons which include the establishment and operating costs involved and subsidy which might be required, and the lack of a clearly demonstrable benefit to the industry. The experience of marketing boards world wide also does not provide any support for the establishment of a Falkland Islands Wool Board.

The proposal for the continuation of D.S & Co (Falkland Farming) Ltd in some form should however be of interest to farming businessmen. An opportunity exists which could be taken advantage of locally, or at least it could be ensured that local experience and interest is maintained in the marketing of Falklands wool. At the very least this would ensure that producers and government continue to receive reliable and valuable marketing information.

I would be very interested to hear any comments on the future marketing of Falklands wool and reactions to the suggestion that the opportunity for local involvement in a U.K agency should be further investigated.

ANDREW T.HENWORTH AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST MAY 1992

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* *	
DO YOU HAVE ANY	
* *	
CAT CAGES	
* *	
BELONGING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE?	
* *	
IF YOU DO	
PLEASE RETURN ON THE NEXT FIGAS FLIGHT PLEASE	
* *	

TALKING POINT

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM FARMERS WEEKLY (20th March 1992 edition). Neil Datson is a tenant farmer in the Cotswolds. He runs a 250 sow, outdoor pig unit and still finds time to run a pig consultancy business.

Subsidies to British farmers are the death-knell of enterprise. says Neil Datson. He Admits that although the industry is preparing for free trade, it has a long way to go.

Let's start with a question. Which industry's leaders have spent the past 50 years consistently and effectively campaigning for measures that would increase the price of their main input? Here's another question. Which industry's leaders say that they can't compete in world trade because their costs are too high? Those are easy questions, but I will return to them.

It is a hard thing to have to say, but a generation of British farmers has been mollycoddled to the point where they can hardly read a balance sheet; their own, or the nation's. Most of this generation believe that a subsidised agriculture is as much part of the natural order of things as a stomach worm or a dead sheep.

Subsidies are death to enterprise and initiative. When a subsidised businessman's profits are too low, he automatically knows the solution to his problem - increase the subsidies. It does not occur to him that he is simply producing at too high a cost, or selling at too low a price; or that on an industrial scale there is over-production. Some familiar arguments are heard when the system is attacked. Reference is made to hard work and dedication; milking cows twice a day, lambing ewes in the early hours, caring for the land that generations have cared for. None of those have any relevance to agricultural economics. I have farrowed sows in blizzards without the taxpayer helping. All of them can be done without Brussels spending f1 for every 50p of net farm income.

Then there is "rural infrastructure". Here a case can be made, but not in most of England where the slack will quickly be taken up by other people and activities. In southern Italy, or even the Highlands of Scotland, it is somewhat different. Other issues that can add to costs do have to be borne in mind. Environmental and welfare controls may force farmers into changing their ways, so a little protection might be justified; but that is very different from a whole array of economic battlements.

What farmers mean by the environment that they strive to protect is questionable. The Cotswolds are not helped by growing barley and trees on their superb sheep pastures. And although extra costs hurt, it should be remembered that English farmers are close to their market, and they have the highest livestock husbandry standards in the world; those are real commercial advantages.

A tiresome, and footling, argument that is surfacing is the one of age - "I am older than you, so I know what is best for you. Victims of it should remember the words of William Pitt the Elder - "The atrocious crime of being a young man... I shall neither attempt to palliate nor deny." But it is also deeply irrational and selfish. It is irrational because the generation who have made the running for their time are demanding to do the same for the future, although it is the next generation that will have to live with changes decided now; with farm policy at the crossroads of free-trade or production controls. It is selfish, because the policies that have given opportunity to this generation are now being shored up by panic measures, to ensure they do not lose what they've got to the young and ambitious.

For those at the top of the "farming ladder" quotas, set-aside and tree-planting grants have provided more security; for those at the bottom they have smashed a few more rungs. The easy, complacent landowner, anxious that his capital should not be devalued, is the enemy of the aspiring young farmer. You cannot have security and opportunity any more than you can have snow in the Sahara. As the older generation will point out, they remember the '30s, or maybe their fathers did. The world has moved on since the '30s which is why those manning the barricades for the Milk Marketing Board make themselves so ridiculous. I have heard trade union officials describe agreements signed in 1919 as "sacrosanct", then complain that their industry is dying for lack lackof investment. The '30s provide more than one lesson. It was a decade of opportunity when many of today's largest farming busi-nesses were founded. It is often the grandsons of the agricultural entrepreneurs of the '30s who are most desperate to protect the status quo today. And the '30s bring me back to where I started - land.

The reason that farmers' leaders have spent the past era demanding measures that will increase its value is that it became the industry's chief asset, as much as its chief costs. When land was cheap, before 1939, farmers did not seek to be become landowners, as they knew that land ownership would tie up the capital that could be better used working for them. Today's high values are great for landowners, but they are a millstone round the neck of the industry. They make it top-heavy and unresponsive. Those favourite hate-figures, the multiple retailers, are not so foolish as to own property; they are shopkeepers, so they lease their premises and use their money for shopkeeping.

Farmers complain they earn little on their assets. That is true, but the case should be put the other way around; their assets are too great for their earnings. UK agriculture's capital base is being eroded, tractors and buildings are not being replaced. That, we are told, is "worrying for the future of the industry." It is actually one of the most encouraging signs. It is evidence that this country's farmers are becoming more competitive, as their assets are being made to work harder and produce more. Put simply, UK agriculture's costs are coming down. But even as it happens its spokesmen demand actions - on tax allowances for example- that will increase them again.

British farmers are slowly and haltingly preparing themselves for free trade, although they have a long way to go. The economic arguments for it are strong enough, but there is one that is stronger still; morale. It would do very well, wouldn't it, after all the years of "farmer bashing", to be able to declare roundly - "unsubsidised and independent, and proud of it."

* * * * * *

STUDENT WISDOM?

The following "tongue in cheek" subject explanations were sent in by Steve Howlett.

STATISTICS

- * Variables won't and constants aren't.
- * There is no safety in numbers or in anything else.

ECONOMICS: FORECASTING

- * It is very difficult to forecast especially about the future.
- * If you're ever right never let them forget it.

BIOLOGY

* Nature will tell you a direct lie if she can.

COMPUTERS

* To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.

ENGINEERING

- * Any tool dropped will roll under the vehicle to the exact geographical centre.
- * General rule of practically all phenomena: if it happens, it must be possible.
- * There is yet to be any problem, however complicated, which, when looked at the right way, did not become still more complicated.

HISTORY

- * Those who don't study the past will repeat its errors. Those
- who do study it will find other ways to err.

MANAGEMENT

* When in charge - ponder; when in trouble - delegate; when in doubt - mumble.

FINALLY REMEMBER

- Almost anything is easier to get into than out of.
- * Friends may come and go but enemies accumulate.
- * Generalised Iceberg Theorem: Seven eighths of everything can't be seen.
- * Never attribute to malice that which could be equally explained by incompetence.

: * * * * *

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

They may look the same but there are ten differences between these two cartoons. Can you see them?



'... and y' reckon that's m' Dad, - y' have t' be jokin' Mother ...'



LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. An extra brick above the mans head; 2. Fabulous Ferdinand III, not II; 3. Roger bull's eyebrow is missing; 4. Centre spelt center; 5. One prong missing on fork; 6. Extra knot hole in Ferdinand's door; 7. Mug has lost stripe; 8. Newspaper writing has disappeared on one corner; 9. Farmer has dark boiler suit; 10. Ferdinand's eye (pupil) is dark.

TEST CERTIFICATES.

The core sample test results displayed on test certificates by SGS Wool Testing Services International Ltd., will be received by farmers throughout the Falklands during the next six months, as the 1991/92 clip is transported to and tested in Bradford. The following is an explanatory guide to these vital sources of data, which not only provide the information required for selling the wool, but can also provide useful farm management data.

The certificates are divided into blocks of information to make it easier to find information quickly. In the top right corner are various reference numbers, the date of testing and the test method which indicates the specification used to do the test, eg. IWTO 19 or 28.

The next block identifies the wool by referring to the number of bales, class of wool, farm bale brand, bale identification numbers and the vessel voyage number.

At this point the IWTO Test Certificates differ from the Fibre Fineness Certificates, so their content will be outlined in turn.

IWTO TEST CERTIFICATES:

The next block on this certificate has the heading <u>"Test House</u> <u>Weights"</u>, under which are the gross, tare and nett weights at the time the test samples were taken at Bower Green. The weighing of bales at the time of sampling is a vital part of the test as all of the yields displayed on the certificate are based on these weighings.

"Test Results" are the most important part of the certificate, as they give the basic information determined in the laboratory, from which all other information is calculated.

"Vegetable Matter Base" (VMB) is the oven dry weight of mineral free and grease free burrs, twigs, seeds, leaves and grasses present, expressed as a percentage of the weight of the core sample. This information is used in later calculations for yields.

"Hard Heads and Twigs" are shown separately on the certificate because, if present, they affect the combing yield of the wool. Hard Heads and Twigs tend to fall out of the wool during processing without any wool sticking to them and so do not increase the waste product during manufacture.

"Wool Base" (WB) is the most important figure on the test certificate, as it is used as the foundation for calculating all of the listed yields. Wool base is defined as the oven dry weight of the wool fibre free from all impurities such as grease, mineral and vegetable matter. Normally wool cannot exist in this state outside laboratory conditions. Wool Base is expressed as a percentage of the mass of the sample tested.

"Samples Tested". Under IWTO Specification 19, the laboratory must test a minimum of two sub-samples and if the difference in the results is less than the IWTO-19 ranges, the two results are combined and shown on the certificate. "Calculated Yield And Clean Weights". The Schlumberger Dry Combed Yield predicts the yield after the wool has been combed on a Schlumberger comb without the addition of processing oil. The yield anticipates that the combs will produce eight parts of combed sliver (top) with a moisture regain of 18.25% and one part of short fibre (noil) with a moisture regain of 16%. It also predicts that fibre Processing Loss (PL) will occur and calculates this loss as:

$$PL = 7.7 - 7.8 + (VMB\% - HHB\%)$$

Schlumberger Dry Yield is therefore calculated as: (Wool Base * 1.207) - Processing loss.

The line below, uses this yield and the nett wool weight to calculate the clean wool weight, which is the basis of wool payments.

"Additional Information"

"VMB% as a percentage of WB%" is the VMB/Wool Base * 100, which indicates how severe VM contamination is.

"Declared Weights" are the gross, tare and nett weights recorded on the farms in the Falklands.

"Schlumberger Dry combed Yield" in this section is the yield which converts the farm nett greasy wool weight to the nett clean wool weight.

FIBRE FINENESS CERTIFICATES:

After the wool identification block on this certificate, there is the line stating the testing method, namely the air flow method. The mean fibre fineness result with the number of tests performed, is shown on the line below. Fibre fineness is a major determinant of price per kilo.

The clean wool weight and fibre diameter are of particular interest to the farmer and purchaser, during the sale of wool, to ensure that realistic market prices are both paid and received. The yield, vegetable matter base and hard heads and twigs determine scouring and combing yields and are thus of importance to these processors. The fibre diameter, if considered in conjunction with length, has a direct bearing on the spinning count of the yarn to be produced, and the way fabrics produced from these yarns will look, feel and wear. To the farmer the fibre diameter indicates the degree of success of breeding and classing practices, whilst the various percentages of vegetable matter are the result of stocking and sward management; these properties can be influenced by farmers for the future.

In short, these certificates contain valuable information, which is important to be able to extract and use.

ROBERT H.B.HALL. & kindy checked by BILL AINSWORTH of S.G.S. APRIL 1992.

FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

Falklands Conservation was formed in August last year through the merger of the UK based Falkland Islands Foundation and the locally based Falkland Islands Trust. Our aim is to promote the conservation of the Falklands' natural and historic heritage through research and survey work, education projects, acquisition of nature reserves, and provision of advice on conservation matters to the FIG and other bodies.

Projects which we are actively pursuing at present include; a sea bird monitoring programme, which aims to assess fisheries impact on penguin and albatross populations; a major sea lion research project; and a breeding bird survey, with the aim of producing a bird distribution atlas. In addition, we have recently completed the production of a conservation video, aimed particularly at BFFI personnel and tourist, and have supported a survey of Port Egmont. Future projects include wetland and tussac island surveys and the production of teaching materials for local schools. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, including the FIG, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), various charitable trusts and donations from companies and individuals.

A key objective in the formation of Falklands Conservation is to bring about a substantial localisation of conservation expertise to maximum effect. Already, we have substantially increased the proportion of Falkland Islanders on our Board of Trustees and have employed a local Secretary, Mrs. Carol (Hay) Miller. Thanks to the wonders of fax technology, she works very closely with the UK Secretary, Dr. Kate Thompson. We have also employed a local field assistant for the sea bird monitoring programme and have established a scheme to collect vital information on Gentoo penguin numbers from volunteer counters around the Islands.

Falklands Conservation intend to build on the achievements of the past year in order to establish a strong and active conservation body in the Falkland. Falklands Conservation is not an antidevelopment organisation. Rather, we aim to promote the <u>sustainable</u> use of the Falklands' natural resources; be they fish stocks, pastures, or wildlife visited by tourists. In pursuing our objectives, we liaise closely with staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism Departments who also recognise that conservation of natural resources is vitally important to the Falklands' future prosperity. Numerous examples from around the world, of the consequences of mismanagement of natural resources, demonstrate that conservation is a crucial issue which we cannot afford to ignore.

Falklands Conservation's long-term success depends upon local support and I would urge all who care about the future of the Falklands to join us. All members receive regular updates on our activities through our newsletter, "The Warrah". Further details can be obtained from Carol Miller on tel./fax. 22247, or by calling in at her office, number 4 in the Portakabin complex on the north side of Fitzroy Road above Homecare, on weekday mornings. Your support will help us to safeguard your heritage and future.

KATE THOMPSON MARCH 1992

PRESERVING YOUR BACK

When your back goes, everything goes. It will put you out of work and spoil your enjoyment of life. Here are seven things you can do to prevent it, or to ease the pain if you already have it.



 If you wake with back pain, do something about your bed. Firm mattresses are generally best, but you may fing a rolled towel placed just above the hip bone will help by stopping the spine bending.
Always lift weights carefully keep your

Always lift weights carefully, keep your back upright and lift by straightening your knees, with the weight in close.

(Extracted from SHEARING MAGAZINE)

NEW PRODUCTS

THE "SITTA" BACKREST

This is a light aluminium support, designed for shearers, that supports and puts the correct natural curve back in your spine. Designed to counteract the effects of shearing, it will help prevent back trouble and ease your back if you already have pain. It folds flat for easy carrying to and from the shed and, combined with exercise in the shed or at home, can help you to beat back trouble and have smoke in reasonable comfort.

It weighs 2.5kg, is just 60cm long and is made by in New Zealand.







If you require further information on obtaining a SITTA backrest, contact the WOOL PRESS editors on 27355.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK UPDATE.

The N.S.F. Breeding and Marketing Advisory Group met on Sea Lion Island during early April, which gave everyone the opportunity to observe both the imported sheep and the island conditions, about which we are making decisions. The meeting revolved mainly around the forthcoming mating and subsequent lambing.

The private rams will leave quarantine next week. The private ewes are unfortunately still plagued with cases of pink eye.

These two photos show the N.S.F. Polwarth ewes, in the pens just South of the Gulch, earlier this month.

R.H.



ORF-Update

Since I (Michael) wrote the last article on ORF or SCABBY MOUTH we have been investigating the claims and counter-claims that ORF is or is not in the Islands. For this purpose we have been collecting blood samples around the Islands (during the routine sampling for *Brucella ovis*), and although cost considerations prohibited the collection of blood from every farm, we feel, that we have arrived at a fairly representative sample of Falkland Islands sheep. The sera were sent to the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh and subjected to a very sensitive test (ELISA) for the presence or absence of antibodies- presence indicating some contact with the virus sometime during the life of the sheep. The results have surprised us, in that we hadn't quite expected that magnitude of exposure to the virus, considering the very few times that clinical disease had been reported.

%

Farm

No.positive

Port Louis	4/10	40%
Chartres	6/9	66%
Walker Creek	8/10	80%
Fitzroy	3/10	30%
Weddell Island	8/10	80%
Port Stephens(1990)	7/10	7 0%
Port Stephens(1992)	7/10	7 0%
Fox Bay East	3/10	30%
Hill Cove	8/14	57%

The overall mean is 58 %.

Some of the highest titres were found on Weddell in very young sheep, with no known clinical episode, and in general the low antibody response suggests that the ORF virus mainly causes subclinical disease, i.e. this particular strain infects animals yet without causing significant clinical disease.

This is in contrast to the picture in the National Stud Flock, where it has been causing disease in the ewe flock in up to 50% of the animals, and now, just in the last few days in the ram flock, with 8 out of 58 rams currently infected. Some of the scab material from these rams has also been sent to Moredun and the virus shown under the electron microscope.

The very different picture we observe in the Falkland flock versus the NSF can possibly be explained by strain differences, with strains of higher virulence infecting the stud flock. From what we have learnt in past few months the antibodies against the strain(s) already present in the Islands should provide sufficient protection against the imported strain. Ultimately only time will tell, but we feel that there is already so much Orf-virus in the Islands, that the small contribution from the private imports should not make any significant difference. We will continue to monitor some of the blood samples we routinely collect anyway for Orf-antibodies, to complete the picture, and get an idea why Orf is able to survive so well in the islands.

Michael P Reichel David J Baber

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A.T.S.

By now, all people living in camp should have received a brief news sheet regarding the Agricultural Training Scheme. Your two GTO's (Ailsa and Lena) are waiting to hear from you with your requests and suggestions for future courses. We cannot start to make arrangements for any subject until we know what the demand is, so the sconer you contact them the better. The smooth running of the scheme so far has been down to the efficiency and expertise of the GTO's and Instructors, but they cannot share their skills unless you make it known what you require for this year.

We are waiting to here from YOU!

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VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS

We have many videos from our library which have been out on free loan for some considerable time. It would be appreciated if all videos could be returned at the earliest opportunity after viewing to allow other people to see them. If there are other people in your area who wish to see them they may be passed on, but I would appreciate it if you would notify me of who has what video, if not, then the initial hirer will still be responsible for returning them. So if you have any lurking about on the shelf, please send them in to the Department.

I am in the process of making an up to date catalogue and would be grateful returned videos together with your views, criticisms and praises. (Did you find it useful? Was it good quality? Was it too basic or to advanced?)

MANDY McLEOD MAY 1992

RECIPE PAGE

MANIFOLD STEAK

This is a recipe for a hot snack on cold Autumn gathers.

You will need: 1 thick steak. Seasoning and butter. Tinfoil. A strip of tin (ie. drinks can cut open). Some soft wire.

All you need to do is cut the tinfoil to fit the steak (allowing for plenty to seal tightly). Place a knob of butter on the foil, then the steak, add seasoning of your choice plus another knob of butter. Wrap the steak in the tinfoil making sure it is completely sealed. Wrap the package in the strip of tin and place on the manifold using the wire to hold it in place.

Cooking time is approximately one hour (varies depending on the size of the steak. Thicker steak for longer gathers!).

Hard luck to those who still gather on horseback !!

Safety note: Let manifold cool down before removing the steak.

SHELLEY NIGHTINGALE MAY 1992



"I'll pass on th' tomato sauce ... there was no muslin so when I was makin' it I used your sock!"





3.













6

NEW ZEALAND WOOL BREEDS

I wonder if you can match the sheep breeds here with the pictures on the previous page. (answers below)

CORRIEDALE

The Corriedale was the first completely new breed developed in New Zealand when, in the 1860's, Lincolns and Romneys were mated to Merino ewes and then interbred. This breed has become popular in South America and produces good quality meat and wool. Corriedale wool is in the 28-33 micron range with a staple length of 75-125mm. It is used for medium weight outer garments, worsted and light tweeds.

DRYSDALE

Drysdales are farmed primarily for their coarse, hairy wool which has a specialised use. Drysdale wool is very coarse (40 microns plus) and grows to a length of 200-300 mm. They are shorn twice a year otherwise the fibre would be too long for processing. Drysdale wool is blended with other wool for use in carpets.

COOPWORTH

This breed was developed for New Zealand conditions by interbreeding Border Leicesters and Romneys. They are renowned for their high fertility and good quality lustrous wool. Coopworth wool is in the 35-39 micron range with a staple of 125-175 mm. It is used in heavier apparels and carpets.

ROMNEY

This is the main dual-purpose breed producing the bulk of New Zealand's meat and wool. They produce heavy, good quality fleeces. Romney wool is in the 33-37 micron range and has a staple length of 125-175 mm. Many Romneys are shorn twice a year and their wool is used in carpets, heavyweight apparel, blankets and furnishings.

MERINO

Although the Merino is the world's main wool producing sheep there are only about 1.3 million in New Zealand. Merinos produce heavy fleeces of very fine wool. Merino wool is very fine, varying from 19-23 microns with a staple length of 65-100 mm. It is ideal for high quality woven and knitted clothing.

PERENDALE

The Perendale was developed for New Zealand's hill country 20 years ago by interbreeding Cheviots and Romneys. They are well suited to steep, hard hill country and are noted for their easy care characteristics. Perendale wool is 32-35 microns and has a staple length of 100-150 millimetres. It is noted for its low lustre, bulk and shape retention. The finer wool is used in knitwear and coarser types are used for carpets.

BORDER LEICESTER

The Border Leicester is a classic dual-purpose breed, developed in England during the 1700's and favoured in New Zealand for crossbreeding high fertility off-spring. They are noted for their high lustre wool which is in the 37-40 micron range with a staple length of 150-200 mm. It is used for upholstery, dress fabrics and lining material.

NEW ZEALAND HALFBRED

These are a Merino and Romney (or other longwool) cross. Found mainly in the foothills of the Southern Alps, they are noted for their hardiness and ability to lamb in difficult conditions. Halbreds produce good quality fine wool of 25-31 microns with a staple length of 75-110 millimetres. It is used for both woven and knitted apparel.

ANSWERS: 1.Border Leicester; 2.Merino; 3.Coopworth; 4.New Zesland Halfbred; 5.Corriedale; 6.Perendale; 7.Drysdale; 8.Romney.

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Issue 29 CROSS WORD SOLUTION

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CROSSWORD

by Mandy McLeod

ACROSS

1. South West Island. 5. Fire arm. 8. Black water bird. 9. Paraffin? 12. Every. 13. In front 14. Dodge. 16. Walk awkwardly. 20. Operatic solo song. 21. Skin. 23. Hire. 24. Be. 25. Old tattered fabric. 26. Another name for John. 28. Note.(abbrev.) 30. A secluded place. 32. Farm on West Falkland. 33. Pigs. 35. Not out. 36. Therefore. 37. Zero. 38. Like. 39. Chinese cook pan. 40. Confuses. 43. Top quality. 44. Ear marker. 45. Decimal number.

DOWN

- 1. Wading bird.
- Hand cart. 2.
- 3. First shorn sheep?
- 4. Famous racehorse.
- 5. Joy.
- 6. Want.
- 7. Tease / Push 10. Woolly rug. Tease / Push.
- 11. Pestering horse?!
- 15. Broad description of any mammal (not man).
- 17. Taming (as in horse).
- 18. Have food.
- 19. That thing.
 - 22. Lonely.
- 24. Bay near San Carlos.
- 27. Thin slice of fried potato.
 - 29. In need of repair.
 - 31. Scandinavian capital.
 - 32. Over a distance (like T.V.)
 - 34. Long river.
 - 39. Sense of humour.
 - 40. Exist.
 - 41. Ready Steady
 - 42. Saint or street.



DIARY OF A FARMER'S WIFE

The Boss is now spending much of his time using the latest in high-tech ditching equipment, on a secondhand peat spade, no less. It's impressive to see how much he can do with this nifty device, but not so impressive to see the state of his poor old hands. I'm taking pictures of his progress (well, I thought I'd better do my bit), and anyway I doubt if anyone would believe the size and threat of the worst ditches without visual evidence. A two-foot wide opening with overhangs either side of it can turn out to be eight feet deep or more, and several feet wide, when opened out properly. any animal lost in one of these once they have been opened out will have to be a suicide case.

Wool sales appear to be still dragging their feet, which is worrying. It doesn't seem that long since we were all listening to the R/T for wool messages, - "Buyer bids xxx pence clean your A/AA shearlings", etc., - and in some cases whole clips were sold before Christmas. Not many will have had the confidence to commit themselves so completely nowadays, I suspect. We've sold only our first shipment so far, and just hope things improve. The buyers don't seem all that keen to grab Falkland wool. It does seem a long wait to that first wool cheque. This year we'll be selling our highest total of bales to date, but the true picture won't be seen until we get the final clean weight total for the season, so I'd better not crow too loudly. Everyone's yields seem to be well down on normal, thanks to the volcanic dust, by up to 13% on some farms, and results to date show our own to be down some 10%. There can't be any profit in shipping bits of Chile to Bradford, and no doubt we are contravening some obscure import regulation in so doing....

I still have only one cow in to milk, as we are short of keep around the house. Old ruby is placid enough, but has the annoying habit of decorating the cowshed with her deposits the minute she walks in; since she always completes a circular tour of the place each time without fail, I end up with a neat circular pattern of cowflops to clean up. It's a good job we have rainwater available to wash the place out. Another bonus of the cowshed water supply is the sound of running water; just leaving the tap slightly open ensures a good let-down of milk. (It generally also ensures a good letdown of water from Ruby and her calf, but that's life). I first learned to milk Falkland style some nine years ago, and the use of manears struck me as a lifesaver with difficult cows. (With Ruby, who's pretty quiet on the whole, I tie one leg back as a precaution).

When we lived in Wales I was given a Friesian house-cow called Bounty, who was totally unpredictable in her habits and very hard to milk, refusing to let down despite being fed during milking. Sweet as honey one day, she would do her best to exterminate me on the next, and I grew to dread morning and evening milkings. One day Bounty excelled herself. I had just stopped milking for a few seconds, to give my aching wrists a chance, and was leaning forward on my stool to recommence. Never one to miss a chance, the old s^{**} took a mighty side-swipe at me, catching me full on the forehead and sending me across the cowshed to sprawl half out of the doorway. Our Welsh post lady was pushing her bike up into our yard at that moment, and was most concerned on seeing my prostrate body. (I was too groggy to answer her immediately, and was trying to recall who I was, where I was, and why)... "Duw, duw, whateffer happened, is it?" she cried. I suspect she thought the Boss had finally flipped and Peering past me into the cowshed, she saw Bounty with her sent me flying). tail swishing, and understood the scenario. Some time and several cups of tea later, I felt able to finish the milking, and made sure I was well tucked into the beast's flank. But I wish I'd known then about manears, - I might well have avoided the Mutiny of the Bounty.....





ISSUE 31

JUNE 1992

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NATIONAL STUD FLOCK UPDATE by R.H.B.Hall

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors - M.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL

This is our Heritage Year edition of the Wool Press and we hope you all enjoy your Liberation celebrations in camp.

I dare say that the rams will have had a busy month, and those of you with your imported ones from Tasmania will be keeping a keen eye on the newcomers, to assess whether or not they are "working" to their full ability.

A good part of the next month will be taken up by various people with their preparations towards farmers week. We hope to put the next Wool Press edition out a little earlier so that you can all receive it in good time as there may be some content relevant to the impending Farmers Week.

* * * * * *

A Contraction of the second of

"Well, he's rolled over and he's gone to sleep ... but if this one snores, he's gonna have REAL problems!"

STOP PRESS Would any farmers having either sponge applicators or glass bottles in which frozen PMSG injection was stored, please return them to the Department of Agriculture.

THANK YOU

The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

POTATO NASTIES!

(PART ONE)

Many people will have just unearthed this years potato crop, and hopefully not recovered too many manky-looking specimens. Potato diseases vary from being very serious, with many tubers lost, to nothing more than a minor blemish which is scraped off with the peelings. The following brief disease profiles should cover most of the diseases found in Falkland vegetable gardens, and hopefully a few that are not, but which are prevalent elsewhere. Early diagnosis and sensible action could prevent you from having to abandon your favourite potato patch!

Bacterial Soft Rot :

At first there appears to be a water-soaked area at the site of the initial infection, which quickly becomes soft and mushy. The tober skin may remain in tact, with the inside turned to a cream coloured, slimy, mushy mass. Once other organisms invade this as well, a foul smell is also given off. This disease is common in both crops in the field and in storage.

The lower part of the potato stem may also turn black and shrivel, resulting in the above ground death of the plant. The organism which causes this disease is a bacteria (*Erwinia*), which can overwinter on tubers and seed in storage (low temperatures over the winter slow down the disease progress), and on infected tubers missed at lifting time and left in the

ifting time and left in the



soil until the next growing season. (See diagram above).

Control: Wounding of tubers should be avoided and only whole, healthy tubers should be stored and saved for seed. If any infections appear in storage, these tubers should be removed, along with any that look wet beside them, and burned. Any stems that look infected should be removed from the garden and burned.

Black Scurf : A very common disease, but one which does very little damage. The disease is a fungus (*Rhizoctonia*), which appears as small, hard, black lumps on the tuber surface, which are not removed by washing. The skin may also be roughened in a criss-cross manner (russeting).

<u>Control</u>: The disease is rarely serious, and planting nonaffected seed in well drained areas would be best.

Common Scab: This disease is caused by another bacteria (*Strep-tomyces scabies*) which usually causes superficial blemishes on tubers. Small, brownish, slightly raised spots mat appear at first, which may enlarge and coalesce later on. In severe infections, most of the tuber can be covered in scabs. The bacteria can live in the soil indefinitely, so if infections become severe, use of resistant or tolerant varieties is the main method to avoid the disease, although chemical treatment of seed, and irrigating for about 6 weeks during young tuber development also



Hollow Heart : Large tubers may be found to be hollow in the middle when cut open. this is caused by a prolonged wet spell after a dry spell, or overwatering after not watering during dry weather. Watering during dry spells may prevent this problem. These potatoes may rot when put into storage, as bacteria may get into the wound.

STEVE HOWLETT. MAY 1992.

ONLY 47 REPLIES WERE RECEIVED

OUT OF A POSSIBLE 89,

TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT OUT

BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TO GET YOUR VIEWS ON

COLIN SMITHS PROPOSAL

FOR THE FUTURE OF D_S_& Co_!!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN LAND BASED INDÚSTRY

Land Based Industry is the term now used to describe any activity which involves the use of land. Education and training courses available in the U.K. which are concerned with the use of land, therefore cover a very wide range of subjects. Traditional agricultural courses appear under the label of Land Based Industry Education and Training. The range of provision however is so wide, and types of qualifications so varied, that it is often difficult for those thinking of starting or developing a career in agriculture, or some other area of land based industry, to discover what is available and what is most appropriate for them. For anyone not resident in the U.K the situation must seem even more difficult and confusing. The purpose of this article is to provide a general overview of Land Based Industry Education and Training provision in the U.K.

The range of provision for Land Based Industry includes the following subject areas:

Agriculture - including general courses and specialist courses in all aspects of husbandry, machinery and management Farm Secretarial Agricultural Engineering Horticulture - Commercial and Amenity Landscaping Forestry Floristry Merchanting and Marketing Kouestrian - Leisure and Breeding Game Keeping Fish Farming Deer Farming Viticulture and Viniculture Countryside Conservation and Management Environmental Management Leisure Provision and Management in the Countryside Economics Applied Science Animal Care Kennel Craft Veterinary Nursing Veterinary

The types of resident courses and qualifications available are shown below together with the usual course entry requirement.

shown below together with the usual course entry requirement.COURSE / QUALIFICATIONPRE - ENTRY REQUIREMENTNational Certificate (NC)
(One year course)One year industrial
experienceAdvanced National Certificate (ANC)
(One year courseNC plus one year post
NC industrial experienceNational Diploma (ND)
(Three year sandwich course)Four GCSE's plus one year
industrial experience

Higher National Diploma (HND) (Three year sandwich course)

Bachelors Degree (Three year course)

Masters Degree (One/two years taught course plus dissertation or by thesis) One A level plus one year industrial experience

Three A levels plus one year industrial exper -ience

Bachelors Degree

The above is a general guideline only. An important point to note is that pre - entry requirements are becoming more flexible. Some course providers are more willing to accept candidates who can provide acceptable evidence that they have reached the standard required for entry even though they may not possess the usual entry qualifications. For example potential students with few formal qualifications, but possessing relevant industrial experience, may be considered suitable for entry to a particular diploma course. This does not mean the standard of entry requirement has changed, just that there are other means of proving that the required standard has been reached. In addition flexibility often exists in academic pre - entry requirement qualifications, the traditional route to a degree course is through A levels but some institutes may accept a National Diploma instead.

COURSE PROVIDERS

National Certificate and National Diploma courses are normally provided by county Colleges of Agriculture and Horticulture in England and Wales. There are forty one of these, usually situated rural areas; most have their own farms and horticultural in units, run as commercial enterprises and used to provide an essential teaching resource. Some county colleges also provide higher level courses in association with Polytechnics or Universities. These colleges have a tradition of being fully aware of the education and training needs of land based industry and providing excellent practically based courses to meet those needs. Higher National Diploma and Degree courses are provided by the small number of what used to be National Colleges of Agriculture, institutions whose status has or is changing in line with recent educational reforms. Degree courses in Land Based Industry subjects are also available at a number of English, Irish and Welsh Polytechnics and Universities. In Scotland the situation is slightly different, with the main providers being the three Scottish Colleges of Agriculture, providing a wide range courses from National Diploma to Bachelor Degree level and beyond.

Course quality does however vary between institutions, for example a Diploma course at one college may not be as good as the same course at a different college. Selecting the right course at the right institute poses problems for people already in the U.K let alone anyone eight thousand miles away. Course literature can help but the overseas student must also try and make the most of any contacts who have recieved education and training in the Land Based sector.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance Learning Courses are not a new idea however the concept has only recieved significant attention in the Land Based Industry sector relatively recently. The range of learning material available is increasing steadily as is the range of qualifications which can be gained. Distance Learning Courses normally consist of one or more learning packages, each package composed of text and various learning material e.g references, videos, computer software etc. As the student goes through the course he may be required to complete various excercises and essays which are posted to a tutor for comments and assessment. Some courses lead to a qualification while others are designed to introduce to, or update a learner, in a subject of interest. Again course quality can vary widely as can cost. Courses are available in many subjects at many levels from basic poultry keeping to postgraduate studies in economics.

The Department of Agriculture are able to investigate any specific enquiries relating to Land Based education and training opportunities in the U.K or elsewhere if required. If anyone does need help or wishes to find out more please contact the Department.

ANDREW T. HENWORTH JUNE 1992

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LAST MONTHS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

A.T.S.UPDATE

SHEEPSKIN CURING

I have had a request for a sheepskin curing course at Shallow Harbour Farm. Marlene and Ali have kindly offered to be hosts to anyone who would like to join them for the course.

The course takes two days and would probably be held around the end of July. Final date to be arranged later. (We have chemicals ordered to arrive on the July boat). We normally like to have a minimum of four people per course, preferably more.

Dennis Middleton will be the instructor, so if there are other people in <u>your</u> area that would like to learn how to cure sheepskins we may be able to organise more courses.

ALL THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN FRESH SHEEPSKIN (not salted)

FIRST AID

I am in the process of organising first aid courses in Stanley and the camp. Courses in the past have been of one day's duration and the only bad comment that has been made about them is that one day isn't really long enough. In consultation with the Medical department it has been decided to have two day courses.

At the moment we are just looking for numbers of people and locations where the interest lies so that courses can be organised to the best advantage around the islands.

It is envisaged that First Aid courses will be run during the winter months.

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN EITHER OF THE COURSES MENTIONED ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT AILSA HEATHMAN (east) OR LENA MORRISON (west). THEY WILL PASS YOUR NAMES ON TO ME.

MANDY McLEOD JUNE 1992

VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS VIDEOS

THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF VIDEOS BELONGING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THAT ARE WELL OVERDUE BEING RETURNED.

IF YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU HAVE ANY BY AN OVERSIGHT PLEASE RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT FROM SEEING THEM.

THANKYOU

Brucella ovis in the Falklands

During the summer of 1991/92 3065 rams on 16 farms in the Falklands were tested for the evidence of *Brucella ovis* infection. 14 of these farms were tested as part of the eradication scheme which had been adopted in the early eighties. Rams had their reproductive organs inspected and palpated for evidence of chronic epididymitis and at that time a blood sample was taken. At the laboratory the sera were subjected to the microtitre plate_complement fixation test.

9 of the tested farms had previously only had one clear test, and as the original scheme adopted in the Islands described two negative tests for flock accreditation another negative test was required. All rams on these farms were found to be negative, and the farms accredited *B.ovis*-free status.

A further five farms required two clear tests as previously they had returned a few sero-positive results, and all rams were presented on three farms on two occasions. All animals tested negative and thus these three farms could be accredited. Two farms presented their rams only on one occasion and, although these tests were all negative, require one more test for accreditation.

Two areas submitted their rams for additional, voluntary testing after they had already been accredited and all their tests were also negative.

Provided that the two remaining farms return one more negative test for all of their rams, all farms in the Falklands would then have received accredited status at same stage. Although all reactors should now have been eliminated from all farms, trade with animals, in particular rams from farms that had not yet been accredited to accredited farms could have allowed for some reactors to remain undetected. As the efforts in the last two seasons were only directed at eliminating the reactors on farms that were known to be affected, large proportions of the Falklands have not been tested for at least three seasons. Some infected animals may also not sero-convert until very late, thus may not have shown up in tests although infected. As it can not be assumed that always all rams on a farm were presented for testing, some possibly escaping the gather, there could still be an, albeit very small, number of positive rams out there.

It is thus desirable that all farms be subjected to one more test this next season, 1992/93, immediately after eradication has been achieved to confirm that accredited farms have not been allowed to become re-infected. After that effort some of the farms which had remained infected until very late, like Goose Green and North Arm, should be subjected to checks at two or three yearly intervals, with some additional random checks on other farms to confirm the absence of disease. This would follow internationally accepted practice and maintain our credibility with the veterinary authorities in overseas countries, just in case we ever want to export animals or animal products, say progeny or semen from the NSF. In addition to that, a tough import testing protocol with very high cut-off levels will have to be adopted for future imports, in order to protect what has been achieved at great cost over the past 15 years. If these final precautions are not taken numbers of *B.ovis* positive rams may rise again, as happened shortly after the conflict when testing was suspended for a few seasons.

