

Some of the copper samples were found to be a little low but to continue on with just the mineral drench, rather than a copper specific drench as it is easy to overdose animals, sheep in particular on copper.

Going forward from this trial, if farmers are aware of the possibility of trace element deficiencies, the best way to diagnose a deficiency is to set up a production-response trial, whereby the performance of supplemented and un-supplemented animals is compared under the same feeding and management systems. A significant beneficial response to supplementation confirms that the animals were deficient in that mineral. All animals must have an equal chance to perform well, so that the mineral under study is the only factor limiting their performance.

I want to say a big thank you to all the farms involved in the study, for all the people who took part in the survey and the DoA staff that helped.

Sue Street bids us Farewell

After 2 years of living in the Falklands, Matt and I are heading back to Australia in April. I cannot believe how fast these 2 years have gone and while living and working here has had its challenges, I know that we have both learnt so much from our time here and for that we are truly grateful.

I have been fortunate enough to be able to travel around the islands and meet such a wide variety of wonderful people, visit some amazing farms and see all that the Falklands has to offer

All I can say is a very big thank you for showing me your different farming practises, for answering my questions and allowing me to learn from you. I only hope I have also managed to give you some things to think about.

Working for the DoA has been a rewarding experience and I believe that it is the best department to work for in the islands. From the many inappropriate topics of conversation at smoko, the 'all hands on deck' attitude, the laughter, the friendship and support that you all have given me during my time here, has made this a wonderful experience that I will never forget. I will truly miss you all!

We both wish you all the best for the future and if anyone is in Australia, just know our door is always open



Good Luck Sue and Matt from us all at the DoA

Department of Agriculture *Webpage*



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



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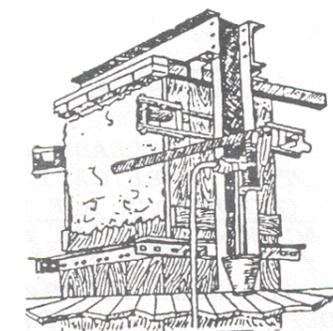
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Edited By Stephen McLean

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second Wool Press of 2018. Haven't we had a great summer – a really good mixture of some pleasantly warm days and a good supply of rainfall – much of it overnight? I can't remember seeing so much good feed out in Camp for a very long time and the good feed is certainly manifesting itself in the quality of the livestock passing through the abattoir this export season.

What's in store for you in this edition? Well the usual very mixed bag. By no means the most important but it just happens to be the first article is one by myself to let you know a bit more about what we hope to achieve in the upcoming Hydatid PhD study. By the time you receive your copy most of you will have had the pleasure of meeting Dom for yourselves. I hope you'll be happy to look after him again when he returns to the Falkland Islands in future years.

iLaria Marengo has written an article on the importance of soils. Just read her first paragraph to understand how and why soil condition is so important not only to farming but to everything else that goes on in the world. At present mankind seems intent on degrading the quality of our soils and also the viability of our oceans.

James has some sound advice on getting ready for spring and, as he writes in his article, to be ready for spring you have to prepare over winter.

I didn't attend the ram sale at Saladero this year but I hear that it passed off very well with some good animals on sale and some good prices achieved. I hope that all of your purchases prove to be sound investments.

I suspect some of you will utter a word or two of irritation (or possibly something even stronger!) when you read the article on importing second hand vehicles and farm equipment, but this is a developing area and we now have learned over the years that it is better to prevent something entering the country than trying to eradicate it after it has arrived.

You can find out a bit more about the new Director of Wool Innovation at the FIDC – Ed Dugan. It would appear that Ed is already quite impressed with the quality of Falkland Islands wool and the farmers who help to produce it – so that's a good start.

The latter part of this edition is given over to some animal health issues - the situation with Alabama Rot in the UK and equine influenza in Chile – neither of which we have here in the Falkland Islands and we'd very much like to keep it that way.

Before she leaves us Sue Street brings us up to date with the results of her research trial into certain trace elements. From the farms under investigation it would appear that selenium and cobalt are the two trace elements that are most likely to need supplementation. And this is a fitting cue to say farewell to Sue and wish her all the best in her new life back in sunny Australia.

Trace elements – research trial

Sue Street

Over the years the Department of Agriculture has undertaken research establishing trace element deficiencies in livestock throughout the Falkland Islands. It has been well documented that large parts of West Falklands are cobalt deficient and for many years farmers have been using cobalt boluses for mineral supplementation. Copper, selenium and iodine deficiencies have also been found in the Islands.

While trace element deficiencies have been diagnosed within the islands, there has been little research conducted into seasonal deficiencies and if the treatments being used to prevent trace element deficiencies on farm are working effectively, especially in regards to cobalt, copper and selenium. Lamb and hogget mortality is relatively high compared to other sheep, and whilst it is largely attributed to macro nutrients and climatic conditions it is quite possible that trace element deficiency is also playing a role.

Over the past year a survey was conducted across the Islands and three farms (Albemarle, Harps and Johnson's Harbour) have taken part in a trace element trial, looking at any seasonal trends and the effectiveness of treatments being used in hoggets, by analysing blood samples.

Survey

From the survey it was found that over half of the farms had observed either cobalt or selenium or both deficiencies within their livestock, however only half of these farms had been tested for these deficiencies. This could mean that some of these deficiencies are non-existent, have been misdiagnosed and/or are part of a seasonal pattern of deficiency (for example only occurs when pasture availability is increasing).

Blood results

Blood samples were taken from 10 treated and 10 untreated hoggets, from each farm over a period of 9 months (bloods taken at 0, 3 and 9 months, from the start of the trial). Hoggets were chosen as they seem to be the most susceptible to on-farm mineral deficiencies and do not have long term storage depots. The blood samples once processed and frozen in the lab were sent to the UK to be analysed by NUVetNA at Nottingham University. This analysis looked at both short and long term deficiencies of copper, cobalt, selenium and zinc.

Albemarle – treated with a cobalt bolus + B₁₂ injection

Copper and zinc were found to be at good levels on the farm. Cobalt was only deficient in the untreated animals, which was expected. Selenium seemed to be deficient in the treated and untreated animals, therefore it was recommended that the farm would continue using the cobalt bolus and injection, but to also consider using a selenium bolus as well, on a trial bases just to see if it has any effect in terms of livestock production.

Harps – cobalt bolus, eye-lock + mineral drench

Harps was found to have very similar results to that of Albemarle, therefore the continuation and addition of selenium was recommended.

Johnson's Harbour – mineral drench

From the results it was recommended to continue using the mineral drench, but also drench the younger animals at specific times of the year. From the results it was found that the sheep had low selenium going into and out of winter, this is expected and is probably a seasonal deficiency. Because of this it was recommend that the animals were mineral drenched going into winter and also going into spring, as this might give the animals a bit of a boost going into the summer.

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Alabama Rot in the UK

Recent reports in the UK news have stated that there have been a number of cases of Alabama Rot reported throughout the UK and that these numbers are set to rise.

Alabama Rot or cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy (CRGC) is an often fatal disease in dogs which was first identified in the USA in the 1980s and appeared in the UK in 2012.

Initial symptoms of the disease are skin sores or lesions, these lesions are followed by loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting and signs of kidney failure about 2-7 days later.

The cause of the disease is still unknown so there is no vaccine available and there is some speculation that the disease is spread by dogs walking over muddy areas and woodlands.

No cases of Alabama Rot have ever been recorded in the Falkland Islands, and the thorough examination regime on all dogs being brought to the islands means that the disease is very unlikely to reach these shores.



WARNING
EQUINE INFLUENZA



THE EQUINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN CHILE IS STILL ONGOING AND HAS NOW SPREAD TO MOST REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE MAGGALLANES REGION.

THE VIRUS IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS, CAUSING RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN HORSES WHICH CAN SPREAD VERY RAPIDLY. IT IS SPREAD BY HORSE TO HORSE CONTACT AND CAN BE CARRIED ON CLOTHING AND ANY EQUIPMENT USED WITH HORSES.

IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO CHILE AND COME INTO CONTACT WITH HORSES WHILE YOU ARE THERE PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR THAT YOU WERE WEARING AT THE TIME IS THOROUGHLY WASHED AND CLEANED. PLEASE ALSO INFORM CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT THE AIRPORT ON YOUR RETURN TO THE ISLANDS.



Steve Pointing

By the time you read this most, if not all of you, will have been visited by our new PhD student, Dominic (Dom) West. He arrived in the Falkland Islands in early March and will remain here until the end of April. During this time he will endeavour to visit all the farms on East and West Falkland which have dogs and collect faeces samples from all the dogs in the Islands – both farm dogs and pet dogs alike. Hopefully he will have spoken with you to let you know what he hopes to achieve during the 3 year study period towards his PhD.

The title of his study is “Understanding transmission and control of Echinococcosis and other Taeniad infections in the Falkland Islands” – which is a bit of a mouthful but basically means that Dom will be attempting to unravel the reasons why we are still finding hydatid cysts in sheep almost 40 years after starting an eradication campaign. During this year’s export season we have found 2 hydatid cysts in sheep no older than 7 years old – one from a sheep on the East and the other from the West.

The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- a. To quantify the levels of transmission of *Echinococcus granulosus* and other taeniad cestodes between domestic dogs and sheep in the Falkland Islands.
- b. To determine what factors may be contributing to the continued transmission of taeniad cestodes through evaluation of farming/slaughter practice; evaluating parasite egg survivability; evaluation of drug efficacy in dogs; and identification of additional potential hosts.
- c. To apply mathematical modelling techniques to investigate the stability of the transmission system and to evaluate the effect of various potential control measures.
- d. To develop a series of recommendations which will reduce potential risks of continued transmission and enable the Falkland Islands Community to move towards complete eradication of the parasite.

Having read the above if any of you have any thoughts or suggestions about how the project could be improved upon then please let me know. At this early stage of the project it would be very easy to include other objectives if they were considered to be of some merit.

After his trip around East and West Falkland Dom will write the next article on this subject and will let you know what his first impressions are of the dog/sheep/human interaction in the Falkland Islands and what he will be doing with all the faeces samples when he returns to the lab. in Salford University.

RAINFALL DATA

Stanley	MPA	Bleaker Island	Blue Beach	Fern Ridge	Harps	Goose Green	Head of the Bay	North Arm	Salvador	Shallow Harbour	Walker Creek	West Lagoons
JANUARY												
45.5	86	50		72		59	77	42	53	52	32	66
FEBRUARY												
19.5	20.2	70	20		15	15	12	14	15.5		17	15

FALKLAND ISLANDS SOILS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

By iLaria Marengo

For most people, soils are of less interest than albatrosses, dolphins, whales, seals and penguins, however we do not always realise that what is under our feet is one of the most important natural resources on earth and one that we all ultimately depend on for life itself. In fact, soils are the link between air, water, rocks and organisms and have many different functions such as temperature and moisture regulation, carbon and nutrient cycling, natural breakdown of organic matter and recycling. Very importantly of course soil determines the habitat for most living things and their food. So a thorough understanding of the physical, mineral and chemical make-up of our soils helps us understand why certain plants and animals prefer particular locations instead of others and how we can best protect this valuable resource for future generations.

Our soils suffer many threats. Like living organisms, soils are affected by climate change and some types of soil, e.g. peat, play a role in addressing the overall climate change issue by "storing" carbon and preventing it getting into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide gas. It has been proved that, worldwide, healthy peatlands lock up and store more carbon than all other vegetation types in the world. Unfortunately, eroded peatlands release carbon into the atmosphere and, as reported by IUCN (<https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/peatlands-and-climate-change>), approximately 6% of global anthropogenic (manmade) carbon dioxide emissions, which cause climate change, are from eroded peatland. Therefore, it's very important to reduce peatland erosion through restoration and careful management and overall peatland restoration projects should be promoted as they can therefore bring significant emissions reductions. Of course it's also important to keep looking after healthy peatlands too!

The Falklands are already well aware of the importance of peatlands and erosion and the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has already taken some actions. For example, the amendment of agricultural land improvement policy and the conservation of the carbon store in fragile soils are medium/high priorities of the Islands' climate change mitigation action plan and align with the FI Biodiversity Framework. Similarly, Falklands Conservation and private landowners and land managers have trialled various types of restorations and land management plans, using tussac and other native plants, sometimes with the addition of sheep dung or dags, adopting either the holistic planned grazing system or the rotational grazing of sheep and cattle.

All of these initiatives must continue and Falklands farmers, who have worked their land for generations, will provide a strong starting point with their local knowledge. However, to apply the lessons being learnt more widely we need a deeper understanding about the type of soils we have and how to manage them properly to retain and perhaps improve their health for sustainable cattle and sheep grazing. The good news is that the Falklands now have a great opportunity to study their national soils. A two year Darwin Initiative Plus project is ready to start in April 2018 with the participation of SAERI (leader organisation), FIG, UK Falkland Islands Trust, the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen, the Natural History Museum, the University of Magallanes in Punta Arenas and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. The team will be led by a project manager, based at the SAERI office, who will be starting around August.

This 2 year Darwin project will improve our knowledge of Falkland soils through undertaking a baseline survey of soils (landowners will be asked for permission before the start of the surveys), peatlands and drawing up criteria to assess erosion extent/risk. The outcome will be an online data system for viewing the various maps generated by data collection and analyses. Additionally this overlaying of maps will provide guides to interpreting the chemical/microbiological aspects of the soils and will assist policy makers, conservationists and land managers in minimising erosion risk, greenhouse gas emissions and maximising conservation of peatlands.

AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2018



Goose Green
Saturday 14th April
11am

Sheep & Cattle Competition | Agricultural Displays | Licensed Bar |
Hot Food & Soft Drinks | Locally Made Gifts & Crafts | Country Dance
Children's Activities | Traditional Asado

A great day out for all the family!

**Please email livestock entries and stall reservations
by the 6th April to rba.events@horizon.co.fk**

Soil Testing 2018

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



Falkland Islands Director of Wool Innovation

Ed Dugan



The Falkland Islands' first ever Director of Wool Innovation has arrived and is getting down to work, in a new post supported by FIDC and steered by the specially-created Wool Innovation Group.

Mr Ed Dugan is a fifth-generation sheep and wool farmer from Australia - where he worked with the World Federation of Merino Breeders, the NSW Business Chamber, and most recently as CEO of the Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders.

The appointment stems from FIDC's Innovation Programme, and the well-received 'value-adding' consultant's report last year, that looked at the whole scope of the Falkland's wool sector. He will be working to the direction of the Development Corporation and under the wise counsel of the Wool Innovation Group – made up of key stakeholders in this vital industry.

His two-year programme is expected to increase the financial returns to forward-looking growers, and to secure a future for the Island's industry in what can be a volatile international market. In Ed Dugan's view from his first week here; *"there's a great product and progressive, hard-working farmers to work with."*

Although familiar with the Falkland Islands wool type before his arrival, he has still been surprised and delighted by the characteristics of the local product; *"Having traded and processed wools from around the world, test results speak for themselves. But, the handle of the FI wools that I have seen is quite special and a trait which will be a focus in my discussions with international wool merchants and textile mills, keen to source new origins of supply"* enthuses Ed.

With wool prices on a high, this programme is designed to extract the maximum farm-gate returns now and in the near term - but also with a focus on continuous improvement to see the industry through harder times.

Getting the process up and running, Mr Dugan will be working on negotiating competitive freight arrangements. Attention will then be on the warehouse activities, followed by upgrade for wool preparation, classing and description to match international standards.

Standing behind this will be work to establish benchmarking: *"The return to better greasy wool prices allows the grower to focus on using management tools applicable to that farm enterprise in a cost effective manner. Growers can invest the better returns by using the combination of visual and objective sheep testing and field trials"* he explains.

This approach, says Mr Dugan, allows the grower to not only reflect on the results, but to fine-tune breeding plans to which meat qualities and/or wool characteristics they consider suitable for the level of management and type of farming operation they wish to run.

With this benchmarking as the focus, and a busy time ahead, Mr Dugan will be at the National Stud Flock Ram sale this March, and is ready to tell the world all the good news about the Falkland Islands sheep and wool industry.

Throughout the two years, the project will engage with local stakeholders through workshops, meetings, presentations, and volunteer participation to the soil campaign. As it will be impossible to reach and sample every corner of the Falklands, satellite imagery will be used and combined with field data to create the national map of soils. We hope that many people will be interested in finding out more from soil scientists working on the project. Our wish is that by the time this project has been implemented those of you going out and about, will stop and look not only at the cute penguins and plants, but also at the precious soils under their feet!

Important reminder for farmers regarding sheep to be properly identified when sending to Sand Bay Abattoir Ross Milner

Farmers sending sheep to the abattoir are reminded that all sheep must be properly identified on arrival at the abattoir to ensure the farm of origin. The movement of any sheep on or off the farm needs to be clearly and accurately recorded on the official animal movement document. Traceability is required to comply with EEC regulations for export, one of the requirements being that the Falkland Islands must have an accurate database of all animal movements. It is also important that we have an accurate record of all livestock movement in the event of an outbreak of a serious disease like foot and mouth disease, in order to quickly trace and isolate any animals that could potentially have been exposed to a serious disease. In my practice in Wales it was also very useful for cases of sheep rustling and disputes about ownership.

All sheep should have their ears marked with the traditional station mark. If sheep reach 6 months of age they must also have an ear tag. Every movement of sheep off a farm must be accompanied by an animal movement certificate. Sheep can be sent direct to the abattoir without an ear tag as long as the station letters are clearly marked on the coat with a paint brand. The paint brand must be legible at all times and last for the duration of the journey to the place of slaughter and for a period beyond this in case sheep are not slaughtered immediately. A lot of the farmers who send sheep in with eartags also mark their sheep with a paint brand with the farm code. This is best practice and a good idea because if a sheep arrived and its eartag has been lost on the way, we are presented with an unidentifiable sheep unless it has the farm letters painted on. Please note that a squiggle or a spot is not acceptable as a form of identification as lots of farms use a similar mark.

In the event of a sheep with no means of identification arriving at the slaughter house, under the National arrangements for sheep identification and traceability the sheep have to be impounded. The farmer then has 48 hours to rectify the situation which can be a headache! If after 48 hours sheep can still not be identified then the regulations require the destruction of the animal as it is not allowed to enter the food chain. Hopefully all farmers will avoid this situation as it is a sad waste of a good animal.



The Falkland Islands Government

Department of Agriculture,
Veterinary Service,
Telephone: (500) 27366
Facsimile: (500) 27352
E-mail: sbowles@doa.gov.fk

All dog owners are responsible for worming their own pets. Please remember to contact the Veterinary Office and confirm this has been done.

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

After normal working hours, please leave a message or email.

DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2018/19

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

Setting Up for Spring Part 2

James Bryan

Winter is when good ewe body condition needs to be maintained, and young stock fed well, with saved pasture or supplementary feeding. The body condition and health of ewes at lambing and the amount of pasture cover both influence spring production.

There are two main aspects to consider during winter

- Rationing feed so available pasture, supplements or crop meet animal needs until pasture increases in spring.
- Keep ewes in good condition (BCS 3) before lambing, and avoiding underfeeding to prevent problems like metabolic upsets.

When planning your winter grazing rotation, the most important thing is to ensure some camps have sufficient pasture cover (minimum 3 cm high) at lambing. Graze lambing camps early in the rotation to allow pasture time to recover. Paddocks facing the sun (i.e. north facing) and dryer areas will recover quicker during the colder winter months than wet and shady faces.

Feeding Ewes over winter

Depending on mob size, average body condition of the mob and amount of feed available, there may be a need to take some of the older or lighter conditioned ewes (BCS 2 or less) out for preferential treatment over winter. The amount of feed offered the main mob of ewes will depend on their body condition. If this is good (BCS 3) maintenance will suffice on greens of 1-2 cm in length.

Possible problems before and during lambing

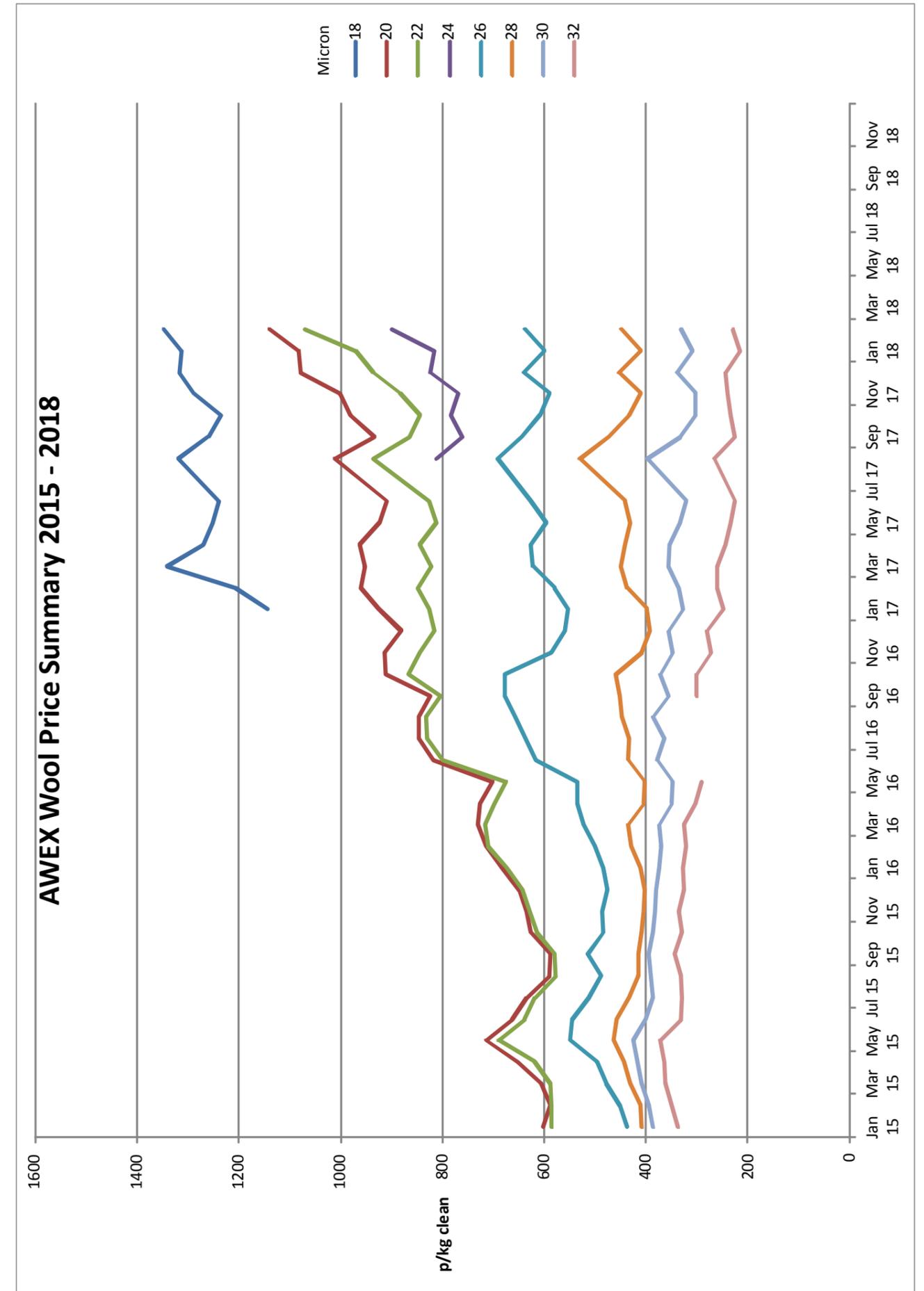
Optimum feeding of breeding ewes during winter and early spring is critical to avoid metabolic disorders (eg. pregnancy toxaemia or milk fever) and to ensure good ewe performance and early lamb growth.

Ewes should ideally hold their body condition during pregnancy (around CS 3). Although they should be holding body condition, this means an increase in liveweight as you take into account the weight of the lamb growing inside her. For ewes mated in good condition (CS 3) maintenance feeding during winter at 1-2 cm pasture length is possible on the greens, keeping camps with good greens for lambing time is important, when you set stock for lambing these should have at least 3-5cm of cover on them.

Also remember to take into account shelter for lambing ewes. Making sure that the most sheltered camps with available feed are preferable for lambing camps.

Timing of Lambing date

This will of course have been set by mating date in the autumn. Ewe gestation period is about five months so an early May mating means lambs start dropping early October with peak lambing 2-3 weeks later in late October. Whenever you lamb, it should be ideally when pasture growth is increasing. Lambing too early, say in early September, a month or two before pasture growth really kicks in, will reduce ewe production, lamb growth, both lamb and ewe survivability and beef cattle performance. Breeding ewes and cows will be under-fed during early lactation and pastures overgrazed. This of course all affects your production system later in the season as well.



Saladero News

Adam Dawes

Saladero wool results

With shearing well and truly completed for the season the majority of fleece lines and some oddment lines have now been sold. A brief summary of the 2017/18 NSF wool results is included below. In order to continue to collect additional information to evaluate additional measurement all oddment lines were subject to grab sampling for length and strength testing.

Brand	Group	Bales	Kg (GSY)	Yield	VM	MFD	Length	Strength	Mid breaks	Date sold	Price
AAAA SUP	Mixed hogs	2	304	76.5	0.5	16.8	107	38	40	22-Jan	1443
AAAA	Ewe hogs	3	561	80.2	0.2	17.8	110	30	25	27-Mar	1213
AAAA	Ram hogs	4	792	77.1	0.3	17.8	111	36	60	27-Mar	1176
AAAA	Shearling ewes	3	543	76.1	0.4	19.4	124	23	3	27-Mar	1016
AAAA	Main line ewes	9	1746	78.1	0.2	20.6	104	25	11	27-Mar	937
AAA	Broad ewes	4	754	77.8	0.2	21.8	110	24	20	27-Mar	903
AA	Mixed tender	2	334	76.9	0.5	19.5	105	19	14	29-Mar	962
A PCS	Mixed	2	397	65.1	2.3	18.8	93	27	46	27-Mar	794
A BLS	Mixed	3	546	68	1.2	20.3	87	30	55	27-Mar	764
A STN	Mixed	4	558	65.3	0.7	20.7	85	33	40	27-Mar	642

NOTE: Prices are p/kg clean, nett Stanley. A LKS and A NKS are yet to be tested (group lots)



Department of Agriculture Ram Sale 2018

Lucy Ellis

The 2018 annual DoA National Stud Flock (NSF) Ram Sale, held at Saladero farm, saw a private seller, Hew Grierson, make available thirty Blue Beach Farm (BBF) rams to be auctioned alongside the NSF sheep.

Due to gale force winds, the sale was delayed a day and so took place on a warm autumn Saturday. Maybe because it was a Saturday and people fancied a day out to see something different but there was a much larger crowd than usual with a healthy smattering of non-farming individuals in evidence that was brilliant to see.



With a total of 498 NSF sheep and 30 BBF rams for sale the dynamics of the sale was subtly different from usual with bidders studying the sale boards to see whether to chase their chosen BBF or NSF rams or give up on some and concentrate on others, very fascinating to watch!



Top NSF price went to an Ex-Elite NSF ram for £600.00 to Mr & Mrs D Evans, Doyle farm and the highest price for a Shearling ram was £410.00 to Keith Alazia, Goose Green farm.

Of the 109 shearling rams for sale, there was an 83% clearance with an average price of £142.00/head however; the 31 Ex-Elite rams saw a clearance rate of 94% and an average of £177.00/head. Whilst the Flock rams achieved an 87% clearance rate and an average of £50.00, the Flock ewes had a fantastic 100% clearance with an average price of £20.00/head. Total amount achieved for the sale NSF stock was £28,800.00, down some considerable amount compared to last year but with Hew selling 28 out of his 30 rams, this was to be expected.

Sharon Jaffray provided hot food, soup and a delicious selection of cold foods for sale during the day, ably assisted by Ellen Davis so a big thank you for keeping us all happy and fed during the day.



Huge thanks also go to Keith, for the provision of Shane and Alexander to assist DoA staff to pen up sometimes obstreperous rams the day before the sale and for the chairs and sheep panels.

A very big thank you to WBS who made the 24 hour delay and not a 7 day delay possible by altering the Friday and Saturday ferry schedules to ensure westers got across and back again stuffed to the gunnels with precious rams and ewes!

Thank you all farmers who still continue to support the sale and the genetics introduced for everyone's benefit by purchasing both rams and ewes.

Lastly but most certainly not least, thanks must go to all DoA staff for the huge effort to get stock and pens ready for the sale and to Mandy for doing an excellent job in producing ewes and rams in top condition and for the very clean and tidy sale setting.

New Import Health Standards & Protocols for Used Vehicle Imports

Biosecurity Service

Used vehicles are considered to be a high risk import to the islands biosecurity, vehicles can (and do) arrive in the islands contaminated with a variety of biosecurity risk organisms which have the potential to damage our environment and economy.

Invasive weeds and plants, serious diseases such as foot and mouth from muddy vehicles, and invertebrates like fleas and spiders are a real and serious risk.

Import permits and import health standards (IHS) which require importers to have vehicles cleaned prior to export were introduced in order to try and prevent such organisms arriving in the islands.

In addition to these measures, work was started in 2016 to prepare a more rigorous pre-export protocol in which vehicles underwent a biosecurity inspection and certification process prior to export with any biosecurity risk materials that were found being treated before the vehicle is loaded on board the vessel. Costs to the importer were estimated and the process has been priced so that it is cheaper to have biosecurity clearance granted before the vehicle leaves the UK.

In order to strengthen the effectiveness of these new standards it was also decided that legislation should be put in place in support of these measures.

ExCo approved the proposals put forward by the biosecurity service in Feb 2018, and we are now looking to have this protocol implemented by the start of 2019.

Who does this apply to?

This applies to all used vehicle imports, including but not limited to cars, vans, trucks, lorries and agricultural and construction vehicles and machinery (if you are in any doubt contact FIG biosecurity).

This applies to companies and individuals who are importing vehicles regularly or as a one off.

This applies to the import of used vehicles from any part of the world. If you are importing a vehicle by a different route (i.e. not via FIRS or SAAS vessels) contact FIG Biosecurity to discuss requirements.

What is changing?

All used vehicles being imported will need a vehicle import permit. The importer will apply for the permit from FIG Biosecurity. This is not required for new vehicles.

There are then two options for importing your used vehicle:

1. Have the used vehicle cleaned, inspected and biosecurity cleared in the UK prior to export
OR
2. Clean the used vehicle to meet the Import Health Standard for vehicles (as is done currently) in the UK, and the vehicle will be inspected on arrival in the Falklands.

There will be significant benefits to the importer in having their vehicle cleared in the UK, most notably in costs, as this will be the cheapest option and will reduce the inconvenience of having to deal with failed vehicles on arrival. Furthermore, should the vehicle arrive in a condition that would usually result in a biosecurity failure, the importer would not be held liable for any further associated costs in making the vehicle fit for import.

Should an importer choose to have their vehicle inspected in the Falkland Islands they will be liable to pay a mandatory inspection and clearance fee, as well as a cleaning fee if the vehicle does not meet the IHS

Why is this changing?

Having vehicles inspected and certified in the UK will significantly reduce the risk of introducing invasive species to the islands by dealing with the problem pre-export and it will also bring us into line with international best practices. Also the process of importing used vehicles has become quite convoluted and this will streamline the process for both importers and FIG Biosecurity.

What happens next?

Over the coming weeks and months FIG will be certifying a number of companies near Marchwood and Felixstow to ensure that the certification of vehicles will be available for the first shipment when these changes apply. Details of the approved companies will be made available in due course.

FIG Biosecurity will be reviewing the current IHS and making amendments where necessary to ensure that the process is easy to follow by both importers and the companies charged with carrying out the work in the UK, and that the reasons for the changes in procedure are transparent and the goals manageable.

FIG will be drafting legislation to ensure that standards are adhered to and the conditions of the import permit are being met.

There will be regular updates through local news and social media outlets on the implementation schedule, details of the FIG approved inspectors in the UK and when the changes will come into effect.

Nearer the time of implementation FIG Biosecurity will be offering one to one and group sessions to present the import requirements and to run through various import scenarios. Details on these will be made available in due course.

If you have any immediate questions regarding this please contact the biosecurity team at the Dept of Agriculture, phone: 27355 or by email biosecurity@doa.gov.fk

Falkland Islands
BIOSECURITY
Protecting Our Islands

