

THE WOOL PRESS

September/ October 2018

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In this issue...

Editorial

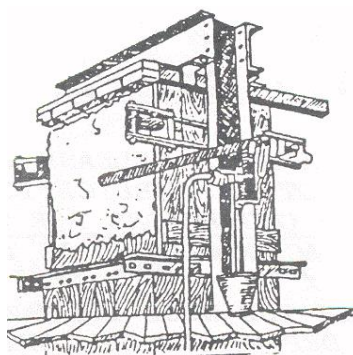
Saladero News

Evidence of A Brighter Future for the Falklands Meat Industry

Prevention is Better Than Cure—No One Wants a Poxy Penguin

Getting the Most out of your Oats

Culling for age. A decision worth getting right!



Edited By Rhiannon Didlick-Smith

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the spring edition of the Wool Press, except it isn't feeling that spring like just yet. Back in September the temperatures got onto double figures but we have seen little of that recently. If not exactly spring like there are signs that it is that time of the year. The annual Farming Statistics have been published for 2017-2018, after much collating and checking. Some of the headlines were reported at the recent Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. The data show that despite the long term trend in declining sheep numbers, the volume of wool produced remains stable reflecting an increase in average fleece weight. It is appreciated that providing all the data in the agricultural return can be a bit of a chore. Nonetheless the long term record of farming data continues to be a valuable resource with regard to decision making and devising economic strategies.

The return of the 'Deminers' may be a somewhat unusual harbinger of spring but they are a welcome sight. They have undergone a name change to Safelane Global. The updated maps of cleared land and the remaining mined areas show major change over the years with large areas of terrain in Stanley and Camp cleared and released for use. The next two seasons should see most of the remaining areas dealt with by the deminers which will be a grand achievement.

September also saw a further visit by representatives of the company interested in developing salmon farming. Unfortunately, the presentation due to be made on fish farming back in Farmers Week was cancelled due to a flight delay. The recent visit involved some site appraisal work mainly around East Falkland although with some work along the Falkland Sound coast of West Falkland. The sea trip encountered some boisterous spring weather conditions which demonstrated what a factor Falkland weather can be. A lot of work on environmental, economic and social impacts needs to be undertaken. Those results will need to be evaluated and the impact assessed before any decisions can be taken.

The recent AAC meeting also reported on the outcome of the budget process for the current financial year. One of the items which changed was the conversion of one Agricultural Advisor post into funding to provide for visits by specialists and technical experts. Previous examples include workshops on wool preparation and live animal grading. If there are specific areas in agriculture where you think that funding could usefully be directed then let us know!

John Barton, Director of Natural Resources

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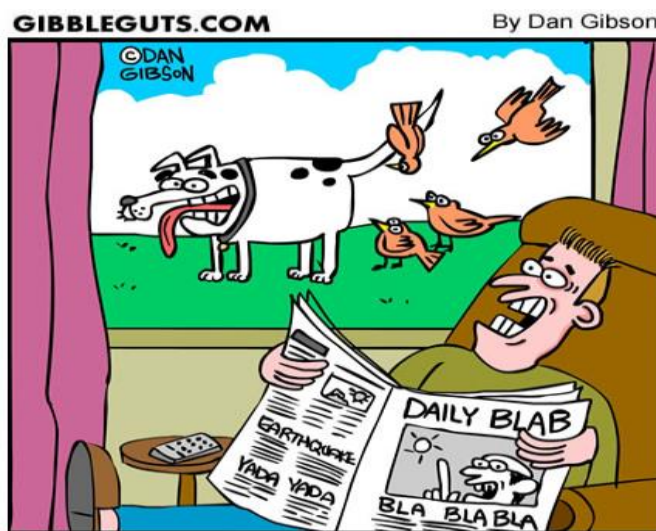
To reduce our environmental footprint, future Wool Press editions will be printed in the smaller size 'A5'.

The Wool Press can also be accessed online via the DoA Website and the DoA Facebook page.

Same amount of content but kinder to the planet.

DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2018/19

Date	Drug
Wednesday 24th January 2018	Drontal
Wednesday 28 th February 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 4 th April 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 9 th May 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 13 th June 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 18th July 2018	Drontal
Wednesday 22 nd August 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 26 th September 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 31 st October 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 5 th December 2018	Droncit
Wednesday 9th January 2019	Drontal



Honey....I think the dog has worms again.

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

All dog owners are responsible for worming their own pets. Please remember to contact the Veterinary Office and confirm this has been done. After normal working hours, please leave a message or email.



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Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

There are signs of spring; grass is starting to grow, flowers are popping up and geese are laying off. Having found goose eggs on the Island at the beginning of September I thought Spring may be here to stay, but then came the cold weather again and put everything up the creek. We are having a really cold spell right now, just in time for the start of shearing and lambs appearing.

