THE WOOL PRESS

September / October 2017 Volume 307

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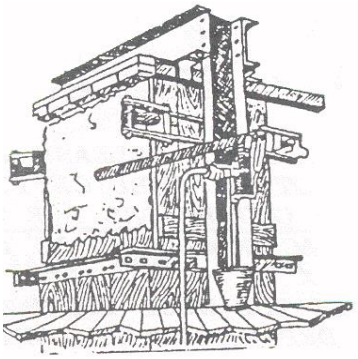

Edited By Teenie Ross
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EDITORIAL

I have been invited to write the Wool Press editorial having held the portfolio for Natural Resources over the last four years of the Assembly. In that time we have seen wool prices boom and meat prices improve. As a result it's been fantastic seeing so much investment going into farms in both genetics and infrastructure. The increase in alternative energy options on farms is a good example of investing to save on running costs in the long term and it does our bit for the environment too.

On the subject of energy do take a look at James Bryan's article on electric fencing which is full of sensible advice. The word earth takes on a new meaning! And then there is an update on the frog that turned up recently in Stanley; I enjoyed visiting her in her tank at the DoA. Now we know why she was so fat when discovered as she's laid eggs but with no mate there's no chance of tadpoles! On other biosecurity matters, James Ross has written an interesting article about how a second hand vehicle originating in Japan was frozen for several days to destroy stink bugs that had been found inside. A pest we don't want spreading around Stanley.

Frin Ross's article on boxwood caught my eye as I have been planting roots taken from one of the gulches here on Bleaker Island to grow a hedge in the garden. It's hard to get many bits with roots on without falling over the cliff edge while the Johnny Rooks watch expectantly! I'll have a go at taking cuttings instead and root them in pots as Frin suggests. I'll worry about the buzzers later! On a similar theme Ilaria Marengo has written about recording wildlife sightings by downloading an app on your phone or by completing forms to send to SAERI where the information will be put into a database for research purposes. It's landowners that know what is on their land.

It is good to see Adam Dawes' positive account about attending the Expo Prado agricultural show in Uruguay in September. As well as helping on the stand at the show, Adam, with Keith Alazia, who represented the RBA, had some very good visits and made more useful contacts with agricultural businesses. Building and maintaining links and comparing our agricultural systems with those in Uruguay can only increase knowledge about agriculture and help to improve business performance.

Farming always has its down sides and it's good to have reminders about how to tackle production inhibitors. Sue Street helpfully reminds us all about drenching stock for parasites. The DoA offers a faecal egg count service and Sue advises on how to take samples for analysis in the lab. Not a job I'd like much so thanks to those that do it! And vet, Ross Milner, has a timely piece on boils in sheep. Something to think about with shearing now underway. Some farms have been working hard to reduce infection by steam cleaning sheds etc. with excellent results. FIMCO's records showed a considerable reduction in reported cases so it's well worth the effort.

Lastly, Mandy Ford's Saladero report includes a frank account of dealing with early lambs. This can happen to any of us but not desirable of course and needs action to ensure it doesn't re-occur. A big team including DoA staff have been busy helping with scanning, crutching and drenching as well as managing the cattle herd.

Production of quality products on farms are up and the anticipated demand for prime beef and lamb for MPA will bring opportunities for those keen to further increase production. This year's census shows an increase in the population in Camp over the last four years and I am optimistic that this trend will continue as businesses expand.

I always look forward to reading the Wool Press and thank the team at the DoA for making it an interesting and informative read. The range of articles ensures a wide appeal. Very best wishes to everyone involved in farming for a good season. There will be ups and downs with weather conditions as always but there is a bright future for farming in the Falklands and the DoA has a key role to play in it all.

All the best

Phyl Rendell

HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR ELECTRIC FENCE

By James Bryan

Just as a bit of an info series, I have decided to put together a couple of tips and tricks on how to get the best out of your electric fence system. I envisage this will cover a couple of wool press articles over the coming months. Needless to say, if there is something you want us to cover; I am more than happy to put something down to that effect.

This issue, I thought we would start at the start (some might say the end…), with what is one of the most important parts to any electric fence system, the Earth!

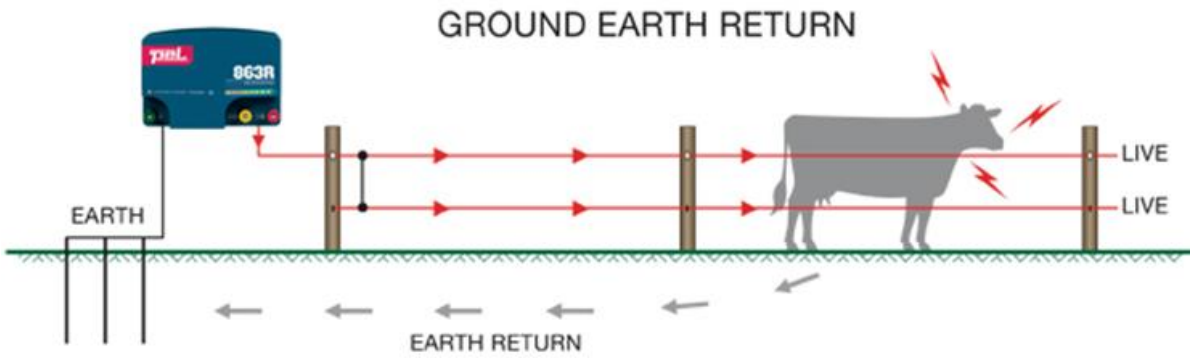
What is an Earth System?

An earth system is a number of rods submerged into the ground which should be connected by high conductive cable to the energiser unit. This system provides a "low resistance" pathway for the electricity to return back to the energiser. – to complete the circuit as such.

With electric fencing, the current leaves the energiser, moves along the wire, through the path of least resistance – generally through an animal or short touching the wire, which is in direct contact with the ground. From here the current will always try to complete a full circuit back to the unit through the ground. Generally speaking, the better your energiser is connected to the ground through the earth system, the bigger the shock will be.

Generally speaking, there are 2 main types of earthing system employed on an electric fence. One for conductive soil types and one for poorly conductive soil types, I'll explain both setups.

