

5-7 May 79.

N.Z. DEER FARMERS CONFERENCE



—Deer Industry's 'Increasing Sophistication'—

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association began as a gathering of deer farmers anxious to exchange ideas. Now it had reached the stage where its activities needed to reflect the increasing sophistication of an established rather than a fledgling industry, the president, Mr Peter Elworthy told the Association's annual conference in Te Anau.

It was envisaged in the not too distant future that feral range restrictions will no longer be required in this country, Mr Elworthy said. There were members, particularly in North Auckland, who wish to farm fallow deer but who, at present, chafe under restrictions that seem to be most unreasonable.

Progress was being made on this question and it is believed that the appropriate

legislation will be altered to enable deer to be farmed in some areas of North Auckland at least.

Mr Elworthy said it is felt that the fallow deer will prove to be a very substantial contributor to the New Zealand industry and that every effort will be made by the Deer Farmers Association to open up possibilities for those wishing to farm Sika deer.

The Association has been putting proposals to the Minister of Forests to enable deer farmers to undertake live capture in forest parks so that animals may be made available for the industry's benefit in such areas as disease control replacement and research.

Mr Elworthy noted that on each occasion he had been asked to speak as president

of the Association, to contribute to any discussion about the industry, he had spoken of the importance of basic good husbandry and management in relation to deer farming, and the need to take disease factors into account in considering any investment into the industry. He commented that he had been astonished to hear of deer losses which had been caused by a lack of appreciation of the nutritional requirements of the animal.

With livestock prices at their present level, these factors have become more important than ever and Mr Elworthy urged all those with an investment in the industry to ensure that basic good stock management is assured by competent and experienced personnel, and by the accumulation of all possible information on the diseases to which deer can be subject.

The policy of the Deer Farmers Association to date, said the president, to provide a forum for maximum interchange of ideas on deer farming, suggested to him that this attitude had been a significant contributing factor to the rapid growth of

deer farming in New Zealand. He said that there are those within the industry who feel that, having advanced to the level of world leadership in deer farming, the Association should now set about protecting its position by withholding information from potential overseas competitors.

Deer Farmers Meet

From small beginnings when 30 people attended the first Annual General Meeting of the Deer Farmers Association in Wellington in 1976, the ranks had swelled to over 500 members at the fourth annual conference held in Te Anau last week.

On Tuesday members and their families travelled by bus on a field day including a round trip from Te Anau to Mossburn and returned via Hamilton Burn, So Big and Mt Hamilton Lands and Survey Development Blocks.

During the trip visits were made to Fiordland

Wapiti Park where Dr K. Drew of Invermay research station spoke on 'Wapiti'; to West Dome Station, the Southern Lakes game Goods Ltd Game packing factory where a representative of Wilson Neill Ltd spoke on 'Market Prospects' and to Dunrobin Stag Range where 'Planning a Deer Farm' was the subject for Mr J. Newson, Farm Management Consultant.

Wednesday was devoted to the business of the Conference and concluded with a dinner and dance held in the Te Anau hall when over 600 people were catered for.



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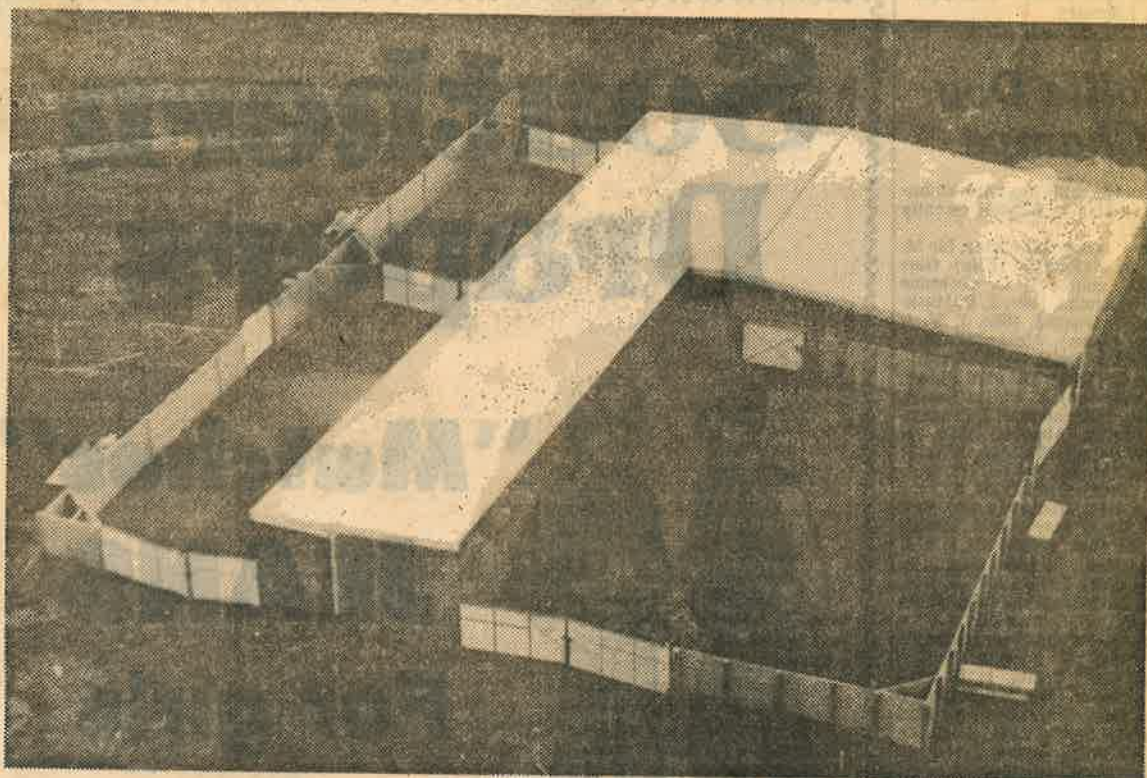
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Deer Poaching And The Law

BY DAN RIDDIFORD

The remedies available to a landowner to prevent poaching of deer or other wild animals on the property are largely governed by the Wild Animal Control Act, 1977.

Section Nine of the Wild Animal Control Act, — Ownership of Wild Animals enlarges a provision of the earlier Noxious Animals Act.

Section 9 (1) states that: "All wild animals shall be the property of the Crown: Provided that where any wild animal has been lawfully taken or killed or is lawfully held pursuant to this Act, it shall cease to be the property of the Crown, and the animal shall be deemed to be the property of the person by whom it was so taken or killed, or by whom it is held."

Section 9 (2) further states that: "The presence of any wild animal on any land confers no right of ownership of the wild animal or its carcass on the owner or occupier of the land unless and until the animal is captured, held, or conveyed under a valid permit issued by the Director General (of Forests), or is killed by a person who hunts or kills a wild animal on the land with the consent of the owner or occupier, or is hunted or killed by the owner or occupier by lawful means, or the animal is branded in accordance with Part II of the Animal Act, 1967."

The effect of Section 9 is that a landowner who has deer roaming at large on his land does not legally own them and is generally restricted to the legal remedy laid down in Section 8 of the Act.

Section 8 declares that: "Every person commits an offence against this Act who hunts or kills or has in his possession any wild animal on any land without the express authority of the owner or occupier of that land."

The penalty for breaching the Act is a maximum fine of \$5000. The following points should be noted:-

"Hunt or kill" is very widely defined at the beginning of the Act to include:

- Hunting or searching for any wild animal... capturing, having in possession, tranquillizing, or immobilizing any such animal by any means.
- Pursuing, disturbing or molesting any such animal.
- "Wild Animal" is also widely defined to mean:
 - Any deer of the family Cervidae
 - Any chamois, thar, wallaby or opossum
 - Any wild goat
 - Any wild pig
 - The expression also includes the whole or any part of the carcass of any such animal.
- The expression "any land" includes both Crown and private land.

The words "express authority of the owner or occupier" mean that an offence under Section 8 is committed if a hunter does not obtain the landowner's permission before hunting.

Section 8 also applies to the illegal hunting of deer by aircraft or helicopters.

Section 38 of the Act lays down a presumption that if any person is found in an area where wild animals are usually present with dog, weapon, vehicle or aircraft, capable of being used for hunting then that is evidence from which a court may presume he was hunting. The exact meaning of this provision

is unclear. The practical effect of it is likely to be that defendants charged with unlawful deer hunting under the Act may not be able to avail themselves of their usual right to remain silent, forcing the prosecution to prove its case beyond all reasonable doubt, but will be compelled to enter the witness box to explain their behaviour. They can of course then be cross-examined by the prosecution on their explanation.

Remedies Available

If poaching occurs after deer have been lawfully taken, captured or held in captivity (see Section 9), a landowner or his agent has other remedies available to them apart from Section 8 of the Wild Animal Control Act.

Theft under the Crimes Act

S219 of the Crimes Act states that "creatures wild by nature are, if kept in a state of confinement, capable of being stolen so long as they remain in confinement, or are being actually pursued after escaping..."

Thus fenced deer or deer tied up to prevent their escape are capable of being stolen. The Crimes Act provides a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment for this type of theft.

Remedies in Tort

A tort is a civil wrong committed by one citizen against the person or property of another citizen.

Tort differs from crime in that the state is not immediately involved. Thus a landowner may choose to sue a poacher interfering with his deer for civil trespass or conversion. An action in trespass would arise if a poacher damaged the person or property (including deer) of a deer farmer. The advantages of this remedy are:

- A farmer or his legal adviser need only prove his case to the standard of a balance of probability and not the more onerous standard for crime of "beyond all reasonable doubt".
- The farmer himself would receive the damages imposed by a court and not the State as is the case for a fine under the Wild Animal Control Act.
- A farmer can claim for the actual loss suffered in deer killed or maimed, fences broken and the cost of pursuing a deer poacher.
- Thus if a poacher killed 10 deer belonging to a farmer the maximum penalty under the Wild Animal Control Act (assuming a court was prepared to impose it) would be \$5000, while actual loss for which a farmer could claim in tort would on recent prices be in excess of \$10,000.

Trespass Act 1968
Under this Act it is an offence to do any of the following:
S3. Trespass after warning to leave. Refusing to leave private

ENFORCEMENT

Evidence of identity has always been a major stumbling block in trespass cases in the past. A farmer faced with a poacher on his land should attempt to gather as much evidence as possible.

This evidence may consist of

engine and chassis numbers as well as licence numbers and the manufacturer's number stamped on to every rifle. It costs only 20c to send off a form with the licence number through the Post Office requesting the name and address of the owner of a vehicle.

If a farmer comes upon packs or rifles belonging to a poacher it may sometimes be helpful to confiscate them and take them to his house, because the poacher will usually seek to reclaim them and thus the question of his identity can be resolved.

Until June 1977 it was the policy of the Police Department not to become involved with the enforcement of the Wild Animal Control Act since that Act gives very wide powers to the Forest Service, which police constables do not possess.

Under S13 of the Wild Animal Control Act a forest officer, to prevent contravention of the Act, may:

- Enter any land, building, vehicle, vessel or aircraft and search it.
- Seize any wild animal unlawfully taken or had in possession.

land after being warned to do so by any person acting under the authority of the owner.

S4. Trespass after warning to stay off. Wilfully trespassing on land within six months of being warned, either verbally or by notice sent by registered post, to stay off.

S5. Disturbance of domestic animals. Entering land without the authority of the owner and disturbing domestic animals or deer lawfully enclosed either wilfully or recklessly or with a dog, firearm or vehicle.

S6. Discharge of firearm on private land. Discharging without the authority of the owner, a firearm on private land or into or across private land.

S7. Failure to shut gate. Wilfully trespassing on land and neglecting to close a farm gate.

S8. Obligation to give name. Refusing to give name and address when trespassing, to the occupier of the land, as required by the Act.

The major drawback to the Trespass Act is that the maximum penalties imposed are far too low. However, the provision in S10 providing that a court, on convicting a person under the Trespass Act may disqualify him from carrying a firearm or holding a firearm permit for up to two years, could well be useful.

Arms Act, 1958

S16 (1) of the Arms Act states that it is an offence for a person "to carry or be in possession of any firearm... or dangerous weapon except for some lawful proper, and sufficient purpose." It is strongly arguable that possession of a firearm for the purpose of hunting deer in breach of the Wild Animal Control Act is not a lawful and sufficient purpose. A court has power under the Arms Act to confiscate all weapons carried for an unlawful purpose. Both the Civil Aviation Act, 1964, and the Air Services Licensing Act, 1951 can be helpful in cases of helicopter poaching.

- Seize all nets, snares, fire-

arms, vessels, horses, vehicles and devices... about to be used or being used in contravention of the Act.

- Stop any vehicle, riding pack animal, vessel or aircraft and search it.

A court when entering a conviction under the Act has power to order that articles seized under S13 be forfeit to the Crown.

The policy of the Police Department now is that they would prefer the Forest Service to enforce the Wild Animal Control Act but that they are prepared to act (in co-operation with the Forest Service) where a member of the public lays a specific complaint with them.

Deer Farming Documentary

It has always been a sore point with the New Zealand deer farmers — who after all lead the world in this line of livestock farming — that the first book on the subject was written by an Australian, who effectively gained all his information in this country.

Now at least we have a book written by a New Zealand deer farmer and agricultural journalist and David Yerex's book is a much more impressive record than the first Australian version.

Well illustrated and up-to-date with the latest information on live capture techniques and trapping, herd behaviour, herd management, market prospects, and every other aspect of the industry of interest to farmers and servicing industries generally.

Yerex has given us something of the background to the industry's development and much of his commentary is based on the personal experience of the established better-known deer farmers in the country.

As a result his book is not so much a technical treatise as a documentary of what has happened, what is happening, and what is likely to take place in the future. It is a useful book, but also a fascinating one.

"Deer Farming in New Zealand" by David Yerex, published by Deer Farming Services, Box 11-137, Wellington. Price \$11.50.

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Deer Give Best Income

Income from the 1000 red deer run on 240 hectares of Dunrobin Station, Mossburn, exceeded that from the station's 12,500 sheep and 1000 beef cattle, Mr Bernard Pinney said on Tuesday. Mr Pinney was addressing the 530 visitors to the deer farming enterprise as part of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association national conference programme.

Dunrobin Station, 5500 hectares of both developed and tussock grassland, went into deer farming in 1972. The venture was run as a partnership between the Wilson Neill, game-packing and export company, and the station owners. The company provided the initial capital deer stock and the station provided the land, facilities and management, Mr Pinney said.

The deer block is laid out on fully-developed pasture, closely subdivided with a central race bisecting the area and leading through the yards. All deer handling is carried out in the covered yards.

A most important feature of the race and yards was the width of the race and yard opening. Double gates into the holding pen and a 3-metre door into the yards, ensured the deer did not baulk when being yarded. The avoidance of injury to the deer showed in 88.6 per cent of the station's velvet this season being A grade, Mr Pinney said.

Animal health had presented few problems, he said. Only the young deer were drenched for worms. In the spring of 1976 there was an outbreak of bovine malignant catarrh in the 220 weaner hind mob, but fortunately it cleared up as quickly as it had started, presumably through natural build up of immunity.

The most vital ingredient of a partnership agreement was compatibility and complete trust between the two parties.

A further 160 hectares was being added to the existing 240 hectares of deer farm area Mr Pinney said.

His policy since embarking on the venture had been to trade all the way. Cash flow is thus maintained and finance also generated to help other station developments.

Fiordland Wapiti Herd Holds Potential

There was tremendous genetic potential for growth in the New Zealand wapiti, Dr Ken Drew of Invermay research station told the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association National Conference on Tuesday.

During a field visit to the Fiordland wapiti park at Te Anau he said the wapiti in Fiordland were introduced from North America in 1905. While the Fiordland wapiti weighted about 54kg at five to eight months, their American cousins at the same age attained 118kg. Even more dramatic weights were recorded from Russia where 5 to 8-month-old stags had reached 140kg.

A corresponding difference was evident in the weights of older wapiti.

The poor showing of the Fiordland wapiti was due entirely to the poor feed available, Dr Drew said.

At Invermay wapiti had been

interbred with red deer and hybrids at 8 months of age weighed 57kg and at 12 to 14 months weighed 120kg.

Feed trials at Invermay had shown that the hybrids ate two kg of dry matter per day during their first spring, which was 40 per cent more than the pure reds.

Velvet from the small num-

ber of wapiti at Invermay averaged 3.7kg per head and sold A grade. Velvet from the Invermay red deer was slightly less than half the wapiti's average weight.

While the numbers were too small to make an accurate comparison the result indicated wapiti produced much more velvet than reds, Dr Drew said.

While wapiti were quieter to handle in the paddocks than reds they could be treacherous in confined quarters, Dr Drew said.

Rough country was more suitable for running wapiti than lush pasture, because of their tendency to scour badly, he said.

By using wapiti for cross-breeding a type of deer could be bred combining a balance of venison and velvet production requirements, Dr Drew said.

Another possibility in the future for deer farmers would be the running of a pure herd of red deer and a separate herd of hybrid wapiti stags for velvet production.

Half the red deer would be mated pure to maintain the herd, the male offspring being sold for slaughter, and the other half put to wapiti bulls to maintain the hybrid herd of stags. The females from this mating would be sold for slaughter.

This system, on present day prices for velvet, meat and breeding stock, could be highly profitable, Dr Drew said.

E.E.C. Rule Major Advance

The ruling from the E.E.C. in Brussels last week that imported farmed venison would be classed as game, was a major step forward for the industry, Mr John Scandrett told the members of the N.Z. Deer Farmers' Association conference at the Mossburn game packing house.

Mr Scandrett, game and domestic meats manager for Wilson Neill, owners of Southern Lakes Game Foods, said the ruling meant farmed venison imports would attract an import levy of only five per cent on C.I.F. Other domestic meats were levied at rates between 18 and 28 per cent by the E.E.C.

At present there was little farmer interest in the slaughter procedure for farmed deer, owing to the demand for breeding stock and the velvet market, Mr Scandrett said. This would change as numbers built up.

The requirements of the overseas venison markets should be studied he said, but the slaughtering procedures should suit New Zealand.

In his opinion on-farm slaughtering should be vigorously supported.

By having suitable slaughter facilities on farms costs to the farmer could be kept to a minimum, while safeguarding health standards, Mr Scandrett said.

The carcasses would be transported to the packing house with head and feet off, gutted and skin on in refrigerated transport. This method, he believed, was preferable to mobile slaughter units.

Deer Farming Needs Sound Background

A desire to avoid taxation was an unsound and insufficient reason for a person to go into deer farming, Mr Jon Newson, a farm adviser from Otatau, told visitors to the N.Z. Deer Farmers Association National Conference on Tuesday.

A liking, understanding and feeling for animals were most important attributes for prospective deer farmers, in addition to having plenty of money to buy stock at today's inflated prices.

Improved pasture was the most suitable on which to establish a deer farm. The high stocking rate this allowed helped to defray overheads.

If possible, the improved pasture chosen should adjoin a rough hill block on which hinds could be spread out and run under low-stress conditions.

This type of hind management lifted calving percentage and reduced mortality amongst fawns he said.

Perimeter fences had to be substantial but lighter material could be used for internal subdivision.

A central lane was essential and all paddocks needed an adequate water supply.

It was important to have yards covered and make provision in the design for future ex-

tensions. The amount of cash would decide how elaborate the yards were, he said.

Stock firms, after a slow start, were now looking more favourably on loan applications from deer farmers he said.

Deer farmers would have to regain their initiative when slaughter considerations again became an economic factor.

Thinking would have to be very clear before regulations were drafted for processing systems. A maze of regulations would have to be avoided and the job kept simple at all costs he said.



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Minister's Advice To Members

(Special)

TEANAU

There was no prospect whatsoever of the Government acting in any way to limit, depress or control the price or cost of buying live deer, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr MacIntyre, told the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Conference at Te Anau in his opening address on Wednesday.

The speech was delivered by Mr P. Elworthy, president of the Deer Farmers' Association as Mr MacIntyre had decided not to attend the conference because of the aviation fuel restriction.

Deer were worth what the market would pay and in the best long-term interest of deer farmers that was the way it should stay, he said.

To a degree, current prices reflected the high cost of capturing feral deer and, while there was good money in capturing, any major drop in prices could result in less effort being directed into the capture side of the industry.

Problems

The Minister of Forests and he were aware of the problems deer farmers or prospective deer farmers were having in obtaining permits to hold deer and to obtain deer farming licences.

Action to simplify the situation had been taken, Mr MacIntyre said.

The 1969 deer farming regulations were being revoked and the Forest Service would now be responsible for issuing deer farming licences under the Wild Animals Control Act, 1978.

New Zealand unfortunately had come up with another first regarding Tb in deer, Mr MacIntyre said.

A review of overseas information showed that little was known about the problem and no one seemed to have developed a proven test for Tb in deer.

Towards the end of last year cases of bovine tuberculosis were observed in deer but, fortunately, it would appear that the incidence was low, with only a handful of herds showing any signs of infection, he said.

What evidence there was available on the disease of feral deer indicated they were largely free of the disease.

Controls

Tb control in farmed deer was a problem that the industry would have to grapple with, but as Tb was a scheduled disease under the Animals Act some Government involvement was required, Mr MacIntyre said.

The form of this involvement should be tested, he said, to minimize the effects of the disease on the industry.

Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture had been discussing the problem with members of the executive and had mapped out a method of resolving the problem, he said.

The first step was to have available deer tested and then slaughtered and examined to confirm the test result.

It would also be necessary to look at the legislation so that the disposal of infected deer was

Co-operation

Driving the Tb problem underground, which would make control or eradication extremely difficult, had to be avoided at all costs, Mr MacIntyre said.

The whole Tb question was one that calls for deer farmers' co-operation with the veterinary world if the problem is to be contained meantime, he said.

The deer farming industry in

New Zealand was facing the curious problem, probably unique in livestock farming circles, of having very few animals going for slaughter, Mr MacIntyre said.

The desire to retain all female breeding stock and the high returns possible from velvet were the logical reasons for this.

One benefit from the situation was the time it gave members to develop a venison marketing strategy, he said.

"I would urge you to make the most of this opportunity for it will not come again. It is for you to decide how you will approach the question, but I would make a number of points for your consideration," Mr MacIntyre said.

The first was there would be some benefit in developing a centralized or sole exporting agency. He would not seek to influence them one way or the other but products made it worthwhile to go to considerable lengths to protect their good name, he said.

Whether to market their exports under a single brand name in each export market was worthy of consideration, particularly if venison went for export in a final processed, consumer-type form.

Mr MacIntyre said it would certainly be sad to see one producer played off against another by those wishing to buy produce from the New Zealand deer farming industry.

The point to remember from a marketing point of view was a collective marketing scheme pitted New Zealand against the forces of the international market place rather than pitting the individual farmer against world sources.

Obviously, the stronger the New Zealand exporters were the better able they would be to deal with international buyers.

"The success of your velvet pooling scheme will give you some pointers as to what is involved in marketing your produce to the best advantage of your members," Mr MacIntyre said.

Top Prices Paid For Wapiti

Deer prices reached a new peak on Thursday at the first auction sale of wapiti in New Zealand held at the Fiordland Wapiti Park, Te Anau.

Wapiti weaner stags at the sale, conducted by Dalgety N.Z. Ltd, averaged \$4928 with a top price of \$6800.

Weaner wapiti hinds sold for an average of \$7670 with a joint top price of \$8300. The overall average for the wapiti was \$6300.

Hybrid weaners were also in keen demand, with the stags realizing up to \$2100 and selling for an average \$1683. Hinds sold up to \$2400 giving an average of \$1914.

The red deer offered at the sale also met a buoyant market with adult hinds averaging \$1750, adult stags \$1100, weaner hinds \$1500 and weaner stags \$750.

Buyers from many areas of the country were among the estimated 900 crowd, and while farmers from Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty bought deer, local and other South Island areas were well to the fore.

Values realized on the 240 red deer offered on behalf of Mararoa Station Ltd, Te Anau, were fully firm on recent deer sales around the country, Mr Lester Thorn, head auctioneer for Wighison N.M.A. said.

The offering was made up of 80 stags, 80 yearling hinds, 40 five-month weaned hinds and 40 five-month weaned stags.

The yearling hinds were mated and all the stock was T.B. tested. The offering of older stags sold up to \$1425 and averaged \$1120 while the weaner stags averaged \$625 with a top price of \$650. Yearling hinds sold to \$1850, averaging \$1825 and the weaner hinds averaged \$1310 and sold up to \$1400.