We have finished crutching the ewes, Robert and Amy did them over a day and a half at the end of August. Afterwards the ewes went back out, but they came in again for scanning on the 11th September.

Shearing will start at the end of October, so let's hope the weather improves by then.



Ewes in ready for crutching



Scanning & vaccinating ewes followed by BCS



We have just had a new press delivered ready for this season. The old one has been put up for tender and will hopefully be heading off, along with the old shearing motors, to someone who can make use of them.

We have been measuring up for the new cattle yards and shed, taking into account the space that will be needed for new sheep yards.

I spent a few days rotovating, then James and I did some soil and grass samples ready for a visit from Rodrigo Olave who is studying greenhouse gas emissions from Falkland soils.

****NEW BIOSECURITY MEASURE FOR IMPORT OF SMALL ANIMALS****

We are extremely lucky in that there is currently not a cat and dog flea population in the Falkland Islands. Fleas are thought to cost UK animal owners in the region of £100 per year, per animal! Not to mention the additional burden it would place on the veterinary service. For these reasons we wish to keep the Islands **FLEA FREE.**

All cats and dogs are treated for fleas and ticks at the start and end of their journey to the Falkland Islands to ensure they are not carrying any live fleas, however flea eggs and larvae can survive in soft furnishings, dog beds and soft toys, therefore the following extra measures will be introduced from OCTOBER 2018:

- *Fabric animal beds that animals travel on will be destroyed on arrival in the Falkland Islands so please send your pet by air or sea with a small, old bed that you are happy to sacrifice. The same applies to soft toys.*

Animal beds can be purchased in the Falkland Islands but choices may be limited and costly so you may wish to purchase new beds in UK and ship them to the Falklands along with your personal effects.

Please be aware that larger personal effects that you may ship to the Falklands such as cars and sofas that pets may have travelled in or sat on, may be subject to inspection and treatment on arrival. So, please vacuum thoroughly and launder cushion covers before shipping, where possible.





PRESS INFORMATION

Immediate. No embargo— 19/09/2018

Evidence of a brighter future for the Falklands' meat industry: A review of progress under the FIDC business change programme at Falkland Islands Meat Company.

From its foundation nearly twenty years ago, it was clear that a meat processing enterprise on the Islands would struggle as a financially viable entity. Compared to red meat businesses almost anywhere else, Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) would face a unique battery of challenges - distance from markets, cost and availability of labour, variable livestock supply, ambivalent product and brand identity and a weak relationship with trade and consumers.

And so, in reality, yes, FIMCo has struggled, and has kept going out of necessity, by the efforts of a dedicated staff and with a generous helping hand from government.

Well, that's the gloomy bit out of the way.

Now, there are very positive signs of a healthy enterprise – witness FIMCo now supplying MPC via Ecolog. Change is under way, as last year, Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) followed up on its strategic review and assessment of long-term prospects for the company, with the appointment of Michael Ledwith as the new Business Improvement Manager. His task – to bring about a cultural shift in the abattoir's approach to business.

Recently, at Farmers' Week, FIDC and Michael presented a challenge to the livestock supply chain. This session was followed up by a comprehensive report to FIDC's Board and then to MLAs on the 5th September.

What they heard was; the Sand Bay plant needs to be - and can be – driven harder to give cost savings, and that more than ever overseas and local markets are keen to have a quality Falklands product. And that challenge to the farmers? Bluntly, send in more animals – so that the plant can get the economics right.

Here is a little more detail on the work Michael and his team have been doing, the thinking behind the supply-chain changes, and a hint at the rewards that should come from a sustained effort at FIMCo and in farming. Many people in the Islands have a stake in this trade, so it is truly a community matter.

Michael Ledwith arrived for his task equipped with over 30 years' experience in running meat plants. To his trained eye it was clear that, for a small-scale abattoir and cutting plant, Sand Bay is very well designed and has some excellent equipment.

But, he also quickly noted that the FIMCo abattoir was operating at best to a maximum of two thirds of its capabilities at the height of its Export season. The butchery team, whilst keen, did not regularly have the skills and experience to work at a rate and quality that would help forge a competitive offering.

Questions arose in the review around the trends in livestock numbers, with totals declining since 2013. Michael is certain the large numbers of New Season lambs slaughtered in 2012 and 2013 (18,000+) has had a detrimental effect on the numbers coming through the plant in recent years. On his projections, there is a strong case to reduce number of lambs, especially females, going for slaughter, building up the flock size in coming years to attain a significant increase in numbers. Similarly he argues there is a case for retaining young male lambs, at least to Yearlings, to produce more meat per carcass in light of the current wool prices and meat prices.

