

THE WOOL PRESS

November / December 2017

Volume 308

Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

biosecurity2@doa.gov.fk

In this issue...

Editorial

Des Humphry visits the islands

New equipment at the Veterinary Service

Biosecurity update

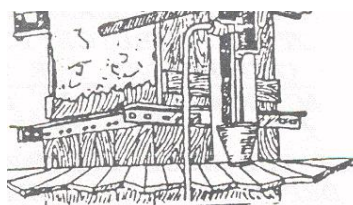
Saladero News

The benefits of additional measurement

Timing the first graze

West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show

Udder assessment



Edited By Stephen McLean

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Christmas 2017 edition of the Wool Press! While the seasonal conditions of late haven't been the best for shearing or lambing, at least we are heading into summer with stock water and soil moisture levels far better across the islands than was the case 12 months ago! Pasture growth has been good despite the cool conditions, promising high quality stock for the FIMCo export season and good growing conditions for hogget's throughout the summer. The soil moisture has been great for reseed planting.

It's great to read Zoe's article and hear about the positive impact that recent purchases have had in improving capacity and capabilities of the veterinary service. While I'm sure some of the KEMH staff and patients will miss the novelty of a large sedated dog being dragged in through the casualty doors, it's great to know that all are better off under the current arrangements.

Reflecting back on the editorial I wrote at the beginning of the year; wool prices were high and we were anticipating a productive outcome of the FIDC Wool Innovation project. I'm pleased to say that wool prices remain at near record highs (see the last page) and we are making good progress on the recommendations arising from the wool innovation project. So far we have revised the branding and classification of our wool to align internationally recognised trade descriptions.

The new descriptions and classifications were a key focus of the wool classing workshops that were delivered by Des Humphry in September / October, Lucy has written a good summary of these workshops. We have also encouraged (through FIP in particular) the use of additional measurement to provide buyers with objective measurement of the length and strength of our wools, you can read about this in more detail in my article on page 12. With a buoyant market and our wools fitting a 'micron gap' in the global marketplace we have never been in a better position to promote our wool to the rest of the world.

In this edition you'll also see that Mandy has been busy with reseeds, lambing and should be all finished with shearing by the time you read this. James has written a good article about ensuring that we get the timing of the first graze right. Sue has written an article on the importance of ewe udder assessment and how it can be used to improve the reproductively of ewe flocks. Even in a good summer we need to ensure that we are allocating feed to the most productive animals!

It has been a busy year for biosecurity. Ross outlines some of the major activities that have been undertaken throughout what was a very busy 2017. The biosecurity threats presented as we see more passengers and cargo entering the Falklands will need to be managed and resourced appropriately to ensure that we continue to effectively protect our natural environment and our agriculture and fisheries sectors. I'd like to thank Ross for his efforts in improving Biosecurity activities and knowledge within the Falklands and wish him every success at GSGSSI.

Good luck to those competing in the Speed Shear, Shearing Competition and the West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and look forward to working with you all throughout 2018.

Adam Dawes, Senior Agricultural Advisor

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

Falklands Wool — A quality product with a reputation worth protecting.

Lucy Ellis

Following on from the FIDC commissioned Wool Innovation Project – “Value adding opportunities for Falkland Islands’ Wool”, the Department of Agriculture has brought renowned Wool Classing Trainer Des Humphry back to the Falklands.

This is Des’ third visit to the Falklands; he is well respected by the local wool industry and is extremely impressed with the improvements he has seen to the quality and preparation of wool in the Falkland Islands since his first visit in 2005 and subsequently in 2015.



Des with Saunders Island & Hill Cove in the background



Fine Falkland's fleece classed using the new system

This visit was the first opportunity that Des had to get to a good number of sheds in camp and gave him a good overview of the cross section of breeds and wool types that we have in the Falklands. Des informed us that this was the first time that he had actually been in a Falkland Island shearing shed! The previous two visits concentrated on training wool growers in a more classroom type environment held in settlement social clubs or in the Parish Hall.

After the 2015 training sessions, the DoA asked wool growers how they would like to see future workshops held. Overwhelmingly, the answer was for in-shed training either during shearing or with the farmer shearing sheep for the purpose of the exercise with more hands-on wool handling and wool preparation as the wool came off the sheep to reflect the actual working environment of a shearing shed during shearing.

Des arrived on 16th September and spent his first 2 weeks delivering wool classing workshops to over 80 participants in 10 different sheds across East and West Falkland.

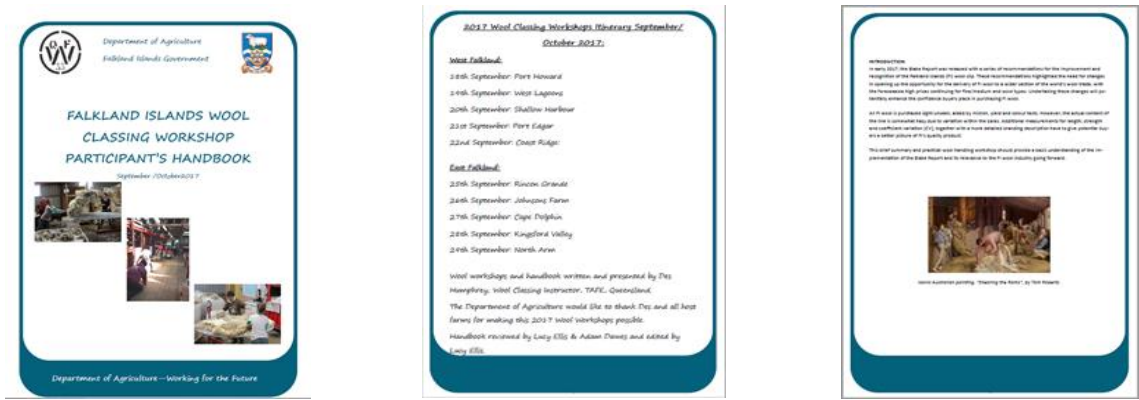


North Arm workshop



Port Edgar workshop

To give the workshops structure, Des produced the participant's handbook which was used through each workshop.

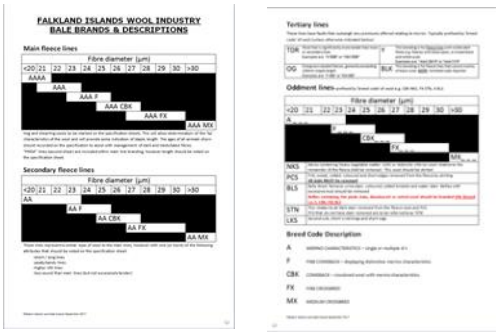


With the recommendations from the Wool Innovation Project highlighting necessary changes in widening the scope for FI wool to be recognised in the world's wool trade, the workshops focused on implementation of the new Falkland Islands Wool Branding standard and methods to improve clip preparation to maximise returns to farmers while increasing buyer confidence.