Helicopter Crew Walks To Safety

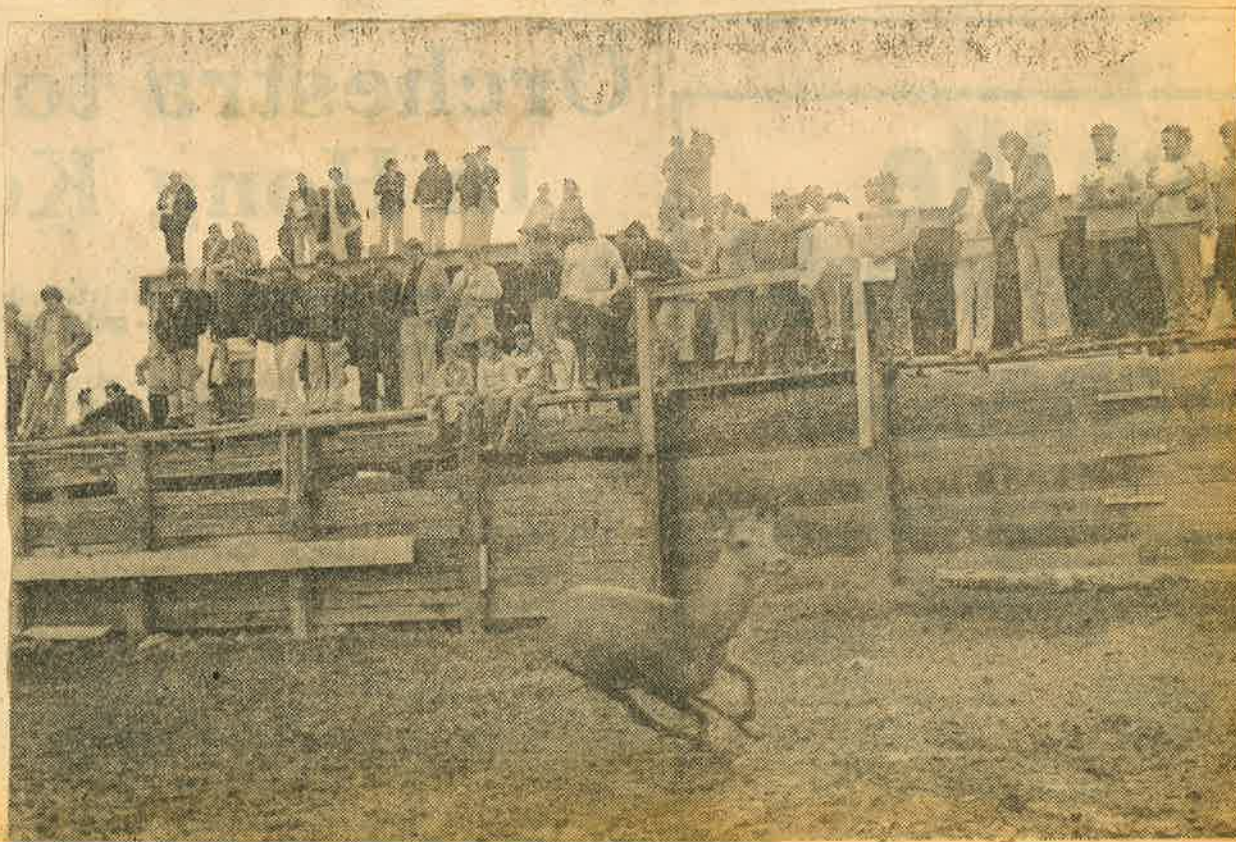
Queenstown. — Two Mossburn men walked out of the Takatimu Ranges late on Saturday night after their helicopter was damaged during a deer recovery operation.

Search and Rescue headquarters in Christchurch was alerted shortly after 9 p.m. on Saturday when the helicopter, carrying Mr R. Cleland, the pilot, and Mr D. M. Woodford, was reported 15 minutes overdue.

The helicopter left Mossburn at 5.45 p.m. for a deer recovery operation at the southern end of the Takatimu between north west Southland and Fiordland.

Speaking from Mossburn Mr Cleland, who flies for Takatimu Helicopters, said a weight on a deer recovery net came in contact with the main rotor causing the machine to vibrate. Mr Cleland landed on a flat and he and his companion walked about 15 kilometres to the nearest farmhouse.

Lumsden police were later advised that the two men had been located and the search alert was cancelled. Mr Cleland said the rotor had not been badly damaged, but he landed as a safety precaution.



Deer Farmers At Te Anau

(Special)

TE ANAU

"I have been astonished to hear of deer losses which have been caused by a lack of appreciation of the nutritional requirements of the animal," Mr Peter Elworthy said in his presidential report to the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association conference at Te Anau on Wednesday.

"I urge all those with an investment in the industry, or those contemplating joining our ranks, to ensure basic good stock management by competent and experienced personnel," he said.

Information on the disease to which deer were subject and the treatment and prevention should be accumulated. The bovine test had not been proven reliable in identifying Tb reactors in deer herds. The Ministry of Agriculture required hundreds of animals to perfect the test, so members should advise the ministry before they slaughtered any deer so that these animals could be injected and the test read, Mr Elworthy said.

Good Progress

The Game Industry Association technical committee was making positive progress in the detailed planning of a trial to evaluate on-farm slaughter of deer, with ante- and post-mortem inspection at the farm and at the game packing house.

Valuable information and experience would be gained from the trial for when the venison trade became substantial, he said.

The Deer Farmers' Association Council were working closely with the Game Industry Association for suitable facilities, to be submitted to the M.A.F.

It was in the interest of deer farming to co-operate with the game industry to perfect a professional and competent approach to slaughtering and marketing. At the same time the right of each deer farmer to market his own product, or for the association to pool members products and to market them was acknowledged.

A good deal of time had been spent talking to marketing co-operative groups promoting other products, he said, in particular the kiwifruit marketing group, which had district parallels with their industry.

The council had informed the Minister of Agriculture that they agreed in principle with the removal of mandatory Government restrictions on the game packing industry, Mr Elworthy said.

Members of the Game Industry Association were concerned with the effect of sudden delicensing of an industry that had geared itself to licensing regulations, he said.

Velvet Prices

He and Mrs Hans Fitzl, of North Auckland, who represent the deer farmers on the Game Industry Association, were communicating with them on their response. Fallow velvet brought up to \$95 a lb for a small parcel and this was a significant development for that section of the industry, he said.

Fallow deer would prove to be a very substantial contributor to the New Zealand industry and the frustrations felt by those at present was understandable. Progress was being made and the council believed legislation would be altered to enable deer to be farmed in some areas of North Auckland at least, and the council envisaged that feral range restrictions would not be required in the not-too-distant future, Mr Elworthy said.

Some complaints had been received about commission rates charged by stock firms, in particular where there were a number of stock firms involved, Mr Elworthy said.

He advised members that commission rates agreed on by the Commerce Commission were maximum rates, and were, therefore, negotiable by individual vendors.

Should there be support from members for the Deer Farmers' Association to conduct their own auctions, the likely commission rate would be about three per cent. He said numerous enquiries from research institutions for funds to establish deer research units had been received by the council.

In association with the Game Industry Association they had set up a unit to research the physiology of antler growth at Lincoln College. Research was also being carried out on behalf of the industry at Invermay.

Policy moves

A significant contributing factor to the rapid growth of

deer farming in New Zealand was the maximum interchange of ideas to date, Mr Elworthy said. The association's policy had been to provide a forum for such interchange. Having achieved world leadership in deer farming, there were those within the industry who said New Zealand's position should be protected by withholding information from potential overseas competition, he said.

Regardless of individual attitudes to the principle involved if

there was to be maximum information exchange between deer farmers in this country, it is impossible to restrict the flow overseas, Mr Elworthy said.

Valuable information had been gained from overseas and the enterprise, which had given the present lead, would if maintained keep them ahead of the rest of the world without them adopting a dog-in-the-manager attitude which was foreign to the farming world, he said.

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New Helicopter At Queenstown

By IRENE ADAMSON

QUEENSTOWN

New Zealand's first Ecureuil AS350 helicopter made its debut at Queenstown on Sunday morning when Mr Don Spary, general manager of Alpine Helicopters Ltd, and Rex Dovey, the company's test pilot, introduced the machine to its first scenic flights in the district.

This latest addition to Alpine Helicopter's fleet will be based at either Te Anau or Queenstown for multiple use of whatever is required of it—scenic flights, live deer recovery or search and rescue work.

It is much larger and faster

than the company's Bell Jet Rangers with a cruising speed of 130 knots and maximum speed of 147 knots, compared with up to 115 knot cruising speed of the Jet Ranger.

It is approved to lift 750 kilograms but it is hoped to have

this increased to 900 kilos, and has an operational ceiling of more than 8000m.

Its fuel capacity is 117 imperial gallons of kerosene, and it carries five passengers and pilot in a spacious cabin fitted with deluxe, plush seats.

The gleaming red machine with its black and white trim and blue rotor blades cost more than \$340,000 and was brought to New Zealand from France by its agents, Airwork New Zealand Ltd, of Christchurch, from the Aerospatiale factory at Marignane.

Mr Spary flew it to Queenstown from Christchurch on Saturday afternoon.

Mr K. M. Wilkins, Alpine's chief engineer, spent four weeks in France last year inspecting Ecureuil helicopters and undertaking engineering courses on the machines.

It arrived in New Zealand two-and-a-half weeks ago and Messrs Wilkins and Steve McMurray, another of the company's engineers, based at Taieri, went to Christchurch to assemble it and get it mobile.

A week ago, chief pilot, Bill Black, of Te Anau, and Rex Dovey of Queenstown, undertook a full day course at Christchurch with Maurice Kalb, of the Aerospatiale factory, then took it on a North Island sales tour for Airwork Ltd.

The British name for the machine is "Squirrel." Features include its stability, quiet running and overall comfort, which were apparent during a flight over Queenstown yesterday.

One of the chief attributes for scenic flights particularly is the subdued noise factor within the cabin.

This glamorous, new machine brings Alpine's fleet to one Ecureuil, three Bell Jet Rangers, six Hughes 500, two Hughes 300, one Hiller twelve E and one Hiller twelve J.

Helicopter Being Recovered

The Hughes 300B helicopter which broke down on Stewart Island about 10 days ago, will probably be flown back to Invercargill today.

Mr John Ramage, one of the three co-owners of the machine, said last night that a flight to the island today was being considered by the pilot, Mr Jim Daley.

Hopefully, with the assistance of a Jet Ranger helicopter which is working for the Forest Service on the island, he would

be able to repower the Hughes's battery.

The helicopter was abandoned on Friday, June 29, when the battery failed.

The three men on board, Messrs Ramage, Daley and John Bernard, who were on a hunting expedition walked towards the coast, where they lit fires to attract the attention of passing fishing boats.

It was not until last Friday that they were picked up.

Mr Ramage said it would be a simple operation to repower the machine, and there should be no complications.

Great Future Seen For Deer Farming

by PETER ELWORTHY
President, N.Z. Deer Farmers' Association

The deer farming industry, with 50,000 animals in captivity and perhaps 20,000 likely to be captured from the feral range this year, is clearly in a growth situation.

There are those who would compare the demand and high prices for deer to those which were experienced in the exotic cattle industry and these observers forecast similar problems with the deer farming industry.

My view would be that there are obvious lessons to be learned from the problems of any livestock boom, not the least of which is the need to recognize the effect on an investment of basic good husbandry and good farming management. This aspect of deer farming cannot be over-emphasized.

In the deer industry as with any livestock enterprise, eventually the prices paid have to get back to the product return. So it is the returns from deer farming which we must consider in order to assess the prospects.

The price for velvet has risen from \$30 a pound in 1976-77 to over \$100 a pound in recent months because of intense demand from Asian buyers.

Net payout from the Deer Farmers' Association velvet pool this year was: A grade \$102; B grade \$86; C grade \$56; D grade \$40 and fallow \$62, after taking three per cent sales commission.

Not Excessive

Simple arithmetic would indicate that current prices being paid for livestock, given good management and other favourable factors are not excessive. But will such prices apply over the next few years? The trading people confirm that the market is strong, and all indications from the velvet pool strengthen that attitude.

But the complication arises from the fact that the deer which produce the velvet, also produce venison, for which there is also excellent demand. It is possible that eventually the industry will be based on the production of high quality meat, with by-products providing a valuable addition.

If so, when will that be? Perhaps within the next three to five years. Possibly not within this generation's farming lifetime, possibly not at all, because the demand for velvet as a valued medicine is very wide now through the East and may extend to the western world as people look for natural cures and medicines and away from artificial and synthetic products with undesirable side-effects.

It is also important to note that the velvet return would have to fall to about a third of its present level before it became more profitable for a deer farmer to farm for venison.

These observations relate to the red deer, which would make up about 90 per cent of the deer on New Zealand farms at this

Fallow deer farmers, most numerous in the Kaipara, Peninsula area of North Auckland, have up to now considered that their industry would be based upon sales of venison.

More Efficient

The fallow deer produces a very high quality venison, and is even more efficient as a converter of New Zealand rye

grasses and clovers to venison than the ultra-efficient red deer.

It has been suggested that 12½ red deer may be run on a hectare of good land but 25 fallow deer on the same area.

Further, fallow velvet sold very well this last year at up to \$95 a pound A grade and though the yield from fallow is smaller it has been discovered that the animals can be handled to harvest the velvet, so we may find that this efficient little deer will also be farmed in the immediate future for velvet rather than for venison.

If velvet prices do fall to a level where venison farming becomes profitable, the Deer Farmers Association will remain very optimistic about the industry. Subject to our being able to tailor the peculiar requirements of this unique animal to a slaughtering and processing situation which suits its temperament — ideally this ought to be an on-farm inspection and slaughter, then transport to a game packing house with processing and final inspection there — then we believe that the future for marketing this very high quality, low fat, luxury product is very good indeed.

Venison Marketed

Before velvet became so profitable, we did in fact market farm venison in New Zealand and, in particular, in Australia. The product was very favourably received, and the marketing people tell us that the markets could be very substantial if we could ensure continuity of supply, correct cutting and packaging, and reliability.

In the meantime, the industry works towards a situation, with the approval of the Meat Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, where we will, in collaboration with the Game Industry Association members, demonstrate the effectiveness on a trial basis of on-farm slaughter.

Since any marked decline in the profitability of velvet harvesting is covered by the scope for sales of venison, there is continuing strong demand for the comparatively few (compared to past numbers) feral deer still ranging the New Zealand hills.

Where one could see large herds of red deer roaming only a decade ago, one can now fly for many miles over the South Island hill country and see neither a deer nor sign of one.

However, in parts of the North Island which are heavily bushed and where the pressure for capture has not been so intensive, there are still quite substantial numbers of deer available for farming.

Deer farmers urge that wherever possible deer should be captured live rather than slaughtered. We believe this is very much in the national interest, because a live deer producing velvet or venison is obviously a much greater contributor to export income than is an animal killed for feral venison. The industry is working in with the Forest Service and other government agencies in an attempt to ensure that this occurs.

The 20,000 deer which will come from the feral range on to farms this year will be captured by ingenious traps set in the bush, by a tranquillizer dart with a bleeper radio with which the helicopter can track the tranquillized animal until it drops, and perhaps most of all with that supreme product of kiwi ingenuity, the "Gotcha-Gun" which projects from a converted .303 rifle a net which drops over the hapless animal at a range of up to 40 metres.

The fact is that live capture is now being developed to such a level of efficiency that control of feral herds can be exercised as effectively by capturing live as it can by slaughter.

There is a school of thought that farmers will be stocked up to the limit in a year or two, and that then the pressure will come off the feral animals. We cannot agree with this, believing that the animal is of such value to New Zealand agriculture and its overseas earnings that the pressure on feral deer will not ease in the foreseeable future.

This then leads us to the belief that with the number of hinds breeding on farms, added to the input from the wild each year,

deer will grow to become a major New Zealand livestock industry in a comparatively short time. This belief is based upon the efficiency of the deer as a converter of pasture, in addition to the strength of the markets for their products and by-products.

Must be Flexible

Perhaps one of the most significant lessons to emerge from the experience of the deer farming industry is that we should be flexible in our attitude towards agricultural production.

Here we have an animal which has been proven as a more efficient converter of pasture into higher priced products than our traditional sheep and cattle. We hounded it from the hills in very large numbers, never stopping to consider or evaluate its potential.

There will be other animals and products which we will tend to look down on. These will serve New Zealand agriculture in a similar fashion and I am therefore inclined to be very optimistic for the future prospects of New Zealand agriculture and for the economy which relies so heavily upon it.

Some of the personnel who will be associated with the operation of Alpine Helicopters' new Ecureuil AS350 helicopter. From left, they are Messrs Don Spary, the company's general manager, Rex Dovey, test pilot, Don McInnes, engineer, Ron Small, tourist flying, and Carol Robertson, receptionist.

15/5/79



DEER

The story of
hunting:
specially written
for Truth by
Kevin Whitelaw

WARS



Money on the hoof: It's harder to find

MORE than a century ago the settlers pioneering New Zealand liberated red deer at various points of both islands.

Primarily released for sport and food, red deer initially had a shield of rigid protection and no natural predators.

Few acclimatisation records can boast the success of these introduced animals.

The deer adapted exceedingly well and before long colonised the land in increasing numbers.

Years passed with no effort of control so sporting stalkers were soon experiencing the finest trophy deer stalking in the world.

Herd culling was advocated by individuals — and runholders became critical of the haphazard way the Acclimatisation Societies were directing the continued introduction of deer, and the ineffective aspects of controlling the herds.

Uncontrolled populations of wild deer soon caused New Zealand's mountain lands and forest country to display the undesirable results of irreparable vegetation damage and accelerated erosion.

Experts predicted a serious ecological future which could ruin a new land's hard-won economic dependence.

Too late

When pressure to thin out the herds reached its climax it was then considered too late.

Tenders were let for the shooting of deer in infested areas.

In those early days red deer were commonly encountered in mobs of 50 to 60 and 300 to 400 herds were not unheard of.

In 1930 a stockman in the South Island single-handedly shot 148 deer in a day.

However shooting had a side effect; the animals dispersed and infiltrated rangeland which had previously been free of deer.

New Zealand is endowed with immense tracts of rugged inaccessible back country and mountain land — and in distant valleys

and remote areas the deer roamed free of shooting pressure for years.

Protection of deer was totally uplifted in 1930. Since then red deer have been slaughtered unceasingly in a tenacious struggle to eradicate them.

The battle was to be a long costly one.

Today, some 49 years later, the possibility of control has finally become recognised by Government.

Shooting campaigns were waged in the most arduous conditions by men from all walks of life.

Successful shooters became known as deerkillers — a misnomer since their policy was one of unselective shooting.

When World War II interrupted operations, deer quickly responded to the ease of pressure and valuable ground was lost in the fight for control.

Continuing campaigns became of urgent priority.

The Government encouraged widespread private hunting by buying deer skins for an export market while other incentives included preservation of hides, cheap ammunition and ex-army rifles.

Lucrative

The deer hide industry became a lucrative venture with annual exports exceeding 100,000 skins.

Less than 10 per cent of that figure came from official Internal Affairs campaigns, whose shooters didn't necessarily salvage the hides but worked on a bounty system of tails returned.

By the mid 1950s the force of deercullers comprised between 100 and 125 men who alone were accounting for 60,000 deer annually, with similar tallies contributed by private hunters.

But the object of destroying the herds appeared no nearer.

Responsibility for future deer control changed to the Forest Service in 1956.

Shooting operations became paramount in priority areas rather than attempting widespread elimination.

Heavy pressure was applied by the Government killers in catchments and districts eroded severely, forestry plantations and where deer competed with domestic stock.

Supplementary extermination was by poisoning.

The use of 1080 was common as progress in control methods advanced.

Poisoning campaigns aroused controversy and criticism.

The success of all these killing frays has remained difficult to assess.

It was considered that pressure must never again be relaxed and that the Government must stay firm on its continued kill-all policy.

Potential trophy stags, mature beasts, hinds and calves — none were exempt.

Permitting deer to be partially protected and carefully managed was not on.

Top shooters were now accounting for some 1200 to 1500 deer seasonally.

Trail

Working the high alpine tops, bush country and river flats, they left a stinking trail of carcasses minus tail and backbone strip.

In 1958 the saga took a new turn, the dawning of the venison industry in New Zealand.

Private enterprise captured overseas markets.

The wild venison market was commercially viable, expandable, and highly profitable.

Enterprising hunters were using swift-moving jet boats and light aircraft to ferry out deer meat from inhospitable regions, and hunting was carried on day and night.

Changed

In 1964 the commercial hunting industry and the Government's fight to destroy deer changed entirely.

A band of professionals revolutionised the concept of wild deer shooting and reclaiming the meat by using helicopters.

Hunters were deposited by machine in remote areas and dead animals were flown to waiting transport.

Within a short period, repeated performances improved and actual shooting operations were conducted from the aerial platforms.

The greatest blood-letting bonanza New Zealand would ever witness was on.

Results were staggering and on peak days eight helicopter crews were shooting and recovering 1000 deer.

In 1967, 110,000 carcasses were exported.

The meat and by-product market achieved the sought-after result.

Ultimately the Government's policy of extermination altered to hints of control.

The distribution of wild deer in New Zealand is now immensely different.

Sportsmen no longer find the beast in large numbers on the high open snowgrass country — deer have become true bush dwellers and decidedly nocturnal in habits.

The Forest Service, however, has continued to promote the opportunity for private hunting by building new huts and providing tracks and bridges throughout the back-country.

The deer are now so difficult to locate that some hunters find the frustration of competing with helicopter crews and scarce deer numbers just too much.

The heritage of deer hunting at the moment resides on a low ebb.

General vegetation recovery on the land today is apparent but Forestry maintains a vigilant watch on critical areas.

Helicopter gun crews patrol the mountains on a regular permit basis.

Greed

Since this industry has had its share of greed and glamour it has needed rigid legislation.

To ensure that New Zealand can continue its lucrative supplies of venison to export markets, commercial deer farming was instituted during 1969.

This form of agricultural diversification is presently popular since markets are consistently buoyant.

Velvet antlers and venison are the greater money spinners.

Helicopter crews, professional hunters and farmers now seek their quarry alive.

Stock required for herd building on the hundreds of deer farms New Zealand now boasts can command between \$600 and \$700 a head.

Like gold on the hoof, the wild red in New Zealand today is at its final standing.

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FIORDLAND VENSION LIMITED

Hereby gives notice under Regulation 8 Game Regulations 1975, of its intention to apply for a Game Inspection Premises licence per Section 60 Subsection 1 of the Meat Act 1964 at premises situated Caswell Road, Te Anau. 11543

4/7/79



A HELICOPTER brings out a load of deer meat from the mountains behind.

Deer Experiment Flops

The Alliance Freezing Company's first experimental attempt at processing deer at its Lorneville works ended in failure last Friday, with two \$1200 stags being shot in the beef stock yards and buried on the works farm.

All inquiries into the incident have been met with a brief "no comment", but it is believed the two stags were brought by the company at a recent deer auction at Haast for \$1200 each.

The deer were to have been killed and processed in the beef house at the works on an experimental basis, the finished products being sent to the rendering department to be made into blood and bone.

However, beefhouse and shepherds apparently placed a ban on moving the animals when they arrived at the works from Haast.

The beef shepherds, after hearing a rumour that deer could be offered for slaughter on an experimental basis, allegedly told the company they

were not prepared to handle the animals until the 8.5 per cent back pay dispute was settled.

It was at this stage — while the deer were in the stockyards — that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries got in on the act.

The Ministry's Otago-Southland regional meat veterinarian, Dr A. a. Rosenstreich, apparently contacted the supervising veterinarian at the Alliance, Mr P. J. Dunne, and ordered him to supervise the destruction and burial of the two animals.

It is understood he said the deer were not to leave the Alliance works dead or alive, but neither veterinarians could be contacted for comment on the incident yesterday.

Saved Life Of Pilot, But Lost His Own

The life of a Te Anau helicopter operator was saved by the actions of his injured shooter, who later died, after their aircraft crashed in the rugged Fiordland area, near Milford Sound, on Sunday.

Deer shooter Mr Alan MacDonald, aged about 25, received leg and internal injuries when the Hughes 500C helicopter crashed about 1.15 p.m.

The pilot and owner of the helicopter, Mr Robert David Richardson, aged 38, of Te Anau, was thrown from the machine on impact and received a suspected broken back.

Mr MacDonald wrapped his companion in a survival blanket and set the emergency locator beacon into operation.

Mr MacDonald wrapped himself up and lay down near Mr Richardson for the night, but was dead the next morning.

In Hospital

His body and the injured Mr Richardson were found late yesterday afternoon after a search and rescue operation had been mounted earlier in the day.

Mr Richardson and the body were taken to Te Anau last night, and Mr Richardson was brought by ambulance to Kew Hospital.

The tragedy had its beginnings at 10 a.m. on Sunday when the two men left Te Anau on a hunting trip. They were headed for Martins Bay, in South Westland, but planned to get in some shooting on the way in the Hollyford Valley area.

They were flying near the Arthur river, just south of Milford Sound, when the helicopter's engine apparently failed.

About 1.15 p.m., the helicopter crashed beside the river, about 3km from the renowned tourist attraction, the Sutherland Falls.

Mr Richardson was flung from the helicopter when it hit the ground, but it is not yet known whether Mr MacDonald was trapped in the aircraft.

Survival Blanket

Mr MacDonald managed to lay his pilot down and wrapped him in a survival blanket, which is designed to retain body heat. He also managed to set off the emergency locator beacon carried on the helicopter, which ultimately led searchers to the crash site.

However, during the night Mr MacDonald died from his injuries and Mr Richardson was left lying flat on his back for three days.

The alarm was not raised until yesterday afternoon. The two men were not due back in Te Anau until 5 p.m. yesterday.

However, they had been scheduled to make radio contact with Mr Richardson's wife in Te Anau at 1 p.m. on Monday and yesterday.

After he failed to make contact on Monday, Mrs Richardson informed the Te Anau police and the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Christchurch was advised.

When Mr Richardson again failed to make his radio schedule yesterday, the R.C.C. was activated at 12.45 p.m. and an air search began.

A Cessna 183 and a Jet Ranger helicopter were sent in to search the Hollyford Valley area and huts where the men may have been staying.

About mid-afternoon, hopes were raised when a Mt Cook Airlines Britten Norman Islander, on a scenic flight from Milford Sound to Te Anau, picked up a signal from an emergency locator beacon.

Search and rescue officials were notified and the Jet Ranger, piloted by Mr Bill Black, of Te Anau, flew over the area.

The crashed helicopter was discovered at 3.36 p.m.

Mr Black flew back to Te Anau, picked up a medical team, and took them to the crash site.

No Food

Mr Richardson had not food during the three days, but had managed to get some water through a makeshift pipeline from a tarpaulin.

Mr MacDonald was formerly from Waiuku, near Pukekohe. He had been working as a deer shooter in the Te Anau area for 14 months.

At the time of the accident it was raining lightly, but there was a heavy snow fall on Sunday night.