Right now, for FIMCo, they need to know; is the decrease in lambs being slaughtered leading to an increase in the Islands' flock size, which will produce more numbers for slaughter in years to come? Because, if the slaughter numbers tripled, FIMCo could handle these levels. FIMCo is very aware the meat industry is a high volume, low margin business; competing on the world stage, FIMCo needs higher numbers for slaughter and this must be the long-term plan.

That lays down the challenge. This past season, proving willing to change, FIMCo undertook a cull sheep trial, bringing in close to 4000 - a 10% addition to the season – as the plant manager states “without really trying and despite many farmers having disposed of culls before the word was out”. This points to a valuable supply in years to come, and for which the plant will pay fair rates. As things stand, current numbers of sheep and lambs booked in are on the up even with some farms still to submit numbers. The forecast is for greater sums of sheep to be slaughtered for the season, and cattle for the year are estimated at 500. Good, but not enough.

On a recent fact finding tour across the Islands, FIMCo managers learned that farmers on the West could and would increase supply – given confidence FIMCo would take extra stock and give them a positive return. They also needed to see improved logistics – points being acted on, as shown later in this article.

Turning to another cost driver – labour. Servicing the larger numbers and maintaining economies of this scale, FIMCo managers are recruiting a new and highly-skilled team for the abattoir. The dramatic and ambitious aim is to have these slaughter and butcher at least 33% more than achieved by recent personnel, and recovering an extra 5% meat per carcass – especially relevant to the broader animal specifications now in place to encourage more supply. Michael and the team are also looking to reduce the amount of carcass disposed for little or no value – fats, and a pet food line are being tried, as well as efforts in use of offal.

In a further bid to go beyond lower-valued commodities, FIMCo is getting to grips with creating a long-term beef industry. As Michael knows from direct experience with wholesale and high-end retail contacts, building a reputation and market in Beef is about having consistent supply to customers, who are certainly out there - whether local (retailers and fishing fleets), Ecolog/MPC, tourist or Export. The marketing of a regular quantity is far easier than occasional, intermittent supply. So, again, this comes down to farm producer confidence and commitment if this market is going to be met.

Another cost driver and a critical component for success is transport and logistics. FIMCo has plans forming up now - working with FIG, plus sea and land logistics providers. Even with the best efforts of our shippers, costs here are very high – because of distance to markets overseas - but a coordinated logistics chain from the farm gate onwards will help see that cost of transport does not outweigh monies realised for animals. Immediately after Farmers' Week, and responding to the potential higher numbers, the logistics planning moved on significantly - with the purchase by FIMCo of more vehicles and trailers, new contracts for animal movements, FIG commitment to funding for building handling pens at New Haven, and changes to getting animals on and off the boats, plus other steps to reduce costs of getting animals in to FIMCo.

Taking account of the push to get more supply, the FIMCo Management has completed and is just awaiting their Board's approval for a simplified pricing and grading structure - one that is more transparent and not as punitive as in the past, for example to those carcasses that fall outside the premium grades. Michael Ledwith here again stresses that in the plant now, *all* carcasses have a market. The new price arrangements also remove most of the vagaries of which month the cattle were supplied in - FIMCo has chillers and freezers to manage these demands. Weight ranges and fat classes have also been reduced substantially. Prices for top grades have not changed but it is not nearly as harsh on those carcasses that fall slightly outside the top grades. The intention again is to encourage farmers to produce more, whilst still aiming for the best grade.

Focussing on markets - for the next season, far more evaluation of market conditions will be done by FIMCo Management. This year, volumes of lamb and mutton from NZ and Australia have been at record highs but as China is now taking huge amounts and paying similar prices to Europe, volume has been diverted away from the traditional markets to fulfil the Chinese demand. Consequently, UK and European prices have continued to climb in FIMCo's sales season and started their annual seasonal upward trend far earlier than normal. This market dynamic opens up opportunities now for FIMCo, but the key will be consistent supply - to establish long-term and in some cases new relationships, and build confidence in our ability to supply them.

Here in the Islands, many of us know we have great products in the shops and the restaurants – a local bone-in fore rib of beef, or a lamb shoulder can be world class. But, however good the lamb, mutton or beef, and however much needed or valued is the local industry – the truth is meat is a high-volume, low-margin business when competing in the world markets. FIMCo needs higher numbers for slaughter and this must be the long-term plan. Customers need confidence in supply, and alongside this our Falkland farmer producers need confidence that FIMCo will slaughter their animals and pay a fair price. The recent work from FIDC, Michael Ledwith and the FIMCo team is proving this case; Production cost drivers are shaping up, customer demand is healthy – and the other link in this chain – supply of livestock - now surely comes under the heading of a shared community responsibility.

