THE WOOL PRESS

January/February 2021 Volume 327

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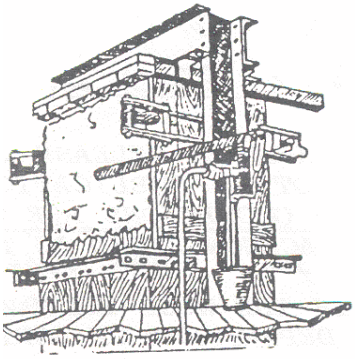
In this issue...



Edited By Merrie Ellis
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EDITORIAL

The receipt of the vaccines this month has given a new hope to the uncertainty of this aggressive pandemic and global recession. However, preparing for a better 2021 is not something that we intend to leave to chance.

While the Falklands as a whole is in a good place compared to countries around the world the effect on the agricultural sector is profound and needs continued attention. A perfect storm of depressed wool prices, restricted international travel and now reduced meat exports means a difficult few years ahead.

We can't forget the priorities we had before covid-19 hit the world-stage either. This is even more in my mind because of the Budget Select Committee meetings starting in February and the need to set the course for work to be progressed into 2021/2022 and beyond.

We are advised by Director of Public Works that some of the Ramps and Jetties projects are under-budgeted for, and a paper looking at revised costs will be presented for the Assembly and Executive Council to consider. It's hoped this information will also go to the Transport Advisory Committee this month.

Options for the radio infrastructure to be renewed and improved are also on the horizon. The recent survey showed where the previous investments had failed. There is a commitment to learn from those lessons so a fully tested plan, that doesn't penny-pinch around the edges can give the islands-wide coverage needed.

And Brexit, unfortunately the new relationship the UK has with the EU excludes us. The Falklands now sits with the UK Overseas Territories (less Gibraltar) and the EU Overseas Countries and Territories as the unfinished business of Brexit. Our meat has to now compete in only one market, the UK and not fetch the better prices of the EU market. The UK has a right to exercise its democracy and chose to leave the EU, and we respect that decision. Just as this decision affects mainland UK industries it affects our fisheries and meat industries, which now more than ever need stability to support the country from the foundations up.

MLA Teslyn Barkman

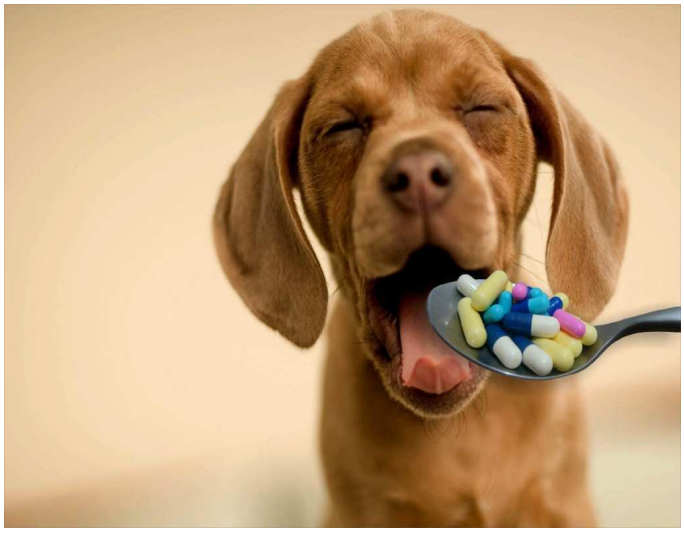
DOG DOSING DATES FOR 2021/2022

Date	Drug
~~Wednesday 6th January 2021~~	~~Drontal~~
~~Wednesday 10th February 2021~~	~~Droncit~~
Wednesday 17th March 2021	Droncit
TUESDAY 20th April 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 26th May 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 30th June 2021	Drontal
Wednesday 4th August 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 8th September 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 13th October 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 17th November 2021	Droncit
Wednesday 22nd December 2021	Drontal
Wednesday 26th January 2022	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@doa.gov.fk



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

6th – 9th March: Goose Green Sports

7th - 10th March: Hill Cove Sports

13th March: Ram Sale - Saladero

3rd April: RBA Show - Goose Green

Biosecurity: Importing used vehicles, machinery and equipment

By Dani Baigorri, Biosecurity Officer

We can consider ourselves lucky as there are no major pests in the Falkland Islands affecting our environment, economy or health, however there is a pest risk associated with the importation of used vehicles, machinery and equipment (VME) utilized in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, earth moving and waste management that requires appropriate sanitary measures to protect the Falklands and keep them free from pests and diseases that can be carried in by used VME.
Used VME are frequently traded or otherwise moved between countries. They may have been used in agriculture and forestry, as well as for construction, industrial purposes and waste management and depending on their use, storage or transportation before export; used VME may have become contaminated with quarantine pests or regulated articles.
When moved internationally, used VME may carry soil, pests, plant debris or seeds, and they may therefore present a biosecurity risk to the country of destination and may introduce pests to agricultural, forested wilderness or other areas.
This is why the decontamination of used VME is so important as it will provide a means to prevent the entry of organisms into the islands that could be relevant to the biodiversity (invasive alien species).

Currently the biosecurity section of the Falkland Islands inspects every vehicle, machinery and equipment entering the islands to prevent the entry of unwanted pests, plants and soil. We carry out our inspections at Mare Harbour when VME arrive on the FIRS boat and at SAAS yard when vehicles arrive on the Scout, and even though we have found some very dirty vehicles where you can see soil, seeds, animal hair, etc. we can proudly say most of the vehicles arriving into the islands comply with the Import Health Standards that we base our inspections on.
However, some of the most contaminated imports have been agricultural related vehicles and machinery, and construction vehicles. Sadly we are a small team and do not have the facilities to carry out an in-depth decontamination of these used VME and we have had to release them and let them go into the islands with just a limited clean up hoping none of the contaminants being carried by these VME will establish in the Falklands and become an invasive species, pests or disease that will affect the environment, economy and/or human and animal health.
We believe protecting the islands involves everyone in our community and for that reason we encourage all importers to ensure their imported used vehicles, machinery and equipment are cleaned and decontaminated prior to shipping.





Recommended ways to clean a used vehicle:

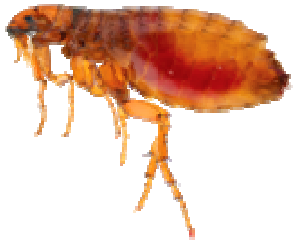
- **Insect infestation** – If you can see any living insects in or on the vehicle, fumigation or heat treatment should be carried out. This also applies if animal hair is found in the vehicle as this may mean that flea eggs or larvae are present in the vehicle.
- **Insects/snails/ egg masses** – remove.
- **Plant material** – remove. If found in the interior, use a vacuum cleaner. If that vacuum is going to be imported along with the vehicle as personal effects, remember to remove the vacuum bag beforehand, or empty & clean bagless cleaners.

Inspection Checklist:

Steps	Area to inspect and clean	Complete
1	Clean the grille and front of vehicle	☐
2	Clean across and under the bonnet and air vents	☐
3	Clean front wheel, mud guards and wheel arch	☐
4	Clean mirrors and window ledges	☐
5	Clean across and around the roof including roof rails	☐
6	Clean back wheel, mud guards and wheel arch	☐
7	Clean back bumper area	☐
8	Repeat the entire process on the other side of the vehicle	☐
9	Open bonnet and thoroughly clean engine area. Remember to use a torch to make sure all crevices have been cleaned. Look out for animals and insects.	☐
10	Clean all interior areas of vehicle, including all compartments, under carpet if loose, under mats, between and under the seats	☐
11	Clean the underside of vehicle	☐

Continued on pages 6 & 7

Insects - Most Unwanted!



Brown marmorated stink bugs hibernate in large numbers in vehicles and homes. They could cause serious harm to the Falkland Islands native flora and become serious pests. Vehicles originating in Japan or the Eastern USA should be fumigated or treated prior to export.

Fleas – There are no cat or dog fleas in the Falkland Islands, so it is important to thoroughly clean used vehicles which have had animals in them. Flea eggs can remain dormant in carpets and nooks and crannies for several months. If there is a risk of fleas, use an insecticide such as 'RIP Fleas'.

Harlequin ladybirds are voracious predators and highly invasive. They arrive in vehicles where they hide away to hibernate in large numbers. Keep an eye out for them and make sure your vehicle is free from ladybirds or any living invertebrates prior to export.

Bear in mind it's not just insects which pose a threat to the Falkland Islands. Seeds could germinate and become invasive, organic material may introduce new pathogens or diseases, and soil could harbour things like foot and mouth disease which would be catastrophic to livestock and agriculture in the Falkland Islands.

What can you do to help? If you are importing used vehicles, machinery or equipment make sure it has been cleaned and it's free of soil, seeds and animal hair prior to shipping. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact biosecurity. Email: biosecurity@doa.gov.fk Phone: 27355

SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE LATELY??

IF SO CONTACT THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT ON 27355

Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour awarded to Tracy

On Friday the 5th a reception at Government House was held to award Tracy with the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour for her fundraising efforts and thinking of others whilst dealing with her own personal circumstances. The reception was attended by friends, family and colleagues and was an enjoyable night with a bar extension and a visit to The Rose with the governor. Congratulations Tracy!

Tracy receiving her award from His Excellency, Governor Nigel Phillips

Tracy with The Governor and DoA staff

Saladero News

By Andrew Bendall

December 2020 – January 2021
Weaning; Off the back of an improved lambing this year, weaning weights were good with lambs weighing 23.6 at an age ranging between 70 – 105 days.

Therefore, assuming a generous 3kg birth weight these lambs while on mum have achieved 200 grams per day, considering there's a possible four week difference between the oldest lamb and the youngest lambs there could be up to a 5 kg range in weights. The message here is that without precise birth dates & rearing status of each lamb it is unfair to judge lambs on their weaning weight alone. It also highlights the significant range we can expect in lamb weight the longer our lambing duration is.

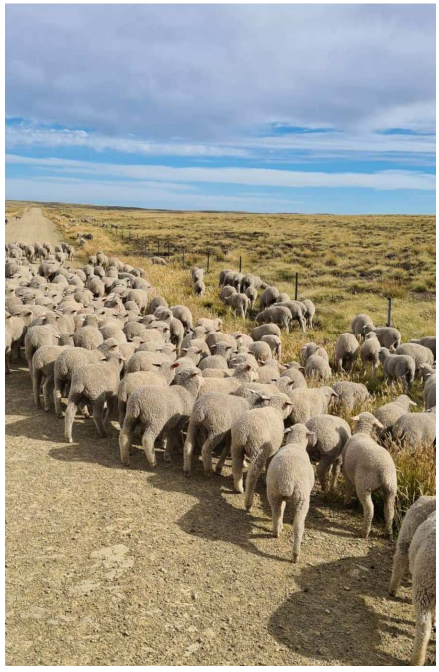
NSF lambs were lamb marked at a relatively young age ranging between 3-7 weeks, admittedly they are in small mobs of 90 -200 per camp, but had to travel to and from their lambing camps to the main yards to be marked. However we only had 2 lambs out of 500 there were not accounted for by tag number at weaning.

Lambs have been drenched and had their 2nd Glanvac vaccination and are being run together on camps that have been spelled for the last two months. Ram lambs will be separated after the NSF ram sale. Weights will be taken again at this stage with the aim to have these hogs going into the winter at a 30kg average.

Body weights & condition scores of ewes and shearlings between July & January.

		July		October		January	
		Weight	BCS	Weight	BCS	Weight	BCS
Ewes		50.3	2.8	52.7	2.3	50.3	2.6
Shearling (Lambed)		43.5	2.9	44	2.4	45.7	2.6
Shearling (Not Mated)		43.5	2.9	45	2.6	52.6	3

Weaned lambs



Weaned lambs being taken away

Other observations;

There seem to be considerable difference in udder size in a lot of the ewes, with some clearly not producing as much milk as others. This will be identified with more clarity once we have the parentage information back from the DNA analysis. We can then calculate the weight of lamb weaned per weight of ewe mated, an indication of ewe efficiency and productivity.

Condition of ewes was recorded, (tabled above) we also measured considerable variation in these, but will give all ewes 4-6 weeks post weaning & shearing to pick up before we cull for low body condition.

Wool; there had been some deterioration in the quality of some fleeces, across the board incorporating all ages & rearing status. Given the feeding levels over the last 3 months have been good it will be interesting to see the test results from this wool to help determine when these animals may have gone through a stressed period to create a break or in some cases a cotted fleece.

Given the importance of producing a quality fleece consistently year on year, should we be looking at pre lamb shearing. The benefits are well documented and there are farmers doing it with great success. However it has to be a planned change and well integrated into your farm management plan.

To do this we would need to ensure;

- We can feed them well enough in the next 9 months to grow wool to the length of 70-90mm to fit into profitable saleable wool.
- Plan to have sufficient saved feed available to feed animals for a minimum of 7-10 days at above maintenance feeding levels.
- To have some form of shelter whether it be trees or the ability to be returned to the woolshed if needed.
- Ensure we have sufficient cover in their designated lambing camps which also offers shel-

Shearling Ewe Performance Update;

Shearling Shearing Comparisions						
			Weaned a Lamb		Wet/Dry	Not Mated
Body Weight			46		49.6	52.5
BCS			2.5		2.8	3
Wool Weight (Greasy kg)			4.6		4.7	4.8

Ewes being shorn at Saladero

Continued on pages 10 & 11

The unmated mob have had access to above feeding levels and been in a small mob since hog shearing and subsequently gained a lot of weight. Also away from any worm burden created by the younger hogs as well.

That said, even with their extra weight and not being in lamb or rearing a lamb. There is only a 100- 200 gram difference between the averages of these mobs. In some cases the shearlings rearing lambs have outperformed both their wet/dry & un-mated counterparts.

So the challenge ahead is twofold, get these shearlings that have reared lambs up to near 50kg and a BCS of near 3 by mating in April to enable them to get back in lamb and then to rear another lamb.

Ram Hogs;

With their individual mid-side sample test results back, a mob average micron being 16.8µm with a 2.7 kg greasy fleece weight with strength of 32.3 K/Nt

These rams will have their final body weight & BCS taken in early February, then all their data will be analysed by the Merino Select breeding program which will give us the appropriate data to compile the 2021 Ram Sale Catalogue.

The rams themselves are in great condition and we are expecting to be putting up a fine selection of rams on sale day with sufficient variation to cater for your different requirements.

Blue Beach Farm will also be having their annual selection of rams available.

The NSF Sale day is set for Saturday the 13th March with Stock inspection commencing at 9.00am
If anyone has any questions regarding ram availability or the selection process please contact Andrew Bendall at the DoA.

Ewe hogs;

Their individual mid-side sample results showed a mob average of 16.9 um with a 2.4 kg greasy fleece weight with strength of 33 K/Nt

They will be weighed in next month, with the bottom end taken off and culled with the balance being presented for viewing at the NSF Ram sale. It is our intention to mate this entire mob next autumn if their weights & condition are satisfactory.

Wether Trial

As the wether trial draws to an end, they have been weighed & BCS, had a mid-side sample taken which has been through the OFDA machine. These will be shorn later in February with their fleeces weighed, classed and then in early March all wethers will be sent to Fimco and have their carcases evaluated.

Farm	Mic Ave	SL mm	Min Mic	Max Mic	Diff Min/Max	Body Weight	BCS
1	20.9	89.6	19.2	22.7	3.5	58.5	4.0
2	24.1	90.6	22.3	26.4	4.0	57.7	4.5
3	24	91.2	22.2	26.1	3.9	62.4	4.3
4	22.3	96.0	20.8	24.3	3.5	58.0	4.1
5	24.2	94.7	22.3	26.5	4.2	53.2	3.9

Agronomy update;

We have in conjunction with Blue Beach Farm Contracting drilled a variety of crops and forage species, looking to add diversity to existing swards as well as see if we can get short term crops to grow without excessive cultivation or preparation.

- Cocksfoot & Red Clover has been drilled into 15ha of old reseeds
- Swedes into an old cocksfoot reseed (10ha) this is still to germinate
- Buckwheat a short term annual has been drilled into a few ha's of last year's swede ground, this has germinated well but subsequently taken a hit with some leaf damage. This would have provided some quality feed in the autumn for either lambs or flushing lighter ewes.
- Turnips & an annual rye has been drilled into the balance of last year's swede ground and has only just germinated as of the end of January.
- Later in the summer there will be some lotus seed drilled into old reseeds where there is some lotus already persisting.
- Most of the above has had 100kg/ha of fertilizer applied mid-January

I think it is well understood that the limiting factor towards reseeds & crop success is in the massive cost of bringing the ph of the soil up to a level where there is a sufficient return on investment associated with the cost of such procedures.

Saladero has enjoyed some good rainfall events over the later part of January after missing a lot of the rains that town and other parts of the Falklands had received earlier. We hope with this recent rain growth continues well into the autumn allowing us to both build covers and condition on stock.

Recommendations for control of Mouse-Eared Hawkweed

Forward by Dr. Matthew McNee & Prof. Jim McAdam

This article contains recommendations for the control of Mouse-Eared Hawkweed *(Hieracium pilosella),* a serious invasive weed species in pastures in the Magallanes Region of southern Chile and is a potentially serious invasive species in the Falklands-where it is already established. The information has been adapted from a study by Sergio Radic *in the University of Magallanes, Punta Arenas in* 2020. For those who remember him, Sergio carried out his PhD research in the Falklands on legumes and was part of the Soil Mapping project team.

The Falkland Islands National Herbarium. Collector: Aiden Kerr, January 2001

The work of Sergio and his colleagues provides much useful learning to be adapted to the Falkland Islands. We hope that wool producers find this useful for the immediate control of this weed.

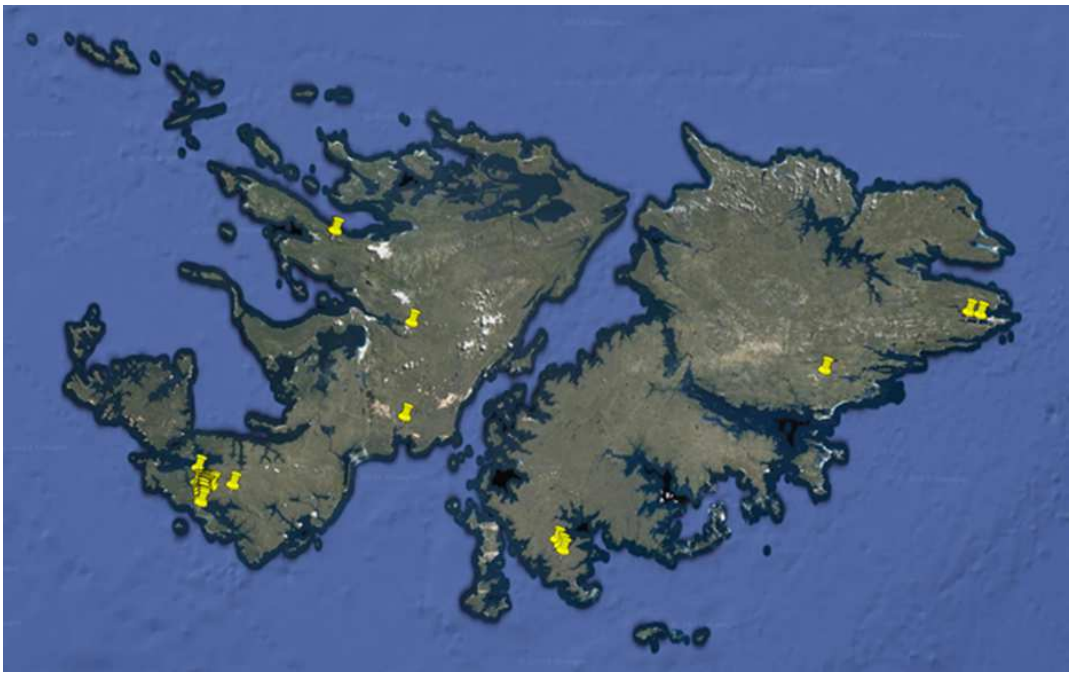
From a wider industry perspective, we should be focused on building monitoring capacity for Mouse-Eared Hawkweed and other invasive weeds. Mouse-Eared Hawkweed is very drought tolerant so we might expect its competitive ability within pastures to increase in areas of the Falkland Islands that are drying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

There is a good argument to develop an Island-wide monitoring program for this invasive plant now. This would aid in the development of cost-effective prevention and control plans that reflect the scale of this issue as our climate changes.

As Sergio and colleagues point out, the most effective way to do this is the use of geographic information tools to aid the decision-making process, basically to keep a track on the locations and spread of the beast! These technologies exist on the Islands and it is matter of bringing them to bear cost effectively, so that we can help keep on top of the problem. The current online soil maps could be put to good use in this context.

We are thinking of setting up something along the lines of a Falkland Islands Innovation Ecosystem Platform (IEP). This is just a fancy term describing a space where a group of individuals with different backgrounds and interests can identify innovative ways to support innovation and industry development. This is where good ideas are converted into value-creating activities. An IEP really depends very much on input from yourselves!

So within our IEP, why can't we develop a data-product (e.g. weed maps) that aggregate data on invasive weeds and allows us to use this information to support decision-making and innovative solutions - in this case, an integrated pest management system with targeted control effort?



Locations of Mouse-Eared Hawkweed 2015/16.
Online data source: https://ims.saeri.org/lizmap_fc/www/index.php/view/map/?repository=fc01&project=fi_plants_webGIS_wu

Mouse-Eared Hawkweed at Port Stephens Settlement
Source: Louise Taylor, Falklands Conservation, 5th January 2013

Hieracium pilosella a weed problem in the Magallanes Region, southern Chile

Information extracted from Radic, S., Ivelic, J., Gross, P., Ruiz, R. y Muñoz, R. 2020. Guía para el control de Hieracium pilosella para la Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena. Programa Territorial Integrado (PTI), Mejoramiento Competitivo de la Cadena de Valor de la Lana y la Carne Ovina en la Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena. Punta Arenas. 52 p.

Hieracium pilosella (*H. pilosella*) or Mouse-Eared Hawkweed is a herbaceous plant in the Asteraceae family (i.e. dandelion or daisy -like) that originates from Europe. It is an important weed that has spread widely throughout southern Patagonia in recent decades. It has long, leafy stolons (over-ground trailing stems), basal leaves which are white-felted beneath (the easiest way to identify the plant-and hence where its name comes from) in a rosette with sparse, simple, long hairs on both sides, and a hairy flower head on a single stem (see pictures).

Continued on pages 14 & 15

This species is well adapted to soils of low to medium fertility, pH values between 3.7 and 7.6, and temperate to cool-temperate climates with less than 600 mm precipitation. *H. pilosella* does not tolerate water-logged or flooded conditions and needs well-drained soils, preferring exposed, sunny sites. The root system is superficial, between 10 and 15 cm deep, and the plant easily tolerates drought. Analyses of plants in the flowering stage showed 8.1% crude protein, 81.7% digestibility, and 11.18 MJ EM kg-1 dry matter. The weed dominates pastures by releasing a phenolic compound (umbelliferone) from its roots (called an allelopathic effect) that inhibits seed germination and the growth of other plants. Because of its prostrate growth form, it has low total production. However it is very competitive, with other species, creating unpalatable pastures with low diversity. *H.pilosella* can even invade areas previously dominated by other species including diddle-dee (*Empetrum rubrum*).

Mouse-Eared Hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella).
Source: Radic, S., Ivelic, J., Gross, P., Ruiz, R. y Muñoz, R. 2020. Guía para el control de Hieracium pilosella para la Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena.

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, biological, 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.

Biological controls are particularly well suited to sectors with steep slopes or uneven terrain where other control methods would not be viable. They also have the advantage of being environmentally friendly and covering a large area. They are the cheapest control option once estab-

lished and self-sustaining in the long term. However, they are based on insects etc which are not native to the Falklands and we need to do a lot more research on them although they have been widely tested in New Zealand.

With some developments, satellite data and GIS programs could be used to map and monitor the spread of *H. pilosella* . This is very important for clearly identifying problem areas and targeting control plans to make best use of resources and subsequent management.

Sergio and colleagues then make some general considerations from a public policy perspective and recommendations for the southern Chilean farmers. Many of these are equally applicable for the Falklands.

From a public policy, government supported, strategic perspective:-

H. pilosella in native pasture
Source: Louise Taylor, Falklands Conservation,
20th November 2011.

- Conduct studies with current data that quantify the coverage, economic and environmental problem of *H. pilosella*.

- Include Chile in registers of invasive species as an example of the open code Invasive Species Compendium, that is being designed to support the work of all those who identify, prevent, and manage invasive species. The Falklands could also consider this.

- Create a regional species control program, in which paddocks are evaluated and work agreements with farmers are established in order to reduce the damage caused by *H.pilosella*. Following a protocol that includes plant knowledge, early species detection and access to resources that allow for efficient management and proactiveness on the part of the impacted farmer, followed by field monitoring where control practices were applied.

- It is important to carry out more locally-based research and trials to build up an experience-based strategy for of *H.pilosella* and to monitor efforts in other countries with similar climates who are trying to control *H.pilosella*. The DOA's Farmer-based Research Program is running to provide support to farmer in the Falkland Islands.

- Consider the need to enhance the various programs and research projects regarding *H.pilosella* being developed in the silvopastoral sector of different public lands.

- There are long -term national and wider biodiversity benefits to weed control which government should consider providing economic support for.

Recommendations to the farmer

- Mechanical control alone, using any type of plough or rotary cultivator, is not effective against *H. 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.

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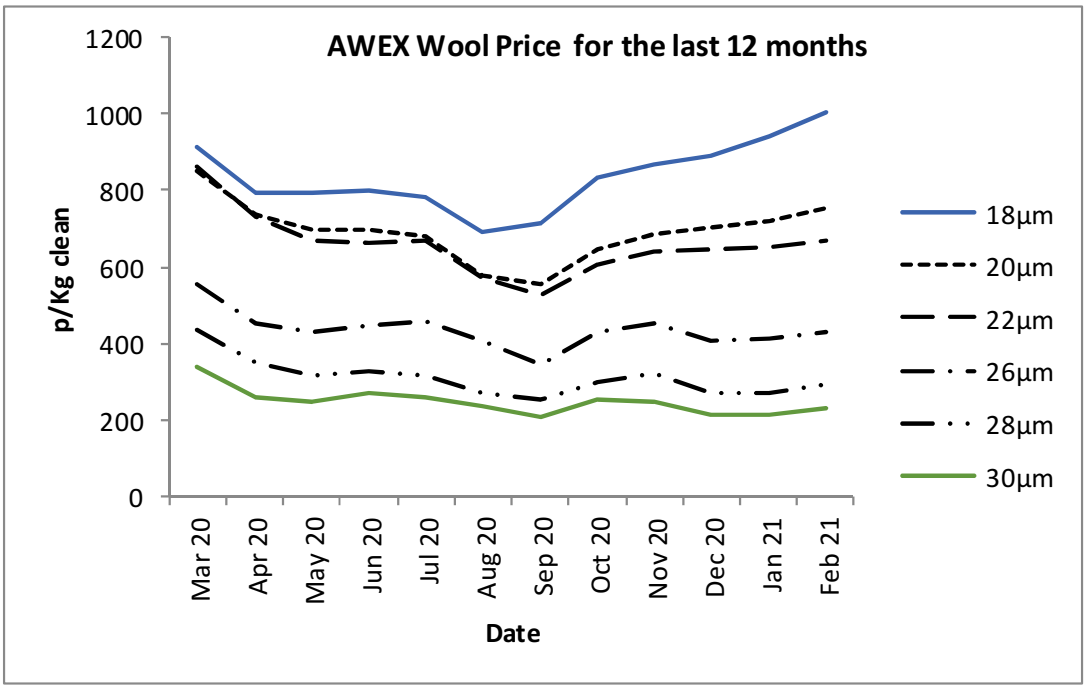
Continued on page 16

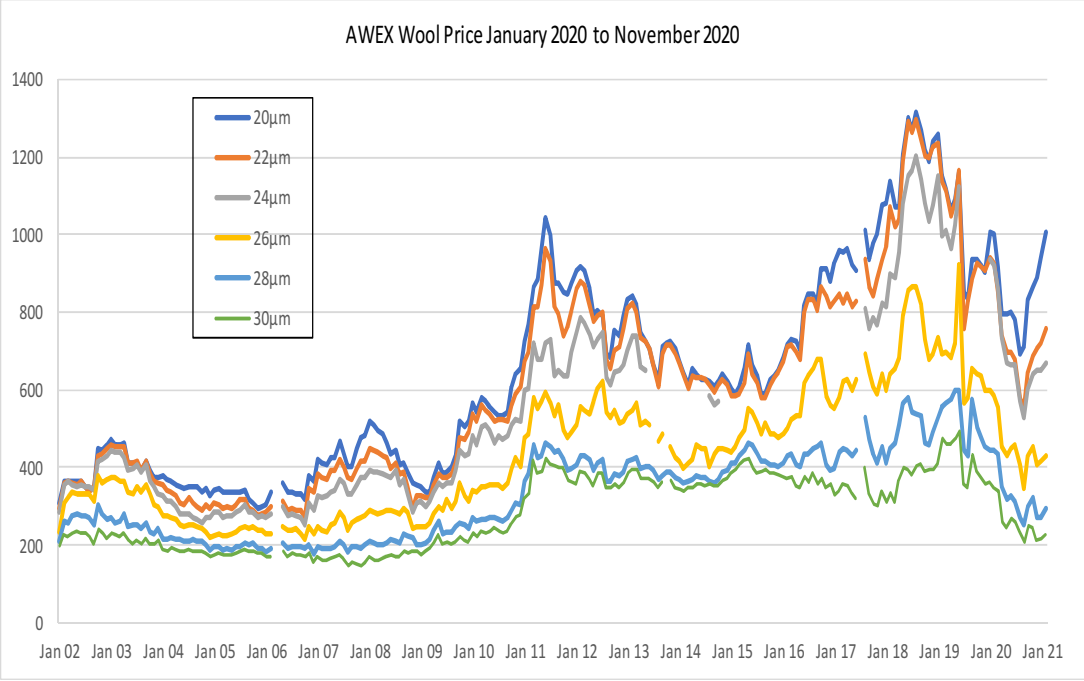
- *H. pilosella* plants that grow where there is no grazing pressure, produce more stolons and flowers than where they are tightly grazed. Therefore, it is more effective to have animals graze infected pastures rather than let the area rest without some treatment measure.
- Regeneration with forage species and/or fertilization in pastures dominated by *H. 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.
- 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.
- For an area covered by vegetation, 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.
- The use of a non-selective herbicide could increase the percentage of bare soil in grazed-paddocks compared to the same ungrazed paddock. This might increase the risk of subsequent erosion In contrast, a selective herbicide will result in a significant increase in native species.
- 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 *H. 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 H. 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.
- 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 *H. pilosella* exist, eradicate them to reduce seed dissemination.
- It would be ideal if those who regularly check paddocks on the farm know how to identify the weed in all phenological stages and that they are especially vigilant during the flowering period flowering so that, if the species is detected, those sites can be marked and swift control carried out. With respect to this last point, the farmer should make use of existing land and soil maps to record plant colonies and identify areas susceptible to colonization by this weed.

Market Price Trends for Wool (Using AWEX Data)

By Tom McIntosh



The AWEX Eastern Market Indicator (EMI) for the last twelve months had a drop of 11% for 20µm, 22% for 22 µm, 23% for 26 µm, 32% for 28µm and a drop of 33% for 30 µm. The AWEX price has recovered since September by 37% for 20µm, 27% for 22 µm, 25% for 26 µm, 16 % for 28µm and 9% for 30 µm.



Similar prices February 2021 for each micron occurred in January 2020 for 20µm, May 2016 for 22 µm, March 2015 for 24 µm, April 2014 for 26 µm, October 2010 for 28µm and December 2010 for 30 µm.

This is interesting historic data and the AWEX benchmark is not always achieved by Falkland Islands farmers, the trend upwards is welcome however there is great uncertainty and there is limited buying demand for wool greater than 22 µm. This may result in some uncertainty over the next 12 months

The Thirty-fourth West Falkland Ram & Fleece Show, 2020 Report

Tuesday 29th December 2020 dawned under a dull overcast sky and very little wind 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. On the morning Keith, ably assisted by Steven Dickson and Karl Nightingale 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, Susan Hansen assisted by Bill Pole Evans set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the fleeces having the highest estimated commercial value. At the same time Steven Dickson and Mike Evans 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-three fleeces from thirteen farms and forty rams from nine 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 their owner's.

By now the barbecue, 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, cake and mince pies. 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. Duane judged the three 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 eight 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 Beccy Edwards.

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 years 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 2020

Keith and Nuala Knight.
Organisers WFR&FS.

FOX BAY RAM AND FLEECE PRIZE WINNERS - 2016

Prize	Donated By	Won By	Points
Class 1 - Full Wool Ram Hogget			
1st	Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies & £150 presented by Byron Holdings	*Shallow Harbour*	*120*
2nd	£100 donated by Byron Holdings	*Shallow Harbour*	*112*
3rd	£75 donated by Port Howard Farm	*Shallow Harbour*	*77*
4th	£50 donated by SAAS	*Port Howard*	*51*
Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram			
1st	Lyn Blake Perpetual Challenge Cup & £200 presented by FIMCo	*Shallow Harbour*	*130*
2nd	£150 presented by FIMCo	*Harps*	*112*
3rd	£100 presented by FIMCo	*Coast Ridge*	*111*
4th	£50 presented by FIMCo	*Port Howard*	*99*
Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram			
1st	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup & a replica & £50 presented by The Falkland Islands Wool Company	*Shallow Harbour*	*95*
2nd	£110 donated by the Falkland Islands Wool Company	*Shallow Harbour*	*77*
3rd	£80 presented by The Falkland Islands Wool Company	*Shallow Harbour*	*75*
4th	£60 presented by The Falkland Islands Wool Company	*Shallow Harbour*	*74*
Class 4 - Hogget Fleece			
1st	Silver Challenge Cup & replica presented by Mr R A Edwards & RBC Ltd & £50 voucher donated by RB Consultants	*Coast Ridge*	*73*
2nd	£75 presented by Argos Group	*Dunbar*	*68*
3rd	£50 from Port Howard Farm	*Shallow Harbour*	*62*
4th	£25 from the Argos Group	*Westley*	*44*
Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hogget			
1st	Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by HE the Governor & replica & a return ferry trip for vehicle & 2 people from Workboat Services	*Shallow Harbour*	*82*
2nd	£100 from Falkland Landholdings	*Main Point*	*77*
3rd	£75 from Standard Chartered Bank	*Crooked Inlet*	*56*
4th	£50 from The RBA	*Spring Point*	*43*
Class 6 - Any AAAF Type fleece			
1st	Shirley Knight Perpetual Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm & replica presented by Leicester Creek Farm	*Shallow Harbour*	*113*
2nd	£75 fuel voucher from Stanley Services	*Spring Point*	*96*
3rd	£50 donated by FIC Groundworks & Haulage	*Leicester Creek*	*74*
4th	£25 presented by FIC Groundworks & Haulage	*Spring Point*	*70*

Rural Business Association's

AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2021

Goose Green 3rd April

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

A great day out for all the family!

Please email livestock entries and stall reservations by the 27th March to Sammy rba.events@horizon.co.fk

Rural Business Association Agricultural Show
Goose Green 3rd April 2021

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

The RBA show is once again being kindly hosted by Keith & Glynis and all at Goose Green, and will take place in the Goose Green shearing shed. We would like to thank everyone at Goose Green as without all their hard work the show would be unable to take place.

We would like to ask those winners from the 2019 show if they could please kindly return their trophies to Michelle at Southern Imports.

Anyone wishing to have a stall to sell homemade crafts, fresh produce etc do please get in touch with Sammy on rba.events@horizon.co.fk

SPORTS WEEK PROGRAMMES

East Sports - Goose Green

Friday 5th March
Evening: Entries taken at Race Course
9pm - 2am: GG Social Club open

Saturday 6th March
9.30am: Horse racing (senior & Junior) and gymkhana
9pm - 2am: Dance at GG Social Club

Sunday 7th March
9.30am: Horse racing (senior & junior)
9pm - 2am: GG Social Club open

Monday 8th March
10am AGM - GG Social Club
11am Children's Sports, Mechanical Bull, Football and Fun Events
7pm ASADO/BBQ

Tuesday 9th March
10am Dog Trials
3pm Shearing
9pm - 2am: GG Social Club open
10.30pm Prize Giving

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

West Sports - Hill Cove

Sunday 7th March
10am - Crooked Inlet: Bike Agility
1pm - Hill Cove Forest: Foot events and BBQ lunch provided by Lisa & Kev
8pm - Hill Cove Club: Gold Cup Racing

Monday 8th March
10am - Dunbar: Shearing and BBQ lunch sponsored by Dunbar
8pm - Hill Cove Club: Mechanical Bull

Tuesday 9th March
10am - Westley: Dog Trials & Kids Foot Events. Lunch provided by Penny & Tex
Hill Cove Settlement Bar Night

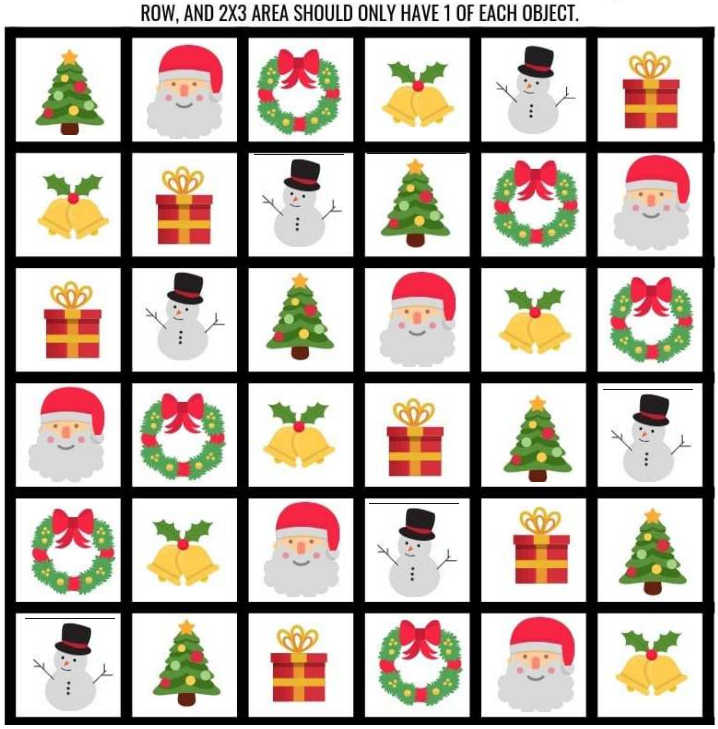
Wednesday 10th March
10am - Sound Ridge: Peat Cutting
1pm - West Lagoons: Golf with lunch provided by West Lagoons
8pm - Hill Cove Club: Prize Giving

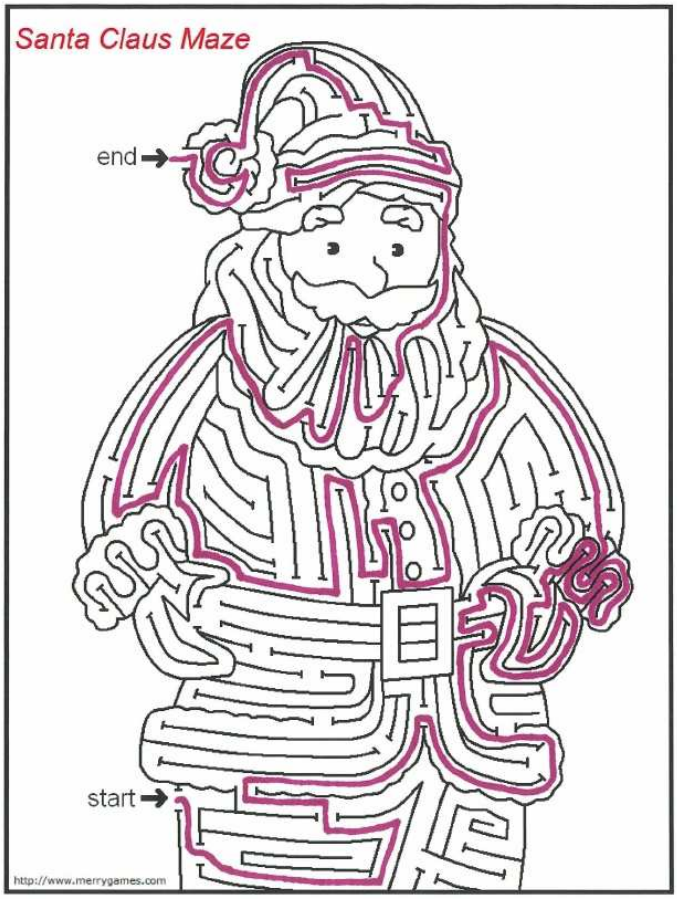
For more information please find the West Falkland Sports Assocciation Page on Facebook with extra details included onh the programme

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS

Christmas Sudoku

COMPLETE THE PUZZLE USING THE CHRISTMAS OBJECTS. EACH COLUMN, ROW, AND 2X3 AREA SHOULD ONLY HAVE 1 OF EACH OBJECT.



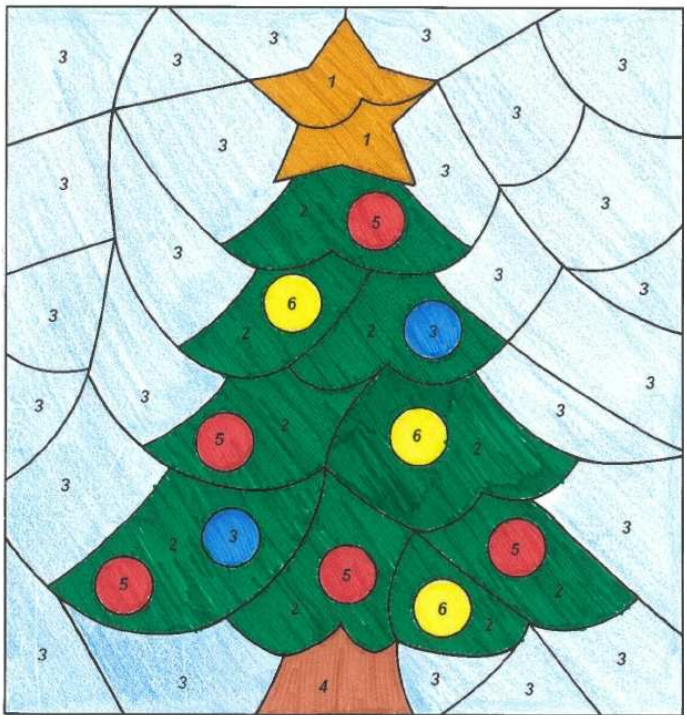


Rocky Road Candies

- 1 pack chocolate chips
- 1/8 cup of butter
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 1/2 cups dry-roasted peanuts
- 1 pack mini marshmallows

1. Line a 9 x 13 inch pan with wax paper
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate and butter until melted. Stir occasionally until chocolate is smooth. Stir in condensed milk. Combine peanuts and marshmallows; stir into chocolate mixture. Pour into prepared pan and chill until firm. Cut into squares.

1-Gold 2-Green 3-Blue 4-Brown 5-Red 6-Yellow



If you have a favourite recipe that you would like included in the Wool Press email it to vetreception@naturalresources,co.fk

Rainfall Data for 2020

	2020											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
Stanley	46.5	42		37.5	79	31	45	46	28	18	21	50
MPA	75.8	44.4	16	44.2	79.8	26.8	41.3	53	32.1	13.4	14	45.1
Bleaker Island	37	25	8	39	42	24	31	42	32	11	7	35
Fern Ridge	53	30.5	12	53	75.5	19	21	54	22.5	16.5	19	36.5
Harps	42	33	11	37	81	30	24	70	44	14	21	17
Hill Cove	-	70	50	55	75	50	40	75	70	55	45	45
Goose Green	64	-	10	39.5	54	55		-	-	14	40	35
Head of the Bay	52	30	7	38	80	25	50	57	33	16	12	52
Moss Side	40	36	10	42.5	86.5	29.5	38	22	-	-	11	42
North Arm	42	29	15	38	65	42	30	54	36	16	16	41
Saladero	10	-	5	34	55	20	42	50	-	-	15	12
Saunders Island	38.5	13	-	24	68	24	17	64	28	11	6	21
Salvador	50	25	23	30.5	93.5	20	22.5	57	32	15	9	23.75
Shallow Harbour	44	30	12.5	52	80.5	29	19	68	25.5	18	24.5	29.5
Walker Creek	58	32	10	32	53	25	24	46	22	11	10	42
West Lagoons	-	-	-	29	84	41	27	64	36	16	16	14