

THE WOOL PRESS

July / August 2017

Volume 306

Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

tross@doa.gov.fk

In this issue...

Strategic Use Of Nitrogen Fertilisers Pre Lambing - *page 3*

Staff News - *page 4*

Pasture & Fodder Crop Variety Trial – A Nutritional Perspective - *page 6*

German Cockroach - *page 7*

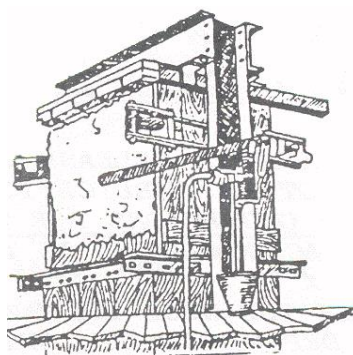
Financial Support for Self-Build Jetties and Ramps - *page 9*

Island Invasives Conference 2017 - *page 10*

Saladero News - *page 12*

FIDC 'Fresh For The Future' Horticulture Project - *page 13*

Farmer's Week - *page 16*



Edited By Teenie Ross

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the winter edition of the Wool Press which looks as though it may be being sent out in the first month of spring. This is not the fault of the compiler I hasten to add; she does her best to get the articles produced in as timely a manner as possible – but sometimes has to resort to a bit of arm bending!

Anyway the best things in life are worth waiting for and there will be plenty to interest you in this edition of the WP. It opens with a brief report on this year's Farmers' Week and is closely followed by some introductions of new staff members (James Bryan and Ross Milner) and a farewell from a departing staff member – Regi Peterson. On the agronomy front Sue Street brings together some information on the growing and feeding of different types of oats and James provides some useful advice on the strategic use of nitrogen on pastures in the run up to lambing; this is the time when ewes really need to be feeding as well as possible both for themselves and for their unborn lambs. Biosecurity and invasive alien species figure quite prominently in this edition with a report on German cockroaches by Steve McLean and an informative account of an Islands Invasives conference in Dundee by Ross James. The full page biosecurity poster of a brown marmorated stink bug on page 15 was chosen to highlight a possible future alien invasive species – not yet in the Islands – but rapidly spreading around the world. Well – stop press – it has already arrived here and was found just last week in a second hand car imported from the UK but previously imported from Japan. The UK thinks it is free of the pest whereas it is known to occur in Japan. Fortunately it was spotted on arrival and we hope that measures taken will prevent it becoming established in the Islands.

For those of you who are in need of a new jetty I recommend that you read the article by MLA Rendell on page 9 and, if you are thinking about going into horticultural production seriously, it sounds as though FIDC is putting on a useful training programme at the end of September - so sign up for that now. Mandy brings you up to date with what has been happening at Saladero and the final few pages are given over to various annual reminders – start of the trout fishing season, start of the shearing season and start of the burning season (if required). I think that tells us that spring is just around the corner and that always helps to lift my spirits and, hopefully, yours too.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) release all copyrights on content to The Wool Press.
Other publications are invited to quote freely.

However, such quotations are to be made in context and the Wool Press must be acknowledged as the source.

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

© Crown Copyright 2017

STRATEGIC USE OF NITROGEN FERTILISERS

PRE LAMBING

By James Bryan

You will all know the benefits of adding a nitrogen fertiliser to help you grow more grass. However it is the use of this strategically, that will help you make more money.

Plant available nitrogen in Falkland Island soils is in very limited supply. This however becomes even more so, by the end of winter, especially a wet one! This is due to the nitrogen moving with the moisture downwards through the soil profile; eventually it moves out of the root zone of the pasture. Due to the pasture not being in active growth, it cannot uptake any of the nitrogen before it moves away from the roots. As the soil



starts to warm up and plants start to become active again, they are looking for nitrogen, hence, why sometimes in early spring the pasture on the greens and reseeded looks a bit yellow, because it is nitrogen deficient. This is where the application of a form of nitrogen such as Urea, DAP or Ammonium Sulphate can be beneficial in filling a feed deficit.

Nitrogen should always be applied to pastures that are growing, as it is a growth enhancer, rather than a growth stimulator. Growth of most perennial grasses will start when soil temperature increases above 5 degrees Celsius. There is a direct linear relationship between the amount of N applied and the amount of herbage grown as a result (although this is dependent on a few factors, such as existing soil N status, soil temp, moisture and other nutrient levels in the soil). However growth responses of up to 15kgDM per every kg of N applied can be expected in optimum conditions. So if you apply 100kg Urea/ha which contains 46kg of Nitrogen, then you could potentially expect to grow up to 690kg of extra grass/ha over a 6 week period. Working backwards, this would work out to growing an extra 16kgDM on average per day, this would be on top of any pasture expected to be grown without the addition of extra fertiliser.

