

THE WOOL PRESS

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Telephone +500 27355

Fax +500 27352

agrassistant@doa.gov.fk

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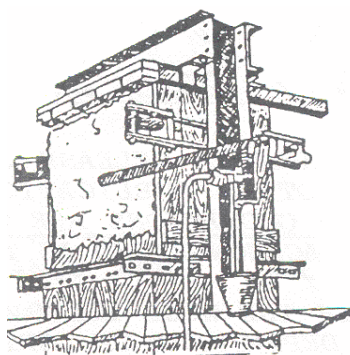
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Edited By Tracy Evans

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the spring time edition of the Wool Press – although I hear you saying “what spring?” Hasn’t it been a dreadful start to the shearing and lambing season – certainly one of the worst I can remember and I’ve been here 20 years now. According to the Met office at MPA September was an “average” month apart from having a much lower total of sunshine hours and October seems to have continued in much the same vein. But no amount of complaining about the weather will make one iota of difference – so we just have to make the best of it. One thing you can do when the weather outside is cold and miserable is sit down indoors and read the latest Wool Press.

This month’s edition is very varied as usual. Starting from the beginning there is a short piece by Matt McNee asking for interested farmers to contact him to discuss beneficial changes that could be made on their farms. The following pages are a reminiscence/farewell from our erstwhile Senior Agriculture Adviser Adam Dawes. It certainly comes across that he (and the family) really enjoyed their time in the Falkland Islands. Pages 6 – 9 are all devoted to the recent (beginning of September) farmer visit to Uruguay - an overview written by Tom McIntosh and then two very enthusiastic articles from Falkland Island farmers (Dae Peck and Donna Minnell) who participated in the visit. Mandy Ford has written her regular Saladero news update and that is followed by a page on targeted grant schemes which are administered by Lou Ellis in the FIDC. Check them out in case there are any schemes there which might be of use to you. This brings us to an article on the “Creeping Thistle”; like most invasive weeds it is much better tackled from the first time you notice it so that it doesn’t get the chance to establish itself. What a good photo of its root structure on page 13 – you can see why it might be difficult to eradicate. Finally if you’ve not already booked up for a place on one of the OFDA2000 workshops details about where and when they will be held can be found on the final two pages – but they might have already taken place before this edition reaches you!

Hopefully spring will have sprung by the time you receive your copy of the Wool Press. Here’s wishing you a very good lambing and shearing season.

Steve Pointing
Senior Veterinary Officer

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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.

The Falkland Islands Government

Department of Agriculture,

Veterinary Service,

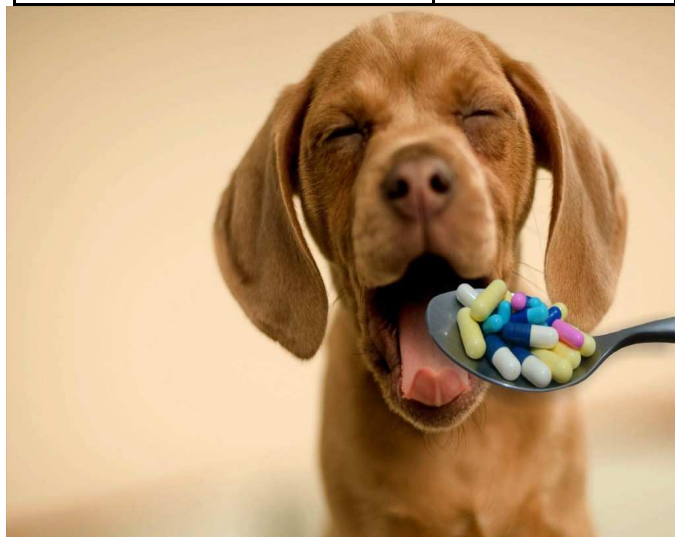
Tel: (500) 27366 Facsimile: (500) 27352

E-mail: sbowles@doa.gov.fk



DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2019/20

Date	Drug
Wednesday 9th January 2019	Drontal
Wednesday 13th February 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 20th March 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 24th April 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 29th May 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 3rd July 2019	Drontal
Wednesday 7th August 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 11th September 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 16th October 2019	Droneit
Wednesday 20 th November 2019	Droncit
Wednesday 18 th December 2019	Droncit
Wednesday 9 th January 2020	Drontal



Conversations with Your Agronomist – Your Change Process

By Matt McNee

As I become more knowledgeable about farming on the Falkland Islands I invite you to have a conversation with me. I hope that we can discuss the change process on your farm and how the Department of Agriculture (DoA) could support you to make that process more robust.