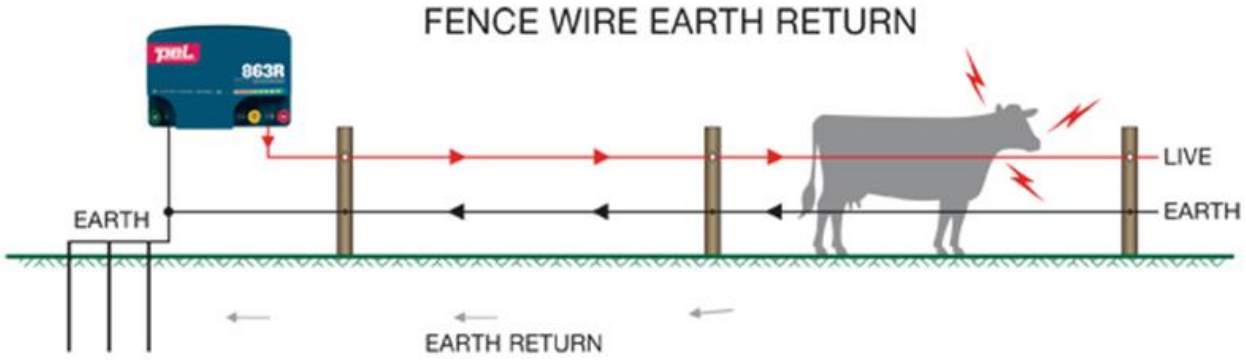
Setup #1
Ground return systems, this would be used more in situations where the soil types are more conductive, and have good soil moisture. It will most likely be the systems you have on your farms.



This system works primarily through the animal coming into contact with the fence, and the energy flowing through the animal (giving it a shock) before entering the soil and back to the earth stakes.

Setup #2
Wire return systems, these sorts of systems would be beneficial in drier or sandy soil types, so could potentially be used here. The premise of this system is to have an earth wire running along the fence back to the earth system, so the fence is permanently earthed. The ability to provide shocks to animals however is still provided in much the same way, by earthing the fence to the ground through the animal. The shock will be reduced however, unless the animal touches both

the live and earth wires at the same time.



There are other variations on these systems, such as the bentonite clay/salt system which could be considered as well.

Selecting the best site for placing earth rods

When choosing a site to place the rods for the earth system, a couple of points should be considered.

1. Ensure the site is away from any existing farm power source
2. Is located out of the way of both stock and human traffic
3. Easy to access for maintenance
4. Generally away from steel infrastructure such as prefabricated yards
5. Ideally placed in a place that maintains a relative level of soil moisture year round.

Generally speaking, the earthing system should be placed in a bit of a bog or at the bottom of a hill, where the soil is damp, for at least the majority of the year. This allows the conductivity to be increased, as it is the positive ions in soil solution such as hydrogen, potassium, magnesium, sodium etc. which will conduct the electricity.

When placing your earth system for your mains energiser, a good basic rule of thumb to follow is 3x3x2. Which is a minimum of 3 steel rods, spaced 3 metres apart, at least 2 metres long each. Ideally these should be galvanised, the use of steel standards for this would be fine. However, you may need more than 3 depending on how powerful your unit is, or if your soils are less conductive.

These rods should then be interconnected using a high conductive insulated cable such as 2.5mm/2.7mm aluminium or aluminium coated wire. Ensure you have a good connection with each rod, using clamps rather than cutting and retying, and run this cable back to the energiser.

Lastly you need to test the effectiveness of the new earth system.

First you will need to short out the fence completely, do this by lying some steel bars or standards against the fence approx. 100m from the energiser, even better if the ground is wet where you do this. You will need to get the voltage of the fence down to less than 2kV, if you need to, add more standards until it does drop below this.

Next you will need to test the earthing rods using your voltmeter, test on the one furthest from the energiser, this reading should be no more than 0.3kV, if it reads higher than this, you will need to either add new rods or select a new location for your earth.

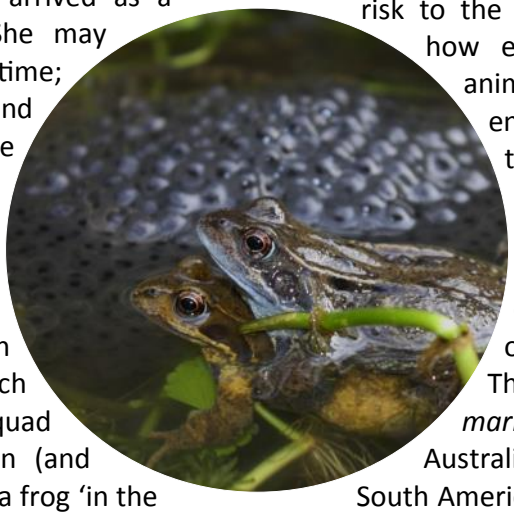
If you need any advice with in regards to getting the best out of your electrics, I am happy to have a chat.

Caught on the hop

By Ross James

Biosecurity received an unusual call to retrieve a frog from a garden in Stanley. With no native amphibians in the Falkland Islands this was clearly an unusual visitor, and likely to be the first frog ever to set foot on Falklands soil.

We will probably never establish how this frog arrived in the Falklands, but most likely she arrived as a stow-away among imported goods. She may have been surviving here for some time; months or even years before being found by chance by a keen-eyed member of the public in a Stanley garden.



The common European frog (*Rana temporaria*) is a familiar creature to children growing up in rural UK where catching frogs or hatching frog spawn and keeping tadpoles in a jar, is as much part of childhood as lamb marking or quad bike riding is here, but many children (and adults) in the Falklands have never seen a frog 'in the flesh', and so she has had a steady stream of visitors from interested members of the public, MLAs, DoA staff, and even spent an afternoon at the IJS where she met the entire school!

The frog now resides at the DoA in a large plastic tub lined with moss and vegetation, places to shelter and a tray of water. She is fed a selection of invertebrates like slugs and beetles, and so far seems to be happy enough in captivity.

The frog was very fat when she arrived at the DoA, and it soon became apparent why. After a week or so in her new home she laid a large clump of eggs! The spawn will not develop into tadpoles as male frogs fertilise the eggs while they are being laid, and this lonely female is a long way from a mate!

In the past we have had all sorts of unusual visitors hitching a ride to the Falklands; from bats to lizards, snails to venomous spiders, but never before have we had a frog!