Concurring with the Business Improvement Manager's views, FIDC Managing Director and FIMCo Executive Chair Martin Slater looks to a bright future at FIMCo; "The efficiency and productivity changes at the plant are dramatic, the products are good and the market is paying attention. An increase in stocking densities - land area permitting - is a matter of long term confidence. This is what we are building but it will be an ongoing task, working in concert with the Department of Agriculture for an optimal level, and farmers acting with us to realise this potential".

Ends

Editor's notes

For further information, to arrange additional comments or interviews or picture opportunities, please in the first instance contact Gordon Ackroyd development.gpordon@fidc.co.fk

Tel. FIDC 27211

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

Staff News

HELLO

to Liliana Pereira who has joined the Ag team as a Wool Corer for this season.

Liliana is a vet from Uruguay and is married to Daniel, the FIG Sheep Management Advisor.

She has lots of experience with sheep and wool, including 17 years as a Wool Laboratory technician for the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat with her main background in quality control, as a university professor in sheep production, and as a technical advisor for "Laboratorio Sur". She has also worked with Daniel in farm advising activities.

Prevention is better than cure:

No one wants a poxy penguin!

By Naomi Baxter

Ever sat in the loo at FIGAS and pondered what you were taking on the plane? Did I remember my toothbrush? Have we bought enough beer?? Next time you're there, take a look at the back of the toilet door and you will see one of the new inter-island biosecurity posters...perhaps you are taking something that you don't intend to.



Inter-Island biosecurity versus border biosecurity

Inter-island biosecurity is preventing the spread of pests, weeds and diseases *within* the Islands and it is just as important as border biosecurity (stopping things coming in in the first place). It might seem an impossible task to stop something that is already here, in Stanley say, from spreading around the Islands, but it is a worthwhile endeavour.

Imagine Rachel the Rambler turning up on holiday having visited granny's farm in the UK. Unbeknownst to granny, her farm is in the early stages of a foot and mouth outbreak – no visible signs as yet but the pathogen is silently spreading all through her livestock and onto Rachel's muddy boot. The pathogen is able to survive for months so as Rachel goes about her business, around MPA, out on a ramble round the Islands, she is spreading the disease further. It goes without saying that foot and mouth in the Islands would be utterly devastating. So, while border biosecurity is key, preventing the spread of anything once it gets here is just as important.

Day to day, the declaration cards filled in by each inbound passenger pick up on any visitors that have been on farms and have not cleaned their boots (Rachel was given a stern warning when she turned up at MPA with muddy boots. They were taken off her by the biosecurity team and were given a good scrub and disinfected). Although we don't routinely have a footbath out, it would be one of the first lines of defence in the event of any livestock disease outbreak in neighbouring countries or the UK. The vets get immediate notifications from all over the world when there is an outbreak of any serious disease and that would trigger a response, which would include putting out the footbath at MPA for incoming flights, and in some circumstances, banning certain meat products from being imported and sold.



Example of a footbath in action.

Footbaths

It's not just the spread of livestock diseases that can be prevented by footbaths, they also work in preventing the spread of wildlife diseases. We spoke to Suzan and David at Saunders to find out how using a footbath has worked for them. They have a footbath with a disinfectant dip on the airstrip and ask all their visitors to dip their footwear as they get off the plane.

Suzan says, “we started using it as there was a penguin pox getting around the Islands which we didn’t get. As people were moving between Islands we thought we would try and stop it coming to us”.

Although, the footbath would not stop a penguin bringing pox to the island, it reduces the chances of the disease being spread by humans. Saunders penguins were fortunate to avoid that pox outbreak and the island continues to use a footbath.

A disinfectant footbath is an excellent way to stop unwanted diseases spreading around the islands, particularly during an outbreak, such as avian pox, which can be transmitted on visitors’ boots and clothing. However, disinfectant won’t stop other invasives coming in such as weed seeds and insects – for that your visitors will need to scrub their boots and check clothing and bags for stowaways.

Another benefit of having the footbath on arrival is the focus it brings for visitors. If the first thing you do on arrival is disinfect, that shows you are coming somewhere really special where you have to take extra precautions. Focussing on the positive, i.e. that you are helping us protect somewhere exceptional, can enhance visitors’ experience. Although it might feel a bit awkward asking people to step in it, Saunders find that no one has refused yet and report that most people think it is a good idea.



