

# THE WOOL PRESS

February 2011

Volume 253

£1.25

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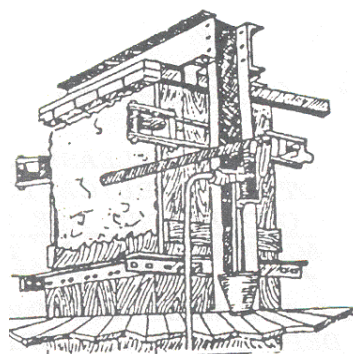
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*Produced by Teenie Ross*

*Printed by The Print Shop, Stanley*

*Published by the Department of Agriculture, Falkland Islands Government*

# EDITORIAL

Having just returned from the land of the big wet, one verse of Dorothea Mackellar's poem:

'I love a sunburnt country  
A land of sweeping plains  
Of rugged mountain ranges  
Of droughts and flooding rains'

sums up how after 6 years of drought our son in law's family managed to harvest a record tonnage of grain just before the heavens opened up in Southern Australia. Days and nights harvesting wheat until it got to 42 degrees and the headers had to stop because of the danger of spontaneous combustion; to being up to our waists in snake infested muddy water delivering diesel to keep a 10 inch pump going 24/7 and the water was still rising in the paddock we were trying to drain, was my 'holiday' in the main. C'est la vie.

Old Steve Pointing has got a bit historical in his article tracing the history of veterinary schools. This year is 'World Veterinary Year' as it is 250 years since the founding of the first veterinary school in Lyon, France.

Susan Campbell, in her article aptly titled, 'The Last Hurrah', summarises some of the key recommendations from the R&D work she has done here in relation to internal parasites (worms) in sheep and cattle. She also discusses the trauma to lambs and humans when lambs are marked after 8 weeks from birth and the large population of feral cats and the need to trap and humanely dispose of them.

Susan has also contributed an article about her latest research finding at Saladero which shows clearly the benefit of using cattle to

graze pastures prior to young sheep to significantly reduce the numbers of worm larvae picked up. She also points out that older wethers that are resistant to worms can be used as 'vacuum cleaners' as well as cattle, to Hoover up worm larvae from pastures.

Ian Campbell's 'Last Hurrah' article is appropriately highlighting the organic wool industry that he has put so much effort into whilst he has been here. Port Howard farm has sold a line of 21.6 micron organic wool at a premium of approximately 10 per cent. Congratulations to Critta, Becs and Ian.

Andy P has written an article that will be of particular interest to farmers that are interested in improving their cropping and re-seed productivity through better understanding of soil nutrients and pH interactions which he is studying whilst at Lincoln University in NZ.

A big thank you to Nigel Knight for his excellent report on the very successful Fox Bay Ram and Fleece Show.

Tony Mills and Steve Pointing have produced an interesting article on key factors to consider when selecting rams for high fertility which is timely as rams need to be given good feed and a checking soon if they are to be in top order for tugging time.

Here's wishing you all the best for 2011 and hoping it will be an outstanding year for agriculture in the Falklands.

Enjoy your read.

**Mac McArthur**  
**Senior Agricultural Advisor**

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# THE BIRTH OF VETERINARY EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT PART 1

***By Steve Pointing***

2011 is going to be celebrated as “World Veterinary Year” because it is 250 years since the founding of the first veterinary school in Lyon, France in 1761.

The founder of the world’s first veterinary school was a Frenchman called Charles Bourgelat. He was born on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1712 into a noble Lyonnaise family and received the classical education of his time with the intention of becoming a lawyer. He was, however, a fantastically good horseman and at the age of 28 he became the grand equerry of France and the director of the Lyon Academy of Horsemanship. The academy, at that time, was a school where young noblemen learned the equestrian arts and swordsmanship, together with math, music and manners. During this time Bourgelat’s studies of veterinary classics made him realise the deficiencies in his knowledge and under the direction of 2 surgeons of Lyon he studied the anatomy, physiology and pathology of animals.

Four years later, in 1744, he published his first work “Nouveau Newcastle ou Nouveau traité de cavalerie” (a new treatise on horsemanship). The Duke of Newcastle was one of the foremost English horsemen of the period. Bourgelat’s treatise quickly brought him considerable recognition and helped him to be considered one of the best riders in Europe at that time.

But Bourgelat wasn’t content with his reputation as an expert horseman. Highly cultivated and an elegant writer, Bourgelat maintained correspondence with the great minds of his time, including Voltaire, the great French writer and philosopher who influenced important thinkers of the French and American revolutions; Jean Baptiste le Rond d’Alembert, a French mathematician who was co-editor with Denis Diderot of the Encyclopédie; and Frederic the Great, the third king of Prussia and one of the most distinguished monarchs of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A product of his age, Bourgelat was considered a rationalist. He wanted to base medicine on known observation and experimentation. This desire was evidenced in 1750 when Bourgelat published “Elémens d’hippiatrique ou nouveaux principes sur la connoissance et sur la médecine des chevaux” (elements of the principles of veterinary art, or, new knowledge about medicine and horses). This book led to his election as a member of the Academy of Sciences. This learned society, founded in 1666 by King Louis XIV, was at the forefront of scientific developments in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

More important, his book demonstrated that Bourgelat had already conceived of the idea of veterinary teaching standards. In the preface of “Elements”, he wrote: “Those who intend to acquire skills in veterinary art will not be able to acquire sufficient degree of education... (since) we do not have schools for teaching.” It would take another decade, however, before the first veterinary school became a reality.

A key player in the school’s inception was Henri Léonard Jean Baptiste Bertin, an administrator in the Lyon region from 1754 - 1757. He and Bourgelat became close friends at this time and Bertin continued to support his friend after he left Lyon and moved to Paris.

In Paris, Bertin was made lieutenant general of police, and later, controller general of finance. Bourgelat was alternately made responsible for the royal horse-breeding establishments in the Lyon area and then inspector at the Lyon Library in 1760. By 1761, when Bourgelat was 49, he already had 25 years experience of managing the King’s Academy.