Research shows that extra feed through late pregnancy and early lactation can be some of the most valuable feed you can supply to your sheep. This is due to the more you can improve ewe intake, the higher your weaning weights of the lambs will be. Studies in NZ have shown that once pasture dips below 3cm long ewe intake decreases. In other words, the more grass per bite the ewe takes, the higher the intake.

The best time to apply this nitrogen is generally the earlier the better as long as conditions are right (soil temp 6 degrees and rising along with moisture not limiting or too excessive), however this should be with the aim of growing extra feed for the first half of lactation. Nitrogen should be applied approximately 1 month before the mid-point of lambing, as this is where the real pressure starts to come on with feed demand. Post this point, the grass should be starting to catch up to demand naturally, as soil temperatures begin to increase.

STAFF NEWS

James Bryan, Agricultural Advisor (Agronomy)

Hello all.

Straight into the thick of the new job, starting Monday of Farmers week, was great to meet most of you there. A little bit about myself, born and bred on a hill country sheep and beef farm in the heart of the North Island of New Zealand, we run about 2400 Romney/Perendale cross breeding ewes plus about 800 replacements, alongside a commercial herd of about 150 Angus cows, finishing most progeny to the local meat companies.



Post school, I attended Smedley Station, a cadet training school based in the Hawkes Bay for 2 years, learning most practical aspects of NZ sheep farming – shearing, fencing, horse breaking, dog work, tractor work etc. Following on from Smedley, I went to Lincoln University in the South Island to study a B.Com.Ag and spent my summers and holidays working on some of Canterbury's high country stations.

After University I did something a little bit different and spent 2 years working on and off in Japan, hosting a sheep dog trialling and sheep shearing show, catering for audiences up to 2000 people, it was a real change of culture and learnt a lot about how some of the international markets perceive agricultural production. Since then I have been working for a Fertiliser co-op in NZ, firstly as a fertiliser advisor before taking over the agrichemicals and seed portfolio for the company for the Upper North Island, looking after both sheep and dairy farmers. I have also had experience working with vegetable production, working as NZ Business Manager for Seminis Seeds NZ.

Being from NZ, I love my rugby, and enjoy getting outdoors -hunting, fishing. As well as beginning to play a bit of squash. It is great to be here in the Falklands and I am really looking forward to new challenges in what is a new environment for me. Also looking forward to getting out and meeting you all on your places and seeing what the Falkland Islands are about!

Ross Milner, Veterinary Officer



My wife and I and our dogs arrived to a warm Falklands welcome from New Zealand at the beginning of May where we had spent a couple of years working and spending time with family.

Prior to New Zealand, for many years I had my own mixed practice based in Chester and North Wales. I also had a small holding and a prize winning herd of Pedigree Welsh Black cattle and my wife Elizabeth had 2 small flocks of

sheep. One flock was the rare breed Grey Faced Dartmoor, with very long course "carpet wool" fleeces. The sheep shearers used to curse when they saw them as they were hard work to shear. They were however a very hardy breed with high lambing percentages despite the harsh climate where we lived in Bwlchgwyn, the highest Village in Wales. The last 3 winters we lived there it went down to minus 25 degrees centigrade on a regular basis, with 6 feet of snow so the Falkland Islands are quite warm in comparison! The other breed of sheep we farmed was South Down. The wool on this breed is a bit better, but they were famous in the time of King Henry for producing the best mutton in the world. The flavour of the lamb from this breed is still

second to none.

We also kept a few welsh section D horses which thrived on the poor pastures high in the hills; they were handy for rounding up the cattle. Running a busy 3 vet practice and farming cattle, sheep, horses and keeping chickens meant I ended up like many farmers today with 2 full time jobs, so in the end we decided to have a change, sold up and set off to explore a bit of the world.

It has certainly been an interesting first few months in the Falkland Islands, many of the diseases that are a curse in other parts of the world do not exist here at all. It has become hard wired into my brain to check all dogs and cats for fleas but there are none here at all. TB in cattle, foot rot and liver fluke in sheep, all diseases with devastating effects in North Wales are non-existent here. Bio security is a vital part of farming in order to keep Falkland livestock disease and pest free.

Like many other people coming to work in The Falkland Islands, I've ended up doing all sorts of new and interesting things I've not done before. The Veterinary Services Department have an important role to play in public health. This involves not only work in abattoirs and cutting plants like I have done previously back in The UK, but also climbing up rope ladders

up the sides of ships to make sure fish are caught and processed safely and hygienically as well. I spent half my child hood growing up in Cape Town South Africa, so seeing penguins and Southern Right Wales made me feel right at home.

Another novel training exercise involved stabbing poor fellow vet Zoe Fowler with a big needle. She was fortunately very understood about this as we needed to learn how to take blood from blood donors at KEMH. The vets are the standby crew in the event of an emergency when blood donors are suddenly needed.