Whether you decide that a footbath is something you want to implement full time, or if you just want to have one available in the event of a disease outbreak, get in touch. The Agriculture Department has a limited number of footbaths to give out to farms. The footbath comes with some virkon tablets and set up instructions, but costs for additional disinfectant once the initial virkon has been used up, will be down to individuals. You might also consider supplying brushes and a bin into which folk can deposit seeds or soil that has been brushed off their contaminated footwear, clothes or equipment.



Email: biosecurity@doa.gov.fk or call 27355 to enquire.

Many thanks to Suzan and David at Saunders Island for kindly answering our questions.

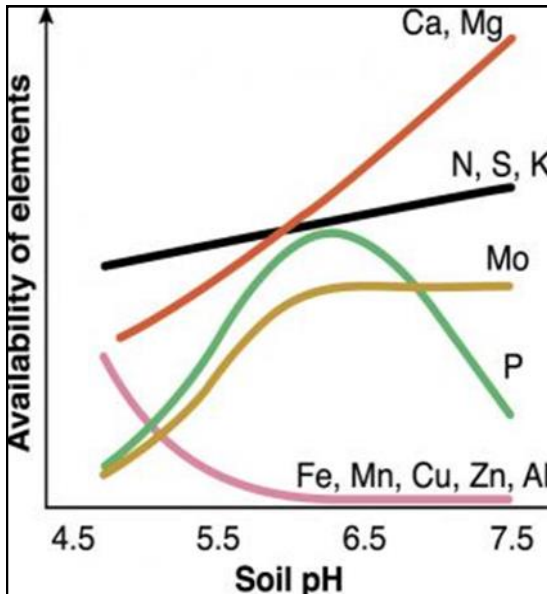
Wildlife Disease Response Group:

The DOA are part of an ongoing programme of work to develop a response plan for a wildlife disease outbreak. The group includes the vets, biosecurity, JNCC, Falklands Conservation and the Environment Officer. We are still in the early stages of putting the plan together but will be sharing it for comment with landowners and farmers when it is a bit further down the line.

Getting the Most out of your Oats

James Bryan

Here in the Falklands we use our oats for one of two things; grazing or for hay production. Did you know however, that these both require different management techniques?



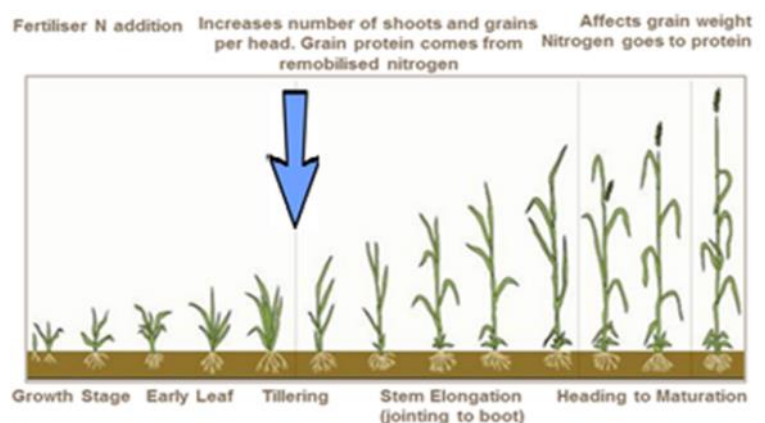
Let's start at the start.

First off we should have done a soil test in the autumn. This will help us decide on site selection and fertiliser requirements.

If the soil is too acidic (low pH) then we can run into several problems as this graph highlights. Picking an area of ground that has a higher pH is probably the easiest factor to consider in the Falklands, unless you have lime or calcified seaweed available. Ground with a higher pH has greater plant availability of most of the important nutrients, such as Nitrogen, Phosphate and Calcium. In turn, it means a lower level of availability of elements such as Manganese and Aluminium, which in high doses can be toxic to plants through retardation of roots and blocking the uptake of other important minerals.

To grow a good crop of oats we need to have adequate levels of nutrients in the soil. Although less than some other crops such as brassica and grasses, a minimum Olsen P of 10 should be considered for your phosphate level. Should you have a low Olsen level, then a capital dressing of fertiliser may be required to increase this at or prior to sowing. In terms of fertiliser applied, we really like to see a dressing of a minimum of 120kg DAP at sowing; this will provide the essential nutrients for the crop to grow. Applying more than this, will provide a capital dressing, helping the crop to withstand a poorer season and better manage stresses throughout the growing season.

As with most grasses, Nitrogen (N) is also very important, and is probably the most important nutrient driving production. Ensuring Nitrogen is on early helps the tillering process, which in turn drives total yield. Essentially the more tillers you have per plant, the more leaves and therefore the higher the yield. So when applying DAP at planting time, you are applying Nitrogen as well as your phosphate. The more you can get on, the higher the amount of N you apply. If you are fixed in terms of the amount you are applying, then an early dressing of Urea should be considered. The correct time to apply this urea would be at the "mid tillering" stage as indicated in the diagram. Due to the lateness of our planting in the Falklands, this can be relatively early post planting, so you may have to be on the ball.