Fortunately for Bourgelat, in 1761, the government of King Louis XV wished to prevent cattle disease, protect grazing land, and train farmers. Bertin became the agent of this agricultural reform initiated by the king. It

was at this time that Bertin proposed that a veterinary school should be founded in Lyon with Bourgelat as its first director.

Although willing to make a personal investment of time and energy, Bourgelat was not about to commit any money to the endeavour and so, on August 4<sup>th</sup> 1761, he obtained a grant from the king that was signed by Bertin "to defray the expenses of the establishment and maintenance of a school for diseases of cattle, to be placed in the city of Lyon." The grant was an allocation of 50,000 livres (8oz of gold was worth 750 livres) payable after six years. Six months later, in February 1762, the first students were enrolled.

Research has revealed that the only requirement for admission to the new school

was the ability to read and write. There was no age limit. In fact, in 1762, an 11 year old child was in the same class as a man older than 30. Students were obliged to present evidence of baptism and a certificate of good conduct.

Bourgelat even dismissed those who already had previous scientific training as doctors because he feared that they would quickly give up veterinary medicine to devote themselves solely to human medicine and surgery, which was much more lucrative (and still is to this day – so no changes there!) In all, 38 students enrolled at the school in the new veterinary school by the end of 1762.

*To be continued in the next issue.*  
(acknowledgement to JAVMA News, Jan 1st 2011)

## Dates for the Diary

26th February - 1st March	Sports Week - East sports will be held at Goose Green and West sports will be held at Fox Bay, for more details see page 13
8th March	Pancake Day
16th March	Dog Dosing (Droncit) <i>Please remember to contact the Veterinary Service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email sbowles@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed</i>
17th March	Ram Sale - Saladero
9th April	Sheep Show - Fitzroy Farm
21st April	Public Holiday - Queens Birthday
22nd April	Public Holiday - Good Friday
27th April	Dog Dosing (Droncit) <i>Please remember to contact the Veterinary Service on telephone no 27366, fax no 27352 or email sbowles@doa.gov.fk and advise when your dogs have been dosed</i>

### Reminder -

Can we ask that those of you who will be sending bales in to go through the coring machine in Stanley remember to try and keep your bale weights to below 200kg's. Also, can you please write your farm brand, bale number AND description on both ends of the bales as well as on 2 sides.

Your assistance in doing this will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
From: the coring team.

# THE LAST HURRAH

**By Susan Campbell**

Ian and I leave at the end of January and it will be a sad time for us in many respects. It has been an interesting, challenging and thoroughly enjoyable three years in the Falklands. We have met some wonderful people and made some life long friendships. Thanks to all of you who have made it as rewarding and enjoyable time as it has been.

No doubt like many other contractors we all want to make our parting comments. Some of mine relate to what I have been hammering on about while I have been here and others relate to the general impressions I have after three years here.

In general, the parasite work that I have done here would lead me to make the following recommendations:

Parasites are an issue in the Falklands and do contribute to reduced lamb survival and growth rates, amongst other things. They are possibly also an issue for young cattle especially when they are regularly run on the same camps each year.

The only way to assess whether internal parasites are having an economic effect on your flock is to do worm egg counts (WEC). Do WECs as often as you possibly can manage following the general guidelines from last months Wool Press even if you are organic.

Beware of developing drench resistance by ensuring that you drench to the correct dose and use only effective drenches. Make sure you do post drench checks at least a couple of times per year and change drench groups annually.

If you are breeding rams for sale or use on your own property I strongly advocate that you introduce WEC results into your selection criteria possibly even more so if you are using one of the more recently introduced breeds.

If you are organic, only buy rams from below the average WEC from the mob.

Wean early, preferably at 12 weeks post the start of lambing - this will benefit the lamb, the ewe, and reduce the whole farm's parasite contamination. It will also allow you to allocate the feed to the lambs and save feed.

In relation to other matters, I believe the number of sheep lost over winter and lamb and ewe losses at lambing is excessive. It is important to recognise that this is multifactorial and that everything that can be done to reduce this is done. Not only from the perspective of profitability but also from an animal welfare point of view.

The world's urban population who may know little about the realities of farming, look on at the farming communities around the world and will judge by their standards (this may be the poodle on the end of the bed standard) what is or is not acceptable. They can then influence us by legislation or by choosing to buy or not buy our products. So not only do we have to do our best but we have to be seen to do our best for the animals in our care.

Another trial I would like to have performed would be to look at age of lamb marking. It is my belief that late lamb marking (i.e. marking lambs older than when they are eight weeks post the start of lambing) is not only seriously hard on the people who have to pick the lambs up but very hard on the male lambs in particular. I believe it is taking a considerable toll on the lambs growth rate leading to a smaller lamb come winter than those marked at what I consider the correct age. Castrating lambs over 3 months of age does not fall within the code of practice and lambs older than this should not be marked without using a local anaesthetic. There is a strong animal welfare concern here.

I know people are concerned about mismothering, however, by using portable yards to lamb mark in the camp where they are born, rather than bringing them back to the wool shed, should help with this considerably and smaller lambing flocks would also help as the camps are subdivided. With a joining period of 6 weeks, the youngest

lamb should be 2 weeks old and should be able to manage separation from its mother for a day.

Lastly I have a comment on conservation: I am shocked by the number of wild cats in the Falklands and I believe this will be having a huge but unassessed impact on the bird life here. I feel responsible ownership of cats and neutering, unless you have a planned breeding programme is one step towards helping this. There is a need for wild cats to be trapped and humanely disposed of.

In many countries legislation is in place that ensures pet cats are restrained at night to

ensure they do not prey on wildlife which is most endangered at this time of the day. I also have concerns about pet dogs chasing wildlife and in some instances catching birds. It is my opinion that such dogs should be on a leash at all times when there is any chance that there is a danger of them pursuing wildlife. I think tourists come here largely for the wildlife and everything that can be done to ensure its safety should be done.

So that's my two bobs worth, no doubt some of my views may seem extreme but that is my view for what it is worth. Once again many thanks to all who I have had the pleasure of meeting.

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## ORGANIC WOOL MAKES A PREMIUM

*By Ian Campbell*

At last an organic farm has sold a line of wool for organic processing, and there is a clearly defined premium of at least 55p per kg. This is wonderful news for organic farmers and to the organic programme that has been battling to demonstrate a premium of recent times.