David Baber Michael P Reichel

JUNE 1992

BOOK REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE WILDLIFE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND SOUTH GEORGIA

by

Ian J. Strange

A recent addition to the book shelves in Stanley shops is this field guide written and illustrated by Ian Strange. It would appear Ian has come up with a sure winner and the first such book on wildlife in the Falkland Islands.

It is a valuable source of information to the visitor (and resident). The author has managed in 188 pages to compress Falkland history, land mass description and the controversial conservation issue. There are checklists of the birds and mammals for the enthusiast to tick off as one goes along. In addition to this each section (birds, mammals, fish, marine invertebrates, terrestrial invertebrates and plants) is sub-divided into orders, families and species aimed at easier identification (but possibly the author is trying to increase our general understanding of the rich and abundant wildlife in the Islands).

The author should be congratulated in providing a resource book that is easy to use and is suitable for almost all ages. It is rather disappointing that there are numerous inaccuracies present, some more obvious than others. Depending on the level of knowledge of the subject the inaccuracies may be mis-leading and frustrating. Let us hope that author will consult with those who can offer helpful criticism to ensure the Second edition is even better than the first.

I would recommend this book to everyone (even at the price of £14.99 a copy) because it can help us all become more aware of the diverse and beautiful Islands we live in.

G.M. HOPPE June 1992
SYNCHRONISATION OF OESTRUS

By the time this edition of the WOOL PRESS is in print, the 1992 AI programme will be near completion. Farmers who have had both cows and sheep AI'd will be aware that the methods used for synchronisation of oestrus are different in the two species ewes are `sponged' for a period of 12 days, whereas cows receive two injections, eleven days apart. The following article attempts to explain the hormonal control exerted by the two different approaches.

EWES

The oestrus cycle of the ewe, usually 17 days duration, is regulated by hormones secreted from the pituitary gland and from the reproductive organs. The cycle can be divided into two phases - the follicular phase and the luteal phase.

The follicular phase is short, some 3 to 4 days, during which time the follicle (from which the ova or egg will subsequently be released) matures in the ovary under the influence of hormones released from the pituitary gland. Whilst it is maturing, the follicle secretes oestrogen - a hormone which is not only responsible for the visible signs of oestrus and the inclination of the ewe to stand to the ram, but which also eventually causes the release of a hormone from the pituitary gland. This hormone is responsible for the rupturing of the wall of the follicle, freeing the mature ova from within (ovulation). Following ovulation, the ruptured follicle develops into a corpus luteum which is responsible for the secretion of another hormone progesterone, who's principal function is to prepare the uterus to receive a fertilised embryo. During a natural cycle, progesterone reaches a peak concentration in the bloodstream after about six days and then declines over the next 11-12 days.

Progesterone secretion from the corpus luteum is responsible for the inhibition of further follicular development. For a new follicle to begin maturing so that ovulation and oestrus can again occur, the demise of the corpus luteum is necessary. This function is fulfilled by a hormone known as $PGF2\propto$ released from the uterus and diffused to the ovary once it has been established that no embryo is present in the uterus. Release of $PGF2\propto$ is suppressed if fertilisation has occurred, allowing the corpus luteum to continue producing progesterone which is essential for the maintenance of pregnancy.

The sponges used to synchronise ewes are impregnated with a synthetic progesterone and the treatment thus imitates the function of the corpus luteum, inhibiting follicular development. Once the sponges are withdrawn, levels of circulating progesterone fall and the development and maturation of follicles is no longer suppressed. Whichever stage of the cycle a ewe is at when sponges are inserted, follicular development will be induced in all when the sponges are removed.

Large doses of the injection given at sponge removal will cause multiple ovulation. The size of the dose given in the Falkland Islands is not designed for this purpose, but serves rather to compact the time of ovulation following sponge withdrawal.

CATTLE

The method of oestrus synchronisation in cattle employs a different approach. Instead of imitating the action of the corpus luteum and introducing progesterone, the cycle is controlled by the use of synthetic PGF2 δ which, as mentioned before, causes the corpus luteum to regress. In order for this to be effective, there must be a sensitive corpus luteum present in the ovary upon which this synthetic hormone can act. If then, this hormone is injected during the follicular phase or the early luteal phase, it has no effect. It is only when the injection occurs when the cow is naturally at the mid or late luteal phase that the synthetic PGF2 σ can have any influence. The diagram below illustrates this.



At the time of the first injection, if the cow is in the sensitive phase of her natural cycle (a) then the corpus luteum will regress prematurely and the follicular phase will begin as a result of the injection. 11 days later she will again be in the sensitive phase (having passed the 3-4 day follicular phase and the 4-5 day early luteal phase). The injection now due has exactly the same effect as the first - bringing this animal again to a premature follicular phase.

At the time of the first injection, if the cow is in the insensitive phase, this first injection will have no effect. Whether this first injection occurred in the follicular phase or the early luteal phase, eleven days later she will be in the sensitive phase and this second injection will then be effective, prematurely instigating the beginning of the follicular phase.

Thus, cows which are cycling normally are brought into synchronisation under the effect of either both or only the second of the two injections.

JO BAUGHAN JUNE 1992

WOOL AGENCY

I write with reference to the proposals from Colin Smith with regard to keeping his wool agency going after his retirement. As I see it there are two possibilities open to us, one to do nothing, the second to take up some form of his suggestions.

If we do nothing we either end up with one outlet for our wool or we get a completely unknown person handling it. There is a school of thought which says that someone will take it on. This is not certain at all. When Jacombe Hoare gave up trading directly in wool, the Falkland clip was handled by Colin Smith's Company only. The FIC bought a share in this and eventually ended up sacking Colin. This is when Colin started his agency and carried it on as a personal vendetta against the FIC. That is why we have a wool agency today. An unknown may take over the agency, in which case any profit from selling our wool will go into his pocket, not ours. He will not have Colin Smith's commitment to the Falklands and will probably want a much bigger commission than people pay to date.

If we adopted some form of Colin Smiths proposals we would have an agent known locally and if the takeover were funded in part or wholly from the Island then any profit made from the sale of the wool would return here, or part of it. The claim that government should not get involved in commercial activity is only valid if it is a continuing involvement. Through FIDC, Government has been involved in dozens of commercial enterprises. Further, it is surely good sense for as much of the proceeds of the sale of our wool to be returned here. Even with a locally controlled agency there would be no compulsion on the individual to sell his wool to that agency. No one is suggesting that we set up a wool board buying the whole clip, but just ensuring we have at least one friendly buyer. If Peter Marriot offered a better price then the seller would be at liberty to take it.

So far I have tried to examine the proposals objectively. My own opinion is that Robert Hall seems an ideal candidate for the job. His knowledge of Falkland wool is greater than anyone else in the islands and he seems willing to live in Bradford. I would hope that Government would fund his salary for the two years while he is getting his initial ground training with Colin. His salary for the remaining period of joint management should come out of the agency's commission. Start up capital should be raised locally. It would be possible to find out which farms would want to take up shares in the agency and then shares allocated to those farms accordingly. I would suggest that a limit be placed on the number of shares any farm could hold. This would account for seventy percent of the shares. The remaining shares would be funded by the Agency and would be for the benefit of the manager. The agency policy would be controlled by a small board of directors elected by the local shareholders. This would bring the agent to the islands for meetings and would keep him in touch with farmers. In this way we would have the opportunity to control, at least in part, the sale of our wool and bring some of the profit to the Islands.

L.G.BLAKE THE PEAKS, JUNE 1992

LETTERS PAGE (2)

WOOL MARKETING - PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

Possibly the main topic of conversation for farmers over the past few weeks has been the scheme put forward by Colin Smith for the future of D.S.&.Co. We are all by now familiar with these proposals and I see little point in going over the various pros and cons here. That's best left to Farmers' Week when everyone can air their views, but during conversations with other farmers, several points have been raised which set me thinking how Falkland wool was sold in the past, how it is sold now and what for the future?

Gone are the days when bales of each class (fine, medium, coarse, with count, - no A, B or C or micron then) were opened at random before auction so that wool buyers could appraise the product with experienced eye and touch, accurate to 1% on yield and within a whisker of a count. Nowadays it's the laboratory results and test certificates that are all important: the buyers leave nothing to chance. But do we, the producers, leave some things to chance? How well do we understand what is going on?

For example: We accept say 280 pence per kilo clean for 28 micron wool (Oh that such offers existed), and receive at best 262 pence down to 241 pence, before freight costs are deducted. So much depends in the contract through which that wool is sold. Often, the first written confirmation or detail the farmer receives about the sale of his wool is the sales invoice. It's too late then to complain about the extra freight costs to Timbuctoo, re-marking of bales for such freighting, and any other costs which may have been charged. How many farmers are disappointed with the net prices received? I know I am.

Would it not be less disappointing and confusing to be quoted a net price lying Bradford? What happens to the wool thereafter, once sold, should surely be the buyers responsibility and cost. If a German buyer for instance, buys Falkland wool from a U.K. based agent, he should bear the cost of onward freight from Bradford. He will know the cost involved and can budget accordingly when making his bid for the wool.

I've heard some farmers say "It's easy to sell your wool with a calculator. You knock off 6½% and you get your net price." That's a rough guide at best, and misleading at worst, because you don't know the terms of the contract under which your wool is being sold. It may well be that you'd have to knock off 14% to get an accurate net figure. Maybe we should do that anyway to avoid a nasty shock.

What improvements would you like to see in the marketing of your wool? While all those discussions are going on about who may or may not be selling our wool in the future, isn't it time to put forward suggestions on how the present system of selling could be improved? If we don't discuss and try to implement (or see implemented) improvements in the marketing of our product, we could unintentionally end up with a Wool Board in our midst, and we would only have ourselves to blame. Air your views. Do you want to see change, or are you happy selling your wool "BLIND"??

CLIVE WILKINSON JUNE 1992

PART 2 - TREES AS SHELTER BELTS

In the first article (part 1, April 1992) the use of trees for achieving such shelter was introduced highlighting some of the advantages of providing a permanent shelter belt. Omissions were made of some of the farm settlements with "old" tree plantations, therefore, to recap; Hill Cove, Roy Cove, Teal Inlet, Weddle Island, Carcass Island and Stanley (the Government forest!). McAdam (1977) concluded that the climate of the Falklands, although not favourable, is not prohibitive to tree growing. With that short introduction our next step is to look at (1) factors that will aid in the establishment of a successful tree plantation and progress on to (2) what tree species have been grown in the Islands.



(1) Factors relating to tree planting. Many reviews have mentioned that assessing the specific reasons for success or failure of tree planting attempts in the Islands is difficult because of the lack of good records. However, Alan Low (1986) listed (in order of importance) 7 beneficial factors.

- 1. Selecting a wet site with natural topographic shelter.
- Provision of artificial shelter (wooden fences, gorse hedge or plastic netting).
- 3. Stock proof fences to prevent browsing.
- 4. Planting of an area large enough to provide adequate shelter.
- 5. Good ground preparation prior to planting.
- 6. Plant in April through June.
- 7. Gelection (if possible) of a wind resistant species.

Those who are familiar with the tree sites mentioned above will recognise that these "successful" plantations can be given a tick (or half a one) for almost all of the 7 points stated by Low. Whether this was by chance or design is difficult to assess. However, it is interesting that there is no success story of tree planting for sites that are typical of conditions found in open "camp". It could be argued that no one would wish to plant such areas, yet if strategically placed shelter belts are to be integrated into the existing farm structure to the benefit of animal and plant production this needs addressing.

There appear to be reasonable prospects for shelter belt planting using trees particularly in the wetter areas of the Islands. A better success story is likely if the site has natural topographic shelter, the provision of netting or screening (available in Stanley) or planting on the leeward side of an existing hedge will enhance early growth and survival. Just as dry areas are not recommended for reseeding, the same applies for tree planting. Tree planting techniques are as varied as the trees themselves (this will be dealt with in Part 3) but one thing is known is that fertiliser is required to give the tree a good start.

A shelter belt should be designed not to stop the wind but cause the wind velocity to gradually be reduced as it filters through the shelter belt. Conversely if the belt is thin and open it will offer little resistance to winds and may even cause a funnelling effect and accelerate wind speed, the opposite of what is it is intended for. To achieve the desired shelter belt it has been suggested that a spacing of 1.5-2m between and within rows be used, with at least 10 and preferably 15-20 rows of trees in total. A minimum tree row length of 200m is needed to provide an adequate area of shelter on the leeward side. The windward trees (rows 1-4+) will suffer wind damage and will in effect provide the necessary shelter for the remaining rows (4 onwards) that will show relatively normal growth. It may be that either "hardy" tree or shrub species are required on the windward side. Hence the reason many of the "large" tree plantations were planted with a gorse hedge on one perimeter (mostly though not always on the windward side).

It may be that tree rows should be planted generally at right angles to the most of the prevailing winds in the area; this would mean a north-south orientation be used. At first thought this may be deemed the best, however, the very cold south or south-westerly winds can (and do) provide wind-chill problems at shearing or lambing time make it necessary to consider an eastwest orientation. This will be determined by the reason for providing shelter, for example, in a clippy paddock or for amenity purposes around the house and by the lie of the land. During the hot dry summer winds the shelter belt can also help reduce heat stress on sheep and cattle, a neglected cause of loss in many sheep growing areas of the world. The shelter is therefore keeping sheep warmer in the winter/spring and cooler in the summer (in that they will seek shade if available).

(2) What tree species have been tried? The range of tree species tested through the history of the Islands is immense. The following list is not a comprehensive one but notes the main tree species grown in the Islands over the last 90 years.

Of the species grown Low (1986) recorded 27 broadleaved species and 10 coniferous species. Those species that are fairly common are as follows:

Broadleaved species Acer pseudoplatamus Sycamore Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn Eucalyptus spp. N. betuloides Coibue Sambucus nigra

Betula pubescens Birch Escallonia macrantha Nothofagus antarctica Nirre Populus alba White poplar Sorbus aucuparia Rowan

Coniferous species: *Cupressus macrocarpa* Monterey cypress *P. sitchensis* Sitka spruce *P. nigra var nigra* Australian pine *P. radiata* Monterey pine

Picea glaca White spruce Pinus contorta Lodgepole pine P. nigra var maritima Corsican P. sylvestris Scots pine

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Suggestions have been made as to what tree and shrub species should be grown according to site description yet none where solely based on results of trials conducted in the Islands. This has made decisions on what tree species to plant a difficult one. Part 3 to be written in conjunction with Jim McAdam will outline results of Tree trials conducted in the Islands over the last 3 years.

Pause for thought The growing of trees is a long term operation, it has been estimated that for a tree shelter belt to become effective it is likely to take 10-15 years (or more). As with planting Tussac grass, tree shelter belts are an investment in the future. Should we not be prepared to be the ones to make the first move.

G.M. HOPPE May 1992

EMBRYO TRANSFER FOR THE FALKLANDS?

The WOOL PRESS has already seen a few articles which had been devoted to embryo transfer (ET), but like many other things, the science and art of ET is an evolving one and changes. Also, during my recent (and current) travels in AI matters, I have come across questions regarding ET which are best, for the benefit of all, answered in writing.

ET is now routinely performed in a variety of species including cattle, goats, deer and sheep, on a commercial basis. ET has particular advantages over other means of livestock improvement and is an excellent tool in international trade with superior genetic material. Embryos are cheaply transported to any corner of the globe, there is little risk of importing exotic diseases with them and one ewe can produce many more embryos in her lifetime than she will ever have natural lambs.

Disadvantages of ET are that careful planning and execution of the programme required for the commercial success are still necessary (however, not more so than with the currently employed AI programme) and fairly specialised skills are still needed, (in most countries the techniques have to be carried out by a veterinary surgeon). As with laparoscopic AI the success of an ET programme is largely dependent on the same factors that influence the conception rate in AI, like nutrition of the ewe, stress etc.

THE TECHNIQUE:

The genetically superior ewe, called the donor, is prepared similarly to the AI ewes with sponges and fertility-enhancing drugs (only with much more of the latter) which induces the donor's ovaries to produce a larger than normal number of ova (eggs) on a pre-determined date. After mating, at about day six, the embryos which are by then travelling down the fallopian tube / uterus horn, are flushed out using laparoscopic techniques. The embryos are picked out of the flush fluid, assessed for suitability and then frozen in steps to -196°C.

The surrogate ewes, called recipients, are programmed so that they are at exactly the same stage of the cycle, i.e. day six, on the day of the scheduled implantation. On that day usually two embryos are implanted per recipient by surgical technique under light anaesthesia.

THE COSTS:

Costs compare very favourably with AI, especially when it is taken into account that ET produces purebred lambs of the breed of your choice and AI only a crossbred animal, with only half the genes coming from the superior ram.

A recent quotation puts the cost per embryo collected in Australia, frozen and transported to the Falkland Islands starting at around US\$50.00. As commercially, 50% of implanted frozen-thawed embryos result in the birth of a live lamb, a starting price for a purebred CORMO, COMEBACK or POLWARTH from Australia could be as low as US\$100.00 (£60.00).

Embryos can be sexed, but at about £50.00 per embryo, thus it is still a very expensive technique, and it would be better to buy all embryos regardless of the sex.

With ET now being commonplace in many countries, techniques have been simplified to the point that we can adapt our AI equipment here to offer, if interest exists, ET at the same time next year as the normal AI round.

I have been in contact with a veterinary practice in Victoria, Australia which has offered to put together a package of embryos this year, for implantation next year, which could be of a variety of breeds, and only Merino embryos excluded at this stage due to a government embargo on their export. I would be keen to hear from interested farmers at the office or through Judy Summers at the Farmers Association.

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M.P.REICHEL JUNE 1992

SHEEP RACE

FARM AVERAGE MICRON.

Calculation of your farm's average micron or weighed mean fibre diameter, is a simple but useful annual exercise, which gives an indication of the whole farm's wool production performance. The farm average micron takes into account the fact that there was more of one wool class than another, by weighing the figures according to the relative clean wool weights. This figure is also completely unaffected by the classer or classing policy, because it deals with the farm's whole clip.

The farm average micron can be used across a number of years to give an idea of the whole farm trend, which may be stable or changing as a result of breeding and stocking policies. It is vital that you know if your policies are causing fibre diameter trends to move in the desired direction, so that policies can either be continued or adjusted.

The weighed mean fibre diameter is calculated by multiplying each clean wool weight by its fibre diameter, adding these all together and finally dividing by the total clean wool weight.

CLEAN WOOL	CLASS	FIBRE DIAMETER	Clean wool weight multi-
WEIGHT (KGS).		(MICRONS)	plied by fibre diameter.
1256	HOG	23.6	29641.6
1592	SHER	26.1	41551.2
1483	AW	26.7	39596.1
2155	BW	28.2	60771.0
1106	CW	30.1	33290.6
1228	AE	25.8	31682.4
1551	BE	27.5	42652.5
1194	CE	29.9	35700.6

Total clean wool weight.

11565

Total of all "Clean wool weights multiplied by fibre diameter".

314886

Divide the above by Total clean wool weight:-

Weighed mean fibre diameter in microns: 27.2275

There are several things to keep in mind:

1. Every kilo of wool produced by the farm and its micron should be included each year.

2. If your wool is sold with other peoples, then your calculations will be highly influenced by the wool from other farms. This will have to be taken into account when you assess the annual results.

3. When interpreting the trend, assess the weighed mean fibre diameter over several years (4+), as individual year results may go against the trend (eg. due to exceptional feed availability one winter.).

ROBERT H. B. HALL. APRIL 1992.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK UPDATE.

On 30 April, the privately imported rams were released from quarantine, and kindly flown off Sea Lion Island by FIGAS. Derek Clerk was the pilot game for a laugh, whilst the Departure and In-flight stewards and stewardesses were Owen Summers, David Baber, myself and Diane Betts. The weather conditions were perfect and the 33 rams were flown out on 5 successful flights. Due to limited space, in-flight service staff were sadly unable to provide the usual selection of refreshments. See below!!







During the week of 18 May, the 497 NSF ewes were randomly allocated to 20 mating groups. Each group of 24 or 25 ewes was designed to have as nearly as possible, sheep from each Tasmanian farm source. No group contains ewes that are close relatives to the ram allocated to that group, in order to minimise possible inbreeding. This design has been used so that a progeny test can be done on future off-spring at hog shearing. Such testing will identify those Tasmanian rams of superior animal performance under Falklands conditions.

The 20 rams had harnesses and crayons attached. By monitoring the colouring of ewe rumps, we can identify the activity or possible inactivity problems of each ram (and he can keep his score!). The crayon colours will be changed every 17 days, with darker colours at each crayon change. This allows ewes that "return to service" to be identified and will enable us to predict the spread of likely lambing. Ewes can then be divided into groups according to the time at which they are expected to lamb and efficient feed supply and shepherding will be adjusted accordingly.

Single-sire mating paddocks are needed for this type of breeding enterprise, so that the exact parentage of future off-spring is known. Each mating group is now in its individual mating paddock and the rams are working.

ROBERT H.B. HALL. MAY 1992.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

They may look the same but there are ten differences between these two cartoons. Can you spot them?





LAST MONTH'S DIFFERENCES

1. The "I" in A.I. has a top and bottom on it; 2. Man's stick is longer; 3. Man has down turned mouth; 4. Man has checked cap; 5. Book in pocket has black edge; 6. More grass under man's foot; 7. Extra "drop" by calf; 8. Calf has one ear missing; 9. Cow has one less teat on her udder; 10. Far cow's tail is closer to calf.

NEW MODEL DINKUM ROLLER DOCKER

At the farmers open day we had a Dinkum Roller Docker on display. Since then I have had word from William and Sally Bedell (Patent Holders) of a modified version which is manufactured by Poldenvale.

Generally, it is a stronger piece of equipment. At the loading end there is an extended loading platform so that you don't have to hold the lamb in mid air and at the same time push the lamb under the two 'hold down' bars. There are also self loading nuts for quick adjustment of the parallel 'hold down' bars.





At the unloading end the lambs can now unload themselves as a `locating bar' has been incorporated under the metal table; thus by just knocking the locating bar, the metal table automatically drops down and the lamb either drops out by itself (a very short fall) or the lamb can be pulled away - rather than up and over as before. This proved a very arduous task with big heavy lambs. Afterwards the table can be raised for the next lamb to be marked.

The docker can now be operated by just one person. If it is being used for drenching and vaccinating lambs, then one person can carry out this operation at the loading end and by leaving the metal table down, the lambs will then drop out by themselves.

The dimensions of the 'New' docker are 2400 x 930 x 1625; weight 45 kg; The price is still £325.

If anyone would like more details on the 'Dinkum Roller Docker' or would like to contact Sally and William Bedell themselves, then please contact me at the Department of Agriculture.

MANDY McLEOD JUNE 1992

DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE

Well, that's all the wool away at last. Whether it's worth shipping it at present is another matter, and one I prefer to gloss over. I've heard the Boss muttering something to the effect that we might as well give up sheep farming and take up wool testing instead, - far more lucrative...

The stud rams have been doing their stuff, though Basket has caused us some headaches. He evidently prefers 'em young and has covered only the halfbred ewes we gave him, wanting nothing to do with the older stud ewes. He's been seen shoving them aside in favour of the others. Perhaps we should have mixed them all up well beforehand, to give them the same flock smell?? It's a bit of a nuisance for us, but Basket's, loss is Willow's gain and the other seventeen older ewes have gone to him instead. (With a suitable mark on them, in case some of them had actually been covered while Baskets raddle was missing from its holder). Altogether we have put 165 ewes to the three Merino rams, and hope for a better lambing than last year's.

Mating is the name of the game at present, or would be if Sam had his way. The two young bitches, Jan and Sky are on heat, which is making his and Ben's life a torment. (Meg has gone down to track the friends). We could do with a hot bitch cage on stilts, like the one in Footrot Flats. It's all getting a bit too much for Sam, - today we had to rescue Baldrick from a fate worse than death, as the poor innocent (or daft) cat hadn't realised what was happening to him...

When the Monsunen came this week it brought an impressive battery bank (six 2-volt cells, each large and heavy) for our wind-cuminverter-cum-battery power system, which should save up to 75% of our current annual fuel bill. (It had better work, or we're up the creek without an outboard, as the Boss refused to order anymore fuel on this boat ...). We've had a grand clear-out of two shanties, which was long overdue anyway; this caused the expected arguments over what does and does not constitute junk in the eyes of (a) the Boss and (b) myself. A trailer load of debris resulted, and it's a good job our neighbour left a bomb crater empty for rubbish dumping. The fancy inverter will go in one shanty and be linked to the battery bank in the other, which is apparently the safest thing to do. I'm keeping well out of the way while the Boss pours over instructions, looks for screwdrivers, can't find them' curses, finds them, - you know the routine. I'll just be glad when it's all rigged up, working properly and hasn't blown us both to Kingdom come...

APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITORS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO DID NOT RECEIVE DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE IN THE LAST EDITION OF THE WOOL PRESS. THIS WAS DUE TO PUTTING OUT A FEW EARLY COPIES BEFORE WE WERE FULLY PRINTED SO THAT THEY COULD CATCH THE EARLIEST FIGAS FLIGHT. THIS WAS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO READ THE ARTICLE REGARDING COLIN SMITHS IMPENDING RETIREMENT PROPOSALS, FOR SOME RESPONSE TO THE PHONE-IN SHORTLY AFTER.



WANTED OR FOR SALE

Is anyone likely to be bringing on a litter of pure or near-pure Huntaway pups this year? Dog wanted rather than a bitch.

Does anyone with a coloured sheep mob want to give a home to 5 black Corriedales?? (4 ewes - 2×2 tooth; 1 wether hogg).

FOR SALE - 7000 gallon fibreglass water tank. As is, where is (halfway up Estancia mountain) ex Goose Green camp. Reason for sale- no longer required for intended use. £1200 or near offer.

Lister LD1 cyl. head (new, complete with valves and springs, sent in error) will swap for SL1 head (or something useful).

Serious offers invited for two 101" 1 ton Land Rover trucks from possible local buyer due to overseas enquiry.

For more information regarding any of the above phone Nick on: 31193 or 31199 (keep trying)!

BOOK KEEPING SERVICE

Do you have the need for a book-keeping service?

Experienced person able to offer the following services:

Maintaining stock records; recording receipts and payments; customer billing; bank reconciliation; petty cash reconciliation.

> FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE MIDDLETON ON 21489

SHOPPING SERVICE

Do you need someone to:

Find a present for that special occasion? Buy those stores you've run out of or simply forgot?

THEN GET IN TOUCH WITH STEPHANIE MIDDLETON ON 21489 WHO FOR A SMALL FEE WILL SELECT AND POST YOUR SHOPPING WITHOUT DELAY.

RECIPES

GINGER SHORTBREAD

8 oz butter 10oz flour 2 tsp Baking Powder 4oz sugar 2 tsp ginger

BASE

Rub all ingredients together and press into a baking tray 20cm x 30cm. Bake until firm to touch. Leave in tray to cool then ice with the following.

TOPPING 8 tbls icing sugar 4 oz butter 2tsp ginger 3 deserts spoons syrup.

Melt all together then pour over shortbread. Let cool before cutting into squares and taking from tray.

CARROT CAKE

1 ½ cups grated carrot 1 tsp baking soda 1 cup sultanas ½ tsp cinnamon 3/4 cups cooking oil

1 cup white flour 1 cup sugar

1 tsp mixed spice

2 eggs

Sift flour baking soda and spices into a bowl. Add sugar carrots, fruit and mix in . Beat eggs and oil together and add to dry ingredients mix well. Bake in 20cm tin 180°C for 40 mins.

MARLENE MARSH SHALLOW HARBOUR

NUTTY BUISCUITS

1 cup flour 1 cup coconut 1 tablespoon syrup 1 egg

1 cup oats 1 cup sugar 8oz butter 1 tablespoon baking powder

1 tablespoon warm water

Cream butter and sugar add egg and beat it in well. Add syrup and warm water. Mix all dry ingredients together, then add to mixture. Roll into balls and bake in a moderate oven until golden brown.

MICHELLE MARSH SHALLOW HARBOUR

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CROSSWORD

by

MANDY

MCLEOD

3

ACROSS

- 14th June 1.
- 7. Me & you
- 9. Memorial statue
- 11. Three
- 12. Hot plate
- 14. Earths breathable atmosphere
- 15. Railed bus
- 18. Help
- 19. San Carlos
- 21. Top up
- 22. Lower plant system
- 23. Golf ball rest
- 24. Charred
- 26. Current account (abrev)
- 27. On condition
- 29. Sea creature
- 30. Old Ireland
- 31. Flagship 1982
- 33. Resident Infantry Company
- 35. Grasp / hold 38. Para's walk / run
- 41 & 42. This celebration time

DOWN

- Not dark 1.
- 2. San Carlos Water
- Small one of litter 3.
- 4. Short term employee
- 5. Kernel
- Mr Geller (spoon bender) 6.
- 8. Wartime governor
- 10. Negative answer
- 11 & 25. Military machine?!
- 13. Curved path around planet
- 16. Horse / donkey cross
- 17. Vertical take-off aircraft
- 18. Round pellets in cartridge
- 20. Modern term for war
- 24. Lowest male voice
- 26. Pool implement
- 28. Male
- 29. Millimetre
- 31. Not low
- 32. Lion noise possibly -
- 34. Swine
- 36. Royal Engineers
- 37. Two
- 39. Next to
- 40. Alternatively

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WOOL PRESS

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DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



The Wool Press is published by the Agricultural Department Editors - M.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL.

Welcome to the mid-winter edition of the Woolpress. This time of year is traditionally when one takes stock of the last 12 months and then looks forward to spring and the future. Farmers week (July 6 - 9) is just such a time; it is the one week in the year when farmers can collectively do most to influence their future for the better: so DO TURN UP and contribute to discussions and decision making. It affects your future and mine/ours!!!?!!

R.H. & M.M.



The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

Hydatid eradication eradication or control

You may have read my summary of findings from last year's inspection of offal at the butchery which turned up five (5) positively identified hydatid cysts in sheep. For the over 5,000 sheep slaughtered through the abattoir this represented an overall prevalence of just over 0.1%. In the first five months of this year, however, in 2,672 sets of offal, five (5) sheep with hydatid cysts have been identified already, of which the last two were loaded with three huge cysts each, in lungs and livers. The size suggests that they date back a few years (possibly three or four), but those three cysts were filled with, literally thousands of what are called protoscoleces, the heads of the tapeworm in the dog. They were all still capable of infecting a dog and this one surviving set of infected offals could have infected an unbelievable number of dogs, thus perpetuating the cycle.

The regular DRONCIT treatment aims to break the cycle, by eliminating a tapeworm infection from the dog, but at present we have no means of ascertaining whether the dogs have been successfully treated at all times.

It is only very recently that researchers in a number of countries, namely Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom have started to develop a test which can determine whether or not a dog is carrying the tapeworm and we have been in contact with one person in Melbourne who has successfully developed a blood test. Another possibility (from the UK) is to take faecal samples and examine them for the presence or absence of tapeworm particles. For various reasons, not only olfactory ones, the blood test has more appeal and with the tremendous amount of hydatid material we have been able to obtain from the three recently found cysts the guy in Melbourne should be able to develop a unique Falkland Islands test kit (it would appear that hydatid tapeworms differ quite a lot between countries, so we need to get that test set up for our purposes here).

Being able to test dogs has obvious advantages:

1.) It can serve as a control on the regular DRONCIT treatment and tell us how successful the campaign is in keeping the dog population free from infection. If problem areas still exist they will be highlighted if a dog returns a positive test (the result will be available much quicker than is currently the case, when we find the cysts years later. In that case any remedy comes too late).

2.) When the test has satisfactorily established the status of the dog population in regards to hydatid infection it can then, in the long term, be used as a substitute for the regular DRONCIT treatment, i.e. if people are satisfied that they control the cycle on their property through dog control and safe offal disposal, DRONCIT treatment <u>may</u> only have to be applied at greater intervals than the current six weeks (once established blood tests would be a great deal cheaper than the money that is

spent on buying DRONCIT at present).

3.) It can distinguish recent hydatid infections from old ones, and thus we should be able to predict more accurately where we can expect to find cysts in sheep, and for how many more years yet - knowledge about infection would also enable one to place movement control orders on properties known to be still infected (movement would only be allowed to the abattoir). This way infection of hydatid-free farms through the purchase of hydatid cyst carrying sheep from another property can be avoided (it is also hoped that sheep could be screened for cyst infection).

4.) Another gap in our knowledge about the state of the hydatid eradication campaign is the lack of information about what is happening on West Falkland. Only rarely do sheep from the West get slaughtered through the butchery, where we could examine the offal, thus information on the prevalence of hydatids on the West, and the islands for that matter, is scarce. As it stands we have had only one hydatid cyst from the West recorded in the 1991 farm returns (in fact that was the only one in farm records over the whole of the Falklands). This may be the true prevalence (although one would think that over the year there are a lot more sheep slaughtered on farms than at the Stanley butchery), or cause by a difficulty in identifying them; we are only too happy to look at suspect cyst material, which can be kept frozen until it can be got to town.

Blood testing of dogs would fill that gap, and if it doesn't show any infected dogs (as hopefully it will) gives that confidence in the campaign ultimately leading to steps as outlined under 2.

As the title indicates, there are two aims to the campaign which require different approaches in the future. Control is being achieved at the moment, i.e. the regular dosing has reduced the cyst infection to a level which does not present a grave danger' to the human population anymore (there are no new human cases being recorded). Findings like the recent cyst however, suggest that the cycle is still perpetuated and with even singular cysts, like that one, many dogs could be re-infected. If this happened even one infected dog could prolong the campaign for another decade.

If eradication is the ultimate aim, then better information on the success of the eradication efforts is needed and I suggest that the blood test for cogs will give us that. This suggestion is going to be discussed with you at Farmers Week in early July and your comments and ideas are welcome.

MICHAEL P REICHEL JULY 1992

> PLEASE SEED IN VOLES OFFICE AND DOG DOG THE CERTIFICATES REGULARLY AS THE HORE DISCHARTE OUR RECORDS ARE AND A CLEASER JUSA IS GIVEN ON HOW THE ERODICATION FROMWORE (S GOING.

FARMERS WEEK - AGENDA

The following information has been received from Judy Summers at the Farmers Association, for the itinerary of meetings arranged for Farmers Association members during Farmers Week (5th - 9th July 1992). SUNDAY 5th July 5.0pm Annual General Meeting. MONDAY 6th July 9.0am Richard Wagner - Summary of Assistance Programme. 10.0am The Chief Executive 2.0 - 4.30pm The Agricultural Department TUESDAY 7th July 9.0 - 12.0 noon The Agricultural Department Manfred Keenleyside - PWD roads etc. 2.0pm 3.0 - 4.30pm The Director of Agriculture and Mr Robert Hall - D.S.& Co. 6.30pm Government House reception. WEDNESDAY 8th July 9.0am Bob Abernathy - Stanley Services / Hogg Robinson Shipping Dave Hall - Byron Marine 10.0am 12.0 noon Lunch by FIC at the Upland Goose Hotel 2.0pm Ted Jones & Ben Berntsen - Butchery Ian Cox - FIDC 3.0pm 10.0pm - 2.0am Dance in the Town Hall organised by Heather Smith. Country music and live country band. THURSDAY 9th July David Stickland - Organic Farmers & 9.0am Growers UK Ladies coffe morning at Government House 10.0am 10.0am Airstrip fire appliance demonstration (to be confirmed)

Farmers will be notified if there are any changes to this agenda.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

70% of farmers have returned their Questionnaire concerning future wool marketing; thank you all very much. Please could the remaining 26 farmers reply as soon as possible - make YOUR views count.

Total responses: 61

<u>Question 1.</u> I wish to see some form of farmer owned wool agency operate in the marketing of Falkland Islands wool. YES: 34 NO: 20

Question 2. I support Government assisting with the initial training of a successor of Colin Smith. YES: 45 NO: 14

<u>Question 3.</u> I would like to see government contribute (set up) funding to any such new company.

YES: 31

NO: 23

COMMENTS

Feedback to date suggests a large majority of farmers support Government assisting with the initial training of a successor to Colin Smith. It is also evident that farmers wish to see any successor financially committed to the future marketing agency; I completely support this idea.

CLARIFICATION.

1. The D.S. & Co. proposal has nothing what so ever to do with the establishment of a Falkland Islands Wool Board.

2. Farmer share holders of any part of a future agency, would not be committed to marketing their wool through the new company. 3. As I understand Colin's proposal, he is making generous provision for the future marketing of Falklands wool, by going to the considerable effort of training a successor. He is not selling the company to anyone, but giving it. The necessity for finance is so that the new company has capital funding with which to operate.

UPDATE.

1. The D.O.A. submitted a paper for the 26.6.92 EXCO., seeking support for my having a two year local contract with a total of nine months training at D.S. and Co., as Colin proposed. The paper is conditional that the future company structure is established before Government assisted training begins.

2. There is to be a session during Farmer's week on Thursday afternoon, at which both Owen and I will be more than willing to answer questions and discuss any aspect of the proposal.

3. I plan to visit Colin when I am in Britain at the end of July, when we hope to negotiate a final draft of the future company structure.

Robert Hall. 19.6.92.

LETTERS PAGE

THE FOLLOWING LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM COLIN SMITH - D.S.& Co. Ltd.

Dear Sir,

The original draft proposal of May 1991, only asked FIG to support renewal of Robert Hall's local contract for a period of two years, during which time he spent nine months training in the agency and the rest of the time at the Department of Agriculture in Stanley.

Thereafter the plan envisaged a further three years, when Robert worked full-time alongside me, at the agency, before taking over the management on the 1st January 1998.

The proposal made clear:

- 1. That we paid, out of our own pockets, for all the costs of providing, at Abbey Mill Farm, office and flat accommodation for Robert, including all costs of refurbishing and equipping. There never was any suggestion that FIG should pay a penny.
- 2. That Robert's full time employment at the agency from the 1st January 1994 and beyond would be paid for totally by us, without any contribution from FIG.
- 3. That the agency was not for sale. That we intend to give away all the trade, goodwill, experience and knowledge of the agency, for nothing.
- 4. That Robert established a new company, to which we were willing to contribute working capital, gifting shares to farmers. (We asked that FIG might perhaps match us in this gesture).

