

Deer important animal in Oriental medicine

^{13/5/89}
The deer is the most important medicinal animal in Oriental medicine, Dr Peter Yoon told deer farmers at the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association conference in Invercargill yesterday.

Dr Yoon is fully qualified in both Western and Oriental medicine. He is the fifth generation of his family to practice medicine and uses deer velvet and other deer products and herbal medicines widely in his Choon Won Dang clinic in Seoul, South Korea.

The Chinese spotted deer had been recognized more than 2000 years ago as a lucky animal that could bring health and longevity, he said.

The first mention of deer horn having medicinal value was documented on a silk scroll excavated from the Han tomb in China. The scroll, which dated back to the Han dynasty of 202BC to 200AD, documented medicinal treatments and prescriptions for 42 diseases.

More systematic records of the medicinal virtues of deer parts were published 1800 years ago, he said.

In the 18th century, the number of parts from a deer ascribed with medicinal value increased to 25.

"These wide array of deer parts which are used for health makes deer the most important medicinal animal in Oriental medicine," Dr Yoon said.

Deer parts are mostly consumed in the spring and autumn and are often processed in private homes, where they are served as a soup.

Dr Yoon said there was no blanket treatment of disease using deer velvet. Each person was individually assessed and individual prescriptions administered.

Because velvet could have side-effects on some people, it was usually prescribed with a balanced mix of herbs.

It was common practice among Korean mothers to give children over one year of age velvet tonics for general growth development and health.

Dr Yoon said he also used velvet in the form of an injection, together with acupuncture.

"Taking deer velvet costs a lot but injecting velvet extract is very cheap and the clinical effect is strong and speedy and it has no side effects."

Dr Yoon outlined some of the research work being done in Korea to scientifically prove the medicinal value of velvet and comparing the properties of velvet sourced from different countries.

New Zealand velvet, he said, came out favourably when compared with velvet from the Soviet Union, China and Alaska.

In answer to questions from a panel at the end of his address, Dr Yoon said the prescriptions or packages prescribed by Korean doctors were often made up by the patients in their own homes.

More than 2000 medicinal plants were recorded in Korean medical texts but only 150 were used in prescriptions with deer velvet in his clinic.

Dr Yoon said small daily doses of velvet could be beneficial for general well-being and he was curious that New Zealand people did not take it.

"Deer velvet is the most effective medicine for treating chronic disease and maintaining health and the consumption of velvet antler will be increased with the high growth of the Korean economy," Dr Yoon said.



The guest speaker at yesterday's session of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association's conference in Invercargill was Dr Peter Yoon, from Seoul, South Korea. Here, he uses a "stick" of antler velvet to demonstrate a point on quality and size preferred in Korea.

Reclassifying deer could annihilate industry

^{13/5/89}
To allow the meat industry to process venison could be "financially disastrous," according to the president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, Mr James Guild.

Such a move is proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries economics division in a review of the Meat Act.

In a hard-hitting speech on the issue, prepared for delivery at today's conference and released to the media last night, Mr Guild said to include venison with meat production, as suggested by the MAF, would spell disaster for the deer industry.

"This association has sought to separate itself from the traditional meat industry because of the attitudes and inefficiencies so prevalent there."

Mr Guild said the "game" classification had allowed

New Zealand to create a unique new product — farm-raised venison.

Venison production at present equated to less than 1 percent of New Zealand's beef production, he said.

That highlighted two important points.

"If all the deer in New Zealand were sent down beef slaughter chains instead of through deer slaughter plants, an increase in 1 percent in throughput will hardly solve the problems of under-utilization in the meat industry.

"On the other hand, it demonstrates how easily the meat industry could overwhelm the deer industry by buying market share with an unrealistically high schedule until deer slaughter plants collapse."

Mr Guild said that in spite of MAF assurances of consultation, he had information that a "tentative conclusion" had already been reached.

Should venison be redefined as meat it would

become subject to the same quotas and tariffs as lamb and beef in overseas markets, Mr Guild said.

He estimated such an event could reduce current venison schedules by \$1 a kilogram, resulting in a loss of about \$4 million to producers in the first year.

The NZDFA council viewed the MAF proposal "quite simply as a matter of survival," Mr Guild said.

There were also other ramifications, apart from the possible imposition of trade barriers.

"If no game is produced there is no justification for a Game Industry Board and if venison is just another meat product why should deer farmers be represented by any organization other than the Meat Board or the meat and wool section of Federated Farmers.

"Effectively, the industry structure as we now know it would cease to exist — no deer slaughtering premises, no Game Industry Association, no Game Industry Board and no New Zealand Deer Farmers Association."

Mr Guild said the whole matter had been devised by MAF Economics and while MAFQual had recognized the validity of deer farmers' arguments, it was under "severe pressure from the Meat Industry Association, the Meat Producers Board, the Abattoirs Association and MAF Economics to promote a change."

Should deer be reclassified as stock as opposed to game and venison as meat the total deer industry would be handed to the meat industry on a plate, Mr Guild said.

"Reclassifying deer from game to stock has the potential to annihilate our industry."

Magazine editor ^{15/5/89} Deer Farmer of Year

The New Zealand Deer Farmer of the Year Award was presented to the editor of "The Deer Farmer" magazine, Mr Trevor Walton, at the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association conference on Friday night.

The association's president, Mr James Guild, in his presidential address told the association's annual meeting that "all the people involved (in the maga-

zine) deserve congratulations for continuing to produce an industry publication we can be proud of."

The inaugural Kevin Kelly Memorial Trophy, sponsored by Game Foods New Zealand Ltd, of Kennington, for the Southland person or group that has made the most significant contribution to deer farming in Southland, was awarded to Mr Peter Ryan, of Bayswater.

Long-awaited Deer Mark launched in city

13/5/89

The long-awaited deer industry quality assurance mark — the Deer Mark — was revealed to delegates at the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association annual conference in Invercargill yesterday.

The Game Industry Board had originally come up with the concept of an industry brand or trade mark, the board's general manager, Mr Mike Pattison, told nearly 500 delegates at the Ascot Park Hotel.

"That brand encapsulated some of the special attributes of New Zealand farm-raised venison," he said.

At first, the idea of an industry brand had not found favour with exporters, distributors and some marketing people.

The main problem was the need for their product to be individually recognized from that of their competitors, he said.

"However," he said, "they could see potential in an umbrella image for the industry's products."

A brief was subsequently prepared for the design of a deer industry mark, akin to the now world-recognized Woolmark.

The GIB's brief included the incorporation of the words "New Zealand" and "venison" with, but not necessarily inside, the mark design.

A stylized deer head or antler was also to be used rather than an actual representation of a deer head or animal.

This was to avoid the sensitivity of consumers in the US and Japan to seeing the animal whose products they were consuming on the product package, Mr Pattison said.

The mark was also to be seen as complementary to the brand of individual exporters and not in competition with them.

After 18 months and more than 20 submitted



This is the New Zealand Game Industry Board's symbol of quality, the Deer Mark, which was unveiled at the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association conference in Invercargill yesterday. The stylized deer antler is contained within a V (standing for venison and velvet), surrounded by a stylized NZ. The colours are red white and blue. The Deer Mark will be granted to exporters of New Zealand deer products who abide by a set of stringent rules on its use and the quality standards of their products.

designs, the final industry quality assurance Deer Mark was presented to the conference yesterday.

It would become a marketing tool to "maximize the long-term returns to the industry," Mr Pattison said.

"The objective is to provide a consistent guarantee in the industry's markets that product bearing the mark comes from New Zealand deer, meets

a set of identified quality standards, and that the product is being offered by proven exporters."

The Game Industry Board had formulated a set of rules and standards and all exporters wishing to use the Deer Mark would have to comply with them, he said.

The Deer Mark would not be allowed to appear on inferior or cut-price products.

Mr Pattison said the right to use the Deer Mark would be withdrawn by the GIB where an exporter failed to comply with the rules for its use, misused the right to use it, refused to allow the board to conduct an audit of its use and marketing strategies, or acted in such a way that would impact adversely on the reputation of New Zealand venison.

Controversy
over use
of levies
15/5/89
finally
resolved

The controversy that has surrounded the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association's use of farmers' levies to become involved in a national deer processing and marketing joint venture, was finally resolved at the association's annual meeting on Saturday.

The Fiordland branch, which has been the most vehemently opposed to the joint venture, sponsored a remit that the NZDFA rid itself of all commercial involvement in the processing and marketing of deer products.

Mr Owen Buckingham said his branch was against the structure of the venture — which has involved the formation of a new company, Venison New Zealand — being used to achieve producer involvement in processing and marketing.

Politics and commerce did not mix, he said.

The joint venture and the way it had come into existence had created conflict for both the organization and for the members within it, he said.

"The intentions may be good, but it may not work out that way."

Mr Buckingham raised the possibility that the NZDFA was moving towards a single desk seller, a suggestion strongly refuted by council members.

Earlier in the day, Sir Peter Elworthy and Mr Tim Wallis, of Wanaka, told delegates they should put the issue behind them and look positively towards the future. Cooperation and trust were needed from now on.

After prolonged discussion the remit was lost on a card vote.

Animal Health REPORT



Downgrading and rejection of stock at freezing works contributes to a significant loss of hardwon income for farmers.

From the first lambs submitted for slaughter to the end of the season, many farmers in this region will have cause to ponder low returns from what appeared to be first rate lines of lambs.

Much of this loss is due to "yellow fat" in lambs. The loss to producers in the Otago-Southland region from this condition alone is estimated to be almost \$300,000 annually with the national total probably well in excess of \$1 million — not a small problem in anyone's language when considering the financial stress currently being endured by the rural community.

The condition was first scientifically documented by British and Icelandic workers in the early 1930s who correctly recognized the condition as a genetically induced inability to deal with a specific group of coloured plant chemicals called chromogens.

They postulated that certain sheep lacked an important enzyme system in the gut, which converts these chromogens to carotene and then to vitamin A.

The offending chromogens are a chemically distinct group of carotenoids known as xanthophylls which in their unaltered state have no nutritive value and must be enzymatically converted to rejoin the vitamin A pathway.

There are in excess of 400 carotenoids known to science widely distributed in nature. They enrich our diet and add colour to our world. Their presence is seen in the plumage of birds the flesh of green and red peppers, the yolk of eggs and the brilliant orange of the millions of krill washed up on our beaches.

The attractive flesh, often a deep pink to red, of the Mahinerangi trout is attributed to a diet of freshwater crayfish whose shell contains significant amounts of the carotenoid, astaxanthin.

Responsible

The pasture species ingested by livestock contain considerable amounts of carotenoid, especially the xanthophylls (lutein, zeaxanthin and auroxanthin), and these are directly responsible for the yellow fat condition.

In the normal animal these chromogens are efficiently broken down and the meat passes the meat graders' criteria for fat colour with ease.

Sheep with "yellow fat" have a genetic fault which results in xanthophylls being directly absorbed through the gut wall without modification. The chromogen then enters the bloodstream and is deposited in the depot fat. The severity of the condition governs the intensity of colour in the fat after slaughter.

The yellow fat problem is one of perception. People expect sheep fat to be white and market resistance has developed against a yellow product.

Americans had a problem with "yellow-fatted" broilers — they were suc-

cessfully remarketed as "Sunkissed Chicken."

Nontoxic

The chromogens contained in the fat of affected sheep meat are naturally occurring nontoxic compounds eaten daily by the consumer in spinach, silverbeet, broccoli and eggs. The flavour change of the meat is almost imperceptible and would not be noticed by the consumer.

Expert panelists, picked for their taste acuity and tested under controlled scientific conditions, can detect a flavour difference over white fatted sheep meat.

The condition occurs in sheep in the Scandinavian countries and to a lesser extent the British Isles, as well as New Zealand.

Its origins are thought to be from primitive breeds of sheep from Nordic countries. It was introduced to Britain by Norse invaders in the latter stages of the first millennium AD via the Cheviot breed and now affects breeds linked to the

Cheviot.

In Scandinavia the Finnross and the Steigar are two sheep breeds which exhibit a significant problem.

At what point does yellow fat become a problem is an emotive question and can really only be answered by the individual producer when considering profit and loss.

For research purposes we consider that if a property consistently has kill lines with a three per cent or greater incidence then it has a significant problem.

Programme

At present, workers at the Invermay Animal Health Laboratory and the Biochemistry Department of the University of Otago are developing a programme to elucidate the genetic-biochemical complexities of the condition with a view to producing a sophisticated test to detect both carrier and affected animals.

Currently Invermay Animal Health Laboratory offers a blood test which can identify affected sheep.

Work done in Northland and by MAF staff shown that this test has been successful in redu-

cing the incidence of yellow fat on a number of properties.

It must be noted that this test will detect affected sheep only, that is sheep with elevated blood xanthophyll levels. It will not detect carrier animals, those sheep with low serum chromogen levels but with the ability to produce yellow fat progeny. The technology for identifying these animals will not be available for this season at least.

Rams can be tested by firstly consulting your veterinarian. He or she will take blood samples from stock which have been yarded overnight. They will be sent to the Invermay Animal Health Laboratory for analysis and results will be available within days.

The veterinarian will interpret the results and assist you to make a decision on which rams to cull and which to keep for breeding.

Deer farmers 15/5/89 harden resolve

The resolve of deer farmers to oppose changes to the Meat Act that would allow meat export companies to process deer, was hardened following debate at the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association conference in Invercargill on Saturday.

The debate was sparked off by a remit from the association's Southland branch that the association should totally reject any such moves on the grounds that they could be detrimental to the "game" status of New Zealand farm-reared venison and to the returns to producers.

Before the debate, association president James Guild delivered a straight-from-the-shoulder speech, highly critical of the submissions made by MAF recommending changes to the Meat Act.

The Southland Times carried an edited report of that address on May 13.

Conference delegates expressed total support for his firm stand.

In answer to a question, Mr Guild said the National Party had given strong support to the stance the NZDFA had taken.

The chief executive of the Alliance Group, Mr Sandy Murdoch, said attending the conference had given him a better understanding of deer farmers' concerns.

However, he was still unclear about the validity of their argument that reclassifying deer as stock and allowing deer to be processed in export meat plants, as well as specialist deer slaughter premises, would harm the deer industry.

Deer farmers' concerns centre on the past poor performance of the meat industry, the possible imposition of trade barriers in overseas markets should the "game" status be lost, and the demise of the present structure of the deer industry.

Mr Murdoch told the conference the Alliance was a food factory with facilities and marketing expertise that no deer slaughter plant could match.

He considered the perceived trade barrier problems were not as great as deer farmers believed.

Mr Murdoch assured delegates the meat industry believed the deer industry had a structure worth protecting and would not in any way seek to fracture or fragment it or interfere in the functions of either the Game Industry Board or the NZDFA.

However, his views were not shared by delegates, many of whom indicted the meat industry for its poor economic, labour and public relations performance of recent years and for its inefficiencies and reducing returns to sheep farmers.

Mr Ken Armstrong, an economist with MAFCorp's policy services division, who gave the MAF side of the

argument, did little to allay delegates' concerns.

The Ministry did not have a view on the issue of whether deer as "game" should be reclassified as "stock" he said. What MAF was trying to do was to establish a view as to whether there should be a distinction between deer slaughter plants and export meat works.

In spite of any remarks to the contrary, MAF had tried to consult interested parties he said.

The New Zealand embassies in both Bonn and Brussels had been asked for advice of possible trade barriers being thrown up to protect local groups in Europe, and especially West Germany, should deer be reclassified as stock Mr Armstrong said.

At present, because of the game status, venison enjoys an almost free market access to Europe.

Their replies had convinced MAF that the risks associated with changing the status of deer and allowing export meat should deer be reclassified as stock.

That interpretation was later questioned by both Mr Guild and the general manager of the Game Industry Board, Mr Mike Pattison.

Mr Armstrong told delegates that a meeting on Thursday of last week between MAF, meat industry representatives, the GIB and NZDFA had failed to find common ground.

Because of that, MAF now found itself in a difficult position, he said.

The decision had, therefore, been made that the options would be placed before the Minister and it would be left to him to make any final decision on changes.

One delegate reminded Mr Armstrong of a 1989 Situation and Outlook report of the deer industry prepared by MAFCorp's policy services division.

That report indicated one of the strengths of the industry was the game status of New Zealand venison. Threats perceived to the industry included future market access and the potential of European lobby groups to call for protective trade barriers should deer be reclassified from game to stock.

Mr Pattison summed up the lengthy discussion by saying there was always a risk in making change and if there was a risk and there was no reason for change, then why make it.

The remit opposing changes to the Meat Act to allow the export meat industry to process deer was unanimously adopted.

Deer farmers 19/5/89 support new land user group

The New Zealand Deer Farmers Association council's support for the creation of a new land user political lobby group was endorsed at the association's annual conference held in Invercargill last weekend.

In his presidential report, association president, Mr James Guild, said the council had been involved with discussions with Federated Farmers since the middle of last year regarding the formation of a new land user group representative of all primary producers.

"This stemmed from a recognition that as other land uses have evolved, Federated Farmers is not now fully representative of all producers and that to maximise the political strength of land users, a truly representative body acting on behalf of all its constituents must be established," Mr Guild said.

The proposed structure will be at both a regional level, made up of representatives of each product group and at national level by way of a small council to act on behalf of all land users.

While each product group would be free to organize their own activities to serve their own particular members, the overall aim was to have a single pressure group and political lobby group that would act on behalf of all land users, Mr Guild said.

As far as Federated Farmers was concerned its three producer sections of meat and wool, arable and dairying would continue to function as separate and autonomous groups, in the same way as the NZDFA, fruitgrowers, pork producers and so forth, he said.

Pigs threat to 22/5/89 vegetation in national park

Wild pigs illegally liberated in the Upper Clutha Basin and around Lake Wanaka may soon pose a threat to vegetation in Mount Aspiring National Park and other conservation lands.

Recreational hunters have kept wild pig populations in check in the past but recently pigs have shown up in areas never seen before.

This includes the Wilkin River, which is the national park boundary.

Illegal liberations account for the presence of pigs in these places, DOC senior conservation officer Chris Main said.

"We are trying our best to keep track of and get rid of these pigs," he said.

"They can do a lot of damage to farm properties and they can also be carriers of stock diseases.

It would take a big effort to keep pigs out of the park and other parts of the DOC estate.

Mr Main said the department would like to hear from anyone who saw or had suspicions about wild pigs being liberated in the Wanaka region, especially areas near or within the park.

NZ to host world 19/5/89 deer congress

The New Zealand Deer Farmers Association is to promote a World Deer Congress in New Zealand in the spring of 1991.

Council member, Mr Graham Peacocke, told the association's conference in Invercargill last weekend, that such a congress would serve to cement New Zealand's leadership in deer farming.

The congress, together with feature tours of deer farms in the North and South Islands, would also promote deer farming as a viable pastoral land use, he said.

Deer conference one of the best ever

19/5/89

The 14th annual conference of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, which was held in Invercargill last weekend, was an unquestionable success.

The Southland organizing committee put together a three day programme that prompted several conference-hardened delegates to vote it as one of, if not the best conference for many years.

The conference's workshop sessions with their list of top-line speakers were both well-attended and well-received by delegates.

Being able to attract conference guest speaker, Dr Peter Yoon, from Seoul, South Korea was an undoubted coup for the organizing committee.

Dr Yoon, who is trained in both western and oriental medicine, presented an intriguing insight into oriental medicine and the effective use of deer velvet in the treatment of a wide range of illnesses.

One aspect of the formal conference sessions to impress, was the high standard of debate. Even on issues such as the emotive Meat Act review and the controversial involvement of the NZDFA in Venison New Zealand, the debate was well reasoned with all speakers presenting their points of view clearly and cohesively.

From a struggling journalist's point of view, conferences can and often are events of extreme frustration. Not so the 1989 NZDFA conference.

Some 150 delegates took the opportunity to inspect a large area of the province and its deer farms on pre-conference tours last Wednesday and Thursday.

The condition of the province, the fine weather, the high standard of the stock and the Southland hospitality resulted in highly complimentary comments from many delegates.

Some North Islanders apparently were even moved to question why they continued to live where they did.

Sunday's Mount Linton Station field day, which was attended by "heaps of people," proved to be the conference highlight. It was described by one delegate as "a real mighty day."

Once again Southlanders proved to the rest of the country and even the world — a number of overseas visitors also attended the conference — that the saying coined by a

group of Southland trade exhibitors at the National Fielddays some years ago, that "Southland does it better" was indeed true.

Unfortunately this year's conference could well be the last in its present form.

Council member, Mr Graham Peacocke, told delegates the cost of attending "great and exhilarating" conferences was getting beyond the average deer farmer.

Also, no branch had come forward with an offer to host a conference next year.

The council was therefore considering holding one-day Expo-type events in each island each year from now on he said.

A one day annual general meeting to conduct official business and elect office-bearers would be held in Wellington.

It would be a pity if "great and exhilarating" conferences were to become but a memory.

A view shared by many of the 500 or so delegates.

John Cutt
Agricultural Editor



15/5/89

'Crumpy' on hand to welcome deer farmer delegates

Barry Crump, or "Crumpy" to those who watch his television commercials, welcomed about 450 delegates, including people from Australia, America and Switzerland, to "Rock Hut," the musterers back hut at Mount Linton station during the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association conference field day at the weekend.

Helicopters, buses and a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles took visitors to the hut, where they were welcomed by the skirl of bagpipes and were invited to sample whisky and oysters in the fresh hillcountry air.

Spokesmen for the conference organizing committee, Mr John Cowie and Mr Harold Robinson, said the conference, held at the weekend at the Ascot Park Motor Hotel in Invercargill, had been successful and the field day was an excellent way to conclude the activities.

© Conference report, Page 7

New Zealand folk hero Barry Crump at Mount Linton Station yesterday.

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17/6/89

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Stock to be tested for Tb

21/6/89

(PA) ASHBURTON
All deer and cattle herds surrounding Mesopotamia Station, at the head of the Rangitata Gorge, are being tested for bovine tuberculosis, following a major outbreak of the disease on the station.

Mesopotamia was accredited Tb free when it was last tested two years ago, and so far the cause of the outbreak remains a mystery.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries veterinary staff officer Geoff Allen said all the deer on the station have been tested and the reactors (those animals that react positively to the test) have been destroyed. The cattle have also been tested and reactors have been destroyed.

Farmers giving good support to deer slaughtering plant

Southern deer farmers appear to be giving good support to Venison New Zealand's Mossburn deer slaughter plant.

The plant has been the subject of considerable controversy in recent months since it was announced it would be part of the sale of Challenge Deer's operations to a

New Zealand Deer Farmer Association-Venison New Zealand-Challenge consortium.

A Southland director of Venison New Zealand, Mr Peter Ryan, said yesterday

the plant was running "extremely well."

The company's schedule for animals in the 50.5kg to 100kg weight range was increased this week to \$7 a kilogram.

Mr Ryan said the lift in the company's payout fully reflected the market conditions and looked set to stay in place for "quite a period."

Mr Ryan said the directors were pleased at the level of support Southland deer farmers had given the Mossburn plant which had not killed less than 200 animals a day since its sale to Venison New Zealand in early April.

"One week the kill was 505 farmed deer," he added.

"The feral kill has also been considerably ahead of budget with 157 killed in one week.

"It's very encouraging."

Mr Ryan said all indications pointed to venison New Zealand having one of its better trading years.

"Mossburn has played a significant part in that performance in the past

three months and will continue to do so."

Mr Ryan said the overall prospects for venison looked promising, with market demand, especially in West Germany, greater than supply.

However, the effect the recent upheavals in China would have on the world market for byproducts and velvet was an unknown factor at this stage.

Deer industry 'wrong' to want separate slaughterhouses

(PA) WELLINGTON Meat Industry Association executive director Peter Blomfield says the deer industry is wrong to try maintaining separate slaughterhouses for deer.

Deer industry spokesmen have expressed concern in recent weeks over proposed changes to the Meat Act that would allow venison to be slaughtered in ordinary slaughterhouses.

Deer are classified as game and must be slaughtered in separate premises.

Mr Blomfield said he was disappointed at the National Party's decision to oppose the change.

"Claims that preferential tariffs in Germany would be at risk from slaughtering deer and stock in the

same premises are without foundation," Mr Blomfield said.

"Venison is already packed in the same premises as other animals and there are no physical or hygiene reasons against slaughtering venison on beef lines," he said.

Beef killing chains would have no difficulty at all in killing deer, he said.

"Deer processors and operators have an unnecessary fear of the meat industry," Mr Blomfield said.

"There is no plan in the meat

industry to crush the existing game industry."

The meat industry simply sought to compete fairly for deer slaughtering to give deer farmers a choice, he said.

The association expected the Government to amend the legislation to allow deer to be slaughtered along with beef, Mr Blomfield said.

Ministry of Agriculture acting director general Royce Elliott said the venison industry's concerns were misplaced.

Deerstalkers push for wapiti area promotion

The wapiti area of the Fiordland National Park should be vigorously promoted as a tourist attraction, according to the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

Its views were submitted to a hearing on the draft management plan for the Fiordland National Park in Te Anau this week.

The association believed the wapiti were already established in the park and could not be eradicated.

