

“Making the Difference”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Canterbury/North Canterbury – MENDIP HILLS

Issue 13
August 2010

Rain, rain and more rain - over 450mm for May, June and July. Everything is saturated, with some slips, but not as bad as in February last year when the new deer fencing in the airstrip and Road Block slipped into the gully. Given the wet and muddy conditions, stock is doing reasonably well.

The weaner hinds are about halfway through the fodder beet and still doing well. They haven't been weighed but Simon is pleased with the manna there have been no deaths. The stag fawns at the finishing farm have mixed results:

Wapiti average 72.7 kglw average growth rate 87gm/dm
B11 average 80.5 kglw average growth rate 103gm/dm
Reds average 75.7 kglw average growth rate 134gm/dm

Weaning Date	Block	Hinds set stocked	Stags Used	Hinds Mustered	Weaners Weaned	Average liveweight at Weaning	August LW Weight
9 th March	Wapiti Block	250	Wapiti	190	178	52.9kgLW	87.7KgLW
10 th March	Middle Hill	312	B11	278	268	55.5kgLW	80.5KgLW
30 th March	Hydes	279	Red	191	180	57.4kgLW	75.7KgLW
	Airstrip	73	Red	42	42	56.6kgLW	75.7KgLW

The R2yr hinds are still down on the bottom deer farm and have just finished the Rape. The plan is to start them on the Turnip paddock and then clean up the fodder beet once the weaner hinds go back on grass in early September. Also in the plan is to Johnes test in the next couple of weeks and truck up the hill during early October.

Doing anything with the hinds has been an effort given the wet conditions. Simon has however managed to get TB testing completed and has the hinds in two mobs. They have just started their second rotation and a mob of cows will be introduced to follow up behind them.

The Road Block wasn't able to be burnt because of the wet conditions so some cattle will be introduced once things dry out a bit.



There is however no shortage of cow feed out on the mountain. The 122 steer are hoeing through the kale and making quite a mess. Simon is currently investigating selling them and replacing them on the kale with the R1 cattle. If they are not sold, they may go up to the deer block to tidy up after the hinds.

The sheep are looking good. Simon is pleased he hasn't a large number of finishing lambs on this winter. As for getting sheep dry for shearing with current weather conditions, it will be trying. Scanning went well with more embryos than ever before.

Comparisons scanning results:

	2010	2009	2008	2007
2 Tooth Ewes				
Scanning %	142%	124%	133%	110%
Dry Ewes	2.2%	3%	4.7%	6%
4 Tooth Ewes				
Scanning %	157%	141%	126%	125%
Dry Ewes	2.6%	4%	6.7%	5%
MA Ewes				
Scanning %	158%	144%	147%	148%
Dry Ewes	1.6%	3.7%	3.6%	2.9%
Annual Draft Ewes				
Scanning %	163%	144%	142%	148%
Dry Ewes	1%	3.5%	7.2%	3.4%

55% total compared to 14% last year and only 208 dries.

For more details, please contact:

Peter Bradley (Macfarlane Rural Business), ph: 027 649 1107, email: peter@mrbusiness.co.nz

Simon Lee (Focus Farmer), ph: 03 319 2857, email: manager@mendiphills.co.nz