Although this single frog doesn't pose a biosecurity risk to the Falklands, it does illustrate how even the most unlikely of animals can arrive here, and given the opportunity could establish. There are some famous examples of invasive amphibians causing serious environmental and economical harm in places outside of their native range. The cane toad (*Rhinella marina*) was introduced to Australia from it's native range of South America to control cane beetles (a pest of the sugar cane industry), however the toad did little to control the cane beetle, but instead became highly invasive and impacted native ecosystems. The cane toad ate almost anything it could fit in it's mouth, and being poisonous it killed almost everything which tried to eat it.

Similarly, the American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) native to Eastern USA was accidentally introduced to Western USA where it became invasive, competing with and eating native frog species. Studies of bullfrog intestines revealed the amphibians eat just about anything they can fit into their mouths: birds, rats, snakes, lizards, turtles, fish, other frogs, and especially each other!

I'm not suggesting that this frog would have wrought such havoc in the Falklands, but any species outside of their native range can have serious and unforeseen impacts, so we shouldn't be complacent.

ABOUT BOXWOOD

By Frin Ross, Falklands Conservation

First, some praise for our native boxwood (knowing it's often maligned as a magnet for buzzers). It's our tallest shrub (up to 3 meters) – making it a safe perch for cute small birds. Some islands are absolutely covered in boxwood making them pretty cool but bloody hard to walk across! Large bushes must have been common before livestock were widespread and their wood was even used for furniture. The captain of HMS Philomel surveyed the islands in the 1840's and collected a beautiful boxwood handle from the Falklands - it's now exhibited at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

Boxwood handle collected by the captain of HMS Philomel. Picture courtesy of Tom Heller.

Outside of settlements boxwood is often found along the coast on steep cliff edges or rocky outcrops. It cannot survive sustained grazing, but can spread rapidly if sheep are fenced out making mini boxwood forests. It looks beautiful when it flowers and is great in native plant or wildlife areas (which can be supported by the Farm Improvement Programme or Falklands Conservation's Small Grants).

Boxwood recovering from fire, Turkey Island. Photo curtesy of A Wilson

Recently a few folk have asked for advice on growing native boxwood. So I've picked some good brains and jotted down the results – of course lots of you know already in which case there's no need to read further. ☺

Growing boxwood plants

Know your plant. Native boxwood has small leaves and pale (usually white) flowers. There are lots of ornamental boxwood plants, these often have larger leaves and purple flowers. They hybridise readily with native boxwood. To be sure that you have native boxwood collect cuttings or small plants away from town or settlements. Where possible it's best to use boxwood cuttings from the coast of your own farm or one nearby.

Box wood cuttings with a "heel" (left) and cut diagonally between flower nodes (right)

Spring or early summer is a good time to start off young boxwood – but they can probably be started at any time of year. Growing from seedlings or cuttings is easy and doesn't need any special kit, just a bit of patience.

Boxwood often seed prolifically – if you have an area with lots of seedlings you can pot some up and keep them well watered outside (in a shady area initially until their roots have established), they should be ready for planting out in about a year.

Cuttings can be a sturdy alternative to small seedlings, here's how to get them growing:

- Select a healthy, growing stem – it will be

greenish and not too woody. Aim for about 15cm (6") long. Don't let the cuttings dry out – keep them in a pot of water if not using immediately.


Freshly planted boxwood cuttings.

- Either: gently pull the stem away from the main branch so you are left with a small "heel" (this can be neatly trimmed if it's straggly). Or cut off a longer stem and then use a sharp knife (secateurs or blunt knives crush the stem) to cut diagonally between two leave nodes. See photographs.
- Strip leaves from bottom half of the stem. You can dip the cut end of stem in rooting hormone but it's not essential.
- Fill a pot with potting soil (can be a mixture of homemade compost and sand) and moisten well. Make a hole in the compost and firm the bottom half of your cutting in well. If you have a large pot you can stick in multiple cuttings.
- Pop in a sheltered area outside and keep well-watered.
- After one to two months you should start to see small roots appearing through the bottom of your pot. As soon as this happens pot all rooted cuttings into individual pots (pots should be around 17cm / 7"). Keep watering them well.
- After about a year you should have some good sturdy plants ready for planting out.
- Watch your boxwood forest grow and hear some happily chattering birds!


A Siskin in mature boxwood on Sealion Island

Many thanks to Sally Blake (who kindly passed on techniques she learned from a course with Bob Reid at the DoA), Sue Morrison and Cynthia Williams (Stanley Nurseries) for their top tips. We've also tried this with fachine…. For information on planting other native species please follow the link on this page;
http://www.falklandsconservation.com/projects/habitat-restoration

A SUCCESSFUL 2017 EXPO PRADO

By Adam Dawes

In the past few weeks I had the privilege of travelling to Montevideo as a member of the FIG sponsored trade delegation. I was accompanied by Keith Alazia who was representing the Rural Business Association. The Falkland Islands delegation had a stand in the (Great) British Pavilion, hosted by the British Embassy. The stand was also attended by representatives of FITB, SAAS, local accommodation providers and fishing companies, together we provided attendees with a sound understanding of the 'real Falklands'.

For the first 2 days of the week we were there, Keith and I met with Plan Agropecuario, a subsidiary of the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP). Plan Agropecuario specialises in research and extension activities relating to the management of grasslands for animal production. Keith and I visited 2 production areas within Uruguay (Florida and Rocha) to observe some of the differing production systems. While the grasslands of Uruguay are very different to those of the Falklands,

everyone has something to offer. We hope to be able to work with such agencies in the future to exchange information and techniques to advance our common goals and objectives.

Back at Expo Prado in Uruguay we manned the stand as required and provided information to passers-by on anything and everything relating to the Falklands. Questions ranged from the historic links between Uruguay and FIC, to the price of land in the Falklands to 'how can I get there and what can I do'? There is most certainly a strong case for a second weekly flight to Montevideo!

We were able to get away from the stand a few times and got a chance to see some of what the Expo Prado had to offer attendees. Keith and I were kindly invited by Mr Joaquin Martinicorena, President of the Uruguayan Polwarth Breeders Association to attend their award ceremony, and later the following day to view the show rams with him. It's fair to say that the Polwarth genetics in Uruguay are well ahead of ours in terms of wool quality, however with most of the rams on show only leaving the shed for 3-4 hours a day it would be interesting to see how they would hold up in our environment.