Snow was still lying quite deeply when rescue officials got to the crash site early last night.

The helicopter was a write-off.

An inspector of air accidents will probably visit the crash site today.

It will be 12 months tomorrow since a Cessna 180 aircraft, with four Riversdale men on board, went missing in the Big Bay area of Fiordland.

They had been on a hunting and fishing trip and were attempting to return to Riversdale when it is presumed their aircraft crashed into the sea.

In January this year, seven Dunedin people went missing when their light aircraft also failed to return from a pleasure flight over Fiordland.

'Copter Crash Kills Two

(P.A.)

GREYMOUTH

Two Timaru helicopter pilots died when their machine crashed on a deer recovery operation on the West Coast on Saturday afternoon.

The were Robert Owen Brown, aged 21, who was at the controls, and David Frank Paine, aged 28.

The address of both men has been given as Wai-iti road, Timaru.

The two men were flying at Haupiri, 40km north east of Greymouth, and were seen flying down a valley towards a farm at about 150ft to 200ft.

Farm workers on the property of Mr Doug Read saw something fall from the tail.

The machine immediately dived to crash on to a farm paddock and exploded on impact.

Mr Read and some of his staff immediately drove to the scene about 1km distant but could do nothing to save the two men.

The wreckage was a fiery mass, the flames being fed by a drum of fuel which had been carried by the helicopter.

Yesterday a party of air accident inspectors from Wellington examined the scene.

The helicopter, owned by Haast Helicopters, was destroyed.

Although from Timaru, the two men had been engaged recently on helicopter recovery work on the West Coast.

Messrs Brown and Paine

Concern At Decrease In Wapiti

(P.A.) CHRISTCHURCH

Wapiti hunting for profit in Fiordland National Park is causing the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association concern.

A remit on the subject was passed unanimously at the association's annual conference in Christchurch on Saturday.

The remit also noted the decrease in wapiti numbers that had followed commercial exploitation and asked the national executive to lobby the Minister of Forests and Lands, Mr Venn Young, on the possibility of declaring a special area for wapiti.

Of 12 hunting parties on the 1979 wapiti trophy shoot in the park, five had seen no wapiti at all and one had seen no deer, said Mr J. Murray in his report to the conference on wapiti research.

The low numbers were also reflected in entries in the competitions held at the national conference. No entries were recovered in the wapiti section.

DEER FARMERS IN CANTERBURY/MARLBOROUGH

WE are delighted to advise that, from November 1, Mr Tony Norris (formerly of Glynn Wye Station), will commence his activities as our Representative in the above area.

After many years of farming at Glynn Wye, Tony is well versed in all aspects of Deer Management and will be available to assist and advise with Velvet Antler removal.

To ensure you achieve the best service and top Velvet prices, contact Tony Norris, telephone Amberley 48-323 (collect), or Edmonds Game Consolidated Limited, telephone 893-189 (Box 472, Christchurch).

S3

DEER RECOVERY

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MATURE farm Hinds for sale, originally selected from Southland, Otago and Canterbury. Possession June next year. \$2950 each. Discount if left on vendor's property under management agreement.

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DEER FARM
P.O. BOX 25143
CHRISTCHURCH

Capture Pens in Wapiti Area

The Fiordland National Park Board has allowed "two or three" live deer capture pens to be erected in the park's wapiti area.

The chief ranger, Mr W E Sander, confirmed yesterday that the pens had been built in the Glasnock wilderness area. He did not know of any wapiti being caught so far.

The move brought an angry reaction last night from a member of the board's recreational hunters' advisory committee, Mr Warren Taylor, of Gore.

Previously, wapiti were not meant to be taken out of the park without permission, but the erection of pens means that the pen operators will be breaking the law if they release into the park any wapiti they capture.

Mr Taylor criticized the board for not announcing its decision "before the event."

"I am a member of the board's advisory committee and feel simple, basic courtesy would require, first, that I be advised of the proposal," he said.

"More important, the committee specifically formed for the purpose, should have been invited to consider the idea in principle, even if its recommendations to the board were deferred or ignored.

"This most recent decision by the appointed 'point of view' leaves me cold and with a feeling of total disgust towards a system which can permit this disdainful attitude to public opinion to go unchecked.

"I have always believed that parks are for people, but the board's policy is clearly directed to the creation of a botanical museum for the benefit of an expensive few, or, more pertinently, a recreational desert.

"To make matters worse, the Minister of Lands, Mr V. S. Young, made a public statement last year to the effect that animal numbers in the area

were then so reduced that positive management of wapiti could be considered constructively," Mr Taylor said.

"In spite of this, the board has persisted with its obdurate attitude.

"It must be remembered that once an animal of any species is caught in a trap or enclosure in the park, it is contrary to law to release it in the park. If a wapiti is caught in a capture pen, then it cannot be released in the park.

"I am most surprised that the board's representatives to the advisory committee have not themselves objected, as surely the logic of the situation is clear to them.

"The committee expressed concern at its last meeting over pens in the Middle arm, but was given the excuse that because the operator in the Murchisons was suffering financial hardship because of the few num-

bers he was catching, he was given a concession in the wapiti area as well.

"Very likely the board will assert the pens are unlikely to catch wapiti. I cannot say if this is because the pens say 'red deer only'.

"If pens are located in the wapiti area, of course they represent a trap for animals, regardless of species. This latest action by the board is simply one of totally indiscriminate culling," Mr Taylor said.

"If the ratio of red deer to wapiti is seen to continue in favour of red deer, then the board should have a good hard look at its policies.

"The board, regardless of Ministerial and public opinion, appears to welcome any innovation designed to remove recreational animals of any species from the park," Mr Taylor said.

Large Fallow Deer Sale

(P.A.) AUCKLAND

Deer farmers gathered at South Head, Helensville, yesterday for the largest sale of fallow deer to be held in New Zealand.

Three hundred deer were sold at auction for a total of \$160,000.

About 500 people attended the sale which was held at Waiokene Deer Park.

There were 52 registered buyers most of whom came from the lower half of the North Island.

Most of the deer were sold in lots of five, but the highest price paid for a single deer was \$810 for a ginger hind.

The highest prices paid for each lot of five were: Mixed aged fallow hinds, \$775; fallow weaner hinds (one year old), \$440; mixed aged fallow breeding stags, \$490; rising two year fallow spikers (young stags), \$200.

Stewart Island 1080 Trial?

The poison 1080 may be used experimentally against whitetail deer on Stewart Island late next year, a Southland conservancy forester, Mr Alan Ross, announced yesterday.

The deer are thought to be major factor in the death of much of the island's coastal forest. A Forest Service survey is being undertaken on the island to determine deer and opossum populations in the south.

It will be closely linked with a Forest Research Institute team, on the island to study forest dynamics and bird populations in relation to opossum and deer populations.

"The results of both surveys will be discussed before the institute considers the experimental use of 1080 along a small stretch of the island's coast," Mr Ross said.

"The area mooted stretches from Ocean Beach to Port Adventure, and would incorporate a coastal band about 1km wide." The Minister of Forests' approval would have to be gained before the experiment could proceed, Mr Ross said.

Only parts of the area would be poisoned, and varying amounts of 1080 gel would be used. The institute would monitor bird, deer and opossum populations before and after the operation.

"The main aim of the research trial would be to assess the recovery rate of the vegetation once deer populations had been reduced," Mr Ross said.

Fenced enclosures would be established as controls, and the public would be kept fully informed of the situation.

The Forest Service survey, being undertaken by two four-man parties, will re-do a 1976 survey which concentrated on the coastal areas from Paterson Inlet to Port Pegasus, as well as extending it inland to the foothills of the Tin Range.

Whitetail and red deer have so far been found throughout the whole of the south of Stewart Island, concentrated mainly around rivers and streams and the bush slopes near them.

Opossums have been found to favour rata and kamahi forests, and are in moderately high population in such forests in inland Stewart Island.

The institute team is on the island at present studying forest dynamics and bird populations in relation to opossum and deer populations.

The team is taking particular note of Bench Island, which has no deer or opossum, and intend to compare the island with the mainland.

The island had a wide variety of ferns, shrubs and regenerating trees that were browsed out on the mainland of Stewart Island, Mr Ross said.

The institute also intended to establish the role of animals, insects and exposure on the cut back of coastal forest, he said.

Mr Ross said a report would be presented next year from the survey results. This should provide a "fuller picture," he said.

Hunting Permit Changes Soon

Stewart Island's block hunting system will be modified soon. According to Forest Service ranger Mr Chris Main the present system is inadequate.

"We've taken a good look at the management of the recreational hunting areas of the island," he said yesterday, "and it seems that present system is making little impact on the high numbers of whitetail deer."

It was particularly important that the numbers of deer be reduced, Mr Main said, because of the damage they appeared to be causing to the island's vegetation.

The Forest Service had considered crapping the block system, and replacing it with open hunting, he said, but had instead decided that management of the present 30 blocks would be more efficient.

"As it is now, many of the hunters who have permits for a month spend only a few of those days actually hunting," Mr Main said.

"Fishing and generally holidaying is also part of the programme. That means those people are cutting out others who are prepared to hunt full-time."

The blocks are being assessed to determine the number of rifles each one can hold, and once that is completed, permits will be issued to that number of people for each particular block.

The situation should be resolved by the end of the year, Mr Main said.

The present system, which had been going for about 10 years, was not making the best use of the island's hunting country, he said. However, more controlled management should yield more efficient results.

Whitetail were highest in number in the coastal strip around the top half of the island, he said.

Future hunters may have to stipulate the days they intend to hunt, as well as their hunting returns.

Mr Main said the Forest Service was also looking at revising some block boundaries as part of the move to make the hunting system "more workable and efficient."

Hunting Fatality

A 16-year-old Dunedin youth died after being accidentally shot in the abdomen during a hunting expedition in the Blue Mountains west of Lawrence on Saturday evening.

He was BRENT DAVID PERKINS, of 300 North Road, North-East Valley.

The dead youth was deer-stalking with a group of six friends and his father near Beaumont. He was accidentally shot with a .44 magnum rifle when, according to Constable Mike Lodge, of the Lawrence police, a companion "failed to identify his target."

The accident happened at about 7.35 p.m.

Two of the group made their way out of the bush to the New Zealand Forest Service headquarters at Beaumont where the alarm was raised.

The dead youth was taken out of the bush and pronounced dead on arrival at Lawrence Hospital.

'Keep Wapiti' Petition 11/79

A nation-wide petition to keep the wapiti in Fiordland is being launched today by the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

The petition is a follow-up to a three-day petition promoted by Gore recreational hunter Mr Warren Taylor in September.

The September petition, which drew 6000 signatures, will be part of the national petition.

Mr Taylor, also the initial promoter of the national petition, said yesterday that the Minister of Lands, Mr V. S. Young, had power under the National Parks Act to declare the wapiti area a "special area."

If the wapiti herd was lost it had to be seen as a national disgrace, he said, and the petition was a chance for people to say that they wanted the herd to stay where it was.

Recreational hunters wanted the herd managed so sport had priority over commercialism.

"Unchecked commercial enterprise" had already depleted many of New Zealand's natural resources such as crayfish, pawa and mussels, Mr Taylor said, and it was time the Gov-

ernment recognized the value of introduced wildlife to the youth of the country.

Pressure

Without a "strong expression of outrage," Mr Young would be unaware of the widespread discontent.

There had been increasing commercial pressure on the wapiti through Fiordland National Park Board approval of capture pens in the area, he said.

The petition has been approved by the petitions committee in Wellington and Mr Taylor is hoping that it will attract 200,000 to 300,000 signatures.

Although there is no closing date, he hopes that signatures will be called in about the middle of February.

This will coincide with the closing date for comments to Mr Young on the recreational hunting report and plan for the park, which is to be released tomorrow.

7/12/79



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Fatal Plunge From Helicopter

Westport (PA). — A Karama man, GARY BURMESTER, plunged to his death from a helicopter while on a live deer recovery expedition in the Heaphy River area north of Westport yesterday.

Mr Burmester (about 30), married and father of three young boys, was killed when the rope suspending him and a deer broke.

In partnership with the pilot, Glenny Johnson, in Live Deer Recovery Ltd., he had been in the business for three years.

17/12/79

Fiordland Rescue Three Found Safe, Well

A search for a missing helicopter ended successfully yesterday afternoon when three men were found safe and well after their aircraft made a forced landing in the Fiordland area.

The Hughes 500 helicopter became overdue on a deer recovery flight and an air search was mounted.

The pilot and owner of the plane was Mr Keith Neylon, of Tuatapere. On board were two Frenchman, Evon Roux, a deer shooter and Jim Liparts, who were both living in Te Anau.

The helicopter left Te Anau early yesterday morning and was supposed to arrive back in Te Anau at 11 a.m. When it failed to do so the rescue co-ordination centre in Christchurch was contacted and an air search started.

Light aircraft and helicopters were involved in the search and at about 5 p.m. a Mt Cook Islander plane spotted the missing craft.

It was on a beach between Bligh Sound and Catseye Bay and the three men could be seen by the aircraft.

The islander returned to Te Anau and a helicopter, piloted by Mr Bill Black, flew into Fiordland and uplifted the three men.

It is believed the helicopter's engine malfunctioned, and it was forced to land.

It is the third helicopter accident in the Fiordland area in the past few months.

Four weeks ago one man was injured and his companion slightly hurt when their helicop-

ter crashed at the head of the Glaisnock river.

They were on a deer shooting trip.

In August, one man was killed and his companion seriously injured after their helicopter crashed in the Arthur Valley. It was also involved in venison recovery.

Four Killed In Coast Plane Crash

(P.A.)

HOKITIKA

The burned-out wreckage of a single engine Cherokee aircraft missing on the West Coast was found about 8 p.m. on Saturday evening in the Styx Saddle area, about 40km from Hokitika.

The four occupants were dead.

The bodies were brought out by helicopter yesterday morning and taken to Greymouth for identification.

The men were: Alan Porteus, in his late 20s, who was piloting the plane, Colin Christopher Pearson, Graham Joseph Wildbore and Bruce Quickenden, all of Hokitika, and all aged 24.

The men had been deer spotting.

Te Anau Wapiti Proposal

A group of Te Anau businessmen wants to hold a wapiti herd, for future relocation, on Crown land, at present undeveloped in the Te Anau basin.

The businessmen, who at this stage want to remain unnamed, will discuss the proposal with the Minister of Lands, Mr Venn Young, in Wellington tomorrow.

The 3000 to 4000 acres of land would also be used to establish a deer farm to be operated by the group.

Proposals include the establishment of a trust to administer the wapiti herd. The trust could be made up of the New Zealand Forest Service, the Fiordland National Park Board, the N.Z. Deerstalkers' Association, and the businessmen.

Identification and maintenance of the herd would be provided free by the businessmen, who are all experienced in deer recovery and deer farming operations.

The group will also suggest to Mr Young that capture could be carried out on a rotation basis by all licensed deer capture operators in the park. All animals captured would be held until

positive identification could be made.

The operators could then sell the red deer and compensation would be paid by the trust for wapiti retained.

Once a decision is made on relocation of the wapiti herd, the animals held could then be shifted to their new site, the group will suggest to the Minister.

Executive members of the deerstalkers' association will also be approached for their views on the proposals.

BLUE MOUNTAINS RECREATIONAL HUNTING AREA DRAFT WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN

1. N.Z. Forest Service Library, Bowen State Building, Wellington.
2. N.Z. Forest Service Conservancy Offices, Auckland, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Nelson, Hokitika, Christchurch and Invercargill.
3. N.Z. Forest Service District Offices.
4. Public Libraries in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Invercargill, Balclutha and Tapanui.

The public are invited to submit their comments on the proposals for the hunting of the Blue Mountains State Forests to the Conservator of Forests, Private Bag, Invercargill, by February 29, 1980.

Copies of the plan may also be obtained from the Conservator of Forests, Invercargill, and the Director-General; of Forests, Private Bag, Wellington.

G. M. O'NEILL
Director-General
of Forests
51888

Deer Farming Boom

(P.A.) WELLINGTON

More than 400 applications were made to the Forestry Service for licensing deer farms in the year to March 31, and about 10,000 wild deer were made available to stock new and existing farms.

The upsurge in interest in farming this introduced pest, according to the annual report of the Forest Service, is attributable to the high and rising prices being paid for antler velvet.

The product, considered an aphrodisiac in some Asian so-

cieties, was selling for as much as \$250 a kilogramme last season.

The increasing interest in deer farming had produced a corresponding increase in the capture of live animals to stock the farms. And with venison prices stable there was increased incentive to concentrate on live animal capture.

Helicopter hunting had intensified and wild animal numbers had, as a result, been kept at low levels.

"The value of animals recovered from lands of the Crown is considerable and the question of whether they should be regarded as products of the land and charged for accordingly has been raised, the report said.

"The Forest Service has consistently taken the view that if it was to charge for animals taken it could be accused of farming animals and seeking income rather than ensuring concerted action to reduce the damaging effects of animals on vegetation and soil and water resources."

However, the report notes, "with the circumstances that exist today, a re-examination of policies may be warranted."

Deer Velvet Stolen

About \$50,000 worth of deer velvet was stolen from a deer farm at Awarua at the weekend.

A freezer in a shed on the farm was broken into between 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. yesterday, and 30 bags of velvet were taken.

Detective B. A. Smart, of the Invercargill C.I.B. said yester-

plastic bags, which had no markings.

The velvet was destined for export.

Mr Smart said it was the first major theft of deer velvet in Southland.

Most velvet from New Zealand is exported to Asian countries, where it is used for medicinal purposes.

The Invercargill C.I.B. is in

Deer Velvet Prices Should Recover

12/79

Deer velvet prices, which dropped by about 40 per cent last week, should recover by late January, the manager of the Associate Farmers stock company in Gore, Mr Kevin Patterson, predicted last night.

The price tumbled because buyers are watching the Korean market to estimate how large amounts of Chinese velvet will affect prices.

"I cannot see any reason why people say that the price of velvet should come down . . . There are other markets," Mr Patterson said.

He supported industry spokesmen who earlier this week advised deer farmers to "sit tight" after the dramatic drop from about \$100 to \$110 a pound for A grade velvet to about \$70 to \$80 a pound.

"I feel that it is wise advice not to accept less than they have been getting, otherwise they make the market unstable," he said.

"I have heard of one or two getting a bit panicky. I think if they take the risk they certainly will get well paid for it.

"By the middle or the end of January we expect that we will be paying around about \$110 a pound," Mr Patterson said.

Other Markets

Recently returned from a business trip to Malaysia, Mr Patterson said that country, Hong Kong and Singapore were viable alternative markets to Korea.

Associate Farmers had negotiated an export order with a Hong Kong-Malaysian company to export processed velvet worth between \$3 million and \$3.5 million.

Mr Patterson said there had been "quite a bit of talk" about the Koreans pulling out, which would mean a reduction in price.

"I believe the Koreans will start buying in January and February," he said.

Representatives from the Hong Kong-Malaysian company

will visit New Zealand next year to get acquainted with the industry here, Mr Patterson said.

Deer Velvet Price Drops Sharply

12/79

Spokesmen for the deer velvet industry are suggesting that deer farmers "sit tight" during the present drop in prices for velvet.

Buying of velvet in New Zealand has stopped while buyers watch the Korean market to estimate how large amounts of Chinese velvet will affect prices.

Although it has been the practice in the past for Chinese velvet suppliers to market through one or two operators, policy has changed to a system where an entire province's quota is sold in one lot.

This has meant a large quantity of velvet arriving on the Korean market at one time and

prices have consequently dropped.

Mr R. Hughes, commission division manager of Wrightson-NMA in Invercargill, said yesterday a group of Korean buyers was recently in New Zealand, inspecting the velvet gathering and warehousing operation. The group represented Korean pharmaceutical and herbal medicine industries.

The Chinese change in marketing had definitely affected the New Zealand industry, and most buyers were waiting until the market trends showed themselves, Mr Hughes said.

Support For Wapiti

1/80

Support for the campaign to save the Fiordland Wapiti herd is coming from as far as Australia as Signitures start to "pour in" to the petition headquarters in Wellington

About 500 signatures had come from Australia, the national secretary of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association, Mr J. M. Murphy, said from Wellington yesterday.

No conscious effort had been made to get support from overseas, Mr Murphy said, but private hunters in New Zealand had sent petition forms to various organizations in Australia.

Although counting of the petition had not started, Mr Murphy felt that if signatures continued to come in at the present rate, the association would finish with a "very successful" petition.

However, he declined to predict a final total.

The petition would probably continue for another six to eight weeks, but "tactics" and a date for presentation to the Government had not yet been decided, he said.

These decisions would be made at the next national executive meeting in Wellington on February 22 and 23.

The petition was launched in November as a protest to the possible disappearance of the wapiti from Fiordland, either through commercial hunting,

hybridization, or removal and relocation.

The national executive meeting will be only a few days before the closing date for comments on the report and plan on wapiti management which was called for last year by the Minister of Lands, Mr Young. In that report, the Fiordland National Park Board recommended that the herd be relocated outside the park.

Lucky Escape For Helicopter Pilot

12/79

(P.A.)

TIMARU

The pilot of a Hughes 300 helicopter made a miraculous escape yesterday after his machine crashed into Lake Benmore, sinking immediately in about 100 feet of water and dragging him under.

The helicopter, piloted by Mr Richard John Aubrey, aged 26, a farmer, of Dalrachney Station, Omarama, crashed about midday. He was in Timaru Hospital last night in a satisfactory condition.

Mr Aubrey, believed to be the part-owner of the machine, was the sole occupant when the machine dived into the lake.

According to Sergeant B. E. Fairbrass, of the Timaru police, Mr Aubrey landed a passenger at Black Forest Station, on the shores of the lake.

"The pilot then took off to fly over the lake," he said, "travelling in the direction of the Fallstone camping reserve. He was about half a mile over the

lake when the machine crashed and sank immediately."

Sergeant Fairbrass said Mr Aubrey was dragged down with the machine, but somehow was able to release his harness and surface.

No details were available from the hospital authorities concerning his injuries, but it is understood he is in a state of shock and has severe bruising.

There was no indication at this stage what caused the crash, Sergeant Fairbrass said.

The inspector of air accidents has been notified.

According to the police, salvage operation would be extremely difficult as the lake is running high and dirty.

'Copter Crash On Coast

1/80

(P.A.)

WESTPORT

A man was injured when a helicopter crashed at Blue Duck creek south of Karamea on Thursday night.

The man, Alan Lowe, of Karamea, was in a comfortable condition in Buller Hospital yesterday with a fractured left ankle and bruising after an all-night trek from the crash site.

The pilot of the helicopter, Gleny Johanson, also of Karamea, was unhurt.

The two men were on a live deer recovery operation in the Mount Radiant area when the engine on the helicopter partially failed at about 7.30 p.m.

The machine came down about nine metres into a boulder-filled creek bed. The helicopter tipped on its side, caught fire and was gutted.

The pilot walked from the crash scene for about two hours to tell the Karamea police.

Karamea Constable Ron Taylor returned to the crash site

with a party at about 11 p.m. to carry the injured man out. The walking party was met early yesterday and Mr Lowe was transferred to horseback for the last part of the journey.

The crash is the second recent helicopter accident in the Karamea area.

On November 16, a 29-year-old Karamea man, Gary Burmester, was killed when he fell 30 metres from a helicopter.

Mr Burmester was also on a live deer recovery mission with Mr Johnson when the accident occurred near the Heaphy river forestry air strip.

Mr Johnson was hovering above the strip when the harness connecting the deer to the helicopter chain slipped and both the animal and Mr Burmester fell to the ground.

Sober Attitude In Deer Industry

(P.A.)

TIMARU

The heady atmosphere in New Zealand's deer farming industry during the recent past is likely to be replaced by a more sober attitude.

This is the view of the president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association, Mr Peter Elworthy, of South Canterbury.

The association has been advising deer farmers recently to base their investment decisions on the deer as a producer of venison and byproducts — all with a good demand and high value.

"The industry is moving now to be able to handle slaughtering and processing of venison this year, so adding to the options for individual deer farmers," Mr Elworthy said.

"Having reached its maturity as a New Zealand livestock industry, farmers are no longer required to hold special licences, deer farming will now test its maturity on a multi-product basis, rather than being based exclusively on velvet production.

Promising Outlook

"All these products — venison, tails, skins, pizzles, sinews, eye teeth, edible byproducts and velvet — are in high demand and selling at good prices. The outlook for deer farming continues to be very promising," he said.

Some velvet marketing groups have suggested that the market is permanently damaged.

Others have advised farmers not to panic and to hold their velvet for the \$100 for lb to be paid soon.

"Everyone blames everyone else for causing the price decline," said Mr Elworthy, who maintained the prices were still "very good in historical terms."

He said the reasons for the decline were complicated, but included:

- The high and unsustainable price (up to \$130 per lb) paid in December.
- The levels of Alaskan, Russian and Chinese velvet held in New Zealand's main market, Korea.
- The higher import duties imposed recently by Korea.
- Korea's 20 per cent currency devaluations.
- The 40 per cent increase in New Zealand's velvet production.

New Zealand velvet was in strong demand because of the superior cutting and drying techniques in the main market, Korea, and also in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and other Asian countries.

There was also a huge latent and unsatisfied demand for the product in mainland China, which will not open to New Zealand until economic and political considerations change. The Chinese are amongst New Zealand's current competitors.

These factors would shape the industry in New Zealand.

"Although the end price to the consumer in Korea is very high (over \$1000 per dry kilo) and there is ample room for margins to be tightened through to retail," Mr Elworthy said. "the loss in weight from green velvet to dried and very high rates of import duty into the Korean market mean that there is a limit to the green price per pound, which exporters are prepared to pay farmers.

"The velvet return to New Zealand farmers is likely to continue somewhere between the \$30 of a few years ago and the \$120 of yesteryear. Marketing people suggest about half-way between the two figures.