Left: Coast Ridge bale with the new branding.

Right: new bale branding descriptions to match international standards.

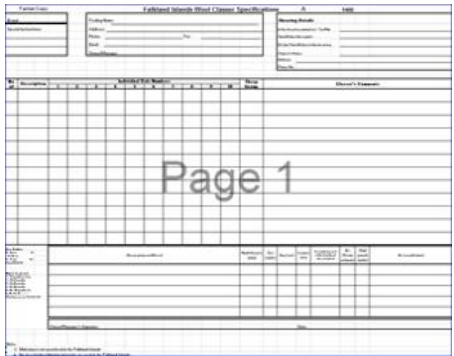


Des went through the handbook explaining what factors affect the price of greasy wool: micron and the length it will achieve once processed and the importance of micron and length and strength testing. Falkland's wool has traditionally only been measured for micron, colour, yield and Vm which only gives prospective wool processors a very limited idea of the full potential of the fibre. With the additional testing of grab samples for length and strength the picture becomes clearer and it may encourage new buyers to bid competitively for Falkland's wool.

Dark and Medullated Fibres (DMF) is a major problem for processors aiming to meet the specification for the number of dark fibres per kg/metre in the top. If the specification is failed then a costly process of hand picking fibres from the fabric ensues or the top is rejected. Black/brown wool and urine stain are the two major causes of DMF and it only takes 10 grams of black/brown/stain wool in one tonne of greasy wool for the whole top to be downgraded. Due to the high importance of this subject, crutching was a major talking point.

In the workshops, skirting and handling oddments plus classing strategies were all thoroughly covered. Additional measurements, understanding the test results and wool documentation, especially the classing specification sheets and why these documents are vitally important to the business and for selling the wool clips to a wider world wool industry were discussed and dissected with the participants.

Des was accompanied by representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Falkland Islands Wool Company.



Falkland Islands Wool Classer Specifications



Coast Ridge workshop



West Lagoons workshop

Des spent his third week in Stanley working with DoA staff and wool industry representatives to undertake a review of the Quality Falklands Wool scheme - a farm accreditation scheme to provide buyers of Falklands Wool with confidence in the product.



Original QFW stencil



New stencils created during Des' 2005 workshops



Des would like to thank all host farms and those who made the time to attend the workshops.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, we would like to thank all the host farms, including:

Port Howard, West Lagoons, Shallow Harbour, Port Edgar, Coast Ridge, Elephant Beach, Johnsons Harbour, Rincon Grande, Kingsford Valley and North Arm.

We would also like to thank Des and Falkland Islands Wool Company for their support in delivering the programme and hope that we see Des back soon.



Port Edgar workshop



Johnsons Harbour workshop

Progression in the Veterinary Service

Zoe Fowler

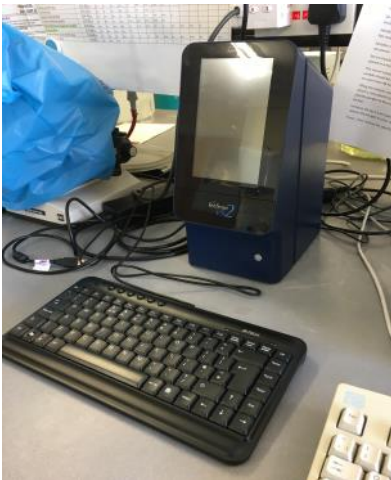
Over the last couple of years we have really started to hit the modern technological age in the vets. We have used available budget to buy a key piece of equipment at the end of each financial year when possible. These pieces of equipment will allow us to provide a much better diagnostic service, meaning we can make quicker and better decisions regarding treatment and management of cases.

Here in the DoA lab we now have machines to run basic blood profiles for dogs, cats, horses and cattle.

The larger machine on the right is the haematology machine which we have had for several years. This measures the levels of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets and also can give information about the different types of white blood cells and cell volumes and size and amount of haemoglobin in the red blood cells.



Increased white blood cells can indicate there is an acute infection, low red blood cells can indicate anaemia of some sort and there is a lot of other information that can be gleaned from a haematology report. We can also make a blood smear on a slide from a blood sample and examine it under the microscope to look to see if the cells look toxic or cancerous or if there are any blood parasites for example, but this is a reasonably specialist laboratory practice so we do tend to send blood smears to a lab in UK for an expert opinion.



The smaller machine on the left is our newest 'toy' - it runs biochemistry profiles. These tell us about levels of liver enzymes, kidney function parameters, electrolytes like sodium and potassium and thyroid hormone levels. We have previously had to call on the good nature of the KEMH lab staff to run these biochemistry profiles for us.

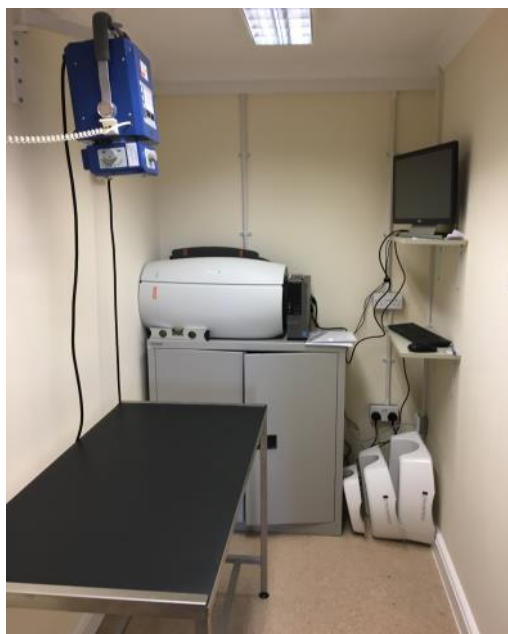
New equipment does mean an increase in the cost of tests but we are so lucky that FIG support the running of the vet service so we do not have to charge the full amount to recover full costs in a certain period of time. We are also incredibly lucky that the KEMH run a national health service basically for free.

Previously we charged £9.60 for a blood sample to be run through the haematology machine here and also for a biochemistry profile to be run at the KEMH. The actual cost of running a basic biochemistry profile at KEMH would be in the region of £35 which covers the cost of running the machine, the lab staff and the chemicals and analytes the machine uses.

While an actual cost recovery and running cost of the biochemistry machine here would be much more we are able to offer a full biochemistry profile for £23.33 at this time and a haematology profile for £10.49 (to run a haematology profile for a person actually costs the KEMH in the region £15.86 each time). So while it does increase veterinary costs I would argue that they are still pretty reasonable and it's important to maximise the KEMH healthcare facilities for people.

Owning or farming an animal is a choice, so if you make that choice you need to be prepared for any related costs that come with keeping those animals in the best possible way.

