



Farm Management Handbook Update

Department of Agriculture
Falkland Islands Government

November 2007

THIS PAPER WAS PASSED AT THE APRIL 2007 MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Title of report: Use of PIP Funds to Purchase Live Rams in the Falkland Islands

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper seeks to outline a funding framework for the DOA to utilise for farmers using PIP funding to purchase live rams.
- 1.2 Funding levels are based on the potential of the various breeds/purity levels to achieve gain on farms and also on costs associated with their generation. For some of the breeds funding levels have been benchmarked to average sales prices achieved for the breed at recent DOA sales.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the AAC approve the following funding maximums for farmers seeking to utilise Pasture Improvement Programme (PIP) funds to purchase live rams.

Breed or type	Maximum PIP Funding	Details/comments
Polwarth or Cormo	£75.00	Based on recent NSF Polwarth sale values achieved 2006 and 2007.
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes X Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)	£75.00	Selected performance recorded (PR) rams (10-50% ranking) from PR and potentially, non PR breeding flocks.
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes X Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)	£150.00	Selected PR rams (10-50% ranking) from selected PR ewes and elite PR rams (imported AI or leading breed sire).
Breed or type	Maximum PIP Funding	Details/comments
Polwarth or Cormo type	£200.00	Elite ranked rams (1-

ewes X Dohne/SAMM/MPM (50% new blood)		10% ranking). PR rams from elite PR genetic stock.
Breed	Maximum PIP Funding	Details
Polwarth or Cormo type ewes X Dohne/SAMM/MPM (75% new blood)	£200.00	Selected PR rams (1-50%) from elite PR ewes and elite PR rams.
“Pure” blood SAMM/MPM/Dohne	£300.00	Selected performance recorded rams (1-50%) from elite PR genetic stock.

- Note: -
1. Performance recording (PR) should be based on a minimum of 20 animals of the same sex, breed and age located at the same farm.
 2. Performance recording includes consideration of live weight (at 100, 180 and 365 days), fibre diameter, greasy and clean fleece weight plus subjectively assessed characteristics such as face cover, pigmentation and conformation. DOA agricultural advisors are available to assist “stud” breeders with animal ranking and performance recording of their stock.
 3. Price maximums for other breed/combinations that emerge over time will be determined on a case by case basis by the SAA and added to the maximum funding table.

3. Background

- 3.1 PIP funds have been available for use by farmers for several years for the purchase of sheep genetics.
- 3.2 The funds have primarily been utilised to cover costs associated with AI & ET programmes but have also been utilised to purchase live rams at the DoA “Saladero” ram sale and on a small number of occasions, live rams from other farmers.
- 3.3 It is likely that the desire to utilise PIP funds to purchase live rams from other farmers will increase significantly over the next few years.
- 3.4 The intention of this paper is to establish a clear price framework for farmers wishing to use PIP funds to purchase live rams of farms other than the DoA.
- 3.5 It is clear that the price framework needs to recognise the ability of the genetic material to achieve improvement in profitability and productivity for farmers. The price framework must also address differences in quantity and demand for the various options.