Converter

"The prudent New Zealand deer farmer has based his investment decision on the excellence of the animal as a converter to meat and byproducts.

"And at a level of \$80 per lb for velvet, he will continue to specialize in velvet production, with, perhaps, some of his poorer velvet-yielding stags being slaughtered for venison — currently as an alltime high for feral venison at over \$5 cif per kilo on overseas markets.

"However, should the market

price decline further, then so will the industry move from being based exclusively on velvet to an industry based on meat, velvet and other byproducts, all of which enjoy a good demand and have never commanded better prices.

"The value for all these products of the deer will continue to sustain good livestock values, if below some of the high prices paid for hinds before Christmas," said Mr Elworthy.

Deer Velvet Market Faces Problems

(N.Z.P.A. Staff Correspondent)

SEOUL

New Zealand companies dependent on the Korean market as an outlet for dried deer velvet, may take a financial hammering on sales to the republic in coming months.

The prospect exists also that in order to make up these likely losses following on higher import duties imposed by the Korean Government they may offer much lower prices subsequently for velvet coming forward from deer farms.

Trade analysts said here yesterday Korean importers took about 80 per cent of New Zealand's deer velvet exports. This meant that existing conditions on the market here were of vital concern to the New Zealand deer farming industry.

These analysts said that a combination of the Korean won devaluation and higher duties imposed on imports meant that about \$NZ75 a lb (green weight)

had been added to the cost of getting the product on to the Korean market.

The higher duties took effect on January 1 and won devaluation was made last Saturday.

Reduced Margin

One analysts commented: "This \$75 will have to come from profit margins and it could be expected efforts will be made to make up the amount in next purchases from farmers. It may hit small farmers quite badly."

Korea imports about 22 tonnes of dried deer velvet a year and 75 per cent of this enters the country in December, January and February. These are bitterly cold winter months when demand for the tonics and medicines in which it is used, runs highest.

New Zealand supplies about four tonnes a year, three and a half tonnes is imported from Alaska and a further one tonne

from Canada and other regions of the United States.

Smugglers

Most of the remaining quantity has in the past been smuggled in illegally from China and the Soviet Union, but imports from these two countries were legalized at the time the higher import duty was imposed.

The last two months of 1978 embraced a major assault by Korean investigators on deer velvet smuggling rings, involving Japan-Hong Kong and Taiwan-Hong Kong syndicates.

As a result of the investigations more than six Taiwanese and 13 Koreans were arrested.

The two smuggling rings broken as a result of the investigators' efforts were, between them, believed to be bringing in about 11 tonnes of velvet a year. At market values this quantity was estimated to be worth about \$US70 million.

Velvet Prices Recover

Deer velvet prices have partly recovered from last month's slump.

A grade velvet reached a price of about \$100 to \$110 a pound towards the end of last year, but prices dropped alarmingly after Christmas to about \$70 to \$80.

Those who did not sell during the depressed market period would now be getting about \$90 to \$100 for top-quality velvet, according to the manager of Associate Farmers Stock Company Ltd, Mr Kevin Patterson, of Gore.

It is hoped the price will stabilize at about \$100.

Under present consumer demand, Mr Patterson said New Zealand's supply of velvet to Asia seemed assured.

Velvet from this country was considered to be second only in quality to Russian supplies, and ahead of Chinese and American velvet.

Processed Russian velvet brought about \$1050 a kilogram on the open market, compared with New Zealand's \$960, China's \$750 and the United States's \$680.

While the quality and size of the velvet did not matter greatly when it was used for liqueurs and herbal wines, these were important when the velvet was exported in "wafer-slices."

Because of this, Mr Patterson said there should be a continued demand for this country's velvet in preference to supplies from China and the United States.

The industry was attempting to increase its markets to guard against big fluctuations in demand and price, he said.

Crash in Lake Manapouri Helicopter Man Missing

16/1/80

One man is missing after a helicopter crashed into Lake Manapouri yesterday morning.

Two other men on board took an hour to swim to shore and safety.

The new Hughes 500c helicopter, belonging to Alpine Helicopters, had just left the Waiau airfield, three kilometres from Te Anau, for an early morning live deer recovery operation in the Fiordland National Park

when the engine apparently failed and it plummeted into the cold waters of the lake.

It crashed about 200 metres off-shore at Inch Keith, a rocky point near Shallow Bay.

Swam to Shore

All three men on board were able to get out of the machine as

it sank and began to swim to shore.

Two of them, the pilot, Colin Francis Kelly, aged 25, of Te Anau, and crewman, Dale Walker, aged 18, of Te Anau, took an hour to cover the 200 metres, coming to shore near Shallow Bay.

The third man, the aircraft's shooter, Patrick Bray, in his 20s, also of Te Anau, became separated from them during the swim and was still missing late last night.

The helicopter was reported overdue yesterday morning, but no fears were held for its safety at that stage.

However, after a rescue locator beacon was reported in the Lake Thomas-Mararoa area police mounted a search of this area and the coastal region, where the missing helicopter was thought to be working.

No sign was found of the helicopter, or any other aircraft in

distress, and this search was called off when the two men were located at Shallow Bay at 3 p.m.

A further search was mounted on Lake Manapouri, concentrating on the shoreline near the crash site, where it was hoped Mr Bray may have come ashore.

However, no trace was found by searchers, using boats, divers and aircraft.

There was no trace of the sunken helicopter.

An inspector of air accidents is expected to visit the area today.

A further search of the shoreline and lake area will be made today, using boats and police personnel.

Illegal Pens

Two illegal deer pens have been found at Lake Hakapoua. The Fiordland National Park board was told at its meeting last night the pens would be destroyed.

The pens were found during an aerial inspection of Lake Hakapoua and the south coast.

Ownership had not been established.

12/2/80

HUGHES 296C
HELICOPTER

ZK-HFM — SERIAL
No 300014

THE above helicopter which has sustained damage by accident is offered for sale by tender. Inspection may be carried out at Gibson Aero Ltd, Te Anau.

Tenders which must be marked 'ZK-HFM' close with the undersigned February 28, 1980.

Conditions of sale:

1. Purchase on as is where is basis.
2. Successful tenderer responsible for removal and storage costs.
3. Purchase on the basis of tenderer's own inspection.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. P. ORCHARD
& ASSOCIATES,
Claims Assessors and
Loss Adjusters,
P.O. Box 223,
GREYMOUTH

70812

22/2/80

Little Hope Of Finding Man

17/1/80

TE ANAU

The search for the missing deer shooter on Lake Manapouri will be resumed on a smaller scale this morning after an extensive shoreline search failed to find any trace of the man yesterday.

Police said they now held no hope of finding Mr Bray alive.

Mr Patrick Bray, aged 23, of Te Anau, has been missing since the helicopter he was a passenger in crashed into Lake Manapouri early on Tuesday morning.

The new Hughes 500C helicopter has been located in about 90 metres of water near where it had crashed.

The helicopter left the Waiau airfield, three kilometres from Te Anau, for an early morning deer recovery operation in Fiordland National Park on Tuesday morning.

On board with Mr Bray was the pilot, 25-year-old Colin Francis Kelly and crew member, Mr Dale Walker, aged 18, both of Te Anau.

The helicopter's engine apparently failed and it plummeted into the icy cold waters of the lake.

It crashed about 1.5km off-shore at Inch Keith, a rocky

point near Shallow Bay. Early reports indicated the aircraft came down only about 200 metres from the shore but these were discounted yesterday.

The men were able to get out of the machine as it sank and began the swim to shore. They started together but became separated after a short distance.

Mr Kelly and Mr Walker managed to get to the shore in about an hour but were not found until 3p.m. on Tuesday.

A search instigated after they were located failed to find any trace of Mr Bray or the helicopter.

Three members of the Search and Rescue squad from Invercargill travelled to Te Anau on Tuesday night to co-ordinate and assist Te Anau search and rescue personnel in the operation.

Yesterday about 27 people worked along the shoreline and in boats but no trace was found of the missing man.

The helicopter was located yesterday morning in about 90 metres of water. It was found through an oil slick which was about 1300 metres off-shore and due west of Inch Keith.

A police spokesman said the aircraft would be inaccessible to normal aqualung divers.

The temperature of the water yesterday while the divers were searching was 8 degrees C.

The search, which will continue today, will be scaled down.

\$2m Deer Velvet Liqueur Contract

(P.A.)

AUCKLAND

An Auckland company, Associated N.Z. Liquors Ltd has secured what is believed to be a world first in winning a \$2 million contract to export deer velvet liqueur to Hong Kong.

The company managing director, Mr R. P. McGregor said the new liqueur had met with a phenomenal response from the Chinese who believed the velvet induced a feeling of well being and considered it had aphrodisiac qualities.

Associated N.Z. Liquors Ltd also markets a kiwifruit liqueur and a dairy cream whisky liqueur. Mr McGregor said as far as he knew his company was the only one in the world manufacturing a deer velvet liqueur.

The first container of the Hong Kong order which is worth

\$2,160,000 over a 12 month period, will leave Auckland in the first week of February.

Mr McGregor said deer velvet was a precious commodity in Hong Kong fetching between \$1600 and \$2000 a pound there. The liqueur uses deer velvet in vast quantities and Mr McGregor said some \$50,000 worth will be used in filling the order.

A tincture is made from the deer velvet and other herbs and ginseng root are added. The total deer velvet is incorporated into the liqueur.

Mr McGregor said the taste was hard to describe. The liqueur had the appearance of a whisky liqueur.

The company wanted to release the liqueur on the local market but Mr McGregor warned that it would be expensive at between \$30 to \$35 a bottle. He said as his company was embarrassed in filling the export order, a local release could be some time off.

Fiordland Park Board Concern Over Trend To Live Capture

The trend from venison recovery to live capture in the Fiordland National Park is concerning Mr E. M. Atkinson, the park's senior ranger.

In a report to the Fiordland National Park board meeting last night, Mr Atkinson said considerable time had been spent on monitoring helicopter venison recovery operations since October 1, 1979.

Helicopters continued to be primary contributors to the control of deer but Mr Atkinson was

concerned at the trend to live capture.

Net guns, used by more than 90 per cent of the operators, inhibited recovery operations from areas other than open tops, clearings and river beds, he claimed.

Mr Atkinson also said the use of drug dart guns enabled operators to cover open forest areas

but not the coastal forest fringe due to dense forest on steep terrain.

"It is within those areas not covered by live recovery operations that animal populations are not being reduced sufficiently to allow regeneration of palatable plant species," he said.

"I feel that unless there is an improved attitude by helicopter companies to the recovery of venison then 'seek and destroy' missions, carried out by the board, must be considered if control of animals commensurate to forest regeneration and stability is to be achieved."

Mr Atkinson did not think the board should be concerned with helicopter companies' financial viability, in particular maximum profits by live capture, when a reasonable profit could be achieved by venison recovery augmented by live capture.

Members of the board were in agreement with these comments.

It was pointed out that it was a condition of the helicopter licences that they shoot a certain number of deer.

The chairman, Mr J. P. Harty, said a close eye was being kept on the situation and the helicopter companies were aware of this.

When the licences came up for review in August, then the board could have a good look at deer numbers and whether shooting and live capture conditions were being complied with, he said.

Helicopter Feared Crashed

(P.A.)

CHRISTCHURCH

A "loud bang," heard from the bushclad hills near a tiny West Coast settlement, was the only clue last night to the fate of a missing helicopter and its two occupants.

The Hughes 500 helicopter took off from Kaiata, 5km east of Greymouth, at 6.30 a.m. on a deer-shooting expedition.

Only five minutes later, residents at the settlement said they had heard "a loud bang, like an explosion."

The police named the pilot of the missing machine as Mr Kenneth Ross Bird, aged 24, of Main road, Kaiata.

The shooter is Mr Colin Stanley Crook, aged 31, of the same address.

An extensive air search yesterday failed to find any trace of the missing machine.

The Hughes 500 had fuel for three hours in the air when it left Kaiata to fly up the Taramakau Valley to the Lake Sumner area.

"We had reported sightings from shooters on the ground, but about 10 helicopters were

operating in the area at one time," said Flight Lieutenant Alan Pond, of the R.N.Z.A.F.

Search

The police were alerted when the red and white Hughes 500, of Trans-West Helicopters Ltd, failed to return by 10 a.m., and a search was organized from the rescue co-ordination centre at Christchurch airport.

Several privately-owned helicopters and a light aircraft searched until after 9 p.m.

An Air Force Andover was diverted to try to pick up emergency locator beacon signals, but found nothing.

The area in which the missing aircraft might have come down was so vast and rugged that a ground search was out of the question, said Flight Lieutenant Pond.

The air search was to resume at first light this morning.

DAMAGED AIRCRAFT FOR SALE

OFFERS are invited for the following accident damaged aircraft:

1. 1956 CESSNA 182. ZK-BRI

Can be inspected at Tribe Air Parts Manufacturing Ltd, Ardmore Aerodrome. Quote reference 902/04/ZK-BRI.

2. PIPER ARROW ZK-DIU

Can be inspected at Airwork (N.Z.) Ltd, Ardmore Aerodrome. Quote Reference 912/18/ZK-DIU.

3. PL12 AIRTRUK ZK-EKW

Can be inspected at Barr Bros Ltd, Ardmore Aerodrome. Quote reference 912/16/ZK-EKW.

4. HUGHES 500C ZK-HLK

Can be inspected at Whirlwind Helicopters Ltd Hangar, Taieri Aerodrome.

Quote reference 912/09/ZK-HLK.

5. HUGHES 500C ZK-HPD (Salvage Rights)

Situated in Lake Manapouri.

Conditions of Sale:

A. All aircraft on 'as is where is' basis.

B. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted.

C. Successful purchaser will be notified only.

D. Payment must be made before written authority to uplift aircraft given.

All replies to I. A. Strathern and Associates, Aviation Loss Adjusters, P.O. Box 351, HAMILTON.

Deer on Farm Set Free

(P.A.)

WELLINGTON

Shannon deer farmer Tony Annand was last night trying to recapture his herd with a helicopter after the two-metre high perimeter fence surrounding his 14-hectare enclosure had been demolished.

Mr Annand woke yesterday morning to find the two kilometres of 10-strand fencing had been cut into 10-metre lengths.

The fence was worth \$7000, he said, and had taken one man a year to erect.

In the enclosure there had been 15 deer, worth at least \$25,000.

Mr Annand said the destruction was the latest in a series of incidents in a dispute which centred on the right to deer in a 2000-hectare block at Mangahao owned by Odilins.

In a joint venture with the company, he trapped deer on

the block and then took them to his property, where he was building up a herd.

Mr Annand blamed deershooters, who no longer had access to the block because of the farming operation, for the incident.

Previously, tyres had been slashed on farm vehicles, tracks blocked and roads damaged in an effort to ruin the enterprise.

He said the fence was wrecked quite meticulously.

"It would have taken at least two hours," he said.

A 200-metre laneway built to

direct deer into a pen was also destroyed.

"There's been a bit of a range war up here over who has rights to go after the deer," he said.

"I could name who I think did it... but to prove it... it's just ridiculous," he said.

By late last night Mr Annand had sighted 11 of the deer on his property, which is close to the bush, and had recaptured three.

"Hopefully, if all goes well, we might get more than we expected," he said.

Levin police confirmed last night they were investigating the damage.

8/2/80

Terrific Future In Deer

QUEENSTOWN

The deer farming industry had experienced a "boom" period and was now settling down a bit, according to Mr R. A. Brookes of Frankton, Queenstown.

Deer velvet prices had been as high as \$130 a lb, and that figure may drop to between \$80 and \$100 a lb, but was still higher than prices were several years ago, he said.

Mr Brooks's confidence in the industry's future is apparent in the way he has developed his 1214ha property in the Lilburn Valley, (Tuatapere) over the last 10 years, and launched forth to further develop his Wakatipu property.

About 18 months ago, he took over Mr C. J. Allan's dairy farm at Frankton, and has since constructed deer fences over the whole property, built a large chaff shed with silage pits nearby, a 25m by 10m deer shed, and a new home on a strategic rise which commands views of the district, facing towards Coronet Peak and with the Remarkables range for background shelter.

Stone for this came from Alexandra (for the house facings) and from Glenorchy (for the swimming pool).

One of the First

Mr Brookes was one of the first Southland farmers to enter deer farming and holds capture permits now for the South Island, but most deer captured are from Otago and Southland,

many coming from the Lilburn area.

Mr and Mrs Brookes and their family, of three, were prompted to make their home in the Wakatipu district because they like the climate.

The two properties are run in conjunction with most of the stags (500) at Frankton and the hinds at Lilburn.

The Wakatipu district is especially suitable for feeding stags because the good grass between spring and Christmas suits the growing cycle of the antlers. The concentration of stags in a bigger unit makes for better efficiency when taking off the velvet, particularly with veterinary surgeons handy.

Business is transacted under the title of the Hindleyburn Farm Company which is independent in respect of helicopters.

The company operates a Hughes 500 and a Hughes 300 and has a helicopter pilot based at Hindleyburn, Lilburn, together with a manager there.

When it is necessary to interchange hinds and stags between the properties, road transport costs are kept to a minimum by waiting until enough have accumulated to warrant using a 12 ton truck, and back loading.

The pasture was in particularly good order when the farm was taken over and a new, high-pressure water supply, pumped from the Kawarau river into a holding tank, has ensured a continuation of ample feed for the stock.

A trickle irrigation system waters pampas plants which provide some roughage for newly-introduced animals until they adjust to eating the Rush grass.

The three species of deer captured, are Virginian, (from the Glenorchy region), red deer and fallow deer. Mr Brookes is proud of his Virginian herd which is doing particularly well.

They bear twins and triplets easily, and are there largely for protection.

The well-planned system of fencing, gates and central race means that any paddock of deer can be brought into the deer shed within 10 minutes.

Cool, Quiet

A prime aspect of success in the shed lies in keeping the animals cool and quiet and a stand of pinus trees near the shed helps with this.

Stags are run through the shed three times a week, during November and December, to have their antlers removed as

they reach "A" grade status.

A three-strong team undertakes this work which includes Mrs Brookes who helps with the grading, weighing and packing of the velvet.

The velvet is placed on special racks in the cooling room, and cooled by a powerful fan before being frozen.

No Set Pattern

There is no set pattern for the distribution of the velvet because it is sold to the best market, although that is often Korea, Mr Brookes said.

A paddock is maintained in a rough state with high foliage for hinds who are fawning, so they can have the privacy they like.

Mr and Mrs Brookes plan to landscape the property to resemble an English Park, not only for beautification but for shelter for the stock.

They have already fenced corners of the paddocks and planted a variety of trees.

Mr Brookes believes there is a "terrific" future in venison alone, without the velvet.

Lack of killing facilities

"At this stage, I assume that all farmed deer die of old age on the farm," says Dr A. Rosenstreich, regional veterinarian for Otago and Southland.

Commenting on the lack of facilities for killing farm deer in Otago and Southland, he said there were legislative provisions for killing these animals under the Game Regulations of 1975, but as yet they had not been used.

The regulations provided for the setting up of both mobile and stationary slaughterhouses. An experimental mobile unit had been set up several years ago, but as the value of live deer increased, its use was never fully tested.

There were six game packing houses in this region and these still provided adequate processing facilities for feral deer. The hygiene standards were high and set a standard that farm killing units would have to maintain.

12/2/50



Mr R. A. Brookes, of Frank-

Importance of venison may now be restored

The recent decline in velvet prices may strengthen the base of the deer industry by throwing more emphasis on to venison.

Before the price slump for velvet, plans were being drawn up to accommodate an expanded venison trade and are now advanced to the stage where slaughtering facilities could be ready within the next few months.

The hiccups occurring in the velvet market, which are now reverberating through the N.Z. industry, are the result of the complex and political factors surrounding the marketing of this unique product, according to South Canterbury's Peter Elworthy, president of the N.Z. Deer Farmers' Association.

Mr Elworthy said this week that he has total confidence in the animal and its products.

The velvet market would always be subject to price vagaries because of its very nature. Although the value of velvet had declined it remained a very good price in historic terms. Marketing people believed that returns to the farmer were likely to continue around the \$80 a lb mark.

The prudent deer farmer had based his investment decision on the ability of the animal to produce meat and the by-products. At \$80 a lb for velvet, specialisation in velvet production would continue, but some of the poorer yielding stags might be slaughtered for



MR PETER ELWORTHY, president of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association.

venison. This was an attractive alternative with feral venison bringing \$5 a kilo on the overseas markets.

He said the association and

the game industry had reached agreement on detailed drawings of proposed slaughtering facilities. It was hoped that the first animals would be processed this autumn. The facilities would be stationary and built within the orbit of present legislation. Discussions had been held with the Meat Division of the MAF and it was hoped to build slaughterhouses in the North and the South Island.

"The heady atmosphere which has surrounded the N.Z. industry in the recent past is now likely to be replaced by a more sober attitude. The industry has reached its majority as a livestock producer, with farmers no longer having to get a special licence. Now it will have to test its maturity on a multi-product basis, rather than being based exclusively on velvet production," he said.

"The products are in high demand and selling at high prices. They include venison, tails, skins, pizzels, sinews, eye teeth, edible by-products and velvet."

Velvet 'not aphrodisiac'

Deer velvet has played an important part in Asian medicine for over 2,000 years and was not used as an aphrodisiac, as commonly believed in New Zealand.

Mr Peter Elworthy, president of Deer Farmers Association, said that on a recent Asian trip the importance of deer velvet to Asian medicine was brought home to him. The deer were regarded with a certain reverence and when it was explained he was a deer farmer he was treated with an even greater respect.

Asian doctors underwent a course of study which lasts six years, and one of the subjects studied was the medical effects of velvet. The doctors prescribed and usually mixed the medications. Velvet was used in many of the various mixes.

He was told that in Seoul the young Koreans were increasingly turning to the natural medicines. So the market was not just the older traditional Asian. In China

more than 200,000 deer were kept solely for velvet production. Even those in zoos had their velvet removed.

The deer was regarded throughout many Asian countries as a valuable animal with almost every part having some medical value. Case histories were available charting improvements and cures brought about through medications based entirely or in part on deer products. The main disorder treated appeared to be anaemia, and other blood related problems.

Mr Elworthy believes that the Western World will hear more of Asian medicines and in time could be using them. Already several countries, including the USA and Germany are conducting extensive trials using natural Asian remedies.

ASSOCIATE FARMERS STOCK COMPANY LTD

DEER AUCTION

To be held on the Property of Mr V. W. Hubber, Craig Road, Mataura, 2 p.m. WEDNESDAY, March 12, 1980.

Preliminary notice of stock to be offered:

- 20—Yearling HINDS
- 20—Yearling STAGS
- 12—Adult HINDS
- 3—Master STAGS
- 3—Wapiti Master STAGS
- 4—Fallow STAGS
- 8—Spanish Spotted STAGS

Further outside entries are being taken by the Auctioneers for the above sale.

Terms of Sale Strictly Cash unless prior arrangements made with the Auctioneers:

Phone Gore 7739, Waikaka 873

72659

Auckland deer

All involved in the capture, rearing or sale of deer will be watching the next New Zealand deer sale at Auckland later this month with more than a little interest.

This will be the first test the market has had since velvet prices slumped in mid-December.

Although the demand will be less buoyant than some sales of hinds prior to Christmas, according to Peter Nimmo, deer production officer with Wrightson NMA in Dunedin, good livestock sales should be sustained.

He said that unlike other livestock sales, deer auctions were not held on a regular basis. This meant there were periods of uncertainty, in this case aggravated by the drop in velvet prices.

Deer were still being caught, and being offered on the market at around the \$1,700 to \$1,800 mark. This was down on the prices being realised last year of \$2,300-\$2,600. The market for feral deer was barely moving, as it was dependent on the farm bred animals to set values.

There had been no sales of farm deer since before Christmas and there appeared to

season offers of \$2,000 were not attracting any sellers.

It was the price paid for velvet production stags which would attract the most interest, as they had tumbled from a high of around \$1,200 to prices as low as \$500. A good breeding stag had been worth up to \$5,000 and should still be worth big money.

Stags kept for velvet production could vary greatly. From the high yielding animal returning up to six kilograms of velvet to those producing spindly velvet weighing under two kilos.

The economics adviser with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Dunedin, Mr Paul Baigent feels the future direction of deer farming will depend very much on the level of prices paid for velvet.

It was difficult at present to predict trends, but the market suggested that prices would settle at the lower levels of around \$50 to \$70 a pound for the better quality velvet, with little demand for anything of poorer quality.

prospects for venison production.

The market would have to drop to \$30-\$40 a lb for the better velvet before production for meat became attractive. The price suggested for this season still gave a substantial margin over venison.

The price paid for deer should drop, but because demand would exceed supply for several years, extra would be paid above the economic value of returns.

He said the cost of recovering live deer was based on realising good returns, so it might no longer be profitable for helicopter operators to work the less accessible areas.

The economics of deer farming were never in doubt, and for those close to the industry it was obvious that the venison trade would become as important as velvet. The only question was when, and present indications suggest a little sooner than had been expected.

Even so, the turn of events would come as no surprise to those close to the industry.

Dalgety

LIMITED NUMBER OF

RED DEER YEARLING HINDS

and

RED DEER M.A. HINDS

Also Available

BREEDING STAGS

For further information:

European farmers moving into deer

New Zealand deer farmers' venison markets in Europe may soon be attracting other suppliers, as British and Continental farmers begin to realise the potential of deer farming.

Traditional livestock farmers in Britain have recently been glancing over their shoulders at the rapid growth of the newest branch of their industry — deer farming. After a rather slow start in the early 1970s a British Deer Farmers' Association was formed and is gaining recruits fast. Most of the members are already "farming" deer or are planning to start.