Finally a big thank you to Clint Short and FLH at Walker Creek for their assistance in the most unusual farm visit I have ever done. Jointly with Falklands Conservation, an expedition was mounted to investigate a beached whale at some distance from the road. The whale was extensively measured, samples of muscle, blubber, skin scrapes taken for research to learn more about these unusual mammals and DNA samples were sent to a scientist in The USA .

I'm looking forward to exploring The West and meeting more of the farming community, and as spring approaches, the arrival of lambs, calves, foals and penguins , so hopefully see you all soon.

Regi Peterson - See You Later...

After 18 months with the DoA it is time to say goodbye. For now at least.

It is always difficult to say goodbye, and even though I have done it a few times now, it never gets any easier. It has been a real treat (mixed with some challenging moments) to work with such an incredible team of people at DoA and I will miss them all very much.

I have been fortunate to meet quite a few of you during my time here and every time you left me amazed at how welcoming, curious and enthusiastic you are! Thank you for being you!

Where to next you might wonder. Well, funny story, I'm moving from one Island to another; My partner and I are heading to Jersey in the Channel Islands, where he has taken on an ex-

citing position in the local quarry. At this point I have nothing lined up and I'm actually not convinced I will go back to geology, but we will see what happens! Will I go back to agriculture? Never say never.

We have enjoyed our time in the islands and made some amazing friends. There are still places we would like to visit, so we obviously have to come back. We are sad to go, but at the same time excited for the new adventures ahead!

If you are ever in Europe and fancy a visit to Jersey, get in touch, I would love to see you.

I wish you all the best of luck in the future, and hope to see you all at some stage.

Pasture & Fodder Crop Variety Trial

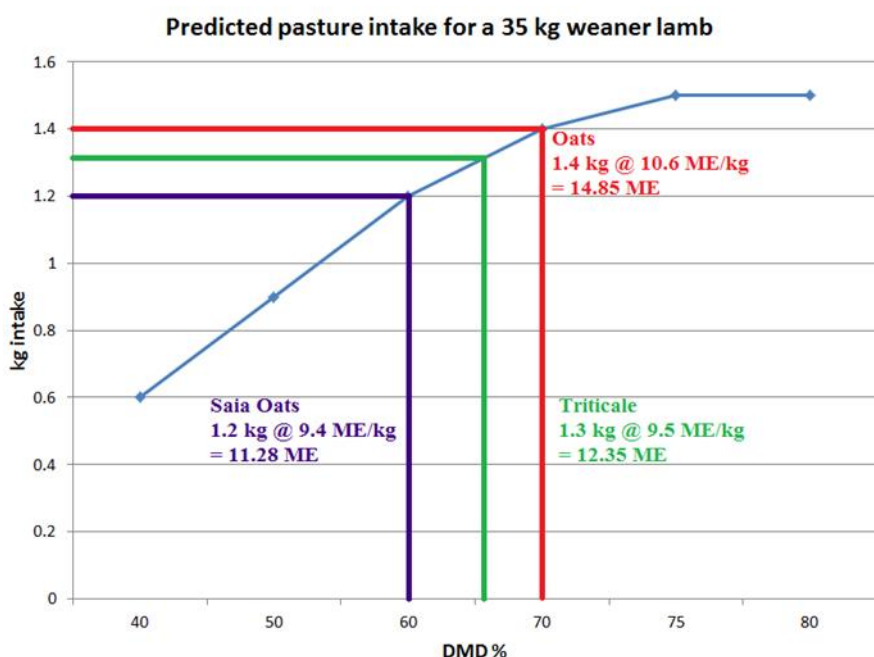
A Nutritional Perspective

By Sue Street

Following on from the article Adam wrote in a previous Wool press and from his presentation at Farmer's Week, I have compiled some information in regards to the feed analysis and comparison of three pasture varieties, Oats (traditional), Saia Oats and Triticale as a feed for weaner lambs.

It can be seen in the table and figure below, traditional oats are more digestible and have higher metabolisable energy compared to the other two diets. This means a weaner animal can increase live weight at a higher rate compared to Saia oats and triticale.

Diet	Traditional Oats	Saia Oats	Triticale
Parameter			
Digestibility (%)	70.7	61.9	64.1
Metabolisable energy (MJME)	10.6	9.4	9.5
Dry Matter (%)	30.71	29.45	37.99
Protein (%)	9.34	9.73	8.73
Yield (kg DM/ha)	3663.3	4669.9	2387.9



However, there are differences in yield between the three different feeds. Saia oats produce 4669.9kg DM per hectare, which is almost double that of triticale and also 1000kg more than traditional oats.