The animals could be kept at levels "which are compatible with good forest health" and used as a tourist attraction, it said.

It disagreed that the plants in the park had evolved "in the absence of browsing animals" and said the park must have adapted to the moa.

A submission by Mr Les Henderson, however, said that browsing animals were a severe threat to the park.

He said that compared with the natural values represented in the park, shooting pleasure was relatively unimportant.

Commercial guides should not be allowed into the park, according to the association.

It believed some guides were flying in top quality wapiti, so their clients could be photographed taking them in the wild.

It said these allegations were so serious they must be looked into.

VENISON SCHEDULE

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AD	1 Damaged Primal		\$2.40
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6285

Tb outbreak sparks local response

The aftermath of the Tb outbreak in farmed deer on Canterbury's Mesopotamia Station had produced a lot of emotive statements and over-reaction, the chairman of the Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, Mr David Stevens said.

Mesopotamia Station at the head of the Rakaia Gorge, had been recognised as a Tb-free area and had been in the NZDFA-MAF voluntary Tb accreditation scheme since 1985.

Since the outbreak back in May, the scheme and MAFQual which administers it, have come in for considerable criticism from a number of quarters.

One of the main criticisms is the slow progress being made towards compulsory testing.

Regulations governing compulsory testing which were originally scheduled for September last year are not expected until later in the year.

The latest issue of the Deer Farmer referred to the Mesopotamia outbreak as a tragedy and a stark reminder of the infectious and deadly nature of the disease.

That the industry still only had a voluntary accreditation scheme was an indictment on the Government for its delay in bringing in legislation for a compulsory scheme, the Deer Farmer said.

Outspoken criticism following the outbreak was made by the chairman of the South Canterbury Pest Destruction Board, Mr Bill Hart, who, in the Timaru Herald, was quoted as suggesting that deer stalkers should be allowed to shoot deer on farms which had not

carried out any Tb testing.

Mr Stevens said that sort of statement was "ridiculous."

"The accreditation scheme may not be perfect, but it's the best thing we've got."

"Because the Tb test is a biological one there is no guarantee that it will be 100 percent accurate."

Mr Stevens said it had to be accepted that like the Tb cattle scheme there was going to be the odd accredited herd that came up with a problem.

"People shouldn't become complacent and expect that just because herds are accredited that an outbreak won't happen."

He suggested it would be in buyers' own interests, especially new deer farmers, to look closely into the Tb history of the herd they intended buying animals from, especially when buying deer from outside the province.

"What could be a bargain on the day could well turn out to be more than a buyer bargained for and if Tb deer are bought, those buyers are not only putting themselves at risk but also other farmers in their vicinity."

It was unfortunate, Mr Stevens said, that because of the confidential nature of the Tb test scheme results, that MAFQual was unable to give buyers more information on the Tb status of deer herds.

As part of the testing programme, MAQual operates a trace-back system when Tb is discovered.

Mr Stevens said the trace-back system had worked very well in Southland under the direction of Invercargill MAFQual veterinarian, Mr Gavin Struthers.

However, in some other regions the operation of the system has been too slow and because of that may not have worked so well and follow up procedures might not have

been as effective as in Southland.

That Southland had so many deer farmers on the voluntary accreditation scheme was due to the efforts of Mr Struthers and his rapport with local farmers, Mr Stevens said.

The Canterbury outbreak had resulted in a lot of negative comment on the deer industry, Mr Stevens said.

But provided the necessary precautions when farming or trading deer were taken, deer farming still remained one of the more profitable livestock operations, with forecasts of \$300 a kilogram for velvet and \$7 a kilogram for venison in the coming season.

Deer farmers will have a further opportunity to debate the Tb issue and to hear a hard-hitting address on the subject from Mr Peter Nelson of the Agricultural Pests Destruction Council, at the Southland branch annual general meeting on August 2.

Velvet pool formed

6/7/89 Southland Times

A new velvet pool for South Island deer farmers was unveiled yesterday.

Called Velpool, it is a company formed by Christchurch-based Pyne Gould Guinness Ltd, Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd and Reid Farmers Ltd, Dunedin.

The general manager of Pyne Gould Guinness, Mr Denis Hazlett, said the main benefit of the Christchurch operation to clients would be the full exposure of their product to 15 to 18 buyers who would tender on a competitive basis for each grade.

"It is a proven method of selling velvet which should enhance the growers' opportunity to get the best prices available and we are confident of widespread client support."

Velpool intends to set up receiving depots throughout the South Island.

The managing consultant to the new enterprise is Mr David Ward, a deer specialist based in the Hawkes Bay.

Grading and pooling activities in Christchurch will be managed by Mr Geoff Bruhns, deer representative with Pyne Gould Guinness.

The Southland connection will be controlled by the deer manager for the Southland Farmers Co-op, Mr Geoff Erskine, and the Otago operation will be controlled by Mr Roger Keach, deer and stud stock representative with Reid Farmers Ltd.

Five pools will be operated during the 1989-90 season, with closing dates on November 30, December 12, January 18, February 15 and February 27.

FORTEX GROUP VENISON

Commencing July 10, 1989

MAIN GRADES		Price/kg
AP1 85.1 kg & over	< GR 14mm	
AP2 65.1 kg - 85.0 kg	< GR 14mm	7.35
AP3 50.1 kg - 65.0 kg	< GR 12mm	7.35
AP4 45.1 kg - 50.0 kg	< GR 12mm	7.35
AP5 < 45.0 kg	< GR 10mm	6.15
AF1 < GR 20mm		5.00
AF2 GR 20.1mm +		3.80
		3.05

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29023

Tb — major problem for New Zealand

4/5/89

By JOHN CUTT Agricultural Editor

Whether people liked it or not, New Zealand had a serious bovine Tb problem, the general manager of the Agricultural Pest Destruction Board Council, Mr Peter Nelson, told Southland deer farmers on Wednesday night.

Tb was first found in feral deer on the West Coast about 1957 he told the annual meeting of the Southland branch of the NZDFA, but then no-one really worried about it.

A few years later the disease was found in possums, which have since been classed as the major carrier of the disease to domestic livestock.

In the North Island, the disease was identified in cattle in the Wairapapa in the early 1970s and near Taupo.

Since then Tb had spread at the rate of about five kilometres a year and was endemic in an area from Wellington as far north as Eketahuna and much of the King Country.

Tb was also now considered endemic on the whole of the South Head Peninsula near Auckland, with smaller and controllable outbreaks occurring in the Bay of Plenty and Wanganui.

"I believe the South Island is now more at risk than the North Island," Mr Nelson said.

Tb has spread north along the West Coast as far as Karamea and from the Clarence River on the East Coast to Hamner and into Marlborough.

The entire McKenzie Country was now considered Tb endemic he said and believed that much of the Central South Island, right to the East Coast should also be considered endemic.

Outbreaks in farm deer herds had recently occurred at Mt Hutt and Mesopotamia Stations.

Mr Nelson said unless the situation was closely monitored and steps taken to prevent its spread, he believed the Tb infected Catlins district could eventually join up with the Central South Island endemic region.

Closer to home, an eradication programme

against possums in the Hokonui Hill in the 1970s had been successful but looked like needed to be done again, he said.

But the shortage of funds to do the work prevented that happening.

An Tb outbreak in deer near Ohai last year resulted in fast action by MAF and the Western Southland Pest Destruction Board to prevent the spread of the disease and to eradicate it.

"The situation is not good," Mr Nelson said, "and the only way we can look to fixing it is to start changing some ideas."

Mr Nelson said that up until the early 1980s Tb eradication programmes against possums had been successful in reducing the number of cattle herds under MAF movement control.

However, the reduction of Government funding for Tb programmes since then had forced a reduction of effort by MAF and pest destruction boards with the result that movement control cattle and deer herd numbers had increased once again.

"At all costs we have to prevent the spread of Tb in New Zealand..... and we should attempt to eradicate Tb in those areas where it may be possible to eradicate."

This would mean management control programme against possums, feral deer and pigs, as well as a change of attitude among farmers and those groups, such as regional authorities, which will control funding after October 1.

NEXT WEEK: Farmer responsibilities and self help possum control.

Ban on dual deer processing

2/5/89

Venison New Zealand Co-operative has started plans for a separate feral deer processing unit at its Mossburn plant to overcome West Germany's refusal to accept farm and feral venison processed at one plant.

Mossburn plant manager Mr Ian Stewart said yesterday the company's board of directors had decided at the weekend to call for a feasibility study on an extension to handle feral animals.

When the advice had been received that the ban was to take effect from August 1, the company had no option but to stop taking feral deer, which made up about one-third of the plant's throughput, he said.

Without the ban, he estimated the Mossburn plant would have processed close to 5000 feral animals by the end of the season in September.

A spokesman for MAFQual's meat division in Wellington said the ban affected only two South Island plants, Mossburn and one at Hokitika.

Up until now, feral and farm deer venison had met the West German separation requirements by killing and processing on separate days.

Although the full reason for the ban was not yet known, MAFQual meat division believed it had been made for public health concerns.

Feral deer, because of the environment they came from and the method of capture, were considered by the West German authorities as being less clean than farmed deer.

By processing both in the same plant, a risk of contamination existed.

MAFQual chief meat veterinary officer Mr Andrew McKenzie has been in Bonn negotiating the matter and is expected back in New Zealand in a fortnight.

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 10/7/89 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

EXPORT SCHEDULE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	GROSS PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+ 70.1kg and over	\$7.00
AP2	-12mm	50.1kg to 70kg	\$6.95
AP3	-10mm	Up to 50kg	\$5.60
AD	1 Damaged Primal		\$2.40
AF1	Overfat	Over 14mm	\$4.20
AF2	Overfat	Over 20mm	\$3.40
AM	2 Damaged Primal		\$1.50
TB			\$2.00

DOMESTIC SCHEDULE

PLG Prime Local Grade \$2.00

8/7/89



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Owen Buckingham, Te Anau/Wakatipu (0229) 7180
Tom May, (021) 367-035
Your Local PPCS Ltd Drafter

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VENISON NEW ZEALAND
MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE

MOSSBURN DSP
WEEK COMMENCING JULY 10

	Price Per kg
APH1 75.1 to 100kg	\$7.30
APM 50.1 to 75kg	\$7.30
APL1 45.1 to 50kg	\$6.30
APL2 35.1 to 45kg	\$5.20
AFH1 GR 15-18mm	\$4.15
AFM GR 13-16mm	\$4.15

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or your local Wrightson representative

9422

German ban on venison 'bombshell'

29/7/89

Venison from processing plants which slaughter both feral and farmed deer will be refused entry into the West German market from August 1.

The ban apparently applies to all plants throughout New Zealand in which feral and farmed deer are processed together for export and will impact especially hard on feral deer operators.

Game Industry Board general manager Mr Mike Pattison said from Wellington last night the effect of the ban would depend on how easily each plant was able to separate feral and farmed venison at each processing stage.

The problem had arisen when the chief meat veterinary officer visited West Germany last week and discovered that New Zealand's strict labelling requirements were not good enough.

The Germans wanted the feral and farmed meat processed on separate premises.

Representatives of the German authorities frequently visited New Zealand plants and provided lists of things they wanted changed, he said.

It was then up to MAFQual to meet their requirements either exactly or with an acceptable equivalent.

Unfortunately, this time MAFQual's equivalent had not been good enough for the German authorities.

The requirements are believed to have been set in February 1987.

Venison New Zealand's Mossburn plant manager, Mr Ian Stewart, said the announcement had come as "a complete bombshell."

"The German authorities are not prepared to give any extension to the deadline," he said.

Even though the ban at this stage applied only to the West German market, it was seen as a major setback for the venison industry, Mr Stewart said.

The Venison New Zealand board of directors is to meet as soon as possible to determine the measures the company can take.

Mr Stewart believed the MAFQual negotiators would be back from West Germany about the middle of next month and the industry would then be able to consider all possible avenues for compromise.

"We believe the MAF and the Game Industry Board are doing everything they can to resolve the situation.

"In the meantime, Venison New Zealand will be giving every assistance to feral operators."

Mr Pattison said he thought plant owners should not start making definite plans until the MAFQual officers returned with more information.

Royalty at Royal Show

Southland deer farmers achieve major coup

4/8/89

Southland branch of the NZDFA has secured a major coup by negotiating the attendance of Austrian Prince Heinrich Reuss III as a judge and personality at its 1989 National Velvet Competition.

Prince Reuss is one of Europe's leading game animal management leaders

He is widely known and respected throughout the world for his knowledge of deer and game animal breeding.

Many deer from his estate in Austria have been imported into New Zealand.

Prince Reuss has accepted an invitation to judge the trophy antler section of the National Velvet Competition at this year's Royal Show.

Prince Reuss's visit has been made possible by generous financial assistance provided by Landcorp, which sponsors the trophy antler section, and Mr Clive Jermy's Waikato deer stud, Stanfield Park in which the Prince has an interest.

During his visit to the

province, Prince Reuss, who will be accompanied by his wife Princess Adellia, will not only attend the Royal Show but also two dinner functions

including a formal dinner and velvet awards presentation at Ascot Park Hotel and a tour of Landcorp farming operations in the Te Anau Basin.



Wrightson
Deer Services

VENISON NEW ZEALAND
MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE
MOSSBURN DSP
WEEK COMMENCING JULY 31

	Price Per kg
APH1 75.1 to 100kg	\$7.50
APM 50.1 to 75kg	\$7.50
APL1 45.1 to 50kg	\$6.45
APL2 35.1 to 45kg	\$5.20
AFH1 GR 15-18mm	\$4.15
AFM GR 13-16mm	\$4.15

Normal transport subsidies apply
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Brian Duggan Ph (021) 360-802
or your local Wrightson representative

VENISON SCHEDULE

FROM 31/7/89 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

EXPORT SCHEDULE

GRADE	FAT	WEIGHT	GROSS PRICE/KG
AP1	-14mm	+ 70.1kg and over	\$7.00
AP2	-12mm	50.1kg to 70kg	\$6.95
AP3	-10mm	Up to 50kg	\$5.60
AD	1 Damaged Primal		\$2.40
AF1	Overfat	Over 14mm	\$4.20
AF2	Overfat	Over 20mm	\$3.40
AM	2 Damaged Primal		\$1.50
TB			\$2.00

DOMESTIC SCHEDULE

PLG	Prime Local Grade	\$2.00
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1988 VENISON POOL RESULT \$31.25 per head

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Net venison values

For week beginning September 11, 1989:

Grade	Weight	Affco \$	Fortex \$	Mair \$	Venison NZ \$
AP	37	206	191	175	193
AP	42	234	217	215	240
AP	47	302	299	302	306
AP	52	388	388	386	386
AP	57	426	426	423	423
AP	60	448	448	445	445
AP	65	485	485	482	482
AP	70	523	523	519	519
AP	75	560	560	556	556
AP	80	597	597	593	593
AP	90	672	672	668	668
AF1/AT	60	283	211	265	265
AF1/AT	80	377	281	377	377
AF2	70	260	194	260	260

Fallow net values

Age Weight (kg)	Under 24 mths			Over 24 mths	
	22	24	25	23	30
Game Meats	128	143	149	168	145
Mair	126	137	148	160	133

Notes:

- The NET VENISON PRICES shown above in dollars a head are calculated after deducting the GIB levy. Transport to works needs to be deducted. All advised a head premiums have been included.
- MAFQual inspection charges need also be deducted. They are (\$ per head): Mamaku, 4.50; Mair, 4.50; Summit, 5.50; Game Meats, 5.00; Venison NZ (Hastings), 4.50; Venison NZ (Feilding), 6.00.

Changes:

- FORTEX AP grades under 45kg +20c/kg; over 45kg +25c/kg.
- MAIR AP grade 45-50kg +30c/kg; 50-55kg +10c/kg.
- VENISON NZ AP grades 40-50kg +10c/kg; Hinds over 36 months above 40kg +10c/kg.
- MAIR Fallow All AP grades +50c/kg.

Interesting insight into Russian deer farming

1/1/81

New Zealand could benefit from a study of Russian deer farming techniques especially in the area of velvet production according to the principal of Criffel Park, Tim Wallis.

Mr Wallis visited Russia in late June together with the chairman of the Game Industry Board, Tom Williams and the president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, James Guild, as guests of the Dairy Board subsidiary company Sovenz.

There had been a lot of criticism of their visit Mr Wallis said, in view of peoples' perception of the Russians as being potential competitors in venison and velvet trading.

"But it is clear that the deer industry is now a global industry.

"Russia has been farming deer for hundreds of years with the emphasis on velvet, whereas New Zealand has been farming deer for only 20 years.

"We are more of a threat to them than they are to us," Mr Wallis said.

The New Zealand visit was a reciprocal one that followed a visit to this country in February of some leading Russian deer industry representatives.

That visit had included Mr Wallis's Wanaka deer farm as well as inspecting New Zealand velvet and deer slaughtering plants

and the deer unit at Invermay Research Centre.

Mr Wallis said few people were aware of the existence of Sovenz which was part of the Dairy Board's highly successful world marketing operation.

Sovenz was set up to sell dairy and meat products into Russia and in return, to buy or trade Russian goods.

"So it is only natural for Sovenz to look at the possibility of trade in deer products and expertise both into and out of Russia."

On their arrival in Moscow via Toronto and New York, the New Zealand party was met by representatives of Sovenz including the company's general manager, Bruce Gaffikin, who had arranged the visit to New Zealand of Russian deer industry personnel in February.

Discussions were held with the state-owned trading organization Prodentorg, the major trader of Russian deer products.

Mr Wallis said those discussions had been held in a spirit of openness and the Russians appeared to be very interested in continuing dialogue with New Zealand deer industry representatives.

Russia produces some 50 tonnes of dried velvet annually, 30 tonnes of which is used internally and the balance exported mainly to Singapore and Hong Kong.

Deer farming is centered mainly in the central Siberian Altai region where an estimated 45,000 deer are farmed.

"However an estimated 2.3 million deer are known to exist in Russia with the major reindeer herds found in Kazakhstan."

Mr Wallis said they were told that Russia exported approximately 2000 tonnes of feral venison last year through neighbouring countries to the West European markets.

After a four hour flight from Moscow, they arrived at their first stop-over, the city of Barnaul in the Altai region, a city of some 70,000 people where they were met by two of the group that had previously visited New Zealand, Vladimir Petrov, the general manager of the agro-industrial complex of the Altai and his technical officer, Vladimir Mecherjakov.

"The Altai region is very similar to many areas of New Zealand and is also the same area with a similar population of around 3 million," he said.

Their visit enabled them to inspect three major deer farming operations.

The first farm had 76 kilometres of deer fencing and ran 1500 maral or Russian elk.

Mr Wallis, who is the president of the New Zealand Wapiti Society, considered the maral deer to be identical in every way to Canadian Elk apart from the hair on the velvet antler which was darker in colour.

The deer unit was part of a larger collective unit stocked with pigs and chickens and some 20,000 cattle.

The average cut of velvet appeared to be 7kg to 8kg and the heaviest head they had seen was 18kg, Mr Wallis said.

The second deer unit was even larger with a boundary post and rail fence covering 98 kilometres.

This unit was stocked with more than 4500 spotted sika deer.

"The Altai region is so far from markets and the transport system is so poor, it is not economically viable for the region to try to market venison," Mr Wallis said.

"However, the by-products were processed, and once dry and stable were easy to transport to the port of export."

Because labour seemed plentiful, large teams of men were employed in all aspects of Russian deer farming and the Russians found it difficult to accept that one man in New Zealand could manage 200 to 300 animals by himself, Mr Wallis said.

"They just can't see how we can do it."

However, large numbers of men were needed because of the extensive nature of the Russian style of deer farming compared with New Zealand's more intensive farming practice.

While deer farming might not be of the same standard as in New Zealand, they had been impressed none-the-less by the degree of technology adopted by the Russians.

The women appeared to do all the work associated with the drying and preparation of the velvet.

Winter in the Altai region ranges from seven months on the plains areas to nine months in the more mountainous regions, the site of their third and final farm visit to a unit run by the third of the Russian delegation to visit New Zealand, Peter Popov.

Here the total velvet crop was close to 8 tonnes with the biggest head weighing some 23kg and a considerable number in the 16kg to 20kg range. The average weight was around 9kg.

All three deer farms visited adopted complete performance recording systems.

The results of decades of selective breeding the best animals with the best, was evident in the quality of the velvet produced by the Altai collective farms, Mr Wallis said.

The deep permafrost and the "frost heave" in the summer caused considerable problems in maintaining roading and most of the roads they had travelled on were worse than appalling and were hard on vehicles, many which seemed in a poor state of repair, Mr Wallis said.

But in summer, with long daylight hours — almost of 24 hours duration — the pasture regrowth was quite spectacular with a mix of many western type pasture species and a high proportion of natural herbal plants, much favoured by the deer.

"Life in the region is very simple and apart from work there is not a lot else people can do compared with the western world.

"Most of the homes were spartan by our standards, and although all had electricity they lacked basic amenities such as toilets and baths or showers.

"They tend to use saunas as the place to wash properly," Mr Wallis said.

"And unquestionably all the people we met were very warm and hospitable and made you feel very welcome."

After seeing first hand Russian deer farming in the Altai region, Mr Wallis believed there were medium term opportunities between New Zealand and Russia but such opportunities would take some time to gain approval.

"Because of the vast difference in farming deer between New Zealand and the Altai region there is not a lot that what we do here that could be applied in Russia and vice versa.

"However, the production of velvet antler where Russia and New Zealand are both increasing production, is the major area to be addressed."

Mr Wallis said when a state-run agricultural system such as that operated in Russia was understood, and it was accepted that the people farming the deer did not receive market information as freely as farmers in New Zealand, "they do very well."

"In fact," he added, "I was impressed by the way they farm deer so extensively in such a harsh and difficult environment."

Not for the faint-hearted

The deer industry was not for the faint-hearted, the chairman of the Southland branch of the NZDFA, Mr David Stevens, told more than 100 deer farmers at the branch annual general meeting on Wednesday night.

His reference was to the numerous economic and legislative changes the Government had imposed on the industry in the past three or four years.

"With all the excitement in the early days in trying and achieving the capture and farming of deer and the building of an industry to the present day - the scene has changed to more of a battle with bureaucrats," he said.

"We have a strength and belief in our industry, we have won in the past and will do so in future, as long as we work together."

Mr Stevens acknowledged the contribution of former branch chairman, Mr Walter Somerville and his wife Nancy for their efforts in ensuring that the NZDFA annual conference in Invercargill in May had been a resounding success.

Mr Stevens described the conference as "probably the best all round NZDFA conference ever staged."

Mr Stevens made reference to the proposed changes to the Meat Act, restating deer farmers' opposition to venison processing being involved with the traditional meat industry.

Southland had four

large freezing works, had seen plenty of industrial unrest and poor productivity in the past, and "felt the effects in our pockets."

"The argument that the freezing industry can kill and process at a lower cost than DSPs may be possible, but I believe this would only be achieved while DSPs are under-utilized," he said.

"I cannot see the freezing industry's involvement being of any advantage, short or long term, to the deer industry."

Mr Stevens said he had been disappointed that the Alliance Group had not seen fit to discuss its sub-

missions on the proposed changes to the Meat Act with the Southland Deer Farmers Association at an early date.

At Wednesday's meeting, retiring committee

members, Messrs Colin MacNicol, David Stevens (chairman), Peter Brunnsden and Bruce Edwards and new member Mr Murray Gill were elected to the committee for the 1989-90 year.

Venison New Zealand Co-op Ltd

Deer Farmers'

Meet the chairman Mr Nigel Gould

Winton

Winton Hotel Tuesday September 19, 8pm
Supper provided

Mossburn

Mossburn Community Centre
Wednesday September 20, 11.30am
Light lunch provided


19/9/84 **Gore**

Croydon Lodge
Wednesday September 20th 8pm
Supper provided

19349

	VENISON NEW ZEALAND MARKETING LTD
VENISON SCHEDULE	
MOSSBURN DSP WEEK COMMENCING SEP 25	
23/9/84	Price Per kg
APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$8.00
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$8.00
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$7.20
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$6.00
ATSH GR 15-18mm	\$5.00
ATFM GR 13-16mm	\$4.70
Normal transport subsidies apply	
Bookings John Fogarty Ph (021) 44-653	
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23/9/84

	
FORTEX GROUP	
VENISON	
Commencing September 25, 1989	
MAIN GRADES	Price/kg
AP1 85.1 kg & over	< GR 14mm 7.75
AP2 65.1 kg - 85.0 kg	< GR 14mm 7.75
AP3 50.1 kg - 65.0 kg	< GR 12mm 7.75
AP4 45.1 kg - 50.0 kg	< GR 12mm 6.65
AP5 < 45.0 kg	< GR 10mm 5.45
AF1 < GR 20mm	3.80
AF2 GR 20.1mm +	3.05
Normal transport subsidies apply.	
Bookings: Geoff Gill	
Telephone (021) 392-620 Invercargill	
or your local Stock and Station Agent.	

Important to control Tb

Virtually all of Otago and Central Otago were now considered to be an endemic area, MAFQual Invercargill veterinarian, Gavin Struthers told deer farmers at a seminar in Mossburn Wednesday.