Port Howard Farm's line of 21.6  $\mu$  organic hogget wool made 601p Net Stanley; to get an indication of the added value of this, their finer line of 20.9  $\mu$  sold at the same time conventionally for 544p - so the comparable organic wool achieved about 10% more. In fact they would have expected to receive less as the micron discount would have applied as well.

Farmers need a premium like this for the system to be profitable. Whilst there are some compliancy costs involved in being part of the ACO scheme that need to be covered, there are also some lost opportunities as well. It would appear that the Falkland Islands is not as free from parasites as we like to think and the "Organic by default" concept is not the full story. Not being able to drench sheep or apply artificial fertilizers to pastures means organic growers are sacrificing some production opportunities; whilst this saves money on inputs it will cost them in production and cost them overall. Hence the need for a premium.

Nearly all other organic commodities demonstrate at least this level of premium, often better, and it is good to see wool starting to get this. Organic wool is reasonably scarce world wide and various large retail outlets have pledged they will eventually make all clothing lines organic. Organic cotton is well entrenched as a premium market and I think sets the precedence for organic wool.

Interestingly the world demand for organic food is extremely high, and this is understandably driven by people not wanting to eat chemicals in their food (not a risk in my mind if the right chemicals are used responsibly by the way). Organic textiles are a bit removed but the benefits are seen by the consumer as broader than just their own welfare, and relate to a more natural product, and reducing chemicals in the environment, both on farms and at wool processing plants.

Mulesing is not an organic issue as such, but the declaration involved ensures that the purchaser at least knows the mulesing status of the wool. Proof of lack of mulesing is also a positive in organic wool on the animal ethics factor which consumers are also interested in.

As I am leaving my role as Organic Auditor, future enquiries about the organic programme should be directed to either Lucy Ellis (Organic Auditor) or Mac McArthur (Organic Advisor).

## FLEECE TESTING GUIDELINES

Complete appropriate test request sheet.

Provide **20-30 grams of wool only** for each FIP fleece sample.

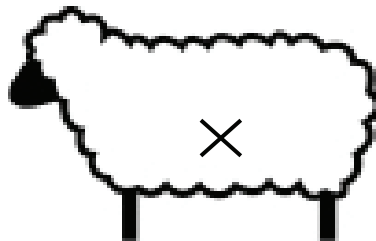
Complete barcode identification card (available from the Department of Agriculture). It is important that barcodes are completed for samples, along with the Summary Sheets, as this will ensure prompt turnaround at the Department of Agriculture and New Zealand Wool Testing Authority.

Seal each sample bag with an elastic band or any twist-tie (allows bags to be opened for checking and to be re-sealed).

Deliver completed test request sheet, sample summary sheet and samples to Teenie Ross at the Department of Agriculture. If you don't have a copy of sample summary sheet please contact the DoA and one will be emailed to you.

Samples tested on the FIP scheme will be allocated to the farm FIP file provided all approvals have been obtained otherwise farm will be billed separately.

Take the sample from the middle of the sheep. This is important as micron changes over different parts of the animal. Each sample needs to be from a representative portion of the sheep so that comparisons can be made accurately between sheep.



## PHYSICAL AND NUTRIENT STATUS OF FI SOILS - PART 1

***By Andrew Pollard***

In 2009, 58 reseeded pastures from 12 farms of varying quality were soil sampled by the DOA and sent to New Zealand for soil chemical analysis. The following article analyses this information and discusses the physical and nutrient status of FI soils. Part one looks at soil pH and the physical attributes of the soil.

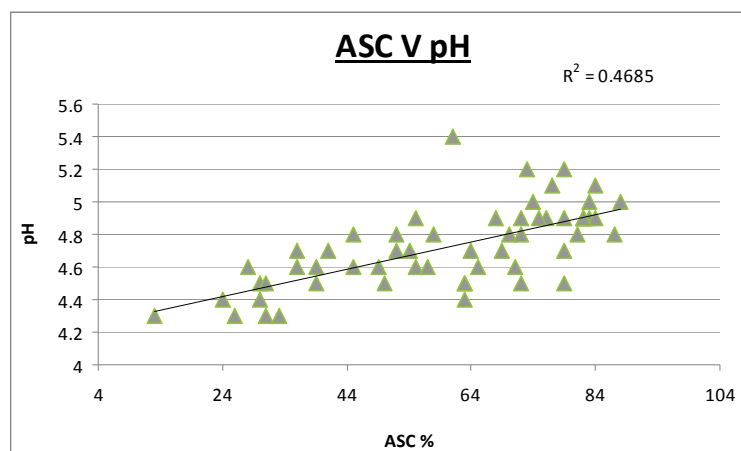
Peat is formed from the remains of wetland plants in areas with high water tables. The high water table stops the rapid breakdown of the dead plant material. As a result peat soils have more than 20% organic carbon in the topsoil (equivalent to 35% organic matter). Undeveloped peat is mostly made up of organic matter and a small amount of mineral material. As the peat is developed over time under pasture, it shrinks and becomes denser. This process is called mineralisation, because the proportion of mineral material in the soil increases and organic matter decreases. The samples analysed ranged from 16.3% to 51.5% and 16/58 samples were above 35% organic matter.

The Anion Storage Capacity (ASC) test has proven to be the most effective test to determine the stage of development of peat soils, and to some extent, their nutrient requirements (estimates the soils capacity to store nutrients such as phosphorous and sulphur). A low ASC (<60) indicates that the peat soil has probably been developed for less than 15 years. A peat soil with a high ASC (>60) has probably been developed for more than 15 years. The ASC of peat increases as the peat is developed from a raw state, using drainage, cultivation techniques and, in the camp, animal impact and fertility shifts (penguins, stock camping up etc), to a more mineralised soil. The average rate of

shrinkage through mineralisation in the Waikato area of New Zealand has been measured at 25 mm per year. The typical soil profile of topsoil (above clay and iron pan) in the FI is only 200-400 mm deep. As water is essential for growth and more limiting in shallow soils in the FI I do not see it desirable to crop for more than 2-3 years before sowing to a legume based pasture. The average ASC for the soils sampled was 60 with 33/58 of the samples having an ASC level of >60.