A robust change process might involve activities that;

- **Reduce uncertainty in decision making**
- **Develop strategies to better manage complex problems/issues**
- **Ring alarm bells when there is risk of adverse outcomes from management decisions**

Activities might include things like the use of vegetation or soil maps to reduce uncertainty about flock movements, farmer-led experiments to overcome problems with soil and plant nutrition, or ecological monitoring of valley and coastal greens.

As the DoA Agronomist in partnership with the Sheep Advisor, we are here to support you to undertake these types of activities. It is important that any change is meaningful to you in your unique farming circumstance and is driven by your needs.

If you would like to have a conversation with your Agronomist about the change process on your farm, then please don't hesitate to contact me on 27355 or email: MMcNee@doa.gov.fk to book an appointment for a farm visit or drop into our Stanley office when you're next in town.

Thank you from Adam Dawes

Tracy has managed to track me down and poke me enough times from afar to get another Wool Press article out of me. This isn't an easy article to write, there are so many amazing experiences that I had during my 4 years in the Falklands, however I'll try and break it into some simple bite sized pieces.

I'll start by thanking the amazing staff in the Department. I have been fortunate to work with some amazing people and teams throughout my career, but the staff in the Falklands DoA is second to none. The culture of teamwork, comradery and the 'get stuck in and get it done' attitude makes the department a fantastic place to work, and one that I will surely miss. I recall when the department was down an agronomist, a sheep advisor and a farm manager, the DoA team pulled together and kept the ship on course, even managing to achieve a record lambing result!

I also need to thank the farming community and the wider community. Being 10,000km away from family with 3 kids (and then 4) isn't without its challenges. With the support and kindness of our friends, both in Stanley and in Camp we were able to thoroughly enjoy our time in the Falklands, while establishing new friendships that will endure for life. I still remember feeling overwhelmed when we received 'congratulations' cards from Camp after Sebastian was born.

When writing an article like this I began trying to reflect on achievements during my 4 years working for the Department of Agriculture. In my time in the agronomy role we made great progress on evaluation of pasture and crop varieties, fertiliser and herbicide recommendations and refining our conservation tillage techniques. We also managed to secure funding for and commence a control programme for Calafate; this needs to remain a key focus of the department, as it presents one of the greatest medium term threats to Agriculture in the Falkland Islands.

During my time in the Senior Agricultural Advisor role there were emerging opportunities in wool and sheep genetics. Thankfully I was able to pass all aspects of the agronomy role onto a very competent agronomist, James Bryan, and focus on these opportunities. On the back of the report by Blake and Associates we revised the recommended branding of the Falklands clip, implemented additional and improved testing to strengthen marketability of our wool and integrated Falkland Islands Agriculture as a member of the 'global agriculture community' through participation in organisations and events such as the International Wool Textile Organisation, the World Merino Breeders Association and Expo Prado. Long gone are the days where we can 'grow it and they'll buy it'. Consumers are now far more conscious of the story behind their food and fibre and they want assurances that it's a quality product that is produced in an environmentally sustainable and ethical way. With the changing needs of our consumers we need to remain engaged in industry developments, adapt our practices and ensure that the global meat and fibre industries are aware of our amazing products so that we can capitalise on the premiums that Falklands meat and wool deserves while protecting our reputation.

What do I see as the future for Falklands Agriculture? I can see great value in exploiting the provenance story of Falkland Island products, however there are many steps in getting there. The future of wool markets doesn't look any clearer, which means that we will need to re-look at farm diversification to spread risk. Beef is a logical option, however as we are all too aware, this will require the whole of the industry cooperation if we are wanting to increase numbers in the long term. Throughout the extensive AI programs over recent years we have undoubtable made huge gains, however as we get 'closer to the pack' we will need to get smarter with our decisions to continue to maximise returns on our investment.

The most obvious threat to Agriculture in the Falklands is climate change, of the 4 summers that I was there, none were similar in any way. We will need to ensure that our agricultural practices adapt to ensure that environmental and economical sustainability remain in balance.

