

# “Making the Difference”

## DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Issue 12  
April 2010

### Canterbury/North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS

#### NEXT FIELD DAY

Mendip Hills

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 11.00 am

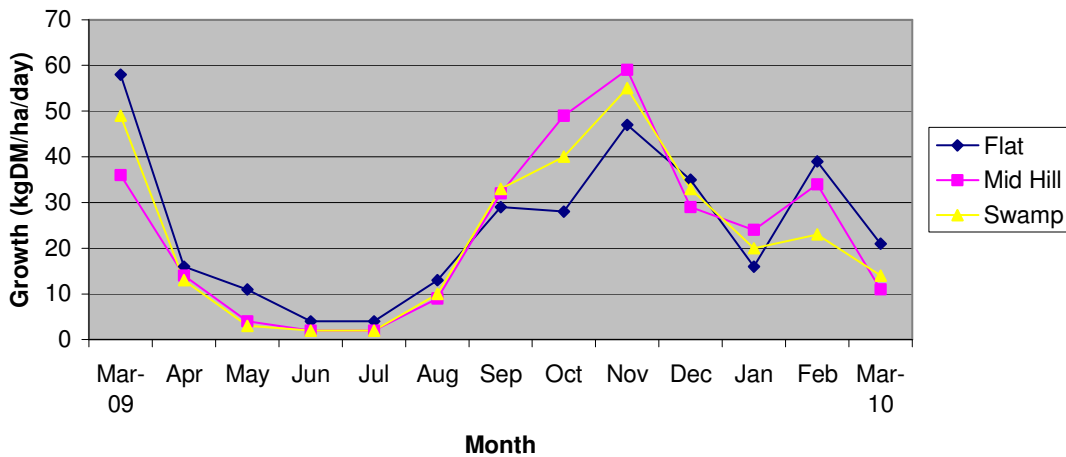
Programme available next week

Put this date in your diary now

Invite a friend

- Mendip continues to have one of the kinder summer/autumns for some time despite the rest of the area having a dry February/March. Although grass growth is well back on last year, with cage cuts measuring March 39kgDM/ha/day, Middle Hill 11kgDM/ha/day and Swamp block 14kgDM/ha/day compared to an average for March 2009 of 44kgDM/ha/day. The property is looking a picture.

Mendip Hills Deer Pasture Cages 2009/10



#### Total Production for Year

Site	kgDM/ha
Flat	9124
Mid Hill	8912
Swamp	8487

- The winter feed budget is looking really good with Simon, Meshia and the team feeling confident with their decision to get out of lambs earlier than previous years' slightly lower ewe numbers, lighter stocking of hinds and deer fence on new block. Cattle numbers have increased to winter 150 plus extra calves.
- All winter feed paddocks are on target for good yields – the fodder beet is looking excellent and will be complimented with the winter rape for weaner deer to go onto.



- Hind weaning was brought forward two weeks but has been a long drawn out process with hinds and fawns going to ground with helicopter mustering, electronic tagging of weaners taking longer than expected, and the inability of getting transport to the top deer shed due to wet track conditions. Initial results are great.

Weaning Date	Block	Number hinds set stocked	Stags	Hinds mustered	Weaners	Average live weight
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wapiti Block	250	Wapiti	190	178	52.9kgLW
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Middle Hill	312	B11	278	268	55.5kgLW
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Hydes	279	Red	191	180	57.4kgLW
	Airstrip	73	Red	42	42	56.6kgLW

- This is an average of 12kgLW ahead of last year. An excellent result. The 1<sup>st</sup> calvers that had to be left on the bottom deer farm, still have to be weaned. The remaining weaners will be taken off the hill at TB testing and stag removal. Hinds are in good condition. The problem of mustering with scrub regrowth within these hill deer blocks is becoming a bigger issue and will need to be looked at in the future. The integration of cattle should help but some spraying of the larger areas is being considered.
- Weaner stag growth rates will be monitored at the finishing farm this year with genetics tag colour coded at weaning. Their progress will be reported at the next field day.
- The breeding ewes are in great condition going to the ram this year. There have been a couple of changes made. The two tooth ewes being shorn in February and Androuex given to the 4 teeth resulting, hopefully, in a higher scanning percentage. The Romney genetics has gone to all the 1<sup>st</sup> cross ewes and better Corriedale and terminal to the rest of the ewes.
- With the growthy summer, all the cattle have done well. The R2 heifers have been culled with the poorer type sold. All the R2 steer are to be wintered for the finishing farm. An extra 200 calves, close to 900 compared with 700 last year, will also be wintered. With a large number of rising R3 in calf heifers again entering the herd. Breeding cows will again be heavily culled this year with Simons intention to drop cow numbers back to 900. This should also allow them to concentrate calving by culling the late calvers.

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