# THE WOOL PRESS

January/February 2022 Volume 333

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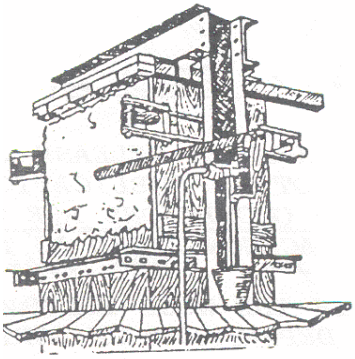
## In this issue...





*Edited By Richard Chivinda*
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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the Wool Press in 2022. As usual it is packed with a wide variety of articles so even if you're not interested in them all you should be able to find something which stimulates your interest.

The first article is by none other than myself! If you only take one message away with you let it be that young and middle-aged cats should look quite lean – that is what nature intended. If they put on a bit of weight in later life then don't let it mount up too much. If your elderly cat gets very thin then that might require some investigation. This is a good point at which to congratulate Teenie Ross on achieving a distinction in her latest ISFM "Certificate in cat nursing" module. Well done Teenie.
The dates for Sports Week events on the West (Port Howard) East (Goose Green) can be found on pages 6 and 15 respectively and the date of the RBA Agricultural show at Goose Green on page 14.

Keith and Nuala Knight have written a comprehensive round up of all the activities at last year's West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show at Fox Bay. It looks as though it was a well-attended event with lots of good entries. You can read who won what on pages 8 and 9.

Andrew Bendall brings you up to date with what has been happening at Saladero recently on pages 10 through to 13. What were the main points that stood out for me – a very disappointing lamb marking % of 56%; a plan to only join shearlings when they have reached a BW of 37kg and BCS of 2.8 and to winter the shearlings separately or only with the lighter weight ewes. You'll see that the Management of Saladero is up for tender (see "invitation to tender" in the Penguin News issue of Feb 28th, page 16) – could it be for you? This year's NSF ram sale will be held at Saladero on March 17th and will involve more flock rams being sold in groups of 5. At the same sale Hew Grierson will be selling some of his rams bred at Blue Beach and you can read more about how Hew goes about breeding them in his article on page 17. Andrew also mentions the arrival of the new Head of Agriculture (note the revised job title – no longer the SAA) – Katrina Durham who should touch down in the Islands on March 7th and be at her desk the following week after completing her period of quarantine. This is a very good point at which to say a big thank you to Andrew Bendall for covering the SAA post (as well as his own) for the past 6 months and doing such a good job of it.

The final article is quite a lengthy one about how to control Pilosella (mouse-eared hawkweek). This invasive weed species is already established in the Falkland Islands as the land conditions continue to get drier it has the potential to become an even bigger problem in the future. The article by Enrique Frers and Jim McAdam details some trials in Tierra del Fuego on the use of various herbicides used singly and in combination. If you've got this weed on your farm already then the earlier you tackle it the better.

And finally, this might be my last editorial as I will be finishing as SVO at the end of June and returning to the UK in July to re-join my family after being away for so many years. It will be a big wrench leaving the Islands but the time has come to move to pastures and to allow others to develop the veterinary service as they see fit.
Wishing you all a wonderful 2022.

**Steve Pointing,**
**SVO**

## DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2022/2023

| Date | Drug |
|---|---|
| ~~Wednesday 26th January 2022~~ | ~~Drontal~~ |
| | |
| Wednesday 2nd March 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 6th April 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 11th May 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 15th June 2022 | Endoguard/ Drontal |
| Wednesday 20th July 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 24th August 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 28th September 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 2nd November 2022 | Droncit |
| Wednesday 7th December 2022 | Endoguard/ Drontal |
| Wednesday 11th January 2023 | Droncit |

*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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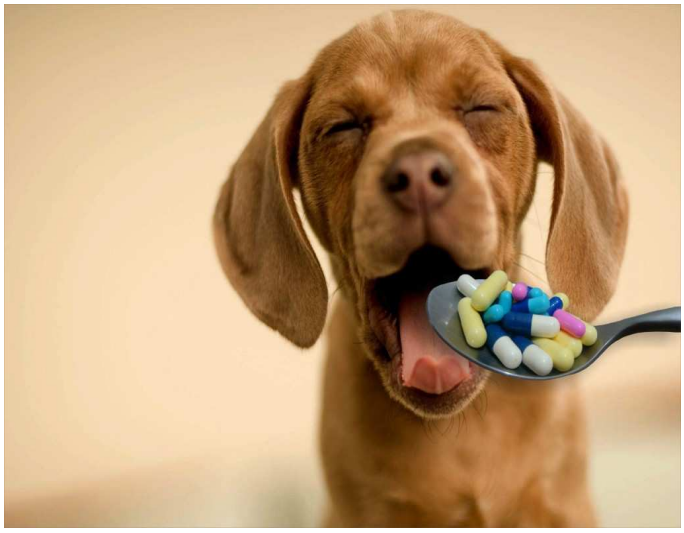


**SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY??**

**IF SO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON 27355 OR VETERINARY SERVICES ON 27366**

**Bargains Galore**
**Have a lot of books!**
**Would you like any sent to your farm?**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th – 8th March Goose Green Sports

6th - 9th March Port Howard Sports

17th of March NSF Sam Sale, Saladero

2nd April Agricultural RBA Show

# Is your cat overweight?

***By Steve Pointing***

It is estimated that between 39 and 52 % of cats in the UK are overweight or obese. The definition of "obese" is a cat which is at least 20% heavier than the optimal weight due to excessive fat accumulation.

A cat is "overweight" if it is 10 to 19% heavier than the optimal weight. Ideally, cats should be fed to maintain their optimal bodyweight. Long tern studies have shown that both obesity and excessive thinness shorten life expectancy.

Is the problem just as great in the Falkland Islands as it is in the UK? I don't think it is but we do have our share of overweight cats and as vets we are frequently told by concerned owners that their cat is too thin and underweight when, in fact, their young, lithe cat is exactly as it should be.

Bodyweight can be used to assess whether or not a cat has gained or lost weight. However, dictating a weight which is ideal depends on the age and the breed of the cat. Therefore, a scale assessing the body condition (body score condition BCS) is often used.

This scale grades the body condition of the cat from 1-9 where a BCS of 1 is very thin, 5 is ideal and 9 is obese. An obese cat is one in which the ribs are hard to feel as they are covered by a thick layer of fat, there is a moderate to thick layer of fat covering all the bony prominences, and the cat has a pendulous "skirt" (bulge under the abdomen), with no waist.

## Health risks in obesity

Obesity increases the risks of the development, or the progression, of many diseases as shown below.

| Disorders for which obesity is a risk factor | Possible complications of obesity |
|---|---|
| Diabetes mellitus | Increased anaesthetic risk |
| Lower urinary tract disease (eg cystitis) | Decreased immune function |
| Joint stress and aggravation of osteoarthritis | Dystocia (problems giving birth) |
| Non-allergic skin disease | Breathing problems ("Pickwickian" syndrome) |
| Hepatic lipidosis (fat deposition in the liver) | |
| Decreased stamina and exercise tolerance | |

## Risks for development of obesity

Weight gain occurs when cats have a "positive energy balance" for an extended period of time, meaning they are taking in more calories than they are using. The excess energy is stored as fat. In most instances the body is able to regulate energy intake so it matches energy use, maintaining the body condition around its "set point". However, certain factors can affect this set point and predispose the cat to weight gain.