Other major Tb areas in the south included the Catlins and the Hokonui with an isolated case at Ohai and a small area in the Taringatura Hills.

The disease had been found mainly in cattle but had also affected some deer herds in those areas.

Mr Struthers said 2915 deer herds or 73 percent of the country's deer herds had so far either completed or were waiting to complete their first test in the national Tb accreditation scheme and a further 34 percent had already been accredited as Tb free.

In Southland, 630 deer herds were under test with 214 or 34 percent accredited. A further 23 or four percent of the southern total were under movement control.

Up until now the Tb accreditation scheme has been voluntary but it was hoped that Government procedures would be completed soon and the long awaited compulsory scheme would be in force by the end of the year, Mr Struthers said.

Accreditation meant that buyers could have a

reasonable degree of confidence that they were buying Tb-free animals and it was up to the buyer to make enquiries about the Tb status of the animals they intended to buy.

In the first instance that information was gained from the venison or secondly MAFQual on request.

Mr Struthers made a plea for deer farmers to provide good, safe venison for the Tb officer and suggested discussions should be held with the venison MAFQual livestock officer as to what factors they considered best.

Mr Struthers said it was important that control from both a trader's point of view and from health and welfare of animals themselves.

Control and eradication is largely in the hands of deer farmers to a large extent by ensuring that only TB-free animals are entered for testing. Only TB-free animals are traded and feral possums, a potential source of infection, kept under control.

Co-operative resumes slaughter of feral deer

Venison New Zealand Co-operative has resumed killing feral deer on a temporary basis until October.

Venison New Zealand suspended processing feral deer at its Mossburn plant on August 1 to comply with a West German edict which banned the importation of venison from plants which processed feral and farm deer in the same facility.

Mossburn plant manager Ian Stewart said yesterday feral deer processing had resumed on the understanding that no farm deer would be processed for the West German market.

Few farm deer were coming forward for processing at present, he

said, and farm deer processing was not expected to start again in earnest until October.

The West German ban affected feral helicopter operators and the major exporter of feral venison in the south, Taimex Trading, of Dunedin.

The only other South Island deer plant able to process feral animals is at Hokitika.

The company's decision has given feral helicopter operators a temporary reprieve.

Mr Stewart said Venison New Zealand Co-operative had prepared draft plans of a separate area for processing feral deer.

However those could not proceed further until the company had held a meeting with the senior MAFQual meat division officer who had been in West Germany negotiating that country's ban.

Such a meeting was hoped for early next week, Mr Stewart said.

He estimated it could take up to three months to complete the additional facilities at Mossburn once the full facts were known.

Shooter struck, killed by ^{16/9/84} helicopter rotor

An aerial shooter was killed when struck by the rotor of a landing helicopter in the Long Burn Valley yesterday morning.

He was Gary Michael Hollows, aged 50, married, of Te Anau.

Mr Hollows was attending to some deer at 8am when he was struck by the rotor of a Robinson helicopter piloted by his brother, Mark Hollows.

Soft ground made landing difficult and the helicopter had tilted, Constable Lloyd Matheson said.

It was about six and a-half hours before Mark Hollows, aged 35, was rescued.

The police were notified about the possibility of an accident when the brothers failed to rendezvous with a truck driver in the Lilburn Valley after their flight to recover venison.

The Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Lower Hutt, which handles all searches for missing aircraft, already knew of the accident.

An international organization's SASI satellite had picked up the helicopter's emergency locator beacon and pinpointed it to the southern end of Fiordland National Park.

A Waterwings float-plane was diverted to the area, but was called back when Constable Ross Corcoran and pilot Bill Black left Te Anau in a helicopter.

They flew Mark Hollows back to Te Anau and picked up two Department of Conservation workers to help recover his brother's body.

Velvet production is ^{27/10/84} specialist operation

Top quality velvet production is a specialist operation that requires a commitment to running a herd structured in age and selection.

Speaking at Wednesday's velvet seminar held at the Castlerock saleyards, MAFDeer consultant, Tony Pearse, said premium velvet could not be prouder from just two and three year old stags.

Velvet antler production increased with the age of the animal and increased at roughly 0.64kg a year.

Production peaked at seven to eight years and then slowly declined although quality might not, he said.

The velvet production potential of a stag was a trait that could be measured and was heritable.

"The easiest way to get into an argument with a deer farmer is to tell him that liveweight and velvet weight are somehow correlated," Mr Pearse said.

But a number of studies had shown that there is a relationship between bodyweight and hard antler weight.

"An analysis of stags in the same herd and of the same age suggest that velvet weight increases by 0.1 to 0.2kg for every 10kg increase in liveweight."

Therefore, he suggested, earlier culling of low velvet potential animals was desirable and methods of early prediction of such animals were necessary he said.

This could include selecting on yearling liveweight and again on two-year velvet weight.

Although there had been a "certain amount of on-farm theories," little research work had been done on the effects of

nutrition on velvet growth, Mr Pearse said.

But what work had been done suggested that nutrition could certainly influence antler size and weight.

The aim of feeding was to increase the level of energy intake post rut and in the early spring.

While under-feeding and mineral deficiencies could reduce antler production there was no evidence that "luxury feeding" of minerals would increase velvet production, he said.

Increased velvet weights could be achieved quite easily by hybridization, making use of even just average sires of either European red deer or the larger Elk-Wapiti breeds.

Game foods N.Z. Ltd ^{29/9/84}

A series of supplier meetings are presently being held in the southern area by Game Foods N.Z. Ltd. with the aim of increasing market share, which will improve the profitability of the plant. The Te Anau meeting was held on Thursday 22 September at Luxmore Motor Lodge.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Owen Buckingham, a Director of Game Foods NZ Ltd in the absence of John Matheson, Chairman of Game Foods NZ Ltd and Keith Neylon, Deputy Chairman who are both presently overseas.

Mr Buckingham was assisted by Mr Wayne Matheson, Secretary of the Company.

After first welcoming those present Mr Buckingham backgrounded Game Foods, mentioning

that it was a private company set up by southern Farmers.

The plant at Kennington is management controlled with 12 employees killing 70 deer a day with Primary Producers Co-operative Society Ltd (PPCS) doing the marketing.

A video produced by the Company was then shown. The excellent hygiene standards and the calmness of the deer were impressive in the video. A question and answer session followed.

The guest speaker at the other meetings, Mr Bernard Pinney representing the Dunedin based Primary Producers Co-operative Society Ltd (PPCS) and Game Foods N.Z. Ltd was unable to attend the Te Anau meeting but another excellent video that was produced, edited and narrated by Mr Pinney was shown.

The video took those

present on a delightful and informative journey through France, Hungary, Germany and England.

Mr Buckingham summed up the meeting from a Game foods NZ Ltd point of view with five pertinent points.

1. Game Foods is 100% producer owned and do not have to share their proceeds with corporate investors.

Under the pool optional, proceeds come back to the supplier. Being Southern owned proceeds not shared with our northern contemporaries. Statistics show that Southern deer are larger which are more economic to process and market and have superior pelts and by-products.

2. Game Foods is the only Company to provide a venison pool.

3. No upfront shareholding required to participate in market pools.

4. Proven track

record—the company have 20 of the South Island kill. Pools have paid out in the past being \$31.25 per head last year.

If this is added on to schedule paid at the time it made Game Foods the most competitive company throughout almost the whole season.

5. We have advantages in our 'low stress' yard design which present pelt damage and bruising. Also provide additional information on yields plus the added incentives of MAF inspection fee reduced to \$7.50 a head. With introduction of a subsidy on transport so that producers only pay transport to their nearest DSP.

The next Game Foods NZ Ltd Suppliers meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th September at the THC Remarkables, Frankton at 7.45pm.

Wrightson
Deer Services

VENISON NEW ZEALAND
MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE
MOSSBURN DSP
WEEK COMMENCING NOV 6

^{3/11/84}

	Price Per kg
APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$7.40
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$7.40
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$6.70
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$6.00
ATSH GR 15-18mm	\$5.00
ATFM GR 13-16mm	\$4.70

Normal transport subsidies apply
Bookings John Fogarty Ph (021) 44-653
Brian Duggan Ph (021) 360-802
or your local Wrightson representative

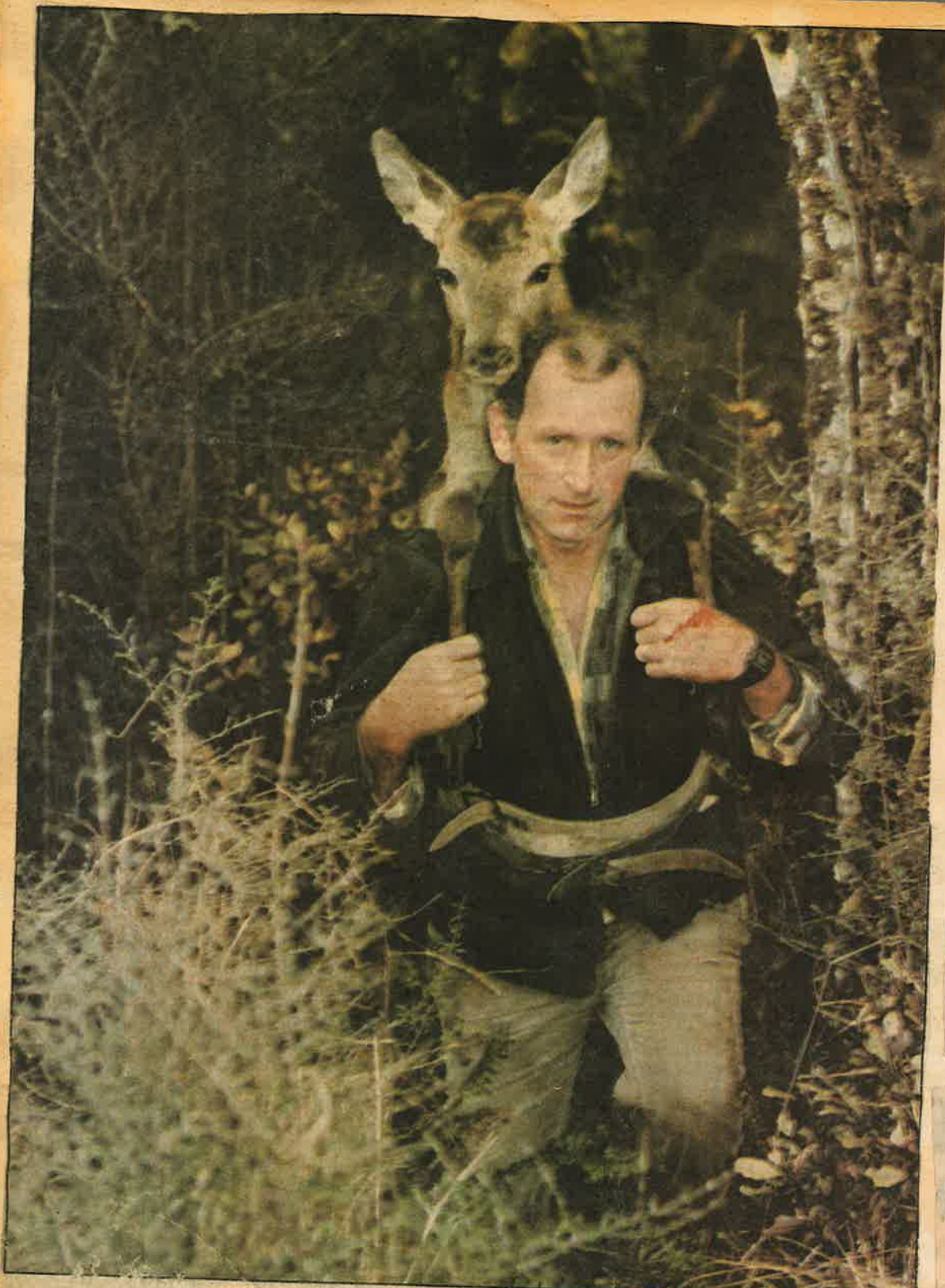
9422

FORTEX GROUP
VENISON
Commencing 6 November, 1989

MAIN GRADES	Price/kg
AP1 85.1 kg & over	7.10
AP2 65.1 kg - 85.0 kg	7.10
AP3 50.1 kg - 65.0 kg	7.10
AP4 45.1 kg - 50.0 kg	7.10
AP5 < 45.0 kg	6.30
AF1 < GR 20mm	5.20
AF2 GR 20-1mm +	4.50
	4.00

Normal transport subsidies apply.

Bookings: Geoff Gill
Telephone (021) 392-620 Invercargill
or your local Stock and Station Agent.



29/9/89

Picture: BARRY HARCOURT

THE DEER peering over Graeme Muldrew's shoulder got an unexpected helicopter ride after being trapped in a Fiordland pen recently.

The animal was on its way to Tuatapere, where it would have been sold to farmers for breeding stock.

Venison, a low cholesterol meat, is fetching high prices these days, encouraging many farmers into deer farming.

Mr Muldrew says captured deer are still the cheapest way to get into the venison business

in New Zealand. His method of trapping stock in pens is not as dramatic as netting deer from helicopters but is effective nonetheless. Enticed into the pens with broadleaf, the deer trip a wire which swings the gate shut behind them.

Mr Muldrew makes regular checks of his 90 pens in southern Fiordland. Then the hard work begins! He either carries the deer out of the bush on his back "like a back pack," or on a stretcher.

The animals are usually taken to

Tuatapere by jet boat but because of low river levels, Mr Muldrew has been flying them out by helicopter.

After three or four weeks in a paddock, the deer are sold to farmers.

But live deer recovery is on the wane.

"It's easier, faster and less work to shoot them," Mr Muldrew said.

With the high meat prices — \$8 a kilogram — and rising velvet prices, he sees a bright future for venison.

Pair unhurt in chopper crash

23/11/89

Two men escaped with bruising when their helicopter engine quit and the machine plummeted 50 feet to the ground near Haast early yesterday morning.

The accident happened about 5.30am after recovery operators Harvey Hutton, of Maungatua near Wanaka, and Mark Sweeney, of Te Anau, flew over the Waitoto River.

"We spotted some deer and spun around to get into position to shoot them and the engine quit," Sweeney said from Te Anau last night.

The helicopter landed on its skids, then rolled over. A decision has not been made whether it will be salvaged.

Apart from his bruising, Mr Sweeney received a crushed finger.

Wellington Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman Terry Knight said the centre initiated a search and Australian authorities reported picking up an emergency locator beacon signal coming from the Haast area.

Mr Hutton and Mr Sweeney were flown out to Haast and later returned to their homes.

Wrightson Deer Services VENISON NEW ZEALAND MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE

MOSSBURN DSP WEEK COMMENCING DEC 11

9/12/89

	Price Per kg
APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$6.70
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$6.70
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$6.30
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$5.30
ATSH GR 15-18mm	\$5.00
ATFM GR 13-16mm	\$4.70

Normal transport subsidies apply
Bookings John Fogarty Ph (021) 44-653
Brian Duggan Ph (021) 360-802
or your local Wrightson representative

FORTEX GROUP VENISON

Commencing 11 December, 1989

MAIN GRADES	Price/kg
AP1 85.1 kg & over	6.55
AP2 65.1 kg - 85.0 kg	6.55
AP3 50.1 kg - 65.0 kg	6.65
AP4 45.1 kg - 50.0 kg	6.00
AP5 < 45.0 kg	5.00
AF1 < GR 20mm	4.50
AF2 GR 20-1mm +	4.00

Normal transport subsidies apply.
Bookings: Geoff Gill Telephone (021) 392-620 Invercargill or your local Stock and Station Agent.



NEW ZEALAND DEER FARMERS ASSN INC

DEER VELVET COMPETITION EASTERN SOUTHLAND

Gore A&P Show, November 29 3 and 4 year old stags

Entry forms available from Deer Agents and Peter McIntyre, Chairman, Eastern Southland Deer Farmers, phone (020) 21-828, Gore.

Venison industry chief visiting

20/9/89

Venison New Zealand Co-operative is without question the leader in the processing and exporting of venison, according to its chairman, Nigel Gould.

Mr Gould is paying a brief visit to Southland this week to meet shareholders and deer farmers.

"We are the only processor and exporter concentrating solely on the deer industry," Mr Gould said yesterday.

"We account for 35 percent of all export venison and our clear objective is to see that percentage grow."

Mr Gould has impressive credentials. They include an investment commitment in a 2500 fallow deer enterprise in Golden Bay. He is also the current chairman of the Wellington Harbour Board and Wellington Port Company.

Mr Gould said his visit to the south was mainly to listen and learn.

A West German ban on venison from dual processing of feral and farm deer at the company's Mossburn plant last month had meant that a feasibility study of building a separate facility to process feral deer had had to be carried out, he said.

"We have a clear commitment to farm venison and we are now analysing the feasibility of duplicating facilities."

That analysis had not been completed, but early indications suggested to do so would be a marginal operation, he said.

The company was at present trading profitably and rebates to shareholders were expected to be announced in a week or two. The annual report was due out at the end of the month.

Mr Gould said all aspects of the company's operations were achieving "adequate levels of profitability," contrary to earlier predictions that that would not prove to be the case, especially in the area of marketing.

Although a steady stream of deer farmers was taking up shares in Venison New Zealand Co-operative, Mr Gould said he would like to generate a greater involvement.

Current rebates and the company's ultimate profitability were "certainly attractive."

Previously, the company had rewarded shareholder suppliers solely by way of rebates, he said.

But moves were being made for the payment of dividends in the future to recognize the commitment of farmers who contributed to the company's profitability through both stock and capital.

Mr Gould met deer farmers in Winton last night and will address meetings in Mossburn and Gore today.



5/9/89

Join us for the evening starting with a wee dram between 7.45pm and 8pm. Hear our guest speaker

BERNARD PINNEY

Recently returned from a study tour of Germany, France & Hungary to tell you about the game and venison industry in those countries.

Company Directors and Staff will provide an update of the new developments at the Kennington deer slaughter facility.

Join us at any of the following venues:

- Rosebank Lodge, Balclutha — Tuesday September 12
- Central Southland Lodge, Winton — Wednesday September 13
- Croydon Lodge Gore — Tuesday September 19
- Luxmore Motor Lodge, Te Anau — Thursday September 21
- The Remarkables Resort, Frankton — Tuesday September 26

Either join us then or phone:
(021) 304-481 or 304-820

& let us know you will be attending.

971

Low cost alternative to helicopter deer recovery

3/4/89

A joint venture between Tim Wallis's Wanaka-based Alpine Deer Group and MAFDeer, Invermay, has developed a deer recovery system with potential to earn overseas dollars for New Zealand.

The Alpine capture system is a self-erecting screen barrier which traps the animals within

cloth or net walls with a minimum of stress to the animal.

The durable and easily transportable capture system has been designed as a low cost alternative to helicopter deer recovery.

The system is simply made up of a number of evenly spaced poles held up by tensioned wire stays and a trigger which activates weights to instantly erect the barrier around the animals.

Two people can erect the barrier in only a couple of hours.

The activating trigger can be controlled remotely or by the animals themselves.

Although designed for deer capture the Alpine system can be used for other live animals.

One is already in use in Russia and another in Saudi Arabia and there is potential to use them for many different game animals, particularly in African game parks.

For profitable deer farming in the 1990s

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New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc.

FIORDLAND BRANCH

ANNUAL VELVET SALE DAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1989

STARTING TIME: 8am (no product accepted after 11am)

VENUE: R J Hayes hangar, State Highway 94, Te Anau (well signposted)

ENQUIRIES: Kay Brown, Secretary
Phone (0229) 7648 Te Anau

28556

Velvet competition will be bigger than ever

8/9/89

The Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association is expecting a significant increase in entries for this year's Royal Show National Velvet Competition.

Entries have steadily increased from 26 when the event began back in 1981, to more than 60 in 1988.

Each year the branch velvet competition organizing committee has made

refinements to ensure that the event is maintained at a high standard, not only of organization but in the quality of the velvet entered.

With the 1989 Royal Show being held in Inver-

cargill, this year's competition is no exception and an even greater effort will cement the National Velvet Competition as the most prestigious event of its kind to be run in New Zealand.

In past years some confusion and criticism has been aroused over the judging criteria that has been used.

To overcome this, competition spokesman John Cowie, said this year's competition would be judged on the velvet grading guidelines as set out by the Game Industry Board.

In some previous velvet competitions the number of overgrown heads has caused the judges and organizers some concern.

Such entries, as well as any malformed heads will be disqualified at the outset Mr Cowie said.

The idea of a national velvet competition was born out of casual conversation between the then branch chairman, Peter Ryan and the export man-

ager of Wilson Neil Ltd, John Scandrett, at the 1970 Southland A and P show when the local branch of the NZDFA staged its first display in the A and P association's Pastoral Pavilion.

The idea was subsequently strongly supported by other service industry leaders including the then manager of Wrightson NMA Ltd, Jack McKenzie, Russell Cull of Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd and Ron Usher and Chris Taylor of Timex Trading.

One of the major results of the competition has been the identification of some of the best velvetting stags around the country.

Last year's competition included a class for hard antler as it was felt by some deer farmers such a class would show the full potential of a master stag and identify animals suitable for breeding trophy heads.

The 1981 competition had but two classes. The continued growth in support for the event has seen that number increased to eight, all generously sponsored by deer service industry organizations. The classes are:

- **OPEN** which includes red as well as elk and wapiti, sponsored by Wrightsons.

- **CHAMPION RED DEER TROPHY** sponsored by Pine Guinness, Reid Far and Southland Far Co-operative Association Ltd.

- **ALPINE TROPHY** for elk and wapiti sponsored by Alpine Hunters.

- **IMPORTED DEER TROPHY** sponsored by Deer and Services.

- **THE KORA PHARMAEUTICAL TRADERS ASSOCIATION PHRY** for maiden Zealand red deer velvet.

- **SOUTHLAND DEER TROPHY** sponsored by Wrightsons.

- **SOUTHLAND WAPITI** sponsored by Central Southland Veterinary Services Ltd.

- **HARD ANTLER** sponsored by Landcorp.

This class will be judged according to international standards for trophy heads.

Entry forms will be available in the NZDFA newsletter, Stagline.

Entries close with the Secretary, Southland Branch NZDFA, PO Box 844, Invercargill, on December 1.

The final date for receipt of velvet trophies is December 5.

Velvet types

THE FIRST three illustrations — especially the first two — depict the type of velvet the National Velvet Competition is designed to attract and promote.

These represent the GIB guidelines for Super A, A and B Grade velvet.

The fourth illustration is of overgrown velvet which will be automatically disqualified from the competition.

The GIB definitions of standard velvet grade guidelines are:

- **SUPER A:** As for A Grade but in the heavier weight range of 1.8 kg and over.



SUPER A

- **A GRADE:** Velvet must be of good conformation, thick in the beam with rounded tops.

The bottom tynes are not to be too large and the stick must have a trez type. This is early cut type velvet.



A GRADE

- **B GRADE:** Of poorer conformation than A Grade. Must have a trez type.



B GRADE

- **OVERGROWN:** Overgrown Royal tynes developed.

Slightly overgrown indentation in the bulb.



OVERGROWN



These examples of well-grown velvet antlers represent the style the organizing committee of the Southland branch of the NZDFA are expecting to see entered in this year's national velvet competition.

WANTED DEER VELVET

4/12/89
All grades required
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Top Prices Paid

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Deer Services

25/10/88 VELVET

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MALCOLM MCGOUN (020) 87-740

7884



Deer Services

25/10/88 VELVET POOL VELVET POOL

RESULTS OF WRIGHTSON VELVET POOL NO.1

SA1	298	C2 Long	225
SA2	298	C2 Short	229
A1 Long	288	C2 Poor	170
A1 Medium	288	D1 Damaged	201
A1 Short	288	D2 Damaged	190
A2 Long	283	Spiker 1	120
A2 Medium	283	Spiker 2	100
A2 Short	283	OG1 Overgrown	195
B1 Long	283	OG2 Overgrown	115
B1 Medium	283	RG1 Regrowth	
B1 Short	283	RG2 Regrowth	81
B2 Long	278	TW1	256
B2 Medium	278	TW2	256
B2 Short	278	TW3	241
C1 Long	230	TW4	241
C1 Short	230	Manufactured	46
C1 Poor	181	Shot	120

INQUIRIES:

John Fogarty, Ph 44-653 ● Brian Duggan (021) 360-802

18953



VELVET

The Mair Team is actively buying velvet throughout NZ.
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- The weight of your velvet is confirmed at the time of grading to GIB standards
- Payment is prompt, no commission is payable

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includes advance payments and indexed returns.

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the Rotorua Hokitika Feilding and Hastings DSP's.

Competitive schedules are paid for all classes of deer.
Please contact your local Mair Representative for current
rates.

