

“Making the DIFFerence”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Central Regions Focus Farm

“Sex and Worms” and some other stuff too!

Satellite farm visit: John and Marie Spiers
“Maranoa”, Takapau
Chicory and R2 hind mating

Technical session: Takapau Town Hall

Monitor Farmers: Tim Aitken and Lucy Robertshawe
“The Steyning”

11 August 2009

Principal Local Sponsor:



Programme

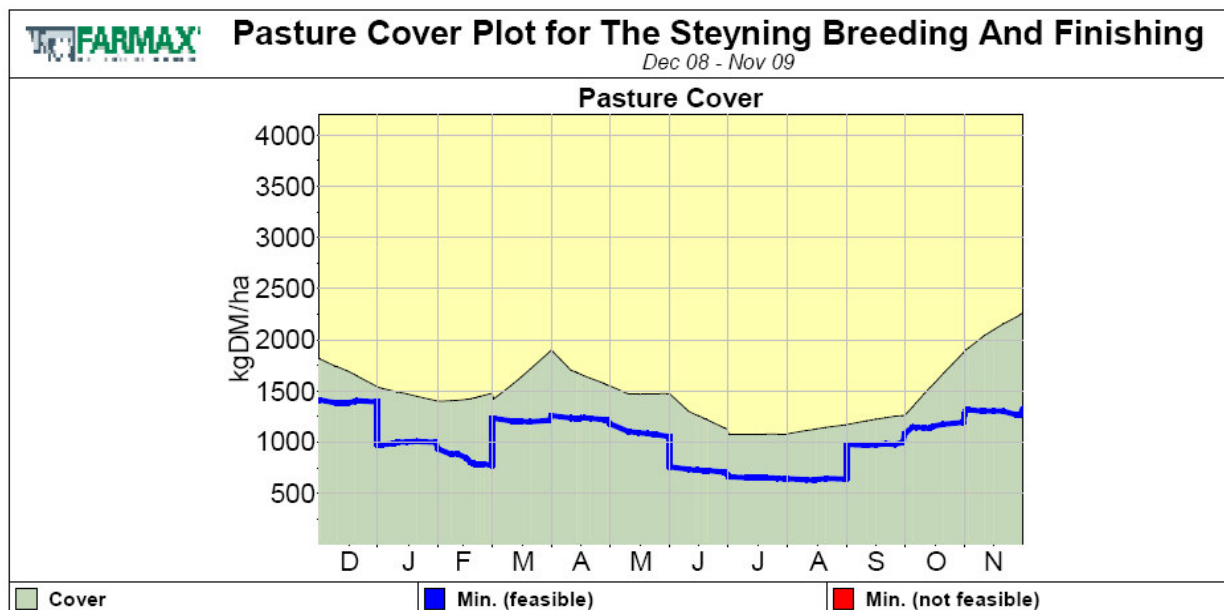
- 10.30am Introduction: Mike Holdaway, Chairman
- Field trip @ Maranoa- chicory for young stock, fencing and sediment traps
- Chicory management in year 2: Dereck Ferguson, Agricom
- Velvet update: Tony Cochrane, PGG Wrightson
- 12.30pm Lunch @ Takapau Town Hall: \$10.00 to Tikokino School for boxed lunch + drink
- 1.30pm Principal Sponsor: Gerard Hickey, Firstlight
- 1.40pm Fodder beet in CHB: Duncan Holden and Dereck Ferguson
- 2.00pm What's been happening: Richard Hilson and Tim Aitken
- 2.20pm Scanning results 2009: Richard Hilson and Tim Aitken
- 3.00pm GHG Project results: Ian Millner, HBRC
- Break
- 3.30pm TB update: Terry Hynes, AHB Regional Coordinator
- 3.45pm Worms galore! : Simone Hoskin and Richard Hilson

Please feel free to ask plenty of questions and participate in discussion.

- 4.30pm Wrap-up and Firstlight product with refreshments – fundraiser for DFA Branch.



Summer 2008/09



Blue line represents the minimum cover required. Green area is the pasture cover

FARMAX Pasture Cover Table for The Steyning Breeding And Finishing
Dec 08 - Nov 09

Date	Cover kgDM/ha			Growth kgDM/ha/d
	Minimum	Forecast	Actual	
Start	1404	1819	1073	
31 Dec	1398		1536	13.3
31 Jan	935		1400	11.8
28 Feb	769		1477	15.2
31 Mar	1259		1900	29.5
30 Apr	1179		1550	4.4
31 May	1058		1473	13.0
30 Jun	684		1127	0.4
31 Jul	643		1080	8.8
31 Aug	643	1171		12.0
30 Sep	1084	1261		18.0
31 Oct	1269	1890		40.0
30 Nov	1324	2258		40.0

Key Points

- Pasture growth rates indicate the volatile weather – dry in Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb then rain in Mar and May followed by cold June
- Proactive Decision making by Tim and Lucy has maintained the cover in good shape and set them up to take advantage of the spring
- Next issue is maintaining quality during the spring!

Deer parasites and their control: – some points to consider.

Dr Simone Hoskin, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, Palmerston North.
S.O.Hoskin@massey.ac.nz

A Massey University survey of anthelmintic (worm drench) use on NZ deer farms found the following (selected points only and S.Hoskin comments in brackets):

- 8% of farmers said they knew deer parasites well, 61% reasonably well, 28% poorly and 3% not at all.
- In the last 12 months, 94% of farmers had drenched deer including weaners, 53% had drenched all stock classes (*! yet drenching adults should rarely be required if nutrition is adequate*) and 22% had drenched weaners only.
- 74% dosed to the heaviest weight but (*only*) 36% used a weigh scale.
- 35% of farmers were concerned about anthelmintic resistance, 2% had evidence of it.
- 27% of farmers thought they had production loss due to parasites, (*whereas it's likely all young growing deer are production-affected*).
- 44% were convinced, 46% were moderately convinced and 7% were not convinced on the monetary return for the cost of anthelmintic. (*Drench usually pays for itself especially in young growing stock, but invest in good nutrition first especially for adults*).
- Farmers thought liveweight gain (LWG) was the most important monitor for weaners (*whew, yes!*), with (*only*) 7% using faecal egg and larval counts. (*Parasite diagnostics in deer are limited and need improvement, but LWG + FEC + FLC are very useful*).
- Many farmers used additional control measures such as crops, alternative forages (*chicory specifically mentioned, which is proven to reduce parasitism*), paddock spelling etc for weaners. (*great, but no idea of success of this without monitoring*).
- The most commonly used drench was Moxidectin (45%), with approx 80% or more using pour-ons. 1% used Levamisole (*which is not effective against lungworm!*). Drench selection was largely based on perceived (?) efficacy. (*Not sure how efficacy assessed?*)
- The time that weaners were weaned (Feb-Dec) and received their first drench (Jan-Dec) varied widely (!). The number of treatments given to weaners in their first year varied widely although most treatments were given in autumn (*when deer are at most risk of parasitism, so this is expected. Deer also develop immunity to parasites with age, so although weaners may need treating in spring, it's less likely. Immunity is related to nutrition*).
- 13-14% of farms had clinical signs of parasitism (coughing and/or diarrhoea), 5% had deaths from lungworm, 3% had deaths from gutworms, with the majority of diagnoses made by farmers not vets. (*no idea how accurately these diagnoses are, although its easy to see adult lungworm if you cut open the airways in the lungs*).
- **In summary: deer drenching policies are (*incredibly*) highly variable and seem based largely on subjective evidence (*could be markedly improved*). (*Many aspects of the current use of drenches for deer are likely to encourage the development of drench resistance...*)**

Massey University tested the efficacy of pour-on Moxidectin, pour-on Ivermectin and oral Ivermectin in weaners on the Massey deer research unit. All drenches achieved 99.98% or better kill of lungworm and large intestinal worms, but efficacy against abomasal parasites was variable and as low as 12% for oral ivermectin. This research was based on worm counts; faecal egg and larval count reduction tests seem less reliable in deer than other species. This is the first research report of drenches failing in deer.

Anecdotal evidence for drench resistance in deer parasites on-farm is growing, mostly with gutworms, but there appear to be some cases of lungworm resistance. Drench resistance is a huge risk for the deer industry; there are less drench options for deer and lungworm is highly pathogenic. Gastro-intestinal parasitism seems to be a growing problem in deer.

The sheep and cattle industries are being much more pro-active about addressing drench resistance – the deer industry must follow suit! You can make a difference. Think before you drench. Consult your vet. Test the drenches you use on your deer. Beware of buying in drench resistance or selling it to someone else.

Tim Aitken and Lucy Robertshawe, The Steyning, August 2009 Field Day

Pete Swinburn, Farmax

How did the summer go?

- Downside due to drought was minimised
- Profit for 2009/10 year was protected

What effect did the dry have?

- Actual Pasture growth rates were 42% of budgeted growth rates November to March

Month	Actual	Budget	% below budget
November	27	40	33%
December	13	35	63%
January	12	25	52%
February	15	20	25%
March	15	25	40%

What Did Tim and Lucy do?

- Set decision dates and actions then acted on them...
 - Monitored pastures and made decisions every two weeks
 - 300 trade lambs planned for purchase in January were not purchased
 - Weaned all fawns 20 February – **two weeks earlier** than planned
 - 80kg/ha Nitrogen applied in early March
 - 18 month bulls sold **six weeks early** in February rather than in March
 - 4.5 tonnes of Maize fed in April/May/June
 - Hay fed earlier in Mar/Apr/May
 - Began feeding silage **four weeks earlier** in May
- What was the result of these actions?
 - **Earliest hind conception** in HB
 - 98% conception in R2 hinds
 - Weaner stag growth rates of over 150gms during autumn – on target for 60% marketed by 31 October – same as Spring 2008
 - Covers on track to take advantage of spring surplus
 - Able to maintain weaner bull LWG at 0.6-0.7kg/hd/day during autumn

- Yearling stag slaughter weights – bottom 25% killed in Feb/Mar at 60kgCW
- Spare yearling hinds sold at 95kgLW in February

What does this mean to Tim and Lucy?

- Downside due to drought was minimised
- Profit for 2009/10 year was protected
- \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Looking forward...

- Plenty of farms are understocked again this year
- Given a normal year there will be plenty of grass – we hope!
- Identify the surplus before it arrives – feed budget
- Objective is to maximise pasture quality without impacting on stock performance. Prevent too much seeding and rank pasture – 1800kg to 2300kgDM /ha objective
- Tools available to deal with a spring surplus...
 - Mechanical and Chemical topping
 - Deferred pasture (hard north faces that have been hammered in past seasons need a break)
 - Supplement – Silage (early) or Hay (later)
 - Spray crop ground early
- Timing is important

Remember, failing to plan is planning to fail

*MWNZ workshops: Masterton/Dvke Tues 18 August & Waipukurau Wed 19 August
(Richmond Beetham 06 3702389)*