Sixty farmers have responded to us in Knaresborough. Most consider that Robert is an ideal candidate for the job. There is a strong feeling that Robert should provide a minimum of 51% of the working capital himself, to strengthen his commitment and perhaps counterbalance any real or imagined control, from bodies within the islands.

I still like the idea of farmers participating in the ownership of the agency, however I do understand and now accept the view that Robert should own a much larger shareholding than I originally proposed.

It is surely right to plan, in good time, for the future. I am sorry that I cannot attend farmers week due to the sheer volume of current agency work.

It is vital that the agency endeavours to do a decent and satisfactory job for farmers, now and in the future.

Regards

COLIN SMITH, D.S.& Co (FALKLAND FARMING) Ltd.

DRAFT GUIDE TO CLIP PREPARATION. ROBERT HALL.

The aim of this guide is to clarify the role of everyone involved in shearing and wool preparation, so that everyone knows their responsibilities and so that they have a check list of jobs that can be referred to. The hope is that the standard of wool preparation and handling will be lifted across the Islands to the standard of those farmers who currently produce the highest quality commodity for export. My intention is therefore to encourage those whose wool operation does little to help and may even be damaging to the international reputation of Falkland Islands wool. This guide does not break any new ground, however a greater supervisory role for the classer over wool handling staff and control of fleece preparation work is encouraged.

THIS IS A DRAFT and I am keen to hear suggestions for additions and alterations. Do please write, phone or chat with me during Farmer's week on the subject.

INTRODUCTION.

The "Falkland Islands Guide to clip preparation" has been prepared by reference to the Australian and New Zealand "Codes of practice for clip preparation." Wool exporters, merchants, brokers, classers, processors, Massey University, The Australian Wool Corporation and the New Zealand Woolboard were all involved in producing the original recommendations.

The intention is to bring general agreement to wool preparation activity and advice, with clear messages going to farmers, contractors and shed staff. This guide states the responsibilities of each group involved with preparing the farm clip. If the recommendations are followed, the Falkland Islands clip will be consistently handled to a standard that meets both the needs of the textile processor and at the same time maximises the wool returns to the farmer. All involved in the presentation and marketing of the clip will benefit.

Part 1: Responsibilities.

Sets out what each party can expect of the other parties involved and what others can expect of them. The responsibility for activities is an integral part of a profitable wool handling operation.

Part 2: Preparation.

Sets out minimum preparation standards that need to be followed to ensure that clips meet the requirements of the customer. Unnecessary classing subdivision must be avoided, because this will not enhance the clip and will increase costs.

OBJECTIVES.

- To provide both the buyer and manufacturer with parcels of wool they can handle confidently, knowing they are uniform and meet the standards required for processing into quality yarns and textiles.

- To maximise farm revenues.

To achieve these objectives, it is first necessary that all involved in the preparation of a clip know what is expected of them and what they can expect of others.

DEFINITIONS.

CLIP: All wool from the farm.

FLOCK: Sheep of the same breed that have run together under similar environmental conditions since the previous shearing. LINE: Classed wool assessed to be of similar average

characteristics.

PART 1. DRAFT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

Farmer's or Manager's Responsibilities.

- 1. To primarily ensure the safety and welfare of all personnel and all animals.
- 2. To make clear arrangements with the shearing contractor in respect to :-- Sheep throughput expected of facilities and staff.
 - Wool handling requirements and number of shed staff needed.
 - Who is responsible for providing which shed staff, (classer, shed hands, presser, penner up & shearers).
 - Full details of the classes and number of sheep to be shorn.
 - Contract shearing staff travel to and from the farm, washing facilities, board and lodgings.
- 3. To ensure that the shed is prepared for shearing, this means providing:-
- A working area of sufficient size, tidy and clear of all contaminants. - Good constant light over working areas to encourage accurate work.
- Adequate bins, oddment holders, containers for dags, urine stain, black wool, skin pieces and rubbish.
- Sufficient approved packs, sewing materials or clips, branding inks and stencils.
- Recording book.
- Drafting pens and counting-out pens free of dust and mud.
- RUBBISH BINS FOR ALL REFUSE. Polypropylene string, cans, cigarette butts, clothing, bale hooks, wire, tools and cleaning rags should not be left lying around the shed.
- 4. To present the sheep in good order for continuous shearing. The sheep must be:-
 - DRY Damp or wet wool should not be shorn.

DRAFIED - Sheep should be drafted to separate; breeds (wool or meat), wool length due to time of previous shearing, black/coloured sheep. (Black and coloured sheep should not be in the flock however, if any do remain in the flock and are to be shorn, they should be kept aside until other shearing has been completed and shorn last. Where pigmented wool is detected during shearing, separate the fleece and cull the sheep immediately).

- 5. To discuss the wool handling requirements with the classer, rousies, table hands and presser. Everyone must ensure the wool is COMPLETELY free of non-wool contamination. Nothing must go into a bale but wool: no dividers, paper, cigarette ends, clothing, nor string.
- 6. To provide the classer with full information at the start of
 - shearing, including: 1. Age and sex of sheep to be shorn.
 - 2. Number of various flocks and their order of shearing.
 - 3. Size of each flock.
 - 4. Variations between flocks if any.
 - 5. Previous seasons specifications and test results.
- 7. To ensure all wool bales are smartly presented for export using approved materials and identification marks.
- 8. To sign and dispatch a clearly worded classer specification immediately shearing is completed, or as the agent or merchant requests. Any specific lotting, testing or selling instructions should be included.

The Contractor's Responsibilities.

- 1. To arrange and provide:
 - The agreed number of competent shearers.
 - The agreed number of competent wool handlers and rousies.
- 2. To ensure:
 - That key wool handling personnel do not change during the shearing and that a consistent standard of staff is maintained.
 - Continued liaison with the farmer or manager.

The Shearer's Responsibilities

- 1. To ensure shearing equipment is clean.
- 2. To remove the complete fleece from each sheep.
- 3. To avoid injury and minimise stress to the sheep.
- 4. To avoid second cutting and prevent contamination of wool.
- 5. To separate the belly wool from the fleece.
- 6. To bring all black wool and sheep for raddling to the definite attention of the rousie.

The Rousie's Responsibilities.

- 1. To place shorn belly wool in the appropriate bin, removing pissle stain if required by farmer.
- To keep the shearing board clear of fleeces and swept of locks (second cuts, socks, crutch wools).
- 3. To pick up and throw fleeces correctly at a 45 degree angle onto the wool table. so that locks fall aside and so that fleeces are spread evenly for accurate identification and fast separation of processing faults.
- 4. To remove dags and black wool during shearing.
- 5. To put faults and oddments in appropriate containers.
- 6. To colour mark sheep as required. This should be done on the sheep's head as raddle does not scour/wash out fully.

Table-Hand's Responsibilities.

- 1. To remove and discard any remaining dags.
- 2. To remove all stains from fleeces (blood, urine stain, pen stain).
- 3. To remove black wool, unscourable brands, skin pieces and contaminants from fleeces.
- 4. To remove the minimal amount of short, cotted neck wool containing kemps and vegetable matter.
- 5. To remove remaining locks and bits of belly wool from fleece.
- To avoid the removal of good fleece wool by removing "manufacturing" faults using fingers.
- 7. To place oddments in appropriate containers and bins.
- To avoid twisting of any neck wool into bands if rolling fleeces. The practise of "Banding" must be eliminated.
- 9. To keep woolroom floor swept of locks.

Classer's Responsibilities

Before commencement.

1. The classer should discuss the clip with the farmer and consider all relevant details.

Last year's lines and measurement details. Number of sheep and flock composition. Possible differences between flocks, eg. age or fibre length.

 Each wool bin should be marked with its description before the start of shearing. Separate bins for stained pieces (STN PCS), black/grey (BLACK) and skin pieces (SKN PCS) should be provided and kept clear of main line bins.

During Season.

3. The classer should set up and class to the minimum number of lines required to present the clip for sale. The classer should SUPERVISE AND MONITOR ALL ASPECTS OF WOOL HANDLING, pressing and recording of bales, ensuring that:-

The shed equipment is arranged to give the best possible work flow. The agreed wool handling procedures are followed consistently by the wool handling team, so that each fleece is carefully skirted. Contamination of lines by foreign objects is prevented.

The wool is classed consistently to standards appropriate for the particular clip, taking into account variations of flock and environmental effects.

Wool generally low in dust/peat content, free or nearly free of vegetable matter, sound not tender and white, with necks removed, is suitable for speciality scouring, therefore grade as A, B, or C..

Dusty/peaty or inferior fleeces should be categorised AA, BB, CC.

The presser records the bale number and its contents correctly in the bale book and the branding of bales is done accurately and clearly.

Specifications are prepared to present to the farmer.

Presser's Responsibilities.

- 1. To master the safe and efficient operation of whatever type of press _encountered.
- 2. To maintain a tidy work area and avoid contamination.
- 3. To inspect wool packs for any loose material, which must be removed and placed in rubbish bins.
- 4. To organise the pressing of fleeces and oddments to avoid unnecessary mixed bin bales. Dividers are not to be used.
- 5. To undertake careful and accurate packaging, branding and recording. Bales should be clearly marked on two sides and two ends, with farm brand and bale number. The bale description should be on the two sides. Bale numbers shall not be duplicated under any one farm brand in any one season.

PART TWO: DRAFT OF PREPARATION.

The aim is to produce lines of wool that have a uniform fibre diameter, fibre length and colour. To achieve this, processing faults should be kept separate. (See 1991 Glossary for definitions). Listed below are the processing faults that may be present and require separation.

- Dags
- Unine stain.
- Short wools.
- Cotted portions.
- Clumps of vegetable matter (VM).
- Hairy britch.
- Non-scourable stains.
- Clumps of pen stain.
- Patches of pigmented fibres.
- Heavy contamination by mud, earth or non-wool substances.
- Skin pieces.
- Rubbish.

Full Length Fleeces.

The following guide shows what should be removed from each fleece:

- Neck collars with VM.
- Permanently discoloured pieces.
- Bellies.
- Backs with VM.
- Pieces with VM.
- Urine stain.
- Shed stain.
- Locks and second pieces.
- Dags.

Classing:

- HOG: Hogget wool.
- SHER: Shearling wool.
- E: Lve wool (main flock).
- W: Wether wool (main flock).
- A: Fine line of wool for speciality scouring.
- B: Medium line of wool for speciality scouring.
- C: Strong or coarse line of wool for speciality scouring.
- AA, BB, CC for worsted industry.

The following wools must be separated from the main fineness lines.

- Take out fleeces which do not match the bulk of the main line into the AA.
- BB, or CC lines and include the following in the doubles lines:
- Tender or Cotted.
- Yellow or discoloured.
- Obviously short or very long stapled fleeces.
- Containing VM.
- Sandy and peaty.

Other wools:

- Double fleeces. Remove dags and place in separate line.
- Early shorn fleeces should be skirted as normal and classed separately.
- Crutchings. Remove dags and stain, before pressing separately.
- Wiggings. Press separately.

THE EWE AND PREGNANCY

By now, most of you will have put the tupps out with the ewes and are now looking forward to next spring for the results. I thought you may like to know a little more about the exact workings of a ewe's pregnancy.

We know from Bennison's report on the Falkland Island ewes that most of them do actually conceive - ie. they nearly all produce a fertile egg which is then fertilised by the ram. This is in itself an achievement given the obstacles that the tiny sperm have to cross to reach the egg high in the oviduct (see diagram below). Horns of uterus (right horn opened)



Figure 1. Ewe's reproductive tract dissected out.

Firstly the sperm have to get through the cervix, a tough muscular folded structure which has only a narrow torturous path through to the uterus. The sperm must then swim across the uterus and into the oviducts to meet the egg.

The lifespan of an egg is around half a day and the sperm can survive for a day and a half - timing has to be accurate to allow fertilisation! Luckily ewes are in oestrus, or are receptive to the ram, for about a day before ovulation when the egg is released from the ovaries. This ensures that matings take place in time to allow the sperm to make their way to the oviducts as the ovaries release the eggs.

Losses at this stage can occur if the eggs are old and degenerating, or if the sperm has been in the female tract too long and has little energy supplies left for movement to the egg. Bennison and Whitley estimated that around 90 % of Falkland Island ewes are fertilised at their first mating and this ties in with the theory that the Islands' ewes are a distinct ecotype with low ovulation and high conception rates.

Once the egg is fertilised it is then known as an embryo, and it takes about three days for the egg to reach the uterus where it attaches to the inner lining after a few weeks (15-30 days). Before attachment ,the embryo is nourished by secretions from the uterus in which it floats freely.

After attachment, the embryo becomes known as a foetus and by this stage the head, limbs and organs are visible.

At the beginning of the second month of pregnancy the foetal lamb is attached to the lining of the uterus by a forerunner of the placenta. This is very small at 4 to 5 weeks after conception but grows rapidly over the next 2 months until at 90 days of pregnancy it is almost as big as at birth.

The placenta is the lamb's life supply organ within the ewe and through the structures called placentomes or "buttons" on the placenta and the caruncles on the uterine wall oxygen, nutrients and waste products are exchanged between the ewe and the lamb.

The placenta also produces hormones which maintain pregnancy and develop the ewe's udder, and also ensure the ewe - lamb bond at birth.

The average length of pregnancy in the ewe in the Falkland Islands is 149.5 days. In the U.K. the length varies between 140 and 150 days.

The start of lambing is actually initiated by the lamb when it releases a steroid hormone cortisol. This happens when the lamb becomes too stressed within the uterus as the ewe finds it more and more difficult to maintain the lamb adequately as it becomes larger and needs more food etc.

Throughout the pregnancy the uterus secretes the hormone progesterone which prevents the uterus from contracting and jeopardising the lamb. For birth to start the progesterone levels have to be reduced and this is achieved by the cortisol produced by the lamb as this causes progesterone to be converted to another hormone, oestrogen. As the progesterone levels decrease and the oestrogen levels increase this allows another hormone prostaglandin F2 alpha (PGF2alpha) to act on the uterus causing it to contract and so start the lambing process.

I will continue with birth, the most dangerous thing any of us experience, later in the year.

FIONA DICKSON JULY 1992

THE DECLINE OF COMMUNISM AND THE FALKLAND WOOL MARKET

There can be no question that the Wool Industry Worldwide is struggling to emerge from probably the worst market conditions since the great depression of the 1930's. There are many factors behind the current slump in wool prices but as the Falkland wool reports continue to point out to us, the economic and political conditions in the former Soviet Union or Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S)and China have been a highly This article significant factor. attempts to examine the historical relationship between the level of imports held by the major communist countries and the price of raw wool in the Falklands.

Historically the purchasing activities of these and other communist countries were not driven by the same market forces that dictate demand in Western economies. Buying was, and still is in the case of China, mainly centrally orientated, and tended to be an offshoot of central planning by the government controlled textile industry. Purchases were usually made in large quantities and could often be very unpredictable in nature. Their buying behaviour consequently tended to introduce volatility into This volatility was reduced to a certain extent the marketplace. by moves towards more market orientated economic policies in the late 1980's. The beauty of these countries to the wool exporters was their ability to enter the market place during periods of recession in the market economies. Faced with acute and perennial foreign exchange shortages they would tend to capitalise on market conditions weak by making significant opportunist purchases of stockpiled wool. The Chinese were particularly astute in their buying activities during the 1980's and more recently following the collapse in prices in February 1991.



Graph 1 shows how heavy buying by the communist countries in 1982 and 1983 helped to kick-start the wool market out of recession (at a time when the capitalist economies were also in a very depressed state.) Similarly, heavy buying between 1986 and 1989 help lift the market from a low in 1986 to an all time high in 1989. The graph also identifies the relationship between the steadily increasing levels of communist imports throughout the 1980's and a corresponding rise in the U.K market price for raw wool.

Regrettably for the wool producing countries, recent events in the East with the massacre of students in Tiananmen Square, and the break up of the old Soviet Union have led to the suspension of the rising trend in raw wool purchases. The Tiananmen Square incident was a major factor behind the collapse in market in 1989. Graph 2 identifies the extent of this collapse in mid-1989 (if compared with the more traditional 2 pronged buying pattern of 1988.)



CHINESE AND SOVIET WOOL IMPORTS

1-ATA SOURCE: A.W.C WOOL PERSPECTIVES

An important point to note in respect of these countries is their capability to curtail wool imports for a considerable period of time. The main reason for this level of independence is the fact that the C.I.S and China are both major producers of wool in their own right (see table). The increased level of self sufficiency indicated in the table should be expected to continue should the introduction of the market mechanism in these countries be successful.

WOOL PRODUCTION BY PRINCIPAL PRODUCING NATIONS 1970-1990 (greasy)

	1970	1980	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990*
Australia	891	701	830	890	916	952	1109	1095
Soviet Union	421	443	447	469	461	478	474	465
New Zealand	334	381	358	350	346	341	309	299
Argentina	200	170	152	150	157	164	161	160
China	118	176	178	185	209	222	238	242
Falkland Is	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Source : I.W.S Wool Facts.

* Estimated

In the case of China it is only very recently that economic and political implications of Tiananmen Square have eased to enabled the Chinese to enter the market to the degree that they had commanded in the mid 1980's. This thawing of relationships with the West has recently been strengthened by a move away from hard line policies and in the U.S by a presidential veto of a Congressional proposal withdraw China's Most Favoured Trading Nation Status. Such a veto has major implications for the Chinese textile industry which is one of China's main export industries. Future economic prospects China for therefore seem promising, however, a change of leadership in the U.S might adversely affect China's trading status. Industrial production is estimated by the Economist Intelligence Unit to have been 10.5 % in 1991 with the growth in the total economy being estimated at 7.2%. Retail sales in China are reported to have grown at 10% in 1991 and 15.1% in the first two months of 1992. This type of growth is unprecedented at a time when other major economies remain in deep recession. Regrettably, it is unlikely that this optimistic picture in China will be matched by sales on the global raw wool market. Record wool imports in the latter half of 1991 (see graph 2) have meant that wool stocks in China are high. This is expected to lead to a reduction on 1991 imports throughout 1992 and well into 1993.

The scope for the C.I.S to lift the market is potentially very strong, particularly as there has been very little wool sold the C.I.S since May 1990. Short term forecasts still suggest that from the market place will until this absence continue significant debt repayments are made to Australia and New Zealand. The timing of these repayments will depend heavily on major structural adjustments to the banking system by the World Bank. These adjustments will inevitably require a large injection of (World Bank) funding to enable true convertibility of the on the international currency markets. Fundamental rubal realignments of this nature will probably not be forthcoming until principal members of the World Bank have in turn resolved their own economic problems. These problems currently include recessions in most developed economies and the heavy deep financial burden of the reunification of East and West Germany.

A resumption of significant buying activity from the C.I.S will require the establishment of purchasing agencies to replace the role that was once provided by the old state system. These agencies would also require the establishment of a modern and formalised banking system. Future wool sales to the former Soviet Union could be heavily influenced should the Northern states being drawn into the acute political problems of the south.

It would of course be incorrect to identify the communist countries as being the only reason behind the prevailing slump in the wool market. There are as I indicated earlier, many other factors which could be looked at later. I hope that this article will have demonstrated the historical trends in communist buying activity and thereby shed some light onto why the slump wool prices has been so great and also prolonged. If a lesson is to be learnt from the analysis it must simply be to reinforce how vulnerable we are in the Falklands to World events and how little influence we have over the price we receive for our wool. It also suggests that until the West is able to sort out its own problems, the prospect of the Eastern Block countries making significant inroads into global stockpiles is also unlikely.

HUGH MARSDEN JULY 1992

THE CORRECT STENCIL INK IS VITAL

The use of incorrect stencil inks may be contributing to the "Black Fibre Readings" that are measured for Falkland Islands wocls. Wools with such "Black Fibre Readings" have restricted uses, as they can only be used if dyed to dark colours. This lack of flexibility reduces wool value, and such contamination damages the Falklands wool reputation.

The following inks are currently available at Falkland Farmers and should be used in conjunction with the following packing materials.

BRAND NAME	INK	ТҮРЕ	PACKING MATERIAL			
Speedry. Magic marker ink.	Organic	c/Solvent	Polyethylene			
Britink FTP black.	11	"	11			
Stencil ink porous. Ind. Services. Tadcaster.	11	н	11			
Trad. Water Soluble block	Water	based	Jute			

If the incorrect ink is used, i.e. Organic based on Jute, extra care must be taken in the application due to penetration through the coarse material, and thus permanently dyeing the wool in the bale. This cannot be removed with conventional washing!

This advice is the best currently available and should reduce the current damage that is being done. As more information, new inks or new packaging materials come onto the market, this advice will be up-dated.

R.H.B.HALL & D.BABER JULY 1992
GLOBAL WARMING FACTORS

The recent Earth Summit convened to obtain unilateral and universal agreement by all countries on how to combat global warming may have been the most important week spent by governments world-wide. On the BBC the news caster asked the Earth Summit correspondent "Who is the real winner?" Surely there can only be one "real" winner if the policies agreed and adopted (all 300 tonnes!) are fulfilled by those who signed on the dotted lines.

A review of articles in recent magazines and papers reveals authors (including scientists) are not always in agreement with one another. We can take heart that there is an official world body, the Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The best scientists the world has to offer in the climatology field are trying to unravel the complex factors relating to climate change. The IPCC provided a major contribution at the Earth Summit meeting submitting methods to combat global warming.

WHAT FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN GLOBAL WARMING?

As to be expected there are many factors, both natural and man made that affect and determine the global climate.

Of the natural factors the Sun is the driving energy force behind the weather and climate. Of the radiation that hits the Earth one third is reflected, the rest is absorbed by the atmosphere, oceans, ice, land and biota. In the long term the energy absorbed from solar radiation is balanced by outgoing radiation from the Earth and atmosphere. Several natural factors change this balance, namely the energy omitted from the Sun itself (there is evidence of variability over the 11 year solar cycle), plus the small variations within the Earth's orbit (affecting the seasonal and latitudinal distribution of solar radiation).



A simplified diagram illustrating the greenhouse effect.

One of the most talked about factors on global warming is the green-house effect; the diagram illustrates the combination of effects. Simply, incoming radiation (short wavelength) passes through the clear atmosphere almost unimpeded. But the radiation emitted from the warm surface of the Earth (long wavelength) is partially absorbed and then re-emitted by a number of gasses in the cooler atmosphere above. The main natural green-house gasses are not the major constituents (nitrogen or oxygen) but water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone in the stratosphere (lowest 10-15km of the atmosphere).

Small particles (known as Aerosols) in the atmosphere can also affect the climate because they reflect and absorb radiation. The most important of the natural aerosols are from volcanic eruptions which affect the lower stratosphere.

Lastly, the climate has its own natural variability with changes occurring without any external influence. This is the least understood and known of all.

WHAT ACTIVITIES OF MAN CHANGE THE GLOBAL CLIMATE?

The naturally occurring greenhouse gases keep the Earth warm enough to be habitable. When their amount (concentration) is increased and new gasses are added like chorofluorocarbons (CFCs), mankind is capable of raising the global average annualmean surface air temperature. The consensus as to how much the global temperature will rise by 2100 is approximately 2.8°C (a reduction of half of one degree over previous estimates last year).

Other factors that have potential in affecting climate are; man made aerosols and sulphur emitted from burning of fossil fuels can modify clouds and may act to lower temperatures. (These factors combined with a thinning in the ozone layer were the reason for the reduction in the global temperature forecast last year.) Changes in the ozone in the stratosphere due to CFCs also influence climate change. A report from the IPCC (April 1992) concludes that cooling caused by the thinning of the ozone layer, acts to cancel out warming caused by CFCs, greenhouse gasses that destroy the ozone layer. So do we not have to worry then? Yes we do because the overall projected effect may be to cancel, however the regional distribution is far from uniform. Some regions will be worse off than others, one paper comments that 'Britain Keeps its cool as the world warms up'. (May be now is the time to move!) A change in the amount of land lost by desertification and/or deforestation - estimated to be increasing at the rate of 10-15% per annum) affects the balance and influences climate.

ESTIMATES FOR CHANGES by 2030

Information outlined has been developed using high-resolution models. Estimates are based on a global mean temperature rise of 1.8°C lower than is now forecast (2.8°C is predicted - April 1992). We can assume therefore that the climate changes will be even more severe than outlined in this data for Southern Europe and Australia.

For Southern Europe it is predicted that warming will be about 2°C in winter and varies from 2 to 3°C in summer. There is some indication of increased precipitation, but with summer amounts reduced by 5-10% and soil moisture by 15-25%. Australia is better off in that temperature rise is 1°C lower in the summer. A 10% increase in precipitation is expected, although no affects on soil moisture are available.

How the Falklands will be affected is difficult to comment on as far as I am aware from information available no estimates are being predicted for the South American Continent.

The next article (August issue) will examine the effects of global warming specifically looking at the greenhouse effect and the gases involved.

GERRY HOPPE JULY 1992

N.S.F. UPDATE.

The first ewe cycle of mating ended on 5/6 June for the 20 N.S.F. breeding groups. The yellow crayon marks left by the rams indicated 325 or 65% of the ewes had been covered at that stage. This information will contribute to predicting the lambing pattern we can expect. The yellow crayons produced faint results which were difficult to see - they will not be used again!

Very unfortunately one of the N.S.F. rams recently decided to go "walk-about" and chose to cross a thin-iced-over pond - a fatal decision. Sheep are now kept out of this paddock when ice threatens. Luckily the ram had sired 23 of his 25 ewes. This incident demonstrates the importance of obtaining and freezing semen from the imported rams as a form of "insurance"; it is hoped that this will be possible later this winter.

R.H.

DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE

The Boss, is looking a little jaded after the Fox Bay jollifications, and I am feeling more than a little frail myself. Which is a reliable sign that we both had a pretty good time...

We're back to reality with a bump now, though, and in this gloomy season of depressing wool sales are finding reality a little too The wool agent is dishing out "sweeties" now real for comfort. and again, which barely keep the wolf from the door; it would be good to be able to revert to the days of prompt wool cheques and decent prices, without the need of Government help. It will be interesting to see what aid is forthcoming this year, now that mortgages are firmly back in our court again, but I'm sure all farmers would rather be in a position to be self-supporting Perhaps Russia will forget about space programmes and once more. concentrate on buying in commodities, - then Ivanski and his familyski could have warm Winter clothing made of good old Falk-All our t(rouble)s could then be forgotten, and land wool. Ivanski could venture out on his troika without getting frostbite...

The Boss is actually hoping for frost so he can venture down the track to collect our travelling shelter belt. (Our doctor friend in the U.K. has sent us one thousand baby Austrian pines, plus protective tubes and stakes). The trees were delayed on their voyage south, and then missed a chance to Fox Bay so were sent to Port Howard instead; This means an extremely muddy trip for the Tank. The tubes and stakes will follow on a direct boat in August, but aren't essential to start planting. (There was a bit of confusion in town and the trees themselves very nearly didn't get carried to Port Howard). We are not looking forward to the work of planting so many trees, but are certainly looking forward to the prospect of a windbreak for one of our lambing paddocks.

Still on the subject of frost, - the recent icy weather had some compensations, despite the water supply freezing up as usual. The sight of geese landing on a ice rink pond is as good as any cartoon: They approach the landing as normal, then there is utter confusion as they hit the solid surface, flail their wings in a vain attempt to stay upright, then slide helplessly on their backs to join their sniggering comrades, who've overcome their own earlier embarrassment and donned an air of superior wisdom...

useless (snigger) what a load of rubbish? Hmmph! Disgraceful! Tut!

POTATO NASTIES II!

(PART TWO)

BLIGHT

A very common disease of potatoes and tomatoes in many areas of the world, and is favoured by cool, moist weather. It is a very destructive disease which may kill the whole plant in the field and rot tubers in storage. The disease is caused by a fungus (*Phytopthera infestans*) and first appears as water-soaked spots at the tips or edges of the lower leaves, which quickly turn brown, and die. Under wet conditions, the whole above ground parts can rot away. In dry weather, the disease is checked, but resumes its growth and resulting damage in the next wet spell. Tubers may appear to have brown or purplish-black spots on them, and the flesh appears a characteristic foxy-brown colour around the rim, when cut open. The disease arises from planting diseased seed, self-sets (volunteers) that are left in the ground overwinter, or cull piles of potatoes that are left near the planting area.

CONTROL

Only disease free tubers should be planted. all cull piles should be burned before planting in the spring, and self-sets should be removed and burned. A number of resistant varieties exist, and these should be used with chemical sprays if you have a problem with the disease.



POWDERY SCAB

Not found as frequently as Common Scab. The scabs have a slightly different that they appearance, in resemble ruptured pustules, containing fine powder. The damage is mostly superficial, but other organisms may enter the wounds and cause the tuber to disease rot. The is fungus a (Spongospera subterranea) and prefers heavy, wet soils.

CONTROL

The disease can survive in the soil, so practice a crop rotation, and plant a resistant variety. Improving drainage may also help.



RING ROT

disease This is a bacterial (Corynebacterium sepodinicum) which appears in tubers before and after harvest, and may be present in only some tubers of one plant. A light yellow ring around the inside of the tuber may be seen in the early stages of the disease, once cut open. This advances to a rot, and a more or less continuous ring of cavities can be seen in the later stages. Other bacteria may then invade completely rot the tuber. The and may overwinter as dried organism bacterial slime on tools and containers, and on infected seed.



CONTROL

Use of healthy seed, and clean tools and equipment. The disease is not known to overwinter in the soil, but self-sets may be a source of infection, and should be removed.

GANGRENE

An important storage disease caused by a fungus (*Phoma exigua*). Lifted tubers may show a slight, discoloured sunken depression, as if hard pressure had been applied to the surface with a thumb. In storage these lesions enlarge, and often secondary rotters are allowed to enter, resulting in a completely rotten tuber.

CONTROL

Examine carefully tubers for storage, and always plant healthy seed. Remove any rotten tubers in storage, and destroy.

VIRUSES

There are several potato viruses, which are mostly carried and transmitted by aphids. Symptoms appear mainly on the leaves, resulting in a poor crop of usually undersized tubers. I wouldn't have thought this would be a major problem under Falkland conditions, but spraying with an insecticide and removal and disposal of infected plants, should cure the problem.

In general, most of the diseases described in this or the previous articles can be avoided by:

- 1. Planting clean seed.
- 2. Practicing a sound crop rotation.
- 3. Removing self-sets (volunteers).
- 4. Removing and destroying all old haulms and diseased tubers.

If you are having trouble with any disease, and are looking for some help, don't hesitate to drop me a line or send me a manky spud!!

STEVE HOWLETT, JULY 1992

SHEEP MEAT PRODUCTION

The abattoir proposal is still very much alive and kicking. Both FIDC and the DOA are still gathering information. FIDC have also been examining alternative sources of funding for the project and markets for the final product. Of course as we all know the ideal situation would be for an abattoir to take the large number of cull sheep which are available annually. If this becomes an option then it should not impose any great demands on the producer, apart from possibly the difficulties involved in getting his cull sheep to where they are required for collection or slaughter.

If however the requirement is for lamb for sale in Europe or in markets (both internal and export) with similar requirements, then the demands placed on the potential producer will be quite different. Anyone contemplating supplying markets of this type must be familiar with their requirements as this will determine what the farmer has to produce which in turn will, to a great extent, determine the system of production.

The requirements of the European market are now quite specific. Market specifications are determined primarily in terms of weight and fatness. Conformation (shape of the carcase) is also important. Carcases of good conformation yield cuts which are visually appealing to the consumer. The farmer here therefore needs to know what the market requirements are. Once he knows this he can then consider ways of producing what is required.

The U.K Meat and Livestock Commission have produced a sheep carcase classification scheme which describes sheep carcases. This is very useful as it is used to communicate the demands of European consumers to producers, enabling the farmer to produce lambs to meet market requirements. This classification system describes carcases by conformation, fat class, weight and category (age/sex).

CONFORMATION

The five conformation classes are E, U, R, O and P. Carcases with conformation of E and U are preferred as they yield more meat at the rear end which are of course more highly priced.



FAT CLASS

There are five fat classes (1 to 5) according to external fat cover. Fat classes 3 and 4 are divided into low (L) and high (H).



DESCRIBING A CARCASE

The MLC carcase classification grid is shown below. When describing a carcase, conformation class is followed by fat class e.g a carcase of excellent confirmation with very little fat cover would be E1.



MARKET REQUIREMENTS

The carcase weight range of 15kg to 19kg covers the main requirement for lamb in the U.K and North West Europe. As average killing out percentage for sheep is 48% the live weight range required to meet this demand would be 31.25 kg to 39.58 kg. The European requirement at all levels of weight is for carcases with a relatively low level of fat, fat class 2 or 3L being the most sought after. Fat level is a very important consideration for both the retailer and the consumer. From the retailers point of view fatter carcases (e.g 4L) are not desired because they produce less saleable meat and incur a cost in trimming off excess fat. From the European consumers point of view health trends have determined that leaner carcases are preferred. Even after fat trimming, joints from 4L carcases contain more fat than joints from 2 or 3L carcases because intermuscular fat cannot be removed. Trimming also produces joints which are far less visually attractive to the consumer. These demands obviously have to be taken account of by the producer.

ADDING VALUE TO FALKLANDS SHEEP MEAT

It may be that the sheep meat produced in the Falklands would attract a premium in the U.K market if it could be sold under its own label or the organic label, or both. Marketing under it's own label would require retailers willing to take the concept on board and could incur significant promotional costs. Also the premium which organic sheep meat attracts should not be exaggerated as sheep meat is not associated with the more intensive methods of production used for other meats. In addition very stringent requirements have to be met in order for meat to qualify for organic status. Since organic lamb has to compete with conventionally produced lamb the carcase classification required has to be at least equal if not better. Current requirements are for organic carcases in the weight range 17 to 18 kg with a fat class of 2 to 3L and conformation in the top three bands E, U and R. The market for all organic meat has dropped and the trend is moving away from organic to 'quality assured'. Quality assured takes into account a number of factors concerning the methods used to rear the stock (e.g feed additives and drugs used) and the slaughtering, processing, packaging and storage processes used. Perhaps 'Quality Assured Falklands Lamb' is the way forward.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FALKLAND PRODUCER

An abattoir in the Falklands would presumably make known to suppliers its requirements in terms of weight, fat class, conformation etc and design a payment scheme based on this. The producer would then have to devise a system to produce what the abattoir, and therefore the consumer, required. It is unlikely that the producer would be able to meet the demands of a meat market merely by taking off cull lambs and hoggetts produced by the wool flock. In most cases this would not be possible anyway as farms do not produce a regular surplus. In addition the key to long term success in any market is continuity of supply. The success of an abattoir could not be left to depend on varying supplies of surplus cull stock. It would be very convenient for the farmer if an outlet for surplus stock existed but what would the abattoir do when there was no surplus?

An abattoir is therefore likely to need a core of suppliers with dedicated meat flocks. Anyone wishing to form part of this core needs to do some very careful calculations. Forming a meat flock will mean reducing the size of the wool flock, a classical enterprise substitution calculation will have to be done here. The farmer is unlikely to even consider this change unless he is guaranteed an outlet for his produce. This may mean that the abattoir has to offer farmers firm contracts for the supply of lambs/hoggets. Sire types used in a meat flock will be a major management decision. As we all know sire type has a major effect on a number of factors including 'survivability', growth rate and maturation rate (different breeds of lamb can have different proportions of bone, muscle and fat at the same age). Two enterprising farms (Little Chartres and Falklands Landholdings) are at the moment trying Suffolk rams but much work needs to be done in this area by the Department of Agriculture. It may be that a range of sire types are required to provide a continuity of supply. For example a range from the smaller quicker maturing breeds such as the Dorset Down to the larger breeds such as the Texel may prevent all the eggs being put into one basket and provide the continuity required.

The graph below shows the distribution of hogg weights (approx. 13 months) at one farm in the Islands last spring. As it can be seen the majority lie between 26 kgs and 34 kgs which would produce carcases in the range of 12.48 kgs to 16.32 kgs. These don't reach the preferred weight for organic lamb but suggest that the hoggs could have reached an acceptable weight from spring and summer grass growth. Are we therefore considering sheep meat production which produces meat lambs one year and finishes them the next? It may be that some farmers would be better placed to rear meat lambs and others to fatten them. Age = of a sheep however affects its carcase quality and composition so it may not be as simple as all that.

Should funding become available there is still an awful lot of work to be done before the final go ahead for an abattoir is considered. Building the facility will be relatively easy, ensuring that it gets off to a good start and keeps going will be the hard part.

ANDREW HENWORTH JULY 1992



DISTRIBUTION OF HOGG WEIGHTS.

MALES & FEMALES

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The second se









LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. The flower on the end of the tissue box has moved; 2. The other flower has a white centre; 3. The hot water bottle has a plain cap; 4. There is more steam rising from the mug; 5. The tea bag has an inner line; 6. There is extra fringe on the scarf; 7. The hot water bottle has a hanging hole; 8. The hanky has a white stripe; 9. The sheep's ear is clear; 10. The sheep does not have black eye lids.

WANTED

A pup or young dog under a year old, either sex, and I am particularly wanting it to work on the fore end of drives (eventually).

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may be able to help. Telephone 42206 in the evenings. THANK YOU.

LYN BLAKE LITTLE CHARTRES FARM

xxxxxxxxxxxx

CAN I REMIND ANYONE WHO HAS NOT YET SENT IN THEIR ANNUAL STOCK RETURNS TO DO SO AT THEIR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY

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LAST

MONTHS

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

4oz butter 2oz caster 1 egg 5 oz self raising flour 4 oz plain chocolate

Set the oven at 400°F (200°C). Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat egg lightly and then beat into the creamed mixture stirring well. Cut chocolate into pieces about the size of a pea. Stir into the mixture making sure it is evenly distributed. Place well apart on a greased baking tray in walnut sized spoon fulls. Press the tops lightly with the back of a fork. Bake for 20 mins until firm and golden brown.

MARLENE MARSH SHALLOW HARBOUR

*

SCOTCH BROTH

This is a nourishing, easily prepared soup which is a complete meal in itself.