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or sell contact your Mair
representative for prompt
professional service

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W Caesar

Car phone 25 322-473
Phone (03) 228-383

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DEER VELVET

8/12/88 VELPOOL

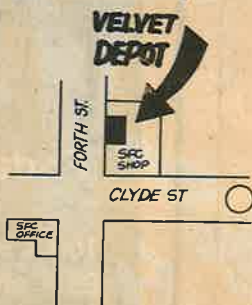
Southland Farmers Co-op Velvet Depots Are Now Receiving Deer Velvet For Velpools First Pool

The first pool closes in
Christchurch November 30, 1989

Our Invercargill velvet depots
will be open to receive pool velvet
or to purchase velvet
Each Friday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm

OUR DEPOTS TO RECEIVE YOUR VELVET ARE

INVERCARGILL



GORE OFFICE
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JOHN DUNCAN (021) 346-301
GEOFF ERSKINE (021) 78-097
SANDY ANDERSON (020) 86-456

31731



Deer Services

7/12/88 VELVET POOL VELVET POOL

RESULTS OF WRIGHTSON VELVET POOL NO 2

SA1	326	C2 Short	247
SA2	326	C Poor Long	203
A1 Long	302	C Poor Short	180
A1 Medium	302	D1 Damaged	220
A1 Short	302	D2 Damaged	197
A2 Long	298	Spiker 1	139
A2 Medium	298	Spiker 2	119
A2 Short	298	OG1 Overgrown	235
B1 Long	298	OG2 Overgrown	141
B1 Medium	298	RG1 Regrowth	
B1 Short	298	RG2 Regrowth	81
B2 Long	293	TW1	275
B2 Medium	293	TW2	275
B2 Short	293	TW3	262
C1 Long	243	TW4	262
C1 Short	247	Manufacturing	46
C2 Long	215	Shot	127

INQUIRIES

John Fogarty, phone (021) 44-653 Invercargill
Brian Duggan, phone (021) 360-802 Invercargill

3708



The three judges with one of the impressive heads of hard antler entered in this year's national velvet competition, hosted by the Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association. They are, from left, Prince Hienrich III Reuss, from Austria, John Murray, of Winton, and Alan Harrison, of Queenstown.

6/12/81

Quality lift evident in national velvet competition

For deer farmers, the big event of this year's Royal Show is again the national velvet competition.

Achieving success in any of the classes holds the same mana for deer farmers as taking a champion ribbon in either a sheep or cattle section.

This year's velvet competition was held at the Ascot Park Hotel and culminated last night with an up-market and highly successful awards dinner, attended by nearly 300 deer farmers and their wives from all over New Zealand.

Main guests were Austrian Prince Heinrich III Reuss and his wife, Princess Odylia.

Prince Reuss, who is a world authority on game animal management and an avid conservationist, was invited to head the judging panel for the hard antler section of the national competition.

He said he had been "very happy to see such a nice collection of very good quality."

New Zealand's climate was "fantastic" and contributed to the standard of deer here, he said.

Prince Reuss said he had enjoyed the experience of travelling to the south to take part in the competition, which he considered provided a good influence towards future improvement in the breeding of New Zealand deer.

The judges in the velvet section, Messrs Bob Swann, from Canterbury, Clive Jermy, of Cambridge, Tim Wallis, of Wanaka, and South Korean velvet buyer Jung Hun Park, were unanimous in their praise of the high quality of velvet entered this year.

Jung Hun Park last judged the national velvet competition two years ago and said there had been a great improvement in that time.

That improvement was already being reflected in

better quality end products which were being made from New Zealand velvet, which, he added, was getting close to the quality exported from China.

However, he and the other judges noted that some deer farmers were still cutting their velvet too late.

Mr Wallis said because of that, and the overgrown nature of the velvet, in terms of the rules of the competition, one entrant had been disqualified.

For that to happen for the second year in a row was "disappointing," he said, especially in view of the "exceptional" nature of the heads.

Mr Swann considered the lift in quality each year was a positive indication that the national velvet competition was achieving the aim of the Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association to encourage the genetic improvement in breeding.

This improvement was apparently best seen in

the elk class, described by Mr Wallis as "the best ever seen" and showing the genetic influence of imported Canadian bloodlines.

Results of the velvet competition are:

Wrightson Trophy for all comers: T W J and Z E Hunter, Te Awamutu 1; D H and L A Stevens, Balfour 2; Criffel Deer Farm, Wanaka 3.

Deer and Game Services Cup, for imported red deer: J and A Wilson, Invercargill 1; Prince Reuss, Stanfield Park, Cambridge 2; Fraser Deer Stud, Rotorua 3.

Wrightson Southern Trophy, for Southland Red Deer: D H and L E Stevens 1; R Heads,

Browns 2; E A and L E Bunn, Hedgehope 3.

Maiden New Zealand Red Deer: D H and L E Stevens 1; Hutt Station, Mid-Canterbury 2; W J Kane 3.

New Zealand Red Deer: D H and Z E Hunter 1; D H and L A Stevens 2; Fraser Deer Stud 3. Central Southland Velvets Cup, Southland elk: Bringans and Day, Orepuki 1; Sutherland 2; Aden Corp 3.

Alpine Helicopters Challenge Trophy, for elk-wapiti: Criffel Deer Farm 1; Bringans and Day 2; A Sutherland 3.

Landcorp Trophy, for antler: Stanfield Park, Cambridge, Marco, owned by Prince Reuss, 1; P Fraser Deer Stud, Romulus, 2; P Fraser, Caesars, 3.

Deer capture pioneer killed in crash

11/12/89

By STEFAN HERRICK

One of the pioneers of New Zealand's live deer capture industry, James Anthony Kane, died on Saturday when his helicopter crashed into a deep gully in Fiordland.

Mr Kane, aged 42, of Manapouri, was on a deer recovery operation in the Cameron Mountain range near the head of Long Sound when his Hughes 300 suffered a mechanical failure and plunged 800 metres into the bush about 10.45 am.

Mr Kane had been married about two years and his wife, Barbara, is expecting a child in three months.

The shooter on the ill-fated mission, Barry Graham Guise, aged 21, of Manapouri, was out of the helicopter tending to deer when the accident happened. Senior Constable Lloyd Matheson, of Te Anau, said yesterday.

"The helicopter was hovering about 100 metres away. It dropped down a steep face into dense beech forest," Constable Matheson said.

"On impact, the aircraft wreckage was scattered over a large area. A large piece of the body caught fire," he said.

Mr Kane survived the wreck but was seriously injured.

"The shooter managed to climb down the face. He nursed him (Kane) until... unfortunately, he died about 3.20pm," Constable Matheson said.

The helicopter was reported missing at 6.30 yesterday morning. A helicopter piloted by Bill Black, a close friend of Mr Kane, left Te

Anau to search for it an hour later.

Also on board were senior conservation officer with the Department of Conservation and holder of the QSM for search and rescue work, John Von Tunzelman, of Te Anau, and Constable Matheson.

"We were unable to find a beacon signal from the helicopter but observed smoke in the Cameron range," Constable Matheson said. It was a signal fire from Mr Guise.

"With his help we were able to locate the wreckage. It was very hard on Bill," he said.

The locator beacon in Mr Kane's helicopter did not activate because it was burned in the crash.

A 30-year search and rescue veteran, Mr Von Tunzelman said last night it was one of the hardest rescue operations he had been on.

"When you have worked with someone as long as I've worked with Jim, you go out hoping for the best, fearing the worst and you do what has to be done with the utmost respect and dignity."

"I know one thing. If Jim had wanted to be picked up by anyone it would have been Bill Black. Both Bill and I are taking it pretty hard. Jim was one of the team.

"Jim was extremely well respected in the helicopter industry.

A quiet guy... but determined," Mr Von Tunzelman said of his friend.

He praised the actions of Mr Guise.

"He rendered all the medical help he possibly could and if he hadn't lit the signal fire we would still have been looking for the wreck this time next year," he said.

Mr Kane began his deer recovery career in Fiordland's Grebe Valley in 1960. That was before helicopters were introduced to the industry.

In 1968 he teamed up with Mr Black to form one of the country's first helicopter-based live deer operations.

After four years as Mr Black's crewman, Mr Kane took up flying for himself.

Initially he worked for Alpine Helicopters but later bought his own machine and started his own business. He owned a deer farm at Feldwick, near Ohai.

The managing director of the Alpine Deer group, formerly Alpine Helicopters, Tim Wallis, said Mr Kane's death would be a loss to both the deer recovery industry and to Fiordland.

"I was shattered when they rang me. Jim was one of the fellows you think will always be there because he had been in the game so long."

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FB 2	40 kg to 54 kg inc	3.15	-
FP 2	40 kg to 54 kg incl	1.30	-
FC 3	30 kg to 39 kg incl	3.00	-
FB 3	30 kg to 39 kg incl	2.20	-
FP 3	30 kg to 39 kg incl	1.10	-
FC 4	29 kg and under	1.50	-
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TB threat to export

30/10/84

By Philippa Stevenson

Tuberculosis-infected possums are the most serious veterinary threat in New Zealand, says the co-author of an extensive report on the subject.

The report by former Forest Research Institute scientist Les Batcheler and DSIR ecology division section leader Phil Cowan was presented in August last year to a number of government departments dealing with the nationwide problem.

They predicted that Tb will occur in all North Is-

land possum populations by 2024, and in all South Island populations by 2031.

Now a consultant on the subject, Christchurch-based Mr Batcheler says nothing has happened in the meantime to make him change his mind about the seriousness of the disease.

Since the report was written areas recognised as endemic have increased from 12 to around 20 and Mr Batcheler believes those battling the problem have got a tiger by the tail.

Possum control practices have improved since the 1960s but largely they are "closing the stable door after the possum has bolted," he says.

Areas, not under con-

trol could be riddled with Tb-infected possums, such as in the large forest areas east of Lake Taupo which stretch right up to the Bay of Plenty, Mr Batcheler says. There is no way of knowing because the disease is only monitored by detection in cattle.

Recently Taurunui MAF field vet Kevin Crews, based in the country's worst Tb problem area in the Central North Island, warned that in the next 10 years Tb could threaten our international markets for meat, live animals and animal products.

During that period cattle testing positive to tuberculosis in the region could rise from the 2264 in the 12 months to September 1989 to 7000 in 1999 unless Tb carrying possums are controlled.

The logistics of getting that control were mind-boggling but the consequences of not doing it would be devastating, Mr Crews told a possum control workshop at Ruakura Research Centre in Hamilton.

New Zealand does not meet the international standard which would give it an accreditation for Tb status. Such accreditation demands that a country have 0.2 per cent of infected herds. New Zealand currently has 2.2 per cent of its herds categorised as infected or under movement control.

To retain overseas market access, however, New Zealand must continually show that it has an acceptable disease control policy. All dairy products must be pasteurised and all meat must go through licensed export works. Both the dairy and meat industry are regularly checked by overseas inspectors to ensure they

are up to standard.

Batcheler and Cowan devoted part of their report to tracing how this dangerous situation arose.

The say Tb has been a public health issue in New Zealand for many decades. Pasteurisation of milk began in the 1920s and immunisation of children began during the 1940s.

Control of Tb in cattle began in 1945 with the introduction of voluntary testing of town supply dairy herds. Animals which reacted to an injection of tuberculin were slaughtered. The programme was gradually extended and all cattle were considered to be under test surveillance by 1977.

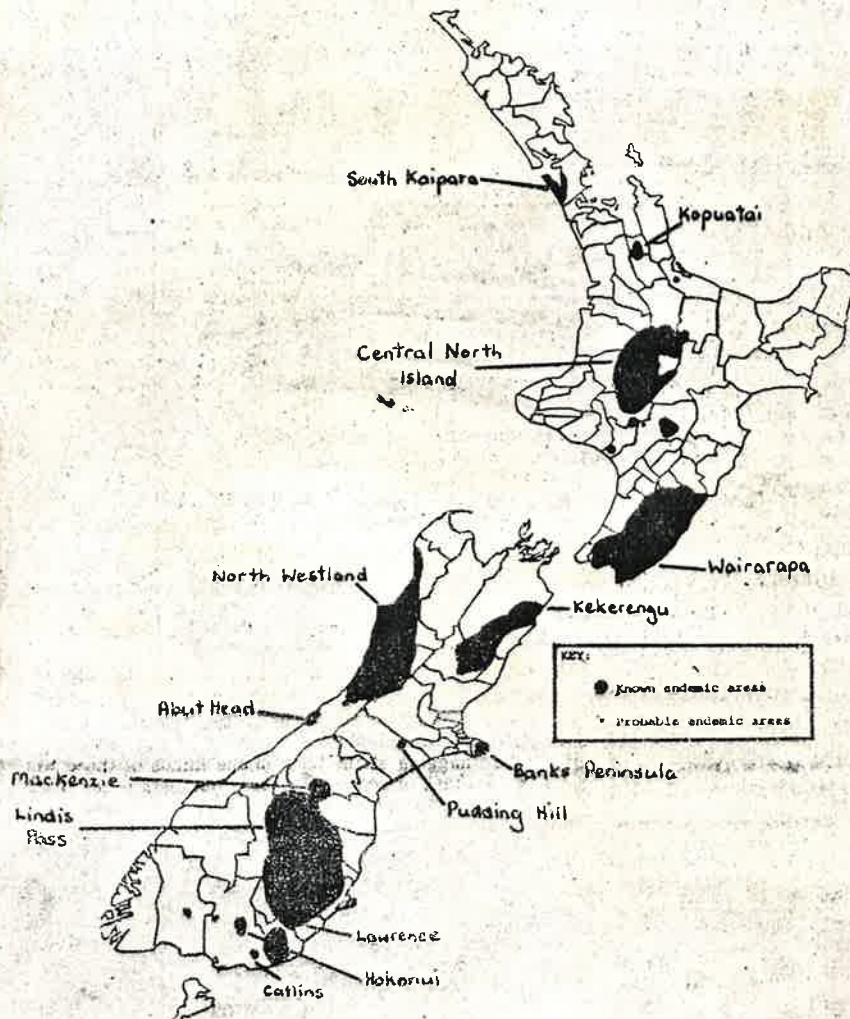
By 1979-80 the programme had reduced the infection rate of dairy and beef cattle from 8.6 per cent to 0.01 per cent.

But where did Tb come from in the first place?

Cowan and Batcheler's theory stems from the clues in the following tale. In Buller and Inangahua (Westland) the introduction of tuberculin cattle testing from 1956 appeared to reduce the incidence of Tb until about 1967-68. Then reactor and tuberculosis rates increased dramatically in many herds under test in several areas. It also became clear that testing procedures were not getting the rapid and progressive reduction of cattle tuberculosis achieved elsewhere in New Zealand. It was suspected that local environmental factors such as the wet climate and possible associated long survival of infection on pasture, were responsible.

But in 1967 a commercial hunter operating at Mokihinui, north of Westport, submitted 25 possums to MAF, who identified Tb in 20 of them. At first the find was

AREAS OF NZ WITH ENDEMIC TUBERCULOSIS - AUGUST 1989



The black areas of the map are those with endemic Tb.

t trade

regarded as an isolated incident but then researchers produced compelling evidence of an association between Tb in cattle and nearby possums.

Within five years, Tb was identified in possums in many places in Northern Westland, in Wairarapa, the Western Bays of Lake Taupo, and the central North Island. Now Tb has been confirmed in possums in at least 20 areas from north of Auckland to the south eastern corner of the South Island.

Possums have proved to be a very susceptible host to Tb. Their vast numbers, distribution through bush and farmland and, especially, the ranging habits of young males, ensure that although infected cattle are dealt with swiftly there is a new source of infection ready, willing and waiting for the new batch of cattle to wander by.

If the possum wasn't such a menace it could be excused for simply getting its own back.

Tuberculosis has long been known in cattle and was almost certainly along for the ride when the animals were introduced to Australasia during European colonisation.

In Australia the distribution of cattle soon overlapped that of the native possum. This also happened in New Zealand, where as cattle farms were developed, wild cattle spread into the bush along with the possums. To start a fur trade possums were officially liberated in 90 places by 1900 and half the country was occupied by 1950. The problem was "concreted" into an area like Westland by the farming practise there of putting the cows into the bush during winter, Mr Batcheler says.

There are other findings that indicate that the possum was initially, at least, the innocent in all this. Despite a long-standing overlap of cattle and possum, the harvesting of many millions of possums in New Zealand and Australia and scientific autopsies on thousands of them, there was no record of Tb in wild possums here until 1967. It has never been identified in wild possums in Australia (which is attributed to a lower popu-

lation density) but has been occasionally reported in captive possums.

But why should Tb have passed from cattle to possums, apparently simultaneously, in several widely separated areas in New Zealand at about the same time, without having done so for several decades?

Batcheler and Cowan theorise that because DNA testing shows that the type of Tb in New Zealand is similar throughout the country and because the spread of the disease has been progressive, that the infection came from just one source. MAF disagrees and MAFQual spokesperson Jim Bailey is convinced that cattle or deer infected possums in all the areas.

"Twenty years ago I remember taking hundreds of Tb infected cattle out of the Opotiki and Ruawai areas but there is no Tb there now. That was a cattle to cattle infection."

During the 1970s intensive possum control campaigns were undertaken whenever persistent Tb was found in cattle and also in possums. Usually the tactics were a large-scale aerial poisoning operation over bush adjacent to infected farms, together with an intensive possum ground-baiting programme on the farms and bush edges. At the same time testing of all cattle on farms was intensified and reactors were slaughtered.

Investigations in the mid 1970s found that infection of herds in non-endemic areas were probably due to the uncontrolled movement of stock from infected areas and movement control was imposed in April 1977 under the authority of the Animal Health Act.

Now of the around 20 areas considered endemic, the West Coast, Wairarapa and Central North Island are classed as the major endemic areas. Kopuatai Swamp in the Hauraki Plains and South Kaipara Heads in Northland are designated minor endemic areas. An endemic area is defined as one in which the Tb possums are associated with persistent Tb infection in cattle herds, and in some, eradication is considered impossible.

Review may give hunters more say in their sport

(PA)

Hunters could be given more input into management of their sport by a Government review of wild animal control legislation, Conservation Department director John Holloway said yesterday.

Mr Holloway said the review announced by Conservation Minister Philip Woollaston earlier in the day would also consider legislative changes aimed at assisting the troubled commercial hunting industry.

He compared possible changes in the regulation of recreational hunting with previous moves which gave acclimatisation societies a significant role in the management of fish and bird resources.

This would give the hunters a degree of proprietary interest in their sport.

"The recreational hunting fraternity would very much like to have a greater degree of input into the management of their sport," he said.

Mr Holloway said the review could lead to legislative provision for the Conservation Minister to delegate responsibilities for a given area or species to a hunting group.

"It could include the issuing of licences to hunters, the collection of licence fees, and the collection of data from hunters."

Mr Holloway said the review would also consider ways of improving the efficiency of the commercial aerial recovery hunting industry to make it a more effective and reliable tool in the management of imported wild animals such as deer.

Since the early 1970s the industry had depended for its profit on the high prices paid for live animals by deer farmers, but the price for live wild animals had dropped as deer farming became more established.

WELLINGTON

Mr Holloway said many licensed aerial recovery operators were earning only just enough to keep their helicopters airborne and the future of the industry was not bright.

The aerial recovery industry could be described as almost a free-for-all with a pattern of booms and busts, he said.

"That exposes us to the risk that if the industry goes completely bust then we are faced with a (wild animal) problem which could require the expenditure of Government funds that we don't have," Mr Holloway said.

The department wanted to maintain an aerial recovery industry with sufficient strength to keep wild animal numbers at an acceptable level.

This could involve changes to the licence system which at present covers large areas without giving operators exclusive rights to territory.

Instead, licence holders could be given exclusive rights to operate in a smaller area, he said.

Mr Holloway said the review would also consider ways of making changes to species covered by the act more flexible, possibly by introducing a register of species which could be altered by an Order in Council.

"If some nitwit brought in a pride of lions and let them go the lions wouldn't be subject to the Wild Animal Control Act until the law was changed," he said.

Mr Woollaston said he would issue a policy paper for discussion late in March.

New test to prove Tb or not

A new, more sensitive blood test to detect Tb in stock is being investigated in a joint New Zealand and Australian study.

The test is still at the developmental stage at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) but when completed is likely to be able to detect true Tb much better than the present test.

Some animals who react to the present test have been shown to have avian Tb.

National Animal Health Advisory Committee (NAHAC) member Geoff Mathis is personally convinced that biological or genetic control on possums will, in the future, be a more satisfactory answer to today's test and slaughter method.

Among possibilities is a virus killing northern hemisphere rabbits right now or genetic manipulation of possum breeding habits, he says.

15/12/89
8 Questions are being asked about the final destination of many of the TB suspect carcasses which come out of DSPs — and more particularly, the return farmers are getting for them.

The current schedule for TB reactors is around \$2 a kilogram but some of the cuts off these animals are now retailing for as much as \$34 a kilogram on the New Zealand market. Despite this seemingly high return for someone (and not the producer) an investigation of the TB carcass issue by The New Zealand Deer Report indicates no good reason for an increase in the schedule for this category of animal.

The subject of TB reactors is a complex one and there is no easy formula for assessing just what an animal which has developed a positive test — regardless of whether it ultimately has TB or not — is worth. Some farmers who have reactors insist that if the animal is cleared of the disease on inspection at the DSP, then it should be returned to the export pool. But processors say this is a simplistic argument, as it does not take into account the view of overseas countries, especially those in Europe, that if there is a hint of TB that they don't want anything to do with the carcass.

Relegation to the domestic market from a reduced value — from two aspects. Firstly, while processors are able to retain the hide for sale, they cannot recover income from such by-products as sinews, tails and pizzles, and the loss of these export receipts is significant. Secondly the best demand from the home market comes from restaurants and hotels — and they want steaks, not stewing meat. This means that most of the front half of the animal is unattractive, and that this meat can generally only be used for manufacturing purposes. Again the demand for these is limited. Our conclusion is that with more than about half of a TB suspect carcass being in the lower return bracket, there does not appear to be any ability for processors to increase the schedule for these animals. While those farmers who see venison from cleared TB suspects selling at \$34 a kilogram in Auckland shops and cannot understand why they are only getting \$2 a kilogram for their product, the nature of the system used for TB testing, and the characteristics of the current domestic market dictate that this must be so. If there is any consolation — and one would be hard to find — it must be that deer farmers whose animals have lesions in the body (not head or neck) have to watch them going down the chute and get nothing for their condemned carcasses — from either the export or domestic markets.

Central North Island worst Tb problem area

30/10/89

The Central North Island is New Zealand's worst Tb problem area and the worry is that it could be getting worse.

In the 12 months to September this year, 2264 Tb reactor cattle were detected — about half of New Zealand's total — and there are fears it could rise to 7000 in the next 10 years.

At the end of August 1989, 320 herds were on Tb movement control — about a third of New Zealand's total.

Taumarunui-based MAF field vet Kevin Crews told a recent possum control workshop in Hamilton that reactor numbers have increased by 384 (20 per cent) over the last 12 months and there has been a slight increase in herds on movement control. Both increases have been caused by high levels of infection in previously poisoned areas and by infections in new areas.

Central North Island Tb problem areas involve the counties of Otorohanga, Waitomo, Taupo, Taumarunui, Waimarino and part of Rangitikei.

Mr Crews says extensive possum control operations were undertaken in those areas in the mid to late 1970s resulting in a marked reduction in Tb reactors detected. It was assumed that the costly operations would provide a long-term solution and for the next four to five years that did look the case.

But from the early to mid 1980s there was again a dramatic increase in the number of Tb reactors detected and the number of herds on movement control. The spread into new areas brought further costly operations in the winters of 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985.

The operations did not prevent the further spread of the disease into clear areas and in

an attempt to halt the spread the emphasis of possum control shifted from reactor reduction to buffer zones in early 1986. Buffer zones were established in Western Taumarunui, Western Waitomo and Southern Waikato/Rangitoto during 1986, 1987 and 1988. A strategy to restrict possum movement across the Waikato River began in North Taupo during 1988. A buffer zone was established in the Waimarino area during 1989.

The change in control priority meant less finance to reduce reactor rates in the main

disease within the problem area can no longer be ignored. High levels of Tb are likely to build up in areas bordering the worst Tb regions as infected possums migrate there.

The area could be producing 7000 reactors in the next 10 years.

"If this is allowed to happen it will eventually lead to a situation where present cattle and deer farming policies within the area will not be possible," Mr Crews says.

Containment (buffer zone) strategies must be combined with other methods aimed at

significantly reducing, then maintaining, low cattle reactor rates within the problem area. Not to do so would jeopardise the massive financial investment already made.

Northern King Country Pest Board officer Craig McKellar says a lack of co-ordination between groups involved in possum control was a big problem.

"One lot does one side of a fence one week and six to eight weeks later the other side is done. There are things going on out in the field that damn well shouldn't be happening."

MAF national manager for Tb control Paul Livingston is confident the future will see a reduction in Tb reactors, movement control herds and the size and number of endemic areas. He attributes that to more money to be spent on control, better planning and



MAF field vet Kevin Crews with a possum.

targetting of control measures, greater staff skills, the implementation of research results and the compulsory deer Tb scheme.

The plan needs to be constantly reviewed to deal with the spread of endemic areas, maintenance, other Tb infected animals, private hunters and promotion of farmer self-help methods.