Getting the Most out of your Oats ... continued

If Urea is applied too late, it will still impact on growth, but just not as well. If possible aim to get 150-200kg Urea on per hectare. This will ensure you will have enough N to see you through to cutting and grain fill, however if you are planning to graze more than once, then consider smaller applications post grazing events.

If you are planning to cut the oats for hay, then other nutrients such as Potassium (K) should also be considered. You are essentially taking this all out from the soil and it can affect future plant growth unless you return it. It all depends on your soil K levels, however an average rate of application would be 100-120kg of Potassium Chloride/ha.

If planning to graze your oats, there are 2 real options; you can let them grow and get a single graze off them, or whilst young and small you can get multiple grazing's off of them. As long as they are sufficiently mature, oats can withstand high grazing pressure and produce abundant forage early in the season.



Start grazing when plants are 15-25cm tall, after roots have had a chance to become well-developed, and graze down about half of this. Once the weather becomes warm enough plants will grow quite rapidly and you will need to graze early and hard enough to maintain them in the leafy, vegetative state. This also helps plants form tiller growth (along with adequate nitrogen). For quickest recovery only graze down to the height of the lowest stem node, about 8-12cm above ground level. Avoid hard grazing which can remove the growing points of the tillers and hence delay regrowth. Should the growth start to get away from you, you may want to add a few more animals onto the crop. Or should the opposite happen, you may need to remove a few. Adjust animal numbers to keep the crop at the maximum quality level. Don't worry if a few plants head out, as crop growth and maturity is determined by day length, and post the longest day it will want to go to seed.

Rotational grazing between two or more paddocks is recommended since it allows the crop to regrow between grazing's and there is less loss to trampling. (Number of paddocks will depend on stocking rate.) Subject to conditions, you may get several grazing's.



The other option is strip grazing which also works well. You will only get the one graze off this method, as you will be letting the crop get to a later maturity state, and as a result the ability to produce tillers is vastly reduced. If you plan to go down this track, try to keep the crop breaks narrow and long, this will help to reduce trampling and increase the utilisation of the crop.

Culling for age. A decision worth getting right!

By Daniel Pereira

The case of breeding ewes

The **culling policy** determines which kind of animal we are willing to keep for the next year (productive cycle).

The best decision would be to discard any sheep whose performance, under the nutritional resources that each farmer will assign to his ewes, may represent a waste of money or pose a problem for itself and/or the rest of the flock.

There is a point when keeping some old ewes would only be worthwhile if they are given preferential treatment, such as improved pastures or delayed lambing, but this decision must be an economic one.

Our culling policy helps to ensure that we have productive, profitable and easy care animals in the flock; meaning a high probability of survival, acceptable performance levels, high individual profit and less labour. As a result our culling policy deserves appropriate consideration.

Productive profile of the old ewes

Reproduction and wool production

All the components of reproductive performance will increase with age (fertility, twinning rate and mothering ability) until reaching a point where they begin to drop, sometimes abruptly. Wool production will start to decline at an earlier age than reproduction.

Meat production

As sheep grow old, fattening becomes more difficult.

Health

Old animals tend to accumulate problems because they have been exposed to them for several years. This may become more evident when proper culling has not been done at younger ages.

Udder disorders are a good example. An older ewe has undergone several lactation periods, and has been shorn many times, so the probability of suffering from udder problems like mastitis, shearing cuts, blind teats and some infectious diseases (such as *Caseous lymphadenitis*) is higher. Feet problems also become more pronounced with age.

Where should we draw the line?

Age and longevity

There are variations in the rate of biological decline, according to: the type of pastures, soils, genetics and other factors. Though longevity may be a virtue in some flocks, it must not tempt us to keep breeding ewes for too long. The age of 5 to 6 years old is a good point to begin considering culling ewes for age.

Automatic culling for age may seem a practical option, particularly when the farmer knows by experience the age when production of his ewes is likely to drop, but, as there is an individual variation, the best way will be to evaluate each animal.

Continued: Culling for age. A decision worth getting right!

Which to eliminate and which to tolerate.

Eliminate

- Ewes with udder problems should be eliminated, at any age.
- Extremely worn out teeth, very low body condition, or poor fleece appearance should be always enough for culling.
- Any ewe failing twice to rear a lamb should be also discarded. If not scanning and / or wet / drying ewes at lamb marking / weaning you should at least be aware of extremely fat ewes at this time.