What does the future hold for me? The family and I have settled back into our 'old home' and I've returned to a role in the Department of Agriculture in Canberra; however things are never quite the same once you've experienced an amazing place like the Falkland Islands. Some things are now certain, as a family we now appreciate the more subtle things in life, I enjoyed getting back into the sheep and wool industry and we can't stop thinking about the Falklands.....who knows what might come next.....?

I wish all of you the very best for the future. Hopefully many of our paths will cross again in the future, please get in touch if you happen to find yourself in southern New South Wales! No doubt I'll keep up to date with things via Facebook. If social media isn't your thing my email address is adawes04@hotmail.com



Recipes

Pumpkin Fried Dough - From Mandy Ford (Sopaipillas)

2 lbs Pumpkin or Butternut Squash
2 lbs Flour
4 tbs Lard (melted)
1 tsp Baking Powder
2 tsp Salt

Bake the pumpkin or squash in oven for an hour until nicely browned.

Force pumpkin through a sieve and add lard and salt, and then add flour a little at a time to form a dough that is not sticky.

Roll the dough out ¼ inch thick and cut into 3 inch rounds.

Fry in hot oil until golden brown.

You can also make them smaller and serve with salsa or pebre.

Don't cook the pumpkin in water, baking it caramelizes the sugars and dehydrates and the dough needs less flour.

Very similar to dough fries (buggers to float).

Pebre

3 or 4 large Tomatoes
½ an Onion
4 Cloves Fresh Garlic
6 - 7 Chilli Peppers (*can use chilli paste instead of fresh Chillis*)
Fresh or Dried Coriander
Salt and Pepper
2 - 3 Tbsp Oil to mix.

Finely dice tomatoes, onion, garlic and chillis and mix all together in a large bowl. Finely chop the coriander (if using fresh). Season and add oil.

If you have a favourite recipe that you would like included in the Wool Press email it to Tracy on agassistant@doa.gov.fk

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



Falkland Islands Government

www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture



Overview and Benefits of the Recent Farmer Visit to Uruguay

By Tom McIntosh

When and Where?

In early September a delegation of Falkland Island farmers, wool industry representatives, Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Government House staff toured farms, wool processors and agricultural research facilities to find innovations to consider for the farming operations on the Falkland Islands. The delegation then did a week, rostered on the Expo Prado stand.

Who was in the Agricultural Delegation?

- From the farming community: Dae Peck, Lee Molkenbuhr, Donna Minnell, and Keith Knight.
- From the Wool industry on the Falkland Islands - Farrah Peck and Reba Peck.
- From the Department of Agriculture - Daniel Pereira, Adam Dawes and Tom McIntosh.
- From Government House - Alex Mitham.

What ideas were raised to consider for the Falkland Islands Farming community?

Some of the ideas discussed on the tour included:

- ***New Species for Camp pastures*** – The delegation met with researchers who may be able to identify a legume or a grass that is being bred in Uruguay to fit into our pastures. The traits that were highlighted include pastures that could be broadcast and then self-establish. One of these species may be an annual lotus with a tap root and low nutrient requirements.
- ***How much fertiliser is the correct amount?*** - There are situations in Uruguay when too much fertilizer can affect the native pasture species mix negatively and this may be useful in the management of reseeds in the Falklands.
- ***Should we focus more on native pastures?*** – In Uruguay we found there was great value on focusing on the native species on your farm as natives are adapted to the local situation
- ***Stronger relationships are important*** -Relationships were strengthened with important wool buyer of Falkland's wool Lanas Trinidad, farmers and researchers in Uruguay. The delegation gained welcome feedback in terms of wool preparation to ensure our genetic programs and stock management is producing the fibre that is in demand, and returns the best price to the Falkland Islands farmer.
- ***Do we need another Wool Credential scheme?*** There was lots of discussion on wool production credential schemes that are being required by some buyers, and schemes such as Quality Falkland Wool and Responsible Wool handling may have a better impact on the sale price of wool if they are adopted by all the wool producers in Falkland Islands.

Why did we go?

Adam Dawes explained it was worth investing in the representatives on the tour to Uruguay as:

- Many common challenges are faced by the farmers in both countries even though the production systems of both countries are different.
- We had been invited by the Uruguayan farming community as a result of delegation of Uruguayan farmers visiting the Falklands Islands in March 2019 who had gained much from their visit to Falkland Island farms.
- Both countries rely on native pasture stands and use grazing management to get the best production from the land.
- Both governments have common issues such as animal welfare which would benefit farmers in both countries.