Mr Crews says the build up of levels of the



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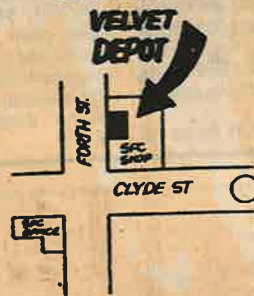
16/12/89



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3. A1 Heavy	\$305.99
4. A1 Medium	\$305.99
5. A1 Short	
6. A2 Heavy	\$301.99
7. A2 Medium	\$320.05
8. A2 Short	
9. B1 Heavy	\$301.99
10. B1 Medium	\$301.99
11. B1 Short	
12. B2 Heavy	\$301.99
13. B2 Medium	\$301.99
14. B2 Short	
15. C1 Long	\$272.00
16. C1 Short	\$272.00
17. C2 long	\$265.75
18. C2 Short	\$265.80

19. C Poor Long	\$245.80
20. C Poor Short	\$245.80
21. Damage 1	\$245.80
22. Damage 2	\$230.80
23. Overgrown 1	\$256.80
24. Overgrown 2	\$220.80
25. Hardhorn	\$50.00
26. Taiwan 1	\$295.99
27. Taiwan 2	\$295.99
28. Taiwan 3	\$280.10
29. Taiwan Poor	\$266.10
30. Spiker 1	\$151.10
31. Spiker 2	\$136.80
32. Regrowth 1	
33. Regrowth 2	\$82.05
34. Rubbish	\$55.99
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37. VP 3	\$25.00
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Blue Mountain hunting area among most productive

The Blue Mountain recreational hunting area in West Otago has become one of New Zealand's most productive in terms of both local and national hunters, DOC regional conservator Kerry Mawhinney said yesterday.

He was commenting on the results of a survey of nearly 5000 licenced firearm owners released this week.

The survey, carried out by the Forest Research Institute in Christchurch, said the greatest harvest of fallow deer was reported by hunters in the southern South Island during 1988.

An estimated 550 fallow deer were reported killed by hunters in the Blue Mountains area.

Fewer than 50 have been reported annually from the Wakatipu RHA in recent years.

White-tailed deer existed only on Stewart Island but were hunted by hunters from all regions.

Hunters from the northern North Island contributed a third of the total hunting effort but were much less successful than the "locals" from the eastern and southern South Island, the survey said.

In 1988, 681 white-tailed deer kills were reported from DOC land on Stewart Island.

Of 75 white-tailed deer kills reported in the survey, 37 percent were not shot on DOC land, while 15 percent were shot on DOC land but were not reported to the department.

This suggested a total kill of 1520.

The survey said only seven respondents reported hunting wapiti in 1988, with only three kills.

A 1984 estimate put the number of wapiti-like deer remaining in Fiordland at 560.

Mr Mawhinney said DOC had put "quite a bit of effort" into the administration of the Blue Mountains RHA.

The management of the herd was such that a relatively stable population had been achieved.

Mr Mawhinney said the harvest identified in the survey would continue as long as the existing management regime did.

Interest in hunting for wapiti in Fiordland as a trophy was high, because of the countryside and the high quality of the species, Mr Mawhinney said.

Negotiating costs and distances was a barrier to recreational hunting on Stewart Island, he said.

There was still concern about the higher-than-manageable white-tailed deer population there, he said.

The nationwide postal survey was carried out by Forest Research Institute scientist Graham Nugent.

Its aim was to find out how many people went hunting, how often they went, what type of game they hunted, how many animals they took, and how much they spent.

The survey's sponsors, who included the NZ Deerstalkers Association, the venison processing industry, and acclimatization societies, want the results to be used so land managers

and policy makers are aware of hunters' views and the impact they have on the game animal populations.

The survey found that 143,000 New Zealanders are actively interested in hunting, and in 1988 114,000 of these killed or captured nearly seven million animals.

Small game hunting dominated — about six animals (mostly possums and rabbits) were taken.

Ducks and other game birds totalled about 750,000 and big-game animals 250,000.

Of the big-game animals, pigs were the most commonly hunted animal (an estimated 102,000 were killed), followed by goats (88,000), deer (69,000), chamois (600) and thar (850).

However deer were the most popular target.

The survey showed that recreational and not commercial hunters were the main harvesters of game animals.

Commercial hunters took 43 percent of deer killed, although commercial possum hunters outnumbered private hunters by 2 to 1.

Hunters were estimated to spend at least \$60 million a year, of which more than half was spent on travel, accommodation, and minor equipment.

Except possums, hunters spent more per kill than the animals were worth commercially.

The survey also found that about 750,000 firearms excluding airguns and handguns were legally held by private individuals, an average of 2.3 a licensed owner.

Hunting involved 4.2 percent of New Zealand's population.

Hunters and non-hunters were said to favour the management of introduced game animals for hunting rather than treating them as pests, provided environmental values were also considered.



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Venison

Net values (\$/head) week beginning January 22, 1990

	WEIGHT	FORTEK \$	MAIR \$	VENISON NZ \$	PPCS/ GAME FOODS \$
AP	37.0	167	123	152	200
AP	42.0	190	169	181	228
AP	47.0	264	259	255	255
AP	52.0	321	308	303	313
AP	57.0	352	343	332	343
AP	60.0	370	361	349	361
AP	65.0	401	391	378	391
AP	70.0	425	421	407	421
AP	75.0	455	451	436	451
AP	80.0	485	481	465	481
AP	90.0	546	533	524	542
AF1/AT	60.0	253	223	229	235
AF1/AT	80.0	337	317	321	313
AF2	70.0	260	239	246	239

CHANGES:

PPCS/GAME FOODS: AP grades under 50kg -30c/kg; over 50kg -40c; AF grades -20c.

NOTES:

1. The net venison prices shown above in dollars per head are calculated after deducting the GIB levy. Transport to works needs to be deducted. All advised per head premiums have been included.

2. MAFQual inspection charges need also be deducted. They are (\$ per head) Seafield \$6, Venison NZ Mossburn \$8, Kennington \$7.50, Westland \$6.80.

Decision reserved on deer farming charges

26/1/90

DUNEDIN

(PA)

Sika and rusa deer, not permitted in the South Island, were discovered by Department of Conservation staff on Foveran Deer Farm in Hakataramea Valley, the Oamaru District Court was told.

Judge Ian Hay reserved his decision on Wednesday night on two charges faced by Robert Hay Robertson, aged 39, a company director and farmer of Foveran Deer Farm, until February 22 to study the evidence.

Robertson pleaded not guilty to a charge of contravening the Wild Animal Control Act (1977) by keeping in captivity wild animals, namely sika and rusa deer, for the purpose of farming.

He also denied a charge he kept the same deer in captivity without the authority of a permit issued by the director-general of conservation for the purpose of section 12 (5) of the same act.

The charges were lodged by the Department of Conservation

and related to a period between February 24 and July 5, 1989.

Prosecuting, Tim Gresson said Robertson operated an extensive deer farm in the Hakataramea Valley.

Included was a professional safari park hunting operation known as New Zealand Trophy Hunting Ltd.

A large number of overseas tourists hoping to shoot deer were attracted to the farm.

Although it appeared rusa and sika deer were being kept for trophy hunting, DOC was concerned the operation involved elements of farming, Mr Gresson said.

Rusa deer were permitted to be

farmed in North Island alone and sika deer only in specified parts of the same island, Judge Hay heard.

Senior conservation officer Gerard James Olde-Olthoff said he received information Robertson bought sika deer in Taupo and these had been transferred to his Foveran property.

In late 1988, he obtained a copy of New Zealand Trophy Hunting Ltd brochure which advertised the hunting of rusa and sika deer on Foveran.

Keeping such animals in captivity was illegal.

As far as sika deer were concerned, it was believed they would cause greater destruction to land in the South Island than red deer.

For the defence, William Young said the deer were not in captivity and there was a question as to whether they were being farmed or not.

After buying the animals and following legal discussions, he had been advised that he should submit an application to keep the animals on a vasectomized basis.

The deer were never velveted nor farmed in any other way, he said.

The only reason some bore ear tags was because these, inserted by a previous owner, had inadvertently not been removed when delivered to Foveran.

It would be possible to eliminate the animals but would probably take two years to shoot them all without doing any damage to the farm, Robertson said.

Canadian impressed with NZ deer farming

2/2/90
By JOHN CUTT Agricultural Editor

New Zealand's expertise in deer farming has impressed visiting Canadian deer farmer, Doug Surine.

Mr Surine, a journeyman instrument mechanic and his wife, Dianne, a registered nurse, have been touring the country for the past few weeks, attending deer sales and calling on deer farmers to gain an insight into methods used by New Zealand deer farmers.

The Surines have a 60ha farm, a 25 minute drive from the small oil and agricultural servicing town of Bonnyville in the north eastern region of Canada's Alberta province.

Four hectares of the farm are deer fenced and stocked with both elk and mule deer.

"There's a lot of room for expansion," Mr Surine said.

"My brother in Saskatchewan also runs 25 elk, 10 of them mine, as well as 20 white tail deer."

Both Mr Surine and his wife work off-farm to support the property.

"The deer industry in Canada is growing and Alberta is one of the fastest growing deer provinces," he said.

"From less than 20 game farms four years ago, are now more than 100, running around 3000 elk and a few hundred white tail and mule deer."

Mr Surine said Alberta government regulations restricting the capture of deer from the wild had forced many deer farmers to import elk from the US.

"Probably 80 percent of Alberta and Saskatchewan elk herds are based on imported US stock, not zoos and parks as might have been thought, and many of them also carry a degree of red deer markers (bloodlines)."

While limited capture of white tail and mule deer had been allowed, a strong hunting lobby would like to see game farming in Alberta stopped completely he said.

A 1988 Alberta government monitorium meant farmers were now no longer able to import elk from the US.

The shortage of animals caused by the Albertan regulations had forced prices for live sales from game farms to high levels, with white tail weaner hinds selling up to \$(CAN)1400, elk weaner females \$(CAN)5000 and elk weaner bulls \$(CAN)2000. Mature elk cows were selling between \$(CAN)8000-\$9000.

Any animals showing red deer markers through blood-typing, sold at discounted values at around \$(CAN)5000, he said.

However, across the border in Saskatchewan where no such regu-

lations existed, farmers were still able to import animals from the US, he said and live sale prices were therefore lower than in Alberta.

Mr Surine said it had been interesting to see what pure New Zealand red deer looked like.

As and his wife moved south through the country they had noted how the effects of hybridization had lifted the quality and condition of deer he said.

"There are definitely some very good animals in New Zealand.

"Farmers here have more breeding records than we have in Canada and it is interesting to see that some of your animals already have got reputations in Canada.

"I guess we are 10 years behind New Zealand."

Mr Surine said what had also impressed him was the way in which New Zealand deer farmers handled and marketed their animals especially the "Kiwi ingenuity" that had resulted in many farmer ideas for deer handling facilities — "far superior to anything we have back in Canada."

Mr and Mrs Surine attended last week's sale of elk and wapiti sires at Lorneville.

"The selling facilities were very good," he said. "The sale was very professional and well handled."

Export receipts will suffer if bovine Tb not eradicated

Bovine tuberculosis is infecting 21 deer herds and 23 cattle herds in Southland.

And the region's ability to export rests on the eradication of the problem.

MAF officers Brian Butcher and Gavin Struthers spoke to members of Southland Regional Council's noxious plants and pest destruction committee this week.

The meeting was convened because of farmers' fears over the growing threat from possums transmitting the disease to stock.

Possum had been identified as a major spreader of the disease because they have little resistance to it, said Mr Struthers.

But the problem hits other domestic and wild animals, including pigs.

The Southland Regional Council said in its draft pest management plan it considered possums to be probably the biggest threat to agricultural production.

It is now placing extra importance on this control and is involved in eradication projects with MAF.

The Southland region is split into areas, with the most frequent testing occurring in the "endemic" areas of Ohai, Tokanui, Hokonui and Taringatura.

Outer areas are tested less often, but the whole control region covers a major part of Southland.

Animals can be given accreditation once they have passed tests over a number of years. They cannot be moved out of an area until they reached this status.

However, Mr Struthers said the testing for Tb was not foolproof. It picked up at least 80 percent of truly infected cases, but with future testing, the rest should be identified.

It was possible cattle breeders could be "farming" the disease and not doing anything to get rid of it, he said.

"It is possible cattle farmers farm Tb and not be hurt by it, but that has not been my experience, as I believe they are keen to get rid of it, as we are."

Mr Struthers said, however, the disease was important economically.

"Our ability to export rests on the disease status. One country at the moment is insisting any animals exported are at least 16km from a controlled area, so it is important we control it."

This, he said, was very restrictive on Southland, which had only a limited area outside this limit.

Brian Butcher said MAF was developing a programme to attack Tb at Tokanui, where they would be seeking money from the Animal Health Board and DOC. The project will involve other organizations, including owners of Maori land.

The Southland Regional Council will only be asked initially to act on MAF's behalf to carry out the work.

Local authorities are pushing at national level for possums to be classed as a pest of national importance instead of regional importance, so funding can be obtained.

Deer products earn more export dollars

Export earnings from deer products have increased by almost 60 percent over the past year, a level well ahead of the growth of most primary sectors, the New Zealand Game Industry Board reports.

Figures released by the board show earnings from venison, velvet and deer hide topped \$75.4 million for the year ended December 1989, compared with \$47.7 million earned the previous year.

The increase is well above the 10 percent rise in total exports for New Zealand in 1989.

'Large increase in velvet returns are largely responsible for the rise in earnings although venison, deer skins and leather also made significant contributions,' Game Industry Board general manager, Michael Pattison said.

Venison returns were up by 25 percent, to \$40.7 million last year from \$32.5 million in 1988.

However, export volumes increased by just six

percent, due to a shortage of the meat. Many farmers retained stags to take advantage of the high velvet returns last season, rather than sending them to slaughter,' Mr Pattison said.

About three quarters of the New Zealand's export volume goes to European markets, mostly to West Germany which last year bought 1624 tonnes of New Zealand venison and provided \$14 million in earnings.

Switzerland was the next largest market for New Zealand venison, with 389 tonnes and earnings of \$4 million followed by the United States.

Other major markets were Sweden, Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark, Canada and Belgium.

Export volume to the United States rose by 10 percent in 1989, with a 41 percent increase in returns.

New Zealand exporters were able to benefit from a more favourable exchange rate in the latter part of the year.

'Japan remains the highest priced market for venison and, while export volumes have remained steady, the value of exports has increased by 21 percent,' Mr Pattison said.

Velvet earnings more than doubled last year, rising from \$14 million in 1988 to \$33 million in 1989.

Production increased from 120 tonnes, green weight, to 150 tonnes.

The bulk of exports went to the Korean market, which accounted for \$14 million Mr Pattison said.

'It is also significant that the value of exports to Hong Kong and several other markets has increased dramatically, reflecting an interest in our velvet from new buyers.'

Revenue from deer hide and leather rose from \$1.4 million to \$3.2 million with the main markets being Japan, Spain and West Germany.

Wrightson

Deer Services

VELVET POOL
VELVET POOL
RESULTS OF
WRIGHTSON
VELVET POOL
NO 4

SA1	245
SA2	232
A1 Long	255
A1 Medium	230
A1 Short	276
A2 Long	230
A2 Medium	283
A2 Short	270
B1 Long	205
B1 Medium	283
B1 Short	242
B2 Long	200
B2 Medium	196
B2 Short	190
C1 Long	170
C1 Short	223
C2 Long	166
C2 Short	155
C Poor Long	120
C Poor Short	150
D1 Damaged	202
D2 Damaged	145
Spiker 1	134
Spiker 2	90
OG1 Overgrown	120
OG2 Overgrown	70
RG1 Regrowth	85
RG2 Regrowth	45
TW1	250
TW2	248
TW3	213
TW4	200
Manufacturing	53
Shot	30
WP1	255
WP2	255
WP3	232
WP4	230

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Respected agricultural personality dies

Mr Bernard Pinney

5/4/90

One of Southland's best-known and respected agricultural personalities, Dunrobin Station owner Bernard Pinney, died yesterday after a long battle with cancer. He was 52.

Mr Pinney's contributions to agriculture, both in Southland and nationally, have been numerous and varied, all of them made without fuss or fanfare or in the expectations of accolades.

From an Otago Peninsula farming background, Mr Pinney and his wife Jenny took over the running of the largely undeveloped 4878ha Dunrobin Station in 1968, then not much more than a few rough tussock blocks and paddocks.

An article in the Deer Farmer magazine last May, described the station then as being ready for a young man with energy and vision.

Dunrobin today is a testimony to that vision with 141 paddocks, countless kilometres of fencing, almost 1800ha of improved pasture, 1400ha of oversown hill country and 104ha of trees and a network of access roading.

The station's deer block, begun in 1972 and now stocked with high performance red deer and an impressive herd of imported Hungarian red deer, is another testimony to Mr Pinney's vision and foresight and his commitment to the deer industry.

Close friend and associate and foundation president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, Sir Peter Elworthy, remembered Mr Pinney as a foundation member of the association, as being a man of vision, of keen intellect, whose interests ranged across a

broad spectrum that in addition to agriculture included commerce, philosophy, economics, modern computer technology and conservation.

"He was a magnificent sportsman, an outstanding cricketer and one of the best fishermen in New Zealand.

"His ability to spot and land a rainbow trout had to be seen to be believed."

Mr Pinney's cricketing talents were first recognized by his inclusion in the Christ's College first XI and continued with his attainment of a cricket blue at Lincoln College and selection for the New Zealand Universities XI in 1959-60.

"He was also a tremendous father and husband who taught his children to love New Zealand's outdoor beauty," Sir Peter said.

Sir Peter regularly visited the Pinney home at Dunrobin during Mr Pinney's long illness, the last visit just 10 days ago, and had been impressed by the uniquely positive, philosophical attitude he and his wife Jenny had adopted.

"There was no sense of doom," he said.

New Zealand Deer Farmers Association national president James Guild said Mr Pinney, as one of the deer industry's earliest pioneers and the association's second national president, had made a major and valuable contribution to the New Zealand deer industry.

"He was one of life's enthusiasts, a man of enjoyable personality, a conversationalist and raconteur — a man of an enquiring mind who was always facing challenges and tackling them head on."

Mr Pinney's intensive involvement in all aspects

of agriculture included his appointment to the board of directors of the producer meat exporting company, Primary Producers Co-operative Society, in 1975.

Robbie Burnside, chairman of PPCS, said his fellow directors had been deeply grieved by Mr Pinney's illness.

As a senior member of the company's board of directors, Mr Pinney had been highly respected and had brought a wide range of experience and skills to board tables of both PPCS Game Foods (New Zealand) Ltd he said.

"Bernard was a unique person — I don't know anyone else who comes close to Bernard Pinney."

Mr Tim Wallis, of Wanaka, who first met Mr Pinney when they both attended Christ's College in Christchurch, recalled that from the very first day he met him to their last meeting some two weeks ago, one thing had never altered — his overflowing enthusiasm and concerns for the needs of other people.

From his very beginnings in the deer industry, Mr Pinney had been totally dedicated and committed to the industry's wellbeing, Mr Wallis said.

Mr Wallis recalled Mr Pinney, as president of the NZDFA in 1981, had led a New Zealand delegation to China to be the first group in the world to study the Chinese methods of deer farming and velvet production.

"It was sad to see a person who had so much to give and wanted to give so much more recognize that he had limited time to live."

Mr Pinney was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 1973, spending six months in Canada, US, UK, France, Germany,

Central Asia and the Far East where he studied the large scale farm management, animal breeding and landscape conservation.

He will also be remembered as one of the pioneers of the Simmental cattle breed in New Zealand and together with a partnership of farming friends is recorded as being the first to use imported Simmental semen in a breeding up programme with Hereford cattle.

It was his deep love and understanding of the land that led to his passion for conservation and the belief that farmers are stewards of their land for future generations.

This passion was nurtured by his involvement from 1978 to 1984 in the affairs of the Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Institute and in the setting up of a landscape demonstration unit on Dunrobin at the request

of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust in 1985 that included the setting aside of a red tussock reserve on the station.

Mr Pinney's understanding of high country management and conservation was also recognized by the Labour Government which appointed him chairman of Landcorp's Molesworth Station management committee.

Mr Pinney was a prolific writer and accomplished public speaker. He presented numerous papers to farmers conferences and articles to farming-related publications.

Other interests included photography and Federated Farmers, and he was president of the Christ's College Old Boys Association in 1985-86.

Mr Pinney is survived by his wife, sons Jonathan and Marcus and daughters Jane and Sarah.

Hunting permits in demand

31/3/90

TAPANUI

With the "roar" beginning on April 1, permits for hunting fallow deer in the Blue Mountains and red deer in the Waikaia Forest and Leithen Bush Scenic Reserve have been in demand.

Kathy van der Hoorn, of the Department of Conservation in Tapanui, said this week block allocations were now full.

Hunting for deer and pigs in the three areas had been under way since February, but the roar or rutting season was always the most popular.

The 22,000 acres of native and exotic forest in the Blue Mountains for recreational hunting is divided into 34 hunting blocks. About 500 applications a month are received from hunters for permits to hunt in these areas.

Ms van der Hoorn said demand for blocks in the Blue Mountains area outweighed blocks available.

Fallow deer were introduced to the Blue Mountains in 1890 and had increased in number to a stage when 2000 bucks were shot in a 10-year period. This is the approximate total of the deer population today.

Numbers have been kept down by since 1963 by recreational hunting.

Ms van der Hoorn said the creation of the recreational hunting area, the first in New Zealand, had been an effective way to control the hunting season and permits and to monitor deer numbers.

The Forest Research Institute has recently completed a pellet frequency survey to gauge present deer numbers. Results are expected in June.

Coming Events

30/8/90

Tb and FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL: Because of the increasing public interest and concern over the spread of Tb into domestic animals, MAFQual is holding a series of public awareness field days from August 13 to August 17.

Tb has become an emotive issue but one that if not brought under control has the potential to damage New Zealand's favoured trading status in many world markets.

The field days will take the form of group discussions and practical demonstration workshops.

MAFQual Invercargill veterinary manager Gavin Struthers will lead the field day programme supported by other MAFQual management staff.

The topics to be discussed will include the current Tb situation, future strategies for testing and control, what farmers can do towards feral animal control including various control methods, demonstrations of what to look for in post mortem examinations of feral animals.

The venues are Monday August 13, Athol Hall, 9.30am, Manapouri Hall, 2pm; Tuesday August 14, Nightcaps Hall at 1.30pm; Wednesday August 15, Waimumu Hall at 9.30am, Showgrounds Hall Tapanui 1.30pm; Thursday August 16, Otapiri Hall at 11am; Friday August 17, Tokanui Hall 11am.

All people interested and concerned about the spread of Tb are urged to attend.

Mr Evan Meredith wins deer farming award

20/6/90

Te Anau deer farmer Evan Meredith is the 1990 winner of the Kevin Kelly Memorial Award.

Mr Meredith received his award at last night's annual general meeting of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association.

The award is presented each year by the Southland Deer Farmers' Association, in conjunction

with Game Foods (New Zealand) Ltd, to the individual or group which has made an outstanding contribution to the Southland and Fiordland deer industry.

Mr Meredith was a pioneer, procurer, processor and exporter of feral venison and has become a prominent deer farmer in the Te Anau Basin, being one of the

first people to farm the Wapiti breed.

Since 1972 he has been actively involved in promoting the Wapiti breed and upgrading breeding stock through the use of imported Canadian Elk and semen.

He was among the first in New Zealand to use AI in Wapiti breeding.

For six years, from 1982 to 1988, Mr Meredith managed the Crown deer herd.

He was a foundation member of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, the Te Anau Deer Discussion Group, the New Zealand Wapiti Society and inaugural committee member, and was the foundation president of the Fiordland branch of the NZDFA.

Mr Meredith was instrumental in organizing and promoting the first and continuing highly successful Fiordland velvet pools.

Mr Meredith currently farms Elk, Wapiti and New Zealand red deer on his Fiordland Wapiti Park property and is involved in a deer farming venture in the Waikato.

In all his achievements



Mr EVAN MEREDITH

Mr Meredith has been fully supported by his wife, Kath, who has taken an active role in his endeavours — a point noted by the judging panel.

This year's award was judged by David Stevens, chairman of the Southland branch of the NZDFA, Lauchlan Stevens and John Cutt, the Southland Times agricultural editor.

David Stevens said Mr Meredith was well known for the significant contribution he had made to the deer industry in the province.

"When there is work to be done, Evan is always there and he has achieved a lot through his quiet but effective manner."

SPCA's opossum nursing angers DOC officials

6/5/90

AUCKLAND

The policy of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to nurse injured opossums back to health has angered conservation officials, who say the only good opossum is a dead one.

The Conservation Department is about to spend millions of dollars trying to get rid of opossums.

Auckland regional conservator Graeme Campbell said yesterday that he was not impressed that Auckland SPCA workers saved the lives of more than a dozen of the creatures each year.

"This is like taking a rat from a

trap and nursing it back to health in the midst of a bubonic plague," he said.

"If we do not control or exterminate opossums New Zealand forests will be progressively destroyed and will disappear as we know them within a few hundred years.

"Sad it may seem, but the only good opossum is a dead one."