Despite what some of you may have read or heard about objection or hostility towards the Falkland Islands stand being present at Expo Prado, this was something that was mostly limited to media outlets. The vast majority of attendees at the Prado openly expressed their delight in seeing the Falkland Islands stand

Keith Alazia with Joaquin Martinicorena, President of the Uruguay Polwarth Breeders Association

there and openly said 'we hope to see you again next year…..you're always welcome in Uruguay'.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Karen Minto (FIG) for her efforts in arranging a very successful programme for the Falklands delegation; to the Asociación Rural del Uruguay for their support of our attendance at Expo Prado; and the British Embassy staff in Montevideo, particularly Ambassador Ian Duddy, Pia Delisante and Inés Rodríguez for their support with logistics and translation.

Expo Prado presents a fantastic opportunity for the Falklands to tell people about the 'real Falklands', the story beyond what they have read in the media. I would encourage any of you who have the opportunity to attend Expo Prado as a representative of the Falkland Islands in the future to embrace the opportunity.

Dates for the Diary	
3rd October	*Peat Cutting Monday (Public Holiday)*
31st October	*Halloween*
1st November	*Standard Shearing*
5th November	*Guy Fawkes night*
8th December	*Battle Day (Public Holiday)*
Public Holiday dates over the Christmas period to be included in the next Wool Press	

FAECAL EGG COUNTS, WHY BOTHER?

By Sue Street

Faecal egg counts (FEC) are a necessity to check worm burdens, they support timely drench decisions and can be used to check for worm resistance within existing drench programs. The result of this can be a healthy sheep without unnecessary drenching, which keeps more money in your pocket; addressing an emerging problem before a production loss occurs; or identifying and rectifying an existing problem that would otherwise remain undetected. The DoA provides a free FEC service for all farmers. It is recommended that all ewes should have a FEC conducted before lambing and lambs should be checked immediately after weaning. It's also wise to check animals that are in poor condition, or showing signs of scouring.

Live weight gain, fleece growth, staple strength and sheep survival are all significantly reduced by worm burdens, especially in young sheep. In the Sean Miller study undertaken at Goose Green it was found that the cost of having an unmanaged worm burden during the period from weaning to 15 months of age, there was a 10% reduction in clean wool growth, based on this year's farm stats, wool prices and average micron that equates to an additional £1.75 per head. The study found further reductions of 2.8 kg fleece-free live weight, and an additional 6% mortality throughout the year. This clearly shows that unmanaged worm burdens in sheep can have a major impact on profitability and sheep production.

As a general rule, sheep should be drenched when the total worm egg count exceeds 300 epg (eggs per gram), or a Nematodirus count exceeds 50 epg. FEC can be influenced by a number of different factors:

- The general condition of the sheep.
  - Sheep that are in better condition are less likely to be in need of drenching.
- The age of the sheep
  - Younger sheep sometimes need drenching at a lower FEC threshold (250 epg), especially if they are light for their age
- The movement of the sheep
  - Moving onto rested or unrested paddocks
  - Unclean vs clean areas
- The availability of good feed
- The genetic resistance of sheep to worms

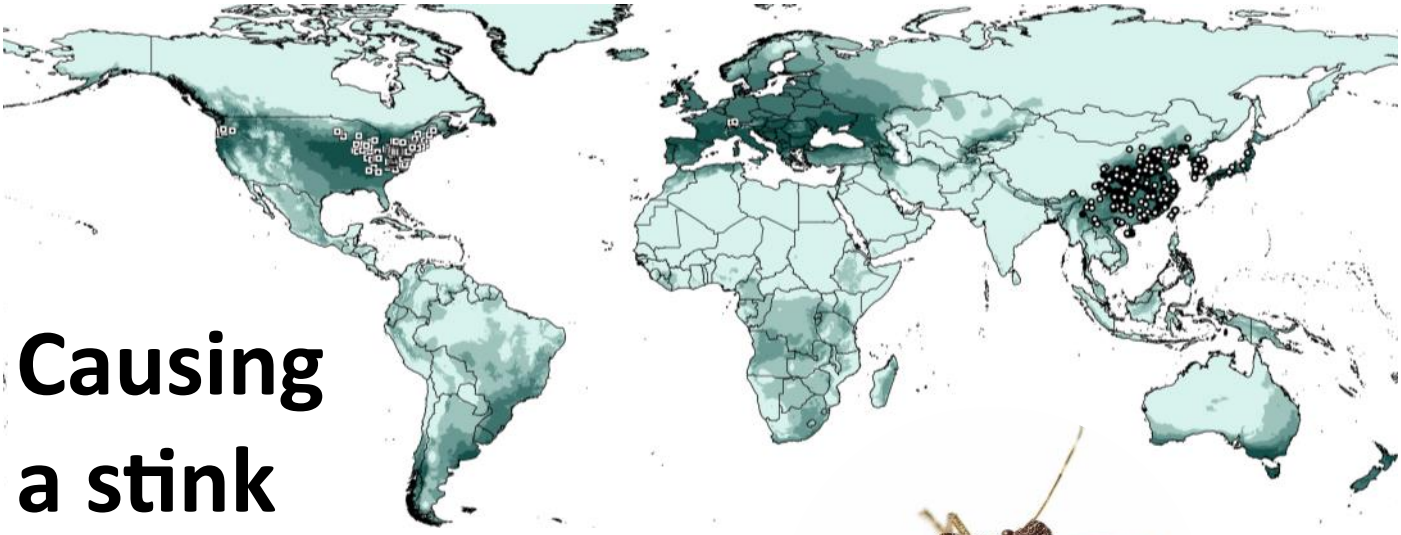
How do I do a FEC on my sheep?
Method of collection

The DoA supplied FEC kit includes 10 sample bottles, gloves and a submission form:

1. Collection of samples
- Faeces must be collected either directly from the rectum if you happen to have the sheep yarded, or hold sheep quietly in the corner of a camp, not too tightly for approximately 10 mins. Then allow the sheep to move away and collect samples that are still warm, into individual sample containers (more than one sample can be used to fill a container)

