



# Farm Management Handbook Update

Department of Agriculture  
Falkland Islands Government

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## THIS PAPER WAS PASSED AT THE MARCH 2006 MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**Title of Report:** Proposed PIP Priorities 2006/2007

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### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an outline of proposed PIP priorities for the 2006/2007 season
- 1.2 To detail methodology to be used to review status of 2005/2006 on-farm works and to determine eligibility for participation in 2006/2007 scheme.

### 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That approval be granted for the adoption of 2006/2007 PIP scheme priorities as outlined in this paper.
- 2.2 That approval be given for the PIP review process as outlined in this paper adopted as the methodology to:
  - i. review status of PIP works
  - ii. provide basis of PIP "warning notice"
  - iii. provide basis of exclusion from scheme if required

### 3.0 Background

#### A PIP priorities 2006/2007

- 3.1 The PIP scheme has provided considerable financial support to farms endeavouring to improve their financial position (through enhanced productivity).
- 3.2 In the last two years rigorous planning and "return-on-investment" requirements have been imposed on programme participants. The logic behind the planning requirements has been to attempt to derive maximum possible "value-for-money" for farmers and FIG from the initiative
- 3.3 To further this ambition it is proposed that for the 2006/2007 season priority be placed on activity that achieves gains in the key long-term "drivers of productivity and profitability" in the Falkland Islands. As follows:-
  1. Improved winter nutrition of breeding ewes.
  2. Improved winter nutrition of hoggets

3. Effective grazing management to improve long-term animal performance and pasture productivity.
4. Targeted sheep genetic change to achieve improved farm Gross Margin returns.

Note:-

- It is expected that attention on the four stated priorities would assist the delivery of the DoA's "Ten Year Business Plan" objectives of improved reproductive performance; reduced death rates; increased ewe numbers and also increased wool and meat value.
- The stated priorities are believed to offer maximum scope for economic improvement on farms and maximum return on FIG investment.

**B PIP Work Review 2005/2006 Season and Determination of Eligibility for Participation in Scheme in 2006/2007**

- 3.4 Participating farms will be visited during March/April 2006 to determine the status of PIP funded works on their farms. There is a clear expectation that all work detailed in PIP plans will have either been completed or where work was not yet scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2006, that satisfactory progress has been made on the specific task.
- 3.5 A "2005/2006 – PIP Report" will be generated for each farm detailing progress of work tasks specified on their individual farm PIP plan.
- 3.6 In addition to detailing progress of each "site" or task, an assessment will also be made of the relative success of the activity and also where appropriate, an assessment of the efficiency of utilisation of the result of the work (e.g. efficiency of feed use, grazing management of feed etc)
- 3.7 It is proposed that any problem identified be worked through under a "PIP warning system". The problem/farm should be considered on a case by case basis to achieve satisfactory completion of works by an agreed date. Failure to comply with the "PIP warning" would represent grounds for exclusion from the scheme in the future. Exclusion from the scheme in the future could also commence cost recovery proceedings (by FIG) under the terms of the PIP scheme.
- 3.8 The inspection process as well as being an important method of validating progress of on-farm works, is also believed to offer an excellent opportunity to record PIP practices that have been successful and also those that have not.
- 3.9 Promotion of success stories (as well as identification/explanation of failures) is believed to offer considerable scope for farmers to improve the impact of PIP works on their farms overall financial position.