Deer parks have been an essential part of Britain's landscape for over a thousand years but the new deer farms are quite different. They are run on scientific principles and deer farmers treat their charges as farm stock rather than wild animals.

Rations are carefully worked out so that deer need not suffer the high mortality rates which most parks experience each hard winter and by keeping the deer quite tame they can be rotated from paddock to paddock to prevent the build up of parasites.

The British deer park and farm population of perhaps 2,000-3,000 red and 5,000-15,000 fallow deer is dwarfed by the wild red deer herd of over a quarter of a million roaming in the almost tressless Scottish

Highlands. And deer farmers are looking to these wild deer to provide their breeding stock, for the Highland deer are close to the northern limit of the world range of red deer and suffer heavy losses each winter.

Living in such conditions the Scottish deer have developed hardy characteristics which, it is thought, would prove ideal for a livestock industry. But the problem of capture remains.

Traditionally over 70 percent of Scottish venison is exported

and nearly all goes to West Germany. Deer farmers are particularly interested in developing the home market too, believing that the apparent lack of interest in venison in Britain stems from an absence of ready sources of supply in the cities and because so much of the wild venison, coming from aged or emaciated animals, is of poor quality.

In addition the nature of the terrain and wildness of the deer make it difficult to shoot them in the head and neck, so there is much wastage of meat

— while distance often makes rapid skinning and cooling of the carcass impossible.

Farmers deer on the other hand can be killed humanely in prime condition. This is more how our ancestors knew venison, for in the medieval period Britain had more than 1,000 deer parks — probably intended originally for meat production rather than as sportsgrounds. Certainly deer were often selected for fattening and were even housed during the winter.

Other countries in Europe are now following Britain's lead in the matter of deer farms, with West Germany planning several hundred such farms in which the favoured species will be the fallow.

In the Netherlands the emphasis seems to be on red deer, and some Dutch farmer recently visited Britain to seek advice and sources of breeding stock.



YOUNG HINDS being hand-reared on a deer farm in Scotland.

SALE OF TEN SUPERIOR CORINGA PARK BREEDING STAGS



Coringa Park proudly announces its first Annual Sale of superior selected breeding stags by private treaty.

The Coringa Park Red Deer herd was founded in 1976 on the famous Rakaia herd. It has been heavily culled for three years for conformation,

temperament and velvet production. This has resulted in the establishment of an elite herd, eminently suited to supply breeding stags to the deer farming industry.

At Coringa Park this year, the fifty 3 and 4 year old stags produced an average of 2.63kg (5.8 lb) of velvet.

The ten stags being offered for sale had velvet production ranging from 13% to 28% higher than the herd average.

Enquiries welcomed — inspection invited.

Coringa Park is 10 miles from Ashburton, 1½ hours drive from Christchurch Airport. For appointments, ring John Smart, Ashburton 81-693, or Malcolm Monteath, Winchmore 606.



A division of Cattle Services Ltd.

9/3/80



DR JOHN FLETCHER, vice-chairman of the British Deer Farmers' Association, feeds some of his herd of red deer at Auchtermuchty, Scotland.

Dalgety

RED DEER AUCTION RED DEER AUCTION

TO BE HELD AT TUSOCK CREEK
on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1980
Commencing at 2 p.m.

DALGETY NEW ZEALAND LTD have been favoured with instructions from Messrs Munro & Stewart, Tussock Creek, to offer by Public Auction, on the property, a range of helicopter captured Red Deer comprising approximately:

- 20—M.A. HINDS
- 20—Yearling HINDS
- 20—M.A. STAGS
- 25—Yearling STAGS

Also to be offered at the above sale on account of the following:

Mr R. Hayes, Te Anau:

- 15—M.A. HINDS

Hauroko Downs:

- 6—Hybrid 15 month STAGS

All deer will be offered in lots to suit intending purchasers

All deer offered for sale will be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon and be T.b. tested.

Venue of sale will be signposted from Wilsons Crossing on the Main Invercargill/Winton Highway.

For further information contact:

DALGETY NEW ZEALAND LTD

INVERCARGILL

Phone 84-169

AFTER HOURS: DENNIS CAIRNS 74-888

69764

23/2/80

Wrightson NMA

FOR SALE:

**LIMITED NUMBER RED DEER
FOR SALE**

M/A HINDS 1500 — 2000
Yearling HINDS 1500 — 1800
M/A STAGS
Yearling STAGS

For further information:-

Phone: A. A. Bradley, 416 TE ANAU

or

B. R. Irving, 77-760 INVERCARGILL.

74157

23/2/80 ↑↓

PRELIMINARY NOTICE RED DEER AUCTION OXFORD CANTERBURY

On the property of
Mr Baden Gifford
Main Road, Oxford

Friday, March 7
Commencing 1 p.m.

We will offer approximately—

- 120 Mixed Age Farmed and Feral Hinds
- 60 to 80 Farmed and Feral Yearling Hinds
- 2 Selected Breeding Stags

**N.Z. FARMERS' CO-OP
ASSN LTD**

AUCTIONEERS CHRISTCHURCH

Enquiries: Ron Schroeder Christchurch 528-949
Gerard Diedrichs. Oxford 24-322

60546

STEWART ISLAND: PARADISE LOST FOR HUNTERS?

IT'S about 1000 sq km — all pristine native bush rich with wildlife and birdlife.

Mt Anglem is the high point, while 1600km of rugged coastline is littered with endless beaches and rocky coves.

It's a magnificent Stewart Island — or to the Maori people Rakiura (heavenly glow).

Sawmilling, once the economy of the island, is now just a memory. With its flora now protected, the island is virtually a reserve administered by the Forest Service.

However, recent hints reveal plans have been bolstered to give the region national park status. Locals are far from happy with the idea.

Areas

New Zealand purchased Stewart Island in 1864, outlying islands to the east and specified areas of the main island being declared Maori land.

Within the vast bushlands, many New Zealanders spend recreational time in pursuit of deer. It's a hunter's paradise.

Whitetail deer were liberated at Port Adventure, Stewart Island, in 1905. Establishment of the deer is rated excellent, although strangely their natural range remains selective.

Year round, the wilds of Stewart Island is visited by hunters from throughout the land who pit their wits against this superb game animal.

Permits

Hunting on the island has until recently been a responsibility of the Forest Service. They would issue permits to applicants for designated areas suitable for hunting.



TYPICAL Stewart Island base camp . . . this one at Lords River is on Maori land.



BEACH at Tikotatahi Bay . . . a spot favoured by the recreational deerhunter.

4/3/80

Should the island become a national park administered by the Lands and Survey Department, hunting will suffer owing to the rejection of noxious animals in parks.

Forestry's role on the island should be seen to be appreciated. The fine huts, bridges and tracks stand as a credit to this department. Residents on the island can see no benefit in high-powered management plans that may soon occur.

Tenure

Land tenure on Stewart Island incorporates private land, Crown land, State forest, scenic reserves and Maori land. All comes under general jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

The past few years have witnessed another growing difference of opinion between Forestry and Maoris as to the access deer hunters have to areas designated as Maori land.

Probably the finest deer country on the island is located on Maori ground. Regions like

30

NZ TRUTH, Tuesday, March 4, 1980

By KEVIN WHITELAW

Lords River, Little Kuri, Tikotatahi and Port Adventure are keenly applied for by sportsmen.

Maoris have continually argued that available forestry permits be scrapped and hunting areas closed up. They maintained that visiting shooters left campsites filthy, that shooting was indiscriminate and dangerous and that rotting deer carcasses encouraged rats which would swim to the nearby islands and deplete the muttonbirds.

Excluded

If Maoris and families wanted to hunt deer on the island during visits for muttonbirds, they legally required a permit for the area. Often this would be held by a visiting hunter so they were excluded.

Various meetings discussing the uneasy situa-

tion between the Forest Service and Maori people have occurred, the largest last May at Invercargill.

Forestry ceased issuing hunting permits for districts classified as Maori land.

Climax

But now the climax has appeared with the formation of the Rakiura Maori



Landowners' Committee. They have set themselves up to administer any hunting on Maori land.

Permits will now be issued at a charge of \$5 per person per week. In addition, deer country within their areas will be closed from April 1 to May 31 to permit the seasonal birding.

Camping will be permitted only at six recognised sites, with instant permit cancellation for anyone caught outside the stipulated camp area.

Stewart Island deerhunters will see this as the thin end of the wedge. The Forest Service issues permits free of charge and provides much for the hunter. It is difficult to envisage the Maori administration continuing the system on an acceptable basis.

Fees

Similar situations now exist on Maori land in other areas of New Zealand. Charging

shooters fees to hunt has become a regular thing.

Some Maoris are charging \$5 a day, while a hot-spot sika district in the North Island was available at \$50 a day.

Just where does this money go?

One cannot condemn recreational deerhunters for criticism of the uninspiring scheme existing now on Stewart Island. Shooters are very sensitive to over-regulation in their sport.

Uncertain

There are now disgraceful campsites, birding camps and rotting deer carcasses — and poaching has occurred.

For the deerhunter on Stewart Island, the outlook is uncertain.

If the national park concept proceeds it is possible a vigorous deer extermination campaign may commence.

The use of 1080 poison should not be discounted.

Two Helicopter Accidents

(P.A.)

CHRISTCHURCH

Five men escaped unscathed from two helicopter accidents on the West Coast on Saturday.

One crash came when a big eight-pointer stag leapt into the tail rotor of a helicopter hovering three metres above the ground. The other helicopter was believed forced down by a broken fan belt.

A Hughes 500C helicopter flown by 28-year-old Bill Lusty, of Stoke, with John Glynn, aged 32, of Nelson, as the shooter, left Rotomanu at 6.05 a.m. with fuel for just under three hours' flying. When they had not returned by just before 10 a.m. the Greymouth police were alerted.

The helicopter was operating a live deer recovery mission in the Taipo, Arahura and Hokitika river watersheds.

The helicopter's owner, Mr Ron Busby, of Christchurch, said the helicopter was manoeuvring about three metres above the ground, trying to net two stags, at 8.30 a.m.

"One stag, a big eight-point-

er, tried to run downhill beneath the chopper, hit a rise, and leapt up straight into the tail rotor," he said. "The stag was cut in two, killed instantly, and the chopper slewed sideways."

Flipped Twice

The rotor dug into the ground and the machine flipped twice before coming to rest on its skids, with the motor still running. Mr Busby said. On impact, the rotors smashed up and the cockpit bubble disintegrated.

The pilot activated the distress beacon of the \$200,000 machine, and the beacon was heard by the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Christchurch.

The Greymouth Police were alerted but before a full search could be mounted, a Greymouth private pilot, Mr David Howell, picked up a radio message from the helicopter that the two men were safe, and located them.

The men were lifted from the

crash scene by helicopter. Their damaged craft was left at the scene to await an inspection by an inspector of air accidents.

While the Greymouth police operations room was directing the search, it was told another helicopter was overdue at 10.30 a.m.

A Hughes 500, with three Reefton men aboard, was reported missing, search operations were mounted in Greymouth, but later taken over by Wellington.

The helicopter was piloted by Philip Melzer, with two experienced shooters, Alan Rosanowski and Geoff Archer, aboard.

The search continued throughout the day until the craft was found at 5 p.m. in the Thousand Acres Flat area of the Mokihinui river south of Murchison.

No further details were available early today.

LOST OR STRAYED RED DEER LOST OR STRAYED RED DEER

Escaped from Dacre area Wednesday, March 5, Velveted Red Deer Stag. Has a yellow ear tag on left ear, No. 58. A substantial reward is offered for information leading to the capture of this stag. Anyone with information please Phone 393-042 or 393-057.

2 11/3/80

LIVE WILD PIGS

Phone 836 Dipton

75722

10/3/80

Deer Taken From Wapiti Area

12/3/50

Unauthorized helicopter shooting and capture operations in the wapiti area were carried out by Fiordland National Park Board staff last Thursday — after the area had been closed to commercial operators before the trophy shoot.

The ranger who had carried out the operation shot or captured 23 deer, the chief ranger, Mr W. E. Sander, said last night.

Normal control shooting by the board usually carried on in the Catseye ridges area at this time of the year, Mr Sander said, but the ranger had been unaware that he was not authorized to shoot in any other parts of the wapiti area.

The wapiti area is closed to commercial operations for three weeks before the wapiti trophy shoot, which begins later this month, but the park board pays special attention to the Catseye ridges because of the high numbers of animals which have been in the area.

The ridges were normally shot over about twice in the three-week period, Mr Sander said.

The ranger normally stayed close to the park rules, but in this case he had not checked what was required. This was the first season the ranger had been involved with the trophy shoot.

Mr Sander said he had been busy with other matters that day and had not checked on the operation before the ranger left.

About a dozen of the animals had come from the Catseye area, Mr Sander said, and the rest had come from the coastal region between Catseye Bay and Sutherland Sound. Probably about 15 of the animals had been captured live, and the operation had taken about 10 hours flying.

The operation has drawn criticism from park board member, Mr D. J. Heenan.

For a ranger not to know the rules was "not on," he said last night.

The ranger concerned was supposed to be in charge of wild animal matters in the park, and he should have known.

His information was that 28 animals had been taken — 12 dead and 16 live — Mr Heenan added. Most of these had come from outside the Catseye ridges area.

Wapiti Area Incident

15/3/50

Following publication on Wednesday of an article headed "Deer Taken From Wapiti Area," which recorded details of an unauthorized commercial helicopter shoot and capture operation in the wapiti area of Fiordland National Park, supervised by a park board ranger, we have been informed that an imputation has been taken from the article that the ranger concerned in this instance, and ranger staff generally, benefited financially from the operation.

This is not correct and we wish to make it clear that the proceeds from deer taken in all park board recovery operations, including the present instance, go into a pool fund which is used to meet the cost of helicopter hire, with any balance being used to finance future animal control operations.

A special meeting of the Fiordland National Park Board's executive committee was held on Thursday to discuss the incident and it considered a report from the chief ranger, Mr W. E. Sander.

The board's executive officer, Mr Wynston Cooper, said yesterday that the operation had been authorized to cover the Catseye Ridges area of the park but had extended beyond that because of a misunderstanding of instructions.

The committee had accepted the explanation given and regretted any disturbance that might have been caused to other wapiti blocks as a result. The board, he said, would use its best endeavours to see that there was no similar occurrence prior to or during the wapiti trophy season.

Deer Fetch Prices Below Par

Poor prices were paid for deer at an Associated Farmers Stock Company deer auction at Matura yesterday.

Only half the yarding of 86 animals were sold and, of those, many was sold privately after the auction.

An adult hind went for \$1400 — \$200 below the average price.

Yearling hinds sold for about the average price of \$1000.

Prices paid for Spanish fallow deer pairs were normal, selling at about \$1050, according to the auctioneer and manager of the Associated Farmers Stock Company, Mr K. D. Patterson, of Gore.

"A reasonable" crowd attended but not many were buying. Most were from Southland and Otago he said.

"The prices were not a fair indication of the marketable value of deer — it's more indicative of the time of the year. From our experience people are inclined to buy late in the year, towards calving," Mr Patterson said.

The auction was held on the property of Mr E. W. Hubber.

13/3/50

THE MARCH MEETING will be held on Wednesday 19, at 8 p.m. in the YMCA. Social hour to follow business.

The Wapiti Petition is to close on March 20 so send in all forms as soon as possible after the 20th.

New members welcome.

ALLAN MURRAY

Secretary

Phone 562-X WINTON

78313



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9/3/50

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644

Decision On Island

(P.A.)

14/3/50

WELLINGTON

The National Parks Authority yesterday decided against establishing a national park on Stewart Island at this stage, but has not ruled out the possibility for the future.

An authority meeting in Wellington agreed Crown land areas in the southern part of the island met criteria for national park status.

After the meeting, the authority chairman, Mr N. S. Coad, said he did not rule out the possibility that the land could become a national park in the future.

Before that ever happened, the authority would have to consult fully with the local community and county council over arrangements for the island's fishing industry and other matters, he said.

The authority recommended the Nelson Lakes National Park be extended south along the Spenser Mountains to include the Glenroy and Matakitali headwaters.

But the authority did not consider the Lewis Pass should be added to the national park. It favoured part of the pass region becoming a national reserve and part added to Lake Sumner Forest Park.

The authority reaffirmed its previous recommendation on the Dart Valley in Westland, which means

everything north of Chinaman's Bluff on the eastern side would go into Mount Aspiring National Park.

Land on the western side of the Dart would also be added to the national park.

Remaining Dart areas would continue under Mt Aspiring Park Board management, while the Forest Service would manage hunting.

Asked about the Red Hills area and possible inclusion in Mt Aspiring, Mr Coad said the meeting had discussed the hills but could not come to a decision that it could make public.

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Skeggs to sell up big deer farm

By Mike Lynch

South Otago is in for one of its biggest farm sales in the next month or so when Te Puna Farms, the big Skeggs Foods development exercise at Mt Stuart — on the top of the hill between Hillend and Waitahuna — comes up for sale.

Not only is the farm itself for sale — at a potential price of up to a million dollars — but the complete deer herd will be sold earlier, and might well realise a similar amount.

It is being billed as the biggest live deer auction in New

Zealand, but the thing that makes it unusual is that a complete deer herd will be offered.

There will be real national interest in the sale. The recent drop in the price of velvet had brought expectations that the deer market might take something of a tumble, but prices at the Hamilton sale on February 23 showed that they are still keeping up fairly well.

At that sale weaner hinds made \$1250 to \$1400, weaner stags \$250 to \$300, and adult breeding stags from \$2200 to \$6000 for the very top of the line.

Te Puna Farm will be offer-

ing at least 50 prime stags, and many more proven hinds, indicating the sort of money that is likely to change hands at the deer auction on March 23.

However the live deer market is more uncertain now than it has been in years, and how things go at the sale will be anyone's guess. The trend is down, but this will be a very unusual sale, and might just confound the critics.

Skeggs have poured a lot of development money into the farm since it was bought six years ago. When it was bought the 2600 acres was carrying 3000 ewes; now it has about

3000 and 235 head of cattle. Six years ago there were no deer; now — from buying in about 150 head — the herd has been built up to the 700, with all the deer fencing (over 380 acres) and yards that this entails.

On top of this the company has put two new houses on the property — adding up to a very big farm package — especially as there will be no vendor finance available.

The auction is tentatively set down for April 24, but there is the opportunity for a private sale if someone comes up with the money in the next few weeks.

3/50
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Mount Stuart, Waitahuna, Otago

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Light Luncheon Provided.

Deer Farming Extended

3/50
(P.A.)

WELLINGTON

Deer farming will be extended into the whole of Northland, the Minister of Forests, Mr V. S. Young, said yesterday.

The decision will allow deer farms carrying red, fallow and wapiti-cross deer to be established in previously prohibited areas of Northland. However, the major State indigenous forests of Puketi, Waipoua, and Russell will be protected by buffer zones of between seven to 20 kilometres where no deer farming will be allowed, the Minister said.

In January, when general restrictions on deer farming were lifted elsewhere in the country, Mr Young called for submissions on whether deer farming should be established in Northland and what species should be farmed.

"Of the 73 submissions I received, 90 per cent favoured an extension of deer farming into Northland with, adequate protection being given to the Kauri forests," Mr Young said.

"Those opposed to any extension cited the inevitability of escape, and the possible damage that could be done to the unique forests of the area."

"However, I am confident that the value of animals to farmers and the high standard of fencing will mean such fears are not realized," the Minister said.

What to do with the wapiti?

By J. C. Bamford, an executive member of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association has stepped up its campaign to save from extinction the Fiordland National Park wapiti herd — the only surviving example of the species in the southern hemisphere.

The association wants the Government to declare through an Order-in-Council a special area under section 12 of the 1952 National Parks Act.

The proposed area is a triangle with sides of roughly 55 kilometres within Fiordland National Park's exist-

One solution put forward is relocation of the wapiti herd. This would involve the selection, capture and transport of a large number of wapiti to an area outside the park. It is estimated that the cost would be about \$1,000 a head.

Remembering, however, that the intention of relocation is the preservation of the species as a herd for recreational hunting, one must question the usefulness of a herd confined in a fenced-in area more akin to deer farming, especially as

ing Wapiti habitat. Intensive commercial deer recovery operations around the perimeter of the triangle would confine the Wapiti herd. The long-term goal would be the establishment of a pure-bred wapiti herd within the area as a recreational hunting resource.

A petition being circulated by the Deerstalkers' Association seeks public support for the retention of a wapiti herd in the Fiordland National Park.

The Minister of Lands and Forests, the Hon V. S. Young, has said he wants an expression of public opinion on the issue, and the association claims that its petition allows the public to exercise its democratic right on the future of the wapiti herd for recreational hunting.

THE BACKGROUND

In 1905, 18 wapiti were liberated at the head of George Sound, and 18 years later the first licence to hunt them was issued.

Since the advent of the National Parks Act in 1952, however, the control and administration of the wapiti has become the subject of considerable confusion and argument.

The National Parks Act requires the elimination of all introduced flora and fauna from parks, an idea not favoured by the Deerstalkers' Association, which has continued to press for the retention of wapiti — the largest living deer in the world other than moose — as a recreational herd in a special area within the park.

The idea of enforcing the National Parks Act for the extermination of all deer has been greatly promoted by the commercial exploitation of deer and, because of their greater size, wapiti are potentially much more valuable than other species.

It must now be recognised, however, that complete extermination is impracticable and unrealistic, and a change in the National Parks Act would allow Wapiti to be recognised as an asset valued by recreational hunters.

the natural habitat is roaming free in a vast area of Fiordland.

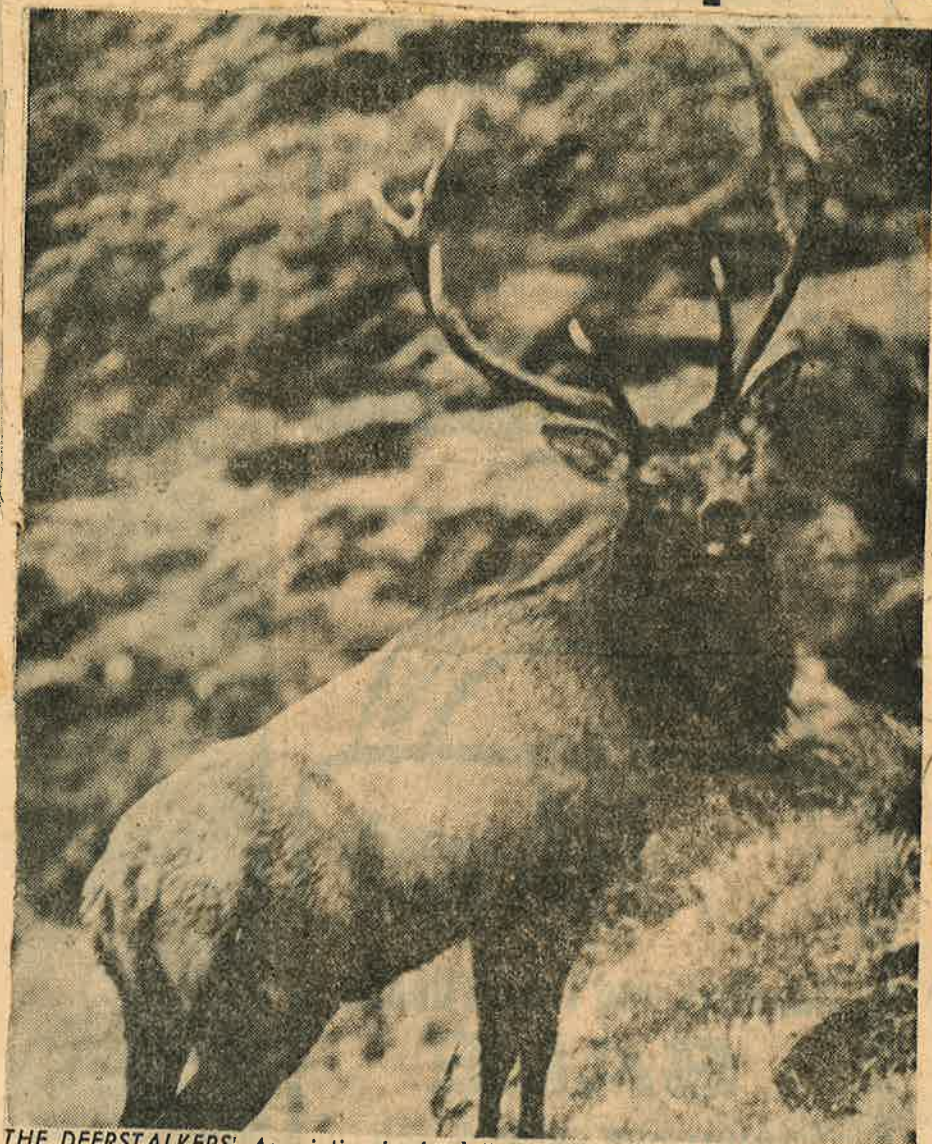
Another problem would be finding a suitable area free from other deer and where scientific and ecological values would not be sacrificed. The Southland Conservancy of the New Zealand Forest Service has stated that relocation of the wapiti herd is impracticable.

The basic argument against wapiti remaining in the Fiordland National Park is that the National Parks Act states they should be eliminated and that national parks should be kept in their natural state for the enjoyment of the people.

The wapiti are in a remote area of Fiordland, well beyond the reach of anyone but hunters and dedicated trappers, which makes it reasonable to ask what harm would be done by leaving them in their present location as a recreational herd? Recreational hunters appreciate the damage an over-large population of deer can create, and accept that foot hunters create sufficient pressure to keep deer numbers at a reasonable level. The commercial hunter certainly has a part to play by removing non-wapiti type deer.

The N.Z. Forest Service (Southland conservancy) acknowledged last September that deer numbers in parts of Fiordland park have been reduced to tolerable levels and that proper management, utilising commercial hunting, could retrieve and retain a recreational trophy herd of wapiti.

Mr Wilson Campbell, a former Mayor of Gore writing to the Southland Times last year said of national parks "surely our first consideration should be of the people — the people for whom the parks were created and who we hope will



THE DEERSTALKERS' Association is circulating a petition to save the wapiti from possible extinction.

enjoy them to the full. But is it so important that the park to be properly enjoyed must revert to exactly what it was before the white man arrived on the scene?"

Mr Campbell went on to recall chairing a public meeting in Gore in the 1950s as an outcome of which the Fiordland National Park Board was formed. He served as a board member for the next several years.

"At that time I was quite sure that the way to protect and preserve the park was to eliminate all 'noxious animals,' clamp down on public entry, pass laws restricting the rights of people in the park, stop development of any kind in the park, and so on," he wrote.

But he said, it is now years later and after seeing the national parks being enjoyed by people around the world and after watching the public use of New Zealand national parks being developed "with an extremely narrow field of vision, I have changed my mind."

"I now consider that the really important thing about our parks . . . is that they be available to and enjoyed to the full by the people . . . and not just a selected few but each and every person . . . young, old, New Zealanders or overseas visitors, hunters, trappers, mountaineers or tourists."

AESTHETIC VALUE

The Fiordland National Park wapiti herd is valuable both for aesthetic as well as physical reasons. The hunter, more than anyone, appreciates the natural beauty of the game he hunts, and he also sees it as a challenge to his skill.

Let us remember that should the wapiti vanish from the Wapiti lands of Fiordland National Park that areas will have virtually no visitors, no recreational value and there will be no human enjoyment of a unique asset.

3/50

Hunters keen on Blue Mountain plan

A public meeting was held in Tapanui last month to discuss a recently released draft plan for a proposed Blue Mountains "recreational hunting area." The proposed scheme is the first in New Zealand and may be a trend-setter.



The South Otago branch of the Deerstalkers Association was well represented, with a busload of its members in attendance (34 people). Altogether there were 150 there — from Dunedin to Invercargill.

All present supported the idea of the "recreational hunting" scheme. This would prevent commercial exploitation of game — in this case fallow deer and pigs.

It would then be the responsibility of the recreational hunter to control the game population. The Forest Service tends to be in favour of this. It believes that except for two small areas in the Blue Mountains the deer population is at acceptable levels. It would step in and reduce the game population if it rose too high.

A major topic of discussion was the hunting block system. The Forest Service in Invercargill believes that an "open block" system would be easier to administer, and would give better control over the game population.

This drew a strong reaction from the deerstalkers. The open block system would allow between 20 and 25 shooters into a small block, it was said. This would be "suicidal", especially during the roaring season.

The point was made that a block well hunted by a small party under the present system would yield better results than a lot of people all racing to the "hot spots". The open block system operates in Tapanui, and only about five at the meeting were in favour of it.

The Forest Service invited submissions about this and other points mentioned in the draft plan, for consideration in the final plan.

The Tapanui meeting was unique in that the Blue Mountains is the first planned recreational hunting area in New Zealand, and no doubt will set a precedent for other areas.

Club news

Strong interest is being shown in stalking in South Otago, with 42 turning up at a recent meeting and film evening.

A ladies committee was set up recently, with Marilyn Shanks and Dee Clarkson appointed president and secretary respectively. The committee intends to raise money to finish redecorating the hall so that it can be used for more club socials.

Its aid at the annual cabaret will also be invaluable.

As the association's newsletter editor put it: "Although 45 males might think they are OK at organising a feed in the bush, when it comes to organising a fancy munter-up we're a bit on the slack side."

Sunday shoot

The club intends holding a range shoot at its Barnago range on Sunday. As well as being a club competition, there will be an open invitation to the public — to people interested in getting a rifle permit and a rifle.

The club has a certified firearms officer, Stuart Murray, who will give instruction on the safety and handling of firearms. A rifle and ammo will also be available.

A lot of interest is being shown in the club's Stewart Island trip planned for May.

3/80

Minister Venn has the say — and he's under pressure

THERE is strong pressure on Forests Minister Venn Young to allow deer farming in the far north.

Would-be Northland deer farmers and investors have organised a series of meetings, deputations and submissions, plus lobbying behind the scenes.

Twelve Northland investors have already bought deer in anticipation of a favourable decision.

One of them even moved a herd of fallow deer to a property near Kaitaia — but was forced to take the animals out of Northland again when the Forest Service intervened.

Enthusiasm for deer farming is stimulated partly by high prices for antler velvet on the Asian aphrodisiac market, and partly by big taxation write-offs available to deer farmers.

The Inland Revenue Department recently increased the minimum standard values of deer for tax purposes, but deer investors can still save thousands of dollars in tax by taking advantage of the stock valuation concession.

The Northland Deer Farmers' Committee wants the right to farm deer throughout Northland except in forest reserves.

The committee proposes a buffer zone of 7km around the reserve areas, where deer farming would be permitted only under special conditions involving fencing and regular inspection.



Some would-be deer farmers have properties right up against the State forest boundary. That doesn't worry at least one deer farming advocate, Mr A. J. Smales, who reckons there is no longer any threat from deer in Northland to the native kauri forests.

"Kauri forests are the most inhospitable forests there are," he says. "No deer could live in a kauri forest."

Agree

Mr Smales claims that Mr Young made a straightforward statement some months ago that farmers would be allowed to farm fallow deer in Northland, and other spokesmen agree that prospective deer farmers were "fooled into believing" they would get the go-ahead last year.

Gweny Davis, of the Native Forests Action Council, says the deer farmers' proposed safeguards won't succeed in protecting the kauri forests.

"If a fence is down in a storm there will be big break-outs of frightened deer, and they will cross the 7km of open country to the forest in half an hour," she says.

"Deer can easily smell the forest at that dis-

tance, and they'll go for it.

"There's bush all over the far north — most farms would be close to a bit of bush or scrub, and escaped deer could move under cover from one end of Northland to the other."

Gweny Davis says Northland forests are an ideal habitat for deer because of the great diversity of plants they contain, and the high proportion of succulent, palatable species.

9/80

EXPERTS SEE DANGERS

SCIENTISTS and experts are warning the Government about the danger of allowing deer farming in deer-free areas.

But their advice is being ignored by Forests Minister Venn Young, who has greatly extended the range of deer farming and is considering plans to go even further.

At stake in decisions expected this month are New Zealand's splendid kauri forests, which have never before suffered the disastrous effects of infestation by deer.

Strong criticism of Government actions is coming from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which was never consulted before the Government's recent deer farming legislation was introduced.

The DSIR's ecology division believes it is imperative that deer farming be restricted to within the

present feral range of deer species" and that existing deer-free regions must be maintained.

It is concerned with forest devastation and soil erosion have occurred almost everywhere that deer have been liberated in New Zealand.

Floods, or trees falling across fences, would almost certainly allow deer to escape from farms, and once deer escape into forests there will be no way to get rid of them.

"Adequate safeguards for environmental protection cannot be guaranteed if deer are introduced into deer-free regions," the division says.

Brian Burridge, chief water and soil officer for the Northland Catchment Commission, has prepared a report suggesting that "a reasonable compromise" could be to keep red deer farming south of the southern Otamatea county boundary while allowing other species further north.

The Northland peninsula is very narrow at the Otamatea county boundary line, and animal movements could most readily be monitored and controlled there.

Mr Burridge also warned that should deer be introduced to the north "it will be just a matter of time before some become released by one means or another . . . faulty decisions at this stage could prove irreversible."

But on the urging of local body representatives, the catchment commission decided to override this report in favour of "controlled farming" of all deer species in Northland.

Dr William Hamilton, of Warkworth, a former director-general of the DSIR, told Truth in an exclusive interview that he had made representations to the Government against the farming of any deer in Northland.

Dr Hamilton said he would sooner

have seen deer farming kept right out of Northland, but he had been willing to accept the Government's proposal to allow deer farms in Rodney and Otamatea counties as "an arguable compromise."

"I am now definitely most concerned at the Government's suggestion that deer might be allowed further north still," he told Truth.

Poor fence maintenance isn't the only risk on deer farms. Heavy flooding in south Westland in December caused landslips which demolished brand new deer-proof fencing on a farm at Harihari. No deer were there as the farm was waiting to be stocked.

If that farm had been in Northland and fully stocked, there could have been a mass break-out into nearby forest.

And that would almost certainly have spelt the end of New Zealand's deer-free kauri forests.



RED DEER STAG . . . what would happen to kauri forests if these animals got loose in Northland?

Buck each way for Neil

A LEADING advocate for deer farming in Northland is Neil Austin, MP for Hobson.

Mr Austin recently led a deputation of deer farming interests who put pressure on Forests Minister Venn Young to relax the restrictions on deer farming in Northland.

But Mr Austin is also the chairman of the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary Advisory Committee.

And the committee is gravely concerned at the possibility that escaped deer could infest the renowned kauri sanctuary.

At its meeting this month the committee decided to send a telegram to the Minister expressing opposition to any extension of deer farming that would endanger the unique flora and fauna in the sanctuary.

The telegram was sent over Mr Austin's signature.

Conflicting

Asked by Truth if this didn't put him in a conflicting position, Mr Austin replied: "Not at all. It's going to be Venn Young's decision, not mine."

"It's his responsibility, and he has to take a broader view than I do."

"I think we sent that telegram so that if deer did escape into the sanctuary, it would give the committee an opportunity to say to the Minister: 'I told you so.'"

"I'm glad it's not my decision."

Mr Austin admits there is "definitely a danger to the forests" if deer get into them.

"Northland has very unstable soils and there's always a risk of landslides and subsidence. I would say there should be a buffer zone of 7km of clear open land between any deer farm and areas of scrub or forest."

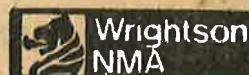
Asked if there was any proof that 7km would be a sufficient barrier, Mr Austin told Truth: "The deer farmers have no proof. I don't have any, either. It's just a reasonable assumption, that's all."

"I must confess I haven't been on a deer farm, but I've seen them as I've driven by."

"I'm well aware of Northland's unique native forests. As MP for the district I know I've got a responsibility to see that these forests are protected from invasion by noxious animals."

3/80

**SLIPS from steep bush country demolished new fences on a Westland deer farm.
For farm deer, escape into the forest can be easy . . .**



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A.A. Bradley
416 TE ANAU

87414

FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK BOARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

A draft Management Plan has been prepared by the Fiordland National Park Board which will be released from April 1, 1980, for public discussion. The Board invites constructive comment and individuals, groups and organisations so wishing should forward their submissions to:

The Secretary
Fiordland National Park Board
c/- Department of
Lands and Survey
4th Floor
Menzies Building
Esk Street
or
P.O. Box 826
INVERCARGILL

before Friday
June 6, 1980

Copies of the Plan are available at a nominal fee of \$4.00 per copy from the Secretary of the Board.

The draft Management Plan will also be made available for perusal at all District Offices of the Department of Lands and Survey and at public libraries in Invercargill, Gore, Dunedin and Queenstown.

J. R. FRASER
Administration
Officer
83312

Police Inquiry Into 'Warning Shot'

Shots apparently fired in the vicinity of an operating helicopter and its ground crew were investigated by police in Te Anau yesterday.

TE ANAU

A ground shooter, who did not wish to be named, said yesterday he was dropped off in the New Zealand Forest Service block near Kakapo road about 4 p.m., on Tuesday. At that time a shot was fired near him — he thought it was "fairly close."

"I didn't like it very much," he said. When the helicopter came back to collect him about 7 p.m., he heard further shots fired—he thought about six. These shots

began when the helicopter was still some distance away. He thought they could have been designed to scare him away.

The helicopter pilot, who also did not wish to be named, said he was unaware of the shots with the noise of the helicopter, but had to make several approaches over the area to locate his shooter in the bush.

"When he told me, I was upset. That's not the way to do things. I'm concerned with the safety of helicopters and crews," he said. This was not

the first time he had been made aware of shots being fired at helicopters in the vicinity.

At all times he was operating and landing in the Forest Service block where he had a licence to operate, he said.

The officer-in-charge of the New Zealand Forest Service in Te Anau Mr J. von Tunzelman, confirmed that the company concerned was licensed to operate in the Forest Service block.

Police in Te Anau said last night a person in the area had been spoken to and they were satisfied that there had been no

intention to shoot either the helicopter or the shooter.

The first shot had apparently been fired as a warning shot straight up in the air when the person felt the helicopter was on his property.

The later shots were heard when the man said he was having a bit of target practice the constable said. The man had indicated to police that he had experienced problems with helicopters operating on his property.

Police inquiries are continuing.

Hunters Out In Force

TE ANAU

Hunters were out in force in Fiordland National Park over the Easter weekend.

This time of year is always popular with hunters as it is the "roar," when stags are most vocal in defending their territories.

Permits were issued for 360 rifles from Park Headquarters, Te Anau, and 50 were issued from the Clifden Ranger Station for rifles in the Hauroko-Monowai area. As well there were about 90 rifles in the Wapiti area for the trophy shoot which ends this weekend.

From returns coming in, it seems this could also have been one of the most successful periods for some hunters.

Petrol Siphoned

Some hunters, returning after their weekend shoot, found they had not necessarily fared so well back "in civilization." There were reported at least two cases of petrol having been siphoned from cars left at parking areas.

It was also a popular weekend for boats on the lake.

visible at Christmas, and this pattern was repeated elsewhere.

Alcohol

The only problem experienced with boats over the weekend came with the amount of alcohol being consumed by their occupants.

The combination of alcohol and boats was just as dangerous as alcohol and cars, Ranger W. H. Mannix, of Clifden, said.

It impaired the ability of a person to control the boat, just as it did a car, and if a person fell overboard they would have a much lower tolerance to the cold if they had been drinking alcohol, he said.

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THE SKY

8/4/50



ABOVE: A hind breaks away for open country, and the pilot manoeuvres to fire the net. **RIGHT:** Alister McLean jumps from the hovering chopper on to the entangled deer.

HUNTERS



THE downwash from the whirling rotor flattens the tussock, but the big hind continues her uphill flight away from the noise she has tried to elude for the past 20 minutes.

As she lopes across the open ground, the pilot sits in the flying bubble just above her back.

His finger squeezes the red button on his control lever. There is a bang, and a faint recoil through the chopper.

The flying nylon net wraps its cobweb finery around the hind's body. Exhausted, she drops to the ground.

From the seat beside the pilot, Alister McLean eases out on to the chopper's skid, and drops the three metres neatly beside the deer.

Heavy leather straps quickly bind her flailing legs together, then he slides her into the canvas body bag he has carried from the chopper.

Lacing her in firmly, he waves to pilot Les Maas, and while the machine hovers just above

Pictures, text by PETER BUSH

his head he snaps the 100kg deer to the belly of the Hughes 500.

The chopper shudders as the blades bite the high, cold air. Then the craft and its swinging load drop from sight through the mountain pass to the plains below.

Captivity for the deer, and refuelling for the thirsty machine.

The hind, in top condition and uninjured, is worth anything from \$1200 to \$1500 at auction. And in a good month a skilled team like Maas and McLean can capture upwards of 100 deer.

THERE'S DOUGH & DANGER IN DEER

But it is hard, exacting work. The returns may sound big, but so are the operating costs, in terms of wear and tear on machines and the men who operate them.

Anything less than 100 per cent application from machine or operator is final. There are no reruns.

During the two-hour sorties the thirsty little Hughes 500 burns up 4½ litres of Kerosene every two minutes.

The 500C starts in at \$170,000 and the new model D at \$280,000.

To capture deer by net many operators use a gun that looks like an old blunderbuss with two barrels. This fires two projectiles that stream the net out from a container below the gun.

But the net with the major success rate is one developed by Consolidated Traders and fitted to the underside of the Hughes 500. It is fired by the pilot.

It flings out the 10m-square net for a distance of up to 50 metres. It is big enough to capture two or three deer at the same time.

One of the biggest operators in live capture is Tim Wallace's firm of Aerial Helicopters. It has 16 helicopters involved, and to fly the deer to auction the firm has its own DC3.

Up to the beginning of this year the demand for live deer was insatiable. But with the setback in the velvet market the price for "spikers" (yearlings) and stags has dropped to round \$400.



WITH a high wind buffeting the machine at the head of the Walraue Valley, near Blenheim, the pilot pursues two high-country deer.





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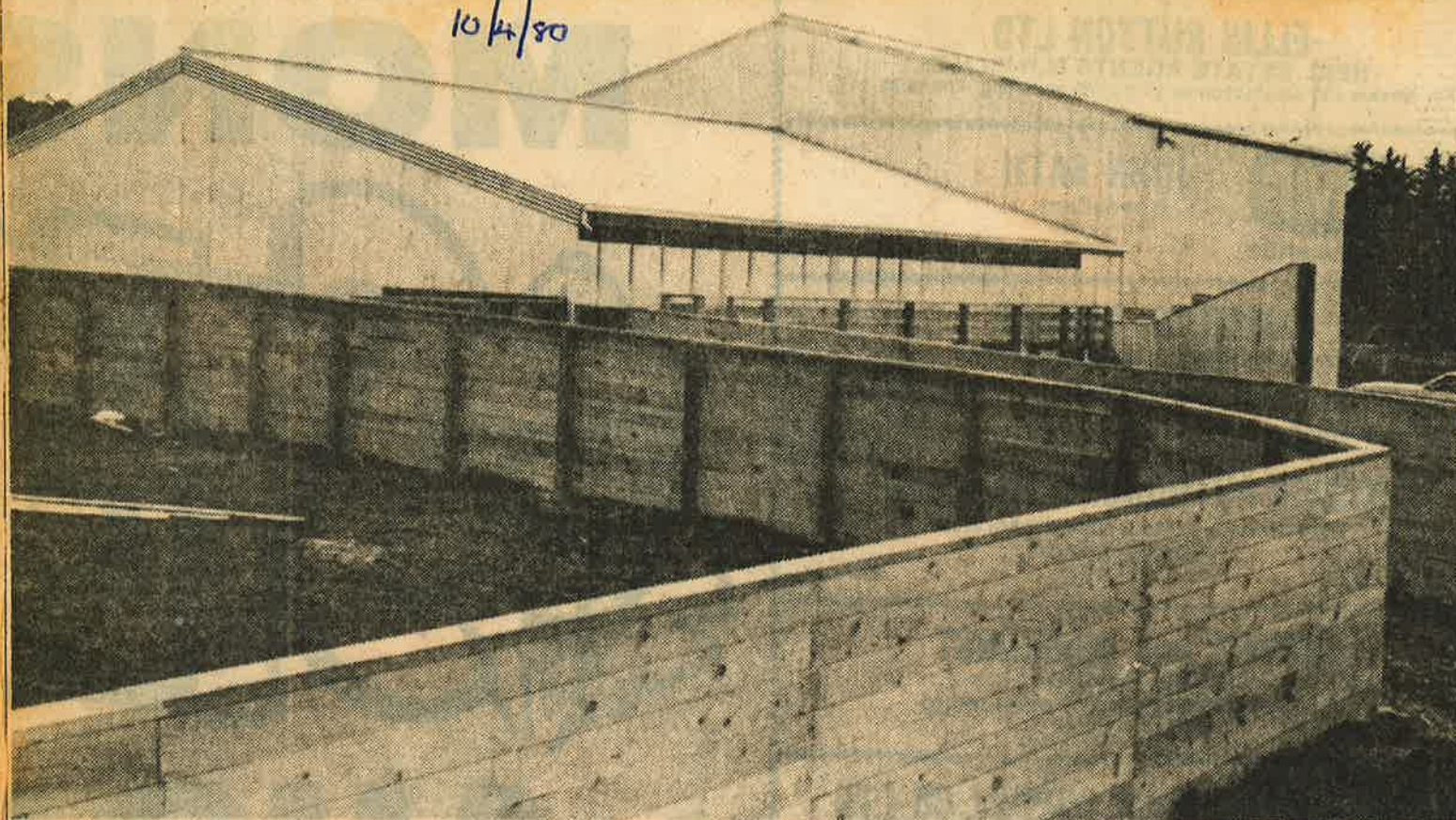
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10/4/80



An impressive, well-designed deer auction complex has been built for the Southland Farmers Co-operative Association at Tussock Creek, to fill a growing need for public deer auction facilities.

Indoor Auction Complex For Deer Industry

An indoor, publicly-licensed deer auction complex will be officially opened at a seminar on the economics of deer farming, later this month.

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17/4/80

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17/4/80

The auction building, believed to be the first of its kind in New Zealand, is owned by the Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd, and sited on its Tussock Creek farm.

Southland Farmers Co-op has been handling private deer sales for five years, and the 870 square metre (approximately) complex was erected to fill a growing need for public deer auction facilities.

"The deer selling season runs from June through to the end of September, so it is necessary to

have somewhere inside for auctions," Mr Russell Cull, field officer for Southland Farmers Co-op, said.

Central Point

Mr Rob Brooks, Deer Farmers' Association executive member of Queenstown, pointed out it has not been possible so far to take deer to a central selling point, as with sheep and cattle.

He described the building of the complex as a major step forward.

"It is a lot more attractive for buyers and sellers to now have this central selling point, with a building which is ideal for the purpose," he said.

The building comprises 22 pens for handling and sorting deer, an auction area which will seat about 300 to 400 people, an office and toilet facilities.

A raised walkway constructed round the outside of the building gives additional viewing access to the pens inside.

The complex was built by Kil-kelly Brothers, with outside

fencing erected by contractor Nell Little, of Otatara.

Seminar

The first deer auction will be held sometime in June. In the meantime, the seminar, to be held in the afternoon of Wednesday April 23, will offer an opportunity for deer farmers to inspect the premises.

The seminar is being organized in association with the Deer Farmers Association, and there will be six speakers covering a variety of topics.

These will include the future of the helicopter industry as it relates to deer farming, taxation aspects of deer farming, velvet production and markets, venison marketing, deer slaughtering, and the current economics of deer farming.

Park Changes Opposed

Opposition to changes in the structure of national parks administration will be voiced to the Government by the Southland United Council.

Draft submissions have been prepared by the council's planning officer, Mr W. J. Watt.

They will be considered by a council sub-committee comprising the chairman, Mr C. E. Bowmar, the regional planning committee chairman, Cr R. D. McKenzie, and Cr E. P. Wilding.

Mr Watt said yesterday the united council believed the changes extended the powers of a government department,

Lands and Survey, and were contrary to decentralization.

A Government caucus committee which reviewed the national parks and reserves administration has recommended that the parks and reserves be administered and managed by the Lands and Survey Department.

Private members on the Fiordland National Park Board have complained that the recommendations deprive the public of any say in national parks administration because execu-

17/4/80

Wapiti Incident

Sir, — I was interested to read your front page article about the unauthorized deer shooting and capture operations carried out by a Park Board ranger in the Wapiti area on Thursday March 6.

On that particular day a party of trappers of which I was a member was witness to an incident which may have been directly connected with this operation. Some of our party were climbing a peak approximately one and a-half kilometres south of the Eith Saddle whilst others were setting up a camp by the Midnight creek just below the saddle.

About late afternoon a helicopter flew in from the south west. He disappeared from our view for a few minutes presumably visiting an aluminium hut in a small basin nearby, then emerged again to fly over our heads into the upper Glaisnock valley, where for a time we could hear his siren whooping up and down the valley. He had no luck and flew back over, circling our camp and then flying off towards our companions.

One of our party up on the slopes took movie shots of his flight and presumably to show his contempt he buzzed this group, coming within a few feet of them and directing his downdraft at them "almost" to quote one of them "blowing us off the blasted hill."

Would Mr Sander also claim that the other two occupants of the machine were also "unaware" that there was a halt to commercial operations at that time. We knew and we are only a bunch of trappers.

J. Horrocks

Greenhills

[Asked to comment, the chairman of the Fiordland National Park Board, Mr J. P. Harty, said: "I have carried out an investigation into the alleged illegal activities levelled against a Park Board ranger and the crew of a helicopter by J. Horrocks. His letter insists that the allegations are based on presumption and I am pleased to advise that this is correct. The helicopter, its crew, and a senior park ranger, after checking the Wildlife Fund's portable bivvy, did, as required by the board, and as requested by recreational hunters interested in wapiti trophy shooting, carry out a routine check of the party concerned for any illegal activity, or conversely to ascertain whether they needed any assistance. There was no shooting, nor was there any intent to do so. The helicopter hovered some 30 to 40 metres in a horizontal plane with the party. However, if J. Horrocks interprets the incident as

dangerous flying, he is, in my opinion obliged to refer the matter for investigation to Civil Aviation. J. Horrocks's last paragraph is an admission of his neglect in not immediately reporting to park headquarters what he assumed was commercial operations in a prohibited area, a code which down through the years has been respected by recreation and tramping parties. Finally, it is of some significance to note that the party leader's report handed into park headquarters at the time the party came out of the park says, and I quote, 'Many thanks for all your help, especially at George Sound and Lake Alice.'"]

Sir, — through your paper I would like to enquire from Mr W. Sander, chief ranger for Fiordland National Park, if I were to hire a helicopter and go into the wapiti country and catch or shoot 26 deer, wapiti, or hybrids, would I be taken to court or receive the same lenient treatment as a member of his staff did?