So what does this mean? This means that although the nutritive value of the Saia oats is less than the traditional oats, weaner sheep can gain more weight per hectare compared to the other feeds, or weaner sheep can gain weight at a slower rate, but over a greater period of time compared to the other feeds.

In summary, traditional oats has a higher weight gain per head per day, while Saia oats produces a higher weight gain per hectare. So when comparing different feed types, digestibility, ME and yield play an important role in determining what you want from a feed, be it short term grazing with high gain, or long term grazing but with long term gain.

If you would like more anymore information on how to compare feeds for weight gain, please get in contact on ssstreet@doa.gov.fk.

GERMAN COCKROACH

By Steve McLean

Infestations of German cockroaches (*Blatta germanica*) have been confirmed in a couple of properties within Stanley. In both sites there were numerous individuals and the populations included nymphs (offspring) of various life stages which lead us to conclude that these were established infestations that had been growing over the recent months.

B. germanica is a cosmopolitan pest that is thought to have originated in north Africa, and now enjoys near worldwide distribution, being present on every continent (except Antarctica) and on many major islands. They prefer to live in dark, warm, humid, confined places close to food and moisture sources and can be found in residential and commercial kitchen environments, and bathrooms. They are unable to tolerate cold temperatures and cannot survive in locations away from humans or human activity.

They are omnivorous scavengers and are attracted particularly to meats, starches, sugars, and fatty foods. They will eat table scraps, pet food and other household items such as book bindings and leather.

Whilst they do not bite or sting and are not poisonous, they can spread disease due to their preference for feeding and living in damp and unsanitary places such as sewers and drains. They are nocturnal insects and will contaminate more food than they will eat during their nightly foraging activity.

An adult *B. germanica* is 10-15 mm long, brown to black; with two distinct parallel bands running the length of the pronotum (body). The average life cycle for a male is 130 days and 150 days for a female. The female will produce up to 5 ootheca (egg case) in her lifetime and will carry her egg case in her abdomen until her eggs are ready to hatch, when the eggs are fully developed she will drop the egg case and the eggs will hatch approximately 24hrs later. After hatching the nymphs will moult up to 6 times depending on conditions and will grow into a mature adult in 50-60 days.

If you see one of these in or around your property then please contact the Biosecurity team immediately Telephone: 27355, email biosecurity2@doa.gov.fk. Small numbers might be controlled by spraying with a suitable pesticide



but an infestation will need to be dealt with by a professional pest control service.

Like most things prevention is better than cure and you can dramatically reduce the chances of attracting this insect by removing potential food sources (they will eat table salt and bars of soap), ensuring that food preparation areas are thoroughly cleaned and there are no food crumbs left on floors or surfaces and that food is placed in airtight containers.

Please be aware that while they prefer a habitat that is warm and humid they will move around during their foraging activities and could well end up in boxes, bags and in clothing, so please check any items that are leaving your household for any signs of insects or egg cases to help prevent further spread.

July 17

German Cockroach

What is it? The German cockroach (*Blatta germanica*) is one of the most widely distributed species of cockroach. Originally from north Africa, it now has a near global distribution range and can be found anywhere there is human activity.

Where might I find it? They prefer to live in dark, warm, humid, confined places close to food and moisture sources. They can be found in residential and industrial buildings in kitchen and bathroom areas.

What does it eat? It is an omnivorous scavenger and will eat table scraps, pet food and other household items such as book bindings and leather

Is it poisonous? No, and it doesn't bite or sting; however it can spread disease by contaminating food that it comes into contact with.

What to do if I find one?

Please report it to the Biosecurity section of the Department of Agriculture immediately.

Email: biosecurity2@doa.gov.fk or telephone 27355

Try to contain it as best you can. It can be killed with insect spray. However an infestation will require eradication by a professional pest control service.



CONTAIN IT. KILL IT. REPORT IT.

www.bugs.co.fk



Falkland Islands
Government

Department of Agriculture
bugDatabase



Synergy
Information Systems

Financial Support for Self-Build Jetties and Ramps

By Phyl Rendell MLA

In May this year Executive Council approved an interim policy in regards to financial support for the building of jetties and ramps at locations where the *Concordia Bay* currently makes calls. PWD plan to undertake a full survey of all the facilities around the Camp and consider the way forward for any major new builds but this will take some time. So MLAs have agreed to an interim policy until PWD completes its review. The policy is planned to go some way to support landowners that are prepared to make improvements to facilities, thus making the delivery of cargo more efficient and safer for operators. A policy has been agreed whereby funds can be released by PWD to those meeting the following conditions:

- An application will need to be made to the Director of Public Works asking for the funding required. This can be done via letter or electronically.
- Director of Public Works will then determine the application based on the below criteria. Any appeals to the Decision made by the Director Public works will be made to the Transport Advisory Committee. TAC will then make recommendations to ExCo.

