

# "Making the Difference"

## DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

**South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION**

Issue 11  
May 2009

*Next Field Day:*

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> MAY - PUBLIC FIELD DAY from 12.00pm**

**4 Wheel Drives Please      BYO Lunch (tea & coffee provided)**

*See over page for details*

### April Summary:

	Actual	Av.	Last Year	Actual	Last Mont	Last Year		
MONTHLY RAINFALL	74	60	21	PASTURE COVER	1400	1400    1200		
RAINFALL TO DATE	233	262	161	Pasture Growth Paddocks	20	17 ~11		
				AVERAGE SOIL TEMP	10	12    12		
Apr-09	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	809	2.5	2023	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R3 Hinds	124	2.5	310	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R3 East X Hinds (AI)	20	2.5	50	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R2 Hinds	200	2.5	500	1200	3.5	Back on hill		
Red Weaner Hinds	240	1.5	360	1200	3.5	Pdks + grain (250gms/day)	49.9	
Red Weaner Stags	240	1.5	360	1200	3.5	Pdks + grain (250gms/day)	58	
Wap X Wnr Stags	201	1.8	362	1200	3.5	Hunter/Grass + grain (250gms/day)	65	
Wap X Wnr Hinds	189	1.8	340	1200	3.5	Pdks + grain (250gms/day)		
R3 East Stags (AI)	11	4	44	1200	3.5	On grass rotation + grain- Pdks		
Sire Stags	40	4	160	1200	3.5	In Paddocks		
MA Ewes			0	1000	2.5	Sold		
MA & R3 Heifers	252	8	2016	1500	5	7.1% dry - all mated on hill: 4% last year		
R2 Heifers	58	8	464	1500	5	10% dry - mated on pdks: 3% last year		
R1 Heifers	72	5	360	1200	3.5	On Downs		
R1 Steers	130	5	650	1000	2.5	226kgLW on ASP on River Terrace		
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks		
<b>TOTAL</b>			8059					
FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)		29.5		Pdks	2.9	Hill		
FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH April		10.0		Pdks	2.0	Hill		
Kilograms Liveweight/Ha			301					

- April has continued with good autumn growth; particularly in the winter feed crops.
- The scanning results for the cattle were MA cows - 7% dry, R2 heifers - 10% dry. The dry numbers are slightly higher than 2008 reflecting the late, tight spring feed conditions prior to the bull going out and exceptional results last year. Ross and Sally are still pleased with the result and the cows and heifers are in excellent condition. Cull cows have been pulled out and ready for sale. All the cows are currently being Tb tested and will then head back out onto the hill.



The weaner steers averaged 226kgLW and have all been retained. They are grazing autumn saved pasture down the river gorge terraces until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Approximately 60 head of weaner heifers were sold and 72 retained. They are also about to go on to grass on the river flats until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Weaner cattle have been drenched twice with Arrest oral.

- The hinds are on the hill in good condition. Stags to be pulled out of MA hinds on 10/05/09 and spiker stags from the R2 hinds on 15/05/09.
- Hind numbers to be wintered will be slightly back on target – to be discussed at our next field day.
- R1 weaners are all on paddocks getting grain @ 250gms/day. The Wap X weaner stags are on Hunter/Grass and balance of weaners on grass.
- A weaner weight in the next 10 days will indicate autumn growth rates and be used to assess the multi-mineral trial – to be presented at field day.
- Whiterock will head into this winter with lower stock numbers and stock units than the previous 5 years. While some of the drop was due to circumstances outside Ross & Sally's control, a large proportion of the drop is a conscious decision of management to get stock numbers more in line with annual pasture production. Ross & Sally have felt Whiterock has continued to get drier and have paid the price for buying in feed to fill the gaps. The move to drop the ewes and increase hind numbers is to better match seasonal feed supply and demand while increasing the bottom line. We will present the trends in stock numbers, productivity and profitability at our field day on 20<sup>th</sup> May. *See you there!*

## **WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY - PUBLIC FIELD DAY from 12.00pm**

**WHITEROCK STATION, RANGITATA GORGE – ROSS & SALLY STEVENS**  
*4 Wheel Drives Please      BYO Lunch (tea & coffee provided)*

<b>12.00pm</b>	Welcome & Introductions	Nicky Hyslop, Ross & Sally Stevens
<b>12.10pm</b>	<b>Property Tour</b>	
	Deer Policies and Production Moving Forward	
	Parasitology Update	Rob Dunbar (Riverside Veterinary Services)
	Fertiliser Programme	Ants Roberts (Ravensdown) & David Stevens (Invermay)
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Woolshed Presentations: 15 minute tech sessions</b>	
	Profitability Bottom Line	Nicky Hyslop (Macfarlane Rural Business)
	Fertiliser Smart	Ants Roberts (Ravensdown)
	ETS Scheme & Opportunities	David Janett (Forestry Management Ltd)
	Market Update	Alliance Group

**4.30pm** Informal BBQ – meat kindly donated by **Alliance Group Ltd**  
 Refreshments provided by:

**South Canterbury Toyota**



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