INGREDIENTS

Approx. 21b mutton chops (the neck ones are good for this). 2 oz pearl barley 2 large onions 11b of carrots 1 swede 11b leeks salt and black pepper

Put the meat with about six pints of water into a large saucepan. Bring to the boil and remove any scum from the surface. Add the pearl barley. Reduce the heat and simmer for about forty five minutes.

Meanwhile, peal and finely chop the onions, carrots and swede (turnip may be used). Trim and thoroughly wash the leeks, then cut them into thin rounds. Add all the vegetables to the pot and season with salt and pepper. Cover the pot and simmer for two hours.

Lift out the bones and strip the meat off them. Return the meat to the broth and season again to taste if necessary.

Serve the broth good and hot, sprinkled with finely chopped parsley.

MANDY McLEOD

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CROSSWORD

 \mathbf{by}

MANDY

McLEOD

ACROSS

- 1. Large fencing timbers
- 10. Last few vertebrae
- 11. Powered
- 12. Childish thank you
- 13. Days gone bye!
- 14. Honey and wax manufacturers
- 15. Public Relations
- 16. Another name for posts
- 18. Ova
- 20. Alternatively
- 22. Railway locomotive
- 25. Physical Education
- 28. Abbreviated Ronald
- 30. Try to catch a tan
- 33. Whale
- 34. Descriptive end meaning "drink" as in lemon, etc.
- 36. Foxtrot, Waltz, Samba etc.
- 37. Battens
- 39. Beryllium (chemical symbol)
- 40. Cove near Port Howard
- 42. Part or occasion
- 44. Starting instruction
- 45. Animal exhibition place
- 46. Standard (as in fencing)
- 47. Roman Catholic
- 48. Myself
- 49. Second hand
- 50. Went against instruction

DOWN

- 1. Intermediate fencing posts
- 2. Story
- 3. Sit on horse and travel
- 4. Beers
- 5. 007's Doctor?
- 6. Power supply for fencing
- 7. Fencing attachers
- 8. Sun seeker?!
- 9. High Tensile Wire
- 15. Clothes hanging implement
- 17. Preposition
- 19. Wildebeest
- 21. Passage
- 23. Small tide
- 24. Finale
- 26. ... and the rest
- 27. Jute
- 28. Fishing tool
- 29. Sgt.Major for example
- 31. Type of Monkey
- 32. Male
- 35. Filleted
- 38. 16th letter of Greek alphabet
- 40. Voice dissatisfaction
- 41. Waste time
- 43. One time
- 44. Jewel
- 45. Toothed fasteners

P/WOO/1#37



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 33

AUGUST 1992

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DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



The WOOL PRESS is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors - M.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL

Midwinters day has been and gone, as has Farmers Week for another year. The days are getting longer (although we don't really notice it yet) and they say we are on the home run towards Spring! It may seem a while away yet when the weather is so inhospitable, but the next two months will be over before we know it and we will be knee deep in lambs (hopefully). Now is the time to get ready for the oncoming busy season. Be prepared and avoid last minute rushes with problem lambings, etc.

We still welcome any contributions of articles from readers, so send in those letters with your views or those delicious Camp recipes.



The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

A.I. - THE REAL COST

During discussion at Farmers Week on likely sales prices for the ram hoggs from the National Stud Flock it became very apparent that some farmers are not fully aware of the real costs involved in producing a ram hogg to first shear from A.I. This article attempts to demonstrate the costs involved and show how the values may be appropriated between ewes and rams. The costs shown are based on the actual cost of carrying out this years programme.

PER EWE INSEMINATED

Semen cost Semen freight and insurance Drugs and administration charge DoA travel costs DoA labour costs						
TOTAL COST OF INSEMINATION Allowance for lamb/ewe food/miscellaneous vet costs EACH LAMB REARED COSTS (assuming 100% lambing)	£56.60 £ 5.00					

A.I. conception rates over the last few years have averaged at approximately 70%, provide a loss and cull rate of 25% from birth to ram hogg the cost will increase to:

 $(f61.60 \times 70\%) \times 25\% = f117.33 \text{ per hogg}$

In order to produce one ram hogg the farmer will need to inseminate two ewes (assuming that ewes and rams are produced on a 50:50 basis) and the ram hogg will be worth four times that of the ewe hogg. On this basis therefore the ram hogg will have cost:

 $\frac{177 - 3 \times 2}{5} \times 4 = \text{£187.73}$

NOTE

No account has been made for the farmers time or any other farm costs during the insemination and rearing period.

It must be stressed however that the two items which can have the greatest impact on final costs is semen purchase which in previous years has been almost double the cost shown and also the DoA travel and labour cost which becomes very expensive when small numbers of sheep are inseminated in different locations. Animals produced by this method are of an unknown quality which is represented by f187.73 for a half-bred ram hogg.

O.SUMMERS AUGUST 1992

FARM WOOL ADVISORY SERVICE.

Wool advisory visits to farms are a practical service for farmers in their own working sheds. This free service will be available to all farms prior to and during next shearing season.

Essentially the same themes are covered as in the "Wool handling and Classing courses", but with the advice being interpreted for the individual farm system, under working conditions.

The emphasis is on Quality Control.

Good throwing is encouraged for the removal of locks and for fast accurate skirting.

The efficient removal of manufacturing faults is encouraged. What should be removed, why and how? Skirting using the fingers technique which removes the fault, but avoids removing good wools, will be demonstrated. The importance of consistency will be discussed and you will be shown how to assess your own work consistency and that of others, by checking a sample of fleeces and looking at the content of oddment bins. Twisting fleeces during rolling will be banned!!

Classing: My aim will be to check that the classer is aware of all the indicators for subjective assessment of wool fineness: crimp frequency, lustre, feel, and shape of staple tip. The best method of setting up of lines at the start of a shearing, will be taught. The important maintenance of consistent lines, by checking your work after a rest or during a long spell will be demonstrated.

In a working shed it is also possible to comment on the state of pressed bales as packages of wool for export, and to discuss which stencil inks and pack materials to use.

Farm visits are a good time to discuss sheep breeding: objectives, sheep identification, recording and selection. It is a particularly good time to show farmers exactly where the mid-side sample should be taken from and how much wool is required by our laboratory. Teaching the importance of fleece weighing is a high priority objective and I will demonstrate and discuss the various options including the tallitag system if requested to do so.

Farmers and managers who wish such farm advisory visits are requested to contact me or leave a message for me, at the Department in Stanley. For those who would prefer more structured Wool Handling and Classing training courses to be arranged, please either contact myself, Mandy McLeod or your nearest GTO.

ROBERT H.B. HALL. AUGUST 1992

CORE TEST INFORMATION

I was recently asked to explain some of the columns of information contained in the "Summary of Core Test Instructions" which farmers receive from D.S.& Co.

I will briefly outline the meaning of the column headings:

LOT This is the D.S.& Co. marketing lot number which includes information on voyage and year shipped. The lot may be made up of wool from one or more farms.

MARKS The farm bale brand.

GRADE The farm classer's description of the bale contents.

BALES The number of bales in the lot.

KILOS GROSS The gross weight of the lot of greasy wool.

TARE The weight of the lot attributed to packing materials rather than the greasy wool.

NET KILOS The weight of greasy wool in the lot. This figure is obtained by subtracting the TARE from the KILOS GROSS.

(KILOS GROSS - TARE = NET KILOS).

YIELD DRY % Wool is traded on a clean basis at specified moisture contents. The yield is the percentage of clean wool once all the grease and dirt has been washed out.

CLEAN KILOS

This is the amount of clean wool in the lot being sold. It is the net kilos without the grease and dirt.

MICRON

The average fibre diameter of the lot. This is calculated by air flow testing the core samples taken from all the bales in the lot. (Vegetable Matter). The percentage of the greasy wool weight that is estimated as being vegetable matter. V.M. causes problems in processing therefore the lower this value the better.

CORE TEST CHARGES This charge has two components:

1.

Core sampling all the bales in the lot. This core sampling element of the total charges varies with the weights of bales, the number of bales in the lot and the number of sampling visits to Bower Green. This is the most expensive element of core test charges.

2. The Coretesting is the actual testing for fibre diameter, (microns) and yield done in the S.G.S. laboratory. This element currently costs £23.00 per sample.

INVOICE NUMBER This is the number of the document D.S.& Co. issue to the buyer listing the wool supplied and the sum of money due for payment.

R.H.B.HALL AUGUST 1992

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND SHEEP SHEARING CHAMPIONSHIP

The following article has mention of a name of a contract shearer which many of you may know.

New Zealander Digger Balme beat off the challenge from Scotland to win the South of Scotland Sheep Shearing Championship at Barony College, Parkgate, Dumfries.

The event attracted entries from all over Britain, as well as from Australia and New Zealand. There was also an international match held during the day-long event which was won by the Scotland team of Tom Wilson and George Bayne.

In the open section, Tom Wilson was beaten by the New Zealander in an exciting final with Digger Balme taking the £250 prize along with the Deosan Open championship.

DUMFRIES COURIER JUNE 1992

V.M.

1.7.92

This report will be split into FOUR main sections; YOUTH, GENERAL COURSES, OVERSEAS EXCHANGE and SENIOR SCHOOL.

YOUTH

At the end of March 1992, three students (Stephen Dickson, Charles Dickson and Mandy McRae) completed a one year course run by the department of Agriculture. Each participant spent the majority of their year with a host farmer (or farmers) and in that year were instructed, reported on and assessed on various farming related skills including Welding, Book-keeping, Tractor driving and maintenance, Lambing, Shearing, Wool handling and classing, Stock handling and Fencing. They were also assessed in other general factors such as the ability to work on their own, responsible initiative taking, personality and the ability to take orders and carry them out successfully.

In April two more trainees started on their year. They are Susie Clarke and Ricky McCormick.

SUSIE CLARKE

Susie is based in the Hill Cove area and moves between Main Point and Shallow Bay mainly, although she has done a brief stint at Boundary Farm, and has also had the opportunity to work with the National Stud Flock on Sea Lion Island during Tupping.

RICKY MCCORMICK

Ricky is alternating his time between Lively Island and Spring Point, doing approximately two months at a time at each farm.

Arrangements are being made for both Susie and Ricky to spend some time on Sea Lion Island to assist with the lambing season and to gain experience and knowledge of the National Stud Flock. Michael Reichel will be running through a lambing course with them, together with the Stud Flock manager just prior to lambing time. During the year, Susie and Ricky will attend several instructional courses. The following list is what has been done so far and what is planned for the next few months.

29th & 30th April	Two days Basic Farm Accounting (Book one) instructed by Hugh Marsden.
13th July	Basic Welding instructed by Tony Heathman at Estancia.
14th July	Tractor Maintenance instructed_ by Hugh Marsden.
27th & 28th August	Woodwork and Metalwork instruc ted by Arthur Nutter at the New Senior School.
24th,25th &26th September	Lambing Course run by Michael Reichel on Sea Lion Island.

The Trainees are also sent tasks to do while on the farms and these assignments are sent in for marking and assessment. This winter they have been asked to make a piece of Horse gear in the traditional style. They will also be sent a book-keeping assignment and asked to make a record of Machinery on the farms that they work on.

There are several other skills instructional courses to be run for them but dates have not yet been confirmed. These include First Aid, Book-keeping (books two and three), Shearing and Wool handling.

GENERAL COURSES

The Agricultural Training Scheme offers short instructional courses on a number of skills which are farming related including some diversification such as sheepskin curing and First Aid.

In the past three years many courses have been run with the assistance of local instructors, and organised with the valuable help of our GTO's (Group Training Organisers). In the beginning it was necessary for us to have four GTO's as the demand for courses was high and it made the work load easier, so we had Ailsa Heathman and Allison Hewitt on the East and Lena Morrison and Jacqui Smith on the West. They all contributed a great deal to the success of the initial years of the training scheme.

As was expected, the high demand for courses petered out a little as people covered the skills that they required. It was then decided that the workload could be managed by two GTO's. Ailsa and Lena have taken on this role.

Most of our courses now are supplied on demand. If someone requests a course, the usual procedure is to then see if we can get more people interested in it to make it worthwhile doing. We can suggest courses, but this scheme is for you and we need your input and ideas. If you can think of a course that we could run that will e beneficial to farmers that we have not already done, then please let me or your GTO know. You may have a skill yourself that you could insruct on and share your knowledge with other farmers.

The most recent course was a Generator Maintenance course run by Michael Clarke at the request of the people at Port San Carlos. Other requests which we are in the process of organising are:

A lambing course. We already have one set for September on Sea Lion Island. No other requests have been made.

Sheepskin Curing.

We are waiting for chemical supplies to arrive on the charter vessel this month. Dennis Middleton is our instructor. We have had a request for a course at Shallow Harbour.

First Aid.

I have spoken with the Medical Department who are keen to have more First Aid courses run. It is a subject which needs doing on a regular basis to refresh people in that skill and to enhance their knowledge of it with new approaches and techniques. The Military personnel who work in the casualty department of the KEMH are going to instruct in the courses at various locations. It is anticipated that these courses will be of a three day duration as the two day courses in the past were criticised from both instructors and participants for being too short. Dates are to be arranged once the First Aid package being requested by the military has been received from the U.K.

Clip Preparation / Wool handling / Classing

Last year Robert Hall gave some instruction at many farms on Wool Handling. A video was also made locally and was distributed to all farmers for viewing. It is hoped that Robert will instruct further this year on this important subject.

Tractor Electrics

I have had one request to run a course on tractor electrics, but I need more response from other farmers to make this viable.

Videos are still available for free loan and we are still expanding our library. We are also working on improving our book library, although we do not envisage the lending of books as such, but if anyone requests information on a specific subject (egg incubation for instance) then we will use our library as reference and will photocopy relevant information and send it to the farmer. Alternatively, you are always welcome to come along to the department yourselves and browse for information.

AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE

To date we are having a very successful exchange programme with South Australia.

Firstly, we had Lisa Pole-Evans and Russell Evans away for approximately seven months. Last Summer we had Tony Richards and Roger Hunt here, doing stints on various farms in the Islands.

At the moment we have Lee Molkemburh and Jeffrey Halliday in South Australia for seven months. We are at present liaising with our Australian counterparts regarding the arrival of possibly two more Australian students coming here for the next season. I would be gratefull to hear from any farmers who could offer to host these students for a short period of time during their stay.

SENIOR SCHOOL

The Staff involved in training at the Department of Agriculture also have involvement with the Senior School in helping to prepare and also take classes for GCSE Agricultural studies and general practical Agricultural classes. Involvement in sheep handling, tussac planting and Agricultural Economics are just a few of the topics handled by the Department so far this year.

MANDY McLEOD AUGUST 1992

CALF HIDE CURING

I thought that some of you that have given sheepskin curing a go might be thinking about curing a calf hide with NEOSYN. Eight months and half a dozen hides later, I have made some progress which may hold some useful hints for anyone thinking of trying it. I find that you have to double the requirements used for curing a sheep skin, except water which you half. First, you remove any fat or membrane from the skin and wash several times in cold water to remove any dirt, blood etc. Before you start mixing chemicals please remember a few safety notes, such as wearing rubber gloves and, most importantly, keep all chemicals away from children. DO NOT USE METAL CONTAINERS EITHER. Chemicals required for a four gallon mix are as follows: 288ml BAYMOL "A"; 360ml BAYMOL "D"; 144ml FORMIC ACID; 2.2kg SALT; 1.8kg NEOSYN. MAIN SOAK Use 4 gallons of cold water mixed with 144ml of BAYMOL "A" Leave hide in for up to 5 hours. Flush with cold water. FLESH Remove any traces of fat or membrane. SCOUR / DEGREASE Use 4 gallons of warm water (35-40 degrees centigrade) mixed with 360ml BAYMOL "D". Soak overnight. WASH Using 4 gallons of warm water, mix 144ml of BAYMOL "A". Wash for up to two hours. Flush with cold water. PICKLE Add 2.2kg of SALT and 144 ml of FORMIC ACID to 4 gallons of cold water. Soak overnight. To this mix add 1.8kg NEOSYN and stir until most of the powder has dissolved. Soak for up to 10 days. This pickle will have to be paddled periodically during this time. The hide can now be removed and washed to remove excess chemicals. It is now ready for drying. DRYING The hide must be dried slowly. The best way is to make a frame larger than the hide. Make holes all around the edge of the hide no more than 3 inches apart. Thread rope through the holes and around the frame to stretch the hide. Not too tight or the holes will tear. It is a must that it is stretched during drying. When it begins to dry, the best way to stretch it is by pushing it with a broom handle with a rubbing motion all over the hide. Take up the slack on the rope as it stretches. The hide has to stretch to become soft.

FINISHING

When it is dry, remove from frame. Rub the back with a pumice stone and trim to shape. A good finish can be obtained by treating it with NEATSFOOT OIL.

DENNIS MIDDLETON AUGUST 1992

LETTER PAGE

As everyone knows (you should do by now) we have found ourselves in the interesting position of being in the middle of what appears to be quite a controversial issue; that of an outbreak of 'Orf' in a mainland flock. There are two schools of thought showing up on the subject, one of them less savoury than the other which doesn't, to most minds I believe, say a lot for the subscribers, nonetheless, 'Orf' is here now. I believe as do others, that we have always had it and in order to clear up some gossip and media-created grey areas regarding our problem I hope that this may help the minds and fears of others, particularly the witch-hunters.

About a fortnight or little more after the arrival of our 2 Cormo rams from Sea Lions, we had them in with the stud flock they were working to check harnesses and to show them off to my fathers former boss visiting from Chile.

At this time tiny orf scabs were noticed on the top lip of one ram, it was commented on briefly and disregarded, particularly as we have seen far worse in our own sheep in past years. About 3 weeks or so later, we happened to have the flock in the cattle yards in order to extract our $17\frac{1}{2}$ year old 'pet' (and first-year G.T.U. experiment survivor - who remembers Owen when he was just the gofer!) which had decided that having had a lamb last year, the new blokes were worth trying, when we happened to notice several scabby lips and on further inspection found some real scientific cases.

We treated what we could with what we had and phoned the Ag Dept. for advice. There followed what was initially a somewhat worrying period, as I endeavoured to think where the sheep had been during this time, so where they could have infected the ground for other flocks later.

The difference with this flock this year has been that we have kept them round the house paddock, with several odd ones for the duration of the time the rams were in with them, as this enabled us to keep an eye on the rams, which since we have now lost 2 good rams from close-by paddocks was only prudent.

Anyone who knows Salvador knows we have a couple of miles of gorse around the place, and it is only in recent days that we have discovered that the 2 rams can't get enough of it! Feedblocks were also put out - more to see how many of them went for it than was actually necessary, since they had the run of the airstrip as well - and here we think may have been the cause of the rapid spread of orf, if nothing else. The rams had got prickled mouths from the gorse and grazing round outgrowth, and may well have left scabs on the blocks. It was interesting to note the following:-

1. The rams did not cover all the ewes in the mob, since the first cycle was done by our old one prior to the new ones being released. When first discovered, an equal number of ewes serviced on the first and second cycles (by the new rams and the latter) were showing signs of orf.

- 2. After separating the infected sheep from the not-obviously affected ones and taking away the feed blocks, it took much longer for the spread to get right through the mob, even though once we realised that the infection was going to go through the whole mob we put them all back together again.
- 3. The mob of ewes numbers 157 and this is made up of 20-odd Polwarths exported from Roy Cove, 2 Polwarths from Chartres (one of these had a black A.I. lamb last year...!); 2 first year A.I Corriedales; 2 second year A.I. Merino - X ewes and the rest are 2 groups, one of which goes back to our old stud flock ewes and the other made up of the best of each years 5 year olds; these 2 groups are predominantly Corriedale. All the 'outside blood' ewes were hit far worse than others. This doesn't mean much to anyone or anything, but I find it interesting.

Once it was there, David Baber's infectious enthusiasm for discovering more, led me to realise that we could do something with it, and so we have tried a number of treatments; at this stage, settling for injecting the very worst affected with 5ml Engemycin L/A. knocking off the worst scabs for later burning, and spraying the affected area in all cases with gentian violet footrot spray. Also applying in the case of dry and less removable scabs, a coating of udder cream.

Since all this came on at the onset of the very cold June period and feed was not so easy for them to find let alone eat, they have maintained condition very well indeed and in the past week, the number being treated is less than 30%, and only three nasty cases, now improving.

We have since received a photograph of a young wether seen earlier this Autumn prior to the rams arrival, that shows an equally good dose of 'orf'(local brew). We now await the outcome of various blood tests and cultures of scab samples to see how much different this outbreak has been.

A recent handout at Farmers Week was very reassuring in its content and I would urge those who haven't yet seen it to do so. It's amazing how jumpy you can be about something until you learn more about it. As a disease, I believe that it rates the same as, if not less so, than brucellosis which has been around here for years.

As discussed at Farmers Week: Brucellosis - has it gone? - but what about Hydatids? Put in perspective, it can then really only be a fear of the unknown that leads to a desire to see heads roll.

Preventing secondary infection, if at all possible, is perhaps the main thing to aim for in dealing with any future outbreaks of 'orf'. This will then lead to less treatments and of course be better for the animal.

N. PITALUGA SALVADOR AUGUST 1992

Control of Caseous lymphadenitis a.k.a."boils"

Ben and Ted from the Butchery described to some of you at Farmers week, how "boils" present their biggest problem in the mutton which is slaughtered through their premises. Although a great number of the abscesses are confined to the lungs and liver, about 25% of carcasses slaughtered hide one or many abscesses in the meat, usually in the lymphnodes, but also in the musculature. The large number of lesions in the lungs suggests airborne spread of the bacterium that causes the disease, by aerosol or through dust, and thus my first suggestion would be:

- avoid dust in shearing sheds, through concreting lettingout pens and washing down at least once, better a few times a day. Thus any accumulation of dust, possibly contaminated, can be avoided and washed away in time.
- avoid shearing cuts, i.e. enforce a high standard of shearing on your farm. Un-cut sheep are more likely to remain free from infection and cannot pass it on to their pen-mates.
- dress all shearing wounds, i.e. apply at least some antiseptic spray to any shearing cut, better still, use an antibiotic aerosol available from the Department.
- clean all shearing equipment. If a sheep has been cut, and especially if a previous shearing wound has developed into a "boil" and shearing through it has contaminated the handpiece, clean all shearing gear thoroughly and dip it into an antiseptic solution. Thus there will be no danger of spreading the bug from one sheep to the other.
 - clean the shearing shed at the end of the season and if practical, disinfect on the properties that have a high incidence of "boils" in their sheep. Advice on suitable disinfectants can be obtained from this Department.

As mentioned at Farmers week, I am currently evaluating a vaccine from Australia against the organism which causes "boils". Vaccination however, is no substitute for hygienic shearing and farming practices and can only aid the campaign, but not eradicate "boils" by itself. This is to say that a vaccine can only work in conjunction with the implementation of the above simple guidelines and can not be relied upon to do the whole job.

It is not unreasonable to assume that sheep with large abscesses in their lungs are at a disadvantage compared with their mates and will struggle to maintain their body condition, or grow the same amount of wool as the unaffected ones. So "boils" not only present as an aesthetic problem to butchers, but do impact on the general performance of your sheep.

Michael P Reichel

ALTERNATIVE POWER

Several people have phoned me to ask what kind of inverter we are using, and what kind of batteries, etc. etc. I thought therefore that I might as well jot it all down in case anyone else is interested. We have Jerome and Sally Poncet to thank for obtaining our inverter and encouraging us to adopt this fuel saving system.

We are using a Trace Inverter, model 2012 with standby option. (This means it has its own inbuilt battery charger). This is a neat, compact piece of electronic wizardry which sits in one of our shanties. It is connected to a Chloride TAP 300 Ah battery, which is a large heavy 6-cell affair, sited for safety reasons in an adjoining shanty. The battery is purpose built to order, and is intended for standby power and deep cycling. It is lead acid, with a life expectancy of between ten and twelve years.

We have incorporated a windcharger into our system; this worked extremely smoothly and efficiently for a couple of days but not having a user's manual I failed to secure it properly when the wind rose to gale force. Although still turning happily the next day, there was black gunge cozing out of it, the insulation had burned out. A replacement alternator is en-route to us, as the charger has a year's warranty. (The blades themselves are guaranteed for life). We now have a way to adapt it so it will turn out of the wind automatically when necessary, to protect itself. This is a 250-watt charger, producing 5 amps at 10 knots and 15 amps at 20 knots.

Our system has been up and running for a month now. We have a daily routine whereby the diesel generator is run for two hours in the morning and two hours in the early evening; this allows the inverter to charge the battery, and we also run the freezer and charge the telephone battery at this time. Once the wind charger is on line again, we will be able to run the freezer round the clock, on thermostat (assuming there is enough wind). We have experienced no problems with freezer start-up (computer crashing etc.) when on the inverter, which is designed to cope with a 6 kw temporary surge; the battery is also good enough to cope with this. There is of course a temporary loss of power if changing over from generator to inverter.

Another important aspect of our new system is the use of Phillips SL prismatic light bulbs; these use around a quarter the wattage of normal bulbs. (126 watts would light our whole house, should we want to do so). Although expensive, (approx. f9.45 in a U.K. bulk outlet), these have a life expectancy up to ten times that of the cheaper bulb.

The beauty of both Trace and Chloride products is their flexibility. Systems can be tailored to personal requirements; it is possible to have from 140 to 3600 watts of continuous power available, with a 6000 watt surge capacity. A basic system can be bought, and then added on to when more money is available or your requirements increase. We have been appointed Falkland agents for Trace Engineering (with a full local warranty) and Chloride, and can obtain all items at list price for you, plus freight at cost. For example, the Trace 2524E/SB/TC with remote control/fault indicator, digital volt meter and turbo charger, is currently listed at \$2060,- which at an exchange rate of 1.89 would be f1089.94 plus freight. Should you want to know more, please contact me.

CLIVE WILKINSON DUNNOSE HEAD. AUGUST 1992.

DIARY OF A FARMER'S WIFE

This winter seems to be dragging it's heels somewhat. Maybe it's the slow wool sales (or, more to the point, slow wool payments) that are making everything appear subdued and low key. It's normally now that we would start planning for next season, ordering a few extras both farm and housewise and generally looking ahead with optimism. The only positive note at present is the Boss's 'forest' of Austrian pines, mostly in the ground now, with the first-planted batch showing signs of greening up a little. He's having to do his stints of digging between the frosts, of course. On the next boat there shold be protective tubes and supporting stakes, plus fertiliser; between them these should give the new arrivals the will to survive.

The Boss recently went across the water to help friends move some horses onto a tussock island. Our little inflatable boat came in handy for this job. I don't mind him being away now we have the inverter. No more venturing outside to switch off the generator, then haring back to the house and tripping over the cats in the rush to get indoors before the bogeyman gets me in the dark. The only problem with all-night power is the temptation to stay up all hours reading, - then oversleeping the next day and feeling like something the cats rejected.....

finally got our new roomheater installed in We've the sittingroom; it's only taken seven years for the Boss to get round to tackling the job ... though, to be fair, it was buried for some time under a ton of yarn in the Portakabin and not easily accessible. It's one of those black woodburning stoves which works equally well with peat but unfortunately doesn't have an ash tray. This means a cautious emptying of ashes into a bucket each morning, trying not to get ALL of it strewn across the carpet in the process; with luck and good management it is possible to salvage some red coals and rev the thing into renewed life with knobblings. The sittingroom gets so hot nowadays that we have to keep the window permanently ajar, but it's a treat to have a stove that doesn't keep it's warmth to itself as tenaciously as the old Esse Dura used to do. We used to begrudge feeding that old brute.

Talking of old brutes, the Boss has just got home. I'd better stop yakking and get some food on the table...

SHARPENING KNIVES

AUSTRALIAN STYLE

TREATING THE SHARPENING STEEL

New sharpening steels usually have a ribbed pattern along the length - these untreated steels can harm your blade. Steels should be rubbed down with emery paper until all the ribbed pattern and any other imperfections have been removed, leaving it with a finished surface.

The steel is now ready for acid treatment. The object of this treatment is to pit the steel surface minutely to give the steel "bite". This assists in retaining the razor like edge on a knife. Several methods and chemicals have been tried, here is one of the best.

It has two advantages: the take is uniform, and atmospheric conditions such as wet weather and high humidity cause no difficulties. The method requires:

- 1) A length of plastic electrical conduit. It should be slightly longer and of greater diameter than your steel.
- 2) A rubber stopper for one end.
- 3) A bottle large enough for the conduit to sit in for stability.
- A plastic ice-cream container in case any acid is spilt. Use sulphuric acid.

Important note.

Always use acid in an airy location away from any other metals which could be affected by it. Acid is highly corrosive. Avoid contact with skin, eyes, etc. Take great care. Do not breathe in any fumes as these could damage your lungs.

The steel should be pushed through a piece of plastic sheet or bag up to the guard beneath its handle.

Before the steel is placed in the acid it is critical that it is free of fat and dirt. Even fingerprints will affect the "take" on the steel surface, so every time the steel is removed from the acid it should be cleaned before being returned. I have found household abrasive powder cleaner and a piece of lint free cloth the best way of cleaning the steel. The time the steel is left in the acid varies with hardness. Softer steels "take" more quickly than hard. There is no way of knowing which steels are harder by their appearance. It is the time the steel is in the acid to obtain a bite that is the major factor in determining the steels hardness. A hard steel keeps its bite longer and may not have to be treated in the acid again for years, if ever. The steel should be immersed in the acid for a minimum period of about four hours, then removed, wiped clean and tried on the knife. Listen to the bite or zip as the knife is worked down the steel. If you are not satisfied with the bite, wipe the steel as mentioned above and return it to the acid for a further period.

If a steel of moderate hardness is put in fresh acid at 10.00pm it should have a good even biting surface by 5.00am the following morning. A day of heavy butchering work should give you an indication of the effectiveness of the treatment. A short period in the acid is preferable to a longer one because it is easier to return the steel to the acid than go too far, producing too much bite because of over-treatment. If this happens, you have to rub the steel back and start the process again.

Having acquired a good working steel, you must now direct you attention to the condition of your knife.

THE KNIFE

A knife on a good steel may only need to be occasionally returned to the oilstone for sharpening, apart from accidents such as hitting the edge of the blade against equipment, bone or teeth.

A steel cannot perform miracles on your knife edge. To maintain a good day-long cutting edge your knife must be ground correctly. The knife you buy off the shelf may well need grinding to acquire a good cutting edge. If the blade is too thick, has large shoulders or is gapped by hitting against hard stone or metal, the edge will quickly become dull and very hard to work with. Then your arm will have to do what should be done by the knife! When you have to work with a blunt knife, attention to detail suffers, as well as speed. The knife needs to be ground on an emery wheel. Some people are afraid of the emery wheel because it is so fast and coarse compared to the sandstone wheel. There is an element of risk using the emery wheel, as too much pressure applied to a thin blade may burn the edge. Practice with an old knife to get the feel of the wheel.

With a new knife I have found it best to grind it about half way up and along the blade from heel to point. It is important to do the same amount of grinding on both sides for uniform thickness. Therefore, the grinding on each side should be done alternately.

The knife handle is held in one hand for control of movement and the pull of the emery wheel. The fingers of the other hand are splayed out along the blade. Note that the fingers on the blade are for control, not pressure. The revolutions of the wheel and friction do the actual grinding. For grinding the other side of the blade, turn the knife around and reverse the position of the hands. The blade should be moved across the wheel from the heel of the blade, that is from handle to point. Always hold the knife with the edge facing away from you in the direction of the emery wheel.

To check if you are grinding in the right position on the blade surface do the following: 1) Wet the blade. 2) Move the blade across the wheel, holding it in the manner previously described. 3) Look to see where the water is drying, this indicates the surface of the blade actually in contact with the wheel.

To determine when the blade is ready for sharpening on the oilstone, hold the knife blade away from you and run it along the steel from heel to point. It is ground enough if you can detect a ripple in the blade edge by applying a little pressure with the hand holding the handle of the knife. If you are using a sandstone wheel the procedure is exactly the same, except that pressure will have to be applied with the fingers splayed out along the blade and with the hand holding the knife handle. The sandstone wheel takes much longer to do the job.

OILSTONE SHARPENING

Firstly moisten the surface of the oilstone with paraffin or a vegetable oil. Hold the knife handle firmly in the right hand with the ground edge on the oilstone, on the same plane as you

ground the edge on the emery wheel. To check this angle, move the blade through the oil and tilt the blade just enough to see the oil run forward off the blade. Now lock your wrist. With back and forth action move the blade across the oilstone with the same amount of pressure from the heel to the point till you are satisfied the blade has had full contact with the stone. Repeat this movement several times. Turn the blade over and repeat the procedure on this side. Repeat several times.

When satisfied, return to the first side and repeat - except for one difference. Tilt the blade slightly, bringing its edge into direct contact with the oilstone. Lock your wrist and again move the blade lightly back and forth across the stone from heel to point. Run your thumb cautiously across the flat surface of the blade and you will find the edge turned up slightly from heel to This feature is referred to as a feathered edge. point. Turn the blade over and repeat this tilting procedure until the feathered edge has now rolled over to this side. Place the feathered edge down on the oilstone and lightly work it across the stone with a short wrist action to stand the feathered edge up straight. Repeat on the other side of the blade and lightly steel the knife to remove the last of the feathered edge and to fine sharpen the knife edge. If after steeling, some feather remains it may be necessary to draw the blade lightly through softwood or soft bone to remove it completely. While doing your butchering, steel your knife constantly to retain the keen cutting edge.

STEELING THE KNIFE

The steel should be held with all fingers and thumb on the same side of the steel handle. Note that, even with a guard in front of the handle, it is possible to 'swish' the blade down the steel an injure the top of the thumb if the thumb is wrapped around the steel handle. Whether you are left or right handed, hold the steel handle with fingers and thumb as explained above. Place the heel of the blade on the steel about four to five centimetres from the end of the steel, at the same angle to the blade as you did when grinding and sharpening the knife. Now flick your wrist so that the blade lightly travels down the steel with the whole edge making contact. Repeat the procedure to the other side of the edge again by a light flick action of the wrist. Do this very slowly at first. After a time you will develop your own rhythm and technique.

Regardless of whether you are right or left handed there is a tendency to roll the edge of the blade to one side - the top side as you are holding - during the course of your work. For this reason, It is better to under-steel initially, that is start steeling with the blade on the under side of the steel.

It is only necessary to do this two or three times to each side of the blade every time you steel, to maintain a keen cutting edge. Steeling the knife, sharpening it and steeling the edge, you should be able to carry out a presentable butchering job with a sharp knife and an efficient steel.

AUGUST 1992

RECIPE

SUCCULENT SPARE RIBS

4 lb of spare ribs

(although this is primarily a pork recipe, I have tried it on mutton chops and ribs. Young lamb cut into portion size joints is also an excellent substitute)

FOR THE SAUCE

¹₂ cup of vinegar l teaspoon dry mustard 1 teaspoon chilli powder k cup of sugar

- 1 teaspoons salt
- 4 teaspoons celery seed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon paprika

teaspoon pepper

METHOD

Mix the sauce ingredients together in a bowl or jug. Sprinkle the meat with garlic salt and roast slowly for two hours. Spoon the sauce over the meat every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or so. Serve on a bed of rice.

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LAST MONTHS

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





I'M FRIEBIAN !



I'M NOT TOO WARM MYSELF!

LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. Lady on left's shoes are darker; 2. Extra puddle on table; 3. Right lady's finger to mouth has gone; 4. Right hair dryer has plug on end of lead; 5. No marks in right puddle; 6. Right lady's coat has no back button; 7. Left lady has bigger earrings; 8. Right table leg has no line down it; 9. Airflow from left hair dryer has more "air-lines"; 10. Left lamb has no tail.

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CROSSWORD

Ъу

MANDY

McLEOD

ACROSS

- Source of fuel 1.
- 7. Pearly cereal crop
- 12. Camera stand
- 14. Filled pastry cases
- 15. Container
- 16. Small waves
- 17. Radio Frequency
- 19. Hallucinogenic drug
- 20. French masculine
- 21. Extended player
- 23. Special
- 25. Rim
- 27 Floor covering
- 29. Pigs home
- 31. Raised area
- 33. Long fish 34. Horse with shoes
- 35. Tourism Hotels
- 36. Fish eggs
- 38. Throw
- 41. Type of mower
- 42. Exist
- 44. United Kingdom 45. Horrible; disgusting
- 47. String
- 48. Worker of boat cargo
- 50. U.S. Espionage body
- 52. Warning or signal sound
- 53. Common egg layers 54. Ringed marks on horse.

DOWN

- 1. Sea bird
- 2. All Terrain Vehicle
- Farm machine operator З.
- Piece for horses mouth! 4.
- 5. Out Post
- Prickly shrub 6.
- Fruit good with goose! 8.
- 9. Annoy
- 10. Sheltered
- Type of cooker
 Red berried ground cover
 Bird unable to take off
- 22. Peas, beans etc.
- 24. Not out
- 26. Seeing organ
- 28. Lazy
- 30. Try 32. Set off
- 37. Oily green or black fruit
- 39. Light wild cat?
- 40. Length of wool
- 42. Flower place
- 43. Female sheep
- 46. Give out on loan 47. Pony cart 49. End

- 51. Snake
- 53. The man


P/WOO/1#38



WOOL PRESS

Retail price: £1.00.

ISSUE 34

SEPTEMBER 1992.

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BIRTH_ by F. Dickson

CHECK LIST FOR LAMBING.

PLUS THE REGULAR FEATURES.



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture. Editors - R.H.B.Hall and M.McLeod.

EDITORIAL.

This month's Woolpress has an exciting variety of subjects, ranging from human health to lambing, and from drunk bees to part time farming.

In mid-August we bade farewell to our Deputy Director/Agricultural Economist Andrew Henworth and his family. Andrew did a great deal of work for: the National Stud Flock, the organisation of E.D.F. materials from the E.E.C., the Grant Assistance programme and the Grant review. Andrew gave sound advice to both farmers and the Department, which will be greatly missed. We wish both him and Kate well for the future.

Next week we have to say Goodbye to our Agronomy Laboratory Technician Gordon Lennie - a colourful entreprenneur who has been associated with the Deparment since 1983. We will miss both him and his work. We wish him the best of luck.

On the other side of the same coin; we welcome Troyd Bowles our new Field assistant and an addition to the Fox Eay Village population in the shape of sproglett: Ciara Howlett !!!