Figure 1 shows that there is a relationship between the development stage of peat (ASC) and soil pH. The general guideline is the deeper the soil, the higher the organic matter and the lower the soil pH (not always true, but is in the majority of instances). This also provides evidence that historically a fair number of sites have been selected that are very peaty (low pH and low ASC). These sites are generally the poorest reseeds, although in one or two cases they have grown successful stands of *Lotus pedunculatus* (cultivar Maku) a legume that is know to tolerate acidic conditions (tolerate not desire!). The right legume has been chosen to handle that type of soil. As well as being acid, peat is naturally anaerobic (no oxygen available), plants that tolerate these soils such as sphagnum moss have developed special features such as shallow spongy roots that can carry oxygen down to the root tips so they can exist.

**Figure 1 showing the relationship between soil pH (water) and ASC status**



In further articles I will attempt to explain how the ASC status helps to determine the amount of P, lime and K that you might need to raise the soil nutrient status on your farm.

Developed peat has a higher bulk density (measured by weighing a soil core and dividing by its volume). 23 out of the 58 samples had a bulk density that classifies the topsoil as being typically mineral (500-1000 kg/m<sup>3</sup>). 16 samples were below 385 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and are therefore classified as semi-developed peat. It is important to note here that cultivations at ground-breaking or post crops would have increased the mineral content so in their original site some of these soils would have been undeveloped peat soils (not a desirable site selection!). The carbon to nitrogen decreases as peat is developed, 43 samples of the 58 had a high C: N ratio.

When selecting a site soil pH needs to be considered and the target pH of a low ASC soil should be 5.3-5.5 in the topsoil and a high ASC soil 5.8-6.0 in the topsoil. Aluminium and manganese are renowned for being toxic at low soil pH levels; I believe this is an area of concern in the FI and is also supported by Sergio Radic. Sergio has demonstrated that light rates of calcified seaweed (2.5 tonnes per hectare) can stimulate an improvement in the establishment of legume species. Whilst light rates of calcified seaweed have demonstrated improvements on establishment, it is likely that higher rates will need to be incorporated into the subsoil (deeper than 7.5cm) to maximise the potential benefits of dryland legumes (tap rooted). Root penetration through the clay soil and iron pan also needs to be part of future investigations.

Next month I will discuss the nutrients N, P, K, Mg, S and Ca along with micronutrients.

# Saladero Ram Sale 2011

Thursday 17th March at the Saladero shearing shed

- Stock inspection commences at 8am
- Helmsman auction commences at 11am
- Ferry departs Port Howard at 8am, return ferries are at 12 noon and 6pm from New Haven — please book your place with Workboat Services

Please note: if the ferry is cancelled due to bad weather, the sale will be postponed to Friday 18th March. In this eventuality, the DoA will endeavour to inform people at the very earliest opportunity.

- Please ensure you have transport organised for any stock you may purchase
- Stock for sale: Polwarth Mature and Shearling rams; Dohne rams; SAMM rams and Afrino rams
- Hot food and drinks for sale on the day
- If you require transport to and from New Haven, please advise the DoA well in advance
- More details will be published nearer to the sale date
- Any queries, please ring: 27355

# REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH WEST FALKLAND RAM & FLEECE SHOW

**By Nigel Knight  
Organiser**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2010 dawned under overcast and dull skies. Fortunately it soon became clear and bright; the 'Bay' was beautifully still and calm. This was an added bonus to the residents and visitors to Fox Bay Village, who were once again anticipating a good day out and were not to be disappointed.

Keith and Reuben had already been working hard transforming the woolshed prior to the event. On the day Keith and Reuben were there to take entries, some of which had already arrived by FIGAS. As usual the entries started as a trickle but it soon became quite hectic as the deadline for entries approached.

Once the entries were all in, Tony Mills and Lisa Pole-Evans set about the daunting and onerous task of selecting the fleece having the highest commercial value. They did this by working out the clean weight by estimating the yield and then multiplying this by the actual greasy weight. They then estimated the average fibre diameter before multiplying the clean weight by today's prices for that micron wool. Once this had been accomplished next was to select, from all the rams that were entered in the five ram classes, the one they considered to be the Champion Ram and Reserve Champion. Finally they selected the

Best Dual Purpose Ram ( Wool/Meat ) along with the runner up as well as third and fourth place. They were assisted in this task by having all the rams bodyweights and fleece weights recorded on entry to the 'Show'.

A total of fifty five fleeces from seventeen farms and fifty four rams from twelve farms were exhibited at this years event. All the entries had been carefully selected from tens of thousands of fleeces and hundreds of rams: every one a credit to its owner.

By now the barbecue, which had already been set up by Tex and Mandy using their gas fired barbeque pits and this year in the capable hands of Justin, Nuala and Tex, was in full swing. This fortified all those that intended judging the three classes of rams and the three classes of fleeces, which now awaited them back at the woolshed. Once this task had been accomplished the time consuming job of counting up the judging slips took place, before the final results were known. These were all then competently collated by Susie. The sheep used in the fleece weight competition was then skilfully shorn of its fleece by Ali and both the fleece and the sheep were then weighed. This enabled the winners in the other competitions to be worked out. The fleece weight, sheep weight and micron guess competition produced some very accurate results. It was also very satisfying to see a large number of entries in the Under 21's Sheep Judging Competition,



this year there were ten entries. Brian Aldridge expertly produced the master judging sheets to enable the results from this competition to be worked out.

Promptly at 5.30 pm a good crowd once again assembled in the woolshed for the prize giving. This year's prizes were presented by H.E. The Governor. Captain Clarke and F.I.G.A.S. staff kindly worked late to enable H.E. to return to Stanley afterwards.

The Prize giving brought this years show to a close, after which the focus of attention now moved back again to the Social Club for more Socialising until late that night. As usual the Southern Cross Social Club Committee did an excellent job of looking after the bar. This brought to an end another successful Ram and Fleece Show.

See pages 14 & 15 for prize winners

*If your cattle are on the move,  
Registration you have to prove  
Along with the movement cert, in your pocket  
Put their registration docket.  
Add them to the DOA list  
Or your FIMCo chance will be missed.*

*Please remember that ALL sheep/cattle/pig movements need to have an Animal Movement Certificate properly completed for them.*

*Register your cattle NOW by contacting [sbowles@doa.gov.fk](mailto:sbowles@doa.gov.fk)*

*To have a viable national and international meat industry we have to take public health seriously.*

*If your cattle are going to the abattoir for slaughter it is NOW essential that they are registered.*

## *Seen Anything Strange Lately?!*

**DON'T LEAVE IT...**

**OR START BETTING ON IT...**

**Call the Veterinary Section on  
27366**

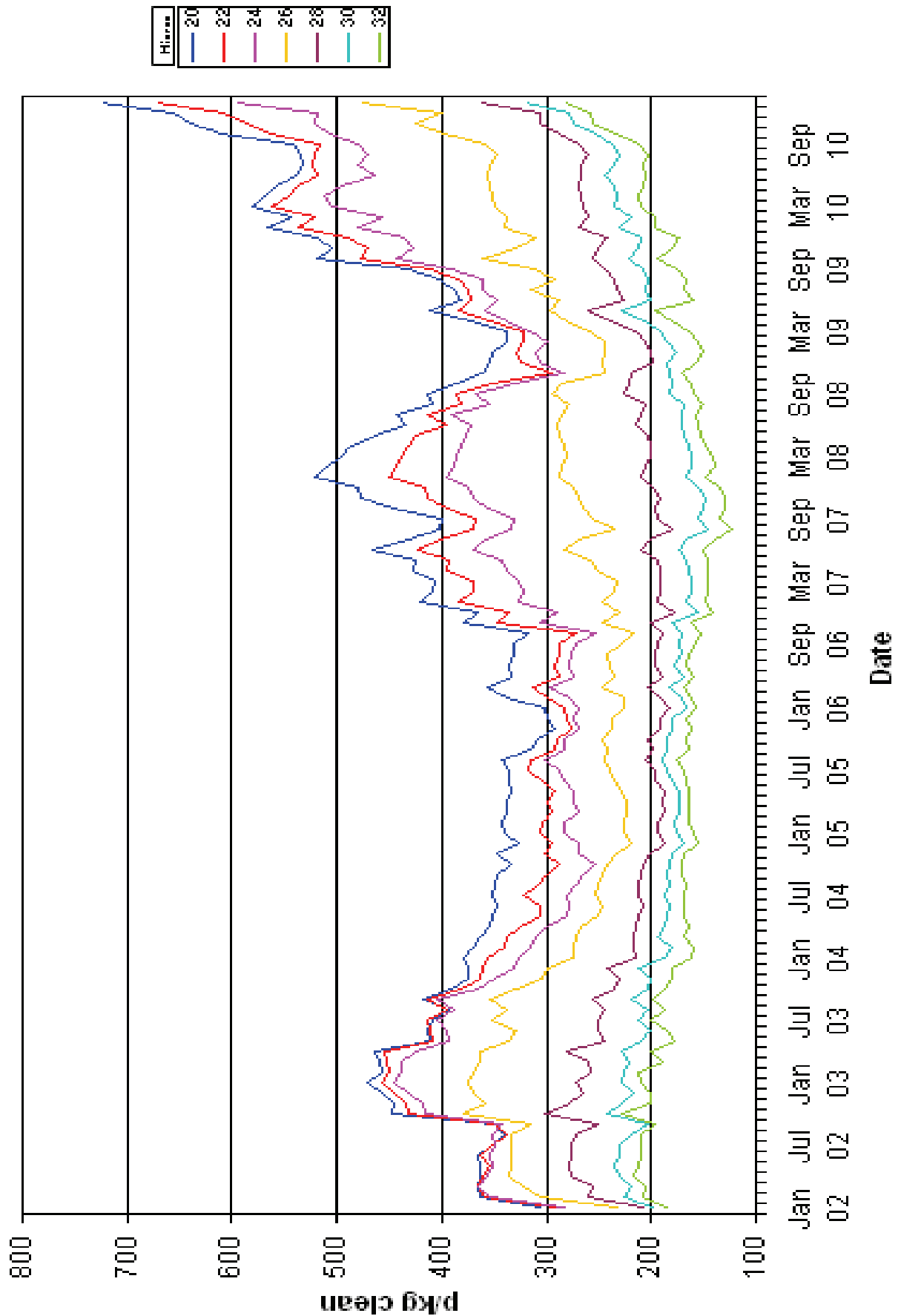
**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IS OUR BEST  
DEFENCE**



# WOOL PRICE TREND OVER TIME

Based on weekly DoA Wool Reports

## AWEX Wool Price Summary 2002 - 2011



# SPORTS WEEK PROGRAMMES

Once again it is that time of the year, where we head off down the road to Goose Green or across to Fox Bay for a few days of sports, great entertainment and maybe a beer or two. If you are thinking about joining in with the fun we have included the East and West Sports Association programmes so that you can plan ahead. I may try my luck and see if I can do better than 3rd this year on the mechanical bull!



## East Sports - Goose Green

### **Saturday 26th February**

Horse racing and gymkhana with a dance in the evening

### **Sunday 27th February**

Horse racing and gymkhana with a dance in the evening

### **Monday 28th February**

Dog trails (am) football and fun events (pm) and BBQ/ASADO at 6:30pm and the AGM at 8pm

### **Tuesday 1st March**

Children's sports including mechanical bull competition and the prize giving dance in the evening

*For more information contact Diana Aldridge.  
All times are given in Stanley time.*



## West Sports - Fox Bay

### **Sunday 27th February**

Foot events at Fox Bay including the annual rounders match with darts in the evening

### **Monday 28th February**

Shearing competition at Rincon Ridge shearing shed with mechanical bull in the evening

### **Tuesday 1st March**

Peat Cutting competition followed by the Treasure Hunt. Children's party at 5pm. Gold Cup racing and fancy dress in the evening

### **Wednesday 2nd March**

Dog trials and fun dog trial at Leicester Creek Farm with kid's sports run at the same time AGM at 5:30pm in SCSC. Prize giving with prizes presented by H.E The Governor at 9:30pm

