

THE WOOL PRESS

March/April 2019

Volume 316

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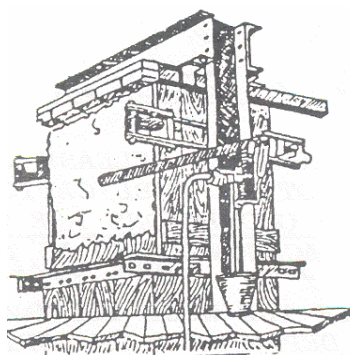
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Edited By Tracy Evans & Teenie Ross

Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley

Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government

EDITORIAL

So here we are the morning after Brexit. Except we aren't, at least not at the time of writing. March 29th came and went with what is now a revised decision date of 12th April. It may all become clear by then or there may be a further extension to the process. Looking at some of the early March editions of Farmers Weekly there is relatively little coverage of Brexit. Perhaps it has all been said, or it has been proven that forecasting the Brexit outcome is simply too uncertain. Opinions in the recent Farmers Weekly pages vary. Some views are expressed that tariffs may be necessary to ward off what might be poor quality imports. On the other hand some consumer groups are against any such tariffs due to the impact on food prices. Even at the 11th hour, if that is what it turns out to be, considerable uncertainty seems to prevail as to what the full impact of Brexit will be.

Some of the same uncertainty applies to the Falklands. The impact of potential tariffs for meat and fish exports to the EU after Brexit has been modelled by FIG's Policy Department. As the EU is by far the biggest market for our exports, particularly fish and squid, the impact is significant. At least the current delay means that more Falkland exports can be transported and enter the EU on the existing pre-Brexit trade terms. If there is a further extension to the process these arrangements may prevail for longer.

Recruitment of staff in the department has been something of a 'hardy perennial' as a feature in these pages. In fact believe it or not we have gone through a couple of years of relative stability. However, if it is not all change, there is certainly some change underway. Recruitment has been going on for an agronomist to take over from James in the middle of the year. Recruitment has also been initiated for a Senior Agricultural Advisor to take over from Adam when he departs later in the year. Rhiannon has returned to the Department of Emergency Services so the department is also seeking a Biosecurity/Agricultural assistant.

If Brexit is proving to be something of an ultra-marathon apparently there may really be an ultra-marathon coming closer to some of you. According to the WWW an ultra-marathon around East Falkland should be taking place this time next year. It is billed as the "toughest ultra-marathon in the South Atlantic" taking in some of the historic locations from 1982. At 100 miles across East Falkland terrain it will be tough, although equally could be fantastic if it coincides with the right weather. Whether it is Brexit or the Falklands ultra-marathon it seems to be something of a long haul.

John Barton, Director of Natural Resources

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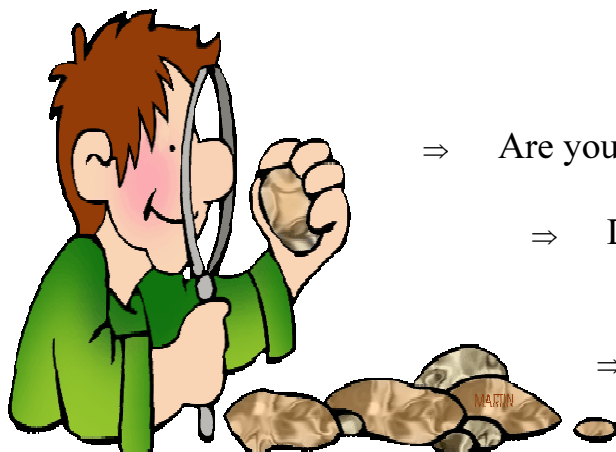
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Soil Testing 2019

We will soon be starting our soil testing programme for the Autumn



⇒ Do you need paddocks tested?

⇒ Are you thinking about pasture renovation?

⇒ Do you have hayfields that could do with a dressing?

⇒ Are you planning or thinking of oats or swedes?