Another area in which we no longer need to rely on the help of the KEMH is for x-rays (although we are still heavily relying on the help of the lovely Nina to get our machine up and running fully and safely!)



Earlier in 2017 our much anticipated x-ray generator and digital developer arrived! It is from BCF which is the company from which we also bought our ultrasound scanners.

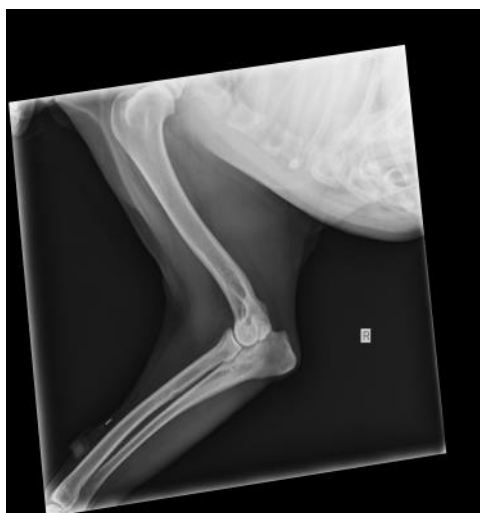
We have had to have some building alterations done to ensure the x-rays are taken in a secure room that doesn't leak any radiation and we are very pleased with the transformation of our former drug store into a neat and tidy x-ray room (we haven't just thrown all the drugs out, they are neatly stacked in the chemicals store).

We can now fit taking diagnostic x-rays into our clinical day whenever we want (and in out of hours emergencies) rather than having to rely on finding a slot in the KEMH diary and obviously it is much better not having to sedate and drive animals down the road to the hospital.

Most animals will still need a light sedation to have an x-ray as it's important that they lie still to get good quality, diagnostic x-rays on the first attempt so you are not subjecting your patient to repeated doses of radiation. X-rays are a form of ionizing radiation which can be very harmful to biological tissues in large or repeated doses and there are strict rules about the exposure of people (patients and operators) to ionizing radiation.

So the procurement of the x-ray machine is an extremely useful and exciting step forward for the veterinary service. It has created an awful lot of extra admin as I need to ensure we follow strict safety protocols in the use of it (these all need to be written down and recorded) and that the machine is functioning safely and correctly (so fortnightly and then monthly quality assurance tests need to be done – again, written procedures to be followed and recorded).

I also spend a lot of time shouting 'ARE YOU WEARING YOUR DOSEMETERS???' 'DON'T LOSE THEM!' at the other vets and support staff. Whenever you are operating the machine or helping with an x-ray you must wear a little badge that will pick up any environmental radiation. Every 3 months these will be returned to Public Health England who will read the badges to make sure we are not zapping ourselves accidentally with dangerous radiation.



While so far we have only x-rayed small animals in the clinic the machine is mobile so can be taken to the big shed or further afield to x-ray larger animals. We would generally try to bring the large animals as close to Stanley as possible though as rattling over £30K of equipment that needs to operate at a very high safety level over some of our roads probably isn't a great idea.

One of the main uses of x-rays is to look at bones for fractures, dislocations and developmental issues; however you can also view the soft tissues of the chest and abdomen very well with a decent x-ray. To aid diagnoses of soft tissue and internal problems we also have an ultrasound machine.

Many of you will have seen the more robust sheep or cattle pregnancy scanning ultrasound machines in use. These machines are dedicated pieces of kit for pregnancy detection but this little laptop scanner is a high quality small animal scanner and we have a probe to examine abdomens and also a probe for heart scanning (next we need the vets to learn how to scan hearts well – this is a reasonably specialist area in which Claudia excelled and the rest of us do not!) but we can see if there is fluid in the chest and the basic heart function.



With this we can check the size and shape of internal organs and if there are any masses or fluid that should not be there. We can use the ultrasound to guide us to an area of abnormal tissue to try and get a needle biopsy. We would all like more training in this area – such good ultrasounds did not exist when the 3 of us qualified!



Left:
Ultrasound image
of a left kidney

Right:
Blood Pressure
machine

We also have a little blood pressure monitor which is another really useful piece of diagnostic equipment. Various diseases give animals increased blood pressure which gives them the same problems as humans with hypertension, so identifying and treating it can give better quality of life and life expectancy.



Sarah and Claudia using the
blood pressure machine

Next on our wish list for Christmas is a urine analyser and an ECG machine so we can continue to improve our clinical service.

X-Ray of an injured cat



TWENTY SEVENTEEN and beyond

By Ross James



It's the end of another year, and a good time to look back on some of what has happened in biosecurity over the past 12 months. It's been a busy year, and we've had lots of interesting things come across the border. Some of the most memorable have already been written about in previous editions of Wool Press. They include the frog, stink bugs, cockroaches, harlequin ladybirds and false widow spiders. But those are just the tip of the iceberg.

Over the last year we have inspected the cargo on every Scout voyage, every MOD cargo ship, plus a number of other cargo ships visiting Mare Harbour and Stanley Harbour. We have inspected all of the imported vehicles, all of the fresh produce and most of the building materials. That's a lot of 'stuff'.

With the support of colleagues in Customs, we have checked things arriving by post, DHL, ship, yacht and aircraft. We have searched passengers arriving by sea and air. We have confiscated dried caterpillars (mopane worms), bright purple eggs, jerked meat and preserved fish to name a few. These things could have brought diseases from the Americas, Europe, Africa, Australasia and Asia. We have even prevented muddy boots going to Antarctica—so that's all the continents covered! The Falklands may be small but they are surprisingly well connected!

We are taking steps to work smarter, and be more proactive to ensure that biosecurity risks are dealt with before they even arrive in the Falklands. You don't need reminding how precious the Falklands are, and what we have to protect.

I have no doubt that next year will be equally or more busy; with a growing population, a developing economy, increased tourism and an oil industry on the horizon the pressures on biosecurity will surely increase. But next year somebody else will be in the biosecurity hot seat as I'm hanging up my hard hat and moving on to take another biosecurity related job for the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

I have genuinely had such a great time working at the Department of Agriculture, which has been largely due to having supportive, funny and hardworking colleagues. I will miss them a lot. It's also been a great place to meet so many Campers, I only wish the job had given me more reason to get out and about to visit more farms, but I have enjoyed meeting lots of you while you've been visiting town, or popped in for our legendary DoA smoko. I'm not disappearing, I'll still be based in Stanley, so I'll see you around. Have a great Christmas and New Year 2018!



Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

Well we are on the slippery slope to Christmas now, the weather has been far better here although already too dry and we have run out of water several times but that had a lot to do with filling the sprayer and using that a fair bit.

It is getting very dry in most of the camps around here, but it was a very different story on the West on my recent trip to Port Stephens and Port Edgar, very wet and the roads were slippery, rutted and very rough.

