

“Making the Difference”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Canterbury / North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS STATION

Issue 6
MARCH 2009

MONTHLY RAINFALL		Actual	Av.	Last Year			Actual	Last Month	Last Year
RAINFALL TO DATE		110	96	145	PASTURE COVER				
					Pasture Growth Paddocks		1500	900	1200
					Pasture Growth Hill		1400	1000	1100
STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)				MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS	STOCK WEIGHTS		
No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha	Weight kgLW		LWG		
Breeding Hinds	1,050	3.0	3,150			Body score 3.5			
R2 Hinds	303	2.0	606			Bottom deer unit			
Stags	23	3.5	80			Out with Hinds			
Old Ewes									
MA Ewes	8,800	1.2	10,560			On mountain			
2th Ewes	1,850	1.2	2,220			Leader			
Ewe Hoggets	4,420	1.5	6,630			On summer rape			
Ram & Killers	225	1.2	270						
						Conway			
MA Cows	864	10.0	8,640						
R2 Heifers	287	7.0	2,009						
1yr Heifer	360	5.0	1,800						
1yr Steer	367	5.0	1,833						
Sire Bulls	35	9.0	315						
Stud Cows	44	11.0	484						
Replacements	24	9.0	216						
Other	16	9.0	144						
TOTAL Demand (kgDM/day)			38,959						
Feed Demand (kgDM/ha/day)			7.5			A lot of stock on winter feed			
Forecast Pasture Growth (kgDM/ha/day)			12.0						

Another very informative community field day was held on 19th February 2009 at Mendip, with the topic being “Genetics”.

We had a good turnout of about 75 people. We headed out to the Conway side of the property where Simon gave everyone a good summary of events since our last public field day in October. He assured everyone that had the field day been held a week earlier, the whole property would have been a different colour. A very light brown where in some places you could have seen a mouse run over it. Rainfall for February finished up at 110mm (14th – 19th Feb), but there has been no rain since.

General discussion was held over lunch with follow up from Ian Page (North Canterbury Vet Clinic), on the results of Johnne’s testing in the yearling hinds that were blooded on 28th January.



Of the 303 yearling hinds, tested results were:

Negative	240 }	
Suspect	3 }	20% prevalence
Positive	60 }	

Ian's thoughts on "where to from here" were backed up by Deer Research Laboratory recommendations of:

All suspect and positive deer are slaughtered immediately given that:

- Current venison schedule is relatively high.
- Will reduce environmental risk from animals that are high shedders (5,000 – 100,000 MAP organisms/g faeces).
- Better feed utilisation for residual stock will occur with the removal of 63 reactor animals.
- They are unlikely to be productive and if they were, offspring would most likely have a higher proportion of clinical cases.
- The infected hinds will most likely produce infected offspring.

Following lunch, a genetic workshop was run by Jason Archer (AgResearch) and Tony Pearce (DINZ). Outcome of group discussion was held until later when we were back at the shed.

Woolshed discussion was held with Jake Chardon (Deer Improvement) talking on breeding values, and Dr. Alistair Nicol (Lincoln University), on hind efficiency.

Following feedback from the community group on the day, this year's breeding programme has been changed with the following stags out with the following groups of hinds.

Johne's tested	240 R2 hinds 95 2 nd calvers 293 3 rd and 4 th calvers (hide block)	8 MA Red stags 3 R2 Red stags 6 MA Red stags
Not tested	421 MA hinds 306 old hinds	7 R3yr BII terminal stags 8 MA Wapiti stags

Simon and his team weaned all the hinds last week with the following results:	
682 weaners to Finishing for	Terminals 48kgLW Reds 46kgCW
268 weaner replacements	Bottom deer farm

At weaning, bloods were also taken from the 3 rd and 4 th calving hinds in the hide block with the following results:	
327 hinds sampled	40 positive /7 suspicious

At Tb testing or scanning the positive and suspicious animals will be taken out, and if it is decided to keep these hinds, they will run with the hinds going to the terminal.

**Next Community Focus Farm Field Day
Thursday, 21 May 2009**

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