Where did we visit?

The tour visited:

- The delegation visited the Uruguayan Secretariat Wool (SUL) research facility, where they were hosted by Ignacio Abella, who outlined to the delegation their current research, how it is funded, and hosted a tour of their lab, sheep, pastures and wool shed.
- Several farmers including Raphael Gallinal's farm 'La Mariscala', a leading Uruguayan farmer who selected a native lotus over 20 years ago, and through selection and extension this legume has become a major reason for the improvement of the quality of native Uruguayan camps
- Lanas Trinidad, a wool processor who purchases a substantial amount of the Falkland Islands wool clip, Pedro, the Director of the company, said the relationship between the Falkland wool growing community and Lanas Trinidad was very important, and just the beginning of greater things to come. The delegation saw how the company transforms greasy Falkland Islands wool into high quality tops for sale.
- The National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) facility Glencoe Station in Paysandu Department (Region).

Highlights at Expo Prado

In conjunction with representatives from the tourism industry the team worked hard on the stand at Expo Prado and promoted Agriculture in the Falkland Islands with Distinction

Lee Molkenbuhr delivered an excellent presentation at the Agriculture conference held in tandem with Expo Prado this week, showcasing the farm business, run by Lee and his wife Martha and the general day to day operations on their farm. Lee highlighted the production of the fine quality wool that is produced and exported by Falkland Island farms. He mentioned a portion of their clip goes to Uruguay for processing into tops, before it is sold to spinners, weavers and garment makers in Europe. An excellent talk promoting Falkland Islands Agriculture.

The DoA would like to thank all the participants that went on the delegation to Uruguay, our hosts in Uruguay and the British Embassy in Uruguay for all the effort to make this delegation a successful one.



Back row from left to right: Ignacio Abella (SUL), Donna Minnell (Moss Side), Alex Mitham (Deputy Governor), Lee Molkenbuhr (Johnson's Harbour), Adam Dawes (DoA), Keith Knight (Coast Ridge), Tom McIntosh (DoA), Farrah Peck (WoolCo), Reba Peck (Wool handler) and Dae Peck (Shallow Bay). Front row from left to right: Juan Pablo Marchelli (SUL) and Daniel Pereira.

URUGUAY TRIP

By Dae Peck

In September I was fortunate to be a part of a delegation of farmers and the Department of Agriculture (DoA) traveling around farms in Uruguay.



On arriving, we headed out to Sul Agricultural Research Station where we were shown a variety of the work including pasture improvements, irrigation, shelters for lambing outside and mid side samples tested by laser scan. On the way to Hotel Sta Cristina in Durazno we called into Rafael Gallinal's farm and learned about how he grows and sells Rincon Clover and were shown some impressive Corriedale Hoggets. The next



morning we were shown around the Wool Warehouse in Durazno and Lanús Trinidad, where a percentage of Falkland Islands wool is sold each

year. It is a huge operation and I was impressed how they manage to run it with as little impact on the environment as possible.

During our 3 night stay in Paysandu city we drove out to INA, another Research Station and had a tour around their improved pastures and saw their rams. Then it was onto Estancia Gurapiru, the family farm of the Victoricas. They were shearing, so we got to see how this is done in Uruguay. I loved how the whole family came around the sheds and out on the farm with us, forming a little



convoy of vehicles and we joked about how a few years ago we would have all been away out on horses!

The last farm to visit was La Magdalena and it is big. In the Department of Salta the farm belongs to the family of Pedro, who also runs Lanús Trinidad. It was very interesting watching them prepare rams for the Expo Prado where they were being taken to go on show. That night we stayed at a really different kind of hotel in Tacuarembó city. It was like a museum as well as a hotel and each of the bed rooms were named after tangos. I picked up a few ideas for the décor of my own self-catering.



Things I learned about farming in Uruguay were:-

- They are very environment friendly
- When improving pasture, they introduce clovers and fine grasses to the natural pastures, work with what you already have, improve it, don't change it
- They graze cattle and horses alongside sheep to keep the pastures healthy.