James came out here to teach me how to use the sprayer, and I managed to break it on my solo trip out, breaking off 5 nozzles, I don't remember hitting it the ground but I guess it did at some stage, I did wonder why I had a couple of massive jets of water flying out behind the tractor! I have now fixed this and have finished that job for now. Hew has been here planting with James and James has started another plot of trials. Tracy, James and Hew were planting most of the morning but had to give up later on due to the heavy rain.



Tracy and James sorting seeds ready to be planted

Mothering up the first lot of lambs that were born has finished and they have all been marked and put out to a new camp. The remainder of the ewes that are still to lamb have been put into their lambing camps, and started lambing a few weeks ago. The turkeys had mostly all disappeared but now they are back with a vengeance, and ewes and lambs are back on their menu.

Paul and Lee came to crutch the rams and hogs and they will be back to shear them later on, hopefully the rain will have given up by then.

I brought the cows in for weighing, and there have been 3 AI heifer calves born so I put their tags in at the same time.



The bulls also came in for their MOT and Zoe carried out a fertility check on them as well.



Erica is back from her studies in Australia and it is great to have her back with the team for a few months. She will be joining Tracy and Sue doing FEC from all rams and hogs before shearing.



A very Happy Christmas to everyone and all the best for 2018

Additional measurement- why bother?

Adam Dawes

As we get well into the 17/18 shearing season we have so far seen approximately 55% of fleece lines sampled at FIPASS grab-sampled for additional measurement (length and strength). This is a good level of uptake of recommendation 2 of the Blake + Associates Wool Innovation report. In recent correspondence that I have had pursuing new market opportunities for Falkland Islands wool, buyers have suggested that *“FI wool should be better prepared technically before bringing your wool into new markets. Currently, most of the merino mid-micron fleece wool from Australia, NZ and SA has been fully measured (Core and Grab sampled) for many years. This is due to the large adoption of TEAM technologies in the early stage wool processing industry. Perhaps, these will be the first questions asked by new wool buyers as far as the full objective measurement is concerned”*. With this I wanted to re-touch on the advantages of additional measurement for those of us who are yet to have wool sampled and tested this season.

Traditionally Falkland Islands wool has been sold on the basis of core samples alone. Core samples are used to provide buyers with objective measurement of yield, fibre diameter (micron) and colour of greasy wool. These attributes have the highest level of influence on the price of greasy wool; however they are not the only factors influencing the processing performance. Another important characteristic for determining the value of wool tops, and therefore greasy wool, is the length of fibres present in the finished top, commonly known as Hauteur.

Hauteur is heavily influenced by the length and strength of the wool staples. As a result testing equipment was developed and commercialised in the mid 1980's to allow objective measurement of length and strength of greasy wool. Since the 1980's the Australian Wool Testing Authority has undertaken a series of **Trials Evaluating Additional Measurement (TEAM)**, the most recent trial (TEAM-3) involved 34 wool processing mills from 12 countries. The TEAM-3 project developed a formula to allow processing mills to accurately predict the hauteur of finished wool tops using objective measurement of greasy wool characteristics. The formula developed was:

$$H = 0.43L + 0.35S + 1.38D - 0.15M - 0.45V - 0.59CVD - 0.32CVL + 21.8$$

H= Hauteur (mm)

M = Mid-breaks (%)

L = Staple Length (mm)

V = Vegetable Matter (%)

S = Staple Strength (N/ktex)

CVD= Coefficient of Variation Fibre Diameter

D = Mean fibre diameter (µm)

CVL = Coefficient of Variation Staple Length

Greasy wool is a raw commodity that is generally traded at tight profit margins. As such, risk management is paramount for a profitable wool trading business. The use of the TEAM-3 formula to predict hauteur has been widely adopted by wool traders as a risk management tool, allowing buyers to bid for greasy wool with confidence and offer prices that are aligned to the true value of the wool. The provision of additional measurement results is expected by the wool industry to the extent that AWEX reports the following discounts for lots of wool that have not had length and strength testing performed, as per Table 1.

Table 1. Discounts applied to fleece lines without additional measurement (p/kg)

18µm	19µm	20µm	21µm	23µm	25µm
-58p	-47p	-35p	-29p	-23p	-12p

Data taken from AWEX premium discount report — Southern Region, Week 19, 2017

While additional measurement has traditionally been more applicable to finer wools (evident via higher premiums for additional measurement of finer wools in Table 1) it is now becoming more relevant to broader wools (>25µm).

Table 2. Premiums and discounts (p/kg) for 23µm wool according to length and strength

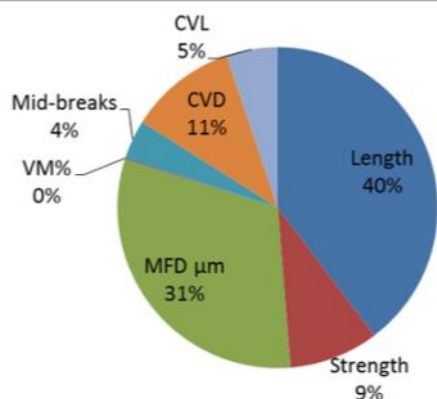
	42 N/ktex	35 N/ktex	32 N/ktex	28 N/ktex	21 N/ktex
110mm	-12	-15	-20	-23	-55
100mm	+3	0	-6	-9	-40
90mm	+5	+2	-4	-7	-39
80mm	-2	-5	-10	-13	-45
70mm	-3	-6	-12	-20	-47

Data taken from AWEX premium discount report- Southern Region, Week 19, 2017

While the premium and discount matrix in Table 2 may appear concerning (having far more discounts than premiums), we must keep in mind that the figures in the table are relative to the average test results. Table 2 tells us that the average staple length and strength is 100mm and 35N/ktex respectively. We can determine that the most desirable length for buyers is 90mm and that there is no significant discount for wool until the strength drops below 28N/ktex.

In reality the discounts applied to Falkland Islands wool that has not undergone additional measurement is likely to be significantly higher than those listed in Table 1. Buyers in other markets generally have the ability to view grab samples prior to bidding, allowing them to get some idea of the length (through visual assessment) and also to identify the 'tender' (<25N/ktex) wools, applying relative pricing. In the case of the Falklands buyers have to rely on either additional measurement, or information conveyed on classers specification sheets when bidding for wool.

The DoA undertook a trial in the 2016/17 season to test a selection of greasy wool samples for length and strength. From this trial we determined that the average strength of the 37 lots tested was 28N/ktex (20-42N/ktex) and the average length was 101mm (81-133mm) these are identified in the cell shaded green in Table 2. Comparing the discount in Table 1 to that in Table 2, we can conclude that testing for length and strength has achieved an additional 14p/kg (i.e. 'discount of 9p/kg, rather than 23p/kg without additional measurement), given that the additional testing currently costs around £35.00, the cost of additional measurement pays for itself in less than 2 bales.



