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2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Hope Cottage Old Season Lamb production system

What works for us





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The concept

- We have an 80 Ha reseed (Pen Point) developed over many years from diddle dee ground
- It has a good lotus (legume) base
- Shear and drench hoggets onto reseeds
- Sell when they achieve FIMCo specification



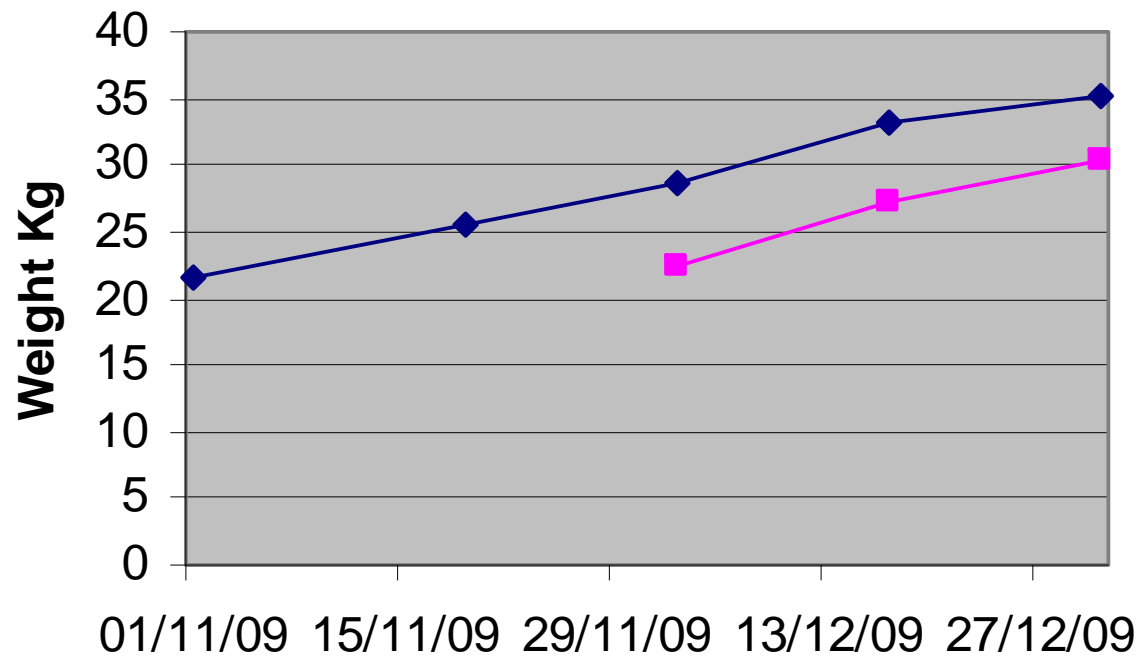
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Weights

Average lamb weights at Hope Cottage and teal Inlet



- ◆ Hope Cottage lambs
 - 221 g/day
 - two months
- TI lambs
 - 278 g/day
 - 4 weeks



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The keys

- Timeliness of management decisions
 - Mating (and therefore lambing)
 - Lamb marking
 - Weaning and shearing
 - Drenching
 - Selling lambs when they reach specification