- Any award will be capped at a maximum of £25,000.
- Only 50% match-funding will be awarded (e.g. FIG will fund half of any development).
- Bids can include costs for materials, contracted labour (at a maximum £15 hourly rate), plant hire (at an agreed rate to be charged when in use), freight and other justifiable and related expenses.
- The application will need to demonstrate that the FIG Public Works Department has approved the design.
- The application will need to demonstrate that Workboat Services Ltd have accepted the design.
- Applications can only be made by destinations routinely visited as part of the Workboat Services contract that is in force at the time.
- The liability for the work will sit with the land-owner and/or applicant.
- No retrospective payments will be considered.

Any questions and applications can be directed to the Director of Public Works. A copy of the ExCo paper (68/17P) containing the full details can be obtained by contacting Gilbert House.



Island Invasives Conference 2017

By Ross James

Some 300 Delegates from 44 countries attended the Island Invasives Conference in Dundee in July, and among them were some familiar faces, and friends of the Falklands.

The conference was hosted by the South Georgia Heritage Trust and Dundee University, and was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal, who spoke warmly about her visits to South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. The conference was addressed by Lord Gardiner, the UK minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, who spoke about his commitment to biosecurity, and pledged his support to the UK overseas territories.

“Invasive non-native species threaten the survival of plants and animals around the world and conferences like this are vital for sharing global expertise and bringing countries together to tackle the problem... We are helping our overseas territories protect their precious plants and wildlife and the UK will keep investing and working with the international community and other partners to defend biodiversity at home and abroad.” Lord Gardiner.

Sally Poncet and Ken Passfield (Island LandCare/Antarctic Research Trust) presented their research showing that rodent eradication and habitat restoration brilliantly increases the number of coastal birds but cautioned that rats can swim in excess of 800 metres between islands, even in our cold waters, which is further than has previously been thought possible. This means that rat-free islands within 800 metres of rat infested areas, are at risk of invasion from these very capable swimmers. The Falklands can boast to more than 80 island eradications, but of those 23 have suffered re-invasion via rats swimming from nearby islands!

Esther Bertram and Ross James represented Falklands Conservation and FIG, and took the opportunity to meet with colleagues on the UK Government's biosecurity steering group to discuss an exciting new project by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat which



aims to support the overseas territories in developing their biosecurity frameworks, and therefore safeguard the environment and economy against invasive species and pathogens.

Other friends of the Falklands spoke during the conference, with Peter Carey delivering a fascinating talk about the simultaneous eradication of rats, mice and rabbits on the Bense Islands which was attempted last year, and Colin Clubbe delivered a keynote presentation on invasive plants, and spoke about the fantastic habitat restoration work being done by Falklands Conservation and others. Norbert Maczey presented a poster session about CABI's work with the earwig biological control project, illustrating that the Falklands can showcase skills, expertise and experience in all areas of the field from invasive mammals, plants and invertebrates.

Perhaps more importantly, there were inspiring presentations on ground-breaking work being undertaken elsewhere, and the lessons learned and contacts made will help the Falklands with more challenging invasive species work in the future.

Collaborations and friendships were forged, knowledge and information was exchanged, all of which will benefit the Falklands by strengthening our biosecurity to reduce the risk of invasive species arriving, and to help us better manage the eradication and control of those species which have already crossed our borders.



Falklands Conservation Charity Ball 2017

7:00pm

Friday 22nd September 2017

*Champagne reception and canapes,
2 course meal with complimentary wine,
Auction and live entertainment from*

ESPANGLIH

Tickets £45 per person

Raffle tickets £10

**Tickets will be sold in tables of 6 from 12:30pm on Friday 1st
September by phone 22247 only.
Raffle tickets on sale now, drawn on Monday 25th September.**

**Auction items will be available to view at The Malvina House Hotel
from Saturday 16th September, online at
www.falklandsconservation.com and on our Facebook page**

Sealed bids will be taken at the Malvina, FC office or email
adminassist@conservation.org.fk for a sealed bid slip. You do not
have to attend the ball to place a sealed bid on any item.

***Sponsored by Consolidated Fisheries Ltd. and special thanks to the
following sponsors and donors...***



Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

Here we are again, daylight hours are getting longer at last.

The day I gathered the ewe hogs it was snowing very heavy but calm and they came down in good time compared to the first few times, I reweighed them as had found a few extras that had appeared, possibly had been around the crates to see if the grass was greener on Goose Green side! After they were weighed they were drenched and then taken to a new camp.



After the first lot of snow we had I had a few burst pipes in the shed so that was a bit of a manic time trying to sort that out. Digging out under the shed is progressing well and starting to look better.

The rams were taken off ewes during and straight after farmer's week, depending on when they were put out. The thirteen lots of joined ewes are now all back together. They have been weighed again, and shortly will be condition scored also.