By putting the average trial results into the TEAM-3 formula for hauteur, changing the fibre diameter to 24.5µm and assuming that CVD is 20% (not currently measured with airflow) we can see (Figure 2) the contribution that the various characteristics of the 'average greasy Falklands wool' make towards predicting hauteur.

You can see that failing to measure length and strength forces buyers to estimate almost 50% of the attributes that determine hauteur. Buyers manage risk associated with this estimation by applying discounts similar to those listed in Table 1.

In summary, **buyers need as much objective information as possible to allow them to bid with confidence.** Ensuring that we provide buyers with as much information as possible will assist us in achieving the prices that we deserve for our wool.

I would like to thank Phil Cranswick of NZWTA for his ongoing financial and technical support in encouraging the adoption of additional measurement of Falkland Islands wool.

If you would like more information on the benefits of additional measurement, or current market premiums and discounts, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Lucy via adawes@doa.gov.fk or lellis@doa.gov.fk, or phone or drop into the office.

Timing of the first graze

James Bryan

Now that most of the crops are in the ground for your reseeds, we need to start thinking about using them for what we are growing them for! Feeding them to our stock.

Grass

The general rule of thumb for grazing grass for the first time is the 'pluck test' this means that the grass cannot be plucked out of the ground. Try this yourself. If you can pluck it roots and all from the ground, then it is not yet ready to be grazed. If however the roots stay in ground and the leaves snap, then it is ready for its first graze.

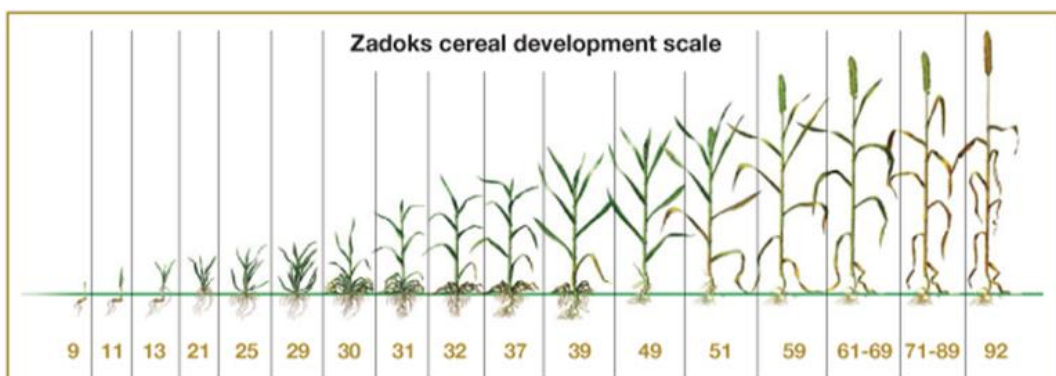
A grass pasture can take up to 12 months to be considered fully established. The first grazing forms a very important part of this. Graze too early and you will pull the plants out of the ground, as well as crush immature plants. Graze too late and plants will begin to smother, you will lose tillers and clover. This first grazing, if done at the right time, will help to promote tillering and growth. If you have also planted clover, then the light will be able to reach into the sward to help the generally slower establishing, lower growing clover.



This first grazing should be done with young stock, preferably lambs or hoggets, aim to graze only lightly, reducing the sward down by only 2-3 cm. Overgrazing as said above can pull grass from the ground, as well as resulting in a much slower regrowth potential. Once grazed, in order to further help the tillering and growth of the pasture, consider a light dressing of urea (if rain is on the forecast), 65-80kg per hectare is sufficient.

Oats

If you are planning to graze the oats, it depends (classic agronomist answer). What are you aiming for? Multi graze? A single bulk feed graze? Or are you planning on using it for silage?



If you are wanting to multi graze, then you will be grazing this quite early in the piece. Generally in what we call the mid tillering phase (G.S 20-26 – see picture above), at the same time, this is when any additional urea should be applied, to help promote tillering – as this is what ultimately affects yield. Again like grass, this grazing cannot be too hard, as you affect that regrowth.

If you graze too late, you may only get the one graze, as by GS 30, the seed head starts to move up the stem, once this is grazed, this tiller effectively stops growing, limiting any future yield.

If you are looking to just get a single graze or bale for silage, you can graze or cut later — still get the urea on early at the same stage as before, as this will increase total yield. You do however want to graze before the seed head emerges, this is when the oats plant has the most benefits to the animal; good soluble carbohydrates and it still has protein. Leaving it too late, the overall yield may increase but this carbohydrate changes into a harder to digest fibre and the protein decreases, reducing the palatability and the ME of the oats.

In order to effectively graze the crop to get the most out of it, we need to ask a couple of questions. What animals are you planning to graze it with? How long would you like them on there for? What is the yield of the crop? Are you feeding them the crop along with something else? What are the stocks daily requirements? A general rule of thumb to help roughly work out stock requirements; both growing and mature animals need about 3-4% of their liveweight as a daily intake. So a 20kg lamb would require about 600g/day of a good quality feed.

If you need a hand measuring or working out how much of your crop you should be feeding, measuring the yield or even just the benefits of cropping, don't hesitate to get in touch with either Sue or myself at the Ag dept.

CALAFATE: SEE IT, REPORT IT

We are wanting the public to get in touch with sightings of calafate anywhere in the Falkland Islands



Calafate is an invasive weed spreading throughout the Falklands.

The spines can become entangled in the wool of sheep, causing animal health issues as well as threatening wool production.

Calafate is a spiny evergreen shrub with woody stems up to 2m tall. Bright yellow flowers up to 1cm across are borne singly in spring and early summer and later produce purple berries about 8mm in diameter. Leaves are oval, 10-25mm long.

Spines are straight, 10-15mm long, in T-shaped groups of 3. It sometimes forms very low creeping shrubs which are hard to spot in the dense white-grass. Seedlings sometimes have spiny, holly-shaped leaves.

If you see any, please get in touch:

Tel: 27355

Email: jbryan@doa.gov.fk

We would appreciate any photographs you may be able to take should you think you have found any as this will help us to identify the plant correctly.



Department of Agriculture
Falkland Islands Government

31 years of Ram & Fleece Show

The inside story

We ask Nigel Knight, funder and organiser of the Ram and Fleece Show for over three decades what inspired him to set up this well known and loved event.

Nigel sits at his kitchen table looking expectantly, as he waits for the first question. It is the thirty first year of the Ram and Fleece Show, which by any standards is an impressive feat. I am keen to know this history of the Show- why a competition, why at Christmas and why hold it on the West.

It all began in 1987, when there was no regular sheep or fleece show in the Falklands even though one had been proposed in the 1920's Munro Report. In Stanley there was the very popular Christmas races but on the West there were no Island wide organised Christmas events.

