

“Making the Difference”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Canterbury / North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS STATION

Issue 7
MAY 2009

Next Field Day:

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY – COMMUNITY FIELD DAY FROM 11.00am

4 wheel drives please BYO lunch (tea & coffee provided)

See over page for details...

MONTHLY RAINFALL	Actual	Av.	Last Year			Actual	Last Month
		69	78	121	PASTURE COVER		1,461
RAINFALL TO DATE	179	123	135	Pasture Growth Paddocks		14	44
Jul-08	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)			MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS	
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha		
Breeding hinds	1,050	2.5	2,625	1,000	2.5	Set stock on hill	
R2 hinds	240	2.5	600	1,200	3.5	On bottom deer farm	
R1 hinds (Red)	268	1.5	520	1,200	3.5	On bottom deer farm	
Sire stags	32	4	128	1,200	3.5	Out with hinds	
Old ewes	1,526	2.0	3,112	1,200	3.5	Early lambing ram 10th April	
MA ewes	6,789	2.0	13,526	1,000	2.5	Ram 18th April	
2th ewes	2,767	2.0	5,534	1,100	3	Ram 18th April	
Ewe hoggets	4,339	1.5	6,358	1,200	3.5	Out in Leader	
Other	25	1.0	25	1,100	3		
Finishing lambs	420	1.5	631			Home Flats	
Rams	102	1.5	153	1,200	3.5	Out with ewes	
MA cows	689	8.0	5,352			Kept around front yards for Tb testing	
R3 heifers	280	8.0	2,240			Kept around front yards for Tb testing	
R2 heifers	360	8.0	2,880			Out on hill	
R2 steers	351	8.0	2,808			Out on hill	
R1 heifer	374	5.0	1,865			Home Flats	
R1 steer	370	5.0	2,220			Home Flats	
Sire bulls	32	10.0	320				
Stud cows	40	8.0	639			On flats	
Replacement heifers	6	8.0	48			On flats	
18 month bull	14	8.0	126			On flats	
TOTAL demand (kgDM/day)			50,583				
Feed demand (kgDM/ha/day)			10.7				
Forecast pasture growth (kgDM/ha/day)			9.0				



- April has continued to be a trying month with a big workload for Simon and his team. There has not been a lot of rain since our last field day in March.

- The hinds on the hill have lifted in condition since weaning. Stags are to be pulled out at Tb testing from the MA hinds, and from the R2 hinds around 20th May.

- Final mating mobs and stags used were as follows:

Middle Hill	296	MA hinds	7	B11 stags
Swamp Block	289	MA hinds	8	Wapiti stags
Hydes	331	3 rd & 4 th calvers	7	MA Red stags
Airstrip	88	2 nd calving hinds	3	New R2 Red stags
Bottom Deer Farm	240	15 month hinds	8	MA Red stags

- The 40 positive and 7 suspicious Johne’s tested hinds in the 3rd and 4th calving hinds will also be pulled out at Tb testing. What to do with these will be discussed at the next community field day.

- Hind numbers wintered will be on par with last year. Increased numbers going forward will be subject to development.

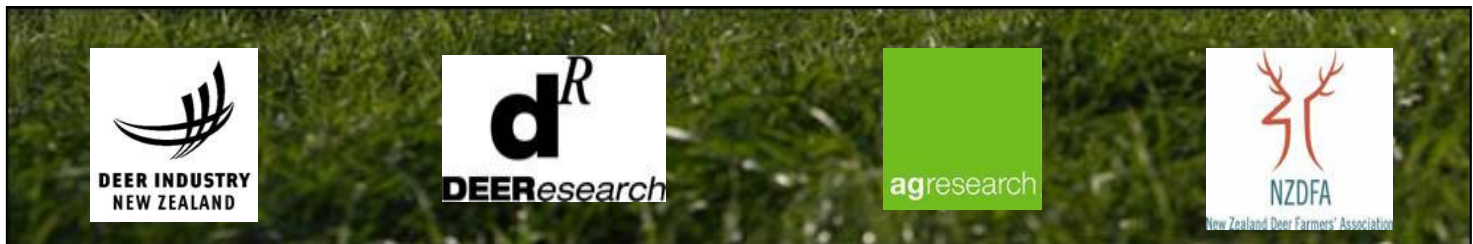
- Over the last few months Simon has been very focused on getting a guaranteed stock water supply to the deer unit and surrounding country. His progress and hurdles will be reported at the next field day.

- Breeding cows were weaned, pregnancy tested and Tb tested 19th - 23rd April. Tb testing has been a massive ordeal with a skin and blood test required. This required all cows to be kept around yards till 12th May.

- Pregnancy testing results were very pleasing with 7% empty in MA cows and 3.5% empty in R3 heifers. This has enabled a large proportion of older cows and late cows to be culled.

- Rams went out with the Black Face mob (1,526 ewes) on 10th April and with remaining ewes 18th April. Ewe numbers are back to around 11,100. Still 1,300 extra ewe lambs and 420 finishing lambs on board.

- The last two autumns have been trying for Mendip, with stock water becoming a major issue within the deer unit, change of breed in the sheep and higher lambing percentages. This coincides with better production levels in the breeding cow herd, but is complicated with a change in Tb status. Simon and Meisha are refocusing on their direction for stock numbers and classes of stock. We will present trends in stock numbers and productivity at our next community field day on 21st May.



THURSDAY, 21ST MAY – COMMUNITY FIELD DAY FROM 11.00am

**MENDIP HILLLS STATION, LEADER ROAD, BLACK FAMILY
MANAGERS - SIMON AND MEISHA LEE**

4 wheel drives please BYO lunch (tea & coffee provided)

- 11.00am *Welcome and Introduction* Peter Bradley
Simon & Meisha Lee
- 11.10am *Property Tour* (lunch on the run)
Farm policy and production moving forward Simon/Peter
Development: update and alternatives
- Pasture growth Sam Spencer-Bower
Cage cut results and overview NZ Agriseeds trial NZ Agriseeds Ltd.
- Update: Johne's disease / Animal health Ian Page
North Canterbury Vet Clinic
- 2.45pm *Woolshed Presentation*
Supplements: cost-effective options for breeding hinds on the hill
David Stevens
AgResearch
- ETS scheme and opportunities Clayton Wallwork
Carbon Farming Group
- Panel questions and answers
- Market update Ian Stewart
Mountain River Processors
- Long-term outlook for Venison Mark O'Connor
DINZ
- Animal Health Board update Malcolm Gilbert
- 4.30pm *Informal BBQ, kindly sponsored by Mountain River Processors*
Refreshments provided by Canterbury Branch of the NZDFA



Facilitator: Peter Bradley, Macfarlane Rural Business, 027 649 1107, peter@mrbusiness.co.nz.