The next day we drove back to Montevideo to help at the Expo Prado, but that's a story for another day

I thoroughly enjoyed my Uruguay experience and would urge anyone interested in this wonderfully hospitable country to take part if the opportunity arises.



TRIP TO URUGUAY

By Donna Minnell

I travelled to Uruguay with a group of farmers and staff from the Department of Agriculture for two weeks, the first week was looking at farms and the last week was at the Expo Prado, it was an amazing experience.

We landed in Uruguay and travelled to Ciedag Sul research centre where we stayed the night, it was a beautiful place. The host here was Ignacio Abella they did a presentation on what Sul was doing. They graze cattle and sheep together to utilize different types of grasses. We went around the farm and looked at grasses and legumes, also Polwarth and Dohne Merino. We had a tour of the lab where they wash samples of wool and laser scan it.

We moved on to La Mariscala farm late afternoon and met Rafael Gallinal where he breeds Corriedale sheep for greater genetic



gains, and he also fattens Hereford and Angus cattle. I was interested in the grass and lotus he grows.

He selected a native Lotus 20 years ago which he now harvests seeds from and sells all over Uruguay.

We visited Lanas Trinidad and Durazno wool warehouse. Pedro Otegui showed us around where they sort the wool turning greasy wool into tops ready for export to spinners and garment makers.

I was so amazed to see how they recycled their waste scouring water into usable water which is used for watering trees and is in big lakes where wild life lives.



It has 100% renewable energy used for running the plant and heating by collecting methane from the waste scouring water and wood from planting their own trees.

We visited INIA Glencoe (Inia research

centre). Rafael Reyno talked about management on their native pastures with lotus which they broad cast over the ground so no rotavating, also not to use too much fertilizer as it can damage the native pastures and the lotus can take over. We looked at different types of lotus growing with grasses.

We looked at Merino and Dohne Merino rams. They are working to improve the competitiveness of sheep production systems. They also work with other groups of farmers.

We visited leading farmer Horacio Victorica where we looked at pastures with lotus and talked about grazing management for sheep and cattle. They were shearing there so we went and had a look, they put plastic coats on the sheep in case it rains. We looked at the merino ewes and lambs, they give the better feed to twins and triplets. They also breed Hereford and Angus cattle for fat beef.

We visited La Magdalena hosted by Diego Otegui where we looked at pasture and lotus, and chatted about different grass types. They also grow rice for seed collection, we went and looked at the plant where it is sorted and stored.

We saw their Polwarth, Dohne Merino and Merino rams which they were getting ready to take to the Expo Prado show, and their stud ewes and lambs.

Alejandro Sterling showing us how fine the Merino ram was, he also showed us a Corriedale ram that was going to the Expo Prado show.



What I learnt on this trip is how to work with what we have and to try and get some lotus to broad cast on our native pastures to get better productive pastures and management. Share information with other farmers.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the farmers and hosts for making me so welcome and the lovely food while I was in Uruguay.

Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

On the 14th and 15th August shearers Henry Cornthwaite and Ieuan Ford crutched all sheep apart from the wether trial.

Rams ready for crutching

Ieuan Ford, Pilar Castro and Henry Cornthwaite



Scanning took place on the 22nd August; Our scanner for this season Jim Sinton arrived around 8.30 am to set up his equipment. There was a military patrol here at the time so they helped keep sheep moving around the race and pushed into the cradle. Daniel Pereira (Sheep Advisor) and Mike Davis (Biosecurity/ Agricultural Assistant) were vaccinating and drenching with Potassium Iodide and Glanvac 6S/B12. There were a few ewes that needed to be eye locked, or heavy top knots taken off so Tom McIntosh the new SAA got stuck into doing that job. Tracy Evans was logging all info from Jim onto the weigh head. There were a few sets of twins, a few triplets and even one poor ewe with 4 lambs, guess I will have a few pets again this year.



Jim and Tracy



Scan image



The ewes have an interesting view while they await the outcome of their scanning.



Cows coming off Rabbit Island

I put my cows onto Rabbit Island after weaning, and left them on there, always expecting them to come off themselves and wander off to the neighbours land, but they stayed and got nice and fat and looked very nice when they came off, in fact the best condition since I have been at Saladero. The weaned cows and calves are now back together. The calves come through the winter well also and are far tamer from getting the odd bucket of food now and then.