Nigel explains, "At this time the overseas owned big farm sub-division was in full swing. These sub-divisions were being bought by locals who were very keen to improve the quantity and quality of wool that they were producing even though many of them had only limited experience in this area."

In addition, a Christmas event seemed to be well timed "At this time of year there were a lot of unpressed fleeces around and unshorn sheep so this seemed a logical time to launch this venture. At that point, we didn't have a woolshed so until 1989 the show was held in the Coast Ridge romney building with some overspill into the Lakelands shearing shed. It was a modest beginning but from the first show the event has always been well supported."

Nigel is keen to point out that the first shows were held prior to the development of roads, "So bringing fleeces and sheep to Fox Bay was no easy undertaking for many."

The development of the Ram and Fleece Show occurred around the same time as the Falklands Woolen Mill was established in Fox Bay, "In those early years we ran a competition guests at the Show had to guess how long it might take to shear a sheep and turn the fleece into a knitted jumper. It was always successfully completed on the day to great amazement and entertainment. After prize-giving the recently knitted jumper was auctioned off to supplement the Ram Show running costs."

Passing the reins

• • •

Keith and Nuala took on the reins of the Ram and Fleece Show in 2012 when they agreed to buy the Coast Ridge Farm from Nigel Knight.

Keith says, "It wasn't something we talked about much, it just seemed natural, that as we took on the farm, we would take on the Ram Show."

"For it to be going strong after 31 years is quite something. Of course, it makes me proud of what the folks achieved and makes me eager to carry that legacy."

The show is still going strong. It's a popular event, and we still manage to secure lots of entries on both the fleece competition and the ram classes. "

The aims of the Show are

- To encourage interest in wool and sheep through all ages of participants
- To encourage and help acquire the skills required to select prize winning fleeces and sheep
- To encourage entries by giving prizes to winning entries
- To display superior fleeces and sheep so that those less familiar with the necessary requirements can learn from them
- Promote discussion by attendees on the attributes of the entries of fleeces and sheep

Thirty one years on, his eldest son Keith has taken over the running of the show. "Mum and Dad worked hard on the show for decades, it seemed natural to take over the reins when the old man wanted to take a step back. Nigel is still very involved in the show, he does the accounts and he keeps Nuala right with the paperwork."

When asked how he sees the future of the show, Keith reflects for a moment

"Hopefully in the future our girls will take on the show and will have lots of new ideas on how to keep the show current and interesting. I hope that's not thirty years away though!"

The Trustees of the Ram and Fleece Show are very grateful for all the sponsorship and support they have received since the inception of the show, especially those that have been there since the beginning.

The 31st West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show will take place at the Coast Ridge Shearing Shed, West Falklands on the 29th December 2017, further details of this event can be found on page 21

This issue's FAQ...

Can I import seeds and bulbs?

Yes you can but here are some things that you need to know first:

Seeds must be:

- Sourced from a commercial supplier
- Commercially packaged with the plant species clearly visible



Bulbs must be:

- Sourced from a commercial supplier
- Accompanied by a Notice of Arrival form & import permit issued by the Dept. of Agriculture
- Phytosanitary Certificate



For more detailed advice and guidance on importing seeds and bulbs, and to apply for an import permit please contact the Dept. of Agriculture



Falkland Islands BIOSECURITY

Protecting Our Islands

Department of Agriculture T:(+500) 27355



The benefit of udder assessment in ewes

Sue Street

Udder assessment of breeding ewes is a great way to identify which ewes have successfully lambed and reared ('wet' ewes) and those which have failed to rear a lamb ('dry' ewes) in the current season. By using the technique to 'wet' and 'dry' ewes, this allows you to decide which ewes to keep and which to cull. Reproductive performance can be significantly improved by culling the poor performers (i.e. twice dry or twice lambed and lost). Udder assessments are best done at lamb marking, as some ewes will have weaned their lamb by weaning, thus increasing the chance of incorrectly assessing if the ewe is 'wet' or 'dry'.

The technique of 'wet' and 'dry' is a simple operation. The assessment should be done when the lambs have been drafted off the ewes for a few hours, as it allows wet udders to fill with milk. Udder checks are best done in a race, but not packed so tightly that you can't reach your hand and arm behind the tail to the udder.

Udder checks are done by hand, and the method for udder assessment is below:

- Reach down and cup the udder in the palm of your hand,
- Once touching the udder feel the size, warmth and density of the udder, and whether both sides are equal,
- Use your thumb and fingers to feel the length of one teat, while stripping any milk or fluid in the teat out into the cupped palm of your hand,
- If the two sides of the udder are unequal, or the first teat does not produce milk or fluid, you may need to feel and strip out the other teat,
- If you come across something that you don't understand, tip the ewe onto her rump, this allows you to be able to check the whole udder to better determine what is happening.



Normal functioning udder and teats, birth stain can be clearly seen between the vulva and the udder. (Source; Chris Shands NSW DPI – Primefacts: sheep udder assessment at lamb marking.)

Wet ewes

Wet ewes are those which are rearing a lamb or lambs. These animals will have a warm udder, full of milk. Sometimes a wet ewe will have dried off or lost milk on one side. Milk in a 'wet' ewe is always warm, completely white and opaque.

All 'wet' ewes will have a birth stain on their breech, which is the remnant of the ewe's birth fluids. This can be hard to see if you are marking late. Generally birth stains have vegetable matter stuck to them, are granular and will crumble into smaller granules or to a powder when rolled between the fingers.

Dry ewes

Diagnosing a ewe as dry does not mean that the ewe was not pregnant, but is rather a simple assessment of stating whether the ewe has a lamb suckling on her.

Dry ewes can be broken down into two categories:

- Ewes that have given birth, but have not reared any lambs ('lambded and lost')
- Ewes that have not given birth ('dry')

Deciding between the two categories can be difficult, but there are a few methods you can use to differentiate between 'dry' and 'lambded and lost'.

Lambled and lost

All ewes that have lambed and lost will have birth stain around and on the skin and wool on their breech; their udders will have some size and development, but are smaller than those which are wet. Their udders are generally cool, and don't have any tone. Teats usually feel and look greasy or dirty and there is no ring of clean skin around the teats from being recently suckled. When stripping the teat the milk is usually of a clear or semi-translucent consistency and milk colour can vary from whitish, brown, reddish to grey.

Dry ewes that have not lambed

Dry ewes are easier to detect, and maidens are the easiest to diagnose. No birth stain can be found in dry ewes, and this class of ewe does generally tend to be bigger and fatter than the rest.

Udder assessments are also a great way to identify any ewes that have udder abnormalities, and culling decisions made based on this. Ewes with unsound udders, regardless of the type of abnormality, will not be able to rear a lamb as effectively as those with sound udders. Milk yield is generally reduced in these ewes, which leads to poor lamb growth, poorer lamb survival and lower lamb marking percentages.