If so, get in touch with James at the Ag Dept.

jbryan@doa.gov.fk

DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2019/20

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



NOTICE

To reduce our environmental footprint, the Wool Press is now printed in this smaller size.

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

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

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Saladero News

By Mandy Ford

The NSF Ram Sale was held on the 16th March this year and again the weather wasn't playing in our favour, which meant the farmers from the West could get to the sale but couldn't return the same day. The sale seemed to go really well with 82% Shearling rams, 100% Ex-elite rams and 84% Flock rams sold on the day.



Elite and Shearling Rams



Farmers casting their eyes over the rams

The day was well attended, bringing along some new faces that haven't been to a ram sale before.

Sharon Jaffray and Heather Smith kept everyone well fed, with lots of nice grub.

The information on the remaining rams was emailed to all farmers.



Ready and waiting for the food



Taking their seats ready for the auction

These have now all been sold and picked up from Saladero, and moved to their new homes on the west.

The wether lambs that are taking part in a trial have now all arrived. Blue Beach, North Arm, Goose Green, Hope Cottage and Port Howard all have sheep taking part in the trial.

They were all shorn on the weekend so that they will all have the same length of wool. Henry did this with cover comb with a gadget called a lifter on, which I had never heard of let alone seen, but leaves on a nice length of wool, so that the cold shouldn't affect them too much.

Daniel and I have weighed, vaccinated and drenched all the trial sheep.



Just a few of the vehicles waiting to collect ewes or rams

5114	5142	5319	5559	6006
50	1.10	7.10	160	160
BIDDER: 40	BIDDER: 9	BIDDER: 25	BIDDER: 20	BIDDER: 2
6111	6113	6143	6183	6241
50	110	110	130	130
BIDDER: 11	BIDDER: 11	BIDDER: 20	BIDDER: 20	BIDDER: 1
6343	6360	6368		
X	120	120		
BIDDER	BIDDER: 14	BIDDER: 20	BIDDER	BIDDER
7020	7024	7031	7033	704

One of the bidder boards



Henry shearing the wether trial lambs

This seasons drop of lambs have been weaned.

Dom and Daniel came out and helped with weaning. The lambs were also vaccinated and drenched.

Once this was all done we took them to their new camp.

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



Falkland Islands Government

www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture



Hydatid Disease, *Echinococcus granulosus*, in the Falkland Islands: The current state of play.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RESULTS SO FAR

BY DOMINIC WEST

Echinococcus granulosus (Parasite that causes Hydatid Disease) in the Falklands has been reduced to very a low prevalence; however evidence continues to suggest that it is being maintained in both the dog and sheep populations. The ELISA results found 2 dogs from East Falklands were positive for *Echinococcus granulosus* antigens. This suggests that these dogs have been exposed to infected offal at some point within the previous month because antigens are detectable after 20 to 25 days post infection and also antigen levels are seen to drop dramatically within 2 to 4 days of treatment. As dogs are treated every 5 weeks in the Falklands, the Copro-ELISA results suggest that the dogs have had access to infected offal at some point between dosing. As the results for the Copro-PCR were negative, this suggests that there were no eggs present in the faeces and could mean the parasite had not matured to produce eggs. As no comparative analysis has yet been done looking at recent abattoir data and copro analysis, there is no evidence to suggest there is a relationship between these positive dogs and infections in sheep. However, a previous study on Cystic Echinococcosis in the Falklands in 1993 found that there was a relationship between cystic echinococcosis in sheep and copro-ELISA positive dogs in East Falkland, 3 of 5 farms with positive dogs had hydatid cysts in sheep slaughtered at the abattoir. There was no such relationship found in West Falkland. However, at the time, 90% of the sheep slaughtered at Stanley abattoir came from East Falklands. The same study also documented that over the study period, levels of *T. hydatigena* were continuously higher than *E. granulosus*, indicating that the *T. hydatigena* life cycle is continuing despite the dog dosing and other control measure. This suggests that there is a possibility of another host maintaining the parasite at a higher prevalence.