Farmer's week has been and gone. The week started with the expo in the FIDF Hall with a large selection of stands to visit, and time to stock up on free pens! If you were lucky enough and got there early there were even free burgers from the FIMCo stand, a new brand they are trialing. Over the week there were some interesting topics touched upon and I think one that was very well presented and interesting was Falkland shears with Vikki Lee, Pilar Castro and Reba Peck.

The coring and grabbing demonstration on FIPASS with Lucy, Vikki, Rodney and Ginny was also very interesting, and the double dumping machine was pretty impressive also.

Young people in agriculture also was well presented and I would like to see the Youth Training scheme come back to life again if possible. There is so much to learn about Agriculture and if there are willing school leavers around they need to be encouraged as much as possible.

I spent a morning at Goose Green when Zoe, Regi and Ross were scanning ewes.

Saladero Ewes are due to be crutched on the 2nd August and then they will be scanned on the 16th August.



James and Sue were out last week and we went around the camps checking food, ditches and shelter to use them for lambing camps as we have 13 different lots to lamb and will keep them separate until they have finished lambing, in the hope it may make mothering up easier.

James also has been looking over the reseeds and making plans for them.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Regi; while I haven't worked with her for too long it's been a good laugh knowing her, especially her rallying everyone from the AG Dept and acting Governor and various other people together for a selfie at Government House!

Blue Beach Farm

10 X 19 month Angus heifers for sale £1.20/kg suitable for breeding this summer.

Agri-GaP will be shipping a Nitrogen flask from New Zealand in a few months, if anyone would like to add straws please get in contact.

Hew Grierson

Email: bluebeachfarm@horizon.co.fk

Phone: 32235



FIDC 'Fresh for the Future' horticulture project – training programme available to Falklands growers

By Anne Wagner-Gras

YOU could make YOUR farm - or garden - part of a programme that will see more and better fresh produce available here. That's a great business opportunity, with huge social benefits.

Fresh for the Future Report – a range of opportunities to grow fruits and vegs in the Falklands

What are the prospects for growing more fresh fruit and vegetables here, for the local market? Can we all be happier and healthier, with more fresh produce variety at our shops, in the gardens and on our plates? Are there new or improved business opportunities in horticulture, for anyone to join in?

These and other horticulture questions emerged over time from the wider Import Substitution Programme which has been on the Development Corporation's agenda since 2011. With two signifi-

cant initiatives on-going in market gardening and egg production and a patchwork of small fruit and veg growers across the Islands, 2016 was the year FIDC made Horticulture its focus with a view to really identifying and empowering locals to step into the field of import reduction.

Specialist consultants were brought in to give FIDC and its clients a clear view on crops, markets, technologies and relevant scales for all these. They examined local supply chains for horticulture products and the potential for market development, aiming at clear recommendations on what could be achieved in the Falkland Islands.

As a result of their visit, FIDC published the report - Fresh for the Future – available on line on FIDC's website; <http://www.fidc.co.fk/library/project-reports/300-fresh-for-the-future-final-print>

It identifies in a well-documented way the opportunities to grow more fruits and vegetables in the Falklands.

Horticulture training programme – Stanley 25th to 28th September 2017

The Development Corporation has continued to drive the process, with Martin Emmett scheduled to come back to the Falklands the last week of September to deliver a generic horticultural training program to develop skills that will apply to a range of production situations and assist in optimising crop performance.

This is a great opportunity for those engaged in commercial production and amateurs with some experience in producing food crops to get access to bespoke horticulture advice from an internationally recognised expert.

Sessions will be taught in a small group format and take place in Stanley (details on the location to follow) and are scheduled to run between 2-3 hours. Participants are invited to attend the whole programme as a general upskilling package; however, if somebody really wishes to select a single session they find most appropriate to their needs, we'll try our best to accommodate their wishes

The outline of the programme is as follows;

- Horticulture training programme – Stanley – 25th to 28th September 2017
- Dynamics of Crop Production – a series of three sessions looking at the fundamentals of crop growth and development.
- Irrigation Management (Protected Crops)– a single session covering water requirements in the plant and irrigation systems and strategies.
- Introduction to Crop Health Management – a single session covering the major pests and diseases along with the principles of good crop hygiene.
- Introduction to Quality Management Systems for Horticultural Crops (including HACCPs).
- Advanced Crop Health Management – a session detailing the biology of specific pests and diseases and their control strategies.
- Propagation Techniques – a session introducing the range of propagation techniques suitable for horticultural crops.

More details on the courses content are available from FIDC – please ring Anne or Gordon at 27211 or email development.gordon@fidc.co.fk

Registration is free, on a first come, first served basis. Places are limited, please register now!

Found a bug on imported goods?