Udder abnormalities can be a result of mechanical injury, predominantly shearing cuts, mastitis or abnormal development. Abnormal development include incomplete development and growth of parts of the udder, teats that are too large, blind, blocked or missing teats and disease such as mastitis and cheesy gland.



Lumpy udder, which is easily felt. (Source; Chris Shands NSW DPI – Primefacts: sheep udder assessment at lamb marking.)

There is a surprising amount of information that can be gathered from such a simple but effective technique. As stated before, reproductive performance can be greatly affected by assessing udders at lamb marking. Studies conducted by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture (NSW DPI) has found that weaning rates can be significantly increased by removing any ewes that have 'lambled and lost' in that season. It was found that when assessing the net reproduction rates from best to worst in a ewe flock over a 2 to 3 year period, the bottom 25% of the ewe flock only raised 8% of the total number of lambs, thus having a huge impact financially. But some degree of caution is recommended when assessing and culling for 'lambled and lost' as it does not take into consideration environmental factors which have a huge influence on lamb survival.

If you consider culling most or some of your 'lambled and lost' ewes too harsh, even identifying dry ewes for future years is effective. By ear tagging or ear notching these ewes, you can assess her status after a year and if she once again fails to rear a lamb then she should be culled. Any ewe that has required any assistance during lambing, should be culled from the flock immediately.

If you would like more information on or a demonstration on how to wet and dry ewes please contact me on ssstreet@doa.gov.fk or ring on 27355. There is also a YouTube video that explains the technique really well – Gordon Refshauge – how to wet and dry breeding ewes.

Did you know — that you can download *The Wool Press* as a pdf file from <http://www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture/index.php/publications/viewcategory/20-2017?>



Dates for your diary

23rd December	<i>Speed Shear, Rose Bar</i>
24th December	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
25th December	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26th December	<i>Boxing Day, Public Holiday, 1st day of the SSA races</i>
27th December	<i>Public Holiday 2nd day of the SSA races BBQ Millennium Campsite - Kenneth & Josie McKay</i>
28th December	<i>Public Holiday</i>
29th December	<i>Government Holiday Shearing Competition, FIDF Hall, Stanley Annual Ram & Fleece Show at Fox Bay, advert on page 21</i>
30th December	<i>Government Holiday</i>
31st December	<i>New Year's Eve</i>
1st January	<i>New Year's Day New Year's Day Raft Race</i>

Dog Dosing Dates 18/19

20th December 2017
24th January 2018

At time of printing dog dosing dates for 2018/19 have not been released, these will be published in a later issue.

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

Telephone: 27366, **Fax:** 27352

Email: sbowles@doa.gov.fk

After normal working hours, please leave a message or email.

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

2018 Public Holidays

1st January	<i>New Years Day</i>
30th March	<i>Good Friday</i>
23rd April	<i>Queen's Birthday</i>
14th June	<i>Liberation Day</i>
1st October	<i>Peat Cutting Monday</i>
10th December	<i>Battle Day</i>
25th December	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26th December	<i>Boxing Day</i>
27th December	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>
28th December	<i>Government Holiday</i>
31st December	<i>Government Holiday</i>



The 31st West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show

When: December 29th
Where: Coast Ridge Shearing Shed , Fox Bay East
Livestock and fleece entries: 9am-12pm
Barbeque: 12.30pm onwards
Judging: 2.00-3.30pm
Prize giving: 4.30pm

Entries may be sent to Keith before the event or be brought to the Wool Shed on the day. FIGAS will again kindly fly fleeces free of charge.

COMPETITION NOTES:

Rams in Class 1 should not have any permanent incisor teeth erupted.

Rams in Class 2 are Dual-purpose

Rams in Class 3 are mature

Fleece classes are hog, any other fine fleece and AAAF (23-25micron)

Fleece entries should be skirted fleeces only

Entrants should inform Keith of the probable number of rams or fleeces to be exhibited so that sufficient pens/tables can be prepared.

The fleece with the highest commercial value, Champion ram and Reserve champion will be judged on the day by two experienced 'Wool People' all other judging will be done by popular vote.

Please note that the judge's decision is final.

EVENING:

The SCSC will be open all day as usual. Please bring a plate for 7pm @the club if you would like to share in a community supper.



Christmas Recipe

Roast Potato, Turkey, Sausage & Stuffing Pie

This easy pie has all the best bits from Christmas dinner in one: turkey, stuffing, sausage and roasties. Bake until golden brown and tuck in!



Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil or rapeseed oil
 knob of butter
 1 large onion, halved and sliced
 6 sausages or 8 chipolatas (leftover pigs in blankets are fine too)
 2 tsp English mustard powder
 50g plain flour
 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
 150ml white wine
 500ml chicken stock or leftover gravy
 6 stuffing balls, leftover or shop-bought
 300g cooked turkey, shredded
 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
 100g low-fat crème fraîche
 small bunch parsley
 800g leftover roast potatoes
 20g mature cheddar, grated

Prep: 10 mins

Cook: 1 hr, 10 mins

Easy

Serves 6

Method

1. Heat the oil and butter in a large, shallow ovenproof casserole dish. Add the onion and cook for 10 mins until really soft. Push the onion to one side of the dish and add the sausages, browning them all over (skip this step if you're using cooked leftovers).
2. Remove the sausages from the dish and set aside to cool a little. Stir the mustard powder, flour and stock cube into the oil and butter for 1-2 mins, then add the white wine. Bubble for 1 min, scraping the bottom of the dish to release any tasty bits, then add the stock. Stir to make a smooth sauce, season and bubble for 5 mins. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
3. Cut the sausages and stuffing into bite-sized chunks, add to the sauce with the turkey, mustard, crème fraîche and parsley. When bubbling, remove from the heat. Crumble the potatoes in your hands over the top of the filling, so you have some larger and smaller chunks. Scatter with cheese and bake for 40 mins until the potatoes are crisp and the filling is bubbling around the edges.