3.1 Alternative Hosts

There could be another definitive host, other than dogs, maintaining Taeniid infections in the Falkland Islands.

Feral cats have been seen regularly by farmers, with some saying there can be as many as 1000 on a single farm. Though cats have been seen to be poor definitive hosts for cestode species such as *Echinococcus multilocularis* and *E. granulosus* does not fully mature in cats acting as definitive host, however a study by Borji *et al* (2011) investigating the parasites of feral cats in Italy found that they were suitable hosts for a number of other cestode parasites, including *T. hydatigena*, which is endemic in the Falklands. This is a possible explanation as to why there has been only a limited reduction in the prevalence of *T. hydatigena* in sheep slaughtered at the abattoir. Cats could potentially be acting as another definitive host for the parasite.

Farmers have seen cats feeding and having litters of kittens inside carcasses left at cull sites, meaning that should any infected carcasses be left on the pasture, it is likely that cats will be getting infected. Using motion sensor camera traps will help confirm whether cats are feeding on carcasses, but also possibly help estimate a population size and in turn help identify the potential scale of transmission. If feral cats are confirmed to be feeding on carcasses, the next step would be to collect and test cat scat using the same methods as for dog faecal samples, or by doing post mortem examination on any cats killed by farmers.

Weddell and surrounding Islands are the only area in the Falklands on which another known possible host inhabits. The Patagonian fox, *Dusicyon griseus griseus*, was introduced to Weddell in the 1930s and is known to be a definitive host of both *E. granulosus* and *T. hydatigena*. Foxes are isolated to 6 isolated islands (Beaver, Staats, Tea, Split and River Islands) and so their role in transmission across the entire Falkland Islands is unlikely, however Weddell Island has been used as a sheep farm in the past and there have been cases of Hydatid disease recorded in sheep from the island, making this an important area of investigation as foxes scavenge on dead animals and so may be acting as a sylvatic lifecycle of taeniid cestodes in the area.

3.2 Taeniid Egg survival

Taeniid eggs are resistant to the climatic conditions of the Falklands and are able to remain viable for many years. This could result in livestock becoming infected by eating eggs that were deposited on the pasture a number of years previously.

With abattoir data records showing cases of *T. hydatigena* being discovered in lambs and yearlings, it is clear evidence that there is a level of recent infection within the last 18 months. A number of small *E. granulosus* cysts have also been found and confirmed by PCR at the University of Salford which is another indicator of recent infection, suggesting that there is active transmission occurring. With the results of Copro-ELISA testing showing so few positive dogs over previous years, it could suggest that eggs are able to survive for substantial periods of time in the Falklands. Studies have shown *E. granulosus* eggs can still infect sheep after 41 months in a semi-arid climate in Patagonia, conditions similar to that found in the Falkland Islands. A recent study has also looked at the ability to detect eggs and antigen from Cestode parasites in soil. The study was able to find evidence of parasite 41 months after infected dog faeces was deposited in a location. The same study also documented the spread of parasite material up to 115m from the area they were first left. This does not take into account the dispersal by biological agents. Cestode eggs are too heavy to become airborne however in they can be spread around the immediate location where they are deposited by wind or any thing standing in the faecal matter and moving off (i.e. birds, other mammals). This could result in dispersal upwards of 10km from where the infected faeces originated. Testing of soil can therefore provide a historical idea of infection of dogs over a potential 3 year period. This can then be used for correlation analysis between infected dogs and infections in sheep slaughtered at the abattoir.



Tape worm Hooks and Suckers

BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP IN ST HELENA

By Naomi Baxter

In March I was very lucky to visit St Helena to attend a biosecurity workshop. The workshop was organised by CABI who run the 'crop protection compendium' which FIG are signed up to. This is an online service that lists all the crop pests known in the world and works to control or eradicate them. We use the compendium to help us identify bugs and diseased plants.

Through this project CABI are helping St Helena and the Falklands to develop better risk assessment processes and were able to fund my trip to the remote island. At the workshop we worked on developing a 'new import risk assessment' procedure which would be used in the event anyone wants to import a new commodity to the Islands. We were also working on a 'pest risk assessment' form which will help us assess whether something that either newly here or may get here soon, is likely to become invasive or not. Training was provided on how to assess the risk of establishment spread and 'invasiveness'. The attendees in St Helena comprised local biosecurity officers, biocontrol specialists and the National Trust, and was held at the Consulate Hotel in Jamestown.

This project is running for another year and

we hope the next workshop will be based in Stanley at the end of 2019/early 2020.

Whilst I was in St Helena I also took the opportunity to see how they do biosecurity and was able to help them inspect some cars that had been imported as well as work with their biosecurity dog Harri. Harri is trained to sniff out fruit and honey – St Helena have one of the very few colonies of disease free bees in the world so protecting them from any diseased bee products is really important. Harri is able to sniff passengers as they come in at the new airport and on cruise ships. A job which takes her a few minutes would take a human hours, and probably disgruntle any visitors who only have a precious few hours on the Island and don't want to spend them being searched.

It was a privilege to visit St Helena and wonderful to make the connection with another OT so we can help each other in future. Although there are obvious differences in climate and habitats, being a small island reliant on import and with lots of visitors means we face the same biosecurity issues and were able to help each other out and learn from each other.



St Helena appears out of nowhere



A different habitat and climate to the Falklands but similar issues being a small island community



The workshop closed with a specially made cake

POST SHEARING RISKS

By Daniel Pereira

It may seem a curious fact that wool removal by itself does not cause any change to a sheep. Therefore, if a recently shorn sheep is placed into a “totally comfortable environment”, meaning it does not feel hot or cold, almost nothing would happen. But this perfect environment is far from occurring in any sheep breeding country under grazing conditions, and particularly in the Falkland Islands.

It becomes clear that the loss of the thermal insulation barrier (the fleece), implies that **an alteration of the rules of energy exchange between body and environment have suddenly occurred.**

The fleece and thermal balance

Located between two energy sources (body and environment), the fleece offers resistance to heat flow, being the particular mixture of **air** and fiber (in a proportion of 10 to 1) which provides it with insulating properties.

Merino type fleeces, having fibers oriented perpendicular to skin, are a clear example of the way that structure and architecture of each wool-cover determines its insulating properties. In fact, a 10cm Merino fleece in winter results in almost half the energy requirements.

The challenge

We could say that shearing may be considered, together with birth and weaning, one of the events that causes the deepest changes during a sheep's life, and it becomes in some way, a repetition of the newborn lamb cold stress.

As the cold aggression turns faster, and/or more severe and/or longer, the more difficult it becomes to face it successfully.

The sheep response

The adjustments are at the same time quick, deep and diverse; so much that literally a different animal will be the outcome of cold exposure. This transformation includes anatomical, physiological and behavioural alterations. Some responses are rather unspecific, common to all alarm stress situations, while others are directly related to cold stress.

Reactions follow two basic pathways: **increase of heat production and decrease of heat losses. The first one is** accomplished through changes in patterns of food intake (i.e. speed and amount of feed consumed), shivering thermogenesis and behaviour. The **decrease of heat losses** is attained through insulating mechanisms, (which include wool growth, skin thickening, vasoconstriction, fat cover) and again...behavior (i.e. seeking shelter, posture).

Sheep main risk factors

The **sub-nutritional complex** is usually present under grazing conditions in various degrees and combination. Its three main components are: hunger (fasted sheep), low body condition and weight loss. It has been proved that, within reasonably limits, post shearing mortality is more associated to weight losses than to low body condition.

The sub-nutritional complex affects the **“Maximum metabolic capacity”**, meaning the possibilities of sheep (including newborn lambs), to produce heat to a certain level and during enough time to keep up with the demands of the cold challenge.

The **“thermal history”**; this refers to the status of cold adaptation before and mainly after shearing. A heat wave, a hot season or anything that erodes the “cold memory” may turn sheep more susceptible to a cold challenge. The opposite will happen with cold spells, which increase

cold resistance. Perhaps this factor (prevailing cold weather) would cause newly shorn sheep to take less time to adapt in the Falkland Islands than other countries.

Age, by itself can be added as another separate risk factor. The thermoregulatory system is still immature in young stock and it will take more time to work at full capacity when exposed. Old sheep may be also included here, but mainly as a consequence of physical decline.

The killer

The sheep chill index is an indicator of the heat loss per day and combines the effect of temperature, rain and wind.

Wind

With low air temperature, a 25 km/h wind speed increase thermal losses caused by rain dramatically in recently shorn sheep. Complete shelter from wind, may be compared with a 5 to 15 °C rise in air temperature.

Effect of rain

Despite the frequent movements of the trunk and head that sheep deploy to get rid of rain water, long lasting precipitations and wind eventually cause the fleece to get soaked, reaching a **saturation stage where air between fibers is substituted by water, which is highly conductive (26 times higher).**

When environmental temperatures are low and sheep are soaked, severe thermal losses occur, thus leading to hypothermia

Cold weather, understood as a **low air temperature alone**, will hardly kill by itself. **Some rain** is also needed as the second basic ingredient. **Given those two, wind has an overwhelming importance, and sometimes become the main killer. But this is not what happens in the Falkland Islands**, where persistent strong winds and cool temperatures are common. **In fact, heavy rains are responsible for most of the incidents.**

Hypothermia, when the balance is lost

Normal rectal temperature in sheep is 39,5° C (+ - 2° C), and the organism will desperately struggle to remain within those limits. When the maximum metabolism is unable to provide enough energy to maintain body temperature, things can rapidly get out of control. 32° C rectal temperature is a critical survival limit where irreversible changes occur. A fast rescue together with an external source of heat supply is vital to achieve recovery.

Adapting to live with no fleece

Wool growth takes one month to reach some effective insulation. Meanwhile, sheep must use other adaptive strategies, some of them demanding high energy expenditure (i.e. increased metabolism and food intake).

How long does it take to fully adapt to the new environment?

The main changes **will need fifteen days to fully express** but in a week most of them will be working properly provided some requirements are fulfilled, mainly the existence of a minimum cold challenge and enough food availability.

If air temperature is low, until the day 15 (particularly if standard comb was used) increase in food intake will be only enough to counterbalance energy requirements. In this situation, the discomfort is usually high and food conversion efficiency is low. Therefore we should not expect weight gains to start until after two weeks. In fact, food rejection can happen during the first two weeks after shearing, (as a result of intense discomfort) and we may also expect some weight loss.

This effect can be avoided to a great extent by shearing with some protective combs and thus leaving residual wool cover, or using waterproof coats.

The usual prevailing weather conditions in the Falkland Islands: low temperatures, high speed

winds and frequent low volume rains make it highly probable that the adaptation period is much shorter and the **mortality risk from changing weather** lower than in most sheep breeding countries.

For example in Australia, Uruguay and other countries, massive mortalities can and have happened up to one month or even more after shearing. The main weather pattern determining such losses had been a warm season, hot spells or heat waves, followed by a sudden drop of temperature together with rain and wind.

Just to illustrate this point, the last big incident in Uruguay, which can be considered exceptional, started in the farms at the same time the 2013 Prado Show was going on (2013) in Montevideo.

The main cause was **changing and long lasting (four days) bad weather conditions**.

After a three days of heat (28 °C air temperature) came a sudden **drop to 12 ° C**, together with an average 65mm during the four days, (up to 150mm in some locations) plus 15 km/ h average wind speed, sometimes much higher.

At least 60.000 sheep died, (some had been shorn more than one month before) as well as many lambs born after pre lamb shearing. It had been a harsh winter, so many sheep were in poor body conditions and although weather forecast was carefully listened, nobody suspected that the bad weather would last so long. In some cases few things could be done (lambing ewes).

I have usually encouraged pre lamb shearing, but in some exceptional years, when winter comes too rough and ewes are in bad body condition, I have advised some farmers to cancel it, with no regrets. Another important precaution with pre-lamb shearing is that it should be finished never less than one month before lambing starts.

Post - shearing protective actions. Some alternatives and comments based on personal experience.

Once the sheep are turned out to the paddocks, pasture availability together with the use of shelters, coats, high combs (or their combination) can lower the risk to a high degree, but never 100%. If we do not observe the minimum requirements of good nutrition and management, the risk will still be present.

Shelters.

The main protective action is achieved by lowering the wind speed. Some paddocks afford good natural protection while others may be very exposed, so a correct choice is very important. Turf walls and gorse shelters may be good examples of artificial windbreaks in the Falkland Islands.

Protective combs

Cover comb: may be considered a small help. Protection afforded maybe not enough for intense or long lasting bad weather

Combs specially designed (R13 in Uruguay) or combs with lifters, as well as blade shearing, leave more than 1 cm even wool length and will be highly protective.

“Chino” (Chinese) combs, so called in Uruguay referring to the country from where they are imported, leave some more residual wool than a cover comb and they are easier to use for the shearer than other “high” combs, but their protection has not been evaluated.



Coats

These can perhaps afford the highest level of protection, and that could be particularly true in the FI, considering that they mainly prevent rain water from reaching the skin. They can be removed after the farmer thinks sheep are adapted to cold, the criteria being that they are in good body condition and have received **at least one cold weather rain or enough time has passed since they were shorn, together with some rains** (25 to 30 days in Uruguay). It is better to have at least two coat sizes, one for young categories and other for adults. It is also advisable to check for lame sheep, in case that some wound at the rear part of the legs may appear, particularly in heavy or big animals. Putting and removing coats may be laborious and take time but are assumed as part of the normal preventative actions of sheep farming.



Some farmers use coats plus a “Chinese comb” and remove the coats at a fixed date (day 15 after shearing). At that stage, wool length will be approximately 1 cm, similar to having used a highly protective comb.

As we have mentioned, the more the protective action achieved by special combs, or coats, the least discomfort effect sheep will suffer after shearing, which means more appetite and feed conversion efficiency.

Good management should never be overlooked, particularly in reference to nutrition. As we have said, sheep that have been fasted, losing weight or in poor body condition are always at risk. Always remember to reserve a nearby and protected paddock to graze with recently shorn sheep and do not put in the shed more sheep than you expect to be shorn that day; they will be fasted unnecessarily.

Weather forecasting service for newly shorn sheep

This service is of utmost importance for the sheep industry, particularly when it has been locally designed to calculate the risk level, as is the case in the Falkland Islands. It is an excellent tool to help in making decisions.

Animal welfare: These are the shearing dates set out in the sheep welfare code.

Shearing season: 15th September until 30th April.

Cover comb compulsory: 15th September until 15th October, and 15th March until 30th April.

FAREWELL

We bid a fond farewell to Rhiannon who has departed the Agricultural Department for pastures old.

Wishing you all the best in your new/old job.

What should I do if a lot of my sheep have mouth sores and are lame?

By Ross Milner

The Falkland Islands is very fortunate in that many of the diseases in the rest of the world do not occur here. A large number of sheep lame and/or with mouth sores would be something highly unusual and veterinary advice should be sort without delay.

One of the most likely causes of sores around the mouth and lameness is Orf, an endemic disease (already exists in the Falkland Islands), or much less likely, it could be an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD), an exotic disease (does not occur in the Falkland Islands) such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Either way if there is an illness or disease infecting your herd or flock, veterinary advice should be sort without any delay. You should also isolate any affected animals to prevent further spread of disease, which will also make it easier to monitor and treat or cull if necessary.

An EAD disease is (a) exotic to the Falkland Islands (does not occur here), or (b) a new virulent strain of an endemic disease, or (c) a serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause, or (d) a severe outbreak of a known endemic disease, that is considered to be of national significance with serious social or trade implications.

I will deal with the most likely cause first,
Orf:

The most likely cause of sores in the mouth, and in less commonly, the feet of sheep in the Falkland Islands is a viral disease called Orf. Talking to some of the old timers, this virus has been seen here for a long time. It can be painful and debilitating and lambs can get the virus from sucking on their mothers teats. Unfortunately there is no antidote. Orf is spread by fomites and direct contact. In some environments, infection is injected by

scratches from thistles of both growing and felled plants. Symptoms include papules and pustules on the lips and muzzle, and less commonly in the mouth of young lambs and on the eyelids, feet, and teats of ewes. It has occasionally been reported here in the Falkland Islands to affect the cleft between hooves and cause sores and lameness, as well as the mouth. The lesions progress to thick crusts which may bleed. Orf in the mouths of lambs may prevent suckling and cause weight loss, and can infect the udder of the mother ewe, thus potentially leading to mastitis. Sheep are prone to reinfection. Occasionally the infection can be extensive and persistent if the animal does not produce an immune response.



A sheep with orf infection on nose and lips

A live vaccine can be used in lambs in response to a severe outbreak.

In sheep and goats, the lesions mostly appear on or near the hairline and elsewhere on the lips and muzzle. In some cases the lesions appear on and in the nostrils, around the

eyes, on the thigh, coronet, vulva, udder, and axilla. In rare cases, mostly involving young lambs, lesions are found on the tongue, gums, roof of the mouth, the esophagus and the rumen. Occasionally severe orf can affect the skin near the hooves causing lameness and sores.

The virus will usually run its course in 1 to 2 weeks and animals will recover. Severe cases such as lambs that are unable to suck can be treated with topical creams and oxytetracycline spray to reduce the incidence of secondary bacterial infections. Care must be taken when handling sheep as it is a zoonotic disease causing painful sores in humans, gloves should be worn. I knew a vet who had a small cut on his hand and contracted orf and his hand was so swollen he was unable to perform surgery for a month.

Another cause of lameness and mouth sores is Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD):

This is an exotic disease (does not occur here), highly infectious and is notifiable.

In an outbreak, windborne infection and livestock movement play a key role in the spread of the disease.

If caught early, in an Island situation where there is not much movement of livestock between farms, and no livestock markets, there is hope FMD can be eradicated as long as there is early notification and a rapid response. In a 1981 incident on the island of Jersey, 6 cows were affected with FMD on one farm which was immediately quarantined and all animals culled. There was no further spread of the disease. They had a similar incident successfully contained in 1974. This is in contrast to Uruguay and UK where intensive trade in livestock had a devastating economic affect.

Foot and mouth could be suspected if 2 or more of the following symptoms are observed:

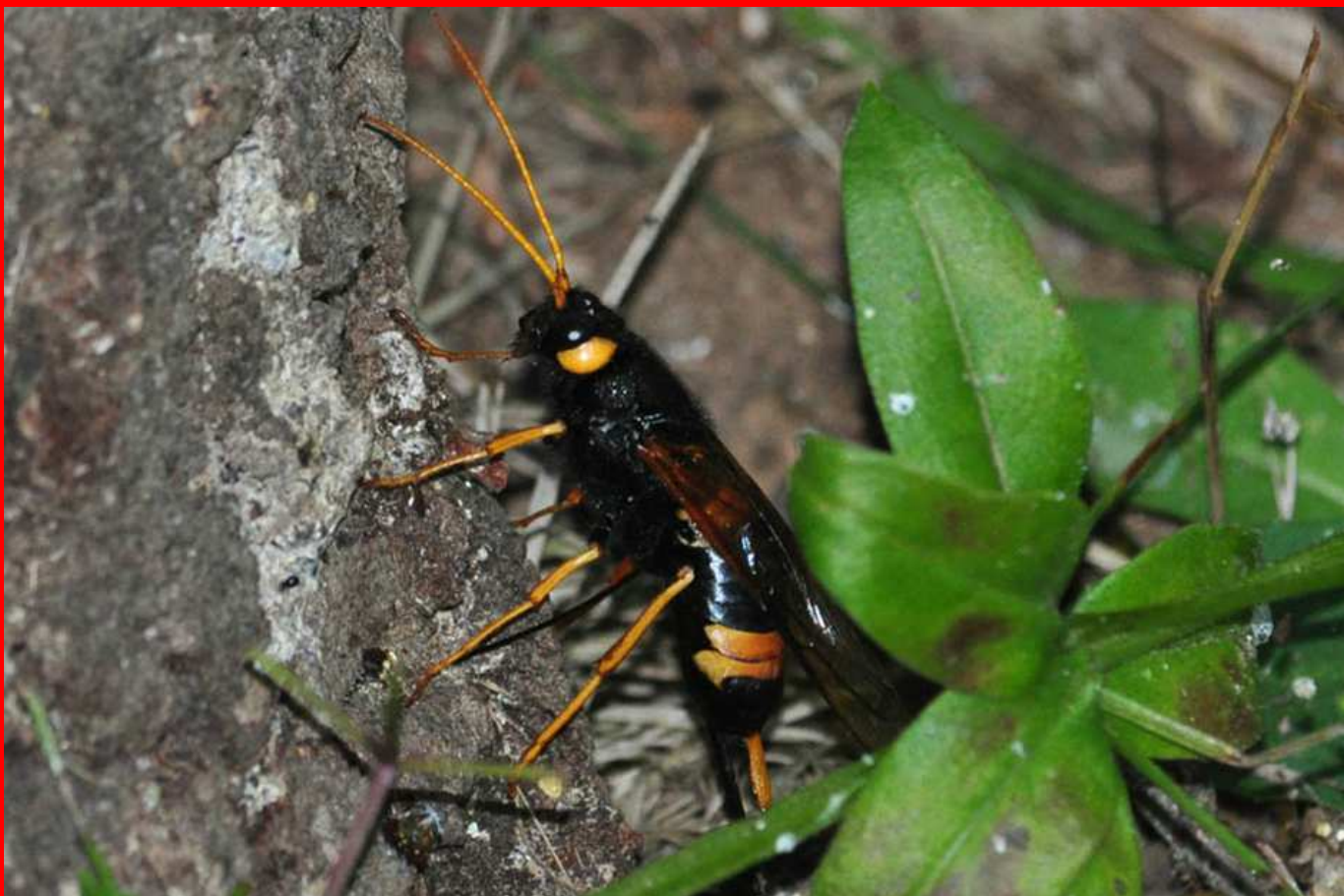
- Group of animals lame
- Vesicles on mouth/teat/feet
- Pyrexia (high temperature)
- Excessive salivation
- Depressed demeanour and lethargy
- In dairy cattle, a sudden drop in milk yield



Foot and mouth disease lesions in a sheep's foot and tongue

If there is any suspicion of foot and mouth disease The Government Veterinary Services or a police officer should be notified as soon as possible and as with any other infectious disease, affected animals isolated as far as this is possible. No animals should be moved on or off the farm until an investigation has been carried out.

Hopefully we will never have an incident in the Falkland Islands, but if we did, a rapid and coordinated emergency response may mean the disease is contained on one farm like has happened twice in Jersey, rather than the devastating spread of the disease as occurred in Uruguay and the UK. Fortunately we don't have much movement of animals between farms or livestock markets and a group of lame sheep or cattle is rare in the Falkland Islands, all things that count in our favour in terms of detecting and isolating infectious disease.



SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY??

IF SO CONTACT THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT
ON 27355

ANSWERS TO SMOKO BRAIN TEASERS (January/ February Edition)

Answers to quiz questions

- ♣ **Clocks are all set to 4:20**
- ♣ **Strongest muscle is the Tongue**
- ♣ A group of pugs is a Grumble
- ♣ **Aphonia is Total loss of voice**
- ♣ **OJ Simpson**
- ♣ Battle of Waterloo took place 1815
- ♣ Oldest inhabited city is Damascus
- ♣ Miss Marple's amateur detective is Agatha Christie
- ♣ Wolfgang Mozart's middle name is Amadeus

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