**CONTAIN IT. CATCH IT.
KILL IT. REPORT IT.**

Exotic pests like the brown marmorated stink bug are a threat to the economy and environment of the Falkland Islands

Department of Agriculture - Biosecurity
Call (+500) 27355 or (+500) 55535

www.fig.gov.fk/biosecurity



FARMER'S WEEK

By Samantha Marsh,
Events Co-ordinator
Rba.events@horizon.co.fk

Farmers week began with the Expo on Sunday 2nd July held at the FIDF Hall. Once again this proved popular, with stall holders from many aspects of the community attending.

The wide spread of rural businesses across the Islands makes getting together at the same time and the same place difficult. Farmers Week is significant as it does just that, bringing rural businesses together to discuss the issues that affect them, learning more about the subjects that matter and offering a chance to tackle problems together. Farmers Week offers a chance to get questions aired.

The programme was a busy one, with many presentations, forums and panels during the week. Following last years programme, we also had field trips to see Tussac restoration at Cape Pembroke, the Herbarium and to the Wool Coring plant at FIPASS.

There were many interesting topics covered during the week, including sessions from SAERI, FITB, Sally Poncet, Katie Harrington, Workboat Services, FIG and MLAs to name a few.

Farmers week discussions often continue into the evening and we were generously hosted by Government House, Falklands Conservation, Camp Education and FICS and the RBA. Thank you for those that generously hosted us, it is greatly appreciated.

The RBA work hard to create a week which is both productive and creates further discussion, and hopefully provides answers to questions. We hope you all enjoyed the week, and we are already beginning work on next year's Farmers Week! The week wouldn't have been a success without our kind sponsors, so we would like to thank the DoA, Workboat Services, SAAS, Harold & Lisa Haulage and CBFFSSI who all provided lunches during the week; Premier Oil, the DoA, Premier Oil, FITB and FIGAS for sponsoring smokos and RBA's on-going sponsors RBC Limited.

Thanks also to our speakers and to all those who contributed to a great week and a **big** thank you to all who came. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Louise Pole-Evans, she left her role as chair at the end of Farmers Week, thank you for all you have done for the RBA. We would also like to welcome Lewis Clifton as our new Chair.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

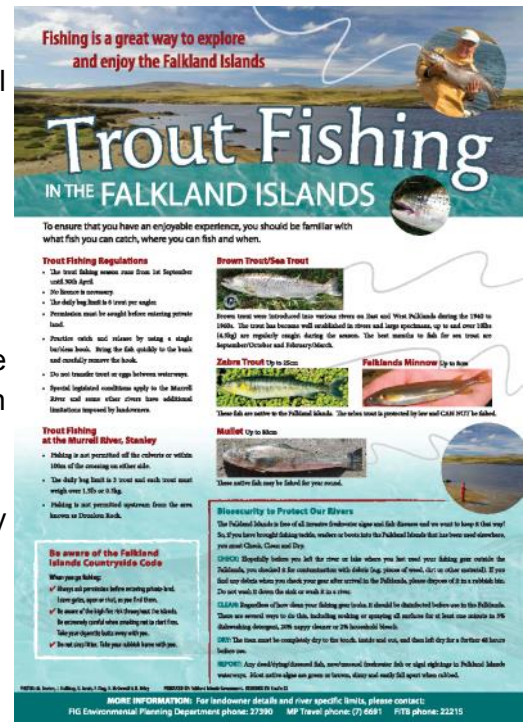


Trout Fishing Season

- Trout fishing season runs from 1st September until 30th April each year
- You don't need a license
- The daily bag limit is six fish per angler
- Permission must be sought before entering private land
- Do not transfer trout or eggs between waterways
- Special legislation conditions apply to the Murrell River;
 - Fishing is not permitted off the culverts, within 100m of the crossing on either side or upstream from the area known as Drunken Rock
 - Daily bag limit is 3 with weight specifications
- Some other rivers have additional limitations imposed by landowners

For more information or to download the Trout Fishing poster (right) please visit:

<http://www.fig.gov.fk/epd/index.php/environment/fishing>



Shearing Dates

Cover Combs
September 15th - October 31st
March 1st - March 31st

Standard Shearing
November 1st - February 28th

No shearing is allowed in April except for sheep going for immediate slaughter or small numbers of "straggler" sheep. In the case of the latter the farmer should first contact the Veterinary Section to give notice of his intention to shear such sheep. All sheep shorn in April must be shorn using cover combs.

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

Department of Agriculture Guidelines for Burning (Updated September 2013)

Permits for the general burning of camp (wet white grass flats) or vegetation not including Tussac may be granted at the discretion of the Director of Natural Resources during the 15th September to the 30th September between the days Monday to Friday only.

Permits for the burning of sites which have been rotavated for reseed purposes may be granted at the discretion of the Director of Natural Resources during the 15th September to the 1st April.