Nutrition: per serving

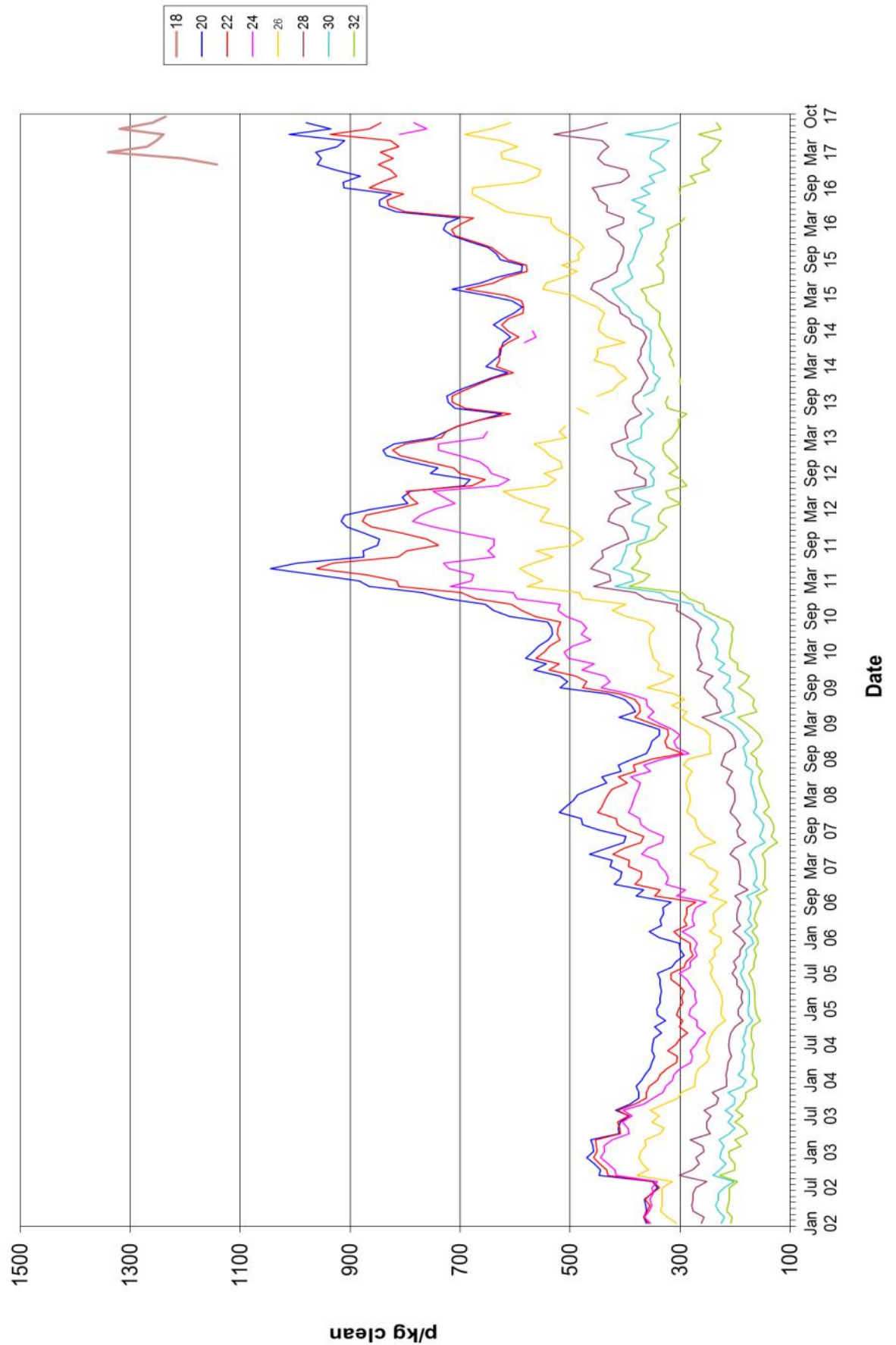
kcal	fat	saturates	carbs	sugars	fibre	protein	salt
605	25g	8g	57g	7g	7g	30g	1.8g

Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com

WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports

AWEX Wool Price Summary 2002 - 2017





The Up in Arms Pub Quiz

Sport

Who is the only player to have scored in a Champions League final, FA Cup final, UEFA Cup final and League Cup final?

In which sport is the playing time divided into chukkas?

What is the highest possible 3 dart finish in a standard 501 game?

History

Who was assassinated in Dallas on 22 November 1963?

In 1990 what did Tim Berners-Lee invent while working at the Cern European nuclear research organisation?

In 1972 Clifford Irving was jailed for 30 months for writing a fake autobiography of which millionaire?

General Knowledge

What is the common name of the 'Aurora Borealis'?

In American currency 10 cents make a what?

Afrikaans was developed from which European language?

Music

Who were "comfortably numb" in 1979?

Who wrote the Kenny Rogers hit "The Gambler"?

Garth Brooks released his self-titled debut album in which year?

TV

In which year was Eastenders first broadcast?

Which weatherman assured viewers on the 15th October 1987 that there would be no hurricane just hours before the country was devastated by one?

Name the US actor who has appeared in the television shows Taxi, Numb3rs and Forever?

Word Search Around the Islands

G	Y	N	R	N	Y	O	Y	U	M	F	R	L	L	T	R	L	T	R
S	I	S	E	A	V	O	Z	D	J	I	A	P	J	S	P	E	N	U
E	T	B	B	E	R	I	L	Q	Q	E	C	R	V	N	M	D	I	O
Q	S	X	R	Z	R	T	C	E	U	M	E	F	A	F	U	P	O	B
H	O	T	T	A	C	G	L	S	K	B	P	P	D	P	V	L	P	R
F	C	I	A	B	L	R	E	N	T	H	O	Y	N	V	Q	G	G	A
O	F	A	W	N	A	T	G	S	N	A	I	T	O	P	G	J	N	H
R	V	F	E	M	C	X	A	E	O	G	N	L	X	A	H	T	I	S
U	Y	D	E	B	P	I	E	R	W	O	T	L	L	P	E	Q	R	N
J	N	B	W	J	T	Q	A	G	S	F	G	C	E	A	O	H	P	O
Q	L	T	L	U	G	N	I	A	K	T	K	C	L	Y	I	K	S	S
A	Q	B	L	J	T	U	A	Q	P	T	A	I	Y	L	N	M	W	N
C	A	P	E	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	N	T	L	M	Q	R	F	H
D	R	A	W	O	H	T	R	O	P	L	X	C	I	H	O	A	W	O
R	A	B	N	U	D	X	K	M	E	E	O	Y	Y	O	S	H	K	J
O	R	E	D	A	L	A	S	T	Q	V	L	U	P	Q	N	T	V	Y
J	A	R	M	Y	A	V	X	C	E	G	B	E	P	F	V	R	Y	J
S	O	L	R	A	C	N	A	S	T	R	O	P	Z	O	W	O	N	T
R	U	O	B	R	A	H	W	O	L	L	A	H	S	N	J	N	D	V

ALBEMARLE	FITZROY	JOHNSONS HARBOUR	SALADERO
CAPE DOLPHIN	FOX BAY	NORTH ARM	SHALLOW HARBOUR
DUNBAR	GIBRALTAR STATION	PORT HOWARD	SPRING POINT
ELEPHANT BEACH	GOOSE GREEN	PORT SAN CARLOS	STANLEY
ESTANCIA	HILL COVE	RACE POINT	TEAL INLET

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

Sudoku solution and Pub Quiz answers will be in the next issue

Or if you can't wait that long the answers will be posted on our Facebook page a couple of weeks after publication

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



Falkland Islands Government

www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture

