

# THE WOOL PRESS

May/June 2022

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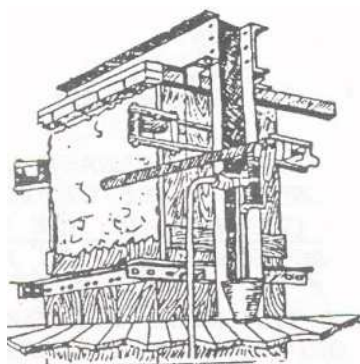
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*Edited By Zoe Leigh Minto*

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# EDITORIAL

It's been a tough week in the department with the departure of Steve and the impending departures of Gordon and Andrew. Saying goodbye to colleagues is never easy and getting used to the new normal can take some time, so please bear with us as we await the arrival of new staff and get them settled in.

It's well recognised that staff turnover is a significant cause of stress in the workplace and of course when the workplace is a public facing service such as the Department of Agriculture, staff changes affect those to whom we provide the service too.

The Department of Agriculture doors are always open (unless Covid means they're not!) so please keep using this service even if we are a little slower in delivery for a short time. [We are](#), however, really very pleased to welcome Jack Wilson as the contractor to manage Saladero and look forward to seeing him around the farm and in the Department.

Behind the scenes there are always projects on-going and recently two large projects that are being worked on is the development of a national contingency plan to be used in the case of an outbreak of an emergency animal disease (such as Foot and Mouth Disease) and Dani our Biosecurity Officer continues to work on developing the overarching Biosecurity Policy for the Falkland Islands. As the world gets smaller (and warmer!) biosecurity gets increasingly important and there are two articles of biosecurity interest in this edition.

Large scale incursions of pests or disease are crippling and we must work as hard as we can to protect boarders and the resources we have. Farmers week is upon us and we're looking forward to seeing you all for some good discussion and sharing of ideas.



**Zoe Fowler**

**Senior Veterinary Officer.**

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## DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2022/2023

Date	Drug
<del>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022</del>	<del>Drontal</del>
<del>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</del>	<del>Droncit</del>
<del>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022</del>	<del>Droncit</del>
<del>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022</del>	<del>Droncit</del>
<del>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022</del>	<del>Endoguard/ Drontal</del>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Droncit
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Droncit
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Droncit
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	Droncit
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Endoguard/ Drontal
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 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

Department of Agriculture,  
Veterinary Service,  
Tel: (500) 27366 Facsimile: (500) 27352  
E-mail: [sbowles@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:sbowles@naturalresources.gov.fk)



**SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE  
LATELY??**

**IF SO CONTACT THE DEPART-  
MENT OF AGRICULTURE ON  
27355**

If you have any articles that you would like to be included in the next Wool Press please don't hesitate to send it through to me via email [ztaylor@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:ztaylor@naturalresources.gov.fk)

## AGRICULTURAL RETURNS

Agricultural Returns for 2021/2022 are due soon!

Part A: It is a legal requirement to complete and return Part A to the Department of Agriculture by the 30th June 2022.

Part B: It is a legal requirement to complete and return Part B to the Department of Agriculture by the 31st October 2022.

Contact details are:

Tel: 27355

Merrie Ellis E-mail: [agassistant2@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:agassistant2@naturalresources.gov.fk)

# Onshore Mineral Exploration in the Falklands

*By Emily Gilbert*

You may have noticed that earlier this year FIG Department of Mineral Resources consulted on bringing in a legal framework to allow prospecting and exploring for gold and similar minerals (excluding stone, sand, gravel, chalk, flint or calcified seaweed).

Following consultation, Exco approved the proposed framework (which includes regulations, conditions for exploring and prospecting, application forms and guidance) to enable interested parties to apply for a licence to prospect and explore for gold and similar minerals.

The regulations require UK Secretary of State approval before they can be made law and this is expected to be given in the coming months. It is anticipated that there will be some interest in this type of activity, possibly as early as summer 22/23.

Please note that if a person is granted a licence to prospect or explore for minerals it does NOT give them any automatic right of access over private land; they would still have to get the land owners agreement to explore or prospect for minerals in addition to obtaining any necessary planning permission or other consents. Licences issued for exploration also don't allow extraction at this stage, though some excavation and other activity may be required in the course of exploration, similar to the work carried out by Falkland Gold & Minerals Ltd around fifteen years ago.

On the topic of minerals, we will soon be consulting on related proposals to enable mining of what we call "Common Minerals". These are the low-value minerals not covered by the gold regulations - stone, gravel, sand, chalk, flint and calcified seaweed. These minerals are generally used for construction or agricultural purposes in a domestic context; examples including quarrying stone, or extracting deposits of calcified seaweed as an agricultural liming agent.

The proposed application process is not expected to be onerous, but needs to be in place to allow the Ordinance to operate effectively and give FIG the ability to grant licences. It's currently illegal to mine without a licence, but regulations don't exist to grant licences – you see the problem. Most common minerals are fairly abundant and their locations are fairly well known, so although the Ordinance provides for the ability to issue prospecting and exploration licences for common minerals, we expect that most people will proceed straight to a mining licence for extraction.

It is hoped that the consultation will be launched in May, all views are very much welcome and will be taken into account. Look out for notices in the Penguin News [and on the radio], or feel free to contact the Department on:

[info@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:info@mineralresources.gov.fk) or tel: 27322.

## **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 & Marlene for further information.**

**Thank you.**



## Recipe Spot

### Ingredients;

2lbs stewing beef (Cubed)  
3 tbsp. Flour  
1/2 tsp. G.Powder  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
1/2 tsp. Black Pepper  
3 tbsp. Olive oil  
1 tbsp. Lea & Perrins  
1 Onion (Chopped)  
6 Cups Beef Broth  
1lb Potatoes  
4 Carrots  
3 tbsp. Tomato Paste  
2tbsp Corn flour  
2tbsp Water  
3/4 Cup Peas

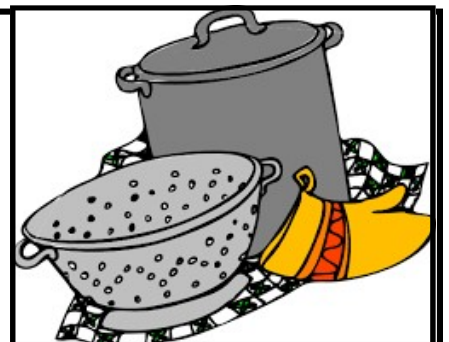


### Method;

1. Combine Flour, G Powder and Salt & Pepper. Toss the beef In the flour mix.
2. Heat olive oil in a large pot. Cook the beef and onions together until browned.
3. Add beef broth while scraping up any brown bits in the pan.
4. Stir in all the remaining ingredient except for peas, corn-starch and water. Reduce heat to low cover and allow to simmer for 1 hour until beef is tender.
5. Mix equal parts corn-starch and water to create a slurry. Slowly add to the boiling stew to reach desired consistency (You may not require all the slurry mixture)
6. Stir in peas and simmer for 5-10 minutes before serving.

If you have a favourite or trusty family recipe you would like to be included in the next Wool Press please feel free to email it through along with the ingredients required and the method of cooking to [ztaylor@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:ztaylor@naturalresources.gov.fk)

Thank you and enjoy



# **The Importance of Ram Management and Pregnancy Scanning**

by Zoe Fowler

If farming was an easy life with quick fixes we'd all be doing it! It's a well-recognised concept in the agricultural world that any changes you make today may not show you the benefits until the next season, the next year or the next several years. This can be daunting when the changes consist of significant time or financial inputs – you may not get a large, distinct monetary benefit at all, rather it might be a slow increase in production value that pays for the change slowly but long term.

Scanning for pregnancy can be seen as a quick fix – yup 95% in lamb, excellent, all pretty much pregnant, rams are working, lovely, no need to do that again. But that's only one of the reasons it's useful to scan. Any dry ewes should be examined for BCS or defects and culled accordingly, if she's never going to have a lamb she's not that much use. Any that are in good shape but dry should be marked up, run as dry this year and scanned again next year. Two years dry? – chop chop. Feeding dry ewes as pregnant is a waste of available nutrition.

The differences seen in the Falklands between conception rates and lamb marking percentages shows we lose between 20-30% of lambs before marking. We should be working to close this gap. Twin pregnancies and those pregnant but in poor condition need some extra care and food – why feed them only to know they or the lamb or both are probably going to perish – if you are feeling particularly blunt, cull the very skinnies despite being in lamb – why feed something for 3 months that's not going to survive. Do it properly or don't do it at all. By slowly whittling the dead wood from your ewe flock you may have less ewes but those that are there should be reliably productive. Scanning can be done anywhere there is a race, or a race can be made with mobile yards. You don't need to bring the ewes in to the shed, we can travel to the ewe camp but pens are useful as it's much easier and efficient to scan ewes that have been off food overnight. The scanner can be run off a battery but a generator is useful and a supply of hot water needed but several large thermos cans can do the job.

What is important though is that rams are taken off the ewe mob in a timely manner as you cannot pick up pregnancies less than 30-40 days so if your rams are left running with the girls you may have several late small pregnancies that are missed – so you call them dry and mistakenly cull or run a pregnant ewe as dry. The majority of ewes will get pregnant in their first cycle with the rams and it is widely advised that leaving rams with ewes for just 2 cycles (34 days) is gold standard. Long conception periods mean long lambing periods meaning a wide range of lamb ages making optimal marking, drenching and weaning ages difficult to hit leading to welfare issues (and failing to meet RWS requirements) and sub-optimal growth and survival in the tail enders. Remember your ewes here too; longer joining, longer lambing, later weaning means less time to get back in optimum BCS to give you a good lamb again next year. If you are worried about hitting bad weather in your chosen lambing period put controlled groups of rams out at different times – but still take them off. Rams left running with ewes start to lose condition and can fight leading to pretty severe injuries. And it goes without saying that the boys need an MOT before going in with the ewes. Teeth, toes, torso, tackle and testicles in the mantra but also check his overall BCS, eyes and prepuce and penis. Just one poorly functioning ram can lead to a reduction in conception.

For naturally mated ewes the optimal time for scanning is approximately 42 days from the day the rams come OFF. For AI mobs the optimal time to scan is 85 days after AI if you need to distinguish AI from cover rams but you can scan as early as 45 days after AI if no back up rams used – why spend that money and effort on AI to then not take every effort to ensure absolutely maximum ewe and lamb survival?

For more information regarding ram health and scanning please contact anyone in the DoA.

# Saladero News

By Andrew Bendall

## Management of Saladero

The tenders for the management of Saladero and the National Stud Flock (NSF) have been reviewed by the tender board and it has been awarded to John (Jack) Wilson has been awarded which he will be doing in conjunction with managing Estancia which he owns along with his wife Tara.

We are thrilled to have Jack on board; he will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and has already had several induction days with DoA staff helping with the NSF AI program, and weighing, BCS, drenching & bolusing all the hogs.

The DoA staff lead by Lucy Ellis will continue to have significant involvement around selection days and information gathering events which are all set out in a 12 month plan. Also part of the Saladero/ NSF review was the creation of a larger broader based NSF committee which not only can be available to help on selection days but act in an advisory capacity on where the NSF holds its priorities and future breeding objectives.



## Weather

April and May have been considerably wetter than past months, but still lower than both 5 & 30 year monthly averages. In the last week of May a significant dumping of snow, accompanied by some severe frost and cold weather made working and stock movements relatively challenging. Soil moisture levels are starting to creep back up, however when you see how long some ponds are taking to refill, it's an indication of how much moisture was lost in the immediate depth beneath ground level.

## Ewe Joining

The ewes have been selected into 4 naturally mated mobs, each mob assigned to a team of selected sires. This is done using a computer program called "matesel" with the aim of lifting the potential productive worth of all progeny born rather than taking a selective or corrective approach to joining scenarios. It also minimises any inbreeding while trying to get a random group of ewes per ram team as possible. This way you can see the true worth of a ram's ability to not only lift productive worth amongst top index ewes but ewes across the entire index spectrum.

The ewes selected for AI were done the same way utilising some semen that was selected for use in 2020 and an older ram that has subsequently performed very well on a maternal basis. As we weighed and conditioned scored all ewes, anything which was too light (<40kg) or whose BCS was below 2.4 were not joined.

2022 Joining has seen only 652 ewes joined compared with just fewer than 800 last year, I believe that we will mark a similar number of lambs from fewer ewes. (No pressure Jack)

PTO —————>

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



*Falkland Islands Government*  
[www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture](http://www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture)





# Saladero News - Continued

By Andrew Bendall

Mate Group	1	2	3	4	
MA Ewes	54	60	63	43	220
Shearling ewes	32	30	44	24	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>350</b>
Colour	Blue	Orange	Plain	Green	
Camp Number	27	7	22	18	
Rams	190023/190382	200012/180207	200309/190347/190007	200150/200340	
<b>AI'D Mate Groups 31/05/2022</b>					
<b>AI Sire</b>	<b>Number of Ewes</b>	<b>Camp</b>			
14-0474	39	26W			
16-0558	117	26W			
18-0633	146	26W			
Total	302				
<b>Total Joining Numbers 2022</b>			<b>Joining Weight &amp; Body Condition Score</b>		
				Weight (kg)	BCS
Natural	350		Mixed Aged Ewes	52	2.8
AI	302				
Total	652		Shearling Ewes	44.5	2.9

## AI Season 2022

After a very trying, and at times frustrating lead up to getting the AI consumables to the Falklands we finally got the green light to start our program. We had 300 ewes identified to put to 3 rams all of Anderson blood lines but of differing ages. A continued emphasis has been on Yfat and the resilience traits that are so important here in the Falklands for the ability for sheep to survive and thrive.

The activities leading up to the AI day were sometimes performed in snowy and cold conditions, however the actual AI day went off exceptionally well, thanks to a great team.



## Young Stock Management

After weaning in late January the lambs ran together for longer than expected due to both some bad weather events and staff resources but eventually came in and were weighed, body condition scored and drenched.

Their daily weight gain was back on last year, but it was to be expected given the camps they had been on and being held on those camps 3 weeks longer than anticipated. What do we take out of this situation? By looking at individual weight gains it demonstrates the dangers once again of **averages**. The average daily weight gain was 70 grams per day, however the range varied from loss of weight to daily gains of over 200 grams per day.

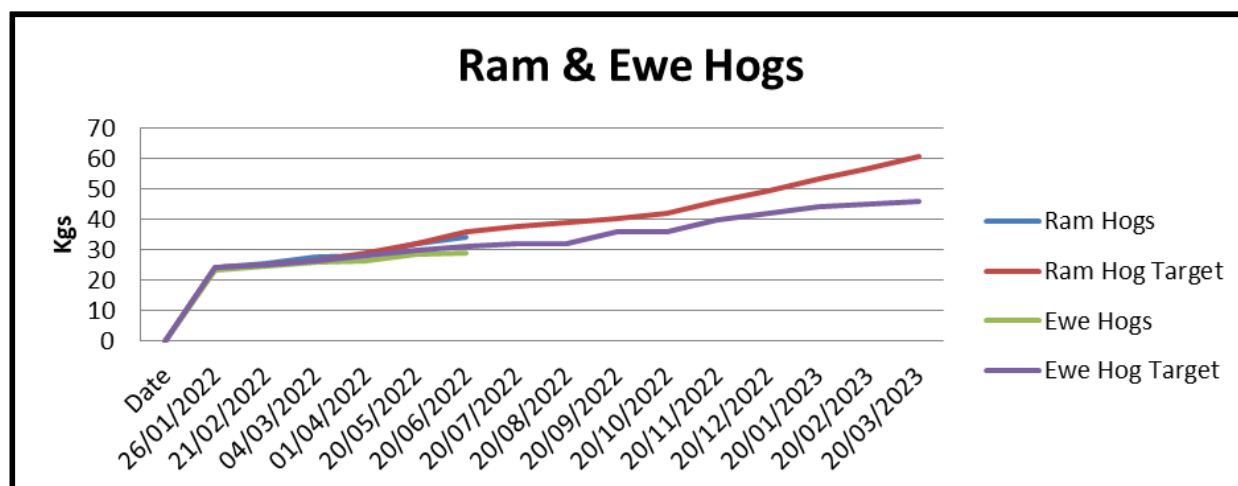
Comparing body condition alongside weight gain is the quest to finding the most resilient yet productive animals.





# Saladero News - Continued

By Andrew Bendall



Actual FECs prior to the April drenching were quite low for both ram and ewe hogs, however they looked as though they'd benefit from a drench and were not only going to be further away from the settlement but also not likely be yarded again for some time.

Estimated May & June live weights; due to the snow and the reluctance to disturb stock during the fortnight of snowy conditions, weighing, BCS, and bolusing of the hogs has been postponed until this weather clears. What won't be known is has this weather event had a significant effect on both live weight and body condition. This work will be carried out after Farmers Week now.

## Saladero being left in great hands!

As you all will have heard I will be heading back to NZ to re-join Headwaters NZ Ltd, a ram breeding company who have linked the custody chain from ram genetics to the restaurant table with high omega lamb.

The management of Saladero and the NSF are in good hands, and will continue to increase the productivity of the ewe flock while producing fit for purpose rams for sale.

What a two and half years it has been, Covid aside I think we have achieved stability within all facets of performance at Saladero and general farmer involvement. It was especially hearting to see so many old and new buyers return this last ram selling.

Please have faith in the breeding objectives that are set in place for the NSF, they are neither extreme in any direction, or too soft on pushing for performance. Continued emphasis resilience and do ability while maintaining a good quality fine fleece is still paramount.

I will be continuing to provide support from a far to both Jack and the DoA staff on any matters they may wish to discuss. Also I'll be on the hunt for suitable genetics that will add value to the Falklands very unique and challenging farming environment.

I would like to personally thank all the DoA staff for their help, Goose Green for their continued support, the NSF committee and of course you the buyers, it's the collaborative efforts from all of you that makes it the success it is.



# Island Land Care Weed Control

Island Land Care has been carrying out weed control in the Falklands since 2015. With the benefit of experience gained in South Georgia working for the New Zealand company Indigena Biosecurity International Ltd, Ken and I began a similar programme in the Falklands, picking up where other weed control initiatives had left off over previous years. Funded by FIG, we started with calafate and spear thistles, and more recently have added creeping thistles, mouse-eared hawkweed, heather and gorse to the list.

Funding, logistics and availability of labour all have their challenges. We are particularly fortunate that the heads of our Environment Department (starting with Helen Otley, then Nick Rendell, Denise Blake and now Rachel Cooper) have all shown their support for control of invasive non-native plants (aka weeds), by allocating annual funding. Albeit a modest budget, this has been sufficient to get a long-term weed control programme underway, boosted in 2019 when the DoA was allocated funding for calafate control in the Port Sussex area. The third year of this programme was a huge success due to kiwis Ben and Michael from Indigena Ltd, and Terence McPhee.

The Tool Kit  
2 Sprayers  
2 Bikes  
2 People.



All you need is 2 knapsack  
sprayers  
and a boat: Ken on Ship Island  
spraying gorse.



ILC's weed work takes us further afield than mainland East Falkland. Many of our sites are on offshore islands without airstrips or settlements. To get there, we need a boat, preferably our own, Porvenir II.

Setting off from Stanley in late October, we do the rounds of our regular weed control sites, from Pebble, to Pebble Islet, Keppel, Saunders, then back to town in December via the Choiseul Sound area – Middle, Philimore, Lively, North East Islands, as well as visits to over-land sites at Fitzroy, the Moro and Stanley Common.

Weed control really does work.

We keep meticulous records of the type and quantity of herbicide used at each site and of the extent of the infested areas, using a bespoke mobile phone app.



Big Gorse bush in full flower about to be sprayed

This technology allows us to monitor progress and to provide records as required, for example for the RWS. Controlling invasive weeds is an important part of land management; out of control weeds can affect the value of your land and your business. We are fortunate that four of the top six most invasive Falklands weeds that could potentially affect your agricultural productivity and outcompete natives are not yet out of control. They are still 'do-able' with modest resources i.e. the two of us on foot using knapsack sprayers.

ILC will be giving a demonstration at Farmers Week about handling herbicides, how to spray effectively and safely, and showing the results of gorse control on Stanley Common. This will take place at the DoA shed on Tuesday 1000 -1200. All are welcome.



Same gorse bush 12 months on.

# FARMERS WEEK

## 4th - 8th JULY

### General information

Non-members are welcome to attend Farmers Week for a daily fee of £20 with the exception of the ExPo which is free. This fee includes all lectures, presentations, any field trips, lunch and smokos.

All meetings are in the Town Hall and all lunches & smokos will be in the refreshment room unless otherwise specified.

### SUNDAY 3rd July

#### EXPO

2pm-4pm, Town Hall

The RBA ExPo is **free** and **open to the public**.

This year's ExPo will feature exhibitions and stands from local businesses and organisations.

Smoko fundraiser with the Camp Ed parents  
**Please come to meet and chat to our exhibitors.**

FIVE ASIDE FOOTBALL MATCH  
4PM STANLEY LEISURE CENTRE

### MONDAY 4th July

0830 - 0900	Committee meeting with newly elected committee
0900 - 1000	AGM RBA members only
1000 - 1030	Smoko - fundraiser with Camp Ed parents
1030 - 1130	Camp Education Review
1130 - 1200	Tourism Update - FITB & panel
1200 - 1300	Lunch hosted by the MoD
1330 - 1430	Accommodation Providers Workshop with FITB
1430 - 1500	Smoko hosted by FITB
1500-1700	FIMCO Update - David Roberts

1900 RBA Welcome drinks @ The  
Rose Bottom Bar  
Members & Invited Guests



## TUESDAY 5th July

0930 - 1030	Fire training at FIGAS—Meet at the Fire Ground
1030 - 1100	Smoko hosted by Stanley Tower
1030 - 1200	Practical gorse control — Meet Ken & Sally at the DoA shed
1200 - 1300	Lunch sponsored by Workboat Services
1300 - 1430	Transport update—FIGAS, WBS, PWD
1400 - 1500	Telecommunications—Sure Justin McPhee
1500 - 1530	Smoko hosted by FIMCO team
1530 - 1630	Long-term environmental monitoring in the Falklands – examples of terrestrial and aquatic data log-ging—Steffi Carter
1630 - 1830	Sue Whitely Exhibition IJS & CE

## WEDNESDAY 6th July

0830-0845	Introduction to Farmers Weeks—Andrea Clausen	
0845-0930	Introduction of team	DoA,DoE,DoMR
	Purpose and Context	Katrina Durham
	Expectations of participants	Andrew Bendall, Lucy Ellis, Emily Gilbert
0930-1030	Natural environment & assets climate change questionnaire	
1030-1100	SMOKO	
1100-1140	People and built environment climate change questionnaire	
1140-1200	Priorities and discussion from above two sectors	
1200-1300	LUNCH	
1300-1340	Infrastructure climate change questionnaire	
1340 - 1420	Rural business climate change questionnaire	
1420-1500	Priorities and discussion from above two sectors	
1500-1530	SMOKO	
1530-1600	Casual Q & A and Wrap up	Andrew Bendall or Katrina Durham

## WEDNESDAY 6th July—Continued

1800-1930 The Acting Governors Reception , Invite Only

1930 Falklands Conservation Supper @ Stanley Arms—All Involved in Farmers Week Invited

## THURSDAY 7th July

0900 - 0930	Support for solutions Environment Studies Budget (Grant Scheme) (ESB) Falklands Conservation assistance Farm Improvement Programme	DoE FC DoA
0930 - 0950	How is RWS tracking?	Andy Pollard
0950 - 1010	The Rural Stocktake	Andrea Clausen
1010 - 1030	Rural Stocktake SWOT	Andrew Bendall
1030 - 1100	SMOKO	
1100 - 1120	Don't Panic preparedness for emergency animal diseases	Zoe Fowler
1120 - 1200	Hydatid control—next steps to consider	Zoe Fowler
1200 - 1300	LUNCH Hosted by Stanley Services	
1300 - 1340	Lessons I have learnt	Andrew Bendall
1340 - 1430	Where to from here” - brainstorming session and Wrap Up	

## Thursday 7th July

1430-1500	SMOKO hosted by FIDC
1500-1530	FIDC update
1530-1600	WoolCo update
1800-2000	Chamber of Commerce

Join us at the Chamber for a discussion on our current priorities, recent work we have undertaken, what we're looking to accomplish in the future, and to talk to us about the specific needs of businesses outside Stanley.

We'll provide a delicious buffet, and our bar will be open to offer a range of beverages. Once we've had our formal discussion, we'll switch the music on and keep our bar open so you can socialise into the evening with members of the Chamber.

So we can cater for the evening, please contact Lee Summers on [manag-er@commerce.co.fk](mailto:manag-er@commerce.co.fk) or tele-

**Thank you to everyone who hosted, sponsored, presented and supported this years Farmers Week.**

## Friday 8th July

0800—1000	Camp Education Workshop
1000 - 1030	SMOKO kindly hosted by Gilbert House
1000 - 1200	MLA Q&A Sessions

## Farmers Week End

1400	WoolCo AGM—WoolCo members only
2100	Camp Ed Dance at the Town Hall

Thank you for your continued support of Farmers Week. Our thanks go to those who host, sponsor and give presentations throughout the week.

### **RBA Secretaries**

Michelle McKay [rba@horizon.co.fk](mailto:rba@horizon.co.fk)  
Sammy Marsh [rba.events@horizon.co.fk](mailto:rba.events@horizon.co.fk)

## Farewell to our Senior Lab Technician Gordon Lennie

As you already know, I'll be leaving my position as Senior Lab Technician here at the Department of Agriculture and my last day of work is the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Whilst I am looking forward to Retirement, there's also a big part of me that's sad to be saying goodbye to such an amazing group of work colleagues.

I have enjoyed our time working together and I value the friendship they've given me over the past 32 years. I'm sure I'll find time to pop in for a visit after I return from the UK in September.



Finally I would like to wish everyone all the very best & to those who are also leaving us (Steve & Andrew) and all the work colleagues who are continuing their careers with the DoA.

## Mystery seeds

by Dani Baigorri  
Biosecurity Officer

In 2020 thousands around the world received mystery seeds believed to have been shipped from China. Reports from agriculture departments from different countries revealed that hundreds, and possibly thousands, of people planted and even ate the mysterious seeds.

In Late 2020 we heard about these mystery packages and about thousands of shipments of seeds to have arrived at homes in New Zealand, the US, Canada and Europe, with about hundreds of cases in the UK. These mystery packages had sparked biosecurity concerns and international investigations into their origin.

The packages were marked as toys or as jewellery, bearing Chinese characters and appear to have been sent from China or Singapore.



A while ago the police brought to us an envelope addressed to a house and not a person that arrived into the Falklands. Inside the envelope and with a short letter there was a small package of seeds.



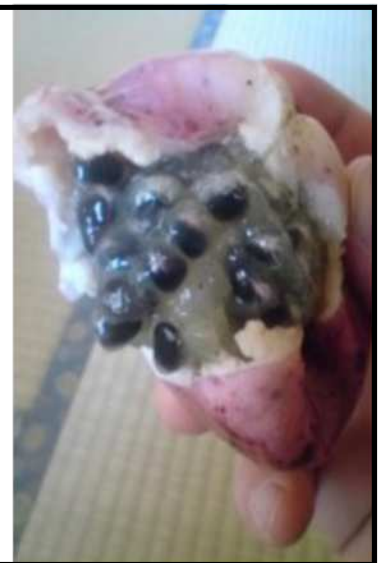
## Mystery seeds—Continued

by Dani Baigorri  
Biosecurity Officer

The seeds, according to the letter, were from a fruit called Mube, which grows, mostly wild, on vines in Japan, Southern Korea, Taiwan and China. If we compare the seeds we had with the images and literature they seemed to be Mube seeds however we couldn't be sure and, even though the Falklands are a hostile environment for this plant, we couldn't risk it and decided to destroy the seeds.



As far as we know, we have only have had one package arriving into the Falklands with mystery seeds, but if you have received one or if you receive one in the future please contact the Police and/or the Biosecurity unit at the Department of Agriculture.



**Coming back from holidays? Make sure you know what you can bring home**



**You can bring up to 5kg of listed fruit per person from the UK or CHILE:**

**apple – apricot – avocado – banana – bergamot – cherry – clementine – coconut – fig – grape – grapefruit – guava – kiwi – lime – lemon – lychee – mandarin – mango – nectarine – orange – papaya – peach – pear – pineapple – plum – satsuma – tangerine**

**Make sure it is commercially packaged and is visibly free from soil, pests and diseases. Keep it in your hand luggage with your receipt and declare it to Customs officers on arrival.**

**Dried fruit and nuts can be brought in as long as they are commercially packaged.**

**Meat, meat products and cheese have to have the EU stamp, be in their original sealed packaging, and again max 5kg per person.**

**All of these small things make a big difference in protecting our Islands from unwanted pests, weeds and diseases, and mean you won't be disappointed on arrival if your goods are confiscated.**

**Take a look at our website for more information:**  
<http://www.fig.gov.fk/agriculture/services/biosecurity>

**If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Biosecurity at the Department of Agriculture, Stanley (+500) 27355, e-mail: [biosecurity@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:biosecurity@naturalresources.gov.fk)**

**Thank you**



## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

We are hoping to attend Expo Prado on Uruguay this year and are presently we are trying to secure funding to support a delegation. The proposed dates of travel are: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September depart from MPA and return Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. It is proposed that the first part of the trip (approx. 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September) focus on touring rural areas of Uruguay to gain an understanding of the local agricultural industries (primarily sheep, wool and beef). The second half of the visit would involve being based in Montevideo (9<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September) and manning the Falkland Islands stand in the British Pavilion at Expo Prado.

Given we are seeking funding, we **anticipate** we will be able to cover the cost of airfares, hotel accommodation and most ground transport costs. A per-diem allowance of up to £30 will also be paid to cover meals and other incidentals. Any additional expenses will need to be self-funded by the individuals. If you are interested and available for the proposed dates please send Katrina ([kstephenson@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:kstephenson@naturalresources.gov.fk)) an e-mail outlining the following by close of business on Wednesday 13 July 2022.

- Why you would like to take part in the proposed visit
  - What you anticipate to get from travelling to Uruguay as part of this programme
  - What you believe you can contribute towards the visit and the desired aims of the programme
- Details about how you will be able to share what you get from the visit. This could include articles for the Wool Press, Penguin News, social media posts or presentations
- Mention if you would be willing to give a presentations about your farm, either during Expo Prado, or during the visit to rural areas of Uruguay (e.g. to farmer groups or schools etc.)
- Mention what level (if any) of Spanish you speak.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with Katrina Durham either during Farmers Week or on e-mail ([kdurham@naturalresources.gov.fk](mailto:kdurham@naturalresources.gov.fk)) if you have any questions on the proposal.



## Steve Pointing

By Mrs Sarah Bowles

He's renowned for being late so there's a gazillion times that he's driven me to the point of despair and beyond but one that sticks in my mind was an end of fishing season a few years ago.

I had arranged vets and launches and lab testing etc, all in the air on very tight schedules and Steve suddenly vanished completely un-contactable midway through the day.

I was grovelling to waiting vessels, to the launch crews, frantically rearranging other vets to do the waiting inspections and then he called, very cheerfully, too cheerfully saying "ever so sorry Sarah, I got a little side-tracked but do you know, I have to say I really have had the most delicious lunch". Even by my standards, my rage was spectacular.



I've attached a picture that emerged from the said lunch. Not sure I should be sharing this one with you but as he's leaving I thought it was acceptable!!

## INVITATION TO TENDER

### INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM (ICS) AUDITOR SERVICE FOR THE RESPONSIBLE WOOL STANDARD FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is a voluntary, internationally accredited certification scheme that recognises the best practices that documents animal welfare on farms, land management and the chain of custody of wool from the farm to the finished product.

The contract will be for two years from the end of July 2022 and for 80 days or 600 hours annually. Delivery of the auditor service under this contract is flexible but availability must be scheduled around the external audit, the availability of farmers for their internal audits and RSW management duties.

For a copy of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) document please register on:

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/commercialservices/procurement/eprocurement-system-pro-contract>

For any assistance phone 27045

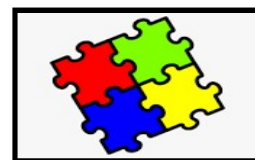
Formal responses to the ITT must be submitted via the FIG e-procurement website (Proactis)

no later than 4:00pm on

**Wednesday 13th July 2022**



# PUZZLE PAGE!



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

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

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

## Riddle Time

## Agriculture Crossword

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

Stables  
Holstein  
Sod  
wheat  
buds  
AG Reserve  
Agriculture

Brewers Grain  
Guernsey  
Turbo Till  
corn  
Orchard  
tractors

Hereford  
Dairy  
Commodity Farming  
Sorghum  
Peaches  
horses

Angus  
No Till  
Soybeans  
Seed  
Strawberries  
Farming

When the day after tomorrow becomes yesterday, then today will be as far from Sunday as the day it was today when the day before yesterday was tomorrow. Which day is it?

.....  
A farmer has 20 sheep, 10 pigs & 10 cows. If we call the pigs cows, how many cows will he have?  
.....

.....  
A farmer had 17 sheep. All but 9 died. How many live sheep does he have left?  
.....

You can carry it everywhere you go, and it does not get heavy. What is it?  
.....