

# “Making the Difference”

## DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

### Canterbury/North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS

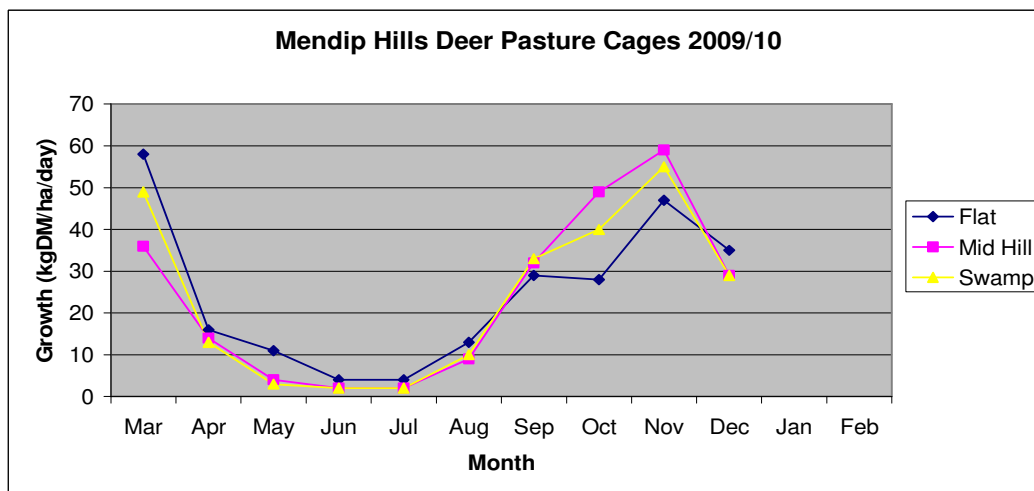
Issue 11  
Jan/Feb 2010

#### NEXT FIELD DAY

#### Mendip Hills

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010 11.00 am

- The New Year has started well and is a reversal of the previous two, with good rain; plenty of feed, all stock water dams full and stock doing really well.
- A big heap of lucerne silage has been made and put in the bottom deer unit. Baleage stocks have been replenished twofold and a number of paddocks have been made into hay. With grass growth starting to taper off and all winter feed area out and a large proportion of last year's winter feed area being summer fallowed. Simon has managed to maintain some form of control on the bottom flats and front country.



- The fodder beet is doing well and had its second spray in mid December and although slightly late, a good result. Urea has just been applied so final result is encouraging. A full outline of the programme and costs will be available in the next field day handout.
- Kale crops have struck well and are at full ground cover and at urea stage. Turnips have been sown and strike is very pleasing.
- The first fawners left on the bottom deer unit have, at a glance, fawned well. The yearlings have adapted well to the new fenced hill block (Basin) and will now be mated up there, with stags going out with them shortly. Other hinds on the hill are in excellent order and any weaners seen through the glasses by Simon have left him with high expectations for good weaning weights. Weaning has been programmed to be brought forward this year to early March.
- Breeding stags were re blood tested last week for John's positives and low mouthed animals will be culled. Six new stags have been purchased, three reds from Remarkable's Park, one red from Peel Forest and two



B11's ex Peel Forest. The breeding programme for this year is currently being finalised and will also be included in the next field day's handout.

- Lamb weaning went very well with a split weaning.
 

18 <sup>th</sup> December	853 lambs killed	17.5ckgcw average	\$74
	3,500 lambs to Mendip Finishing Farm	30.2kgLW average	\$63
5 <sup>th</sup> January	200 lambs killed	17kgCW average	\$70
	700 sold store	30.2kgLW average	\$63
	419 retained for Finishing Farm on weight gain basis		\$1.25kgLW

This left at Mendip: 1,594 finishing lambs, 838 Lamb Plan lambs and 4,334 replacement ewe lambs (to be culled back to 3,500) and it is Simon's aim to have all surplus lambs off Mendip before the end of May. The ewes have also been sorted with 670 gone to the works at \$60; 760 sold to CFA at \$70 and 500 still to be sold. The plan is to put 10,500 ewes to the ram this year.

- Cattle trading have also beaten all expectations with only 20 2yr steers remaining and 27 2yr finishing heifers (80 killed at average weight 240kgCW). 970 MA cows have gone to the bull and have been bulled down on the lower country to control some feed and 240 2yr heifers have also gone to the bull, which should leave 50 more. This leaves room for Simon to tidy up the breeding herd this year with numbers budgeted to remain status quo.
- The Hill water scheme is just about ready to throw the switch but has met a few problems of holding bulldozers on hills with greasy conditions. Simon has also applied for consent to burn the Road Block (Top deer unit) post spray mid March, followed up with fertilizer and an oversowing programme.

All in all, a busy few months with Simon, Meshia and family taking a well earned break next week prior to our next field day.

**Mendip Hills Focus Farm Field Day**  
**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 11.00am sharp**  
**BYO lunch to have on the hill**

11.00 am	Venison Industry What is the state of play?	- Inness Moffat - Glen Tyrrell	DINZ Silver Fern Farms
12.15 pm	<b>Property Tour</b> Carbon Footprint on Mendip Forestry Options Farm footprint and suggested programme pre introduction 2015 Bottom Deer Unit - Fodder beet Top Deer Unit - Late summer hind management	- Clayton Wallwork	Carbon Farming Group
2.15 pm	Z tags and Gallagher RFID demonstration and NAIT update		
4.00 pm	Summary of the day Take home message		
4.30 pm	Finish	<i>Refreshments and barbeque kindly provided by:</i> Canterbury Branch NZDFA Mountain River	

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