### **Thursday 3rd March**

Rover / bike rally starting at 9am outside the Fox Bay Club

*For more information contact Justin Knight or Susan Hirtle.*

*All daytime events will begin at 10am and evening events at 8pm.*

*All times are given in Camp time.*

*The Southern Cross Social Club is a non-smoking venue.*

# RAM AND FLEECE PRIZE WINNERS - 2010

Prize	Donated By	Won By	Points
<u>Class 1 - Full Wool Ram Hogget</u>			
1st	Engraved Challenge Shield presented by Mr & Mrs Austin Davies & £100 donated by Falkland Landholdings Limited	Harps	95
2nd	£75 donated by Standard Chartered Bank	Shallow Harbour	48
3rd	£50 donated by Cable & Wireless	Boundary Farm	48
4th	£25 donated by R M Pitaluga & family	Coast Ridge	46
<u>Class 2 - Full Wool Shearling Ram</u>			
1st	Lyn Blake Perpetual Challenge Cup & £100 presented by Newton Investment Management Limited	Shallow Harbour	80
2nd	£75 presented by Newton Investment Limited	Shallow Harbour	79
3rd	£50 presented by Saddle Computers	Fern Ridge	61
4th	£25 presented by the Rural Business Association	Port North	37
<u>Class 3 - Full Wool Mature Ram</u>			
1st	Falkland Islands Wool Marketing Challenge Cup & a replica & £50 presented by Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association	Coast Ridge	73
2nd	£75 donated by the Falkland Islands Wool Company	Shallow Harbour	72
3rd	£60 presented by Argos Ltd	Coast Ridge	64
4th	£40 presented by Argos Ltd	Many Branch	46
<u>Class 4 - Hogget Fleece</u>			
1st	Silver Challenge Cup & replica presented by Meredith Fishing Company & Falkland Hydrocarbon Development & £50 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Mount Kent	63
2nd	£75 fuel voucher presented by Stanley Services	Blue Beach	55
3rd	£35 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Coast Ridge	55
4th	£25 voucher donated by Falkland Farmers	Main Point	38
<u>Class 5 - Any fine wool fleece other than hogget</u>			
1st	Governors Cup Challenge Cup presented by HE the Governor & replica & £100 from Newton investment	Spring Point	79
2nd	£75 from Newton Investment	Mount Kent	47
3rd	£50 from Newton Investment	Coast Ridge	47
4th	£25 from Newton Investment	Main Point	42
<u>Class 6 - Any B Type wether fleece</u>			
1st	Challenge Cup presented by Coast Ridge Farm & replica presented by Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association and £40 voucher from Falkland Farmers	Mount Kent	101
2nd	£50 donated by Port Howard Farm	Mount Kent	72
3rd	£35 donated by Stanley Electrical	Port North	71
4th	£15 presented by Port Howard Farm	Main Point	68

## ADDITIONAL PRIZES

The champion ram was owned by Many Branch Farm and won 'The Patricia Luxton Perpetual Challenge Cup' and replica from the Luxton Family Chartres. Reserve champion owned by Coast Ridge won £50 from SAAS.

Rosettes were presented for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> prize winners in all six classes. A champion and reserve champion rosette is also given. These were all provided by Jim McAdam.

A silver challenge cup and £75 for the fleece with the highest commercial value. All prizes presented by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation won by Mount Kent with a fleece having an estimated gross value of £ 29.56. Second prize went to Mount Kent winning £50 with a fleece value of £28.96 and third prize went to Many Branch winning £25, with a fleece value of £26.33.

£100 for the best 'dual purpose' ram (Wool/Meat) was won by Shallow Harbour. Second prize of £75 was won by Coast Ridge and third prize of £50 was won by Shallow Harbour. All prizes presented by FIMCo.

A challenge cup and replica for the farm with the most points in all classes is donated by Mr and Mrs Owen Summers which was won by Mount Kent.

## ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

In the 'guess the sheep weight competition' the winner received £25 from Meredith Fishing Company, won by Donna Evans who guessed closest with 40.05 Kilos. Actual weight was 40.7kgs.

The winner of the 'fleece weight' competition received £25 from Newton Ltd which was won by Matthew Hansen who was the closest with a guess of 3.5kgs. The actual weight was 3.5kgs.

The winner of the 'micron estimate' competition received £50 from Cable & Wireless Ltd was Norma Edwards & Trish Jamieson who guessed 17.5 mu. The actual micron was 17.6 mu. Runner up was shared and won £25 from the RBA.

The sheep judging competition for the under 21's was won by Kia Alazia she won a £50 voucher from the Department of Agriculture. The runners up were Jessica Cooper & Carly East they won £25 from the Falkland Islands Wool Company and third prize went to Hayden Mitchell who won £25 from Newton Investment.

## ADDITIONAL CREDITS

- ★ Warrah knitwear kindly donated £50 towards show funds.
- ★ F.I.G.A.S. for moving fleeces in particular Captain Clarke & FIGAS Support Staff for working late on the day. And once again generously agreeing to fly fleeces free of charge.
- ★ The Southern Cross Social Club for financing the barbecue with meat supplied by Rincon Ridge and Coast Ridge, the cooking was by Justin, Nuala & Tex and also Tex and Mandy for the cooks.
- ★ Keith for transforming the woolshed with assistance from Reuben in setting up pens and fleece tables.
- ★ Tony Mills & Lisa Pole-Evans for judging the special categories and all those who did the sums afterwards, in particular Susie.
- ★ The Department of Agriculture for their assistance before and after the event, in particular Katrina & Gordon.
- ★ H.E. The Governor for presenting the prizes.
- ★ The committee of the Southern Cross Social Club.
- ★ And not forgetting the residents of Fox Bay for being excellent hosts.

# FERTILITY TESTING OF RAMS

***By Tony Mills and Steve Pointing***

After completing the recent judging at Fox Bay and then completing the pre-sale selection process for the Shearling rams we thought it might be worthwhile to cover one of the key aspects of ram selection.

Fertility examination of rams can take various forms. These include a physical examination, scrotal measurement, semen examination, libido testing, mating dexterity and a serving capacity test. Of these, the most practical and important examination for producers running a commercial flock is the physical examination. In certain circumstances a semen evaluation may be warranted and for those producers breeding their own replacement rams it would be worthwhile to conduct a scrotal measurement.