Purebred cats are less likely to develop obesity than "moggies". Neutered cats tend to gain weight more easily than entire animals. When a cat is neutered, the metabolic rate decreases by about 20% so neutered cats require less food than intact cats to maintain body condition. Activity can contribute markedly to the energy requirements of an individual. Cats with decreased activity or restricted opportunities for exercise are at a greater risk of gaining weight then active cats.

Intact cats have a tendency to roam. Neutering reduces the desire to roam and the amount of physical activity undertaken by the cat declines.

The age of the cat is also related to the prevalence of obesity. Cats under 2 years of age are less likely to be overweight, whereas cats between 2 and 10 years require less energy and are, therefore, more likely to be overweight. Senior and geriatric cats (cats over 10 years of age) tend to be underweight.

Feeding a diet that is very palatable and energy dense predisposes cats to overeating and encourages obesity, especially if such foods are available freely or used excessively as "treats". In addition, there are certain medications that can predispose to weight gain, either by increasing the appetite or decreasing the metabolic rate. Drugs commonly associated with weight gain include corticosteroids (such as prednisolone) amitryptyline and cyproheptidine.

## Treatment of obesity

It is dangerous for cats to lose weight too quickly because this predisposes them to the development of hepatic lipidosis, a potentially fatal liver disease whereby fat is deposited in the liver as a result of a change of metabolism during fasting. A gradual, steady decrease in bodyweight is ideal; it may take up to a year for a severely overweight cat to reach its ideal body condition. A vet can draw up a weight loss programme that combines a suitable feeding and exercise plan with careful monitoring. It is very hard to see weight loss in a cat that you are in close contact with on a daily basis. Regular visits to the vet's surgery for weigh-ins will also ensure that weight loss is not too rapid.

Cats are carnivores and, unlike humans and dogs, they must have meat in their diet to survive. A cat's natural diet consisting of small prey mammals would be high in protein and low in carbohydrate. In order for cats to lose weight, veterinary diets have been designed which are high in protein, low in fat and low in carbohydrate. This helps cats to lose fat whilst maintaining lean body mass (ie muscle). *It is interesting to note that in the wild a cat would need to eat about 10 mice a day for its daily maintenance requirements – so that it quite a lot of hunting activity throughout* the day.

In addition to a suitable diet, cats can be encouraged to exercise either through increasing play, or by encouraging movement around the house (eg walking up and down stairs either by using a pet harness or by moving feeding bowls etc).
Puzzle feeders have also been found to enhance physical and emotional wellbeing.

## Getting your cat to accept a new diet

Cats can be quite fussy eaters and that is especially the case for older cats. Once they like a particular type of food or brand of commercial cat food it can be difficult to persuade them to try something else. Below are some tips about how to gradually change their diet.

- It is better to change over from an old diet to a new diet gradually over 3-7 days.
- Start by mixing a small amount of the new diet in with the old diet.
- If your cat accepts the new diet well, increase the amount of the new diet and decrease the amount of the old diet over a few days until only the new diet is being fed.
- If your cat is more reluctant to take the new diet, make the change more gradual over a longer period of time, increasing the amount of new diet only very slowly
- If done gradually, most cats will eventually accept a change in diet.

## Maintaining optimal condition

Once a cat has reached its target weight, it may be preferable to feed a “light” or low-calorie food. These diets are designed for the less active feline and do not contain as many calories as normal maintenance foods. While it is hard to see weight loss in a cat that you are watching every day, it is equally difficult to see the early stages of weight gain. Regular weight checks should be continued to ensure that the fat doesn’t start to creep back on.

(based on an article “Obesity in cats” by the International cat care organisation).


# Port Howard Sports 2022

Sunday 6th March

10am - Foot Events - on the green at the lodge - hosted by Rodney and Tanya
BBQ lunch - hosted by Harps
Afternoon - Golf - hosted by Mike Summers
Evening - Gold cup racing

Monday 7th March

10am - shearing
BBQ lunch - hosted by Rodney and Tanya
Evening - Mechanical Bull

Tuesday 8th March

10am Peat cutting - En Route to Purvis hosted by PH
BBQ lunch - WFSA
Bike Agility - At Purvis - hosted by PH
Evening- Bar Night

Wednesday 9th March

10am - Dog Trials - hosted by Port Howard
Kids sports - hosted by Martha by the Lodge
BBQ lunch Hosted by Bold Cove Farm
Evening - Prize giving

# The Thirty-Fifth West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show, 2021 Report

***By Keith and Nuala Knight***

Wednesday 29th December 2021 dawned under a dull overcast sky and quite breezy on West Falkland. This ominous daybreak however did not deter the residents and visitors to Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating 'a good day' out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith as usual had already been working hard transforming the Woolshed prior to the event, helped with this task by Molks, Keira and Erin. Then at nine in the morning Keith, ably assisted by Steven and Nigel were there to take all the entries. All rams and the majority of fleeces were delivered on the day. As usual they started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline for entries approached.

Once the entries were all in, Jolene Morrison assisted by Lucy Ellis set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the Fleeces having the highest estimated Commercial Value. Once completed they then selected from all the Rams that were entered in the three Ram classes, the one they considered to be the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion.

A total of seventy-eight fleeces from sixteen Farms and twenty-six rams from seven different Farms were exhibited at this year's 'event'. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of Rams, all rams and fleeces on show were a credit to its owner.

By now the barbeque, which had already been set up by Justin and Chris using the gas fired barbeque pits was in full swing. In addition to the usual fare Nuala had made mulled wine and salads. This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes of Rams and the three classes of fleeces, as well as the additional competitions which now awaited them in the Sheep holding areas of the Woolshed. In addition to the Ram classes this year there was the usual Pet Lamb class. Once this task had been accomplished the time-consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known.

The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully shorn of its fleece by Critta and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in these other competitions to be finalised. The fleece weight, sheep weight and micron guess competition produced some very accurate results. Andrew Bendall Judged the two sheep in the 'Under 21's Competition' so that they could be compared to other entrants results to enable the winning entries to be selected. This year ten groups and individuals entered this competition.

Promptly at 4.30 pm, a good crowd once again assembled in the Woolshed for the Prize giving. This year's prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor accompanied by Mrs Phillips.

There were as usual some excellent trophies and cash prizes for the winning entries which were this year shared between eleven different farms. Special mention must go to our various sponsors, most of whom have generously and loyally supported the 'Ram & Fleece Show' for many years. In addition are the many farms that continue to bring Rams and fleeces which make the 'Show' possible. Not forgetting all the spectators who continue to come along and make the event so successful.

The Prize-giving brought this year's Show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more Socialising until late that night.

This ended another successful Ram and Fleece Show for 2021

Keith and Nuala Knight.
Organisers W.F.R & F.S.

# THE THIRTYFIFTH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW 2021, PRIZE LIST

| PRIZE | DONATED BY | WON BY | POINTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CLASS 1 FULL WOOL RAM HOGGETT** | | | |
| 1st PRIZE. | ENGRAVED CHALLENGE SHIELD PRESENTED BY MR & MRS AUSTIN DAVIES + £150 PRESENTED BY BYRON HOLDINGS : | ***HARPS*** | ***92*** |
| 2nd PRIZE. | £100 DONATED BY BYRON HOLDINGS. | ***SHALLOW HBR***. | ***80*** |
| 3rd. PRIZE | £75 DONATED BY PORT HOWARD FARM | ***WESTLEY.*** | ***76*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £50 DONATED BY SAAS | ***HARPS*** | ***69*** |
| **CLASS 2 FULL WOOL DUAL PURPOSE RAM** | | | |
| 1st PRIZE | LYN BLAKE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP + £200 PRESENTED BY FIMCO LTD. | ***SHALLOW HBR.*** | ***166*** |
| 2nd PRIZE | £150 PRESENTED BY FIMCO Ltd | ***SHALLOW HBR*** | ***115*** |
| 3rd PRIZE | £100 PRESENTED BY FIMCO. | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***113*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £50 PRESENTED BY FIMCO | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***105*** |
| **CLASS 3 FULL WOOL MATURE RAM** | | | |
| 1st PRIZE | FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL MARKETING CHALLENGE CUP , + A REPLICA PRESENTED THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY + £50 | ***SHALLOW HBR*** | ***77*** |
| 2nd PRIZE | £110 DONATED BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY LTD. | ***HARPS*** | ***72*** |
| 3rd PRIZE | £80 PRESENTED BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY LTD. | ***PORT HOWARD*** | ***65*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £60 PRESENTED BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL COMPANY LTD. | ***LEICESTER CREEK*** | ***65*** |
| **CLASS 4 HOGGETT FLEECE** | | | |
| 1st PRIZE | SILVER CHALLENGE CUP & REPLICA PRESENTED BY MR R A EDWARDS & RBC LTD. + £50 DONATED BY RB CONSULTANTS | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***64*** |
| 2nd PRIZE | £75 PRESENTED BY ARGOS GROUP | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***54*** |
| 3rd PRIZE | £50 FROM PORT HOWARD FARM | ***CROOKED INLET*** | ***48*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £25 FROM THE ARGOS GROUP | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***39*** |
| **CLASS 5 ANY FINE WOOL FLEECE OTHER THAN HOGGETT** | | | |
| 1st PRIZE | `GOVERNORS CUP` CHALLENGE CUP PRESENTED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR + REPLICA, & RETURN FERRY TRIP = VEHICLE + TWO PEOPLE FROM WORKBOAT SERVICES | ***PORT HOWARD*** | ***60*** |
| 2nd PRIZE | £100 FROM FALKLAND LANDHOLDINGS | ***PORT HOWARD*** | ***59*** |
| 3rd PRIZE | £75 FROM STANDARD CHARTERED BANK | ***NATIONAL STUD FLOCK*** | ***55*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £50 FROM THE RBA | ***DUNBAR*** | ***54*** |

**CLASS 6 ANY AAAF TYPE FLEECE**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st PRIZE | SHIRLEY KNIGHT PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP PRESENTED BY COAST RIDGE FARM + REPLICA PRESENTED BY LEICESTER CREEK | ***GREEN HILL*** | ***108*** |
| 2nd PRIZE | £75 FUEL VOUCHER FROM STANLEY SERVICES | ***SHALLOW HBR.*** | ***102*** |
| 3rd PRIZE | £50 DONATED BY FIC GROUNDWORKS & HAULAGE | ***SPRING POINT*** | ***100*** |
| 4th PRIZE | £25 PRESENTED BY FIC GROUNDWORKS & HAULAGE | ***COAST RIDGE*** | ***78*** |

## ADDITIONAL PRIZES

THE CHAMPION RAM WAS OWNED BY ***SHALLOW HBR***. & WON `THE PATRICIA LUXTON PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP` & REPLICA FROM THE LUXTON FAMILY CHARTRES. + £100 FROM SAAS FOR RESERVE CHAMPION OWNED BY ***SHALLOW HBR &*** WON £50 VOUCHER FROM SOUTHERN IMPORTS

A SILVER CHALLENGE CUP + £75 FOR THE FLEECE WITH THE HIGHEST COMMERCIAL VALUE. ALL PRIZES PRESENTED BY THE F.I. DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WON BY ***PORT HOWARD***
WITH A FLEECE HAVING AN ESTIMATED GROSS VALUE OF ***£45.85***
2nd.***NATIONAL STUD FLOCK*** WON £60, ESTIMATED VALUE ***£43.23***
3rd. ***SPRING POINT*** WON £40, ESTIMATED VALUE ***£43.23***
4th. ***SHALLOW HBR*** WON £25 ESTIMATED VALUE ***£40.34***

IN THE PET SHEEP CLASS 1st. PRIZE OF £25 FROM PORT HOWARD FARM WAS WON BY ***JESSICA LEE WITH `SWISS ROLL`*** 2nd.PRIZE.£ 15 WON BY ***JESSICA LEE WITH `BOOBIE`*** THIS PRIZE FROM FIC GROUNDWORKS & HAULAGE
THE OWEN & VERONICA SUMMERS MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE FARM WITH MOST POINTS IN ALL CLASSES WITH REPLICA DONATED BY MR COLIN SUMMERS WON BY ***SHALLOW HBR.***

**ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS**

IN THE `GUESS THE SHEEP WEIGHT COMPETITION` THE WINNER RECEIVED £25 FROM MR R A EDWARDS, WON BY ***DAISY McKAY*** WHO GUESSED CLOSEST WITH ***37*** **Kgs**, ACTUAL WEIGHT ***37*****Kgs**

THE WINNER OF THE `FLEECE WEIGHT `COMPETITION RECEIVED £50 VOUCHER FROM FALKLAND FARMERS WON B ***ALI RAY MARSH*** WHO GUESSED CLOSEST WITH ***3.76*** **Kgs.** ACTUAL WT***3.7 Kgs.***

WHILST THE WINNER OF THE `MICRON ESTIMATE` COMPETITION RECEIVED A £50 VOUCHER FROM FALKLAND FARMERS. WON BY ***CHRIS LLOYD***_WHO GUESSED ***15.1 u*** ACTUAL ***15.6 u.***
THE SHEEP JUDGING COMPETITION FOR THE UNDER `21`s` ALL PRIZES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.WON BY ***JESSICA LEE*** FIRST PRIZE A £50 VOUCHER .2nd..PRIZE***_ROSALYN POLE-EVANS,*** A £30 VOUCHER 3rd. PRIZE_ ***OLIVER LEE*** _A £20 VOUCHER

**ADDITIONAL CREDITS.**

F.I.G.A.S. ONCE AGAIN GENEROUSLY AGREED TO FLY FLEECES FREE OF CHARGE

WORKBOAT SERVICES AND OK HAULAGE FOR FINANCING THE BARBECUE WITH CHOPS ALSO SUPPLIED BY RINCON RIDGE & COAST RIDGE, COOKING BY ***CHRIS & JUSTIN—*** MULLED WINE AND SALAD BY ***NUALA***

***KEITH ,MOLKS, KEIRA & ERIN*** FOR TRANSFORMING THE WOOLSHED, THEN ***KEITH, STEPHEN & NIGEL*** FOR TAKING ENTRIES. WITH ***JOLENE & LUCY*** FOR JUDGING THE SPECIAL CATEGORIES, AND ALL THOSE WHO DID THE SUMS AFTERWARDS

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT.
IN PARTICULAR ***ANDREW, LUCY & KATRINA, H.E.THE GOVERNOR*** FOR PRESENTING THE PRIZES

AND FINALLY, MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTINUE TO SPONSOR THE PRIZES FOR THE SHOW DURING THESE DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES.
NOT FORGETTING THE FARMS THAT CONTINUE TO ENTER FLEECES AND RAMS AND THE SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS THAT MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL.

K.& N KNIGHT,

ORGANISERS W.F.R.& F.S.

# Saladero News

**By Andrew Bendall**

## December 2021 - January 2022

**Weather!** Drying in summary! Saladero itself has plenty of feed available; however both smaller ditches and some smaller ponds have dried up. Larger ponds have significantly dried up so now allowing stock to wander between camps.

**Lambing Marking – How did we do? Very disappointing result really**
**Summary as follows;**

Overall result of 56%, but does need breaking down to give it some clarity.

- 23% of lambing ewes were shearlings (16 % drys due to a ram failure at joining)
- 21% of ewes lambing were over 7 years old (increasing deaths and lighter ewes)
- 15% of lambing ewes were gimmers, most had lambed as shearling. (This cohort did 71%)
- 41% of lambing ewes were 4-6 year olds

## Lambing Results by Camp & Mob

| Paddock | Mob type | Ewes SS | Wet Ewes | Wet/Dry | Lambs | Total Ewes Present | Recorded Deaths | Missing/ Dead | Padcock % | Set Stocking % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shelter belt | Twins & BB | 65 | 48 | 12 | 59 | 60 | 3 | 2 | 98% | 91% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black Island south | 2018 Born Ewes | 112 | 79 | 28 | 79 | 108 | 2 | 2 | 73% | 71% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Supply | Lights MA | 59 | 21 | 33 | 19 | 54 | 5 | 0 | 35% | 32% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deep Vallays | 2013/14/15 MA | 91 | 65 | 22 | 67 | 88 | 1 | 2 | 76% | 74% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rabbit Island | 2015/17 born Ewes | 225 | 145 | 69 | 133 | 215 | 3 | 7 | 64% | 61% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Ruins | Shearling Ewes (sherr) | 165 | 72 | 88 | 75 | 160 | 1 | 4 | 47% | 45% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 717 | 432 | 252 | 437 | 685 | 15 | 17 | | |
| Ewes Joinec | | 785 | | | | | | | | |
| Lambs Marked/Ewes Joired | | 56% | | | | | | | | |

## Take Home messages!

- Cull heavier for BCS and **do not** join them
- Have a weight (37 kg) and BCS (2.8) cut off on all shearlings joined
- Monitor joining mobs more closely over the 1st 21 days of joining
- Feed better and more consistently over winter, in particular the last trimester
- Pull off lighter ewes at scanning and run separately
- Winter shearlings separately or at least with the lighter ewes. They lost .6 of a BCS from joining to set stocking being run with MA ewes
- Do not lamb in the Water Supply camp, it has had two consecutive poor results

The most frustrating element of this result is we have to wait another season to see if our changes actually materialise in to improved performance. But without measuring we have no idea what is contributing to our variable lambing percentages.

At lamb marking the lambs looked great and the majority of the ewes were in good condition. Due to high winds on the day, pens were put up inside the shed and lambs drafted off and marked inside. They received their initial glanvac vaccination, EID identification and brass tag for double identification.

Outside all the ewes were uddered and any wet dries were marked and removed. Following lamb marking the ewes were run in two mobs; twinning ewes, lights & shearlings in one mob and the balance of MA ewes in the other. This allowed for both mobs to start being rotated around camps leading up to weaning.

## Weaning;

| Weaning Results at 110 days from start of lambing. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Weight | BCS |
| Twining Ewes & Shealings | | | 48kg | 2.8 |
| Lambs | | | 23kg | 2.9 |
| | | | | |
| MA Ewes | | | 52kg | 2.9 |
| Lambs | | | 24.4kg | 2.9 |

- Weaning weights were slightly ahead of last year, but they were weaned a week later
- As seen from above weights, all ewes and lambs were weighed and BCS and once we have the parentage data back we will be able to determine what weight of lamb each ewe has weaned compared to her joining weight and her weaning weight. A direct measure of her breeding efficiency.
- Lambs received their 2nd glanvac vaccination thus giving them protection to clostridia diseases and boils.
- Lambs were orally drenched with a combination drench.
- All lambs are being run together till early March when they'll be weighed and split into rams and ewes.

***Weaned Lambs, Saladero***

## Ewe shearing

With the shearling ewes being shorn pre lamb this just left the MA ewes which had a mid-side sample taken which has been put through the OFDA. Average micron was 19.6um with 16% of the flock over 20 micron and the average micron CV is 19.9 which for a relatively old flock would be considered good.

***Shorn Ewes, Saladero***

## Ewe Selection

The ewes will come in and be drafted into age groups and then split into who reared lambs and who didn't, then put through the yards in small groups looking at structural soundness and general condition. The reason for having the ewes that didn't rear lambs separate is that they will natually be better conditioned and any of those who have consecutively 2 years running not reared lambs will be sold.

OFDA results along with NZWTA results of the shearlings will be looked at and any ewes that are showing high micron CV's and high figures for percentage of microns over 30um will be removed from the recorded stud flock.

## Management of Saladero

FLH continue to provide management support through Macaulay Davis to covering the day to day running in conjunction with DoA staff.

There has been an extensive review done of both the NSF and the management of Saladero farm after the unsuccessful bid to find a new farm manager earlier last year.

This review was carried out with consultation with farmers, the AAC and finally went to an ExCO paper and now as advertised; an Invitation to tender the service of the management of Saladero and the National Stud flock has been sought. An update will be given at the annual ram sale later in March.

## 2022 National Stud flock Ram sale – 17th March

We are pleased to be offering a significantly higher number of rams for sale this year and in particular in the **flock ram** category. This will enable clients who require multiple rams, greater ease to bid and secure group lots. These flock rams will be grouped in lots of five based on the micron or type.

There will also be the MA rams which are either ex NSF sires or rams carried over, plus the shearling rams offered as individual lots under the helmsman auction system.
Blue Beach Farm will have a selection of MA rams and shearling rams available for sale as well. See article presented in this edition of the Wool Press.

With a greater number of fully recorded well grown fit for purpose Falkland rams on offer, it gives farmers an excellent opportunity to cull out old and unsound rams within their own ram teams and replace with higher performing genetics.
Your ram purchase each year needs to be looked at as an investment rather than a cost!
We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on sale day.

## New Head of Agricultural

Katrina Durham arrives in early March to take up this position, which I have been covering over the last six months.
We all at the DoA look forward to welcoming her into the team and will endeavour to get out and about in March and April to meet as many farmers as possible.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**The Department of Agriculture will no longer be providing bags for sending mid-side samples to NZWTA. Instead, Southern Imports will be importing rolls of the right sized bags plus small rubber bands. Please contact Ali & Marlane for further information.**
**Thank you.**

Rural Business Association's

**AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2022**

**Goose Green 2nd April**

Falkland Islands Rural Business Association

Sheep & Cattle Competition | Agricultural Displays | Licensed Bar

Hot Food & Soft Drinks | Locally Made Gifts & Crafts | Country Dance

| Traditional Asado | Raffle | RBA dipping frenzy

**A great day out for all the family!**

**Please email livestock entries and stall reservations by the 25th March to rba.events@horizon.co.fk**

## Rural Business Association Agricultural Show
## Goose Green 2nd April

Class s1 Ram Hogget Less Than 12 Months of Age
Class s2 Shearling Ram Over 12 & Less Than 24 Months of Age
Class s3 Mature Ram Over 24 Months of Age
Class s4 Ewe Hogget Under 12 Months of Age
Class S5 Shearling Ewe Over 12 Months & Less Than 24 Months of Age
Class s6 Mature Ewe over 24 Months of Age
Class s7 Pen of 3 Flock Hoggets Under 12 Months of Age

Class s8 Pen of 3 Flock Shearlings Over 12 & Under 24 Months of Age
Class s9 Dual Purpose Ram Hogget Less Than 12 months of Age
Class s10 Dual Purpose Shearling Ram over 12 & Less Than 24 Months of Age
Class s11 Dual Purpose Mature Ram over 24 Months of Age
Class s12 Dual Purpose Ewe Hogget Less Than 12 months of Age
Class s13 Dual Purpose Shearling Ewe over 12 & Less Than 24 month of Age
Class s14 Dual Purpose Mature Ewe over 24 months of age
Class s15 Pen of 3 Dual Purpose Hoggets Less than 12 months of Age
Class s16 Under 16 Open Entry
Most Points in Classes 1-8
Champion Ram selected from Ram Classes
Champion Ewe selected from Ewe Classes
Class C1 Any Beef Heifer less than 24 months of Age
Class C2 Any Beef Heifer Over 24 months & Less than 36 months of age
Class C3 Any Beef Cow with Calf at Foot
Class C4 Any Beef Oxen between 12 & 24 months old

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*

*Falkland Islands Government*

*www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture*

Like us on Facebook

# Darwin Harbour Sports Association
# Goose Green 2022

## 5th March - 8th March 2022

### Programme for the Week

Friday 4th: Evening — Race Course Open & Entries taken
9pm - 2am — Social Club Open

***(Anyone under the age of 18 attending the GG Social Club must be accompanied by an appropriate adult at all times!)***

Saturday 5th: 9.30am — Horse Racing (Senior & Junior) & Gymkhana
9pm - 2.00am — Dance at GG Social Club

***(Anyone under the age of 18 attending the GG Social Club must be accompanied by an appropriate adult at all times!)***

Sunday 6th: 9.30am — Horse Racing (Senior & Junior)
9.00pm - 2.00am — Social Club Open

***(Anyone under the age of 18 attending the GG Social Club must be accompanied by an appropriate adult at all times!)***

Monday 7th: 10.00am — AGM - GG Social Club
11.00am — Children's Sports, Mechanical Bull Competition, Football & Fun Events
7.00pm — ASADO/BBQ (All Welcome)

Tuesday 8th: 10.00am — Dog Trials
3.00pm — Shearing (Fun Event to be held at the Race Course)
9.00pm - 2.00am — Dance at GG Social Club
10.30pm — Prize Giving

***(Anyone under the age of 18 attending the GG Social Club must be accompanied by an appropriate adult at all times!)***

Department of Agriculture

# National Stud Flock Ram Sale

## Thursday 17th March 2022

**Stock for sale:**

- Ex-NSF Stud rams
- NSF Shearling rams
- NSF Ewes
- Blue Beach mature & shearling rams

Stock inspection commences at 9am

Helmsman auction commences at 1130am



Ferry departs Port Howard at 8am, return ferry is loading at 5:30pm for 6pm sailing from New Haven - you will need to book your place through Workboat Services.

**Please note:** if the ferry is cancelled due to bad weather the sale will be postponed to Friday 25th March.

If you require transport to and from New Haven, please advise the DoA well in advance. Also ensure you have transport organised for any stock you may purchase.


There will be hot food and drinks throughout the day.
Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

More details will be released closer to the date.
Any queries, please ring: 27355 or email lellis@naturalresources.gov.fk

"***Workboat Services have advised that you book your ferry crossing ASAP as there is only this crossing and space will be limited.***" **Thank you.**

# Blue Beach Farm Prepares for Ram Sale.

***By Hew Grierson***

Our increasingly dry summers may reduce numbers of stock farms can support. Covid has also increased freight costs for wool and cattle processing is much reduced. This makes it vital that the wool we produce from every sheep is of high quality and commands a good price.

There continues to be high demand and good prices for finer micron merino wools. This is one aspect we have carefully bred for 20 years which, with the help of WoolCo, enables us to forward sell our wool at rates considerably above the AWEX rate. Our selection process relies on meticulous data recording across all of our ewes and rams, including: parasite Faecal Egg Counts, pregnancy rates (by scanning), pregnancy outcome (by recording all ewes which have lost lambs), every ewe's wool weight & quality, black spots and other obvious problems are also recorded & poor sheep or rams producing poor sheep are not bred from. Shearling rams are measured for wool quality, body weight, fat scanned (Phillip van der Reit measures fat between the skin layer & eye muscle), and must also be structurally sound. This enables us to accurately index our sheep and select those which really have the best genetics for wool, health and lamb production in the natural Falklands environment. If we did not use the indexes and chose sheep by eye we might accidentally favour ram hogs which, say, were born early and were therefore bigger than others, but had wool which got much coarser over time; conversely without indexes we might reject a potentially superb ram which was a twin and therefore small as a hog.

Recently folks have worried that sheep with fine wool are not hardy enough for the Falklands. We run high stocking rates (both cattle and sheep) on coarse ground and have never found this to be the case. We choose our rams from Centre Plus because we absolutely trust the integrity of this company and their long track record of producing quality sheep selected from a farm, which produces hundreds of rams & has 20,000 fully recorded ewes. We select semen from animals that produce great wool (bright, white and reasonably fine throughout the animal's life time), good carcass weights *and* will do well in the Falklands with traits such as good feet, and maintains a good condition score in a challenging environment. We then run our rams on exposed camps with rough native pasture and we **never feed them pellets**. This means that we always select rams which flourish under normal Falklands conditions – i.e. those which we expect our flock sheep to perform in.

The success of this approach was clearly shown in the recent DoA wether trial where Blue Beach wethers were the most profitable sheep to run compared with other farms. This was because their wool was of a high quality and did not blow-out (to higher microns) in their second year. The wethers also had **good comparable carcase weights** This difference in profitability was found after just 2 years and would increase cumulatively over a further 6+ years of wool production, because we select sheep which maintain good wool quality.
Stud ewes are AI'd every year since AI started in Falklands, apart from past two seasons. Then ewes are joined in four groups, with each group having one of the best four rams, this enables us to record full pedigree because DNA testing is very expensive & results have had flaws which often leads to retests.

We will be taking a number of rams to this year's DoA ram sale and can also offer a whole team of stud rams (20) to any interested farms, as we replace most of our team annually to maximise genetic gain. Each ram costs us over £300 to produce because of the genetics, and work involved in data collection and processing (we use a consultant in Australia to run the indexes, then info is sent to Merino Select). We also produce quality flock ram hogs, selected from our best flock ewes, joined with stud rams. Because these have few measurements these are sold for £50.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like more information – sheep breeding is our favourite subject…. We would also like to thank those who have bought rams from us in the past for their support.

# Recommendations for control of Pilosella-Results from a spraying trial on Tierra del Fuego

***Enrique Frers and Jim McAdam***

Readers will remember the article Matt McNee and Jim published in the Jan/Feb 2021 issue of the Wool Press on controlling Mouse-Eared Hawkweed or Pilosella *(Hieracium pilosella),* a serious invasive weed species in pastures in the Magallanes Region and on Tierra del Fuego. It is a potentially serious invasive species in the Falklands-where it is already established. The spread of Mouse-eared chickweed across the Magallanes region and Tierra del Fuego continues unabated - very much driven by the changing climate, particularly longer periods of dry weather. Many of you will remember agronomist Enrique Frers for his work on developing a mechanical Tussac Grass planting machine and bulk tussac seedling production which he told us about on his Shackleton Scholarship visit to the Falklands in 2019. Enrique continues to work with farmers in western Tierra del Fuego where he has been carrying out some herbicide trials on Pilosella control. Given that these were carried out on several sites on dry, hard camp very similar to that found in the Falklands, we feel the results will be of interest to landowners in the Falklands and will encourage and inform them on how best to tackle the initial stages of this problem.

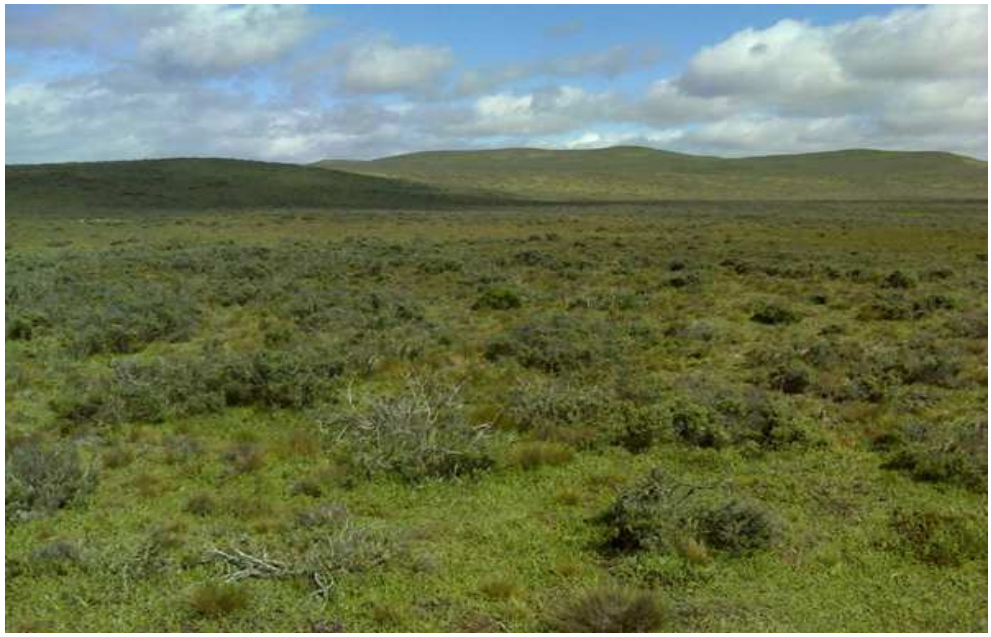


***Figure 1. Dense Pilosella infestation at Estancia Sara 2019. All the light green areas are Pilosella.***

After many years of experience in trying to deal with the Pilosella problem and seeing how it gets hold and spreads its range, Enrique's firm opinion is that, as much he dislikes recommending it, at present using residual herbicides are the only way of tackling the problem. This is recognizing the other measures Matt and I recommended in our previous article to control Pilosella in the Falklands – namely:-

- Old, worked soil, either as reseeded pastures, or the sides of a road or track are the best places for Pilosella to establish.
- Mechanical control alone, using any type of plough or rotary cultivator, is not effective against Pilosella because the plants respond to cutting by initiating growth of shorter stems and reflowering more quickly, resulting in plants producing more stolons that intensify the problem. The exception to the above is if the seedbed is prepared to introduce competitive species, but only after weed elimination through chemical control.

- Pilosella plants that grow where there is no grazing pressure produce more stolons and flowers than where they are tightly grazed. Therefore, it is more effective to have animals graze infected pastures rather than let the area rest without some treatment measure.

- Regeneration with forage species and/or fertilization in pastures dominated by Pilosella can control the weed and favour the development of more competitive, native or introduced species, but there are implications for soil fertility management over the long term.

- Once weed-free paddocks have been established, constant vigilance, early detection of infestation points, maintenance of paddocks in good condition and adjusted animal stocking rates reduce the probability of re-appearance of the weed.

- In general, plan an integrated management system to control the species, adapting to the soil conditions and climatic pressures of the affected area. When small infestations of Pilosella exist, eradicate them to reduce seed dissemination.

- It would be ideal if those who regularly check paddocks on the farm and make use of existing land and soil maps record plant colonies and identify areas susceptible to colonization by this weed.

*However we also said-*

- If after pasture diagnosis, it is determined that herbicides will need to be applied, this should be done when the plant is in the vegetative state. However, it is important to note that chemical control should be accompanied by other practices that help correct the conditions that made weed establishment possible. Take care to avoid herbicide drift when spraying. Also bear in mind that the cost of spraying should not be considered just in relation to the improved value of the actual pasture sprayed, but should consider the longer term, less quantifiable, benefit of preventing further spread and loss of productive pasture to this invasive.

- A selective broadleaf herbicide such as Picloram is suggested. Mixes of Picloram with clopyralid, Dicamba, 2,4D, MCPA, or a mixture of 2,4D and Clopyralid can also be used, all of which avoid negative impacts on forage grass species. Following chemical use, carry out a soil test and apply a fertilizer dose that contains phosphorus and sulphur.

- Preferably, exclude animals from sites applied with the aforementioned treatments in order to prevent grazing and permit the growth of other species. If it is not possible to exclude grazing, apply a selective herbicide to control Pilosella and permit growth of vegetative cover.

- Using a selective herbicide is recommended in order to favour growth of grass species and white clover (a species with greater competitive capacity against Pilosella). Recommended herbicides are MCPA (0.9 - 1.2 L/ha) or 2,4DB (1L/ha). This is relevant as white clover grows best in soils with optimal levels of P and S in the whole region.

***Figure 2. Competition between Pilosella and Fachine and grasses. On the left hand side of the photograph, Pilosella has out-competed Fachine and Fescue grass***

## *A herbicide trial*

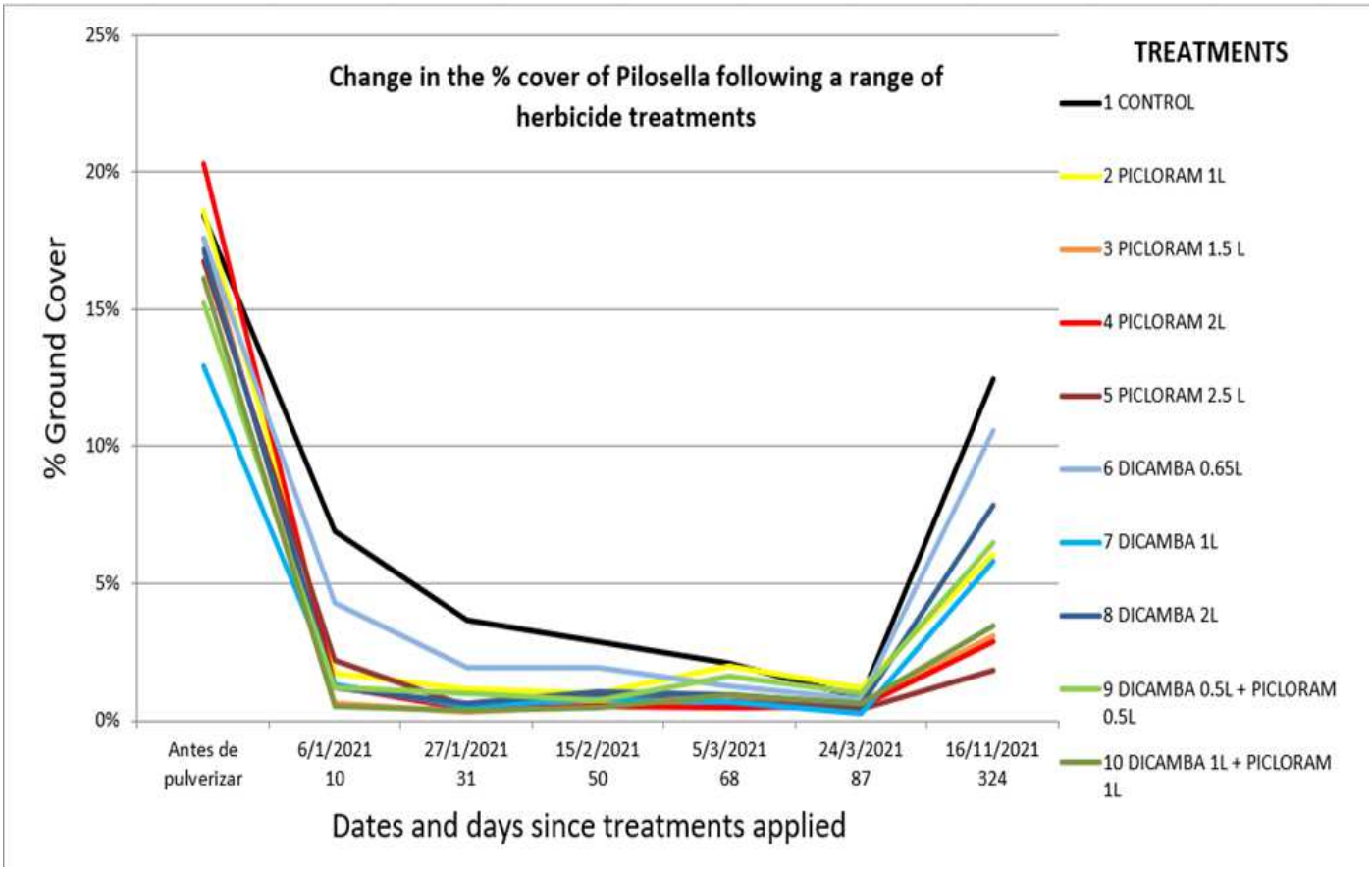
Based on Enrique's experience, the best way to move ahead is to try and nip this problem in the bud before it gets much worse - and to look at any evidence we can from other, adjacent regions. So in this article we report on a selective herbicide trial Enrique has carried out last season at Maria Behety station on Tierra del Fuego.

## *Sites and treatments*

Herbicides were applied in 3m strips along 15 x 6m plots (4 randomized replicates per treatment) on heavily Pilosella - infested ground where the main vegetation cover was an old (more than 20 years ago) reseeded pasture on an older *Festuca gracillima* dry slope. Treatments were: Control (water only): Picloram at 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 L (active ingredient/ha); Dicamba at 0.65, 1.0 and 2.0 L and 2 Picloram/Dicamba mixes-one of 0.5 L each and one of 1.0L of a.i./ha each. A three meter wide sprayer mounted on a ATV travelling at a speed of 4 km/hr was used. Nozzles used were 1m apart on the boom, ,had a spraying angle of 110 degrees and delivered 0.4 litres per minute. Air was bubbled into the water drop so they are bigger and heavier. Once they touche the target or the soil they "explode" in many tiny droplets. This allows the sprayer to work in winds up to 20 km/hr and to reach underneath bigger plants that might cover Pilosella.

Plant cover was measured using an App CANOPEO on 50cmx50cm quadrats placed in the centre of each plot (see figure). This calculates the percentage of green leaf in the photograph.

## Results and Observations



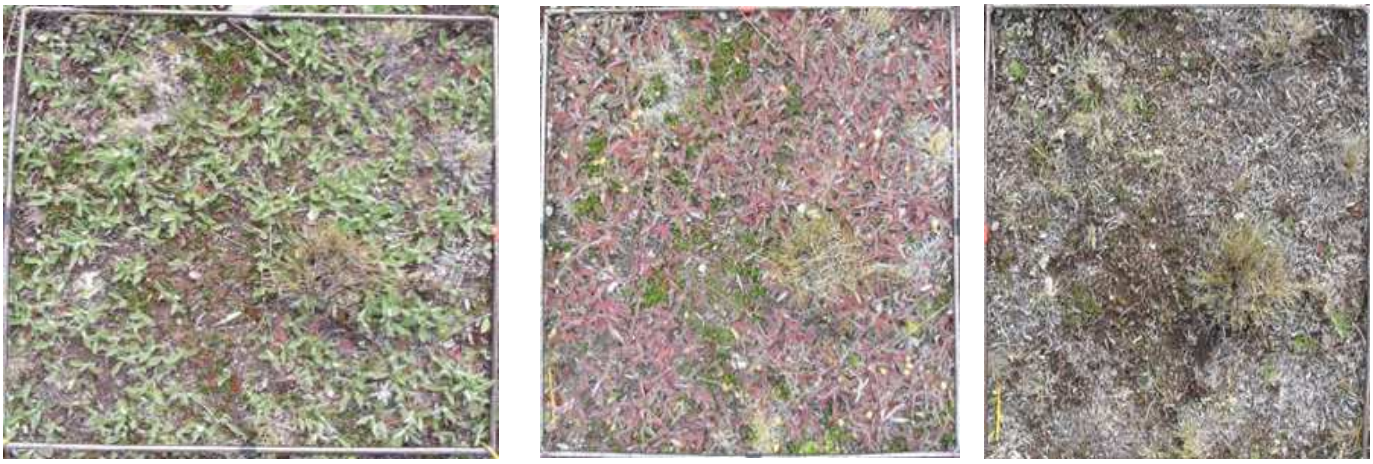



*Figure 5. treatment 5- a. before spraying, b. 10 days after spraying, c. a year later.*

There was very low growth recorded during the summer (Jan-March 2021), largely because over the duration of the trial there was a severe drought so the results might be influenced by the lack of water. All Picloram-based herbicides applied, irrespective of dose, were effective in the short term. Dicamba alone was not effective. However best long term control was found at the higher doses of Picloram (2.0 and 2.5 L a.i./ha and the Picloram/Dicamba 1.0L mix.
Enrique's experience is that it is essential to prevent the build-up of Pilosella seed in the soil. If you use low doses of herbicide you will only affect the current season's growing plants and not those which will germinate in the next season. Although the cover of Pilosella will probably be reduced if you do not continue to repeat spray, any benefit will be lost. That means that you will be losing the battle from the beginning.

You must continue to spray for several years. It is important to initially spray with a high dose of herbicide to hit back the infestation hard and quickly. He did a trial using 3 liters of Picloram and it was 9 years to before any Pilosella plants appeared back. It is almost impossible to spot spray when they are spread almost everywhere, but he thinks it is very important to stop the big patches to spreading. Spraying will become an annual schedule of work that will allow you to gain time until a better solution appears. In some places, Pilosella - affected areas increase 12% in size per year.
Enrique does not like spraying, it has a lot of collateral effects, we all know that. But if you let this weed advance you will find yourself in a serious biodiversity and soil erosion problem in a relatively short time. The two photos he includes are from estancia Sara. In one, you can see the effect of Hieracium on fachine, and on the other, the size of the area it is capable of affecting.

Although there are different control methods, prevention is the most efficient and least costly to implement. Therefore, as a basic rule, avoid overgrazing, the removal of soil nutrients without subsequent replacement, and erosion. If you have Mouse-eared Hawkweed in your pastures, the best control method is integrated weed management, or combining multiple control processes, including chemical, mechanical, and cultural (increasing soil fertility, seedings and other practices that reduce weed cover). This species tends to invade grasslands that have already been degraded so pay special attention to the conservation and improvement of existing pastures. Proof of this is that the majority of affected sites in the region are places subjected to prolonged grazing which, as a result, extracts great quantities of nutrients without any replenishment of the soil.

This is a very difficult species to eradicate because of its biological characteristics: high rate of vegetative reproduction, aggressiveness, allelopathic effects and capacity to spread widely via seed dispersal. Given these challenges, the objective is to maximize control and minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts. Preventative mechanisms that integrate the impacts of multiple control types, including biological, chemical, mechanical and cultural (principally reseeding, fertilization and grazing), should be implemented.

From a wider industry and conservation perspective, we should be focused on building monitoring capacity for Mouse-Eared Hawkweed and other invasive weeds. Mouse-Eared Hawkweed is very drought tolerant so we might expect its competitive ability within pastures to increase in areas of the Falkland Islands that are drying out, where soil health is in decline or in overgrazed areas.

For more details on the biology and distribution of Pilosella, readers should refer back to the article in Wool Press Jan/Feb 2021 No.327 pp 12-16 R***ecommendations for control of Mouse-Eared Hawkweed*** **by** ***Dr. Matthew McNee & Prof. Jim McAdam***

# Rainfall Data for 2021

**2021**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stanley | 41 | 42 | 34 | 11.5 | 10 | | | 22.5 | 5 | 23.5 | 13 | 25 |
| *Average* | *43.3* | *39.7* | *51.5* | *49.8* | *46.8* | *45.5* | *49.8* | *39.4* | *37.7* | *18.9* | *48.1* | *55.3* |
| MPA | | 26.8 | 19.5 | 26.6 | 55.6 | 25.5 | 44.5 | 27.4 | 12.6 | 27.6 | 17.4 | 19.4 |
| *Average* | *57.5* | *49.39* | *53.7* | *52* | *51.7* | *49.7* | *46.7* | *39.9* | *34.6* | *33.3* | *39.3* | *55.7* |
| Bleaker Island | 35 | 11.5 | 14 | 25 | 52 | 27 | 32 | 19 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 17 |
| Fern Ridge | 69 | 18.5 | | 45 | | | | | 24 | 29 | 51.5 | 24.5 |
| Harps | | | | | | 26 | 33 | 16 | 16 | 27 | 26 | 27 |
| Hill Cove | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Goose Green | | | 49 | 19 | 34 | 20 | 27 | | 22 | 17 | 15.5 | 16 |
| Head of the Bay | 60 | | 15 | 30 | 40 | 23 | 27 | 18 | 16 | 32 | 24 | 15 |
| Moss Side | 65 | | 11 | 26.5 | 49 | | | 19 | | 23 | 18 | 15 |
| North Arm | | 15 | 17 | 44 | 52 | 25 | | | 12 | 22 | 25 | 12 |
| Port Howard | 96 | 30 | 52 | 62 | 38 | 21 | 36 | 20 | 35 | 53 | | |
| Saladero | 80 | 20 | 20 | | | | 65 | | | | | |
| Saunders Island | | | 18 | 28 | 33 | 28 | | 11 | 11 | | 16 | 14 |
| Salvador | | 25 | 17.75 | 31.75 | 26 | 40.25 | 47.75 | 22.75 | 21.5 | 15.5 | 10.75 | 23.5 |
| Shallow Harbour | 66.5 | 19.5 | | 62.5 | 42.5 | 35.5 | 57.5 | | 30.5 | 30.5 | 45.5 | 26.5 |
| Walker Creek | 88 | 15 | 22 | 25 | 38 | 22 | 26 | 15 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 10 |
| West Lagoons | | | | 22 | | | | 22 | 14 | | 24 | 19 |

# PUZZLE PAGE!

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

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

*Flex your brain*
*Free your mind*
*Think laterally*

## LAST EDITIONS SOLUTION

The target of this game is to fill up a 9×9 grid. When you add numbers to each column, row and all the 3×3 boxes which are regarded as regions or blocks, the entire squares will be filled with digits ranging from 1 to 9. Other things you need to understand are:

The smallest block in Sudoku game is called a cell.

- A column, row or region has 9 cells.
- The region is marked with thicker lines.
- A Sudoku game has a total of 81 cells.
- A single nonet comprise of a 3×3 square