

"Making the Difference"

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION

Issue 10
April 2009

Next Field Day:

WEDNESDAY, 20th MAY - PUBLIC FIELD DAY from 12.00pm

4 Wheel Drives Please BYO Lunch (tea & coffee provided)

Guest Speakers:

Rob Dunbar, Riverside Vets – Parasitology Update
Ants Roberts, Ravensdown – Smart Fertiliser
David Janett, Forestry Management Limited – ETS and Forestry Opportunities
Alliance Group – Market Update

FINISH 4.30PM WITH BBQ & REFRESHMENTS

Sponsors: Alliance & South Canterbury Toyota

Feb/March Summary:

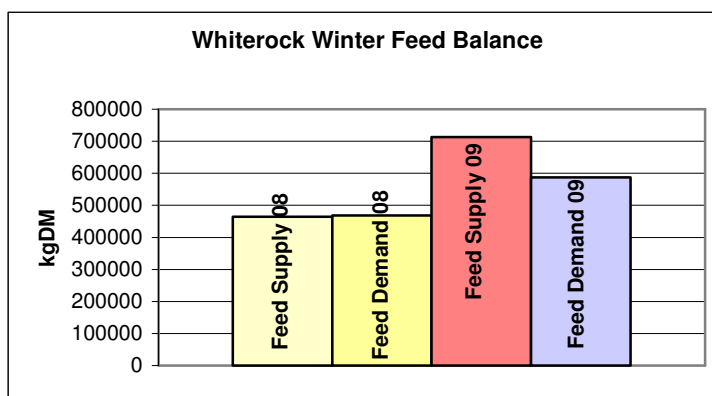
	Actual	Av.	Last Year	Actual	Last Mont	Last Year		
MONTHLY RAINFALL	131	128	121	PASTURE COVER	1600	1517 1200		
RAINFALL TO DATE	179	202	128	PASTURE GROWTH Pdks	17	6 ~10		
				PASTURE GROWTH Hill	16	3 ~12		
Feb/Mar 09	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)			MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS	STOCK WEIGHTS	
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha		Weight kgLW	LWG
Breeding Hinds	809	2.5	2023	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R3 Hinds	124	2.5	310	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R3 East X Hinds (AI)	20	2.5	50	1200	3.5	Back on hill - 93% fawning		
R2 Hinds	200	2.5	500	1200	3.5	Back on hill		
Red Weaner Hinds	240	1.5	360	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - Pdks	49.9	
Red Weaner Stags	240	1.5	360	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - Pdks	58	
Wap X Wnr Stags	201	1.8	362	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - Pdks	65	
Wap X Wnr Hinds	189	1.8	340	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - Pdks		
R3 East Stags (AI)	11	4	44	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - Pdks		
Sire Stags	40	4	160	1200	3.5	In Paddocks		
MA Ewes			0	1000	2.5	Sold		
Lambs			0	1200	3.5			
MA & R2 Cows	289	12	3468	1500	5	Moving thro deer blocks		
R1 Heifers	54	12	648	1200	3.5	On Downs		
R1 Steers	5	12	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks		
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks		
TOTAL			8745					
FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)			9.8	Pdks	6.8	Hill		
FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH April			10.0	Pdks	8.0	Hill		



- February/March has been a moisture rollercoaster. At the end of January it was getting dry, February brought 129mm of rain and then most of March was dry with 22mm in the last week.
- Despite the “feast or famine” rainfall, Whiterock is having the best autumn in years. Winterfeed crops are looking exceptional and there has been excellent growth on the paddocks to wean onto.
- 870 fawns were weaned from 940 hinds to the stag – 92.5%. The R2 hinds weaned 93%. This is an excellent result and a record for Whiterock with the R2 hinds.
- Ross and Sally weaned in mid March with the following breakdown:

	Ave. weight at weaning	Ave. weight	Gain/day Grams/day
First fawners (stags)		58.5 3/4/2009	
Red stag fawns		58.0 3/4/2009	
Red hind fawns		49.9 3/4/2009	
WAPx stag fawns multimin treated	57.0 4/3/2009	64.4 1/4/2009	265
WAPx stag fawns control untreated	58.7 4/3/2009	65.9 1/4/2009	254

- Weaning weights were back slightly on last year, with a bigger drop in the Wapiti Cross weaners. These hinds are typically set stocked at the South end of the property (usually the wetter end), which this spring was unseasonably dry and did not perform as well as previous years.
- At weaning the fawns were given an Oxfen drench and first Yersiniosis vaccination. All weaners except for a control group were given a multi-mineral injection. Ross and Sally will repeat the multi-mineral trial to weaners. Four weeks later the weaners got their second Yersiniosis and a Cydectin pour-on.
- Ross and Sally, in conjunction with Noel Beatson of Rural Vets, have given Flexidine (long acting Iodine) to half the R2 hinds, monitoring any influence on conception rates.
- The breeding ewes were sold in early February on a strong market. While Ross and Sally are adamant this is the right decision medium-term, we are now focused on replacing those stock numbers/production short-term with either increases in stock numbers of hinds/cattle and/or increasing per head performance (kgCW/hd). The reality will be a combination of the two. We will be discussing these options and the implications on management at our next field day on Wednesday, 20 May.
- Whiterock’s winter feed budget looks significantly more positive compared to previous years – but so it should without the ewes. However, it will be carrying more weaner deer, more hinds and more weaner cattle.



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