Because reproduction rates in the Falkland Islands are low we are more often concerned about what is happening to the ewe as she bears most of the brunt of the workload in reproducing the next generation of lambs. However it definitely takes two to tango and we would speculate that the old rams don't shoulder their fair share of the responsibility as much as they should.

A physical examination is carried out by the vets as part of the selection process of the NSF stud and sale rams. Since 2009 scrotal circumference has also been recorded and included in the selection process for all rams as well as being published in the sale catalogue produced for the annual ram sale in March. The physical examination includes palpation of the testes and spermatic cord, examination of the prepuce and penis as well as feet, legs and mouth. If serious abnormalities are discovered then these animals are culled. So far the main abnormalities that have been recorded include one or two retained testes, evidently soft testes, size differences between the two testes, and damage to or narrowing of the prepuce preventing the penis from being able to be protruded. We are glad to report that no examinations have found hardening or

swelling of the epididymis which are the symptoms of Ovine Brucellosis.

Body condition assessed on the long ribs (12<sup>th</sup>) is also noted. As with ewes the body condition of the rams is ideally 3 to 3.5 (on a scale of 1 – lean to 5 – overfat) at joining. This level should be suitable to maintain sufficient stamina of the ram throughout the joining period. If they are overfat then it is also likely that they will have insufficient vigour to join with a large number of ewes during this period.

Scrotal circumference is an indirect indicator of the level of sperm production but at the risk of being accused of being “sizeist”, in the case of rams, bigger really is better. The size of the testes can increase or decrease depending on body condition and it generally increases with age. This is one area that we believe has been neglected. It is quite evident that there are a large number of rams that pre-joining are below the minimum size of 28cm. Ideally they should be 30cm plus at joining.

Semen examination is particularly useful if there has been a low reproductive rate recorded in a flock that normally has a high rate or you are wanting to use a particular sire or sires for an AI programme. Depending on the result you need to remember that a second test is warranted at least 7 to 14 days later and that the quality of the semen will reflect conditions 6 to 8 weeks previous when the sperm was being formed. More often than not the quality is affected due to heat stress or conditions that cause overheating e.g. a disease or infection.

This period of sperm production can also be used to benefit the producer. Supplementary feeding to boost testes size and body condition pre-joining will also aid sperm production. This needs to occur at least 6 to 8 weeks pre-joining to be of any real benefit. Of course be careful not to over feed.

Joining is not far away for some producers so you may want to consider when was the last time your rams had a good going over!! A

good reference that can be found on the web for further information is the Ag Fact sheet produced by NSW Agriculture also titled "Fertility testing of rams". If producers would like some assistance then we are more than willing to assist and if you would like to

measure the scrotal circumference then we can assist with that as well. So boys, if you're seen with your hands in your pockets, don't be too surprised at the looks you might get from those around you!!!

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## CLEANING PADDOCKS OF PARASITES IN THE FALKLANDS

**By Susan Campbell**

Recently I completed a trial at Saladero with the help of Brian Aldridge, looking at pasture larval (internal parasite larvae) contamination after spelling. In early July, sheep that were run on a pasture were found to have an extremely high average worm egg count (WEC) of over 5000epg. This would mean this pasture would have been very heavily contaminated. The paddock was then spelled from sheep grazing from start of July to the start of November, and over much of this time grazed with cattle.

To measure the numbers of pasture larvae surviving, two naive hogget wethers (free of internal parasites on entry to the pasture) were placed in the spelled reseed for three weeks. In this time the wethers can pick up larvae from the pasture but can not contribute to it due to the life cycle length. They were then slaughtered and a total worm count was performed on each of the wethers.

Both hoggets had very few worms, which showed that the larval pick up was extremely low and the pasture must be fairly clean. It would indicate that grazing with cattle is a very effective means by which to 'clean up' sheep pastures. If sheep are drenched into clean pastures, good worm free conditions should then exist for a reasonable period and

good growth rates and vigour will be achieved. This does not mean that regular WEC should not be performed.

Early November is usually a time of quite high pasture larval counts so this is a very significant finding and indicates that the use of cattle for cleaning up heavily contaminated sheep pastures is an effective means of getting 'safe' pastures for weaning lambs onto in the Falkland Islands.

The reason it works is that cattle and sheep share few parasite species, and larvae eaten by cattle will die in the gut - so the pasture is cleaned up due to physical removal of the larvae. Very few larvae die over winter, it is the heat, light and dryness that eventually kills them, not cold or dampness. Spelling alone does little to clean up paddocks.

If cattle are not available then another method which will most likely work here is to put drenched mature wethers onto the pasture. Mature wethers are fairly resistant to internal parasites and they too can remove them. Whilst it might be considered counter intuitive to put wethers onto these good camps, achieving safe pastures for young sheep is critical to keeping their parasite counts low and ensuring maximum growth over the summer months.

### *Newsflash*

We have now received the results from the dog faeces samples in the Hydatid trial. There are a small number of positive samples, a slightly larger number of borderline negative results and 5 of the original samples leaked in the post. In total 19 samples (out of the original 568) will need to be re-tested and I am hopeful that we will be able to give a full report on the results in the next edition of the Wool Press.

## CAT SUMMONED FOR JURY DUTY

A cat has been summoned to do jury service in the US - even after his owners pointed out he was "unable to speak and understand English".

Anna Esposito, wrote to Suffolk Superior Crown Court in Boston, to explain that a mistake had been made, reports the Daily Telegraph.

But a jury commissioner replied insisting that the cat, named Tabby Sal, "must attend" on March 23.

Mrs Esposito had included a letter from her vet confirming that the cat was "a domestic short-haired neutered feline".

Tabby Sal had been entered by Mrs Esposito under the 'pets' section of the last census.

She asked: "When they ask him guilty or not guilty? What's he supposed to say - miaow?"



"Sal is a member of the family so I listed him on the last Census form under pets but there has clearly been a mix-up."

A website for the US judicial system states that jurors are "not expected to speak perfect English".