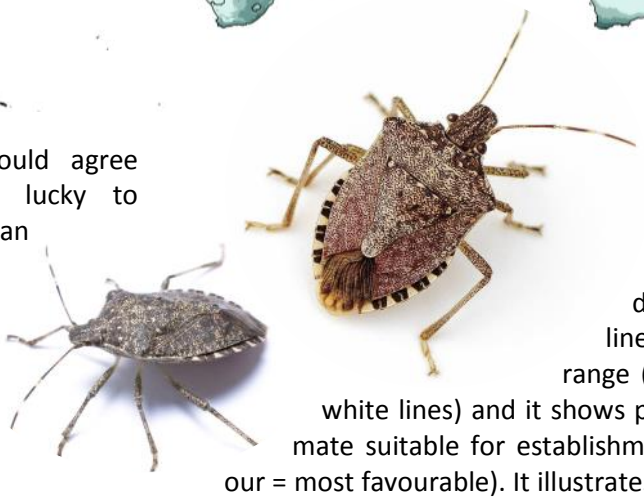
2. Storage and delivery
- Once collected, clean the outside of the container and ensure the lid is on firmly.
- Place all the containers in the bag provided with the filled out submission form.
- The samples are then placed in the refrigerator (no, not freezer) until they can be delivered (delivery should be within 24 hrs of collection)

The cut-off time for samples to arrive to DoA each week is Thursday afternoon (before 4.30pm). Sample results are usually available within 24 hrs of receipt. The results will include recommendations and detail any necessary follow-up testing. If you require any collection kits for your farm please ring 27355 and we can arrange to mail these out to you, alternatively kits can be collected directly from the DOA laboratory or from the Vet's reception.



Causing a stink

By Ross James



Not many would agree that we are lucky to benefit from a cold climate, but it does mean that many pests common elsewhere would have a hard job making home in the Falklands. However, not all pests are shy of the cold. The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) or *Halyomorpha halys,* is one such pest, and it just showed up and caused quite a stink.

The world map above shows BMSB's native range (white dots with black line), the invasive range (black dots with white lines) and it shows places with a climate suitable for establishment (darker colour = most favourable). It illustrates that the whole of Europe, North America and southern South America (including the Falklands) and southern Australasia are potentially at risk.

Stink bug incursion

The first ever record of BMSB in the Falklands occurred in August 2017, when a number of BMSB were found inside a second hand vehicle which was being imported from Japan via the UK. The bugs were found during a routine biosecurity inspection and the vehicle was put into quarantine pending treatment.

Because the BMSB were in the vehicle's interior and within the fabric of the vehicle (in the engine bay and chassis) the standard insecticidal fumers and foggers we usually use to treat vehicles were not appropriate. The recognised treatment for vehicles infested with BMSB is either fumigation with methyl bromide or by heat treatment— neither of these methods is available in the Falklands. Therefore it was decided to take the unusual step of freezing the whole vehicle to –18°C in a refrigerated shipping container for 10 days to guarantee that all living invertebrates were killed. The importer cooperated fully with this treatment, bearing the significant costs of having the vehicle put into quarantine, prepared and treated in this way.

Infested vehicle quarantined and frozen to –18°C

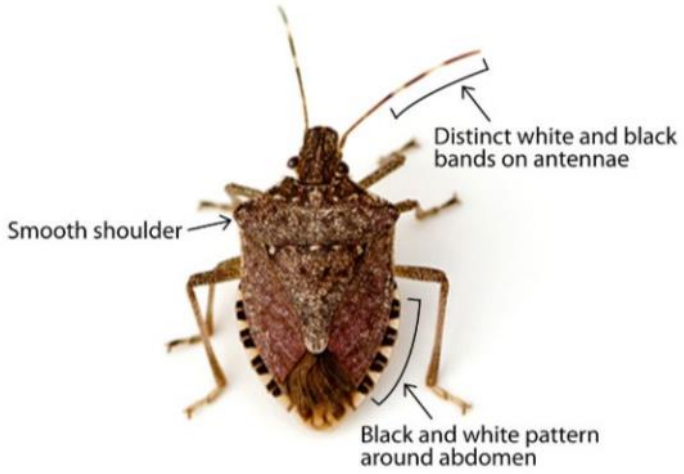
Stink bugs aggregate in houses and vehicles to hibernate

Safely quarantined, the vehicle is transported to Stanley

What are BMSB and what harm can they do?

In a Falklands context BMSB would be able to survive in our climate, could establish and become invasive, possibly becoming crop pests or altering ecosystems by consuming native flora. Adult BMSB seek shelter in buildings and vehicles to hibernate, and aggregate in large numbers to over-winter. This habit means that they often get accidentally shipped around the world and is why they have been such successful invaders. This makes them a very unpleasant pest, because not only do they come into people's homes in large numbers, but they give off a nasty smell as their name suggests.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)



What to do if you find one

BMSB belongs to a large family of bugs, commonly known as the stink bugs. Although there are numerous species of stinkbug which look similar, none are found in the Falkland Islands.

The adults are approximately 1.7 centimetres (0.67 in) long and about as wide, forming the shield shape characteristic of other stink bugs. They are various shades of brown on both the top and undersides, with grey, off-white, black, copper, and bluish markings. Markings unique to this species include alternating light bands on the antennae and alternating dark bands on the thin outer edge of the abdomen.

If you find a bug which looks like the one pictured, we would like to be notified immediately. It is particularly important to be vigilant for BMSB on recently imported goods, especially if they have arrived from Japan or the USA.

Earlier this year, it was reported that BMSB had established in Chile, giving them a direct pathway to the Falklands. Therefore we have been keeping a beady eye out for their arrival and started an awareness raising campaign to ask people to be alert. DoA are working to strengthen pre-export biosecurity measures for used vehicles, to reduce the chance of further pests like this reaching our shores.

Life stages of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug *(Halyomorpha halys)*

BOILS IN SHEEP

By Ross Milner

I thought I would write an article about this disease as it is the most common disease that the FIG Veterinary Officers encounter in post mortem examination of sheep at Sand Bay Abattoir.

What are boils?

The most common finding at post mortem is an enlarged lymph node near the shoulder blade which is full of greenish pus. This has to be trimmed out. A single localised abscess can be removed and the carcass passed as it hasn't spread to the rest of the body but there is a charge to the farmer of £1.50 per boil removed. Less commonly we find boils everywhere, in particular the lungs, and then the whole carcass has to be condemned.

This can be quite costly to some farmers if they have a few thousand sheep affected although fortunately here in the Falkland Islands this is rare. In Australia, in some flocks 85% incidence has been reported.

Boils or abscesses are caused by a bacterium, Corynebacterium Pseudotuberculosis which gets into the blood stream and lodges in regional lymph nodes, especially in the shoulder. There the bacteria release a toxin destroying the local lymph node. A wall forms around this and an abscess develops.

How is it spread?