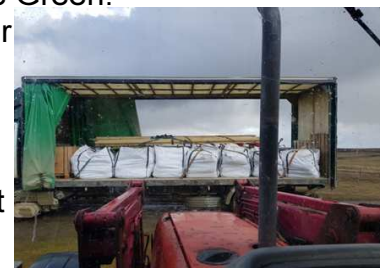
My old fuel tank had splits all around the top and it had started to split on the bottom also, so a new tank was bought which is a lot bigger than the old one. The base needed to be extended and the new fuel tank put into place.

New tank stand



O.K.Haulage delivered the fertiliser and new battery packs for Saladero, and some timber also, Goose Green picked up the remaining bags that couldn't fit on this load and I collected from Goose Green.

The arrival of fertilizer surely means that better weather must be just around the corner, but so far just more snow!



Unloading OK Haulage

Falkland Islands Development Corporation: Targeted Grant Schemes Still Have a Part to Play in Boosting Rural Enterprise.

By Louise Ellis

As Camp residents and rural businesses across the Islands know, the Development Corporation delivers wide-ranging and very effective business support to the community. Alongside the advice and guidance, training, and loan funding, FIDC continues to offer grant assistance - to step enterprises up onto a viable or competitive footing.

Through the targeted Rural Development Strategy (RDS) for Camp, recent FIDC Grants have included renewable energy funding for the installation of wind and/or solar technologies, and help with the cost of new housing for rural workers. Two other grant schemes run in the past and available again for 2019/20 are the **Rural Business Capital Development Grant** and the **Developing Camp Water Systems Grant**.

Louise Ellis, FIDC's Development Manager, and John Hellowell, Development Officer with responsibility for RDS, outline the schemes:

Rural Development Strategy (RDS) – Capital Assistance via FIDC

"The Rural Development Strategy (RDS) was reviewed in early 2018, then updated and subsequently approved for the period of 2018-2023" says Louise. "Many businesses operating in Camp took up FIDC energy grants. Now we are keen to see more use of **Rural Business Capital Development Grant**.

The objective is to help remove barriers to business growth and investment by supporting the establishment of new businesses and the development of existing ones. In particular, the scheme aims to support ventures that will create new full or part-time jobs".

Louise explains how that might work; "A part time post would be the equivalent of around 10 hours per week and a full-time post 35 hours. The creation of a new job opportunity can be evidenced through financial projections shown as wages. Any capital costs associated with establishing or expanding your business are eligible, for example: the costs of building works including labour, materials, the costs of purchasing additional new or used equipment, or the costs of bringing new technology to the business. The scheme could also be used towards the cost of establishing or upgrading infrastructure (such as housing for new full-time or part-time workers) if it directly

enables a business start-up or business development".

FIDC says any full time resident living and working in Camp is eligible to make an application under the Rural Business Capital Development scheme. The main household of a "full time resident" must be in Camp. However, anyone living elsewhere in the Islands wishing to establish a new business in Camp with this assistance can also apply - provided the business benefiting from the scheme be operated in Camp and the new job must be created in Camp.

FIDC Assistance with infrastructure essentials.

The **Developing Camp Water Systems** grant scheme is set up to improve basic water supplies in Camp addressing both domestic and business needs, explains RDS Development Officer John Hellowell. "Improving water systems helps us meet key RDS Objectives – it enhances the quality of services available in Camp; it boosts the quality of life in Camp and it facilitates the growth of businesses.

The main use is for capital costs of improvements to main water systems. For example - new pipes and fittings, new water tanks, new or replacement water pumps, new tank liners or liners for existing/new water sources. Other types of costs eligible under this scheme include contracting costs, hire of machinery, costs of assessing water quality, professional fees such as surveying, and fencing to protect the water source from fouling". John points out that this scheme does not cover the costs of internal plumbing fittings for buildings used for domestic or business purposes.

Any full time resident living and working in Camp is eligible to make an application under this scheme. As above, the main residence of a "full time resident" must be in Camp. For a business to be eligible under this scheme, it must be based in Camp.

If you would like any further information on these schemes, or to discuss the eligibility of your project, contact Louise Ellis, the Development Manager at FIDC on 27211 or by email: development.louise@fidc.co.fk

Creeping Thistle

History

Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a native of Europe and Asia, like many other thistles, it is now commonly found throughout the world. First recorded in the Falklands in 1965 by Moore and Sladen. Around the world, it is also known as Californian Thistle and the Canada Thistle.