Mr Campbell said an estimated 50,000 of the animals lived in the Auckland urban area and these were a continuing threat to nearby natural areas.

The department was concerned that even a few of them released in

the wrong place could infest, or re-infest, areas of bush.

However, the SPCA policy has been defended by Auckland director Bob Kerridge.

He said that while the society was not opposed to humane opossum culling, the number nursed back to health and released was too small to make a difference to the department's work.

"It does not happen very often, and we simply assume a humane stance at that point in time. We look at the animal itself and say, 'Well, you're only one, now can we help you?'" — NZPA

Inspector advises changes to all R22 helicopters

24/8/90

Modifications to all Robinson R22 helicopters in New Zealand were recommended following a fatal accident near Needle Peak in the Long Burn Valley, Western Southland last year.

Gary Michael Hollows, a Te Anau man, was killed in the accident at about 8.15am on September 15, 1989.

The helicopter was being piloted by the deceased's brother, Mark Hollows.

Chief Inspector of Air Accidents Ron Chippindale said in his report released yesterday the accident happened because the pilot attempted to land without allowing a sufficient buffer zone between the aircraft and the crewman on the ground.

"The choice of landing site with the knowledge of the aircraft's tendency to tip backwards, the decision to attempt a landing in the confined area, after the crewman had left the aircraft and the

lack of extensions to the aircraft's skids were contributory factors," he said.

The aircraft took off from Lilburn at 6.20am for a deer recovery operation.

The pilot and his brother were to meet their ground crewman back at Lilburn at about 9am with any deer they had shot.

After lift-off the pilot flew over Lake Hauroko to the Long Burn area where they shot and recovered one deer from the southern side and four more on the northern side.

The pilot left his shooter in the area and took the last four deer to a recovery point on a nearby spur. He then returned to pick up the shooter and the first deer shot and returned to the drop off point between 8am and 8.15am, the report said.

The pilot flew the helicopter on to an approach into the easterly wind. As he was still hovering the aircraft, his shooter jumped from the aircraft to

prepare one of the deer for the final lift. It was his normal practice to make sure the alighting area selected by the pilot was suitable for touch down but on this occasion the pilot had not asked him to do this and he went straight on to the other task.

After the shooter left the aircraft, the pilot backed it away but the shooter then moved a deer closer to the selected landing site.

The pilot kept power on the aircraft and slowly bottomed the collective lever to lower the helicopter on to the soft ground. Once he felt sure the aircraft was stable he reduced the engine power to idle.

With this power cutback, the aircraft tipped backwards. The pilot tried to fly clear of the shooter, but when he heard the engine noise increase, the shooter straightened up and looked towards the aircraft. This action brought him into the path of the main rotor blades and he was killed instantly.

The pilot was unable to regain control of the helicopter which pitched forward and yawed through 180 degrees before coming to rest on its side.

The pilot and his brother, who was the shooter on this flight, had worked together for many years and had an understanding of their respective roles which required few words of briefing or command from the pilot.

Mr Chippindale said once the aircraft started to settle backwards there was little the pilot could have done to avoid the tragic accident.

He said the manufacturer had recommended an extension be fitted to the rear of the helicopter's skids to minimize the tendency of the aircraft to tip backwards.

Mr Chippindale recommended each owner of Robinson R22 aircraft consider fitting the optional modification to extend the skids of aircraft not so fitted and which might be required to land on unprepared ground.

Warning on Tb battle

19/6/90

WELLINGTON Animal health officials battling an epidemic of bovine tuberculosis yesterday warned farmers they will have to boost by over a third the health levy paid on each slaughtered beast.

Animal Health Board chairman Richard Alspach said the continuing spread of bovine tuberculosis required the animal health board levy to be raised 35 percent from \$4.20 to \$5.70 a slaughtered animal. And the board planned to boost by 54 percent direct spending on controlling the possums thought to be spreading the disease.

"If we are to reverse the disconcerting trends in the spread of Tb, then as farmers we must face the realities of the situation and be prepared to tackle the problem head on," he said.

Endemic areas now numbered 21, up from 16 this time last year, and the trend in herds on movement control and reactor numbers was continuing to show an increase.

The level of Government funding was also a significant factor in the levy increase according to Mr Alspach.

"Despite our representations, we have been given the disturbing indication that next year's

Government contribution to the scheme is expected to be \$5.9 million, which is \$0.6 million lower than for this year," he said.

"This failure of the Government to increase its funding will need to be met by a substantial increase in the farmer levy."

Delegates to the next Federated Farmers meat and wool and dairy section conferences will be told of the need to pay more.

This year the Animal Health Board will spend around \$3.4 million directly on possum control and a further \$11.8 million on testing animals, paying farmers compensation, research and administering Tb and brucellosis schemes.

Because of the threat of bovine Tb, the board considered it imperative to increase expenditure on direct possum control by 54 per cent to \$5.2 million for the 1990/1991 period. — NZPA

VELVET PRODUCTION SEMINARS

28/4/90



MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1990

1.30pm at Mossburn Community Centre
7.30pm at Winton RSA Hall

WRIGHTSON wishes to extend an invitation to all those interested in the velvet industry, to listen to and discuss with our following panel of speakers.

MR JOHN SQUIRE - MAF Qual - Velvet Research and Production

MR COLLIER ISSACS - GIB - Velvet Marketing

MR RUSSELL HENDERSON - Wrightson Velvet Pools - Velvet Grading

MR GAVIN STRUTHERS - MAF - Compulsory Deer Tb Scheme

MR DAVE LAWRENCE - Winton Seminar, Veterinarian - Velvetting, Drugs and Animal Welfare

MR HAMISH MAVOR - Mossburn Seminar, Veterinarian - Velvetting, Drugs and Animal Welfare

PANEL DISCUSSION

THESE SEMINARS ILLUSTRATE OUR COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO THE DEER INDUSTRY AND OUR BELIEF THAT DEER FARMING OFFERS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK FARMING



INQUIRIES
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Study reveals copper requirements of deer

14/9/90

A year long survey of copper levels in deer have had some surprising results for Mr Tim Harrison, a Teaching Fellow working in the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Group at Lincoln University and undertaking a PhD.

Copper is a mineral essential for the health of all living organisms. It is only required in small amounts and is obtained from the food eaten.

Copper plays an important part in a number of the body processes.

A lot of research in New Zealand, Australia and Britain has assisted farmers in understanding the copper requirements of sheep and cattle.

However, for the last 10 or so years farmers have moved into stocking deer and the vets have found that copper levels were not always similar to other species.

It has not been known whether this was normal for deer, or whether they required supplementation.

Therefore, farmers and vets in New Zealand running traditional stock of sheep and cattle have not

known what normal copper levels were and how to treat cases of deficiency.

Animals deficient in copper show symptoms which include broken bones, ataxia (swayback), poor wool or hair and reduced performance.

Mr Harrison realized that some investigation was necessary to understand the copper levels in deer and undertook a survey which involved collecting nearly 4000 liver samples from the three deer slaughter premises in the South Island.

Copper is stored in the liver. By measuring this concentration it is possible to get an assessment of the status of the animal.

All the liver samples were analyzed to get an idea of "normal" copper concentration in deer. Liver samples were also taken from processed feral deer and analyzed to get a comparison between farmed and feral deer.

From killing sheets Mr Harrison was able to find out the origins of the deer and what soil types the animals had been farmed on.

Results showed that feral deer in natural settings with a wide variety of plant species to consume had three to four times higher levels of copper than farmed deer, which were consuming the limited plant species offered.

By matching the soil types with the liver copper levels found in the survey it was generally found that the more weathered a soil the more likely it was to yield low copper concentrations in the livers of the animals grazed there.

Large areas of the West Coast, some of the Marlborough Valleys and smaller of areas in Canterbury appeared to produce low copper concentrations in farmed deer.

Surprisingly, the collected liver samples showed that 20 percent of the deer farmed in the South Island had liver copper levels low enough for some clinical symptoms of deficiency to be expected.

Forty percent were slightly deficient. It is the slightly deficient animals which are of most economic concern, because of

the decreases in performance, for example growth or reproductive rates, without showing any clear symptoms.

On the basis of these results, trials with copper treatments have been undertaken with the aim of understanding the metabolism of copper in deer so that the animals requirements for this mineral can be met effectively.

"In one experiment," Mr Harrison said, "the increases in financial returns of some animals given copper supplementation were \$15 to \$20 per head as a result of increased growth rate."

"Obviously you can only get that response if the copper status of the animal is insufficient, luxury provision of copper is not going to improve performance."

"However, it is necessary to consult a vet when deciding to supplement because too much copper is poisonous."

In an attempt to answer the questions and make comparisons between deer and sheep, further trials are continuing at Lincoln University.

Deer branch executive

10/8/90

David Stevens of Balfour was re-elected as president of the Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, at a recent branch executive meeting.

Colin MacNicol, Dacre was elected as vice president.

Committee: George Orr (Northern-Eastern), Walter Somerville and Bruce Story (Southern), Harry Robinson and Joe Wilson (Mid Southland), Neville Cunningham and John Cowie (Central), David Peak and Murray Cull (Western), Peter Brunson and Peter MacIntyre (Eastern), Bruce Hegan (Invercargill).

Ex officio members: Peter Ryan (ex NZDFA council), Brian Duggan (Stock and Station Agents Association), Mike Harbord (NZ Society of Farm Management), David Lawrence and Mike Bringans (Southland Veterinary Association).

Coming events planned by the Southland branch

include a field and indoor wintering on August 16, bus trip microbiological experiment at Otago University (October-November), the end-of-year NZ Velvet Awards and entation dinner.

Antler velvet has a future

By MIKE HARBORD

Southland can be proud of the NZDFA's national deer velvet competition held annually at the Invercargill A & P Show.

The competition is well established as the premier showcase of deer antler from the countries best stags.

Adult male deer grow new antlers each year. 'Velvet' is the soft, young antler at the stage before calcification into hard bone occurs. Velvet is prized particularly amongst eastern cultures for its medicinal qualities that include an ability to reduce high blood pressure and conditions like anaemia.

A feature of the approach to medicine in countries like Korea and China is that considerable emphasis is placed on prevention of many conditions, rather than only on their cure. In this regard, herbal and other natural medicines like deer velvet have a centuries long record of use.

Although the use of such medicines has been steeped in folklore, there is growing acceptance that deer velvet does have true medicinal properties even under the previously sceptical gaze of western observers.

The Russians have used deer velvet products in their health care for years. They manufacture velvet antler into Pantocrin.

Recently, New Zealanders have taken renewed interest in Pantocrin for two main reasons. Firstly, Pantocrin is widely believed to have proper medicinal properties, and secondly it is a clear liquid and therefore easily administered. The latter point is important because the traditional way deer antler has been prepared for consumption in Korea and China has been a stumbling block to its acceptance in western markets.

Since beginning deer farming, New Zealand's deer velvet has greatly improved in quality. This has been partly due to hygienic and modern improvements in velvet antler yield that farmers have produced from their stags.

Although the Russians still retain the aura of having the best quality velvet antler, they produce the elite product from only a portion of their best stags. There is no reason to believe New Zealand stag farmers cannot aspire to similar heights and eventually produce velvet equal to the best Russian product. A long term market for velvet antler would then be assured.

We have many advantages. Velvet antler yield has high heritability and under our farming systems where intensive record keeping and selection is possible, the rapid quality improvement achieved so far, should continue. Also we have access to many strains of imported sires that clearly can improve antler yields.

The most unusual and special feature of deer that sets them apart from other farmer animals is their antlers. In a promotion and marketing sense for any deer product, the value of big antlers should not be underestimated, nor should the potential medicinal markets for deer products be forgotten.

Southland can take a leading role in any potential for velvet antler production that emerges, because we have all the necessary good breeding and feeding conditions available. We already enjoy a national focus through the A & P Show's velvet competition.

Amphibious deer recaptured

20/9/90

More than 100 deer took a quick escape route Ray Jennings's farm at Awarua — they swam Invercargill estuary.

A gate was left open while the deer were checked and before Mr Jennings could stop them 110 hinds made for the water.

Thirty swam to Omaui while the others headed Sandy Point.

With the help of a helicopter the deer at Omaui rounded up and made to swim home, but there were problems getting the 80 back from Sandy Point.

"The weather broke and we didn't want to be swimming back when it was rough," Mr Jennings said.

They were herded to a paddock at West Plains kept there until the weather settled when they swam back through the estuary.

Mr Jennings said last night those that headed Sandy Point were a day out — the escape happened a day before the Toheroa season started.

Deer farming suits south

By MIKE HARBORD

The southern region ranks amongst the very best places in New Zealand to farm deer. Our natural advantages are quite simple, but may not be fully realized by prospective deer farmers in the province.

First, we can grow good summer feed for lactating hinds. Second, the feed and labour demand by deer, especially hinds, dovetails excellently into our intensive sheep enterprises; and third, we have a developed infra-structure for farming deer that is the envy of many other areas.

Summer grass brings many advantages that follow one another. The most obvious is calves grow well to weaning without expensive supplements being fed. Hinds are not dragged down in condition to produce good calves, so top calving percentages can be expected year after year, with longevity assured from the hinds.

Yearling deer also enjoy consistently good feeding that lets them reach high growth targets before entering breeding herds. Alternatively, we can expect top venison carcass weights.

Good summer grass that is assured in the south, means all deer farming alternatives are possible down here, and they all have a potential to be more profitable than elsewhere.

But that's not the whole story.

Deer enterprises dovetail into intensive sheep production so both systems benefit. With high lambing percentages, feed for ewes in spring is always at a premium. However, if some sheep stock units are culled and replaced with deer, there can be several advantages that overall make the change most profitable.

Hinds don't fawn till late November. Through the peak of lambing and ewe lactation their feed demand is only 45 percent of the equivalent stock units as breeding ewes.

So whilst maintaining stocking rates overall, culling some ewes and introducing a mixed system of sheep and deer can see the remaining ewes better fed in spring because of feed savings with the deer. Per head production from the ewes is higher because logically the poorest would have been culled.

Overall, labour on the farm is better rewarded, and there's the usual advantages of diversification and not having all the farm's income eggs in one basket.



Interest in deer farming continues strongly in Southland due to the recognition of local conditions and also the facilities available

Deer processors, marketers merge

CHRISTCHURCH
Game processing and export marketing interests have been merged in a new body, the New Zealand Deer Industry Association.

The new group is the result of merging the Game Exporting Council and Game Industry Association.

It also follows the decision by the Associate Minister for Agriculture, Ken Shirley, giving deer farmers virtual control over the Game Industry Board by removing automatic-entry representation on the board, according to the

association's interim chairman, Graeme Thompson.

In a joint statement with Michael Rice, the board's deputy chairman, Mr Thompson said the Minister's decision ended the balance which existed between farmers-producers and processors-exporters.

In so doing it also passed control to deer farmers of the board's \$3 million annual game levy funds, "without any checks and balances on how they spend it," they said.

The new body would play a more active industry role than its predecessor groups, which left most matters to the board, they said. — NZPA

VENISON SCHEDULE



From 3/9/90 until further notice

EXPORT SCHEDULE

	FAT	WEIGHT	GROSS \$/KG
AP1	GR-14mm	70.1+	5.98
AP2	GR-12mm	50.1-70	5.98
AP3	GR-10mm	-50	5.15
AD	1 Primal	Damaged	2.20
AF1	GR+14mm	Overfat	3.90
AF2	GR+20mm	Overfat	3.20
AM	2 Primals	Damaged	1.50

DOMESTIC SCHEDULE

PLG	Prime Local Grade	2.00
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- Fallow schedule on request
 - 1989 Pool Result - 20c. kg
 - Contact: Booking Officer, Bus. (021) 304-481
- Fax (021) 304-410, A/H (021) 304-771
Owen Buckingham — Te Anau (0229) 7180
Tom May — Winton (021) 367-035
Your Local — PPCS drafter
— Southland Farmers drafter
— Elders Pastoral drafter

VENISON NEW ZEALAND
MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE

MOSSBURN-DSP WEEK
COMMENCING SEPT 3

APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$6.60
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$6.60
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$5.90
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$4.40
All Local Trade	\$4.00

Price per kg

Normal transport subsidies apply
Bookings: John Fogarty
Ph (021) 44-653
or mobile (025) 936-834
Brian Duggan
Ph (021) 360-802

Wrightson
Deer

or your local Wrightson representative

Venison

Net values (\$/head) week beginning September 3, 1990

Grade	Weight	1/9/90		Venison NZ		PPCS Game Foods
		Fartex	Mair	Stag	Hind	
AP	32.0	97	93	119	93	156
AP	37.0	188	130	145	163	180
AP	42.0	213	181	173	211	204
AP	47.0	262	262	264	259	229
AP	52.0	323	308	329	308	296
AP	57.0	354	337	360	337	325
AP	60.0	373	355	379	355	342
AP	65.0	404	385	411	385	379
AP	70.0	435	414	442	414	399
AP	75.0	466	444	474	444	427
AP	80.0	497	473	505	473	456
AP	90.0	560	533	569	533	513
AF1/AT	60.0	229	223	223		217
AF1/AT	80.0	305	309	305		289
AF2	70.0	232	243	197		204

CHANGES:

Venison NZ: AP stag grades, 45-50kg, +5c/kg; 50-100kg, +30c/kg.
PPCS/Game Foods: All grades -20c/kg.

NOTES:

1. The net venison prices shown above in dollars per head are calculated after deducting the GIB levy. Transport to works needs to be deducted. All advised per head premiums have been included.
2. MAFQual inspection charges need also be deducted. They are (\$ per head) Seafied \$7, Venison NZ Mossburn \$8, Kennington \$7.50, Westland \$6.8.

VENISON SCHEDULE



From 19/11/90 until further notice

EXPORT SCHEDULE

FAT	WEIGHT	GROSS \$/KG
AP1 GR <=14mm	70.1 and over	5.40
AP2 GR <=12mm	50.1 to 70.0	5.20
AP3 GR <=10mm	45.1 to 50.0	4.75
AP4 GR <=10mm	35.1 to 45.00	3.95
AP5 GR <=10mm	up to 35.0	2.85
AF1 GR+10, 12, 14	Overfat	3.45
AF2 GR+20mm	Overfat	2.75
AD 1 Primal	Damaged	2.00
AM 2 Primals	Damaged	1.70

DOMESTIC SCHEDULE

PLG Prime Local Grade 1.80

FALLOW SCHEDULE on request

**BOOKINGS: Booking Officer (03) 230-4481 B/H
A/H (03) 230-4771, FAX (03) 230-4410**

- ★ Te Anau — Owen Buckingham (03) 249-7180
 - ★ Central Southland — Tom May (03) 236-7035
 - ★ Balclutha — Geoff Grant (03) 418-3699
 - ★ Mosgiel — Tim Armstrong (03) 489-3333
 - ★ Your local Drafter — PPCS Ltd., Elders Pastoral, Southland Farmers, Reid Farmers.
- Payout options ★ GFNZL 100%
★ PPCS 100% ★ POOL 90%

Optigrow answer to many questions

By Dr MARJORIE ORR

Have you ever wondered whether mineral (trace element) deficiencies are limiting your beef production? Do you drench and inject your cattle, topdress with minerals, pay the bills and wonder whether you are getting a return on the money spent?

Optigrow is a service now available to the beef farmer to answer these questions. Optigrow combines results of animal liver and blood tests and pasture tests, with the expertise of your local veterinarian to give a complete picture of your farm's mineral status.

Ask your veterinarian to recommend a testing programme for your farm. Generally, winter-spring is the ideal time to start. The programme will generally involve a farm visit to collect blood

or liver biopsy samples from your cattle.

Information can also be gained from analysis of liver samples from cull cows sent to the works and pasture samples that you can collect yourself.

The outcome will be a mineral supplementation programme specifically designed for your farm.

You will be confident that any minerals you use will be used to best effect and that you are not spending money on unnecessary supplements.

Once the programme is in place, monitoring over subsequent years will be relatively simple and

cheap as you need only check for the specific problem relevant to your property.

● **COPPER** deficiency can occur in cattle anywhere in New Zealand.

It may be caused by lack of copper in the feed or by interference with copper uptake by excess quantities of molybdenum, sulphur and iron.

Signs of copper deficiency are a light coloured brittle coat, poor growth and body condition and possibly scouring. Winter or spring is the best time to sample animals to check copper levels.

Pasture analysis is vital to sort out the cause of low copper levels in stock and what to do about it. For example, if the problem is caused by high molybdenum levels in the feed, topdressing with copper will not fix it.

● **MAGNESIUM** staggers causes unnecessary deaths in beef cows every

spring. The cows may be seen 'staggering' and often they are just found dead.

This problem is common when cows are brought down from blocks prior to calving and before the feed has come away. Since magnesium uptake is a product of (magnesium concentration in the feed x (availability) x (feed intake), feed shortages are a potent way of inducing deficiency in cows around calving.

Blood sampling can be used to check the magnesium status of cows on farms with persistent problems, pasture analysis is useful. Extra quantities of pasture potassium, for example, can reduce magnesium availability to stock.

● **SELENIUM** deficient areas are widespread in New Zealand and in these areas selenium supplementation should be considered.

Deficiency can cause calf deaths due to muscle disease, reduced fertility, milk production and growth, and there is some evidence to suggest that disease resistance can also be adversely affected.

Because selenium is poisonous if given in excess it is important to establish the selenium requirements of a farm by testing.

● **PHOSPHATE** deficiency is uncommon but is most likely on new pasture or browntop pasture under drought conditions.

Severe phosphate deficiency results in a "prayed appetite" — or "chewing on bones, fence posts and other unusual objects."

Affected cattle have stunted growth, low milk yield and reduced fertility. Reduced fertility application on many farms in recent years may have increased the likelihood of phosphate deficiency in cattle.

Deer farming — the growth industry

By DAVID STEVENS, chairman, Southland Deer Farmers

Deer farming has been quoted as the fastest growing pastoral diversification in the world.

The deer industry is now accepted as an integral part of New Zealand's pastoral economy.

In the past year the value of New Zealand's deer exports increased by 58 percent to provide \$75 million in foreign exchange earnings. Venison accounted for \$40 million, velvet provided \$32 million and the remainder came from by-products.

With deer numbers forecasted to reach one million in 1991, one might ask, with this growth can returns to the producer be maintained at current levels?

Venison peaked at \$8 per kilogram and velvet reached a high of \$330 per kilogram in the past season.

It is also interesting to note that the velvet prices in 1989-90 were achieved with an increase of 43 percent in velvet produced.

Taking into account the expected increase in both venison and velvet tonnages, all indications point to returns for the coming year being as good as the past season.

In Southland alone the demand for deer fencing materials has never been stronger. A reflection of the excellent returns from farming deer.

A continual dissatisfaction with the antics of the traditional meat industry, a drop in returns from wool and the fact that the cost of entering the deer industry in terms of both livestock and improvements has never been lower.

All of these factors have contributed to the continual growth of an industry with a tremendous future.

Cheap Eastern Europe venison impacts on NZ

WELLINGTON

A flood of low cost venison from Eastern Europe has pushed New Zealand venison prices down to half last year's level in its biggest market, West Germany.

Venison New Zealand Marketing, export controller, David Hall said New Zealand exporters were trying to send "as little as they can" to West Germany.

West Germany is the world's largest consumer of game meats and this country's biggest venison customer, accounting for more than 42 percent of New Zealand's total venison exports.

Company manager John Sadler earlier said sudden political and economic changes in the Eastern bloc had resulted in "fierce pressures to earn foreign exchange and the

sudden disappearance of previous state controls have turned the West German market into a free for all where the lowest price wins."

West German bone-in hind leg prices had fallen 40 percent in the past 10 months from DM12.50 (\$NZ13.15) to less than DM7.00.

Mr Sadler said Eastern bloc feral venison was

generally of poorer quality than New Zealand's farm-raised product which could not compete on price.

New Zealand's venison industry had made itself dependent on West Germany for too long, although Venison New Zealand had started to reduce its dependence by developing new markets in the US and Japan, Mr Sadler said. — NZPA

Fiordland helicopter crash claims two lives

3/11/90

Two Te Anau men, both experienced pilots, are dead after their Hughes 500-D helicopter crashed in steep, rugged bush in south-west Fiordland overnight on Thursday.

The dead men were the pilot, Ray Nicholson, aged 36, married and his passenger Nelson Thompson, aged 48, single.

The helicopter crashed about 8km north of Long Sound at the head of Longburn valley in south-west Fiordland.

Te Anau helicopter pilot Richard Hayes, who carried out an electronic search during Thursday night and again early yesterday, picked up the Hughes' emergency locator beacon at about 7.45am.

The beacon was also picked up soon after by a Royal New Zealand Air Force Friendship from Wigram which had joined the search at 5.30am.

Both aircraft spotted wreckage soon after picking up the beacon.

A team of police, Department of Conservation, and search and rescue personnel left Te Anau shortly after 9am in two helicopters to recover the bodies.

The recovery was complete by about 11am and the bodies flown to Te Anau, Senior Sergeant Peter Collins, of the Queenstown police said.

The recovery team was also due to prepare the crash scene for air accidents investigator David Graham, of Christchurch.