Could be tolerated

Some ewes may be retained for an additional year if they have proved to maintain a good body condition, together with fleece quality and reproductive performance in spite of having not the best teeth. On the other hand animals showing good teeth may exhibit clear signs of body and/or wool deterioration and the decision of keeping them may be doubtful.

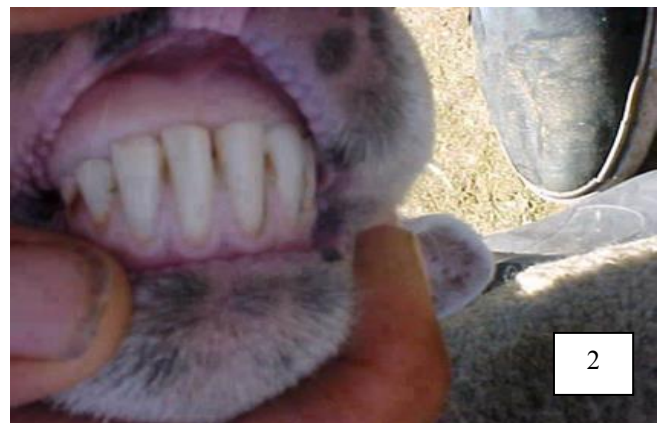
Doubtful animals should be culled, unless there is a requirement to build sheep numbers, in which case less desirable ewes may be retained until the desired stocking numbers are achieved.

Teeth assessment

There is an important individual variation in the way teeth deteriorate. Sometimes teeth shorten, others get narrow, sometimes they get rounded or irregular and lose their cutting edge or they become separated and/or apparently long (mainly because of gum retraction). These last two conditions may be accompanied by loosening of the teeth.

Visual inspection is used for determining shape, structure, and length of teeth but in some cases we must use touch to evaluate if they are firm.

In some animals the incisors may look good on just opening the lips, but when you open the mouth and look at their inner aspect or touch with the thumb the posterior part of them (photo 5) you may find they are **in fact very short**, nearly levelled with the gum.

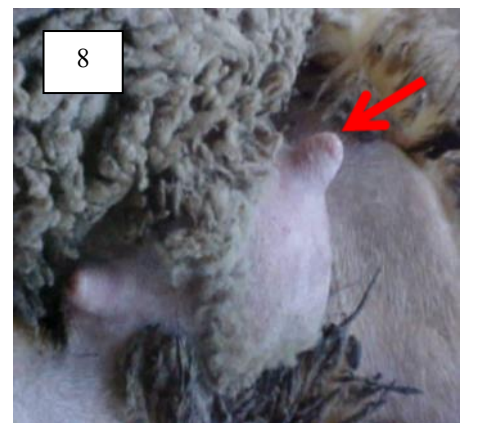


Continued: Culling for age. A decision worth getting right!

When teeth show no evidence of extreme wear, full mouth ewes can be classed into three broad categories, based on their probability of raising lambs for:

- More than two seasons (*photo 1*)
- Two more seasons (*photo 2*)
- Only next season (*photo 3*)

Photos 4 to 7 show different teeth shapes and conditions (all should be culled).
Photo 8 shows a blind teat (probably due to shearing cut)



Do you agree?

If you want to make any comments please let me know either by:

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or at the DoA: tel: 27355

ANSWERS TO SMOKO BRAIN TEASERS

(July / August Edition)

Answers to quiz questions

On which part of the body would you normally wear a fascinator? **Head**

The Island of Fiji is in which ocean? **Pacific Ocean**

Which daring World War II raid did Guy Gibson lead? **The Dambusters**

Which American golfer won the 2017 Open Championship? **Jordan Spieth**

In Greek mythology where could Cerberus be found? **Guarding the gates to the underworld**

Which English football club play at Roots Hall? **Southend United**

Which is the only country to have taken part in every football World Cup finals? **Brazil**

True or false: Kangaroos can only jump forwards **False: they can jump backwards a small distance**

Which bird is faster, the Peregrine falcon or the Common swift? **Peregrine falcon**

According to the FBI, which day of the week is most popular for bank robberies? **Friday**

2	4	5	6	1	3	9	7	8
7	1	6	8	9	4	2	3	5
3	8	2	7	6	5	1	9	4
6	5	9	4		2	8	1	3
4	9	1	3	8	6	5	2	7
8	2	7	9	4	1	3	5	6
1	3	4	2	5	7	6	8	9
5	6	8	1	3	9	7	4	2
9	7	3	5	2	8	4	6	1



Guess who these two little cuties grew into?