Te Anau

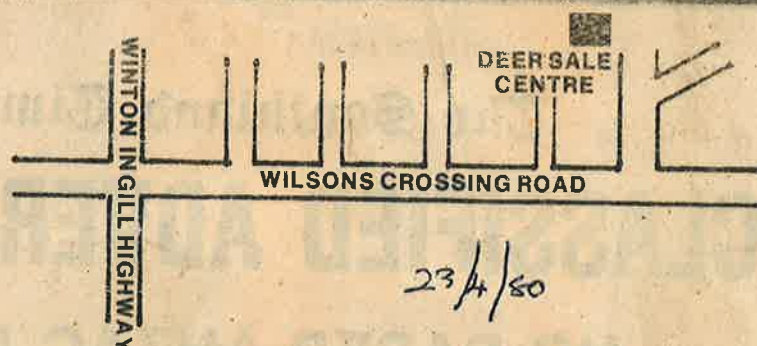
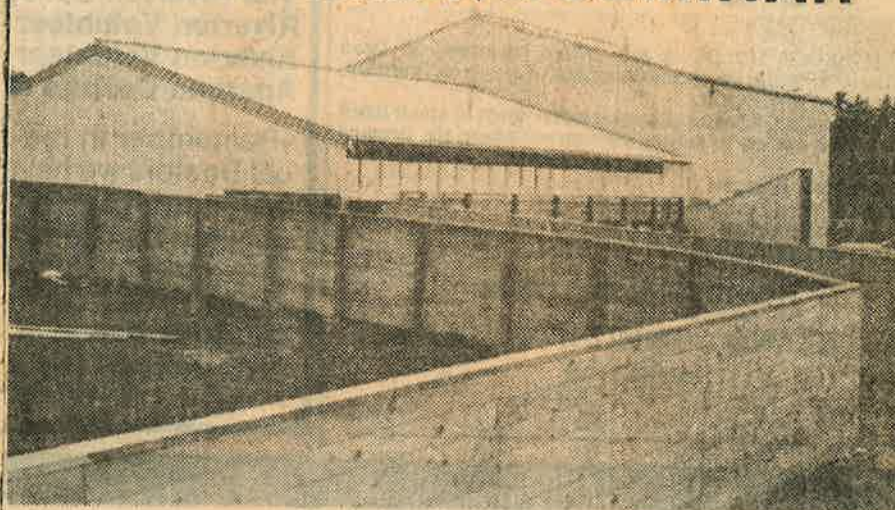
A. A. Bradley

[Asked to comment, the chairman of the Fiordland National Park Board, Mr J. P. Harty, said: "This hypothetical case should not be confused with the incident which involved a board ranger. Mr Bradley would be well aware of the answer to his query prior to writing. In any case, he could not possibly be in possession of the facts as regards the treatment, as he calls it, that was meted out to staff involved, lenient or otherwise."]



SOUTHLAND S.F.C. FARMERS

DEER FARMING SEMINAR



SOUTHLAND FARMERS CO-OP ASSN LTD in association with the N.Z. DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION will be holding a SEMINAR ON DEER FARMING.

VENUE Southland Farmers Co-operative's newly constructed deer saleyards, situated on Rosedale Farm at Tussock Creek.

DATE AND TIME Wednesday, April 23, Registration 1.00 p.m.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

- The Future of the Helicopter Industry as it Relates to Deer Farming
- Taxation aspects
- Velvet production and markets
- Venison Marketing
- Deer Slaughtering
- The current economics of deer farming

A registration fee of \$3.00/head will be charged with all profits going to the N.Z. Deer Farmers Association.

This seminar is open to all interested parties.

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3/5/80

3/5/80

Deer Still Profitable

Despite the recent downturn in velvet prices, deer are still profitable, Mr Paul Baigent, farm advisory officer (economics) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dunedin, told a gathering of about 250 people who attended a deer farming seminar at Tussock Creek yesterday.

Mr Baigent said product prices would have to decrease considerably before returns per hectare became less than those from traditional livestock enterprises.

"Deer are more efficient converters of dry matter to meat than sheep and cattle, and their meat has a lower fat content. These factors will, I am sure, mean that deer will remain profitable in the long term, and they will continue to replace sheep and cattle on farms," he said.

"Provided the slaughter problems are resolved quickly, and at reasonable cost, the industry has a great long term future. The only constraint on its rate of growth I can see, will be the availability of livestock."

Three Systems

He assessed present day returns from deer, looking at gross margins for three different deer farming systems. These were a velvet system breeding own replacements, a specialist velvet system with replacement stages being brought in, and a live sale system with own replacements being bred.

Despite fallen velvet prices, all three systems still had attractive gross margins.

The deer seminar was held in the Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd's new deer auction complex, which was officially opened at the start of the seminar.

The complex, which is believed to be the first publicly licensed deer auction facilities in New Zealand, drew favourable comment from the guest speakers and others attending.

Helicopters

One of the seven speakers at the seminar, which was organized jointly by Southland Farmers Co-op and the N.Z. Deer Farmers' Association, was Mr Tim Wallis who outlined the future of the helicopter industry as it relates to deer farming.

He said of the base stock supplied from the wild area, 85 per cent have been brought in by helicopters. He outlined developments in the industry since the 1980s and the economics of helicopter deer recovery.

He concluded his address by saying: "The helicopter has made the deer farming industry the size it is today. It is all set to carry on supplying, but utterly dependent on support from deer farmers."

Velvet

Mr A. Laing, a Dunedin-based farm accountant and consultant spoke on taxation covering the

standard value issue, and Mr Rob Brookes, a Deer Farmers' Association executive member spoke on velvet and gave an illuminating home recipe for velvet, describing its possible medicinal effects.

He said a few improvements were needed in velvet harvesting techniques. He believed some of the handling and hygiene aspects should be improved, bearing in mind an edible product was involved.

Miss Robyn Hunt of the Deer Farmers' Association spoke briefly on association matters and the national conference to be held next month. She urged farmers to join and support the association in their own interests.

Slaughtering

Slaughtering farm deer required the same level of standards as for sheep and beef, Mr Jeremy Blandford of the M.A.F. meat hygiene division, told the seminar.

He displayed plans and spoke on two possible types of deer slaughtering facilities — one permanent and the other a mobile set-up. The costs for both were high — up to \$75,000.

In response to a question from the floor, Dr Ken Drew of the Invermay Agricultural Research Centre said because of the stress of the animals' reaction, the holding of deer before slaughter was going to be a major problem.

Mr John Scandrett of Wilson Neill Ltd, speaking on venison marketing said West Germany was our major market taking 80 per cent of our total venison exports.

Game

He said he was strongly of the opinion New Zealand's total future venison production should retain a game classification, virtually at any cost.

"While it is possible a future demand will develop for venison as a fat-free meat, there is no doubt our present production finds a ready export market because, and only because, it is game," he said.

Mr Scandrett said he believed the future for marketing slaughtered venison looked bright.

He said while it was true other countries are now able to supply more game than previously and the fuel crisis has had some effect on people's dining-out habits, with the maintenance of good quality control, the adoption of a game-orientated slaughter system and an orderly selling approach, the returns for New Zealand slaughtered venison should be most satisfactory.

Rabbiting 'Ring' In Central

(P.A.)

DUNEDIN

A rabbit shooting ring with a black market meat outlet is suspected of operating in Central Otago, and the Alexandra Pest Destruction Board is out to put an end to the illicit trade.

The board has evidence of what it thinks is a well-organized illegal night shooting operation, but catching the culprits is proving difficult.

The Government appointee on the board, Mr Peter Shaw, of Alexandra, said yesterday the problem was highlighted by the latest poisoning figures coming to hand for a 4000ha area of Earnsclough station.

"Normally we would like to get a kill rate of 95 per cent plus, but the figures show we've kills as low as 20 per cent," he said.

It was estimated the shooters were getting between 60 and 90 rabbits a night in the Earnsclough block before poisoning, and Mr Shaw said with those sort of numbers "they must be selling the meat somewhere."

His claim is supported by the fact that 300 wild rabbit carcasses were seized in Dunedin recently. They were being offered for sale.

"But not too much can be said about this at the moment," said Mr Shaw, "because there is a prosecution pending."

Complication

Complicating the detection of sales of illegal wild rabbit meat is the presence of the New Zealand market of legally-imported Chinese rabbit.

Once dressed and ready for sale there is difficulty in distinguishing between the New

Zealand feral rabbit and his Chinese cousin.

While the wily shooters are making a profit, the pest board is losing money hand over fist. This latest "shoot-up" on Earnsclough by the night stalkers has cost the board about \$10,000.

"This is a big outlay for only a 20 per cent kill," said Mr Shaw, adding that the shooting puts the animals off taking bait.

From reports it had the board knows people other than its employees are out after the rabbits.

"The grapevine tells us they were getting between 60 and 90 rabbits a night, and this is not only supported by our low poison rate but the number of shotgun shells being found on the ground," said Mr Shaw.

Difficult

The board has had its men out trying to catch the shooters, but at night and in such a big area it is proving difficult.

The board is also at a disadvantage in that it has to advertise its poisoning programme, which gives the illegal meat hunters easy advice on where next to direct their attention.

Mr Shaw declined to say what measures were to be taken to curtail the illegal activities.

"But you can be assured steps are to be taken," he said.

16 Adult Red Deer HINDS, in Calf to top stag \$14 each. 8 good Spikers \$450. Can be inspected at Mossburn. Phone 104 or 134. 94102

N.Z. Venison Meeting Market Requirements

Product development, product manufacture, packaging, advertising, and distribution are all vital components of venison marketing, Mr John Scandrett, game export sales division of Wilson Neill, told a deer farming seminar at Tussock Creek last week.

The correct approach should be to determine what product your market requires and to build from that requirement.

Upon arrival at the game packing house, carcasses with the attached hearts, livers, lungs and kidneys are inspected by the resident M.A.F. Inspector. The quality control procedure begins however at the game depot where depot managers refuse to accept carcasses not meeting the minimum condition requirements, Mr Scandrett said.

Once accepted at the game packing house the carcasses are broken down into the basic export cuts; the hinds, saddles and shoulders, and the boneless meat; boneless B, (trimmings from necks and ribs) and boneless A, (boned meat from bullet damaged hind, saddle or shoulder cuts).

(Boneless A comprises less than four per cent of the total packed weight and when slaughtered product becomes available this item will cease to exist).

The cuts are trimmed of excess membrane and fat (although fat is not common) and then carefully washed prior to

Not Pursued

Early in the venison marketing programme, special interest was directed towards the packaging of retail packs of venison, but this was not pursued because of the market preference for catering packs, the low demand for a high-unit-cost retail product and the fact that retail-ready meats attract a higher import duty than catering packs.

"The prime requirements of the markets therefore have been satisfied," he said.

Looking back from the present day to the year ended June 1969 the peak years of N.Z. venison exports were 1972 and 1973 when 4400 and 4200 tonnes respectively were exported.

Production has dropped steadily from those years to 2900 tonnes in 1977, 2600 tonnes in 1978 and to 1700 tonnes in 1979. However price increases caused by production short falls in other countries, and inflation, have helped to maintain game export receipts at a high level (\$10.6 million in 1978 and \$7.2 million in 1979), Mr Scandrett said.

West Germany is the major market, taking approximately 80 per cent of our total exports.

9000 Tonnes

Of the total 9000 tonnes Germany imported in 1979, New Zealand supplied only 992 tonnes.

"The West German market is an important one for New Zealand. On closer examination it assumes a still greater importance since the full range of cuts and boneless meat is widely accepted there. This is not the case in other markets which have very definite preferences for the hind and saddle cuts, which comprise only 56 per cent of the total production," Mr Scandrett said.

Some of the other markets for our product are:

June 1978

Netherlands	228 tonnes
U.S.	81 tonnes
Switzerland	58 tonnes
Sweden	25 tonnes
France	22 tonnes
Japan	19 tonnes

Historically too, the German market sets the trends regarding price although seasonal fluctuations there tend to bring the price down marginally during the December-April period, he said.

Japan and the U.S. have been able to match the German level at virtually any time of the year but other markets seem only able to do so at low price levels.

The strength of the German economy and the people's awareness and liking for game meat should be strong factors in ensuring the country remains a good market for New Zealand

"Future venison production must retain a game classifica-

tion virtually at any cost," Mr Scandrett said.

While it is possible that a future demand will develop for venison as a fat-free meat there is no doubt whatever that our current production finds a ready export market because, and only because, it is game.

When slaughtering of farm deer becomes commonplace and antemortem certificates are issued enabling new markets to be developed, their demand will also be for a game product, he said.

"We should not be under an illusion that these new markets are numerous and will have an insatiable appetite for our production. On the contrary, such markets to have shown interest to date are extremely few and again have only shown interest in the premium cuts," Mr Scandrett said.

The traditional markets therefore will continue to be of major importance.

E.E.C.

"It was pleasing to note that last year the Supreme Court of the E.E.C. ruled that the community will treat slaughtered venison as game and that under that classification a five per cent import tariff only will apply. Should future slaughtered venison be marketed as a fat free meat or in some other manner that placed it as a direct competitor of domestic meats the tariff level would undoubtedly be increased (probably to 30 to 40 per cent on C.I.F. value) thereby substantially reducing the return to the farmer here," he said.

"With the knowledge therefore that the game classification must be retained a question often raised is: 'Will our farmed venison differ in taste to the feral product?' Taste tests by Invermay staff have to date failed to show that any noticeable difference exists. It is also worth remembering on this point that in Europe the wild deer graze extensively on farm crops anyway and that that venison is highly regarded," Mr Scandrett said.

The feral game marketing experience gathered over many years indicates that initially no significant alterations to product cuts or pack need be made to successfully market the new slaughtered venison product.

One exciting new development however may be the acceptance of farm deer hearts, kidney and livers on world markets. (It is not currently possible to market these items derived from feral deer).

"Looking critically at the major game markets and keeping in mind that we once sold 4500 tonnes annually to these markets I believe that the future for marketing slaughtered venison looks bright. It is true that other countries are now able to supply more game than previously and the fuel crisis has had some effect on peoples dining-out habits, but with the maintenance of good quality control, the adoption of a game oriented slaughter system and an orderly selling approach, all basic ingredients of good marketing, returns for New Zealand slaughtered venison should be most satisfactory," Mr Scandrett said.

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DUNEDIN

Requirements Met

"It is important to note that at this point the basic marketing functions of correct product preparation and packing have been met. The ministries role in this procedure is vital for their overseeing and, authorization of accompanying health certificates is necessary to clear entrance to the importing countries," Mr Scandrett said.

The certificate that is issued with killed game is one of a post mortem nature.

The packing material utilized is determined by the market requirements; in this case a catering market, he said.

The product is shipped direct to frozen food wholesalers in the importing country, although in some cases an agent may have been involved in arranging the sale. From the wholesaler, distribution is effected to the restaurants, hotels and other catering organizations.

"Despite the catering and wholesale channels through which the product moves, the level of brand awareness by the buyers is high. It is therefore most important that attention to cut specification, hygiene standards and product pack is maintained by the packing company," Mr Scandrett said.



A comprehensive seminar organized in conjunction with the N.Z. Deer Farmers Association, attracted about 250 people to the Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd's new, publicly licensed deer auction complex (last week). Chairman at the seminar, and Deer Farmers' Association executive member, Mr Bernard Pinney, pointed out there was a close rapport between all involved in the deer industry — the Minister of Agriculture, research workers, marketing personnel, the helicopter industry and farmers. This was evident in the addresses given by seven speakers, who covered numerous aspects of the industry, with a mutual awareness of progress, problems and the economics, the latter of which, all agreed still appeared favourable.

"The write-down of livestock to standard value effectively increases the price an investor in the high tax bracket can pay for livestock without taking increased risk."

He gave an example which indicated an investor in the maximum tax bracket could afford to pay about 50 per cent more for livestock than an investor in the low tax bracket.

Risk

"In both cases, the degree of risk taken would be the same," he added.

Mr Baigent said an investment at present livestock prices would not be exceptionally risky, especially for in-

vestors in the high tax bracket. Moderate returns should be possible even if velvet prices continued to fall in the medium and long-term.

"At their present live price, stags will give higher returns than hinds. But it should be remembered that specialist velvet operations require a high level of management expertise, and their future viability depends heavily on the future of our velvet markets."

Velvet Export

New Zealand's velvet production is rapidly increasing. He said last year about eight to 10 tonnes would have been exported, this year the figure could be 20 tonnes, and by 1985 it could well reach 200 tonnes.

"With present world production being something less than 100 tonnes, it is difficult to imagine that high velvet prices will be sustained in the long-term."

"Thus in the medium to long-term the emphasis could be expected to change from velvet to the production of venison," Mr Baigent said.

"Velvet production will become more specialized, and farmers will need to produce high quality velvet from high producing stags, if they are to compete. Stags which do not measure up to velvet production will probably be slaughtered when they reach maximum carcass weights as two or three-year-olds."

Mr Baigent was convinced deer would remain profitable in the long-term future, with the only constraint he could see on its rate of growth being the availability of livestock.

Good Long-term Future Predicted For Deer

2/5/80

The significant drop in velvet prices does not signal the collapse of the deer farming industry, but will probably result in a more cautious attitude to investment decisions, leading to the development of a more stable industry in the long-term.

This was the view of Mr Paul Baigent, farm advisory officer (economics) with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dunedin, which he put forward at a deer farming seminar at Tussock Creek last week.

He said deer are still an extremely productive form of land use, and returns to capital invested in deer at today's prices more than justify the risk of future price falls.

In assessing present-day returns from deer, Mr Baigent

He pointed out the gross margins only accounted for variable costs of production, and that fixed costs associated with the land, management and capital must be deducted to assess the true profitability of the alternatives.

"Land and management costs are similar for sheep and deer, but capital costs, especially those for livestock and to a lesser extent for yards and fences, differ greatly."

"Extra fences and yards could cost around \$40 a stock unit with deer."

Surplus

"If this together with the standard fixed costs are deducted from the gross margin, the surplus available to service capital tied up in livestock, is obtained."

He said taking livestock prices of \$1600 for adult hinds and \$550 for stags, the returns to capital for the three systems were 27 per cent for the velvet/breeding system, 33 per cent for the specialist velvet system and 22 per cent for the live sale system.

The high return for the specialist velvet system reflected the relatively low prices for adult stags, which Mr Baigent attributed to a possible over-reaction to the drop in velvet prices, reflecting present uneasiness about its future.

Mr Baigent said investing in deer at present livestock prices was attractive if present prices for velvet and venison held, but most people want to know what price they could pay for livestock now, without taking excessive risk, if velvet prices continue to fall in the medium term.

Break Even

A farmer borrowing cash to purchase livestock, needs to determine what maximum price he could pay for the livestock and still break even, he said. This included meeting all interest charges on a loan.

"For example, if cash is borrowed at 12 per cent interest, what is the maximum price that can be paid for livestock today, to still allow a break-even situation over the next seven year period?" he asked.

Taking a pessimistic outlook for future returns, he suggested that at a 12 per cent interest borrowing rate, less than \$1400 should be paid for hinds and \$500

He reminded everyone that stags are probably undervalued at present.

"If their price was to increase, then the hind price would need to decrease accordingly, in order to retain the

same level of investment and risk," he said.

"I must emphasize this maximum price of \$1400 for hinds would ensure continued financial viability for what should be our worst outlook."

"If investors are able, and prepared, to take greater risk, then higher livestock prices could be paid."

Mr Baigent said until now low standard values had increased the attractiveness of investing in deer.

Values

However, a recent review of standard values had increased them to \$700 for adult hinds, \$300 for adult stags, \$300 for fawns, weaner and yearling hinds and \$150 for fawns, weaner and yearling stags.

"Although these standard values are much greater than the old ones, a worth-while write-down is still possible, particularly for investors in the high tax bracket," Mr Baigent

looked at the gross margins for three different systems. These were a velvet system breeding their own replacements, a specialized velvet system with replacement stags being bought in, and a live sale system with own replacements being bred.

Despite fallen velvet prices, all three deer systems still showed attractive gross margins.

Efficient

"Deer are extremely efficient converters of pasture to cash, and prices can still drop a long way before cash returns per hectare fall below those obtained from traditional sheep systems," Mr Baigent said.

Taxation Aspects Of Deer Farming ^{2/5/50.}

In a business organization, taxation is one of the largest scale costs, and is "probably" one of the few costs that can be reduced or deferred by choice, according to Dunedin farm accountant and consultant, Mr A. Laing.

Mr Laing was speaking at a deer seminar at Tussock Creek last week.

"Whether a deer business or hobby, the intention must be to make a profit and there is a reasonable prospect of making a profit—if not—there are no incentives," he said.

Farm tax incentives fell into two categories: Developmental expense deductions and standard values of livestock on hand at the end of the year.

"Development expense deductions are, in effect, a subsidy on the actual cost while standard values for livestock are deferral of income tax.

Development

"Development costs such as fencing, deer yards, clearing and tracks are deductible expenses in the year they are incurred, or may be carried forward for up to nine years," Mr Laing said.

"This type of tax incentive is a subsidy and, by this I mean the cost of development is reduced by the tax saving. New building costs are not deductible, but benefit from a 20 per cent first year depreciation rate."

The second class of incentives were those which relate to the standard values of livestock. Usually this amounted to a deferral in income rather than a saving.

Mr Laing then looked at the reasons for standard values. "In all business enterprises stock has to be scheduled and valued at the end of the year. If the closing stock exceeds the opening stock an assessable profit on stocks held results," he said.

Fluctuations

"In earlier days due to fluctuations in livestock values, through droughts and market fluctuations, the legislators decided to allow farmers to adopt average or 'standard' values for livestock, so incomes wouldn't fluctuate so wildly and tax would be more equitable.

"However, in the days when sheep fluctuated madly between \$4 and \$6 an average standard value of \$4 would have been reasonable," Mr Laing said.

"Initially there appeared to be no question of the standard value being an incentive as it is today, rather just a method of averaging incomes.

"As can be seen, under inflated values the old average or standard values have become taxation incentives, and farmers have started to require them as such."

Taxation

Mr Laing told the seminar that in the eyes of the Department of Inland Revenue, for taxation purposes only, one head of cattle was equal to six sheep or four pigs or four deer, and three sheep were equal to one pig.

cost price, selling value or replacement price. But section 86 says any taxpayer who derives income from livestock (other than in "dealing" operations) may with the concurrence of the commission, adopt and fix a standard value.

"Thus investors as well as farmers are entitled to standard views," Mr Laing said. "But the section does go on to say the commissioner may require the adoption of the true value, instead of the standard value—so in effect, under the provisions of the Act the commissioner has the final say on standard values."

Standard Value

He said it was interesting to note initially a red hind could have a standard value of \$150, then as an interim measure the standard value was 50 per cent of the purchase price and now it has been settled at \$700. This figure will be reviewed at three yearly intervals unless there is a significant reduction in the value of deer during the initial three-year period when the first review will be brought forward.

"I think we may be trying to force an incentive, when there is some doubt if one was contemplated by the legislators," he said.

He said the situation concerning nil standard values was much more helpful.

"Section 86 defines deer as being livestock; defines the livestock equivalents and how to establish the basic number; then goes on to say where there is a taxpayer carrying on any farming business on any land in New Zealand, regarding an increase over the basic number for the income year in relation to any class of livestock (other than livestock used in dealing operations) the taxpayer may, if he so elects, adopt a nil value."

Not Investors

Mr Laing pointed out this was available to farmers, not investors.

He also said it should be noted



Pictured opening the deer auction complex at Tussock Creek, at last week's deer seminar, is Mr A. Henderson, chairman of directors of the Southland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd, with Mr D. J. Price, general manager, (rear).

the commissioner does not appear to have the upper hand in this matter, and if a farmer decided to increase the carrying capacity by buying in winter feed, then the increase could still be at nil values.

"This is clearly intended to be an incentive," he said.

Mr Laing said although he could be accused of "stuffily quoting chapter and verse of the Tax Act," one thing he wanted to make quite clear was it was absolutely a basic requirement to know the relevant sections of the Act before entering into discussions with the commissioner, as he is guided by, given powers by, but also limited by the Act.

"This is available from the Government Bookshop," Mr Laing said.

He concluded his address with some basic advice for the deer farmer.

"If your tax rate is low, the standard of the livestock is not all that important for there will be little, if any, tax to refund or defer although it may be to your advantage to incur a tax loss to carry forward.

"If you decide to abandon this industry, under section 93 (of the Tax Act) you may spread the income forward or back if excessive tax results from selling deer with a nil value or an unduly low standard value," he said.

15 RED DEER HINDS

in calf to good state

Can be inspected at Mossburn

Any Reasonable Offer Considered

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98396

22/5/50 ↓

RED DEER AND HINDS

25 GOOD quality hinds for sale. These deer handle easily and are offered at current market rates. To tested, delivery may be arranged. Phone 5819 Greymouth evenings. 98255

RED DEER HINDS

Phone 358-234

23/5/50

98648

Dalgety LIVESTOCK

23/5/50

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QUANTITY OF

WEANER RED DEER HINDS and WEANER STAGS

Price on enquiry

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RED DEER for sale in small lots. Wire trained. Quiet deer a speciality. Phone Lance Shaw, Manapouri 66-A evenings.

94225

7/5/50

RED DEER for sale. Hinds and Stag fawn, plus others as trapped. Phone 815 Manapouri evenings.