Mr Graham was to have arrived at the scene yesterday afternoon but has delayed his visit until today, because of bad weather.

The two men left Te Anau at 5pm on Thursday for a shooting trip in Doubtful Sound and



The helicopter wreckage lies at the crash site

failed to return before dark.

National search and rescue co-ordinator Terry Knight, of Wellington, was advised by Te Anau police that the aircraft was missing at 3.20am.

Mr Knight said the helicopter hit the side of a hill and rolled down.

Te Anau pilot and deer recov-

ery veteran Dick Deaker said it would be difficult to find two more experienced men in the industry.

Both Mr Thompson and Mr Nicholson had thousands of hours of flying experience, and knew what they were doing on such trips.

Mr Thompson was known for his love of his work and his

flying. Mr Nicholson was a highly popular person in the community, Mr Deaker said.

Nelson Thompson was one of the remaining pioneers in the industry, he said.

Senior Sergeant Collins said it was not yet known what caused the accident.

Mr Deaker said there were

always inherent dangers and hazards on expeditions such as yesterday's.

Helicopters were purpose-built for low-flying, a skill essential for deer recovery.

Mr Deaker said being involved in the industry was something that "grows on you."

"A lot of people say it is dangerous but it is only as dangerous as you make it, he said.

Finlay Sutherland, of Te Anau, a close friend of Mr Thompson who also knew Mr Nicholson, said Mr Thompson's passion for and experience with deer recovery also extended to deerstalking and crayfishing.

Mr Sutherland said Mr Thompson developed a technique of crayfishing using jet boats.

He also designed net-guns for deer capture, which are still used in the United States for relocating wild animals.

Mr Nicholson and Mr Thompson had flown together since Mr Nicholson was "a lad," Mr Sutherland said.

Their partnership was separated for several years while Mr Nicholson was flying in Papua New Guinea.

He had been flying again with Mr Thompson since about four years ago, Mr Sutherland said.

Mr Thompson's other interests included goldmining and Fiordland's flora and fauna.

Velvet season opens soft

17/11/90

AUCKLAND
Deer industry observers say markedly lower opening prices are not an encouraging start to this year's deer velvet season.

In previous years, prices have tended to taper lower from those set at the first auction.

And in Napier this week prices were 30 percent down on last season's opening and \$5 to \$15 below the close. The top price paid in the first sale of this season was \$210.50 a kilogram for A1 medium grade.

Soviet and Chinese exporters

seeking 'hard' currency have been blamed for the price fall as both nations have boosted their own exports.

Alaska and Canada are also increasing supplies, and New Zealand production is expected to rise from 230 tonnes last year to close to 300 tonnes this season. World supply is expected to come close to meeting the demand from South Korea for the first time.

As a result industry observers say they expect prices will fall further, hitting large South Island deer farmers who earn up to two-thirds of their income

from velvet.

That view is not shared by Wrightson's velvet pool manager Philip Irwin. "The market went far too high at the start of last season and buyers are now being ultra cautious."

Few New Zealand-based Korean buyers made money last season, he said.

But the increase in volume was bringing about a change in the velvet market. Buyers would no longer take poor quality velvet in order to get access to top grade and this was reflected in Napier where A grade prices were \$5 a kilogram down and

other grades \$15 below last season's close.

Game Industry Board marketing executive Collier Isaacs who was recently in Korea said factors peculiar to the centuries-old trade could insulate prices from further decline, particularly as the aphrodisiacs and medicines produced from antler were not price sensitive to the consumer.

"This year's auction prices are much closer to commercial reality," he said.

A trend is unlikely to become apparent until after next week's two sales of South Island velvet.—NZPA

New venison cooking contest a winner

23/1/90

By JOHN CUTT
A venison "cook-off" for professional chefs and a panel of high profile celebrities at next month's National Velvet Competition Awards Dinner, will ensure the deer industry in the southern part of the country maintains its reputation for forward thinking and innovativeness.

A new competition, Southern Venison Plates will add a new dimension to this year's Southland Deer Farmers Association National Velvet Competition.

Originally stemming from an idea from the association, the Southern Venison Plates has been taken up by the Game Industry Board as the forerunner to next year's International Deer Congress in Christchurch and if successful, an eventual national venison competition.

Southern Venison Plates, which is open to professional chefs in Otago, Southland and Fiordland is designed to generate interest and en-

thusiasm for the product in the hotel and restaurant trade, raise the standard of venison presentation, and lift the profile and usage of venison among dining out consumers in the region.

The advisory panel established to run the competition consists of Graham Hawkes (NZ Chefs Association), Graham Brown (Scarborough Fare Restaurant), Claire Mersi (GIB), Bruce Hegan (NZDFA), Will Thomas/Jude Ryan (Fortex Group), Peter Mitchell (Broadleaf Venison), Katie Blake (Mair Venison) and John Sadler (Venison New Zealand).

Dishes entered by chefs in the southern region will be sampled by assessors between October 13 and November 18 and five finalists will be selected to take part in a public "cook-off" organized by the Master Chefs Association in the deer pavilion at the Southland A and P Summer Show on December 4.

The overall winner will be announced at the National Velvet Awards Dinner that evening.

The five finalists will each receive a special jacket to be worn at the cook-off embroidered with "Southern Venison Plates 1990 Finalist" and the winner will receive a 14 day return trip for two to Hawaii plus accommodation, a \$1000 cash prize, a "Southern Venison Plates 1990" plate and a jacket embroidered with "Southern Venison Plates 1990 Winner."

Following from last year's highly successful National Velvet Awards dinner at which the principal guest of honours were Austrian Prince Heinrich Reuss, 111 and Princess Odelia, the Southland Deer Farmers Association has once again organized an innovative awards function.

Responsibility for the awards dinner is again the domain of Bruce Hegan who has pulled out all stops to ensure the high standard set last year is repeated.

Special guests this year will be Andy Haden and former controversial mayor of Waimata city, Tim Shadbolt. An approach has also been made to National MP Winston Peters to attend.

They will take part in a "Celebrity, Venison Roast."

Charged with the "responsibility" of contributing "serious" dialogue to a topic relating to the deer industry in the south, the panel is bound to come up with unexpected and unpredictable outbursts of outrageous, uproarious and totally entertaining utterances!

Since the first National Velvet Competition in Invercargill nine years ago there has been a steady increase in entries each year and a noticeable improvement in both velvet weights and quality.

Judging criteria is based on Game Industry Board velvet grading guidelines with last year's winning head in the Open and the NZ Red Deer Trophy sections being used as the example in the SA grade in the GIB Grading Guidelines poster.

Southern Deer Farmers Association president, David Stevens said: "The standard of last year's velvet entries was good but there is still a tendency to go for extra weight at the expense of quality."

"Possibly too much has been made of cutting velvet at 60 days. Some stags, due to weather conditions or possibly genetics, calify much earlier than others."

Mr Stevens said all the judges in this year's competition were involved in the purchasing, processing and marketing of velvet.

Entries in both the Southern Venison Plates and Velvet Competition will be on display at the awards dinner.

● Open Trophy - sponsored by Wrightson

● NZ Red Deer Trophy - Sponsored by Pyme Gould Guinness, Reid Farmers and Southland Farmers Co-operative Association

● Imported Red Deer - Sponsored by Deer and Game Services

● Elk-Wapiti - Sponsored by Alpine Helicopters

● Maiden NZ Red Deer - Sponsored by the KPFA

● Hard Antler - Sponsored by Landcorp

● Southland Red Deer - Sponsored by Wrightson

● Southland Elk-Wapiti - Sponsored by Central Southland Veterinary Services.

Last year's highly successful Velvet Awards Dinner was sponsored by Landcorp and Starfield Park, both of which will again be the major sponsors this year.

Going on last year's numbers, at least 400 people are likely to attend.

The awards dinner holds promise to being one of the most entertaining pre-Christmas evenings in the far south this year.



Andy Haden



Tim Shadbolt



Winston Peters

Rahui placed on site of deaths

A rahui (no trespass) was placed on the head of the Longburn Valley in south-west Fiordland yesterday following the deaths of two men in a helicopter accident there last week.

A combined funeral for pilot Ray Nicholson and his passenger, Nelson Thompson, was held at the Te Anau Hall on Monday.

The Te Anau Maori community, along with family and friends of the dead men, asked Kai Tahu and Kati Mamoe elder Mereana Loose, of Manapouri, to place the rahui on the area.

It was a mark of respect for the dead, she said yesterday.

The rahui was placed before the two men's bodies were committed to the ground during the burial ceremony at the Te Anau cemetery yesterday afternoon.

Mrs Loose explained the meaning of the rahui to the large attendance, blessing the two men and the valley from the top of the hill where they were found by saying the Lord's Prayer in Maori.

Public visiting the Fiordland National Park were being asked to avoid the area whenever possible until the rahui was lifted on November 13.

Mrs Loose said the two men were found in the same area where Gary Michael Hollows, of Te Anau, and James Anthony Kane, of Manapouri, died in two separate helicopter accidents last year.

She found it uncanny that the four men's bodies were found in a line on the same hill.

Asked what would happen if the rahui was not respected, Mrs Loose said that, in the past, some bad luck would occur for the trespasser.

Department of Conservation regional conservator Kerry Mawhinney said the department supported the rahui and had given its blessing.

Chairman's message:

David Stevens, chairman Southland Deer Farmers Association ^{23/11/90}

At the time of writing this article all deer farmers were eagerly awaiting the results of the first velvet pools to ascertain the prices they might receive for this year's product.

With all other farm produce returns falling at present, the importance of the revenue received to the farm income, from velvet, has become very important.

The general feeling after months of the usual speculation is the market should open around \$180 - \$220 per kilo similar to the market price at the end of last season.

The Southland Deer Farmers Association will once again hold the

competition at the Southland A & P Association summer show on Tuesday December 4.

Since the competition's humble beginnings nine years ago we have seen a steady increase in both velvet quality and velvet weight. This is a reflection of the progressive strides the deer farming industry has made in the area of velvet production.

The velvet classes this year include:

- Open Trophy — open to red, and wapiti/elk deer.
- N Z Red Deer Velvet Trophy
- Imported Red Deer Trophy
- Elk/Wapiti Cross Trophy
- Maiden N Z Red Deer Trophy
- Southland Red Deer Trophy
- Southland Wapiti/Elk Trophy

The velvet competition is judged on the New Zealand Game Industry Board's velvet grading guidelines by experienced judges who are involved in the purchasing, processing and marketing of velvet.

The standard of last year's velvet entries was good, but there is still the tendency, amongst farmers, to go for weight at the expense of quality.

A hard antler competition has also been held for the past two years, catering for the competitor who prefers to grow out their stag's heads. This section, although it does not have the same number competing, attracts good entries from throughout New Zealand each year.

The presentation of trophies for both the velvet and hard antler sections will take place at the National Velvet Awards dinner at the Ascot Park Hotel, on the evening of Tuesday December 4. This year the dinner will take the form of a "Celebrity Roast" with several well known celebrities taking part.

Last year this function was attended by over 300 people from throughout New Zealand and the guests of honour were Prince Heinrich III Reuss and Princess Odylia of Austria.

The presentation of the "Southern Venison Plates 1990" will also take place at the dinner.

The Southland Deer Farmers' committee initiative, in promoting the Southern Venison Plates 1990, was due to concerns over the lack of public awareness of presenting venison as a gourmet dish. The Southland committee felt it was an excellent opportunity to promote venison to people in the Otago, Southland and Fiordland areas.

When you attend the A & P Association summer show this year take time to visit the deer pavilion where there will be plenty to see. On Tuesday December 4 the pavilion will host the Southern Venison Plates 1990 trophy final cook-off, where the five chef finalists will prepare their spectacular dishes.

And the highlights on People's Day this year, promise to be, both the venison cooking demonstrations and velvet and hard antler display of entries.



Mr David Stevens

**Fiordland Branch
New Zealand Deer
Farmers' Association Inc.**

^{23/11/90}

ANNUAL VELVET SALE DAY

Date: December 6, 1990

Venue: R J Hayes, Hangar State Highway 94 Te Anau (will be signposted)

Time: Velvet accepted 8am to 10.30am

Registration fee:
Membership NZDFA Inc — No Charge (or fee)
Non-members — \$25.00

Bags: Standerized bags available, \$5 each

BBQ & Refreshments

**Inquiries: Kay Brown, Secretary
PHONE (03) 249-7648**

30953

Venison

Net values (\$/head) week beginning November 19, 1990

Grade	Weight	Fortex		Mair		Venis		NZ		PPCS Game Foods
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			
AP	32.0	84	77	71	71	82				
AP	37.0	136	112	101	97	138				
AP	42.0	154	156	156	148	154				
AP	47.0	210	212	208	194	210				
AP	52.0	274	279	282	261	256				
AP	57.0	300	309	309	286	280				
AP	60.0	316	325	325	301	295				
AP	65.0	342	352	352	326	320				
AP	70.0	369	379	379	351	344				
AP	75.0	395	399	391	354	384				
AP	80.0	421	425	417	377	409				
AP	90.0	474	470	470	425	461				
AF1/AT	60.0	202	223	211		190				
AF1/AT	80.0	269	309	233		253				
AF2	70.0	201	215	155		173				

CHANGES:

VENISON NZ: AP grade stag (50-70kg) -10c; (70-100kg) -30c/kg.
AF -10c to 50c; AP grade hind (45-50kg) -50c; (50-100kg) -40c;
AT Stag (under 70kg) -20c; (70-100kg) -50c; AP Stag and Hind
over 36 months -50 tp 70 c/kg for heavier grades.

NOTES:

- The net venison prices shown above in dollars per head are calculated after deducting the GIB levy. Transport to works needs to be deducted. All advised per head premiums have been included.
- MAFQual inspection charges need also be deducted. They are (\$ per head) Seafield \$7, Venison NZ Mossburn \$7, Kennington \$7.50, Westland \$7.85.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY AGRI-FAX



^{23/11/90}

WE WERE THE FIRST TO OFFER . . .

- A supplier owned and operated deer slaughter facility (1985)
- Individual animal slaughter analysis (1985)
- A pool payment option (1985)
- Live weight recording prior to slaughter (1985)
- A product and process Quality Assurance Programme (1988)
- A Deer Industry Contribution Award (1988)
- A Health and Defect Report (1990)

OUR PAYOUT HISTORY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF . . .

A history of maximum* schedule prices among South Island exporters

- : 1987/88 in 8 out of 11 grades
- : 1988/89 in 10 out of 11 grades
- : 1989/90 in 12 out of 12 grades

*Main season from December-June

September 29, 1990 33

Public Notice

ATTENTION HUNTERS
From October 1, 1990, deer carcasses 35kg and under will no longer be purchased. For further prices contact your local agent.

K Swan
GAME RECOVERY LTD
18178

Southland Deer Farmers Association National Velvet Competition

PROGRAMME

^{23/11/90}

Monday December 3

Commencement of the velvet and hard antler judging at the Southland A & P Association Show.

Tuesday December 4

Judging of velvet and hard antler continues.
2.30pm The five finalists in the Southern Venison Plates will commence their cook-off at the showgrounds.

Velvet Awards Dinner — Ascot Park Hotel

6.30pm Display of velvet, hard antler and the five dishes involved in the Southern Venison Plates Cook-off. This event is to be held in the foyer of the Ascot Park Hotel.

Wednesday December 5

Peoples day at the show will see the Deer Pavilion host a full display of deer farming related activities.

Stanfield Oaks imports deer to upgrade country's industry

In 1982 Clive Jermy travelled to Europe to investigate and evaluate English and European deer for import into New Zealand to upgrade this country's deer industry.

From 1982 deer were imported from famous Warnham Park and Woburn Abbey for use in his own herds and those of interested clients.

In 1984 Mr Jermy imported the first Yugoslavian deer to New Zealand and, in 1986, the first Hungarian deer.

In 1985 Stanfield Park was developed 25 kilometres south of Cambridge as a specialist stud using European bloodlines.

Since that time Stanfield has dominated the stud scene in New Zealand deer farming.

Every year since inception the stud has achieved the heaviest live-weights for age, the heaviest antlers for age and the

highest prices nationwide.

Most notable achievements have been the sale of Magyar, a six-year-old Hungarian sire, to Australia for \$120,000, followed by the syndication of Ramasses, a five-year Warnham Park sire, for \$150,000.

At this year's January sale a two-year-old Yugoslavian stag, Bilje, was sold for \$124,000.

Late in 1989 an outstanding rising one-year stag, a son of Magyar from a Yugoslavian hind, was sold to Harry and Norma Robinson of Southland for a record age price of \$55,000.

These are just some of eight world record prices achieved by the stud, reflecting the outstanding quality of the deer bred at Stanfield.

Clive Jermy believes that the combination of the Warnham Park and Eastern bloc deer offers

the best combination of the European red deer for breeders to upgrade their herds.

Warnham Park was established in 1851 and since 1861 has been owned and managed by the Lucas family.

Very few introductions of new blood have been made, making the herd semi-closed.

Each year less than 10 percent of the best rising three-year sires are selected to go into the herd, and this policy has remained unchanged for 130 years.

Subsequently, the genetic strength of these deer for producing good antlers is exceptional.

Warnham stock mature early and good antler production is available from two year olds on.

The Eastern bloc deer represent the largest samples of red deer in Europe.

Dr Prince Heinrich Reuss, who owns Rosegg Park in Austria, established a unique herd of Yugoslavian deer in 1972.

The outstanding sire, Leopould, was his top stag.

Leopould was the son of Tito, a stag captured with a group of hinds at Bilje in Yugoslavia, right on the border with southern Hungary.

Leopould's best head age 12 years was 12.25kg cast hard antler.

The eastern deer are bigger than the English and New Zealand ones, with a lean carcass composition.

They also rut two to three weeks earlier than New Zealand deer.

Leaner, larger carcasses and earlier mating are excellent attributes to include in a recipe for the ideal deer for farming.

Stanfield Park offers to the public each year both pure bred and New Zealand cross sire stags from these famous bloodlines.

The champion sire at Stanfield Park is a Hungarian stag purchased for the stud by Prince Reuss.

Heinrich at six years was 315kg live-weight with 9kg of hard antler.

On October 10 this year sons of Heinrich were up to an astonishing 130kg live-weight and rising one-year hinds to 102kg.

With Ramasses cutting an industry record (cut correctly) at 6.85kg of velvet age five years and Terry, also five years, cutting 6.35kg this season the stud believes it can offer to the industry outstanding stags with body weights comparable to hybrids, and superior antlers.

By staying within the red deer species, genetics can be built on and consolidated to maximize heritability factors for improved production per acre.

Clive Jermy believes that we should remember that farming is all about quality production per acre equals maximum profit.

Therefore a herd that performs with the highest consistency and efficiency of production will reward the farmer with improved income.

Clive Jermy and his associate, Neville Johnson of Otuitui Lodge, have amalgamated their operations to form Stanfield Oaks and will be relocating to a new stud between Cambridge and Hanmilton.

Possum booklet free

A self-help booklet on possum control has been produced by the Southland District Council for farmers within the Southland Regional Council area.

The information has been sourced from the Animal Health Board and outlines ways in which farmers can help in the destruction of possums on their own properties, thus helping to reduce the spread of bovine Tb.

The booklet is available free from any of the Southland District Council's five service delivery centres, the Southland District Council office in InvercarHgill, the InvercarHgill City Council, Federated Farmers, pest destruction staff and the Southland Regional Council office.



**Fiordland Branch
New Zealand Deer
Farmers' Association Inc.**

ANNUAL VELVET SALE DAY

Date: December 6, 1990
Venue: R J Hayes, Hangar State Highway 94 Te Anau (will be signposted)
Time: Velvet accepted 8am to 10.30am
Registration fee:
Membership NZDFA Inc — No Charge (or fee)
Non-members — \$25.00
Bags: Standerized bags available, \$5 each

BBQ & Refreshments

**Inquiries: Kay Brown, Secretary
PHONE (03) 249-7648**

30953



Clive Jermy feeds Stanfield Oak's champion sire, Heinrich, a wild-caught Hungarian stag. Heinrich at six years of age was 315kg live-weight with 9kg of hard antler.

NORTHERN SOUTHLAND VETERINARY SERVICES



The animal health professionals in Northern Southland
EMERGENCY SERVICES
Riversdale
(03) 202-5636
Te Anau
(03) 249-7039

22199

Farmers keen to raise venison profile

23/11/90

Southern Venison Plates 1990 is the brain-child of Otago and Southland deer farmers who wanted to lift the profile of farm-raised venison in one of the country's foremost tourist areas.

Farmers were concerned that few restaurants in the region were featuring the farm-raised product on their menu, said Bruce Hegan, executive member of the Southland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association.

"Very few restaurants seem to be aware of the versatility of farm-raised venison and its nutritional qualities.

"The competition was seen as a very good way to reach chefs, generating interest in the product and also raising the standards of presentation," Mr Hegan said.

Southern Venison Plates 1990 was launched in September in conjunction with the New Zealand Game Industry Board and chef co-ordinator, Graham Hawkes from the Orchids Cafe in Queens Park.

Due to the excellent response from southern chefs and restaurants, the competition may well be extended to the whole of the South Island next year and nationwide the following year, the board's marketing executive, Claire Mersi, said.

Venison increasingly popular dish

High in protein and low in fat, New Zealand farm-raised venison is enjoying a new popularity among health-conscious diners here and overseas.

Chefs are beginning to recognize venison offers substantial health benefits to consumers who enjoy red meat but want to cut down their fat intake.

Venison, in its wild form, was long considered the fare of nobles, who doused the meat in heavy sauces and marinades to hide its "gamey" flavour.

Today's chefs are aware of the more subtle taste of the farm-raised product and are serving it in such a way as to preserve its natural juices and flavour.

Now there's good news for home chefs wanting to try out their own venison cuisine ideas.

Until recently, New Zealand farm-raised venison has only been available through restaurants, but it is becoming more available in specialty food shops and even in some supermarkets.

But because venison is so lean, it behaves differently from other meats.

Fans of the gourmet meat may find the following preparation guidelines useful.

- Keep raw meat refrigerated on a covered plate, not in plastic, to stop it from sweating.

- Always slice the meat across the grain, not with it.

- Cook quickly on a high heat.

- Serve rare or medium rare.

- Cut steaks or medallions 1.5 to 2cm thick and cook only for 30-40 seconds on each side.

- When roasting set oven at 220 degrees celcius and allow three minutes cooking time per centimetre of thickness.

- Never reheat venison.
- Prepare sauces in advance.

- Venison is especially well-suited to light, fruit-based sauces.

- Allow around 160 gm of meat per main course serving and 80 gm for starters or entrees.

VENISON SCHEDULE



From 19/11/90 until further notice

24/11/90

EXPORT SCHEDULE

FAT	WEIGHT	GROSS \$/KG
AP1 GR <=14mm	70.1 and over	5.40
AP2 GR <=12mm	50.1 to 70.0	5.20
AP3 GR <=10mm	45.1 to 50.0	4.75
AP4 GR <=10mm	35.1 to 45.00	3.95
AP5 GR <=10mm	up to 35.0	2.85
AF1 GR+10, 12, 14	Overfat	3.45
AF2 GR+20mm	Overfat	2.75
AD 1 Primal	Damaged	2.00
AM 2 Primals	Damaged	1.70

DOMESTIC SCHEDULE

PLG Prime Local Grade 1.80

FALLOW SCHEDULE on request

BOOKINGS: Booking Officer (03) 230-4481 B/H
A/H (03) 230-4771, FAX (03) 230-4410

- * Te Anau — Owen Buckingham (03) 249-7180
 - * Central Southland — Tom May (03) 236-7035
 - * Balclutha — Geoff Grant (03) 418-3699
 - * Mosgiel — Tim Armstrong (03) 489-3333
 - * Your local Drafter — PPCS Ltd., Elders Pastoral, Southland Farmers, Reid Farmers.
- Payout options * GFNZL 100%
* PPCS 100% * POOL 90%

VENISON NEW ZEALAND MARKETING LTD

VENISON SCHEDULE 17/11

MOSSBURN-DSP WEEK COMMENCING NOV 19

	Price per kg
APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$5.50
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$5.70
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$4.70
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$4.00
All Local Trade	\$4.00

Normal transport subsidies apply
Bookings: John Fogarty
Ph (03) 214-4653
or mobile (025) 936-834
Brian Duggan
Ph (03) 236-0802

Wrightson Deer

or your local Wrightson representative

04671

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc.

DEER VELVET COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 28, 1990

FIFTH EASTERN SOUTHLAND DEER FARMERS VELVET COMPETITION

24/11/90 GORE A&P SHOW

Classes: Best 3 & 4 year Red Deer
Best 3 & 4 year All Breeds

Entry forms available from:
8EASTERN SOUTHLAND DEER GROUP
PO Box 378 GORE

or
Phone Peter McIntyre 207-1828
Peter Brunnsden 208-9065

Entries close 10am Sharp, November 28

20834

Deer feed blocks in big demand

23/11/90

Following the successful introduction of cereal and molasses based feed blocks a few years ago, Weddel Crown Stockfoods have progressed well in developing specialist blocks for various species.