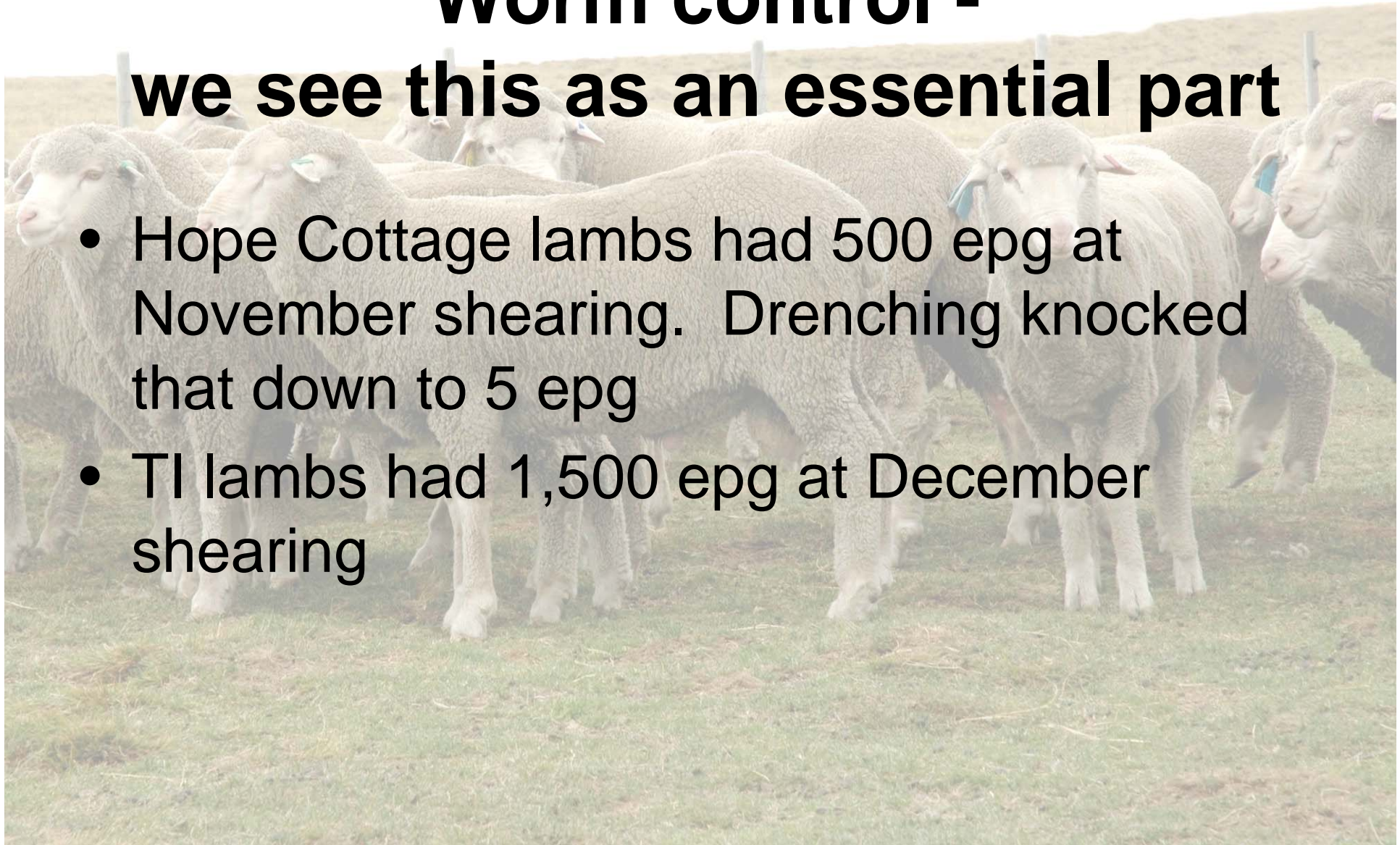
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Worm control - we see this as an essential part

- Hope Cottage lambs had 500 epg at November shearing. Drenching knocked that down to 5 epg
- TI lambs had 1,500 epg at December shearing





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Result from 80 ha

- 631 OSL averaging 14.3 kg and £21.32
 - 67% 3L
 - 26% 3H
 - 2% 2
- 83 YL averaging 13.9 kg and £16.42
- 27 kept (teeth in wear)
- We sell some NSL - which means these lambs don't include the best wether hogs from the previous season
- We turn off most of our wether drop as lambs.



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Sheep and lamb sales

- Are sustainable:
 - we are not running down our flock
- Contributes over £20k to our business income each year
- We still get more for our wool than sheep and lamb sales
- Plus significant beef income