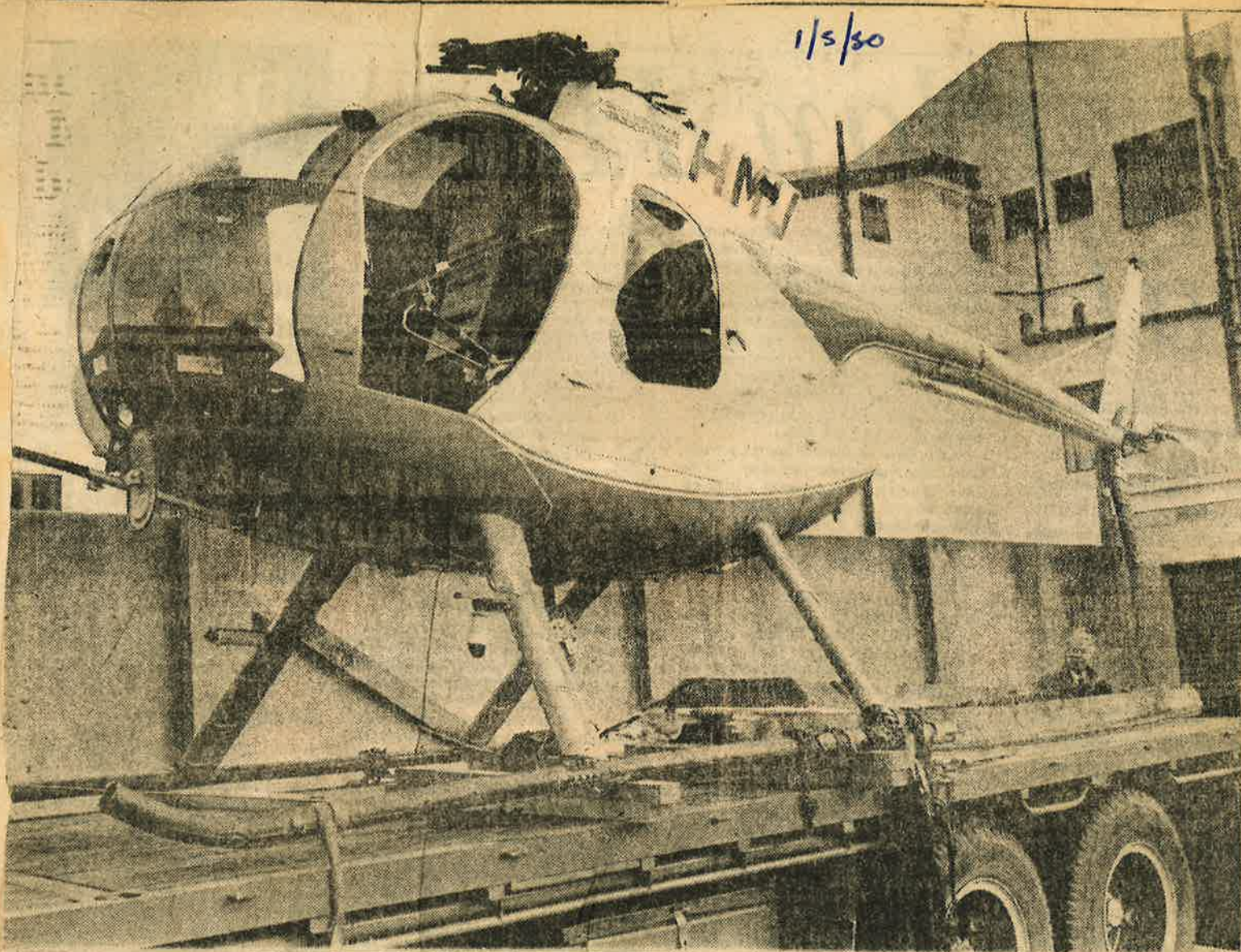
97185

RED DEER for sale, small lots. Wire trained quiet deer a speciality. Phone Lance Shaw Manapouri 664 evenings.

97185

17/5/50

Mr Laing said section 85 of the Tax Act says that



The damaged helicopter which crashed into the sea off Dog Island on Tuesday. The Hughes 500c craft was lifting furniture and stores off the ferry Wairua, for the new lighthouse keeper on Dog Island, when the rope broke and became entangled with the tail rotor. The pilot, Mr Peter Garden, was not injured when the helicopter plunged into the sea. The machine was recovered from the water on Tuesday afternoon, and yesterday it was transported to Dunedin.

Helicopter Problems

6/5/80 TE ANAU
A new Hughes 300 helicopter was airlifted out of Big Bay in the Fiordland area yesterday after it developed engine problems while on the ground.

It could not be repaired on site and was lifted out by a Jet Ranger helicopter and flown to the Waiua airstrip near Te Anau for repairs.

The helicopter belongs to Mr P. Roderique of Riverton, and was piloted by Mr S. Feaver of Te Anau.

Meanwhile, a near-new

Hughes 300 belonging to Munro and Stewart crashed in heavy bush at Broughton Arm in Breaksea Sound, Fiordland National Park, on Saturday morning.

The two occupants, Mr M. Frisbee of Invercargill, and Mr R. Wills of Te Anau, were not injured but their machine was severely damaged.

It is thought a rotor blade struck a tree causing the aircraft to crash into the bush while engaged on venison recovery work.

Dalgety LIVESTOCK

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QUANTITY OF

**WEANER RED DEER HINDS
and WEANER STAGS**

Price on enquiry

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HINDS**

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RED DEER HINDS

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RED DEER FOR SALE

MA HINDS
18 month HINDS
Weaner HINDS
MA STAGS
18 month STAGS
Weaner STAGS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Phone:
R. Henderson
74-163 Invercargill

Phone:
OR A.A. Bradley
416 Te Anau

97597

SOUTHLAND

S.F.C

FARMERS

1ST ANNUAL SALE OF SELECTED FARMED RED DEER

To be held at

ROSEDALE DEER SALE YARDS

on

SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION LIMITED'S
Farm Property at Tussock Creek

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1980

Parade of Deer commencing 12.30 p.m.
with the auction to follow.

Deer offered for sale are as follows:

Acc ROSEDALE FARM:

20 Adult Red Deer HINDS

20 Red Deer Weaner STAGS

Acc R. A. BROOKES:

20 Mixed Age Red Deer HINDS

Acc A. J. HAMILTON & SONS:

15 3½ year Red Deer HINDS

Acc OPIO DEER FARM:

5 2½ year Hybrid Red cross HINDS

Acc R. N. JENNINGS:

10 1½ year Red Deer HINDS

Acc MARAROA STATION:

20 1½ year Red Deer HINDS

Acc SOUTHLAND FARM PRODUCE (H. J. Whyte):

20 1½ year Red Deer HINDS

Acc DUNROBIN STAG RANGE:

20 Red Deer Weaner HINDS

Acc W. PINCKNEY & CO (Glenaray):

20 Red Deer Weaner HINDS

Acc J. SMITH:

2 Hybrid Weaner STAGS

All of the above hinds, apart from the 1½ year olds, were selected
at weaning and are guaranteed of having reared a live fawn last
year.

Full history details of the deer offered and, where
appropriate, production records of the stags they have been
mated to will be published in the catalogue prior to the sale.

All of the above deer will be T.B. tested prior to sale.

To celebrate the first sale in our newly constructed
specialist deer sale complex, we have carefully selected the
above deer as genuine farmed animals of outstanding quality and
we recommend them as being suitable for the upgrading of
existing herds.

All inquiries to:

Mr G. Erskine,

SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD

P.O. Box 814, INVERCARGILL

Phone 88-139

After Hours 78-097

95623

FOR SALE: Elk Park offers
young Wapiti Bulls farm breed
exceptional animals. Some half-
cross hybrids, six selected red
deer hinds in calf to wapiti bull.
Phone 358-234 Invercargill.

99617

DEER FARMERS if interested
in purchasing Red Deer (re-
cently pen captured), Phone
67-448 or 80-119. 99703

Deer parasite control

A parasite which discolours
venison has been discovered in
red deer and wapiti in the
southwest of the South Island.

At present the nematode
worm, *Elaphostrongylus cervi*,
is not a particular threat to New
Zealand. However, it is an
important parasite in parts of
Asia, and its presence in New
Zealand deer could affect deer
exports to Australia, the
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries says.

Identification and control of
intermediate hosts and control
of the worm are being in-
vestigated so that recom-
mendations can be made if
required, according to MAF
scientist, Dr Paul Mason.

"*Elaphostrongylus* is not a
threat to other domestic
animals and is usually not
particularly harmful. It
probably came into New
Zealand with some of the
original importations of deer,"
he says.

"The majority of wapiti and a
proportion of red deer and
wapiti-red hybrids captured in
and around the wapiti block of
Fiordland carry light burdens
of *Elaphostrongylus*. The
parasite is known to complete
its life cycle on at least one
farm in western Southland.

"It is usually found coiled in
connective tissue between
muscle blocks.

"The spread of the worm is
limited by the distribution of
suitable snail or slug in-
termediate hosts. Observations
indicate that these do not occur
in developed pastures, but may
be present in bush areas."

The species of snails and
slugs involved as hosts in New
Zealand were not yet known, Dr
Mason says.

"They are most likely to be
small terrestrial species
associated with native bush, not
freshwater species involved in
the life cycle of the liver fluke."

Deer had to eat the snails
before the life cycle could be
completed, Dr Mason says.

5/80



Wrightson NMA

4th ANNUAL DEER SALE

on account of

CRIFFEL GAME PARK LIMITED
WANAKA

on THURSDAY June 19
Commencing — 12.00 Noon

The following deer will be offered:

150 Weaner HINDS

150 Weaner STAGS

20—Yearling HINDS mated on property to top Red Stags

20—M.A. HINDS mated on property to top Red Stags

20—Velveting STAGS rising (5 years)

10—Velveting STAGS bred on property, velvet weight
average, available for last two years.

2—18 month Wapiti — Red Hybrid STAGS

2—Rising three year Wapiti — Red Hybrid STAGS

2—18 month Wapiti — Red Hybrid HINDS

(The above six Hybrids have been hand reared)

4—Mature Wapiti — Red Hybrid HINDS

(The above four animals have been on the property for the
last two years).

Auctioneers Note:

The animals offered this year are in exceptionally good
order. Being very quiet in nature, and have all been handled and
yarded at least one month prior to sale.

Wrightson NMA Limited

ALEXANDRA

11244

7/6/80

Plane Crashes on Landing

26/5/80

TE ANAU

A trip into the Hollyford Valley to bring out an injured hunter yesterday ended abruptly when a Cessna 185 aircraft crashed on landing at the Hollyford landing area.

The pilot, Fiordland Aero Club's chief pilot Mr Russell Baker, and his passenger, the injured hunter Mr Norman Andrews, escaped with "a good shake-up and a good fright."

The incident happened at 11.25 a.m. yesterday. Mr Baker flew to Alabaster and collected Mr Andrews yesterday morning.

As they landed at the Hollyford landing area Mr Baker applied the brakes.

"One brake failed and we

slewed around off the side of the strip," Mr Baker said last night.

"I realized what had happened and tried to correct, but I couldn't get the plane straight again as we were off the strip," he said.

The plane hit a hole in the ground and overturned into the hole leaving the aircraft suspended over one metre of water.

"We were hanging upside down with our seat belts holding us out of the water except for

the tops of our heads," Mr Baker said. "I got my hair wet."

Both occupants were able to get out of the aircraft without assistance.

"We both got a good shake-up and a good fright," he said.

Steam pouring off the engine just after the accident gave rise to a fear of fire breaking out, but this was caused by water on the engine.

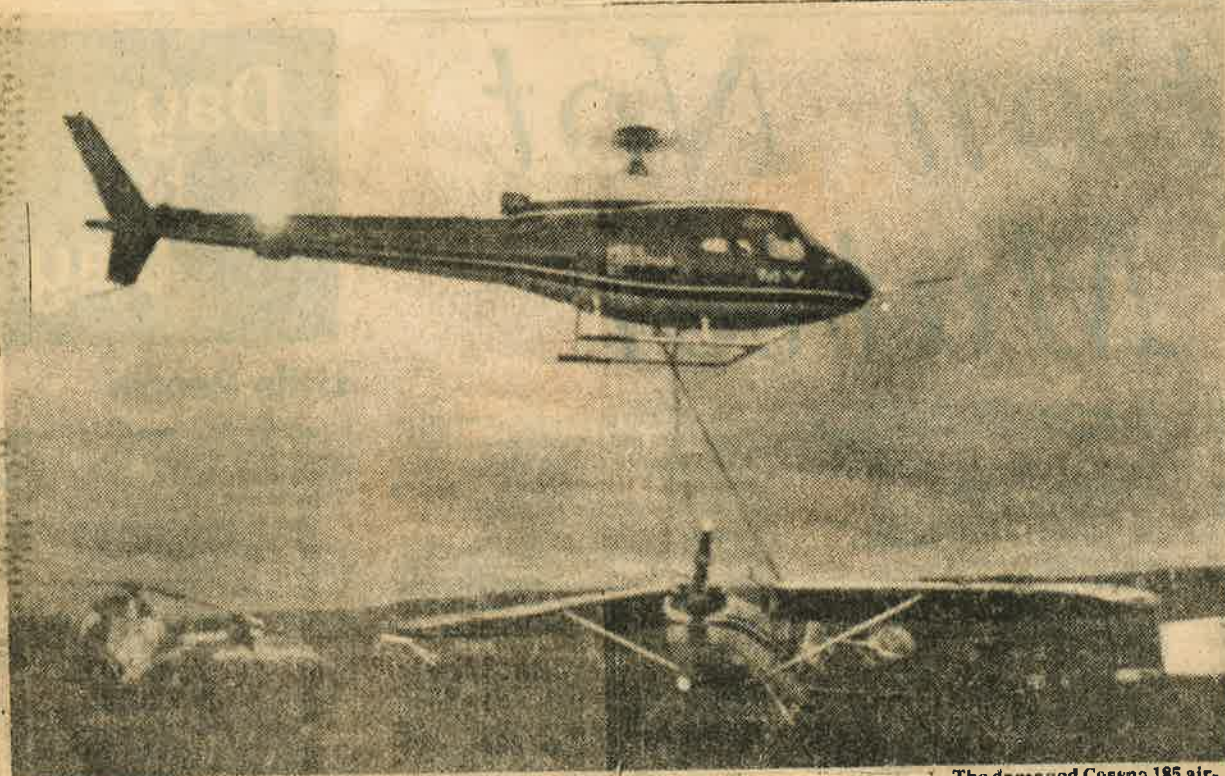
Mr Baker made an inspection of the aircraft on the site and found a brakeline had ruptured.

Mr Andrews, who had been injured while hunting near Alabaster recently, was being brought out of the bush because he had developing blood poisoning.

Both men made their own way back to Te Anau by road.

Last night the damaged aircraft was brought back to Te Anau using Alpine Helicopters' Squirrel Helicopter.

The plane was insured and inspectors will be looking at the aircraft tomorrow.



The damaged Cessna 185 aircraft is airlifted to Te Anau on Sunday night after it had crashed at the Hollyford landing area earlier in the day. The plane, piloted by the Fiordland Aero Club's chief flying instructor, Mr Russell Baker, crashed when the brakes were applied on landing. The plane slewed around off the side of the strip. Mr Baker and his passenger, injured hunter Mr Norman Andrews, escaped unharmed although shaken-up. Both made their way back to Te Anau by road, and the damaged plane was airlifted to Te Anau by a Squirrel helicopter, piloted by Mr Bill Black. The plane will be inspected by insurance representatives today.



Wrightson NMA

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

RED DEER AUCTION

ROSEDALE DEER COMPLEX

TUSSOCK CREEK

THURSDAY 26TH JUNE 1980

Commencing 1 p.m.

WRIGHTSON NMA will offer by Public Auction on behalf of various clients approximately:

- 50 M.A. HINDS
- 50 Weaner HINDS
- 50 Weaner STAGS
- 25 18 Month HINDS
- 20 Velvetting STAGS

7/6/80

full Particulars Later Issue

Deer co-ordinator:

BARRY IRVING

Telephone: 77-760 INVERCARGILL

10484



Ministry of
Agriculture & Fisheries

INVERMAY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
CENTRE (FARM) MOSGIEL

FIRST ANNUAL DEER AUCTION

1.00 p.m. FRIDAY, JUNE 27

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES are proud to offer a selection of Wapiti, Hybrid Cross and Red Deer at their first Auction of surplus stock.

Comprising:

- 9—Hybrid 2½ year HINDS —Mated with Wapiti Bull first cycle then to Red Stag
- 11—Hybrid 2½ year STAGS
- 4—Hybrid 7 month HINDS, weaned 24.3.80
- 3—Hybrid 7 month STAGS, weaned 24.3.80
- 25—Red 7 month HINDS, weaned 24.3.80.

All the offering have been bred at Invermay, had extensive handling and are very quiet.

Inspection from 12.00 on sale day. Catalogues available at sale.

Otago Stock and Station Agents Association.

AUCTIONEERS

7/6/80 **WRIGHTSON NMA LTD**
DUNEDIN

Telephone: 774-309

After Hours: Peter Nimmo 774-098

11029

Dalgety LIVESTOCK

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

A/C FIORDLAND WAPITI PARK
WAPITI AND HYBRID AUCTION

ON THE PROPERTY AT TE ANAU

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1980
COMMENCING 12.30 P.M.

Further particulars to be advertised in later edition.

AUCTIONEERS:

7/6/80 **DALGETY NEW ZEALAND LTD,**

INVERCARGILL

11170



RED DEER AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1980

Commencing at 1 p.m.

WITH A PARADE OF THE SALE DEER

FOLLOWED BY THE AUCTION TO BE HELD IN

O'CARROLL BROS.

New Covered Deer Selling
COMPLEX

At Green Valley Oxford

THE following Vendors will offer for sale the specially selected deer as under:

MR E.A.D. SHAND — Culverden:

12—M.A. HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 6lbs. 14/6/80

M/S SHAND AND CROSSLAND — Culverden:

2—Spikers

10—Rising 2 yr. HINDS (R.W.S.)

6—rising 3 yr. HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 6lbs.

1—5 yr. Master STAG (Velvet Yield 1979 — 6lbs.

M/S G.W. AND A. I. SMITH — Rangiora:

13—Weaner STAGS

10—Weaner HINDS

M/S HIGH PEAK STATION — Rakai Gorge:

1—Master STAG (Velvet Yield 1979 — 8½lbs.)

M/S LOVATT DOWNS — Greta Valley:

9—Velveting STAGS

M/S WOODPOOLE DEER — Rakai Gorge:

4—Rising 3 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 7½lbs.

M/S O'CARROLL BROS — Oxford:

10—Weaner HINDS

26—Rising 2 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 8½lbs

5—Rising 3 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 8½lbs.

5—Rising 4 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 8½lbs.

5—Rising 5 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 8½lbs.

5—Rising 6 and 7 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 8½lbs.

8—Velveting STAGS (Av. Velvet Yield 3½lbs.)

MR PHILLIP WALKER — Walkari:

13—Rising 2 yr HINDS (R.W.S.) Velvet Yield 7½lbs.

M/S MOUNTAIN HELICOPTERS — Greymouth:

20—M.A. HINDS (R.W.S.) Farmed for 6 months.

MR MURRAY CAYGILL — Clarence Bridge:

6—M.A. HINDS (R.W.S.)

3—Rising 2 yr HINDS (R.W.S.)

MR T. F. MANNING — Hawarden:

4—Young HINDS (R.W.S.)

MR D. C. URQUHART — Flock Hill Station Darfield:

10—Weaner STAGS

3—Weaner HINDS

5—M.A. HINDS (R.S.W.) Velvet Yield at 3 yrs — 4lbs.

1—Master STAG

M/S WILSON BROS — The Doone Waiau:

20—Weaner HINDS

10—M.A. HINDS (R.S.W.)

MR A.L. MCINROE — Totara Flat

2—Adult HINDS (R.W.S.)

MR JOHN RUTLAND — Oxford:

6—Velveting STAGE

All Deer T.B. Tested. All Deer farmed and farm bred unless otherwise shown — Deer to be penned by 10 a.m.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:

This is the first fully covered in, circular deer auction complex of its type in New Zealand and to work the occasion of the first sale, the deer offered have been specially selected, and gives intending purchasers the opportunity to buy with confidence.

DEER MAY BE PEN INSPECTED BETWEEN 11 A.M.
AND 12 NOON

special Entry

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEER AUCTION WE WILL
OFFER

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LUNCHEON AVAILABLE FROM 11 A.M.

WRIGHTSON NMA LTD,

AUCTIONEERS CHRISTCHURCH

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11542

SOUTHLAND FARMERS

1ST ANNUAL SALE OF SELECTED FARMED RED DEER

To be held at
ROSEDALE DEER SALEYARDS
on

SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION LIMITED'S
Farm Property at Tussock Creek

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1980

Parade of Deer commencing 12.30 p.m.
with the auction to follow.

Deer offered for sale are as follows:

- Acc ROSEDALE FARM:
20 Adult Red Deer HINDS
20 Red Deer Weaner STAGS
- Acc R. A. BROOKES:
20 Mixed Age Red Deer HINDS
- Acc A. J. HAMILTON & SONS:
15 3½ year Red Deer HINDS
- Acc OPIO DEER FARM:
5 2½ year Hybrid Red cross HINDS
- Acc R. N. JENNINGS:
10 1½ year Red Deer HINDS
- Acc MARAROA STATION:
20 1½ year Red Deer HINDS
- Acc BRANXHOLME FARMS:
20 1½ year Red Deer HINDS
- Acc DUNROBIN STAG RANGE:
20 Red Deer Weaner HINDS
- Acc W. PINCKNEY & CO (Glenaray):
20 Red Deer Weaner HINDS
- Acc J. SMITH:
2 Hybrid Weaner STAGS

All of the above hinds, apart from the 1½ year olds, were selected at weaning and are guaranteed of having reared a live fawn last year.

Full history details of the deer offered and, where appropriate, production records of the stags they have been mated to will be published in the catalogue prior to the sale.

All of the above deer will be T.B. tested prior to sale. To celebrate the first sale in our newly constructed specialist deer sale complex, we have carefully selected the above deer as genuine farmed animals of outstanding quality and we recommend them as being suitable for the upgrading of existing herds.

All inquiries to:

Mr G. Erskine,
SOUTHLAND FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN LTD
P.O. Box 814, INVERCARGILL
Phone 88-139 After Hours 78-097
LIGHT LUNCHEON AVAILABLE

95523



RED DEER AUCTION

Account
CENTRAL GAME PARTNERSHIP
ON THE PROPERTY

"TANIWA" WAIPUKURAU
(10 km South Waipukurau on State Highway Two)
THURSDAY, JUNE 26
DEER PARADED 1.30 P.M.

An exceptional yarding of 133 Red Deer will be offered comprising:

- 70—Farm born and bred Weaner HINDS
- 40—Farm born and bred Weaner STAGS
- 4—Farm born and bred First Fawner HINDS
- 18—Quality M.A. Hinds
- 1—Specially selected Stag Fawn (By Eddie of Mt Peel Station)

133

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:

All deer offered are T.B. Tested. Fawns are capital stock and are the progeny, from specially selected Hinds from Criffle Manaroa, Mt Peel and Dunrobin and all Fawns are vaccinated. Hinds offered were captured in the Porangahau area last October and are well known for their size and strain and are mated to select Stags. We confidently recommend this yarding to buyers requiring genuine, quality Deer.

For further information Phone:
David Ward 89-486 Waipukurau

HAWKES BAY FARMERS CO-OP
WAIPUKURAU/DANNEVIRKE
LIGHT LUNCHEON AVAILABLE

1241



Wrightson NMA

4th ANNUAL DEER SALE

on account of

CRIFFEL GAME PARK LIMITED
WANAKA

on THURSDAY June 19
Commencing — 12.00 Noon

The following deer will be offered:

- 150 Weaner HINDS
- 150 Weaner STAGS
- 20—Yearling HINDS mated on property to top Red Stags
- 20—M.A. HINDS mated on property to top Red Stags
- 20—Velveting STAGS rising (5 years)
- 10—Velveting STAGS bred on property, velvet weigh average, available for last two years.
- 2—18 month Wapiti — Red Hybrid STAGS
- 2—Rising three year Wapiti — Red Hybrid STAGS
- 2—18 month Wapiti — Red Hybrid HINDS
(The above six Hybrids have been hand reared)
- 4—Mature Wapiti — Red Hybrid HINDS
(The above four animals have been on the property for the last two years).

Auctioneers Note:

The animals offered this year are in exceptionally good order. Being very quiet in nature, and have all been handled and yarded at least one month prior to sale.

Inspection of stag and breeding farms between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on day of sale.

For exact details contact Wrightson NMA Ltd any branch.

Wrightson NMA Limited

ALEXANDRA

11244



Wrightson NMA

RED DEER AUCTION

ROSEDALE DEER COMPLEX

TUSOCK CREEK

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1980
COMMENCING 1 P.M.

WRIGHTSON NMA LTD will offer by Public Auction on behalf of various clients as under:

- MR L. L. BLACK — ERMEDALE:
10—Weaner HINDS
- MR B. BARNES — LONGWOOD:
1—Hybrid Weaner HIND
4—Hybrid Weaner STAGS
- M/S HOLLYBURN DEER PARK — TUATAPERE:
12—Weaner HINDS
10—Weaner STAGS
4—18 month HINDS
- MR M. MAINLAND — ROSLYN BUSH:
2—Weaner HINDS
2—Weaner STAGS
- SOUTHLAND FARM PRODUCE — RYAL BUSH:
20—Weaner STAGS
10—Spiker STAGS
25—18 month HINDS
25—M/A HINDS
- RATA HILL — HOKONUI:
10—Weaner HINDS
10—Weaner STAGS
- MR A. J. CARR — MERRIVALE:
6—Weaner HINDS
4—Weaner STAGS
- MARAROA STATION 1976 LTD — TE ANAU:
10—Weaner HINDS
10—Weaner STAGS
- M/S FAIRMOUNT PARTNERSHIP — OHAI:
9—M/A HINDS
9—18 month HINDS
- MR D. A. DICKENS — RYAL BUSH:
4—M/A HINDS
12—18 month STAGS
13—M/A Velveting STAGS
- CENTRAL PLAINS CO. — RYAL BUSH:
10—18 month Velveting STAGS

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:

We have carefully selected the above deer as genuine farmed animals of outstanding quality and we can recommend them as being suitable for upgrading of existing herds and also for farmers who wish to start in the Deer Industry.

All the above deer will be T.B. Tested prior to sale.

DEER CORDINATOR

BARRY IRVING

PHONE: 77-760 INVERCARGILL

16/6/80