

“Making the Difference”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Issue 9
August 2009

Canterbury/North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS

Next Field Day:

NORTHBANK STATION, RAKAIA

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST WEANER FINISHING FIELD DAY from 12.00pm

MONTHLY RAINFALL	Actual	Av.	Last Year	PASTURE COVER	Actual	Last Month
	0	27	31		1,000	1,000
RAINFALL TO DATE	450	447	557	Pasture Growth Paddocks	2	4
STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)		MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS		
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha		
Breeding Hinds	1,020	2.0	2,040	1,000	Set stock on hill, grain feed to one mob	
R2 Hinds	240	2.0	480	1,100	Winter feed baleage	
R1 Hinds (Red)	270	1.5	405	1,100	Winter feed silage	
Sire Stags	30	3.0	90	1,100	Baleage	
Old Ewes	1,526	1.4	2,136	1,400	Greenfeed cereal baleage	
MA Ewes	6,789	1.4	9,505	1,000	Greenfeed silage grain	
2th Ewes	2,767	1.5	4,151	1,500	Greenfeed silage grain	
Ewe Hoggets	2,832	1.2	3,422	1,200	Winter feed	
Rams	100	1.0	100	1,200	Grass baleage	
MA Cows	718	8.0	5,744	1,200	On mountain	
R3 Heifers	257	8.0	2,056	1,000	Feed silage	
R2 Heifers	280	7.0	1,960	1,200	On grass	
R2 Steers	201	7.5	1,507		Winter feed	
R1 Heifer	385	6.0	2,310		Winter feed	
R1 Steer	385	6.0	2,310		Winter feed	
Sire Bulls	30	10.0	300		Baleage and grass	
Stud Cows	55	10.0	550		Baleage and grass	
Replacement Heifers	49	7.0	345		Baleage and grass	
18 month Bull	24	10.0	240		Baleage and grass	
TOTAL Demand (kgDM/day)			39,649			
Feed Demand (kgDM/ha/day)			7.2			
Forecast Pasture Growth (kgDM/ha/day)			3.0			

With the dry winter really starting to take its toll and no sign of rain, spring growth is at least a good month off. Pasture covers are still non existent and some more decisions to de stock had to be made with 140 R2 steers being shipped out a month early to the finishing farm.



Hind condition on the hill is holding well. However, given the dry conditions a decision has been made to feed grain to 2nd calvers on the airstrip and 3rd and 4th calvers in swamp. Next week if ground conditions remain the same, a third mob will be fed to maintain current hind condition. About 400 grams of barley per head is being fed out every second day.

R2 hinds and yearlings are working through their winter feed crops on the bottom deer farm. The R1 on turnips and R2's just about finished the 4ha of winter rape. 7ha of winterfeed rape still remains. Some cattle may be brought in to help clean this up.

Sheep scanning was on par with last year with dry numbers well back which was pleasing given the dry autumn. Early lambers are still together and being fed green feed cereal silage (tested well) and some grain. Twinning ewes from the main mob have been separated and are on green feed and turnips out on the new development. Singles on silage.

Feed for cows post calving is of a concern. Main mob of cows are up on the mountain but a decision has been made to feed out a silage bunker out on the flats that has been there for 5 years to the second calvers due to current dry conditions.

Focus going forward

- Continue to monitor feed supply and demand. Make decisions early. An extra 20 ton of barley will be purchased given current price.
- Next week is a big deer week. All hinds will be TB tested and scanned. Dries will be sold. R2 hinds Johne's blooded for the second time, copper and Selenium levels will be checked.
- Cattle (100hd) to be introduced into hill deer block to tidy up some of the rougher areas.
- Fence lines laid out and prepared for fencing of new deer block. Hydes (240ha) to be finished by December.
- Review of winter feed and new grass areas and programme

**Joint community day between
South Canterbury/North Otago and Canterbury/North Canterbury
Deer Industry Focus Farm Group**

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST WINTER FIELD DAY from 12.00pm

make sure you have an early BYO lunch prior to start

NORTH BANK STATION RAKAIA

*Bus Transport provided from Dunsandel Hall and Mountain River (small charge) subject to numbers
RSVP BY 20th August 0300 8099*

12.00pm

Property Tour

Key Supply Focus for Northbank
- Weaner Targets
- Feeding Systems
Weaner Finishing Performance
Nutrition & Weaner Performance
Northbank & Focus Farms Performance
Andrew Maw, Nutritionalist, PGG Wrightson

3.00pm

Dunsandel Hall Presentation

Farming Profitably under a National Government
Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture
Gross Margins on Finishing Country
Consumer Demand for Venison
Nicky Hyslop, Macfarlane Rural Business
Graham Brown, Chef, Cervena

4.30pm

Informal BBQ –kindly provided by Mountain River Processors
Refreshments provided by: Canterbury, South Canterbury and North Otago DFA Branches

Peter Bradley, Facilitator, Macfarlane Rural Business, 0276491107, peter@mrp.co.nz