R.H.

Take note: the ewe population are heading towards lambing so... GET ORGANISED.!!



The articles printed in the WOOLPRESS do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

FALKLAND FARMING - A NEW ZEALAND PERSPECTIVE

Since coming to the Falkland Islands just over a month ago I have been fortunate enough to visit a number of farms and have an opportunity to discuss the usual range of topics that crop up around the kitchen table from farming to local and world politics, and I have come to realise how fortunate you are to be farming here in comparison to New Zealand.

Climatically it is certainly easier to grow grass in New Zealand although where I had come from the summers can be very dry; we both face the same depressed world market where it seems that every nation is so preoccupied by its own debt and problems that is unwilling or unable to trade as much as we all would like and as small antipodean islands there is little we can do about this except to pull our belts in another notch and wait for things to improve.

From the aspect of animal health you are very lucky to have so few diseases of any economic significance with Brucellosis almost eradicated and Orf being little more than an infrequent nuisance. For the sheep farmer in N.Z. there is facial eczema that can reduce your lambing by up to 30% following a bad summer, while viral pneumonia can kill maybe 10% of your best lambs in autumn in a few days, and then there's the troublesome Australian blow fly that turned up a few years ago.

After battling with the climatic extremes, poor commodity prices and a few disease problems the last thing you need is more hurdles in the form of local and central Government and this is one area that you are most fortunate. You do not pay rates on your properties, are assisted in a number of ways by grants, mortgage repayments, etc. and have a government that is committed to your success in the form of the Department of Agriculture.

For the comparison and to N.Z's discredit we moved from a climate of semi-subsidisation in the early 1980's to overnight cold turkey in 1984 with prime ministerial pontification about how N.Z. would become the Switzerland of the South Pacific and farming would shortly be unnecessary on the larger scale of things. That was until October 1987. Since then successive governments of both parties have followed the new Right ideology of least assistance to anybody and user-pays for everything.

Consequently our government farm advisory system is now charged out is used less often and so is steadily being run down. Many farmers had had to leave the land, ewe numbers have dropped from 70 million to 52 million in the last 8 years, yet despite all this the government bravely heralds the arrival of the export led recovery any day now - if only the EC would reduce their levels of protection.

I mention these small problems that N.Z. (sheep) farmers face not to deter anyone who's contemplating emigrating but to let you know that things in the Falkland Islands are probably better than you realise in relation to the rest of the world. One marvellous asset you have here if only you can exploit it is the very wide base of proven genetic material in your sheep. You've been importing sheep of various breeds for over 100 years and by now there will be superior sheep ideally suited to the terrain and climate here. The task facing you is to identify those sheep and run them either as a national elite flock (or a number of smaller flocks) and to redistribute there progeny. By all means (AI ET or live sheep) bring in new genetic material to keep heading for the ideal sheep but never forget that the future strength of your sheep farming is already here.

One activity that has proven very useful in the district I come from and should appeal to the newer farmers amongst you is that of "farmer days" where as many farmers as can manage it descend on one farmer for the day. The first part of the day is spent looking at this farmers actual programme for the whole year, even the farm budget and basically his farm is put under the spotlight. Everybody has an opportunity to make suggestions and offer constructive criticism and generally both the farmer concerned and most people attending learn something. It's a phenomenon that has happened more of late now that times are harder and most (especially the young) farmers have benefited from the experience. After lunch and a few drinks the conversation usually takes a broader nature,

To continue with the Three "S's" of improving a sheep farm stock, sub-division and shelter, it is sometimes easy to overemphasise the stock component of farming. But keep chipping away at the larger paddocks as no doubt you are well aware of the advantages of smaller paddocks and judicious grazing as a means of permanently improving pasture without the continued requirement for ferilizer.

Finally to all those farmers who are trying to get shelter to grow I offer my best wishes for their success.

All the breeding in the world is wasted if the ewe is caught without shelter in a storm at lambing time, and a shelter belt in your lambing paddock will repay your efforts many times over in the years to come.

Bob Jackman August 1992

TRAINING UPDATE -FIRST AID

On the 4th - 5th August a very successful First Aid course that was run for the Agricultural Trainees by Royal Army Medical Corps at the K.E.M.H. The course was held on a trial basis with the possibility of it being replicated out in Camp if sufficient interest was to be shown. A course has recently been organised for farmers in the Chartres area in early September . Having had the chance to sit in on the Trainee's course I was very impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the instructors who are all resident at Hillside Camp. If there are any other farms interested in similar 2 day courses prior to the start of the season could you please contact your nearest G.T.O ? We hope that by maintaining a close link with Hillside Camp that this course could also be included into next years training programme.

DIRE DILEMMA

She got a can of Terramycin and a bottle-full of dope A tube of Penicillin

Ê,

and a canny bit of hope The vet was optimistic he'd worked miracles before

But the ewe was quite determined and she died at half past four The vet was disillusioned he thought she might have lived And I was disappointed

'cos he charged me fifty quid!"



YELLOW FEVER

Information received from the World Health Organisation recently shows that there has been a large increase in the number of cases of Yellow Fever reported especially in Africa. Yellow Fever is estimated to affect 200,000 people per year and 30,000 die.

The vaccine is very safe and is effective in over 95% of people. It should not be given to children under the age of 6 months.

Because of the small but significant risk of the Tristar being diverted to West Africa it is now recommended that all passengers over the age of 6 months should be immunised against Yellow Fever. The immunity lasts for 10 years.

Although Yellow Fever does occur in South America it has only occurred there in people living and working in the forests, so it is now essential for travellers to South America to have an immunisation.

If you require a Yellow Fever Immunisation please telephone the hospital for an appointment.

Chief Medical Officer K.E.M.H.

ORF: THE HUMAN ANGLE

Orf is a contagious pustular dermatitis caused by a pox-virus. It mainly affects sheep, cattle and goats but is transmissible to humans. Rarely other animals such as musk ox, chamois, alpaca and very rarely dogs (after eating unskinned carcasses) can be affected. The virus is fairly resistant and may survive in the environment in dust, wool, on hooks and the wood of sheep pens.

The virus has a characteristic appearance on electron microscopy. Tissue culture of the virus is possible but blood tests in humans are not entirely reliable.

Human Orf

The condition is obviously commonest in people in close contact with sheep. Person to person transmission is extremely rare.

After a incubation period of 3-4 days a rash appears and over another few days a blister appears. The skin then breaks down and develops a thick black crust. It usually takes 5 - 8 weeks for it to heal. Normally the number of lesions is several on one limb but sometimes a more widespread form occurs.

Diagnosis

Laboratory tests in humans are unreliable and more difficult than in sheep. Normally it makes little practical difference in humans because the treatment is the same for all possibilities eg. Herpes, Vaccinia, and Pseudocow pox.

Treatment

Antiviral drugs such as Idoxuridine topically applied and Acyclovir given orally do limit the severity of the condition but are not essential as the condition always resolves spontaneously.

In humans many viral infections can be complicated by a condition called erythema multiforme which causes a severe rash with ulcers.

This is thought to be due to the body's immune system producing an abnormal reaction in the skin. It is not only caused by viruses but also bacteria, drugs and quite often for no apparent reason.

The problem with erythema multiforme is that it is often very extensive and looks worse than the original infection that triggered it off in the first place. The diagnosis of erythema multiforme is purely visual (there are no laboratory tests for it). The treatment for it is quite different than that for the original condition.

General

Orf is very common in any sheep farming community and rarely causes any problems. It is an accepted risk associated with working in contact with sheep. In humans it is a minor problem but obviously for sheep farmers and veterinary surgeons it is a more serious condition because it affects sheep more severely.

Falkland Islands

The general public do not need to be worried about Orf at all. It cannot be contracted from the meat of affected sheep or lambs - only from the skins. It has been contracted from sheep bites/ grazes and cuts on contaminated objects such as sheep pens etc but generally the risk is very low. It should also be noted that if someone does contract Orf it will take 5 - 8 weeks to clear up but it always does get better.

Sheep farmers, abattoir workers, vets and anyone working with fleeces and sheep skins is at a higher risk but apart from the obvious precaution of wearing gloves and long sleeves and trousers to minimise skin contact with high risk sheep, that is sheep displaying obvious clinical disease, there is very little that can be done to prevent the person acquiring the disease.

DR. R DIGGLE Chief Medical Officer

FROM THE MEDICAL DEPT

URGENT CALLS TO THE KEMH FROM CAMP

A recent event has brought to the Medical Departments attention the fact that some Campers are not aware of the best times and phone numbers to ring.

Monday - Friday 09.15 - 10.00am Ring 27414 There will be a doctor available at this time to deal with your call.

At all other times if your call is <u>URGENT</u> Ring the Ward on 27410 which is manned 24 hours a day. Clearly state your name the patients name if you are ringing on behalf of someone, telephone number, location and nature of the emergency. This will enable the Hospital to respond promptly and efficiently.

R. C. WAGNER

27-Aug-92 8:55

1992 WOOL SALES D.S. & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd. Shipments To Date

D.S. & Co. (Falkland Farming) Ltd	TOTALS	/KG GREASY	/KG CLEAN
Contracts Date Bales Average Bales/Contract Average Bale Weight Gross Kilos Estimated Wool Clip Percent Of FI Wool Clip Tare Percent Of Gross Weight Net Kilos Yield Clean Kilos Average Clean Price Highest Price Lowest Price Weighted Average Micron Highest Micron Lowest Micron Exported Percent Exported From UK Invoice Amount Value Added Tax	$\begin{array}{r} 66\\ 1992\\ 3,976\\ 60\\ 267\\ 1,061,930\\ 2,770,000\\ 38.34\%\\ 7,946\\ .75\%\\ 1,053,984\\ 59.96\%\\ 632,000\\ 2.10\\ 2.87\\ .45\\ 27.75\\ 31.69\\ 23.45\\ 147,926\\ 13.93\%\\ 1,519,276.91\\ 194,029.85\end{array}$		
GROSS SALES Interest On VAT Commission @ 2.00% Lotting @ £25 Per Lot Wool Testing Services Int. Insurance For Shipments Certificates @ £15 Per Lot Warehousing Freight To Buyer Other Costs (i.e. Bank) Penalties (i.e. Late Delivery) TOTAL DEDUCTIONS Percent Of Gross	1,325,247.0617,441.5726,459.691,635.0027,389.233,455.69990.0030,512.333,974.173,329.32.00115,187.018.69%	$\begin{array}{c} 1.26\\ .01655\\ .02510\\ .00155\\ .02599\\ .00328\\ .00094\\ .02895\\ .00377\\ .00316\\ .00000\\ .10929\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.10\\ .02760\\ .04187\\ .00259\\ .04334\\ .00547\\ .00157\\ .04828\\ .00629\\ .00527\\ .00 \\ 0\\ .18226\end{array}$
NET PAYABLE TO FARM PRINCIPALS	1,210,170.55	1.15	1.91

VOLCANIC DUST 1991/92 (Estimate for Season) Average per bale 21.60 Kilos Total Estimated Dust Shipped 224 Tonnes Estimated Cost Of Shipping Dust 47,000 £ Estimated Cost Per Bale 4.70 £ 1991/92 SALES CONTRACTS (Approximately 84.00% of Clip) Clean Weight Contracted to Date 1,390,573 Kilos

Gross Value 2,828,546.40 1.21970 2.03409 Estimated Payment To Farms 2,582,696.54 1.11369 1.85729 Estimated Freight Farm/UK .35019 486,964.33 .20998 Receipts Net of Freight 2,095,732.21 .90370 1.50710

Price Range Per Kilo Clean £1.20

£1.20 - £2.87

As producers of wool we are all aware of the significance of the wool stocks on the current state of the wool market. In this article I will present a more analytical examination of the impact of global wool stocks on the price of wool in the Falklands. To avoid making the article too broad I will ignore for now the speculative forces that are very closely linked to the level of wool stocks. I will also touch very briefly on the link between exchange rates and wool stocks. My analysis will be confined to the Australian Market, consideration is not given to the New Zealand producers who do have an influence on the coarser end of the Falkland Market.

The concept of using wool stocks to manipulate auction prices in Australia really took off with the establishment of the Minimum Reserve Price Scheme (M.R.P) by the Australian Wool Corporation (A.W.C) in 1970. The reason why the Australians were (and still are) able to influence market prices is due to the dominance that they hold in the production and export of fine The principal objective of the scheme (until it's dramatic wool. collapse in February 1991) was to provide income support to Australian farmers by smoothing out fluctuations in prices due to the prevailing economic conditions in wool consuming nations. During periods of low market demand for wool the A.W.C would intervene in the market and make sufficient purchases to maintain the market price above the minimum reserve price (or floor price.) The A.W.C would therefore act as buyers of wool and artificially raise market prices. These purchases would then be accumulated as stock until recovery in the market place occurred as in the mid 1980's (see figure 1) .

figure 1



The circumstances that gave rise to the collapse in the scheme in 1991 was the depth of the recession in the market in consuming nations (including communist states) and that the A.W.C could not afford to continue accumulating surplus wool indefinitely. The reasons that led to this situation lie in the way that the M.R.P was administered . This minimum (floor) price was set annually and the price quoted was made on the basis that it would not be set at a lower level the following year(s). This commitment was eventually broken in July 1990 when it was realised that a minimum price of 870 cents per kilo was economically and politically unsustainable. This drop in floor price was soon followed by a further political decision to suspend the scheme altogether and form a new body the Australian Wool Realisation Corporation (A.W.R.C) to facilitate the disposal of the stockpile.

The problem for the Falkland producer is in the way that the Australians off load their stockpile onto the unprotected markets. They would often tend to take advantage of devaluations to the Australian \$ which have the effect of making Australian wool more competitive in manufacturing countries such as the U.K. The future of the M.R.P scheme is still in doubt although it seems likely that the Australians may follow the New Zealand example and adopt a non-interventionist (free-market) approach to marketing their wool.

An analysis of figure 1 and 2 does provide a clear indication of the scale of raw wool stocks held in Australia and the limited the extent to which these stocks have been reduced since the collapse of the M.R.P scheme in February 1991. (The level of stocks held in the 1980's were considered to be excessive by the Australian authorities at that time.) At the current rate of disposal, the existence of such large stocks can only maintain a strong and negative influence on the market.

Micron Range 5	Total Stock 2/7/91	Total Stock 26/6/92	% of Total 1992 Stock	<pre>% reduction on 2/7/9</pre>
20.5 and finer	221856	222884	5.47	-ve 0.46
20.6 - 22.5	1150545	1125383	27.65	2.18
22.6 - 24.5	1425907	1379137	33.88	3.28
24.6 - 26.5	348136	316835	7.79	8.99
26.6 - 28.5	76406	66113	1.62	13.47
28.6 - 30.5	107952	101819	2.50	5.68
30.6 - 32.5	65496	53748	1.32	17.93
32.6 and coarse	er 14655	8276	0.21	43.52
Skirtings	358794	229234	5.63	36.10
Combing lms/Wrr	ns 51206	49094	1.21	4.12
Cardings	481284	388090	9.53.	19.35
Miscellaneous	50454	36040	0.89	28.56
Processed Stock	s 207446	93319	2.29	65.49
TOTAL	4623137	4069972	100.00	11.96

Figure 2 Comparison of A.W.R.C stock levels June 1991 - June 1992

Source: International Wool Secretariat.

A more detailed examination of the composition of the A.W.R.C stockpile does, however, provide a more optimistic picture for the micron bands produced by the Falklands clip. Figure 2 shows that just 13.23% of the A.W.R.C stockpile is in the main Falkland market niche (If the very fine producers will forgive me.) The fact that 67% of the A.W.R.C stockpile is made up of 24.5 micron and finer wool has been a significant factor in the convergence of micron band prices as shown in figure 3. Figure 2 supports this trend by identifying that A.W.R.C disposals (on a % basis) have been stronger in the coarser bands.



Dry conditions in Australia had also contributed to a higher production of fine wools and an increase in the level of superfine wool stocks. This increase in fine wool production has also been mirrored by technological advances that enable coarser wools to be used in lightweight fabrics. Fashion trends have also not helped the stock holding situation of finer wools. The economic recession has tended to reduce the demand for formal wear and for fine and superfine wools. These factors cannot be expected to lead to a rapid increase in the price of Falkland-type wools however we should expect to see a recent decline in fine wool prices maintained and a relative increase in the price of our wool (see fig 3).

HUGH MARSDEN AUGUST 1992

THE POTENTIAL COST OF E.T.

Following last month's article, where it was demonstrated what the real cost of Artificial Insemination was to produce a ram hogget to first shearing; it may be useful to also demonstrate what the potential costs of producing a ram hogget through E.T. might be. In producing this article one has to accept that the A.I. article was based on experience, whereas E.T. costs are based partly on experience and partly on best the information available. Always bear in mind that E.T. is a technique which has never been attempted in the islands, therefore success rates are an unknown and could be better or worse than those quoted in the literature. Success rates will of course be very much dependent on the skills and experience of the veterinary operator.

POTENTIAL COST/EWE INSEMINATED

EMBRYO PURCHASE	£35.00
(2 Embryos @ £17.50 each approx.)	
EMBRYO FREIGHT & INSURANCE	£2.50
DRUGS AND ADMINISTRATION CHARGE	£6.50
DOA TRAVEL COSTS	£4 .9 6
DOA LABOUR COSTS	£29.14
IMPLANT TOTAL	£78.10
ALLOWANCE FOR LAMB/EWE FOOD/MISC VET COSTS	£5.00
EACH LAMB REARED COSTS (assuming 100% lambing)	£83.10

Current literature suggests that conception and operator success rates average 50%, provide a loss and cull rate (even pure breeds through E.T. every lamb will not be suitable for stud flock breeding) of 25% from birth to ram hogget the cost will increase to:

 $f83.10 \times \frac{100}{50} \times \frac{100}{75} = f221.60$

In order to produce one ram hogget the farmer will need to implant two ewes (assuming that males & females are produced on a 50:50 basis), it is also assumed that the ram hogget will be worth four times that of the ewe. On this basis the ram hogget will have cost:

 $\frac{f221.60}{5} \times \frac{x}{2} \times 4 = f354.56$

Like A.I. the purchase price of embryos is of great importance; there are two options, one can purchase sexed embryos which tend to be expensive or unsexed embryos can be purchased at a very much cheaper rate. It is the latter which has been expressed in this article. Sexed embryos are also implanted at a later stage and the operator skill in placing the embryo is much more critical. Other costs such as Department of Agriculture travel would as with A.I. increase, if small numbers were being implanted in numerous locations. Neither has any account been made for the farmers time or other farm costs, which may have been incurred during the implanting or rearing periods.

OWEN SUMMERS.

Well, it looks as though winter is almost over and we can all give thanks that we haven't had prolonged snow to knock back our livestock's condition. Having said which, no doubt the wind will swing southerly and bury us all under a white blanket... There have been light volcanic dust falls, of course, perhaps from the newly erupted volcano rather than further puffs from Mount Hudson. Remembering last year, it is to be hoped that we aren't in for a repeat performance.

The Boss and I, with help from Daughter during a short holiday at home, moved the main flock ewes to their lambing ground. They are all fit and well, - too fit in fact. As the horses aren't really ready for work yet, it was Shanks's Pony for we females during part of the gather and most of the drive. Ιt was all we could do to keep up with the drive, on the uphill There was a collective sigh of relief on reaching the bits. final gateway. The young ewes (first-lambers) were also gathered, for crutching and worming. We then turned them back into their camp, which looks quite green still, thanks to the winter rains. Next on the pre-lambing preparation list were the stud ewes. These were divided into half-breds (first-lambers, covered by Basket), and those tupped by Trug and Willow. The half-breds were crutched out, and all were wormed. Again, their general condition is pleasing; we are keeping fingers crossed for a decent lambing.

Our new baby forest has been fertilised; the amount of fertiliser per plant seemed ludicrously small but there's a real risk of overdoing the goodies, apparently. The horses have also received attention, - with louse powder. Only one has actually got any unwelcome hangers-on, but better safe than sorry.

My hens have finally perked up and started laying. I'll get some eggs in pickle soon. I hope to get an incubator this season and rear some replacement pullets; having an inverter means I could use a mains model. I've never had much luck with chicks in the past, but I need to replace my O.A.P. biddies.

Something new that the Boss and I tried recently was sheepskin curing, under expert guidance. This was an interesting experience. Any stroppy sheep had better watch it in future, or they'll find themselves converted into rugs before they know what's hit 'em...!!

ROSEMARY WILKINSON.



"Well, what have I always sold? ... Sheep and cattle just don't mix."

GUANACO IN WALES

A report appeared in the Times newspaper on August 19 this year discussing the current status of the guanaco in the U.K. and future marketing hopes.

There are currently approximately 200 guanacos in the U.K., 100 of which are to be found at the Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth, in the care of a Dr. Gwyn Moseley who ascertains that the best of his animals produce a fleece with a mean diameter of 14.5 microns and weighing about 1 Kg. This, he claims, can be sold for as much as f 80 per kilo. The market for guanaco fibre will be tested this autumn when David Emanuel (he of the princess of Wales's wedding dress fame), launches a garment made from a bolt of silky honey-coloured cloth woven from Dr. Moseley's animals. It is hoped that promotion of this sort will spark off a demand from high-profile designers and up-market textile retailers. If this proves to be the case, the Welsh Development Agency is considering the feasibility of setting up a specialist mill in Wales to process not only the wool of the guanaco, but also of the alpaca and that of other members of the Camelid family.

....OR THERE'S OSTRICHES

Britain's first ostrich farmer reports that 'business is booming'. Just over a year ago an Oxfordshire farmer imported six adult ostriches onto their 25 hectare farm. Since then, and following further imports of eggs and live chicks, there has, he says, been a tremendous number of inquires from both home and abroad for source material to stock other farms.

The chicks are apparently very difficult to rear. They are all born with a death wish and will do what they can to commit successful suicide. One of the major problems appears to be distracting the chicks from eating bedding material and just about anything else they can swallow. Most of the early losses are due to impaction of the proventriculus - a condition in which the stomach becomes engorged. Thus it is very labour intensive to look after the young birds. When hatched, they weigh about 0.7 kg, eight weeks later they can weigh up to 14 kg.

The demand for ostrich meat is said to be tremendous - particularly from Japan and there are good markets also for the skins and to some extent, the feathers. Meanwhile, in the U.S.A., fertile ostrich eggs are selling at US\$ 1,250 each, a pair of chicks cost \$ 5,500 to \$ 6,000, whilst a pair of breeding adults can fetch as much as \$ 50,000 to \$ 80,000!

MEAT THE FACTS

There is global concern for mankind's effect on our planet environment. This extends to increasing consumer concern and interest in how foods are produced and what people are actually eating.

To protect the consumer the British meat industry is one of the most closely controlled and highly regulated industries in Europe. A total of over 50 pieces of European and UK legislation cover all aspects of meat safety, from production through to retail sale. In addition, the Meat and Livestock Commission operates an increasing number of quality assurance schemes from farm to retail, which are even more stringent than all EC and UK legislation.

An example of a quality assurance scheme is Farm Assured Scotch Lamb. This is a voluntary reaction by some farmers to consumer demands for guarantees concerning how their food is produced.

"What is Farm Assured Scotch Lamb?

Farm Assured Scotch Lamb is a response to consumer concerns over animal welfare, farming methods and the use of unacceptable animal feeds. A strict code of practice, controlling animal welfare and farming practices, must be adhered to by all farms approved under the Farm Assured Scheme.

Animal Welfare

The animals are reared on approved farms and particular attention is given to good husbandry techniques and competent veterinary care, making animal welfare a priority.

Caring Farming Practices

Approved farms are regularly inspected to ensure close monitoring of farming practices such as staff competence, replacement of breeding stock from known healthy sources, storage of feedstuffs and use of medicines.

Natural Feeds

The animals feed primarily on lush Scottish farmland and the strict code of practice which FASL demands ensures that where additional feedstuffs are needed, only high quality ingredients, free from contaminants, are permitted.

High Health Status

The code of practice also ensures that the animals are reared in an environment where approved medicines are only used when necessary to ensure healthy stock. No growth promoting drugs are permitted."

Falkland farmers proposing to enter the European Meat Industry must be aware of changing consumer requirements and how competitive meat industries elsewhere are meeting these on-going marketing challenges.

R H B HALL AUGUST 1992

Posh Rams - Now what?

Many of the private rams imported with the National Stud Flock have been put to work with elite ewes and the resulting progeny will soon be with us. The progeny from the national stud flock as well as the private purchases will provide an opportunity for farmers to make rapid genetic improvement when these come up for sale for those who choose to buy. Even if you do not intend to buy from the national stud flock or from other sources, the intention must surely be to strive to improve the wool clip.

With this in mind, I thought it timely to write an article on the formulation of breeding plans but looking back through past editions of 'The Woolpress', I see that breeding has already had considerable coverage:-

In issue 6, David Makin-Taylor wrote an article entitled 'Fleece Weight Improvement' in which he demonstrated, with hogg fleece weight data obtained from one Falkland Island Farm, the variability found within any given population. He emphasised the importance of identifying those animals which are superior so that they are used in future breeding plans.

In issue 8, David Makin-Taylor wrote a second article -'Achieving Genetic Improvement In The Commercial Flock' in which he stressed the need for buyers of stud rams to be aware of the stud ram breeders' objectives and that they should be compatible with those objectives of the stud ram buyer.

Issue 9 carried an extensive breeding section including a four page article by Nick Pitaluga in which he discussed the way forward for Falkland Island wool producers, Nigel Knight reviewed the options available to increasing production and David Makin-Taylor outlined selection and cross breeding.

In issue 10, Nigel Knight began a series of three 'Woolpress' articles explaining the F.F.I.A. proposal for a sheep recording system, highlighting the need for objective measurements on individual animals and in issue 13 (October 1990), he goes on to explain the merits of group breeding schemes.

Finally, in issue 29, Robert Hall explains what a breeding objective should state and emphasises the need for clearly defined breeding objectives.

Having read what has already been written, I think that the point has already been made - that variation within a flock is the raw material which is used by animal breeders and that to make sound decisions in order to maximise genetic gain requires accurate identification (be it temporary or permanent) of superior animals. We appreciate that it is easier to sit at a desk and discuss the theory of breeding plans than to practically apply the principles. Time, effort and commitment are required to formulate and carry out any plans that are made but they do not have to be over complex. Breeding plans can range from being very simple - hogget fleece weight for example, is a powerful indicator of wool production and selection systems based exclusively on this trait will prove worthwhile - to being very complex depending upon the time and effort that you wish to put into a programme. Whatever its complexity, you can be confident that you are making sound decisions that will be of future benefit according to your breeding objectives.

With the above in mind, please, if you require any help in formulating a breeding plan to suit your objectives as well as your resources, get in touch with us and we will give you as much or as little assistance as you require. Now is the time to think about how you are best going to utilise the potential of your flock in the future.

If you do not have the issues of the woolpress referred to in this article and would like to read them please get in touch with either Mandy or Robert who will forward a copy of the article(s) you require.

Jo Baughan



"I'd give yer a hand, I really would... but I've just gotta stroll around the ewes in case there's an early lamb!"

LETTERS PAGE -

One objective of the Woolpress is to be a forum for discussion. The contents of this page represent the feedback we have had from our readership in the last month. Our readership is primarily Falkland farmers, but also other members of Camp, Stanley and the English speaking world. Is there anyone out there who has an opinion, interesting views and ideas, or general information?

Our apologies to recent contributors: Lend a friend a pen!

LISTED BLACK BEES

An interesting article from Australia appeared in the recent 'New Scientist' concerning the plight of honeybees which have had the equivalent of 'one too many'.

High summer temperatures cause the sugar in the nectar of flowering plants to ferment within the blossoms. Alcohol can make up as much as 10 per cent of the volume of this fermented nectar. Foraging bees drink the nectar and carry it back to the hive where it is regurgitated and used to make honey.

Just how drunk the bees become depends upon how much nectar they have consumed and what its alcohol content was. Heavily intoxicated bees have difficulty co-ordinating their actions, can't or won't fly, are more prone to flying accidents and dying young. They also have difficulty in locating their hive and even if they do make it back, may be rejected by (teetotaller) guard bees because although they have been marked with a recognition pheromone before their departure from the hive, on their drunken return, their behaviour can be so erratic that guard bees regard them as outsiders and prevent them entering the hive. Without the safe haven of the hive, they are more vulnerable to predators, cold and starvation.

61

I'm saying nothing.

o-

5

GIMMIE

SOME OF

that BROWN

PEATY WATER

2

3

Maggie Barkman August 1992.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF PART - TIME FARMING

European Commission policy-makers are becoming increasingly interested in the possibility of encouraging more European Community farmers to stay in agriculture while supplementing their incomes with other employment. If the goal of rural policy is to keep family farms in being without excessive cost to the taxpayer, it is not the size or type of farm or the time devoted to farming which matters but the possibility of combining it with other gainful employment. The term "pluriactivity" is replacing "part-time farming" to describe this combination.

EUROPE

In 1987, 24 percent of UK farmers and 30 percent in the EC supplemented their farming with other activities on or off the farm. Focusing only on farmers' activities does not take account of the activities of other members of the farm household whose earnings may also enable the family to continue farming. Wives' earnings may help to reduce debts, or pay household bills when the farm makes no profit. In 1987 22.5 percent of UK farm spouses combined farm work with other employment.

HOUSEHOLD

Pluriactivity among farmers is, naturally, most common among the smallest holdings, declining as size increases but with some tendency to increase again on very large farms. Spouses' activities bear little relation to farm size, so that on mediumsized and larger farms, it is often the spouse rather than the farmer who has a second job.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The other gainful activities can be divided into non-farm work on the farm, farm work on other farms and off-farm work. The first two represent "diversification" in the popular sense, that is ways of using farm resources of land, buildings, machinery and farming skills other than, or as an extension of, farming the holding. It can sometimes be difficult to draw the line between what is conventionally regarded as "farming" and what is not. A "Pick Your Own" enterprise, farmgate sales or growing a novel crop might be regarded by some farmers as part of the normal farm business, by others as diversification.

DIVERSIFICATION

About one third of UK farms have diversified out of "straight" agriculture in some way. Top of the list of enterprises comes the provision of accommodation, recreation and education services, to be found on one farm in six. One in eight holdings in the UK is involved in contracting, one in eleven in adding value to farm products.

Although farm diversification has had the most publicity, offfarm work by farmers, spouses and other family members is in fact the more common form of pluriactivity. In 1983 the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that of all farmers in England and Wales reporting a second job, 16 percent had other work on the holding, 20 percent worked on other farms and 64 per cent had other paid work off the holding. Off-farm work is not only more widespread but it also contributes a greater share of total household income. Roughly two thirds of farm households with off-farm employment (which usually means a full-time job), earn most of their income from that source. By contrast about two thirds of those involved in diversified enterprises on the farm or agricultural contracting, normally on a part-time or seasonal basis, continue to earn most of their income from farming.

CONCLUSIONS

For the established farming population, part-time farming can and certainly does serve as a means of supplementing farm incomes to help them remain on the land. Pressures to adjust are likely to be most acute on medium - and small-sized farms and here it is more often people rather than land, buildings or other forms of capital that are surplus.

From an Article By Dr Gasson of London University



'... this is it, Son, - this is the alternative land use we've been lookin' for ...'

THE EFFECT OF TIME SINCE SHEARING ON SHELTERING BEHAVIOUR BY MERINO SHEEP.

Those of you who practice pre-lamb shearing, or if you are considering it for the future, may find the following resume of an Australian experiment of interest:-

Merino sheep were shorn 7, 14, 28 or 56 days before the onset of lambing. At the start of lambing they were grouped according to the time of shearing and put into paddocks, 7% of the area of which was defined as being sheltered by 1 metre high hedges.

Detailed observations were made of the ewe's behaviour over the next four weeks as well as recordings made of wind speed and direction, temperature and rainfall.

Maximum and minimum temperatures ranged from 14.9° C to 6.1° C and 4.7° C to -9° C. As much as 12.9 mm of rain fell in a 12 hour period and the wind speed averaged 14.4 km/hour.

During the day, few sheep were found in the shelter of the hedges. In wet, windy conditions however, the percentage sheltering increased from 15 - 60 % in all groups except the sheep shorn 56 days prior to lambing in which the proportion sheltering increased from 10 to 38%.

Over the first week following lambing, sheep shorn 28 and 56 days prior to lambing clearly made less use of shelter than the more recently shorn animals. In the second and third week however, there was little difference in sheltering at night between the sheep shorn 7, 14 or 28 days prior to lambing. (See bar-chart on the next page.)

The authors of the paper interpret the results thus: - that sheep will voluntarily seek shelter during inclement weather particularly at night if shorn within 28 days of lambing.

The group that were shorn 56 days before lambing made little use of shelter at all, yet the group shorn 28 days before lambing were still using the shelters at the end of the experiment - 4 weeks after lambing. To them, this suggested that sheltering behaviour can be prolonged by previous experience of shelter. Either the earlier sheltering slows the acclimatisation process, or the sheep become accustomed to the sheltered area and habitually use it as a night camping group.

JO. BAUGHAN. AUGUST 1992.

56 The mean percentage of sheep shorn 7, 14, 28 or days before the start of lambing making use of shelter at night.



Percentage ewes sheltering.

BIRTH

Five months on and you (or ewe ??) had almost forgotten about that rather hunky piece of Polwarth who turned up that fresh May morning (yes, it was very fresh !). So what on earth is that strange urge to wander over to that nice looking patch of whitegrass and make a nest for ? And why on earth would you/ewe want to:

lie down,

get up,

lie down,

- - - - - -

push a bit

Well I dare say that your typical ewe doesn't see the lambing process quite like that but it is true to say that the first active part a ewe plays in birth is when the lamb enters the pelvic region of the birth canal and the ewe is stimulated to strain with her abdominal muscles. Up to that point all the birth process has been under hormonal control and the first thing that kicks the process off is the lamb.

In late pregnancy the whole effort of maintaining the lamb becomes a great burden on the ewe and gradually the lamb becomes more and more stressed. This causes the lamb to produce cortisol which makes the placenta release prostaglandin, which in turn increases the oestrogen to progesterone ratio in the blood circulating around the uterus. The result of this chain of events is to strengthen the contractions of the uterus - and then the hard work starts !

The ewe herself will show some signs of lambing now she may have had an enlarged udder for some weeks or days now but this can vary a great deal with feeding and individual ewes. She will seek out an isolated area to lamb in and will be restless and may scrape herself a nest.

Other hormones work on the ewe at this time too. Relaxin softens the cervix and the ligaments holding the pelvis together to allow them to stretch and let the lamb through. The contractions initiated by the lamb's cortisol push the fluid filled bag that surrounds the lamb against the cervix which opens it up after a few hours to let the lamb be born.

This is the point at which the ewe can have some active part in the birth. Once the lamb is pushed into the pelvic region of the birth canal the ewe is stimulated to strain with her abdominal muscles to force the lamb into the vagina. The waterbag surrounding the lamb can often be seen at the vulva now and then, if everything is where it should be, feet and a nose should appear soon to be followed by the rest of the lamb. Then the new born's troubles really begin !

The baby lamb is forced from a warm, temperature regulated water bed with no need to find food or even breathe into a totally hostile environment where it has to breathe air, stand and find food from its mother all before the Johnny Rooks find it !

Once the lamb is born a number of factors act on it to stimulate it into independent life. Not surprisingly the shock of entering the cold environment outside its mother acts on the lamb. The breaking of the umbilical cord, the ewe licking it and the release from the confines of the uterus all contribute to making the lamb get up and go.

The ewe - lamb bond is established as the ewe licks the lamb dry, so learning its individual smell. This also stimulates the lamb to breathe, get up and follow its mother and bleat. These actions reinforce the bond for the mother as well.

When the lamb is born its sole source of energy is in the form of brown fat, a very high energy reserve which allows the lamb enough fuel to start off with. If the lamb fails to get a feed of colostrum from its mother within a few hours of birth, not only is it susceptible to infections, having no immunological protection of its own, it will also run out of energy reserves. This leads to hypothermia and death - a major factor in low lambing rates in many sheep systems all over the world.

All in all, the birth process may be the most dangerous thing any sheep experiences, but it is also a highly organised event within the ewe's body which only rarely causes problems on its own - the vast majority of difficult births are caused by some outside factor not the birth process itself.

FIONA DICKSON. AUGUST 1992.



SEFTEMBER : THE START OF THE FISHING SEASON !!

CHECK LIST FOR LAMBING

Be prepared for lambing problems and hopefully you won't have any. Below is a check list which should cover much of what you may need. Equipment marked with an asterix is a must. Prices quoted are Falkland Farmers as of 20/8/92.

Clean mothering up pens*

Disinfectant (eg Domestos)

Lubricant*

Lambing cords

Plastic retainers

Stomach tube £2.00

Colostrum substitute* £6.50 / 60 bolus

Bottles & bottle teats* 38 pence per teat.

Thermometer

Tincture of Iodine (Antiseptic spray)

Lamb milk replacer £20.16 / 10Kg sack.

Needles

Syringes

Long acting antibiotic. & oral antibiotic

For the ewe which has had a difficult lambing and for shy "....mothers."

To ensure that the pens are germ free for every ewe and lamb that use them.

Soap flakes such as `Lux', plain, unperfumed soap or a proprietary lubricant, to help you assist difficult lambings.

For difficult presentations.

For prolapsed ewes.

For the lamb that is not hypothermic but too weak to stand and suck.

Ewes colostrum is always best, cows colostrum can be used but gives less disease protection. Colostrum substitutes are inferior to ewe or cow colostrum.

To test lamb for hypothermia Range $35 - 42_{o}$ C.

A good idea to spray navel of new born lamb especially if in a pen to prevent joint ill.

16 gauge x 1" (25/1.6) 19 gauge x 1" (25/1.1)

2ml and 50ml.

To counteract risk of infection following difficult lambing. Pessaries

For insertion into uterus following difficult lambing.

Glucose 20 or 40% solution

For intra-peritoneal injection of hypothermic lambs over 5 hours of age and ewes suffering from twin lamb disease.

20% Calcium borogluconate

For ewes with Hypocalcaemia

Antiseptic (eg Savlon) £1.95 / 500ml

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS:

Cardboard boxes, newspapers, paper sacks and towels. Rayburn warming oven space or infra-red lamps. Field glasses and a shepherds crook. Tagging and recording materials. Ewe feed eg. nuts, barley or tussac.