Source: Ananova.com

## A Reply To Last Months Question - Dogs V Cats: Which is More Intelligent?

Charlie Brock  
16 John Street (or thereabouts)  
Email: charlie.brock@live.co.uk

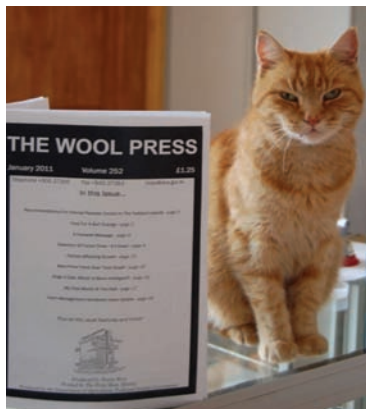
13 January 2011

Dear Dr Steve,

It is my time honoured opinion that cats are smarter than dogs. Our brains might be smaller but by golly we use what we got! Purrrrs and all that stuff,

Charlie

PS: I'm feeling fine, please don't take my temperature again.



Charlie Brock reading the Wool Press

# WOOL PRESS RECIPE CORNER

## Toad in the Hole

### Ingredients

175g/6oz Plain (all-purpose) flour  
 30ml/2tbsp Chopped fresh chives (Optional)  
 2 Eggs  
 300ml/½ pint milk  
 50g/2oz White vegetable fat or lard  
 450g/1lb Cumberland sausages  
 Salt and ground black pepper  
 Preheat the oven to 200°C/425°F/Gas Mark 7



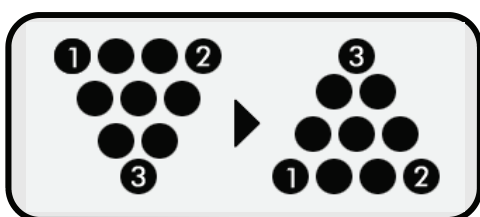
### Method

Sift the flour into a bowl with a pinch of salt and pepper and make a well in the centre of the flour. Whisk the chives with the eggs and milk, then pour into the well in the flour. Gradually whisk the flour into the liquid to make a smooth batter, cover and leave to stand for 30 minutes. Put the fat into a roasting pan and place in the oven for 3-5 minutes. Add the sausages and cook for 15 minutes, turning twice during the cooking. Pour the batter over the sausages and return to the oven. Cook for about 20 minutes, or until the batter is risen and golden. Serve immediately covered in gravy with a mountain of mash potatoes and assorted vegetables.

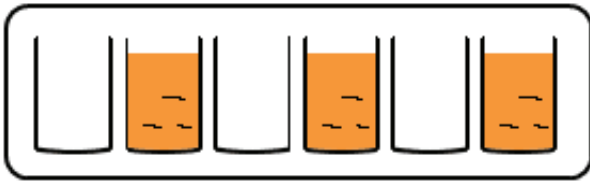
## January Solutions

8	9	1	7	3	2	6	4	5
4	7	6	5	1	9	3	8	2
3	2	5	8	6	4	7	1	9
2	3	4	9	8	6	5	7	1
6	5	8	1	2	7	4	9	3
7	1	9	3	4	5	2	6	8
1	8	7	6	5	3	9	2	4
9	4	3	2	7	1	8	5	6
5	6	2	4	9	8	1	3	7

1	M	A	N	G	Y		4	C	R	O	S	6	S	W	I	S	8	E
	I		E		E			A		R			A		N		I	
9	L	E	T	H	A	R	G	I	C			10	N	O	T	E	D	
	L				R			E		H			C		E		E	
11	I	C	I	C	L	E			13	L	E	C	T	U	R	E	R	
	N		N		Y			14	P		S		I		R			
15	E	D	D	Y			16	G	L	U	T	T	O	N	O	U	S	17
	R		U		R		18	A		R		N		G		Y		
19	Y	E	S	T	E	R	Y	E	A	R			20	L	A	W	N	
			T		C			G		L		21	H		T		T	
22	N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N			23	J	O	S	E	P	H	
	A		I		A			O		24	S		R				E	
25	S	C	O	U	R				26	U	P	P	E	R	M	O	S	T
	T		U		G			N		R			O		I		I	
28	Y	E	S	T	E	R	D	A	Y			29	R	E	L	I	C	



# Puzzle Page



Moving only ONE glass, can you arrange the glasses such that those containing the orange are together?

## Riddles

If you are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what do you light first?

A ship is docked in the harbour. Over the side hangs a rope ladder with rungs a foot apart. The tide rises at a rate of 9 inches per hour. At the end of six hours, how much of the rope ladder will still remain above water, assuming that 9 feet were above the water when the tide began to rise?

As I was going to St. Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives.  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits.  
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,  
How many were going to St. Ives?

How can you throw a ball so that it goes a short distance, comes to a total stop, reverses its motion, and then goes the opposite way. You are not allowed to bounce it against anything, hit it with anything, or tie it to anything.

## Sudoku

9		8					2	7
	1	4	8	2				
5		6		1			3	
6			1			2		
1	9		7		5		4	6
		3			9			8
	4			5		6		1
				7	8	5	9	
2	7					4		3

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Good luck!

## Fill-In

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	E
															I
9									10						D
															E
11		12				13									R
15					16									17	
19	E	N	U	M	E	R	A	B	L	E		20			
											21				
22											23				
												24			
25						26							27		
28														29	

Complete the crossword-type puzzle by placing the words provided into the grid.

### 3 Letters

NUN  
OFT

EVADED

PRESTO  
STATED

ANTAGONIST

~~ENUMERABLE~~  
UNDIRECTED

### 4 Letters

BAIL  
FOSS  
IFFY  
ITCH

### 8 Letters

ISLANDER  
NEPOTISM  
ORTHODOX  
SITUATED

### 11 Letters

ACCOUNTANCY  
EXPEDITIOUS

### 5 Letters

CHOKE  
DANCE  
~~ELDER~~  
ENNUI  
OMEGA  
TEPID

### 9 Letters

ASYMMETRY  
BRASSIERE  
CROSSWISE  
DISLOCATE  
INFLUENZA  
OSTRACISM

### 6 Letters

ARGUED

### 10 Letters

ADMISSIBLE