Creeping Thistle is a threat to both productive agriculture, through reducing grazing, causing animal health issues and causing contamination in wool, as well as being a nuisance weed in amenity areas.

Creeping Thistle—the weed

The Creeping Thistle is a perennial weed, which is notoriously difficult to control. No other thistle species in the Falklands is a perennial. The other species are either annuals or biennials, all with tap-roots. Only the Creeping Thistle has a horizontally growing creeping root system joining plants together. The tendency to grow in patches is another distinguishing feature.

The flower heads are smaller than many other thistle species such as spear thistle. Spines of the Creeping Thistle are generally only found on the margins of the leaves in comparison to the Spear Thistle, which can be found all over the leaves and stalk. Each plant itself can grow up to 50cm-1m tall and are generally found in groups of several plants to large groups of several hundred plants.



Where is it

Creeping Thistle is still relatively limited in distribution around the Islands at present, with most plants being found around Stanley and MPA, with a few reports

elsewhere such as Fox Bay.

It will commonly be found in waste areas as well as areas which are grazed. If an area is

over grazed it will be more susceptible to infestation as Creeping Thistle grows most vigorously when no competing vegetation is present

How it Spreads

Unlike other thistles, Creeping Thistle can spread in a couple of different ways, the main method for spread is through plant growth, this is where the plant expands its range through the horizontal growth of its roots which can then grow daughter plants nearby. Every 10cm or so of new root growth, can give rise to a new plant. In addition to this growth the plant is a very successful seeder, each plant is capable of producing hundreds of seeds, however most of these fall within the vicinity of the parent plant, with few blowing too far away. Between these two modes of spread, is what causes the dense thickets of Creeping Thistle.



The plant can also spread through the removal of the root, should you dig this plant up and try to remove the root system, the root can regrow elsewhere. Other methods of seed dispersal include water, machinery and contamination of wool.

Following a dry summer and if pastures are over grazed, then infestations can be worse in the following year, so aim to keep your pastures competitive and prevent overgrazing. As the seedlings are poor competitors.

What to Do

Creeping Thistle, once established, can take a long time and a lot of effort to get under control or eradicate. Control options are limited due to the difficulty of killing the root system. There are several control methods available, however whichever method is employed, follow up in future years is equally important.

Methods of Control

Manual and Mechanical Removal

Unfortunately physical removal of Creeping Thistle using a chisel hoe or spade, is virtually impossible. In fact this method may even make it worse! For manual control the best way to do this is through continual mowing. This is a long term programme however, with up to 3 mowings/cuttings with a strimmer per year. it may take up to 4 years of regularly doing this to obtain a complete kill. - note mowing in the rain, can result in up to a 30% better kill of the plant (agpest.co.nz).



The key, is to remove as much of the above ground vegetation as possible for as long as possible. This will minimise root formation and, as a result, minimise the number of shoots that will emerge in the following growing season.



Example of a Creeping thistle root system (Purdue University).

Herbicide

Spraying is best to occur in the autumn period just prior to flowering. As this is when the plant is beginning to go into hibernation mode for the winter and beginning to draw the sugars that it has produced through the summer back into the root system. As a result, the chemicals recommended below, will have the best chance of also being drawn into the root system and have a higher success rate of killing the plant.

Please note: chemical control is not a magic bullet and follow up control in the following season is highly recommended.

Back Pack Spraying

For small to medium size infestations, the use of a back pack sprayer is a good option. This allows a reasonable quantity of chemical to be distributed in a short period of time.

When spraying, full coverage is not critical for seedlings, a spray of herbicide, focussed on the centre of the plant will kill the thistle, whilst not harming too much of the grass surrounding it. For larger thistles, full coverage is still important.

DoA recommended rates (active ingredients):

- ☐ **Glyphosate 360g/L @ 150ml/10L water**
- ☐ **Glyphosate 540g/L @ 100ml/10L water**
- ☐ Always add 10ml of **Organo-silicone** penetrant/10L of water to the above
- ☐ **Clopyralid 300g/L @ 25ml/10L water**
- ☐ **Metsulfuron-Methyl 600g/L @ 1-2g/10L water**
- ☐ **2,4-D or MCPA* @ 90ml/15L water**

* Using MCPA or 2,4-D is only effective as a defoliation, as these chemicals will not translocate to kill the root system, as such these must be applied multiple times per season, as per the manual/mechanical methods.