Shepherd's crooks:

For catching sheep by the neck:

For catching sheep by the hind leg:

Previous editions of the 'Woolpress' which have carried articles about lambing:-

Peter Armitage, Issue 12, Sept. 1990. General hygiene and presentation of lambs. Peter Armitage, Issue 13, October 1990. Hypothermia in

new born lambs and stomach tubing. Michael Reichel and Mandy McLoed, Issue 23, September 1991. Colostrum needs and Hypothermia.

J.B. R.H. SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. The cows left ear is missing; 2. The cows lips are bigger; 3. ' Hind leg is missing a grey patch; 4. One teat missing off udder; 5. There is an extra leaf on the flower; 6. Two extra 'shiver' marks by the sheep' s hind legs; 7. Sheep has part of back thigh missing; 8. Hind foot on sheep has no shadow; 9. The fleece has a leg shortened; 10. There's an extra bog of grass behind the fleece;

RECIPES

COCONUT CRUNCHIES

40zsButter40zsSugar40zsFlour

4ozs Coconut 1 tsp Baking Powder

METHOD

Cream butter and sugar until light, then add coconut, flour and baking powder. Roll into balls and press on top. Bake in a Mod - Hot oven for about 15 mins.

GINGER BISCUIT

1 teaspoon Baking Powder

1 tablespoon Golden Syrup

2 teaspoons Ground Ginger

METHOD

Cream butter and sugar, add egg then dry ingredients. Roll in balls - do not flatten -. Bake @ 350 F for 15 - 20 minutes.

Aase Davis Evelyn Station

4ozs Butter

8ozs Sugar

8ozs Flour

1 Egg

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LAST

MONTHS

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION



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CROSSWORD

by

MANDY

McLEOD

ACROSS

- 2. Wreck by Beaver Hanger
- Modify 8.
- 10. Fault
- 12. Drug
- 13. Earth colour (generally)
- 15. Less common word for "yes"
- 16. Metabolic disease of joints
- 17. Inexpensive
- 19. Give a clear account of
- 21. Spirit
- 22. Titled man
- 23. Plymouth __ (rock)
- 24. Ship sunk off Pebble during Falklands War
- 26. Black and white striped wild animal
- 28. Drink made from dried leaves
- 29. Stove
- 30. Royal Research Ship 32. Fair
- 33. Top
- 34. To travel over snow
- 36. Party
- 37. Subject
- 39. Of the sea
- 42. Dogs foot for example
- 44. Japanese currency
- 45. Relating to shipping
- 46. Slide out of control

DOWN

- Wreck at East end of 1. Stanley Harbour
- 2. Lighthouse site
- З. Mimic monkey?
- 4. Physical Training
- Congealed blood 5.
- 6. Farm
- 7. Shipwreck now in Bristol
- Perform 9.
- 10. Optical organs
- 11. Talking song
- 13. Pus filled spot
- 14. Move on foot at speed
- 16. Shipwreck you can see from Goose Green
- 18. A cape renowned for shipwrecking
- 20. Feminine (French)
- 21. Rule
- 23. Of a high temperature
- 25. Hearing organ
- 27. Went fast on foot
- 31. Beaches perhaps
- 35. Flightless New Zealand bird
- 36. Light hours
- 38. Prefix meaning "upon"
- 40. Coloured writing fluid
- 41. Final part
- 43. Place / Time.

P/WOO/1#39



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 35

OCTOBER 1992

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COLOSTRUM NEED OF NEWBORN LAMBS by M.Reichel

> GOAT UPDATE by Raymond Evans

BURNING ISSUES by Steve Howlett

BRUCELLA OVIS ERADICATION by Michael Reichel

PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



THE WOOL PRESS IS PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EDITORS - M.McLEOD and R.H.B.HALL

EDITORIAL.

My apologies for the late production of this month's Woolpress: due to both of the Editors being on different Islands - Mandy in Britain and myself on Sea Lion Island (where the weather meant that the pre-lamb shearing took rather longer than I had anticipated)!!

Our thanks to Rosemary Wilkinson for her past "Diaries of a Farmer's Wife". Due to the difficulties of writing different Diaries for both us and Penguin News, Rosemary has decided to write one Diary and have it printed by her original publishers!!

Bob Jackman the locum Veterinary officer returned to New Zealand recently, when Michael returned from his leave. We wish Bob well for the future.

This month we have included a wide range of material, from several serious and important articles to an extremely funny poem found by Arthur McBain. I have written an article on Current Wool Preparation and Classing Dilemmas to which there will be a reply from Colin Smith in the next issue of the WOOL PRESS. Our thanks to Audrey McGhie for her letter in response to last month's empty letters page.

THE U.K. FALKLAND ISLANDS TRUST

We have enclosed a newsletter from the UKFIT. Much of it relates directly to Agriculture and is of local interest.

Correction: The last sentence of the third paragraph should refer to the Farmer's Association annual meetings.



"Take your time Roy; that hogget can't keep the pace up much longer!"

The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Department of Agriculture.

SHEEP HANDLING

-Or everything you didn't realise you already knew.

It is getting to the time of year when there is a lot of sheep handling to be done, and a lot of tempers to be lost. I cannot guarantee a swear free summer but there are a few pointers in sheep work that most people will know and use sub-consciously but haven't actually been told.

Everyone knows that sheep in small groups change from being silly vaguely predictable animals into silly, totally unpredictable, charge anything brutes that refuse to behave in any manner at all like a proper sheep. (This of course goes for hoggs all the time but that's a different story). The reason for this is because the sheep is a social animal which follows its fellow flock mates from birth - a lamb follows its mother, young sheep (should) follow older ones etc.In small groups the sheep has not enough mates to feel it is in a flock and so it feels unsafe - hence the behaviour!

The sheep keeps in contact with its flock mates mainly by sight but smell and sound are used too, for example a wool blind sheep will follow by smell and a ewe bleats to her lamb and recognises its reply. Because sheep use sight most, and they are a follower species, the sight of a sheep disappearing over a ridge or around a corner has a drawing effect on the rest of the flock. This handy behaviour is used in races and the well designed shearing shed to great effect - or that's the theory!

Sheep use different vision to humans as they rely on the monocular type much more because their eyes are on the side of their heads rather than on the front.



Monocular vision makes it difficult to judge distances accurately so anyone approaching a sheep from the side will be far more likely to cause an adrenalin induced run-away response than be able to sneak up unobserved. This run response is also the reaction when a flock of sheep are startled but they will gather together first. This reduces the risk to the individual sheep should a predator attack, from a one in two chance of being chomped if there's two sheep together to a one in fifty chance in a flock of that number.

A sheep is happiest on level ground but it can cope with inclines as well and a flock will move up a hill when a dog barks. The steeper the slope the longer it takes for the first sheep to move - for example up a ramp into the shearing shed.

All this is information that can be used when gathering and handling sheep in a race, but the bottom line is - have the sheep read the article so they realise what they are supposed to be doing!!!!

"Happy gathering!" Fiona Dickson

THE CURRENT WOOL PREPARATION AND CLASSING DILEMMAS.

Quality of preparation or classing work is neither identified nor paid for (with a premium or penalty) in the Falkland Islands wool marketing mechanism. This paper outlines the current International and Falkland Islands situation with regard to wool preparation and classing standards, discusses the resulting dilemmas and makes some suggestions for action.

The International situation.

1. Manufacturers wish consistently well prepared fleece wool. This means fleece contaminants (black & grey wool, kemp fibres, locks, medulated fibres, etc.) and non-fleece contaminants (foreign objects, vegetable matter, stains: urine, faeces, blood, spray paint, etc.) must be removed.

2. Manufacturers wish consistently well classed wools, ie. large parcels of wool, which don't display large degrees of visual fibre diameter variation, are of good colour and fibre strength; yellow, cotted, sandy and tender fleeces having been removed.

3. Synthetics offer manufacturers fairly cheap fibres which are engineered for particular purposes, such that their "conversion to varn and finished products involves less waste and higher manufacturing efficiency than the use of an undifferentiated natural fibre like wool". Synthetics are major competitors of wool, both in blends and as pure yarns, forming over 50% of the worlds consumption of fibre.

4. Nations who's wools compete in part with the Falkland Islands Wool clip have developed intensive training programmes for their shearers, rousies and classers. In Australia, New Zealand and South Africa all wool offered for sale has to have been prepared by an owner classer, professional classer, classing house, broker or dealer all of whom have to be currently registered by the appropriate Registrar of Wool classers.

5. Nations that do not prepare or class wools prior to sale, or nations that achieve a low standard eg. Chile and Britain, traditionally achieve lower prices than their Australasian competitors and when demand for wools decline, as during a recession, such wools sell at even greater discounts or not at all.

6. A nation's wool preparation and classing standards tend to be seen in generalised terms. Thus Australia has a good reputation, whilst Chile has a relatively poor reputation. Given that Australia etc. have minimum standards and codes it is difficult to identify price differentials for different standards of wool preparation and classing within the Australian market, since many factors affect the price of a lot of wool on any particular day. If prices do vary according to the limited variations in Australian wool standards, it is on a visual and subjective assessment of wool lot grab samples being inspected by the buyers. The inspection of grab samples is therefore a great incentive for farmers to maintain high standards. In short there is demand for well prepared and classed wools. with other nations competing to supply this demand in order to achieve greater sales and prices in the longer term.

The Falkland Islands situation.

1. Many farmers prepare and class their wools well, however they receive no direct reward and their efforts are negated by the farms which export wool of a lower standard. Farmers are increasingly aware of these facts.

2. There are no objective or subjective mechanisms to identify the standard of farm classing and preparation. Only mean fibre diameter, yield and v.m. content are measured objectively.

3. Given that the standard of our wool preparation and classing is not routinely identified by objective or subjective means before its sale, there are no premiums or penalties associated with the standards.

Grab sampling and visual assessment of wools are not a part of our marketing system and if incorporated. would increase marketing costs. Furthermore grab sampling equipment may not be available in Britain.

Objective testing of wool preparation standards are not undertaken as such. It may however be possible to use or adapt either Clean Colour (Average Yellowness) measurements or Coloured Fibre measurements for this purpose. This will need further investigation.

Fibre diameter variability tests could be a measure of classing (and sheep breeding) standards. Objective tests such as the Optical Fibre Diameter Analysis system (OFDA), which was launched in mid-1991 make such measurements. This very new technology is not available to us in Bradford as yet.

At present, if any differences in price are associated with different standards, they are currently based on conjecture.

4. Since there are no premiums or penalties associated with Falkland Islands wool standards, on an individual and short term basis there is no financial justification in a farmer spending time and money to achieve high wool preparation standards (ie. by employing extra table-hands or a trained classer) as farm incomes are unaffected by such effort and expenditures.

5. There is undoubtedly a collective and long term financial justification for all farmers to achieve high wool preparation standards, in order that the general reputation of Falkland Islands wools is maintained or even improved; thereby enabling our wool to be sold for the higher prices and during times of reduced demand. The problem in this regard, is that the longer term reputation of our wool is nigh impossible to objectively quantify in financial terms, however for every one pence premium or penalty per clean kilo our clip is worth plus or minus £15,600 per annum, to colony revenues.

In short, there is no specific marketing mechanism to encourage good preparation nor to penalise poor preparation of Falkland Islands wool. Wools of all standards therefore achieve the same price, which may precipitate erosion of the standard of wool exported. In the long term and for the colony as a whole, there is a penalty or premium available for our wools, however such a reputation appears financially unquantifiable. In economic terms: Individual farmers face a different supply and demand curve to that faced by the Falklands wool industry.

The Dilemmas.

1. A Financial Incentive.

Is the "problem" of poor or variable preparation and classing standard within the colony clip real? Can the problem and it's impact be quantified? How can premiums and penalties be introduced into the marketing system, so that farmers have short term financial incentives to improve the standards of their wool preparation? Will the benefits of greater or more sustained demand and prices exceed additional testing costs, for long term success?

2. Funding Wool Classer Training.

Who should fund the training of Wool Classers? Individual farmers will not as they cannot identify a short term benefit from such expenditure. Farmers as a whole should perhaps, however there are serious problems in generating support and funding for such a venture. Shearing gangs might identify a role for themselves in this area, however they are not guaranteed sufficient classing work, and they are more likely to bring in a trained classer with many of their shearers. The Government or FIDC, as a source of central funding and collective responsibility would be an alternative.

Another issue is who should be trained to class? One person per farm who classes relatively small amounts of wool per annum, or a few people in the colony to travel with or alongside shearing gangs, or some of each type of classer? A third option is to bring classers into the colony every year and thus avoid the expense of training anyone.

The classer travelling with a shearing gang has considerable appeal. however farmers are reluctant to either guarantee sufficient work or to pay the necessary wages (£0.08 / fleece, for a rousie/classer). Such a classer should, through greater experience, be better and more consistent than the intermittent farm classer. Own farm classers have the advantage of dedication and vested interest, however the training of 90 classers would preclude training overseas to the standard which could be justified for a smaller number of travelling classers.

Suggestions for action.

TESTING & SELLING.

1. That assistance is sought from those selling and buying our wool in guantifying the poor standard and variation element in our wool preparation and classing; furthermore that the impact of "problems" are calculated in claims or lot criticisms per annum.
2. That the Falkland Islands wool industry (farmers, agents and merchants), both here and overseas, recognise and acknowledge the constraints which I have outlined, and agree that a differential price mechanism (ie. premiums and penalties based on objective tests on all sale lot samples or random sub-samples) may be the long term objective; Furthermore that voluntary maintenance and improvement in preparation and classing standards are accepted in the mean time, as a short term measure.

3. Help is obtained from those testing and marketing our wool, in trying to develop a price mechanism for identifying wool preparation and classing standards.

4. That testing possibilities are identified as and when they are developed, and that progress reports and information are sought from I.W.S. in England, C.S.I.R.O. of Australia and W.R.O.N.Z of New Zealand, in this regard.

WOOL CLASSER TRAINING.

5. That Government fund some classer training until the marketing mechanism can create a direct link between preparation and classing, which might then precipitate its own undertaking of classer training.

6. That wool classer trainees sent overseas should aim to do one or more of the following:

a) return to the Falklands and work continuously during the shearing season on the very largest farms (which might therefore fund their own training).

b) work with the shearing gangs.

c) work as independent classers with a number of private farmer clients.

d) become involved in local training and advisory work.

Working on a home farm is unlikely to bring the industry sufficient reward for investment in such training.



'... once he gets the rhythm goin', - he'll clip anythin' ... '

HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

The risk to health care workers and travellers to high risk areas of the World from Hepatitis B has risen over the last few years.

New guidelines have been issued and the need for revaccination has been demonstrated.

Indications for Vaccination

1. Health Care Workers and any other person who may come into contact with the blood and body fluids of individuals who might be infected with Hepatitis B.

2. The spouses/cohabiters of those in 1. (NB. this is new).

3. Travelling to high risk areas (NB. These have changed recently).

In Event Of Accidental Contamination

1. Wash the affected area.

2. Hepatitis B Immunoglobin should be given in combination with the active immunisation to those who are non-immune.

3. Those who have been successfully immunised should be given a reinforcing dose of vaccine and then have a blood test 1-2 months later.

NOTE:

Immunity cannot be assumed until the completion of the primary course of vaccinations AND blood test to check that it has produced immunity.

Vaccination Regime

3 doses, 2nd after 1 month, 3rd after 6months. After a further 2 months a blood test to check immunity. Depending on the results of the blood test you may need another one or possibly 3 injections to produce immunity.

Reinforcing Doses

If you are still at risk these should be every 4 years.

<u>Pregnant Mothers should not have the vaccine unless there is a</u> <u>definite risk of infection.</u>

HIGH RISK AREAS - HEPATITIS B

1. EUROPE

- A. Greece
- B. Greenland
- C. Poland
- D. Rumania

2.AFRICA

ALL countries south of the Sahara.

3.<u>ASIA</u>

ALL countries less Japan and the Middle East.

4. AMERICA

A. ALASKA

B. BELIZE

C. SOUTH AMERICA Less Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Peru Uruguay.

5. SEASONAL HIGH RISK

A. African countries North of the Sahara.

B. Central America and the Caribbean.

C. Rest of South America i.e Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

D. The Middle East.

Chief Medical Officer K.E.M.H.

!!!!!!!ADVERTISMENTS!!!!!!!

Wanted - Bull Calf, preferably from the North Camp area. Anyone able to help please contact: N Pitaluga, Salvador.

Pen-friend-anyone interested in communicating on a regular basis within the farming community of Norfolk. Contact: The Editor Woolpress. A few rambling thoughts on A.R.C. & the possible reason the letters page is so empty.

On arrival in the islands 6 years ago I rapidly came to learn what other government departments were around and no doubt because I worked for one, what the general thoughts were about the varying groups.

1) if they were any good.

2) a complete waste of time and money.

or 3) just 'there' - a vague body of people doing nobody any harm but not exactly much use either.

I got the distinct impression that A.R.C fitted neatly into this last category. Individuals were liked and welcomed but not really well known in the farming community, causing slight amusement at their habit of lying in the middle of nowhere counting grass stems (an occupation still carried out I understand), but as an organisation they weren't up to much.

Five years later and a lot of hard work by certain people - some have sadly left, others are still here and the picture had changed, a monthly magazine, interesting courses both for 'old and young' help and planning in the shape of the 5 yr plan, grants, a 'proper' accounts system, a new laboratory underway and the talk of new premises. D.o.A suddenly blossomed into a worthwhile, useful government dept. that actually listened to and tried to provide what the people it was set up for wanted - very unusual but very good.

Then came the recession, always a quick way to spoil good ideas, 5 yr plans were set aside, the courses got a bit stale and the yrs scheme wasn't quite as successful for the simple reason there was nothing after completing it, I'm not sure what has happened to the laboratory and new premises. These I'm sure will only be minor blips that will eventually be overcome and no doubt improved on, D.o.A. are hardly to blame for the recession.

However the decisions made and the excuses given over the National Stud Flock fall fairly squarely on your shoulders and it will take a lot of hard work to repair the damage.

<u>All</u> farmers were asked what sort of stud flock was wanted, their opinions given and presumably listened to. The choice of sheep was made again by people who all farmers had the chance to vote for. Then came the crunch, the flock had Orf. No matter what your views on this subject, it cannot be denied that by importing the sheep the F.I. Importation laws were broken (or was it just bent!). It was at this point, in my opinion, that you swept aside all the hard work of the last few years and buried it firmly in the sand. You proved that you are in fact no different to any other official dept. You make the rules and laws - expect everyone else to obey and then break them yourselves as soon as they prove inconvenient. How can anyone least of all the govt. Vet. justify this. As Mr Wilkinson asked at the time what would have been the outcome if an individual had done this and even worse used the same argument as justification - it's already here, so it doesn't matter. What other disease ridden animals shall we now import because there was a suspected case 10 years ago? Just look at the recent uproar that the importation of horses from Chile caused and that was totally contained and curable but it does give an indication of the furore that an attempted private importation would have caused I doubt if it would ever have been allowed.

To add insult to this injury it was then stated <u>no</u> sheep would leave quarantine on Sea Lions until it was known what affect the disease was likely to have on the local sheep. A few months later the Woolpress proudly printed pictures of rams travelling first class courtesy of F.I.G.A.S. How many farmers opinions did you ask for or listen to then? Does this mean Orf only affects those farms who agree to have it and the rest of us are immune? No matter how "minor" the disease is I don't particularly want it here I feel very let down that instead of a dept. doing what it could to help the majority of the farms it would appear you are manipulated by a minority that shouts loudest.

All of a sudden the work force of D.o.A. seem to have become bogged down by the paperwork again. Individually I still have a lot of time for you and I hope you feel you can still safely visit, but sadly as an organisation I have lost all my faith in you.

Eventually the Orf argument will die down with only an odd murmur rising now and again from the diddle dee bogs, the recession will end and hopes and ideas will once again rise from under the paper and out of the computers. But it will take a lot of hard work to restore you to the status you held just 12 months ago. I hope you can do it.

Audrey Mcghie Port North

GOAT UPDATE

The Cashmere Goats arrived at Pebble Island from Goose Green in early March on the Penlope, having travelled very well after their longer than expected journey.

The Bucks were taken straight to the eastern end of the island, Tamar Point, and left there until mating time. The rest, Does and the first lot of kids were left in and around the settlement for a couple of weeks until they settled down and got accustomed to their new home.

Later on the Kids were weaned and put at the west end of the island in Marble Horse Paddocks and they appear to have thrived very well. The Does were put out onto First Mt. and they have taken to their new home also, feeding off the fern and diddle-dee mainly. They use the high rocks for natural shelter.

It is planned to shear all the goats early in October. The Does were mated in four groups to prevent future inbreeding and should start kidding on or about the 5th November.

R.Evans Pebble Island

NEW PRODUCTS: SHEEPSKIN CURING CHEMICAL

Many farmers will be aware of the restricted availability of sheepskin curing chemicals in the islands. This shortage has largely been due to the unavailability of a wholesaler in the U.K who is able to supply small volumes of materials. The situation has been extremely frustrating at a time when we are all looking for diversification opportunities. The curing of sheep, calf, fox and other skins is an obvious means of diversification particularly as these skins are currently wasted. The local market potential is significant and has so far been hardly tapped. Possible outlets include visiting tourists, local craft industries R & R centres and the Mt Pleasant Complex. As many farmers will be aware, we currently have the ridiculous situation of tanned skins being imported to the Falklands from the U.K!

The department has recently received information of a new technique for curing skins available in kit form. A further advantage of the new technique is that it is far less labour intensive than the traditional method. I'm sure that the 33 people who have attended one of Dennis Middleton's curing course will welcome that! The skins still require a detergent pre-wash, however, the process is completed by applying the new chemicals with a paint brush. The chemicals are apparently non-toxic however the manufacturer advises that basic safty precautions should still be followed. These include the wearing of protective gloves and the storage of unused chemicals in marked containers away from children. The method has been developed and over a 10 year period. The chemicals are packaged in tested small sachets and are added to hot water. Each kit will tan 4 large sheep skins and any surplus chemicals can be stored in polythene containers. Each kit costs £18.00. For further information contact Lyn Blake at Little Chartres.

People interested in attending sheepskin curing courses could you please contact Lena Morrison (Ph42196) or Ailsa Heathman (Ph 31042).



Some farmers have been misinformed as to the usefulness of home made "colostrum". Various recipes are circulating within the farming community which possibly sound beneficial, but nevertheless are no substitute for colostrum and provide no antibodies in the first few hours of life in an orphaned lamb. For the benefit of everybody we repeat an article on colostrum needs from September 1991.

COLOSTRUM NEEDS OF NEWBORN LAMBS

It is well known that early intake of colostrum by lambs during the first day after birth greatly improves survival rates. This is particularly important in orphaned lambs and where the ewe's colostrum is insufficient. As there are some particularly valuable lambs being born again this year, I felt, I should give you some idea as to the quantities of colostrum required by a lamb and ways of obtaining it. For some farmers I may state the obvious in the following article, though I hope a few will find it helpful.

Colostrum accumulates in the udder during the final days of pregnancy and is also produced in the first 12 to 24 hours after birth. After that time it is progressively diluted by normal milk, so the change from colostrum to milk is gradual.

Colostrum contains a high level of easily digested nutrients which fuel heat production, substances that promote gut growth and differentiation, so that these nutrients can be better utilized and it contains immunoglobulins, some of which line the gut wall while others are absorbed into the bloodstream - thus conferring maternal immunity to the newborn.

The amount of colostrum that a lamb needs are dependent on the weather conditions and the size of the lamb, and are highest during bad weather (cold, windy and wet). In order to avoid hypothermia (loss of body temperature) a lamb in Falkland conditions probably needs to take in at least 210 ml per kg of bodyweight in the first 18 hours after birth, i.e. 525 ml for 2.5 kg lamb, or 840 for a 4 kg lamb. In order to satisfy the need for adequate protection from infection the lamb requires only 200 ml of colostrum. So it becomes clear that the more important function of colostrum at this time is nutrition, not transfer of immunity.

These requirements present all of the lambs nutritional requirements in the first 18 hours. When feeding orphaned lambs by stomach tube it is important to avoid stomach distension and at any one time no more than 50 ml should be fed. Commercial colostrum replacers are available, but really only satisfy the immunoglobulin requirements of the lamb if the recommended quantities of 150 ml are being fed. The nutritional requirements can be met by continuing to feed the replacement, but another (and cheaper method) may be to milk a ewe, which when in good body condition will produce more than enough milk (and colostrum). Cow colostrum can also be fed to lambs, but the quantities may have to be increased by 20 to 40 percent, because of the lower nutritional value of cow's colostrum. And it should not be fed after about 48 hours of the lambs birth, as it may otherwise cause destruction of the red blood cells in some circumstances.

Colostrum can be stored in clean, sealed containers, refrigerated (4°C) for up to 48 hours, or frozen for up to a year. Before feeding the container should be heated slowly, in warm (not hot) water to about 37°C (body temperature). Do not microwave.

Milking the ewes:

- keep ewe standing normally- do not upend her
- before milking inject 10 units of oxytocin into the muscle and milk will flow easily in 3 minutes. Available from Veterinary Department.
- lubricate teats with jelly, vaseline or saliva. Milk gently
- Ewes without lambs can be milked up to three times a day, and in well nourished ewes quantities up to 2 litres may be obtained. Even ewes which are in good body condition with a lamb at foot, can provide colostrum for a second lamb, but then milking should not commence until 6 hours after that ewe's lamb had been born and the udder should be totally stripped out.



"... of course sometimes the new-born lamb is reluctant to suck, - and has to be ... encouraged ...

Brucella ovis eradication

Another quick article on this topic for all of you that did not make it to the Farmers Week meetings, or have already forgotten about them (I almost did when I was enjoying my holiday in these faraway places, but reality soon catches up with you- doesn't it).

We discussed the *B.ovis* campaign and the encouraging results that we obtained from the 1991/92 testing, which had focussed on the last few farms that had been known to be infected. No further positive rams had been discovered and only two farms remain, which have not been accredited.

However, because the last three seasons have been concentrated on eradicating the disease from the known infected farms, there are quite a few farms now, which have not been tested for up to three seasons. It was agreed that, now that *B.ovis* is, for all intents and purposes, eradicated, one more whole islands-wide testing is necessary to assure us, that the organism has not been able to survive on one or several farms, and may rear its head again in future years (and then be difficult to eradicate again). One could look at it as a re-accreditation for all the farms which have not had a test for a few seasons, and it will give us that extra bit of confidence that *B.ovis* is really a thing of the past.

As an islands-wide test of all the 8,000 (?) rams will take quite a chunk out of my and the laboratory's time, it would be of great help if neighbouring properties could coordinate the times at which they would want me to come out and test their lot of rams. That way, we would avoid a lot of extra travel and save time on the track.

Cost-sharing will be as in the past: the cost of sampling will be 40p per ram to the farmer and all other cost, like travel and my and David's time will be borne by the Department.

We will contact you all individually by separate letter in a few weeks time - this being just a general reminder of the discussions we had at the July meetings. But maybe you can already give it some thought and discuss times with your neighbours in the weeks to come.

Michael P Reichel

FARMING BILLIERE.

"Britain's most famous soldier, General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who visited the Falklands earlier this year, is to become head of Fund-raising for FARM Africa, the charity which helps farmers improve their food production.

The General is not new to farming, as he and his wife run a 230 acres farm in the West Country, growing pigs, sheep, dairy replacements, beef cattle and barley.

Sir Peter has another war on his hands: Helping to fight Africa's poverty and starvation. FARM Africa must count itself fortunate to have such a uniquely qualified warrior volunteer for the task."

ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE SENT ULTRAVIOLET LEVELS SKY HIGH

The following article was taken from a recent edition of NEW SCIENTIST

Ultraviolet radiation under the Antarctic ozone hole in October 1990 was three times as high as normal. Last year, the hole was larger than ever, but measurements of the ultraviolet levels are not yet available. During October 1990 the amount of ozone above McMurdo Station in Antarctica, which is 78 degrees South, fell to a low of 145 Dobson units. This was less than half the abundance at the winter solstice, and 100 Dobson units less than in October 1988. At the same time, the amount of potentially damaging ultraviolet radiation reaching the ground increased to between three and 6 times the amount that used to be normal for the region.

This radiation could prove harmful to life in the Southern Ocean, including algae under the ice and microscopic plankton in the upper ocean. Because sea ice is at its most transparent in early spring, these life forms were subjected to a three-fold increase in ultraviolet exposure at the end of October 1990, compared with normal values.

One reason for concern about the effect of increasing ultraviolet on these life forms is that the plankton of the southern ocean are an important component of the natural biological "pump" that removes carbon dioxide from the air and deposits it in chalky sediments. If this pump becomes less efficient, more carbon dioxide will remain in the air, adding to global warming through the greenhouse effect. Depletion of the ozone is getting worse despite action to curb CFC's, last year's "hole" was 13 times larger in area, and twice as much ozone had been lost as in 1981, when severe ozone depletion was first noticed.

NEW SCIENTIST JULY 1992

N.S.F. UPDATE.

The N.S.F. is under the new management of Arthur McBain and his wife Rhoda. The Farming community wish them all the best, with what is undoubtedly a very challenging and high profile job, especially with the forthcoming lambing campaign.

During the last days of September, all the ewes were pre-lamb shorn by Peter Morrison armed with a cover comb. The ewes were all given a panacure drench against the Spring Rise of worms and turned out into a tussac camp, where they will remain for a fortnight.

The N.S.F. ewes are now about 26 months old and in-lamb. They were last shorn 10 - 12 months ago. The average Greasy Fleece Weight we recorded of 4.60 Kgs is impressive, and compares favourably with the Average Farm Fleece Weights from the Islands in 1990/91 of 3.83 Kgs. All fleeces were mid-side sampled for future...analysis.

Lambing is due to start in mid-October, with day 147 since the start of tupping on 14.10.92.

BURNING ISSUES

Many people at this time of year will be out with the matches, burning whitegrass which has too much dead matter to be of any use to the grazing sheep. A good burn will remove all the plant material in the area, which will be replaced by strong green growth later in the summer. There is no question that burning improves the quality of the pasture, and animals will graze these areas once the new growth starts, in preference to surrounding areas that have been missed.

The area to be burnt must be chosen carefully to avoid the fire getting out of hand. Ditch valley greens, streams, and any other natural fire break should be used in conjunction with relevant strips to contain the area burnt, to that which you want burnt. It is better to burn several areas that you know are contained, than one large area that could easily get out of hand, and go through fences (taking with it several droppers and posts), and onto neighbours land. Talking from previous experience it is also advisable to have a larger barrier than one rotavated strip (wider than five metres).

The type of day for burning should also be chosen carefully. A light wind (5-10 knots) in the direction you want the fire to go is ideal, but not always available ! Burning mid-morning will ensure that any dew that would inhibit the fire, will have dried up.

Several points to bear in mind when burning are that should the fire get out of control, you may end up with a large area of your camp out of commission for several months, whilst the new growth gets under way. Also, all that smoke going up into the air is adding to the greenhouse effect and global warming !

CHEMICAL STORAGE

A small note on pesticide and herbicide storage. A couple of events recently brought to the attention of the Department, emphasises the need for dangerous chemicals to be properly stored and correctly labelled to prevent accidents. Chemicals found in these products always have some nasty side-effects (death being one of them in many cases !), and should always be treated with respect, and handled with extreme care. Always wear protective gloves, and if possible eye goggles and face mask. Always wash thoroughly after use, and avoid breathing in any spray, or contact with the skin. Always keep dangerous chemicals locked up out of harms way and correctly labelled.

STEVE HOWLETT October 1992

PARAGON LIMITED

PRICE LIST - ANIMAL FEEDS

Supplied in 40kg sacks except where shown other DESCRIPTION	wise RETAIL
POULTRY, Champion	PRICE E
Broiler, initial Broiler, final Laying hen, starter Laying hen Breeder Laying hen, 17% protein	17.20 16.25 16.25 15.50 15.00 16.45
Laying hen, 15% procein	17.02
PIG	
Nursing mother Suckling pig Breeder Engora	15.95 17.25 15.25 14.95
BEEF	
Calf 1 Calf 2 Adult fattener (Novillo Engorda) Milk cow Feed for all ages, Cosetan	14.25 13.95 13.75 13.25 15.95
HORSE	
Alfalfa pellets, 50kg sack	17.60
OTHER ANIMAL FEED	
Sheep, breeder Rabbit, adult Dog, 6 packages of 3.5kg Maize (Whole corn)	14.75 13.75 12.50
Wheat chaff, 30kg sack	11.50
Oats, for feed or seed, 55kg sack Rolled oats, clean, 25kg	19.35 11.95

PLEASE NOTE

 Prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuations
 Price includes cost of delivery to our premises at Lookout, and the buyer must arrange collection from there.

3. Our supplier now requires payment on delivery - consequently Paragon Ltd also requires payment from buyer by this time.

4. Minimum order is 10 sacks.

5. Orders must be placed by 15th day of the month, for delivery via Apolo at end of the month.

6. Contact Mike Rendell or Stewart Wallace for further details or to make order

TROUBLE SHOOTING FLOWCHART.



CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS ADDRE



LAST

MONTHS

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

RECIPE

LEMON FLAN

8oz Digestive Biscuits (crushed)
2oz Margarine
1/4 Pint Double Cream (Rondella)
1/4 Pint Condensed Milk (1 x V. Small Tin)
Juice + Zest of 1 - 2 Lemons (depending on taste)

Melt Margarine, add crushed biscuits, press into 9 inch round, shallow tin. Mix together condensed milk and cream until thickened, add lemon, pour onto base and place in fridge for 15 minutes. DEAD EASY!!!!!

FIONA DICKSON

PROLAM - COLOSTRUM REPLACEMENT For Orphan Lambs, To be used if milking is not possible. @ 21.60 for 500 gms/10 lambs.

DRONTAL - This is a combined Tapeworm and Roundworm treatment for dogs. Saves on the hassles of dosing with both Droncit and Piperazine, both treatments in one single dosing. @ 16.40 for 50 tablets.

I Remember The First Time I Tried It, I Was Just A Lad Of Sixteen, Although She Was Younger Than I Was She Was Much More Composed And Serene, I Was Eager Yet Awkward And Backward Uncertain Of How To Proceed, But A Full Filling Joy Soon Possessed Me The Warmth Of Her Hastened The Deed, It Was Out In The Barn I Remember The Evening Was Scented In Hay, Her Body Moved Gently Towards Me As My Hand Began Gently To Play, At First I Was Wholly Bewildered Then My Cheek Against Her I Laid, Her Brown Eyes Where Quick To Relieve Me Of The Waiting And Being Afraid, Much Later My Heart Pounded Gladly It Seemed Like Hours Since I Began, My Body Was Alive With The New Born Pride Of A Boy Growing Into A Man, Thirty Years Have Passed Since That Evening But My Memory Recalls Even Yet, That First Thrill Of Joy I Felt As A Boy, On The Day That I Milked My First Cow!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. The nest has been shortened on the bottom cartoon; 2. There's aegg already in the nest; 3. A flower under the tree; 4. An extra tuft of feathers falling off hen; 5. Hen's wing feathers have been shortened; 6. The top of the tree is re-shaped; 7. Left-hand side of tree has less shadow; 8. Tail feathers missing on "pest"; 9. Extra part of comb on "pest"; 10. Left-hand wing lost some feathers;

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45						46	ACD PARTY				47		-
								48					-

CROSSWORD

by

MANDY

McLEOD

ACROSS

- 1. Signal
- 7. Lazy
- Liberated on 29th May 9.
- 12. Boxwood
- 13. Cook in fat in oven
- 14. Island on which Mt Ararat is situated
- 15. Heavenly body
- 18. Golfing aid
- 19. Drinking place
- 20. Locomotives 22. Best
- 23. Angora for example
- 25. Value
- 27. Flat headed snake
- 29. North East
- 30. Possesses
- 31. Long fish
- 32. Aquatic mammal
- 34. 5th note
- 36. Clock face
- 37. St Mary's, Tabernacle and Cathedral
- 41. Aged
- 42. Golfers aim
- 43. Aircraft shed
- 45. Dough makes this
- 46. Fish eggs
- 47. Illegal Irish Organisation
- 48. Perform

DOWN

- 1. Weddell pest
- 2. Bloodsucking insect
- З. Donkey
- 4. Royal Engineer
- 5. Argentine visitor (bird)
- 6. Givers of warmth
- 7. Drunkenness
- 8. Female wild cat
- 9. Staats inhabitants
- 10. Prize token worn by those in winning positions
- 11. Extra Sensory Perception
- 15. Counting frame
- 16. Black and White waterbird
- 17. Lawful
- 21. Memories / Homesickness
- 24. A different one
- 26. Dartmoor rock
- 28. Frequently consistant
- 30. Brick holder
- 33. Respected older person
- 35. Yellow or red pigments
- 38. Garden tool
- 39. Scarlet
- 40. Seasonal workplace
- 44. Scottish abbreviation of Robert



P/WOO/1#40



WOOL PRESS

ISSUE 36

NOVEMBER 1992

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The WOOL PRESS is published by the Department of Agriculture

Editors - M.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL

Most of you will be stuck into the shearing by now and finding the time to do the crossword may be a little more difficult given that this is the "busy season". Don't forget to select those fleeces for entry in the West Falkland Ram & Fleece show at Christmas when classing your wool.

Talking of Christmas, we have published a book list in this month's Wool Press, of Agriculturally related books that may make a good gift for someone if you're stuck for ideas.

Let's hope the weather will take a turn for the better shortly as it still feels like Winter in Stanley and I'm looking forward to a good summer after the mediocre one that I had in the U.K. although with all this talk about the "hole" in the Ozone layer....



The articles printed in the WOOL PRESSdo not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

THE ROLE OF THE LABORATORY

INTRODUCTION.

The role of the Agriculture Laboratory is essentially a service and support role within the department , covering the projects within the areas of Agronomy, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science.

AGRONOMY

The work carried out produces considerable large pools of data, generated from samples taken from selected areas involved in specific projects on re-seeding, whitegrass grazing trials, ecophysiology and nutrition of whitegrass tussac studies.