Some sheep become chronic carriers when this disease gets into their lungs. They cough up phlegm full of the bacteria. At shearing time, when sheep are closely confined, it is thought that coughing sheep contaminate shearing wounds and infection is spread this way significantly.

How common is it?

Munro, in his report in 1924 makes no mention of the disease and yet by 1941 Gibbs found 200 sheep affected. It is thought it was introduced by Romney sheep imported from New Zealand or Australia. Since the 1980s the disease has hovered around 30% on some farms with no improvement. One farm had a significant fall from 41% in the 1980s to 8 % today. There is a very low incidence on some farms, as low as 0.02% where good management practices combined with vaccination are carried out.

Why is this disease important?

Severe infection can lead to ill thrift, weight loss and poor productive performance.

There is a financial cost at the abattoir when even apparently healthy sheep in good condition have to have an isolated boil trimmed, or there is the loss of a whole sheep condemned because of generalised infection.

Research in Western Australia shows an average of 0.2 to 0.25 kg or 4-7% of clean fleece weight is lost when sheep are infected. Sheep are usually infected at first or second shearing when wool is at its finest and most valuable.

What can I do about it?

(1) If you are shearing sheep and cut into an abscess have a bucket of disinfectant with a small nail brush floating in the disinfectant handy. Shears should be scrubbed cleaned and disinfected thoroughly to get rid of infection; simply dipping the shears isn't enough as this bacterium is quite tenacious. Shearing with shears with puss on them is not a good idea as each subsequent sheep sheared could be infected.

(2) If a sheep gets cut during shearing; the wound should be sprayed with an

antiseptic spray to protect the wound from infection. A large spray bottle containing dilute iodine is very cheap to make up and suitable for organic production as well.

(3) Shear young sheep first.

(4) Weather permitting; sheep should be released out of the shed as quickly as possible after shearing. Avoiding close confinement has been shown to reduce spread of disease by as much as 50%.

(5) Vaccination. Many farmers do not vaccinate but with climate warming and the use of improved pasture, there is an increased risk of Clostridial disease that farmers need to be aware of. I have seen farmers with unvaccinated sheep in my practice in Wales lose half their crop of lambs the first time Clostridial disease rears its ugly head. Consider using 6 in 1 instead of 5 in 1 vaccination. (Or 3 in 1 instead of 2 in 1).This will protect against Corynebacterium as well as Clostridial disease. If a lamb has the 2 primary vaccinations and an annual booster it has been shown to result in a fall of disease incidence of Caseous Lymphadenitis from 31% to 3% over a period of several years in Australian trials. 6 in 1 Vaccines are good value at 47 p a dose protecting against 6 different diseases.

Vaccination is a lot less effective if only given once or twice instead of the recommended primary course of 2 vaccinations and a booster. Ideally the booster should be done at least 4 weeks before shearing to protect against boils, but to protect lambs against clostridial disease via the mother's milk, the ideal time for pregnant ewes to have a booster is 4 to 6 weeks before lambing. One of the farms here that vaccinates and has good management practices has an incidence of 0.02% of boils compared to other farms where it is as high as 31%.

If you are one of the farmers fortunate enough to have a very low incidence of this disease and/or vaccinate this could be presented as an additional attractive feature when selling breeding stock and could attract a premium.

Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

Paul Phillips and Tyrone Whitney came out for a day and a bit to crutch the ewes. I managed to clip overgrown feet at the same time. 889 ewes later Paul and Tyrone were finished and Tracy Evans, Sue Street and myself pressed a bale of bellies.

We have some ewes that are lambing early and so the turkeys are having a field day, and every day I am going and finding the mess they are leaving. Between turkeys and stinkers they are knocking the ewes down and killing them and the lambs, so I have got a few orphans.

The weather turned really wet for a few days new lambs don't take to well too being wet and cold so I have ended up with a few more to bottle feed.

On the 16th we did ewe scanning with Zoe Fowler, Lucy Ellis and Lachlan Crowie arriving in the morning. Sue and James Bryan came out the night before to put up the portable electric fence around the swedes ready for strip grazing the ewes. The ewes were weighed and body conditioned at the same

time and they were injected with Glanvac 3 in 1 + B12 and drenched with potassium iodide solution which helps prevent iodine deficiency which can occur when grazing on swedes.

The ewes that are due to lamb early were parted and put into the best lambing camp and will be fed additional feed to give them a boost as there hasn't been much or any growth.

James, Sue & Lachlan injected, drenched, then the ewes were scanned, weighed & body condition scored

Jack Alazia was helping with some more fencing for a few days, so that's a few more fences standing up again. Also Alexander MacDonald and Tye Stashynsky came to help fix a set of crates on the boundary between Goose Green and Saladero, so that should hopefully stop any sheep escaping or any coming this way also.

The ewes that aren't due to lamb yet are now strip grazing the swedes, and are all looking very good. Among the early lambers there have been about 6 sets of twins, with more lambs being born every day, and I have been mothering up and marking lambs as much as possible when I feed the ewes. So far this nice weather has been giving the new lambs a bit of a break and they are looking stornger every day, and join their mothers when I go to feed them.

Lachlan getting ready to have a go at scanning, with some tutoring from Zoe and Lucy.

I luckily found a bucket feeder which some of the 14 bottle fed lambs have taken to, making feeding times a lot easier.

Sue and James have been out to help weigh the cows and heifers and also to drench with bimectin or dectomax which are for both internal and external parasites.

After we had finished with the cows we went to check the fence around the bulls to get the electrics working again, all started off fairly well until James found a fairly large soft bit and got the rover bogged. I came back to get

the tractor to pull him out. With much amusement and debate over who invented the pavlova we can safely say James owes some sort of cake! Wherever it is I am sure Australia and New Zealand will claim the rights to have invented it!

The bulls were put back where they should be behind the electric fence and were there for about two weeks, but they are now all at the other end of the farm at Brenton Loch.

I moved the ewe hogs today closer ready for crutching, they have fairly big fleeces on them, but seem a fair bit stronger. Good results came back from FEC samples taken from both ewe hogs and mature rams and ram hogs .

AI calves are due towards the end of next month as well as crutching all hogs and rams. Also coming up soon is spraying out this coming seasons reseeds and starting to spread DAP and Urea.

Reporting Wildlife Sightings & Contribute To Science

By Ilaria Marengo

The Falkland Islands offer everybody, local and overseas researchers and tourists alike, an incredible and amazing display of wildlife. Penguins, albatrosses, sea lions, elephant seals, dolphins, whales, butterflies, raptors and other birds, tussac and the native flora are the treasures of these islands. Nevertheless, the remoteness and the difficult/expensive access to most places are limiting factors above all when it comes to map the distribution of wildlife (species).

Researchers working on long term monitoring programs in general are tied to the location of their fieldwork (New Island, Sea Lion, Volunteer Point, Cape Dolphin and so on) and they make few trips to other places to assess the wildlife population which is the focus of their scientific projects. On the contrary, the islanders and the tourists have a much higher mobility and are more distributed across the islands. With their sightings, both islanders and tourists can really help researchers and contribute to enhance their understanding on species distribution.

An app for android phones has been recently promoted (see Penguin News September the first) by SAERI, however it has been thought opportune to make a much easier and practical paper form, which includes a map, which can be filled in by everyone both land owners/managers and visitors. Here below is an example of the paper form and map (Carcass Island is used simply as an example)

CARCASS ISLAND REPORT SHEET OF WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

DO NOT REMOVE FROM HERE

Instructions:

1) PLEASE SEND YOUR WILDLIFE PICTURE (ONLY THE BEST SHOT) INDICATING THE ID (first column) TO: SHirtle@env.institute.ac.fk

2) SPECIES TARGETED: elephant seals, sea lions, leopard seals, fur seals, commerson's dolphins, peale's dolphins, killer whales, southern right whales, sei whales, blue whales, fin whales, peregrine falcons, dolphin gulls, barn owl, short-eared owl, skuas, ashy-headed goose, red-backed hawk (variegated hawk), black-necked swan

3) FILL IN THE FORM: ALL CAPITAL LETTERS AND CIRCLE CLEARLY THE ANSWER AS SHOWED IN THE EXAMPLE. If you can split the count per sex and age is preferable.

TAG and RING SHOULD BE NOTED ONLY FOR: elephant seals, sea lions and birds

id	date	time	species name	count	sex	age	there is a tag/ring	Tag/ring colour AND number	did you take a picture?	did you send the picture?	observer name and surname	Other notes
1	2017/10/25	AM/PM	ELEPHANT SEAL	5	male 2 female 3 unknown	pup or chick juvenile adult 5	yes no don't know		yes no	yes no	ILARIA MARENGO	FIGHT OCCURRING

4) FILL IN THE MAP: add the id number (first column) on the map on the spot where you saw the species and circle it.

5) SEND THE REPORT SHEET AND THE MAP, when all the 20 rows are completes, to: SAERI PO 609 STANLEY COTTAGE STANLEY

6) REQUEST MORE REPORT SHEETS AND THE MAPS to: SAERI PO 609 STANLEY COTTAGE STANLEY

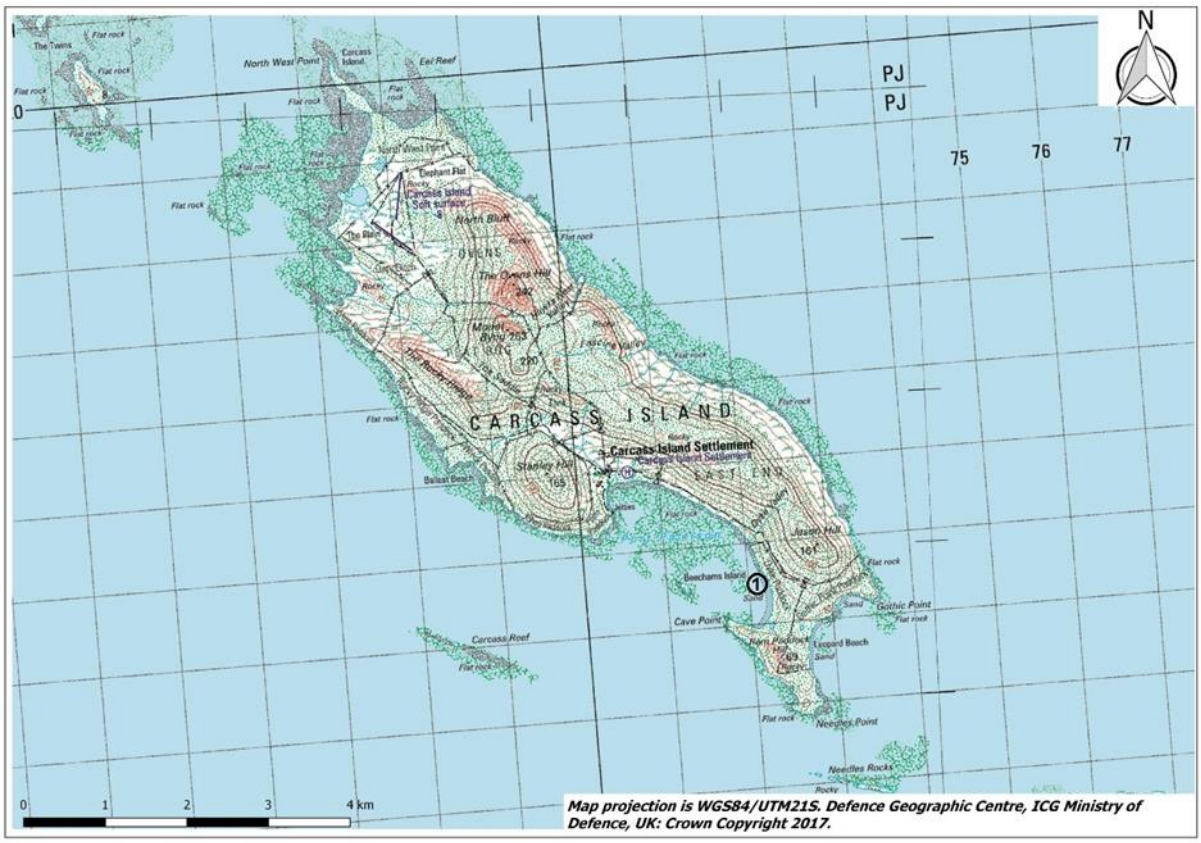
DATA CONSENT AGREEMENT

As person reporting the sighting I consent to share the data and to make them usable for research purpose only.

REPORT SHEET

id	date	time	species name	count	sex	age	there is a tag/ring?	tag/ring colour AND number	did you take a picture?	did you send the picture?	observer name and surname	Other notes
1		AM/PM			male female unknown	pup or chick juvenile adult	yes no don't know		yes no	yes no		
2		AM/PM			male female unknown	pup or chick juvenile adult	yes no don't know		yes no	yes no		

The form comprises of a table and a map (also attached to this edition of the wool press). The table needs to be filled in bearing in mind the six listed instructions. The person reporting the wildlife sighting is asked to add a point on the map and the "id" number of the row that has been



filled in with information on the sighting.

The plan is to involve the land owners and land managers and ask if they want to keep a copy of the form and map in the lodges, self-catering houses, cabins and promote the use of it and encourage the visitors to log their wildlife sightings in the form and in the map. Land owners and managers are also invited to record their sightings as their continuous presence on the islands/ farms ensures a long term observation record of wildlife.

Once the twenty rows of the form are completed, land owners and managers are asked to send both the form and the map back to SAERI. New forms and maps will be sent so that there is always a way to report properly the wildlife sightings. A map with all the wildlife sightings collected by land owners and visitors will be sent back as well to show the results of the collaborative effort in wildlife data collection.

By filling in the form and reporting the sighting people agree that their data will be visible online and used for research purposes only. The sightings will be entered into a database and the maps will be available online on a dedicated website accessible to all. It is worth noticing that the data, although visible on a website, will not be downloadable. It means that local and overseas researchers could have access to the maps showing wildlife distribution across the islands by sending a request to the data centre at SAERI.

It is hoped that land owners and land managers can see this way of recording wildlife as an opportunity to promote also the treasures of their islands/lands. Any landowner or land manager interested in receiving the form and the map could please contact shirtle@env.institute.ac.fk or imarengo@env.institute.ac.fk

STAFF NEWS - TRACY EVANS, AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT

Hi all, I am Tracy Evans the new Agricultural Assistant. Most of you will know me from my days working in the shearing gang and also in the more recent years as the cook on Concordia Bay.
I am looking forward to the new challenges that this job will offer me and getting out and about around the farms and seeing you all. Please don't ask me anything too technical just yet… hopefully this old girl can be taught some new tricks and techniques!!!!

RAINFALL

	2016				2017							
	Sep	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**
Stanley	11.5	40	16	-	-	-	89	47.5	56.5	75	37	57.5
Average	*37.7*	*18.9*	*48.1*	*55.3*	*43.3*	*39.7*	*51.5*	*49.8*	*46.8*	*45.5*	*49.8*	*39.4*
MPA	8.2	51.6	-	-	-	30.8	82.2	60.4	61.5	74.8	24.3	74.4
Average	*35.1*	*34*	*40.2*	*59.4*	*57.5*	*48.3*	*55*	*55.3*	*50.2*	*56.9*	*48.6*	*39.1*
Bleaker Island	7	75	12	31	70	23	40	45	47	70	-	30
Blue Beach	4	16	10	-	35	16	-	33	54	53	25	-
Fern Ridge	9	13.5	12.5	39	29.5	49.5	52	90	58	76	24	57.5
Harps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	33	-
Goose Green	11	16	13	41	45	21	44	38	-	52	18	44.5
Head of the Bay	10	25	19	56	45	22	40	53	-	87	31	53
Moss Side	2.5	26	-	44	54	-	-	45	70.5	99	-	-
North Arm	9	22	-	-	54	43	52	42	49	86	31	-
Port Howard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	47	-
Saladero	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salvador	2.75	27.25	30.25	56	41.25	28.75	38.5	20.25	52.5	42.75	41	54.5
Shallow Harbour	11	13	13.5	38.5	28	48	49.5	82.5	66.5	84.5	32	66
Walker Creek	35	95	13	42	36	24	34	46	42	64	16	33
West Lagoons	-	74	-	30	52	42	49	62	75	68	45	-

Dog Dosing Dates 2017/18

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

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

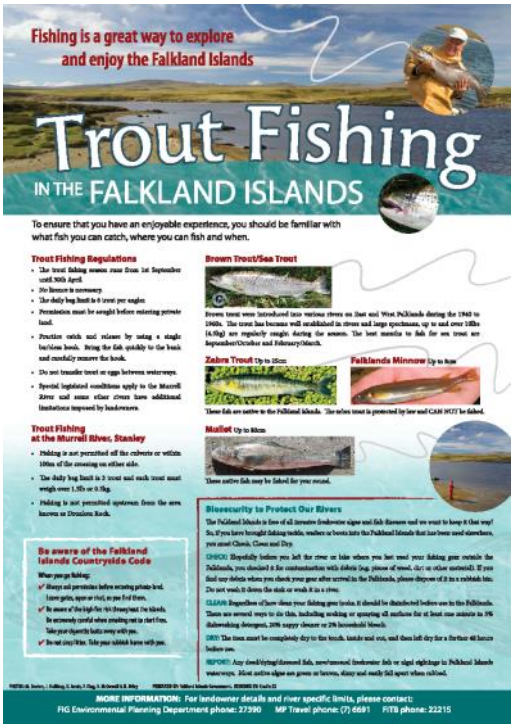
Regular weighing - it is important to keep a check on dog's weights to ensure correct dosage is being given.

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

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.

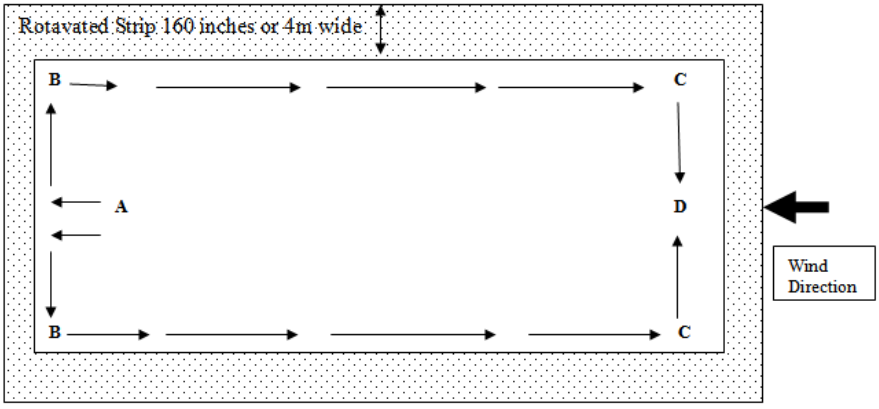
PREPARATION

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.

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports