

“Making the DIFFerence”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Issue 20
August 2010

South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION

Field Days coming up:

20TH AUGUST COMBINED FOCUS FARM FIELD DAY
RADFIELD FARM – DAVID & HILARY WARD
 SEE DETAILS AT END OF NEWSLETTER

FINAL PUBLIC FIELD DAY
WHITEROCK STATION: NOVEMBER 3rd 2010 11.00AM

June/July:

	Actual	Av.	Last Year		Actual	Last Month	Last Year		
MONTHLY RAINFALL July	31	48	92	PASTURE COVER	1100	1100	1100		
RAINFALL TO DATE	521	405	505	PASTURE GROWTH	0	0	0		
Jun/July 10	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)			MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS		STOCK WEIGHTS	
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha			Weight kgLW	LWG
IC Hinds MA	956	2	1943	1200	3.5	98.5% Scanning- Waps & Reds same			
IC Hinds Purchased	40	2	1484	1200	3.5	Purchased prior to mating. Scanned 100%			
IC R2 Hinds	243	2	910	1200	3.5	95% Scanning R2			
Total IC Hinds	1239								
Cull/Dry MA & R2	70								
Red Weaner Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Grass/Balage			
Red Weaner Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Kale + Peavine			
Wap X Wnr Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Fodder Beet + Balage		90	135
Wap X Wnr Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Kale + Peavine			
Sire Stags	40	4	176	1200	3.5	Purchased 4 high EBV English Stags			
MA Cows	299	8	3024	1500	5	On hill			
R1 Heifers	66	5	720	1200	3.5	On River Gorge Terrace On Grass			
R1 Steers	138	6	170	1000	2.5	Kale + Straw			
R2 Steer									
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks			
TOTAL			10455						
FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)			8.0						
FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH			0.0						

- Whiterock still has it's typical mid winter “frost brown” look but the longer days certainly mean we are on the right side.
- Feed position is good and stock are in excellent order. Half the breeding hinds are on the sunny gorge face looking very content – the balance is on the front hill country getting some balage. The scanning result is the telling event of the year on Whiterock and it is another very pleasing result. The MA Hinds scanned 98.5% (hinds to Waps/Reds the same) – the R2 hinds scanned 95% with no culling prior to stag going out – a very good result.

- Ross & Sally have purchased 40 in-fawn hinds (scanned 100%) to bring total hinds in calf to 1239. This is in line with our numbers with the expanded area in deer fence.
- The weaners have done really well. There are 120hd prime ready to go and have been doing 135gms/day since 10th May. With the feed budget looking comfortable Ross & Sally are waiting for a lift in schedule before sending these stags down the road. The higher number of weaners ready to go (120hd cf to 90hd last year) is more a reflection of good autumn growth rates which meant the weaners were 5-7kg ahead of last year heading into winter. Growth rates for the Wap X stags have actually been slightly lower compared to 2009.
- The weaner cattle are looking in really good condition (no weights at moment) – particularly the heifers which have been shuffle grazed around the paddocks on the sunny gorge and are now on Rape/Grass. The weaner steers are on Kale/Straw on River Flats.
- Ross is currently planning his Ag program for next year – he is still keen to continue with the Fodder Beet given that for the same c/kgDM cost of growing the crop he still gets a higher yield and therefore requires less area out – this creates more grass in the spring.
- The financial results for 2010 for Whiterock show another positive year. Gross Farm Income came out at \$87/su with deer contributing \$101/su and beef \$63/su. Farm working expenses have remained well under 50%.

Actual 2010	Opening SU	Closing SU	% Change
Beef	2568	2593	1.0%
Deer	3592	4111	14.4%
Sheep	66		-100.0%
	6226	6704	7.7%
Gross Farm Income		\$542,938	\$87.20
Farm Working Expenses		\$241,737	\$38.83
E.B.I.T.*		\$301,201	\$48.38
Wages of Management		\$55,000	
ECONOMIC FARM SURPLUS		\$246,201	\$39.54

20TH AUGUST COMBINED FOCUS FARM FIELD DAY **RADFIELD FARM – DAVID & HILARY WARD**

Start **12pm sharp** – meet at **Fairton Hall**, signposted from SHW 1, 5 minutes north of **Ashburton**

- 12.00pm** Welcome & Introductions Nicky Hyslop & Peter Bradley, David & Hilary Ward
- 12.10pm** **Property Tour**
Integration of Venison, Cropping, Lamb Finishing David Ward
Intensive Land Use & Gross Margins Nicky Hyslop
- 3.00pm** **Fairton Hall “The Future of Venison Finishing”**
Two strong debating teams chaired by Tony Pearse, DINZ
“Finishing Venison in the Foothills or on the Plains”
- 5.00pm** **Social Hour:** Venison & Refreshments

“THE GREAT DEBATE”

Facilitator: Nicky Hyslop, Macfarlane Rural Business, 027474 4149, nicky@mrbusiness.co.nz

