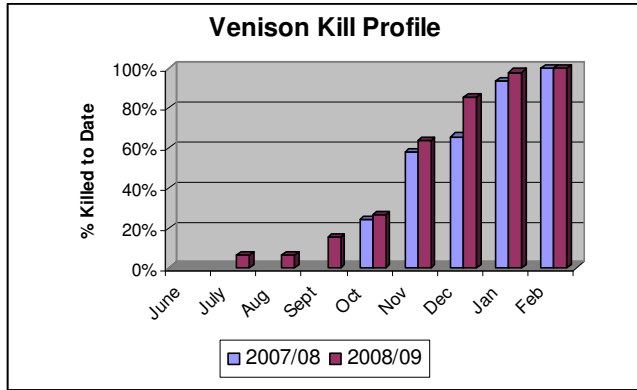


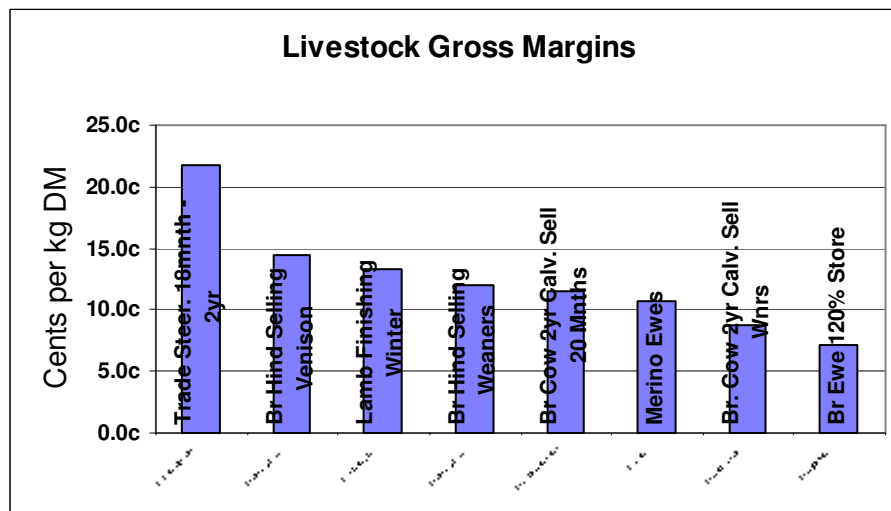


- December rain of 94mm was a lifesaver for summer & winter feed forage crops and to push some cover into early new year, BUT the extreme heat and lack of rain in January has now put pressure back on.
- Ross & Sally are right up to date with all their feed crops. All the kale and majority of rape is in with good plant establishment. The rape & grass downs block (out of tussock) is struggling to strike with next to no rain since sowing. A new grass downs block is also struggling for the same reasons.
- The demand on the paddocks has really dropped off as nearly all the prime venison has been sold (98%). This policy continues to prove itself from not just a profitability viewpoint, but works with the climate at Whiterock where summer dry persists.



	2007/08	2008/09
Total hd	409	557
Av kgCW	54.2	53.6
Av \$/hd	\$347	\$479
Av \$/kg	\$6.4	\$8.9
Total gms/day	240	251
Post Wean gms/day		157

- The plan is still to purchase up to 150hd of red weaners this summer, boosting replacements for the growing hind herd. We are also considering selling all the ewes on a strong market and replacing with in-fawn hinds in the winter.
- The ewes continue to be marginalised and given that the only area now available for the ewes is the drier area of the farm, the remaining ewes will have to go into the deer farm to be flushed if they remain. With a 10% death rate, lambing % of 120%, 25kgLW weaning weight, store price of \$2.2/kgLW, minimal return from wool, not to mention the workload of an additional stock enterprise (let alone sheep), they are being outdone by other enterprises on Whiterock.



**LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON 24 FEBRUARY, 11.45am WITH OWN LUNCH, 12PM START**

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