Tomoana Sheep and Cattle, Goat and Fine Wool Feed Blocks have now established themselves as low-cost, labour free energy supplements with a wide section of the farming community.

Tomoana have now successfully launched the new Tomoana Deer Feed Block with demand from deer farmers increasing continually.

The new block contains high levels of digestible energy and protein, with a specifically formulated vitamin and mineral content. The ingredient profile is designed to boost energy intake, with a large proportion of cooked, whole and

ground cereals (maize and barley) and liquid molasses. High quality vegetable proteins are also included, and the block's unique formulation ensures adequate hardness and weathering properties. The block will remain firm under wet weather conditions and its self-limiting formulation will prevent excessive intakes. However, intakes will vary according to the level of other feed available, and the seasonal requirements of stock.

Tomoana recommend the block be made available to all ages and classes as it has all purpose qualities for the seasonal nutritional requirements of deer. Hinds will benefit most from 6 weeks prior to mating and through the pregnancy/lactation period, with the block providing supplementary energy to help achieve adequate weight and fertility targets. The block will also provide stags with an

energy boost during the rutting period to prevent excessive liveweight loss and maintain good fertility. Young deer offered the block have access to highly digestible carbohydrates, protein and minerals for good skeletal and muscle development.

Weddel Crown Stockfoods Ltd are pleased with the exceptional interest shown so far in this new product, and this demand has substantiated comments from farmers that adequate nutrition is a primary concern in deer farming. A large number of farmers involved in feed trials for the block have been using them for over 12 months and report consistently pleasing results.

Further information from Weddel Crown Stockfood's representative and technical teams is available.

Published by Arrangement

Cook-off of region's best venison dishes at show 23/11/90

Invercargill hosts Southern Venison Plates 1990



Five southern chefs will prepare their own special farm-raised venison dishes in the Southern Venison Plates cook-off at the Invercargill A and P Show.

Venison fans could pick up a few tips on how to prepare their favourite food at the Invercargill A and P Show on December 4, when five of the region's chefs present their best farm-raised venison recipes.

The chefs, from restaurants throughout Otago and Southland, will be taking part in a "cook-off", the final round of a new venison cookery competition, Southern Venison Plates 1990.

The competition invited enterprising southern chefs to come up with interesting and innovative dishes using New Zealand farm-raised venison and to test their creative efforts on their customers.

The creator of the best venison dish wins a holiday for two in Hawaii and the Southern Venison Plates award.

Over the past six weeks, New Zealand farm-raised venison has topped the bill of fare at some 18 restaurants, from Wanaka to Riverton.

The meat has been supplied by Fortex Group, Mair Venison Ltd, Broadleaf Venison, Food Supplies, Cool Foods and Venison New Zealand Ltd.

By tomorrow night anonymous assessors will have toured all the restaurants, sampling the fare and testing front-of-house staff on their knowledge of farm-raised venison, the dish and the competition.

Choosing five finalists from the 22 entries has been a tough job, New Zealand Game Industry Board marketing executive, Claire Mersi said.

"The assessors have been very impressed with both the standard of the dishes and the enthusiasm of front-of-house staff.

"They're really working at selling the dish and

the benefits of farm-raised venison."

Participating restaurants have registered a tremendous response from their customers, she added.

"We've had nothing but positive response from restaurants. The dishes raised a lot of interest with diners.

"In fact half the meals in one Queenstown restaurant were going out as venison dishes."

The cook-off will take place at 2pm on December 4 at the Invercargill A and P Show.

Chefs will have 75 minutes in which to prepare their chosen dishes for the judges.

Dishes will be assessed on originality, presentation, taste, portion size (150-200 grams of meat may be used), garnish and vegetables and the degree of cooking.

This last criterion is very important, chef coordinator Graham Hawkes said.

"The meat must be rose throughout — no more or less than medium rare.

Too many chefs make the mistake of cooking venison to death.

Often they smother the meat in heavy sauces, thinking they have to disguise any gamey flavour.

"In fact farm-raised venison has a subtle flavour and is very tender.

"At the cook-off the judges will be looking at how well chefs make the most of these qualities," said Mr Hawkes.

The judging panel consists of chef Graham Brown, of Christchurch's Scarborough Fare restaurant.

Also Margaret McHugh, a chef and councillor of the Queenstown Lakes District and Paul Casson, chef and supervisor at the Otago Polytechnic School of Catering.

The winner of the cook-off will be announced at the National Deer Velvet Awards dinner on the evening of December 4, when the Southern Venison Plates 1990 award will be presented.

"The cook-off promises to be quite exciting," Mr Hawkes said, "People are more than welcome to come along. They might even pick up a few ideas!"

Bovine Tb escalates

MASTERTON
Bovine tuberculosis, carried and transmitted by infected possums, is escalating and has the potential to cripple New Zealand's dairy and beef exports, Animal Health Board national chairman Richard Alspach says.

The internationally accepted standard for the bovine tb status was a herd of infection rate of 0.2 per cent.

"The current New Zealand herd infection rate is over 3 per cent," he said.

"Therefore, it is affecting 13 to 14 times the international standard."

Mr Alspach said although the disease is not a human health risk because of the way New Zealand inspects its meat and processes its milk, the danger is the perception in the market place.

Due to the severity of the problem, the Animal Health Board has increased resources into its bovine tb control programme, which was created in March this year.

With a yearly budget of \$18.4 million, New Zealand farmers fund \$12.5 million of that total, and the rest is supplied by the government.

"In spite of the difficulties the farmers have had, in the last two years they

have increased their input into the scheme by 150 per cent," Mr Alspach said.

To make the best use of funding, Mr Alspach said the board has established a long-term research programme. — NZPA

Landcorp farms wapiti as commercial venture

23/11/90

By JOHN CUTT

Gerry Soanes, Landcorp Farming's southern regional manager is proud of the corporation's Orokonui wapiti herd.

"It fits nicely into our total operation" he told a New Zealand Wapiti Society field day on the property last month.

Landcorp Farming's southern region, which covers Otago and Southland consists of 28 properties running a total of 416,000 stock units which includes 3500 deer.

The corporation's wapiti herd originated from Invermay Research Centres' captured wapiti and elk stock gifted by the Canadian Government for research purposes.

When Invermay became pressed for space on its Mosgiel site to run the herd an approach was made in 1984 to the then Lands and Survey Department, for first, a grazing and later a joint farming operation at Orokonui.

The 130ha farm 15 km north of Dunedin was once part of the Health Department's Orokonui mental health unit.

Now the entire block is deer fenced and runs 470 wapiti a handful of reds, 300 sheep, 200 goats and 60 cattle.

With the reduction of

deer research at Invermay the wapiti herd was in danger of being dispersed and Mr Soanes, recognizing the potential of the wapiti and not wishing to see the animals dispersed made the decision to continue farming the herd as a commercial venture

"Selection will now be placed on velvet production," Mr Soanes said, "as this trait was not being emphasised in while the animals were under joint venture research and bulls will now be bred for use as terminal sires over other deer herds within the corporation."

Artificial insemination to address the question of improved velvet production is expected to be used for the first time this year. Recent sire purchases from Tim Wallis's Criffel wapiti herd and Tom May of Oreti will introduce new bloodlines.

Orokonui manager since 1955, Murray Johnston told the field day the decision to take on the wapiti herd six years ago had been "the best thing to happen to me in my working life — they're a very good line of animals."

The shed, yard and paddock layouts were put together by MAF and still provide efficient and provide easy movement and management of stock.

Mr Johnston said he had found the wapiti an easier animal to move

and work with than red deer.

With the unit now principally set up as a terminal sire breeding operation for Landcorp's other deer herds, the number one criteria is to breed animals of good temperament, he said.

Calves have grown at the rate of 800grams a day in the 28 day period from tagging to weaning in March.

A yarding of bull and cow yearlings gave those attending the field day an opportunity to see the advantages of using wapiti as a terminal sire over reds. The elk/wapiti yearlings averaged 121kg, straight reds 76kgs and the elk/wapiti-red cross yearlings 93kg.

Landcorp's Orokonui wapiti unit is a very tidy operation that drew favourable comments from those attending the field day. Its further breeding progress will no doubt be watched with interest by the deer industry.



Landcorp Farming's Orokonui farm manager, Murray Johnston, with a group of the corporation's wapiti sires.

VENISON NEW ZEALAND
MARKETING LTD

**VENISON
SCHEDULE**

MOSSBURN-DSP WEEK
COMMENCING NOV 26

	Price per kg
APSH 70.0 to 100kg	\$5.35
APSM 50.0 to 69.9kg	\$5.55
APSL1 45.0 to 49.9kg	\$4.70
APSL2 40.1 to 44.9kg	\$4.00
All Local Trade	\$4.00

Normal transport
subsidies apply
Bookings: John Fogarty
Ph (03) 214-4653
or mobile (025) 936-834
Brian Duggan
Ph (03) 236-0802



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Deer**

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Velvet glut hits prices

7/12/90

Korean buyers stayed away from the annual Fiordland velvet sale in Te Anau yesterday, and prices were much lower than expected.

The drop was caused by an over-supply in the international market and by Korean buyers unable to obtain credit, New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Fiordland branch president Chris Hughes said.

Top price at yesterday's sale was \$153 a kilogram, down from \$201 at the beginning of the year.

More than half the velvet at yesterday's sale was unsold, Mr Hughes said.

New Zealand Game Industry Board chairman Tom Williams, of Wairarapa, said Russian and Chinese velvet had flooded the market recently.

Korean buyers were not obtaining credit to buy until they knew importing costs, which would probably be set by a Korean agency in January.

Prices at yesterday's sale:
SA2 \$153, A1 \$145.06, A2 \$135.06, B1 \$120, B2 \$110, C1 \$101.55, C2 \$91.55, D \$58, E \$40.06, Spiker 1 \$50, Spiker 2 \$30, damaged 1 \$80.50, damaged 2 \$30.06, overgrown 1 \$70.55, overgrown 2 \$25, Taiwanese 1 \$110, Taiwanese 2 \$110, Taiwanese 3 \$90, manufacturing \$15.



Chef Phillip Kraal, of Bentleys Restaurant at the Parkroyal Hotel, Queenstown, prepares a venison delicacy in the finals of the Southern Venison Plates competition at the Southland A and P show yesterday. He was announced the winner at the Southland Deer Farmers' Association national velvet awards dinner at the Ascot Park Hotel last night, ahead of 30 entrants.

Celebrities add spice to national velvet awards

5/12/40

A celebrity roast featuring MP Winston Peters, former All Black Andy Haden and former Waitemata City mayor Tim Shadbolt was the highlight of the Southland Deer Farmers' Association national velvet awards dinner at the Ascot Park Hotel last night.

Nearly 400 people attended the function, which, together with the national velvet competition, has become the most prestigious event of the New Zealand deer farming calendar.

Messrs Shadbolt, Haden and Peters kept those attending the awards dinner entertained between courses with

quickfire repartee loosely connected with the deer industry.

Southland Deer Farmers' Association president David Stevens said the national velvet competition had grown from just 15 head entered in two sections in 1972 to 40 head in eight sections this year.

The competition also highlighted the rapid gains in production improvement New Zealand deer farmers had made during the period.

Also announced last night was the winner of the inaugural Southern Venison Plates.

The new competition for professional chefs in Otago and Southland attracted 30 entries and Phillip Kaal, of Bentleys

Restaurant in Queenstown, was judged the winner following a final cookoff at the showground yesterday.

Spokesman for the judging panel, Invercargill chef Graham Hawkes, said the result had been "incredibly close" with only five points between the first and last finalist.

"The competition produced the highest standard of any professional cooking competition in New Zealand," he said.

"The dishes were innovative and were enhanced by the use of locally grown fruit and vegetables."

The results of the national velvet competitions were:

Wrightson Open Trophy: T W J and Z E Hunter

(Te Awamutu) 1; Ingor Deer Farm (Invercargill) 2; Midmeadows Syndicate (Winton) 3.

Elk-Wapiti cross: Midmeadows Syndicate (Winton) 1; A Sutherland (Otautau) 2; Aden Deer N J Cunningham (South Hillend) 3.

Imported red Deer: Ingor Deer Farm (Invercargill) 1; Stanfield Oaks-Otuiti Lodge (Cambridge) 2; D H and L M Stevens (Balfour) 3.

Landcorp hard antler: P Fraser (Rotorua) 1; R H Robertson (Kurow) 2 and 3.

KPTA maiden NZ red deer: J and W Gregory (Richmond) 1; D H and L M Stevens (Balfour) 2; E McDonald-P J Menlove (Dipton) 3.

Southland elk-wapiti: Midmeadows Syndicate (Winton) 1; A Sutherland (Otautau) 2; Aden Deer N J Cunningham (South Hillend) 3.

Southland red deer: D H and L M Stevens-Swann Family 1; D H and L M Stevens (Balfour) 2; W R Heads (Winton) 3.

Champion NZ red deer: T W J and Z E Hunter (Te Awamutu) 1; D H and L M Stevens-Swann Family 2; J and W Gregory (Richmond) 3.

Velvet prices continue to drop

30/11/40

HASTINGS Velvet prices have continued to drop, according to provisional results from this week's sales by Wrightson's velvet pools

A top price of \$180.01 a kilogram was paid for SA1 and A1 short grades in both the Hastings and

Christchurch pools yesterday, down as much as \$30 on the opening prices for the season on November 14.

The first Wrightson velvet pool sold at prices one-third lower than last year's opening and \$5 to \$15 below the close, with a top price of \$210.50 a kilogram for A1 medium grade. — NZPA

Venison NZ confident

21/12/90

At a time when many businesses are cautious and predicting a gloomy future, Venison New Zealand is "confident and bullish."

Local director, Philip Rossell said the co-operative company's efforts during the past 12 months in systems reforms, elimination of waste and improvements in quality assurance had resulted in considerable achievements in processing, marketing and ultimately in profitability.

Venison New Zealand chairman, Nigel Gould re-

ports that for the first four months of the company's financial year to the end of October, its exports were running 109 percent ahead of the same period last year — compared with a budgeted increase of 30 percent.

The heavy demand for killing space at each of the company's three processing plants had seen the need to introduce priority booking for shareholders to ensure that those who had directly supported the co-operative were able to receive some preference for the limited space.

Mr Gould said part of the reason for the in-

crease in exports was due to the successful winter guaranteed price scheme which had ensured the company had been able to process a core number of animals at a known price.

Venison New Zealand would again introduce a winter contract for 1991 and full details would be released in February he added.

Mr Gould said that in addition to rebates, the company would introduce dividends next year.

Venison New Zealand released a prospectus last week seeking to lift its share capital by at least \$500,000 required to assist in funding the company's growth.

Agreement has also been reached with Challenge Deer for Venison New Zealand to buy out the 40 percent minority holding that company has in the co-operative's marketing arm, Venison New Zealand Marketing Ltd.

Deer velvet contest

30/11/90

GORÉ

The fifth annual Eastern Southland deer farmers and Gore A and P Association deer velvet competition was held on Wednesday.

Results:

Best deer velvet open: Aden Deer (four-year-old Elk, 5.60kg) and Ingor Farms (three-year-old Red, 4kg) equal 1.

Three-year velvet breeds other than NZ Red: Aden Deer (Elk, 3.15kg) 1, P Bastiaansen (Hybrid, 2.05kg) 2.

Local winner: P Bastiaansen 1.

Four-year velvet breeds other than NZ Red: Aden Deer (Elk, 5.60kg) 1, N J Cunningham (Elk, 4.75kg) 2, L Tayles (Half Elk, 3.65kg) 3.

Local winner: L Tayles.

Eastern Southland deer farmers yearling herd: D Curd 1, L and A Thayer 2, Jeff Farm 3, P Byars 4.

Best three-year pure NZ Red deer: Ingor Farms (4kg).

Best three or four-year-old NZ Red deer velvet: Ingor farms (three-year-old, 4kg).

Three-year NZ Red stag velvet: Ingor Farms (4kg) 1, B Edward (3.55kg) 2, B Edward (3.45kg) 3.

Local winner: B Edward (3.55kg).

Four year NZ Red stag velvet: Ingor farms (4.55kg) 1, J Cowie (4.15kg) 2, Swann family (3.95kg) 3.

Local winner: P Brunnsden (2.35kg).

Venison

Net values (\$/head) week beginning November 26, 1990

Grade	Weight	Net values (\$/head)				PPCS Game Foods
		Fortex	Mair	Venison	NZ	
AP	32.0	84	77	71	71	82
AP	37.0	136	104	101	97	138
AP	42.0	154	148	156	148	154
AP	47.0	210	203	208	194	210
AP	52.0	274	271	274	256	256
AP	57.0	300	300	300	280	280
AP	60.0	316	316	316	295	295
AP	65.0	342	342	342	320	320
AP	70.0	369	365	369	344	344
AP	75.0	395	389	395	354	354
AP	80.0	421	393	405	377	377
AP	90.0	474	443	456	425	461
AF1/AT	60.0	202	211	211		190
AF1/AT	80.0	269	297	233		253
AF2	70.0	201	215	155		173

CHANGES:

MAIR AP under 50kg -20c; 50-65kg -15c; 65-70kg -20c; 70-85kg -40c; AP 85-100kg -30c/kg; AT under 70kg -20c/kg; over 70kg -15c/kg.
VENISON NZ: AP stag over 50kg -15c; AP hind 50-70kg -10c/kg; heavy hind AT and AF also reduced. Prices quoted are for under 36 months. Discounts up to \$1.20/kg apply for older, heavy animals.

NOTES:

- The net venison prices shown above in dollars per head are calculated after deducting the GIB levy. Transport to works needs to be deducted. All advised per head premiums have been included.
- MAFQual inspection charges need also be deducted. They are (\$ per head) Seafield \$7, Venison NZ Mossburn \$7, Kennington \$7.50, Westland \$7.85.

Good result for Venison NZ

16/11/90

Venison New Zealand Co-operative Ltd recorded an after tax retained profit of \$217,868 for the year ended June 1990.

This was achieved from a turnover of \$14,127,205 and represented a return of 12.97c per share.

During the year the company processed 36,000 deer, representing 34.5 percent of the total New Zealand farm raised production.

In addition the company's Mossburn plant processed 27.5 percent of the feral deer production.

Company assets increased by approximately 66 percent to \$8.1 million, partially represented by increased borrowings of \$3.4 million, a level that represents 42 percent of total assets.

Of the company's 184 shareholders almost 75 percent were active suppliers in the past year.

Shareholders with the maximum \$6000 paid up shares will again receive a \$10 rebate for red deer and \$6 rebate for fallow. Partially paid up shareholders will receive proportionate rebates.

In spite of the widening rift between producers and processors and the fragile international environment, Venison New Zealand Co-operative is forecasting further improvements in the group's trading in the current year.

Farm deer not feral deer

14/12/90

Escaped farmed deer carrying ear tags, will in future no longer be accepted at game packing houses for processing as wild feral game.

That decision was reached at an internal MAF game conference in Wellington early last month.

MAF considers that to continue to accept such animals, which can be legally shot if they escape from captivity, was a threat to continued market access for wild game.

Refusal to accept escaped deer as wild feral would also discourage theft from deer farms and reduce the danger of sick or injured animals from deer farms being dumped into the feral system.



DEER VELVET VELPOOL

Southland Farmers Co-op Velvet Depots Are Now Receiving Deer Velvet For Velpools Second Pool

The second pool closes November 29, 1990

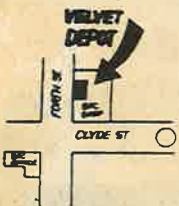
Our Invercargill velvet depots are now open to receive pool velvet

MONDAY TO FRIDAY FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT PETER BELLEW STOCK DEPARTMENT

PH (03) 218-1929 INVERCARGILL

OUR DEPOTS TO RECEIVE YOUR VELVET ARE

INVERCARGILL 24/11/90



GORÉ OFFICE MAIN STREET GORÉ

Or any of our trading outlets Lumsden - Otautau - Tapanui - Tuatapere - Winton - Wyndham

OR CONTACT US BY PHONING

SOUTHLAND FARMERS

INVERCARGILL (03) 218-1929
JOHN DUNCAN (03) 224-6301
GEOFF ERSKINE (03) 217-8097
SANDY ANDERSON (03) 208-6454

New computer programme simplifies livestock recording for deer farmers

Computers have been a part of our lives for years but many of us barely noticed their presence. Computer-controlled devices we use every day include washing machines, televisions, stereos, razors, even toasters.

The computer was originally designed to reduce the time spent performing repetitive tasks by automating the process. In farming, as in other businesses, there are jobs that can be done by computers quickly and efficiently.

Manual book keeping, especially, can become very time consuming and frustrating. For this reason special software packages have been written for use in the rural sector.

Farm accounting packages that perform budgeting, do monthly or yearly cash summaries, calculate account balances and stock have been available for some time.

By combining the correct software packages and reliable hardware your time can be used much more effectively, leaving more time to concentrate on your core business — farming.

In recent times deer farmers have been looking to computers to keep track of their livestock records. A major problem with a some of software that has been written for this purpose is that to use the software requires many hours of intense learning. And that ends

up keeping the farmer off his farm and in front of the computer.

Recently some of Southland's leading deer breeders expressed a concern that there was a lack of user-friendly software with the capacity to record the information required.

A local computer programmer, Grant Harrington from Handmade Software, listened to these comments and then developed a programme that enables the breeder to compile accurate records involving calculations on corrected weaning weights, deviations and rankings, all accessible with a minimum amount of computer skills.

The resulting programme, called Deerpac, is due to be launched officially in Invercargill on December 5.

Mr Harrington had this to say about his new programme:

"Deerpac is a complete deer recording programme, designed to meet the needs of the stud breeder and the larger scale commercial breeders. It is one of the most comprehensive selling tools available to the farmer, its clear and colourful graphics add a new dimension to animal recording."

After using Deerpac for a short time it becomes obvious that what has been developed is incredibly easy to use, all the required information is available at, literally, the press of a button.

If you ever were to need it, there is a specially designated Help key that gives you information about where you are within the programme whenever it is pushed.

By using the Four Generation family tree, on the screen information is instantly available on any animal shown. This information includes body weights, full velvet history and progeny.

The body weight recording allows for the calculation of corrected weaning weights, deviations and rankings.

The velvet weights recording accommodates the recently released New Zealand Game Industry Board standard grading scheme and also allows for the calculation of two year corrected velvet weights, along with their deviations and rankings.

Even before its official release Deerpac has been receiving a lot of attention from around the country, at present most inquiries have been coming from Southland and Canterbury deer farmers. It is envisaged that after its release inquiries will come form the growing deer industries in Canada and Australia.

Deerpac is to be released in association with the New Zealand National Deer Velvet awards, which are being run during the Invercargill A and P Summer Show starting on December 4.

Deerpac will be marketed by Computer Group in Invercargill. Computer Group has been chosen

because of the strong ties they already have with the farming community.

Computer Group is a totally Southland owned and operated company which started trading as Invercargill Computer Services in 1974.

Since that time it has grown both in size and reputation to be one of Southland's leading computer outlets. The company's name was changed when it moved into its present building, at 51 Kelvin Street Invercargill, in 1988.

So what does Computer Group have to offer that makes them the obvious company to sell Deerpac?

An obvious feature is their NEC dealership. NEC is the world's fourth largest computer manufacturer and is renowned for the high quality and reliability of its computing equipment.

And reliable equipment is especially important for members of the rural community who, rightfully, demand quality machinery.

Computer Group, also, was recently accepted as a supplier to CRT. This means that members of CRT will be able to enhance the performance of their farms as well as reducing capital outlay,



Deerpac will be marketed by Computer Group, an Invercargill company whose staff include, from left Sue Heffernan, Doug Thomson, Allister Macgregor, Grant Harrington, Brendan Monaghan and Janeen Calder.

by working with a computer supplier that understands the needs of the rural sector.

Experience is one of the most important assets of any company. Computer Group has spent the time and gained experience that you can use to design a system to best suit your needs.

The expertise gained over the past 15 years in both farming and small business operations has resulted in a team that is ready to solve any computing needs.

Farm computer systems have become a speciality of Computer Group. Systems have been successfully installed throughout Southland, Otago and Canterbury.

They are pleased to be the New Zealand agents for Deerpac as they believe that the addition of this specialist deer recording programme fills a gap in the market.



Wrightson Deer

24/11/90 VELVET
VELVET
VELVET

WRIGHTSON is now receiving your velvet for Pool 3 which closes on November 28, 1990.

To enable your velvet to reach Christchurch by the above date, we must receive it by

Noon, Tuesday, November 27, 1990

at our relocated Velvet Premises situated in Liddel Street (directly beside the entrance to our Bulk Barn).

During the week, please call first at our Stock Department in the Crescent. A Deer Representative will be on hand each Friday between 1.30 and 4pm.

GORE

Please deliver to the Bulk Barn — same closing date and time apply.

If you have any queries, please contact:

Invercargill John Fogarty	(03) 214-4653
Brian Duggan	(03) 236-0802
Gore Andy Perry	(03) 208-4453
Malcolm McGoun	(03) 208-7440



Southland deer farmer, John Cowie, records important herd statistics on his Psion, hand-held computer organizer, before updating the data base on his office computer.