Clue: they work for the Department of Agriculture

COOKING CORNER— Recipes from the Ag Dept

Rhiannon's meatballs

(For those who know I am a veggie... don't worry ... these balls are made with real sheep and are approved by my carnivorous family!)

Ingredients

500g mutton mince
2 cloves garlic finely chopped & squashed
1 tablespoon of chopped parsley or coriander
1 tablespoon chopped mint
1 teaspoon oregano or ground cumin
salt and pepper to taste
Splash of olive oil

Instructions

1. Mix together all ingredients really well.
2. Wet hands and make meatballs.
3. They can be either fried or oven cooked:
 - **OVEN:** Place on a baking tray and cook in a pre heated hot oven for about 15-20 minutes (depending on size), turn over midway through cooking)
 - **FRY:** Heat oil in large frying pan and cook for approximately 6 – 8 minutes turning as needed (cook in small batches).
4. Remove meatballs from pan and keep warm.
5. Serve with tzatziki, pitta, & quarters of fresh lemon.

Tracy's Baileys Fudge

14 oz Condensed Milk
1 & a quarter cups Brown Sugar
1 & a quarter cups Icing Sugar
½ lb Butter
1 & a half tsp vanilla Essence
2 tbsp Baileys

Method

Mix butter, condensed milk and sugars in a bowl and heat in microwave for 9 minutes stirring every 3 minutes.

Once finished heating add in vanilla essence and Baileys, beat continuously for a couple of minutes or until smooth and shiny looking.

Place in a lined dish or tin to set. Leave to cool a bit before putting in the fridge overnight.

Naomi's Bread

Overnight no knead, no stress, bread - a very forgiving recipe, super easy and very yummy

3 cups plain flour
Heaped tsp dried yeast
1.5 tsp salt
1.5 cups warm water

You will need a pot with a tight-fitting lid: A cast iron stew pot is ideal but almost anything can work as long as the lid is tight and will hold in the steam.

Start the day before you want to eat the bread.

1. Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl, add water slowly – don't knead—just mix with the end of a wooden spoon until all combined, it should look rough. If it is wet and soupy add more flour.
2. Cover with cling film and stick in the fridge overnight. Don't worry about time, anything between 6 and 16 hours is fine.
3. When you're ready to cook, turn on oven to the highest setting (about 220 degrees C), & preheat your pot with the lid on.
4. Scrape the dough out onto a piece of non-stick baking paper with lots of flour on it.
5. Flour your hands and gently shape the dough – don't knock the air out but just try to round off the edges and make it into a bread shape, keep hands well-floured to avoid a sticky mess. Don't worry what it looks like, it'll turn out delicious whatever.
6. Cover the shaped dough lightly with cling film and leave somewhere warm to rise for 30-40 mins while the oven heats up.
7. Carefully take the hot pot out of the oven, remove the lid & lift the baking parchment with the shaped bread into the pot. Fold the baking paper over the sides of the dish so it is sticking out & replace the lid tightly.
8. Return to the oven for 30 mins.
9. Remove lid & cook for a further 15 mins.
10. Take out of the oven and leave to cool on the parchment paper. I find it always sticks and rips if I try to take it off too soon....be patient.

SMOKO BRAIN TEASERS

The Come On Inn Pub Quiz

Becky Sharp is a character in which novel?

The Velocipede was a nineteenth-century prototype of what?

In mythology, Romulus and Remus were brought up by which animal?

Who was Prime Minister when Britain joined the European Union?

In which country did the first Football World Cup finals take place in 1930?

Who was the 'I' in 'I Am Legend'?

What was the first perforated UK postage stamp, issued in 1854?

What song are these lyrics from: 'Living easy, living free, season ticket on a one-way ride.'

Which country became the first to give women the vote in 1893?

ISLANDS OF THE FALKLANDS

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

CHRISTMAS	TICKLE
BURNT	WEST SWAN
HUMMOCK	ARCH
STAATS	RUGGLES
DUNBAR	BEAUCHENE
PASSAGE	NORTH TYSSSEN

DID YOU KNOW???

- ♣ You can't snore & dream at the same time.
- ♣ Evidence from a bloodhound can be admissible in a US court.
- ♣ A sloth would take about one month to travel one mile.
- ♣ Avocados are poisonous to birds.
- ♣ King Charles II (reign: 1649-1685) decreed that dead people had to be buried in woolen shrouds in order to boost wool sales.

				1			8	
7		8						
				3	6		9	
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					4	9	6	
		7					3	
		1		8				2
	7	3						
6			3			5	1	9

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

A little joke:
Q: What do you call a sheep with a machine gun
A: A b-aaa-aaa-aaa-d situation!

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



Falkland Islands Government
www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture



AWEX Wool Price Summary 2002 - 2018