Two of these projects involved in the investigation of sheep system grazing trials centred around a Summer and Winter model, study the impact of grazing at different times during the Winter or Summer and the effect that this has on the ability to support adequate regrowth of whitegrass and yet also provide a regular balanced source of nutrition for the sheep. Here, the laboratory provides the facility in the analysis of the different cuts of whitegrass taken throughout the year and to determine the level of essential minerals, organic matter and protein building blocks present in the biomass.

A more direct service provided by the laboratory to the general public of Stanley and the Camp is the provision of a soil testing facility, in that soil samples obtained either from garden plots or commercial plots can be tested for the presence or absence of essential minerals and the level of alkalinity or acidity, the structure and the composition of the soil can also be determined. From these findings a formula of treatment can be proposed by adding certain minerals that may be lacking or low and the pH adjusted by liming.

Soils vary widely in their composition and structure. Here the soils of a productive nature are composed of a mixture of sand, silt, organic matter (peat) and clay. The organic fraction is composed of decaying vegetable and animal matter deposited in the soil and this is chiefly responsible for its nitrogen producing capacity. It is the most important fraction of good soils, but is most influenced by pH, which in the Falklands happens to be particularly acidic and often hampers the availability of essential minerals to the growing plant to promote healthy and vigorous growth.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY / WOOL ADVISORY SERVICE.

As in the Agronomy sector the individual projects referred to in that section often interconnect with other studies eg., Fox Bay centre for Nutritional studies, Horseshoe Bay condition scoring at mating and lamb rearing ability, and the Sheep Advisory Project.

One ongoing service to the farming community is the routine and regular testing of wool samples submitted for Fibre Micron determination. This service will hopefully be considerably improved with the introduction of the new Agriculture Laboratory containing a controlled environment room specifically for this task of micron measurements, thus satisfying international standards.

VETERINARY SCIENCE.

BRUCELLA OVIS CAMPAIGN.

The continuation of blood testing of rams for the presence of B.ovis antibodies progresses well, with 3,000 rams (all negative results) being tested this year. Next year as proposed, the final end of term report will be made on all the farms to be sampled and further monitoring to be carried out at two yearly intervals on at risk farms. The diagnostic tests being used are Complement Fixation and E.L.I.S.A. test which provides the in depth ability to detect low level reactors which maybe present.

PORT STEPHENS "BRITTLE BONE PROJECT".

Trace element deficiencies are well known to be a problem in the healthy development of the animal and the maintenance of good wool production. This project has run for some years generating considerable data on this topic and must now be addressed in the light of results obtained. This, although only partly achieved, has led to the re-evaluation of its aims and objectives and is currently attempting to clarify the possible correlation between Calcium / Phosphorous imbalances in relation to the high incidence of brittle bones experienced in this area. Unfortunately at present no assays are being carried out as we are awaiting the delivery of a new analyser from UK, due to the present rather ancient machine going out of action.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.

This is purely a supportive role with the Veterinary Officer in the execution of the expanded A.I. programme within the Falklands, which necessitates general laboratory assistance in the "field". The laboratory involvement leads to the improvement of handling procedures and provides expertise in the realisation of the proposed N.S.F. Sperm Bank Proposal.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK

Due to the presence of two clinical conditions, virtually constant monitoring has been carried out with the assessment of disease incidence within the Falklands of the presence of Orf antibody. This led to a new understanding within the Department and the farming community of this disease and the dynamics involved in its possible spread to susceptible stock. The other clinical condition being "Pink eye", and although known to be present in the Falklands has caused certain problems due to antibiotic resistance, but this was resolved by further testing of samples leading to an alternative choice of antibiotic.

HYDATIDOSIS

With the growing incidence of mature cysts in sheep discovered on slaughtering at Stanley Butchery, this project was designed in conjunction with fellow research workers in Australia to address the following aims.

Aims.

 To establish how sensitive and specific the diagnostic test is for the field diagnosis of E. granulosus infection in dogs.

- To assess the levels of current Hydatid infection and serum antibodies against the parasite in the dogs of the Falklands.
- 3. To evaluate the effectiveness of previous control measures by monitoring the dog and sheep populations for echinococcosis / hydatidosis.
- 4. To make recommendations to authorities for future control strategies.

From these 4 most important aims the objectives are as follows.

Objectives.

- 1. To clearly demonstrate that Droncit dosing is working.
- 2. If not, why not?
- To demonstrate that the basic hygiene precautions in the strict disposal of sheep carcasses and offal are being carried out.
- 4. Maintain and stress regular Droncit dosing.

If objective 1. is positive, then a possible reduction in dosing could be proposed, but supported by a dog screening system, ie., regular blood tests.

These aims and objectives naturally lead to reducing the risk of infection with the human population and has relevance within the Public Health proposals of the Falklands currently being discussed.

DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

A diagnostic test, E.L.I.S.A. is currently installed and is being used for the diagnosis of B.ovis, B.abortus, Orf, T.B. and a pregnancy / progesterone assay. This will be used for the Hydatid survey and is proposed to be expanded into the diagnosis of other important clinical diseases in small and large animals.

A far better utilisation of expensive equipment is therefore envisaged and will lead to certain diseases being diagnosed here and not being referred to the U.K.

FUTURE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

These revolve around the proposed new laboratory and naturally embrace the introduction of new laboratory management systems, computer records and improved storage of result data that can be accessed and retrieved for regular assessment and evaluation in the progress and conclusions that can be drawn on the status of individual projects.

The execution of certain techniques, eg., Wool room to international standards.

Expansion of E.L.I.S.A. diagnosis to other clinical diseases.

Clinical chemical analysis for nutritional deficiencies / conditions and disease detection.

DAVID BABER SENIOR LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

FALSE PRETENCES AND DECEPTION.

All farms in the Falklands earn the majority of their revenue from wool and all farmers are very definitely "Wool Producers". Those farmers with "Stud flocks" may also claim that they are "Wool-Sheep Breeders". Are these secondary claims currently being made under false pretences and if so, who is being deceived other than the farmer himself?

Breeding sheep for wool, means growing sheep to achieve specific objectives. Wool breeding objectives primarily seek to select sheep with heavier fleeces and finer wool, as wool is sold by weight and fibre diameter. ALL other traits must come second. Sheep breeders are not breeding for show (like bird fanciers), but for PROFIT.

If breeding is for profit, and profit stems from wool weight, why is the hogget fleece weight of EVERY SINGLE ram used in the colony not known?

Answer: Rams are not being bred by Wool-Sheep Breeders!!!

"The case for fleece weighing:

Fleece weight is the most important factor determining the ÷ wool income from individual sheep.

* Hogget fleece weight is a good indicator of lifetime individual production. Sheep that grow more wool as hoggets produce more over their lifetime. (Repeatability 50%). * Selected sheep pass some of their superiority on to their

offspring. (Heritability 30%).

Sheep selected on hogget fleece weight grow made wool ÷ because they are more efficient converters of grass into vool. The heaviest clipping hoggets will produce twice as much * wool as the lightest clipping hoggets.

* Good progress can be made in improving fleece weights through selection. A Massey University (New Zealand) flock selected by fleece weight, produces 1 kg per head per year more than an unselected flock."

In the Falklands, there are two occasions where the breeder can profitably SELECT sheep for wool weight (and fibre diameter). 1. When choosing the rams to use in farm stud flocks and across

the ewe flock. 2. When screening ewe hoggets to go into or remain in the farm stud flock.

Such selection should be in addition to the process of culling for major faults.

Selection should be a positive approach to sheep breeding. Selection for fleece weights can be done on tagged sheep (permanent or tallitag) or on untagged sheep. The different methods were described by D. Makin-Taylor in the March 1990 WoolPress. If you would like further information on this subject, I am keen to help and guite prepared to visit farms and help set up practical fleece weighing systems.

WARNING: Failing to weigh fleeces could seriously damage your wealth!!

ROBERT H.B. HALL. OCTOBER 1992.

OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT OF FALKLAND WOOL.

Core Tests give three key laboratory reading; fibre fineness (micron), wool yield and vegetable matter content (vm). D.S.& Co have carried out two fairly substantial trials of colour measurements, one with the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority (NZWTA) and one with SGS International, covering nearly 100 lots in 1986 and 1987. Falkland wool has a good and narrow range of coloured fibres readings. These were well publicised and discussed with the manufacturers, whose own tests on products are far more accurate.

When selling Falkland wool we do not only guarantee the micron, yield and vm. We guarantee the "hauteur", the average fibre length of each lot in combed top. In this we are well anead of other nations. The agency also offers all Falkland fleece lots with a guarantee of low dark fibre readings, a unique guarantee well ahead of all competing origins. Both these measurements are of crucial importance to worsted manufacturers. We are able to make the guarantees due to (a) experience of processing the clip in the past and (b) feedback of actual results from manufacturers' product testing. Again the Falklands are unique in this ability, due to the lack of "middle-men" between farm-gate and mill door. Major processors such as Woolcombers, Whiteheads and SWK value the precision of our offers and subsequent deliveries. There is a further advantage, take dark fibres (due to poor skinting or natural fibres due to poor breeding), by continually depressing the discoloured fibre readings, (dark coloured fibres per 100g Top - BCF/100g Top) we are risking claims from manufacturers who can identify and count fibres in the laboratory with pracision. A vital measurement for them, but more than that, we can identify which Falkland lot is falling below the guarantee. We have now pushed the guarantee up to the high standards manufacturers expect from best Australian wools. Some lots have come close to falling below the guarantee and if they do, claims will result.

In the case of the "hauteur" length guarantee, we get good feed back from manufacturers. with results covering length and strength as expressed by mean fibre length (hauteur), barbe or "beard" and extra-long fibre readings. Coefficient of Variation of length and strength as expressed by production of wool top compared to noil (short fibre by-product). Again we have pushed Falkland guarantees to the high standards manufacturers expect from best Australian wools. Substandard Falkland lots can and will be identified by independent tests.

In the case of cleanliness for the woollen spinning industry, this season has seen a major expansion of the sale of wool guaranteed ready for scouring, fully skirted ready for processing without sorting. This sale of Falkland wool to companies such as Laycocks, Clegg Wools, Europa Wools and Woolcombers, again has been highly successful and has cut out the middle-man wool sorting company. More than 250,000 kilos of scoured Falklands wool has gone to Benetton in Italy, produced straight from the unsorted Falkland bales selected from farms with low vm readings. The ability to deliver <u>selected Falklands bales</u> directly into the scouring process could not have taken place without improvements in the skirting of Falkland wool. The cost saving to manufacturers is between 8-14 pence greasy. Farmers are to be congratulated on the improvement.

SKIRTING AND FLEECE PREPARATION

There may be farmers who claim that next door "Jo-Doesn't-give-adamn, bundles all his wool up, stain, necks and all and earns fleece prices for the lot". However this is simply not borne out by the facts:

1. Take each farms wool specifications for the past three years (to iron out timing differences and obtain an average). Compare the quantity of out sorts produced to the total production of fleeces. You can quickly identify the farms with a high percentage of bellies/pieces/locks produced, you can also identify those producing a lower percentage of bellies /pieces/locks. Necks are not removed by all farms, but those that do can be clearly identified by the same examination of the wool specifications.

2. Back this up with the guarantees to manufacturers of Dark coloured fibres and Hauteur/length /strength readings. Their testing is accurate and precise and good, average, below average, fleece preparation and ill-bred sheep from individual Falkland farms are increasingly being identified, AND as scientific testing and objective measurement at manufacturers rolls forward and intensifies that pin-pointing of the "good" from the "below average" farm will be seen in starker contrast.

To precipitate a major claim for contamination due to careless fleece preparation and excessive dark coloured fibres due to stained wool or natural dark fibres would be extremely costly for the farm concerned, not just in terms of an immediate financial loss due to the claim, but to an ongoing downgrading of value for some time after and disparring from some contracts/manufacturers.

On the other hand a farm that achieves a high reputation naturally achieves inclusion into all contracts including those requiring the highest specification and there is an upgrading of value.

It should be stressed that the objective measurements carried out by manufacturers are and always will be the final arbiter, over and above any simple examination of the proportion of out sorte identified on the farm specifications or any other method cf appraisal.

COLIN SMITH D.S. & Co. OCTOBER 1992

* * * DRONCIT DOSAGE * * *

EVERY dog on your farm MUST be dosed on the given date and the correct dosage MUST be administered.

LETTERS

After reading the letter from Audrey Mcghie in last months issue of the Wool Press we felt that there was a need to answer some of the questions and attempt to clarify some of the points she was making.

The importation of the National Stud Flock and the problems of "ORF"! Mrs McGhie can rest assured that farmers views were given utmost priority when the Stud Flock was being purchased, like everything else when you ask eighty three farmers what they want you end up with eighty three different answers, however, we believe that whilst not everyone got what they wanted, the majority were catered for.

The flock was chosen by two farmers and Robert Hall from the Department of Agriculture. All went well until the pre-export quarantine when a number of animals developed Orf. On being informed of the situation, the Departments immediate response to the export agents was delay the shipment until the problems relating to the disease had been resolved. However, other factors began to dictate that a short term delay was not at all feasible and that we only had some sixty hours to collect the necessary information and decide whether or not to let the import proceed. In fact it is almost certain that the delay would have ended being a full year, air charter could not be rearranged for several months by which time it would have been into Winter. The decision to allow the import to proceed was not as light hearted as implied by Mrs McGhie.

It is true to say that because both Davies (1971) and Whitley (1980 / 81) reported the disease to be widespread throughout the Islands the decision was somewhat easier to make. However, is this not where opinions begin to differ and the controversy arise? Some recognised the fact that Orf was already present in the island and that the risks of compromising our relatively disease free status was very minimal, whereas others were not willing to accept its reported presence and passed it of as "just another report"! This is really where the matter of principle lies, are we not willing to accept the results of work carried out by others and if not why not? If such an attitude is allowed to persist then we will just end up running around in circles repeating work carried out by others. This latter point is however, not exactly restricted to agricultural matters.

After attempting to discover by simply asking farmers whether they had seen this condition before in the Falklands we were confronted with considerable confusion, simply ranging from yes, we see it regularly, to no, we have never seen it.

We immediately mounted a Serum Survey and demonstrated that in fact Orf was present in the Falklands and had been for some considerable time. Antibodies detected to this condition were of such a level to clearly indicate that a very recent infection had occurred - in the last 2 years. Over 58% of the sheep sampled had antibodies to Orf! In the ongoing investigations, we have now examined and tested all the reported cases from Orf infected flocks, these being mainly centred at Port San Carlos and Salvador. If an owner does not report a problem we cannot therefore investigate. From our earlier investigations we were concerned by the apparent severity of the condition, this leading to the hypothesis of the possible introduction of an exotic and more virulent form of Orf into the Falklands. On further sampling and examination of sera collected from these infected and clean groups, a picture emerged which provided clearer evidence to suggest that the first severe cases experienced by Nick Pitaluga was very much attributable to low / nonexistent immunity, ie., Salvador had not had Orf for a period of at least 5 years. In contrast Port San Carlos demonstrated considerably higher antibody levels throughout all the groups examined and sampled.

From these findings coupled with the original antibody survey, evidence has certainly been provided to support the case that the inherent risk of Orf being spread from the N.S.F. is of no greater order than the transfer of indigenous Orf to the National Stud Flock!

After talking at Farmers Week and providing a comprehensive handout on Orf, we assumed all were familiar with the condition and background. We must apologise if this is incorrect and can only add that if anyone has any questions or problems regarding Orf, to please phone David or Michael.

In the article "The Role of the Laboratory", Wool Micron measurements from mid-side samples and the new facility contained in the proposed New Laboratory is mentioned. It can only be repeated that due to delays in the New Laboratory Construction, this service still continues under poor and inadequate facilities, but the service is still on offer to all farmers. So please send in your samples and we will do the best we can.

In regard to the New Laboratory, we can now report that with the acceptance of the revised Lab design, consultations with P.W.D are underway with a projection of starting the site clearance and foundation / services within the next few weeks, with an approximate completion date around June 1993. Lets hope!

Finally, the Agricultural Training Scheme is still very much alive. The Youth and Agricultural exchanges are going well and several interesting courses have been conducted for farmers this Winter, but it is the requirements and feedback from you, the Farmers, which allows us to put together the training courses that you require. The WOOL PRESS often features an update of The Agricultural Training Scheme to remind you that it is still in operation. If you have any ideas or requirements for training then give us a ring, we'll soon tell you where to go if it's that ridiculous!!

O.W.SUMMERS DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

D.BABER SENIOR LABORATORY TECHNICIAN.

THROWING FLEECES ONTO THE WOOL TABLE AND NOT THE FLOOR.

Wool tables are either rectangular or circular, and wool handlers tend to swear by one and hate the other. Part of the strong preference for one type of table, is that it is easy to forget that a DIFFERENT throwing technique is required for the different tables.

- 1. For all fleece throwing:
 - Find both hind legs,
 - Ensure that the fleece does not drag on the floor.
 - Throw the fleece up at a 45' angle to the wool table.
- 2. For rectangular tables:
 - Keep your elbows close to your body while throwing. - Throw up and forward.
 - For circular tables:
 - Keep your elbows away from your body while throwing.
 - Throw up and out.
- 3. Finally, for all tables:
 - The fleece thrower should spread the back legs on the wool table, to enable fast and accurate skirting.

FLEECE TEROWING DIAGRAMS:



RECTANGULAR TABLE.



CIRCULAR TABLE.

So.... if your fleeces are shooting over the edge of the wool table, don't blame the table...., have a go at altering the way you actually throw the fleeces!!! Good luck.

Robert H.B. Hall. OCTOBER 1992.

N.S.F. NEWS.

Lambing started on 13.10.92 and is expected to continue until the end of November. The pre-lamb shorn ewes going into the tussac, at the end of September:



Our grateful thanks to the Sea Lion Island team which helped get the "Private" sheep loaded onto the M.V. Forrest. This was the last port of call the Forrest made during its last voyage under Coastal Shipping Ltd.:



From left to right: - Dave & Pat Gray, Arthur M^CBain, Peter Morrison, Richard Schofield and Rhoda M^CBain.

ATTENTION ALL FARMERS

WEST FALKAND RAM AND FLEECE SHOW

HERITAGE YEAR

The West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show will be held this year on Tuesday 29th December 1992 in Fox Bay Village.

This notice is to remind farmers before the start of shearing, to save Rams and Fleeces for the following classes.

- Class 1 Full wooled ram hoggett.
- Class 2 Full wooled mature ram.
- Class 3 Champion ram any age.
- Class 4 Hoggett fleece.
- Class 5 Any fine wool fleece other than hoggett.
- Class 6 Any "B" wether type fleece.

With this year being Heritage Year we have some special prizes.

With the large number of high class sheep imported this year, we expect to see some outstanding fleeces.

Most of the West flocked to Fox Bay last year, but there were still a few who were a bit sheepish.

We will keep you all up to date on details of prizes and sponsors as the event approaches.

This is all for now. Good Luck with the start of shearing.

Yours sincerely

N.A.KNIGHT CHAIRMAN. W.F.R.& F.S. NOVEMBER 1992

LAMENT OF A FARMER'S WIFE

Why don't you speak in the morning y' miserable crotchety bloke this can't be the way to start off the day - are y' frightened you'd choke if you spoke....

you're not worth a dam in the morning occasional grunt or a cough and we sit there a waitin' while you eat your bacon - we might as well wander off....

'don't expect y' to sing in the morning or quote from the Latin or Greek but perhaps we'd be stirred by the odd civil word - is it too much to ask you to speak....

well you talk to the dog in the morning and y' blather away to yourself even a row with a bloody dead yow - while we sit like a mug on the shelf....

you can talk on the phone in the morning you always sound cheerful enough but y' sit like a ghost when you're munching your toast - in some deep agricultural huff....

do all farmers say nowt in the morning is it part of the way they're brought up there's about as much chance of a touch of romance - from a knackered auld cross Suffolk tup....

can you never be bright in the morning
were you always this way as a lad
give a nod or a wink as I stand at the sink
- so the kids'll still know your their dad....

we're not asking much in the morning
when the news and the forecast are bleak
but with twenty odd years of blood sweat and tears
- SURELY T' GOD Y' CAN SPEAK!!!

Extract from "Chewing the Cud" by HENRY BREWIS



'... it must be nearly spring ... Dad's stopped talkin'

MARKETING THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL STOCKPILE

Since my last article on the Wool Market I have received an extremely interesting paper on the policy directives of the Australian Wool Realisation Commission. (A.W.R.C) The paper is a copy of a presentation made to the New South Wales Farmers Association Annual Conference by the A.W.R.C Chairman David Clarke on the 22 July 1992. Mr Clarke has been appointed to oversee the disposal of the Australian stockpile over a seven year period. In his role as A.W.R.C Chairman, he has considerable influence on the shape of the Global Wool Market.

His speech is of particular relevance to the Falkland Farmer as it provides some very clear signals regarding the immediate and long term role of the A.W.R.C in managing Australian wool stockpiles. I hope that my last article will have already demonstrated the strength of the relationship between Falkland producer prices and the activities of the A.W.C/A.W.R.C.

Without simply resorting to a direct copy of the speech I thought it best to quote the most relevant aspects of the address. Mr Clarke opened his speech by outlining the policy objectives of the A.W.R.C having completed it's first year of operation:

1.) "Management and progressive reduction of A.W.R.C debt."

2.) "Management of the market (to the extent that this is possible) in order to avoid unduly low wool prices; and "

3.) "Fostering the development of efficient marketing systems, particularly to enable wool growers to manage market risk."

The A.W.R.C inherited a massive debt of \$2,718 million or £1,095 million principally as a result of it's purchasing activities prior to the suspension of the M.R.P Scheme. The collateral for this debt is represented in the 4 million bales of wool held in A.W.R.C stockpiles and non-wool assets (principally warehouse property.) The A.W.R.C also raises revenue from producers in the form of a wool tax which is used to cover the majority of the Commissions operating costs. This tax has recently been reduced to 4.5% of wool sales.

The important point to note is the A.W.R.C was established in 1991 on a seven year stockpile and debt elimination programme. The Commission is therefore quite flexible in it's approach to disposing of the stockpile. This is a hopeful indication that we are unlikely to see the A.W.R.C off load significant volumes of wool during weak market conditions. To quote Mr Clarke "the immediate task of the Commission was to re-establish the confidence of wool's worldwide customers which had been so badly damaged by the collapse of the Reserve Price Scheme. In order to achieve that, much of our attention has been directed towards establishing credible and commercially pragmatic pricing policies that would be supported by customers around the world.' Mr Clarke outlined the pricing policy of the commission "The key point is that prices at the type level are set at a premium above the latest market quote or on a four month average of the quote, whichever is higher. While premiums vary depending on market circumstances over time and between micron categories, the central feature remains the use of this four month average." Mr Clarke then reinforced the A.W.R.C commitment to avoid undermining the market by explaining the use of the four month market average in it's pricing policy. "Over the last few months with declining prices, the four month average has become the basis for setting prices except in some carding categories and coarse crossbred fleece wools. It seems an effective mechanism which ensures that A.W.R.C asking prices do not respond to falls in the market price and only follow down weakening markets after a considerably elapsed period of time. In this sense it represents a balance between the need to avoid unduly low wool prices being caused by A.W.R.C sales and at the same time facing the commercial realities and continuing to sell some wool in the strongest sectors of the market, even when the overall market appears to be weakening."

FIGURE 1



The dilemma facing the A.W.R.C in meeting it's objectives is shown in figure 1. This graph shows that there was an increase in the level of stock disposals associated with increased prices during the first quarter of 1992. It identifies that while the world economic position has declined during 1992 disposal rates have dropped well below the weekly minimum of 1340 bales required to eliminate the stockpile in 6 years. A.W.R.C economists will undoubtably have more optimistic forecasts for economic activity in the future, however, these forecasts do not address the more immediate problem of indebtedness. In looking to the future, Mr Clarke appeared a little apprehensive at the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee's estimate for 1992/1993 clip at 780 million Kg. This has since been revised slightly to 772mkg. "It leaves limited scope for price recovery and continued stockpile sales at the rate achieved in 1991/92. On top of this there may be some risk that the significant reduction in wool tax for 1992/93 could send the wrong signal to some primary producers who are not specialist woolgrowers that now is the time to swing back into wool production."

I would suggest that this last remark is particularly pertinent to the Falklands. The Australian Agricultural Industry has been through many peaks and troughs and there can be little doubt that farm revenues in Australia can be increased significantly by being in the right commodity at the right time. The type of farmer that Mr Clarke is concerned about are at the fringe on wool growing areas an have the ability to switch between the traditional Australian sectors of wool, beef and wheat relatively easily and quickly. These types of farms are typically situated in New South Wales and Queensland. It is for this same reason that the A.W.R.C are unlikely to allow an explosion in producer prices for fear of sending the wrong signals.

With regard to the future of the wool marketing system, it appears that Mr Clarke's remarks reinforce the view that the Australian wool industry is rapidly moving towards a free market system. He introduced the subject by suggesting that "many producers had been surprised that the A.W.R.C had not adopted a stabilisation role and ironed out instability in the market during the 1991-1992 season." He viewed the recent instability as being the result of the reintroduction of a freer market, which he felt as being "part of the new reality." The promotion of a privatised Futures trading system was very evident in the text of his speech."Increased forward selling by producers and buying forward by exporters must become a feature of the marketing arrangements. In this way, over a period of time, Futures and options trading can develop as valuable instruments for the management of price related risk."

Until there is a significant increase in the capacity of the Australian futures I would suggest that in the absence of the A.W.R.C as a buyer there is likely to be increased downward pressure on the market following the main shearing season in Australia. This increased seasonality should also be expected to carry over onto the Falkland Market. Any significant upward movement in price is likely to be checked by A.W.R.C disposals.

HUGH MARSDEN OCTOBER 1992.

RECIPE

TUNA BAKE

INGREDIENTS

1 small can tuna (drained); 1 small onion (optional); 2 eggt; 1 can sweet corn (drained); 4 oz grated cheese; salt and pepper to taste.

-METHOD

Mix the tuna, sweet corn, finely chopped onion and eggs together well, season to taste. Place in a casserole dish and sprinkle with grated cheese. Place in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes or until cheese browns. Serve either hot or cold with salad or jacket potatoes.

ALTERNATIVES

Substitute sweet corn for baked beans or tomatoes, (add them as a seperate layer from the tuna and egg or it my curdle). Or use any combination that you may like according to your own preferences.

MANDY HOLEGD

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* * VIDEO * *

THE HANDLING AND PREPARATION OF FALKLAND WOOL

THIS EXCELLENT VIDED THAT WAS CIRCULATED AROUND ALL FARMS LAST YEAR IS STILL AVAILABLE ON FREE LOAN

phone: 27355 (Department of Agriculture) if you wish to see it again as a refresher!

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUSINESS LEGAL AID SCHEME 1992/93

BUSINESS ACCOUNTANCY SCHEME 1992/93

members of the business communities in Camp and Stanley may be eligible for financial assistance in respect of commercial legal matters and the establishment and monitoring of accountancy systems.

For details of the Schemes please contact the Assistant General Manager, FIDC, Airport Road, Stanley. Telephone: 27211


RAMIFICATIONS



RAMIFICATIONS

LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. Front leg shortened on bull; 2. Movement marks above his head; 3. Extra hair mark on chest; 4. Cows left eyelashes missing; 5. patch on cows ear missing; 6. Bulls right ear missing; 7. Patch on cows back has been reshaped; 8. Some tail hairs missing of cow; 9. The cloth hanging from the box has been coloured in; 10. Cow is missing one teat;

HOOF TROUBLES?

After the amount of reported cases of abrasion to horses hooves, seemingly due to the volcanic dust that was deposited on the Falklands in the last year, I thought you may be interested in a product that I have seen in the New Zealand Farmer (September 1992 issue). Not only was it advertised by the supplier in New Zealand, but it also had a separate article on it claiming its virtues! I have extracted the following from what I found, to give you a fairly comprehensive description of it, the price (according to that publication, although it doesn't state the amount or size of bottle) and the suppliers.

"Strengthening hoof walls to harden the horn and stabilise cracks has taken on a new dimension with a new liquid hoof product called KERATEX.

The KERATEX hoof hardener is different from other surface treatments. It is not an oil, grease or varnish. The hoof breathes and functions naturally and is maintained in a strong healthy state. This new formulation rebuilds the molecular structure of week horn by a reaction with hoof keratin. KERATEX'S cross linking atoms reinforce the natural intermolecular bonds which are deficient in weak horn. Improved condition is visible within days of starting the treatment.

On unshod horses, the product hardens the horn making the hooves more resistant to abrasion and chipping.

It was first patented in Britain and was launched on the market in 1991, and has been approved by the New Zealand Animal Remedies Board. It is used by top Olympic squad riders, Jockey clubs, etc."

One bottle can treat an unshod horse for at least 6 months and costs \$69.50 (New Zealand dollars). The sole supplier in New Zealand is: Chris Steadman, THE TACK SHED, p.o.box 701, Blenheim. Fax: 064 (3) 578 0192.

If anyone does look into this further I would be pleased to hear . how you get on.

MANDY MCLEOD November 1992

LAST MONTH'S

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

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CROSSWORD

by

MANDY McLEOD

ACROSS

- What you don't want in your wool.
- 8. Long Wave (radio)
- 9. Hogg Robinson loading port.
- 13. Land between hills.
- 15. Idle.
- 16. Exists.
- 17. Newly sown areas of land.
- 13. Carton.
- 19. Choose.
- 21. Crafty.
- 22. Two or more working together.
- 24. Authoritative.
- 25. Perform
- 27. Weep
- 28. Continent.
- 29. That.
- 30. Length of time between dog dosing.
- 31. Tuberculosis.
- 32. Specific place / time.
- 33. Check in for duty.
- 35. Largest deer of Asia.
- 33. Close to.
- 39. Bale mark.
- 40. Next to.
- 41. I.
- 42. Plant fibre used for woolpacks.
- 43. Where flowers sleep?

DOWN

- 1. Sheep breed.
- 2. Tack.
- 3. Boring tool.
- 4. Illegal terrorist organisation.
- 5. Perpetual; Everlasting.
- 6. Large squid.
- 7. Possess.
- 10. Cereal crop.
- 11. Unhappily.
- 12. Hydatid eradication tablet.
- 14. Appearance.
- 20. Black stuff used on roads with chippings.
- 23. Something secret.
- 24. Local bush.
- 25. Like.
- 26. Para walk.
- 28: Daisy-like flower.
- 29. Cake covering.
- 32. Horse breed.
- 34. You (old fashioned)
- You've probably got an orphaned one (or several).
- 37. Mid-leg joint.

BOOKS!! BOOKS!! BOOKS!!

The following is a list of books (and a few videos) that are available from FARMING PRESS BOOKS. There is a copy of their order form overleaf. Postage on the form only mentions UK & Eire but I know that they do send down here and will let you know postal charges for your orders on request. There should be a new booklet published by now that gives descriptions on the books and videos but we haven't received our copy yet. It may be worth writing of for one for yourselves, or be put on their mailing list if you are interested.

VIDEOS

Come Bye and Away (V1) 14.95	14.95	Goat Farning (20)	12.95
Footcare in Cattle (V5)	14.95	Goatkeepers Veterinary Book (21)	12.95
Fordson Tractors (V3)	14.95	Good dog (37)	9.95
Introduction to Outdoor Pig Production	14.95	Growing & Finishing Pig (43)	18.95
Massey Tractor Line (V4)	14.95	Bealth for the Farner (69)	9.95
That'll Do (V2)	14.95	Herdsman's Book (58)	12.95
		Horse in Husbandry (5)	13.95
BOOKS		Horse Ailnents (32)	14.95
A Way of Life (35)	13.95	Housing the Pig (45)	12.95
All About Goats (19)	12.95	Improved Grassland Management(55)	14.95
Alternative Farm Enterprises(24)	12.95	Indoor Beef Production (52)	12.95
Any Fool Can Be A Pig Farner PB(73)	3.50	Intensive Sheep Management (30)	12.95
Any Fool Can Be a Dairy FarmerPB(72)	3.50	Introduction to Keeping Sheep(27)	11.95
Blue Riband of the Heather (36)	12.95	Irrigated Crops (12)	14.95
Calculations of Agric.& Hort.(67)	7.95	Machinery for Horticulture (9)	13.95
Calf Rearing (59)	12.95	Magic Peasant (86)	3.95
Calves in the Classroon (81)	3.50	Hassey Ferguson Tractors (4)	13.95
Calving the cow (57)	13.95	Modern Shepherd (28)	12.95
Cats:their Health and Care (38)	12.95	New Hedges for the Countryside(14)	13.95
Cattle Feeding (60)	11.95	On Being a Tenant Farmers (68)	11.95
Cattle ailzents (56)	13.95	One Ewe over the Cuckoo's Nest(79)	3.50
Cattle Footcare (49)	12.95	Organic Farning (15)	21.95
Cereal Pests and diseases (63)	12.95	Outbursts (75)	12.95
Chewing the Cud (85)	3.95	Outdoor Pig Production (39)	12.95
Clarts and Calamities (89)	3.95	Pearls in the Landscape (17)	12.95
Confessions of Also-Ran (74)	4.95	Pig Ailments (44)	13.95
Country Dance (84)	4.95	Pig Diseases (42)	12.00
Crop Nutrition (64)	13.95	Pigman's Handbook (41)	12.95
Dairy Fare Business Management(51)	13.95	Pigmania (76)	2.95
Deer Farning (46)	16.95	Pigs in the Playground (80)	3.95
Dog Ailments (34)	13.95	Ploughman's Progress (1)	13.95
Don't laucht Till He's Out of Sight(87)	3.95	Practical Accounting (62)	13.95
Drying & Storing Combinable Crops(11)	19.95	Principles of Dairy Farming (48)	13.95
Ducks in Detention (82)	3.95	Profitable Beef Production (50)	12.95
Farn Building Construction (13)	13.95	Profitable Sheep Farming (31)	12.95
Farm Crops (66)	7.95	Raising Small Animals (23)	12.95
Farm Crosswords (83)	1.75	Sheep Ailnents (26)	14.95
Farm Livestock (65)	7.95	Showman Shepherd (29)	12.95
Farn Machinery (10)	13.95	Spacious Days (70)	4.95
Farm Office (61)	11.95	Stockmanship (40)	12.95
Farn Welding (7)	13.95	They All Ran After the Farmer's Wife(71) 3.95
Farm Woodland Management (16)	13.95	Tractors: how they work and what	
Farm Workshop (8)	13.95	they do (2)	9.95
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Powl Play (78)	2.95	Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers (25)	21.95
Free-Range Poultry (22)	12.95		
Funnywayt'mekalivin' (88)	3.95	(Bracketed figures are the catalogue r	umbers)

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WOOL PRESS

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ISSUE 37

DECEMBER 1992

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PLUS ALI

ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES







The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture Editors - M.J.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall

EDITORIAL

This is the final WOOL PRESS for Heritage Year and we hope that you all have good Christmas celebrations and enjoy the West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show. (Good luck to all of you who have put entries in). We look forward to seeing those who come to Stanley for the Sports and we at the Department of Agriculture have one important message to give to you all in this festive season.

"EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!"



"WAKEY-WAKEY SANTA! TIME TO SPREAD A LITTLE COMFORT AND JOY ... "

The articles printed in the WOOL PRESS do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Agriculture.

ENTROPION

Entropion is a condition of new born lambs in which one or both of (more usually) the lower eyelid, is turned in causing irritation and eventually, damage to the cornea - the thin transparent layer covering the surface of the eye. Initially, affected lambs are noticed because they have a watery discharge from the eye. Upon inspection, it can be difficult to detect that the eye-lid is turned in unless you have prior knowledge that the condition exists. If it is left untreated, an opaque ulcer forms on the eyeball which changes in colour from white to red as blood vessels invade the area. A lamb with both eyes affected can become blind and starve to death. Once damaged, the eye is very susceptible to infection and a thick creamy discharge may be seen. Finally the eye itself may burst.

The cause of the condition is thought to be heriditary with a recessive gene involvement although the inheritance characteristics are complicated. Unaffected parents may produce affected offspring and visa versa. There is no evidence to suggest that one breed is worse than another. In the U.K., it is estimated that between 1 and 8 % of all lambs born each year are affected. It is impossible to detect which adults have suffered from the condition as lambs. Often the condition is noticed for the first time after the arrival of a new ram or the use of A.I. - undoubt-edly, with more lambs from elite ewes and rams running round the house paddock, the condition is more likely to become apparent.

TREATMENT

Some lambs will recover without any treatment and the eyelid returns to its proper position by itself. In mildly persistant cases often all that is needed is to manually roll out the eyelid using the thumb or forefinger to pull it out and away from the eye. This may need to be contined for several days. For more persistant or severe cases where everting the lids manually has failed, there are several methods of treatment which can be Metal 'Michel' sutre clips -hopefully available from employed. Falkland Farmers- can be used to create a tuck in the skin beneath the eye, ensuring that the eyelid stays out. A spot of superglue in the right place has a similar effect. An injection of liquid paraffin in the skin beneath the eye made parallel to the eyelid causes the skin to swell and the eyelid is forced out to its correct position. Obviously, if you find it necessary to employ one of the latter methods great care is needed - there is a danger that the eyeball can be ruptured. Please give Michael a ring if you intend to use one of these methods for the first time.

PREVENTION

Unfortunately, the only sure way of preventing future incidence of the condition is to identify lambs which have been affected and not breeding from them. In the unlikely event that anyone can afford to do this, please, just be aware of the possible problem and try to treat the cases that you see - it is, understandably, very painful for a lamb and should be attended to.

JO BAUGHAN DECEMBER 1992

Corynebacterium ovis Vaccination trial (Goose Green)

Corynebacterium ovis, locally known as "boils", is the one remaining animal disease of noticeable frequency afflicting the Falkland Islands sheep population. The frequently noted abscesses in lungs and livers, also carcasses of local sheep, are assumed to be of no economic significance as there is no established meat trade, yet the size of some abscesses in the lungs of a number of sheep are such, that a significant reduction in functional lung capacity can be assumed. A vaccine against the causal organism has been available commercially for some time in Australia and it was felt, that a small scale trial should be initiated to establish whether this vaccine would confer a lasting immunity under Falkland Islands conditions. A trial should also attempt to establish whether vaccination not only prevents the formation of the classical abscesses, but, through the prevention of infection results in better economic performance of the vaccinated sheep, measured in either increased wool yield, increased growth rates and/or better survival.

