

Next Generation Workshop Session

10.30am – Glenn Tyrrell (DINZ Board member): Market Overview and Cervena Extension “what is it all about”. Including time for Q&A

11.00am – Workshop sessions (10-15minutes per topic)

- Hear answers from Reproductive Performance groups and Geoff to present overview of importance for conception

Hear answers from Animal health groups and Dave to present key points around first 12 months of life for good stock health

- Hear answers from Velvet group and Tony to provide overview of key points to ensure profit maximisation for all from a stick of velvet
- Hear answers from feeding group and Paddy/other to identify the key times of the year (and minimum levels) to intervene, weigh and record to ensure target weights and performance is achieved for weaner and velvet production.
- Hear key points from Genetics groups and review the pro’s/ cons’ of Breeder finisher relationships. Gus to give his views as they relate to Firstlights farmer relationships and Hamish Orbell and Dave France to give their personal experiences of being the breeder and finisher in an actual contractual relationship.

12.45pm -Time for Q&A

Groups of 5-6

1. Feeding

- A. What are the key intervention dates in the calendar year for weaner growth performance and
- B. Why are these key dates/or times of the year important to achieving target weights for early slaughter?
- C. What are key trigger times of the year to maximise velvet production

2. Genetics

Design your ideal breeder/finisher relationship.

- A. From a breeding perspective what are the key factors to consider (or must haves) when looking to formalise a contract with a finisher.
- B. From a finishing perspective what are the key factors to consider (or must haves) when looking to formalise a contract with a breeder.
- C. What are some ways/ideas to connect more of our breeders with our weaner finishers?

3. Velvet/Market

Understanding market and farm system benefits of ideal velvet production.

- A. What is the ideal structured head of velvet in shape/style, conformation and condition?
- B. Why from a marketing point of view are these points above important?

4. Animal health

For fawns, the first 12 months of life are the most important.

- A. In this example you purchase 100 weaners from farmer McDonald, what are the key questions you should ask, or information you should seek during or before this transaction takes place?
- B. What are the key health concerns for fawns in the first 12 months of life, what needs to be considered and give reasons why or why not?

5. Reproductive performance in deer

- Red deer and wapiti cows on NZ deer farms normally attain puberty (first ovulation) at 16 months of age during their second autumn. Hinds that attain puberty at 16 months are highly likely to conceive and calve at about 24 months of age. However, in order to do so they must reach a certain body weight threshold by their second autumn
 - The 'body weight threshold' is the critical live-weight a hind must achieve in order to become reproductively capable in her second autumn.
 - For red deer we often refer to this as the '70% Rule' ...for a given genotype, hinds must attain at least 70% of their genotype's average mature live-weight in order to attain puberty.
- A. What is the mature live weight of a 100% Western Red hind (@24months)
 - B. What is the mature liveweight of a 100% Eastern Red hind (@24months)
 - C. What is the mature liveweight of a Wapiti hind (@24months)
 - D. Given these mature live weights above what is the puberty threshold for each breed, noting the '70% Rule' above?
 - E. Therefore what is the minimum weight range (as an average across the herd) for a 100% Eastern red herd to ensure there is a 90-100% chance that they have hit puberty?

Topic Experts to assist groups with any issues they are having and with feedback sessions

Feeding- Paddy Boyd (farmer) , Ross Stevens (Whiterock Station)

Genetics – Gus Irvine (Firstlight) , Hamish Orbell (farmer)

Velvet- Tony Cochrane (PGGW)

Animal Health – Dave Lawrence(vet), Pania Flint (vet)

Reproductive performance in deer – Geoff Asher (Reproductive biologist AgResearch)