

“Making the Difference”

DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Issue 18
April 2010

South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION

Next Field Day:

AUGUST COMBINED FOCUS FARM FIELD DAY

Date and Venue to be confirmed

FINAL PUBLIC FIELD DAY

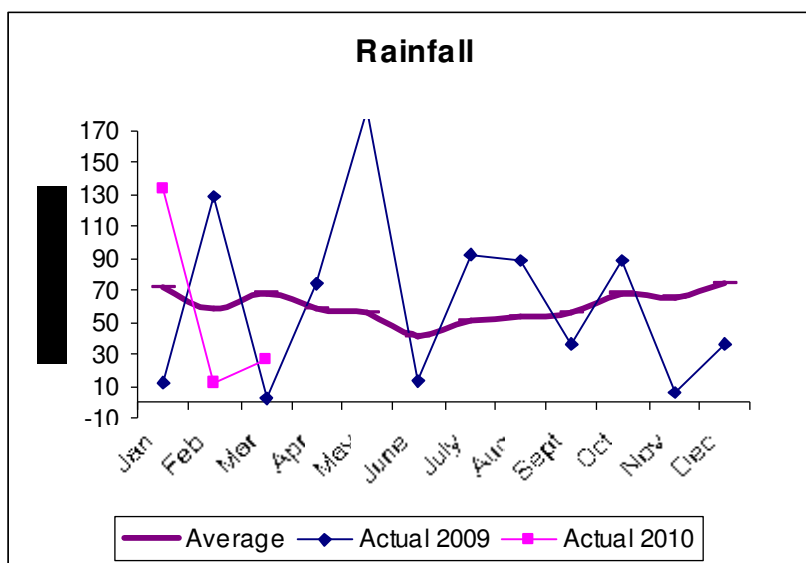
WHITEROCK STATION: NOVEMBER 2010 11.00AM

- Due to there being so many deer farming activities happening in May we have decided to postpone our last Whiterock Public Field Day until November – this will wrap up the program on Whiterock. We will be holding a combined August field day with the Mendip Hills crew on a finishing property in central Canterbury – date and venue to be confirmed.
- The Sth Canterbury / Nth Otago DFA will be holding their Chairman’s Day on the 6th of July at Rooney Farms, 175 McLeods Rd, Taiko – please watch for notices regarding key topics.

February/March Summary:

	Actual	Av.	Last Year	Actual	Last Mont	Last Year
MONTHLY RAINFALL	38	128	131	PASTURE COVER on Pdks	1350	1350
RAINFALL TO DATE	171	202	179	PASTURE GROWTH Pdks	13	20
				PASTURE GROWTH Hill	10	15
Feb/Mar 10	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED DEMAND (Month End)			MINIMUM FEED COVER		STOCK COMMENTS
	No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha	STOCK WEIGHTS
						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 IC Hinds	1239					
Red Weaner Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	Weaned 1 week early than 2009
Red Weaner Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	Weaned 1 week early than 2009
Wap X Wnr Stags	246	2	492	1200	3.5	Weaned 1 week early than 2009
Wap X Wnr Hinds	246	2	492	1200	3.5	Weaned 1 week early than 2009
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	252	12	3024	1500	5	Sorted into Wnr Hfr/Str Cow mobs.
R3 Heifers	58	12	696	1500	5	Wean mid April and sell ~75hd of weaners
R2 Heifers	72	10	720	1200	3.5	On River flats
R2 Steers	17	10	170	1000	2.5	17 Five Star Steers to go early April
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks
TOTAL			11195			
FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)		12.9		Pdks	8.6	Hill
FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH April		10.0		Pdks	8.0	Hill

- Whiterock continues to have one of the kinder summer/autumns for some time despite Feb/March being very dry.



- All the winter feed paddocks are on target for good yields – the Rape that was sown into poorer Kale paddocks is looking excellent and autumn Rape paddocks are looking good too for weaner deer to go onto.
- The winter feed budget is looking really good with Ross and Sally feeling even more confident with more of the warmer sunnier block to be deer fenced.
- The hinds have all been weaned in late Feb/early March with great results. The MA Hinds fawned 94%, R2 93% to hinds scanned and MA Hinds 89%, R2 87% to hinds mated. Weaner weights ranged from 50kgLW or 330gms/day LWG for the Red Weaner Hinds to 62kg or 442gms/day for the Wap X Wnr Stags. Given that the weaning was one week earlier than last year (@ 400gms/day = 2.8kgLW) weights were similar to 2009. Hinds all in good order.
- This year with excellent feed on paddocks hinds were brought into weaner paddocks 48hrs pre-wean. The weaners were noticeably more settled in familiar surroundings.
- All the weaners have been given Oxfen oral + 1st Yersinosis + Multi-min @ weaning and will have 2nd Yersinosis + Dectomax 4 weeks later.
- The excellent winter feed crops, good balage reserves and extra deer fencing of paddocks will mean the record weaner deer crop of 984hd (cf. 870hd last year) will all be wintered.
- Hinds culled for age/constitution and temperament and now back out on hill with stags.
- Cows and calves separated into steer/heifer weaner mobs – look to wean mid April with 70-80hd of weaners to be sold.
- 50% of the weaner steers have been drenched pre-wean and balance left – weights will be monitored at weaning (all weaner steers weighed pre-wean).

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