WARNING! BURNING OF TRASH CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

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

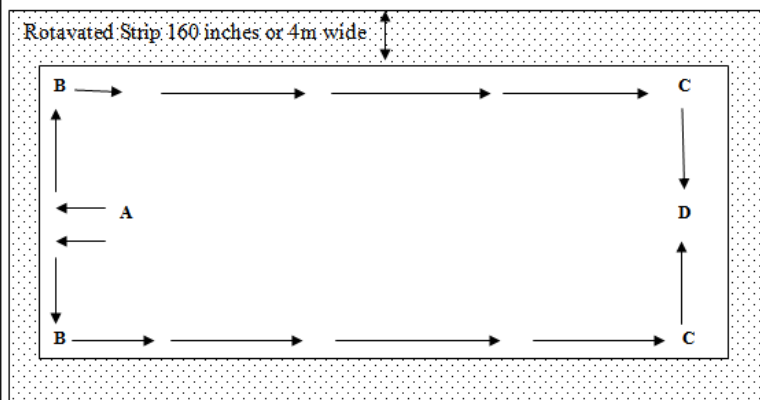
PREPARATION

1. Notify the Department of Agriculture in writing giving 2 working days notice to obtain a burning permit as per the Grass Fires Ordinance 2002. This application must include a farm map illustrating a precise location of the intended burn.
2. Prior to burning, the Chief of Police and all farms (including Mount Pleasant) within a 2 mile radius must be contacted as per the Grass Fires Ordinance 2002. Consideration should be given to any public or social events taking place within a reasonable proximity of the location which could be affected by the fire.
3. Have a tractor with matching rotavator on site. Set the rotavator to work at a depth of about 4 inches so that it will bring up fresh damp soil to make a firebreak. The firebreak should be at least 160 inches wide (2 passes of an 80" Rotavator). The firebreak should be rolled to compress the wet material.
4. Arrange for a gang of at least 3-6 people to be available. At least one should be a tractor driver experienced in rotavating. It is desirable for the gang to be able to keep in touch with one another by 2m radio.
5. It is recommended although not compulsory to have a working vehicle on site with attached trailer containing a tank with 1000L of water, a working fire fighting pump and high pressure hoses along with the appropriate number of shovels and rakehoes.
6. If there are reasons for you being off the farm in the days after a burn, the burn should be delayed to a later date.

PROCEDURE

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

Generalised layout for a burn



An alternative used by some farmers successfully is to put in a firebreak (left), the difference being that it is out from the reseed (5, 10, 20 meters whatever you determine). The area is then burnt between the reseed and the firebreak following the procedure outlined above. The result of this is a larger firebreak for the main reseed burn.

Dog Dosing Dates 2017/18

Wednesday 6th September - Droncit
 Wednesday 11th October - Droncit
 Wednesday 15th November - Droncit
 Wednesday 20th December - Droncit

Telephone: 27366, **Fax:** 27352
Email: sbowles@doa.gov.fk
 After normal working hours, please
 leave a message or email.

All dog owners are responsible for worming their own pets. Please remember to contact the Veterinary Office and confirm this has been done.

Regular weighing - it is important to keep a check on dog's weights to ensure correct dosage is being given.



Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



Falkland Islands Government

www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture/

RAINFALL

	2016							2017				
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Stanley	48		23	11.5	40	16	-	-	-	89	47.5	56.5
<i>Average</i>	45.5	49.8	39.4	37.7	18.9	48.1	55.3	43.3	39.7	51.5	49.8	46.8
MPA	21.4	29.3	27	8.2	51.6	-	-	-	30.8	82.2	60.4	61.5
<i>Average</i>	54.4	48.6	39.1	35.1	34	40.2	59.4	57.5	48.3	55	55.3	50.2
Bleaker Island	-	22	24	7	75	12	31	70	23	40	45	47
Blue Beach	-	-	-	4	16	10	-	35	16	-	33	54
Fern Ridge	-	14.5	16	9	13.5	12.5	39	29.5	49.5	52	90	58
Goose Green	-	-	-	11	16	13	41	45	21	44	38	-
Head of the Bay	14	18	22	10	25	19	56	45	22	40	53	-
Moss Side	17	16	-	2.5	26	-	44	54	-	-	45	70.5
North Arm	-	23	25	9	22	-	-	54	43	52	42	49
Saladero	22	25	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salvador	10	13.75	12	2.75	27.25	30.25	56	41.25	28.75	38.5	20.25	52.5
Shallow Harbour	-	16	17	11	13	13.5	38.5	28	48	49.5	82.5	66.5
Walker Creek	18	14	22	35	95	13	42	36	24	34	46	42
West Lagoons	-	-	96	-	74	-	30	52	42	49	62	75

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports

