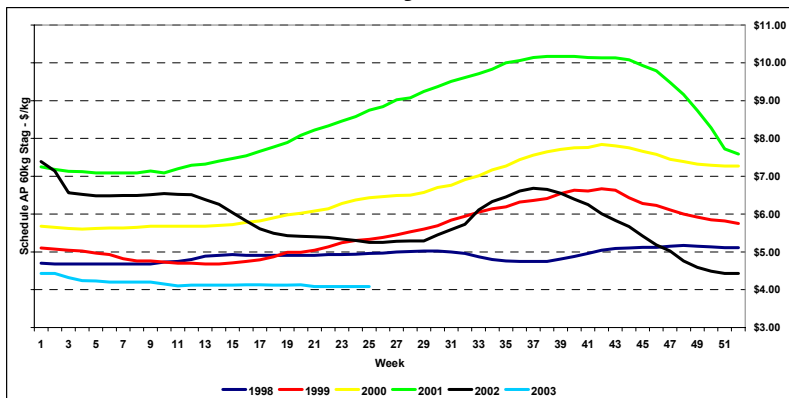


VENISON SCHEDULE

This week (week 25): \$4.08 (no change from the previous week)
Down 32% on the 10 year average for this time of year (\$6.02)

*60kg AP Stag – Published National Average Schedule.
(Source: Agri-Fax)*



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Deer Branch NZVA Annual Conference Copthorne Hotel, Queenstown.

25 to 27 June

Information and a registration form can be downloaded from the Deer Industry New Zealand website (<http://www.deernz.org/?id=37>) or for more information email Prof. Peter Wilson: P.R.Wilson@massey.ac.nz

OTHER NEWS

DEER INDUSTRY NEWS - ISSUE 5 OUT NOW

Issue 5 of Deer Industry News 5 should be arriving in letterboxes this week. Full conference reports, results of remits and an up to date market report are included. All the Deer Industry New Zealand executive staff reports and the Chairman's report are included in full FGM Proceedings.

If you can't wait for your copy by mail, an electronic version is available on the Deer Industry New Zealand website at: <http://www.deernz.org/?id=34>

Issue 5 of Deer Industry News available soon - check out the FGM Proceedings.

DFA MEMBERSHIP - KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SUBSCRIPTION INVOICE

The NZDFA subscription invoice is included as part of the package sent out with Issue 5 of Deer Industry News.

Subscription support and membership is vital for a continuing healthy and strong DFA. Last year's restructuring doesn't remove the need for farmers to have their own strong voice to represent their specific interests. Quite the opposite - the restructuring was aimed at providing a unified and efficient industry structure while maintaining and enhancing strong sectoral voices. The restructuring and the Producer Manager's role and performance have proved to be of significant value to Branches and your ongoing support through subscriptions is vital.

Keep an eye out for the DFA Subscription Invoices posted with Issue 5 of Deer Industry News.

Deer Notes

NEW TAX PROPOSED TO FUND GREENHOUSE GAS RESEARCH

The Government is seeking feedback from the agriculture sector on the best way to levy dairy, sheep, beef and deer farmers to fund research into reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

A discussion document released today seeks comment on the levy mechanism and on the administration, function, structure and governance of an Agricultural Emissions Research body to manage levy expenditure. The Discussion Document can be downloaded from the Deer Industry New Zealand website: <http://www.deernz.org/?id=37#contentsection1601>

The agriculture sector is responsible for over half of New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions. In recognition of the importance of agriculture, the Government's climate change policy exempts agriculture from emissions charges on these greenhouse gases. In exchange it requires the sector to be the principal funder of research to develop practices and technologies to reduce these emissions.

Although the Government originally thought this research effort might require an increased investment of up to \$20 million a year, an independent scientific assessment has found that an extra \$8.4 million a year is likely to be enough. An Agriculture Emissions Research body would receive levy funds, manage the research investment and oversee the development and implementation of new emission reduction practices and technologies.

Agricultural sector organisations will be invited to form a technical working group to consider implementation issues. Responses to the discussion document are sought by 31 July 2003 and there will be public meetings in Hamilton, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Dunedin early next month.

Details of these meetings are set out below and deer farmers are encouraged to attend to get more information.

Tuesday, 1 July	Ruakura Research Station, Social Club, Hamilton
Wednesday, 2 July	AgriQuality Conference Room, Bachelor Conference Centre, Tennent Drive, Palmerston North
Friday, 4 July	Sudima Grand Chancellor, Christchurch
Monday, 7 July	Invermay Conference Room, Dunedin

New tax proposed to fund research into greenhouse gas emissions from cattle, sheep and deer.

Discussion Document available for download.

Submissions on the Discussion Document close 31 July 2003.

VENISON ON HOLIDAY

Venison is the feature of a 5 page feature in New Zealand House and Garden's May edition of "On Holiday" magazine.

The feature contains four great venison recipes, from "Venison Burgers with Caramelised Onions" to "Slow Cooked Venison with Cherries"

Venison profiled in "On Holiday" magazine.

GM MORATORIUM CONSULTATION

In the next few days a paper will be circulated to DFA Branches seeking feedback on the specific question of whether the industry should support an extension to the current moratorium on the release of GMOs or not. Feedback is sought by 7 July 2003 so that industry opinion can be considered at the Deer Industry New Zealand Board meeting later that week as part of Deer Industry New Zealand's policy development process.

A copy of the paper will be made available on the Deer Industry New Zealand website - so keep an eye out at <http://www.deernz.org.nz/?id=37>. Alternatively, contact the Deer Industry New Zealand office - info@deernz.org or phone (04) 382 8626.

Industry consultation about to commence on GM Moratorium

Deer Notes

ELK & WAPITI SOCIETY UPDATE

A brief note from the Elk and Wapiti Society reminding branches to keep the Society in mind if there is a field day or similar event that the Society should be flying the flag at. The EWS has its own e-mail address - ewsnz@xtra.co.nz

EWS Email address

NVSB ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS - REMINDER

Velveters are reminded of the three annual requirements of the NVSB Programme:

- 1 Annual fee (\$61.88) to be paid by 20th November
- 2 Supervising vet visit to be completed by 15th December
- 3 Completed drug book and any unused drug (including local) to be returned to supervising vets by 31st March

Failure to meet these requirements may result in suspension from the NVSB Programme. The NVSB has had to suspend a number of velveters this season, after repeated attempts to gain compliance failed.

Suspension is a serious matter, as velveters are legally prohibited from velveting stags until readmitted to the programme. Suspension works as follows:

Season 1 (e.g. 2002/2003): Non compliance. Velveter suspended

Season 2 (e.g. 2003/2004): All velveting to be done by a veterinarian

Season 3 (e.g. 2004/2005): Readmitted to the NVSB programme following a successful supervising vet visit.

The NVSB annual requirements are ultimately there to help you - non-compliance puts the whole velvet industry at risk.

Please contact Rob Gregory (rob.gregory@deernz.org) or Janice Attrill (janice.attrill@deernz.org) for more details, or alternatively, call us on 04 382 8626.

Reminder of NVSB's annual requirements

LOOKING FOR HAND REARED WEANER STAGS

Massey University is presently looking to purchase hand reared weaner stags to join "Lucky", "Pete" and the rest of Massey's group.

If anybody has a pet stag they can't bear to send for venison and would like to give the opportunity to live out their days entertaining students then please contact Dr Simone Hoskin, Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, Massey University PN452, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North, Email: S.O.Hoskin@massey.ac.nz, Phone: (06) 3569099 ext 7148, Fax (06) 3505684. Farmers should be aware that stags will be castrated.

Massey looking for hand reared weaner stags.

CODE OF WELFARE AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

Anyone wanting to review a copy of the Draft Code of Welfare for Deer Farming can obtain a copy from the Deer Industry New Zealand office - contact Janice Attrill on (04) 381 6014, or Janice.attrill@deernz.org

Code of Welfare available for review and input.

RESEARCHERS HONOURED

Congratulations to Jimmy Suttie and Frank Griffin for their recent awards.

Dr. Jimmy Suttie was awarded the Deer Industry Award at the Industry Conference in Timaru in recognition of his efforts in the area of velvet antler science and his considerable input for the benefit of the New Zealand velvet industry.

Prof. Frank Griffin became an honorary Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday honours list in recognition of his work as an internationally recognised expert in the area of immunology especially relating to tuberculosis in animals.

Well done Jimmy and Frank!

Deer Notes

MAF VETS MAKE INTERNATIONAL WAVES

Four of MAF's senior officials have been appointed to top-level positions at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

- **Dr Barry O'Neil**, MAF's Director of Biosecurity, has been appointed Vice President for the International Committee and the Administration Commission, which is the governing body of the OIE.
- **Dr David Bayvel**, MAF's Director, Animal Welfare has been appointed Chairperson of the Animal Welfare Working Group.
- **Dr Andrew McKenzie**, New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) Executive Director has been appointed Chairperson of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group. This role complements Dr McKenzie's position as chairman of the Codex Committee on meat and Poultry Hygiene.
- **And Dr Stuart McDiarmid**, NZFSA Principal Adviser Zoonoses Animal Health, has been appointed Secretary General of the Animal Health Standards Commission.

The OIE sets the international standards for trade in animal products and its decisions have considerable impact on New Zealand's farming and food sectors.

MAF Director General Murray Sherwin says the work of the four veterinarians has put New Zealand at the forefront of international developments in food safety, animal health and welfare and veterinary science. "It recognises the expertise and standing of New Zealand in these important areas," he says.

"These appointments were made at the 71st annual General Session of the International Committee of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), held in Paris late last month. The main technical issues discussed were how countries could better protect themselves from the risks of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), foot and mouth disease and avian influenza. Conditions for safe trade in animals and animal products were also discussed.

"The OIE says the appointments of Dr Andrew McKenzie and Dr David Bayvel recognise the evolution of new fields of activity for their organisation – animal welfare and food safety," Murray Sherwin says.

Source - MAF Primary News

MAF Vets appointed to key international positions at the OIE.

BSE IN CATTLE IN CANADA - IMPACT ON NEW ZEALAND

As a precautionary measure all cattle that have been imported into NZ from Canada in the last 15 years will be traced and checked by veterinarians. These number 14 still living from an importation of 16 bought here in 1999. While MAF accept they pose no risk they will be checked and monitored as part of a regulatory response for imported ruminants.

The USA has placed a ban on the importation of ruminants and that now impacts on imported elk by implication. Again there is no link or risk but the issue is about demonstrating knowledge of where these animals are and what has happened to them.

Members of the Elk and Wapiti Society of New Zealand fortunately have developed their own register of these animals. Deer Industry New Zealand has been working closely with MAF to verify the list and locations/fates of imported animals including 5 from a 1996 shipment and a small number of older animals from 1992 and the 1980's.

USDA officials are in NZ this month so it is critical that the industry can credibly demonstrate systems to track the location and fate of imported animals. This will also assist in our ability to support out our CWD-free status. For further information contact Tony Pearce (tony.pearse@deernz.org), MJ Loza (mj.loza@deernz.org) or John Stothart (stothartj@maf.govt.nz)

Critical that systems are in place to trace imported animals in NZ.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Contact your vet to take samples of any animals displaying wasting, symptoms of nervous disorder or cases of acute pneumonia.

Farmers receive \$100 for samples accepted for testing.

It is critical that the industry conducts tests on targeted animals so we can prove we are CWD-free.

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of its content, Deer Notes alone is not to be substituted for direct advice on any matter addressed.

Deer Industry New Zealand is the operating name of the Game Industry Board.