C.ovis vaccine (Glanvac 3 and Glanvac 6) was made available free of charge by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Melbourne, Australia and 300 hoggs (six months of age) from Goose Green. Glanvac 3 contains antigens of Cl. tetani and septicum as well, Glanvac 6 another three clostridial antigens.

100 each of the hoggs were non-selectively allocated to the three treatment groups in March 1992, weighed and eartagged. 100 hoggs were vaccinated with 2 ml of Glanvac 3, 100 hoggs with 2 ml of Glanvac 6 and the remaining 100 not vaccinated as controls. Four weeks after the initial vaccination a further 2 ml of vaccine were administered. Mean bodyweights were similar for all treatment groups.

In early November 1992, at shearing time the Camp was gathered and the treatment groups brought into the shed for shearing, revaccination and weighing.

Results:

Mean bodyweights in all three treatment groups had increased by 3.80, 4.00 and 3.80 kg respectively, and were not significantly different between the three groups.

The number of returning animals from each treatment group were 76 for the group of Glanvac 6 treated animals, 80 for Glanvac 3 treated animals, and 63 for the non-vaccinated controls. The difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated animal numbers was significant at the 1% level.

Discussion:

As *C. ovis* infection is assumed to be linked to shearing wounds and/or the inhalation of contaminated dust and aerosol in the sheds, it is not expected that the animals in this trial would have been exposed to the causal organism, until after this, their first shearing. Thus any expected differences between treatment groups, i.e. vaccinated vs. non-vaccinated, in as far as *C.ovis* is concerned, should not have a bearing until after this years shearing. Then differences measured in performance parameters like body- and fleece weights related to *C.ovis* may show. It is therefore necessary to continue the trial until at least the shearing in 1993, with weighing of animals and fleeces, at which time a number of animals in each treatment group should be culled and carefully examined for evidence of boils.

The markedly differing numbers in returning numbers in the nonvaccinated vs. the vaccinated groups was unexpected. It can be assumed that gathering the hoggs was not biased against the nonvaccinated trial group, and so equal numbers should have been found in all three groups.

Clostridial diseases usually result in the death of an animal if it becomes infected and no treatment was available (and none of the trial animals was ever presented for veterinary or other attention), thus infection or not presents a black or white decision, which either allows the animal to live (never infected) or results in its death (infected, unprotected).

The 15% lower return in the non-vaccinated group against the vaccinated groups may thus be the first indication that clostridial diseases are significant factor in early animal losses, especially in the first year of their life, when losses are traditionally high (about 12% in Goose Green overall this year). The 20% no-shows in the vaccinated groups may be explained as missed during the gather, and other accidental and unrelated infectious losses.

As the trial progresses further more information will be obtained on the trials group, but most will be related to the condition called "boils". The greatest impact of clostridial diseases may be confined to the first year but in any case it would obviously be desirable to repeat this trial on a larger number of animals and farms with a monovalent vaccine, or one directed at clostridial infections only.

As individual animals rarely come to the attention of the veterinary officer in the extensive ranching situation of the Falklands, only controlled vaccination trials give an indication of the presence of a specific disease in the islands, and more importantly whether they are of any significant economic importance.

A good example is the possible impact of *Toxoplasma gondii* on lambing percentages. This disease causes abortion storms in other sheep rearing countries when the ewe becomes infected during a pregnancy, yet in the FI's individual ewes that may abort will not be noticed, and sero-conversion rates are not known. The host for this organism is the cat, and everybody would agree that there are certainly enough cats in the Islands, Stanley and Camp. A very close relative of the organism, with a similar lifecycle, Sarcocyst, is frequently found during our inspections at the Butchery. Only a controlled vaccination trial may give some indication of the economic importance of T.g..

Michael P Reichel November 1992

FREIGHT - WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

I am sure that we all, at some time, have had some involvement with a claim of one form or another regarding freighted goods from Stanley to Camp and visa-versa. Then there comes the routine of phone calls to the shippers, haulers, suppliers... Followed by the old question, "WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?"

I thought I would write down what I see as a fairly common sense list of who is responsible for goods at the various stages from place of purchase to arrival at the intended destination, bearing in mind that you should have your goods insured for shipping anyway.

- * The supplier (shop / warehouse) are responsible for the goods until either delivered direct to the shippers and accepted by that company, or collected by haulers and accepted by that company.
- * Likewise, the haulers are responsible for the goods once they have accepted and signed for them from the supplier until delivered and accepted by the shippers.
- * The shippers, having received, accepted and signed for the goods with a manifest, are now responsible until arrival at the port of destination. They are still responsible until the goods have been accepted by the customer which has to be done at off-loading. Once you have given your acceptance signature at that time, the goods become your responsibility.

Basically, what it all boils down to is that no one, right down the line, should sign for goods unless they are sure that they are receiving <u>everything</u> that is being signed for.

I know you are all saying, "Oh, that's alright in theory, but you try sorting out a heap of jumbled up timber on the jetty when we are in a rush or the boat is waiting to sail on to the next port." or the shippers might be saying, "The bands were loose when it arrived and fell off when we were loading, that's why it's a heap!" and so on....

The answer is that if everything was in order right through the process, there would not need to be any delay to the boats at the goods final destination. It's a long chain I know, but if the boat has to wait because you have to waste your time unnecessarily sorting out split packages at the jetty before you sign for your goods, then next time the shippers will take more care. If the shippers received the goods in this state then they should have delayed the haulers or suppliers before accepting the goods.... and so it goes on.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT QUALITY CONTROL, AND IN THIS INSTANCE IT STARTS WITH THE CUSTOMER. IF IT'S NOT RIGHT YOU DON'T ACCEPT IT!

ONLY SIGN FOR WHAT YOU HAVE GOT!

MANDY McLEOD DECEMBER 1992

Hydatid disease

I hope I am not flogging this horse too often, especially in these past few months, but I am quite seriously concerned about the current state of the campaign. I will try to keep this one brief. It concerns mainly the increasing number of hydatid cysts we are finding during offal inspection at the Stanley Butchery. To date the total this year is 14 cysts, compared to only 5 in the whole of 1991, in a comparable number of offal sets. Particularly worrying however, is the finding of a cyst in a twoyear-old ewe, which in all likelihood has some mates still alive out there, which have got infected at the same time. The potential for hydatid disease will thus remain with us for some time yet.

What convinces me that it is not only a statistical aberration, which will disappear next year, is the also increasing frequency with which we are finding "bladderworms" (*T.hydatigena*) in the offal. This is another tapeworm, though of no consequence to human health, but it has a very similar lifecycle to the hydatid worm and, most importantly, should also be killed by regular Droncit treatment. The large percentage of bladdercysts, 5.5% at running total this year supports the impression that there are slip-ups with the regular dosing - either the lack of dosing or non-compliance with the correct dosing intervals.

We are obviously trying to resolve some of these problems with the steps we are taking in conjunction with Melbourne, most of which were touched upon in David's article on the role of the laboratory (if anybody is interested in a more detailed account of that project, please get in touch).

But it is equally important to get a feel for what is happening out in Camp, i.e. a feel for the real prevalence of hydatid disease in the Falkland sheep population.

You are killing about 60,000 sheep per year in Camp, and although not all of them are examined for hydatid, even the number of home-kills for mutton and dog tucker by far exceeds the numbers going through the Butchery (where they come to our notice). Yet we have had only 3 cysts reported to us from Camp, and only one of them from a farm that we had also detected as infected at the Butchery. It would seem to me that you are missing some cysts which occur on the farms.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between boil, bladder and hydatid cysts, and often we do not make a decision on a cyst until it has been thoroughly examined at the laboratory. I would urge everybody to send any doubtful cyst in to us for further examination - by doing that you are not showing a lack of knowledge in the hydatid field but displaying real concern for the way the campaign is going now.

Michael P Reichel November 1992

TUSSAC PLANTING - PORT HARRIET

Having recently held an Open Day on Tussac planting I thought there might be some interest to hear how we (The Department of Agriculture) fared when we planted two acres of Tussac in Port Harriet for the 'Tussac Grazing Trial'.

The single row Whip Tree Planter was taken to Port Harriet just as seen during the demonstration in Stanley. Whilst this machine had worked well in peat without any vegetative cover before we knew that we would probably have trouble keeping it in the ground (as happened at Open Day) and therefore went well armed with tractor weights with the aim of adding/subtracting weights to suit ground conditions. As we might have perhaps expected the first day was not very successful, despite all the extra weight (which incidentally included two members of staff whose names will remain anonymous) the planter still had a tendency to ride out of the ground at every slight lump or hollow, this problem was occuring through a design fault which allowed the body to pivot at the point where it joined the A-frame attachment for the tractor. Then to cap it off a piece of poor welding on the ground share parted which meant a return to Stanley. A quick visit to Gus Reid's garage and the planter was repaired and modified with the A-frame taken off its pivot bar and fixed onto the main frame.

Day two and success. The planter with the weight of the tractor now holding it firmly in the ground worked perfectly though some slight problems still occured in keeping the press wheels on their setting, this was mainly due to the material used in construction and could be easily modified later.

Once underway we were able to plant four half acre blocks with some 3000 plants in just under five hours, we thought this was good until day three, when as a condition for using the land we put in a days planting for the farm, some 4000 plants were put in in just four hours. The much faster work rate on the third day was simply due to the more straight foreward planting rather than having to be restricted to planting small areas which necessitates a lot of turnig at either end of a small block. Both areas planted were into an Astelia dominent sward overlying peat soil, no bare patches were present at all .

Another practical issue which will dictate the speed of planting is naturally the source of material to plant, on this occasion the source of plants were not too far away but the track was rough and it was taking three of us almost full time to pull and transport plants to keep the planter fully occupied.

From our experience we estimate that a farmer plus spouse should with reasonable conditions and accessability to planting material be able to plant between 3000 and 4000 plants per day.

O.Summers Director

WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 1992 HERITAGE YEAR

This will be held in the Woolshed at Fox Bay Village on 30th December 1992. Entries may be sent to Fox Bay c/o N. Knight, Coast Ridge Farm before the event, or brought to the woolshed on the day between 9.00am - 1.00pm. Judging will commence at 2.30pm - 4.00 pm and be by public ballot, except for the champion ram prize which will be judged by R.M.Pitaluga & P.C.Robertson. Prizes will be presented at 6.00pm in the woolshed.

PRIZE LIST

<u>Class 1 (A) Full Wool Ram Hoggett (from direct A.I. or imported</u> progeny):

1st Prize: Silver cup + £40.00 Presented by Cable & Wireless PLC 2nd Prize: £50.00 Presented by Falkland Landholdings. 3rd Prize: £25.00 Presented by the Farmers Association. 4th Prize: £10.00 Presented by Stanley Electrical.

<u>Class 1 (B) Full Wool Ram Hoggett (Local Progeny)</u>

1st Prize: Engraved Challenge Shield & Miniature, presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies + £75.00. Donated by Standard Chartered Bank.

2nd Prize: £50.00 Donated by Port Howard Farm.

3rd Prize: £25.00 Donated by the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association.

4th Prize: £10.00. Donated by R.M. Pitaluga & Family.

<u>Class 2 Full Wool Mature Ram</u>

1st Prize: Falkland (Woolsales) Challenge Cup + Replica Presented by Falkland Islands Wool Marketing.

2nd Prize: £50.00. Donated by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

3rd Prize: £25.00. Presented by Little Chartres Farm.

4th Prize: £15.00. Presented by Stanley Electrical.

Class 3 Champion Ram

1st Prize: Heritage Year Cup, presented by the Heritage Year Committee + Engraved Shield + £50.00. Donated by the Luxton Family, Chartres.

Runner Up: Heritage Year Cup, presented by the Heritage Year Committee + £50.00 donated by the Falkland Island Development Corporation.

Class 4 Hoggett Fleece

1st Prize: Figurine donated by the Falkland Islands Company.
2nd Prize: £60.00 Voucher donated by Falkland Farmers.
3rd Prize: £40.00 Voucher also donated by Falkland Farmers.
4th Prize: £15.00 Fuel Voucher presented by Stanley Services.

<u>Class 5 any fine wool fleece other than hoggett.</u>

1st Prize: Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by H.E. The Governor + Replica donated by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

2nd Prize: £50.00 Presented by Falkland Landholdings. 3rd Prize: £30.00 Presented by B.T. Construction. 4th Prize: £20.00 Also presented by B.T. Construction.

<u>Class 6 any 'B' type wether fleece.</u>

1st Prize: Engraved Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm + Replica presented by Ursula Wanglin. 2nd Prize: £50.00 Donated by Southern Cross Social Club. 3rd Prize: £30.00 Also donated by Southern Cross Social Club. 4th Prize: £20.00 Also donated by Southern Cross Social Club.

Additional Prizes

Rosettes will be presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Prize winners in all six classes except for class 3 where a supreme Champion Rosette is given. These were all provided by Jim McAdam, Department of Agriculture, N. Ireland.

For 1st., 2nd., & 3rd., Prize winners in Class 2 Trophies are donated by Peter Short, Falkland Supplies.

A Challenge Cup for the farm with most points in all classes is donated by Mr Owen Summers.

Additional Competitions.

Frazzle will again be appearing in the 'Guess the Weight Competition', by kind permision of Mrs J. Halliday. Prize for the 'Best Guess' from Lakelands Farm.

The winner of the 'Fleece Weight' competition will receive £25.00 from Lake Sulivan Farm, whilst the winner of the 'Micron Estimate' competition will receive £25.00 from Argos Fishing Company.

The Department of Agriculture will be sponsoring a sheep judging competition for the under 21's.

The Falkland Mill, Mrs Grizelda Cockwell and Mrs Joyce Halliday have all kindly knitted sweaters, these items will be auctioned for the show funds after the prize giving.

F.I.G.A.S. Have once again generously agreed to fly fleeces free of charge.

N.KNIGHT CHAIRMAN W.F.R & F.S.

CONTAINING ODDMEMTS.

Every working wool shed needs containers for oddments such as Stained Pieces and Necks. Loose wool packs lying on the floor and wool packs fixed to walls with nails are adequate but not ideal. Baskets are excellent if you are lucky enough to have enough of them. Wool pack frames are very useful as they are easy to fill and can be filled to the brim. Wool pack frames can either support the pack from the inside and be designed to pull out of the full pack, or they can support the pack from the outside and lift over the top of the full pack. The packs are usually fixed to the frame by pushing the pack material onto a spike on the frame or by pushing a pin through the pack material into a hole in the frame. Anyway, if you are overwhelmed by a desire to build something or you are given a Meccano set for Christmas, try designing a wool pack frame!!!

The following picture illustrates a shed with several wool pack ("fadge") holders in operation.



R.H.B.Hall. November 1992.



In the last issue of the WOOL PRESS I reviewed a product called KERATEX (hoof hardener). Judy Summers has kindly sent me some information on supplies available from the U.K.

Distributed by:

EPC Ltd., 1 Friggle Street, Frome, Summerset, BAI1 5LH Phone: (0373) 62542 FAX: (0373) 51904

price: £14.95 (including VAT.) per 250ml bottle.



TUSSAC OPEN DAY

OCTOBER 1992

At Farmers Week it was suggested and agreed that a field day be held to demonstrate the practical mechanisation of Tussac planting. The date for the field day was the 2nd October, a bright and sunny one too! The response from farmers was very encouraging indeed and was reflected in not only the high attendance (for over 30 people came), but also in the discussions that took place throughout the day. Overall the day was a great success, although there were those who were less than enthusiastic at the end of the day. Lets hope that even these will be converted to the cause of Tussac.

A practical guide on Tussac was given to all and is available upon request from the department. The morning session was set aside for a 'hands-on' practical of both traditional hand planting and mechanical planting. Thanks go to Tim Miller for the loan of his double-row old type cabbage planter which was used on a site close to FIGAS, the single-row tree planter was tried on harder ground by Surf Bay. Both sites provided a good testing ground and showed the limitations of each planter. Before Farmers Association had their meeting the practical guide was discussed which provided all present with the opportunity to comment on the days activities.

The response after the day from those who attended is a great encouragement to all staff involved with the research on Tussac. After the shearing season, a survey sheet will be sent to all farmers seeking estimates on areas targeted for tussac planting, to assist the Department in helping each farm with replanting or management of existing Tussac.

The real test for the tree planter came a week or so later when we undertook to plant an area at Port Harriet for research grazing trials and the creation of a new Tussac plantation for the farm. Many thanks go to Roddy for this help and Ron Binnie for agreeing to use this land for the Department of Agriculture. Owen has written about the failures and successes of those three days and the modifications made to the tree planter. Make sure you read it - you don't know what you'll miss otherwise.

A thank you goes to Judy Summers and Tim Blake for supporting this field day and to all who came and made the day worth while.

The practical guide covered the following subjects:

Background on decline and research to date The value of Tussac Where to plant When to plant How to plant Grazing management Tips for better Tussac

FIFTEEN TIPS FOR BETTER TUSSAC

- * Securely fence off an area to be planted
- * Plant first on old Tussac peat, then reasonably fertile land with deep soil
- Avoid old grass fields, reseeds and areas very close to settlements
- Take sets from young, healthy bogs. If possible pre-soak roots in water or a weak solution of insecticide
 * Space plants 4-6 feet apart
- * Plant sets without fertiliser if on fertile ground
- * Fertiliser may be needed if planting on relatively poor ground
- Provide shelter for the developing plantation by making every 10th row close-spaced (2 feet apart) large sets from mature Tussac bogs
- * Plant sets in the winter, if possible. Later plantings will reduce the success of establishment
- * Avoid grazing plants until they are about 3 years old (3 foot height) and graze cautiously for a further 3 years
- * Graze only in the winter at 4 ewes (or 12 hoggs) per acre, taking care not to over graze
- * Apply a compound fertiliser to established plants if they look unthrifty
- * Control rust disease through spraying only as a last resort to ensure plant survival and improve establishment
- * Select sets from bogs known to have low rust levels

Keep a close watch on your plantation at all times

THE TIME TAKEN TO PLANT CORRECTLY AND WITH CARE AT THE START WILL BE REPAYED IN THE FUTURE WITH A TUSSAC PLANTATION THAT WILL, WITH CARE, PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY FORAGE AND LAST FOR GENERATIONS.

** The practical guide is available on request ** from the Department

GERRY HOPPE DECEMBER 1992

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THE SUPPLEMENT INDEX THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS ISSUE OF THE WOOL PRESS WAS COMPILED BY TROYD BOWLES THE EDITORS THE WOOL PRESS

Following the recent comments in Legco regarding farm diversification I would like to add my two-pennyworth on this topic.

Firstly, I do wish that the idea of exporting Falkland produce (i.e. sheepmeat) to UK could be knocked on the head once and for all. You only have to look at any UK farming paper to see what problems UK producers have in marketing their produce. To continue thinking that Falkland sheepmeat (basically cull sheep), slaughtered under typical Falkland conditions could find a market in UK is ludicrous. I personally doubt if even the pet-food industry would be interested. Equally to talk of giving this away to those in need is ridiculous, the EC will not give it's own surplus production away so I don't think we could expect any help or encouragement there.

I would not wish to get involved in the question of whether the average sheep farmer has time to diversify other than to say that I believe that there would be certain times of year when sheepwork and an alternative enterprise would clash over available labour.

Regarding diversification into pigs and poultry (both of which are under almost constant discussion here at Beckside), I believe this would certainly mean intensification. Apart from the capital cost of suitable livestock, which would need to be imported, consideration would also need to be given to accommodation. My experience here in the Falklands indicates that extensive/outdoor pigs or poultry are non-starters. Physical and climatic conditions do not allow these animals to be kept outside during the winter if you expect any production from them. Much of the land used would turn into a mud-bath and the animals would use any feed available simply to survive, rather than utilise if for production.

To expect reasonable production from livestock it must be adequately fed and this would involve either local production of suitable feed, involving time, machinery, seed and fertiliser, or purchased feed which again involves capital outlay, in addition to fluctuating exchange and freight rates, and most iniquitous, varying CAP Intervention Board levies if purchasing from UK.

Two final points, first, anyone contemplating going into alternative livestock production, intensive or extensive, should bear in mind the impending Livestock Welfare recommendations / regulations and what may be required to comply with them.

Finally, as a local producer whose sole market is within these Islands I believe that if FIG wishes to encourage local production for local consumption it must consider <u>actively</u> <u>discouraging</u> import of comparable products.

MALCOLM ASHWORTH STANLEY DAIRY LIMITED DECEMBER 1992

ELECTRIC FENCING (part one)

I have "lifted" this article from the September issue of The Sheep Farmer. Not everyone has moved toward electric fencing, or has had much to do with it, so I thought this article would give those people a better understanding of it.

Wind generators and solar panels are the only practical method of powering electric fences in isolated places. Tony Cave-Penney describes the equipment available to operate the modern electric fence.

Batteries and mains electricity are the two main sources used to power electric fence energisers, but they can be assisted by wind or light.

The modern energiser is a clever, simple, yet sophisticated piece of equipment which can take the everyday rigours of farm use and abuse. Many energisers are constantly moved, dumped in vehicles and bumped across rough ground - yet they continue to work. Poor performance is often due to the power source. Small portable energisers give the shortest effective working distance and have the lowest ability to give a strong shock. These are commonly used to power a single strand of wire when strip grazing a field.

These types of energiser usually use dry batteries which have a limited life and are thrown away once spent. They work on the same principles as an ordinary torch battery and slowly run down, whether they are being used or not. These batteries contain mercury and therefore cause an environmental problem when they are thrown away. A few energisers have the ability to run on either dry or rechargeable batteries - this option should be a basic requirement when buying a new energiser.

AIR DEPOLARISING

New on the market is the air depolarising battery. To start the battery working a vent is opened to allow air to enter; once this is done the battery starts to produce a current. This type also has a major advantage in that the current can be stopped by scaling the air vents which will prevent the battery from discharging when not in use, thus extending its working life considerably. These batteries only cost a few pounds more to buy than standard dry batteries but their longevity makes them cheaper in the long run.

Environmentally they are highly approved because they use saline electrolytes with pure zinc electrodes and they contain no mercury. Like normal dry batteries, once they have fully discharged they have to be thrown away, but they are reported to have a longer life than the average battery.

Many farmers use old tractor or car batteries, but a word of warning - remember that they have already served their working life in a vehicle so they will not hold their charge so efficiently as a new battery and will therefore require more frequent charging. Lead acid batteries are still the most common in use today. The acid electrolyte is diluted sulphuric acid and the plates are lead grids packed with a grey paste of lead oxides. Topping up the solution is vital. Many are now sealed 'for life', but these will still need topping up when they become old. They require regular recharging to restore them to their working capacity. They must not be allowed to totally discharge as this will probably destroy the battery.

The plates are arranged alternatively positive and negative, they are joined together positive to negative to form a cell and batteries are usually made up with 3, 6 or 12 cells.

Most vehicle batteries are designed for engine starting where very high short bursts of current are the main requirements. So constant demands for small amounts of current to be continually withdrawn and recharged makes them less efficient.

There is now available a battery which has been especially designed for the leisure industry which is capable of being continually discharged and charged. This type should suit an electric fence system but, as yet, they have only been used on a limited scale.

CHARGING BATTERIES

Most farmers bring their batteries back to the farm to be recharged using a mains powered charger. To recharge batteries in the field, wind and/or solar panels can be employed. Wind generators have been on the market for many years and the smaller ones cost about £250. They are simple in concept but the more efficient ones have specially designed aerofoil section blades which are able to cope with moderate up to severe weather conditions. The blades are about three feet across for the smaller type of charger. Being fairly small they are easy to mount and require the minimum of maintenance.

These generators will start to charge a battery with wind speeds as low as 4mph. As the wind increases so the amperes increase – 10mph = 1 ampere, 20mph = 3 ampere, 30 mph = 5 ampere (figures taken for a Marlic WG 190).

Alternatively a solar panel could be used or one used in conjunction with a wind generator. A photovolataic panel consist of a number of silicon cells - usually 36 - connected internally in series. When light reaches the cells, electrons are caused to drift which produces electric current. This current varies with the size of the individual cells and the intensity of the light.

When the panel is exposed to daylight it will produce a fairly constant output, this means that even in low light of winter time a current is produced. For maximum efficiency they should face North in the Southern hemisphere. Panels vary in price depending on their size and output and start at around £200. They are very easy to install and the maintenance is simply ensuring that the surface of the panel is kept clean. Mains electricity will supply current to run the most powerful of all the energisers. Each energiser will run several miles of wire and give the animal the most effective shock even if the wire is slightly earthed through grass or other vegetation. It is easy to take the power from the energiser out to the required fence lines - a single covered heavy gauge wire (12 gauge) will do this well. If it is up to half a mile away it would be cheaper to erect a lead out wire than to buy a wind generator or solar panel, but the latter are really the only practical methods for isolated places.

LOOK OUT FOR PART 2 IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WOOL PRESS

MANDY McLEOD DECEMBER 1992

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VEGETABLE GRANT SCHEME

Although local produce now caters for a good deal of the civilian requirement for vegetables, large quantities are still imported from South America and UK. In 1990 the following vegetables were imported into the Islands:

Type of Vegetable	Weight Imported (kg)
Onions	16,460
Cabbage	630
Carrots	1,800
Leeks	376
Celery	55
Beetroot	100
Spring Onions	60
Cauliflower	290
Red peppers	40
Green Peppers	40
White Cabbage	260
Turnips	165
Cucumber	85
Lettuce	5
Tomatoes	409
Potatoes	49,250

The local requirement for lettuce and tomatoes is largely met by the existing output of the Market Garden, which also produces peppers and cucumbers. Virtually all the other crops could be grown locally. Perhaps the most significant figures are those for potatoes, onions and carrots, which could support a number of small or part-time businesses, especially bearing in mind that these are minimum requirements. A number of the other figures are almost certainly nothing like the maximum sales of each type and are probably only low because that type of vegetable does not travel well and/or is not readily available.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation Vegetable Grant Scheme is available to assist gardeners with the purchase of tools, equipment, polyhouses, shelter fencing, etc. Vegetable must be produced for sale locally, either to private individuals, hotels, restaurants or to visiting cruise or fishing vessels, for a period of three years. The Grant is a maximum of £3,000 which is released in two instalments, three months apart.

If you would like more information on the Vegetable Grant Scheme please contact FIDC by letter or telephone 27211.

FIRST EXPERIENCES ON AN AUSTRALIAN FARM

The first farm that Lee and I went to on our Australian exchange visit was about 180 km South of Adelaide. It had over 10,000 Merino sheep and almost 700 Poll Hereford cattle at its peak and covered just over 10,000 acres, 200 of which was still covered with bush. Three workers ran the farm, one of them being the manager. It was owned by a large wool processing company called Michells.

We worked there for six weeks and it was in this time that we got most of our experience on a typical Australian sheep farm. The first main job was shearing the ewes which took just over a week. Lee and I spent all that time out in the pens drenching sheep for worms, vaccinating for diseases and giving them a paint brand for flock identification. When we weren't doing that we were either helping to press up wool in capless packs or taking sheep away.

When the shearing was over we got all the clippies back in for dipping. In Australia there is a big louse problem so it is compulsory to dip your sheep off the shears each year. We used a spray dip and kept the sheep in for up to 2 minutes, then let them drain off into the reservoir so that the dip could be used again. You have to be sure that you have all the sheep gathered because one straggler could re-infect your whole flock. There is another way to do this job of dipping and that is to give them a back line which is a spray of liquid which soaks into the skin and kills of all lice. This would be done directly after shearing when you have them in the race for drenching, but it is very expensive.

Those were the two main jobs we did on this property. Some of the other jobs were: Weighing the young heifers to go out to the bulls. If they were under 270 kg they were classed as too small and were kept back until the next year; Rolling rocks into the ground with a 10 ton roller so that when the paddocks are reseeded the driller wouldn't hit any rocks and get broken; Ripping rabbit holes with a piece of equipment called a "grubber". This job was very time consuming, hot and laborious when working in a tractor in the high twenties. Rabbits are a big problem and if they are not dealt with they can eat a paddock right out and then move on to the next one.

The Australian farmers were very fussy with their stock. Every other day we had to go out on a motor bike to check for any sheep which had gone down or had been fly struck. Water troughs also had to be checked because there was no running water, it has to be drawn out of the ground with wind pumps. The water could be up to 120 ft down. As well as doing that we had to feed out bales of hay every Monday morning to all the cows which were having calves.

At the end of our six weeks it was time to leave and we had learnt a lot from the people who work on that farm and who had taught us "the Australian way". It was sad to leave as we had made good friends there and we owe them a lot.

J.HALLIDAY. NOVEMBER 1992

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* VIDEO LIBRARY *

The Department of Agricultures Video Library is undergoing a cataloguing process. This may take some time as it is my intention that all of the videos will be reviewed so that you will have a description of the contents and how we rate it.

During this period the Video Library will not be in use. I thought that it was better to close it this time of the year while you are all too busy to watch videos, then they will be available again for you for the long winter evenings after the season.

It would be appreciated and would make cataloguing quicker and easier, if all videos currently in camp which belong to the Department of Agriculture were returned as soon as possible.

> All farms will receive a new up-to-date catalogue upon completion.

MANDY McLEOD DECEMBER 1992

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EXCUSES EXCUSES

Christmas shoppin'? - you've got t' be jokin' go yourself have some fun best of luck just don't expect me t' come out on your spree I'd rather stay here and shovel muck...

Christmas shoppin'? - there's no way I'm comin' and I won't change m' mind if y' nag I would have t' get dressed put on a clean vest and follow y' round with a carrier bag...

Christmas shoppin'? - y' cannot be serious that Santa Claus bloke drives me mad y' know bloody fine that he's no friend of mine and he's cost me a fortune since I was a lad...

Christmas shoppin'? - it's only for townies and women who just like to spend yes I know Charlie goes but he's led by the nose and it drives the poor fella right round the bend...

Christmas shoppin'? - we're not <u>made</u> of money we haven't had <u>that</u> good a year the bank's playin' hell and y' know very well the heat in those shops always makes me feel queer...

Christmas shoppin'? - it's all aggravation all those people I'll end up half dead just leave me alone I'm quite happy at home I'll clean out the drains in the byre instead...

Christmas shoppin'? - who needs all these presents your mother young Willie let's see there's yourself of course pet and try not t' forget a cap and a new pair of wellies for me...

Christmas shoppin'? - I just haven't time dear I've got too many things to arrange so I'll stay here at home off y' go on your own ... here's a fiver and bring back some change...!

Extract from "Chewing the cud" by Henry Brewis

HENRY BREWIS BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM FARMING PRESS BOOKS CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH by Lisa Newman

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CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS?

LAMB MARKING; MINT SAUCE; STEER RIDING; GATHERING; SHEARING; HORSE RACING; VISITOR; CHRISTMAS DINNER; HOLIDAY; SPORTS; DANCES; GOSLINGS; PRESSING; LAMBS; DRINKS; CHRISTMAS CARDS; DECORATIONS; TURKEY; FOOT EVENTS; MAIDEN PLATE; BRANDY BUTTER; KINGS; MARZIPAN; BOXING DAY; PRESENTS; TREE; FAIRY; LIGHTS; PRIZE GIVING; TOYS; CHRISTMAS CAROLS; HOLLY; JESUS; MARY; SANTA; TRIFLE; BRANDY; GIFTS; CRACKER.

RECIPE PAGE

QUICKY CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE

THIS RECIPE GIVEN TO US BY DANUTA VALLER WILL BE IDEAL FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LEFT OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAKE TILL TOO LATE!

INGREDIENTS

2 oz glazed cherries (halved & rolled in flour) 7 oz self raising flour 1 lb tinned pineapple (drained and finely chopped) 5 oz butter 4½ oz soft brown sugar 2 large eggs (lightly forked) 2 tablespoons milk 12 oz dried fruit (sultanas, currants, raisins)

METHOD

Cream the butter and sugar together. Beat in the eggs a little at a time. Fold in the flour and milk followed by all the fruit.

Grease and line an 8" cake tin. Put the mixture into the tin with the centre slightly hollowed to give a smooth surface when risen.

Cook in the centre of an oven at 325°F or 160°C (gas mark 3) for about two hours till the cake is shrinking away from the sides of the tin. Cool in the tin and store refrigerated for up to two months.

This is a very moist cake which likes the top iced only.



I wish I'd been sober enough to appreciate last years Christmas dinner son! I could've been celebratin' with the lads again instead of tryin' to cook this years!!

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* YOUR CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD CLUES *

ACROSS

- 2. Sports event.
- 9. He phoned home!
- 11. Region.
- 12. Baby's bed
- 13. Imperial measure.(length) 15. Christmas Traditional Pastries.
- 17. Front or-Golfing shout. 7. Belongs to.
- 18. Land measurement.
- 19. Swerve or change direction. 9. Off white colour.
- 20. Large fortified drink. 10. Long, repetitive carol.
- 21. Us.
- 23. What Goslings grow into.
- 25. Alsatian.
- 26. Precious metal.

- 33. Too Big.
- 34. Suitable / Fitting. 26. Talk a lot.
- 36. Exist.

- 39. Raw Metal.
- 40. Childish thank you.
- 40. Childish thank you.
 41. Nuclear (Slogan abbrev.).
 43. One week after Xmas Day.
 47. Room.
 45. Golf ball support.
 36. 2nd Greek letter.
 39. Stripy antelope.
- 47. Room.

- 53. You kiss under it.
- 55. United Nations.
- 56. Crude black stuff.
- 57. Account.

- 57. Hoodanti58. French currency.57. Oak seed.61. Horse pace.59. New York.(init.).63. Individual.60. Dried fruit.64. Royal initials. 64. The Christmas Season.
 65. Christmas Bird.
 66. Alternatively
 70. Direct towards
- 66. Alternatively.

- 74. Practising Doctor.

- 78. Pertaining to. 83. New Island. 80. The shepherds followed one. 86. Foot note.
- 81. Her Majesty.
- 82. Father Christmas.
- 85. Industrious worker.
- 87. Automobile Association.
- 88. Traditional Falkland Island Christmas Dinner.
- 89. Multiple Sclerosis.

роми

- 1. You pull it at Christmas.
- 2. Alike.
- 3. Premium Bond computer.
- 4. Nautical ropes passed through an eye. 5. Colder.
- 6. One who does.
- 8. Present.

 - 14. Midday.
 - 16. Physical Education.

 - Tiny.
 Day after Christmas Day.
- 28. Idolised brave person.24. There are a lot of these29. Visual telephone message!around Falkland Waters.30. Water place.25. He looked out on the Feast of Stephen.

 - 27. Live.
- 37. Saturday & Sunday.
 28. Castrated, as in horse.
 39. Raw Metal

 - 32. Aromatic gum for burning.

 - 42. Above.
- 48. Abominable Snowman.
 49. Packet (abbrev.).
 50. Before Jesus was born.
 52. Flights to S.A. (airline).
 42. Boove.
 44. Rudolph's nose colour.
 45. Christmas event in town.
 46. Quickly immerse.
 50. Coconut & Chocolate bar.

 - line). 51. 53. Arom-of the th 54. Pig meat. 57. Oak seed. 79. New York. red fru 53. Aromatic resin given by one of the three kings.

 - 70. Direct towards.

84. The place / time.

67. Measure of acidity. 72. Milk product - lovely on 68. Year (abbrev.).
69. Garment of Hindu Women.
71. Christmas songs.
73. Simple fastening devices.
74. Cured Bork

SOLUTION IN NEXT MONTH'S

WOOL PRESS

ISSUE OF THE

81. Cured Pork.

UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!

WORK

IT'LL NEVER

MAD TURKEY DISEASE! MAD TURKEY DISEASE!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

MAD TURKEY DISEASE! MAD TURKEY DISEASE!

UNCLEAN!

UNCLEAN!



LAST MONTHS DIFFERENCES

1. Ram has one horn missing; 2. Extra frown lines on the ewe; 3. Lamb in ewes "arms" has a shorter tail; 4. Lamb behind ewe has extra movement lines around the head; 5. Ewe has a coloured "shoe"; 6. Second lamb from the left has an extra "arm"; 7. third lamb from left has a hoof missing; 8. Fourth lamb has extra wool ruffles around his neck; 9. Lamb in the front has left ear missing; 10. Lamb in ewes "arms" has an extra "tear drop"above his head;



And now, the Rev. 'Wrinkly' Robags is proud to present the first ever reproduction of the shortest · of the gospels describing the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, recently discovered near the Red Sea.

Gospel According to a Sheep

CHAPTER 1

A NDit came to pass that it was a day much like any other. And we were eating grass. 2 And eating more grass. And then moving over and eating another bit of grass.

3 And standing around, looking like we were about to eat another bit of grass.

4 And then doing exactly that: eating another bit of grass.

5 And suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone around, and we stopped eating for a moment.

6 And the angel said, "Be not afraid: for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will come to all people;

7 For unto you this day is born in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord?"

8 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

9 "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace among men."

10 At which point, since there had been no mention of any extra grass, or anything relevant to sheep, we went back to eating.

11 But the shepherds did go unto Bethlehem and found a child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.

12 And they were filled with great joy, and rejoiced and said one unto another: "We have seen the Lord: honoured are we amongst the children of Israel: let us celebrate with great feasting."

13 We sheep had been doing that all along of course. I was already well into my six

thousand four hundred and thirteenth mouthful of grass that week.

14 And much discussion was there what they should eat at the feast, and finally did they decide upon lamb, for Jesus was the Lamb of God.

15 And so they came back into the field to pick a lamb, but it was not lambing season, so they did look about for a sheep.

16 And they did find one and he was succulent, and he was tasty, and he was killed and eaten that first of all Christmas days.

17 No prizes for guessing which sheep that was. Oh no.

18 There was a lot of "sheep may safely graze" stuff *afterwards*, of course, when they were feeling well fed and holy, but it didn't do me much good.

CHAPTER 2

AND guess what happened to *me* three days later. Nothing.

HERE ENDS THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO A SHEEP





P/WOO/1#42



WOOL PRESS

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TO BE UP-DATED ANNUALLY



The Wool Press is published by the Department of Agriculture Editors - M.J.McLeod and R.H.B.Hall


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