

# “Making the DIFFerence”

## DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

**South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION**

*Issue 19  
June 2010*

*Field Day coming up:*

### **SOUTH CANT/NORTH OTAGO DFA CHAIRMAN’S FIELD DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1PM**

*Rooney Farms, 175 McLeods Rd, Taiko – signposted from Pleasant Point Highway*

### **AUGUST COMBINED FOCUS FARM FIELD DAY**

*Date and Venue to be confirmed*

### **FINAL PUBLIC FIELD DAY**

**WHITEROCK STATION: NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2010 11.00AM**

#### April/May Summary:

			Actual	Av.	Last Year				Actual	Last Mont	Last Year
MONTHLY RAINFALL: May			200	58	74	PASTURE COVER			1450	1400	1400
RAINFALL TO DATE			420	314	233	Pasture Growth Paddocks			13	13	15
						Pasture Growth Hills			5	10	4
April/May 10	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)			MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS	STOCK WEIGHTS				
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha		Weight kgLW	LWG			
Br Hinds to Wap Stag	555	3.5	1943	1200	3.5	94% MA & R2 93% to hinds scanned					
Br Hinds to Red Stag	424	3.5	1484	1200	3.5	90% MA & R2 87% to hinds mated					
R2 Hinds to Spikers	260	3.5	910	1200	3.5						
Total Hinds To Stag	1239										
Cull Hinds	33	2	910	1200	3.5						
Red Weaner Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Grass/Grain @ 300gms/day	65	195			
Red Weaner Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Grass/Grain @ 300gms/day	68	159			
Wap X Wnr Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Rape/Grass/Grain @ 300gms/day	81	232			
Wap X Wnr Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	On Grass/Grain @ 300gms/day	76	207			
R3 East Stags (AI)	11	4	44	1200	3.5	On grass rotation					
Sire Stags	44	4	176	1200	3.5	Purchased 4 high EBV English Stags					
MA Heifers	200	8	3024	1500	5	On hill					
R2 Heifers	50	8	696	1500	5	On hill					
R1 Heifers	69	5	720	1200	3.5	On River flats					
R1 Steers	138	6	170	1000	2.5	On River flats	232	+8kgLW cf 2009			
R2 Steer						All sold Five Star					
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks					
<b>TOTAL</b>			12105								
FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)			44.3	Pdks	4.3	Hill					
FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH April			5.0	Pdks	0.0	Hill					

- A deluge of 200mm rain continues the trend we see in extreme weather events (dry/wet etc). While we needed the rain at some time pre-spring, the heavy rainfall now just makes for a long, muddy, wet winter.
- Whiterock was relatively well positioned with their feed this winter, with good winter feed crops and more balage on hand than previous years.
- The weaner deer have done really well this autumn – making the most of mild conditions through most of April/May. The weaners are 5-7kg ahead of the same time last year.

2010	Weaning Wt (kg) 27/02/2010	March Gain/Day (grams)	April/May Gain/Day (grams)	Average Wt 20/05/2010 (kg)	Average Wt 20/05/2009 (kg)	Autumn 2010 Gain/Day (grams)
RED Hind	49	393	93	65	58	195
RED Stag	55	316	86	68	63	159
WAP Stag	62	309	180	81	76	232
WAP Hind	59	248	181	76		207

- In the early autumn the weaners ranged from 250-390gms/day with the red weaner hinds performing exceptionally well.
- All weaners have now had their second Yersinosis + drench (Cydectin pouron). Will get Dectomax prior to winter.
- The Wapiti stags have just started on the fodder beet with access to pea vine. They have been weighed going on and LWG's will be monitored. If they cannot achieve close to 165gms/day (achieved 2009 on Kale) then the red weaner hinds (don't have potential growth rate of Wap stags) will be put on fodder beet and Wap Stags on Kale.
- Fodder Beet. Finally yield assessed at 16520kgDM/ha. Plant population at 70,000/ha – lots of small beets making up the yield. This crops cost approx 12.5c/kgDM to grow – a Kale crop on Whiterock yielding 6-8000kgDM/ha costs 13-10c/kgDM. The real advantage to the fodder beet will be the smaller area required for the same tonnage and the opportunity cost of that area.
- The weaner steers were split into two groups pre-weaning with one receiving Dectomax and the other used as a control mob. The two mobs were weaned and weighed 71 days later with a 6.5kg/hd difference favouring the drenched mob. At \$2.4/kgLW for weaner value the gain was \$15.6/calf drenched less \$2.5/hd of drench costs. The gain of \$13.1/calf was significant but Whiterock will look to repeat again next year before making wholesale drench policy pre-wean.
- The weaner cattle are now grazing Ryecorn on the river flats. The ryecorn has yielded 3500kgDM/ha with a surprisingly high drymatter at 30% - reflective of the dry conditions before the deluge of rain. The Ryecorn has grown at 30kgDM/ha/day since being sown on 20th January. The weaners are leaving behind a residual of 1000kgDM/ha. This residual will protect the growing point and encourage regrowth.
- The new deer fencing has almost been finished. This has been relatively smooth going with two sides already fenced and most of the terrain rolling or flat. This will add not only 106ha of sunny warm hill but also 17ha of paddocks – increasing the ability to finish more progeny. A larger existing hill paddock has been subdivided which will assist with oversowing development.
- Ross and Sally have targeted the recently subdivided hill block to oversow this spring. Hard grazing by the hinds this autumn and resulting low covers will delay spraying until early September. The paddock will get a second spray 6-8 weeks later and then oversown with rape/grass.

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