These herbicide options mentioned above are the most common (and are available in the Falkland Islands), should you wish to use an alternative chemical, contact the DoA, for advice on rates and use.

Talk to your supplier for options and brands available

Chemical and control methods are based on personal previous experience.

References:

www.ravensdown.co.nz/agrochemical_label_pdfs/ :sourced 15 April 2019
<https://www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/WS/CanadaThistle/CanadaThistle.html> :Sourced 15 April 2019
www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-and-services/weeds-database/californian-thistle.cfm :sourced 15 April 2019
https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/PublishingImages/article%20images/Thistle_Box4.jpeg :Sourced 15 April 2019
<http://agpest.co.nz/?pesttypes=californian-thistle> :Sourced 15 April 2019

PUZZLE PAGE

Dog Breeds in the Falkland Islands

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

AKITA

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

COCKER SPANIEL

COCKERPOO

COLLIE

FELL TERRIER

GERMAN SHEPHERD

GOLDEN RETRIEVER

HUNTAWAY

HUSKY

JACK RUSSELL TERRIER

KEESHOND

KELPIE

LABRADOR

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND

POODLE

SHIBA INU

WESTIE

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



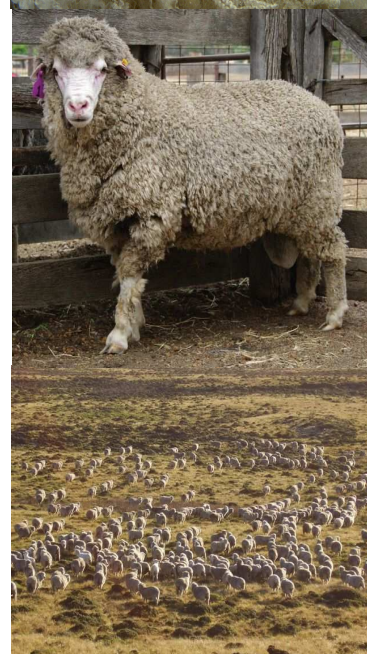
OFDA2000 WORKSHOP

Venue: Coast Ridge shearing shed on 29th October 2019
starting at 11am

The Department of Agriculture, in association with William (Bill) Johnston, BSC Electronics Pty Ltd, Australia would like to invite you to attend a workshop that will be demonstrating the Optical Fibre Diameter Analyser (OFDA) and following up with a discussion on the results.

Workshop Itinerary:

- ★ Arrive and have tea/coffee
- ★ Commence workshop with introduction and format for the day
- ★ Run the OFDA
- ★ Collecting mid-sides - in the race and on the shearing board
- ★ Lunch (very kindly provided by Nuala/DoA)
- ★ Test the collected samples on the OFDA and explain the running screen results
- ★ 30 samples tested: why that number? Options to consider – rejects? Decisions over rejects: Number of mob divisions e.g. fine wool/medium wool mobs
- ★ On screen classing: histogram and profile - which one and why?
- ★ Print options: what's available and why? Options include .pdf, hard copy, .xls
- ★ Open discussion
- ★ Close





OFDA2000 WORKSHOP

Venue: Johnsons Harbour shearing shed on 31st October
2019 starting at 10am

The Department of Agriculture, in association with William (Bill) Johnston, BSC Electronics Pty Ltd, Australia would like to invite you to attend a workshop that will be demonstrating the Optical Fibre Diameter Analyser (OFDA) and following up with a discussion on the results

Workshop itinerary:

- ★ Arrive and have tea/coffee
- ★ Commence workshop with introduction and format for the day
- ★ Run the OFDA
- ★ Collecting mid-sides - in the race and on the shearing board
- ★ Lunch (very kindly provided by Martha/DoA)
- ★ Test the collected samples on the OFDA and explain the running screen results
- ★ 30 samples tested: why that number? Options to consider –rejects? Decisions over rejects: Number of mob divisions e.g. fine wool/medium wool mobs
- ★ On screen classing: histogram and profile - which one and why?
- ★ Print options: what's available and why? Options include .pdf, hard copy, .xls
- ★ Open discussion
- ★ Close

